FRIENDS OF UPTON STATE FOREST NEWSLETTER

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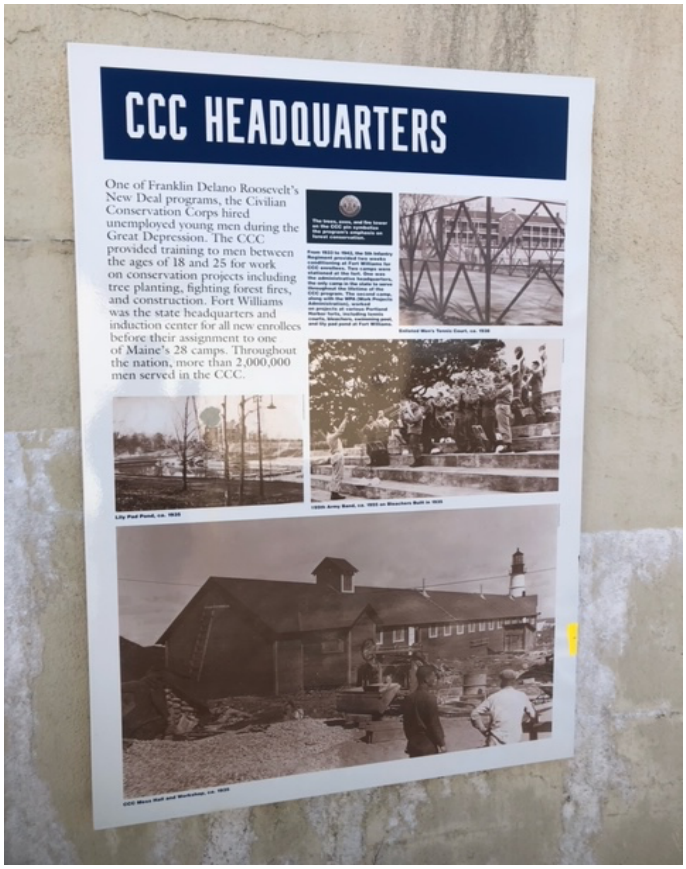
CCC Headquarters
History in New England

At a recent visit to the Portland Head Light House in Maine, Rose Zariczny took a pic of this article on display about the history of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in Maine. Men were assigned to one of 28 camps in Maine.

Rose also provided this article from the Woonsocket edition of the Valley Breeze. The article was in celebration of the 90th anniversary of the founding of the Civilian Conservation Corps and talked about the contributions of the Rhode Island CCC camps in the development of our natural resources.



Maine CCC Camps

Rhode Island CCC Camps

At The USF CCC Camp

Renovations continue at the USF CCC headquarters with the help of the Blackstone Valley Tech students. Ellen Arnold attended a meeting in November along with Upton Fire Chief Mike Marchand, DCR Historic Curatorship Director, Kevin Allen, Derek from Valley Tech, and Rob from DCR Operations. The Upton Fire Chief expressed interest in the fire suppression system that was planned for the renovations given the historic significance of this building. Further discussion is needed on the optimum solution and associated costs which would ensure the safety of the building. Thanks Ellen for attending this meeting and representing the FUSF interests.

Good-bye Jody, Hello Ray

Jody Madden, who has been the FUSF go to person for Upton State Forest, has been promoted to Field Operations Team Lead Blackstone Complex. Jody has been an invaluable resource to us over the years. A trail needs clearing? Call Jody; A tree is down? Call Jody; Coordinating Park Serve Day? Call Jody. Whatever was needed Jody was there to help.
Thank you and the best of luck to you Jody in your new position and welcome Ray Longvall – we look forward to working with you.

Park Serve Day – April 23

We're celebrating national Park Serve Day on Sunday, April 23rd from 9 AM – 12 PM. Come on down and help us spruce up the CCC headquarters, planting flowers, raking leaves, trimming trees in addition to some trail clearing.

Bring hand tools and gloves if you have them. Additional information will be coming soon. It's a great way to give back to the forest and reconnect with some friends.

Lunch will be provided.

Great Backyard Bird Count February 17 - 20

The Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor and the Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park invite you to participate in a backyard bird count. Get out your cameras and share your bird pics by:

- Tagging your pics on social media with hashtag #BRVBirds;
- Emailing your pics to birding@blackstone-heritagecorridor.org;

This is a worldwide event and you can learn more at **https://www.birdcount.org**
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The President's Message

In June, the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) realized its goal of purchasing the 50 acres of land near the main entrance to Upton State Forest owned by the Brown family. This was the culmination of a years-long effort by DCR, and I applaud them for their achievement. In 2005, the Friends, with the help of the Metacomet Land Trust, helped raise $4,500 for an appraisal of this land, so this effort has been going on for at least 17 years. This achievement caused me to think about the other purchases DCR made recently. In June, DCR also purchased 60 acres between Howarth Drive and Westborough Road in June. This land abuts the section of Upton State Forest to the west of Ridge Road. Other DCR purchases since 2012 include 20 acres off Triphammer Road, 12 acres off Fowler Street, 28 acres off Westborough Road, and the Conservation Restriction on 48 acres located off Mechanic Street, Fowler Street and Warren Street, which included public access to trails and Warren Brook. These purchases improved access to and created connections between the Upton State Forest parcels on and around Pratt Hill. State-owned land generates revenues for Upton. The state, subject to the money being appropriated, reimburses towns for state-owned land, and in fiscal year 2023, Upton was reimbursed about $300,000 for the state-owned land in Upton. I expect that DCR will continue to consider purchases of land with significant conservation values and that enhance the conservation and recreation value of its existing lands.

Bill

Thank You For Your Donations!

Thank you to those who contributed to FUSF using Amazon Smile. You may have heard that Amazon has discontinued this program as of February 2023.

Thank you for your donations:
Linda Gay and Thomas Coz
Rena Richard
Ruffin Van Bossuyt

Don't forget – some companies will match your donation so be sure to ask!

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

We're still looking for a secretary to join the FUSF board of directors. If you'd like an opportunity to give back to a good cause, drop us an email at **friends@friendsofuptonstateforest.org.**

Welcome New Members

Linda Gay and Thomas Coz - Upton, MA

Reminder!
Membership Renewal

Please take a minute to renew your membership for 2023 or join the Friends of Upton State Forest. 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. You can renew on-line on our web site at **https://friendsofuptonstateforest.org** or using the attached membership form. Thank You!

DCR Offers February Vacation Programs

Looking for a way to keep the kids off their phones over February vacation? Follow the link to check out these programs offered by DCR.

https://www.mass.gov/info-details/february-vacation-week-free-family-friendly-programs

Click on Central Mass for nearby Blackstone programs.

Calendar of Events

February
2/17-2/20 – Great Backyard Bird Count

April
4/23 – Park Serve Day – USF 9AM–12PM

September
09/10 – BSTRA Western Trivia Ride at USF - 8AM-3PM – parking at CCC headquarters for event participants only

October
10/29 – BSTRA Pumpkin Ride at USF 8AM-3PM – parking at CCC headquarters for event participants only

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 2023 unfolds!

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? _____
*If no place is indicated for donation, it will go to the General Fund.

(* 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: