Friends of Upton State Forest
Newsletter
http://www.friendsofuptonstateforest.org
friends@friendsofuptonstateforest.org
Like us on Face book

Volume 6, Number 4 Fall 2011

The Power of Partnerships

Since FUSF was established, we have worked as volunteers and partners with the Department of Conservation and Recreation. We have leveraged our financial support with DCR Matching Grants and other partners for several projects. This has resulted in over $20,000 brought to the table to benefit the users of Upton State Forest. Some of these projects included funding for a property appraisal of an important in holding, restoration of the Entrance Gateway, and replacement of a bridge on Hopkinton Spring Trail. There is also a new flagpole, universal access ramp and porch at the Headquarters building.

One of the first things we did was parking lot surveys to prove how much our park is used. It also allowed us to understand what is important to park users and where to focus our energy and limited finances. We proved beyond our own expectations how many people use USF and where they are coming from.

Due to severe budget cuts, it will be difficult for DCR to maintain the minimum level of services in our parks. As time goes on partnerships are going to become critical to state agencies like DCR. In turn, partnerships with other organizations and individuals make our work possible.

The MA Forest and Parks Friends Network will explore how partnerships can help our parks at a conference on October 22. We hope some of you will plan on attending.

MA Forest & Parks Friends Network Conference
October 22, 9:30 AM – 2:00 PM

The conference will be held at the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission Conference Room, Union Station, 2 Washington Square, Worcester, MA 01604-4016

The theme of this year's conference is *Common Goals, Strong Partnerships*. The keynote speaker will be DCR Commissioner Edward M. Lambert, Jr. In the afternoon, Robert T, Leverett, President of Friends of Mohawk Trail State Forest will speak about *Improving the Quality of our Parks on a Shoestring Budget.*

The conference is open to the public. Donation for morning coffee, guest's lunch and materials is $3.00. A catered lunch is available for $8.00 for those who reserve by October 17. You may also bring your own lunch. Parking is $2.00 for the first hour and $1.00 for each hour after that.

A registration form is available at http://www.networkingfriends.net. FUSF members without email or interested in carpooling can contact Ellen at 508-529-6610. For more information, contact friends@networkingfriends.net.

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Preparations Underway for Cottage Curatorship!

Cottage, 1995, from DCR CCC Archives

DCR engineers and staff have been evaluating the structural integrity of the Cottage, the former Infirmary for the CCC camp. A scope for basic stabilization that will help protect the building as winter approaches is being finalized. The framing has been augmented over the years by different users, but retains much of its CCC-period integrity. The building will also be tested for hazardous material issues. The next step will be to prepare a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the rehabilitation, maintenance and reuse of the property through the Historic Curatorship Program, which DCR hopes to release in spring of 2012. The program looks to identify partners interested in the opportunity to apply their skills in historic preservation toward a long-term lease. Curators are chosen through an open, competitive process and proposed reuses must be compatible with the historic character of the resource. Proposals are evaluated according to the experience of the applicant, the quality and feasibility of the proposed reuse, proof of sufficient resources, and level of public benefit beyond the required biannual public access. Contact Kevin Allen at Kevin.Allen@state.ma.us with any questions about the program. More information is available at http://www/mass.gov/dcr/stewardship.

Tropical Storm Irene

In preparation for Tropical Storm, Irene, DCR closed their parks and beaches at noon on Saturday, August 27.

Following the storm, 4.25" of rain was recorded at Upton State Forest. High winds took down trees on several trails while some trees uprooted due to the saturated ground. According to Park Supervisor, Jeff Cate, staff has removed debris from the spillway at Dean Pond dam. They have also cleared CCC Way, Bridge Rd, Park Rd, Dean Pond Trail, Hawk Trail, and Chickadee Trail, as well as the connector from the CCC Camp to the trailhead. If you are in the forest, and see trees blocking trails, please report to Jeff.Cate@state.ma.us or call 508-435-4303. If you prefer, you may email us at news@friendsofuptonstateforest.org and we will forward the report. **When you are using the forest be aware that some broken trees and limbs still have not come down so use caution.**

If you see any of our park staff at the forest please let them know how much we appreciate their work!

Bog 090811, After Irene
E. Arnold photo

Membership Report

Cannot believe another year has passed and it is time to remind you that we are taking dues for 2012. Anyone renewing by January 31 may deduct **10%** from their annual dues if they wish. A membership form with the categories and prices is included in this newsletter.

Welcome to our newest members. Joe Nava from Fairbanks, Alaska and Ann Cook from Sagamore Beach, MA. Joe worked at the CCC Camp when it was Phillips Wildlife Lab. He has shared many memories of life in the camp and the work done there by Fish and Game. Ann's father served in the CCC, and was stationed at Upton in 1938 when Dean Pond Dam was being built.

Landscape Designation Comment

The Board of Directors reviewed the proposed landscape designation of Woodland with a small area of Parkland for Upton State Forest. After a great deal of discussion and thought, we offered public comment. A decision was made not to oppose the designation. Our comments focused on protection of areas of importance relative to our natural and historic resources and for trails in the most concentrated recreational area. DCR will have all public comments on their website very soon and you will be able to view our full comment. We also recognized that the Woodland designation is not new to USF.

Comments will be posted at http://www.mass.gov/dcr/ld/landscapedesignations.htm.

Face book

If you are a Face book user, please visit our page and like us!

CCC Records Project

Letters went out in early September describing the CCC Records Project that the Historical Resources Committee is undertaking. Donations are starting to come in from members and others. We want to thank the following donors to date Amanda Ayotte, Russ and Ellen Arnold, Betty and Ed Roche, Brett Morganelli and two anonymous.

Our plan is to apply for a matching grant so that we can leverage any funds raised. The goal is to conserve all of the documents pertaining to Upton. Once the records have been preserved and digital copies made they can be shared with the public and staff. These are original planning documents including blueprints of many of the facilities at USF. Beyond their historic value is the practical value of helping maintain a resource we all enjoy. More information and pictures of some of the documents are available at http://www.friendsofuptonstateforest.org/Projects.htm. You can also contact Ellen at 508-529-6610 if you have questions.

North Barn Update

A memorandum of agreement has been negotiated between DCR, FUSF, Upton Historical Commission and Mass Historical Commission. Once all parties have signed the agreement, demolition can proceed on the North Barn. DCR has awarded the bid, and we are hopeful, that demolition will begin before winter.

We have also been assured by DCR, that engineering will assess the roofs of the CCC buildings at Upton, to develop a threshold for snow removal. This threshold will be included in DCR's Northeast Regional Snow Plan.

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 names of two adults)

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____State_____

Telephone: _____E-mail _____

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

Auditing	Fund Raising	Newsletter	Telephone Committee
Education	Historical Resources	Program	Trails Committee
Events	Membership	Publicity	

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

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

Membership Categories: (Prices effective through January 31, 2012) (Circle one)

Family of 2 adults & children (under age 18) ---------- $ 30.00
Individual ----------$ 20.00
Senior 65+----------$ 10.00
Student full time under 26----------$ 10.00
Associate member (no voting privileges or discounts) ----$ 5.00

Additional Donation: Amount: General Fund or Special Fund:
Anonymous? Yes--- No--- Memorial or Honorarium?
Name of person being recognized?

Below this line is for office use only:

Payment: Cash Check # Amount paid:
Card(s) issued by: Year paid:

Invasive Plants at Upton State Forest

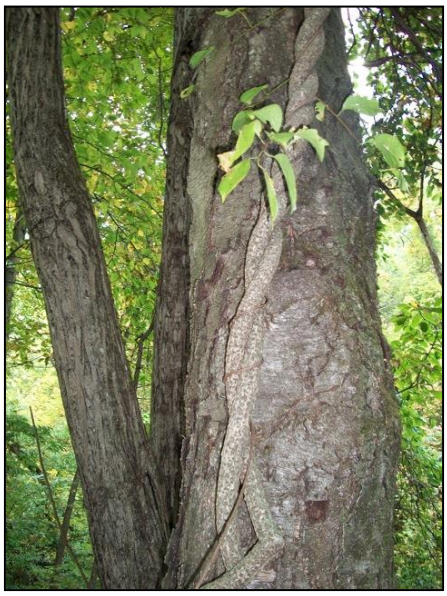
There are a number of invasive plants at Upton State Forest and we plan to highlight them in a regular column. Many are non-native and thrive because they have been introduced into areas where their natural predators and diseases are not present. Invasive plants can threaten whole ecosystems and the native species that live in them. They tolerate many soil types and weather conditions, producing large numbers of new plants each season according to the USDA website. Wind, water, animals, birds, machinery tires, and humans can spread invasive plants. They can reduce biodiversity, threatening native species, when they overtake an area. The Nature Conservancy estimates that worldwide over 1.4 trillion dollars of damage can be attributed to invasive plants, which is about 5% of the global economy.

Invasive plants are not easily controlled, but we can do our part. Do not plant them in your yards. Although you cannot purchase many of them, well meaning friends might give you seeds or divisions. Identify them in your yard and remove them. Do not discard them in your compost pile. Burn them or wrap them in a paper bag and throw them in the trash. Clean your boots and bags after a hike and volunteer to help remove them at work parties on public lands and refuges. Clean your boat before taking it to another body of water. Educate others.

One of the invasive plants most noticeable at USF in the fall is Oriental bittersweet, (Celastrus orbiculatus). There is a native bittersweet, but the Asian variety is recognized by the yellow pod, which opens around the red berry or seed. The native plant has an orange pod. Both can strangle or break a tree from the weight of the vine twining around the trunk. Introduced in the US around 1736, this plant has naturalized. It is considered a noxious weed in MA, and, in addition, is on a list of prohibited plants that cannot be sold in the state.

During the fall, people who do not recognize this plant for the problem it presents may use it as an ornamental decoration. This is one time when artificial decorations are better for the environment!

We recommend a booklet available through the MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife titled *A Guide to Invasive Plants in Massachusetts.* They are available at their Westborough and West Boylston offices for $5.00 or you can order it with a check made out to: *Comm. of MA-NHESP*. An order form and a list of other publications can be found at http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/nhesp/publications/nhesp_pubs.htm.
The USDA Forest Service Invasive Plant Field Guide is also an excellent source of information. It is available on-line at: http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/wildlife/nnis/invasive-species-field-guide.pdf.



M. Stasa photo
Bittersweet vines can strangle a tree.

CALENDAR

Discovery Hikes

A partnership between Upton Open Space Committee and Friends of Upton State Forest

Hikes are free. Remember water, insect repellant and sunscreen. A liability waiver is required. Wear appropriate clothing and footgear. Children welcome with a parent's supervision and signature. Please leave pets at home. For questions, reminders or cancellation notices please send an email to uptonsopenspaceevents@charter.net.

Sunday, October 29
Discover Whistling Cave

Meet at **1PM** at the Upton State Forest Headquarters building. Richard Trubiano of the park staff will point out geological features on this scenic, but strenuous hike.

Sunday, November 27
"Discover the Season Between"

Burn off Thanksgiving dinner! Join us at the former Stefan's Farm at **1:00 PM** to discover fields and forest in the season between fall and winter. Meet at the parking lot of the Community Garden near the power lines on Mechanic St. This is a moderate hike with uneven footing and steep trails.

Letterbox Hike Cancelled

We cancelled the Letterbox Hike on August 28 due to Tropical Storm, Irene. We plan to reschedule, and are thinking about holding a letterboxing workshop before the hike. Let us know if this would interest you.

December

There are no formal hikes planned for December. Enjoy the holidays!

Friends of Upton State Forest

Board of Directors Meetings
October 17
November 21
December 21
7:00 PM at Upton Police Station

Annual Meeting
January, 7:00 PM
Place, date and program to be determined.
2012 membership due.

BE SAFE, BE SEEN

This is the time of year we remind our members to **Be Safe, Be Seen.** It is a good idea year round to wear clothing in the forest that is bright and visible. In the fall, there are several hunting seasons and we strongly suggest you wear Hunter Orange, as hunters are required to do.

2011 deer hunting seasons are
Archery: Oct. 17- Nov. 26
Shotgun: Nov. 28-Dec. 10
Primitive firearms: Dec. 12-Dec. 31

An abstract with a complete list of all seasons is available at http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/regulations/abstracts/hunt_fish_abstracts.pdf. You can also obtain a copy at the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife Field Headquarters on North Drive in Westborough.

Quarterly Quote

Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower."
- Albert Camus