Friends of Upton State Forest
Newsletter

http://www.friendsofuptonstateforest.org
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Volume 8, Number 4 Fall 2013

President's Message
By Bill Taylor

It has been a good summer for Upton State Forest and the Friends with several positive developments at the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Camp. I am pleased to report that DCR replaced the foundation of the Headquarters building and roof of the cottage. Plans for the stabilization work on the roof and walls of the Headquarters building were completed and DCR hopes to do that work by next summer!

Elsewhere in the forest, there are two new gates and a bog bridge built by a team from the Student Conservation (SCA). They completed it the week prior to the CCC 80th anniversary event. That was very fitting since the SCA continues the legacy of the CCC. They also helped DCR set up for the event, which was a great success with over 120 people, and three CCC alumni attending. Articles in the rest of the newsletter will give you details of everything that has happened.

I do want to thank all the DCR staff and volunteers from the Friends that did so much for the event. I think all the positive things happening at Upton State Forest, and the success of the event, are a great testament to the strength of our relationship and our shared concern for the forest and the visible legacy of the CCC at Upton. There is always more to do, but I am very thankful for everything accomplished this summer and the strength we have through the support of our members!

Bill

A Tale of Two Weasels
The River Otter and Fisher

September 18, 7PM
Nipmuc High School, 2nd floor in the Professional Development Center (PDC)
Free program, open to the public.

After a brief business meeting, Trina Moruzzi will present a program about river otter and fisher, two large members of the weasel family that live among us. She will talk about what these often-mysterious animals are, where you can find them, what they eat, how they behave, and what signs you might see when they are present.

Trina is a wildlife biologist with the Mass Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. She has a B.S. in Wildlife and Fisheries Biology, and an M.S. in Wildlife Conservation from UMass Amherst. She has spent the last 13 years with the Division assisting on a number of projects from waterfowl banding to black bear capture and radio telemetry, overseeing the deer hunt for paraplegic sportsmen, as well as providing outreach to communities on wildlife related issues.

Time to Renew

It is time to think about renewing your membership for 2014. Anyone renewing between the September meeting and the annual meeting may deduct 10% from their dues. Your encouragement and support have allowed us to accomplish a great deal in the eight years since we began. There is a membership form included with this newsletter.

Repairs to Headquarters Building!

By Kevin Allen, DCR
Historic Curatorship Director

E. Arnold photo showing new piers and footings

In 2010, the tragic loss of the CCC North Barn at the Upton Camp site sounded an alarm. DCR recognized that the few remaining built memories of CCC Camp life in America were significantly threatened. As mitigation for the loss of the barn, a Memorandum of Agreement between DCR, FUSF, Massachusetts Historical Commission and the Upton Historical Commission outlined a number of stipulations including measures to address the preservation of the remaining two buildings and landscape.

The Cottage (former infirmary) was stabilized in 2012 with an internal "scaffold" taking the pressure off the undersized roof framing. A new roof was completed in 2013. These temporary measures will protect the building until resources are available and a reuse is identified.

As with most CCC camp buildings, the Headquarters Building was built with undersized framing meant to be dismantled within a few years. The structural restoration of the building will occur in two phases. Phase I, the reconstruction of dozens of failing concrete piers by Roger Tremblay Masonry Contractors took place this summer, and now provides a solid base for the building. Phase II involves the strengthening of the building's walls and roofs. This work was designed by Clark & Green Architecture and Structures North Engineering. The goal is to restore the 1930s CCC appearance of the interior framing while providing long term, code compliant stability. DCR hopes to identify funding for this phase in Fiscal Year 2014.

Further rehabilitation work, including electrical, heating and plumbing systems, will have to wait until a reuse is identified, either by DCR or by a future permittee or lessee. As with all historic properties, the key to the property's sustained preservation is a commitment to ongoing maintenance.

E. Arnold photo showing new roof and trim

Be Safe, Be Seen

This is the time of year we remind you to **Be Safe, Be Seen.** Anytime you use the forest or walk along the road, it is smart to wear clothing that makes you visible to other users or emergency personnel. It is especially important during the various fall hunting seasons. . There is a great five-minute video about this at http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dfg/dw/hunting-fishing-wildlife-watching /hunting.

FUSF has several safety orange items for sale including logo orange hoodies and crewneck sweatshirts, as well as a choice of orange or lime green safety (no logo) vests with a reflective strip. They are available at A Little Common Sense, 8 North Main, Upton (behind the Upton Common).

The Legacy Lives On!
80th Anniversary of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC)

Front: CCC alumni Chester Lepack of Uxbridge, John Banash of Hadley and Frank Evans of Marlborough.
Rear: Alec Gillman, Priscilla Geigis, Jim Brochu, Rep.George N. Peterson Jr, Bill Taylor, and Tim Rayworth.

Director of Mass State Parks, Priscilla Geigis led a ceremony at Upton State Forest celebrating the 80th anniversary of the CCC. The ceremony opened with members of Boy Scout Troop 132 acting as color guard. Assistant Scout Master, Brian Ober led Scouts Chad Bucella, David Ferreira, Adam Ober and Patrick Ober. Upton Board of Selectmen Chair, Jim Brochu, welcomed guests to Upton saying he remembers camping with the Boy Scouts at Dean Pond and that "Upton State Forest has a special place in the hearts of Upton residents." Representative George Peterson of the ninth Worcester District recognized the contributions of the CCC to the park system. FUSF President, Bill Taylor likened the Friends of Upton State Forest (FUSF) to Roosevelt's "Tree Army" helping to care for the legacy left by the CCC. Director Geigis recognized the work of staff and partners every day saying "The Legacy Lives On!" Tim Rayworth of DCR read a proclamation from Governor Patrick declaring July 13 as CCC Day in Massachusetts.

Each CCC alumni received an 80th anniversary pin from FUSF and a certificate from the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). Families of CCC alumni were given certificates. After a group picture, the CCC alumni cut a cake in the historic CCC Headquarters building. FUSF provided the cake and lemonade. There were displays in the Headquarters building by the Friends, Frank Evans, and Troy Gipps of Grafton who brought his grandfather's CCC footlocker.

We enjoyed period music throughout the day courtesy of DCR District Manager, Chris Hookie. At one point, people were dancing to it in the parking lot! Smokey Bear and members of District 7 Fire Control were there. The Framingham Amateur Radio Club demonstrated ham radios and Morse code at their booth. Jane Milligan ran a one-day letterboxing course at the Friends booth, and Lois Melican of DCR had a booth for the American Chestnut Foundation. There was a period CCC truck, a tool display, a playhouse replica of a CCC barracks by Tim Rayworth, and a "Spirit Hike" to several CCC built resources. Tim Rayworth and Alec Gillman of the DCR, and Bill Taylor of FUSF were dressed in CCC garb acting as CCC enrollees working in the forest.

A huge thank you to the staff and volunteers who made this a memorable day for all!

Troy Gipps talks about his grandfather's footlocker and other memorabilia.
(Photos by D. Hookie & E. Arnold)

SCA Builds Bog Bridge!

E Arnold photo

Once again, members of the Student Conservation Association (SCA) were at Upton State Forest building a bog bridge. The photo above is taken from the new bridge looking south toward the bridge off Southborough Rd that was built two years ago by another SCA crew. This area has had ongoing beaver problems that are being managed by the Upton Conservation Commission, and the DCR. This is one more step toward restoring a well-used, popular trail that is part of the outside loop. Funding for the bridge came from the Upton State Forest Conservation Trust Account. Donations made at our Iron Rangers fund that account, and can only be used at our park. FUSF provided funding for the required wetland permits. The Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program also review work in the area. A little more work remains to be done at the entrance off the road and that is being addressed. We appreciate the cooperation shown by the Town of Upton and DCR to help restore and maintain this trail area.

New Gates

If you have been to the forest lately, you may have noticed new gates at the main trailhead and at the CCC Camp entrance. These were part of payment for a right of way over DCR property to the cell tower on Pratt Hill.

Paul Pickett Retires

Paul Pickett, an 18-year DCR employee retired recently. He came to work for the department when the Blackstone Canal and Heritage State Park opened at River Bend Farm. Since we are a satellite of Blackstone, his duties included Upton State Forest. We wish him good luck and Happy Trails for his retirement!

Picnic Tables and Porch Painted

E. Arnold photo

When I am at the CCC Camp doing my adopt-a-trailhead duties, I often meet DCR employees caring for our park and the camp. Shown above is Jenn, one of the Blackstone seasonal employees. She was busy painting the porch and picnic tables with a fresh coat of stain. Be sure to say thank you the next time you see someone from DCR working at our park.

