



**FRIENDS OF UPTON STATE FOREST INC.  
NEWSLETTER**

*“To preserve, enhance and protect the natural and historic resources of Upton State Forest.”*

*<http://www.friendsofuptonstateforest.org>  
[fusf@charter.net](mailto:fusf@charter.net)*

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**President’s Message**

Our mission statement is “to preserve, enhance and protect the natural and historic resources of Upton State Forest.” We do that in a number of ways but one of the most rewarding, exciting and challenging involves working with young people. FUSF is working today so that our youth will enjoy Upton State Forest in the future but in that future it is those young people who will carry our banner.

On June 4 the Upton third grade visited Upton State Forest for a whole day as part of their local history class. With 120 students, 40 chaperones, 6 teachers, 6 FUSF volunteers and the DCR personnel on hand it was easy to imagine the activity that must have gone on when the camp was open.

In an informal survey students were asked how many had been to USF before. Since about 1/3 said yes that means about 80 families were introduced to the forest that day.

Working in partnership with others is the most effective way to achieve our mission. With that in mind we have forged close ties with local organizations with similar goals. On page 5 there is a report from the Upton Historical Commission about progress on the newest Upton park. Ellen

**Members Meeting**

**Sept. 15, 7PM, Upton Senior Center  
“Restoring Old Growth Characteristics to our Woods”**

After the business meeting Paul Catanzaro, Forest Resources Specialist from UMass Amherst, will speak about the elements of old growth forests and how we can incorporate some of them on our own properties. Hope to see you there.

**National Public Lands Day Project  
September 26 and 27**

We will be rebuilding a bridge on Hopkinton Spring Trail in two phases.

Meet at 8:30 AM both days at the Headquarters’ building for registration and coffee. On Friday AM, Sept. 26 we will demolish a bridge on Hopkinton Spring Trail.

On Saturday, Sept. 27 we will rebuild the bridge. Phase 2 will take most of the day but please come even if you can only stay part of the day. Lunch will be provided on Saturday.

We are asking that you pre-register if you can help either day. Please contact [fusf@charter.net](mailto:fusf@charter.net) or Lurissa at 508-868-7397 or [risster38@hotmail.com](mailto:risster38@hotmail.com). Wear appropriate clothing including work shoes and gloves. Remember sunscreen and insect repellent. Liability waivers will be required. Tools provided.

Materials for the bridge were purchased through a DCR Partnership Grant. Matching funds were provided by FUSF and Bay State Trail Riders Association

**Quote of the Month**

In the end, we will conserve only what we love; we will love only what we understand; and we will understand only what we have been taught.

Baba Dioum

### Trails Committee Report

Due to personal commitments Karen Ober has submitted her resignation as co-chairman of the Trails Committee. She assures us that we will still see her at work parties.

Karen's knowledge and love of Upton State Forest is obvious to all who spend time with her. We will miss her focus and energy that was dedicated to the committee but thank her for the time that she has been able to give.

Anyone who is interested in joining the committee should contact Lurissa Marston at [risster38@hotmail.com](mailto:risster38@hotmail.com) or 508-868-7397. Lurissa is also looking for someone to serve with her as co-chairman of the committee.

The weather this summer has contributed to some damage on the trails. If you notice damage, please report it to Lurissa or [fusf@charter.net](mailto:fusf@charter.net).

### Adopt – A – Trail

Hopkinton State Park (of which Upton is a satellite) has a program for volunteers to adopt a trail. The volunteer has a trail maintenance check list and is asked to check the trail at least twice a month to monitor conditions. You would remove litter, clean sediment and leaves out of water bars and brush back the trail using hand tools. Safety hazards, improper trail use, missing signs and erosion would be reported to the park staff. There is a report form that you would use to track your hours and the work done.

We all have our favorite trails and this would be a way to help maintain yours on your own schedule. If you are interested in adopting a section or an entire trail at Upton State Forest please get in touch with Rich Trubiano at [Hopkinton.Park@state.ma.us](mailto:Hopkinton.Park@state.ma.us) or 508-435-4303.

### \*\*\*Asian long horned beetle Alert\*\*\*

*By Michael Penko*

An infestation of the Asian long horned beetle has been discovered in Worcester. Larvae of the beetle feed on hardwoods and it has the potential to decimate New England forests. The beetle is large; about 0.75-1.25 inches long with very **long black and white antennae**. The body is glossy black with irregular white spots. The current area of concern includes parts of Worcester, Shrewsbury, Holden, Boylston and West Boylston. If you see one, capture it in a jar and put it in the freezer for 24 hours to kill it. It is important that the beetle be properly identified because there is a native beetle (the pine sawyer beetle) with similar characteristics. Report any sightings to the Worcester Regional Field Office of the USDA, 508-799-8330 or the MA Plant Pest Hotline at 617-626-1779. Sightings can also be reported on-line at: <http://www.massnrc.org/pests/albreport.aspx>. See the following link and the FUSF web site for more information. <http://www.uvm.edu/albeetle/identification/index.html>

Female Asian long horned beetle



### **Historic Resources Committee Report**

The committee is busy making plans for CCC Day at Upton SF on October 11, 2008. This is a partnership with the DCR CCC Program Committee and is one of the official DCR events being held during the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year.

Jane and Bill Milligan are working on a letterbox series of 5 boxes that will be placed at CCC sites within the forest and near the parade ground area. This is a kind of scavenger hunt with the information being placed on a website for enthusiasts. Marcella Stasa is assisting by hand carving CCC themed stamps that will be used in each box. When someone locates a box they stamp their notebook and use their personal stamp to stamp a pad in the box. The first five people to locate all five boxes will get a souvenir CCC pin.

Other members of the committee are planning indoor displays about CCC history and the events in the area that led up to the need for them to be in Upton. There also will be outdoor displays and activities for all ages.

During the morning there will be a ceremony honoring CCC alumni, dedication of the new flagpole and a ribbon cutting for CCC Way. Please save the date and watch for a flyer with details in September.

### **Miscoe Hill School Ceremony**

Senator Edward M. Augustus, Jr. and Ellen Arnold paid a visit to the Miscoe Hill School to honor Liz Wernig and her 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade Technology class for their work on the FUSF CCC brochure. Mrs. Wernig was presented with a certificate signed by the president of the Massachusetts State Senate.

The Senator noted that giving back to the community is a civic duty and he commended the students for their part in the brochure.

### **Third grade visits Upton State Forest**

On June 4 Camp SP-25, CCC was alive with children being introduced to the forest and the history of the Civilian Conservation Corps. Tim Rayworth of DCR developed this living history program working in partnership with FUSF and Jan Maglione, third grade teacher at Upton's Memorial School.

In CCC uniform and playing the part of an enrollee Tim welcomed the children to the camp and "A Day in the Life of a CCC Enrollee." The children divided into groups to visit several activity stations. The most popular was the two man saw where the children sawed "cookies" off a log. District 7 Fire Control pumped water out of a CCC fire hole and demonstrated the use of "Indian Cans" that the C's used to put out fires. A rainy day, the children thoroughly enjoyed squirting water at each other! FUSF volunteers manned a volunteer service station off Park Rd. in the logged area. They showed the children how to plant grass to stabilize the soil allowing for new growth to occur. Several weeks after the event one volunteer commented that she still had grass seed clinging to her rain coat! Val Stegemoen of DCR led an interpretive tour of the camp and trailhead. Inside the Administration Building FUSF set up a display about the history of the camp. Tim did a living history program and the children used an authentic period typewriter. During the lunch period they enjoyed games on the parade ground.

FUSF volunteers included Ellen Arnold, Frank Evans, Agnita and Bill Knott, Brett Morganelli, Joan Shanahan and Marcella Stasa. Observers included Priscilla Geigis, Director of State Parks, along with several District and Regional Managers. Our thanks to the Hopkinton staff and Deiana, the ranger, for their support of this important program.

### **The Flag Flies at Upton Once Again!**



Upton State Forest has a flagpole once again. It is located in front of the east ell of the

Administration Building and is clearly visible when you drive through the entrance to the parade ground. Given the history of the buildings at Upton there could be no more powerful symbol of their past. Built as a CCC camp, occupied by the Massachusetts State Guard, Field Headquarters for Fish and Wildlife, home to DEM foresters, carpenters and the Mounted Patrol the buildings at Upton State Forest have served the Commonwealth well. The flagpole will be dedicated on October 11 when we celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Civilian Conservation Corps. For now the flag will be raised for events but we look forward to the day when there will be a presence at Upton State Forest, once again, to raise the flag daily.

Funding for the flag pole was provided by a DCR Partnership Grant using matching funds from FUSF and from Walter Petrowski, a member of FUSF. Walter's father, Joe, served in the C's at Camp SP-25, CCC at Upton. Thank you to project manager, Jeff Cate, for coordinating the installation.

### **Membership Report**

We have 112 current paid members to date for 2008. Welcome to our newest members, C. Thieme of Westborough, Chip Kent of Upton, Donna Johnson from Bellingham and Stewart Campbell of Maynard, a CCC alumnus who served at a Pennsylvania camp.

### **Recreation at Camp SP-25 CCC**

Life in the C's was not all work. During the evening and on weekends there were opportunities for recreation and education. The Recreation Hall at Upton was to the left of the entrance, and parallel to the Administration Building facing it across the parade ground. There were a couple of pool tables and a ping pong table as well as a piano in the Rec. Hall. A small room served as the Post Exchange where you could buy personal items such as shaving cream and "smokes".

Spontaneous fun happened when those who owned musical instruments would gather around the piano and play while others would sing along. The camp band was called the "Silver Strings". Many times well known actors and actresses would perform at the camp.

Upton had a boxing team that competed with other camps. Upton's long time former moderator, George Burnham, was on the boxing team. Upton had a successful soccer team that won the District championship. Joseph Gorman, Upton postmaster for many years, coached the soccer team. Mr. Gorman was a local enlisted man who taught at the camp.

The enrollees went bowling in Upton and walked to Pratt Pond to swim in the summer and skate in the winter. In Westborough they could see a movie at the Strand Theatre and eat at the Puritan Restaurant.

Some of the men went to church in Upton. Father Clancy, a Jesuit priest from Boston College, came to the camp to do confession. A camp newsletter called "*Mandaze*" was staffed by enrollees that reported on the activities and work being accomplished. Work was hard but life was good in the C's.

## Progress at Upton Cave Park

By: *Jonathan Meagher for Upton Historical Commission (UHC)*

In July 2006, using Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds, the Town of Upton approved the purchase of the 7+ acre property at 18 Elm Street. Soon after, members of the UHC joined forces with other interested citizens to form the Cave Park Committee. This group is charged with the task of developing a plan for turning the parcel into a park accessible to Upton residents of all ages. The vision, hard work, and generosity of volunteers and donors, from Upton and beyond, continues to yield significant progress toward the creation of an exciting new town resource with both natural beauty and historical importance.

In a corner of the Cave Park property not far from Elm Street by two adjoining stone walls lays Upton's most famous historical curiosity, a "beehive" stone chamber of unknown origin. The Upton Chamber (or "Cave," as it has long been known to locals) is a uniquely well-preserved "beehive" stone chamber. The term "beehive" is used as a result of the sharp ascent of the roof of the chamber's roughly 12-foot-in-diameter circular room. The circular room, tall enough for an adult to stand erect in, is accessed by a tight corridor extending approximately 12 feet back from the Chamber's entrance. Upton's "cave" is rightfully referred to as a "chamber" because its dry stone construction is unmistakably the work of human hands.

Just who built the Upton Chamber is the subject of debate among historians and archaeologists. The Chamber is featured in several books and articles and has been viewed by a number of archaeologists and stone structure devotees. It has been proposed that the Chamber owes its origins to pre-Columbian European visitors, Native Americans, or colonial-era farmers. The earliest public reference to the Chamber

appeared in an 1893 *Milford Journal* article. The article states that the origin of the Chamber was unknown and that it had occupied its place off Elm Street for as long as anyone alive at that time could remember. It is, therefore, reasonable to assert that the enigmatic Chamber is at least 200 years old and possibly older.

A design for the park was created by Liz Morrison from the Landscape Institute of Harvard University's Arnold Arboretum. Through a partnership with the non-profit Community Outreach Group for Landscape Design her services were provided free of charge. The design calls for a small parking area, walking trails through meadows and woodlands, access to Mill Pond and several small gathering areas. With the assistance of the Worcester County Sheriff's Department work detail, volunteers have begun to clear the site of invasive plant species to open vistas and make way for trails.

There will be guided public tours of the chamber on Sept. 13 between 10 AM and 12 Noon. Donations for the improvement of the Cave Park can be sent to Upton Historical Commission, PO Box 222, Upton, MA 01568. Inquiries may be made to by calling 508-529-0600 or [bburke@upton.ma.us](mailto:bburke@upton.ma.us).

### Let's Talk Column

At our "Let's Talk" meeting in May a new column was suggested for the newsletter. It will be a forum available to our members to raise issues of concern to them. Content will be edited for space and suitability for family reading. If you have thoughts to share about the environment, USF or state parks in general please send your comments of 250 words or less to PO Box 258, Upton, MA 01568. Sign and print your name and tell us your address, phone and email.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Friends of Upton State Forest

#### Member's Meeting, 7PM

Sept. 15 Upton Senior Center  
**Restoring Old Growth Characteristics  
to our Woods**

#### Board Meetings, 7 PM

Sept. 29 Upton Police Station  
Oct. 27 Upton Police Station

#### Trails Committee

Sept. 26 Work Party, phase 1  
Sept. 27 Work Party, phase 2  
Meet at Headquarters building 8:30 AM

#### Historic Resources Committee, 7PM

Sept. 22 Upton State Forest  
Headquarters building

#### Historic Resources Committee, 9AM

Sept. 20 work party at HQ building  
Oct. 10 work party at HQ building

#### CCC Day at Upton State Forest

Oct. 11 10AM to 4 PM

### Connecting Children with Nature Building Fairy Houses!

#### Sept 13, 10:30 AM, Upton State Forest

Author, Tracy Kane, will read from her book "*Fairy Houses*" followed by families heading out to the trails to build fairy houses. There is no charge for the program but registration is suggested by email: [UptonStoryTime@yahoo.com](mailto:UptonStoryTime@yahoo.com) or by calling the Upton Library at 508-529-6272. Tracy's books will be available for sale and she will autograph them. This program is sponsored by the Upton Town Library and funded by the Friends of the Upton Library. Fancy Fairy dress is encouraged although not required, but **practical shoes are a must for hiking**. Remember insect repellent and sunscreen. Port-a-let available. More info: 508-529-6272 or [www.uptonstorytime.blogspot.com](http://www.uptonstorytime.blogspot.com)

### Massachusetts Outdoor Exposition "The Big MOE"

#### Sunday, September 28, 9AM to 4 PM Hamilton Rod & Gun Club Grounds, Sturbridge, MA,

(Mass Pike to Exit 9, right onto Rt. 20 W, 1<sup>st</sup> right onto New Boston Rd. Go 2 1/2 miles, take left onto Hamilton Rd. Club will be on your right.)

Supervised, hands on activities and demos for all ages. Archery, Fishing, Falconry, Kayaking, Rock Wall, Safe Target Shooting, Sporting Dogs, Kids Crafts, Pioneer Encampment, Turkey Calling, Native Reptiles, Build Your Own Birdhouse, and much more.

Sponsored by MassWildlife and others. More info: [www.fawns.org](http://www.fawns.org)  
Gary Zima, 413-589-8900  
Ralph Gajewski, 508-347-7751  
Peter Mirick, 508-835-2386

### Trees of Upton State Forest Trail Walk led by Rufin van Bossuyt Oct. 19, 1:00 PM

Meet at Nipmuc Middle High School parking lot on Pleasant St. in Upton. Join FUSF and Upton Open Space in this joint walk. Wear appropriate clothing and shoes. Remember insect repellent and sunscreen. Liability waiver required. More info: 508-529-6610, 508-529-3709 or [fusf@charter.net](mailto:fusf@charter.net). Heavy rain cancels.

### Upton Open Space

**Sept 14**, dusk- Almost Full Moon Paddle at Lake Wildwood. (Bring your own boat or rent from Fin & Feather-508-529-3901). PFD required. Info: [mpenko@charter.net](mailto:mpenko@charter.net) or 508-529-6811.

**Nov. 1**, 1 PM- Historical Walk, led by Russ Wood, at Maplewood Cemetery. Bring binoculars for wildlife watching. Park within the cemetery entrance on Maple Av. Heavy rain cancels. More info on both:

[www.upton.ma/pages/open-space.php](http://www.upton.ma/pages/open-space.php)