FRIENDS OF UPTON STATE FOREST NEWSLETTER

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

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!

VOLUME 13 **NUMBER 2** **SPRING 2018**

On February 9th, Joy Marzolf, Education Coordinator-Public Programs at the Mass Audubon's Broadmoor Wildlife Sanctuary, jointed us once again for a great program on vernal pools.

Green frogs, bull frogs and toads all depend on vernal pools to breed and lay their eggs. Spotted salamanders, blue spotted salamanders and fairy shrimp all visit these vernal pools. You are also likely to see fingernail clams, wood ducks and painted and spotted turtles.

Joy came with live specimens for attendees to see and touch including a snake, salamander and turtle – handling the snake by folks was a big hit.

Next time you're in the forest, seek out a vernal pool and see if you can spot some of the wildlife.

Message from President Bill Taylor

I recently attended a "Certified Interpretive Host" training session presented by the Department of Conservation and Recreation to staff and members of Friends groups. Interpretive programs are a core part of the Friends' mission "to preserve, enhance and protect the natural and historic resources of Upton State Forest" as they help develop a group of committed Forest stewards. The following quotes very eloquently describe why interpretive programs are so important:

"In the end we will conserve only what we love; we will love only what we understand; and we will understand only what we are taught."

Baba Dioum, Sengalese forestry engineer, from a presentation at a 1968 meeting of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources.

"Through interpretation, understanding; through understanding, appreciation; through appreciation, protection."

Freeman Tilden, one of the first people to set down the principles of interpretation, from his book "Interpreting Our Heritage."

My own desire to protect the Forest has certainly followed the path described by Dioum and Tilden. It was Friends programs that I attended to help me understand the story of the Forest hinted at by its camp-like entrance, mysterious water holes, and the stone walls and cellar holes throughout, that led me to become involved in protecting the Forest. The more I knew, the more I cared. I realize just how powerful our programs can be in developing a group of Forest protectors. They worked on me.

Providing Friends groups with interpretive training is a wise move by DCR as it does not have the staff to interpret all of its facilities. To outsource some interpretation to groups of dedicated volunteers who clearly love their parks and forests, to train them to more effectively interpret, is an effective way to protect them.

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

Interested in joining the FUSF Board?

We'd love to have you – diversity of ideas are the key to a successful organization. Just send us an email at friends@friendsofuptonstateforest.org to let us know your interest.

Make Your Own Storybook Walk

sponsored by Blackstone Heritage Corridor
held on March 15

Despite the recent Nor'easter earlier in the week, parents and children met at the CCC Building at Upton State Forest to join DCR park staff special guest **Marjorie Turner Hollman** for a free Thursday afternoon family program and enjoy a nature discovery walk. Participants were encouraged to explore and find ideas to create a nature story. Following the walk, participants gathered in the CCC Building to draw or write down discoveries to create their own book.

Marjorie is a personal, family historian and freelance writer. Check out her blog with more details and pics on this storybook adventure.
https://marjorieturner.com/2018/03/20/fun-in-the-snow-upton-state-forest-make-your-own-storybook-hike/

Thanks to DCR for sponsoring this program with a special thanks to Marjorie and all who participated to make this such a fun activity.

Help FUSF Shape the Future of Upton State Forest!

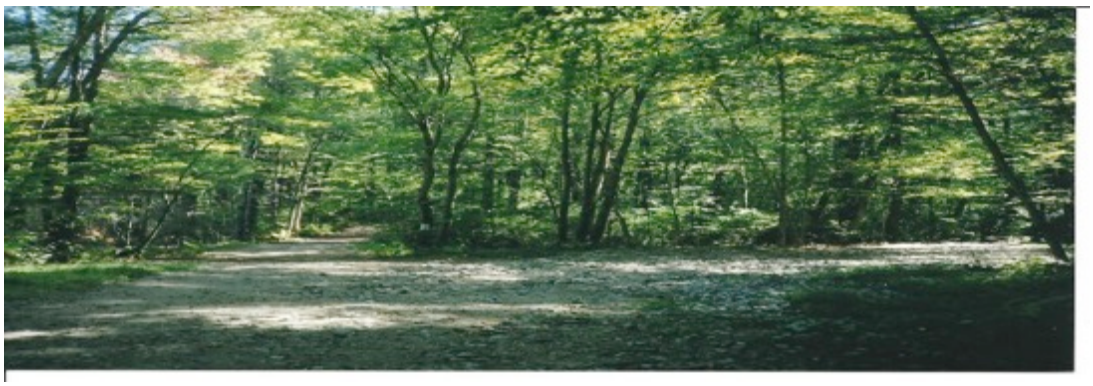
Resource Management Plan (RMP)
Important Meeting and Discussion
Tuesday, April 24, 6:30 PM
At Upton VFW

Friends of Upton State Forest are very pleased that the Department of Conservation is beginning the process of developing a Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the Blackstone Complex which includes Upton State Forest. A Resource Management Plan looks at all aspects of the park and establishes guidelines for future management. The process was introduced at a meeting on March 28 attended by members of the Friends. The first public comment period ends on April 27, 2018. FUSF plans to provide DCR with as much pertinent information as we are aware of before that date. After the first draft is produced, the Board of Directors will submit comment before the final version is released.

FUSF is asking your help in sharing your knowledge, concerns, ideas, and vision of the park. The RMP is an incredibly important document and we need your photos, knowledge of historic and natural resources, trails, and structures within the park. This includes all sections of the state forest in Upton and surrounding towns. DCR Project Manager, Paul Cavanagh, will be there to answer questions and hear your thoughts.

What does Upton State Forest mean to you? What do you do when you visit the park? Did you ever live or work at the CCC Camp? Do you have bird lists, plant lists, mushroom lists? What do you see for wildlife? Are you aware of unusual stone features, cellar holes, or stone walls? Do you have photos (current or vintage), books, documents, maps, or other information that would help? Are you aware of man-made structures in any section of the forest? Do you have concerns about the facilities or safety issues?

If you can't attend the meeting, watch the FUSF Facebook page or DCR's website for announcements and written comment deadlines. If you have questions about this meeting you can also contact news@friendsofuptonstateforest.org or 508-529-6610. The deadline for information sharing for the first draft is April 27, 2018. You can view the presentation made at the first meeting at this link: https://www.mass.gov/service-details/blackstone-complex-rmp.



You Can Help

Help us save trees and money – if you receive our newsletter in hardcopy and you have an email address, we can send you the newsletter via email -– you'll receive it sooner, it will be in color and help us save trees and the cost of copies and stamps – just send us an email to friends@friendsofuptonstateforest.org and let us know. Thank you!

Calling all Volunteers

USF needs your help! Winter has taken its toll on the forest and we have two upcoming volunteer opportunities to help clean it up.

Saturday, April 28 @ 8:30 AM– Park Serve Day – help celebrate Massachusetts Park Serve Day and join the DCR for an USF clean-up day. FUSF will provide coffee, doughnuts, pizza and water. Have a favorite salad or dessert you'd like to share? Bring it along and we'll add it to the refreshment table.

Saturday, June 16 @ 8:30 AM – the Bay State Trail Riders Association (BSTRA) is having a trails workday. Join us in clearing and trimming our favorite USF trails. Refreshments will be provided compliments of BSTRA and FUSF.

It's Time to Renew

Your FUSF membership dues enable us to provide programs such as current and historical information on USF, nature related topics, hiking safety and contribute to the maintenance of USF trails.

A renewal form is attached to the end of this newsletter for your convenience. Thank You - Your Support is appreciated!!

Welcome New Members

Debbie Purcell of Uxbridge, MA
Elizabeth and Andrew Hickman of Westborough

FUSF Merchandise for Sale

Visit the FUSF store on our website to order tees, sweatshirts, caps, vests, and tote bags. Spruce up your spring and summer wardrobe with our FUSF merchandise!

"Annual FUSF Potluck Dinner and Program"

Please join us for our annual business meeting followed by a Potluck supper and special program.

It's a great time to connect with fellow FUSF members and guests, enjoy a nice meal and program.

WATCH FOR THE DATE IN MAY!

Calendar of Events

April

04/21 – Upton Clean-up Day

04/28 – Park Serve Day – 8:30 AM at USF

May

Pot luck dinner and program – date TBD

05/13 – BSTRA annual scavenger hunt ride at USF – no parking at the CCC headquarters

June

06/16 –BSTRA trail workday - 8:30 AM at USF

06/23 - Ham Radio Field Day at USF – 2 PM to 6 PM

October

10/28 – BSTRA annual Pumpkin Ride at USF – no parking at the CCC headquarters

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 @ 7PM in the Upton Police Station training room.

Watch for future programs and events as our calendar for 2018 unfolds!

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: