FRIENDS OF UPTON STATE FOREST NEWSLETTER

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FUSF 2017
A YEAR IN REVIEW

It was a busy year for the Friends of Upton State Forest and activities in the forest. Here are a few highlights from 2017.

- **Friends volunteered over 430 hours** of their time in support of various USF activities.
- **Friends donated more than $4200** to help us achieve our mission.
- **Friends sponsored 4 programs** – ***Penguins of Antarctica***, ***Hike Safe***, ***The Hurricane of 1938***, and ***Wildlife in our Backyards*** to educate attendees about the forest and its wildlife and environment related topics.
- **The open wells in USF** will finally get capped resulting in safer footing for all who use the forest.
- The **Roots in Nature Homeschool Cooperative** started using USF to educate the youngest generation on the importance of our environment.
- **30+ volunteers** helped clean up the CCC camp on Park Serve Day on April 29.
- **Valley Tech students** painted the CCC building in the spring.
- On April 8th, **FUSF held its first organized hike preceded by a Hike Safe program** given by Jody Madden from DCR.
- **Friends sponsored 3 open houses** at the CCC headquarters building in July, August and September.
- **Friends sponsored a table at Upton Heritage Day** in September.
- **Volunteers supported t**he annual BSTRA rides and the MRA multi-sport race.
- **Sudbury Valley Trustees and Hopkinton Area Land Trust** worked with volunteers to establish a connection between the Forest and SVT's new Whitehall Woods reservation on Pond Street in Hopkinton. This connects the Forest to Lake Whitehall.

Message from President Bill Taylor

Hi Friends,

First of all, I would like to wish everyone a happy, healthy and prosperous 2018. I would also like to thank you for all that you did to make 2017 successful for the Friends. Your time, membership and donations helped us accomplish all of the things listed on the front page of the newsletter. We couldn't do it without you.

If you haven't already, I encourage you renew your membership. Your membership fees help us present programs, sponsor work days and contribute to projects to maintain the trails and the Civilian Conservation Corps buildings. More importantly, your membership demonstrates to the Department of Conservation and Recreation and our legislators that they are many people who care about the forest and want to be heard.

This time of the year is also when the Friends elect Board members, and there are two openings on the Board for members-at-large. If you are interested in serving on the Board, or in learning more about board service, please send an email to news@friendsofuptonstateforest.org. The board election will be held at the members meeting on February 9th.

Stay warm!
Bill

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

IRON RANGER vs TRASH CAN

If you follow us on Facebook, you came across quite a discussion on the **Iron Ranger** pictured here. Just a reminder that the Iron Ranger is for donations and not a trash receptacle. All donations received are used to improve the park where the iron rangers are located.

You might also wonder then, why aren't there any trash receptacles in USF? It is because there are no provisions for removing trash from the Forest and thus the signs asking everyone to take out what they take in.

Your cooperation to take your trash with you is appreciated.

Wildlife in Our Backyards
It's All About the Food

On November 3rd, Joy Marzolf, Education Coordinator-Public Programs at the Mass Audubon's Broadmoor Wildlife Sanctuary, presented a dynamic talk about the wildlife that show up in our backyards.

