

FRIENDS OF UPTON STATE FOREST NEWSLETTER



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SUMMER 2019

Save the Date! 2 Great Programs on November 2nd
Make a Day of It and Bring the Family

Live Owl Program

Where: Upton VFW

When: Saturday, November 2nd, 2019 1 PM – 2 PM

What: Kathleen Regan, from the Blue Hills Trailside Museum, will bring 3 live owls and present an exciting program on these interesting creatures.

Kathleen has a BS in Biology from SUNY Albany and a MS in Ecological Teaching and Learning from Lesley University. She is a Teacher Naturalist providing environmental education and guiding for all age groups. Kathleen handles and presents live animal ambassadors for school and public programs including owls and other birds of prey.



This program is sponsored by the FUSF is free and open to the public. Come out and find out more about owls and bring the family!

Celebrate Archaeology Day and Native American Heritage Month at Upton State Forest

Where: Upton State Forest

When: Saturday November 2nd, 2019 10 AM – 2 PM

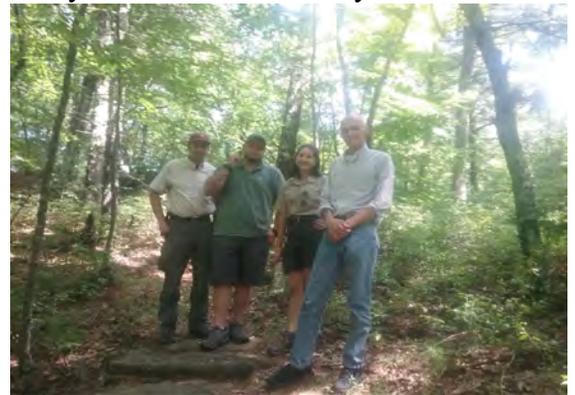
What: *Be an archaeologist for the day!* Learn how to think like an archaeologist...excavate a test unit, screen for and identify artifacts, and document and record soil levels. Other activities focus on the extensive and rich peopling of the area dating back thousands of years. Find out why this place was and is so special to the First People of Massachusetts. Learn how to use a bow-drill, grind corn with a mortar and pestle, use stone tools, weave a fish net, make a ceramic pot in the traditional indigenous way, and even try your hand (arm) at throwing an atlat. Bring water (and work gloves if excavating and screening).

This program is sponsored by the Department of Conservation and Recreation is free and all are welcome.

President Bill Taylor

I would like to introduce Matthew Villamaino and Molly Cordoza to the Friends. Matthew is the new Central Region Regional Interpretive Coordinator and Molly is new the Visitor Services Supervisor at Blackstone River and Canal Heritage State Park and together they are responsible for programs at Upton State Forest. Molly has already led two hikes at Upton State Forest – one that highlighted the Civilian Conservation Corps resources and one that was a long hike on some of the less used trails. Molly has also arranged with Ellen Berkland, the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Archaeologist, for an archaeology program at Upton State Forest on November 2 (see the Calendar of Events for more detail.)

In August, Ellen Arnold and I joined Molly and Park Supervisor Jody Madden on a visit by Matthew to introduce him to Upton State Forest and its Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and colonial resources. Matthew is working on finalizing the Master Interpretive Plan. The plan is in the final stages of internal review at DCR, and after that is complete DCR will solicit comments on the plan from stakeholders and then finalize it. The likely completion date is in the first quarter of 2020. The plan is the last item from the Memorandum of Understanding related to the collapse of the barn in 2011 that DCR needs to complete.



I am also happy to report that DCR and the Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical School (BVT) have entered into a 3-year agreement to work on the headquarters and cottage buildings at Upton State Forest. Two years ago, BVT students replaced some of the siding on the HQ building and repainted it. The Friends were awarded a Partnership Matching Grant of \$4,000 that together with the Friends contribution of \$2,000 was used to purchase the siding for the BVT project. I expect that the new arrangement will create opportunities for the Friends to contribute to more projects.

I would like to thank the Bay State Trail Riders and the Partnership Matching Grant program for contributing over \$50,000 to fund improvements to Middle and Park Road. If you've used them you've seen the work that's been done, and there is more to be done. Finally, I'd also like to thank the employees of EMC-Dell that came out in June for a work day at the forest. They did some work around the headquarters, including around the flagpole, and cleared the trail off of Park Road to the steps and firepits built by the CCC.

FUSF Board of Directors

Bill Taylor, President
Joyce Sandvik, Vice President
Mary McManus, Secretary
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Agnita Knott, Membership
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- Alisa Bernat
- Suzanne Nicholas

EEE is here! Protect Yourself

Upton's risk level has been updated to critical.

Be vigilant - stay indoors from dawn to dusk, wear long sleeves and pants and use bug spray.

Dell Employees Volunteer at USF

On Wednesday, June 26th, a group of 15 employees from the Dell (formerly EMC) Hopkinton office volunteered to help with some clean-up at Upton State Forest (USF). Dell encourages its employees to volunteer quarterly in their communities to give back. Thanks to Heather Lemire, a Bay State Trail Riders member, who thought that USF would be a great place for a group of employees to help out.

Bill Taylor, President of the Friends of Upton State Forest, started us off with a brief history of the Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC) and the development of the forest. After the introduction, one group went out with Bill and Mary McManus and another with Suzanne Nicholas and Joyce Sandvik to tackle some trail clearing. A third group stayed at the headquarters with Ellen Arnold to help with clean-up and plant flowers around the flag pole.

Thanks Heather for thinking of USF where volunteers are always welcome. Thanks to all the Dell employees (Nicole Sweeney, Jon Siegal, Shannon Champion, David Giesecke, William Geller, Ben Jastrab, Jillian Kaplan, Karen Nunes, Cassie Mcnamara, Courtney Mcbrien, Allan Waters, Nick Petrillo, Jim Graves, David Glynn) who took time out of their day to help and Bill, Mary, Suzanne, Mary, Ellen and Joyce for leading the charge. Trails are always in need of clearing and sprucing up the headquarters provides a pleasant environment for our visitors.

Thank you - Your work is very much appreciated!



FUSF visits Upton Town Library Children's Program

Contributed by Alisa Bernat

The Upton Town Library (under the caring leadership of Mrs. Murphy) recently sponsored a series of "Read-Around-Town" story hours for children and adults. Important places and people in town that help make Upton a special community were highlighted, and Upton State Forest was one of those unique places! Adults and children were treated to books that shared a love of nature, maps, and stories of animals and plants. Please visit the forest with your own family and enjoy the many wonderful sights and sounds of our woods. Many thanks to Mr. Bill Taylor for his excellent presentation that featured our town's "green gem", the Upton State Forest!



BSTRA Annual Luau Ride

On July 28th, the Bay State Trail Riders Association held their Luau ride at Upton State Forest. Riders and horses came out decked in their best Hawaiian getups and enjoyed a bounty of island inspired food for lunch.



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>

Calendar of Events



September

09/28 – Upton Heritage Day 10 AM – 2 PM

October

**10/27 – BSTRA annual Pumpkin Ride at USF
8 AM – 2 PM - no parking at the
headquarters**

November

**11/02 – FUSF Owl program at Upton VFW
1 PM – 2 PM**

**11/02 – Archaeology Day and Native
American Heritage Month at USF
10 AM - 2 PM**

**11/10 – MRA half-marathon at USF
8 AM – 2 PM – 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!**

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



**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**

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: