



The Catoctin Forest Alliance Bulletin

Newsletter of the CFA

Vol. 6 No. 1 January 2016

Our mission is to preserve and protect the Catoctin Mountain forest for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations

Our 2016 Membership Drive is Underway

We'd love to have you join us in our mission to protect the Catoctin Mountain forest. As you will see in this newsletter, we have lots of programs planned for 2015 and 2016. Your support would be a great benefit to us and the forest.

To join CFA or renew your membership, please send the membership application form and a check made out to **Catoctin Forest Alliance** to the address below. The cost is \$20 per person or \$30 per couple.

**CFA, C/O Linda Sundergill
Membership Chairman
7015 Sunday's Lane
Frederick, MD 21702**

New members will receive a CFA patch



Anyone joining a committee will receive a CFA vest



Name(s): _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email address: _____

Committee Interest

Strategic Planning _____

Fundraising _____

Information Technology _____

Membership _____

Artist in Residence _____

Finance _____

Conservation/Education _____

Marketing/Publicity _____

Visit our new website at www.catoctinforestalliance.org

General Membership Quarterly Meeting

CFA will host a General Membership Meeting with speaker on February 6th at the Lewis Property, 317 W. Main St. Thurmont, MD 21788. Chuck Dinkle with the Trout in the Classroom program will be our featured speaker. The meeting will begin with free coffee and donuts at 8:30am and the meeting/program from 9:00-10:00am. There is some parking in the driveway for folks carrying supplies or who have difficulties walking. Ample parking adjoins the property to the west. To help us in our planning, RSVP to jimrobbins@comcast.net if you can attend. Hope to see you there.

NPS@100

2016
National Park Service
CENTENNIAL



There are thousands of opportunities for high school, college, and graduate school students to work with the National Park Service. We welcome the interest and involvement of the next generation who will help us care for our nation's cultural and natural heritage.



Youth Hiring Exceeds 2015 Goals

Here is a success we all share: the National Park Service exceeded our youth hiring and volunteer goals in 2015. To build on that success, a diverse mix of young adults aged 18 - 35 will participate in a variety of national internship programs during the summer of 2016. Interns will engage in an array of projects including African American and Latino community engagement, historical site interpretation, and more. To learn more about all the opportunities to work for the National Park Service in 2016 go to <http://www.nps.gov/subjects/youthprograms/index.htm>.

A Call to Action Success Story: Live and Learn



The [Murie Science and Learning Center](#) brought Alaskan fifth and sixth-graders into [Denali National Park & Preserve](#) on three-day, overnight field trips this fall. Students learned about how park rangers use science to protect this special place by conducting investigations, experiencing how the four main habitats in Denali are connected, hiking, and participating in exciting new activities.

To learn more about activities in Catoctin Mountain Park, go to <http://www.nps.gov/cato/planyourvisit/index.htm>

To learn more about the Centennial celebration in the National Parks, go to <http://www.nationalparks.org/our-work/celebrating-100-years-service>

Catoctin Mountain Park Retirements

By Ed Wenschhof
Long-time employees Debbie Mills and Frank Smith retired from the National Park Service effective January 2, 2016.

Debbie Mills, Park Ranger-Interpretation, has been a dedicated park ranger/interpreter for 38 years and has been recognized twice with the National Capital Region Freeman Tilden Award for Interpretive Excellence. Debbie has worked with thousands of volunteers, initiated the trail maintenance and handicapped riding program, and has developed an extensive network of partnerships with schools, conservation organizations, and youth groups. She will definitely be missed by her colleagues at the NPS.

Frank Smith, Maintenance Supervisor - has 41 years of military and National Park Service experience. Frank is very knowledgeable of Catoctin Mountain Park and its facilities and resources. Frank has been involved with many park improvement and maintenance projects as well as special events over these many years. He also served as a wildland firefighter for many years in many areas of the country. In 2001, Frank was recognized with the NPS National Capital Region Unsung Hero Award for his tireless dedication to the National Park Service and Catoctin Mountain Park.

Snap It!, Don't Stomp It!- The Catoctin BioBlitz

By Ed Wenschhof



In celebration of the NPS Centennial, the NPS is coordinating a service-wide BioBlitz initiative to help inspire the next generation of stewards and provide a national snapshot of biodiversity. The National Capital Region (NPS-NCR) of the NPS will host a showcase BioBlitz and Festival at the National Mall on May 20-21, 2016. Other parks in the NPS-NCR are also hosting BioBlitz(es) of various sizes. Catoctin Mountain Park will host a BioBlitz focusing on insects at the Misty Mount Cabin Area. The Catoctin MP event is titled "**Snap It, Don't Stomp It!-The Catoctin Insect BioBlitz.**" Snap referring to a camera or camera phone. During this citizen science event, insects of all kinds will be photographed and submitted electronically to a central hub along with many other

parcs. Various taxa are being targeted in different parks; however, insects were chosen at Catoctin MP as we have the least information on that taxa category.

Friday May 20 is being planned as a school event, while Saturday May 21 is being planned as a public event (including individuals, Scouts, and community or conservation groups). The park looks forward to working with the public, youth, schools, scouts, and scientists to seek and document the diversity of insect life within Catoctin MP. The Misty Mount dining hall will serve as the hub for the event and also feature displays and information about all of the natural history of Catoctin MP. More event specific information will be available in the near future; however, these sites provide some general information:

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/explorers/projects/bioblitz/>

<http://www1.nature.nps.gov/biology/biodiversity/bioblitz2016.cfm>



President's Note By Jim Robbins

Happy New Year and welcome to 2016. We are happy that you are a member and /or friend of the Catoctin Forest Alliance. We will be continuing with many of our current programs and adding new ones as the year progresses. All of our meetings will be held at 317 W. Main Street Thurmont, Maryland (the Lewis Area). As with most volunteer organizations we are always looking for members to help with projects and to recommend new ones for us. I have a meeting with Acting Superintendent this week and we will be putting forth the projects for the coming year with the Park (I will keep you updated on what our collaborations will be). This year (2016) is the 100th birthday of the National Park Service (August 25, 2016) and many great projects are planned for the year. Please go to our *new* website (www.catoctinforestalliance.org) for details on all the events and check out our calendar for dates.

Debbie Mills retired from the Catoctin Mountain Park at the end of the year but with any luck you have not heard the last from her. She did a great deal for the volunteer program at the Park and we hope to continue with that great work of volunteers and bring volunteers into the Park. Frank Smith, the Director of Maintenance, retired also and Susan Burke the head of the interpretive department at the Park is retiring on February 14, 2016. The Park is going to need us to keep the volunteer and interpretive programs moving forward in this centennial year. The Alliance is blessed by a hard working core of volunteers that has allowed the Alliance to do great things for Catoctin Mountain Park, Cunningham Falls State Park and Gambrill State Park. Thank you all for everything to you do.

Catoctin Mountain Park Superintendent By Ed Wenschhof

Catoctin Mountain Park Superintendent Mel Poole retired from the NPS on August 25, 2015 after 37 years of service (see October 2015 newsletter). Since that time, the NPS has advertised the vacancy and the announcement closed on October 20. The rating and interview process for filling the position is underway. In the meantime, Scott Bell, Chief of Resources Management, Catoctin MP served as acting Superintendent from August 26 to October 17. The NPS advertised a 120-detail for an acting Superintendent, and Ed Wenschhof was selected to serve from October 18, 2015 through February 14, 2016 (or earlier). Ed's current position is as Chief Ranger at the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal National Historical Park. He also worked many years at Antietam National Battlefield and Gettysburg and Eisenhower.

Christmas Party at the Lewis Property

On December 16th CFA held a Christmas party at the Lewis Property. The guests enjoyed fellowship, wine, cheese and snacks. They were also able to view the complete Artist in Residence art collection and help to trim the Christmas tree.



Photos from Debbie Mills Retirement



Debbie's daughter Amanda was the program emcee to honor Debbie's 38 years of service to Catocin Mountain Park. In this photo, Debbie is surrounded by her family and each one presented her with a charm for the Pandora bracelet that she received from the park and the guests.



Left:
Ed Wenschhof, acting superintendent, presents Debbie with commemorative gifts from the park.



Right:
Jim Sundergill presents Debbie with a certificate of appreciation for all of the Eagle Scout projects she has coordinated for the Boy Scouts in Frederick County



Left: Jim Robbins, CFA President, presents Debbie with a piece of AIR art "The Artist's Cabin at Misty Mount" done by Olan Nave. The frame was made by Jim Sundergill from reclaimed oak from the floor renovation at Misty Mount.



Right: Park Ranger Susan Burke makes a special presentation to Debbie.



Artist in Residence

Artist in Residence, Linda Johnston, presented a nature journaling scrap book to CFA President, Jim Robbins, at the Catoctin Mountain Park Recognition Dinner on November 14, 2015. The journal was compiled from her stay in Catoctin Mountain Park and the programs that she presented during her residency. Pictured left to right: Linda Sundergill, CFA Board Member, Linda Johnston, Jim Robbins and Ranger Debbie Mills, Volunteer Coordinator for Catoctin Mountain Park.

Calendar of Events 2016

January 27	Board Meeting
February 6	General Membership Meeting with speaker
February 24	Board Meeting
March 4	Amish arrive to do historic renovations at CMP
March 23	Board Meeting
April 16-24	National Park Week and Jr. Ranger Days
April 27	Board Meeting
May 1-14	Artist in Residence
May 7	General Membership Meeting with speaker
May 7-8	Spring in the Village/Art at the Furnace
May 14	Day of Service
May 20-21	The Catoctin BioBlitz
June 22	Board Meeting
July	No Meetings
August 6	General Membership Meeting with speaker
August 25	100 th Birthday of the National Park Service
September 17	LDS Service Day in parks
September 28	Board Meeting
October 26	Board Meeting
November 5	General Membership Meeting with speaker
November 14	Catoctin Mountain Park 80 th birthday



Trout in the Classroom (TIC) By Chuck Dinkle

The word from the hatchery is that the eggs will be available for volunteers to pick up and deliver on Thursday Jan 28, 2016. A number of you have assisted with this task in the past or have played a TIC volunteer role last year. Please check back with me about your availability and I will work up teams to cover the different parts of the county. There are 20 schools where eggs need to be delivered. In the past a representative of Wolfsville Elem. School and a TIC volunteer has met me at Doubs Meadow Park before I headed to Frederick to meet other volunteers. The

handoff at the park covered the schools in the Middletown and Wolfsville area. My goal is to do this again this year. Thanks for your support of this TIC task. With sufficient help most volunteers will deliver to two schools and have this task done in less than four hours. You can contact me at troutintheclassroomcd@gmail.com.



Calling Artists! Spring in the Village Art at the Furnace

Join us for the first annual
outdoor art festival
in the historic village
of Catoctin Furnace.

Saturday, May 7, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Sunday, May 8, noon to 5 p.m.

The jury committee is now accepting
submissions of interest for the 2016 event.

To be considered for this year's event please send photographs of your original
artwork and fine crafts and your display space or a link to your website to
ecomer@catocctinfurnace.org

Please attach small files of your photos (500kb or less).

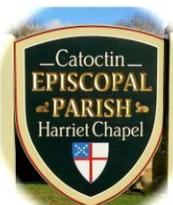
If you would prefer, please send photos to:
Catoctin Forest Alliance, P.O. Box 411, Thurmont, MD 21788
Include your phone number and email address.

Upon acceptance to the show, artists will be notified via phone or email and receive
a registration packet. The event is \$70 per 10x10 space or \$140 for a double.

All proceeds from this event will be utilized for the restoration and maintenance of
the historic structures including the furnace stack, casting shed, retaining wall and
Ironmaster's Mansion.

Spend Mother's Day weekend in the historic village of Catoctin Furnace for crafts,
flowers, heirloom plants, herbs, children's activities, traditional music & foods
accompanying this art event.

For More Information: 443-463-6437



Raffle to Support CFA Programs

This beautiful original watercolor by Marilyn Miller was donated to CFA by Elizabeth Prongas to be raffled with proceeds to benefit our Scholarship Program. The framed dimensions of the painting are 11 ¾" X 14 ¾".



Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5.

You can mail your request to enter the raffle to:

**Linda Sundergill
7015 Sunday's Lane
Frederick, MD 21702**

Please include your name and phone number so that information can be placed on the ticket. Make checks out to CFA or Catoctin Forest Alliance. The drawing is planned for February 14th. This painting would make a very nice Valentine's Day present for someone.

4th Day of Service in Catoctin Mountain Park By Jim Sundergill



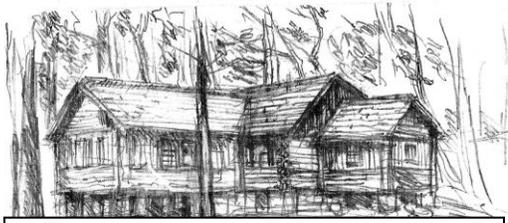
Cabin staining at 2015 Day of Service

The Catoctin Forest Alliance will have their 4th annual "Day of Service" at Camp Greentop in Catoctin Mountain Park on **May 14th**. The event will be held from 9:00 am till 3:00 pm on the 14th with check-in at Camp Greentop's auditorium on the 9th from 8:00-9:00 am. This is a great opportunity for CFA friends and members to come to the park, enjoy the beautiful outdoor setting, do a service project in the park and enjoy a lunch provided by CFA.

This year we will be staining cabins and eradicating invasive plant species. There is no lower age limit for participants but all will be expected to work for four to five hours that day. The work is usually such that younger children would not be able to contribute but parents can decide on an individual basis if their child will be able to

help and not hinder the work effort. All youth must be supervised by adults.

To learn more about the event and to be placed on the email list for future details, contact Jim Sundergill at jimsundergill@comcast.net.



Pencil drawing by Olan Nave of
"Artist's Cabin at Misty Mount"

Job Opportunity at Camp Misty Mount by Ranger Peggie Gaul

A current Misty Mount position is being advertised on USA Jobs. It is a Visitor Use Assistant position, GS5, and applications are being accepted until January 11. It is a full time temporary position. For details, go

to: <https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/424055500>.



Park Receives Grant By Ed Wenschhof

A Catoclin Mountain Park and Catoclin Forest Alliance grant proposal was selected for a 2016 Every Kid in a Park Transportation Grant. The proposal prepared by Ranger Debbie Mills was titled *Piloting Youth on the Course of Better Health, Higher Academic Achievement and Environmental Stewardship through Guided Day Camp Activities at Catoclin Mountain Park*. For more information, go to <http://www.nationalparks.org/ook/every-kid-in-a-park>.



Quarterly Public Meeting

On November 7, 2015, CFA hosted a public meeting at the Thurmont Main Street Center with State Park Ranger Andrew Vecchio as our guest speaker. Andrew gave a very interesting talk about Cunningham Falls and Gambrill State Parks that included a slide show and many facts about the history and wildlife in the area. In the photo to the left, CFA President, Jim Robbins, introduces Ranger Vecchio before his talk.

We hope you will join us for our next public meeting on February 6, 2016 when Chuck Dinkle will talk about the Trout in the Classroom program.

Wishing everyone a Happy, Healthy New Year. Hope your year includes visits to the parks near you.