Friends of Upton State Forest Newsletter
Ellen Arnold, Editor

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

Volume 12, Number 2 Spring 2017

Park Serve Day at Upton State Forest

Saturday, April 29
9AM-Noon
Registration and coffee 8:30-9:00

Meet at the Headquarters Building near the intersection of Westborough Rd and Southborough Rd (GPS address is 205 Westboro Rd)

This is your chance to give back to the park! Many hands make light work so we invite you to join Friends of Upton State Forest (FUSF) and the Dept. of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) for our annual clean up. Bring hand tools such as shovels, rakes, and loppers. Dress for the weather with appropriate work shoes and gloves. We also suggest sunscreen and insect repellant. Water will be provided. No power tools.

The public is welcome. A liability waiver is required. Children under 18 need to be accompanied by an adult. Youth groups should contact us in advance so that we can send advance copies of the liability waiver to be filled out by parents.

At noon we will provide a pizza lunch for all volunteers that worked. Although not necessary, it would be helpful to have you contact us to let us know if you plan on coming. Contact DCR at 508-278-7604 or via email to Blackstone.Heritage@state.ma.us. For more info:
http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr/get-involved/volunteer-ops/park-serve-day.html

See page 3 for calendar

Historic Resources Committee Report

By: Ellen Arnold using a photo by Michael Penko

Over the past twelve years I have dedicated a large part of my life to the Friends and Upton State Forest. I have especially enjoyed my role as Historic Resources Committee Co-Chair. It has been a pleasure doing research and sharing information about cellar holes, stonewalls, and other stone artifacts. Working with our Resource Inventory Team (some pictured here) was fun, and very rewarding helping DCR add to their data base of historic resources within our forest. I have learned much from Bob Such, who continues to do deed research building our knowledge about the families who once lived in the forest. Working with DCR Field and Interpretive staff, and staff from their Office of Cultural Resources has taught me many valuable lessons too.

There have been times of great satisfaction when we achieved a significant goal such as recognition in 2005 by Preservation Mass that the CCC Camp was one of their annual *"Ten Most Endangered Historic Resources in Massachusetts"*, the acceptance of the CCC Camp to the *National Register of Historic Places*, working with DCR to provide information for a Cultural Resources Management Plan, and writing grants for work to help preserve the historic Headquarters building. When I visit the CCC Camp I remember what it looked like in 2005 and recognize how far we have come in partnership with DCR. I am also proud of the many programs and hikes we have held to share the historic experience of the forest with others.

There have been some disappointments too. Losing the North Barn, was devastating, and it is frustrating that the last stipulation of the Memorandum of Agreement mitigating the loss of the barn has not been completed. We are still waiting for completion of an Interpretive Plan for the CCC Camp and the forest. Twelve years ago we asked for adaptive reuse which is exactly what saved the buildings in 1938, but as of now DCR has been unable to find a curator for the buildings. It may be time for them to rethink their approach. There are a couple of other challenges that I am hopeful will be resolved, but I have had to learn patience!

In January I submitted my resignation as Chair of the Historic Resources Committee which removes me from the board. My husband and I have some personal commitments that have to take priority right now. You will still see me at work parties and at the forest doing my Adopt-a-Trailhead duties, so I hope you will say hi. The best part has been meeting new people and making friendships that will last a lifetime.

The Friends have made a huge difference at Upton State Forest and the CCC Camp and I am proud to be part of it. All of our members should take pride in that. Thank you for caring and for the difference you have made with your support. Please keep in touch!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friends of Upton State Forest Board Meetings

Board meetings are held at 7:00 PM in the meeting room at the Upton Police Station unless otherwise noted.

April 17, May 15
June 20, July 17

Hike Safe at Upton State Forest
April 8, (Rain April 15)
Register 10 AM, At
10:30 Safety discussion with Park Supervisor, Jody Madden, followed by a group hike

The Board has discussed holding weekday group hikes as a way for people who prefer not to hike alone to join us. There will be a couple of FUSF members and a DCR staff person, when available, to hike with us. If you are interested or want to know of date or other changes, please email news@friendsofuptonstateforest.org. Put "*group hike-Suzanne*" in the subject line. We will put you on the list to be notified when we do the hikes. The amount of interest will determine how often we do them. These are not themed hikes, but rather an opportunity for folks to walk together on various trails.

Participants will have to sign a liability waiver. Please dress for the trails and the weather. We suggest sunscreen and water. Please leave pets at home as some participants are fearful.

FARA Field Day at Upton

Members of the Framingham Amateur Radio Association will set up at Upton State Forest for their annual Field Day on June 24. Ham radio operators across the country use this day as a chance to compete and test their communication abilities. The public is welcome to drop by and see what they do.

Potluck Supper May 19
United Parish Church Vestry
1 Church St, Upton

Supper at 6:00 PM, program at 7:00. Bring a main dish or dessert to share. RSVP to Bill, 508-529-6369 or email news@friendsofuptonstateforest.org by May 18. Tell us if you are bringing a main dish or dessert and how many will attend. More info about the program will be on our website and sent to members. The public is welcome to join us for supper or to come for the program (to be announced) at 7:00.

