

FRIENDS OF UPTON STATE FOREST NEWSLETTER



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Happy Birthday CCC Camp

Summer 2020 President's Message

This August is the 85th anniversary of the opening of the Upton State Forest Civilian Conservation Corps camp. Normally we would have an event to celebrate the anniversary, but that's not possible this year. To celebrate I offer this brief history of the camp. According to the Westborough Chronotype, "nearly 200 youngsters arrived in Westboro on Monday [August 5, 1935] and reported for service at that Civilian Conservation Corps camp situated in North Upton, near the Westboro line. The boys, coming from all parts of the state, were sent here from the preliminary training camp at Fort Devens, Ayer." Over the next three years over 1,300 young men passed through the camp completing projects such as the construction of Park Road and Dean Pond Dam, reducing fire hazard (A real problem then. In early May of 1935 a fire burned over nearly 1,400 acres in North Upton including the area that is now Upton's Warren Brook Watershed Conservation Area), eradicating gypsy moths, and planting over 400,000 trees. The young men also helped Upton in times of need, published a camp paper, studied English, Arithmetic, welding and surveying, played basketball at the Town Hall, swam in Lake Chauncey, and saw movies in at Westboro's Strand. The youngest of the enrollees would be 100 years old now. It's up to us now to help preserve the memories and history of the camp.



Did You Know?

Mass Audubon hosts a number of information sessions on various topics on nature, climate and bird life to name a few. Check out the [Mass Audubon](https://www.massaudubon.org/?utm_source=april2020&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=explorations) web site at https://www.massaudubon.org/?utm_source=april2020&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=explorations.

The University of Massachusetts, Amherst holds a series of webinars on ticks and tick control. You can view past webinars and register for future ones at <https://ag.umass.edu/landscape/education-events/ticktalk-with-tickreport-webinars>.

Visit the [Blackstone Valley web site](https://blackstoneheritagecorridor.org) at <https://blackstoneheritagecorridor.org> to keep abreast of all of the current news, activities and events in the **Blackstone Valley**.

The **Town of Upton** has published its [open space and recreation plan](https://www.uptonma.gov/open-space-committee/pages/open-space-recreation-plan-2020?fbclid=IwAR2UgaOIAvJgtahmMWzJkZ_k1pSgTrXPeYV8bcb8W2hkMMHp1noXsjaoVtw) on the town web site at https://www.uptonma.gov/open-space-committee/pages/open-space-recreation-plan-2020?fbclid=IwAR2UgaOIAvJgtahmMWzJkZ_k1pSgTrXPeYV8bcb8W2hkMMHp1noXsjaoVtw. Give it a read!

EEE is Back

The Department of Public Health has detected EEE infected mosquitoes in Massachusetts. Keep up-to-date with the latest information about this disease in Massachusetts in this [news release](https://www.mass.gov/news/state-public-health-officials-announce-seasons-first-eee-positive-mosquito-sample-0) at

<https://www.mass.gov/news/state-public-health-officials-announce-seasons-first-eee-positive-mosquito-sample-0>
Be sure to take precautions to prevent getting infected!



Great News!

The **Town of Upton and DCR** reached an agreement to co-hold a conservation restriction (CR) on the 48 acre Robertson property on Fowler Street. This property spans wooded uplands, wetlands, and a section of Warren Brook which provides a link in a network of protected lands. It also provides habitat for a variety of wildlife, including the blue-spotted salamander, the eastern box turtle, and the wood turtle.

Thanks Ellen Arnold for sharing this great news!

Great American Outdoors Act

President Trump signed into law legislation that will devote nearly \$3 billion annually to conservation projects, outdoor recreation and maintenance of national parks and other public lands. For details see <https://abc3340.com/news/nation-world/trump-signs-3b-a-year-plan-to-boost-conservation-parks?fbclid=IwAR3kna5NPas9bEPBq-AcZOPnNsimKiyhv3hDq00GmvLmnZoM4xlgZtP>

Welcome New Members

Mark Kaminsky, Grafton, MA

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

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Visit [nps.gov](https://www.nps.gov) to find information on current park conditions and operations. Make a plan, have supplies on hand, and if you are sick, stay home.

KEEP IT CLOSE

Respect state and local ordinances regarding the open status of the site you're visiting. The NPS is working closely with both government and health authorities to gradually expand access & services through the NPS.

KEEP IT WITH YOU

Brought something in? It's your responsibility to take it out. Trash pickup and restrooms will continue to be limited through many NPS sites; as always, follow the "leave no trace" rule.

KNOW YOUR LIMITS

Save that difficult hike or new outdoor activity for a future date, in the event of injury or accident. This will help first responders, parks and communities continue to focus on pandemic response.

KEEP YOUR DISTANCE

When venturing outdoors, keep recreation to members of your household. Provide others with plenty of room in accordance with CDC social distancing guidelines of six feet, and cover your nose and mouth if safe social distancing is not possible.

RECREATE RESPONSIBLY

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

A Message from the National Park Service

STAY SAFE!

Calendar of Events



August

85th Anniversary of the CCC Camp

September

9/26 – BSTRA pumpkin ride – no parking at the headquarters

9/26 – Upton Heritage Day (decision pending by the Historical Society)

October

10/25 – BSTRA luau ride – no parking at the headquarters

November

11/8 – MRA race – 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. (via Zoom call during Covid-19)

Watch for future programs and events as our calendar for 2020 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 12/31/20) (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: