



FRIENDS OF UPTON STATE FOREST INC. NEWSLETTER

<http://www.friendsofuptonstateforest.org>
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August 2007



FUSF YARD SALE

September 8, 2007
17 Hartford Av E, Upton
(Rain-September 15)
7 AM to early afternoon

Our yard sale is coming soon. It will be in a great location near Dunkin Donuts and the W. Upton intersection. Money raised will be used to support the Friend's activities.

We need "stuff"! A wish list of suggested items is on the back of the enclosed flyer. We hope you will copy the flyer, put it up in your workplace and pass it on to your friends. Please remove it when the sale is over. Since this will be our major fund raiser for the year we appreciate having you help us advertise.

Small items can be stored at 17 Hartford Av. now. Call Norm at 508-529-2348 to arrange for a time to drop them off. Large items should be delivered the day before if possible. If you have questions please contact us by email or call a member of the committee:

Ellen Arnold 508-529-6610
John Fahy 508-234-5833
Norm Fahy 508-529-2348
Mary Fedorczuk 508-529-3869

If you can give time to help with set up or clean up on the day of the sale contact Ellen or fusf@charter.net.

We reserve the right to refuse any items that are inappropriate or not saleable so please be selective. Unsold items will be disposed of at the Friend's discretion.

Hope to see you at the sale!

Monday, September 24
7 PM at Upton Senior Center
Members meeting and program

The CCC Legacy

After a brief business meeting Tim Rayworth from the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) CCC Committee, will present a power point slide show of historic Civilian Conservation Corps pictures that will include Camp SP25 at Upton.

Please come and bring a friend to learn about the history of building your park including Dean Pond. The program is free and the public is welcome.

National Public Lands Day Saturday, September 29, 9AM

We will participate in this nation wide event carrying on the CCC legacy by working on Loop Road Trail and the trailhead parking lot in preparation for major repairs that will be done by DCR staff. This is an exciting project for us because they are two of the most heavily used areas at Upton State Forest.

Details are on page 5.

Entrance Gateway Work Party Saturday, August 18, 9AM

Please join us as we brush back the area and plant shrubs and perennials. We will be working near the entrance and trail uses signs. Details on page 4

Hope you can join us. This is our matching funds project.

Historic Resources Committee

Plans are being made to produce two self guided historical walking tour brochures about the CCC Camp site and historical sites on the trails. These will be available in the map box and on the web site when they are done.

Members of the committee have been doing historical research on various aspects of Upton State Forest and the buildings there. Gail Munro-Clifford found a news clipping of a Gordon Hopper article about the Woodville Old Home Day Association. At the 1937 reunion of the Association a group of five young men from the North Upton CCC Camp entertained throughout the day. This was most likely the camp band pictured in the Smithsonian pictures.

The committee wants to thank everyone who has made a donation to help purchase the pictures. We are within \$43.00 of being able to buy them. If you send a donation to PO Box 258 please label it "Smithsonian pictures."

Third Grade at the CCC Camp

For the second year 104 third grade students from Upton's Memorial School made a visit to the CCC Camp. They learned about the buildings that had been there, used a two man saw and hiked into the trail head area with Ranger Val Stegemoen, stopping at the CCC water hole.

Prior to the visit Frank Evans, CCC Alumnus, and Tim Rayworth of DCR visited the classrooms showing a power point history of the Civilian Conservation Corps.

This program has been so successful that plans are underway for next year's visit to be an entire day. The children will experience "A life in the day of the CCC".

Thank you to everyone that helps to make this day possible.

Heritage Landscape Inventory

In May members of the Friends and others met with members of the DCR staff to review the historic sites and "places of the heart" within Upton State Forest. This is part of a larger study being done within many Blackstone Valley towns and state parks.

After the meeting Ellen Arnold, Rufin Vanbossuyt and Steve Warren hiked with Shaun Provencher, Jeffrey Harris and Val Stegemoen of DCR to show them some of the historic places.

When this inventory is complete it can be used by area towns and DCR for future planning to preserve these important places. We look forward to receiving a copy of the final document.

The Appalachian Trail & the CCC

Enjoyed by millions of hikers the Appalachian Trail starts in Georgia and 2160 miles later ends in Maine. In 1923 a group of volunteers built the first section of the AT from Bear Mountain Bridge to the Ramapo River. By 1934 1,937 miles of trail had been built. Seventy years ago on August 14, 1937 a six man Civilian Conservation Corps crew completed the final stretch in the state of Maine. Last summer I met the son of a CCC alumnus who told me that his Dad built "the Great Maine Road" during his service in the C's.

This spring I interviewed Stuart Campbell of Maynard. He remembers building a road up a mountain in Pennsylvania during his service in the C's. The crew broke stone by hand with a napping hammer. The broken stone was used as the road base as they went up the mountain.

Here at Upton State Forest we enjoy Loop Rd. and Park Rd. both built by the C's.

Ellen

Walking, Hiking and Beyond

By John Fahy



***Since a forest environment includes uneven pathways and some elevation changes you should prepare yourself for this level of exertion. Remember to check with your doctor if you are just starting out. ***

As I reported in the last newsletter my hiking buddy, Fred Brown, and I are doing the ninety two mile trek from the Rhode Island line to the New Hampshire border on the Mid State Trail. This can be extended another 21 miles on the Wapack Trail to North Pack Mountain in Greenfield, NH. We decided to take the south-to-north direction starting at the Rhode Island line in Douglas, MA. This hike is planned for 10 to 12 non-consecutive days of 6 to 12 miles per day. With luck, we should finish by summers' end. Luckily we have the services of a Sherpa, FUSF member Norm Fahy, who volunteered to drive us to the trailheads in the morning and then return to pick us up at a designated trailhead up trail.

The official start point for the hike is on a lovely stretch of country road heading south to Connecticut in Douglas, MA. The problem for a hiking purist is that the RI/MA State line is buried three-and-a-half miles further south in the Douglas State Forest. We explored a surprisingly remote NE Connecticut and NW Rhode Island area trying to locate an access point to the State line. Unfortunately, there is no convenient stopping or parking place on a narrow and woody street in Rhode Island to make the walk north to the State Line.

We located an access point trail in Douglas at Southwest Main St. and High St. that allowed us to hike to the Mid-State trail. We turned south and walked a long, unrelentingly uphill one-mile stretch on the rocky and muddy trail. It

took one hour to hike south to the State line where a curbstone block marks the site. The letters "RI", an arrow pointing north, and the letters "NH" are carved into the curbstone. Four miles has thus been added to our ninety-two mile hike. This site is also the beginning (or end) of the RI North-South Trail which is also a cross state trail, leading south to the ocean.

The hike continued from here north to Rte 16 in Douglas, for a first day total of 6.2 miles in a little over three hours. Our FUSF Sherpa, Norm, was not impressed with our six-mile effort but he didn't experience that first muddy, rocky, uphill one plus mile trek to the empty southern woodland tri-State corner of Massachusetts.



Fred Brown & Mid State Trail Marker

BUGS and TICKS

Bugs and ticks come with the territory for those of us that enjoy gardening or hiking. Everyone was remarking that black fly season wasn't so bad this year but now we are paying for that with the onslaught of vicious horse flies and mosquitoes.

Even worse are the ticks because they just hitch a ride on you without notice and unless you realize one is attached you could end up with Lyme disease.

Be sure to do a tick check every time you have been on the trails or working outdoors. We do it for our pets so let's be as good to ourselves! *John*

CCC Day at Upton State Forest



Boy Scouts from Troop 132 waiting for the ceremony to begin, J. Zaslow photo

Around 75 people enjoyed our joint picnic with Upton Historical Society on a beautiful Saturday in May. After lunch a Red Maple that had been planted for Earth Day was dedicated by Friend's president, Ellen Arnold, in honor of the men of Camp SP 25. Their legacy is the park we enjoy today. A certificate was presented to Francis Derwin, Northeast Director of the National Association of CCC Alumni. Other CCC alumni present were David Malhoit and Frank Evans. Mr. Malhoit served at the Upton camp

Young men from Upton Boy Scout Troop 132 acted as the color guard. Officer Shanna Jackman of the Upton Police Department gave a beautiful rendition of the Star Spangled Banner and God Bless America. John Pelczarski of DCR was Master of Ceremonies and Marsha Paul, Chairman of the Upton Board of Selectmen was a featured speaker.

Since the occasion also represented the official transition of Upton State Forest to the new Metro West District certificates were presented to John Pelczarski and Val Stegemoen for their work at Upton State Forest and for supporting the Friends. Donna Stimpson, co chair of the DCR CCC

Committee, was honored for her role in the formation of the Friends. John Dwinell, the new District Manager for Upton, was introduced.

After the ceremony Smokey Bear paid a visit to the delight of the young and not so young!

A trail hike to Dean Pond was led by Ranger Val Stegemoen and John Fahy led a historic cellar hole hike that became a botanical hike as the group searched for Lady Slippers in bloom! Margaret Carroll led a Children's Discovery Hike looking for something that smelled bad and something that smelled good! Along the way they saw a painted turtle and some beaver lodges. When they returned the children enjoyed a scavenger hunt led by Lurissa Marston.

Bob Pray videotaped the alumni during the Fireside Chat inside the historic Administration Building. Prompted by Donna Stimpson CCC alumni shared their memories of life in the C's. Guests also enjoyed displays set up by FUSF, Upton Historical Society and the DCR CCC Committee.

A highlight of the day was the 1922 Ford Depot Hack driven to the picnic by Dick and Betty Lemoine.

Raffle winners were Margaret Carroll, Bob Ethier, Karen Rapp, Grace Wadsworth and Steve Walsh.

Entrance Gateway Work Party

Meet at the Headquarters' building on **August 18 at 9AM**. Bring brush cutters, shovels and trowels. We suggest sun screen, insect repellent and long pants. Coffee break will be provided. **Liability waiver required.**

We will be working at the entrance sign and trail uses sign areas clearing the area and planting shrubs and perennials. Call Ellen, 508-529-6610 or email fusf@charter.net if you have any questions. Funding is from the matching grant we received.



John Fahy photo

Restoring the American chestnut

As many of you know from the program presented by Rufin Vanbossuyt to the Friends the American Chestnut Foundation is working to restore this important and historic tree to our landscape. Until the blight that decimated them there were an estimated four billion American chestnut trees in the eastern forests. Many of them measured eight to ten feet in diameter and up to one hundred feet tall. Timber from the trees was used in many ways and the nuts produced were a reliable food source for wildlife.

In June Rufin and Dr. Charlotte Zampini, a professor of Biology at Framingham State College, were at Upton State Forest to collect pollen from a Chinese chestnut. The trees at Upton are pure Chinese chestnuts and have a strong resistance to the blight.

First they stripped the male flowers and outer leaves off the tip of a large tree in the Headquarters area. Bags were placed over the branch ends with the female flowers intact to insure that they did not get pollen from another tree. About ten days later they returned to place pure American pollen on the female flowers and put the bags back on. In the fall they will return to collect the nuts that develop inside the bags. These will be planted at one of their seedling orchards in Massachusetts. Pollen from

the Upton tree will be used to pollinate some pure American chestnut trees.

There are 26 seedling orchards in Massachusetts including Quabbin Reservoir, Moore State Park, River Bend Farm and Wachusett Reservoir. There is also a small planting in Upton State Forest off Park Rd. in the logged area.

Funding for the bucket truck is provided by National Grid. The truck used at Upton was provided by Lewis Tree Service and the operator that assisted was Scott Fletcher.

So this summer if you notice a tree at USF that has the top covered with brown bags now you know why.

National Public Lands Day 2007

Meet at the Headquarters' parking lot on **September 29 at 9AM**. Bring hand tools and work gloves and dress for working in the woods. We also suggest sun screen, insect repellent and water. No power tools. **A liability waiver will be required.** For youth 18 and under a parent's signature is required.

Morning coffee and lunch at noon will be provided. Please RSVP to Karen Ober, 508-529-9029 or fusf@charter.net if you plan to stay for lunch. Karen and Lurissa Marston are co chairs.

Partner's in Parks Conference

Ellen Arnold, John Fahy and Steve Warren represented the Friends at the recent conference in Worcester. It was a full day with many workshops and over 200 participants.

Lt. Governor Murray introduced Richard Sullivan, the new DCR Commissioner. Both men reassured the group that our parks, forests and beaches would be a priority. The Lt. Governor indicated that the administration has heard us loud and clear. Time will tell.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friends of Upton State Forest

(Unless otherwise noted all meetings will be at Upton Senior Center)

- Aug. 18** **Entrance Gateway Work Party**, 9AM, Meet at Headquarters building
- Aug. 20** Historic Resources Committee, 7PM
- Aug. 21** Trails Committee, 7PM
- Aug. 27** Board Meeting, 7PM
- Sept. 8** ****FUSF Yard Sale****
17 Hartford Ave E, Upton
7AM to early afternoon
- Sept. 15** **Yard Sale Rain Date**
- Sept 17** Historic Resources Committee, 7PM
- Sept. 18** Trails Committee, 7PM
- Sept. 24** **General Meeting**, 7PM
“The CCC Legacy”
Public welcome
- Sept. 29** **National Public Lands Day**, Work Party, 9AM to Noon, Meet at Headquarters building
- Oct. 15** Historic Resources Committee, 7PM
- Oct. 16** Trails Committee, 7PM
- Oct. 22** Board Meeting, 7PM
- Oct. 6** **Trails Committee Hike at USF** led by Bill Knott
10 AM, meet at trailhead parking lot, rain Oct 7

Save the Dates

(Details in next newsletter)

- Nov. 26** General Meeting
“Restoring Ecosystems”
- Jan. 14** Annual Meeting
“Jungle Birds at Upton State Forest”

Upton Open Space Committee

(uptonopenspace@charter.net)

- Sept. 16** Trail walk on the abandoned G&U railroad line, 1 PM, meet at the Williams St. railroad crossing. More info:
508-529-6811 or
508-529-3709

Membership Renewal Special!

Our current membership is 140 members from five states including MA, RI, Maine, North Carolina and Nevada.

20% discount for membership renewals for 2008 paid between September 30 and the Annual Meeting on January 14. (No discount for associate.)

We love the notes of thanks and encouragement that you send with your dues.

Agnita

Agnita Knott, Membership Chairman

Quote of the Month

“All walking is discovery. On foot we take time to see things whole. We see trees as well as forests, people as well as crowds. _____ we can even see ourselves with particular clarity.”

Hal Borlund, October 6, 1945
New York Times Magazine