FRIENDS OF UPTON STATE FOREST NEWSLETTER

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

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Tornado Rips Through Upton in July

Upton Tornado Study

By Friends of Upton State Forest member Tom Dodd

On July 26, 2018 a tornado went through the towns of East Douglas, Uxbridge, Northbridge and then came whirling back down into Upton. Both tornadoes were rated as EF1, with maximum winds of 110 mph. The Douglas tornado went for 4.4 miles with a width of 200 yards. The Upton tornado, which caused a power outage at 2:47AM, went for 1 mile with a width of 100 yards. Starting at 142 Main St (losing a roof), it went on to Nathaniel Way, Ephraim's Way, crossing Warren St, and continued into the Upton State Forest (USF). Fortunately, there were no injuries reported and property damage was restricted to a few homes and yards.

Later that morning, Cathy and I decided to check out the damage along Warren Street. The road had been made passable by the Upton Public Works, but it was still littered with leaves and small branches and some trees alongside the road were snapped and uprooted. Being so close to home and within the Upton State Forest, this tornado was of great interest to me, so I made many visits to the site over the following two months to study its effects.

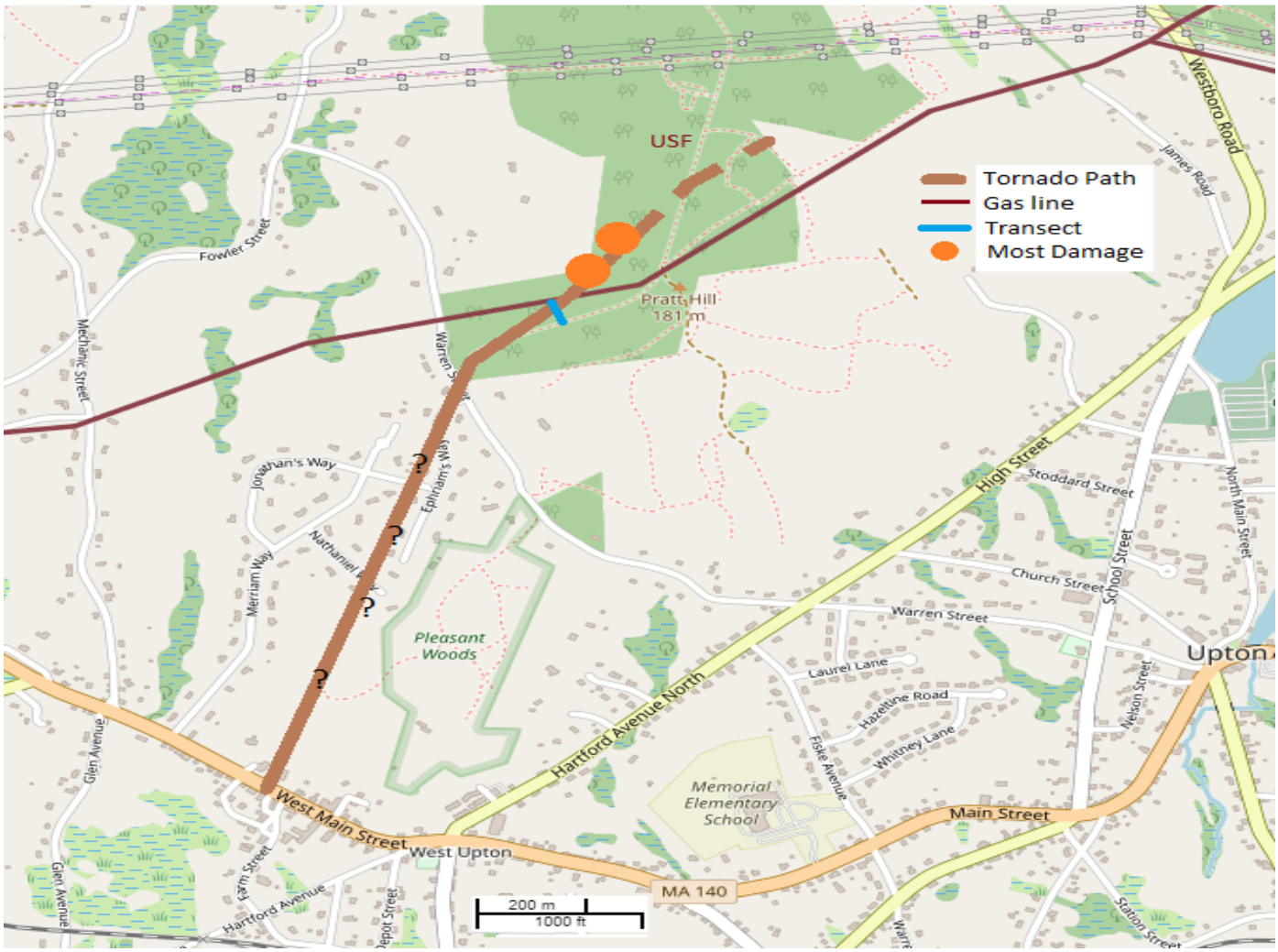
I posed a few questions to myself:

1) What was the path of the tornado?
2) How are tornadoes rated?
3) What does the damage look like?
4) What rotational evidence could be seen?
5) How were plants and animals affected?

Most damaged section just north of gas line – Many pine trees have been uprooted – all trees down

Tornado Path

The tornado path was determined by taking GPS points within the Upton State Forest (USF) and also using newspaper accounts of street addresses. The path was estimated from Main Street to Warren Street with my study focused on the tornado affects within the USF. Even keeping GPS points accurate was problematic, because it was difficult to cross over the path with all of the trees down. Future aerial maps may provide a better mapping of the tornado's path. The tornado crossed over Warren Street at the gated entrance to the USF (Pratt Hill Rd or Hurley Trail). Here, it snapped at least 70-year-old White Pine trees, typically at the 50-foot height and uprooted many other trees. There were many deciduous and pine trees that needed to be cleared to make the access road passable. Crossing over the gas line, there are two adjacent sections where I noted the heaviest damage. Here most trees were toppled in a large area with uprooted trees being the most visible. The dirt road leading from the top of Pratt Hill to the power line had a number of trees downed that have since been cleared by DCR. As the hill flattened out at the top, the tornado seemed to hop-scotch over sections, leaving some intact, and dropping back down to take out a few more trees. The last noticeable damaged spot was where an USF trail crosses on the north side of Pratt Hill. As the grade drops down, the tornado damage subsided.



Tom's complete report on this tornado is attached to the Newsletter email. If you receive the Newsletter by mail, Tom's report is posted on our web site along with the Newsletter. Thanks Tom!

Message from President Bill Taylor

At the beginning of October, Ellen Arnold, who does a great job of managing the Friends' Facebook page, posted this quote from John Muir: "I don't like either the word [hike] or the thing. People ought to saunter in the mountains - not 'hike!' Do you know the origin of that word saunter? It's a beautiful word. Away back in the middle ages people used to go on pilgrimages to the Holy Land, and when people in the villages through which they passed asked where they were going they would reply, 'A la sainte terre', 'To the Holy Land.' And so they became known as sainte-terre-ers or saunterers. Now these mountains are our Holy Land, and we ought to saunter through them reverently, not 'hike' through them." She followed the quote with the question: "So, what's your style at Upton State Forest? Do you saunter, hike or explore?" I considered myself a hiker before reading the quote, which I was unfamiliar with, as I enjoy the physical part of walking in the woods. I tend to walk fast and usually try to walk as far as I have time for. However, I also revere the forest and I always finish my walks as much spiritually refreshed as physically refreshed. So I'll answer Ellen's question as "I saunter at speed."

Speaking of Ellen, I encourage you to read **"Ellen Arnold, A Force of Nature for the Natural World"** from the October 19th issue of the Mendon Upton Town Crier (it can be viewed at the Town Crier's website at http://www.towncrier.us/pdf/mendon-upton/UTC%2018.10.19.pdf on page 10). It's a well-deserved acknowledgment of her work on behalf of Upton State Forest. The article is part of a series recognizing local female role models.

Finally, I would also like to welcome **Alisa Bernat** to the Friends Board of Directors. Alisa is a long-time Uptonian who has enjoyed walking in the forest and we're glad to have her on the board.

FUSF Board of Directors

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

- Alisa Bernat
- Suzanne Nicholas
- Jerry Zaslow

Related News

http://www.mass.gov/lists/the-citizen-forester-newsletter
http://www.MassLand.org
http://www.hopkintontrailsclub.com
https://uptonma.myrec.com/info/activities/
http://rootsinnature.org/fall-newsletter-2018#more-1730

You're Invited!
Massachusetts Forest and Park Friends Network Gathering

November 10, 2018 **9 AM - 3 PM**

Westborough Fish & Game
1 Rabbit Hill Road, Westborough, MA

Join this years' Annual Massachusetts Forest and Park Friends Network Gathering with the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Stewardship Council.

This is a great opportunity to share your thoughts on USF and hear from **Priscilla Geigis**, Deputy Commissioner for Conservation and Resource Stewardship, and others concerning our Massachusetts forests.

For information on the agenda and registration, go to:
http://dcrfriendsnetwork.org

Be Safe, Be Seen
Hunting Season Is Here – Wear Orange

Hunting Season Dates

October 1 – December 31

- Bow & Arrow: October 1 thru November 24
- Paraplegic hunt: November 1 thru November 3
- Shotgun: November 26 thru December 8
- Muzzle-loaders: December 10 thru December 31

For detailed info on regulations and specific hunting dates, go to the Mass Wildlife web site:

https://www.mass.gov/topics/hunting-fishing

Bay State Trail Riders Association
Awarded DCR Partnership Matching Funds

By Becky Kalagher, President BSTRA

I just received a letter from the Department of Conservation & Recreation stating that they were pleased to inform us that Bay State Trail Riders Association has been selected as an awardee for DCR's FY2019 Partner-ship Matching Funds Program. I had put an application in for some trail work to be done at the Upton State Forest. This is what the project will entail:

Park Road: 2 miles long. Needs swales built in to keep water off the trail. Dealing with steep downhill section .64 of a mile in. Reopen drainage ditches to get pooled water off the trail. Spread ¾- processed gravel for a uniform trail surface.

Middle Road: .1 mile spread ¾- process gravel up to an area that is holding water in the trail. Solution; build a turnpike which would entail a base layer of rip rap, maybe layer of geotextile material, then topped with ¾- processed gravel. Turnpike would be 40' long.

BSTRA will be contributing $25,529.00 to this project. DCR will be matching it dollar for dollar, so they will also be spending $25,529.00 making this a $51,058.00 project in total.

Thanks BSTRA!

Standing water on Middle Road

Very bony trail surface on Park Road.

Reminder!
Be sure to renew your FUSF membership for 2019 –THANK YOU!

Upton Heritage Day

The friends participated in Upton's annual Heritage Day on September 29. This year, we were lucky to have a nice sunny day. Our participation gives us the opportunity to share what we're all about and entice newcomers to join our organization. Did you know, that we have members from as far away as Duck, North Carolina and Coral Gables, Florida? USF is a wonderful benefit for our Upton residents and those from neighboring towns. Thanks to Bill Taylor, Chris Scott and Agnita Knott for sharing our mission with visitors.

BSTRA Luau Benefit Ride

The Bay State Trail Riders Association held its first Luau Benefit Ride, sponsored by Stone Arbor Farm in Upton, on September 9th to raise funds for trail projects. Riders and horses came clad in their best Hawaiian themed outfits, digging out those Hawaiian shirts and provided with leis to complete the look. Everyone enjoyed a Hawaiian themed lunch as well provided by many volunteers. As usual, the trails are marked with ribbons clothes-pinned to the trees for the riders to follow. This was my first attempt to help mark the trails with my horses. One of my horses, Kanion, whose forte is not standing still, provided quite a challenge. But Suzanne Nicholas, Kanion's rider, did a great job getting him to stand still long enough to attach the ribbons. Thanks to Gloria Duhaime and Aurore Carriere for also helping with the marking.

Calendar of Events

November

11/11 – MRA annual race – no parking at the CCC headquarters

11/18 – BSTRA annual pumpkin ride – no parking at the CCC headquarters

01/01/19 – 1st Hike at many MA state parks

Be sure to frequent our **Facebook Page** for great nature pics, local info on our environment and announcements of future events.

Board of Directors meetings – 3rd Monday of each month @ 6:30 PM in the Upton Police Station training room.

Watch for future programs and events as our calendar for 2019 unfolds!

Volunteers needed for 11/11 MRA Race

6 volunteers needed for the 11/11 MRA race at USF to help direct the runners on the correct course. The MRA makes a generous contribution to the FUSF for this effort. If you would like to volunteer, follow this link to register: MRAMultisport.com/events and let Bill Taylor (bill.taylor2@charter.net) or Suzanne Nicholas (hc07645@gmail.com) know by November 7.

FUSF Merchandise for Sale

Visit the FUSF store on our website to order tees, sweatshirts, caps, vests, and tote bags. Orange gear available for hunting season.
Go to www.friendsofuptonstateforest.org

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 12/31/18) (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: