FRIENDS OF UPTON STATE FOREST NEWSLETTER

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

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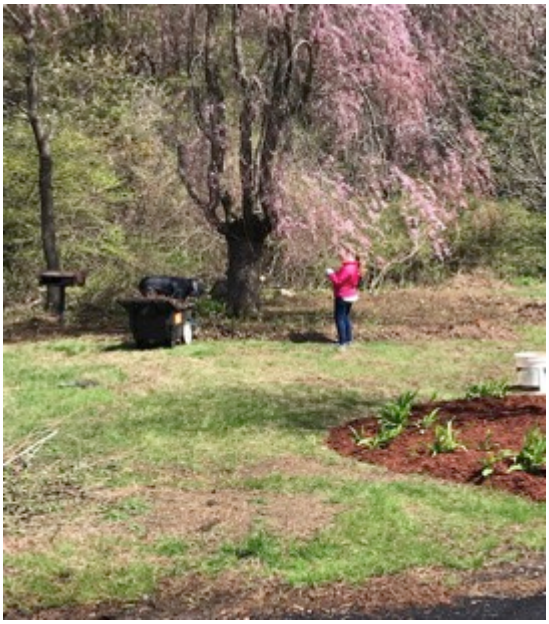
Upton State Forest Celebrates Park Serve Day

Despite the threat of rain, 21 people came out on Saturday, April 27th to volunteer for Park Serve Day at Upton State Forest. Wielding rakes, clippers, and chain saws, volunteers cleaned up the CCC headquarters, trimming trees, raking, mulching and planting flowers. Others headed out to the trails to clear the Swamp, Middle, Loop and Hawk trails. The Friends of Upton State Forest provided much needed nourishment of pizza and drinks after several hours of hard work.

Thanks to state representative David Muradian for joining the celebration and all the volunteers from the Friends of Upton State Forest, Bay State Trail Riders volunteers sponsored by Homefield Credit Union, DCR and others who helped get USF ready for spring and summer activities at the Forest.

Come on out and enjoy!



President Bill Taylor

In lieu of the President's Message, we're taking the opportunity to honor FUSF President, Bill Taylor.

Contributed by Ellen Arnold

At a recent ceremony, Upton Grange #125 recognized FUSF president, Bill Taylor as their "Upton Citizen of the Year". Each year the group honors an Upton citizen for exceptional community service. Bill was presented with a certificate that reads "In recognition of outstanding service to this community and mankind. Your dedication and personal involvement are gratefully and sincerely acknowledged". State Representative David Muradian attended the ceremony and presented a certificate from the Massachusetts House of Representatives recognizing Bill's service. In addition to serving as FUSF President, Bill is an Upton Assessor and a Library Trustee. He also serves on the Open Space Committee, Land Stewardship Committee, and Green Community Committee, as well as being a Board Member for Upton Historical Society. Congratulations, Bill! We are happy that your good work is recognized!

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

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

Study shows kids who spend time in nature become happier adults

https://www.adventure-journal.com/2019/02/study-kids-who-spend-time-in-nature-become-happier-

Living With Beavers

On March 8th, Kathleen Regan, a teacher naturalist for the Blue Hills Trailside Museum, presented a fascinating education session on beavers.

Known as nature's wetland engineers, beaver dam building activities provide many benefits to the ecosystem. These include controlling downstream flooding and erosion, alleviating droughts, improving water quality and providing habitats for wetland vegetation and wildlife.

Some fun facts about beavers are:

- They are North America's largest rodent.
- Pre-colonialism, there were approximately 60 million beavers in the U.S. There are less than 10% of that today.
- There are approximately 70,000 beavers in Massachusetts today.
- Beavers have few predators. Some of these are fisher cats, coyotes, and river otters.
- They can live up to 20 years or more.
- They stay with the same mate for life and breed once a year.
- Beavers are strict vegetarians.
- They have an excellent sense of smell.
- Beavers do not hibernate.
- They slap their tails to signal danger.

A fisher cat, a beaver natural predator

If you have questions or concerns about beavers, you can visit the Massachusetts wildlife web site at https://www.mass.gov/service-details/learn-about-beavers.

The program concluded with a Q&A, attendees viewing the stuffed animals brought by Kathleen and some refreshments. Finally a raffle won by Marcella Stasa including a stuffed beaver.

Our Beaver raffle – provided by Mary McManus

New Commercial Dog Walking Policy Announced

The following is an excerpt of the Department of Conservation and Recreation's new commercial dog walking policy which was announced on February 21, 2019. For additional information, check out the following web site: https://www.mass.gov/guides/dogs-in-dcr-parks.

The annual Commercial Dog Walking Permit will authorize a handler for up to eight dogs. Requirements for an individual to receive a permit and remain in good standing with the agency include:

• All dogs must be properly licensed in accordance with M.G.L. c. 140. section 137 and 141 and all applicable local municipal ordinances;
• All dogs must wear a collar (no choke or prong collars are allowed) with current tags containing detailed license and rabies vaccine information;
• All dogs must remain leashed within on-leash areas, with a leash no longer than 10 feet in length tethered to a person; and,
• All dogs must be under control of the commercial dog walker at all times regardless if in an approved off-leash area or on-leash area.

Additionally, commercial dog walkers must display their issued permit while walking dogs on OCR parklands and abide by all dogs in DCR parks rules and etiquette , including proper disposal of dog waste.

Furthermore, with the exception of service dogs, dogs are not allowed at the following locations: Walden Pond State Reservation in Concord, City Square Park in Charlestown, Plum Island's Sandy Point State Reservation in Newburyport, the Boston Harbor Islands, inside DCR buildings (administrative offices, visitors centers, restrooms, etc.), indoor skating rinks, yurts and cabins, all OCR swimming pools, all OCR swimming beaches between May 1 and September 15 (unless otherwise posted), and all of DCR's Division of Water Supply Protection land and bodies of water, such as the Quabbin, Sudbury, Wachusett, and Foss Watersheds, and the Ware River Roger H. Lonergan Intake protection zone.

SAFELY SHARE THE TRAILS…As the warmer weather encourages more users in our forests, it's helpful to remember trail etiquette.

- Bikers yield to Hikers and Horses
- Hikers yield to Horses
- Horses have the natural right of way

Potluck Supper and Tornado Program

Pic by Mike Penco

About 27 FUSF members attended our annual potluck supper and program on Friday, May 17. Tom Todd was our guest speaker and presented the Upton Tornado of 2018.

Tom's knowledge on tornadoes is self-taught, studying their cause and assessing their effect on Upton and surrounding towns. Tom educated us on how tornadoes are formed and how Doppler radar detects weather (clear skies, rain, snow, etc.) using distance and pitch frequency.

On July 26, 2018 at 1:41 AM, an EF1 tornado swept through Upton. It lasted for 2 minutes traveling for 1 mile at 30 MPH and packing 100 mile hour winds. It caused approximately $40K in damage including taking a roof off of a house. Tom headed out to assess the forest damage between the gas line and Pratt Hill Road and noted a number of pine tree trunks snapped off or uprooted and a splintered hickory tree. Tom explained that you can determine the tornado's path by looking at the direction that the tree breakage occurs.

Although the Northeast isn't in the mid-west "tornado alley", tornadoes are more common here than you might think.

If a tornado is coming your way, your best strategy is to head to an interior room with no windows, on the lowest floor and protect yourself from flying debris.

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Available at amazon

Do you shop Amazon? You can help support FUSF by using AmazonSmile Charity Lists and selecting FUSF when you order. A percentage of your order will go to FUSF. THANK YOU

Welcome New Members!
Amy Beth Lane of Upton

FUSF Merchandise for Sale

Visit the FUSF store on our website to order tees, sweatshirts, caps, vests, and tote bags. Go to www.friendsofuptonstateforest.org

Calendar of Events

June

06/08 – 6 mile hike led by Jody Madden & Molly Cardoza from DCR – ages 16 & up – from 12 – 3 PM – meet at the USF headquarters

06/22 – CCC resources national register historic district hike sponsored by DCR and FUSF – tour of campsite then 3 mile hike – 1 - 3 PM – meet at the USF headquarters

July

07/28 – BSTRA Luau ride – no parking at the headquarters

October

10/27 – BSTRA annual pumpkin ride – no parking at the 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 @ 7:00 PM in the 1st floor conference room at the Upton Town Hall.

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

Coming Soon!

Stay tuned for information on regular hikes in USF led by members of the FUSF.

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: