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

The Anniversary Celebration on August 29 was a rousing success. We celebrated the 100th anniversary of the purchase of the first parcel of the forest, the 80th anniversary of the opening of the CCC camp, the 10th anniversary of the Friends, and the October 2014 listing of the CCC Resources Historic District on the National Register of Historic Places.

It was a well-attended event on a spectacular day, with speeches by Priscilla Geigis, DCR's Director of State Parks, George Peterson Jr., the Commissioner of the Department of Fish and Game, Jack Buckley, Director of the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, and State Senator Michael Moore followed by the unveiling of the National Register plaque. There was cake and lemonade after the unveiling, and there was period music, activities and learning opportunities throughout the day.

One of the many highlights of the event was the opportunity to hear members of some of the families who lived at the camp reminisce about growing up at Upton State Forest. Family members of some of the Phillips Wildlife Research Lab staff, as well as family members of one of the DCR Management Foresters attended the event. It certainly put a very human face to the story of the forest.

I want to thank everyone who made this wonderful day possible.

Bill

Be Safe, Be Seen
By Ellen Arnold

Each year at this time the Friends remind you to **"BE SAFE, BE SEEN."** Whether you are walking or running, riding a bike or a horse, on a trail or on the road, it is important to be visible at all times. This effort began during a discussion at one of our first Trails Committee meetings about promoting safety on the trails. We recognized that many people who use our forest are not familiar with the various hunting seasons and why they should wear Blaze Orange clothing. That year we bought some inexpensive vests and left them at the trailhead kiosk. We put up a sign explaining why they were there, inviting people to use them, and asked that they return them when they were leaving. It worked for most of the season, although toward the end they started disappearing one at a time.

We encourage you to be visible throughout the year when you use the trails. If you are injured or lost, it is easier for emergency personnel to locate you if you are wearing bright clothing. FUSF carries a full line of orange, logo apparel including tee shirts, crewneck sweatshirts, and hoodies. When you wear one, you are not only visible, but support the work we do.

There is an article by Joe Nava on page 3 about the research done at Phillip's Wildlife Lab that determined blaze orange was the most visible color.

Don't forget to put orange on your pets too!

Membership Report

We are pleased to welcome the following new members: Chris Grice of Wolcott, CT, Winston and Kathleen Saville of Becket, MA, and Desiree Zicko, and John Archibald of Reading, MA. With renewals and new members our total membership to date is 152.

Remember that our dues will be increasing for the first time in ten years effective Jan. 1, 2016. You may join or renew for 2016 at the current rates until that date. Between Jan. 1 and the annual meeting on Jan. 22, you may take 10% off the new prices. After that, the full price will apply. We appreciate your support.

Trails Committee Report

On Sept. 19 FUSF observed National Public Lands Day with a work party on the trails. The group cleared out the upper Nuthatch Trail starting from Westborough Rd to Park Rd. There was one large tree down that they reported to park staff. They also cleared out materials from an old bridge on the trail between Westborough Rd and Ridge Rd.

The following members of the FUSF Trails Committee donated a total of eight and a half hours of work. Donna Johnson, Lurissa Marston, Elisa Shaw, Joyce Sandvik, and Suzanne Nicholas. Thanks to all for their dedication to trails!

Quarterly Quote

"I am so glad I live in a world with Octobers." L. M. Montgomery (*Anne of Green Gables).*

FUSF on Facebook

https://www.facebook.com/Friends-of-Upton-State-Forest-146086558773750/?ref=hl

Donations

Thank you to Desiree Zicko and John Archibald for a donation in memory of John and Norm Fahy. Several others made anonymous donations along with their 2016 membership.

Steve Warren made a very nice donation box using wood and plexi-glass. We used it for the first time on August 29 and received several donations.

Alice and Frank Evans donated the cake served at our Celebration on August 29. They also donated three CCC calendars to be raffled at our January meeting.

Kathy Craib donated a throw and matching pillow for a future raffle. Kathy Craib, Ellen Arnold and Alice Evans all donated paper goods for refreshments.

We also appreciate the mop donated by Mary McManus. It beats using the old mop that probably should be in our historic display!

Heritage Day

Oct 4 was a rainy, cold, windy and dreary day for Upton's annual Heritage Day event. United Parish moved their yard sale into the Vestry, and the Library postponed their book sale to Sunday. The VFW held their 5K race, but only twelve vendors and organizations set up booths on the Common. FUSF set up and stayed until noon. This is usually one of our best fund raising events so the weather was disappointing.

Thanks to Marcella Stasa, Steve Warren Jerry Zaslow, Agnita Knott, Ellen Arnold, Chris Scott, and Bill Taylor for helping with set up, clean up, and staffing the booth. We appreciate the nice raffle donation from Suzanne Nicholas. She made a Salsa basket that included a 3 piece Salsa Set, two kinds of chips, salsa, conqueso cheese sauce, and a can of chili peppers that had a $20.00 value. Roberta O'Connell of Uxbridge was the winner.

Blaze Orange Safety Vests
By Joe Nava, Fairbanks, AK

From 1948 to 1960 I worked for the Massachusetts Division of Fish & Game at the Philips Wildlife Lab. in Upton, MA. During that time I worked on many different fish and game projects all over the State. One of the most interesting to me was the project designed to determine what would be the best color to wear in the woods in the fall to avoid being mistaken for a deer, or other animal.

Jack Woolner (now deceased) was the originator of this project. He worked with the Army at Fort Devens to arrange the complete operation. Jack had several vests made out of many colored materials. Each vest was given a number. Army personnel were assigned a vest which they wore as they walked a certain trail through the woods. Other soldiers were stationed in the woods. They were assigned to note the first glimpse they got of any vest moving through the woods. They then made a note of the distance at which they first noticed the vest.

This process went on for many days with many soldiers and many vests. Then all the data was collected and analyzed by Jack and others. There were many colors, about 20 as I remember. I was impressed by a fluorescent green vest which I surely thought would win as the most visible. But it did not. The vest that showed up as the most visible was clearly Blaze Orange. It scored far above all the others.

It was then that the Mass. Fish & Game, and others, began urging the use of Blaze Orange clothing in the woods in the fall during hunting season. Eventually, the use of colored clothing for safety became law in Mass. That was after I had transferred to the Alaska Department of Fish & Game.

I had, and wore for many years, the Blaze Orange vest that was used in that experiment. Jack gave it to me to thank me for all the help I had given to him in the project. I wore it for many years and it protected me thoroughly. Once I had that vest on I was never mistaken for an animal. It worked. Unfortunately, my home in Alaska burned to the ground in 1993, so I lost the famous vest, but I still wear Blaze Orange colored clothing when I am in the woods during hunting season, even though it is not legally required in Alaska.

While I was working in Alaska I lost one of my workmates, and a good friend, to a hunting accident. He was deer hunting in Southeastern Alaska when he was mistaken for a deer by a member of his hunting party. He was shot and killed. He was not wearing colored clothing. That further convinced me that everyone should wear Blaze Orange clothing when in the woods during hunting season. **Be safe! Be seen!**

Editor's note: You can view a video that demonstrates the effectiveness of blaze orange at: https://vimeo.com/47113670.

California Visitors!

Tim Montgomery (above left), CCC Legacy Association Board Member, was visiting CCC sites in the New England area during September. One of his stops was the CCC Camp at Upton. He was met by Bill Taylor, CCC alumnus Frank Evans, and Ellen Arnold who gave Tim and his family a tour of the camp.

Day of Celebration

Unveiling of the plaque

On Saturday, August 29, more than 140 people joined the Friends and the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) for a celebration of the listing of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Resources Historic District on the National Register of Historic Places, and several anniversaries mentioned in the President's Message on page 1. The Upton Selectmen also declared the day "Upton State Forest Day" to honor the occasion.

The Historic District includes the CCC headquarters and infirmary buildings, the parade ground, the rest of the original camp site, and some of the roads and structures in the forest, including Dean Pond dam, built by the CCC.

The event included a ceremony to unveil the National Register plaque with displays, activities and period music presented throughout the day.

FUSF displayed artifacts and photos from throughout the life of the camp. Troy Gipps brought his grandfather's CCC footlocker with the memorabilia that was saved in it. A DCR display described what DCR has done to stabilize the headquarters building.

There were displays that illustrated what the CCC did – forestry, pest control and fire control – and others that described what was done after they left. The DCR District Management Forester had a display about forestry, the Department of Agricultural Resources had one about the Asian long-horned beetle and the emerald ash borer, and the American Chestnut Foundation had information about the restoration of this important tree. District 7 Fire Control brought a tool display, and Smokey Bear brought smiles!

DCR Rangers displayed information about their activities at Upton, including the stabling of the Department of Environmental Management's Mounted Unit. They also brought Echo, the latest addition to their Search and Rescue K-9 team. Mass Wildlife displayed information about Phillips Wildlife Lab, which was at Upton from 1946 to 1955, including a ten-foot long timeline showing some of the important research projects done at the lab.

The Framingham Antique Radio Association operated ham radios and had a 1963 Range Rover with a field operations unit.

There were a number of guests who had either lived or worked in the camp at one time. It was the first time back in many years for some. They enjoyed the historic displays, and some shared pictures and memories.

Troop 132 Scouts brought in the colors to start the unveiling ceremony and then stood as color guard. The Scouts included Dan Cook, Doug Cook Jr, Mark LeClaire Jr, Aidan Leutkemeyer, Joseph Moruzzi, Adam Ober and Patrick Ober. Assistant Scout-masters Mark LeClair Sr., Doug Cook Sr., and Kelly Leutkemeyer came with them.

The speakers were Priscilla Geigis,

(Continued on next page)

Troy Gipps displays his grandfather's CCC footlocker and memorabilia.

George Peterson Jr., Commissioner of the Department of Fish and Game, Jack Buckley, Director of the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (DFW), State Senator Michael Moore, and Bill Taylor, FUSF President. The Friends were acknowledged for all the work done over the last ten years for the benefit of the forest, including the efforts that led to listing of the CCC Historic District on the National Register. The speeches also acknowledged the passion that DCR and the Friends share for the forest and that DFW has for its mission.

Bill Taylor presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Cathy Taylor, Chair of the Upton Historical Commission, for their support for the National Register listing. He also presented a Certificate of Appreciation to George Peterson for his support of the Friends when he was a Representative in the Massachusetts Legislature.

Commissioner Peterson presented the Friends with a Governor's Citation and Director Geigis presented the Friends with a DCR Certificate of Appreciation. Both recognized FUSF for the work it does to realize the goals it shares with DCR "to preserve, enhance, and protect the natural and historic resources of Upton State Forest."

The highlight of the ceremony was when Director Geigis invited Frank Evans, Friends co-founder and CCC alumnus, to speak. Frank recounted his experience as a teenager coming to the camp to collect garbage for a nearby pig farm. He pointed to the tall cypress trees around the camp and remarked that they were just shrubs in front of the buildings when he was coming to the camp. He was inspired to join the CCC, and was sent to Mt Tom to help build that park.

After the speeches, everyone gathered at the flagpole to witness Senator Moore, Commissioner Peterson, Director Geigis, Director Buckley, and President Bill Taylor unveil the plaque. The Friends then invited everyone to share cake and lemonade.

Later in the day, Ellen Arnold of FUSF led a group on a tour of the camp area, and Bill Taylor led a hike to Dean Pond following the route of the Historic District corridor. Glenn Fowler of Upton Cable Television was on hand all day to record the ceremony and memories of life in the camp.

The Friends want to express their appreciation to the DCR staff and many volunteers who helped get the camp ready for guests, set up displays, set up and manned booths, assisted with cleanup, and the many details that make for a successful event.

Priscilla Geigis presenting Frank Evans, CCC alumnus and FUSF co-founder with a certificate.

Calendar of Events

Friends of Upton State Forest
Board Meetings

Board meetings are held monthly, on the third Monday, in the training room at the Upton Police Station unless otherwise noted. Anyone is welcome to attend. We suggest that you contact Bill Taylor if you want to be on the agenda.

November 16
December 21
January 18, 2016

Annual Meeting
January 22, 7 PM
Save the Date

Our Annual Meeting and Election of Officers will be held on January 22 at the Upton VFW, 15 Milford St. There will be a brief business meeting followed by a program. There will be a raffle, and FUSF merchandise will be available to purchase. More details in the next newsletter.

BSTRA Ride at Upton State Forest
October 25

Bay State Trail Riders Association will be holding a fall ride at Upton on Sunday, Oct. 25. They plan to park at the CCC Camp area and then use the Rabbit Run Trail to access the Whitney Conservation Area and the Warren Brook Conservation Area. A portion of the proceeds from the ride will be donated to FUSF. We appreciate the support from our long-time partners.

Deer Hunting Season Dates

The 2015 deer hunting season started on Oct 3 with the first-ever Youth Deer Hunt Day in Mass. Archery season runs from Oct. 19 to Nov. 28. Shotgun season is from Nov. 30 to Dec. 12, and Primitive Firearms season is from Dec. 14 to Dec. 31. There is no hunting on Sunday. More info at:http://www.eregulations.com/massachusetts/huntingandfishing/hunting-season-dates.

ALB Follow-up

E. Arnold photo

Long-time DCR seasonal employees Eric DeLeo and Roylin Cruz-Castillo are shown checking one of the Asian long-horned beetle traps on Ridge Rd. At this time, no beetles have been found in Upton. Only one has been found this year, and that was in the regulated area. Upton is not part of that area.

MRA Multisport Trail Race
November 15

FUSF has been invited to participate as volunteers during the MRA Multisport Trail Race at Upton State Forest on November 15. We could be stationed at trail intersections for directions, or at the parking area to offer assistance to participants. If you can help, please contact Trails Committee Co-chair, Suzanne Nicholas through news@friendsofuptonstateforest.org. The group will donate a portion of the proceeds to FUSF. We are grateful to MRA Multisport for their recognition of FUSF and the work we do.

Editor's note:

Please note that BSTRA and MRA Multisport will be marking the trails in advance of their events. The markings will be removed in a timely manner. Please do not disturb the markers since some of the participants are not familiar with our trails.

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_____Zip code_____

Telephone: _____E-mail _____

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

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

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

Membership Categories: (Prices effective through 12/31/15) (Circle one)

Family of 2 adults & children (under age 18) ---------- $30.00 ($37.50 on 01/01/2016)
Individual ----------$20.00 ($25.00 on 01/01/2016)
Senior 65+----------$10.00 ($12.50 on 01/01/2016)
Student full time with current student id ----------$10.00 ($12.50 on 01/01/2016)

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

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

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Tee $12.50-$15.50

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Short Sleeve Tshirt
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Green Childrens T
$10.50

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