



Friends of Upton State Forest Inc. Newsletter

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

President's Message *By Joan Shanahan*

On a sunny afternoon during February school vacation, 69 children and parents joined us for a walk on Rabbit Run Trail at Upton State Forest. Along the way, Tim Rayworth and Barbara Buls of the DCR Interpretive Staff showed us animal tracks in the snow while telling us about the animals that make the forest their home. Rich Trubiano of the Hopkinton Staff had a campfire waiting when we returned. We enjoyed a special treat of hot cocoa and roasted marshmallows. Programming like this brings families together to enjoy the outdoors and FUSF welcomes the chance to participate. Volunteers for the afternoon included Bill Taylor, Marcella Stasa, Ellen and Russ Arnold, Charles Shanahan and I.

State budget cuts are having an impact on our state parks and wonderful events like these. Staff is spread very thin so our support and continued advocacy is critical.

Upton State Forest is important, not only to the residents of Upton, but to all those who visit this special place. In ten hours of surveys in three weekends, we collected close to 50 zip codes from people who use our forest. They come to hike, walk their dogs, bike, hunt, snowshoe, cross-country ski, ride horses, bird watch and to look for letterboxes. We are living in the second fastest growing area in MA and people need parks like ours to escape the pressures of everyday life and connect with nature.

Special thanks to Ellen Arnold, our past president, who dedicated countless hours for the benefit of FUSF. She reached out to other groups to become partners while working to establish good relations with our staff.

Joan

Annual Potluck Supper & Program **April 16 6PM United Parish Church**

Bring a main dish or dessert to share. Please RSVP to Joan at 508-529-3164 or friends@friendsofuptonstateforest.org. Tell us how many will attend and what you will bring. We will provide paper goods, coffee, water and soda. Non-members and children (with supervision) are welcome. There will be raffles to support our committees.

At 7PM author, Todd McLeish, will present a program using slides of pictures from his two books, "Golden Wings and Hairy Toes" about endangered New England wildlife and "Basking With Humpbacks". Todd has been writing about wildlife and environmental issues for more than 20 years. His books will be available to purchase after the program. If you cannot join us for supper, come for dessert and the program.

Park Serve Day April 24, 2010

This year we will partner with Bay State Trail Riders Association (BSTRA). Coffee and registration at 8:30 AM. Meet at the Headquarters Building at the intersection of Westborough and Southborough Roads at Upton State Forest. Work from 9 AM to 1 PM followed by lunch for volunteers. Wear work clothes, boots and gloves. Bring tools such as loppers, shovels and rakes. No power tools. Don't forget sunscreen. Water and trail snacks provided. Liability waiver is required. Youth over 12, welcome with a parent's signature. Youth groups are asked to preregister. Questions, or if you can bake desserts please contact: Joan 508-529-3164, friends@friendsofuptonstateforest.org
BSTRA members: Agnita 508-529-6678

FUSF T-Shirts For Sale! See page 6.

My Forest

Submitted by William Johnston, Jr. in response to a question to members, "What does Upton State Forest mean to you?" Future newsletters will include comments from others. Please send us your thoughts.



It is not really my forest. I just call it that because it meets all of the essentials of what I consider a worthwhile outdoor experience. I discovered Upton State Forest, just a mile or two from home, shortly after moving here in 1986. It is an Eden of tranquility about thirty miles from Boston.

My forest is unique in that it possesses many and varied micro systems within its boundaries. From the cedar swamp near the park's entrance one can travel up the hill on Park Road to find a panoramic view, looking towards Hopkinton. Along the way, you might find the stone steps leading to all that remains of one of the CCC built picnic areas. There are other remnants of human activities such as quarried rock and old cellar holes.

This is upland dominated by oak with a scattering of white pine. As the trail descends toward Dean Pond, the flora changes to predominately pine with some hemlock, yellow and black birch. Here too are several plantations of red pine, planted some 75 years ago by the CCC's, (Civilian Conservation Corps). I was puzzled when I first came upon them, until someone explained their origins. Out of their natural element, the trees stand in formation, a salute to the young men of the CCC.

I discovered my first goshawk nest at the junction of Park Road and Dean Pond Road. About 50 feet up in the fork of a red birch, the parents were relatively silent and non-aggressive at my approach. The birds nested in that patch of woods for two seasons. Later, I could hear the fledglings begging food from their weary parents.

In warm weather, my dogs always enjoy a dip in Dean Pond before continuing. Sometimes we return to the parking lot by way of Middle Road, sometimes Loop or other trails. If I am feeling ambitious, I use Bridge to connect to Whitehall, up and over Grouse back to Loop.

A mid March hike through another part of the forest produced my second goshawk nest, about 40 feet up in a white pine. Using binoculars, the adjacent hillside provided a great view of the incubating female. From directly below the nest the only evidence that she was there was a long tail seen protruding out over the rim. I installed a "coon guard" at the base of the tree to prevent marauding raccoons from climbing the tree to plunder eggs or young. On my return several weeks later, I discovered the remains of the female among a scattering of feathers around the area of the nest tree. Possible culprits include a Great Horned Owl or a Fisher.

"My forest allows me to pursue what I enjoy and I know that others find pleasure here also pursuing their own interests.

Membership Report

We are happy to report that more than half of our members have already renewed for 2010. If your membership card does not say 2010, it is time to renew. Please save us the postage for a reminder that goes out in April by sending your renewal today. If you need a membership renewal form, you can email friends@friendsofuptonstateforest.org or send your check to PO Box 258, Upton, MA 01568 with a note that it is a renewal and give us any changes in your contact information. *Agnita*

Message from CCC Alumni

*(Submitted by John Banash, President,
Pioneer Valley Chapter 158 CCC Alumni,
standing in rear, Alec Gillman, DCR)*



Chapter 158 Alumni, Christmas 2008

Upton State Forest is a special place for CCC alumni and their families. Over 200 young men between the ages of 18 and 25 at the camp were involved in pest control, fire hazard reduction, flood assistance, forest surveys and construction of truck trails, water holes and Dean Pond Dam. Today at Upton State Forest the CCC Administration Building, Cottage, Supply Building and a small shed still stand. The parade ground, a central grassy area, and cedar trees planted during the CCC occupation are also still there. These resources represent the legacy of the Civilian Conservation Corps in MA.

Friends of Upton State Forest, established in 2005, work diligently to preserve the natural and historic resources at Upton State Forest. FUSF was instrumental in having the CCC buildings nominated and listed on the "2005 List of Ten Most Endangered Historic Resources in MA." In 2006, at their request, the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) completed a survey of the existing conditions of the buildings. In addition, the Friends have done programs, surveys, fund raising and work parties to do clean up and trail maintenance.

Chapter 158 CCC Alumni thank Friends of Upton State Forest for their hard work to protect and preserve the historic resources there.

John Banash

Partnership Grant Awarded!

FUSF is excited to announce that we have been notified that a Partnership Matching Grant for repair of the porch of the historic Administration Building at Upton State Forest will be awarded. Total of the project is \$10,000. FUSF is committing \$3334.00 toward the project with a double match for the remainder. This partnership with the Department of Conservation and Recreation is possible because of two major donations made to the Friends. A portion of the funds will come from the Petrowski Memorial account established through the generosity of Walter Petrowski in memory of his father, CCC alumnus, Joe Petrowski. Funding is also possible because of a recent anonymous donation of \$1000.00 made with the request that the money be used for a capitol project.

We are grateful for support letters that we submitted with the grant from: Senator Michael O. Moore, Representative George N. Peterson, Upton Historical Commission, Upton Historical Society, Upton Open Space Committee and Bay State Trail Riders Association.

Treasurer's Report

Friends of Upton State Forest are grateful for the generosity of their members and others. We have received donations from \$1.00 to \$5000.00. No matter how small a donation is, we are able to put it to work leveraging the money through partnerships and matching grants. When you make a donation, you may specify, if you want, how you want the money used. We have set up several accounts to track the funds. The Trails and Historic Resources Committees each have their own account. Money from those accounts is used at the discretion of the committee to fund work parties, special events, display materials and other expenses. Walter Petrowski established the Petrowski Memorial Fund in memory of his father, Joe Petrowski, a CCC alumnus. The Founders Capitol Project Fund is for money donated for specific capitol projects. (Cont. page 5)

Meet the DCR Staff Tim Rayworth



Tim Rayworth was raised in Central MA, but went to Colorado State University where he studied Interpretation, a field dedicated to making meaningful connections between people and their places. After college, he had to return to the hills and forests of New England. Since then, he has explored and studied the natural and cultural landscape through self-discovery and educational workshops.

A familiar face at Upton State Forest, Tim is the Environmental Coordinator for the Northeast Region of the MA Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). His job is to facilitate learning for students about the natural and cultural resources across Northeastern MA. In eleven years working for DCR, he has done this by bringing students on field trips, doing outreach in schools, and conducting professional development for teachers. He has also worked as an Island Manager at the Boston Harbor Islands and in Lowell, as a seasonal Park Interpreter.

Tim works in many beautiful places from Salisbury to Upton, including Great Brook Farm State Park, Harold Parker State Forest, Maudslay State Park, Sandy Point State Reservation, Halibut Point State Park, Wachusett State Reservation and the communities that surround them all! He said

that naming his favorite place would be like trying to name a favorite child, but Upton State Forest is special to him because he enjoys teaching about the Civilian Conservation Corps, which is a strong theme there. He said, “There is so much to tell from the physical legacy of the work they did, to the human legacy it left on people. There are stories of great loss and heroism during that time.” He remembers his grandfather, on rides they took together, telling stories while pointing out their work.

Here at Upton, Tim has worked with FUSF and the Memorial School third grade teachers, to bring students to the CCC Camp to experience “A Day in the Life of the CCC”. Prior to the visit, Tim works with the teachers to introduce the CCC through their local history lessons. He does a presentation in the classrooms where he is joined by CCC alumnus, Frank Evans. Frank talks with students about what it was like in the C’s. When the day comes for the children to go to the camp, Tim greets them as a costumed interpreter in the role of a CCC enrollee before they start exploring the several activity stations. Last year, Tim’s program received the ultimate accolade. A third grader used sidewalk chalk to write “CCC Camp rocks!”

During our interview, Tim said. “Through projects at Upton, I have met some great people that I’m proud to call friends.” We feel the same about Tim.



Left to right: Frank Evans, CCC alumnus, Tim Rayworth and Val Stegemoen of DCR, and FUSF volunteer, Bill Knott.



Hiking Through History

*A partnership with Upton
Open Space Committee.*

For all hikes and events, we ask that you dress for the weather and wear appropriate clothing and footwear. Kids are welcome, but must be supervised. Liability waiver is required for hikes. Check with the hike sponsor in case of inclement weather. There is no charge.

Peppercorn Hill

April 18 (Sunday). Registration 12:30. Hike starts at 1:00 PM. Meet at the Crockett Road trailhead parking lot. (This is not an easy place to find so be sure you have good directions and allow plenty of time to locate it.) Expect steep and uneven terrain.

We will “Hike Through History” with Don Kerr, who was instrumental in the acquisition of this 283-acre property by the town of Upton twenty-five years ago. Enjoy the views and unique features of the area while Mr. Kerr shares childhood memories of summering on the lake with his family with Peppercorn Hill as his “backyard”. He will also talk about the logging that took place here in the 1930’s and the devastation of the 1938 hurricane.

More information: mstasa@charter.net or 508-529-3709. Heavy rain cancels.

Upton Historic Walking Tour

June 12 (Saturday). Walk starts at 1:00 PM. Meet on the Upton Town Common. Before heading out we will learn about the Town Common, the Underground Railroad and the historic monuments and buildings in this area. As we walk, we will discuss historic homes, stonewalls and visit the historic Second Cemetery. There is a short option for those who want to return to the Common via North Main St with others going on to Old Dam Road, now known as River Street, to visit the site of the restored dam and Town Pound on Elm St.

Before or after the hike please visit our booth in the Town Hall. Contact mstasa@charter.net. Heavy rain cancels.

75th Anniversary of Upton State Forest May 15 (Saturday). In lieu of a hike in May we will be celebrating the anniversary of the opening of Camp SP-25 at Upton. Save the date and please join us for this family friendly event. Details will be sent soon.

Upton’s 275th Parade

We will be marching in the parade on June 13 with our theme being the ways that people use Upton State Forest. We are looking for a couple of mountain bikers to join us. If you would like to join us, contact friends@friendsofuptonstateforest.org, Joan at 508-529-3164 or Ellen at 508-529-6610. You do not need an elaborate costume, just come dressed as you would use the forest and “hike” the parade route with us. . This should be fun! There will be a liability waiver required of participants.

Upton Open Space Committee News Volunteers Needed

From 9AM to 11AM on the first Sunday morning of each month from May through November The Upton Land Stewardship Committee will be working on improving Town of Upton open space parcels. Among the jobs we will be tackling are trail building and maintenance, woodworking projects and further development of the community garden. Everyone is welcome regardless of age or skill. Please contact Marcella at mstasa@charter.net or 508-529-3709.

Treasurer’s Report (cont. from page 3)

Your dues and unspecified donations fund our administrative expenses, the newsletter, state filing fees and other general expenses. We are looking into merchandise, such as clothing, with our logo, to sell to help fund these expenses.

In addition to cash donations, we have received in kind donations of goods and services that have helped stretch our dollars.

We are happy to provide a receipt that you can give to your tax accountant. *Chris*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS P

Friends of Upton State Forest

Board of Directors

Upton Police Station, 7PM

April 19, May 17, June 21

Historic Resources Committee

Upton Police Station, 7PM

March 22, April 26

Annual Potluck Supper & Program

United Parish Church

Supper at 6:00 PM, Speaker at 7:00 PM

Park Serve Day at

Upton State Forest, April 24

Registration & Coffee 8:30

“Celebrate the Legacy”

75th Anniversary of Camp SP-25 CCC

Upton State Forest

10 AM to 3 PM, Ceremony at 11:00 AM

**Upton’s 275th Anniversary Weekend

June 12, 13 and 14

Save the dates. Watch for details.

Hiking Through History-See page 5

FUSF T-Shirts

T-shirts with our logo will be available to purchase by April 16. We will have them for sale at the potluck supper and you can order them by contacting a member of the Board or friends@friendsofuptonstateforest.org

Wearing them at events and work parties will help establish our identity as an organization that works for the benefit of Upton State Forest. It will also help raise funds to support our work.

Price per shirt is \$10.00 or two for \$19.00. Sizes are M, L and XL. Color is blue spruce with our logo on the front and name on the back. We hope you will show your pride by wearing them and consider getting them as gifts for family and friends.

Parting Shot

Intersection, Park Rd and Loop Rd



J. Fahy photo, 2006

Quote of the month

“I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
and I-

I took the road less traveled by.
And that has made all the difference.”

Robert Frost

New Email Address for FUSF

The Friends have established a new email address and are phasing out the fusf@charter.net address. In future, the general contact for the Friends will be friends@friendsofuptonstateforest.org. You will receive your e-newsletter from news@friendsofuptonstateforest.org. We are doing this so that, in future, when there is a change in officers it will not be necessary to make any email address changes. Please update your address books once you get this newsletter. There is no change in the address for the website or the PO Box for regular mail.

A Word about Letterboxes

Letterboxing is a popular and fun activity. Please remember if you are placing a box or series of them to ask permission from the property owner. You can reach park staff at 508-435-4303 or Hopkinton.Park@state.ma.us.