



FRIENDS OF UPTON STATE FOREST INC. NEWSLETTER

<http://www.friendsofuptonstateforest.org>
fusf@charter.net

Volume 3, Number 2

March 2008

President's Message "Living the Legacy"

2008 is the 75th Anniversary of the legislation that created the Civilian Conservation Corps. In Massachusetts over 100,000 men between the ages of 18 to 25 served in the C's. They laid the cornerstone for the park system that we enjoy today.

Many people today have little knowledge of the CCC. Very few of us can appreciate the depths this country had reached that caused a need for such a program. Without living through the economic hardships of the 1930's and witnessing the environmental disaster caused by the needs of a growing country it is hard to comprehend.

Members of the Department of Conservation and Recreation CCC Program Committee are working to **Preserve and Celebrate the Legacy** left us by the men of the C's. During this anniversary year they are planning several events and ongoing interpretive programs.

One of our own FUSF members, Frank Evans, is **"Living the Legacy"**. Frank served in the C's, is a cofounder of our organization and still beats the rest of us to work parties. He attends every meeting, drives to events throughout the state and actively enjoys the outdoors.

When you see Frank or anyone else you know that served in the CCC please say thank you. I hope that you will attend one of the 2008 events planned to honor the men that contributed so much to our park system. Ellen

Pot Luck Supper

March 14 6 PM

****United Parish Vestry****

4 Central Square, Upton

Bring a main dish or dessert to share. The Friends will provide paper goods, coffee, water and a garden salad. **RSVP** to Ellen Arnold at 508-529-6610 or fusf@charter.net. Please let us know how many will attend and what you will bring so that we will not end up with all desserts! Non-members and children (with supervision) are welcome.

Senator Edward M. Augustus, Jr. and Representative George N. Peterson, Jr. will be our special guests. After supper they will speak about the budget process that supports funding for our parks and answer questions relating to the park system. Both men have been very supportive of our group as well as open space and outdoor recreation. This is a chance to let them know how much you appreciate that as well as to let them hear any concerns you may have.

Please come and enjoy!



Frank Evans - circa 1939 on CCC Bulldozer

Vernal Pool Workshop & Hike
April 19 9AM
Headquarters Building at
Upton State Forest

This program is back by popular demand. Tom Dodd will do a 45 minute power point program about vernal pools and the animals that live in them. After the program we will head out to the trails for a hike to a potential vernal pool to look for egg masses and other signs that identify it as such. While we are on site we will take pictures and fill out the forms that will start the process to certify it as a vernal pool.

Families are welcome but children do have to be accompanied by an adult. A liability waiver will be required. There is no charge.

Please dress accordingly and plan for about two to three hours on the trail. Don't forget sun screen, insect repellent and water for the hike.

Questions may be directed to fusf@charter.net or 508-529-6610. In the event of heavy rain we will still do the program although the hike might be postponed.

Upton Open Space "Big Night"

Big Night is the first night that spotted salamanders make their way to vernal pools. It will be a cold, rainy night in late March or early April. It is a hazardous journey as the salamanders will be crossing roads to get to the pools.

Upton Open Space volunteers will man road crossings to direct traffic and assist the salamanders in their journey. If you are interested please email Marcella at mstasa1@earthlink.net to put your name on the list. Then watch your email as it will be very short notice when the event occurs.

Trails Committee Report

The Trails Committee is making plans for the annual work party in April. Details are on the calendar page of this newsletter.

There has been discussion about color coded trail markings for the popular trail loops at Upton. We have been advised that DCR is working on a plan to make trail marking consistent at all parks. In the meantime the committee is looking at the mileages and difficulty of each loop. This will assist in planning for future events.

Park staff has also advised the committee that the District was able to purchase carsonite signs and the tools necessary to install them. A consistent complaint at Upton has been the lack of trail signs and inconsistencies that exist on the map. Hopefully the new signs will help alleviate that.

This group is looking for members to assist them. They started as a group of about ten to twelve at each meeting and it has steadily dwindled. A majority of you indicated on the membership application that trails is one of your main interests so we hope that you will consider joining the committee. For more information contact Karen Ober at bkober@verizon.net or Lurissa Marston, risster38@hotmail.com, 508-868-7397.

CCC Way

Karen Ober suggested that a nice way to honor the CCC legacy at Upton State Forest would be to name the parking lot entrance road "CCC Way." We have been advised by park supervisor, Jeff Cate, that this has been approved. He is arranging for it to be on the maps and for a sign with the name. Our thanks to Karen for the suggestion and to Jeff for implementing it.

Historic Resources Committee Report

Members of this committee have been working on a brochure about the CCC Camp site at Upton. It is a double sided 6 panel brochure with information about the CCC program in general and pictures of the Upton camp. The pictures were acquired from the Smithsonian Institution, loaned by Upton Historical Society and donated by David Malhoit, CCC alumnus.

Once we chose the pictures and wrote the content we turned the material over to Mrs. Wernig's Technology Class at Miscoe Hill Middle School. The quality of work done by the students is very impressive. Their skill and creativity produced a very professional brochure and we are grateful for their assistance.

In the near future we will put the brochure on the website and print it for distribution. Bill and Jane Milligan coordinated this project.

Upton Historical Society Program

On March 28 Ellen Arnold will make a presentation to the Upton Historical Society about the CCC Legacy at Upton State Forest. She will speak about the inception of the CCC, interviews done with men that served at Upton and the work done here. During the program she will invite members of the audience to share their memories of the camp and about family members that served in the C's. There will also be a display with pictures.

The program is at 7:30 PM, March 28 at United Parish Church, 4 Central Square in Upton. The public is welcome and there is no charge. Refreshments will be served. For directions or questions call Barbara Burke at the historical society; 508-529-6600.

Display at Upton Historical Society

At the invitation of Upton Historical Society the Friends have set up a display in honor of the 75th Anniversary of the CCC. It includes tools typical of those used to build log structures and corduroy roads as well as pictures and quotes of local men that served. One of the photos is a picture of the 194 men in the first contingent that served at Upton in 1935. It was donated by Rudolph Cieplinski, a baker at the camp.

The display case is in the second floor corridor above the Upton Library near the entrance to the Historical Society. Please stop by to see it.

Partnership Matching Grants

We are pleased to say that we have been awarded two matching grants from the Partnership Office of the Department of Conservation and Recreation!

The Trails Committee submitted a grant to rebuild the inner bridge on the Hopkinton Spring Trail. Materials will be purchased and stored until our work party on National Public Lands Day. This grant is in partnership with Bay State Trail Riders Association with each group contributing \$150 and the grant awarding \$600 for a total of \$900. The work party will also be a joint effort with BSTRA members.

The other grant is a partnership with Walter Petrowski, son of the late CCC alumnus, Joseph Petrowski. FUSF and Mr. Petrowski each contributed \$335.00 with a match of \$1300 for a total of \$2000. This will be used to purchase and install a flag pole at the Headquarters area as well as to install an Iron Ranger nearby.

We are very appreciative to BSTRA and Mr. Petrowski for their support of these projects.

On the Trail at Upton State Forest



Tom Dodd photo

February 10 looked like a good day to stay inside. Temps in the 20's went to the 30's when the sun came out. Sun to rain to sun to snow showers repeated over and over with a forecast of high winds. Upton Open Space had advertised a "Bog in Winter" group hike that sounded too good to pass up so I bundled up and headed out. Six diehards did brave the elements. Marcella, Tom and Chip from Upton OS, Mavis from Hopkinton Trails Club, Chip's daughter, Ciara, and I headed out on Loop Rd.

A snow squall coated everything in white so the forest looked fresh and beautiful. Tom and Chip pointed out a golden crowned kinglet. Ciara showed us the forest from the eyes of a four year old as she watched the ground to see who had gone before us. She identified a bear paw snowshoe as "waffle foot"!

There were sled tracks and large dog tracks. We soon met the dogs that made them as they made their return trip. Three Newfoundland's in training for a pulling contest approached, each pulling a sled with weights. The owners stopped to talk and give Ciara a ride.

As we made the loop around the bog Tom answered questions and Marcella pulled out a field guide as we discussed the dragonflies found at Upton in the spring. By that time the day seemed a lot nicer and spring seemed a littler closer.

The wind picked up as we returned to our cars just in time. *Ellen*

Backyard Wildlife Reports

Members from Mechanic St. report up to 77 turkeys making the rounds from feeder to feeder. The Dodd's report a great horned owl calling and a red-breasted nuthatch. They are seeing two cottontails every day.

At our feeder on Ridge Rd. we are also seeing a red-breasted nuthatch. This is an irruptive species so in years when food is scarce in the north they can be found here. We are hearing owls; a barred owl and another we have not identified. We have also had common redpolls and a winter wren. Every night we have flying squirrels and a cottontail at the feeders.

A cardinal is going from window to window getting quite frustrated at seeing another cardinal inside! We have heard about this behavior but it is the first time we have witnessed it. Another member reports a similar incident with a Red Tailed Hawk on her porch.

A member on Meadow Dr. emailed to say he found part of a deer carcass in his yard surrounded by what could be coyote tracks. Martha in Brimfield reports a small black animal trying to drag a domestic duck away from her pond. The duck survived.

George Appleton writes from Nevada "You who have the opportunity to see color (other than grey or brown) and a larger variety of birds at your feeders, both winter and summer, are to be envied." "During all four seasons enjoy what you have. Old bread and bird seed are cheap; the show you see is well worth it."

Correction: In the CCC article on page 2 of the January 2008 edition the word county should be country.

A Brief History of Falconry

By William F. Johnston, Jr.

(A cofounder and member at large on the first FUSF Board, Bill is currently Vice President of the Americas for the International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey. This is the second article of a series.)

Bill with an immature Peregrine Falcon



In the U.S. we can be proud of our contribution to falconry. Although relatively new to the sport, our accomplishments include the perfection of captive breeding of endangered species such as the Peregrine Falcon. Peregrines along with many other birds were severely affected by the post world war use of certain pesticides, most notably DDT. By the time authorities figured out what was decimating the peregrine and did something about it, populations were in precipitous decline. Falconers were the first to successfully breed and release falcons produced by them. Today Peregrine Falcons are no longer listed as endangered. Current census data concludes that they have recovered to levels that exceed pre listing. US falconers also invented and perfected the use of radio telemetry to track and recover lost birds. Before that bells attached to the hawk's legs were the only means available for the recovery of an errant hawk or falcon.

A body of federal and state regulations governs US falconers. Within each is a three tier system consisting of, apprentice, general and

master falconer. Each requires the successful completion of a set of written and field examinations. Raptor housing must also meet strict state and federal standards.

Massachusetts's falconers fly several types of hawks depending on what they choose to hunt. The all time favorite for rabbits and squirrels is the ubiquitous Red Tailed Hawk or sometimes the elusive goshawk. Starlings, sparrows and pigeons can be pursued by Coopers Hawks or Merlin's. Large falcons are used primarily for ducks found in tidal flats and salt marshes along the coast and on the cape. Before they are flooded for the season, ducks can also be hunted in cranberry bogs.

Membership Report

Our current membership stands at 126 with 78 paid for 2008. If you have not renewed for 2008 it is time to do so and you can get a renewal form from fusf@charter.net, by calling 508-529-6610 or you can renew at the potluck supper on March 14.

Welcome to the following new 2008 members: Harv Baler, Tracy Ferguson-Rolfes, Amy Lane, Karen Lajoie, Thomas Lajoie, Dan Salvucci, William Taylor, Zachary Taylor, Joan Varney and June Whitney.

If you have friends or family that use Upton State Forest tell them about us. Give them a copy of the newsletter and invite them to join. If you meet new people on the trail let them know there is usually information about FUSF in the map box at the kiosk. Betty

Website of the month

Arbor Day in Massachusetts is April 25, 2008. American elm is the state tree. To get more information visit www.arborday.org.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friends of Upton State Forest
(Unless otherwise noted, all meetings will be at Upton Senior Center.)

- March 14 **Potluck Supper, 6 PM
United Parish Church**
- March 18 Trails Committee &
Historic Resources
Committee, 6:30 PM
- March 24 Board Meeting, 7 PM
- March 28 **Upton Historical Society
“Celebrate the Legacy”**
About the CCC at USF
Public welcome
United Parish, 7:30 PM
- March 31 **CCC Day at the
State House, Boston
11AM**
- April 12 **Work party at USF**
Meet at 9AM at the
Headquarters building
- April 19 **Vernal Pool Workshop
& Hike, Meet at 9AM at
the Headquarters building**
See page 2 for details.
- April 22 Trails Committee &
Historic Resources
Committee, 6:30 PM
- April 28 Board Meeting, 7 PM

All dates subject to change.

Quote of the Month

“The flowers of late winter and early spring occupy places in our hearts well out of proportion to their size.”
Gertrude S. Wister

Work Party at Upton State Forest
Join us at our annual spring work party on April 12. Meet at 9AM at the Headquarters building. Wear work gear and bring tools such as brush clippers, hand clippers, shovels, iron rakes and leaf rakes. It is a good idea to put an id on your tools. Don't forget work gloves, sun screen and insect repellent. As usual a liability waiver is required and **NO POWER TOOLS.**

In addition to repairing winter trail damage there will be work at the Headquarters area for anyone that can't stay the whole morning.

Lunch will be provided along with water and soda. We hope that you will join us. The more the merrier!

Questions can be directed to Karen at bkober@verizon.net or Lurissa at 508-868-7397 or risster38@hotmail.com.

CCC Day in Massachusetts

On March 31 there will be a ceremony at the State House in Boston to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the CCC and to honor the men that served from Massachusetts.

Last year 12 members of FUSF attended. This is a very nice event and if you would like to attend please get in touch with Ellen at fusf@charter.net or 508-529-6610.

Bird Banding Invitation

Thank you to Mark Blazis for his program about “Jungle Birds at Upton State Forest.” Fifty seven people enjoyed slides of warblers that fly thousands of miles from South America to Upton to feed on caterpillars.

Mark has invited our members to join him at the Auburn Sportsmen Club to observe the bird banding project. You can go any Saturday in May unless it is cold and damp when no banding is done.