Friends of Upton State Forest Newsletter
Ellen Arnold, Editor
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President's Message
By Bill Taylor

As part of our mission to protect the natural and historic resources of the Upton State Forest, the Board recently submitted a letter to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) expressing our concerns about the environmental impact of the proposed Medway to West Boylston natural gas pipeline. The plan is to run part of it through the forest in the existing transmission line right-of-way.

FERC, which has to approve the pipeline, will evaluate its potential environmental impacts and issue an Impact Statement (EIS). As part of preparing an EIS, FERC accepts public comments. FERC's main goal in gathering comments is "to focus the analysis of the EIS on the important environmental issues."

The concerns stated in the Board's letter were: the identification of sensitive environmental and cultural resources; plans to protect those resources; the introduction of invasive species by construction equipment; and the protection of visitors from the risks of leaks and explosions.

In addition, we asked that Article 97 be respected, and that, as required by Article 97, any use of USF land for pipeline purposes be approved by a 2/3 vote of the legislature. We also asked that the state receive compensation or land of equal value if a change of use was approved.

FERC requested comments by May 30, but they will continue to accept comments. The public will also be able to comment on the draft EIS. Please let the Board know if you have any other concerns about the impact of the pipeline on USF's natural and historic resources so that we can be sure to address them in any future comments.

Park Serve Day 2016 at Upton State Forest
Article on page 2

E. Arnold photo

M. McManus photo

Historic Resources Committee Report

Bob explaining a map with deed chains

R. Arnold photo

It was our pleasure to present an award at our potluck supper to FUSF member, Bob Such. For several years, Bob has spent many hours assisting us with deed research. This information is helpful for two reasons. It sheds light on who owned various parcels within the Forest so that we are able to do research on families to be able to interpret cellar holes, homesteads, and other sites. In addition, Bob has identified a number of parcels that are potential candidates to become part of Upton State Forest. One of the parcels has been acquired by DCR.

Since Bill Taylor was unable to be at the potluck supper, Secretary Mary McManus read the award and presented Bob with a certificate, along with a logo hat and sweatshirt. A map constructed by Bob, showing the Upton State Forest parcels with the title chain for each, was displayed.

In Memory of Paul Pickett

We were saddened to learn of the passing of Paul Pickett on April 17. Paul was a long-time DCR employee who worked as a supervisor at River Bend Farm. His duties included Upton State Forest, where he worked at the camp and on the trails. At our May meeting we observed a moment of silence in his memory. We extend our sympathies to his family.

Trails Committee Report

Twenty volunteers worked at the CCC Camp on Park Serve Day. Senator Michael Moore came by to recognize our volunteer efforts. CCC alumnus, Frank Evans was an active participant, making this the eleventh year he has joined us for Park Serve Day. His legacy of service to our parks and the CCC legacy is impressive. The group was assisted by members of the park staff, including Jody Madden, Kathryn Parent, Alan Zanetti, and Steve Lovejoy.

After signing in and having morning refreshments, park supervisor, Jody Madden read a message from Governor Baker recognizing volunteers. Bill Taylor of FUSF said it was appropriate that we were in the CCC building preparing for work just as CCC enrollees would have done in the 1930's. It was especially nice to be joined by Mass Fish and Game Commissioner, George Peterson since the building was used as Phillips Wildlife Lab from 1945 to 1956.

After a group picture at the flagpole, we set to work planting, weeding, raking, and mulching, as well as brushing back the perimeter. We were joined by volunteers from Bay State Trail Riders Association (BSTRA) who worked in the area of the bridge off Southborough Rd, as well as brushing back CCC Way and the access trail from the headquarters to the trailhead parking lot.

The group gathered at noon in the historic Headquarters building for a pizza lunch provided by FUSF.

Including preparation hours and work done on Park Serve Day there was a total of 80 volunteer hours donated. Using the Independent Sector rate that equals a contribution of $2262.00!

The Friends want to thank DCR, BSTRA, Troop 132, Commissioner Peterson, and Senator Moore for their support.

See photos on page 1.

Membership Report

We are pleased to welcome Robert and Sheril Nordstrom of Uxbridge as new members.

Reminder letters have been sent out to anyone who has not renewed for 2016. We realize everyone is busy and that you may have overlooked the renewal. If you haven't renewed for 2016, please take a moment to send your check today.

Matching Grant Donations

We want to thank everyone who has contributed to our fundraiser to replenish our Matching Grants account. These funds enable us to apply for grants that give us a monetary match of at least 50% or more. Since January, we have raised $3397.50 and continue to receive donations. Thank you to the following donors for their generosity: Lillian Tolstrup in memory of Harold Tolstrup, Andre & Christine Navez, and Larry & Donna Doucette.

We are very grateful for the support of our donors. If you want to make a donation please send it to PO Box 258, Upton, MA 01568-0258 and put "matching funds" in the note space or you can obtain a donation form by contacting us at news@friendsofuptonstateforest.org.

Program Committee Report

We want to thank Alice Evans for a donation to the Program Fund. This fund was originally set up with a donation from the Narragansett Bay Wheelmen. It is maintained with raffles and donations, and allows us to provide educational programing for members and the public without charging a fee. Program expenses include speaker's fees, room rentals, and paper goods.

Ellen Arnold Award

Kristin Paulson and Ellen Arnold

M. Penko photo

On April 30 the Upton Grange presented Ellen Arnold, co-founder and first president of Friends of Upton State Forest with their Citizen of the Year Award. In her remarks, Kristin Paulson, Grange Lecturer said that Ellen was chosen for the award because of the many ways that she has served the community, especially her work with Friends of Upton State Forest.

Ellen said that she was honored to receive the award from an organization that does so much good. Many members of her family are long-time Grange members so she is aware of the many things they do. She went on to say that she has been able to do so much because of the support she has received from her husband, members of the Friends, and others who appreciate Upton State Forest and the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Legacy.

Although he was not able to attend the ceremony, Representative David Muradian, 9th Worcester District, later presented a certificate to Ellen from the Massachusetts House of Representatives.

Partner Spotlight
Bay State Trail Riders Association
(BSTRA)

One of our earliest partners was BSTRA, an equestrian organization dedicated to the preservation and improvement of trails. When we were in the early days of organizing FUSF I met Lurissa Marston, a member of their Board of Directors. Not only did she think forming a Friends group for Upton State Forest was a great idea, she put me in touch with many of their area members. Members of BSTRA recognize that they need to support groups that support the places they ride so we have many members in common. We have co-sponsored work parties, and joined together for matching grant projects such as the bridge on Hopkinton Spring Trail.

Incorporated in 1973, BSTRA evolved from a small group of equestrians passionate about trail riding to an organization that has become one of Massachusetts leading trail advocacy groups. BSTRA has contributed skills, labor and money for projects to add trails, protect or purchase land used for trail riding and improve trails all over Massachusetts, including Upton. The total spent at Upton from 1995 to 2015 is $31,367.42! Some of their projects at Upton include surveying and building Rabbit Run and Mammoth Rock Trail, and grading work on Loop Rd.

The group holds at least one ride a year at Upton State Forest. During their Scavenger Hunt riders hunt for clues and objects to solve riddles along the way. When they hold their Great Pumpkin Ride in October it is not unusual to see horses and riders in costume. After their Scavenger Hunt this May the group borrowed the FUSF "This Place Matters" banner for a group picture shown above.

The next time you see a horse and rider on the trails say "Hay" to let them know you are there, and thank them for their advocacy for trails and support of the Friends.

Reporting Volunteer Hours

Board member, Suzanne Nicholas has agreed to track volunteer hours for us. The hours are turned in to DCR and we use them if we are applying for grants that accept volunteer time as a substitute for a cash match. Please report any volunteer time to news@friendsofuptonstateforest.org and we will forward the information to Suzanne.

Quarterly Quote

"What you do makes a difference and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make."

Jane Goodall

Gypsy Moth Update

By Ellen Arnold

In April, FUSF hosted a program about gypsy moth and winter moth presented by Ken Gooch, Director of Forest Health for DCR. As we moved into June, our fears became reality as egg clusters started hatching and caterpillars started eating. These days the air is filled with a gentle rain-like sound that is actually falling caterpillar frass as trees all around us are being defoliated.

The gypsy moth is a non-native species brought to Medford, Mass around 1865 in an attempt to start a silk industry, but unfortunately a few moths escaped in 1869. Until 1900 they were confined to eastern Mass. By 1914 they had spread to NH, Maine, RI and Conn. The hurricane of 1938 brought them to other areas, and by 1941 they were in Pennsylvania and New York. They have spread to other states and Canada with periodic infestations that defoliate about a million trees a year. The last one in Upton began in the late 1970's.

During the 1930's when the Civilian Conservation Corps was at Upton one of their major activities was pest control. Several inspector's reports speak about the work done by CCC enrollees. On Jan 30, 1936 it was reported that part of "the turnover are on gypsy moth and survey work. The gypsy moth crew is doing a good job destroying a great number of egg clusters in the old walls in the forest. Since the snow came the work is being done with poles. When the snow disappears a check will be made of the same area and all the clusters that are now below the snow level will be painted [with creosote] at that time." In January 1938, they were still at it, "working in the northern section of forest in the area that was stripped last summer." The picture above (courtesy of the DCR Archives, State Forester's Photograph Albums, Book 9) shows a Forestry truck being used by the CCC to spray for gypsy moths at Erving State Forest in 1938.

The picture at the right taken June 27th shows a hemlock grove near the Rabbit Run Trail that was stripped this year. Depending on tree health, and other stressors such as drought, many of the trees will recover; though, according to some reports, in the case of hemlocks about 90% of those defoliated will not survive. Oaks are expected to grow a new set of leaves this summer when the larvae stop feeding. Stressed backyard landscape trees can be supported through the summer by watering and fertilizing.

