Friends of Upton State Forest Newsletter

http://www.friendsofuptonstateforest.org
friends@friendsofuptonstateforest.org
Like us on Facebook!
Editor: Ellen Arnold

Volume 7, Number 3 Summer 2012

President's Message

By Bill Taylor

I want to offer heartfelt thanks on behalf of all the Friends to Ellen Arnold and Bill Johnston for their seven years of service as officers on the Board of Directors. Bill served as Vice President and Member at Large, and Ellen served as President and Secretary. Their energy, enthusiasm, creativity and commitment have been integral to the success of the Friends. Fortunately, they promised they would help the new Board in any way they can and I can promise them we will be taking advantage of their insights and counsel.

Thanks also go to the rest of the former Board who are continuing: President Joan Shanahan; now serving as Past President, Corresponding Secretary Agnita Knott, Treasurer Chris Scott, and Members-at-Large Marcella Stasa and Steve Warren; now serving as Vice President. They accomplished a lot and set a high standard for the new Board.

The new board will be President Bill Taylor, Vice President Steve Warren, Recording Secretary Mary McManus, Corresponding Secretary Agnita Knott, Treasurer Chris Scott, Past President Joan Shanahan and Members-at-Large Gerry Lemire, Chip Kent, Marcella Stasa, and Jerry Zaslow, and Historic Resources Committee Chair, Ellen Arnold and Recreation Committee Chair, Lurissa Marston. It is a good mix of new and continuing Board members and a good representation of the different groups that use the Forest. I look forward to serving with them.

I would also like extend the Friend's gratitude to Susan Hamilton, Kathryn Garcia, Jeff Cate, Richard Trubiano, Sean Lovejoy, Jennifer Stowe, Tim Rayworth, and all the Hopkinton and Northeast staff for everything they have done for Upton State Forest. We enjoyed working with them and wish them well as we transition to a new Region.

Finally, I would like to thank all of our members and other friends at DCR for everything you have done. It has been all of us working together that has made us so successful and will continue to do so in the future. *Bill*

DCR Reorganization

A recent reorganization within DCR means that Upton State Forest now comes under the jurisdiction of the new South Central District in the Central Region. We are, once again, a satellite park of the Blackstone River Heritage and Canal State Park at River Bend Farm in Uxbridge. In the past 75 years, we have been a satellite of Wachusett, Douglas, River Bend and Hopkinton. Since we have worked with the River Bend staff in the past, we are confident that our good working relationship with DCR will continue. Having a Friends group can help create stability and a smooth transition with changes like this.

The new mailing address for Upton State Forest is c/o Blackstone River & Canal Heritage State Park, 271 Oak Street, Uxbridge MA 01569 and the phone number is 508-278-6486. The Park Watch number continues to be 1-800-PKWATCH or 800-759-2824.

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_____

Telephone: _____E-mail _____

Would you consider being a member of one of our committees? Please circle your choices.

Auditing	Fund Raising	Newsletter	Telephone Committee
Education	Historical Resources	Program	Trails Committee
Events	Membership	Publicity	Refreshments

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	Historical	Mountain Biking	Snow Shoeing
Cross Country Skiing	Horseback Riding	Orienteering	Snowmobiling
Dog Sledding	Hunting	Open Space Preservation	Wildlife Watching
Hiking	Letterboxing	Photography/Art	Other (what?)

Membership Categories: (Prices effective through August 31, 2012) (Circle one)

Family of 2 adults & children (under age 18) ---------- $ 30.00
Individual ----------$ 20.00
Senior 65+----------$ 10.00
Student full time with current student id ----------$ 10.00
Associate member (no voting privileges or discounts) ----$ 5.00

Additional Donation Amount:
Anonymous? Yes--- No---

General Fund or Special Fund:
Memorial or Honorarium?
Name of person being recognized?

Below this line is for office use only:
(* Please note: There is a $20.00 charge for returned checks.)
Payment: Cash Check # Amount paid: Category: Year paid:
Card(s) issued by: Newsletter address entered by:

FUSF Keystone Cooperators

Bill Taylor, Marcella Stasa, Ellen Arnold and Michael Penko

In April, Ellen Arnold, became the fourth FUSF member to complete a three day Training Workshop for the Keystone Project at Harvard Forest in Petersham. The Keystone Project invests intense training in local keystone people to make an impact at their local level. Included in the training are wildlife management, forest ecology and management, land protection, and community outreach. In exchange for the training and resources, graduates of the program (called Cooperators) agree to volunteer at least 30 hours of time in their community to projects that promote forest and wildlife conservation. In addition, they are also able to access resources for landowners with questions about making sound conservation decisions to manage their own properties while meeting the needs of their families.

The UMass, Dept of Environmental Conservation, UMass Extension, organizes the Keystone Project with funding support from the MA Dept of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), the Harvard Forest, and the MA Chapter of The Nature Conservancy. For more information, you may contact Paul Catanzaro, Extension Assistant Professor, UMass at 413 545-4839 or visit: http://masskeystone.net/.

Other FUSF Keystone Cooperators are Mike Penko, Marcella Stasa and Bill Taylor. They welcome questions and ideas from the community including students working on school projects.

Membership Report

We have done very well with renewals this year and appreciate the support. Timely renewals also save us postage for reminders. If you have not renewed, please remember to send your dues. We are happy to welcome two new members, Steven Smith of Upton, and R. Norman (Rudy) Scholl of Grover Beach, California. If you know someone who uses and loves Upton State Forest, please tell them about us and encourage them to become members.

FUSF is offering a **membership special** to anyone starting a **new regular** membership from June 23 through July 31. We will take 50% off a six-month membership for the remainder of 2012, or you may take 10% off an 18-month membership, which will cover the remainder of 2012 and 2013. There is no discount for the Associate category.

CCC Records Project

The FUSF Historic Resources Committee is excited to report that our DCR Partnership Matching Grant application was successful. Thanks to a great response from members and the public, we raised $2900. With $300 from Upton Historical Society as a direct partner, the matching grant award is for $6400 totaling $9600. This will allow the restoration of original planning documents for Upton State Forest and the CCC Camp. Not only are the documents valuable historically, but they can be used to help maintain our park.

Park Serve Day Work Party

Park Serve Day at Upton State Forest was a great success with 27 volunteers donating a total of 117 hours of their time, to pick up trash on Southborough Road and do spring clean up at the CCC Camp. Organizations represented included Friends of Upton State Forest (FUSF), the Department of Conservation and Recreation, Bay State Trail Riders Association and Upton Boy Scout Troop 132. The day opened with a flag raising ceremony by Troop 132. Adam Ober and Kaelan Farragher raised the flag and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Frank Evans, a 90-year old CCC alumnus joined the group, working alongside us in this statewide day of service to the parks. Scout Jason Bates won a FUSF logo tee shirt in a free raffle donated by FUSF member, John Fahy. Volunteers received Certificates of Appreciation from the DCR. Following the work party everyone enjoyed a lunch provided for volunteers by FUSF.

Bylaws

We have finished incorporating the final bylaw updates into our bylaw document. Copies were sent to all members. If you received your copy by email, but prefer a hard copy; please send a note to the Corresponding Secretary, Agnita Knott at P O Box 258, Upton, MA 01568-0258.

Third Graders Enjoy the CCC Camp!

The CCC Camp was alive with energy as 107 third graders, chaperones, DCR staff and FUSF volunteers recently reenacted *A Day in the Life of the CCC.* This hands-on program, developed by Tim Rayworth, of DCR, includes five activity stations that students visit during the day. Thank you to Tim Rayworth, Val Stegemoen, Jennifer Schafer and Lois Breault-Melican of DCR for their help with the visit. Volunteers included Ellen Arnold, Frank Evans, Joan Shanahan and Bill Taylor. Jeff Leclaire of Fin and Feather conducted an orienteering game at one of the stations.

CCC Alumni, Chapter 158

Hubie D'Ambrosio, Frank Evans, Rick Sullivan and John Banash

Recently the three remaining active members of Chapter 158 decided to disband their Chapter. The final gathering was at Hampton Ponds State Park for a potluck picnic. Rick Sullivan, Secretary of Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, gave each man a certificate and thanked them for their contributions to the MA park system. Each alumnus also received a certificate from the MA Forest and Parks Friends Network and FUSF honored our own CCC member, Frank Evans for his contributions to FUSF. Frank and Alice Evans, Russ and Ellen Arnold, and Diane Dungey represented FUSF.

Shed Hunt at Stefan's Farm

FUSF member, Gerry Lemire, organized this event with the help of Marcella Stasa, representing Upton Open Space. Russ Arnold, Scott Heim, Mike Penko, Marcella Stasa and Bill Taylor were team leaders. About 30 people including several children enjoyed the event on a cool and cloudy March day.

Discover Whistling Cave

After rescheduling three times due to inclement weather, we were finally able to hike with Rich Trubiano of DCR to Whistling Cave! Rich gave a very interesting explanation of the amazing geological features along the trails. Now we all know the difference between a glacial erratic and a transported boulder!

Quarterly Quote

"The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes, but in having new eyes." Marcel Proust

Emmitt Francis Search and Rescue Dog

Rangers Jenn Stowe and Kathy Ward of DCR brought their search and rescue dogs, Emmitt Francis and Ava to Upton State Forest during school vacation. The dogs showed everyone their skills and then we all hiked together with Emmitt and Ava on Loop Rd. Participants added to their DCR Parks Passport stamp collection with a special events stamp featuring Emmitt Francis.

A Sense of Place Festival

It was a beautiful day for guests to enjoy a picnic and listen to Erica Wheeler in concert. Priscilla Geigis, Director of State Parks, dropped by to thank our president, Bill Taylor, for FUSF support of the event. Funding was provided by FUSF, and the Upton Cultural Council. Thank you to DCR staff, Val Stegemoen, Jeanne Gilleney-Decenzo and Lois Breault-Melican for their help.

Historic Curatorship Report

DCR held an open house on May 12 for potential historic curatorship applicants to view the buildings at the CCC Camp. The application deadline has been extended to July 27. An open house is also scheduled from 4 to 6 PM on July 10. If you are interested in this program or the Upton buildings, you may contact Kevin Allen, the program manager at HCP.Requests@state.ma.us or call 617-626-1361.

Mothers Day Raffle Basket

Thank you to members Marion Despres and Lisa Stratton. Marion donated a Mother's Day Raffle Basket worth over $50.00. Tickets were sold at our potluck supper and then Lisa sold tickets at her store, *A Little Common Sense".* Joan Sebastian of Upton won the raffle and sales will benefit the FUSF General Expense Fund.

New Merchandise!

We have had requests for children's tee shirts so now we offer two choices. One is available in forest green with an off-white logo and the other is safety orange with a brown logo. The price is $10.50. They are available at FUSF meetings and events or *A Little Common Sense* at 62 Main St, Upton.

Wildlife at Upton State Forest

This common green darner paid FUSF a visit during the Erica Wheeler Festival. We are not sure if the attraction was the music or the FUSF tee shirt that Chris Scott was wearing, but it stayed for over a half hour!

Lurissa Marston reports that she watched a turtle, laying eggs in the dirt, on one of the trails! After depositing each egg, the turtle used her flipper to cover it. During the third grade program, a mallard duck, with four ducklings was spotted in the bog. The bog is alive right now with a chorus of birds and frogs. The red-winged blackbirds are back, but the blue heron crane seems to have left with the lower water levels. Marcella Stasa alerted us to a scarlet tanager at the Headquarters area during the concert.

During this time of year, you may encounter young wildlife. Remember not to interfere even if you think the mother has abandoned it. Chances are that the mother is nearby, and if you do interfere, you may be putting the baby in jeopardy. For a fact sheet on young wildlife visit: http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/wildlife/living/young_wildlife.htm. **Let's keep the wild in wildlife!**

Park Watch

If you observe illegal activity at the forest or notice a maintenance issue, you can call 1-800-PKWATCH to report it. If you have an emergency, call 911.

Asian Long Horned Beetle (ALB)

By Michael Penko

In August of 2008, a colony of the Asian Long Horned Beetle was found in Worcester, MA. Since then state and federal agencies have surveyed over 2 million host trees within Worcester County. 21,000 infested trees have been removed, along with another 10,280 high-risk trees. The "regulated" area where removal of wood and branches is closely controlled to stop the spread of the beetle has grown from 17 square miles to the current 110 square miles, and now includes all of Worcester, Shrewsbury, West Boylston, and Boylston, and parts of Holden and Auburn. Removal of infested trees continues. In 2012, the agencies will focus on identifying the extent of the infestation. Pheromone traps developed by the USDA's Forest Service and Pennsylvania State University will be used to find outlying colonies and stand sentry in high-risk areas. Experimental use of sniffer dogs to detect ALB is also planned. Detection efforts will work outward from the perimeter of the regulated area. There are currently no plans to place pheromone traps in Upton State Forest.

ALB larvae feed on hardwoods. Maples are most susceptible but ALB also feeds on willows, aspen, birch, ash, elm and other hardwoods. Oak and pine are resistant.

ALB are very large – those found in Massachusetts can be up to 1.5 inches long, not including the long black and white antennae. The body is glossy black with numerous irregular white spots. Signs of infestation include pencil sized diameter holes in the trunk, oozing sap, sawdust deposits and wilting leaves. Infestation can be difficult to detect and grow slowly at a low level for years.

The whitespotted pine sawyer is a common look-a-like species found in Upton. Male pine sawyers have a single prominent white dot between the wings and the antennae are more faintly banded. Pine sawyer beetles are not as glossy as ALB.

ALB is native to China and Korea. It was first discovered in the United States in Brooklyn, New York, in 1996. ALB was later detected in other locations around New York City, and in Chicago, New Jersey, Ontario, Canada, Clermont County, Ohio and in Worcester County. A small 6-tree infestation was found in Boston in 2010. The most severe North American infestation known to date is in Worcester. Eradication is possible. ALB was declared eradicated in Chicago and Hudson County, New Jersey in 2008 and from Islip, New York in 2011.

For information about the beetle and program activities, contact the MA ALB Cooperative Eradication program at 508-852-8090 or toll free at 1-866-702-9938. Links to websites with more information and picture of the ALB, can be found at http://www.friendsofuptonstateforest.org/natural.htm. The Upton Conservation Commission website is another source. http://www.upton.ma.us/pages/conservation-commission.php. If you have any doubt about the type of beetle you are seeing, it is best to make a report.

Discovery Hikes and Programs

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

Hikes are free. Remember water, insect repellant and sunscreen. A liability waiver is required. Wear appropriate clothing and footgear. 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 Butterflies at Stefans Farm
July 7, 9:30 AM

Long time wildlife observer Tom Dodd will lead us to where wildflowers attract butterflies. Meet at the Community Garden on Mechanic St near the power lines. Wear long pants and bring binoculars.

Discover Letterboxing
August 19, 1:00 PM at
Upton State Forest
Rain Date: August 26, 1:00 PM

Jane and Bill Milligan will give a brief intro to letterboxing and then we will hike to discover the "Celebrate the Legacy" letterbox series. Placed in 2008, during the 75th Anniversary year of the Civilian Conservation Corps, the boxes are still visited. Bill and Jane placed, and maintain them. Marcella Stasa, another FUSF member made the stamps that are in them. Meet at the Headquarters Building near the intersection of Westborough and Southborough Roads. GPS address is 205 Westboro Rd.

Star Party!
Discover the Starry Night
September 15, Grilling at 5:30 PM
Sky watching : 7:00 - 10 PM

Join us at Kiwanis Beach on Pratt Pond for a Star Party! There will be a grill going and we will supply paper goods and dessert. Bring something to grill and a chair or blanket. Telescopes will be set up to view the night sky. Feel free to bring your own scope as well. Heavy cloud cover or rain cancels.

Discover the New
Fiske Av Farmer's Market
in the rear of
A Little Common Sense
at 62 Main St (Rte 140)
Saturday, June 23, 10:00 AM-2:00 PM

While you are there, check out our merchandise display in the store.

Upton Fireworks Festival
Saturday, June 23, Rain June 24
Starting at 5:00 PM
Blackstone Valley Tech School
Music, Food, Fireworks and Fun!

Visit the FUSF booth. More info: http://www.uptonmensclub.org/x/

Framingham Amateur Radio Association Field Day, June 23
Upton State Forest, 11AM to 6PM.

You are welcome to observe and take part in the annual Amateur ("Ham") Radio Field Day. Field Day is the world's largest test of emergency radio communications. The main objective of the exercise is to contact as many Field Day stations as possible using non-commercial power.

Reading the Forested Landscape
October 28

Tom Wessels, author of *Reading the Forested Landscape*, will present a daylong program including a workshop and field visits. Watch for more details in our fall newsletter.