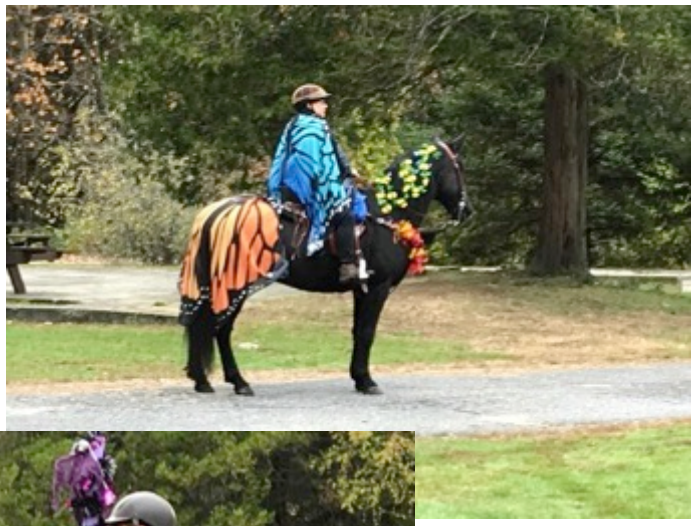
From insects, reptiles, birds and mammals, our backyards provide a variety of food that attracts these creatures to our environment. The flowers and trees that we plant, the birdfeeders we hang and the trash that we put out all contribute to drawing the attention of these animals. Joy provided a myriad of interesting facts on this topic. Did you know, for example, that oak trees have a strategy for helping to control the squirrel population? When the squirrel population gets too large, oak trees will actually reduce the number of acorns they produce, thus reducing the food supply resulting in fewer squirrels. Nature is quite amazing!

Joy was such a knowledgeable and dynamic speaker, we've invited her back for a talk in February. Her programs are not to be missed. See more program information on our calendar.

Annual MRA Multi-Sport Race

Approximately 300 runners ran a grueling half marathon through USF on November 12th. This is an annual event that attracts only the most dedicated of runners as the uneven terrain can challenge the fittest runners. Congratulations to those who participated and thanks to **Suzanne Nicholas**, **Bill Taylor** and **Elisa Shaw** who volunteered to help direct the runners through the network of trails.

Annual BSTRA Pumpkin Ride



Despite the threatening weather, The Bay State Trail Riders Association held its annual Pumpkin Ride on October 29th in USF. Riders and horses came clad in Halloween costumes ranging from the scary to the humorous. Rider's creativeness did not disappoint as prizes were awarded for the scariest, the most creative, the funniest and the best horse costumes.

Thank You!

Thanks to the **Narragansett Bay Wheelmen** organization who made a generous $1100 donation to FUSF this year. Our February program is sponsored by the Wheelmen organization.

BSTRA donated half of their proceeds from their annual Pumpkin Ride to FUSF.
The MRA made a donation to FUSF for our help with the multi-race run.

We also had many anonymous donations from Friends.

And thanks to our members whose membership fees enable us to continue our mission and make a better place for all to enjoy Upton State Forest.

Thanks to everyone for your support!

Congratulations Karen Yeowell

FUSF member Karen Yeowell has joined the Board Of Directors of the Westborough Community Land Trust for 2017/2018. Karen is an active hiker with her family and whose love of hiking goes back to 1984 when she worked on the Appalachian Trail in North Carolina. Read more about Karen at the Westborough Community Land Trust site at https://westboroughlandtrust.org/enews/2017fall/WCLTNews-2017FA.html

It's Time to Renew

If you haven't renewed your FUSF membership for 2018, please do so. Join us at our Vernal Pool program on 02/09 and enjoy a 10% discount.

A membership form is attached to the end of this newsletter. Thank You – Your Support is appreciated!!

FUSF Merchandise for Sale

Tees, sweatshirts, caps, vests, and tote bags for sale on our web site. Special discounts on select items will be available at our Vernal Pool program on 02/09.

Welcome New Members

Mark Kaminsky

Thought for the Day

"Some old-fashioned things like fresh air and sunshine are hard to beat" Laura Ingalls Wilder

"Vernal Pools and Their Wildlife"

Friday, February 9th at 7 PM at the Upton VFW

Please join us for a special program, sponsored by the Wheelmen organization and FUSF, with Joy Marzolf, Education Coordinator-Public Programs at the Mass Audubon's Broadmoor Wildlife Sanctuary.

Joy will talk about the vernal pools scattered throughout USF and the wildlife that they attract.

SAVE THE DATE!

Calendar of Events

February

02/09 – Annual business meeting and program on Vernal Pools in USF @ 7 PM at the Upton VFW – all are welcome

April

04/28 – Park Serve Day - save the date to participate in Park Serve Day – more details will be coming

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

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 at the Upton Police Station training

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 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: