Friends of Upton State Forest Newsletter

http://www.friendsofuptonstateforest.org
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President's Message

By: Bill Taylor

Two significant preservation activities took place this summer at Upton State Forest. The first is work on the Cultural Resources Management Plan (CRMP) that DCR is preparing. (See page 3 for a full report.) The draft report should be available soon with the final report by the end of October. Recommendations in the CRMP will be incorporated into the broader Resource Management Plan that will also include natural and recreational resources. We encourage all of you to read and comment on the draft when it is available. We will send an email notice, when that happens. If you do not have email and are interested in receiving a paper copy, please contact a Board member and we will advise you who to contact.

In April, DCR started the process of preserving the CCC buildings through the Historic Curatorship Program. Since 1994, DCR has leased 17 properties, leveraging over $12 million of outside investment. These properties have become residences, a lodge, an events center and artist's lofts.

Kevin Allen, the program manager, has advised us that DCR is now evaluating the proposals he received and a recommendation will go to the Commissioner in the next few weeks. We have received assurances that public access to the parade ground area, and to a portion of the Headquarters building, will continue.

Reading the Forested Landscape With Tom Wessels

Sunday, October 28, 2012
10:30-noon: Slide presentation at VFW, 14 Milford St, Upton

1:30 PM: Field Trip at Upton State Forest, 205 Westborough Rd, Upton
Meet at the Headquarters building

This is a free, full day, program that will teach you clues to understand how a forested landscape was formed. Every forest has a story and this program will teach you how to read it. There is a slide presentation in the morning and a field trip to Upton State Forest following lunch. (Bring a boxed lunch or try a local lunch spot.) You may come to all or either part of the program.

The author of five books, Mr. Wessels is a terrestrial ecologist, with a BS in wildlife biology and a MA in ecology. He is a professor at Antioch University New England. The Upton Library has copies of his book, *Reading the Forested Landscape*. You will be able to purchase this and other titles on October 28.

The Upton and Grafton Cultural Councils, Metacomet Land Trust, Friends of Upton State Forest, and the Upton Open Space Committee are making this program possible.

For reminders or cancellation, email uptonopenspaceevents@charter.net. Questions: 508-529-6610 or friends@friendsofuptonstateforest.org

A Boy, the Story of
Frederick LeBlanc, Jr.
By his daughter and FUSF member,
Ann LeBlanc Cook

Fred, Jr. watching his cousin

Frederick LeBlanc, Jr. came to the 2105 camp at Upton in 1938. The story of what led him there is woven into the histories of the Great Depression and WW1. His father, Frederick LeBlanc, Sr. was a Canadian national who earned his American citizenship by fighting for the US Army in WW1. There was a price to pay, because his health was irreparably ruined on the battlefields. By the time my grandfather married, built his potato farm, and began raising four children, it was already clear that his health was deteriorating. Another more global tragedy struck this young family in the form of the Great Depression. Fred Jr. was born in 1922 and as the oldest child, assisted his family to build their own furniture, bake bread, work the fields, watch the younger children, and anything else a boy his age with a strong back and a good set of hands could offer.

The folks who made their living off the land often found themselves with a mixed blessing and our family was no exception. They were able to grow crops but the market for selling their potatoes was not a healthy one and much of the product was bartered for other needs. Chickens, a cow, a kitchen garden, and a sewing machine for my grandmother to remake and mend clothing kept them afloat, but it was critical to hang onto that farmland to survive. During those years, losing the family farm was the fear of everyone dependent on agriculture for survival. Our family was very rooted in that possibility as they went about their daily tasks.

The opportunity to make some much needed, money to keep the farm together and improve his own lot in life was a driving force in my father's young life. He was a quiet boy who liked to read, and knew what a hard day's work was all about. Even as a mature man I can remember him as being someone who was easy to smile, but shy at times, and always planning some new enterprise. Ironically, he was not quite old enough to join the CCC in 1938 when he signed up so he lied about his age to get in. This thin, blonde, underage, quiet boy asked for a place in Roosevelt's Tree Army and was accepted! With the help of the money he sent home, the farm stayed in the family's possession until his father's eventual death after WW2. Fred Jr. did acquire important life skills during his time with the CCC and joined the US Army to serve during WW2, eventually getting married and raising children after the war. The CCC and the 2105 helped our family stay together during the worst of times. It is with great respect that I remain thankful to the CCC for providing opportunity to our family when we needed it most.

Friends of Upton State Forest
Committee Reports

Recreation Committee

E. Arnold photo

A small, but energetic, group joined us for a Letterbox Hike in August. FUSF members, Jane and Bill Milligan gave a brief orientation to letterboxing before we started out. We were off to find five boxes they placed in 2008 to honor the CCC Legacy at USF. The boxes are placed at sites significant to the CCC camp and the work done there. Jane's father was a baker at the Camp. The boxes are still visited, and many of the comments left are about the quality of the artwork on the stamps that were made by another FUSF member, Marcella Stasa.

Members of two Mendon Girl Scout troops were on the hike working toward their Letterboxing Badge. Others were working on a Clough School third grade scrapbook project. Each girl left with a map, CCC brochures, animal tracks cards, photos, a CCC event stamp, and good memories of a day spent in the outdoors!

In Memoriam

We are saddened by the loss of two FUSF members. They are charter member, Carl Paulson, of Upton, and Walter Sekula, of Connecticut. Walter was also an officer of the National Association of CCC Alumni. Our sympathies go to their families.

Resouce Inventory Committee

Members of our Resource Inventory Committee have worked through the summer to document important resources in our state forest. All of the information gathered is shared with the DCR Cultural Resources Office. Wendy Pearl, Archaeologist Ellen Berklund, and Val Stegemoen of DCR have joined us to visit the sites we identified and incorporate them into a Cultural Resources Management Plan. We found working with them to be a learning experience and they expressed appreciation for the time we have saved them with the fieldwork we have done. We are still interested in hearing from you about historic sites, vernal pools, natural resources, and Witness Trees on any of the USF parcels.

When we reached Dean Pond on the Letterbox Hike, we saw two people waving at us from the other shore. It was Tom and Cathy Dodd who were out mapping the stonewalls with GPS!

Membership Report

We are pleased to welcome another new member, H. Heusman, of Upton! **We are offering a 10% discount to anyone who renews for 2013 by the annual meeting on January 25**. On September 29, we are offering a 10% discount, one day only, to new members who sign up at our Heritage Day booth on the Common. If you know anyone who uses or loves Upton State Forest, please encourage them to stop by the booth and join.

Quarterly Quote

"Even if something is left undone, everyone must take time to sit still and watch the leaves turn."

- Elizabeth Lawrence

Geocaching in Upton State Forest!

By Karen Ober, member
Friends of Upton State Forest and Bay State Trail Riders Association

About a year ago, I discovered a new way to enjoy USF. My boys were working on the Geocaching Merit Badge for Scouts so we started to learn about this hobby. Geocaching is a high-tech treasure hunt using GPS receivers to find hidden "Caches" or treasure chests.

They are typically, hidden in places of historical significance, natural beauty or personal importance. The rules are very specific. **You must have landowner's permission**, including DCR properties. They are not allowed at National Parks, or military bases. They should not be buried, or cause damage to habitat. Simple ones are concealed ammo boxes or "lock and locks" which are sandwich sized plastic containers. "Cachers" get very creative. They will hide caches in very small containers, such as film canisters or pill bottles, or in items that mimic real-life objects such as fake rocks. Caches are literally everywhere and you are actually driving by them every day! Forests are not the only places to hide them. Many are so-called "Park and Grabs" and some are even wheelchair accessible. The first cache we ever found is right in Upton's town common. When you find a cache, you sign the log, trade small items and then, record your find on the internet.

I now look at USF in a completely new way. There are dozens of caches out there! Some are pretty simple and suitable for complete novices. Others are much harder "multicaches" that can take years to complete. So far, they have all brought me to amazing parts of the forest. USF is a Geocacher's dream. It is beautiful, has plenty of history, and the sketchy cell phone and satellite reception challenge your skills to find the caches!

Geocaching gives me a reason to get outside and explore. There is a system of prizes for those who are interested, but the vast majority of 'Cachers" just want to get outdoors and find them. I have revisited parts of USF I have not been to in years and enjoyed every minute of it! I have explored many other beautiful parks, preserves, and monuments too.

Everyone can Geocache and it costs nothing to get involved. To learn about the hobby, visit www.Geocaching.com. You will need a GPS receiver or smart phone with appropriate applications. You can download c:geo free from Google Play store. Then get outside and play! If you see any logs signed by "Oberscouts", then yes...we beat you to it!

To get permission to place a Geocache at USF, you should contact the park supervisor, Val.Stegemoen@state.ma.us or 508-278-6486.

ALB Update *by Michael Penko*

K. Ober photo

Shortly after we sent out the last newsletter, we received word that there were plans to place Asian long-horned beetle traps at USF. As of mid September, no beetles have been trapped in USF. A follow up report will be included in the winter newsletter.

BE SAFE, BE SEEN, BE RESPECTFUL

It is time for our annual reminder to **Be Safe, Be Seen.** We are happy to share the forest with all legal users but for all to enjoy the forest safely each of us has to use common sense. No matter what time of year you are on the trails you should always tell someone where you are going and when to expect you back. Check the weather before you leave and dress accordingly. We encourage you to use clothing that is highly visible at all times of year but it is especially important during hunting season. Hunters are required to wear hunter orange and it makes sense that the rest of us do too. There is no hunting on Sunday and you can check the season dates at: http://www.eregulations.com/massachusetts/huntingandfishing/quick-reference-guide/. As a public service, FUSF has a limited supply of safety orange vests for the reasonable cost of $5.00. (See page 8 for info on purchasing them and the safety orange logo hoodie pictured here).

Be Respectful

A recent incident involving horses, a dog and people underscores why dogs should be leashed and under the owner's control when they are at USF. Owners should also have current vaccination papers for pets with them or in their vehicle. As a reminder, we are reprinting an article from March 2006.

Using common sense and being considerate of others will allow us all to enjoy the forest safely. We are only visitors and should respect wildlife and leave no trace. That includes picking up and disposing of dog waste and trash at home instead of leaving it in the forest. There are no trashcans at USF because there is no staff to empty them regularly. In addition, trashcans attract wildlife, which can cause problems for humans and their pets.

Trail Etiquette for People and Horses

by Karen Ober

1. **Do** give a loud **"hello"** or **"heads up"** as soon as you see a horse to let the rider know you are there.
2. **Do** move to the right of the trail to allow the horse to pass. The rider should pass at a walking pace.
3. **Do** remember that horses may be frightened of anything they have not seen before. That includes skies and poles, snowshoes, umbrellas, bikes, baby carriages, dogs and small children.
4. **Do** listen for and follow directions from the rider, especially if the horse appears nervous.
5. **Don't** allow your dog to rush up to a horse. The instinct of the horse is to run away (dangerous to the rider), or to strike (dangerous to the dog).
6. **Don't** reach to pet a horse unless you have asked permission. Don't be offended if the rider says no. Most horses don't like strangers reaching for their faces. The rider may realize the horse is nervous or likes to bite fingers.
7. **Don't** allow children to run up to a horse. Most children are used to animals in a petting zoo or mounted police horses. Those horses are trained to be in that situation. Set a good example for your children by asking permission first.

We would also add that if you are ever involved in an accident of any kind in the forest that you should remain until you are sure that everyone is safe.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friends of Upton State Forest

Board of Director's meetings
At Upton Police Station, 7PM
October 15
November 19
December 17

Annual Meeting
January 25
Mark Blazis - The Great Migration
Details in the next newsletter

Discovery Hikes & Programs
A partnership between Friends of Upton State Forest and Upton Open Space Committee
September 30, 1:00 PM
Discover the Warren Brook to Whitney Conservation Loop
Meet at the end of Oak Knoll Lane.

New trails expand the Warren Brook Conservation Area trail network with a link to the Whitney Conservation area. Trails pass by stone features both natural and human made. Expect some up and downhill hiking. Liability waiver required with a parent signing and accompanying anyone under 18.

Upton's Heritage Day
September 29, 2012
8AM to 3PM

FUSF will have a booth at the Vendor Fair on the Upton Town Common from 9AM to 3 PM. (If it rains we will be in the Town Hall.) Other activities include the United Parish Yard Sale, Friends of the Library Book Sale, an Open House at the Fire Station, and more! During the day, there will be activities and story telling for children on the Common. Local restaurants will vie for a prize for the best apple crisp.

Massachusetts Forest and Parks Friends Network Conference
November 17, 9:30 AM to 2 PM
At Union Station, 2 Washington Sq, second floor, Worcester, MA 01604

Priscilla Geigis, DCR Director of State Parks and Recreation, Assistant Commissioner, and President of the National State Parks Association is the keynote speaker. Other speakers with pertinent topics will be announced soon.

Registration fee: $4.00 per person and an optional lunch is $8.00. Indicate Meat or Veggie. Registration form and more info at www.networkingfriends.net, or contact Ellen at 508-529-6610.

MassWildlife Moving Temporarily

The Division of Fisheries and Wildlife Field Headquarters staff has moved to a temporary office space for about two years. They are now located at 100 Hartwell St, Suite 200, West Boylston, MA, 01583 while a new Field Headquarters building is constructed at the Westborough site. Contact phone numbers and emails for Field Headquarters staff will not change.

Hunters, hikers and other users of the Westborough Wildlife Management Area may no longer access the WMA from the old Field HQ hill, as it will be an active construction site. The parking lot located off Milk St (Rte 135) has been enlarged, and improved, for access. You can still use the Fisherman's Access off Oak Street and the access point at Little Chauncy Pond on Lyman St, both in Westborough.

******Be Aware – Triple E******

The EEE threat in Upton has been raised to high. Use insect repellant. Avoid being outdoors at dusk or night.

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	Refreshments

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 25, 2013) (Circle one)

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

Additional Donation Amount:
Anonymous? Yes--- No---

General Fund or Special Fund:
Memorial or Honorarium?
Name of person being recognized?

(* Please note: There is a $20.00 charge for returned checks.)

Below this line is for office use only:

Payment: Cash Check # Amount paid: Category: Year paid:
Card(s) issued by: Newsletter address entered by:

Show Your Support
Purchase FUSF Merchandise & Save on Membership

Membership and merchandise purchases support our organization. A membership form is on the reverse of this page. We are offering a 10% discount on 2013 renewals paid by the Annual Meeting on January 25. New memberships paid at our Heritage Day Booth on September 29 will be discounted 10%. Please consider giving a holiday gift of a new membership or FUSF merchandise to friends and family.

Four Ways to Purchase and Save

1. Visit the FUSF booth during Heritage Day in Upton on September 29 between 9 AM and 3 PM, on the Upton Town Common. If it rains, we will be in the Town Hall.

2. Visit *A Little Common Sense* at 62 Main St in Upton. Call 508-330-9792 or check www.62mainstreet.com for store hours during the holidays.

3. Mail your order with size and color with your check made to:

Friends of Upton State Forest
PO BOX 258
Upton, MA, 01568-0258

Add $8.00 shipping for one item and add $6.00 for each additional item. (Book $4.00)

4. Come to the Annual Meeting on January 25**,** 7 PM at the Upton VFW

Friends of Upton State Forest Apparel
Price List

	S,M,L,XL	**2XL**
Blue Spruce Short Sleeve Tee Shirt	$12.50	$15.50
Stonewashed Green Long Sleeve Tee Shirt	$16.00	
Forest Green Crewneck Sweatshirt	$20.50	
Stone Cap	$12.00	
Natural Tote Bag	$10.50 (+ tax)	
***Be Safe, Be Seen in Safety Orange!**		
Safety Orange Hooded Sweatshirts	$28.50	
Orange Safety Vests (No Logo)	$ 5.00 (+ tax)	
Safety Orange Short Sleeve Children's Tee Shirt **(YXS, YS, YM, YL)**	$10.50	
Forest Green Short Sleeve Children's Tee Shirt **(YXS, YS, YM**)	$10.50	
CCC Children's Book (*Great Grandpa's Footlocker*)	$ 7.95 (+ tax)	

More info and pictures at: http://www.friendsofuptonstateforest.org/FUSF%20Store.htm