



The Catoctin Forest Alliance Bulletin

www.catoctinforestalliance.org

Newsletter of the CFA

Vol. 7 No. 1 January 2017

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

The Amish Are Coming

By Debbie Mills

Following what has become a tradition, the Indiana Amish Anabaptist Service Program of Nappanee, Indiana, will send a work crew to Catoctin Mountain Park for the month of March, 2017. Now in its fifth year, the program is known locally as the “Amish.”

The work crew consists of 8 young men from 18 to 24 years old and an adult work leader. An adult couple and the work leader’s wife keep the lively group fed and maintain the temporary residence in Camp Round Meadow. This group will arrive by train on February 27 and will depart on March 24.



Previous work crews have dramatically reduced the maintenance backlogs at Camp Misty Mount and Camp Round Meadow. Completed projects include: returning Camp Misty Mount Cabin 16 (the former infirmary) to its historic configuration, restoring a Camp Misty Mount Lodge, and replacing floors in 6 Camp Greentop cabins. Other groups replaced the Visitor Center lobby ceiling as an emergency repair after a broken pipe closed the building, painted a Ranger residence and Camp Round Meadow dorms, and built handicapped ramps at Camp Round Meadow. The 2017 group plans to replace Camp Greentop cabin floors, remove modern additions to Greentop’s Good Luck Lodge and build historically accurate replacement windows for the Greentop cabins.

CFA members provide logistical support for the Amish crew from their arrival at the train station in Harpers Ferry until their departure. Support activities include: transportation to and from the train station, daily transportation to and from the job site, transportation for daily grocery and occasional shopping trips as well as local field trips and for trips to Washington, DC and Gettysburg.

Would you like to join the cadre of volunteer drivers? If so, please contact CFA Director of Programs, Debbie Mills at debbiemills11770@gmail.com for more information. Potential drivers must be at least 18, have a valid driver’s license, feel confident driving a 12 passenger van, sign on as Volunteers in Parks and commit to specific dates and times.

Would you like to participate, and have personal interaction with the Amish without driving? If so, please contact Debbie Mills at the above email to learn how you can help in other ways.

From the Desk of the President, Jim Robbins

Welcome to 2017 and a full schedule for CFA this year. We are working on the final arrangements for the Amish in March and a group of Amish that will be arriving after the first group for 2 weeks to work on the stable at Greentop. We will again be doing the Every Kid in the Park for fourth graders, and the Artist in Residence (AIR) program will be taking place in May and September. We have some of the art work from the AIR program on display at the Thurmont Main Street Building (11 Water Street). Stop by and enjoy the art and crafts on display. All of the pieces on display are also for sale.

We are always looking for membership and friends to help us grow and help us with projects. We understand that everyone's time is valuable and we promise that any time that you can give us will be rewarding. Think about spending some time with us and remember to visit the mountains. For more information about CFA and opportunities to help out, please contact me, Jim Robbins at jimrobbins@comcast.net.

SUCCESS By Jim Robbins

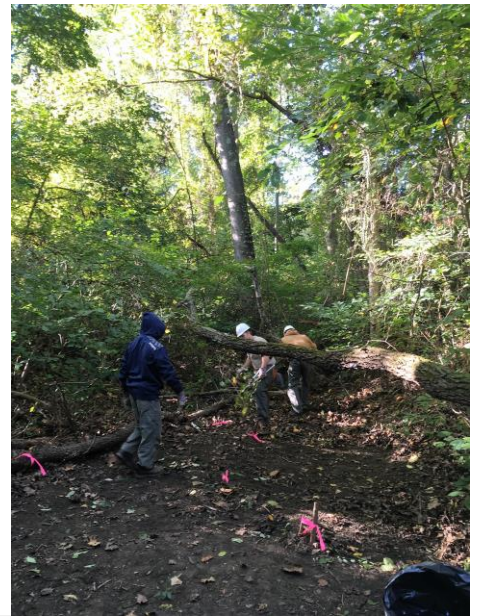
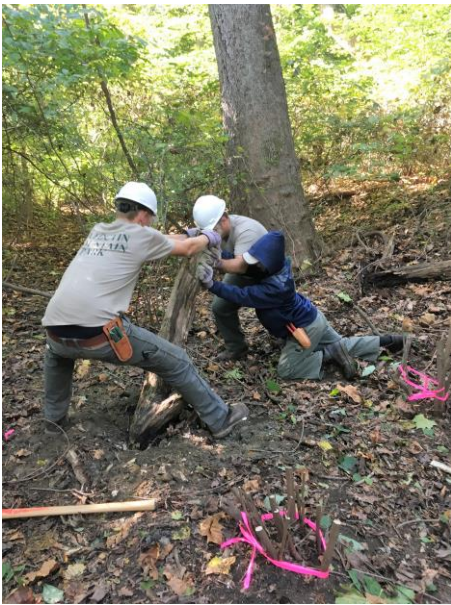
The youth have finished the Renner Trail, as far as possible, but should be able to go the additional length after the private land is acquired, about 250 feet. The landscaping fabric and some of the mulch has arrived and we will continue when the weather improves. SUCCESS cleared all the brush from around the furnace and grass will be planted to have the area look better. We fixed some trails in Catoclin Mountain Park and are now rebuilding picnic tables for Cunningham Fall State Park.

We will take some time out this week to learn CPR, AED and First Aid. We will be back next week for more picnic tables and other projects that the parks would like us to do. Hope that you enjoy some of the photos of the youth at work.



SUCCESS students master the task of building picnic tables.





Clearing an overgrown trail



Catoclin Furnace work site

**Great work by the SUCCESS students
and their mentors**



The Catoctin Forest Alliance Partners with the National Park Service to Rebuild the Greentop Stable

By Debbie Mills, CFA Director of Programs

The Catoctin Forest Alliance is working with the National Park Service at Catoctin Mountain Park to repair the Camp Greentop Stable. The stable was built in the late 1970's prior to Ronald Reagan's election. It wasn't long until horses, horse trails and horse related activities took center stage at Catoctin Mountain Park. Horses stabled in the park carried the military aide and presidential guests when President Reagan rode at Catoctin.

Soon, Catoctin's Volunteer Horse Patrol became the "eyes and ears of the park." These volunteers patrolled trails on horseback, maintained trails, cared for the horses and stables and held fund raisers to support park programs. In summer months, Camp Greentop became home to The League for People with Disabilities residential camp. With the 2 programs so physically close, it seemed fitting to share the joys of horses and riding with League campers. In 1980, members of the Horse Patrol built a riding ring, and donated their time and the use of their horses to provide a safe riding experience in the Greentop Handicapped Riding Program.

The Catoctin horse program ended in the early 1990's, but the riding program at Camp Greentop continued. Campers were greatly disappointed when the League determined that the barn was unsuitable for use and discontinued the riding program in 2016. While there is no money for this project in the NPS budget, Catoctin Mountain Park Superintendent Rick Slade has granted approval for the Catoctin Forest Alliance to raise funds and repair the stable this spring. The CFA is seeking benefactors to donate funds in any amount or provide specific materials for the project. Four adult men from the Indiana Amish Anabaptist Service Program Nappanee, Indiana have volunteered their time and talents to remove and replace the roof and siding on the barn during the first two weeks of April, 2017.

We need your help to make this project a success. Please contact CFA President Jim Robbins, jimrobbins@comcast.net or Director of Programs, Debra Mills, debbiemills11770@gmail.com if you would like to know more, become a donor or join in the fundraising process.

Carrie Strawn Wins Catoctin Forest Alliance Quilt Raffle

By Debbie Mills

Carrie Anderson-Strawn won the "Pieces of Catoctin History" quilt in the raffle drawing held at the Catoctin Forest Alliance Christmas Open House, December 21. The Strawn family consisting of Carrie, husband Troy and two young children recently moved to the area from California. Troy has assumed the role of Facility Manager for Catoctin Mountain Park. Carrie hopes to resume her career as an interpretive ranger at a nearby NPS unit.

The quilt is the product of Linda Sundergill's handiwork, with assistance from Debbie Mills and Linda's husband, Jim. Patches and artwork representing significant eras and partnerships provide an overview of the 80 years of Catoctin Mountain Park. The central rings commemorate the National Park Service Centennial and the common missions of the National Park Service, Catoctin Mountain Park and the Catoctin Forest Alliance. The quilt was displayed and tickets sold at the Catoctin Mountain Park Centennial Extravaganza, Thurmont Community Show, Frederick Community College Volunteer Expo, Catoctin Colorfest and the Thurmont Community Stroll.

In addition to the quilt, Ms. Strawn received a booklet explaining the significance of the quilt squares. To download a copy of the booklet, click [HERE](#).



Pictured left to right: Linda Sundergill, Patrick Strawn, Lily Strawn, Carrie Anderson-Strawn, Debbie Mills and Jim Robbins.

CFA Expands Camp CATOCTIN Field Trip Program

By Debbie Mills, CFA Program Director

The 2016 Camp CATOCTIN (Children ATtaining Objective Critical Thinking Inspired by Nature) Summer Day Camp and Fall Field trips allowed the Catoctin Forest Alliance and Catoctin Mountain Park to get over 1000 fourth grade students off the couch and into the forest. The program has been so well received that expanding the program has become one of the CFA's top priorities.

NPS Staff, volunteers and CFA Board members met at Catoctin Mountain Park on November 30 to review the field trips and plan future programs. The group unanimously endorsed an expanded program with hopes of reaching every 4th grader in Frederick County. Since Frederick County is rich in educational resources, CFA is developing a strategy to reach retired educators as field trip instructors and to establish internships for students of local colleges and universities. The student internship program will allow student teachers to practice their skills in a real world setting and help CFA stay abreast of current teaching trends.

Spring Field Trips will begin on April 13 and be scheduled as requested by teachers. The Classification Unit presented last Fall will be offered and if needed, an additional unit will be developed to compliment lessons being taught in the Spring.

Catoctin Mountain Park has been granted funds by the National Park Foundation Every Kid in a Park Transportation Program. These funds will be administered by the Catoctin Forest Alliance as partial funding for the 2017 educational program. CFA will seek additional funds through applicable grants and fundraising activities. CFA hopes to give every 4th grader in Frederick County the opportunity to learn about the National Park Service and that it is fun to get outside. There will be no cost to parents for these field trips. Please contact CFA Director of Programs, Debra Mills at debbiemills11770@gmail.com if you would like to learn more about Camp CATOCTIN programs or to volunteer.

Catoctin Mountain Park News By Ranger Peggie Gaul

Catoctin Mountain Park welcomes new employees:

Troy Strawn joined the park staff in early November as the new facility manager. He and his wife Carrie and their two children moved from Manzanar National Historic Site in California. Carrie will be working at the park in a temporary detail with the Division of Interpretation this winter and spring.

Sierra Daniels was hired by the Resource and Visitor Protection Division and started her new position on January 23. Sierra transferred from Fort McHenry but lives in Frederick County.

Volunteers:

If you or someone you know is interested in doing a volunteer service project at the park, please contact Ron Harvey or Geno Arthur at 301-663-9388. The park is always looking for volunteers and ways to engage with the community.

Spring Programs :

Orienteering classes, spring wildflower walks and ranger-led programs are being scheduled for the spring. Check the park website for dates: www.nps.gov/cato.

The park and CFA have been asked to meet with representatives from Cambridge, MD to talk about the Artist in Residence (AIR) program. They are developing an AIR program that will benefit the new Harriett Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park and the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge as well as the city of Cambridge. That meeting is planned for sometime in February.

Do you know a 4th grader?

We have Every Kid in a Park passes that are free and available to any child in 4th grade. The pass is good for admission into national parks and other federal lands as well as Maryland State Parks. Call or stop by the visitor center for more details.

CFA Members Honored

By Jim Sundergill

At a December 10, 2016 open house at the Cunningham Falls State Park Visitor Center the Park honored CFA President Jim Robbins, Debbie Mills, Director of Programs, Linda Sundergill, Membership Chair and Board Member Jim Sundergill with certificates “In grateful recognition of your valuable contribution to Cunningham Falls and Gambrill State Parks. Thank you for volunteering your time and effort to make this park a better place for all to enjoy.”

On December 21st at a luncheon CFA provided for the Catoctin Mountain Park Rangers, Jim Robbins, Debbie Mills, Linda Sundergill, Cindy McKane-Wagester and Jim Sundergill were presented with certificates from the National Park Service along with 2016 “challenge” coins in appreciation of service to CMP.



Membership Chair Linda Sundergill receiving certificate of appreciation from Catocin Mountain Park Ranger Ron Harvey



NPS Challenge coins (Obverse and reverse)

Calendar 2017

January 25	Board and General Meeting 4pm at the Lewis property
February 15	Board and General Meeting 4pm at the Lewis property
February 27	Amish Youth arrive
March 11	Maple Syrup Festival, contact Amber 301-271-7574
March 18	Maple Syrup Festival, contact Amber 301-271-7574
March 24	Amish Youth leave
March 27	Amish Adults arrive
April 7	Amish Adults leave
April 13	Every Kid in the Park trips begin
April 21	Fishing Rodeo, contact Amber at 301-271-7549
April 26	Board and General Meeting 4pm at the Lewis property
May 6	Spring in the Village/Art at the Furnace
May 7	Artist in Residence arrives
June 2	Tea at Gambrill 6-8pm, contact Alicia.norris@maryland.gov
June 28	Board and General Meeting 4pm at the Lewis property
August 23	Board and General Meeting 4pm at the Lewis property
September 10	Artist in Residence arrives
October 1	Tea at Gambrill 4pm, contact Alicia.norris@maryland.gov
October 25	Board and General Meeting 4pm at the Lewis property
December 21	CFA Christmas Party at Lewis property

We Welcome You to Join CFA

We'd love to have you join us in our mission to protect the Catoctin Mountain forest. As you have seen in this newsletter, we have many programs planned for 2017. 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 ____	Membership ____	Conservation/Education ____
Fundraising ____	Artist in Residence ____	Marketing/Publicity ____
Information Technology ____	Finance ____	

Visit our new website at www.catoctinforestalliance.org