FRIENDS OF UPTON STATE FOREST NEWSLETTER

JOYCE SANDVIK, EDITOR
HTTP://WWW.FRIENDSOFUPTONSTATEFOREST.ORG
FRIENDS@FRIENDSOFUPTONSTATEFOREST.ORG

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Capping Historic Wells at Upton State Forest

Contributed by Ellen Arnold, FUSF Resource Inventory Team Chair
and Ellen Berkland, DCR Archaeologist

Open well at Upton State Forest.

Interior of a stone lined well near Westborough Rd. The top of the well is about 5' across. We don't know how deep it is, but there was water in it about 10-12 feet down from the top on the day we visited.

In 2007, during a guided hike led by FUSF members, one of the hikers discovered an open, abandoned well near one of the historic sites we visited. Another hiker took a GPS reading on it and we passed the information to our park supervisor. A few years later FUSF formed the Resource Inventory Team which visited and documented many sites of historic value throughout the forest. All of the information gathered was shared with the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Cultural Resource Office (OCR) and was included in the **Cultural Resource Management Plan** for Upton State Forest. Many of the sites we visited were formerly homes and farms and had open wells nearby.

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Capping Historic Wells at Upton State Forest cont'd

MA DCR owns and manages close to a half-million acres of land across the Commonwealth. The past agricultural land-use history finds farmsteads and associated outbuildings and subterranean features, including wells on most DCR properties. Improperly abandoned wells can create a safety hazard to both humans and animals. Most historic wells are fieldstone-lined and are very dangerous because most were finished flush to the ground. Additionally, an abandoned well can channel surface contaminates into the ground water.

Most states hold current landowners responsible for the proper capping or decommissioning of wells. Historic DCR wells fall under the general category of "A" (***Sand and Gravel Wells with Diameters Greater than 2.5 Inches***). Working closely with other regulatory agencies, including the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), DCR has developed a protocol for capping historic wells that is currently in a draft form. In addition, a *Well Database Status report* (last updated July 7, 2010) is being updated by DCR's Viki Zoltay. Guidelines for the general treatment of these cultural features are outlined in the DCR Office of Cultural Resource's ***Best Management Practices*** for wells. Currently, two weeks in November have been set aside for a crew from the Student Conservation Association (SCA) to begin temporarily capping open wells in DCR parks.

DCR and the Friends encourage you to report any historic wells that you find to the park supervisor or the Friends so that steps can be taken to secure them. Always use caution in the forest, especially if you are off trail or have an off-leash pet.

The Friends want to thank DCR Commissioner, Leo Roy and members of the DCR OCR, for taking steps that will secure these historic structures, making the forest a safer place to enjoy. We also appreciate the field work done by volunteer members of the Resources Inventory Team.

Message from President Bill Taylor

I've recently enjoyed walking many of the trails in Upton – in Upton State Forest and on the town-owned conservation lands – and wanted to thank everyone at the Department of Conservation and Recreation, the Upton Land Stewardship Committee, the many Scouts and all the volunteers that maintain these trails. I enjoy walking in the woods immensely and I've found the trails to be well-maintained and I appreciate the opportunity to walk them. I think we are blessed in Upton with a fine selection of trails of various length, terrain and forest type. Recently, someone asked me "What's your favorite trail in Upton?" and I realized as I was out walking one day that it's the one I'm on. Thanks again to everyone that maintains them and makes them so enjoyable to walk.

FUSF Board of Directors

Bill Taylor, President
Joyce Sandvik, Vice President
Mary McManus, Secretary
Chris Scott, Treasurer
Agnita Knott, Membership
Members at Large

- Suzanne Nicholas
- Marcella Stasa
- Jerry Zaslow

Upton Heritage Day

Upton held its annual Heritage Day on September 30.

The Friends joined the celebration providing information about our mission, membership, the park and offered our FUSF merchandise for sale.

It was a great community event and a number of folks visited our table to learn more about us.

Thanks to Bill Taylor, Agnita Knott, Chris Scott and Jerry Zaslow who were available to share information with the visitors to our table.

CCC Open House

The 3rd of three open houses this summer was held on September 17 at the CCC. This provided a great opportunity for visitors who had never been inside the camp to see how the workers lived. Thanks to the DCR, Bill Taylor and Marcella Stasa for sharing information with all the hikers, dog walkers and others who stopped by to get a glimpse of days gone by.

dcr
Massachusetts

UPTON STATE FOREST
205 Westboro Rd
Upton, MA 01568
SPECIAL EVENT

Upton State Forest
Civilian Conservation Camp
Open House
Sunday September 17
1:00-3:00

Visitors to Upton State Forest may wonder about the barracks style building and the grassy rectangular area in front of it. These are remnants of the Civilian Conservation Corps camp active at Upton State Forest in the 1930s. Join the Friends of Upton State Forest and DCR at the open house to see what's inside the building and to learn more about the CCC and what they did.

Upton State Forest CCC Headquarters is located at 205 Westboro Road in Upton.

Special Event

Get Your Orange On!
Be Safe, Be Seen

Hunting Season Dates

October 14 – November 25 – Upland Game Bird Hunting

October 16 – December 30 – Deer Hunting

NO HUNTING ON SUNDAYS

For detailed info go to the Mass Wildlife web site: http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dfg/dfw/seasons-summary.pdf

FUSF offers orange vests and apparel. To order, go to the FUSF store on our website to order. On-line ordering coming soon!!

Annual BSTRA Trivia Ride

The Bay State Trail Riders Association held its annual Trivia Ride on July 23 in USF. Riders teamed up with a list of questions about the United States and headed out into the forest to locate the clues…….a few hikers even joined in the fun.

Sue Wheeler from BSTRA dreamed up the trivia questions and presented ribbons to the winners. They were so clever, no one guessed all questions correctly…..guess we need to bone up on our American history.

Sadly, Sue Wheeler passed away in a horseback riding accident in August. She was an active member of BSTRA and offered her time to maintain trails in our state forests. She will be missed by all and our hearts go out to her family.

Did You Know?

Think picking up dog poop is just annoying? The amount of poop in such a concentrated area like USF creates toxic waste that gets into the water. Be kind and pick up after your cherished pet (and don't forget to leash them while hiking in USF – for their safety as well as others)

Did you think all plants had already been discovered?
(Time, June 5, 2017) Scientists found 1,730 new plant species globally in 2016.

Take a Hike

Studies show that nature walks improve heart and lung function and walking with friends lowers cholesterol, blood pressure and resting heart rate. Walking can also help preserve your memory.

Looking for some easy hikes?

Try these
www.onlyinyourstate.com/massachusetts/easy-short-hikes-ma/

Partnership with Environmental League of Massachusetts

FUSF is proud to partner with the Environmental League of Massachusetts to collect stories featuring park users and activists. We're looking for your best photos, videos and audio files to tell your personal story about why Massachusetts state parks matter. Submit your story at www.environmentalleague.org/mymapark to have it featured on social media throughout the fall.

Get Well Wishes

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Bill Johnston and his family after Bill had a fall from a roof resulting in serious injuries. Bill is one of our co-founders and we wish him a speedy recovery.

Thought for the Day

"Only when the last tree has died and the last river been poisoned and the last fish been caught will we realize we cannot eat money"
Cree Indian Proverb

"Wildlife In Your Backyard"

Friday, November 3rd at 7 PM at the Upton VFW

Please join us for a special program sponsored by the FUSF with Joy Marzolf, Education Coordinator-Public Programs at the Mass Audubon's Broadmoor Wildlife Sanctuary.

From dragonflies and butterflies to reptiles, birds and mammals, a wide variety of animals may visit local backyards. What animals are you most likely to see in Fall, Winter and Spring? Come find out more about our local wildlife, as well as occasional visitors, and what brings them to our neighborhoods.

Calendar of Events

October

10/22 - Mushroom foraging and identification program @ 1:30 PM at USF – meet in front of the CCC headquarters

10/29 – BSTRA pumpkin ride – no parking at the headquarters parking area. Thank you BSTRA for sharing the proceeds from this ride with FUSF

November

11/3 – Backyard Wildlife Program, Upton VFW @ 7 PM

11/3-11/4 – Mass Trail Conference www.masstrailsconference.com

11/12 – MRA multi-sport race – no parking at the CCC headquarters

11/18 – Mass Forest & Park Friends Network Gathering, Upton VFW @ 9:30 AM – 3 PM; http://dcrfriendsnetwork.org

FUSF Membership

Join or renew your FUSF membership at our November 3rd program to take advantage of a 10% discount.

Be sure to frequent our **Facebook Page** for announcements of future events.

Board of Directors meetings – 3rd Monday of each month @ 7PM at the Upton Police Station training room

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 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, 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 09/01/17) (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: General Fund or Special Fund?
Anonymous? Yes--- No--- Memorial or Honorarium?
Name of person being recognized?

(* Please note: There is a $25.00 charge for returned checks.)

Below this line is for office use only:
Payment: Cash Check # Amount paid: Category: Year Paid:
Cards issued by: Newsletter address entered by: