



Friends of Upton State Forest Newsletter

<http://www.friendsofuptonstateforest.org>
friends@friendsofuptonstateforest.org
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Volume 7, Number 1

Winter 2012

Just One Thing

As we enter our seventh year as an organization, we realize that all we have accomplished happened because we did it together. Each person that becomes a member gives us strength and justifies our goals. Each Board of Directors has worked hard to fulfill our mission “to preserve, enhance and protect the natural and historic resources of Upton State Forest.”

This year we are asking you to do “just one thing.” There are many ways to help that do not involve a lot of time. We need hike leaders, newsletter articles, and help managing our merchandise inventory. If you check your email daily, would you join the telephone committee to call members without email to remind them of meetings? We also need people with email to proofread newsletter pages before they go out. If you have Access or Excel skills, would you develop and maintain a membership database? There are three Entrance Gateway gardens that we water and maintain. If you visit the forest on a regular basis, would you adopt one of them? Would you present a program at a meeting? How about baking or helping with meeting set up and cleanup? Come to a work party. Please contact Joan at 508-529-3164 or Ellen at 508-529-6610 if you can help.

We love hearing feedback from you so please keep in touch, renew your membership and please, try doing “just one thing!”

We wish you Happy Trails in 2012!

FUSF Board of Directors

Annual Meeting and Program
February 6, 2012, 7PM
Upton VFW, 15 Milford St, Upton
Snow date: February 13

“Preserving the Past: The History of Upton’s Open Spaces”

There will be a brief business meeting that will include a vote on the bylaw amendments that we sent to you recently. If you did not get a copy, please contact Joan at 508-529-3164 or friends@friendsofuptonstateforest.org. The Board voted to postpone election of officers until our spring meeting when the new bylaws will be in effect.

FUSF member, Bill Taylor will present a power point program about “Preserving the Past: The History of Upton’s Open Spaces”. He will share his extensive research about the history of Peppercorn, Warren Brook, Stefans and Sweetwillam Farms, and how the history of those properties reflects the general history of Upton. He weaves information about the people, the land and the physical evidence of how they used it together in a very interesting program.



Photo from Upton Historical Society

Beaver Update

By Chris Scott, Chairman
Upton Conservation Commission
E. Arnold photos



CCC Way after Tropical Storm Irene

Thanks to beaver activity water levels in the two bogs at Upton State Forest have been rising. Over the last three years, the beaver population has been increasing and repeatedly repairing their dams, despite the efforts of the Upton Conservation Commission. When a culvert that was scheduled for repair became clogged over the summer, water began flowing over Southborough Road and CCC Way. A joint meeting between Jeff Cate of DCR, Upton DPW, Upton Conservation Commission, Blythe Robinson, Upton Town Manager and Ellen Arnold as a resident of Upton was held to devise an emergency plan of action. It was agreed to clear the collapsed culvert while initiating a trapping effort and lowering water levels of the bogs in order to protect the roads.

As of Dec. 26, 2011, a pond leveler was installed and two beaver have been trapped from the area. The water levels have dropped approximately 1.5 feet and the channels, which flow to the culvert closest to CCC Way, have been reestablished. A contractor under the supervision of the Upton DPW has replaced several culverts in the area and on Westborough Road.

This is a unique area with sensitive habitat, an endangered species, and many well used trails. A long-term beaver management plan for the area will be developed, with the goal of balancing the needs of humans with the needs of wildlife in the area.

CCC Legacy Letterbox Series

In 2008, a group of five letterboxes was hidden at Upton State Forest, in honor of the 75th anniversary of the CCC. The boxes were placed at points in the camp and forest that highlight a CCC resource. Each box contains a unique stamp, handcrafted by Marcella Stasa. Bill and Jane Milligan still maintain the boxes and receive emails from people who visit them. Most visitors comment on the quality of the unique stamps done by Marcella.

CCC Records Project

We are excited about the tremendous response we have had to our request for support for the CCC Records Project. Thank you to the following donors: Russ & Ellen Arnold, Amanda Ayotte, Robert J. Bleakney, Tony & Hubie D'Ambrosio, Diane & Brian Dungey, Alice Evans, Betsy & Rob Knox, Jan & Lee Maglione, Jane & Bill Milligan, Brett Morganelli, Ed & Betty Roche, Chris Scott, Robert Such, Joan Varney, NACCA Chapter 158 CCC Alumni and two anonymous. Upton Historical Society has made a pledge of \$300 as a direct grant partner.

Donations were made in honor of Frank Evans 90th birthday (page 3), and Chris Scott's parents, Andrew and Maryann Miklioche of Romeo, MI.

Joan Varney's donation was in memory of her father, Joe Gorman (see page 5) while Jane and Bill Milligan made their contribution in memory of Jane's father, Rudy Cieplinski (see page 4).

Invasive Plants



Winged Euonymus along CCC Way
E. Arnold photo

In our last newsletter, we discussed Oriental bittersweet, an invasive vine. If you visit the Headquarters area of USF right now there are several areas where the berries are plainly visible. Another invasive plant obvious there now is *Euonymus alatus* (Thunb.) Sieb., which is also known as Winged Euonymus or Burning bush.

Introduced into this country in the 1860's as an ornamental shrub, it is native to China and Japan. Hardy to USDA Zone 4, the plant adapts to various conditions and is tolerant of full shade. It produces many seeds, which can germinate close to the mother plant, or be spread by birds. It has a dense, fibrous root system and can form thickets that shade out native plants forming a monoculture and threatening a variety of habitats. It is recognized by the four corky "wings", or "fins" along its stems. There are small flowers in the spring, and red-purple capsules that contain seeds in late summer. During the fall, the leaves are a brilliant shade of red or purple.

In 2006, MA banned importation of this plant and prohibited propagation and sale as of January 1, 2009. Several very nice native shrubs can be used as alternatives in landscape plantings.

Membership Report

We are happy to welcome the following new members. Bill Boles of Sandwich, Jeanne O'Brien of Plymouth, Laurence Doucette, Ernest Pellerin and Gary and Susan McCarthy of Upton. If you know anyone, who cares about Upton State Forest, please tell them about FUSF and encourage them to become a member. A membership form is included with this newsletter or at www.friendsofuptonstateforest.org. There is a 10% discount for anyone renewing by or at the annual meeting.

Frank Evans



D. Dungey photo

Frank Evans, CCC alumnus and co-founder of FUSF, was honored, recently, with a 90th birthday celebration. In this photo, he is showing Madison, his great granddaughter, a card made by Upton Memorial School fourth graders. Each year Frank works with DCR interpreter, Tim Rayworth and FUSF to bring the history of the CCC to third graders at the school. He and Tim visit the school to introduce the history of the CCC and the children ask Frank questions about his own CCC service at Mt. Tom State Reservation. Then the children spend a day at the CCC Camp learning about daily life with hands on activities. Say Happy Birthday if you see Frank!

DCR Report

It was a busy fall season for our park staff. Tropical Storm Irene and October snowstorms brought down many trees. With the help of the Friends, “eyes on the ground”, they dealt with 38 separate tree/limb falls requiring chain saw work. They also used a chipper to remove limb falls around the buildings and parking areas. The amount of tree work at the four parks of the Hopkinton complex was challenging. Work is being concentrated on the named, marked trails that are on the park map. If you find any obstacles or hazards on the named trails please contact us and we will pass the information on. In addition to the work at the parks within their jurisdiction, our staff has been assisting at Great Brook Farm and the Nashua River Rail Trail.

The CCC Way entrance gate is now closed for the winter, and all parking will be at the Headquarters area near the buildings. High water and heavy rains have taken a toll on CCC Way, so plans are to have the road surface leveled and graded in the spring.

We learned in a message from Jeff Cate that “the year round staff has been reduced to myself, and Richard Trubiano. While our commitment and level of service remains strong, the response time to maintenance and non-emergency items, will be tested to the limit. It is my goal that forest users at Upton and park users at Hopkinton, Ashland and Whitehall, will not notice a significant difference.”

In preparation for advertising, the Historic Curatorship Program for Upton, inspections and hazardous material testing has been done at the cottage.

The North Barn was demolished and the debris removed on November 2.

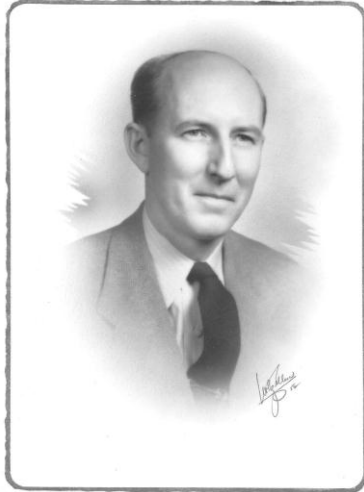


Rudolph M. Cieplinski

In the summer of 1935, Rudy left his home in Ludlow, MA traveling by train to Fort Devens where he stayed for a week. It was there that he joined a group of CCC enrollees, received orientation, was given clothing, and then sent to Camp SP-25, CCC at Upton State Forest where he spent the next 18 months.

The enrollees lined up on the parade ground for instructions when they arrived at the camp. He and about five others were ordered to step aside. They waited anxiously to learn that they were going to Cooks and Bakers School at Fort Adams in Newport, RI. After six weeks there, Rudy returned to Upton as a 2nd class cook in charge of the bakery where he made dozens of rolls and 35 pies at a time. This status earned him an extra \$6.00 a month, which was his to keep. Of the \$30.00 a month that regular enrollees earned they kept \$5.00 and the rest went home to their families.

Joseph M. Gorman, Sr.



Joe Gorman's CCC experience was different from the typical enrollee. He graduated from Upton High School in 1926 and attended Mass State College (now UMass Amherst), graduating in 1931 as a teacher. While at college, he was a pitcher/outfielder for the baseball team. In 1933, he married Anne Swett, from Worcester, and when he started working at the camp, around 1935, they had one child. Normally, enrollees were unmarried and between the ages of 18 to 25. While most enrollees lived in the camps, LEM often lived at home with their families. At the camps, local enlisted men or LEM, who were skilled in forestry, or other aspects of CCC work, did training. The enrollees could also go to school at night so there was a need for classroom educators too. Joe was also a coach of the camp soccer team, winning the district championship.

In 1937, FDR's Postmaster General, James Farley, appointed Joe as Upton's Postmaster. In 1944, he enlisted in the service serving at the Fleet Post Office in San Francisco. His wife took on the job of Postmistress, while caring for their five children! Upon his return, he served as postmaster, retiring in 1970.

Resource Management Planning

The DCR is mandated, by legislation, to develop Resource Management Plans (RMP) for each of its properties. This is a huge task since it encompasses all aspects of a property and sets guidelines for managing it. This is a public process that balances protection of sensitive resources with recreational use. Input from users and others who are familiar with the park or have expertise in appropriate areas is critical to a good RMP.

We don't know when the RMP for Upton will be done but we want to be ready. The first step for us is to identify, inventory and share information with DCR that we have about the natural and historic resources of USF. Many of you have used the forest for years and could help us do that.

There is a meeting on Thursday, January 26, 7:00 PM at Upton Police Station to plan the best way to approach this. Once we get organized, we want to have teams that will work together on field trips into the forest. We want to include parcels that are not contiguous to the North Upton area also since an RMP is for the entire property. If you are familiar with any part of USF, please come to the meeting. Even if you can't be on a team, any knowledge you have about the various properties is important to share. If you can't come but want to share information or be on a team, please contact Ellen at 508-529-6610 or news@friendsofuptonstateforest.org.

RMP Information

You can get more information about Resource Management Plans at <http://www.mass.gov/dcr/stewardship/rmp/>.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friends of Upton State Forest

Annual Meeting

February 6, 7 PM at Upton VFW
Snow date, February 13
See page 1

Board of Directors

Upton Police Station, 7 PM
January 16
February 20
March 19
April 16

Resource Management Plan Committee
January 26, 7 PM at
Upton Police Station
See page 5

Discovery Hikes

The theme for the 2012 Discovery Hikes is "A Sense of Place." We are planning hikes, a workshop and a fun, family event focused on developing a sense of place and an appreciation of our public properties. Watch for details.

Waters Farm, Sutton

The Blackstone River Watershed Association is planning a family program at Waters Farm on Feb 4. Join National Park Service Ranger Chuck Arning as he leads an exploration of this beautiful property using natural history, geology and evidence of land use to weave the tale of its long history.

We are waiting for more info but are considering a car pool for anyone that would be interested in going. If you would like to join us or can drive, please let us know by January 30. We will put your name on a list to notify. You can contact Ellen at 508-529-6610 or news@friendsofuptonstateforest.org. The car pool is on a first come basis, and depends on how many people are willing to drive.

Parting Shots



Water Buffalo E. Arnold photo

Many people in Upton were without power for several days following the late October snowstorm. Trees still had their leaves and the weight of the heavy wet snow brought down many limbs and wires. Upton Fire Department provided "water buffalos" for residents in need of water. This one was located near Upton State Forest at the intersection of North Street and Westborough Road.

Got Pic's and Memories?

We love to hear from people with memories of Upton State Forest, the CCC Camp and stories about encounters with wildlife or other experiences while using the forest. If you would be willing to share photos, memories or stories please get in touch with Ellen at news@friendsofuptonstateforest.org or 508-529-6610.

If you send pictures let us know if it is ok to use them on our website. If there are children in them we need written (or email) parental permission to use them.

Quarterly Quote

"I am only one, but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something"
Helen Keller



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 names of two adults)

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail _____

Would you consider being a member of one of our committees? Please circle your choices.

Auditing	Fund Raising	Newsletter	Telephone Committee
Education	Historical Resources	Program	Trails Committee
Events	Membership	Publicity	

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

Membership Categories: (Prices effective through March 31, 2012) (Circle one)

Family of 2 adults & 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

Additional Donation Amount:
Anonymous? Yes--- No---

General Fund or Special Fund:
Memorial or Honorarium?
Name of person being recognized?

Below this line is for office use only:

Payment: Cash Check # Amount paid: Year paid:
Card(s) issued by: Newsletter address entered: