



**FRIENDS OF UPTON STATE FOREST INC.
NEWSLETTER**

*<http://www.friendsofuptonstateforest.org>
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President's Message By Ellen Arnold

Our group is a diverse one made up of individuals representing many different interests. Each of us looks at the land with different eyes based on those interests and our own personal knowledge. A bird watcher will look at a tree and notice the warbler, wren, hawk or owl on its branches. A horticulturist will observe the bark, leaves and condition of the tree. A hiker will appreciate the tree for the shade it offers on a hot day and a gardener might look at the ground under it to see the plants growing there. As a historian I look for stone walls, old roads, and cellar holes, shrubs that aren't native and other evidence of human activity.

We learn from each other and the knowledge we gain gives us respect for other interests. Regardless of how we look at the land we basically all have the same interest at heart. We value the lands of Upton State Forest and what they offer for all of us. That common link is what makes our group work and will be the foundation for our strength and future success.

Thank you all for your support and enjoy the upcoming holidays.

**General Meeting
November 26, 2007
7PM, Upton Senior Center
(Public welcome)**
Mike Penko will present a program about **"Restoring Ecosystems"**. A Christmas penny sale will benefit the Historic Resources Committee.

Be Safe, Be Seen

The various 2007 hunting seasons are upon us. Shotgun season for deer begins on November 26 with the last day being December 8. Primitive firearms (muzzle loader) season runs from December 10 through December 31. There is no hunting on Sunday.

State law requires hunters to wear 500 square inches of "hunter orange" and the rest of us should do the same. Orange vests can be purchased at a reasonable cost and should be worn whenever you are in the forest. Dogs should be leashed and have some sort of visible orange on them.

Our group encourages all users to respect and recognize the rights of others to use the forest. Someone on our trails committee made the remark that hunting season is like "Time Shares". It is their time in the forest.

We should keep in mind that the money from hunting licenses and stamps helps support wildlife research and management. Several years ago sportsmen recognized a need for more public lands and encouraged legislation for a land stamp of \$5.00 paid annually with the purchase of their first license. Money raised from this stamp has purchased thousands of acres of land.

It is a good idea to wear visible bright colors at any time of year when you are using the trails. You can be seen by others approaching and in an emergency, if necessary.

**Please use common sense and
BE SAFE, BE SEEN.**

National Public Lands Day

On September 29 twenty people representing seven organizations joined together for a work party at Upton State Forest. Joined by Jeff Cate and Rich Trubiano of the Park Staff we split into two work crews. By the end of the day we had a total of 83 volunteer hours.

The Trails crew headed out for Park Rd. where they installed four water bars on the long hill to help prevent erosion. There is more work to be done and we will call impromptu work parties to accomplish this. Since this was our first experience installing water bars the crew was glad to have Jeff and Rich show them how it should be done.

At the Headquarters' area another crew worked to complete the Entrance Gateway project. Perennials were planted in the planter box, mulch was spread and more roots, weeds and rocks were cleared from the Trail Uses sign area.

FUSF provided coffee, water, soda, trail snacks and a lunch of lasagna, salad, bread and dessert.

Chairmen of the event were Karen Ober and Lurissa Marston assisted by Ellen Arnold.



Trail crew installing a water bar-Park Rd

Entrance Gateway Project



Frank Evans, CCC alumnus and Russ Arnold planting shrubs

This project was funded through Fix it First Friends matching funds provided by the Office of Public and Private Partnerships in the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. In December 2005 Girl Scout Troop 911 helped us raise \$300.00 selling goodies at the Youth Club basketball practices at Upton Town Hall. The matching funds provided an additional \$700.00.

Over the summer Friend's president, Ellen Arnold, worked with park staff to design the area and select the plant material. New trail uses and parking signs were put up and a planter box was built by DCR carpenters. After DCR staff had prepared the area by removing brush and poison ivy members of the Friends cleared roots, rocks and weeds, planting shrubs and perennials. Throughout the summer Norm Fahy faithfully watered plants.

The project was completed on National Public Lands Day with the assistance of Girl Scout Troop 394. Also working on the project were Russ Arnold, Mary Delaney, Louis and Glen Despres, Frank Evans, David Kennedy, Agnita Knott, Karen and Adam Ober, Betty Roche, Joan Shanahan and Marsella Stasa.

Yard Sale Committee

The yard sale on September 8 was a huge success thanks to the hard work of the yard sale committee and the quality of the merchandise contributed by our members and friends. The day of the sale was a warm day but that did not keep the customers away. We set up in the fog **VERY** early in the day and had customers that beat the sun!

A special thank you goes to Norm Fahy for the use of his basement to store and price the merchandise and his front yard for the sale. John Fahy, Mary Fedorczuk and Ellen Arnold along with Norm spent a great deal of time sorting and pricing prior to the sale. The following members assisted on the day of the sale with set up, clean up and sales: Russ Arnold, Alyse Aubin, Barbara Burke, Frank Evans, David Kennedy, Agnita Knott, Jane Milligan and Betty Roche.

The highlight of the day was a lemonade stand set up by a young man who lives next door. Seven year old Zachary Taylor was inspired by our cause and asked permission to set up a lemonade stand to help us. It was a popular spot on a hot day and he presented a donation of \$37.50 to FUSF at the end of the day. In return Zachary was made an honorary member.



Zachary Taylor gives check to Ellen

Celebrate Upton

As part of the Blackstone River Valley's annual Heritage Day's Upton held their *Celebrate Upton Heritage Festival* on September 22. FUSF participated with a booth on the Common selling baked goods, water, soda, pumpkins, plants and a boutique of new and gently used items.

Thank you to everyone that baked, donated items and helped with the booth. Members assisting were Ellen & Russ Arnold, Bob Ethier, Lurissa Marston, Jane Milligan, David Kennedy, Marsella Stasa and Bill Taylor.

A donation was made to Upton Historical Society's Building Fund for the booth space.

Update on American chestnut Project

Rufin Van Bossuyt reports that 129 chestnuts were harvested from the Chinese chestnut trees at Upton State Forest. These nuts when planted will produce trees that will be half American and half Chinese. They will be used as controls when testing the Back Crossed trees for resistance to the Chestnut Blight. They may also be used to establish another family line of blight resistant trees.

A tree at Nipmuc Regional Middle High School produced only 5 chestnuts. Rufin had expected to harvest 100 or more nuts from it. The pollen may have been bad, the dry weather may have been a factor or there may have been other reasons. The Ridge Rd. tree produced about 300 chestnuts.

The pollen used at the school and at Ridge Rd. came from trees at the Virginia research farms of The American Chestnut Foundation which are one sixteenth Chinese and fifteen sixteenths American.

Trails Committee Report

The Trails Committee meets monthly to discuss trail conditions, plan work parties and fund raising events to benefit the trails at Upton State Forest. It is a dedicated group and they welcome anyone interested in helping keep the trails at USF in good condition for the various users.

If you find obstacles, erosion or other trail damage please let the committee know. You can contact fusf@charter.net or co chairmen Lurissa Marston and Karen Ober.

Anyone that would like to make a donation to the Trails Fund can send a check to PO Box 258 with a note that it should go to that fund. Monies raised by the committee can be used for signs, to support work parties, materials for bridges and other needs for trails.

Nuthatch Trail Bridge

FUSF members and others are thrilled to finally have the Nuthatch Trail bridge replaced. Matt Morganelli of Troop 132, Upton replaced the bridge as his Eagle Scout project. Lumber for the project was provided by Koopman Lumber.

Thank you to Matt, Koopman Lumber and the other members of Troop 132 that assisted.

OHV Enforcement Working Group

The Department of Conservation and Recreation has formed a committee to review regulations and other issues related to off highway vehicles (OHV). The committee is made up of user clubs, industry reps, environmental groups, law enforcement officials, DCR and Fish and Wildlife officials as well as a Friend's group rep. Sharl Heller of Friends of Miles Standish is representing Friend's groups and Ellen Arnold is the alternate. We will have a report on the outcome in our January newsletter.

Trail Walks at Upton State Forest

Upton Open Space, Hopkinton Trails Club and FUSF joined for a combined trail walk at USF in October. The walk with a historical theme was led by Ellen Arnold. She led the group on a walking tour of the parade ground explaining the history of the remaining buildings and footprint of the Camp SP25 CCC that was at Upton. That was followed by a hike to Dean Pond via Park Rd.

Along the way we stopped at the marsh where Mike Penko explained the beaver deceivers and impact of beaver on the sphagnum bog and other species within the marsh. The group stopped at CCC sites on Park Rd. and at the pond Ellen talked about interviewing Joe Petrowski who was project leader when the "C's" built the dam. On the return trip via Middle Rd. we located one of the "Pilkington's Quarry" stones. One member of the group commented that he had passed the stone a hundred times and had no idea of the significance.

If you would like to lead a themed hike please get in touch with Ellen. It could be a botanical, environmental, historical or activity related theme such as our vernal pool workshop. How about a "letter box" hike? Group hikes are a chance to share knowledge and enjoy good company and our forest at the same time.

Interim Change in Officers

For personal reasons John Fahy will be stepping down as Secretary. Agnita Knott will serve as Recording Secretary and Betty Roche has agreed to take over Membership for Agnita.

John has written several well received articles for this newsletter including some great photographs. We miss his dedication, enthusiasm and sense of humor.

Thank you, John.

Historic Resources Committee

This is a small but dedicated group that meets monthly. They would enjoy having anyone join them that has an interest in the historic resources of Upton State Forest.

The committee has been working on a historical brochure of the site and buildings of Camp SP25 CCC at USF. The content and pictures for the brochure are done. Students at Miscoc Hill School will be designing the three panel brochure for us. When completed it will be available at the USF kiosk, at meetings and events as well as our web site.

The next project is to put together a presentation about the history of Upton State Forest prior to the CCC period. This will be presented at a members meeting and will be designed for use at other venues.

The CCC pictures have been received from the Smithsonian Institution and some of them are being used in the brochure. Thank you to everyone that contributed to the purchase.

Historic Curatorship Meeting

On October 29 a meeting was held at Upton State Forest to discuss the possibility of the Historic Curatorship program as an option for the buildings. More information about this program can be found on the DCR website.

FUSF has concerns about this program and the practicality of its application to the Upton site and buildings. Our major concerns involve public access to the site and appropriate use and historic preservation of the buildings. Thanks to the support of Senator Augustus the Friends do have critical leverage in the decision process. We will continue to explore all options while advocating for the buildings.

Supplying a Civilian “Army”

What we know as the “North Barn” (the building on the right as you enter the site of the former CCC camp) started life as the Supply building for the CCC camp. In the camps the Army was responsible for housing, clothing, food and transportation. Forestry was in charge of the work that the men did.

Joseph Donnelly, now of Hopedale, was company clerk in charge of supplies. This position earned him an extra \$7.00 a month. When he became Senior Clerk (equivalent to a First Sargeant in the Army) he got another pay increase that allowed him to keep \$21.00 a month with the other \$25.00 going home to his family.

When the supply building was built Joe painted the floor and walls. The floor was painted in squares of grey and red, the cabinets were grey and the ceilings were white washed.

When the camp was occupied as Massachusetts Field Headquarters for the Fish and Wildlife this building housed the Fisheries office. It has also been used by the former Department of Environmental Management as a carpentry shop and to house horses used by the Mounted Patrol. Many local residents have fond memories of visiting the horses with their children.

Today the building stands vacant waiting for a commitment to its future.



1985 from DCR CCC archives
North barn at right, South barn gone

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friends of Upton State Forest

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

- Nov. 24 **“Knobby Gobbler”**
At Upton State Forest
- Nov. 26 **General Meeting, 7PM**
“Restoring Ecosystems”
(speaker: Mike Penko)
- Dec. 17 Board Meeting, 7PM
- Dec. 18* Trails Committee, 7PM
and
Historic Resources
Committee, 7PM
- 2008**
- Jan. 14 General Meeting, 7PM
Election of officers
“Jungle Birds at USF”
(speaker: Mark Blazis)
- Jan. 22* Trails Committee, 7 PM
and
Historic Resources
Committee, 7PM
- Mar. 14 Pot Luck Supper
Details TBA

* Please note that due to holidays these committees are meeting on the same night.

Metacomet Land Trust Meeting

The Metacomet Land Trust will hold its annual meeting at Upton Senior Center on November 29 at 7PM. There will be a panel of experts speaking about “Horses and Land Trusts: On the Same Trail!” The program is free and the public is welcome. For more information call 888-293-7284 or visit www.metacometlandtrust.org.

The Knobby Gobbler

**November 24,
2007
10 AM**



Melt away some of that turkey fat with this 15 (+ or -) mile recreational bike ride through the trails of Upton State Forest. A suggested route will be marked but the trail choice and riding pace is at the will of the rider.

Hot chocolate and donut station will be provided and participants are invited to dine for half price at the Rose Garden Pub on Rt. 140 from noon to 2 PM.

Donations of \$12.00 may be mailed to the Friends of Upton State Forest, PO Box 258, Upton, MA 01568-0258. Youth under 18 may ride for half price and must be accompanied by an adult. Information and registration forms are available by calling 508-529-6610 or <http://www.friendsofuptonstateforest.org> Proceeds will benefit the activities of the Friends.

Thank you to Randy and Mary Scott for organizing the event and to Mike Campbell and the Rose Garden Pub for their support.

Membership Renewal Special!

Regular members renewing between now and the annual meeting on January 14 may deduct 20% from their dues. A renewal form is enclosed.

Quote of the month

Like music and art, love of nature is a common language that can transcend political or social boundaries.

Jimmy Carter