**Friends of Upton State Forest Newsletter**
**Ellen Arnold, Editor**
**http://www.friendsofuptonstateforest.org**
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**Volume 10 Number 2 Spring 2015**

## President's Message

*By Bill Taylor*

Unfortunately the effort to preserve Hopkinton's 203 Pond Street property in its entirety failed. The vote at the March 3rd Special Town Meeting to purchase the portion of the property slated for development for $2 million did not reach the required 2/3 majority. The vote was 152 for and 113 against. While we are disappointed in the outcome, we are pleased that the open space development will preserve 32 acres and include a corridor for a trail that will connect Lake Whitehall State Park and its abutting open spaces to Upton State Forest and its adjacent open spaces.

We were also pleased to have been able to work closely with the members of the groups that made up the Whitehall Woods Alliance: Sudbury Valley Trustees, Hopkinton Area Land Trust, Friends of Whitehall, Bay State Trail Riders Association and New England Mountain Biking Association. The Alliance is a wonderful example of organizations coming together for a common goal.

We want to thank the Department of Conservation and Recreation for their support with a commitment of $250,000, all of those that made the over $75,000 in pledges, and everyone who helped publicize and support the effort. I think we can all be proud of what we tried to accomplish. *Bill*

**Happy 100th Birthday to Upton State Forest 1915-2015**
**Story on page 4**

## In the Beginning, Part 2-2005

*By Ellen Arnold*

Bill Johnston, Ellen Arnold, Betty Roche visit the CCC Statue in Freetown

The first years for Friends of Upton State Forest were a blur of activity on many fronts. Our challenge was to go through the steps to turn our advocacy into a legitimate, non-profit, 501(c) (3) organization, while engaging our members, and finding and reaching out to anyone who could help us.

We spent the first summer meeting often to elect officers, write bylaws and articles of organization, start the 501 (c) (3) paperwork, and put into place the framework that would lead us into the future. The officers were President Ellen Arnold, Vice-President Bill Johnston, Secretary Chris Scott, Corresponding Secretary Joan Shanahan, and Treasurer Betty Roche. Before the year was out, Bill was elected VP of the Americas for the International Association of Birds of Prey, so Karen Ober agreed to become Vice President and Bill stayed with us as a member at large. Louis Despres was our second member at large. (Continued on page 2)

**In the Beginning (continued)**

Things as simple as getting a post office box and insurance were complicated by lack of a treasury. In September, we began taking memberships at our first official meeting. The speaker that night was Bill Davis of Mass Wildlife who talked about wildlife in Central Massachusetts.

During that summer, we contacted other Friends groups for ideas and advice. Bill Johnston, Betty Roche, and I attended a meeting of the Friends of Freetown and visited the CCC statue there. Friends of Whitehall and Bay State Trails Riders Association were very supportive, and to this day we still have many members in common in both groups. The equestrian magazine, *Horsemen's Yankee Pedlar*, and the *Worcester Telegram & Gazette* did great articles about our efforts.

Our first local partners were Upton Historical Commission and Upton Historical Society. The South Barn at Upton, which collapsed in 2003, was still a pile on the ground. That needed to be cleaned up, and we wanted to bring attention to the condition of the remaining historic buildings. Bill Johnston and I approached the Commission asking them to sponsor a nomination of the entire CCC Camp to the Preservation Mass 2005 List of Ten Most Endangered Historic Resources in Massachusetts. They agreed, and the Society allowed me to use their computer, files, and pictures to prepare the nomination. Frank and Alice Evans, along with Russ and I, made a trip to Pittsfield, where Donna Stimpson, of the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) provided information from their Archives.

Working with the DCR CCC Program Committee we planned an event celebrating the 70th anniversary of the CCC Camp by dedicating the wayside panel now in front of the Headquarters Building. Over 70 people came on a rainy, October weekday for the program. John Pelczarski, our park supervisor, introduced the speakers: State Senator Edward M. Augustus, Jr., State Rep. George Peterson, Mass Wildlife Director, Wayne F. McCallum, Donna Stimpson and myself. Sharon Hoey of DCR sang the National Anthem, and Ranger Jeanne Gilleny-DeCenzo was Color Guard. Smoky Bear made an appearance, and then we turned the mic over to CCC alumni in attendance. It was the first time I met Joseph Petrowski, the larger than life, CCC crew leader that helped build Dean Pond dam. When he took the mic, he let everyone there know exactly what he thought about the sad condition of the buildings!

