



# FRIENDS OF UPTON STATE FOREST INC. NEWSLETTER

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Volume 3, Number 5

November 2008

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## **President's Message "Possibilities"**

A little over three years ago we had an idea and a lot of enthusiasm. Some of that enthusiasm has been tempered with the burden of the organizational process. We still have ideas but there are times we have been discouraged. It has helped that people have encouraged us to continue by pointing out the difference we have made.

Achieving our non profit status has opened the door to new possibilities for Friends of Upton State Forest. We can actively fund raise now and will be forming a committee for that purpose. Other possibilities include partnerships with the Department of Conservation and Recreation, other organizations and individuals for the benefit of Upton State Forest. These partnerships can be financial, in kind donations or cooperative efforts such as combined work parties and recreational events.

A perfect example of cooperative effort was the sponsorship of the Upton Historical Commission when we successfully nominated the buildings at Upton State Forest for "Preservation Mass 2005 List of Ten Most Endangered Historic Resources in Massachusetts." Our partnership with Bay State Trail Riders Association through a matching grant leveraged funds from both groups that will be used to rebuild a bridge on Hopkinton Spring Trail.

Friends groups bring local contacts and partnerships to the table that can benefit our parks, forests and beaches. Working together we can open doors to new possibilities.

## **Members Meeting Nov 17, 7 PM, Upton Senior Center "Park Watch"**

After the business meeting Jennifer Stowe of DCR will speak about "Park Watch." In light of recent budget cuts it is important to involve the public in good stewardship of our parks. Even though this program has not been funded recently the elements of it are good guidelines for Friends groups. We can be ambassadors to park visitors and can help to keep our park a safe, clean and enjoyable place to visit. This meeting is free and open to the public. Hope to see you there.

## **501c3 Finally!**

Friends of Upton State Forest (FUSF) are pleased to announce that we have received notice from the Internal Revenue Service that our application for non profit status has been approved. We are exempt from Federal income tax under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions to the Friends are deductible under section 170 of the code.

Thank you to Joan Shanahan and Betty Roche for their efforts and persistence to accomplish this. We appreciate that our members supported us while we moved toward this important organizational step.

## **Quote of the Month**

by

Henry Ford

Coming together is a beginning.

Keeping together is progress.

Working together is success

**Letterboxing** by Jane Milligan  
(Jane is the daughter of CCC alumnus, Rudolph Cieplinski, a baker at Camp SP-25 CCC at Upton. Jane and her husband, Bill, worked together on the CCC letterbox series.)

Letterboxing is an intriguing mix of treasure hunting, arts and crafts, hiking and exploring. It originated in Dartmoor, England, in 1854 when a gentleman left his calling card in a sealed bottle by a remote pond. When passerby came upon the bottle, they too, left a card or brief note. It wasn't until 1989 that this pastime spread to the United States.

Here is how this variation of a scavenger hunt works: Someone, called the placer, hides a waterproof box containing a logbook and a carved rubber stamp. He then prepares clues giving directions to the box. The clues may be simple direct ones or they can involve map coordinates and compass bearings from landmarks. These clues are published on letterboxing websites for the hunters. The hunter brings along his personal rubber stamp, ink pad and a logbook. When he successfully deciphers the clues and finds the letterbox, he stamps the logbook in the box with his personal stamp (called a signature stamp) and then stamps his personal logbook with the box's stamp. The box's logbook is a record of all its visitors and the hunter has a record of all the different boxes he has found in his personal logbook. Today, letterboxes are found in parks, forests and cities all over the world.

A group of five letterboxes was hidden recently in Upton State Forest in honor of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Civilian Conservation Corps. Each box contains a unique stamp handcrafted by Friend's member Marcella Stasa. SP-25, appearing on all the stamps, indicates the MA project number for the camp and the letters SP designate a state park.

Letterbox locations highlight specific key CCC sites within the park. (Anyone planning to place letterboxes in a DCR park should notify the Park Supervisor.)

On CCC Day, several enthusiastic participants searched the "Celebrate the Legacy" Letterbox Trail. Everyone found at least two boxes; a few found three and two boys tracked down all five. The following day we heard from another family that located all the boxes and several people have indicated they will be completing their search soon.

These letterboxes will be maintained permanently and clues to find them can be found on the website for Letterboxing North America. Happy Searching!

<http://www.letterboxing.org/>

### **Membership Update**

If your membership card does not say 2009 then it is time to think about renewing your membership. Until the annual meeting in January we are offering a 20% discount for all categories except Associate. A renewal form is enclosed. Please send the form with your dues to PO Box 258, Upton, MA 01568-0258.

Welcome to the following new members: Lee and Jan Maglione of Upton, Tom Mansfield of Northbridge, Mary and Larry McManus from Woodville, Robert and Judith Flumere of Milford, Karen Fleming Brooks from North Grafton and Donna Stimpson from Lanesboro. This brings our total membership to 124.

We are sad to report that Ed and Betty Roche are moving to Maine. Betty has served as our Treasurer and Corresponding Secretary taking care of membership. They were among the first members who worked with us to write the bylaws. Betty did all the paperwork to get our state nonprofit corporation status. We will miss them but wish them happy trails.

## CCC Day at Upton State Forest



*Ribbon cutting for CCC Way*

Around 100 people enjoyed the glorious fall day and foliage at Upton State Forest on Oct. 11. They came to “Celebrate the Legacy” and honor CCC alumni during this 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Civilian Conservation Corps. Conrad Crawford represented the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) as master of ceremonies for the flagpole dedication. Senator Edward M. Augustus, Jr., Representative George N. Peterson, Jr. and Jan Reitsma, Executive Director of the Blackstone Valley Corridor spoke about the importance of the CCC legacy and public involvement in stewardship for the parks, forests and beaches of the Commonwealth. FUSF President, Ellen Arnold, introduced the men chosen to raise the colors. Frank Evans, CCC alumnus, is a cofounder of FUSF and is living the legacy. Walter Petrowski, son of Joe Petrowski, crew leader building Dean Pond Dam, represented CCC families who are carrying on the legacy. Conor Shults, Anthony Ward, Cullen Farragher, Will Berner, Mitchell Mazur, Leader Gary Shults and Leader Jerry Zaslow represented Boy Scout Troop 132 presenting the colors and acting as honor guard. The Scouts represented the generation that will inherit the legacy. After the flag was raised, Shanna Glassman of the Upton Police Department shared her lovely voice

singing the national anthem. Everyone joined her singing God Bless America to close the ceremony.

Immediately after the flag pole dedication a ribbon cutting was held for CCC Way. DCR named the parking lot entrance road as far as the beginning of the trailhead at the intersection of Loop Rd. and Park Rd. as CCC Way in honor of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Alumni that attended were honored individually in front of the historic fireplace in the Administration Building. Metro west District Manager, John Dwinell, presented each man with a certificate honoring his service and a commemorative hat.



*Hubie D’Ambrosio, Feeding Hills; John Banash, Hadley; Jeff Piercy, Newton; William LeMay, Oxford; Frank Evans, Marlborough; John Dwinell, Metro west District Manager.*

The Friends want to thank everyone that participated to help make this a special day. The Upton 4-H Club had a booth with children’s activities making pine cone bird feeders, leaf rubbings and other crafts. Bill Johnston’s falcons were a big hit along with a visit from Smokey Bear. Upton Fire Department was on hand with brush fire equipment and at the DCR booth you could get your Parks Passport book stamped with a special CCC stamp for the day. Ed Roche brought his ham radio equipment for (continued on page 4)

people to try out. Dick and Betty Lemoine arranged for the Central Mass Model T Club to arrive as part of a tour for the day. Two of the vehicles came from Attleboro and Mansfield with a special cooker on the engine that cooked their lunch on the way! Zane Arnold brought his 1927 Model A pick up truck and Jeff Hall came with his restored 1939 Farmall tractor that was used by his grandfather on the Hall Farm (now Stefan's farm) on Mechanic Street.



An authentic CCC truck came from Mt. Greylock State Reservation. This truck was donated to DCR by Tony D'Ambrosio and was set up as part of a living history CCC field camp.



Other organizations with booths included FUSF, Bay State Trail Riders Association, American Chestnut Foundation, Metacomet Land Trust, Upton Open Space, Upton Land Stewardship Committee, Upton Historical Commission, Upton Historical

Society, Friends of Whitehall, Hopkinton Area Land Trust and Hopkinton Trails Club. Upton Fire Dept. was on hand with brush fire equipment.

Inside the historic Administration Building members of the Friends set up displays including an authentic mess hall table, barracks display with an authentic bunk and foot locker and other photos and memorabilia. An antique radio display was set up by Lou and Marion Despres. Guests could listen to period music and Roosevelt's fireside chat talking about establishing the CCC. Donna Stimpson of DCR had a power point slide show of Upton CCC camp photos. Fish and Wildlife sent a photo display of animals that can be found at Upton State Forest.

Betty Roche was in charge of refreshments assisted by Mary Delaney. The ceremonial cake was donated by Ellen and Russ Arnold. Refreshments were provided by Barbara Burke, Marion Despres, Mary Dumas, Susan Dykhoff, Alice Evans, Bill and Agnita Knott, Betty Roche, Mildred Morin, Joan Shanahan, Jen Shults, Donna Stimpson, and Tracy Zaslow.

This event was part of the Blackstone River Valley Footsteps in History weekend. Upton participants included the CCC Day event, Fin and Feather and Sweetwilliam Farm. Visitors could get a ticket stamped at all three locations to enter an attendance raffle. Winner of the raffle was Fran Pierce of Hopkinton. She won a garden tote bag filled with a bird id book, several Storey books, a CCC children's book, birdseed wreath, Chickadee ornament, chocolate goodies and a \$25.00 certificate toward rental of a canoe or kayak from Fin and Feather.

At the end of the day the mums used for decoration were raffled to our volunteers. Winners were Mary Delaney, Marion Despres, (continued page 5)

Phyllis Foley, Agnita Knott, Jane Milligan, Joan Shanahan and Lisa Stratton.

Donors to the event included mums from Steve Warren, Evergreen Haven and Angel's Garden Center, apples from Dick Kelly's Farm and snacks from Upton Bloomer Girls. (cont. on page Checks were received from Diane and Bryan Dungey, Alice and Frank Evans and Rose Zariczny.

FUSF members that helped prepare and man the event included Russ and Ellen Arnold, Barbara Burke Mary Delaney, Lou and Marion Despres, Frank Evans, Phyllis Foley, David Kennedy, Agnita and Bill Knott, Bill Johnston, Jane Milligan, Lurissa Marston, Jim Nash, Mike Penko, Irene Radziewicz, Romuald Radziewicz, Betty and Ed Roche, Joan Shanahan, Marcella Stasa, Lisa Stratton and Steve Warren.

Manning booths for other organizations were Brad Smith, American Chestnut Foundation; Dick Humes, Upton Historical Society; Joyce Heywood, Upton Historical Commission; Gail Munro Clifford and Jeff Furber, Friends of Whitehall, Hopkinton Area Land Trust and Hopkinton Trails Club.

Jeanne O'Brien represented the Friends of Myles Standish State Forest. Company 2105 at Upton was formed from men that had served at MSSF. Jeanne is author of a children's book about the CCC and donated several copies to FUSF. Roger Brown, a volunteer at the DCR CCC Archives, assisted with the Living History exhibit.

Thank you to all the DCR staff that supported the event. Susan Hamilton, Northeast Regional Director; John Dwinell, Metro west District Manager and Conrad Crawford, Partnership Director. Shawn Bush, District 7 Fire Control; Roxanne Savoie, Alec Gillman, Donna Stimpson and Allen Haskins

supported planning for the event as well as bringing the CCC truck and other artifacts for the exhibits. Marion Larson from Fish and Wildlife provided an exhibit. Tony Horanzy and Bob Anderson from District 7 Fire Control escorted Smokey Bear to Upton. Tim Rayworth and Val Stegemoen assisted with preparations. Gini Traub, and Barbara Buls manned the DCR booth. Rangers Katherine Ward and DeAnna Collins provided traffic and parking assistance. Other members of the DCR CCC Program Committee helped with planning and support.

A special thank you to Jeff Cate, our Park Supervisor and his staff, Rich Trubiano, Jared Blethen and Justin Blanchette. In addition to all the work they did to get ready for CCC Day they care for the Legacy left by the men of Company 2105 every day.



Senator Edward M. Augustus, Jr. with members of the Upton 4-H Club.



One of Bill Johnston's falcons

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<b>Friends of Upton State Forest</b>	
Oct. 20	Board Meeting, 7PM Headquarters' Bldg.
Oct. 27	No meeting
Nov. 17	General Meeting, 7PM Upton Senior Center "Park Watch"
Nov. 24	Board Meeting, 7PM Upton Police Station
Dec. 15	Historical Resources Committee, 7PM Upton Police Station
Dec. 29	Board Meeting, 7PM Upton Police Station

<b>Upton Open Space</b>	
Nov. 1	Walk led by Russ Wood at Maplewood Cemetery, Maple Av., W. Upton. Meet at 1PM Wear appropriate clothing. Liability waiver required.
<b>Upton Land Stewardship Committee</b>	
Meets Nov. 6 and Dec 4. Contact Marcella Stasa, <a href="mailto:mstasa@charter.net">mstasa@charter.net</a> or 508-529-3709 for information about the committee and the time and place of their meetings.	

<b>Cave Park Committee</b>	
Meets Nov. 10 and Dec. 8. Contact Barbara Burke, 508-529-6600 or <a href="mailto:barbaraburke@charter.net">barbaraburke@charter.net</a> for information about the property at 18 Elm St., plans for the park and time and place of their meetings.	

**National Public Lands Day**  
Due to the heavy rain on Sept. 27 the  
work parties scheduled to rebuild the  
bridge on Hopkinton Spring Trail were  
cancelled. We will advise.

**Volunteer Thank You**  
David Kennedy has finished  
spreading the mulch for the Entrance  
Gateway and an area near the cottage.  
David also periodically fills potholes on  
CCC Way. Please say thank you next  
time you see him.

**A Tribute to Jim McDonough**  
Our sympathy to the extended Fish  
and Wildlife family on the passing of  
Jim McDonough. Jim worked for them  
as a biologist for over 40 years. He  
started his career at Phillips Wildlife Lab  
located in the CCC buildings of Camp  
SP-25 at Upton State Forest (USF).  
Jim attended the dedication of the  
CCC Wayside Panel on the 70<sup>th</sup>  
anniversary of USF in 2005. As soon as  
he got there he headed for his old office  
in the East ell. Prior to purchasing his  
home in Westborough he lived in that ell  
also, going home to Springfield on  
weekends.  
Phillips Wildlife Lab was the location  
of the F&W Field Headquarters for  
Massachusetts. It was here that many of  
the research projects that established the  
laws that regulate wildlife management  
today got their start. Jim was involved in  
several of those projects.

**Donation Received**  
We are grateful to Walter Petrowski  
for his generous donation of \$5000.00.  
Walter's father, Joe was the project  
leader during the building of Dean Pond  
Dam. Walter's donation is in the spirit of  
good stewardship. The funds will be  
used for a capitol project. Our thanks to  
Walter for his support of FUSF.