Friends of Upton State Forest Newsletter
Ellen Arnold, Editor
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Volume 10 Number 3 Summer 2015

President's Message

By Bill Taylor

Recently, I found a photo on eBay that intrigued me. It had an inscription "Camp Young Judaea, Upton, Mass., 1940." Since I had never heard of such a camp in Upton, I thought the picture might be mislabeled.

Looking at the picture I realized it had been taken at the CCC camp, on the east side of the Headquarters (HQ) building looking towards the porch. It pictures young men and women and some adults gathered around a flagpole for a flag raising.

An online search revealed that in 1940 the Department of Conservation let various social services agencies use abandoned CCC buildings in forests and parks for day and overnight camps for underprivileged children. Friends of Young Judaea, a Boston organization, ran a camp at Upton State Forest, and they made improvements before they opened it.

During the CCC era the flagpole was in the center of the parade ground. The Friends installed a new flagpole on the east side of the HQ building, as that is where photos from the Camp Stover and later eras pictured it. I wonder if Friends of Young Judaea moved the flagpole from the parade ground to the side of the HQ building so that the parade ground could be used for sports.

Ellen Arnold and I have talked about writing a history of Upton State Forest someday. Now we have one more chapter for our story.

Celebrate!

August 29, Noon to 4:00 PM
At the CCC Camp

It has been nine years since we began the process to achieve National Register listing for the CCC Camp. As Bill reported in our winter newsletter, it was officially listed last October. Now it is **time to celebrate! Please join us for all, or part of the event being held at the CCC Camp on August 29 from noon to four**. The last page of this newsletter is a flier with details. Please save it, and share it with others. **Help us spread the word and make this an event to remember!**

Can You Help?

If you can give us a hand on August 27, 28, or 29 please contact news@friendsofuptonstateforest.org or Bill at 508-529-6369.

Quarterly Quote

"If you think you are too small to make a difference, try sleeping with a mosquito." Dalai Lama XIV

In Memory of John Fahy

Norm Fahy photo

We were deeply saddened to learn of the passing of FUSF member, John Fahy. He, and his brother, Norm were Charter members of FUSF. John served as Secretary, as well as writing articles for our early newsletters. He also organized our "famous" yard sale raising over $800.00. At our potluck suppers he always had my back when I forgot something. I remember more than once he made last minute trips to the store for butter, milk or napkins.

Due to personal commitments, John had not been active for several years, but he did come to our recent Historic Resources Committee meeting. At that time he said he planned to be more active, and we were looking forward to working with him once more. John followed our progress closely, often sending comments via email. He was our greatest cheerleader, and we will miss him. Because John was always the guy behind the camera we don't have many pictures of him. John loved hiking and being outdoors. The picture above shows him on the trail at Mt Wachusett.

John's family has graciously recognized FUSF by asking that donations in his memory be made either to the Friends of Upton State Forest or the Framingham Heart Study. To date we have received donations from Rhonda and Dorothy Gurley of Everett, Col. James P. McDevitt of Falmouth, Susan Nardini of Framingham, and Ellen and Russ Arnold of Upton. At our June meeting, the Board of Directors observed a moment of silence in John's memory.

Membership Report

By Agnita Knott

Our current membership is 149. We are pleased to welcome the following new members: Edward Bernald of Hopkinton, Sean Gallagher of Northborough, Sue Quirk of Blackstone, Justine Levy, Mike and Wendy Moran, Stephen Paulson, and Laurie Wodin all of Upton.

Thank you to the following donors:
Anonymous-in memory of Norm Fahy,
Anonymous-in honor of Ellen Arnold,
Joan Varney-in memory of Joseph W. Gorman Sr., CCC alumnus of Camp SP-25, CCC.
Alice Evans- a donation toward a cake and postage for the 80th Anniversary event.

Membership Dues increase

The Board of Directors has been evaluating our income and expenses and has decided that it is time to increase our membership dues. Our expenses have increased, while our dues have remained the same for the last ten years. All of our administrative expenses, and many of our activities are supported by your dues

Effective January 1, a family membership will be $37.50 and an individual will be $25.00. Seniors and Students will increase to $12.50. It was also decided that we will no longer offer the category of Associate.

Anyone who pays their 2016 dues by December 31, 2015 will be able to do so at the current rate. Between January 1, 2016 and our annual meeting, you may renew at the new rate minus 10%. For your convenience, we have included a membership form in this newsletter.

Members get free admission to all of our programs. They are also entitled to a 10% discount on our logo apparel.

Which Do You Like?

I have tried different fonts and type size on various pages in this issue. I would like to know what page you like best. Ellen---508-529-6610 or news@friendssofuptonstateforest.org.

DCR Retirements

l-r: Val Stegemoen, Bill Paul, Don Watt, Morgan Ramsey, and Jody Madden shown here after placing the stone that will hold the National Register plaque.

Our best wishes go out to Val Stegemoen and Don Watt of the Blackstone staff on their recent retirement as of July 1. They were among the 99 DCR employees who took advantage of the recent retirement incentive.

Val was featured in our Meet the DCR Staff column in the FUSF Fall 2013 newsletter. http://www.friendsofuptonstateforest.org/pdf/newsletters/FUSF%20Newsletter%20Fall%202013.pdf. He began his career with DCR in 1995 as a seasonal interpreter. In 2000, he became a full time Visitor's Services Supervisor at Blackstone Canal and Heritage State Park. (BCHSP). He was made acting supervisor for that park in 2008 and became Field Operations Team Leader (FOTL) of the Blackstone Complex in 2012. Don worked at Blackstone for many years. He was a familiar face at Upton State Forest whenever the crew was working here. Both men were honored by FUSF when we nominated them for the "2014 Friend of the Year Award" given by the Massachusetts Forest and Park Friends Network.

We thank both Val and Don for all they did for Upton State Forest, and wish them Happy Trails.

Cary VandenAkker, supervisor at Douglas State Forest will be the acting FOTL, and Jody Madden, seasonal supervisor at BCHSP will be acting supervisor. We look forward to working with them for the benefit of Upton State Forest and the people who use our park.

Friends of Whitehall Recognized

Congratulations to our neighbors, the Friends of Whitehall (FOW). In April, the group was honored by DCR with the 2015 Shared Stewardship Award! Their president, Steve Warren, is shown holding the plaque they received. (Steve is also vice-president of FUSF.)

Others in the photo, l-r, are Nick Grove and Samantha Overton (DCR), Margaret Mighton, Steve, and Ken Johnson from FOW, Rich Trubiano of the DCR Hopkinton staff, Priscilla Geigis, Director of State Parks, and former DCR Commissioner, Jack Murray.

Whitehall Woods Update

Construction has started at 203 Pond St, Hopkinton, on the twelve acres where the homes will be located. The project is called Foxhollow, and Diamond Builders of Canton is the developer.

The open space, 32 acres, will be given to Sudbury Valley Trustees (SVT). FUSF was asked to co-hold the conservation restriction (CR) on the SVT land with Hopkinton Area Land Trust.

Since FUSF bylaws do not address whether FUSF can hold a CR, the Board called a members meeting to discuss this. The members present voted to support the Board if they decided to hold the CR. The FUSF Board, at its next Board meeting, and after much discussion, decided that we do not have the resources to fulfill the obligations involved in holding a CR.

We plan to stay involved with this property and expect that there will be opportunities to help build a trail to connect Upton State Forest and Lake Whitehall.

Asian Longhorned Beetle Update!

E. Arnold photo

The Friends received several inquiries in early June when people started noticing traps for Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB) hanging in trees near Upton State Forest, the Westborough Reservoir, and Lake Whitehall. According to Tawny Virgilio, DCR ALB Ground Survey Supervisor**, the ALB Regulated Area has NOT been expanded**. The traps are a "tool" used for early detection of beetle populations and are put out as a precaution in high risk areas that have a density of host trees favored by the beetle. This includes maple, birch, elm, poplar, and others.

The traps are flight intercept traps. The beetles fly into the black panel, hit it, and fall down into the white collection cup. The traps are coated with a slippery material so that the beetle can't climb out. They are filled with salt water that preserves the insects until the staff collects them.

Pheromone lures (sexual attractants) and host plant volatile chemicals (smell like food) are used to attract the beetles. All of the chemicals used are non-toxic.

Funding for the ALB traps is provided by the US Forest Service and DCR. This year there is funding available for 1000 traps. There are approximately 20 in Upton, 55 in Westborough, and 25 in Hopkinton.

The ALB emergence is dependent on temperature. The flight season is approximately from the first week in July to about the end of September/early October. You can find more information about the ALB and look-alike insects at http://www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/plant_health/content/printable_version/alb_look_alikes.pdf.

If you have further questions about the trapping program you can call the Worcester office at 508-852-8090 or go online to http://asianlonghornedbeetle.com/.

Rep. Muradian Visits the CCC Camp

Recently, on a beautiful sunny morning we introduced Representative David Muradian to the CCC Camp at Upton. He was impressed with the history of the camp, and agreed to support our request for a grant to repair some of the siding.

Bill Johnston, Rep. Muradian, Ellen Arnold
Bill Knott photo

Friends of Upton State Forest Happenings

Park Serve Day 2015

Twenty-six volunteers from FUSF, Bay State Trail Riders Association, and others joined DCR staff for the annual Park Serve Day event at Upton State Forest. CCC alumnus, Frank Evans was an active participant, making this the tenth year that he has joined us for Park Serve Day. His legacy of service to our parks and the CCC Legacy is impressive.

The group accomplished general cleanup around the CCC Camp, brushed back the access trail from the camp, the trailhead parking area and the bypass trail. This included picking up debris from the winter, raking the lawn and ruts from tires, and moving picnic tables, as well as planting pansies donated by FUSF and mulching the gardens. At the Entrance Gateway area, we cleaned the Upton State Forest sign, cleared debris, and spread mulch. We also cleared the culvert at the trailhead gate. A highlight of the day was the planting of a dogwood tree. DCR provided the tree to replace a Japanese maple that was lost several years ago from a storm.

After a morning of work, the group enjoyed pizza, salad and dessert. FUSF provided lunch, morning coffee, donuts, and juice.

Everyone left with a feeling of satisfaction for a day well spent giving back to Upton State Forest. We want to thank Val Stegemoen, Jody Madden, Bill Paul and Joe Fife from the DCR staff for helping make this such a successful day.

The total value of volunteer time and donations came to $2625.21!

A Chick is Born at Upton State Forest!

On June 10, Marcella, Bill, and Ellen met *Easy Walks* author, Marjorie Turner Hollman to introduce her to Loop and Middle Roads. During the hike we began to hear strange sounds coming from Marcella's pocket! It seems that one of Marcella's chickens is a reluctant mother because she attacks her eggs as the chicks start to hatch. Since one of the eggs was ready to hatch Marcella brought it on the hike with her.

During our board meeting a few nights later, we heard similar sounds coming from her pocket so we stopped the meeting for baby pics once again! Life with FUSF is never dull!

Park Surveys

When we began in 2005 we got permission to do park surveys at the trailhead parking lot. We wanted to know what people thought a friends group like ours should do. In ten hours, over three Saturdays in March, we collected 28 zip codes. At other random times that year we added another ten. We would like to do this again. We know that visitor use has increased in the last ten years, partly because of the population increase, and maybe due to our activities that have brought programming and attention to the park.

If you can give an hour or two on a weekend please contact news@friendsofuptonstateforest.org and we will set up a schedule. We do this in groups of two or three.

Friends of Upton State Forest
Board Meetings

Board meetings are held at 7:00 PM in the training room at the Upton Police Station, unless otherwise noted.

August 17
September 21
October 19
November 16

Trails Committee Meeting
at the Upton Police Station
Training Room
August 17
6:00 PM
(To precede the Board meeting)

The Trails Committee is being reorganized with Suzanne Nicholas as co-chair with Lurissa Marston. If you have any interest in trails please try to attend and share your ideas at this first meeting. Responsibilities of this committee include coordinating work days, assisting with events, and identifying projects eligible for matching grants. Hope to see you there!

Tree Planting Crew

On Park Serve Day we planted a dogwood tree in front of the cottage to replace a tree lost several years ago in a storm.

SCA Comes to Upton

E. Arnold photo

A crew from the Student Conservation Association arrived at Upton on July 24. They are from Connecticut, California, Maryland and Virginia.

They were originally slated to build a bog bridge on Bridge Rd. The intense beaver activity in that area has put that on hold until a beaver deceiver can be installed. Instead, the crew will be doing general trail work. If you see them out on the trail be sure to say "hi" and let them know how much we appreciate what they are doing for Upton State Forest.

Advocacy

FUSF is one of forty organizations that signed a letter to Governor Baker from the Environmental League of Massachusetts (ELM). The letter expressed concern over the fact that with the recent retirements DCR has lost over 35% of its staff since 2008. The governor has said he would allow new hires of up to 20% and ELM is asking him to raise that number for DCR. With the loss of expertise, institutional memory, and long-time community relationships, the safety of the public and maintenance of the parks is in jeopardy. You can view the entire letter at this link. http://www.environmentalleague.org/upload/docs/Letter_to%20Governor_Early%20retirement_7.13.15%20email%20(2).pdf.

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_____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 12/31/15) (Circle one)

Family of 2 adults & children (under age 18) ---------- $30.00 ($37.50 on 01/01/2016)
Individual ----------$20.00 ($25.00 on 01/01/2016)
Senior 65+----------$10.00 ($12.50 on 01/01/2016)
Student full time with current student id ----------$10.00 ($12.50 on 01/01/2016)

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.)

Below this line is for office use only:
Payment: Cash Check # Amount paid: Category: Year paid:
Card(s) issued by: Newsletter address entered by:

dcr
Massachusetts

Upton State Forest
SPECIAL EVENT

205 Westboro Road, Upton, MA 01568

FRIENDS OF UPTON STATE FOREST
SP-25 CCC

Upton State Forest Anniversary

Saturday, August 29, 12:00- 4:00, 2015.

Please join us as we celebrate a milestone year for Upton State Forest!

100 Years
1915: The first land to be designated Upton State Forest was acquired.

80 Years
1935: The Civilian Conservation Camp SP-25 is opened. Work begins on roads, reforestation, insect control, water holes, and recreational facilities.

10 Years
2005: Friends of Upton State Forest celebrate ten years. The group formed in 2005 to "Preserve, enhance and protect the natural and historic resources of Upton State Forest."

12:00: Bring a picnic lunch, share your memories, hear the rich history of the area and visit informational hands-on displays, enjoy 30's and 40's era music!
1:00: Speaking program, recognition and unveiling of the National Register plaque
2:00: Following ceremony, celebration with cake and lemonade
2:30: CCC Camp Tour
3:00: CCC Historical Resources Hike

The event is free and open to the public. Reasonable accommodations are available upon request. Come for all or any part of the day.

Sponsored by the Friends of Upton State Forest and the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). For more info contact news@friendsofuptonstateforest.org or call 508-278-7604.

Special Event

Department of Conservation and Recreation, Massachusetts State Parks