I knew that day that Preservation Mass was going to include our nomination on their list, and I was bursting to share the news, but they wanted to release it first! In November, Val Stegemoen, Barbara Burke, and I attended the Preservation Mass award ceremony in Boston. The following spring the South barn debris was cleaned up!

During 2005, we learned that what we thought was part of the forest was a private inholding. John Pelczarski introduced us to David McGowan in DCR's Land Protection Office and we contacted Mike Penko of Metacomet Land Trust. Bill Johnston, David, Mike and I worked out a strategy with Metacomet's support. We arranged a meeting to include DCR representatives, state legislators from Upton and Hopkinton, and local open space representatives from both towns, including Friends of Whitehall. Out of that meeting we raised $4500 for a first appraisal of the property. DCR has since acquired some of that property.

Someone from DCR told me that if we made it through the first year, the next benchmark for success would be to still be around in three years. Here we are ten years later with much to do, but much done! The loyalty and support of our membership, and the partnerships we have formed through the years have made it possible.

## Membership Report

Our January meeting was well attended with six new members joining that night. We are pleased to welcome Mark and Lisa Verrochi of Hopkinton, Mike and Angela Lupacini & family, Joyce Sandvick, and Dave Carlson all of Upton. Agnita Knott reports that our 2015 memberships are on track with 94 new and renewed. With the number of new members since September 1, we have already reached our 10% increase goal for 2015!

If you have not renewed your membership for 2015, please try to do it by April 1 to save us the postage of sending a reminder. Your membership dues support all of our administrative expenses, newsletter, web site, insurance and post office box. We have attached a membership form with this newsletter. If you have already renewed, please share it and invite someone else to join.

In addition to the satisfaction of supporting the Friends and giving back to the park we all love, your membership has a couple of other perks. Members do not pay to attend any of our programs and they get a 10% discount on our logo apparel.

## Earth Day 2006

L. Marston photo

At the 2006 BSTRA Earth Day Clean-up we filled the back of this pickup truck in less than a half mile on Westborough Rd.

## Jerry at the Expo!

On Saturday, March 7, Jerry Zaslow set up a booth for FUSF at the Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce Expo. He has recently restocked our merchandise with sizes we were missing. If you are interested in purchasing anything, email us at news@friendsofuptonstateforest.org and we can connect you with Jerry.

## Upton State Forest Display

In recognition of the National Historic Register listing for the CCC resources at Upton State Forest, Bill Taylor and Ellen Arnold are setting up a display at Upton Historical Society. They will have it done by April 15, and hope you stop by to see it. The Society is located on the second floor of the Upton Library building. Their hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 10am to Noon. Thursday evening 6:30pm to 8pm and Saturday 9:30am to 11:30am. For more info about the Society go to http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mauhs/location___hours.html.

## Friends of Whitehall Update

Friends of Whitehall (FOW) report that the DCR has filed a notice of intent with the Hopkinton Conservation Commission to do invasive weed treatment at Lake Whitehall, which is something the group has advocated for. The group holds an annual clean-up day around the lake.

**Happy Birthday to Upton State Forest!**

*By: Bill Taylor*

Courtesy of Upton Historical Society
Photo typical of the Upton landscape in the early 20th century.

As the Friends celebrate our 10th anniversary in 2015, it turns out that 2015 may also be the 100th anniversary of Upton State Forest. Most of the forest was purchased in 1934 and 1935 to preserve and improve the state's forest resources, to ensure that outdoor recreational opportunities were available to nearby residents, and to provide a place for the CCC to work. As such, the forest's birthday could be sometime in 1934 or 1935. However, while researching the history of the forest, I learned that 63 acres of what is now the forest were acquired on March 29, 1915, which would make this year its 100th birthday. This land was acquired subject to the Forest Restoration Act of 1908, which provided the state forester funds to purchase or accept gifts of land for "experiment and illustration in forest management." The sellers or donors had the option to repurchase the land for the original purchase price and/or the cost of any improvements within ten years of the purchase/donation date. D. W. Gaskill, a lumberman from Blackstone, donated the land in 1915. The state planted 35,000 seedlings in 1915 and brushed 10 acres in 1919, presumably for fire control. Mr. Gaskill, who died in 1923, or his family, could have bought the land back for the cost of doing those improvements up to 1925. They did not, and the land was added to the land bought in 1934-35 to create Upton State Forest. In 1929 the state also thinned the plantings. Since one of the purposes of the 1908 Reforestation Act was to provide demonstration forests for private landowners to learn from, which is part of the forest's mission today, it seems appropriate to recognize the purchase of the Gaskill property as the birth of Upton State Forest, so **happy 100th birthday Upton State Forest!**

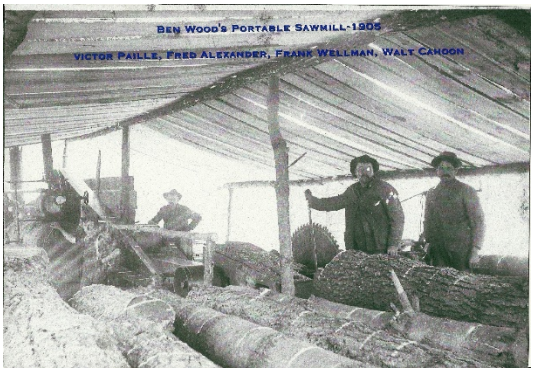



Photo courtesy of Beatrice Wood, daughter of Ben Wood

This is the portable sawmill that was operated by Ben Wood. Much of the land in the northern section of Upton State Forest was purchased from Mr. Wood. He logged it first, and then sold it as "sprout land". Mr. Gaskill was reported to have a similar portable mill.

**Highlighted Website**

Here is a link to maps for Upton Open Space trails, some of which connect to Upton State Forest.
http://www.uptonma.gov/Pages/UptonMA_BComm/conservation/townland/index

**DCR Park Serve Day 2015**
**Saturday, April 25**
**Registration at 8:30am**
**Work from 9am to Noon**

Park Serve Day 2013

Many hands make light work so please join us for the annual DCR spring work party. We will meet at the Headquarters Building at Upton State Forest near the intersection of Westborough and Southborough Roads. (GPS 205 Westboro Rd). FUSF will provide a light lunch for volunteers. A liability waiver must be signed. **Youth over 12 are welcome with a parent's signature. Youth groups are required to pre-register**. Contact us for registration forms. Bring tools such as rakes, shovels and loppers. **No power tools.** Dress for work and the weather. Don't forget gloves, insect repellant and sunscreen. Water will be provided. Questions? Contact DCR at 508-278-6486 or FUSF at news@friendsofuptonstateforest.org. For more information about Park Serve Day go to http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr

**War and Peace**
**Saturday, May 23**
**Registration and Open House Noon to 1**
**Hike at 1pm**

May is Preservation Month and this year the theme is War and Peace. Friends of Upton State Forest will join with the DCR for a program highlighting how our CCC Camp, and families connected to Upton State Forest have played a role in both.

On Saturday, May 23 we will repeat last year's popular Discover Hidden History Hike to the Bradish Cemetery and Leclaire Square. Bill Taylor will share stories of early Upton State Forest settlers who built homes and lives during times of peace and answered the call to serve during the War of the Revolution. We will visit nearby Leclaire Square and learn about its connection to the horrific WWII Battle of Leyte Gulf. Prior to the hike there will be a display in the Headquarters Building about the role played by the CCC Camp during World War II.

Meet at the Headquarter Building near the intersection of Westborough and Southborough Roads (GPS 205 Westboro Rd). A liability waiver must be signed, with a parent signing for and accompanying anyone under 18. Some people are fearful of dogs so please leave pets at home. Please remember water, sunscreen and insect repellant. Dress for the weather and the trail. We suggest light colored clothing so you can see ticks. This is a moderate 2 to 3 hour hike with hills and uneven terrain. Questions: 508-278-6486.

**FARA Field Day at Upton**

Members of the Framingham Amateur Radio Association will 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. The public is welcome to drop by and see what they do.

**Bay State Trail Riders Association Scavenger Hunt on May 17**

On Sunday, May 17, BSTRA will hold their annual Scavenger Hunt at Upton State Forest. The Headquarters parking area will be used for trailer parking and you will encounter horses on the trails, so please plan accordingly.

# Calendar

**Board of Directors Meetings**

Unless otherwise noted, all meetings of the Board of Directors are held at 7pm in the Training Room at the Upton Police Station. Members are welcome to attend. We suggest that you notify the President in advance if you want to be on the agenda.

**April 20, May 18, June 15, July 20**

**Discover Easy Walks in Massachusetts**

**May 2, 2015, 9:30am, at the VFW, 14 Milford St, Upton**

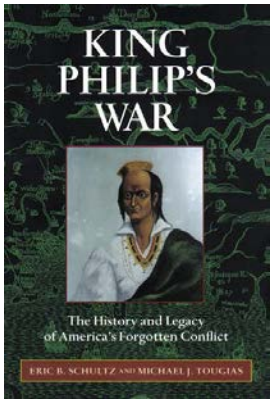
*The Upton Open Space Committee and Friends of Upton State Forest partner for Discovery events. Liability waivers mst be signed, with a parent signing for, and accompanying anyone under 18. Some people are fearful of dogs so please leave pets at home. Please remember water, insect repellant, and sunscreen. Wear appropriate shoes for hiking. We suggest light clothing so you can see ticks.*

Join us for a program, book signing and hike with Marjorie Turner Hollman, personal historian and author of two books about *Easy Walking Trails in Massachusetts*. At 9:30 she will present a program at the VFW about places in this area suitable for easy walks. Marjorie will tell us how she defines an easy walk, and show pictures of some of the easy walks she has included in her books. Her books will be available to purchase too.

After the program and book signing, we will head out for an easy walk in a section of Upton State Forest that is quite beautiful, and interesting. If you cannot come to the program, but want to join us for the hike, please be at the VFW at 10am for hike registration. We will leave the VFW shortly after.

More info about Marjorie and her books is available at www.marjorieturner.com. Questions? Contact FUSF at 508-529-6610 or news@friendsofuptonstateforest.org.

**Potluck and Program**
**Friday, May 1, 2015**
**United Parish Church Vestry**
**1 Church St, Upton**
**Supper at 6, Program at 7**




Noted author, Michael Tougias will give a slide presentation on the war between the Colonists and Native Americans in 1675-76. He is the author of the acclaimed *Until I Have No Country (A novel of King Philip's War),* and co-author with Eric Schultz of *King Philip's War: The History and Legacy of America's Forgotten Conflict.* During the presentation he will discuss the Indian way of life, Colonial settlements, and the events leading up to the war. The second part covers the battles and the strategy during this cataclysmic war, which on a per capita basis was the bloodiest conflict in our nation's history. Tougias also discusses Native strategy during the war, and the challenges of writing a historic novel. Many of the sites he discusses are within state parks or in other public places that can be visited. A book signing will follow. This is a partnership with the Upton Cultural Council.

The public is welcome to join us for the potluck supper and/or the program. Please RSVP for supper to 508-529-6610 or news@friendsofuptonstateforest.org. Let us know if you are bringing a main dish or dessert. There will be a raffle to benefit the Program Committee, and our logo apparel will be for sale that night too.

**Quarterly Quote**

"Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success." Henry Ford

0912

**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_____

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 09/30/2015) (Circle one)

Family of 2 adults & children (under age 18) ---------- $ 30.00
Individual ----------$ 20.00
Senior 65+----------$ 10.00
Student full time with current student id ----------$ 10.00
Associate member (no voting privileges or discounts) ----$ 5.00

**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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