Please check your vehicle for caterpillars before you travel to make sure you are not bringing the pests with you.

These websites have more information: http://www,gypsymothalert.com/history.html and http://na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/fidls/gypsymoths/gypsy.htm.

Stay tuned, because we are sorry to say this is probably not the end of the story.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friends of Upton State Forest Board Meetings

Board meetings are held at 7:00 PM in the training room at the Upton Police Station unless otherwise noted. You are welcome to attend. We suggest that if you want to be on the agenda that you contact the President in advance at: news@friendsofuptonstateforest.org

July 18, August 15
September 19, October 17

Historic Resources Committee Meeting-July 27
7:00 PM at the Upton Police Station Training Room

Anyone is welcome to attend. Our focus is the historic resources at Upton State Forest and the CCC Camp. We work to preserve the resources and to educate the public about their importance. Some of our past projects include a brochure about the CCC Camp, assisting with the National Register nomination, the third grade local history program, displays for events, and resource inventory. We have also fundraised for the CCC Records Project and Partnership Grants.

There are several potential projects that this committee could undertake and that will be the main agenda item.

The Old Connecticut Path
October 21, 7:00 PM
At Upton VFW

The Friends will partner with Upton Historical Society to present a program about The Old Connecticut Path by Jason Newton. Many believe that one of the branches of the Connecticut Path came from Hopkinton through Upton State Forest and on to Northbridge. Look for more information in our Fall newsletter.

Travel Through Time at Upton State Forest
September 24
Registration 12:30
Hike at 1:00

Travel through time as we hike the trails at Upton State Forest discovering evidence of early settlement and industry. We will encounter cellar holes, stone walls, cut stones, water crossings, early roads, and other evidence of early settlement, and more recent activity. Learn about the families that lived within the lands that are now Upton State Forest. Where did their children go to school? Where was Nash Rd and Batchelor Rd? Where was the boot shop? Where is the quarry?

Meet at the CCC Camp near the intersection of Westborough and Southborough Roads. GPS address is 205 Westboro Rd. Upton**.** Please dress for the weather and the trail. Kids are welcome, but must be accompanied by an adult. A liability waiver is required. Please leave pets at home since some are fearful of dogs. For a cancellation notice due to weather, contact news@friendsofuptonstateforest.org. This is a moderate hike with some hills and uneven footing. It should last two to three hours. Don't forget water, sunscreen and insect repellant. There is no charge.

The Old Nash Place
Photo from Upton Historical Society

Opinion on Spectra Energy Pipeline
Submitted by Sustainable Upton

Friends of Upton State Forest welcome your thoughts about the pipeline. As reported by Bill in our President's Message on page 1, our Board of Directors authorized comment that covered matters related to our mission statement. The Board does not take a position on other aspects relative to the pipeline, and takes no position on the opinions expressed here. If you want to submit thoughts to us please send them to news@friendsofuptonstateforest.org.

With its Access Northeast project, Spectra Energy is proposing to build a 27-mile 16-inch high pressure gas pipeline through nine towns: Medway, Milford, Upton, Grafton, Millbury, Sutton, Shrewsbury, Boylston, and West Boylston (called the "West Boylston Lateral").

The Department of Public Utilities has been asked to rule in favor of having all Massachusetts electricity customers pay for the construction through charges on their utility bills. The Spectra project would cost all ratepayers $3 billion over 20 years.

According a study commissioned by the Massachusetts Attorney General (http://www.mass.gov/ago/docs/energy-utilities/reros-study-final.pdf) and one commissioned by the Conservation Law Foundation (http://www.clf.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Solving-New-Englands-Gas-Deliverability-Problem.pdf) Massachusetts doesn't need additional gas pipelines. The current pipelines in New England are adequate if supplemented with current LNG supplies, repair and replacement of currently leaking gas pipelines, increased energy efficiency and use of renewables, and a more responsive grid.

In 2014-2015 for the most extreme winter to date, we did without new pipelines by proper planning for our winter energy needs. The Spectra pipeline would have so much excess capacity that it could be used to ship gas to Canadian LNG export terminals which would raise the price of gas to international levels.

All gas pipelines eventually leak and they can explode. The **minimum** evacuation zone for a 16-inch 750 psi (pounds per square inch) pipeline is 1035 feet on either side, a total of about 2100 feet, nearly a half-mile in diameter. There are at least 20,000 known leaks in the state of Massachusetts, because the current pipes are old and corroding. Several reports say that if the pipes were fixed, our natural gas needs would be met.

For more information, please email SustainableUptonMA@gmail.com, or visit NOspectraMA.org.

Gypsy moth damage on Ridge Rd
at the Rabbit Run Trail.
E. Arnold photo taken June 24.

FRIENDS OF UPTON STATE FOREST
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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	Historic 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 that 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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