Friends of Upton State Forest Newsletter
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President's Message

By Bill Taylor

On December 5th, I attended the 8th Annual Massachusetts Forest and Park Friends Network (MFPFN) Conference at the Upton VFW hall where I had the honor of presenting a well-deserved MFPFN 2014 Volunteer of the Year Award to Ellen Arnold, though it might be more appropriately called the Volunteer of the Decade award. The first ten years of the Friends of Upton State Forest, and all of the things the Friends have done for the Forest, would not have happened without Ellen's effort, commitment and perseverance in each of the last ten years. The Friends have accomplished a lot during this time - raising over $20,000 for capital improvements and preserving historic CCC documents, running over 100 programs (including CCC anniversary events, the "A Day in the Life of the CCC" 3rd grade program, and Park Serve Days), assisting with the National Register nomination, documenting the history of the forest, locating historic resources, creating and administering a website and Facebook page, publishing a newsletter, and meeting with legislators and DCR staff to advocate for the forest - and Ellen was deeply involved in all of these things. I am very grateful for all that she has done and I am looking forward to working with her, and all of the dedicated volunteers, to continue to "preserve, enhance and protect the natural and historic resources of Upton State Forest." *Bill*

Annual Meeting and Program
Friday, January 22, 7 PM
Upton VFW, 15 Milford St, Upton

What Happened After the CCC Left Upton State Forest?

There will be a brief business meeting with election of officers and board members. Following the election, 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 history of the forest. 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.

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, in partnership with the Department of Conservation and Recreation.

If you have not renewed for 2016 you will be able to that night. There will be a raffle to benefit the Historic Resources Fund. Thank you to the Evans & Dungey families for donating three CCC Legacy 2016 calendars for the raffle. Our logo apparel will also be available to purchase that night.

Moths of Upton State Forest
By Tom Dodd

In June 2014, my wife, Cathy, and I attended a "Moth Ball" organized by our friend Dave Small in Athol. As you might have guessed, this wasn't a formal dance, but an event to attract moths using lights set up throughout his property. It was a fun event with food and friends and a little bit of education thrown in. We were amazed at the variety of moths attracted to the lights. A few nights later, Cathy set up some lights and a sheet and we discovered what moths were present on our property. In just two summers of viewing, we photographed and identified almost 350 species.

We decided to do a survey at the Upton State Forest and applied for a research permit from the MA DCR with Friends of Upton State Forest as a sponsor of our project. DCR approved the permit and provided support allowing us to conduct the survey in the Headquarters area at the CCC Camp. From June to October Cathy and I, along with Mike Penko set up lights and sheets to monitor the moth activity.

Our set-up was simple: Two metal bird feeder poles providing support for a horizontal rod with a white sheet hanging down. Some fluorescent and black lights powered through a few hundred feet of power cord were hung in front to attract the moths. Moths are attracted to the ultraviolet light that these lights emit and the sheet reflects this light as well as provides a landing site. We went out after dusk and usually completed before midnight – although most "moth'ers" believe the best viewing time is between 1-3AM. We photographed most species when we could. This provided a verifiable record and allowed identification back at home. Getting good photographs of the micro-moths can be challenging, but even our inexpensive digital camera with a macro setting provided good results.

The variety of insects we saw is just amazing! Each survey, we encountered different moth species that we hadn't seen from just a couple weeks before. They varied in numerous ways:

Shapes: Plume Moths, with skinny one inch long wings and spiked legs; to Leaf Miners, with ¼" long pencil lead shaped bodies that rest propped up on their front legs; to the Geometer family of moths with familiar broad wings, having various edges (rounded, wavy, angular), that are laid flat when resting.

Colors and Patterns: The Spotted Peppergrass Moth (bottom photo), that is white with black spots like a Dalmatian dog; to the Orange-headed Epicallima Moth (top photo) that is only ¼" long, has an orange head, and when viewed with some magnification shows minute black and white striped legs and, white edged, brown and orange patterned wings; to the Common Lytrosis Moth that has a bark-like pattern and a wingspan of 2".

Sizes: from less than ¼ inch length (micros) to 6 inch wing-span (giant silkworm moths – Cecropia).

(Continued on page 5)

Historic Resources Committee Report

By: Ellen Arnold

Damaged clapboards-Headquarters Building

E. Arnold photo

Our committee is pleased to report that we have been notified that our project application for the DCR Partnership Matching Funds Program has been approved. Using funds available in the Petrowski Memorial Account we are donating $2000 toward the project with a double match from DCR of $4000 for a total of $6000. We proposed replacing/repairing and staining damaged clapboards (see photo above) on the historic Headquarters Building at the CCC Camp. We worked with Kevin Allen and W. Peter Seweryn in the DCR Office of Cultural Resources to develop the proposal. This will further secure the envelope of the building in addition to the structural work recently done by DCR.

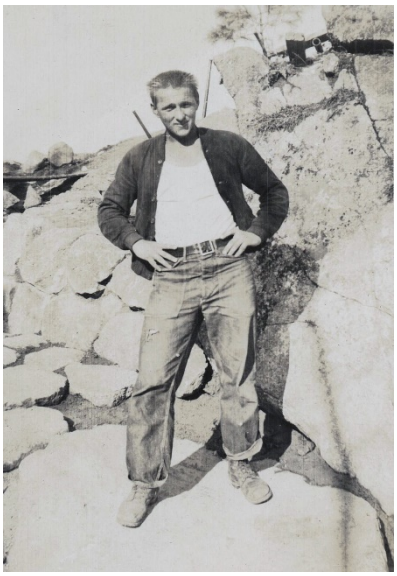
As we go forward, we are hoping to secure other grants and matching funds to assist DCR with preservation of the camp buildings and footprint. Due to limited funds the agreement is to go as far as the money will take us for the siding this year. We are going to be doing some fundraising to replace the funds used so that we can apply for future rounds to do other necessary work.

Joe Petrowski

In 2005 Joe came to our first event held to dedicate the wayside panel in front of the Headquarters Building. After the ceremony, we invited CCC alumni to the mic. Joe used his time to scold public officials for not taking good care of “his” CCC camp and “his” dam at Dean Pond.

Joe was a CCC alumnus who served at Upton as a crew leader during the building of Dean Pond Dam. Later in life, he came back several times to check on “his” dam. There is a letter in the CCC Archives from Joe offering to help the agency care for Upton State Forest. During an interview in 2006, Joe talked about life in the Camp, but he was most anxious to pass on what he knew about the dam and its construction. He talked about placing stone gathered from the forest in the spillways. Joe was quite happy to know that we were starting an organization to take care of “his” forest. I will never forget his last words to me. “You are living my dream…to come back and help take care of Upton State Forest.”

After Joe passed, his son Walter donated $5000 to FUSF to continue Joe’s legacy. We are sure that Joe would be happy that we are using funds from his memorial to care for the Headquarters building.



Joe in 1938 at the dam.

Photo from DCR CCC Archives.

The Big Pumpkin Ride

By: Becky Kalagher, BSTRA President

Karen Fleming-Brooks photo

On Oct 25 riders from around the state gathered in Upton for the "Big Pumpkin Ride" hosted by Bay State Trail Riders Association (BSTRA). If you were out in the forest that day you would have seen some very bright (orange was the theme) riders with some interesting costumes for both rider and horse. We had two riders and horses dressed as candy corn, some lady bugs and fairies, along with some horses that had some nice art work. Lisa Grigaitis won the best orange "display" and Sue Wheeler got the prettiest award (actually it was her horse Roxy that got it!)

After a great ride everyone gathered for a hot lunch with an array of desserts as the tradition for this ride is for riders to bring a pumpkin dessert. My favorite was pumpkin fudge!

It was also decided that this ride was going to help benefit the Friends of Upton State Forest. Splitting the proceeds from the ride means that the Friends will receive a check for $199.10. It's one partner helping another and BSTRA is very grateful for the work that the Friends of Upton State Forest have done.

As with any event, it's not possible without the people behind the scenes that do all the work to make an event successful. Many thanks go out to Karen Fleming-Brooks, Lurissa Marston, Dan Salvucci, Donna Johnson, Suzanne Nicholas, Gloria Duhaime and Pam Tabor-Porter.

MRA Multisport Club Trail Run

By: Suzanne Nicholas

On Sunday, November 5th, the MRA Multisport Club held their half marathon and 10.5K trail run at Upton State Forest. Members of the FUSF Trails Committee and BSTRA (some are members of both groups) volunteered to be posted along the trail to ensure that the runners were on the right trails, and to assist if any issues arose. The trails were well marked, and the event was a success with 300 runners registered and 250 cars parked! Several members of the DCR staff were on hand to make sure things went smoothly.

Along with a $600 donation to the FUSF Trails Fund, the organizer, Alex Rogozenski sent the following message. "Special thanks to the crew from Friends of Upton State Forest that helped out on the course." Volunteers pictured below are Elisa Shaw, Gloria Duhaime, Suzanne Nicholas, Bill Taylor, Joyce Sandvik, and Laura Zimmer.

Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)

After the collapse of the North Barn, the Friends entered into a MOA with the DCR, the Massachusetts Historical Commission, and the Upton Historical Commission. There were nine stipulations as mitigation for the loss of the historic building. Most of the items involved historical aspects of the Camp, buildings, and other historic resources within the forest. The first three involved demolition details for the North Barn. Two of the stipulations dealt with mothballing and stabilizing the remaining buildings. Other stipulations included cooperation between the partners on the National Register Nomination and a cultural resources database.

Eventually DCR will have completed Resource Management Plans (RMP) for all its properties. Expecting that it will be several years before a RMP is completed for Upton, we asked for a Cultural Resources Management Plan (CRMP) and a Long-Range Interpretive Plan. (IP) These are critical for the protection and preservation of the CCC Camp and cultural resources within the forest. The CRMP identifies and prioritizes the resources, while the IP will act as a guide for interpretation and education.

Members of the FUSF Historic Resources Committee worked with the DCR Office of Cultural Resources to complete the CRMP. You can view a copy of that plan at: http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/dcr/stewardship/upton-crmp.pdf.

Bill Taylor and Ellen Arnold have been meeting with members of the DCR Interpretive Staff to discuss the IP. Once that final piece of the MOA is done, our Historic Resources Committee plans to move forward with educational projects. We also look forward to partnering with the DCR for future interpretive programs.

Foggy morning on Park Rd.

December 27, 2015 J. Ritz photo

(**Moths**-Tom Dodd article continued from page 2)

On completion, we had recorded over 150 species of moths at the Upton State Forest. This is a modest number, but a good start. A friend of ours in Groton, MA, photographed over 1000 moth species in his yard alone over this past year! It is expected that Massachusetts has at least 1200 species (with an estimate of at least 250,000 worldwide). We think that our location near the CCC Infirmary building, with much of the habitat consisting of mowed grass and many invasive plants, was not an ideal location. It would be desirable to be adjacent to more varied habitat, including wetlands.

Spending time outside at night also offers opportunities for viewing or hearing other wildlife. One night, we heard a Barred Owl calling “Who cooks for you”, and on a couple of nights an American Woodcock was heard during its display flight. A few mammals were seen that included families of woodchucks and raccoons and a few bats on occasion.

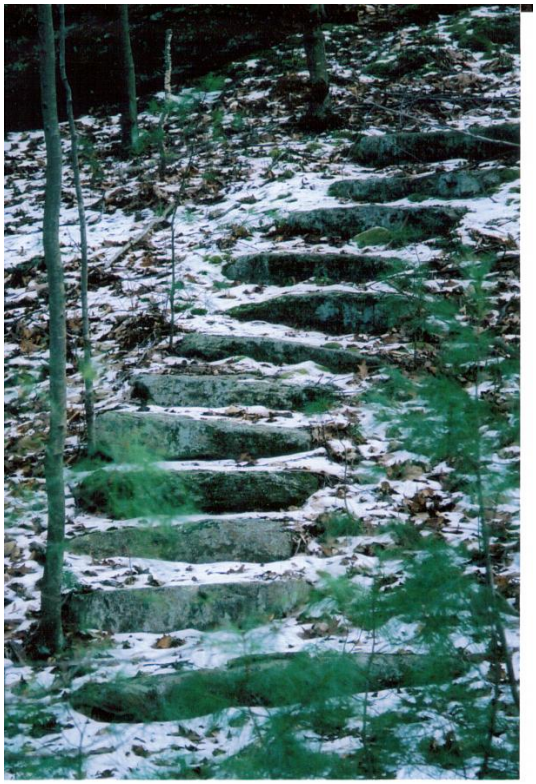
I would like to thank Mike Penko and Cathy Dodd for their assistance, and especially FUSF and DCR for sponsoring the survey. A copy of our results will be shared with the Friends and the DCR.

Friends of Upton State Forest
Board Meetings

Board meetings are held on the third Monday at 7:00 PM, in the meeting room at the Upton Police Station, unless otherwise noted. Anyone is welcome to join us. We suggest that if you want to be on the agenda that you contact us at news@friendsofuptonstateforest.org ahead of the meeting.

January 18
February 15
March 21
April 18

Stone Steps at "Old Knob"
Built by the CCC One Step at a Time



Dog Waste Bags

Please remember to bring a bag to collect any waste from your pet, and dispose of it at home. Please **DO NOT** stuff it in the Iron Ranger, leave it on the ground at the park, or put it in the portalet.

The Power of One Plus One
Editorial by Ellen Arnold

As we start fresh in a new year we think of resolutions and goals. I was thinking about this on a recent walk at Upton State Forest. I was thinking about what we have accomplished in ten years, what still needs to be done, and how to accomplish that.

I usually carry a bag or two with me to pick up trash. As I put a bottle, a can, or a coffee cup into it I thought about each item being just one thing tossed by one person and how the actions of each is compounded into full bags of trash. If one person didn't throw out the can, and one didn't throw out the coffee cup, and another didn't throw out the bottle, not only would my bags be empty, but the forest would be a lot cleaner.

When we have a work party one person shows up, then one more person, and pretty soon we have thirty or more volunteers clearing brush, raking the lawn or putting out mulch.

I continued thinking about the compounding of one plus one and how that adds up. If each one of us resolves to do at least one thing to benefit our park this year we can continue to make a significant difference. Maybe you can only do one thing, or maybe you can do one thing many times, but it all makes a difference. Our members have done one thing already by supporting our efforts through their membership dues, and we appreciate that.

In the words of Everett Edward Hale:

"I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. And because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do the something that I can do."

Happy trails and blue skies to you in 2016!

Membership Report

We are pleased to welcome the following new members: Deborah Fitzgerald, Stephen Johnson, and Tracey Carter and family all of Upton, and Elisa Shaw of Hopkinton. We thank all those members who have made donations over and above your dues.

As of January 1, the new dues schedule is in effect and is as follows:

Family-$37.50, Individual-$25.00
Senior and Student-$12.50
Associate category is eliminated

Anyone who has not paid yet for 2016 may deduct 10% from the new dues until the annual meeting on January 22. The last page of this newsletter is a membership form for you to use or pass on to someone who would like to join.

We value the support of all our members and wish you "Happy trails and good health for the New Year"!

Bill Johnston Authors Article

Congratulations to member and FUSF co-founder, William F. Johnston, Jr. He is the author of a well-written and interesting article on *Falconry in Massachusetts* that is featured in a recent issue (No. 3, 2015) of the Massachusetts Wildlife magazine..

A licensed master falconer, Bill serves as liaison officer for the Massachusetts Falconry and Hawk Trust. He is also a past director of the North American Falconry Association, and a former Vice P resident for the Americas of the International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey, and is a delegate to the IAF from the American Falconry Conservancy. Bill has also served as a vice president and member at large for FUSF.

To subscribe or buy a gift subscription to the quarterly magazine published by the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife you can call 508-389-6300 or visit www.mass.gov/masswildlife.

Slate of Officers for 2016

At our annual meeting on January 22 we will vote for a slate of officers for 2016. The current board has agreed to continue, but we do have a couple of openings for members at large. A member at large is a voting member who participates in discussion and decisions with no specific duties other than to support our activities when possible. Our board meets monthly on the third Monday. If you would be interested in serving on our board, please contact Bill Taylor at 508-529-6369. You are also welcome to come to a Board Meeting to observe before making a decision.

The following is the slate to be voted on:

President:	Bill Taylor
Vice President	Steve Warren
Recording Secretary	Mary McManus
Corr. Secretary	Agnita Knott
Treasurer	Chris Scott

Members at Large:
Jerry Zaslow, Marcella Stasa
Chip Kent, Gerry Lemire

Joan Shanahan serves on the Board as Past President.

Other members who serve on the Board are appointed by the President. Currently the Trails Committee co-chairs are Lurissa Marston and Suzanne Nicholas. Ellen Arnold and Steve Warren are co-chairs of the Historic Resources Committee.

Quarterly Quote
(Author Unknown)

Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in.

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.)

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