Fire in the Forest Prohibited

We have had an extremely dry August with the last measurable rain on the 9th. When hiking, you may run across places where someone had a campfire. This is against park regulations (see 302 CMR 12.09 (3), and there is great potential for forest fire in such dry conditions. If you find places with evidence of campfires at Upton, please report it to FUSF or our District Ranger, Dave.Furey@state.ma.us.

Meet the DCR Staff
Val Stegemoen
Field Operations Team (FOT) Leader
Blackstone Valley Complex

Alice gets a lift from Val at CCC Day
D. Hookie photo

In addition to being Park Supervisor for the Blackstone Canal and Heritage State Park (BCHSP), Val also serves as Field Operations Team Leader for the Blackstone Valley Complex of Forests and Parks. That includes River Bend Farm, Douglas State Forest, Purgatory Chasm, Sutton State Forest, Southern New England Trunkline Trail, Upton State Forest, and the Senator P. Eugene Casey Memorial Pool in Milford.

Val started with the Department of Environmental Management (DEM) in 1995 as a seasonal park interpreter at the newly opened River Bend Farm Visitor Center in Uxbridge. He became full-time Visitor Services Supervisor in 2000. In 2008, with the retirement of John Pelczarski, Val became acting BCHSP Supervisor and was eventually hired for that position. In 2012, DCR introduced the Field Operations Team concept.

Before coming to the Heritage State Park, Val served a few seasons as a River Guide on the Blackstone Valley Explorer, the 49-passenger riverboat that operates along the Blackstone in Rhode Island. He remembers being involved when the Explorer was brought to Uxbridge, to tour from Rice City Pond to the Goat Hill Lock in 1994.

Val has attended workshops and training with the National Association of Interpreters and the World Canals Conferences. He was on the organizing committee when the conference was hosted along the Blackstone.

His earlier career was in the field of Computer Sciences. Val came to the Blackstone Valley in 1975, working at a Worcester firm. Within a few years, he settled in Millville, where he lived for over 30 years. He and his “better half”, Martha now live on a 14-acre farmstead along the Mill River.

Val enjoys exploring, and learning about the Blackstone Canal and the historic landscape of the Valley. A founding member of the Blackstone Canal Conservancy, he has also volunteered with the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council, Blackstone River Watershed Association, and Blackstone River Valley Heritage Homecoming. In 1991, he became a National Park Service Volunteer in Parks for the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor.

He became interested in the history of the Civilian Conservation Corps after seeing CCC sites throughout the country and learning about the camp at Upton and other local camps. He has served on the DCR CCC Program Committee since 1998, and has been involved since the beginning with planning and working on the third grade field trip to the Upton camp each year. When some of us were just beginning to think about starting a friends group for Upton State Forest Val was one of the people who encouraged us. We appreciate all that Val and his staff do to make our experience at Upton State Forest enjoyable and safe. Please say hi and thank him next time you see him in the park.

Calendar

Friends of Upton State Forest
Board of Directors

Upton Police Station meeting room
At 7:00 PM
September 16
October 21
November 18
December 16

Discovery Hikes and Programs

Discovery Hikes and Programs are a partnership between the Friends of Upton State Forest and the Upton Open Space Committee. We have not planned any programs or hikes for December but watch your email for impromptu hikes and enjoy the holidays!

Discover
Fascinating Fungi
Sunday, October 20
11:00 AM

Meet at the Headquarters Building, at Upton State Forest near the intersection of Westborough and Southborough Roads.GPS address is 205 Westboro Rd.

We will hike with Lawrence Millman, mycologist and author of *Fascinating Fungi of New England*, as we discover how to identify fungus and mushrooms in the forest. Bring a hand lens or loupe.

Remember water, sunscreen and insect repellant. A liability waiver is required. Wear appropriate clothing and footgear. Youth 16 and over are welcome, with a parent's signature. Please leave pets at home. **This is a free hike, but limited to 18 people so pre-registration is required**. To **RSVP,** send an email to uptonsopenspaceevents@charter.net.

Forest Pests of Massachusetts
November 22, 6:45 PM
Nipmuc High School PDC, 2nd floor

Since 2008, Asian longhorned beetle has caused the removal of more than 30,000 trees in Worcester. Emerald Ash borer, which has destroyed more than 30 million trees in Southeastern Michigan alone, was found in Dalton last summer, threatening not just Berkshire County but all of Massachusetts. Find out more about these invasive pests, the damage they cause to our environment, and what you can do about it!

Stacy Kilb will present this interesting program. She is the Asian longhorned beetle Outreach Coordinator for the Mass. Dept. of Agricultural Resources. Before working for MDAR, Stacy worked as a DCR Park Interpreter, and received her Master of Education from Suffolk University.

This free program is open to all. Please RSVP to 508-529-6610 or uptonopenspaceevents@charter.net. We need a minimum of 12 people to run the program.

Heritage Day in Upton Oct 5

Upton's annual Heritage Day Festival is October 5 this year. We will have a booth on the Common, and need people to bake and volunteer at the booth. If you can give an hour or two at the booth, please contact Bill Taylor at the Friend's email. Baked goods should be packaged in quantities of 3 or 6, and note if there are nuts. We appreciate any help since this is a great fundraiser for us.

Quarterly Quote

"I cannot endure to waste
anything as precious as
autumn sunshine
by staying in the house."
- Nathaniel Hawthorne

Whitney Trail Connection Complete!
By Marcella Stasa
Upton Land Stewardship Chairman

Trail Crew at Whitney Conservation

M. Penko photo

Thanks to many volunteers, the trail connecting the Whitney Conservation areas at Sweetwilliam Farm is now open. Two bridge projects are complete, new trails cut, most of which are blazed, and have signs. The parking area on North Street is open for the public to park and access the east and west trails. In all, over ten miles of trails now link Upton State Forest to five conservation areas in Upton and Grafton.

The Friends of Upton State Forest along with other organizations and individuals contributed funds and volunteer time to this endeavor. Without such support, our open spaces would not be nearly as accessible to our wide range of users. Our thanks go out to all!

Enjoy the trails and remember that some of them abut private property so please respect our neighbors and keep to marked trails. On these, and all other Upton trails, passive recreation is encouraged but permission from the Conservation Commission is necessary for motorized vehicles. Maps and trail regulations are available on the Upton town website at: http://upton.ma.us/Pages/UptonMA_BComm/conservation/index.

Membership Report

Welcome to new members Chad and Erin Hall of Upton! Ellen and Russ Arnold donated to the Founders Fund in memory of Stanley Grimes of Pembroke, NH. We also received an anonymous donation to pay for the cake at the CCC 80th anniversary event.

Wish List

If you are cleaning out, gave a party and have left over paper goods you don't need, or have duplicates of something please keep us in mind. We need a pair of 8" scissors, a desk stapler and staples, and a dustpan brush. For paper goods, we need luncheon and dessert size napkins and plates.

The Merchandise Committee is looking for a display rack. It could be a bakers rack or sturdy metal shelving not more than 24" wide, or a coat tree.

Program Committee

Marcella Stasa and Ellen Arnold work together to plan programs and themed hikes. This involves contacting speakers, reserving meeting space, publicity, looking for partners to share costs, and some grant writing. On hikes, they are responsible for getting everyone signed in. They arrange for refreshments, and arrive early for meetings to set up and get the coffee going. They are looking for a third person who would be willing to help with any of this. If you could help in any way, including refreshments, please get in touch with one of them.

Nominating Committee

If you are interested in serving on the Nominating Committee, or as a member of the Board of Directors as an officer or Member at Large, please contact Bill Taylor.

FRIENDS OF UPTON STATE FOREST
PO BOX 258
UPTON, MA 01568-0258

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
(Please Print Clearly)

Date_____

Name: _____
(For family membership please put names of two adults)
Mailing Address: _____

City: _____

Telephone: _____Fax:_____

E-mail:_____

What committees would you like to be a member of? Please circle your choices.

Auditing	Events	Membership	Publicity
Education	Fund Raising	Newsletter	Telephone
E-mail alerts	Historical Resources	Program	Trails

What is your interest? Check all that apply. (If you wish, indicate on reverse if you belong to organizations that support these interests.)

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

Membership Categories: (Prices effective through December 2009)
(circle one)

Family of 2 adults & 2 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

Comments on reverse Information is for Friends of Upton State Forest use only.

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