Friends of Upton State Forest Newsletter
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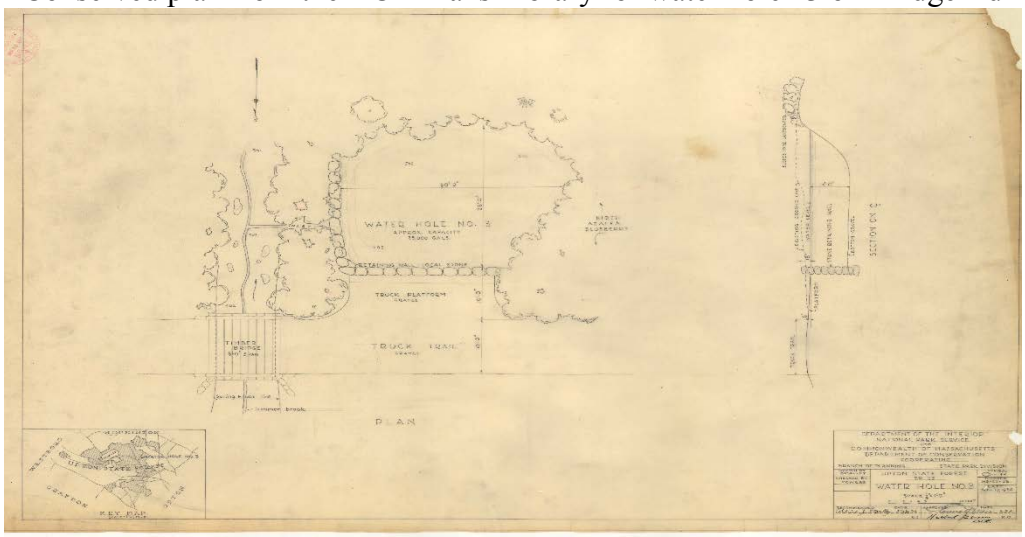
President's Message
By Bill Taylor

The fruits of the CCC document preservation project have been fully realized. In early 2012, after raising $2,900 from generous Friends, and with an additional $300 contribution from the Upton Historical Society as a partner in the project, the Friends Historic Resources Committee applied for and were awarded a matching grant of $6,400. A total of $9,600 was raised to preserve 35 Upton State Forest CCC planning documents in the DCR's archives. The documents have been preserved, and last month the Friends and the Society received CDs with digital copies of 33 of these documents.

The documents are a fascinating collection of plans for features that were built, and still exist today, and for features that never made it out of the planning stage. They are a valuable resource for preserving the forest's existing CCC features, and an interesting look at what might have been. They include the design of a fireplace grate, the layout of the camp, plans for existing features such as Dean Pond and the water holes, plans for abandoned features such as the Old Knob picnic area at the top of Park Road, and others that show how other areas of the park may have been developed. One shows, among other things, a proposed pond and picnic areas on Fowler Street where the golf course is now located, and another shows a recreation center and lake in the West River section of Upton State Forest. DCR also plans to apply to the Boston Public Library to have the documents added to the Digital Commonwealth collection, a site that provides access to images and documents that have been digitized by organizations across the state, which will make them available to the public on-line. (www.digitalcommenwealth.org),

None of this would have possible without the generosity of all those that contributed to the project. Thank-you!

Conserved plan from the DCR Plans Library for water hole #3 on Bridge Rd

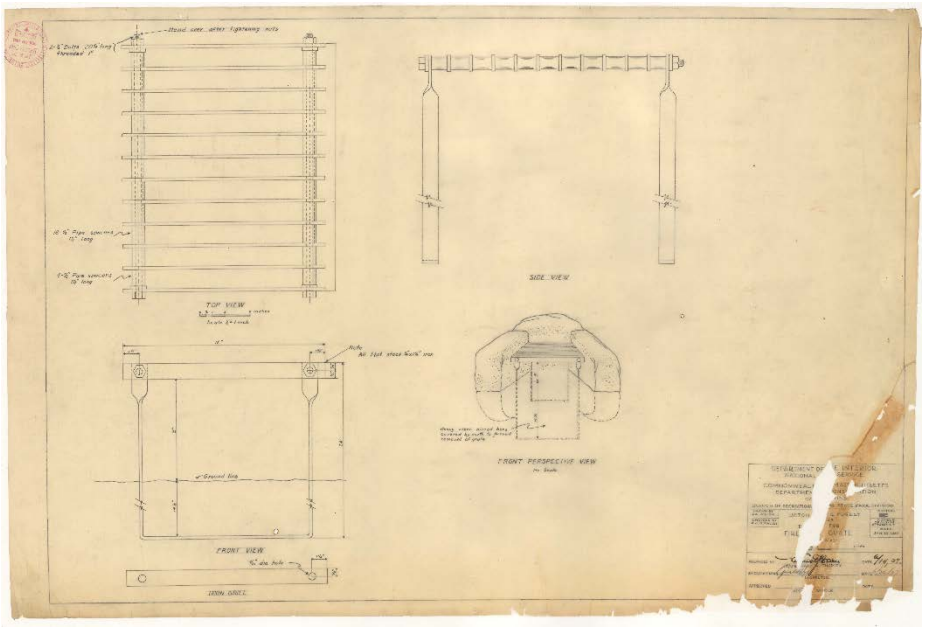


Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Archival Records Collections
From information provided by Sean Fisher and Judy Greene

DCR's archival collections date from 1893 when the Massachusetts Legislature established the nation's first Metropolitan Park System (MPS). Through a series of many mergers combining more than 30 agency predecessors, some of which date back to the 1840's, the scope of the agency has expanded to include the entire state. Today DCR maintains Massachusetts' forests and parks; manages and protects the drinking-water supply watersheds for Greater Boston; and provides agency-wide planning, engineering, design, and construction management services. The growth of DCR's archival collections has paralleled that of the agency; highlights from the collections include construction records for the Charles River Esplanade and the metropolitan parkway system and Depression-era improvements to Massachusetts state parks and forests by the Civilian Conservation Corps.

The two-person staff of the Archives Management Program manages the Plans Library and Archives under the auspices of DCR's Office of Cultural Resources. This office helps preserve the cultural heritage of the Commonwealth through stewardship of DCR's historic buildings, landscapes, archaeological sites, and archival resources. The Plans Library and the Archives preserve, arrange, and describe the public records of enduring value produced by DCR and its predecessors and make them available to staff, agency contractors, and the public. This is done using principles of provenance, original order, and collective control to protect the records' authenticity and context, and using archival best management practices. All of this is in compliance with the Secretary of State's Statewide Records Retention Guidelines for paper-based records. In addition they work with the State Archives staff to have selected archival records sets transferred to them for permanent preservation and broader public access; an inter-agency relationship that dates back to 1980.

The archives function within DCR dates back to 1971, when the MDC created a collection of agency archival records and a library of agency publications and reports. This program of employing professional archivists in a state park agency is one of only a few in the US. This is done at a critical juncture in state government in the context of 20th century archival records, based on the transition of offices from an analog-to-digital environment; the retirement of the baby boom generation which is the last generation to work in pre-digital office environments; and the subsequent extinction of file clerks and typists who really were the staff who managed filing systems. Massachusetts can say that the surviving archival/historical records of its state forests and parks system are being cared for and made accessible for future generations. Not many other states can make such a claim; either through their state parks agency or through their State Archives. The Plans Library and Archives are open to researchers Monday through Friday throughout the year. Access is by appointment only.



Note: Conserved plan for a picnic fireplace and grate from the DCR CCC Plans Library. Remains of fireplaces like these can be found in the former Old Knob and Painted Valley picnic areas.

Meet the DCR Staff

Sean Fisher and Judy Greene in front of a conserved CCC painting of Mt. Tom.

Sean Fisher

Sean Fisher has worked with the agency since 1992 when he started with the MDC, which became part of DCR in 2003. During college he was inspired to become an archivist through the work-study program at his college archives. He earned a Masters in history at Northeastern University and a Masters in Library Science at Simmons College Library School.

As the DCR archivist, records manager and historian, Sean manages a collection of nearly 4,750 boxes of long-term and permanent records, plus oversize materials, and engineering objects at a leased storage location. This involves promoting DCR's history, and the work and organizational history of 30-plus previous agencies, dating as far back as the 1840s. In an average year, he receives about 175 requests for records or information, with half to two-thirds from staff.

Sean visits offices across the state to identify archival records, shredding and recycling routine and obsolete form-based records. In the course of doing this, he spends a great deal of time in office attics and basements reviewing old records! It was one such visit to Cochituate State Park where the park supervisor suggested he look in the attic over their garage. When he opened the attic trap door, Sean found a large number of CCC planning documents for state parks and forests throughout the state, including many from Upton.

When we became aware of this find, our Historic Resources Committee contacted Sean and raised the possibility of finding funding to conserve the Upton records. He put us in touch with Judy Greene, and with their help and encouragement we initiated fundraising with the intention of applying for a DCR Matching Partnership Grant. We expected this to be a multi-year project, but thanks to the generosity of our members and others the necessary funds were raised in about three months!

Judy Greene

Judy Greene was hired by DCR in 2006, and manages DCR's active central Plans Library in Boston with holdings of about 75,000 plans and drawings. She is also responsible for archival management issues related to the agency's plans collection statewide. She handles about 500 requests for copies of plans annually, coordinates scanning and conservation projects, develops policy for the Plans Library, applies for grants, and supervises interns and temporary staff assisting with records management projects. She also assists with large DCR and interagency projects involving plans.

Before coming to DCR, Judy had twenty years of experience working with libraries and archives. This included academic, government, publishing, historical and legal libraries in the Boston area. She graduated from Simmons' Graduate School of Library and information Science. While there, she had the opportunity to intern twice at the Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site. She has attended many workshops, conferences and other training opportunities in her field. Both Judy and Sean have participated in workshops and classes at the Northeast Document Conservation Center.

Membership Report

Welcome to new members, Danielle and Nicholas Delaini of Upton.

Starting Sept 27, until our annual meeting in late January, we are offering a discount of 10% off your dues renewal for 2015. We hope you will renew and be part of our tenth anniversary celebration next year.

We appreciate that many of you have provided us with your email contact info. If you do have email and would share it with us, we offer two options. You can receive your newsletter only via email, or you can be on our general contact list. The general list also receives event, hike and meeting reminders, other news of interest, and alerts regarding pending legislation that would impact our state parks. We do not share our email contact list.

Harold Tolstrup

We are saddened to learn of the passing of Charter member, Harold Tolstrup of Hopkinton. He and his wife, Lillian have been supportive of our efforts for many years. Harold's energy at work parties was impressive. In this 2007 photo, he is shown (at right) working with Russ Arnold as they attacked bittersweet vines engulfing a witness tree at the CCC Camp.

Alec Gillman

Alec in the period CCC truck used at events.

Alec Gillman has been promoted from Visitors Services Supervisor to Park Supervisor at Mt Greylock. Now that he is no longer part of Interpretive Services he will not be Chair of the DCR CCC Program Committee. This committee has honored CCC alumni, and promoted the CCC Legacy through education, and assistance with events for many years. With the retirement of others who participated on the committee the future of that work is in jeopardy. We wish Alec all the best in his new position and we hope that DCR will find a way to reenergize that committee.

Website Update

The Board of Directors wants to say thank you to Mike Penko for all the work he does to maintain our website. He keeps it updated with our activities, current newsletter, and notices of meetings, events and fund raising campaigns.

With Mike's encouragement we have been taking a look at how we might take it a step further. Over the summer, Dean Zaslow, son of member at large, Jerry Zaslow, has been designing a page that will provide an option to pay your membership dues and make purchases from us online using PayPal. We will keep you posted.

BE SAFE, BE SEEN and KEEP THE FOREST CLEAN

As we approach the various deer hunting seasons we remind you to **Be Safe, Be Seen.** It is important to follow this common sense safety rule anytime you are walking on the street or hiking in the forest, but especially so during deer season. Hunters are mandated to wear blaze orange when they are hunting. Massachusetts does not require that non hunters do the same, but we encourage you to do so. If we all use common sense we can share the forest safely.

FUSF carries safety orange logo hoodies and crewneck sweatshirts in adult sizes, and tee shirts in adult and child sizes. We also carry a low cost line of lime green or safety orange vests without the logo. They can be purchased at ***A Little Common Sense***, 8 North Main St, behind the Upton Common. You can find more info about the various hunting seasons at

http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dfg/dfw/hunting-fishing-wildlife-watching/hunting/

Lug It In, Lug It Out

Another line has been added to the Entrance Gateway sign at CCC Way. “Lug It In, Lug It Out.” We have no trash cans at Upton since there is no on site staff to empty them regularly. Trash cans overflowing with garbage, animal waste bags, diapers, and other debris would be unsightly and attract animals and insects. Some people have been stuffing the Iron Ranger, intended for donations, with trash too.

More than once this year someone has piled household items near the entrance with a “free stuff” sign. That is just another form of dumping, and not appreciated by the neighborhood. We find water bottles, coffee cups, and cans on the nearby roads too.

Let’s keep the forest clean and safe for all of us to share, and take our trash with us!

Partners and Friends

Whitehall Woods Alliance (WWA)

Recently, an opportunity to enhance the value of Upton State Forest and Whitehall State Park has spurred several organizations to form the Whitehall Woods Alliance. Their focus is a 40 acre property on Pond St in Hopkinton that, if protected, will be a link between the two DCR properties. 203 Pond Street directly abuts Upton State Forest, and lies across a narrow road from Whitehall State Park. This property will be the link connecting an extensive corridor of public properties and their trail systems.

At their July meeting, the FUSF Board of Directors voted to join the WWA. Others include the Friends of Whitehall (FOW), Hopkinton Area Land Trust (HALT), and the Sudbury Valley Trustees (SVT). The mission of the group is to identify and bring together public and private sources of funding to purchase the entire property.

More information is available in the flier included with this newsletter on page 8.

Friends Network Conference

The Massachusetts Forest and Parks Friends Network has set December 6 as the date for their annual conference to be held at the Upton VFW. This year's theme is "Conservation". The public is welcome. For more info go to www.networkingfriends.net.

DCR Stewardship Council Meeting

The DCR Stewardship Council meets throughout the state eight months a year. They are scheduled to meet at River Bend Farm in Uxbridge on Nov. 7. More information about the council is available at http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr/inside-our-agency/stewardship-council/

BSTRA Funds Work on Loop Road!

Loop Road, B. Kalagher photo

We are pleased to report that Bay State Trail Riders Association is funding a rehab of Loop Road from Grouse Trail to, and including, the intersection of Whitehall Trail. Speroni Excavation has been hired to do the work. They will be regrading using existing material, constructing barways and swales along hilly areas to keep water off of the trail. The $5500 price is being funded with money raised during the BSTRA National Trails Day Fundraiser in June. FUSF sends our thanks to the equestrian group for their investment in the trails at Upton.

Kinder Morgan Gas Pipeline

A proposed gas pipeline that would impact several miles of DCR parks, and other protected public properties, is being watched closely by environmental groups. More info about the pipeline and the opposition is available by clicking the links at http://www.nofrackedgasinmass.org/

Quarterly Quote

"The nation behaves well if it treats the natural resources as assets which it must turn over to the next generation increased, and not impaired, in value."

Theodore Roosevelt

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friends of Upton State Forest
Board Meetings

October 20, November 17
December 15, January 19

Board meetings are held at 7:00PM in the training room at the Upton Police Station unless otherwise noted. You are welcome to attend. Please contact FUSF President, Bill Taylor if you have something you would like the Board to address.

Save the Dates

FUSF Annual Meeting
January 30, 7 PM
Snow date, February 6
Location TBA

FUSF Potluck Supper
May 1
United Parish Vestry

Edible Plants with Russ Cohen

Sampling Black Birch Tea

About thirty people joined the Upton Open Space Committee and FUSF to hike at Stefans Farm with Russ Cohen, author of *Edible Plants I Have Known and Eaten.* We met at the Community Garden and sampled fruit leather from Autumn Olive berries, and Black Birch tea before starting up the trail where we learned about many edible plants and how to prepare them.

FARA Field Day at Upton

FARA Member, Sumner Weisman at the controls

Members of the Framingham Amateur Radio Association set up at Upton State Forest for their annual Field Day on June 28. Ham radio operators across the country use this day as a chance to compete and test their communication abilities. In the case of natural disasters or other emergencies it is often ham radio operators who assist public agencies when other methods of communication are strained or disabled. A recent example is the Boston Marathon bombing.

Upton's Heritage Day
September 27
9AM to 2PM

FUSF will have a booth on the Upton Common during Upton's Heritage Day. Along with greeting people and letting them know about our group, we will have our logo apparel available and will be accepting memberships. Once again we will have some baked goods and fresh apple cider for sale. Please stop by and say hi. Our rain barrel raffle tickets will be available too, and the drawing will be at 2PM at the booth.

Other activities include the United Parish Yard Sale, Library Book Sale, a raffle to benefit Upton Historical Society, face painting, music, craft vendors, walking tours, and Open House at the Fire Department.

203 Pond Street, Hopkinton

Whitehall State Park and the Upton State Forest

together provide over 3,200 acres of public land providing recreation opportunities, wildlife habitat, and air and water quality protection in one of the state's most populated regions. An opportunity exists to link these two important blocks of permanently protected open space with the acquisition of approximately 40 acres of woodland at 203 Pond Street. This property represents the last significant link between the two state properties, and will soon be developed as housing if the effort to purchase it is unsuccessful.

The Whitehall Woods Alliance

has been formed to bring this effort to fruition.

The benefits of protecting this beautiful include the following:

- **Support of the Town's Open Space and Recreation Plan goals**: 203 Pond Street is shown as an "area of conservation and recreation interest" on the 2009 Action Plan Map, and ranked highest among properties evaluated for open space benefits in a 1997 study.

- **Balancing Growth**: Protection of the Pond Street property would create a counterbalance to significant growth in other parts of town. According to MassAudubon's 2009 "Losing Ground" report, Hopkinton lies solidly in Massachusetts' "sprawl frontier", with between 10.4 and 17 acres of new development per square mile between 1999 and 2005. Hopkinton ranked 12th in the top 20 towns with the highest rate of development during that period.

- **Size and proximity to existing conservation lands**: 203 Pond Street sits between 1,357 acres of the Upton State Forest and 815 acres of the Whitehall State Park. The Upton State Forest in turn connects to local conservation land in Upton and Grafton, creating a block of over 3,125 acres of protected land.

- **Role in linking existing conservation lands**: The property's location makes it ideal for linking these two sizable areas, creating extensive recreation opportunities for walkers, hikers, bikers, and equestrians, and also preserving an important wildlife corridor and watershed protection area. It will also **provide needed parking and pedestrian access from Pond Street to Upton State Forest**.

- **Proximity to sensitive habitat**: 203 Pond Street acts as an important buffer for adjacent, state-designated Priority Habitat for an endangered species. The property also abuts the Miscoe-Warren-Whitehall Area of Critical Environmental Concern.

Upton State Forest

The Whitehall Woods Alliance

includes

The Friends of Whitehall
Hopkinton Area Land Trust
Sudbury Valley Trustees
Friends of Upton State Forest

For more information, please contact:

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