



# The Catoctin Forest Alliance Bulletin

[www.catoctinforestalliance.org](http://www.catoctinforestalliance.org)

Newsletter of the CFA

Vol. 7 No. 2 April 2017

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

## Adult Volunteers Restore the Greentop Stable while “Vacationing” in Catoctin Mountain Park

By Debbie Mills, CFA Program Director

Vacations are usually a time for rest and relaxation, but adult volunteers from the Nappanee, Indiana area are redefining the meaning of relaxation. The 5<sup>th</sup> annual Indiana Amish Anabaptist Service Program (IAASP) youth work crew had barely reached Indiana when four adult couples boarded the Capitol Express and headed for Catoctin Mountain Park to begin restoration of the Camp Greentop Stable.

Built in 1980, the stable housed horses used by National Park Service Law Enforcement Rangers to patrol trails and remote areas of Catoctin Mountain Park. Volunteers and National Park Staff partnered with the League for People with Disabilities to establish the Camp Greentop Recreational Riding for the Disabled Program in 1981. While it changed throughout the years, the Greentop riding program continued after the NPS stopped housing horses in the stable in the mid 1990's. The program served hundreds of campers with special needs each season until 2016 when the program was discontinued after years of deferred maintenance rendered the stable unsuitable for this use.



As Catoctin Mountain Park's official Friends group, the Catoctin Forest Alliance is partnering with the National Park Service to rebuild and restore the Camp Greentop Stable. Undeterred by 3 days of rain, the group of skilled craftsmen associated with the Indiana Amish Anabaptist Service Program removed and replaced the stable roof and 75% of the siding between March 27 and April 6. Materials for the project were purchased with funding from the Thurmont Civitan Club, Trail Riders of Today, a Civitan International Grant and donations from local benefactors.

Repairing the leaking roof is an essential step toward total restoration of the facility but it is just the beginning. The CFA fund raising committee will continue efforts to secure funding needed to repair the stable interior and to provide seed money to assure continuation of the League for People with Disabilities Camp Greentop Riding Program.

Rumor has it that more adults will be coming to Catoctin in October to have fun finishing the stable project.

# Indiana Volunteers Continue a Tradition of Service to Catoctin Mountain Park

By Debbie Mills, CFA Program Director

Following what has become a tradition, a work crew from the Indiana Amish Anabaptist Service Program (IAASP) of Nappanee, Indiana, volunteered at 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 consisting of 8 young men from 18-24 years old and an adult work leader donated their time and talents from February 27 through March 24. As with previous crews, their contributions dramatically reduced the maintenance backlogs on historic cabins at Camp Greentop. This year’s crew removed and replaced four Camp Greentop cabin floors, removed modern additions to Camp Greentop’s Good Luck Lodge, removed and replaced a wood shake roof and restored the interior the Camp Greentop Staff Quarters. An adult couple and the work leader’s wife kept the lively group fed.

While a national agreement between the Selective Service and the IAASP excuses young Amish men from the military, the IAASP volunteer service initiative allows draft age males from the Nappanee area to demonstrate their dedication and respect for this country through volunteer service. For some, the trip to Maryland is a once in a lifetime experience, but it is not without sacrifice. The IAASP committee provides transportation and meals for the duration of the project. Crew members take leave from paying jobs in RV factories, carpentry shops and on farms, losing a month’s income while

volunteering their talents in service to the National Park Service.

The Catoctin Forest Alliance is instrumental to the overall success of the IAASP/Catoctin Mountain Park Partnership. CFA President Jim Robbins works with the Amish and the park throughout the year to schedule projects and interactions with the IAASP Committee. 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 trips to Washington, DC and Gettysburg.

A chance match made by former National Volunteer Coordinator Joy Pietschman brought the Amish to Catoctin. An invisible link, extending from Maryland to Indiana demonstrates the true meaning of partnership as Amish work crews, Catoctin Mountain Park staff and members of the Catoctin Forest Alliance celebrate commonalities, establish enduring friendships and work towards the common goal of preserving historic resources.

Previous work crews have completed projects including: 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.



# **Camp CATOCTIN Resumes with Spring Field Trips**

By Debbie Mills, CFA Program Director

In 2016, an Every Kid in the Park grant from the National Park Foundation allowed the Catoctin Forest Alliance to provide a week-long Summer day camp for 43 Carroll County fourth graders and Fall field trips for nearly 1000 4<sup>th</sup> grade students from Frederick County. The CFA version of Every Kid in a Park programs is known locally as "Camp CATOCTIN" (Children **A**Ttaining **O**bjective **C**ritical **T**hinking **I**nspired by Nature.)

The CFA/NPS partnership's successful bid for a second Every Kid in the Park grant is making it possible to provide spring field trips for Frederick County fourth graders and Carroll County day camp in June.

Fall field trips allowed students to participate in a Forensic Lab where they identified plant and animal specimens, a scavenger hunt that encouraged students to independently search for examples of living things, and a tree walk highlighting examples of tree characteristics. These activities supported the classification science unit.

Since schools were likely to be teaching a different science unit, a social studies option is offered for Spring field trips. Orchard Grove Elementary accepted this offer for 2017's first field trip on April 13. The Social Studies option places students in an area where charcoal making and alcohol production took place in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries helping them better comprehend challenges of working and surviving during the Revolutionary War period.

The Orchard Grove classes learned about people who worked at the Catoctin Iron Furnace and how alcohol production was essential for the survival of early settlers. Instructors from National Park Service were Rangers Peggie Gaul and Tim Iverson. Catoctin Forest Alliance members Daryl Depres and Debra Mills guided students around the Charcoal Trail to explain the process of charcoal production and to tell students how the 10 plate stoves and munitions produced at the Catoctin Furnace made life better for citizens and helped our country gain independence.

Camp CATOCTIN will continue in May with additional Frederick County Elementary School field trips. Three schools have scheduled dates, but greater participation is anticipated before school ends. The Summer Day Camp for Carroll County Students will take place at various locations in Catoctin Mountain Park from June 26 through June 30.

The future of the National Park Foundation Every Kid in a Park grant program is uncertain at this time. However, Camp CATOCTIN has received positive reviews from teachers, National Park Service Staff and Catoctin Forest Alliance members. Frederick County Public School Board of Education President, Brad Young reviewed the program and offered his support. It is CFA's intention to expand Camp CATOCTIN next school year with more field trips and the inclusion of local college interns and retired teachers who will help make the program even more responsive to the needs of classroom teachers. CFA is applying for additional grant money and will be seeking addition sponsorship for future educational programs for school groups.

## **Earth Celebration Day and Festival of Art 2017**

For an afternoon of educational outreach, art, music, food and earth friendly activities, plan to attend this celebration on Saturday April 29<sup>th</sup> 11:00am until 4:00pm at Renfrew Park in Waynesboro, PA. CFA will have a booth at the celebration. If you would be interested in helping to man our booth for whatever time you have available, please contact Debbie Mills at [debbiemills11770@gmail.com](mailto:debbiemills11770@gmail.com).

For more details about the event, go to

<http://www.renfrewinstitute.org/TEST/pdf/EarthDayFlyer2017-B&W.pdf>

# From the Desk of the President, Jim Robbins

CFA has been very busy. We are into the 2017 Every Kid in the Park again this year and will have our first program this month. Please see the article on the previous page about the program.

The Friends of Maryland State Parks and CFA are in the process of working together with the guidance of Mel Poole who is working closely with the organization. We had the Amish with us during the month of March, please see the articles on page one and two about their visit and stay with us. They accomplished a great deal and had a wonderful time. We look forward to another group next year. This year we also had four Amish couples with us for about 2 weeks to do work on the stable at Greentop. With the help of a grant from the Foundation for Children with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Chesapeake District, Civitan International, Inc., and individual donations work was started on the stable at Greentop. Our first Artist in Residence will arrive in Catoctin Mountain Park in May and then summer will be upon us.

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 your Mountains.

For more information about CFA and opportunities to help out, please contact me, Jim Robbins at [jimrobbins@comcast.net](mailto:jimrobbins@comcast.net).

## SUCCESS By Jim Robbins

The youth have been busy with picnic tables,(tearing apart and re-building), cutting wire for 250 wire cages to protect 250 Hemlocks that will be planted in Cunningham Falls State Park, maple sugar prep and collection, helping the Amish adults with the stable, at Greentop, and are now back to clearing the trail to Renner Commentary. The landscaping fabric and mulch have arrived and we will continue finish the trail now that the weather has improved. The last day for the youth will be June 8, 2017.



Learning CPR



Working at the Aviary at Cunningham Falls State Park



Dutch Oven cooking and LUNCH



Maple Syrup collection



Clearing away old shingles from horse barn renovation



Cleaning horse stalls



Cleaning up trash



Trail work

Horse barn renovation nearly complete





## Programs and Events at Catoctin Mountain Park – all FREE.

Questions can be directed to the visitor center 301-663-9388.

**May 6** – 10:00 a.m. Mountain Laurel Hike. Join Ranger Ron Harvey who will go in search of the best patch of Mountain Laurel in the park. Discover where it likes to grow and why it is one of America’s most loved native shrubs. Hike begins at the Thurmont Vista Parking Area.

**May 20** – 9:30-11:00 a.m. Printmaking Workshop . Join Artists-in-Residence Ben and Melissa Panter for a family-friendly printmaking workshop. Participants will learn the basics of printmaking using foam printing sheets. The inspiration will be flora and fauna of Catoctin. In the process participants will learn about some “art words”, like line, shape and pattern, and how to use them creatively. At the end there will be colorful finished prints to take home as a personalized souvenirs.

**May 24 (Raindate May 25)** – 9:00-10:00 a.m. Photography Hike with the Artist-in-Residence Ben Panter Take a hike with the artist in residence, Ben Panter, and learn some landscape and nature photography tips along the way. This trip will be geared toward budding photo enthusiasts young and old who are interested in learning a few ways to improve their photography. These lessons can be applied to DSLR’s, point and shoots, and even smartphones, so bring whatever camera you have and get ready for an enjoyable and instructive stroll through the Catoctin woods.

**May 27** - 10:00 a.m. Mountain Laurel Hike. Join Ranger Ron Harvey who will go in search of the best patch of Mountain Laurel in the park. Discover where it likes to grow and why it is one of America’s most loved native shrubs. Hike begins at the Thurmont Vista Parking Area.

**May 28** – 11:00 a.m. Wildflowers to Ferns. Park Volunteer and CFA member Daryl Dupres will introduce participants to the blooming flowers, captivating ferns, and other prominent vegetation along the Brown’s Farm Trail. Meet at the Owens Creek Picnic Area.

**June 25** – 11:00 a.m. Wildflowers to Ferns. Park Volunteer and CFA member Daryl Dupres will introduce participants to the blooming flowers, captivating ferns, and other prominent vegetation along the Brown’s Farm Trail. Meet at the Owens Creek Picnic Area.

## **Calendar 2017**

May 6-7	Spring in the Village/Art at the Furnace
May 7	Spring Artist in Residence arrives
May 20	Printmaking Workshop with Artists in Resident, Ben and Melissa Panter
May 24	Photography Hike with Artist in Residence, Ben Panter
May 27	Mountain Laurel Hike with Ranger Ron Harvey
May 28	Wildflowers to Ferns Hike with Daryl Dupres
June 2	Tea at Gambrill 6-8pm, contact <a href="mailto:Alicia.norris@maryland.gov">Alicia.norris@maryland.gov</a>
June 25	Wildflowers to Ferns Hike with Daryl Dupres
June 28	Board and General Meeting 4pm at the Lewis property
August 23	Board and General Meeting 4pm at the Lewis property
September 10	Fall Artist in Residence arrives
October 1	Tea at Gambrill 4pm, contact <a href="mailto:Alicia.norris@maryland.gov">Alicia.norris@maryland.gov</a>
October 25	Board and General Meeting 4pm at the Lewis property
December 21	CFA Christmas Party at Lewis property

Spring in the Village



Art At The Furnace

## Join us for an art festival in the historic village of Catoctin Furnace

Saturday, May 6, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Sunday, May 7, noon to 5 p.m.

Spend a day in the historic village of Catoctin Furnace! Enjoy juried art, crafts, flowers, heirloom plants, herbs, wine, children's activities, music & food!

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

For More Information: 301-271-7574 or  
443-463-6437

[www.catoctinfurnace.org](http://www.catoctinfurnace.org)



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# Partnership Profile: Friends of Maryland State Parks

By Mel Poole

Friends of Maryland State Parks turns 20 years old this year and CFA wishes to highlight their role in supporting parks and conservation.

## Vision

Friends of Maryland State Parks (FMSP) seeks to be the primary catalyst across the state in raising awareness and appreciation of the “quality of life” benefits associated with the protection, preservation, improvement and expansion of Maryland State Parks for current and future generations.

## Mission

FMSP strives to accomplish this vision by developing a passionate constituency of citizens and elected officials, who advocate for and support Maryland State Parks.

## Focus

72 Maryland State Park units annually host over 12 million visitors with 500 paid staff and 6,000 volunteers supporting these visits. A recent estimate of the critical maintenance backlog in Maryland State Parks exceeds \$40 million. The key focus of the Friends of Maryland State Parks Foundation is a membership that supports volunteerism in state parks, advocates statewide for state parks and fundraises for specific state park projects. The Foundation focuses on investments in our state parks that protect park resources, support critical maintenance and capital improvements, provide economic value to local economies, and sustain environmental education programs for children and healthy lifestyles for all citizens.

## Accomplishments

- Advocated for 2007 State Park Funding Study and 2010 Economic and Visitor Impact Study
- Worked with Governor and MD Legislature to sustain Maryland State Park annual operating budget with Project Open Space funding
- Garnered \$40M for Critical Maintenance over the next ten years (2025)
- Partnered to construct fence on War of 1812 battlefield at North Point State Park
- Participated in special events at North Point, Cunningham Falls, Fort Frederick, and the Maryland State Fair

## For further information

Website: <http://www.friendsofmdparks.org>

Telephone: President Chuck Hecker, 410-353-1093



**Preserving, Protecting, Enhancing & Advocating for our Parks**



# 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 \$15 per person or \$20 per couple for a membership that will last through December 2017.

**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](http://www.catoctinforestalliance.org)

**If you would like to make a donation to CFA to support programs like the restoration of the horse barn and the riding program for the disabled or for the continued Day Camp programs for fourth graders, you can do so by mailing your donation to:**

**Catoctin Forest Alliance**

**PO Box 411**

**Thurmont, MD**

**21788**