Thirty Eight: The Hurricane that Transformed New England
June 2, 7:00 PM
At Upton VFW, 15 Milford St, Upton

Join us for a presentation by author, Stephen Long as he discusses his book about the Hurricane of 1938. He will talk about the hurricane and its impact on our landscape and forests.

We are partnering with the Upton Historical Society to bring you this free program, funded in part by the Upton Local Cultural Council.

Bay State Trail Riders (BSTRA) Scavenger Hunt, May 7

Watch for horses on the trails, and if you encounter one please take direction from the rider. They will be using the Headquarters parking area for their trailers.

Upton Agricultural Day
May 20, 9AM to 3PM
Upton Grange Hall, 26 School St

Members of the Upton Grange have arranged a full day with many activities, including a plant swap and sale. This is a free event and the public is welcome. For more information contact the Grange at Upton.MA125@gmail.com.

C. Hookie photo

Ranger Dave Award!

Several members of FUSF and DCR staff were at River Bend Farm recently to present an award to Central Valley District Ranger, Dave Furey. This award is given annually by the Massachusetts Forest and Park Friends Network to a *DCR Friend of the* Year. Dave was unable to be at their conference in October to accept the award and FUSF wanted to be sure he got the recognition he deserves. We nominated Dave "for his dedication to educating park visitors and to keeping our Valley parks safe. His friendly manner and smile make him a wonderful DCR ambassador."

The award was presented by FUSF President, Bill Taylor (right) and Leo Roy, DCR Commissioner, (left) shown with Dave (center) in the photo above. We want to thank Chief Park Ranger, Jennifer Stowe for working with us to arrange the opportunity to give Dave his award.

If you see Ranger Dave on the trail say hi and thank him for what he does.

Volunteer Hours

If you have any volunteer activities that benefit FUSF or Upton State Forest we would like to give you credit for your time. Suzanne Nicholas tracks our volunteer hours and you can report your time to her at the end of each month. Send an email to news@friendsofuptonstateforest.org or call 508-881-7856. Tell her how many hours and what the time was for. The information is shared with DCR, and the Blackstone Corridor.

Parks Pass

Some Massachusetts parks have a fee for day use or parking. Did you know that seniors can get a lifetime pass for $10.00 or that you can borrow a pass from your local library? Check it out at: http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr/massparks/passes-and-fees/buy-parks-pass-dcr-generic.html

E. Arnold photo

Wildlife at Upton State Forest

This fisher was spotted recently at Upton State Forest. What are you seeing for wildlife when you visit? Please share it with us, and if you have a picture let us know if we can use it with credit in our newsletter or on our Facebook page.

Membership Report

We are pleased to welcome the following new members: Peter & Debra Adams of Grafton, and Judith Katz, of Upton. Our total 2017 membership as of March 31 is 87, including renewals and new members. If you have not renewed your membership for 2017, we would appreciate having you do it before April 15 to save us postage on reminder letters.

In Memory

At our annual meeting we observed a moment of silence in memory of Robert (Mac) MacConnell, and Charter Member, Irene Radciewicz. More recently we learned of the passing of Charter Member Robert (Bob) Ethier. Irene was a member of our Historic Resources Committee, while Bob was a great help assisting with surveys at the Trailhead lot when we were just starting. Mac was very generous to loan us tools for our historic displays for events and the third grade CCC program. Our sympathies go out to their family and friends.

Notes from Members and Others

We enjoy hearing from our members and Facebook followers. Some of you send notes along with your membership dues or reply when we send the newsletter out. Sometimes we actually get notes left in the map box at the kiosk! We read them all and consider any suggestions you have.

This thoughtful comment was received from a member with her dues. "I use the trails a few times a year and I have an interest in sustaining the area for people and nature with equitable representation of interests. Child interests should be included to sustain interest in preservation and to build outdoor skills and knowledge. Love the newsletters, love what you do!"

If you see something you like or feel we could improve, please share it with us!

Donations

We are grateful to the following donors who either paid their membership without taking the 10% discount or added a donation to their dues. In order of receipt:

Andre & Christine Navez, Kenneth Prince, H W. & Carolyn Heusman, William and Rose Zariczny, Kathy Craib, Bill Taylor & Marcella Stasa, Jim & Nancy Weckback, Peter & Deborah Adams, Joan Varney in memory of Joseph W. Gorman, Sr, Suzanne Quirk, and one anonymous donation in memory of a beloved dog.

Newsletter Editor Change

Joyce Sandvik has volunteered to become our new newsletter editor. I am looking forward to reading it and the changes she will make. If you have any news, photos, or articles to submit send them to her attention at news@friendsofuptonstateforest.org. I hope you will continue to give positive feedback to Joyce. I loved hearing from you!

Historic Resources Committee

If you are interested in helping with this committee please contact Bill at news@friendsofuptonstateforest.org. It is time to take a look at the future role of the Committee. Much has been done, but we need to identify, and focus on the future role of the committee.

Quarterly Quote

(Excerpts from a Scouts/4-H round)

Make new friends, but keep the old, one is silver, the other is gold. A circle is round, it has no end. That's how long, I will be your friend. You have one hand, I have the other. Put them together, we have each other. You help me, and I'll help you, and together we will see it through. The sky is blue, the Earth is green. I can help to keep it clean.

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 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 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:
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.)

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