President’s Message
By Joan Shanahan

Happy New Year! Winter is a great time to explore the Park. Get out your winter walking shoes, snowshoes or cross-country skis. Put on some warm clothing and go outdoors. Adventure abounds or you can just spend time identifying tracks in the snow and watching wildlife.

These activities are available because we have a dedicated DCR staff. If you see them while enjoying the Park, please take time to thank them. Friends need to send letters to state officials in support of the DCR State Parks budget. We need to give reasons for the continuation of services that we have. Closing up to 175 parks is a real possibility, as are more reductions in the work force. Please support your Parks and write letters.

We had a busy year with a matching grant awarded for the repair of the porch on the administration building. Spring and fall work parties helped clean up around the administration grounds and we continued our partnership with Upton Open Space for a series of walks. Thanks to our members for supporting our efforts. We look forward to working with you during 2011. Hope to see you on the trails! Joan

Facebook
Friends of Upton State Forest are on Facebook now! Check it out. Like us! Got USF pics? Share them.

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Annual Meeting
January 24, 2011 7:00 PM
(Snow date is January 31)
United Parish Vestry, 1 Church St, Upton

After a brief business meeting, with election of officers, Conrad Crawford, DCR Director of Partnerships, will be a special guest for the evening. Following Conrad, Jon Meagher and Cathy Taylor of the Upton Historical Commission will present a program about Upton’s Heritage Park at 18 Elm St. The Park is within easy walking distance of the Upton Common and includes frontage on Mill Pond and the mysterious Upton stone chamber.
FUSF logo merchandise will be for sale. Last date for 10% discount on renewals!

Discover Winter at Upton State Forest
January 9, 1 PM

Hike with us and explore life in the forest in winter. Meet at the Headquarters building at the intersection of Westborough and Southborough Roads. Dress for the weather. Remember water and sunscreen. Liability waiver required with an adult signing for children under 18. This will be a moderate to strenuous hike depending on trail conditions. Hike is a partnership of FUSF, DCR and Upton Open Space. For notice of a cancellation, send an email to uptonopenspaceevents@charter.net. For questions contact 508-529-6610 or news@friendsofuptonstateforest.org.

Quote of the Month
“A true conservationist is a man who knows that the world is not given by his fathers, but borrowed from his children.” Audubon
Camp SP-25, CCC
(From remarks made by Ellen Arnold during the CCC Day ceremony in May)
Second of two parts.
By 1941 with the specter of war on the horizon, the CCC Camp became Camp Stover. The MA State Guard used it as a training camp for officers who would eventually lead men into battle in the European and Pacific theatres.

In 1946, this camp became the center of one of the most significant periods in MA history for understanding and conserving wildlife. Known as Phillips Wildlife Lab, it was the MA Field Headquarters for the Dept of Fish and Game. During this period, they hired their first wildlife biologist and carried out numerous projects that would shape our present day laws for the protection and taking of wildlife.

It was here that research first suggested that the New England cottontail and the Eastern cottontail are two distinct species. A project managed from this camp brought the wood duck back from the brink of extinction. Massachusetts Wildlife, now a quarterly magazine, started here as a two-page report sent to clubs and news media.

In 1956, the Field Headquarters moved to Westborough. Department of Environmental Management foresters occupied the buildings along with a carpentry shop and eventually the mounted unit stabled their horses here.

Throughout all these years the Northern white cedar and the Sawara cypress trees, planted as shrubs by CCC enrollees, have watched history unfold. They stand here today as witnesses and sentinels to all that has passed.

The camp has been abandoned for the past few years, awaiting a future role. Friends of Upton State Forest formed in 2005 over concern for this place that is so significant to MA history. It is our wish to work with DCR, our legislators and others to preserve this camp, not only to preserve the memory of what happened here, but also, to find a new role and write a new chapter. We stand with the trees guarding the past while anticipating the future.

National Register Application

Photo by Richard Trubiano
Upton Historical Commission has awarded the contract to do the National Register historic district applications for Upton Center North and the CCC Camp to Shary Page Berg and Gretchen Schuler. Recently the two consultants were joined by Ellen Arnold of FUSF, Rich Trubiano and Kathryn Garcia from park staff and Ellen Berkland, DCR archaeologist, on a site visit to CCC resources within the forest. Ellen Berkland, Shary Berg, Kathryn Garcia, Gretchen Schuler and Ellen Arnold are in the photo above.

Help Mass Wildlife
Mass Wildlife is asking for your help in a survey of cottontail rabbits. If you find remains of a rabbit please drop off the carcass or skull at Field Headquarters in Westborough or, any DFW office or hatchery. Include your contact info, date collected and detailed location info. This is part of a multi state effort. More info: David.Scarpitti@state.ma.us.
Upton’s Heritage Day

Thank you to everyone that helped to make our Heritage Day booth on the Upton Common so successful. In addition to the baked goods, raffles and merchandise sales, we gained several new members. Hand made hiking sticks, donated by Lillian Tolstrup, sold out quickly. Bakers included Ellen Arnold, Eleanor Bernat, Phyllis Conlin, Mary Dumas, Alice Evans and Joan Varney. Chris Scott donated cider which we sold by the cup. Steve Warren, Chris Scott, Joan Shanahan, and Ellen Arnold staffed the booth, with assistance from Charles Shanahan and Russ Arnold during set up and clean up.

Hazel Sadler won the Chocolate basket donated by Russ and Ellen Arnold. Kris Hawes won the Teatime basket, donated by the Shanahan family. Joan Burrell won an art print by Evelyn Arnold and Steve Warren won the Lotus photo print by Ellen Arnold. Cheryl Kileoyne won a wool scarf, made by Joan Shanahan, and Ellen Arnold won mittens made by Marcella Stasa. Jean Pellerin won the basket donated by FUSF to the Upton Historical Society raffle.

Membership Report

Remember that there is a 10% discount for anyone renewing for 2011 by or at the Annual Meeting in January.

Welcome to the following new members: Agnes (Bunny) Lyman of Whitinsville, Travis Weiner of Quincy, Henry and Mary Ann Haggerty from Whitinsville, Richard Ansel and Marylou Hannon Ansel of Brockton and Tom and Sharon Jordan of Lunenburg. Richard Blodgett, Richard and Naomi Howarth, Nancy and Derric Lowery, Matthew and Megan Ronzio and Jean Pellerin, all of Upton.

“Following the Footsteps of the CCC”

The threat of rain did not dampen the enthusiasm of around 30 people who joined us on a Discovery hike to visit several CCC sites within the forest. We were pleased to have Marylou Hannon Ansel and her son, Wyatt, join us. Marylou grew up at the park and her family lived in the cottage at the CCC camp. Her father was Paul Hannon, a DEM forester based at Upton. She shared some of her memories with us and we look forward to hearing more.

October Work Party

At the October work party, FUSF members worked to enlarge the flagpole garden and put a border around it. We have started transplanting perennials from member’s gardens to reduce the need for watering and purchasing annuals each year. Shown above are Lillian Tolstrup, Charles Shanahan and Richard Blodgett hard at work!
Trees of Upton State Forest

Information compiled by
Rufin Van Bossuyt and Ellen Arnold

What did the forest in Upton look like historically? A book, found at Upton Historical Society (UHS), titled *Worcester County, America’s First Frontier* by Peter Whitney, 1793 (reprint) gives us some information. “The high lands have plenty of oak of the several sorts, considerable quantity of Walnuts, some chestnut; --- The low lands have birch, maple, elm and alder, etc: There is much pitch pine in the place and also considerable white pine remaining even at this day.” (Note: the listing of walnut actually refers to Hickory.)

In Upton town records, from 1736 to 1836, reviewed by Rufin, the following trees were noted as landmarks, when laying out roads. Pitch pine 28, popel, popler, pople, popple 8, Red oak 4, White oak, Graw oak, Gray oak 65 (one listed as "a great oak"), walnut 7, Black oak 33, pine 13 and chestnut 7. Three of the chestnuts were listed as “great chestnut”. At this time, chestnut was not as abundant. However, it is a tree of high ground and the high hills may have been avoided when roads were being laid out.

The abundance of Pitch pine is interesting. Pitch pine is considered a FIRE Species. It is the pine of the dry sandy soil of Cape Cod. Its thick bark protects it from fire. If it is killed by fire, or cut down, it is the only local species of pine, which can re-sprout. The cones open with heat and drop seed, which germinates best on bare soil. There is much research showing that Native Americans used fire as a tool to open woodland areas for grass to attract deer and berries for food. Records at UHS document brush fires in this area during the 1800’s and early 1900’s.

Interviews with men who worked for logging operations in the state forest area 100 years ago show that chestnut and oak were plentiful. This is also evident when examining timbers in some of our historic homes to learn what lumber was used to frame them.

In 1936, CCC inspector’s records said, “86,000 trees were assigned to this camp for planting, with a few thousand more coming”. In 1938, CCC crews were thinning White birch and Red maple from a natural stand of pine to allow the pine to thrive. The inspector commented that he saw, “more value in some of the hard wood being thinned.”

Today Red pine appears in places within USF, planted by the CCC in areas that had been fields. A northern species, more prevalent in Maine and around the Great Lakes, it may have been chosen for its marketability.

Even in 1793, the forest was probably different from before the incorporation of Upton in 1735, because there were already families in the area. The lands of New England have been forested, cleared, tilled for planting and cleared for pasture. Wood was harvested to build our homes, barns, factories, churches and furniture. Today, much of New England is returning to forest, although perhaps not the forests of the past.

**OHV Laws Changed**

If you ride motorized recreational vehicles, be aware that the laws have changed so you should become familiar with the new laws. For information go to www.mass.gov/dcr, click on Activities and ORV/OHV/ATV. You will find links for a list of the places where you can legally ride, and a link to registration information. For a brochure, go to http://www.mass.gov/dfw/ele/dle/ohpamphlet.pdf.
Meet the DCR Staff
Kathryn Garcia, District Manager

As District Manager, Kathryn Garcia is responsible for the park and recreation operations in the Great Brook and Metro West Districts in the Northeast Region. The Great Brook District includes; Great Brook Farm, (one of only two modern working dairy farms in a state park system), Lowell Heritage Park, Willard Brook State Forest, Pearl Hill State Park and Walden Pond State Reservation, (known internationally as the home of Henry David Thoreau). Also included in the Great Brook District are the Nashua River Rail Trail, two historic curatorships, and Lord Pool in Lowell. The Metro West District includes Hopkinton, Ashland, Cochituate, and Whitehall State Parks (all popular for water sports and activities). There is also Callahan State Park and the Milford Pool. In addition, there are Marlboro and Sudbury State Forests and last but not least, Upton State Forest (well known for the historic CCC camp).

Some of the duties that Kathryn is responsible for include budget allocation for park operations and capital projects, staffing and implementation of department policies and initiatives.

Prior to coming to work for DCR in 2006, Kathryn had worked as Director of Recreation for the Southborough Recreation Commission and as Director of U. S. Army, Europe, Music and Theatre Center in Aschaffenburg, Germany. She has served as New England Representative to the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) National Forum and held several offices for the MA Recreation and Parks Association. In October 2009, she was a co-presenter and speaker about “Succession Planning and Diversity in the Workplace”, at the NRPA National Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Kathryn said that she has a special interest in “no child left inside”, (http://www.mass.gov/dcr/gpp/). This program gives her the feeling that she can contribute in some way to getting families outdoors to enjoy the benefits of healthy recreational pursuits. As the mother of four sons, she has fond memories of watching many different types of sports games, mostly football and lacrosse!

Friends of USF appreciate all that Kathryn does to keep the District running smoothly and for working with our Board of Directors and others for the benefit of Upton State Forest. We recognize the challenge she faces as manager of two districts. From the first, she has shown a willingness to learn about USF and to work with us as partners.

Funding for DCR
The FUSF Board of Directors has sent a letter to the Secretary of Energy and Environment (EOEEA) to support DCR and the state parks budget. Did you know that MA has the ninth largest state park system in the US and spends less than half the national average per capita on our parks and recreation? More info at http://www.environmentalleague.org/ Click on Green Budget.
Friends of Upton State Forest

Annual Meeting, January 24, 7PM
Snow date January 30, 7PM
See page 1 for details

Discover Winter Hike
January 9, 1PM
See page 1 for details

Board of Directors
Upton Police Station, 7PM
January 17, February 21
March 21, April 18

Potluck Supper, April 29
Save the date.

Earth Hour, March 26, 8:30 to 9:30
Turn out your lights. Celebrate the earth and bring attention to global warming.
www.earthhour.org

Upton Open Space Full Moon Hike
Stefan’s Farm, February 19, 7PM
Meet at the Community Garden on Mechanic St, near the power lines.
Discover Stefan’s Farm under the full moon. Liability waiver will be required.
Dress for the weather. For notification of cancellations, send an email to
uptonopenspaceevents@charter.net. **

Outdoor Adventure Clinic for Youth
Feb 22 to 25, 9AM to 3PM
at Nipmuc Rod and Gun Club
88 Fiske Mill Rd, Upton
Snowshoeing, ice fishing, winter survival, campfire building, tracking, map and compass and more! For more info, contact Jeff LeClaire, Fin and Feather Sports, 508-529-3901. (Fee) **

Sweetwilliam Farm Town Meeting,
January 11, 7PM,
at Nipmuc High School
After Friends of Sweetwilliam Farm collected over 500 signatures, Upton selectmen scheduled a special town meeting for January 11 to consider a warrant article to preserve the farm. If successful, part of the plan is for trail access that will connect the town owned Warren Brook Watershed land, which abuts Grafton owned Pell Farm, with Upton State Forest, creating a significant trail corridor. Funding would come from already collected CPA funds, a $500,000 LAND grant and private donations, with ** no increase in tax bills. **

We encourage our members to attend the town meeting. More info is available on the Town of Upton website, click on Open Space Committee, or email friendsofsweetwilliamfarm@charter.net.

Park Watch Training!
January 16, 1 PM, Location TBD
Watch for more details
Friends groups throughout the state have been asking for this training so we are excited to have it coming to Upton! Park Watch is a cooperative effort to encourage crime prevention practices by park staff, law enforcement and park visitors for a safe and crime free environment. Hope to see you there. Anyone is welcome. As of press time we did not have the location. Information 978-369-3350, ext. 39, or http://www.mass.gov/dcr/events.htm

** FUSF provides information about local outdoor events when space permits. We assume no liability for the events or information.
DCR Report

**CCC Way Closed For Winter**

Jeff Cate, Park Supervisor, advises the gate at CCC Way is now closed for the winter. Keeping it closed greatly assists in reducing deterioration of the gravel surface, which means less maintenance and potential damage to visitor’s vehicles. This also reduces the need to put out salt next to a wetland during icy conditions. Parking will remain open on the paved areas near the buildings. Staff will plow and maintain it to the highest level of safety that they are able.

*Editor’s note: Please do not park in front of the closed gate at CCC Way. It is still emergency access to the park.*

Donations Received

We are fortunate to receive direct donations from our members and others. Some people pay the full amount of their dues rather than taking advantage of the annual renewal discount. Others send checks in lieu of baking for a meeting or give generous support to our appeals for various projects.

Many of you have donated useful items. Thank you to: Alice Evans-paper goods for meetings, Lillian Tolstrup-push broom, Steve Warren-staple gun and a plastic tub to store merchandise. The family of Norm Fahy donated a wheelbarrow, many garden tools, and a garden cart for work parties.

We have also received financial donations since the last newsletter from Frank & Alice Evans for the Historic Resources Committee, Diane and Bryan Dungey toward the moth program, Michael Penko, and Marylou Hannon Ansel and Richard Ansel.

Last but not least, thank you to all who baked for our meetings and events.

Forest Futures Visioning Comments

Public comment is being accepted until January 14, 2011, on the landscape designations of woodlands, parklands and reserves. More info is available at [http://www.mass.gov/dcr/news/publicmeetings_forestryfvppast.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dcr/news/publicmeetings_forestryfvppast.htm). The address is designation.comments@state.ma.us or by regular mail to: DCR Landscape Designations Comments, 251 Causeway St, Suite 600, Boston, MA 02114.

FUSF Wish List

We would appreciate donations of paper goods for refreshments and office supplies such as printing paper, card stock and letter size envelopes. Checks may be sent to Friends of Upton State Forest, PO Box 258, Upton, MA 01568-0258. Please advise us if you do not want a public acknowledgement.

FUSF Donation Policy

It has come to our attention that some web-based vendors, who collect charitable donations, have listed Friends of Upton State Forest. **The Board of Directors has not authorized anyone to request or collect donations on our behalf.** Article 12, Section C of our bylaws says, “No outside company or organization will be asked or authorized to do fund raising under our name without the written consent of the Board of Directors.” If you have any questions or become aware of any unauthorized solicitation, please let us know.

New Secretary of EOEEA

Congratulations to Rick Sullivan, DCR Commissioner, for his appointment as Secretary of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs.

Website of the Month

[http://www.mass.gov/dcr/stewardship/ranger/parkwatch.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dcr/stewardship/ranger/parkwatch.htm)
FRIENDS OF UPTON STATE FOREST
PO BOX 258
UPTON, MA 01568-0258

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION ----- MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL------ (check one) (Please Print Clearly) Date__________________

Name: ____________________________________________________________________________

(For family membership please put names of two adults)

Mailing Address: ____________________________________________________________________

City: ______________________________________________________________________________

Telephone: ________________________ Fax: _____________________________________________

E-mail: ____________________________________________________________________________

What committees would you like to be a member of? Please circle your choices.

Auditing Events Membership Publicity
Education Fund Raising Newsletter Telephone
E-mail alerts Historical Resources Program Trails

What is your interest? Check all that apply. (If you wish, indicate on reverse if you belong to organizations that support these interests.)

Bird Watching Horseback Riding Photography/Art
Cross Country Skiing Hunting Snow Shoeing
Dog Sledding Mountain Biking Snowmobiling
Hiking Open Space Preservation Wildlife Watching
Historical Orienteering Other (what?)

Membership Categories: (Prices effective through July 31, 2010) (Circle one)

Family of 2 adults & 2 children (under age 18) --------- $30.00
Individual ----------------------------------------- $20.00
Senior 65+---------------------------------------- $10.00
Student full time under 26-------------------------- $10.00
Associate member (no voting privileges or discounts) ---- $ 5.00

Comments on reverse Information is for Friends of Upton State Forest use only.

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