FRIENDS OF UPTON STATE FOREST NEWSLETTER

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Joseph Donnelly, CCC Alumnus at SP-25, Upton-Part 2

Submitted by Ellen Arnold based on an interview done in 2007

When Joe entered the CCC he made the typical $30.00 a month with $25.00 sent home to his family leaving $5.00 for him to spend. Enrollees could buy a $5.00 coupon book and use it at the Post Exchange (PX) for items like shaving materials, gum, and smokes. While at Upton, he was given the job of Supply Clerk which gave him $5.00 extra a month. Each man was also responsible for providing his own footlocker which were advertised for $5.00 in the national CCC newsletter called "Happy Days". While he was in the "C's" he was made a Company Clerk earning him $12.00 more, eventually becoming a Senior Clerk increasing his pay by $21.00.

One of his first jobs as Supply Clerk was to paint the Supply Building which was the first building to the right (North Barn location) as you enter the site. He painted the floor and walls with the floor being done in squares of grey and red. Cabinets in the building were also painted grey with the ceiling being whitewashed. He also whitewashed the ceilings in the barracks.

As supply clerk, he ordered all materials for the camp including clothing. When an enrollee needed new clothing, he had to turn his old clothing in and exchange it for new. Joe said, "A shirt for a shirt." He had to take the old clothing to RI to get replacements. This policy also applied to bedding and equipment. Chairs were assigned to the captain in the camp, meaning that the Army were responsible for the inventory. In one instance, when one captain left, there was a shortage of chairs, so he went to the undertaker in Westborough, got old, damaged chairs and repaired them. When the Myles Standish Camp at Plymouth closed, men were sent to Upton and much of their supply inventory came with them, so the Upton camp was not charged for them. When Joe arrived at Upton, the buildings were already up and under the jurisdiction of the Commanding Officer at Fort Adams in Newport, RI. When his supply order was ready, he drove one of the CCC trucks to Fort Adams to pick it up. He mentioned sometimes ordering and getting twice what he ordered. For example, if he ordered twelve hinges and ended up with twenty-four, he would keep them and swap them for something else that was needed.

The PX was a small room in the Rec Hall, shown in this photo. This building was located to the immediate left as you entered the camp and was situated parallel to the Headquarters Building across the Parade Ground.

(Photo courtesy of Upton Historical Society taken during the Camp Stover period. Circa 1942-1945)

President's Message

Kristin Karl-Carnahan, Chief Interpretive Services, and Matt Villamaino, Regional Interpretive Coordinator, of the Department of Conservation and Recreation presented a draft of a long-range interpretive plan for Upton State Forest to the Friends and the Upton Historical Commission at a meeting in May. Since it is not finalized, DCR is waiting for feedback on the proposed plan from the Friends and the Upton Historical Commission, I don't want to go into details. It certainly more than meets the interpretive plan DCR agreed to create in connection with the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between DCR, the Friends, the Upton Historical Commission, and the Massachusetts Historical Commission regarding the demolition of the North Barn after it collapsed in 2011. The interpretive plan described in the MOA was limited to the Civilian Conservation Corps resources at the forest. The proposed plan covers much more than the CCC resources. I am looking forward to the interpretive materials and programs that will be created in connection with implementing the plan. The plan will also help the Friends with its interpretive efforts. I look forward to describing it in detail in our next newsletter.

Bill

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

Remembering Richard E. Weiser

Contributed by Ellen Arnold

We were saddened to learn about the recent passing of Richard Weiser, one of our Charter members. He appreciated open space and trails and was a faithful volunteer at our early work parties. We extend our sympathy to his family and friends. More information about Richard can be found at https://www.uptonfunerals.com/obituary/Richard-Weiser.

Volunteers Wanted!

Looking for a few volunteers to help direct runners at the TVFR race on 11/10. TVFR makes a donation to FUSF for each volunteer. Send us an email if you can help.

Controlling Mosquitos Naturally

Contributed by Chris Scott

Controlling mosquito population is very important to reduce human exposure to West Nile Virus and EEE (eastern equine encephalitis). Many actions do not involve aerial spraying of pesticides. This would affect the natural balance which controls mosquito population. Altering human behavior is also effective.

Mosquito populations can be reduced by bat populations and some insects, such as dragonflies or damselflies. Aerial spraying would kill these beneficial insects. Birds also eat mosquitos such as barn swallows, purple martins, blue birds and cardinals. Fish, frogs, turtles also control mosquitos' populations by eating their larvae.

Educating people about removing standing water containers like tires and pots is very important. Putting up bat houses and supporting bird populations is critical in reducing mosquito populations.

The easiest thing people can do is have plants in their yard which mosquitos do not like. Many people like these plants. This website lists the top 12 plants mosquitos don't like:
https://www.gardendesign.com/plants/mosquito-repellent.html

There is a lot that can be done to reduce mosquito human interactions without spraying such as wearing long sleeves and mosquito repellent.

DCR Night Sky Programs

Friday,
September 20
7—9 p.m.
Observing Start: 7 p.m.
Sunset: 6:48 p.m.
Moon: waning gibbous in Aries, rise 8:04 p.m.
Planets: Venus (set 7:52 p.m.), Saturn, Neptune
Other: Neptune Opposition

Friday,
October 25
6—8 p.m.
Observing Start: 6 p.m.
Sunset: 5:51 p.m.
Moon: waning crescent in Leo, not visible
Planets: Venus (set 7:30 p.m.), Saturn, Neptune, Uranus

Friday,
November 15
4—7 p.m.
Observing Start: 4 p.m.
Sunset: 4:27 p.m.
Moon: full in Taurus, rise 3:59 p.m.
Planets: Mercury (set 5:26 pm), Venus (set 6:47 pm), Saturn, Neptune, Uranus, Jupiter (Rise 5:47 p.m.)
Other: Moon near Pleiades & Uranus

Blackstone River and Canal Heritage State Park
287 Oak Street, Uxbridge, MA 01569. Tel. (508) 278-7604
All programs are free and open to the public. Appropriate for all ages. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Registration is not required. Programming begins in the field across from the River Bend Farm Visitor Center. Programming is subject to change. For the most up to date programming information, call (508) 278-7604 or visit our website at bit.ly/blst_updates.

Calendar of Events

September

09/28 – Upton Heritage Day – 10 AM – 3 PM; Upton Center

October

10/27 – BSTRA Pumpkin Ride – 8 AM – 3 PM; Upton State Forest – event parking only at the CCC headquarters

November

11/10 – TVFR ½ Marathon Race – 7 AM – 3 PM; Upton State Forest **-** event parking only at the CCC headquarters

FUSF Merchandise Available

Hoodies and T-shirts available. Send an email to the FUSF mailbox friends@friendsofuptonstateforest.org with your order.

Hoodies $35 for members, $40 for non-members.

T-shirts $13 for members, $15 for non-members.

Be sure to frequent our **Facebook Page** https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064832672690 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 via Zoom

Watch for future programs and events as our calendar for 2024 unfolds!

To join our mailing list, send an email request to friends@friendsofuptonstateforest.org

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 # PayPal Amount paid: Category:
Year Paid:
Cards issued by: Newsletter address entered by: