Friends of Upton State Forest
Newsletter

http://www.friendsofuptonstateforest.org
friends@friendsofuptonstateforest.org
Like us on Facebook!

Volume 7, Number 2 Spring 2012

A Sense of Place

Our senses, memories and experiences link us to special places. For many of us Upton State Forest or other state parks or public lands are those places. Others are so involved with modern life, the office and commuting that they have lost their connection to the landscape. They are connected to the world with technology, but don't take the time or use their senses to see, hear, and appreciate the world around them.

The Friends work with members of the Upton Open Space Committee to connect people to the land through Discovery programs and hikes. We have learned about the CCC, explored vernal pools and cellar holes, and learned about the early inhabitants of these places. We have observed beaver activity at the bog and Dean Pond, discovered mushrooms and moths, and watched and listened to woodcocks as they danced.

This year we have planned some special and exciting programs to help you discover or rediscover your own sense of place. Members of the DCR staff, and some of our own members will share their knowledge, and grants from the Upton and Grafton Local Cultural Councils will bring two very special programs to Upton. Watch the newsletter and check our website and local area newspapers to learn more. For email reminders, please send an email with "Discovery" in the subject line to uptonopenspaceevents@charter.net.

Please join us to "Explore Your Sense of Place!"

Happy Trails, Marcella and Ellen

Park Serve Day at Upton State Forest
Saturday, April 28, 9AM to Noon
Coffee and Registration at 8:30 AM

Many hands make light work so please join us for our spring work party. Meet at the Upton State Forest Headquarters Building near the intersection of Westborough and Southborough Roads. We provide a light lunch for volunteers. A liability waiver is required. Youth over 12 are welcome with a parent's signature. Youth groups are required to pre register. Bring tools such as rakes, shovels and loppers. No power tools. Dress for work and the weather. Don't forget gloves, sunscreen, and insect repellant. Water is provided. Contact Joan at 508-529-3164 or friends@friendsofuptonstateforest.org.

Potluck Supper
Friday, May 4, 6 PM
At United Parish Church
1 Church St, Upton

Supper is at 6:00 PM, followed by the program at 7:00. The public is welcome, and children are welcome with supervision. Our guest will be Conrad Crawford, the Director of Partnerships for the Department of Conservation and Recreation. After a presentation about the many facets of the DCR, he will lead a discussion and take questions about Friends groups and the parks. RSVP to Joan by May 3 at 508-529-3164 or friends@friendsofuptonstateforest.org.

The calendar and information about the Discovery Hikes and programs can be found on page 5 and 6 of this newsletter.

CCC Legacy Journal Article

Ann Cook at Dean Pond

E. Arnold photo

One of our members, Ann Cook, submitted an article to the Civilian Conservation Corps Foundation in Virginia, and they published it in the March/April issue of their newspaper, the CCC Legacy Journal. The paper is distributed throughout the country to CCC alumni and other CCC Legacy members. The article was written using her research about the criteria used to choose CCC enrollees during the infancy of the program.

Two years ago, Ann discovered that her father was in the CCC and served at Camp SP-25 at Upton. Information she found in papers left by her father led to her research and the article. Her interest led her to become a member of FUSF and the Legacy Foundation.

We are glad to have Ann as a member and congratulate her for publication of the article! For more information about the CCC Legacy Foundation, you can visit http://www.ccclegacy.org.

DCR Land Stewardship Guidelines Comment Period Ends April 20, 2012
http://www.mass.gov/dcr/stewardship/rmp/downloads/lsz_guidelines.pdf

Update on the Cottage

DCR Historic Curatorship Manager, Kevin Allen reports that stabilization of the roof at the cottage has begun. This will support the roof structure, which is not framed for heavy snow loads. The scaffolding is a temporary measure, and ideally, the next step is for a partner to begin rehabilitation of the entire building.

Stabilization work will also include the removal of water and mold damaged wall and ceiling materials. This spring DCR will be removing and replacing the roofing material on the side addition roof to abate asbestos materials. Doing that work, will halt the water infiltration that has damaged some of the interior spaces.

In the spring, DCR will release a Request for Proposals to identify a tenant through the Historic Curatorship Program. In this program, Curators provide rehabilitation, management and maintenance services for some of the agency's threatened historic properties, in return for a long-term lease. In addition to preservation work, a future Curator will also provide a much needed, presence at the site. To add your name to the Curatorship notification list, call 617-626-1361, or send an email to HPC.Requests@state.ma.us.

E. Arnold photo, 102811

What's in a Name?

E. Arnold photo

Some people call them Legacy Trees, while others call them Witness Trees, Wolf Trees or Heritage Trees. It is partly semantics and partly your point of view.

In 1936, through an arrangement with Bay State Nurseries in Framingham, CCC enrollees dug shrubs and brought them to Upton to landscape the camp. Today these trees stand witness to all that has happened in the past 76 years. They help us identify the footprint of the camp. In the photo above, the trees outline the former mess hall building.

When hiking through woodland, you may notice a very large tree in relation to the other trees around it. Sometimes you see a tree standing alone in a field. The term "Wolf Tree" denotes a tree alone or a "lone wolf." This tree too is a Witness Tree or a Heritage Tree for the history it has seen.

In forestry, a Legacy tree is a large tree which if left to grow larger and die will provide wildlife habitat. You can get more information at http://www.americanforests.org or, http://www.nativetreesociety.org/bigtree/index_bigtree.html

Membership Report

We are happy to welcome the following new members: Bill Ferguson of Milford, Maureen Byrne, Gordon Marquis and James Willets of Upton.

If you have not paid your dues for 2012, please save us the postage for a reminder and send your dues now. A membership form is included with this newsletter. If you have paid your dues, please pass this form on to someone who would like to join.

Resource Inventory Project

Eleven members attended the first organizational meeting of the Resources Inventory Project Committee. Each person took an assignment and we have developed several reporting forms that will be used for consistency. We are asking anyone who is familiar with any of the Upton State Forest parcels to let us know if they are aware of any significant natural or historic resources within the forest. This could include cellar holes, open wells and other stone features, wildlife sightings including birds, possible vernal pools and Legacy trees. More information, photos and the forms are on our website.

We have already received some reports and started the documentation process. One Sunday seven members spent a combined total of 44 hours hiking Loop Road and the trails east of that to locate, photograph, and take GPS coordinates on the sites.

We are anticipating a future Resource Management Plan and preparing for the public process that provides input in the preparation of that document. If you have questions or would like to help please contact Ellen at 508-529-6610 or news@friendsofuptonstateforest.org.

Multiflora Rose

Rosa multiflora Thunb. Ex Murr**.**
Photo 1559097 from
Ohio State Weed Lab Archives

Multiflora rose was introduced to the US, from Japan, in 1866, as rootstock for ornamental roses. Called "living fence" it was widely promoted from 1930 to 1960 to provide wildlife cover, contain livestock, and control erosion. Today MA bans importation, sale, trade and distribution of the plant.

It is a perennial shrub with arching, thorny, canes that root out when they touch the earth. In June or July, it will have clusters of showy, fragrant white or pink flowers. It has a very strong, sweet smell. Very prolific, it forms dense, impenetrable thickets that overtake native plants. The plant tolerates a number of soil, moisture and light conditions and can grow to 15' tall. It produces small, bright red fruits or rose hips that remain through winter. Birds that eat the fruit can spread it.

Extremely difficult to control once it is established seedlings can be pulled out easily. Established thickets may have to be removed with a bulldozer! The plants can also be removed using herbicides but all measures require follow up for several years. More information http://www.newfs.org/protect/invasive-plants/alernatives-to-invasives-in-the-landscape. The New England Wildflower Society recommends Rosa setigera (Climbing Prairie Rose) as an alternative.

Welcome Back Sean!

Sean Lovejoy has returned to work at Hopkinton from the DCR Watershed Division. This brings the number of full time staff for the Hopkinton Complex to three.

Bylaws Review Committee

At our Annual Meeting, members voted in favor of the bylaw changes proposed during the review. We will vote on two other minor changes at the May meeting. As required in our Bylaws we will send a formal notice to members thirty days before the meeting. After that is done, we will send copies of the amended bylaws to members and make them available on our website.

CCC Records Project Reaches Goal!

The Historic Resources Committee reports that we reached our goal, to raise $3200 toward the restoration of original planning documents for Upton State Forest! In December, we applied for a DCR Matching Partnership grant to complete the work.

Additional donors include Steve Warren, Gordon and Polly Marquis, Rena Richard and Rufin Vanbossuyt. Upton Historical Commission will make a donation as a direct partner.

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee will be meeting to prepare a slate of officers to vote on at the May meeting. With the bylaw changes, we can have as many as six members at large. Anyone interested in becoming an officer or member at large is encouraged to contact us. If you have questions, or would like to be an officer or member at large, please contact Ellen at 508-529-6610 or news@friendsofuptonstateforest.org.

Discovery Hikes and Programs

A partnership between Upton Open Space Committee and Friends of Upton State Forest

Hikes are free. Remember water, insect repellant and sunscreen. A liability waiver is required. Wear appropriate clothing and footgear. Children are welcome with a parent's supervision and signature. Please leave pets at home. For questions, reminders or cancellation notices send an email to uptonsopenspaceevents@charter.net.

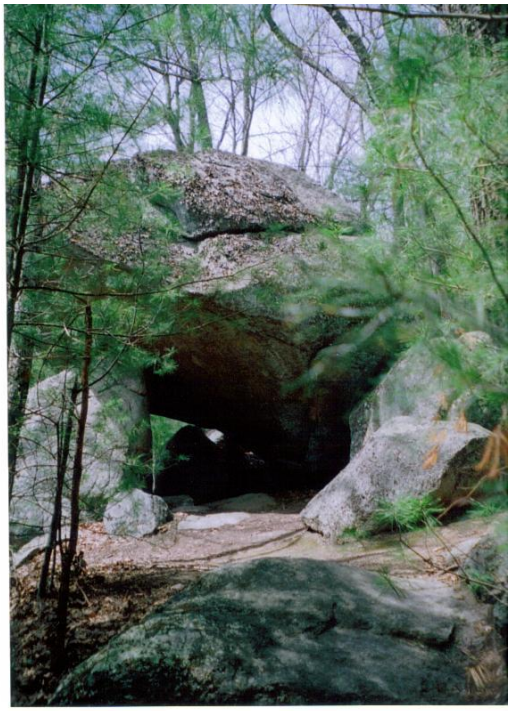
"Meet Emmitt Francis and Discover His Scents of Place"

Wednesday, April 18
10 AM to Noon
School Vacation Program
At Upton State Forest

Emmitt Francis

Meet at the Headquarters Building near the intersection of Westborough and Southborough Roads. (GPS address is 205 Westborough Rd.) Join DCR Ranger, Captain Jennifer Stowe, with her Search and Rescue dog, Emmitt Francis as they demonstrate his search and rescue abilities. Learn how Emmitt got his two names. Then, all are invited to come with Emmitt for an easy hike on an Upton State Forest trail. After the hike, families are welcome to bring a picnic lunch, and enjoy the park on their own. Picnic tables are available at the Headquarters area. This is a family friendly program for all ages.

Discover Whistling Cave



Saturday, May 5, 1:00 PM

Meet for registration at 12:45 at the Upton State Forest Headquarters building. (GPS address is 205 Westborough Rd.) Richard Trubiano of the DCR park staff will point out many geological features on this scenic, but strenuous hike. This hike may not be appropriate for young children.

Quarterly Quote

Twenty years from now, you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do than by the ones you did. So.....**Explore. Dream. Discover**.
Mark Twain

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

A Little Common Sense

One of our members, Lisa Stratton, has started a new business in Upton at 62 Main St, at the corner of Fiske Av and Route 140. According to Lisa, "The vision and focus of *A Little Common Sense* is to support and promote LOCAL homesteaders, artists, and crafters. In addition to providing a venue for local products, she offers classes for both children and adults to learn new skills. She wants to bring the community together, and "rein in the lost arts of our grandparents' generation and combine those traditional skills with the new technology of today."

In the spirit of supporting the local community, she is carrying the FUSF clothing line, tote bags and hats. We are excited and appreciative to have a venue where people can see and purchase our merchandise! Sales of the clothing and other items help to support our activities.

Among the many items for sale you will find locally made jewelry, hand woven baskets, art, hand thrown pottery, a line of greeting cards, gourmet foods and much more! You can find *A Little Common Sense* on Facebook, and view other merchandise on her website, http://www.62mainstreet.com.

We do hope you will stop at the store and let Lisa know you found out about her from our newsletter. If you need a gift for someone or for yourself, we are sure you can find it at *A Little Common Sense*! Check out the FUSF merchandise display while you are there.

Friends of Upton State Forest

Board of Directors Meetings
Upton Police Station, 7PM
March 19
April 16
May 21
June 18

Spring Work Party
Upton State Forest
Saturday, April 28
Registration and Coffee 8:30 AM
Details on page 1

Annual Pot Luck Supper
Friday, May 4, 6 PM
United Parish Church
Details on page 1

Erica Wheeler Concert
"A Sense of Place"
Watch for details.

Discovery Hikes and Programs
April 18-Meet Emmitt Francis
May 5-Whistling Cave Hike
Details on page 5

A Little Common Sense

62 Main Street in Upton, MA