



Friends of Myles Standish State Forest

WINTER NEWSLETTER 2008-2009

Headline News

FMSSF adopts DCR's Park Watch Program

Chief Ranger Curt Rudge, Director of the Department of Conservation and Recreation's (DCR) Park Watch program described how the program works to FMSSF at the November 18 meeting. By December, the Board voted unanimously to bring the program to MSSE.

Ranger Rudge explained that the program begins with him setting up a meeting with police chiefs in Plymouth and Carver. After that, FMSSF will help set up a community meeting where Ranger Rudge will explain the program to the public and conduct volunteer training for those interested in participating.



Chief Ranger Curt Rudge presents DCR's Park Watch Program to an attentive group of friends.

Park Watch volunteers report any illegal or suspicious activity to DCR Park Rangers or State Police. Illegal or suspicious behavior can include: vandalism, ground fires, illegal dumping, consumption of alcohol, collecting plants or animals, illegal motorized vehicles on trails, camping or park use after dusk. See <http://www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/metroboston/trailwatch/mapw.htm>.

"As far as the reporting goes," said Ranger Rudge, "we direct people to utilize our Park Watch number (1-866-PK-WATCH) to report things and in turn our dispatchers pass the message along to the appropriate people or agency. Its a great program and your group is a perfect fit for it."

Volunteers work cooperatively with forest staff, park rangers, environmental and local police to recognize and report suspicious activity in and around park areas. They also provide information to park managers and local law enforcement agencies by being "eyes & ears" in the forest.

FMSSF Ken Winters has stepped forward to chair the Park Watch Subcommittee. Ken will help arrange the first public meeting. Meanwhile, report suspicious activity to the Forest staff at (508) 866-2526 or call the number PK Watch number above.

Friends to Host Evening Discussion:

Wonders of the MSSF Pine Barrens

Plymouth Library

Tuesday, March 31, 6:30 p.m.

Join Friends of Myles Standish as we host an evening discussion with four experts in Pine Barrens ecology. Each panelist will highlight a special aspect of Pine Barrens with a focus on the Myles Standish State Forest. We promise you will be amazed and delighted. Our distinguished panelists will be available for questions after the discussion.

Pine Barrens are wonderful and rare ecosystems—home to plants and animals well adapted to live in the extremes of environment. FMSSF is devoted to telling everyone just how important is our forest in the world!

The event is free. Refreshments will be served. Children are encouraged to come! For more details visit

<http://www.friendsmssf.com>.



Irina Kadis (center) seen here leading a plant-identification tour, will join the panel of experts as the authority on rare and unusual plants in MSSF. Photo courtesy of Helga Stottmeier.

Have a favorite Photo of MSSF?

Get ready. FMSSF will soon announce a photo contest. FMSSF VP Ron Hunter believes a contest will be a good way to collect pictures of all four seasons in MSSE. We haven't worked out all the details yet, but we want photographers to start shooting. If you think you might like to submit photos for the contest, please be sure to record where and when you took your pictures. We'll be looking for photos in various categories: natural, cultural, recreational, & historical.





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DCR Commissioner Visits MSSF

Commissioner Rick Sullivan, accompanied by an entourage of DCR staff, spent the day of September 29, 2008, touring MSSF and meeting with Southeast Regional personnel. The Commissioner issued a special invitation to meet over lunch with members of the FMSSF Board. The Board expressed its thanks by providing lunch. The Board presented a slide show during lunch outlining friend's priorities.

Jim Nelson, FMSSF Camp Owners Chair, discussed the concern that the Camp Owners may be forced to abandon their camps. It was also brought up that the Camp Owners provide a much needed presence in Myles Standish that would augment the safety and security of users.

Thom Gifford, Equestrian Chair, discussed making the Gate 30 Parking Lot larger for horse trailers and asked about the possibility of acquiring a Toro Dingo and attachments for trail maintenance. Thom met the entourage, sans the Commissioner, at Gate 30 to view the area of proposed parking expansion.



From left to right, FMSSF board members, Thom Gifford and Jim Nelson, TNC Robb Johnson, MSSF Supervisor John C. Roberts, DCR S. E. Regional Director Brian Shanahan, DCR Commissioner Richard Sullivan, DCR Director of Partnerships Conrad Crawford, DCR S. E. District Manager Don Matinzi.



Friends help Clean Forest Parking lot

Friends work to cut brush and clear around the guardrails at the parking lot at Upper College Pond Road

during a November work party. Two other crews picked up trash on Upper College Pond and Bare Hill Roads. Thanks to DCR's John Dubois for carting away large trash bags.

Call for Junior Duck Stamp Art Entries

MassWildlife invites teachers and their students to participate in the Massachusetts Junior Duck Stamp Program Art Contest. This conservation education program is designed to stimulate awareness and personal involvement in waterfowl & wetland conservation for students in grades K-12 through a student art project. Duck stamp art entries are due March 15.

The overall state winner will represent Massachusetts at the national competition. For more information see: Massachusetts Junior Duck Stamp Program Guide: http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/education/jds/pdf/jds_curriculum_guide.pdf

MassWildlife Materials for Teachers: http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/education/jds/jds_materials.htm

2009 Junior Duck Stamp Program and submission form: <http://www.fws.gov/juniorduck/pdf/JD08-09Brochure.pdf>



DCR Honors "Iron Ranger" Artist Linda Malis

Plymouth artist and newlywed, Linda Malis, received a recognition certificate from DCR Supervisor John C. Roberts at MSSF for painting an iron ranger in the forest. Linda and ten other artists were honored at a celebration on November 7, 2008, at Purgatory Chasm State Park, Sutton but Linda was unable to attend. Iron Rangers are cash collecting containers. Donations to Iron Rangers benefit the parks where they are installed. Linda painted the above scene of the cranberry bog near Rocky Pond on the Iron Ranger. Her painting of sea lions was selected for the Iron Ranger at Ellisville Harbor State Park.



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From left. MSSF Superintendent John C. Roberts, Bob Desrosiers, Pat Desrosiers, FMSSF Equestrian Chair, Thom Gifford and FMSSF President Shari Heller. recognize Equestrians

First recipients of the FMSSF Volunteer of the Year Award selected

Bob and Pat Desrosiers received the first Friends of Myles Standish State Forest Volunteer of the Year Award. The award is given in recognition of volunteers who have made an outstanding contribution to the MSSF during the past year.

The Desrosiers are strong advocates, the driving force and laborers for the Horse Camp at Charge Pond. They devote every weekend to being the Camp Hosts and showing riders around the Forest. They have gotten things done that would never have been done and they have done so in relative obscurity. Many feel that if not for Bob & Pat the Horse Camp would not exist.

FMSSF Equestrian Chair Thom Gifford, who recommended Bob and Pat for the award said, "I feel that Bob & Pat Desrosiers have been, by far, the biggest civilian asset to Myles Standish for the last 10 years."

MSSF Supervisor John Roberts, joined the Friends on behalf of DCR in presenting the Desrosiers with the award. A small celebration honoring the recipients was held at the MSSF Headquarters new amphitheater on Sunday, October 12. Southeast Regional Manager Brian Shanahan BBQ'd sausages and friends brought potluck dishes to share.

Along with a certificate, the Desrosiers received a gift of appreciation, a gift certificate for a dinner out, donated by the Gateway Tavern, Wareham. FMSSF will be placing a plaque at the forest Headquarters with the names of the Desrosiers at the top of the list of all future award winners.

Friends of Myles Standish State Forest membership renewals are due.

Please help FMSSF continue to work for the forest. Send your membership dues or donations to: Bob Bentley, FMSSF Treasurer, 60 Wenham Road, Carver, MA 02330-1220. Thank you.

Visit <http://friendsmssf.com>



Volunteer Scottie Coyne helps Friends mark the new "Friend's Trail".

"Friend's Trail" gets finishing Touches

East Entrance Trail designer Peter McLaughlin lead a work party of nine volunteers on December 14 along the newly finished Friend's Trail. Workers nailed up trail markers and then tested them to make sure the markers lead hikers in the right direction.

The new trail is part of a larger project undertaken by the friends group in 2008 to make the east entrance more appear more natural and encourage recreation in the northeast corner of the forest.

Earlier in the year, Kevin Madley directed a native plant project, installing over 40 shrubs and trees in keeping with Pine Barrens habitat. DCR crews expanded the parking lot, removed a hazardous island, worked out drainage problems and moved two picnic tables to the site. Since the improvements, friends and staff have remarked on the increase in the numbers of cars parked at the entrance and that more people seem to be enjoying the paved bike trails that begin here. The new trail should attract even more users now that it is clearly marked.

The East Entrance Project still has a ways to go before friends call it done. Peter is working on a map of the new trail, which he hopes to make available at the trailhead, and Kevin plans to improve the plantings and the beds once winter is done and he can evaluate the survival rate of each type of plant. And there is always the maintenance!

Join Friends of MSSF on The first Sunday Walk, February 1, 2009. Meet at the Long Pond Road (East Entrance) parking lot, 1:00 p.m. for exercise, conversation, and outdoors enjoyment.



Kids and good dogs welcome!



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Massachusetts Forest and Park Friends Network Formed

Mike Ryan (Guest Columnist)

On October 25, 2008, Friends of the Middlesex Fells joined other Massachusetts Friends groups in Worcester to found a new organization dedicated to better protect and enhance Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) parks and forests across the Commonwealth. The meeting capped a year's effort by an organizing team comprised of Friends groups leaders representing Robinson State Park, Upton State Forest, Myles Standish State Forest, the Middlesex Fells Reservation, and Douglas State Forest –to create the first ever statewide network of DCR park supporters.

The new organization is called the Massachusetts Forest and Park Friends Network and its website www.networkingfriends.net/index.html explains its purpose: "Effective stewardship of public forests and parks requires cooperation and the combined efforts of many individuals, organizations and state agencies. . . . By sharing information, helping one another, and working together on statewide issues of concern we can grow our membership and increase our potential to help protect our forests and parks, insuring that these lands will remain wonderful places to visit for generations."

Following introductory remarks by the organizing team, DCR Partnership Director Conrad Crawford, State Representative Anne Gobi, and forest and park supporters got to work in 2 workshops; one to discuss how to form and strengthen forest and park friends groups and the other focused on the threat of commercial logging in DCR forests and parks.

So far the Network, which includes 19 DCR Friends groups as well as many supporters of Friends groups, has been involved in issues such as reducing illegal off road vehicle use in DCR parks, helping Friends of the Blue Hills fight loss of part of their parkland to a commercial developer, and learning about the issue of clear cut logging in state forests and parks. A 'news' section and 'critical issues' page of the website helps keep park supporters informed.

Calendar

Feb. 1, First Sunday Hike 1-3 p.m. East Entrance Parking lot
Feb. 18, Board Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Barn, MSSF HQ (headquarters)
Feb. 21, Friends Work Party, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. meet at HQ
Mar. 10, Board Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Barn, MSSF HQ
Mar. 14, Friends Work Party, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. meet at HQ
Mar. 31, Pine Barrens Panel Discussion, Plymouth Library
6:30 p.m. Panelists: Irina Kadis; Treveor Lloyd-Evans, Manomet CCS; Robb Johnson, TNC; & ?
Apr. 14, Board Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Barn, MSSF HQ
Apr. 18, Friends Work Party, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. HQ
May 12, Board Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Barn, MSSF HQ
May 19, Annual Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Barn, MSSF HQ DCR

Fishin' event yields large catches despite torrential rain!



Tauri Adamczyk displays her catch!

Friends of Myles Standish State Forest (FMSSF) held their second annual fishing event, "Take Me Fishin'!" on September 27. While the weather discouraged many from coming, those who did come found big fish and plenty of them.

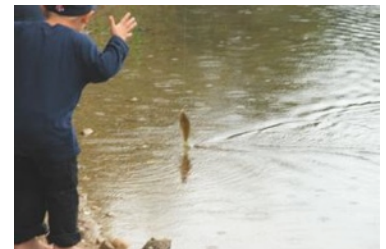
FMSSF has many to thank for the success of our Fishing Event. MSSF Supervisor John Robert gave us his full support. DCR Interpreter Amy Nelson and DCR Supervisor II John Dubois, set up information booths information and fun activities for kids. Forest staff

helped set up picnic and display tables, erected tents, provided the portable toilets, and managed traffic.

MassWildlife stocked Fearing Pond just before the event. Angler Education Coordinator Jim Lagacy brought five Angler Education Volunteers to teach people how to fish.

Jim brought the poles, bait and a gift for every child! MassWildlife also donated a beautiful rod and reel for the raffle.

FMSSF very much thanks all of its partners: Captain John Boats, Inc., Plymouth; Lobster Tails, Plymouth; Plymouth Rotary Sunrise Club; Rod Builders Workshop & Fly Fishing Emporium, Kingston; Ross MacVicar, chainsaw artist, Plymouth; Super Stop and Shop, Plymouth; Morse Nursery, Plymouth; Twenty-five FMSSF member volunteers with special recognition to Ron Hunter and Susan Darrell. They help others discover what a treasure we have in the MSSF. Thank you all. We hope to see you next year at the Third Annual FMSSF *Take Me Fishin'* event!



Young fisher helps land a fish!



2008 fishing derby winners. It to rt: Ethan Froese, Most Fish; J.P. Anusewicz 4th Pl.; Taryn Minahan 2nd Pl.; Tauri Adamczyk 3rd Pl.; Justin Minahan 1st Pl.; Devin Fagundes 5th Pl.