



Friends of Upton State Forest Newsletter

<http://www.friendsofuptonstateforest.org>

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Summer 2013



President's Message

By Bill Taylor

This year is the eightieth anniversary of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). The Department of Conservation and Recreation, and Friends of Upton State Forest will observe the anniversary on July 13 at Upton State Forest. We will celebrate the work done by the CCC in Upton and throughout the state. There will be CCC alumni there so that we can thank them in person. In addition to other activities and anniversary cake, there will be guided walks for visitors to learn more about the CCC at Upton. Please come to help us honor the men and their legacy.

One thing I have gained through my involvement with the Friends is a deep appreciation for just how much the work the CCC did at Upton State Forest contributes to our enjoyment of the forest. They built the roads and trails, worked to restore and protect the forest, and created Dean Pond. I have also come to appreciate the work they did for local communities. They searched for a lost two-year old child, fought forest fires, rebuilt part of Route 140 when a flood washed it out, and trained lifeguards at Lake Chauncey. I have also realized what the CCC did for the young men that served. It helped them help their families, it helped keep them healthy, it allowed them to learn new skills and gave them the experience of working with a group to achieve a common goal. I am pleased that we will be honoring the CCC Legacy this year.

Bill

Celebrate the CCC Legacy!

80th Anniversary

July 13, 11 AM to 1 PM

CCC Camp at Upton State Forest



Frank Evans - circa 1939 on CCC Bulldozer

The Department of Conservation and Recreation, and Friends of Upton State Forest invite you to honor the men who laid the cornerstone for our state park system, and enjoy a day of fun.

Following a ceremony at 11 AM there will be displays in the historic CCC Headquarters building, a camp tour, an authentic CCC truck, a ham radio booth and other activities for young and old. Bring a lunch and enjoy our picnic tables and anniversary cake. At 1:00 PM, you are welcome to *Follow the Footsteps of the CCC* with us as we hike through history visiting CCC sites in the forest. There will be certificates for CCC alumni and families. You are welcome to come for all or any part of the day. For more information, contact DCR Community Relations at 617-626-4973 or news@friendsofuptonstateforest.org. Please invite your friends and family too. GPS address 205 Westboro Rd, Upton, 01568.

Meet the DCR Staff

Joelle Vautour



Since November 2012, Joelle Vautour has been the Management Forester for the DCR Midstate District, managing about 35,000 acres of State Forests and

Parks from Royalston to Ashburnham, south to Blackstone and west to Sturbridge. She explained in a recent interview that part of her job includes forest management for DCR properties designated as Woodlands. This includes boundary delineation and maintenance, performing Continuous Forest Inventory, and public outreach about forest management. She also monitors non-Woodland designated properties (Reserves and Parklands). Of the eight management forestry districts across the state, Joelle manages the largest block of properties designated as Woodlands.

Her full time career with DCR started in December 2011 as a Service Forester, doing outreach to private landowners on forest management. She also was a DCR liaison to the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), which administers cost share programs for private woodland owners seeking to be better land stewards. She assisted with grant management for the Forest Legacy Program, for larger land conservation efforts in the state.

In 2008, she received a bachelor's degree in Forestry from UMASS-Amherst. While in college, she worked for DCR as a seasonal laborer. That allowed her to see how Massachusetts parks operate. Working with the public during those years helped shape her sensitivity to recreational parks users, and how forest management can affect use of our forests. After graduation, she

worked as a self employed, private consulting forester in the Upper Hudson Valley Region of New York and central Massachusetts. She worked with private landowners in the management and stewardship of their properties. This included writing Forest Management Stewardship Plans, boundary delineation, planning and implementing active forest management and helping landowners apply for cost share programs. Joelle says that she loved being able to help private woodland owners keep their woodlands as woodland and helping them achieve their long-term goals.

Her special interest is providing outreach programs about forest management for the general public. She said, "I know that there can be a large disconnect between people and where the wood products they use everyday come from." As she sees it, she has a mission to educate whenever possible about the important purpose of forestry and the production and utilization of local wood. Joelle appreciates the history of land use in New England, and how it has and continues to shape the way we see and use our landscape today. She is happy to be responsible for management of Upton State Forest, which has a rich cultural history, and looks forward to working with FUSF, "an active and devoted group with an interest for such an important DCR resource". After meeting and hiking with Joelle, we feel the same about her.

Joelle encourages anyone with questions about forest management or the management of our state owned lands to contact her.

Email: joelle.vautour@state.ma.us
Office phone: 978-368-0126, x128
Cell phone: 617-429-8683.

New DCR Commissioner Announced

On June 12, Secretary Sullivan announced that DCR Commissioner, Ed Lambert would be leaving to accept a position as Vice Chancellor of Government Relations and Community Affairs at UMass Boston. Jack Murray, Deputy Commissioner of DCR since 2007, became Commissioner of DCR effective June 22.

FUSF appreciates the interest that Commissioner Lambert has shown in the CCC Legacy and the buildings at Upton. He came to the job of Commissioner the week that we lost the North Barn. As a result, he identified funding to use for preservation of CCC buildings. This year the Headquarters building at Upton and the log bathhouse at Myles Standish State Forest are both having stabilization work done. We wish him all the best in his new position.

FUSF congratulates Commissioner Murray on his appointment. We look forward to continuing our partnership with DCR, under his direction, for the benefit of Upton State Forest and the CCC Camp.

Ghost Trails

Every forest and park has them. Known as ghost trails, rogue trails, illegal trails and unauthorized trails they were built without DCR knowledge or participation. Usually you will not find them on official maps.

If you are interested in establishing a new trail, you should contact the park supervisor. Depending on where you want to locate it he may or may not approve it. There are many reasons for this. The first consideration is the terrain and if it would involve wetlands or habitat for endangered species. If it makes sense to have a trail where you are asking there are special permits and a

procedure to follow. There may be issues of private property and boundary set backs. Steep terrain would be evaluated for safety, and the potential for erosion. Future maintenance would be a consideration, as would how easy or difficult it would be for safety personnel to travel in an emergency. It is also illegal to build structures like swings, ropes courses or bridges on DCR property without permission. Putting up flagging can be confusing to other users.

If you find evidence of any of this, you should contact the Park Supervisor, Val Stegemoen at 508-278-6486, or the District Ranger, Dave Furey at Dave.Furey@state.ma.us. You can also report anonymously to Park Watch at 1-866-PKWATCH or to FUSF at news@friendsofuptonstateforest.org. For consideration of a new trail, contact the park supervisor.



Preservation Construction Begins!

Bill Johnson photo

We are excited to report that work has begun to stabilize the foundation of the CCC Headquarters building! Each of the support piers is being replaced and will have a concrete footing underneath it. A new skirt around the building will complete this phase of the work. We also have learned that DCR has received the design work for the roof and structural stabilization from Structures North.



Emerald Ash Borer

Photo courtesy Stop the Beetle
Material contributed by Stacy Kilb,
Mass Department of Agriculture

In addition to the Asian Longhorned beetle (ALB), another foe of trees recently discovered in Berkshire County, Mass is the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB, *Agrilus planipennis*). Specific to ash trees, it cannot be eradicated, and is expected to spread much further and faster than ALB. The hope is that early detection will help slow the spread of this pest. Berkshire County is under a quarantine, to prevent spreading this pest through movement of wood.

This pest is a non-native, invasive insect; so small seven of them could fit on the head of a penny. Adults are active from May through August, but are hard to spot because they stay high in the trees. EAB larvae tunnel directly under the bark, creating S-shaped galleries that quickly cut off a tree's nutrient and water supply. When an EAB reaches adulthood and bores its way out of the tree, it leaves a small D-shaped exit hole about 1/4" in diameter. The adult is a bright, metallic green insect about 1/8" in diameter and 1/2" long, with a flattened back and purple abdominal segments beneath the wing covers. Adults live less than 30 days but can lay 60-90 eggs that hatch in 7 to 10 days.

Other signs of EAB infestation include dieback of the upper third of the tree's canopy, increased woodpecker activity, and the presence of small shrub-like bunches of shoots below the dead parts of the tree. For more info: <http://massnrc.org/pests/pestFAQsheets/emeraldashborer.html> or call the EAB Hotline at 1-866-322-4512.



Third Grade at CCC Camp

On a beautiful June day 109 Memorial School third graders, their teachers and chaperones visited the CCC Camp. This program lets the children experience "A Day in the Life of the CCC." Tim Rayworth, of DCR, greets them in CCC garb, as they start the day with a flag raising ceremony led by CCC alumnus, Frank Evans and two students. During the day they visit five stations including a camp tour, a two man saw demo and displays in the building. They learn about tools and shoot water at a target (and each other) at the Fire Control station. A new station this year was a booth manned by Samantha Stelmack from Mass Dept of Agriculture teaching them about the Asian longhorned beetle.

Thank you to Samantha, as well as Tim Rayworth and Val Stegemoen of DCR for their work on this program. Volunteers included Ellen Arnold, Frank Evans, Chip Kent, Agnita and Bill Knott, and Bill Taylor. Mary McManus assisted with set up. Mary, Ellen, Chris Scott and the FUSF Historic Resources Account provided lunch for volunteers and staff. Jan Maglione, Memorial School teacher and FUSF member helps coordinate this award-winning program with Tim and Ellen.

This valuable program introduces the children to our forest, the camp and the CCC Legacy.

**Friends of Upton State Forest
Continuing the CCC Stewardship Legacy**

Successful Park Serve Day!



Twenty people donated more than 81 hours on Park Serve Day at Upton. We brushed back the perimeter of CCC Way, the trailhead parking lot, and the Connector trail from the Headquarters to the trailhead. We did spring cleanup around the Headquarters area, and cleaned and mulched the flagpole garden, Entrance Gateway and porch gardens. A spruce tree was released from invasive bittersweet vines, and some high pruning done on the Connector trail should make it easier for equestrians!

Organizations represented included FUSF, Boy Scouts from Upton and Mendon, Friends of Whitehall, Bay State Trail Riders Association, and Tan Heath Hunt Club. John Fahy donated the door prize of a FUSF sweatshirt won by Elijah Crosby, one of the Scouts. The FUSF Trails Account, Alice Evans, Ellen Arnold and Bill Taylor provided morning coffee and lunch. Russ and Ellen Arnold donated pansies. We especially appreciated support from Val Stegemoen and Paul Pickett of DCR.

Membership Report

We are pleased to welcome new members Karen Bump and David Johnson of Upton, Robert & Christina MacConnell of Westborough and Andre & Christine Naves of Hopkinton. Thank you to all who renewed for 2013.

What FUSF Members Do

You will often find FUSF members continuing the CCC Stewardship Legacy by picking up trash along the roads. I am sure there are others, but a few I have seen include Ellen and Russ Arnold, Maureen Byrne (in her FUSF orange hoodie), Larry & Donna Doucette, the Ober family, Debra & Michael Paquette, Rena Richard & Rufin Van Bossuyt, and Marcella Stasa & Bill Taylor. Another member has planted geraniums at the memorial monument at the intersection of Westborough Road and North St. Let us know what you are doing in your neighborhood to keep our town and forest neat and attractive.



Good Stewards!

At 91 years young, FUSF member, Frank Evans may have been the oldest person participating in Park Serve, statewide! A CCC alumnus continuing the Stewardship Legacy, Frank is shown here with Agnita Knott and Lillian Tolstrup. All three are FUSF work party regulars.

Quarterly Quote

“It is up to us to live up to the legacy that was left for us, and to leave a legacy that is worthy of our children and of future generations.” Christine Gregoire

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friends of Upton State Forest

Board of Director's meetings
At Upton Police Station, 7PM

July 15

August 19

September 16

October 21

July 13

Celebrate the Legacy of the CCC
See page 1 for details

August 25, 1PM

Upton State Forest
Forestry hike

September 18, 7 PM

FUSF meeting and program
A Tale of Two Weasels

A Tale of Two Weasels

September 18, 7PM

At Nipmuc Regional High School
Professional Development Center
(Second floor)

90 Pleasant St, Upton

Public is welcome. No charge.

After a brief business meeting, Trina Moruzzi, a wildlife biologist with Mass Fish and Wildlife will tell us *A Tale of Two Weasels*. During this interesting presentation, we will learn about the biology and ecology of the river otter and fisher.

Upton Library Display

Check out the CCC display set up by Bill Taylor at the Upton Library. It is there through June.

CCC Websites

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



Discovery Hikes

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

Hikes are free and open to the public. Remember water, insect repellent and sunscreen. A liability waiver is required. Wear appropriate clothing and footwear. 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

Discover and Celebrate the Legacy! Saturday, July 13, 1PM

Meet at the Headquarters building at Upton State Forest. This is a special partnership with DCR in honor of the 80th anniversary of the CCC. We will follow the footsteps of the CCC as we hike through history discovering sites in the forest built by the CCC from 1935 to 1938. There will be a short option and a few surprises along the way!

Discover the Forest

Sunday, August 25, 1:00 PM

Meet at the Headquarters building at Upton State Forest near the intersection of Westborough and Southborough Roads. GPS address is 205 Westboro Road, Upton. This is a moderate, two to three hour hike with some hills and uneven footing.

Come and hike with Joelle Vautour, the Management Forester for the DCR Midstate District. We will visit an area that DCR harvested about seven years ago. Then we will continue along Park Rd to view other areas of forest that have not had any recent management. Along the way, she will identify and talk about various plants.