

Friends of Upton State Forest Inc.

Newsletter



<http://www.friendsofuptonstateforest.org>
friends@friendsofuptonstateforest.org

Volume 5, Number 4

Fall 2010

President's Message

What Does Your Membership Buy?

Other than administrative costs, what else does your membership dues help pay for? The short list would include 4 newsletters per year; 3 to 4 speakers per year, hikes, work parties, 3rd grade trip to the forest, recognition of CCC alumni and those delicious potluck suppers! The long list would include advocacy for the park, a network of people who care about open spaces and historical resources, support for the DCR and a presence at Upton State Forest that is making a difference. These lists are only part of the great things the Friends have accomplished at our Forest, but you get the idea. Without the Friends and your membership these activities would not occur.

In addition to your dues, joining the Friends is a statement that you value Upton State Forest. That message is not lost on public officials and others who are important to the future of our park. Please remember to renew your membership for 2011 and make the Friends stronger than ever. *Joan*

Be Safe, Be Seen

It is time for our annual reminder that you should wear safety orange when using our public lands during hunting season. Archery season begins on Oct. 18 until Nov. 27. Shotgun runs from Nov. 29 to Dec. 11 and Primitive Firearms goes from Dec. 13 to Dec. 31. There is no hunting in MA on Sunday. You can pick up an abstract with the regulations at Fish and Wildlife Field Headquarters in Westborough or visit www.mass.gov/masswildlife.



Upton's Heritage Festival October 2 8AM to 3PM

Friends of Upton State Forest will have a booth at Upton's Heritage Festival on the Town Common from 8AM to 3 PM. In the event of rain, we will be in the Town Hall. Other events planned are the United Parish yard sale, Upton Library book sale, VFW 5K Race and the Pack 132 Cub Scouts Bottle and Can Recycle Drive in the Municipal Parking Lot near Holy Angels.

Our booth will include a bake sale, raffles of baskets and handcrafted items as well as very nice, new or gently used items for sale. The latest additions to our line of logo merchandise will also be for sale. We are offering a 10% discount on renewals and new memberships for 2011 that day!

Contact Ellen at 508-529-6610 or news@friendsofuptonstateforest.org if you have something to donate for sale or toward the baskets. If you can bake, please arrange to get it to us the day before or drop it off by 8AM the day of the event. If you can help set up, take down, or staff the booth for a couple of hours please contact Joan at friends@friendsofuptonstateforest.org. or 508-529-3164.

So far, we have a beautiful and warm pair of hand made mittens by Marcella, Evelyn Arnold is donating a signed art print, hand-crafted jewelry by Agnita, knitted items from Joan and a signed photograph print from Ellen. Donations are still welcome.

Hope to see you there!

Historic Curatorship Program

DCR owns many historic buildings that have fallen into disrepair for lack of public funding. Under the Historic Curatorship Program (HCP) DCR enters into a long-term lease with a Curator who pays rent in the form of rehab and maintenance of the property in lieu of a cash lease.

In order to be eligible to be part of the HCP the property has to be approved by a 2/3 vote in the legislature. Several years ago, FUSF became aware that DCR wanted Upton to be on the list of eligible properties. Wanting to open every possible avenue for the eventual rehabilitation and adaptive reuse of the CCC Camp buildings at Upton State Forest, we worked with Senator Augustus who filed legislation adding several DCR properties, including Upton, to the list of eligible buildings.

FUSF has made it clear that our main interest is to preserve the buildings while still maintaining public access to the parade ground and to the Administration Building. From the beginning, we have advocated to have someone living in the cottage as a measure of security for the entire site, through this program, or traditional lease. It is our hope that DCR will advertise soon for someone who is interested in the HCP at Upton.

More information about the HCP is available on the DCR website. There are before and after pictures of several properties already under agreement. When you get to the DCR home page type Historic Curatorship in the DCR search bar at the left of the page. If you have questions about the program, contact Kevin.Allen@state.ma.us at the DCR Office of Cultural Resources, 251 Causeway St, Suite 700, Boston, MA 02114-2119 or 617-626-1361.

Storm Damages Cottage at Upton



E. Arnold photo

After heavy rains a tree uprooted, grazing the rear of the cottage roof, puncturing a hole and leaving a room exposed to the weather. Because of the budget cuts to DCR it did not appear that it would be possible to repair or even cover the hole with a tarp. The FUSF Board of Directors explored many options of ways that we could help. **We feel it is imperative to keep the outside envelope of all the buildings secure to keep them stable** until DCR is able to get a Historic Curatorship underway at Upton.

We are happy to report that repairs have been made that will secure the interior of the cottage from further damage. In addition, some shingles have been replaced and flashing work done in the chimney area of the Administration Building. **Thank you to everyone who worked to make this happen.** We look forward to continued cooperation with our staff for the preservation of the CCC buildings.

Quote of the Month

Good history is a question of survival. Without any past, we will deprive ourselves of the defining impression of our being.

Ken Burns

Camp SP-25, CCC

(From remarks made by Ellen Arnold during the CCC Day ceremony in May. This is the first of two parts and covers the CCC history of the camp.)

Upton State Forest is 2660 acres scattered throughout Upton and into neighboring communities. What is it about these buildings and the few acres around them that make this place so special?

On May 17, 1935, a cadre of 23 men came from Myles Standish State Forest to build a CCC camp for the 187 young men of Company 2105 who would follow in August. That was only the beginning of the story. By the time the camp closed in 1938, around 1200 men had lived and worked here.

While here, the men worked at conservation projects such as fighting gypsy moths, clearing slash left from logging, planting trees and survey work. They built Park Road, 3 picnic areas, several water holes and cleared vista points. On Pratt Hill, they built a fire road called the Hurley Truck Trail, today known as Pratt Hill Rd. The largest project was the impounding of Dean Pond Dam. By 1938, their work was winding down. Plans were to build a log bathhouse at Dean Pond and a similar recreational complex in South Upton, but funding for the C's was beginning to dry up and the men were needed to build a park at Salisbury.

Under normal circumstances that would have been the end of the story. Most CCC camps were demolished when they closed, but permission had been given to the National Youth Administration to occupy the buildings. Connected to the WPA, this camp became the base for local civil projects. *(To be continued in winter newsletter)*

New FUSF Logo Merchandise!



W. Johnston photo

**Purchase our new logo merchandise.
Wear it with pride or
give it for Christmas.**

Tee shirt, blue spruce with brown logo and lettering. Available in S, M, L, XL and XXL. \$10.00 or 2 for \$19.00

Crewneck sweatshirt, forest green with off-white logo and lettering. Available in S, M, L, XL. \$15.00

Harriton 5- panel cap. With self-fabric closure with brass buckle and grommet tuck-in in, stone with forest green logo. \$10.00

Hooded Sweatshirt, Be safe, be seen in safety orange with brown logo and lettering. Available by preorder and prepayment with check made out to Friends of Upton State Forest \$24.00

Tote bag, natural canvas with forest green handles and logo. \$10.00*
(*includes tax)

Visit us at our Heritage Booth (see page 1) or contact Joan at 508-529-3164 or friends@friendsofuptonstateforest.org or Ellen at 508-529-6610 or news@friendsofuptonstateforest.org

America's Favorite Park

Coca Cola sponsored a contest that ran from the end of July through August 31. You could log in to their website www.LivePositively.com to vote for your favorite park. FUSF did not know about the contest until August 27 when we sent an email to our members. At that time, USF had 62 votes and was around #20 in MA. The next day someone told us they had moved us into 15th place with their vote. On the August 29 hike, someone said we were in 13th place so we sent an email challenge asking our members to move us into 10th place. By the 30th we were in 7th place so once again we challenged our members asking them to have their friends vote too and move us into the top five. By midnight, on the 31st we had 2978 votes, and were in fourth place in MA with Douglas SF at #5 and Callahan SP in #6. Our members really came through! Just imagine what we could have done if we had known about the contest when it started! Thanks to all who voted.

The top national vote getter is a 4,253-acre park in northern Minnesota called Bear Head Lake State Park. It gets about 90,000 to 100,000 visitors a year and even the Department of Natural Resources in that state is amazed at the more than a million and a half votes that the park got.

Seems there is a web-cam in a bears den located in the park that captured the birth of a cub to a bear named Lily. Lily and Hope have their own Face Book page and their fans voted around the clock to put it in first place ahead of the Great Smokey Mountains. Lily, Hope and their fans gave the park a wonderful gift of the \$100,000 prize.

Rumor has it that Lily may be pregnant again!

Sweetwilliam Farm



Members of the Upton Open Space Committee have been working with Metacomet Land Trust, Sudbury Valley Trustees and the owner of Sweetwilliam Farm to preserve that property on North St in Upton. If successful, part of the plan is to have trail access that will connect the town owned Warren Brook Watershed land, which abuts Grafton owned Pell Farm, with Upton State Forest. This would be a significant trail corridor. The Community Preservation Committee (CPC) is holding a hearing Oct. 6 at 7:30 PM at Nipmuc High School on Pleasant St in Upton. We encourage our members to attend and hear the proposal. Upton members should watch for a special town meeting in November in the event that it is on the warrant. See the town of Upton website for more information.

Girl Scouts Plant Garden

Thank you to Upton Junior Girl Scout Troop 30164 for planting a variety of 300 spring bulbs in front of the new porch. Tim Rayworth, of DCR, assisted the girls and explained that the bulbs would bloom at different times, during the spring, and each type of bulb required planting at a specific depth. The girls got to work, designing and planting the garden, using that information. It will be fun to watch for the colorful blooms next spring!

Membership Report

Welcome to new member, Mary Dumas of Upton. She actually joined in the spring so we apologize for omitting her name in the summer newsletter.

It is time to think about renewing for 2011. **If you renew by the annual meeting in January you can deduct 10% from your dues.** This applies to all categories except Associate. Renewal forms can be downloaded from our website or send your dues to PO Box 258, Upton, MA 01568-0258 with a note telling us of any changes in your contact information.

Price of Dues

Family (2 adults & children)	\$30.00
Individual	\$20.00
Senior (over 65)	\$10.00
Student (full time under 25)	\$10.00
Associate (non-voting)	\$ 5.00

Website of the Month

www.networkingfriends.net

Be connected to other Friends groups through the Massachusetts Forest and Parks Friends Network. Learn about issues that we have in common with other parks and their users. You can also sign up for their e-newsletter.

Donna Stimpson Retires

Congratulations to Donna Stimpson on her retirement from DCR. Donna worked at Mount Greylock and formerly served as the coordinator for the DCR CCC Program Committee. She is a strong advocate for the CCC legacy and was instrumental in encouraging the formation of FUSF. Donna supported and attended many of our events and is one of our biggest cheerleaders. Our thanks, best wishes and friendship, go out to her.

G, H, I and X

What do the letters G, H, I and X have in common? We do not have members with names that begin with those letters. Please be advocates for FUSF. Let your friends, relatives, neighbors, co-workers and complete strangers know about our organization and the good things we do for Upton State Forest.

Keep a membership form in your car and offer it to anyone who cares about our forest. New faces bring new ideas and enthusiasm.

Since your membership dues support our administrative costs, the more members we have the less the chance of a dues increase in the future.

Norm Fahy



We extend our deepest sympathy to the family of Charter Member, Norm Fahy, shown in the picture above. Norm passed away suddenly while doing one of his favorite things, walking at the Esplanade. He was one of our most faithful members, attending work parties, watering the Entrance Gateway gardens and attending as many meetings as he could. Our favorite memory of him is the time he allowed us to take over his home for our yard sale. We filled his basement, spent several days there pricing “stuff” and turned his beautifully manicured yard into a flea market. Through it all, he never lost his patience, courtesy and sense of humor.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friends of Upton State Forest

Board of Directors

Upton Police Station, 7PM

October 18

November 15

December 20

Upton's Heritage Festival

Upton Center

October 2

Fall Work Party

October 16, 9AM to 1PM

See details this page

Discovery Hike

October 24, 1PM

See details this page

Annual Meeting

January 24, 2011

Snow date, January 31, 2011



Discovery Hike Sunday, October 24, 1 PM

“Follow the Footsteps Of the CCC”

Join us as we explore sites at Upton State Forest built by the enrollees of the Civilian Conservation Corps. This free, moderate hike, lasting about two hours, will visit remnants of a picnic area, stone steps, water holes, Dean Pond and other CCC resources. A short option will be offered.

Meet at 12:45 at the Administration Building near the intersection of Westborough and Southborough Roads in Upton. Dress for the weather and wear appropriate footgear. Don't forget water, sunscreen and insect repellent. Liability waiver required for all, with a parent signing for anyone under 18.

As a courtesy to those who may be allergic to, or fearful of dogs, kindly leave pets at home. Heavy rain cancels.

For reminders of our hikes, or to be notified in case of cancellation, email uptonopenspaceevents@charter.net. Discovery Hikes and Programs are a partnership between FUSF and the Upton Open Space Committee.



Fall Work Party Saturday October 16, 2010

Join us for our annual fall work party. Coffee and registration will be at 8:30 AM. Meet at the Headquarters Building at the intersection of Westborough and Southborough Roads at Upton State Forest. Work from 9 AM to 1 PM followed by lunch for volunteers. Wear work clothes, boots and gloves. Bring tools such as loppers, shovels and rakes. No power tools. Don't forget sunscreen and insect repellent. Water will be provided. Liability waiver is required. Youth over 12, welcome with a parent's signature. Youth groups must pre-register. Questions, or if you can bake desserts please contact: Joan at friends@friendsofuptonstateforest.org. or 508-529-3164.

Upton Open Space

uptonopenspaceevents@charter.net

Sweetwilliam Farm Hikes

West Side-Monday, September 27, 5:30

East Side-Sunday, October 3, 5:30

Sweetwilliam Farm Hearing

Community Preservation Committee
October 6, 7:30, Nipmuc High School

Upton residents

Watch for the date of a special town meeting in November. Sweetwilliam Farm may be on the warrant.