

## Massachusetts Forest and Park Friends Network 2016 Volunteer of the Year Award

### Christine (Chris) Scott



Friends of Upton State Forest (FUSF) nominate Chris Scott for the Volunteer of the Year award. Chris has been a member and officer since June of 2005 when she participated in the process to become a legitimate 501c3 non-profit organization and became our first Recording Secretary. She became Treasurer of FUSF in 2007 and has held that position ever since.

Chris is the first to volunteer when we need a raffle, baked goods or someone to be at an event. She is a strong advocate for the environment, for open space, and for FUSF. When the Friends Network held their first

conference at Union Station in Worcester it was Chris who volunteered to help with registration. She has done it every year since and is the first face you see when you come to our gatherings!

Although Chris is quiet-spoken, when she does speak at our Board meetings everyone pays attention because she is always on target with thoughts and ideas.

In addition to her work with FUSF she also serves as the Chair of the Upton Conservation Commission.

### Jake Osborne

Friends of Alewife Reservation (FAR) nomination: Jake Osborne is a special and worthy volunteer scientist and educator, proficient in many areas of biology and ecology, and an anadromous fish specialist who set up curriculum and supported our ecology camp pro bono while helping to guide the 2 college students staff and high school staff to the most amazing camp experience this past summer for 6 weeks, 21 hours per week, traveling from far to come 3 full days a week and helping to prepare a computer program for the campers and to teach ecology and Alewife Reservation science along the way. His assist shows admiration for the rare urban wild and its natural resources. Jake demonstrated to campers and to the public that there was a greater fish diversity in the river than known by creating a Seining event with Fish and Wildlife of Massachusetts.

His expertise was invaluable and he continues to assist FAR when able.

### Erik Thorkildsen

Friends of Alewife Reservation (FAR) nomination: Erik has worked as a volunteer for FAR both in preparing GIS mapping, and assisting with a Conservation Commission project to be presented before the Cambridge conservation Commission working with engineer and wetlands scientist, pro bono. He has taken the findings and coordinates for numerous outfalls to be shared with the city for further investigation to comply with state and federal regulations which have motivated the Friends of Alewife Reservation to assist their city. He has done due diligence to work with inexperienced volunteers and to try and understand and to always check for accuracy by coordinate checking himself after given the coordinates. This experienced architect has shown a deep appreciation for DCR Reservation lands.

### **Frank Mand**

Southeastern Massachusetts Pine Barrens Alliance (SEMPBA) is pleased to nominate Board Member Frank Mand for the Friends Network Volunteer of the Year Award. Frank, a reporter for the Old Colony Memorial Newspaper, developed a real passion for the Pine Barrens several years ago while covering a story involving the Myles Standish State Forest. Since that time, he has used his talent as a writer to promote the Forest, the wider ecoregion and the volunteers and the agencies who care for our public lands. Frank's innovative approach to environmental education has led him to build demonstration charcoal pits at three Pine Fest events and the Friends of Myles Standish State Forest's Centennial Celebration. He is dedicated to seeing a Pine Barrens Discovery Center for the Myles Standish State Forest and, most recently, he has taken up the role of Coordinator for the Massachusetts Coastal Pine Barrens Partnership, a newly formed Regional Conservation Partnership intended to network all levels of governmental agencies and nonprofit organizations to enhance the conservation efforts of all. While there is not enough space here to include all of Frank's hundreds of hours of volunteer work, we will mention that his support of the Friends Network over the past three years is also worthy of recognition.



## **Massachusetts Forest and Park Friends Network 2016 DCR "Friend" of the Year Award**

### **Dave Furey**



Friends of Upton State Forest nominate Dave Furey, aka "Ranger Dave" for the Massachusetts Forest and Park Friends Network "DCR Friend of the Year Award". As the Central Valley District Ranger Dave is dedicated to educating park users and to keeping our parks safe. Quite often he can be found at Upton hiking or biking the trails to keep in touch with what is happening. His friendly manner and smile makes him a wonderful DCR "ambassador."

The Friends greatly appreciate that he responds to our concerns and follows up to let us know that he is aware of a problem and that he took action. He is also open to meeting

to hike the trails with us and to discuss whatever our concerns are. Communication is one of his strengths and that is so important to maintain a good relationship with a Friends group as well as park users.

### **Jim Beauchesne**

Jim Beauchesne has been working at the Lawrence Heritage State Park since 1998 as Visitors Services Supervisor, and he is a valuable asset to the Park. From day to day, Jim gives tours to groups around the city's historic sites, is computer proficient and handles the rental of the Park Community Room on a daily basis. Jim also has a broad and concise knowledge of the history of the city of Lawrence, as well as the early French community in the city.