



Friends of Upton State Forest Newsletter
Ellen Arnold, Editor

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Volume 11, Number 2 Spring 2016

President's Message

By Bill Taylor

This year is the 150th anniversary of the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, also known as Mass Wildlife. That's notable to Friends of Upton State Forest as the division's Phillip Wildlife Research Laboratory occupied the forest's former Civilian Conservation Corps camp from 1945 to 1955. The lab conducted research, completed wildlife management and habitat restoration projects, began the publication of Mass Wildlife magazine, and produced informational pamphlets and films. Here are just two examples of what was done: one research project was development of a 300-acre experimental rabbit habitat restoration area in the Pratt Hill section of the forest, and one wildlife management project was the construction and installation of over 7,500 wood duck nesting boxes over a 5 year period. These boxes were key to restoring the wood duck population. The early boxes were constructed from surplus Navy ammunition crates. The lab did much more, too much to list here, and is an important part of the Mass Wildlife history. Also of note to the Friends is that the lab's use of the camp likely contributed to its preservation. As part of the anniversary celebration, Mass Wildlife is presenting a series of talks, most at its Westborough office, and I urge you to check out their website to see if any of them are of interest to you. On behalf of the Friends I would like to congratulate Mass Wildlife on its 150th anniversary!

**Annual Potluck and Program
Friday, May 20**

**Supper at 6, Program at 7
United Parish Church Vestry
1 Church St, Upton**

***What Happened After the CCC
Left Upton State Forest?***

After supper, Bill Taylor will speak about the post-CCC history of Upton State Forest and the reasons why the camp was saved. This story is as interesting as the CCC-era at the camp. The National Youth Administration, the Friends of Young Judaea, the Massachusetts State Guard, and the Division of Fisheries and Game all played a role in the forest's post-CCC history. This power point program will describe their roles in the forest's history, and the camps preservation.

Following Bill's presentation we will also spend some time talking about what role you think the Friends will play in the forest's future. Since we are just finishing up our first decade, it seems appropriate to reflect on our accomplishments, and to plan for our future, and the role that we can play in the future of the forest.

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

Events Calendar on pages 5 and 6

Friends of Upton State Forest Updates

Membership Report

We are pleased to welcome the following new members. Ray and Terry Beauregard of Upton, Michael Moore of Boston, and Al and Elaine Sanborn of Grafton. Thank you to those members who include donations over and above their dues.

If you have not renewed for 2016 please try to do it soon to save us the postage of sending out reminders.

Other Donations

Joan Varney made a contribution to our general fund in memory of her father, Joseph Gorman, Sr., a CCC alumnus of Camp SP-25 at Upton. Other donors to the general fund included Joel Weiner and Sandra Bellini, Kathy Craib, H. Heusmann, Stephen Johnson, Anonymous in honor of Ellen Arnold, and Bob Such in honor of Ellen Arnold, and several other anonymous donations. These are appreciated because they allow us to fund such things as the newsletter, our website, state filing fees, insurance, and other expenses.

Ellen Arnold (in memory of Eunice Chase) and Cathy Dodd made contributions to the Historic Resources Account used to fund research, display materials, events, and the third grade program.

We are truly honored that you continue to support our activities and work.

Quarterly Quote

***“You make a living by what you get. You make a life by what you give.”
Winston Churchill***

This quote seems especially apropos when you read about the generosity of our donors. Many of you also give your time for work parties, bake for programs, send articles for the newsletter, and help with meetings and special projects. Every one thing that each person does is important and appreciated! Thank you!

Fundraiser Update

The Historic Resources Committee is pleased to report that our “Matching Funds Fundraiser” is on track. The purpose of this effort is to replace funds used for our latest Partnership Grant project. We used \$2000 from the Petrowski account to fund our portion of a Partnership Grant to repair siding on the historic headquarters building.

As of this date we have received \$2197.50 from 24 donors. This is enough to offset the funds used for the siding grant. We hope to continue this fundraiser to be able to build a cushion for future matching grants. By applying for grants that give us a 2/3rd match and working with other partners for contributions we are able to leverage every dollar donated.

The following donors have helped us reach this first milestone:

Mary & Larry McManus, Ellen & Russ Arnold (in memory of Evelyn Arnold and Robert MacConnell), Frank & Alice Evans, Mildred & Nicholas Galeone (in memory of Evelyn Arnold, a Charter member of FUSF), Justine Levy, Ryan Newfell, Ann Cook (in memory of Frederic Leblanc, a CCC alumnus of the Upton camp), Rose Zarinsky, Brett Morganelli, Maureen Byrne (in honor of Leo & Dorothy Flanigan), Joyce Sandvik, Trista Brown, Doug & Linda Usher, Ivon Woolner (in memory of Ralph “Jack Woolner” a project manager at Phillips Wildlife Lab at Upton State Forest), Jean Nightingale, Ellen Onorato, Mike Penko, Jim & Colleen Nash, and several Anonymous.

We are very grateful for the support of our donors. If you want to make a donation please send it to PO Box 258, Upton, MA 01568-0258 and put “matching funds” in the note space or you can obtain a donation form by contacting us at.

news@friendsofuptonstateforest.org.

Eighty Years Ago-The Flood of 1936
By Ellen Arnold and Bill Taylor
Photos courtesy of Upton Historical Society



Eighty years ago, in 1936, it had been a cold, snowy winter with thick ice on lakes and rivers. It began raining in northern NH on March 11. The warm front stalled and the rain continued for 14 days with three separate periods of heavy downpours. As rivers rose, ice began to break up and move, forming ice jams that took out dams, bridges, and roads. With all of their tributaries at flood stage, major rivers like the Merrimac, the

Connecticut, and others, were overflowing with rain, snow melt, and ice jams. There was 18 feet of water in Hooksett Village, NH, and 68 feet in the streets of Lowell, MA. Ice sheared off a 5000 square foot section of the Holyoke Dam. There was loss of life and widespread destruction with thousands left homeless and some businesses never recovering. This misery was shared from Ohio to New England, and from Washington, DC to Canada, with Pennsylvania suffering the worst losses. In Washington, thousands of CCC enrollees built sand bag levees around monuments and buildings.

Here in the Blackstone Valley, the enrollees of Camp SP-25 at Upton State Forest played a role too. According to newspapers of the period, the Vail Bridge on Riverdale Street was swept away, killing John Prentice of Upton. The Lake Wildwood dam blew out, washing out portions of Route 140, and causing gullying of 15 to 25 feet on Box Mill Hill. Some said it would take weeks to have the roads passable again, but about 60 CCC boys under the direction of P. J. O'Malley and J. William Robison were in charge of work filling the gully, allowing one lane to reopen on March 14. This was critical to Upton's principle industry, the Knowlton Hat Factory. They relied on being able to get to the railroad depot in Grafton to ship their hats to New York. The enrollees continued to assist in relief efforts. A mention in the camp inspector's report for June 8, 1936 reported that "the flood relief work was completed last month and the entire turnover (120 men) with the exception of the technical overhead (6 men) is working on the park road that will run through the forest."

Congress had been struggling for over 50 years to pass comprehensive flood control legislation. This tragedy was the impetus for passage of the Flood Control Act of 1936 giving the Army Corps of Engineers great responsibilities and funding to accomplish major projects such as the West Hill Dam. Completed in 1960, it encompasses a reserve of 567 acres in Northbridge, Uxbridge, and Upton. The Flood Control Act changed the face of America, changing the landscape with dams, levees, and other projects, displacing families and whole villages in the interest of flood control.



Partners

Friends of Upton State Forest at the State House



On March 16, FUSF President, Bill Taylor took part in a presentation at the Massachusetts State House. We were invited by Cathie Zusy of the Magazine Beach Committee of the Cambridgeport Neighborhood Association to join in highlighting ways government and community groups can partner to save important places. The three groups participating were Friends of Upton State Forest, and the Southeastern Massachusetts

Pine Barrens Alliance (SEMPA), represented by Sharl Heller, as well as the Cambridgeport Neighborhood Association, represented by Cathie Zusy. The last group has partnered with the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) to study and stabilize the Powder Magazine at Magazine Beach, as well as to redesign and improve the western part of the 15 acre park.

Bill's presentation focused on the various partners FUSF has worked with to preserve the Civilian Conservation Corps Camp at Upton State Forest. Sharl Heller spoke about how SEMPA has been working to bring together municipal, state, and federal agencies, Native American tribes, environmental organizations, and businesses to preserve the threatened and critical Pine Barrens eco-region of Southeastern Massachusetts. Legislators and aides representing several districts, including an aide from Senator Michael Moore's office (Second Worcester District), and representatives of the DCR Partnership Office attended the event.

Partner Spotlight Upton Historical Society By Ellen Arnold



The Friends have accomplished many things in a little over ten years. We are very proud of what we have done, but recognize that much of it would

not have happened without partners. We have worked with many partners leveraging our limited funds, as well as sharing volunteer hours and expertise to achieve mutual goals. For this newsletter we want to recognize the Upton Historical Society as our earliest partner.

When our journey began I didn't even have a computer so the Historical Society let me use their space, computer, photo collections, and files for research. During that time I was preparing the nomination to

add the Upton CCC buildings to the 2005 Preservation Mass List of Ten Most Endangered Historic Resources in Massachusetts.

Since that time the Society has partnered with us on the CCC Records Project Partnership Grant. Their additional \$300 donation was matched by 2/3 making an additional \$900 available for the project. We have worked together for Local Cultural Council Grants for programs, including Michael Tougias speaking about "The Quabbin: A History and Explorers Guide."

They continue to be generous with their resources and facility, and we are very grateful and proud to partner with a group that works constantly to preserve and share the history of Upton.

Their museum is located at 2 Main St. in Upton, above the Upton Town Library. More information is available at <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mauhs/>, and the group is on Facebook.

**Friends of Upton State Forest
Calendar (continued on page 6)**



**Gypsy Moths and
Winter Moths**

What Can You Do?

Thursday, April 14, 7:00 PM at the Upton VFW, 15 Milford St, Upton
Friends of Upton State Forest and the Upton Open Space Committee are partnering to bring you this informational program. Ken Gooch, Director of Forest Health for the Department of Conservation and Recreation will present this program about gypsy moths and winter moths.

Introduced in 1869 in a failed attempt to start a silkworm industry, the gypsy moth caterpillar is an extremely destructive insect. The Friends were contacted last spring by people who wanted to know what they could do about the defoliation they were seeing in their yard trees. The last time Upton had a gypsy moth infestation was in the late 1970's, early 1980's, but this time we have a winter moth infestation at the same time. During the 1930's, enrollees of the CCC Camp at Upton State Forest battled a similar infestation.

This program is open to the public at no charge. Please invite your friends. For questions you can contact Ellen at news@friendsofuptonstateforest.org or 508-529-6610.

**Friends of Upton State Forest
Board Meetings**

All meetings are held on the third Monday at 7:00 PM in the training room at the Upton Police Station unless otherwise noted:

April 18, May 16, June 20, July 18

BSTRA Ride

Bay State Trail Riders is holding their annual scavenger hunt at Upton on Sunday, May 22. They will park at the Headquarters area. Be aware and respect the horses on the trail that day.

**Park Serve Day at Upton State Forest
Sunday, April 24, 9AM-Noon
Registration and coffee 8:30-9:00**

Meet at the Headquarters Building near the intersection of Westborough Rd and Southborough Rd (GPS address is 205 Westboro Rd)

This is your chance to give back to the park! Join the Friends of Upton State Forest and the Department of Conservation and Recreation for our annual clean up. Bring hand tools such as shovels, rakes, and loppers. We also suggest sunscreen and insect repellent. Dress for the weather with appropriate work shoes and gloves. Water will be provided.

The public is welcome. A liability waiver is required. Children under 18 need to be accompanied by an adult. Youth groups should contact us in advance so that we can send copies of the liability waiver to be filled out by parents.

At noon we will provide a pizza lunch for all volunteers that worked. Although not necessary, it would be helpful to have you contact us to let us know if you plan on coming. Contact DCR at 508-278-7604 or Blackstone.Heritage@state.ma.us. You can get more information at: <http://web1.env.state.ma.us/DCR/MassParksPublic/#/main/EventDetailByID/103/600>



2015 Park Serve Day

Friends of Upton State Forest
Calendar Continued



Follow the Footsteps
Of the CCC
Sunday, May 15, 1:00 PM
Registration at 12:45

Join us for this **Preservation Month** program as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the **National Register of Historic Places**. We will hike the National Register Civilian Conservation Corps Historic District from the CCC Camp to Dean Pond Dam, following in the footsteps of the CCC to discover what they built from 1935 to 1938. As we travel, we will share words of CCC alumnus who have been interviewed about their time in the C's and at the camp.

Did you know there are water holes, fire roads, and remnants of two picnic areas built by the CCC? Have you ever seen the stairway in the forest? Do you know where Painted Valley and Old Knob are, and how they were named? Did you know there was going to be a tower at Old Knob, and a bath house at Dean Pond? Join us to get answers to these questions and more.

Meet at the CCC Camp at the intersection of Westborough and Southborough Roads, in Upton. GPS address is 205 Westboro Rd. Some people are fearful of dogs, so please leave pets at home. This is a moderate two to three hour hike with some uneven ground and hills. Please dress for the weather and the trail. We suggest sunscreen, insect repellent, and water. A liability waiver is required, with a parent signing for, and accompanying anyone under 18.

This hike is co-sponsored with DCR. For questions please contact 508-278-7604 or Blackstone.Heritage@state.ma.us. For notice of a cancellation due to weather, send an email with "Footsteps" in the subject line to news@friendsofuptonstateforest.org.

Upton Agricultural Day
April 30, 2016, 9AM to 3PM
Upton Grange Hall, 26 School St
Sponsored by the
Massachusetts State Grange

Members of the Upton Grange have arranged a full day with many activities including a plant swap and sale. This is a free event and the public is welcome.

9 AM-*Large Crop from a small Garden*
by Gary Neves

10 AM-*Bees and Pollinator Flower Gardens*
by Ed Szymanski

11 AM-*Upton Town Line Dairy Farm*
by John Maloney

Noon-*Meet Farm Animals & Ponies*
by the Upton 4-H Troop

1 PM-*Organic Gardening for Everyone*
by John Root

2 PM-*2016 Citizen of the Year Award*
by Upton Grange

Ken Paulson, Master of the Upton Grange has contacted the Friends to invite them to a ceremony at 2 PM honoring Ellen Arnold, co-founder of Friends of Upton State Forest. They have named her their "2016 Citizen of the Year" "for her tireless work on behalf of Upton State Forest". Refreshments will be served. All are welcome.

For more information about the workshops, you can contact the Grange at Upton.MA125@gmail.com.

American Chestnut Program

We want to thank Lois Breault-Melican for stepping in at the last minute to present *The Return of the American Chestnut Tree-Restoring the Mighty Giant* at our annual meeting.

It was a very interesting program about one of the greatest environmental disasters and restoration efforts in American history. If you missed it, she will be presenting it again at Mass Wildlife, 1 Rabbit Hill Rd in Westborough on June 9 at 7:00 PM.

**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 two names)

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 12/31/16 (Circle one))

Family of 2 adults & children (under age 18) ----- \$37.50
 Individual ----- \$25.00
 Senior 65+ ----- \$12.50
 Student full time with current student id ----- \$12.50

Additional Donation Amount:

Anonymous? Yes--- No---

General Fund or Special Fund?

Memorial or Honorarium?

Name of person being recognized?

(* Please note: There is a \$25.00 charge for returned checks.)

Below this line is for office use only:

Payment: Cash	Check #	Amount paid:	Category:	Year paid:
Cards issued by:			Newsletter address entered by:	



Friends of Upton State Forest

PO Box 258

Upton, MA 01568-0258

<http://www.friendsofuptonstateforest.org>

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“To preserve, enhance and protect the natural and historic resources of Upton State Forest.”

Matching Funds Donation Form

Date _____

Name(s) _____

Address (for thank you receipt)

_____ **Zip Code** _____

Contact information (email or phone) _____

Donation Amount _____

(Please check one) Yes, you may acknowledge my donation _____

No, I prefer to be anonymous _____

In honor of _____

In Memory of _____

Address (for notification)

Friends of Upton State Forest (FUSF) have partnered with the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) for six partnership projects funded through their Partnership Matching Funds program. All of our projects have been eligible for a two to one match, leveraging our funds. The total value of these projects was \$23,510.00, with FUSF contributing \$6,929.00. The latest project will repair and replace siding on the historic CCC Headquarters building at the camp. By leveraging our contributions through partnerships, and the DCR double match, we are able to make our dollars do much more.

In anticipation of future partnership opportunities, FUSF is asking for your help. We need to replenish the funds we use toward these projects. Any donation that you can make toward this effort is greatly appreciated. We will continue to take advantage of grants, matching funds opportunities, and partnerships with other organizations, and individuals to leverage your generosity. If you can help, please use this form. FUSF is a 501c3 nonprofit and your donation may be tax deductible. Please consult your tax advisor for further information. For questions about our projects please contact news@friendsofuptonstateforest.org, Ellen at 508-529-6610, or Bill at 508-529-6369