



FRIENDS OF UPTON STATE FOREST NEWSLETTER

JOYCE SANDVIK, EDITOR
[HTTP://WWW.FRIENDSOFUPTONSTATEFOREST.ORG](http://www.friendsofuptonstateforest.org)
FRIENDS@FRIENDSOFUPTONSTATEFOREST.ORG

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Good-bye 2020
(thankfully) and
welcome 2021!!

I think we'll all agree that 2020 has been a challenging year to say the least. But with all challenges, I'm amazed at people's ability to find the silver lining. As a result, Upton State Forest has been busier than ever. Following Covid-19 safety measures, hikers, bikers, horseback riders and dog walkers took advantage of the solace of nature and enjoyed our beautiful park. As we continue into 2021 under the virus restrictions, we invite you to get out to the park and enjoy all that it has to offer. Hopefully by the end of the year, we will be back to some sense of normality.

A special thanks to DCR who handled the triple digit increase to our parks enabling us to maintain our physical and mental health during this trying time.

Stay Safe!

SAVE THE DATE!

New England Mammals In and Around Upton

Please Join Us – We're Zooming on
Saturday, March 13
6:30 – 7:30 PM

Covid-19 isn't stopping us from providing an exciting program from the comfort of your home. Joy Marzolf is back with her **Joys of Nature** programs to present **New England Mammals**, tailored to the Upton area, via Zoom.

Joy was a Naturalist and Educator at Mass Audubon's Broadmoor Wildlife Sanctuary for over 13 years. There she taught numerous programs for a wide range of ages on topics including butterflies and dragonflies, reptiles and amphibians, mammals, animal tracking and photography.

There is a large range of mammals found around New England, from the woods, fields and suburbs to the seashore. From the shy fisher to the comical chipmunk, rabbits, foxes, deer, coyotes and even black bear might visit neighborhoods, sometimes under the cover of night. Learn about mammal behavior, tracks and signs to help figure out who is in your neighborhood!

We'll send you an email with the Zoom link to the program a week before it begins and a reminder the day before. No email? Look for the link on our web page under events.

So grab a bowl of popcorn, sit back and click on the Zoom link to participate in this enlightening program.

To learn more about her Joys of Nature programs, visit <https://www.thejoysofnature.com/about/>

The President's Message

The Town of Upton recently completed an Economic Development Strategic Plan and is now seeking public comment on it. A link to the plan and instructions on how to comment on the plan can be found at <https://www.uptonma.gov/home/news/open-public-comment-economic-development-strategy-plan>. The comment period ends on February 26. I mention this because our Upton members may be interested in reading and commenting on the plan. I also mention it because the plan identifies the Upton State Forest, along with the Town's open spaces, as significant Upton assets that can be leveraged to help transform Upton into an eco-tourism destination, mostly to use the trails. As such, the Town's efforts to create a town-wide trail and the Friends' efforts to make the various sections of Upton State Forest outside of the main section more accessible will benefit from our working together. The Upton State Forest's various Civilian Conservation Corps resources, the headquarters and infirmary building, the footprint of the camp, the water holes, and others, are not mentioned in the plan. I believe these should be included in any effort to attract people to Upton's open spaces. The buildings are unique and the other CCC resources are an integral part of some of the main trails. Using the trails and experiencing the CCC resources would be a compelling reason to visit Upton.

Did You Know?

Download the Upton State Forest Trail Map



As you enter the forest from the CCC Headquarters, there is a QR code on the message board that will download the USF trail map on your cell phone. Just take a picture of the QR code with your phone and voila! the trail map will download. Love this new technology!!

Welcome New Members

Traci Higgins of Upton
Howard Kent of South Grafton

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

Reminder! Renew Your FUSF Membership

Please take a minute to renew your membership in the Friends of Upton State Forest. Not a member? Please consider joining. Your membership helps us provide this newsletter, sponsor nature related programs and contribute to the ongoing work of maintaining our Upton State Forest trail system.

A membership form is attached to this newsletter.

Thank You – your patronage is very much appreciated!

Now is also a good time to let us know if your current email address has changed. Or, if you don't currently receive our communication via email, please consider providing your email address for this purpose. This saves us money on postage and copies for the newsletter for example, and you'll receive our communication quicker than using snail mail.

Thanks for your consideration!

Calendar of Events



March

3/13 – New England Mammals via Zoom – 6:30-7:30 PM

September

9/11 – BSTR Wild West Ride – participant parking only at the CCC headquarters 8 AM-3 PM

October

10/31 – BSTR Pumpkin Ride – participant parking only at the CCC headquarters 8 AM-3 PM

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 2021 unfolds!

FUSF Merchandise for Sale

FUSF merchandise is temporarily unavailable for sale on our web site. We are in the process of enabling PayPal for ease of purchase. This will be available soon.

FUSF Web Site

Thanks for your patience as we update our new web site. We continue to work with Mike Penko (thanks Mike) and our web site vendor to get updates to it as soon as possible. If you need to contact us, email us at friends@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!

02/17/21

**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: (Circle one)

- Individual ----- \$25.00
- Senior 65+----- \$12.50
- Student full time with current student id----- \$12.50
- Family of 2 adults & children (under age 18) ----- \$37.50

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: