



Friends of Upton State Forest Inc.

Newsletter

<http://www.friendsofuptonstateforest.org>

fusf@charter.net

Volume 5, Number 1

Winter 2010

President's Message

It is five years since four of us started a discussion that would lead to the formation of Friends of Upton State Forest (FUSF). In June 2005, we held a meeting to see if people were interested. We got our answer when over 40 people came to the Upton Town Hall to embrace the idea. Most of those people are still with us as well as new friends we have met along the way!

I am so appreciative for the tremendous support and encouragement we have been given by our members, other organizations and public officials. Every person who has served on our Board of Directors has been committed to our mission and willing to share in the work to accomplish it. I am proud of what we have accomplished together as partners to the DCR staff who work so hard to maintain our park system. The best part has been the many wonderful people I have met and now call friends.

As an advocate for Upton State Forest there have been times I have been critical of DCR policy. That criticism was always done with the recognition that all parties are sincere in their efforts to make our parks better. Never have I doubted that DCR employees are committed to do the best they can to protect our parks and serve the users.

My only disappointment has been in my inability to bring about a solution that will ensure preservation of the buildings of Camp SP-25, CCC. That challenge is still ongoing as is the process to acquire a significant inholding property.

This will be my last message to you as FUSF President. As a relatively new group, the time has come to prove we are here to stay by passing on the leadership role to another very committed person. I will still serve as a member of the Board of Directors,

your newsletter editor, a member of the Friend's Network Facilitator Team and in any other capacity that will support the Friends and our park. You will still see me at the park doing my Adopt-a-Trailhead duties and will find me anywhere that I can be an advocate for DCR parks. Those who know me recognize that I will still be the loudest cheerleader for Upton State Forest. No kidding! See you at the park! *Ellen*

Annual Meeting and Program
January 25, 2010, 7 PM at Upton Senior Center, 1 Centennial Court, Upton
After a brief business meeting with election of officers and a vote on a bylaw change Marcella Stasa will present a program about "Art From Nature". See page 6 for details.
There will be raffles to support our Trails Committee and future programs. Remember that this is the last day of the discount for early membership renewal.

Upton Open Space & Recreation Plan
Members of the Upton Open Space Committee have been working to update the Upton Open Space & Recreation Plan. The draft is now available on the Town of Upton website. Click on Open Space Committee, then Documents, then on the link to see the plan. Copies will also be at the Town Clerk's office and the Upton Library.
FUSF was invited to give input on portions of the document and our comments have been incorporated. There will be a public comment meeting and we hope that our members will attend. Watch for the date.
Thank you to the Committee members for their time and efforts to preserve our open space and cultural heritage.

**Meet the DCR Staff
Richard Trubiano**

Rich Trubiano (Front Center) with



Upton Cub Scout Pack 132

Rich has worked for the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) for over 13 years in several capacities including Park Naturalist Interpreter at Cochituate State Park. He has also worked as a laborer and as an Enforcement Ranger. Currently he is the Assistant Supervisor at the Hopkinton State Park Complex, which includes Upton State Forest. His job includes delegating work to the staff, volunteers and others. This involves working with and supervising their progress with projects, maintenance and other resource management responsibilities.

During and after college Rich spent time working for The Trustees of Reservations (TTOR) on Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard as a Wildlife Ranger and Enforcement Ranger. While with TTOR, he spent a few years in the Charles River District at Rocky Woods and Noanet Woods.

His special interests include Astronomy, monitoring the geologic resources of our parks and wildlife viewing. He works with the Harvard Smithsonian Institute of Astrophysics to provide an astronomy program at Hopkinton State Park. The public is invited to come and view the stars and planets with the Institutes telescopes.

Rich has extensive training in trail development and maintenance and dam maintenance, operations and inspections. He has participated in Project Wet, Project Wild

and Project Learning Tree. These training programs develop environmental educators in providing environmental programming to the public including tree and vegetation conservation, wildlife conservation and water conservation.

At the end of the interview Rich closed by saying "It is a privilege to work at these resource areas. I am humbled by the trust and responsibility that is entrusted to me and the other staff in maintaining, protecting and conserving these precious parks and forests that we all share and are committed to."

Rich is shown with Upton Cub Scout Pack 132 in the picture at the beginning of this article. He showed them how to build a stone water bar at the new Hopkinton Spring Trail Bridge. This will help prevent the soil erosion that was washing onto the bridge. The Scouts also picked up trash on Hopkinton Spring and part of Rabbit Run Trails. FUSF appreciates all the work the boys did.

(Editor's note :) Also shown in the rear of the picture above is Shaun Lovejoy, DCR. Since the photo was taken Shaun has been reassigned from Hopkinton to another park. We appreciate everything he did to benefit our park and wish him good luck. Our Park Serve Day trails crew gave Shaun high marks for his work with them to build water bars on Park Rd.

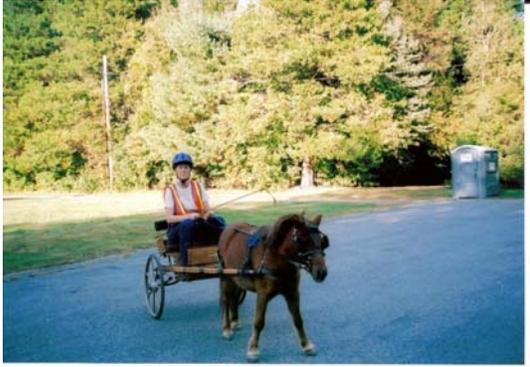
By-Laws Review

We are planning to establish a By-law Review Committee. If you would like to help with this five-year review please let Ellen Arnold or Joan Shanahan know.

A Word of Appreciation

Phyllis Foley and David Kennedy are stepping down from the Board of Directors due to other commitments. We want them to know how much we appreciate all the work they have done for FUSF. Their time and input has been very valuable to us.

Trail Buddies



Karen Ober with “Knick” E. Arnold photo

Karen loves to brag about her trail buddy, “Knicknack”, a registered American Miniature Horse. Now 7 years old he was around two when purchased to be a companion for her other horse. Now about 300 pounds he has become the star in the family. When Karen’s sons were very little he carried them along with their picnic on many hikes.

Now “Knick” is primarily a driving pony and can easily pull one adult and one or two children, even two adults on a good smooth trail. Besides driving in Upton, “Knick” has visited several other parks including Myles Standish State Forest, Douglas State Forest and Borderland State Park. In the future you may see “Knick” and Karen driving at Great Brook, Mawdsley, and F. Gilbert Hills.

Do you have a trail buddy? If you do, please send us a picture and give us some information for an article.

John Pelczarski Retires

Congratulations to John Pelczarski on his retirement from the DCR! John was District Manager of the Blackstone River District, as well as serving as Park Supervisor for Upton State Forest prior to our reassignment to the Metro West District. We appreciate all the advice, support and encouragement we received from John when we were just starting our group. Happy Trails, John!

Reassignments

The Metro West District Manager, John Dwinell, has been temporarily reassigned to the Blackstone District as Acting District Manager. He will be filling the spot left empty by John Pelczarski’s retirement. Kathryn Garcia, District Manager for the Great Brook District will be doing double duty as our Acting District Manager.

Dean Pond Loop and Kiosk Sign



One of the ongoing discussions of the Trails Committee is about signage for the trails and one of their first suggestions was a kiosk or sign at Dean Pond directing people how to get back to the parking lot. Dean Pond is the major destination for many newcomers to Upton State Forest. Since there are several trail options to and from the pond, sometimes hikers get confused about what trail to use for their return trip. Regular users usually carry maps with them to give to people who are not sure of the trail.

We are very excited and appreciative that the park staff has used yellow blazes to mark the main loop of Park Road and Loop Road. In addition, they built a kiosk at the pond and one near the gate at the parking lot as you enter the trail system. Laminated copies of the trail map showing the blazed loop are on the kiosks.

All we can say is “**Wow**”, “**Awesome**” and “**Thank you!**” (Did I mention excited?)

Members in the News

Iron Ranger Artist Reception



Priscilla Geigis and Marcella Stasa

On December 11, DCR honored 13 artists who donated their time and talent to paint wildlife and landscape pictures on 18 Iron Rangers at parks throughout Massachusetts. During a luncheon ceremony at Elm Bank Reservation in Wellesley, each artist received a certificate of appreciation. Among those honored was Marcella Stasa for painting the Iron Ranger at the USF trailhead parking lot. Marcella is shown above with the citation presented to her by Priscilla Geigis, Director of State Parks.

Also representing FUSF were Bill Taylor and Ellen Arnold.

Photos of the Iron Rangers can be seen at <http://www.mass.gov/dcr/stewardship/trust/ironrangerpainted.htm>

Frank Evans at Mt. Tom



D. Dungey photo

At the Friends Network Conference in October, Ellen met Bill Finn of the Mt. Tom Advocacy Committee. Having hiked that beautiful mountain many times with Frank Evans she told Bill that she knew a CCC alumnus who helped build Mt. Tom and could tell him lots of great stories about the mountain and CCC camp that was there. About a week later, Frank was on his way to Holyoke to do an oral history at the Wistariahurst Museum followed by a visit to the mountain where Frank pointed out places of interest to members of their group.

Connections like these are so important to the preservation of our oral history. If you know someone who can share stories about our parks, please encourage them to do so.

Membership Report

Membership Chairman, Agnita Knott, reminds you that it is time to renew your membership for 2010. Anyone paying their membership by the January annual meeting can deduct 10% from their dues if they wish. We are grateful for contributions beyond the membership price. You can specify if you want your donation to go to the General Fund, Trails Committee, Historic Resources Committee or Memorial Fund.

Welcome to new members, Eleanor Bernat, Phyllis Conlon and Debbie Lavergne of Upton. We also are excited to welcome our first Connecticut members, Bryan & Diane Dungey.

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee, chaired by Barbara Burke, is presenting the following slate for the 2010 Board of Directors. The vote will take place at our Annual Meeting on January 25. If you would like to nominate another candidate for any of the positions, you may do so at the meeting.

President	Joan Shanahan
Vice President	Bill Johnston
Treasurer	Chris Scott
Secretary	Ellen Arnold
Corresponding Secretary	Agnita Knott
Member at Large #1	Marcella Stasa
Member at Large #2	Steve Warren



“Hiking Through History”

A partnership between Friends of Upton State Forest and Upton Open Space Committee in cooperation with the Department of Conservation and Recreation.

For all hikes and events, we ask that you dress for the weather and wear appropriate footwear. Kids are welcome, but must be supervised. Liability waiver is required for hikes. Check with the hike sponsor in case of inclement weather. There is no charge.

Fireside Stories

January 23 (Saturday). Meet in the parking area of the Former Stefan’s Farm on Mechanic St. in Upton near the power lines. Come at 5:30 PM for marshmallow roasting and cocoa. Stories begin at 6:00 PM. Bring a seat. **RSVP to mstasa@charter.net or 508-529-3709.**

Join the Upton Open Space Committee and Friends of Upton State Forest for an evening of story telling. Storyteller, healer and spiritual teacher, Duncan Sings-Alone will share Native American stories in an outdoor setting around a campfire. Sings-Alone established the Free Cherokees, an inter-tribal spiritual group dedicated to fostering Native sacred teachings to people no longer connected to their tribal roots. Sings-Alone has been a professional storyteller of Native American stories for 30 years.

Run, Rabbit, Run

February 19, (Friday), 1-2:30 PM

Inclement weather contact: 339-221-2921

Led by Tim Rayworth of the DCR this family hike will explore **Upton State Forest** in winter. He will explain the history of how the Rabbit Run Trail got its name. Kids (with supervision) are encouraged to join us on this **½ to 1 mile hike** followed by cocoa and marshmallows at the campfire.

Meet at the CCC Camp buildings in Upton at the intersection of Westborough and Southborough Roads.

Quarried Granite and More Cellar Holes

March 21 (Sunday) at Upton State Forest. Registration 12:45. Hike begins at 1:00 PM. Meet at the CCC Camp buildings at the intersection of Westborough and Southborough Roads in Upton. Expect a moderate hike with uneven terrain and some hills.

John Ritz and Ellen Arnold will lead us on a visit to several more cellar holes. This two-hour hike will take us on Middle Rd., Hawk Trail and Loop Rd. There will be a turn back option with others continuing along Sparrow, Whitehall and Grouse Trails. We will learn about the families that lived in this part of Upton State Forest along with the granite quarrying that took place here. There is extensive evidence of cut granite in this area.

More information: fusf@charter.net or 508-529-6610.

Peppercorn Hill

April 18 (Sunday). Registration 12:30. Hike starts at 1:00 PM. Meet at the Crockett Road trailhead parking lot. (This is not an easy place to find so be sure you have good directions and allow plenty of time to locate it.) Expect steep and uneven terrain.

We will “Hike Through History” with Don Kerr, who was instrumental in the acquisition of this 283-acre property by the town of Upton twenty-five years ago. Enjoy the views and unique features of the area while Mr. Kerr shares childhood memories of summering on the lake with his family with Peppercorn Hill as his “backyard”. He will also talk about the logging that took place here in the 1930’s and the devastation of the 1938 hurricane.

More information: mstasa@charter.net or 508-529-3709. Heavy rain cancels.

If you want to be reminded of the hikes or need more information send an email to fusf@charter.net with Hiking Through History in the subject line.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friends of Upton State Forest

Annual Meeting and Program

Upton Senior Center
January 25, 7 PM

Potluck Supper April 16

Details in spring newsletter

Board of Directors Meetings

Upton Police Station, 7 PM
January 18, February 15
March 15, April 19

Historic Resources Committee

Upton Police Station, 7 PM
February 8

Trails Committee

March (date and place to be announced)

Forestry Forums

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) has announced a series of five public forums as part of the Forest Visioning process. This began last spring in an attempt to include citizens, stakeholder organizations, and technical experts in the decision process for the future of forests on DCR lands. FUSF signed on as a stakeholder and we are represented through the MA Forests and Parks Friends Network.

The closest forum to our area will be held **February 4, 6:30 to 8:30 PM at the Westborough Public Library, 55 West Main St, Westborough. Snow date is February 16.** We encourage your attendance since this is critical to the future of our public forests in MA.

The position of FUSF is that (RMP) Resource Management Plans need to be done for **EACH** DCR property before any cuts are made on that property.

Art From Nature



Snowbone by Marcella Stasa

Following the business meeting at our Annual Meeting on January 25, Marcella Stasa will present a program about using found and natural materials to create works of art. She will have pieces for sale and a percentage of the proceeds will be donated to the Friends.

A graduate of Massachusetts College of Art, she works in a wide range of mediums and has a unique perspective in recognizing the value and beauty of found materials, many of them from nature. Bones, nests, seedpods, snake skins and fungus all become part of her work. "These sometimes morbid and melancholy remnants are incredibly beautiful and intriguing for the stories they hold about the process of life and death."

Marcella currently has work on display at the Copley Society in Boston and the Brickbottom Gallery in Somerville. In New York City, she is represented by the Phoenix Gallery.

Quote of the Month

"Only after the last tree has been cut down. Only after the last river has been poisoned. Only after the last fish has been caught. Only then will you find that money cannot be eaten."

- Cree Indian Prophecy