FRIENDS OF UPTON STATE FOREST NEWSLETTER

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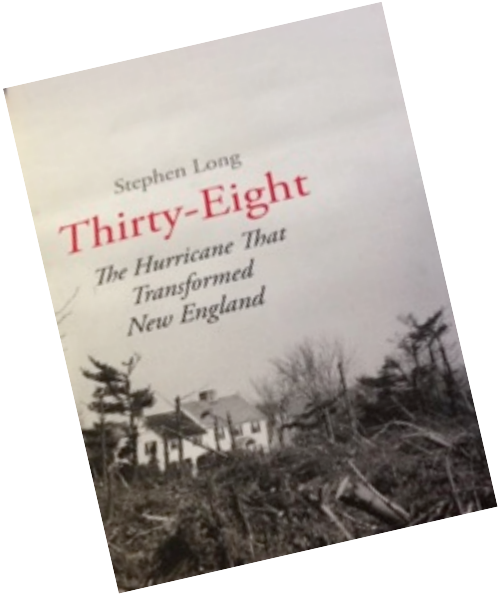
Thirty-Eight
The Hurricane that Transformed New England



A fascinating program about the Hurricane of 1938 was held at the Upton VFW on Friday, June 2nd. Stephen Long, expert and author, captivated approximately 60 attendees as he presented an account of the devastating effects of this event throughout Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Vermont.

The program began with several audience members sharing their own experience in the midst of a hurricane, including a gentleman who was a teenager during the 1938 hurricane, as he recalled a collapsed roof.

At the conclusion of the program, Stephen's book was available for sale (a must read) and all enjoyed light refreshments. A raffle was held for a lovely set of summer barbeque serving items donated by Kathy Craib and the lucky winner was Karen Adelman.

A big thank-you to Stephen Long, the Friends of Upton State Forest, the Upton Historical Society, the Upton Open Space Committee, and the Upton Cultural Council for making this program possible. Thank you to all those who contributed to our refreshment bar – always a nice addition to our programs.

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1938 Hurricane by the Numbers

- Over 600 people lost their lives;
- 2.6 billion board feet of forest was blown down = 430,000 logging trucks;
- The cost of the damage in today's dollars = $3 billion dollars.

Message from President Bill Taylor

I want to acknowledge and thank Ellen Arnold for all that she has done for the Friends and the Forest over her 12 years of service on the Board of Directors. Ellen recently resigned from the Board to work on other things in her life.

Ellen was a founding member and the first president of the Friends. She also served as Secretary and Chair of the Historic Resources Committee, and was the Editor of the newsletter (editing and writing articles for over 40) and created and continues to administer our Facebook page.

The Friends achieved a lot during her service on the Board – we raised over $20,000 for capital improvements, digitization of CCC photos held by the Smithsonian, and the preservation of CCC documents held by the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR); helped with the successful National Register nomination; conducted over 100 programs; documented the history of the forest and located historic resources; created a website; and met with legislators and DCR staff to advocate for the forest – and Ellen was deeply involved in all of these things and a key factor in their success.

And we are not the only ones to acknowledge how much she contributed. Ellen received awards from the Massachusetts Commission of the Status of Women, Metacomet Land Trust, National Association of Civilian Conservation Corp Alumni Chapter 158, National Association of State Park Directors, Massachusetts Forest and Parks Friends Network, and the Upton Grange for her work on behalf of the Friends and Upton State Forest.
The Board will miss the passion and energy Ellen brought to our meetings and undertakings, and are grateful for all she did for and with us. I know she plans to stay involved with the Friends and the Forest and we look forward to continuing to work with her. Thanks Ellen!

What could be more fun than playing in mud puddles and discovering worms?

Welcome Generation "Z"

Upton State Forest Welcomes

Roots in Nature Homeschool Cooperative

by Sveta Charney

Roots in Nature Homeschool Cooperative is a year-round outdoor program focused on nurturing wonder and open-ended play in nature. Parents encourage their children to explore the environment through observation, interaction, experimentation, and inquiry. Ample free-play, open-ended props, and natural materials are used to aid exploration and investigation and offer opportunities to develop a deep love and appreciation of our Earth.

Recently, Roots in Nature started an outdoor program for the public called Woodland Adventures. We meet every Friday at Upton State Forest from 10 AM-12 PM in all safe weather. Parents are required to stay and take in all the benefits of nature along with their children using only objects found in nature as toys. We will provide occasional special events with guest speakers and activities but all other days will be unstructured-play in nature.
Hope you can join us! You can contact us at rootsinnaturecoop@gmail.com, Angela Stormont, Director.

Welcome New FUSF Members

- Angela and Brian Stormont of Uxbridge
- Satya Chunduru and Srideui Nalam of Upton
- Emma Rogers and Steven Jensen of Sutton

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Book Corner

Looking for summer reading? Try these:
Thirty-eight The Hurricane That Transformed New England by Stephen Long
Easy Walks in Massachusetts by Marjorie Turner Hollman

Park Serve Day
April 29

30+ volunteers met at Upton State Forest on April 29th to celebrate the 11th annual Massachusetts Park Serve Day sponsored by the DCR.

