



Friends of Upton State Forest Inc. Newsletter

<http://www.friendsofuptonstateforest.org>
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Summer 2010

President's Message

It has been a busy spring for FUSF members and park staff. A full report of our activities is within this newsletter. Looking back, we realize that the success of all that we do is dependent on the support of our staff, members, friends and public officials who support our work. Thank you to each and everyone for the time spent promoting our efforts at the Forest.

Upton State Forest is a great place to come during any season. Summer brings the canopy of foliage that provides shade as we use the trails. Birds and their young fill the trees, and if you keep a careful eye on the bog, you will realize it is teeming with life. You might see beaver, a Great blue heron, turtles sunning themselves, blackbirds, water lilies and wild azalea to name a few. If you are lucky, you might be there on a day when a mallard is gliding through the water with her ducklings.

In the upland, you might be privileged to see a fawn, a fox or any number of animals. Remember that if you encounter young wildlife you should leave it alone. Even if it appears to be alone, a parent is probably nearby and our interference can cause harm.

When you use the trails remember to tell someone where you are going and what time to expect you back. Keep an eye to the sky and check the weather forecast before you head out. Don't carry valuables with you and don't leave them in your car. If you have a dog with you, remember that at the parking area and grassy areas it must be leashed. When you encounter people, other dogs, horses or wildlife please respect them and keep your dog under control. We can all enjoy the forest if we respect each other.

Have a great summer *Joan.*

Creatures of the Night: An Evening of Moth Observations Friday, September 24, 6:30 PM At Upton State Forest



As part of our "Discovery Series" FUSF and Upton Open Space are pleased to co-host Mark Mello, director of research at the Lloyd Center for Environmental Studies in Dartmouth, MA. He will give us a fascinating look at the fluttering creatures that are drawn to porch lights and campfires.

We will be meeting at the historic CCC Camp at Upton State Forest. There will be refreshments at 6:30 PM in the headquarters building with a brief FUSF business meeting, after which we will join Mark outside to view the amazing nightlife of moths. The public is invited for both refreshments and the free program, which is open to all ages. The moth program will begin at 7:00 PM. There are no restroom facilities available.

For more information contact: Ellen at 508-529-6610, Marcella at 508-529-3709, news@friendsofuptonstateforest.org or uptonopenspaceevents@charter.net

1000 Great Places in MA

Upton State Forest was chosen from a list of over 12,000 entries as one of *1000 Great Places to Visit in MA!* The list celebrates pride in our history and culture, increases knowledge of our natural surroundings and encourages tourism. You can find the entire list at www.massvacation.com

75th Anniversary Celebration

May 15 was a beautiful day to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the CCC Camp. Senator Michael Moore and Representative George Peterson brought proclamations from the legislature and Governor Patrick in honor of the occasion. They were joined by Director of State Parks, Priscilla Geigis, Director of Partnerships, Conrad Crawford and Acting District Manager, Kathryn Garcia, in recognizing the legacy of the Civilian Conservation Corps. Alumni present were Frank Evans, John Banash, Hubie D'Ambrosio, all of Chapter 158, Walter Sekula from Connecticut, Joe Halpin of North Weymouth and J. W. Eugene of White Horse Beach. Shanna Jackman of the Upton Police Dept. shared her lovely voice to sing the National Anthem.

After cutting the anniversary cake, each man got a chance to share their stories with visitors. It is always humbling to hear men tell how desperate their families were, how grateful they were for a job and the \$1.00 a day to help support those families. Many of the stories included the fact that they went on to serve in World War 2, coming home to raise families using skills learned in the CCC to support them. FUSF is proud to partner with DCR to honor these men and to support a piece of the Legacy they are leaving behind.

A living history encampment included a period CCC truck as well as tools demonstrated by costumed interpreters. Members, Zane and Evelyn Arnold arrived in their 1928 Model A truck, giving visitors a chance to see another period vehicle. Jane Milligan, of the Friends, planned and set out a special, one-day letterbox series designed to have people identify and explore the footprint of the CCC Camp. A highlight

of the day was a large screen provided by Bill Taylor that allowed continuous showing of a CCC film.

We appreciate the participation of the Framingham Antique Radio Association (FARA) who provided a ham radio booth as well as a Morse code booth. During the day, people enjoyed using the radios, reaching Georgia, Florida, North Carolina, New Mexico, Indiana, Finland, Italy and Norway all from the lawn at Upton State Forest! Since one of the CCC enrollees who served in our camp (later killed during the Battle of the Bulge) was a ham radio enthusiast it was special to have them with us.

Children enjoyed a play camp designed and built by Tim Rayworth of DCR. Smokey Bear and his friends from District 7 Fire Control brought a display of forest fire-fighting equipment. Period music was provided by Christopher Hookie of DCR.

FUSF, Upton Open Space, Friends of Whitehall, Woodville Historic District Commission and Upton Historical Society set up historic displays.

Thank you to the DCR staff and all the volunteers who supported this event. They made the camp come alive!



Tim Rayworth and assistant
J. Milligan photo

A new porch at Upton...Finally!



W. Johnston photo

Shortly after forming five years ago, FUSF was encouraged to apply for a grant through **Fix it First Friends**. The project that everyone agreed needed to be done first was to repair and stain the porch. Timing of the grant meant that we had to do some serious fund-raising in a hurry. It also meant that our members and volunteers spent the weeks between Thanksgiving and Christmas, selling cocoa on the Upton Common, and baking and staffing a food sale at the Saturday morning basketball practices in the Town Hall. Assisted by members of Girl Scout Troop 911 we raised enough to apply for the grant, only to have it denied. The porch continued to deteriorate, going beyond the point of repair and stain.

Since that time, we have successfully applied for and completed other worthwhile partnership grant projects. Through our efforts, a restored Entrance Gateway welcomes visitors; there is a flagpole in front of the Administration Building and a new bridge on the Hopkinton Spring Trail. Our members have donated many volunteer hours and we have continued to advocate for our forest and the CCC Camp.

It has been especially gratifying during the past few weeks to see our latest DCR partnership grant project materialize. **There is a new porch on the Administration Building of Camp SP-25 at Upton State Forest!** It is safe and sturdy while preserving the historic appearance of the building. As part of the project, a new universal access ramp has been built to

replace the old one. Staining of the porch and ramp will happen soon.

Thank you to everyone who provided letters of support for the grant. Senator Michael O. Moore, Representative George N. Peterson, Jan Reitsma of the Blackstone River Valley Corridor, Upton Historical Commission, Upton Historical Society, Upton Open Space and Bay State Trail Riders Association. Thank you to Jeff Cate, Kathryn Garcia and the other DCR staff who facilitated our application, including Kevin Allen, DCR Project Manager. Thank you to our members for voting to fund our portion of the grant and for your continued support of our work. A special thank you to Walter Petrowski and two anonymous donors whose donations helped make this possible. We are also grateful to the young women of Girl Scout Troop 911 for their early support.

We invite you to take a ride to the camp to see the porch. You won't be disappointed! There is still much to be done at the camp, but for now, savor the moment!



Ramp under construction, B. Johnston photo

Quarterly Quote

Perseverance is a great element of success. If you knock long enough and loud enough at the gate, you are sure to wake up somebody.



Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Living With Wildlife

For several years, there have been reports of black bear sightings around Upton. The most recent documented sightings were on Chestnut St and Ridge Rd. We should “keep the wild in wildlife” so we can live in harmony with and enjoy the animals we encounter.

Remove any outdoor food sources that will attract animals to your property including, trash, garbage and bird feeders. Secure food for domestic animals and keep food scraps out of your compost pile. Do not put your bird feeders back up until late November. An animal that gets used to food sources that are not natural will remember and return. This applies to everything from raccoon to bear.

The MA Fish and Wildlife website has information available. Go to <http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw>. When you get to the website, there is an address bar where you can type in the name of an animal to get a fact sheet about it. You can also sign up for an e-newsletter the department puts out.

Membership Report

Welcome to Suzanne Nicholas, a new member from Ashland. Thank you to everyone who has renewed their membership for 2010. Your support is critical to our success.

Please encourage any of your friends who enjoy Upton State Forest to join FUSF. Let them know how much we have done to benefit USF. Membership is available in several categories and price ranges They can get more information about us and download a membership form from our website; www.friendsofuptonstateforest.org, pick one up at the trailhead map box or send a note to PO Box 258, Upton, MA 01568 and we will send one.

***Celebrate the Legacy* Letterboxes**

Jane Milligan reports that letterboxes in the *Celebrate the Legacy* series, placed in October 2008 at CCC sites in USF, are still in good condition and are being visited. If you want to do the series, go to www.letterboxing.org and follow the links to get the directions. If you do not have internet access and would like a copy of the directions for *Celebrate the Legacy*, send a stamped self-addressed envelope to FUSF at PO Box 258, Upton, MA 01568-0258 with a note.

Trails Committee Report

Thank you to Bay State Trail Riders Association for their donation to the Trails Committee account. Funds from this account support expenses for work parties and are available for grant projects that involve the USF trails.

We will be working with the Historic Resources Committee to develop a trails brochure.

Please contact Joan Shanahan if you can help this important committee.

DCR Parks Passes

DCR offers annual Parks Passes free to MA seniors age 62 and over. The pass allows free parking at over 50 facilities that charge a day-use parking fee, subject to available parking. You can also purchase the passes for your own use or as a gift and some libraries have the passes for loan. Information is available at www.mass.gov/dcr. When you get to the page scroll down to recreation and click on passes and fees.

Portalet

We regret that the portalet is gone due to the severe budget cuts. If you have any thoughts about fund raising to support having one again please let us know.

Historic Resources Committee Report

Upton's 275th Parade



Jane & Bill Milligan K. Craib photo

The threat of rain did not dampen the enthusiasm of FUSF members marching with the antique DCR CCC Truck in Upton's 275th parade. Representing FUSF were Frank Evans, Gerry Lemire, Joan Shanahan, Russ and Ellen Arnold, Jane and Bill Milligan and Bill Johnston with his dog, Kirby.

Thank you to Alec Gillman and Allan Haskins from DCR, for bringing the antique CCC truck and joining us in the parade. Allan drove and did a great job of giving Frank, Joan and Ellen a smooth ride. Alec was a big hit as he squirted water from an authentic Indian Can. Kids along the route were daring him to hit them with water and loved it when he did. It was fun to see their smiles! The crowd loved Gerry Lemire who was dressed in full camo.

Thank you also to Kathy Craib and Pauline Johnston for providing taxi service to and from the start and end of the parade. We appreciated the cookies, cupcakes and banana bread from Alice Evans and Joan Shanahan. The Friends provided a light lunch for our group. No one ever leaves an FUSF event hungry!

Our hats are off to the 275th parade committee who did such a great job of organizing and supporting the marchers.



P. Johnston photo

History on Display

During the 275th weekend, Upton Town Hall was filled with historic displays sponsored by Upton Historical Society. FUSF and Upton Open Space shared a booth, featuring photos of the CCC camp from 1935 to present day and historic stone features at the forest as well as on town of Upton properties. The display was designed and set up by Ellen Arnold and Marcella Stasa, assisted by Joan Shanahan. Other volunteers helping during the weekend were Russ Arnold, Bob Ethier, Agnita Knott, Jane Milligan and Mike Penko.

As part of the celebration, on June 12, Ellen and Marcella were joined by National Park Service Ranger, Chuck Arning, as they interpreted the Upton Common, historic homes, as well as cemeteries and stonewalls.

Prior to the walk, Bill Taylor did a great deal of research about families and structures along the route. Marcella designed a brochure, handed out at the booth, in addition to a power point slide show of the sites visited on the walk. The slide show was shown in our booth for anyone unable to make the hike. We appreciate that Upton Historical Society allowed the use of photos from their collection for the display, power point and brochure.

Discovery Hikes and Calendar

For more information contact:

friends@friendsofuptonstateforest.org or uptonopenspaceevents@charter.net

To receive reminders or cancellation notices send an email to:

uptonopenspaceevents@charter.net

Discover What's New at Warren Brook Watershed Conservation Area

**Sunday, August 29, 2010, 1 PM
Registration 12:45**

Trails have been rerouted, bridges have been built (by those terrific scouts of Troop 132), and Grafton has acquired abutting acreage for open space. Come see what's new at Warren Brook.

Meet at the parking area at the top of the hill on Grafton Rd in Upton. Wear appropriate shoes and clothing. Insect repellent and sunscreen is recommended. Program is free. All ages are welcome. Heavy rain or threat of thunderstorms cancels. This is a moderate two-mile hike with optional walks to lesser-known trails on the property.

As a courtesy to those who are fearful of dogs, please leave your pet at home. We will introduce you to trails on which you may bring dogs at other times. When you do, remember that dogs must be leashed, or under voice command on all town properties.

CCC at Upton State Forest Sunday, October 24, 2010, 1 PM Registration 12:45

You will discover history on this interpretive hike of the CCC Camp, water holes, picnic area and stone steps built by the Civilian Conservation Corps. At Dean Pond, you will learn about the men who built the dam and pond.

Meet at the Administration Building at the intersection of Westborough and Southborough Roads in Upton. This moderate hike usually lasts about two hours on a well-traveled loop with some uneven terrain. There is a short option for those who want to turn back at the CCC picnic area. Return via Loop Rd.

Wear appropriate clothing and footwear. Remember water, sunscreen and insect repellent. Liability waiver required. Please leave your pet at home, since some people are fearful of dogs.

Friends of Upton State Forest Meetings

Board of Directors

7 PM at Upton Police Station
August 16,
September 20
October 18

Historic Resources Committee

7PM at Upton Police Station
August 23,
September 27

Creatures of the Night

September 24—details on page 1

Upton's Heritage Weekend

First weekend in October

Fall Work Party

October 16—Save the date

Park Serve Day 2010



E. Arnold photo

Thank you to Jeff Cate of DCR, Troop 132 and the BSTRA and FUSF members who planted, raked, cut brush, and painted the Iron Ranger and the Wayside panel on Park Serve Day. We gave the Headquarters area a general clean up and we prepared CCC Way for reopening. FUSF and Bay State Trail Riders Association (BSTRA) provided lunch.