FRIENDS OF UPTON STATE FOREST NEWSLETTER

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MassWildlife Urges the Removal of Bird Feeders

MassWildlife has asked the Public to remove bird feeders and report dead birds due to a mysterious illness that is killing songbirds in the mid-Atlantic region. The disease is not known to be in New England at this time, but as a precautionary measure, they are asking the public to report observations of dead birds and stop using bird feeders and bird baths. You can read more about this at: bit.ly/bird-illness

Peppercorn Hill Conservation Area Purchased

The deal is done! The Peppercorn Hill Conservation Area in Upton has added 67 acres of permanently protected land. Sudbury Valley Trustees (SVT), Metacomet Land Trust and the Town worked together to add the Kelly Property to the more than 300 acres of adjacent open space that spans the towns of Upton, Milford, and Hopkinton. Search for Metacomet Land Trust on Facebook and www.svtweb.org to learn more about the conservation work of these organizations. Thanks to your membership dues and donations, FUSF was able to make a financial contribution to help with this purchase.

West Nile Virus is Here

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) announced that the West Nile virus (WNV) has been detected in mosquitoes in Massachusetts. "The first WNV infected mosquito of the season is always a signal that it is time to start taking steps to avoid mosquito bites," **said DPH Acting Commissioner Margret Cooke**. WNV can cause serious illness, but there are things you can do to protect yourself and your loved ones by using a mosquito repellent, wearing clothing that reduces exposed skin and removing standing water to prevent mosquito breeding.

The President's Message

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mary McManus for her nine years of service on the board. Mary resigned from the board last month and while we are disappointed that she will no longer serve with us, and that we'll no longer be meeting with her every month, we understand that there is never enough time to do all that we might want. Mary served as our Secretary and took the minutes at all our board and member meetings. She was an integral part of the success of our projects, programs and meetings and strong advocate for the Forest and the Friends. We will miss her. Thanks Mary!

I also want to thank the remaining board members - Joyce Sandvik, Vice President and newsletter editor, Chris Scott, Treasurer, Agnita Knott, Membership Secretary, and Suzanne Nicholas and Alisa Bernat, Members-at-Large for all they do. It's a pleasure and honor to serve with them. And I shouldn't wait until they leave to tell them. Thanks!

Mary tells me this is her plan after her FUSF Board resignation – Good Luck with those projects!!

Would You Like to Try Star Gazing? Join the DCR on 8/27

dcr Massachusetts

Blackstone River and Canal Heritage State Park
287 Oak Street
Uxbridge, MA 01569
(508) 278-7604

Night Sky

Friday, August 27, 7:30-9:00pm

Join us for an evening of night star gazing. Come enjoy views of Saturn, Jupiter, and the Milky Way before the moon rise that evening!

Volunteers and staff from the Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park, and Skyscrapers Club will share telescopes and information with anyone interested in astronomy.

Stargazing will take place in the field next to the visitor center parking lot.

This program is free and open to the public. Appropriate for ages 5 and up.

Please dress for the outdoors and bring a flashlight and insect repellent.

Reasonable accommodations available upon advance request.

Please follow all current COVID guidelines. Visit Mass.gov/COVID for more guidance.

For more information contact the River Bend Farm Visitor Center. Call us at (508) 278-7604.

Coming Event

Department of Conservation and Recreation, Massachusetts State Parks

FUSF Board of Directors

Bill Taylor, President
Joyce Sandvik, Vice President
Open, Secretary
Chris Scott, Treasurer
Agnita Knott, Membership
Members-at-Large

- Alisa Bernat
- Suzanne Nicholas

Help Wanted

With Mary's departure, we need someone to fill the Secretary position on our Board of Directors. Responsibilities include taking and publishing the minutes from our monthly meetings in addition to managing other documentation for our organization. If interested, mail us at news@friendsofuptonstate forest.org. We'd love to have you join us.

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 or go to our website and you can now pay via PayPal.

Thank You – your patronage is very much appreciated!

National Public Lands Day

September 25th is ***National Public Lands Day***. This day was set aside to celebrate the connection between people and the green space in their communities. It is a day to appreciate the open space that we have such as Upton State Forest and encourage its use for education, recreation and health benefits. Celebrate Upton Heritage Day and then head over to USF for a leisurely walk!

In Memory of Marion Despres

A donation to the Matching Gift Fund has been received from Russ and Ellen Arnold in memory of life-long Upton resident, Marion Despres, who passed away on July 23. Marion, her husband Louis, and their family were Charter members of Friends of Upton State Forest. Louis was a member of our first Board of Directors and they joined us at several work parties around the Headquarters area.

Donations to the Matching Gift Fund are used to leverage grants from DCR and others. Some of the projects that used Matching Funds are the flagpole at the CCC Headquarters building, the CCC Records Preservation Project, replacing a bridge on Hopkinton Spring Trail, rebuilding the porch and repairing siding on the historic CCC Headquarters building.

Anyone wishing to donate to the Friends can send it to PO Box 258, Upton, MA 01568-0258. Please enclose a note letting us know if it is a memorial or honorarium, if it is anonymous, or if we can publicly thank you in the newsletter. Please specify if it is for the General Fund, Trails Fund, Historic Resources Fund, Matching Gift Fund or the Founders Fund.

The Despres family collecting trash on Westboro Road

Calendar of Events

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

9/25 – Upton Heritage Day

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

November
11/14 – Tri-Valley Front Runners Club – participant parking only at the CCC headquarters 7 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. Thanks for your continued patience as we update our new web site.

Making a Dontation to FUSF?

Some companies will match your donation to a charitable organization. It's worth looking into. *THANK YOU!*

Available at amazon

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: