



Friends of Upton State Forest Newsletter
Ellen Arnold, Editor

<http://www.friendsofuptonstateforest.org>
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Volume 12, Number 1 Winter 2017

President's Message
By Bill Taylor

With the new year, I have been thinking about the past and future of the forest.

The CCC camp is one year older but in better shape. Some of the siding on the headquarters building was replaced last year. The siding was bought with a Partnership Matching grant– the Friends put in \$2,000 and the match was \$4,000. BVT students installed the siding. DCR updated the ramp on the HQ building, and a dogwood tree was planted at the camp on Park Serve Day.

The Friends signed on in support of the Environmental League's FY18 Green Budget, which recommends 1% of the State's budget be used for environmental needs. This would help offset the significant cuts made to the environmental agencies' budgets over the last few years.

We hope that DCR will finish the Upton State Forest Interpretive Plan this year. The plan is the last thing DCR needs to do to complete the list of actions they agreed to take to mitigate the loss of the North Barn. This plan will help the Friends effectively contribute to programming at the forest.

We plan to finish the new website this year, hopefully by the end of March. We need to update the content from the old site and create new content.

We have openings for two Members at Large on the Board of Directors. Please let us know if you are interested in joining us.

Best wishes for a new year ~ Bill

Annual Meeting and Program
February 3 7:00 PM
Upton VFW
15 Milford St, Upton
(Free program, public welcome.)

The Penguins of Antarctica
By Mark Blazis

Starting at 7 PM there will be a brief business meeting with reports, and election of officers and directors. We will be available by 6:30 PM to take 2017 memberships. The last page of this newsletter is a membership form so please have it ready to save time when you come. There is a 10% discount for renewals until the meeting. Following the business meeting we will once again welcome Mark Blazis to present a program about *The Penguins of Antarctica*.

Part of our natural world heritage, penguins are restricted to the Southern Hemisphere. Unless you can travel far, your closest option is their cousin family of razorbills, murre, puffins, and dovebies that we can occasionally see off our shores in late fall and winter. But nothing is quite like a penguin standing upright and comically behaving like humans in so many ways.

Mark is well-known for writing the largest outdoor column in the Northeast for the Worcester Telegram. The column focuses on nature, fish, and game. He is a biologist, bird banding researcher, and former teacher. He is out of the country about 3 months a year leading safaris, primarily in Kenya and Tanzania.



Headquarters Clapboard Repair!

The FUSF Historic Resources Committee is thrilled that the first phase of the clapboard repair on the CCC Headquarters building has been completed. This was a DCR Partnership Funds project with FUSF providing 1/3 of the funds for a 2/3 match. Our funds were further leveraged through a partnership with the Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational School with students doing the work as part of their curriculum. Students will complete the project in the

spring when they stain the new clapboards. The objective was to replace in-kind any damaged clapboards helping to secure the envelope of the historic building. The project was under the direction of Kevin Allen and Peter Seweryn of the DCR Historic Curatorship Program. We look forward to identifying future projects to engage partners to preserve the building and hopefully, to have another chapter of adaptive reuse that saved this building from the beginning.

Thank you to Steve Warren.

In 2006, Steve Warren joined Friends of Upton State Forest, becoming co-chair of our Historic Resources Committee. He became a member-at-large on the Board of Directors in 2010 and vice president in 2012. Throughout that time we have appreciated Steve's thoughtful input and support.

For much of the time he has served FUSF he has also been president of Friends of Whitehall (FOW). In order to devote more time to FOW, Steve has submitted his resignation from the Board of Directors and we have accepted with regret. At our November Board meeting a motion was made to acknowledge Steve's many contributions in our minutes.

We know that we will continue to see Steve at member meetings and on the trails at Upton and Whitehall. If you see him, say hi and thank him for his contributions.

Partner Spotlight - Friends of Whitehall

Friends of Whitehall (FOW) was formed over concern about a development planned for the shores of Lake Whitehall. After working successfully to preserve that land, the group transitioned into efforts to "preserve the past and protect the future" of Lake Whitehall. Each year they hold a lake cleanup along with trail maintenance and other activities. In 2015, they received the DCR Shared Stewardship Award given for "extraordinary contributions to furthering the stewardship of the state parks system." Members of FOW advised us on filing our paperwork to become a 501(c) (3). They have provided letters of support for various grants and advocacy efforts for the CCC Camp. We were also both part of an effort to protect land on Pond St as part of the Whitehall Woods Alliance.

Next time you travel the trails near Whitehall think of the FOW volunteers who help make it a pleasant experience.



Durtyfeets Trail Race at Upton State Forest Sponsored by MRA Multisport

According to Alex Rogozenski, MRA Multisport was thrilled to have the assistance of volunteers from Friends of Upton State Forest to help out at their annual trail race at Upton on Nov 13. The volunteers were out at various spots along the trail in case of emergencies, to ensure runners stayed on course, and to cheer them on provide much needed enthusiasm and encouragement before they ran up the hills of Upper Nuthatch!

The Red Rock Grill and Bar provided a bisque and chili for all participants and volunteers and the weather was perfect for the mid-November race day. Alex wrote that “MRA Multisport is pleased to make a donation to FUSF for helping at the race, and for all they do to make the trails accessible for events like this. We look forward to having them back at the 2017 race!

Volunteers under the direction of Suzanne Nicholas, FUSF Trails Committee Co-chair included: Larry & Donna Doucette, Lurissa Marston, Joyce Sandvik, Elisa Shaw, Laura Zimmer, and Denise Zorovic. The picture above was taken at the Trailhead as the race was beginning. There were about 250 runners choosing either a 2-loop half marathon or a single lap 10k trail race. Results can be viewed at <https://www.webscorer.com/race?raceid=86482>.

Bay State Trail Riders Holds The Great Pumpkin Ride At Upton State Forest

On October 30, twenty-four BSTRA riders and horses went in search of the Great Pumpkin in the woods at Upton State Forest. Some dressed in their best Halloween garb, while others sported their FUSF orange! The ride was under the direction of Karen Fleming-Brooks, also a member of FUSF. The group rode out from the Headquarters area over the bridge sporting the new anti-slip strips and



on to Rabbit Run Trail, through the Whitney Conservation Area, Warren Brook Watershed Conservation area, and into Grafton’s Pell Farm before returning. The ride sponsor was Homefield Credit Union. Along the way the carrot fairy left treats for the horses! The two scarecrows in the picture above are Becky Kalagher, BSTRA President and Rita Ballou. Once again the group honored their great partnership with FUSF by donating half of the ride proceeds to our Trails Committee Fund! Thanks! More pictures can be seen on the BSTRA Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/Bay-State-Trail-Riders-Association-102194659837729/?fref=ts>.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friends of Upton State Forest Board Meetings

Board meetings are held at 7:00 PM in the training room at the Upton Police Station unless otherwise noted. If you want to be on the agenda, please contact the President in advance at: news@friendsofuptonstateforest.org

**January 16, February 20
March 20, April 17**

A Word About Dogs on Hikes

We have been asked about the “no pets” policy on our hikes. Most of our hike leaders have pets of their own and are comfortable with dogs, but that is not the case with everyone. We have some people who come on our hikes that are terrified of dogs. They have joined us because we provide a group experience where they feel comfortable. We made an exception once for someone who agreed their pet would be leashed, but they had to be reminded several times to use the leash.

For those who are allergic or fearful they do not have a choice and will stay home if there are going to be dogs. In addition, there is the liability issue. Our hike leaders are busy guiding the hike, interpreting the hike theme, and have the added responsibility to make sure that everyone makes it back safely. With our hikes attracting anywhere from ten to more than 50 people, the responsibility of having pets on the hike is not something we feel comfortable with.

We have considered having an occasional, “dogs allowed on leash” hike with pre-registration and a limited number. If anyone would consider leading one of these hikes, please contact us.

Weekday Group Hikes



The Board is considering offering a weekday group hike option for people who like to hike but prefer not to go alone. This would start in the spring and could be offered monthly or bi-monthly depending on interest. It would not include programs or themes, but just an opportunity to travel the trails with others. Participants would need to sign the usual liability waiver, and we would ask that you not bring pets.

We want to hear from you if this is something you would like to participate in. If there is enough interest we will give it a try. Please contact us at news@friendsofuptonstateforest.org. Also let us know if you would be willing to be a hike leader or tail.

Save the Dates Details in the spring newsletter

**May 19
6:00 PM** **Annual Potluck Supper
at United Parish Vestry**

**June 2
7:00 PM** **The Hurricane of 1938
at Upton VFW**

A presentation by author Steven Long about the impact of the 1938 Hurricane on the New England landscape. Made possible by a grant from the Upton Cultural Council.

Quarterly Quote

“Thousands of tired, nerve-shaken, over-civilized people are beginning to find out that going to the mountains is going home; that wildness is a necessity; and that mountain parks and reservations are useful not only as fountains of timber and irrigating rivers, but as fountains of life.”
(Writings of John Muir)

Nominating Committee Report

The following slate of officers and members at large will be presented for a vote at the Annual Meeting on Feb 3. We have openings for additional Members at Large. If you would like more information contact us at news@friendsofuptonstateforest.org.

President: William Taylor
Vice President: Joyce Sandvik
Treasurer: Chris Scott
Recording Secretary: Mary McManus
Corr. Secretary: Agnita Knott

Member at Large: Marcella Stasa
“ “ “ Jerry Zaslow
“ “ “ Vacant
“ “ “ Vacant

The Board wants to thank Chip Kent and Gerry Lemire for their service as Members at Large. Both have served several terms and have decided to step down

A Member at Large has no assigned duties, but participates in the discussion and decisions of the board. The board meets monthly.

The Trails Chair (Suzanne Nicholas) and Historic Resources Chair (Ellen Arnold) are appointed by the President. If you are interested in serving on either of these committees please contact us.

Membership Report

As of Sept.1, the membership total for 2016 was 130. Thirty nine have renewed for 2017. Please don't forget that there is a 10% discount on renewals until the Annual Meeting on February 3. We appreciate having you renew before we send out the reminder letters. That saves us time and the expense of sending reminders.

We are pleased to welcome the following new members: Deborah Fitzgerald of Upton and Denise Duffy of Milford.

Website Update

We are in the final stages of a website update that will make it easier to maintain and give us some new features. Once it is online you will be able to pay your membership, purchase merchandise, and make donations directly. In addition, the photo gallery will be easier for us to use, and there will be a place for alerts, as well as a calendar. We will need to update some of the content, and we ask your patience as we do that. Once it is online we will let you know and would appreciate your feedback and suggestions.

Thanks to the following members for their work to get this ready. Bill Taylor, Mike Penko, Jerry Zaslow, and Ellen Arnold. We worked with WordPress Designer and Developer, Cori Snedecor.

Donors

We are grateful to the following donors and organizations for their generosity: Bob Such in honor of Ellen Arnold, Chris Scott, Karen Yeowell, and Mark O'Connell.

Bay State Trail Riders donated 50% of the proceeds from the Great Pumpkin ride at Upton in October. MRA Multisport made a donation to thank the FUSF volunteers who supported their trail run at the forest. Both donations were directed to the Trails Account.

Spectra matched a donation given by Jim Nash to the Matching Funds Account through their employee matching gifts program. Don't forget to fill out the forms if your employer will match your donation.

For the second time we are grateful to receive a donation from the Narragansett Bay Wheelmen that we divided between our Trails Account and Program Account. This was made possible through the efforts of our Member at Large, Chip Kent, who also serves on their Board of Directors.



FRIENDS OF UPTON STATE FOREST

PO BOX 258

UPTON, MA 01568-0258

NEW MEMBERSHIP ----- MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL----- check one)
 (Please Print Clearly.) (Information is for Friends of Upton State Forest only.)

Date _____

Name: _____

(For family membership please put two names)

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip code _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail _____

Would you consider being a member of one of our committees? Please circle your choices.

- | | | | | |
|-----------|--------------------|------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Auditing | Fund Raising | Newsletter | Refreshments | Trails Committee |
| Education | Historic Resources | Program | Resource Inventory | |
| Events | Membership | Publicity | Telephone Committee | |

What is your interest? Circle all that apply. (Please use the reverse for comments, or to tell us, if you wish, of other organizations that you belong to that support these interests.)

- | | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Bird Watching | Horseback Riding | Orienteering | Snowmobiling |
| Cross Country Skiing | Hunting | Open Space Preservation | Trail Running |
| Hiking | Letterboxing/Geocaching | Photography/Art | Wildlife Watching |
| Historical | Mountain Biking | Snow Shoeing | Other (what?) |

Membership Categories: (Prices effective through 09/01/17) (Circle one)

- Family of 2 adults & children (under age 18) ----- \$37.50
- Individual ----- \$25.00
- Senior 65+ ----- \$12.50
- Student full time with current student id ----- \$12.50

Additional Donation Amount:

Anonymous? Yes--- No---

General Fund or Special Fund?

Memorial or Honorarium?

Name of person being recognized?

(* Please note: There is a \$25.00 charge for returned checks.)

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