Volunteers from FUSF, BSTRA, Roots in Nature and others joined in the fun. We raked, planted flowers, pulled weeds, swept, and put down mulch to enhance the headquarters and parking area to provide a welcoming entrance for patrons of the forest.

After the work was done, we all enjoyed pizza and thirst quenching drinks as a reward for a job well done!

Thanks to Suzanne Nicholas and the DCR for organizing the work and all of the volunteers who helped with the clean-up.

Annual BSTRA Scavenger Hunt

After a string of spring rainy days, the sun shined on the annual Bay State Trails Riders scavenger hunt. Thirty+ riders and twenty-one trailers descended upon Upton State Forest on May 7th for this annual event. For the nineteenth year, Lurissa Marston and her team coordinated the hunt for various items including a “conjoined” double acorn. Next time you’re in the forest, see if you can find one!

Thanks to our Partners and Volunteers

Congratulations BSTRA!

The Department of Conservation & Recreation Awards Committee awarded the Bay State Trail Riders Association their 2017 Shared Stewardship Award. This award is presented to associations for extraordinary contributions to furthering the stewardship of our state parks system. The DCR Awards Committee was moved and inspired by BSTRA's continued contributions for over 20 years at various state parks in the DCR system including Upton State Forest. BSTRA provides monetary contributions to various trail projects as well as trail work days to maintain our trails.

National Trails Day – June 3rd

National Trails Day was celebrated throughout the state with volunteers helping to clean-up the trail systems in many of our Massachusetts state parks. The DCR coordinated projects in the Blue Hills Reservation in Milton, Great Brook Farm in Carlisle, River Bend Farm in Uxbridge, Goat Hill Trail in Uxbridge/Northbridge and Mt. Greylock State Reservation to name a few. Go to www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr/ for more information.

Thank you Valley Tech Students

Students from Valley Tech arrived on a beautiful June day to paint the CCC Headquarters building. This was part of the Partnership Matching Funds project. Thanks for all your hard work!

Expanding our Footprint

A new trail was opened to the public in June connecting Sudbury Valley Trust's Whitehall Woods and Whitehall and Upton State Forests on Pond Street in Hopkinton. Try it out!

Potluck Supper and Hike Safe

90% of hikers in our national forests hike alone

On April 8th, FUSF held its first organized hike (thank-you Suzanne Nicholas) preceded by a Hike Safe program given by Jody Madden from DCR. We were so impressed by the program we invited Jody back to share his hiking tips at our annual potluck supper held on May 19th.

After a delicious dinner and a number of decadent desserts (thanks to all who contributed their dishes to share), President Bill Taylor introduced Jody who unpacked his hiking gear and shared his hiking expertise. Whether you're a casual day hiker or ready to tackle the Appalachian Trail, Jody's tips and experience were invaluable.

Here are some take aways from Jody's program:

1) Pack light in a light-weight backpack with a waist strap to keep the pressure off your back;
2) Hydrate – recommend a water bottle with a filter that can purify any water source;
3) Stay dry - wear moisture wicking clothes and comfortable shoes (no jeans or cotton T-shirts);
4) Gaiters help keep ticks at bay;
5) Fire kit – matches and fat wood; fire can be used as a signal, to cook food and create warmth;
6) Bring a whistle – Jody promised if he hears a whistle, he'll come running;
7) Be sure to wrap everything you carry in airtight plastic bags to keep everything dry.

Dear Friends,

This is my first newsletter since taking over as editor from Ellen Arnold. A hard act to follow I'm sure you'll agree. It has been a particularly busy several months evidenced by all the activity on the previous pages. I would love to hear from you regarding the newsletter or other FUSF topics and would like to share your thoughts with other readers in future newsletters. Please E-mail your comments to friends@friendsofuptonstateforest.org - I look forward to hearing from you. *Joyce*

Join us for an Open House

Open House! Join us and the Blackstone Heritage Corridor "GO" Program on the 3rd Sunday in July, August and September from 1 PM – 3 PM at the headquarters building in Upton State Forest.

Calendar of Events

July

7/16 – USF open house 1 – 3 PM @ headquarters building

7/23 – BSTRA trivia ride – no parking at the headquarters parking area

August

8/20 – USF open house 1 – 3 PM @ headquarters building

September

9/17 – USF open house 1 – 3 PM @ headquarters building

9/30 Visit us at Upton Heritage Day

October

10/29 – BSTRA pumpkin ride – no parking at the headquarters parking area

November

11/3 – Save the Date! For our fall nature program – details coming soon.

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

Be sure to frequent our Facebook page for announcements of future events

FRIENDS OF UPTON STATE FOREST
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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: