

## Celebrating 35 Years of Stewarding the Blue Hills



Successfully advocated for on-site rangers in the Blue Hills



Established the original trail numbering system in the Blue Hills



Reconstructed the boardwalk at Ponkapoag Bog that was originally built by Professor William Babcock and his students in 1947



Protected views from Ponkapoag Pond by working with Town of Canton to modify the shape of the Canton water tank on Randolph Street



Protected endangered species habitat from a proposed petting zoo in Randolph



Successfully advocated for a wildlife passage to be part of the Route 128 add-a-lane project



Dramatically increased the number of people engaged in protecting the park with more than 500 volunteers working annually to maintain the trails and forests—the equivalent of one full time staff person



Worked with the community to successfully protect Fowl Meadow from an adjacent development that would have destroyed the wetland in this portion of the Blue Hills

1970s



Initiated efforts to develop a Master Plan for the Blue Hills Reservation



Protected historic buildings by successfully listing eight sites in the Reservation in the Mass Historic Registry



Protected rare species by working with the state during an expansion of Pine Hill Cemetery in Quincy



Worked cooperatively and extensively with DCR to assure that the Ponkapoag dam would manage the level of the pond



Worked with state agencies to ensure that trails connect the park to Route 128 Commuter Rail Station to enhance use of the Reservation

1980s

1990s

2000s

2010-2014

## Join Us at Our 35th Year Celebration!

**Thursday, October 9, 7:00 - 9:00 pm**  
**Fuller Village, 1372 Brush Hill Road,**  
**Milton**

Please join us for the Annual Celebration of the Friends of the Blue Hills on Thursday, October 9! Help celebrate the Blue Hills, our members and friends, and everything we have accomplished together over the past 35 years! You'll hear Joseph Bagley, the City Archaeologist of Boston, who will discuss how the Native American tribes were the original stewards of the Blue Hills Reservation.

Help us honor our 2014 Community Partners:

**Dedham Savings**  
**Fred and Libby Eustis**  
**Milton Junior Woman's Club**  
**Steve Valero, Blue Hills Hiking Club**

Enjoy delicious hors d'oeuvres from Off the Vine Catering, cash bar, silent auction, and much more! Tickets are \$35 each if purchased by October 3, and \$40 each at the door. Tickets can be purchased in advance on our website: [www.FriendsoftheBlueHills.org/celebrate35](http://www.FriendsoftheBlueHills.org/celebrate35).

**We look forward to seeing you on October 9!**

## Lyme Disease Awareness



*Tucker 4th graders Jevon Turenne, Elyona Jean-Baptiste & Evan Johnson participated in a Lyme disease presentation this spring. See page 3 for more details.*

# How Many Deer Are in the Blue Hills?

*The deer population in the Blue Hills is ten times the desired levels for this region according to the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife.*

In June, the Friends of the Blue Hills



DCR Commissioner Jack Murray discussing the overabundance of deer in the Blue Hills

invited the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (DFW) to a public meeting to release the results of the first site-specific study of the deer population in the Blue Hills.

The density goal for the Blue Hills, according to DFW is six to eight deer per square mile. The DFW's conservative estimate of current deer density in the Blue Hills Reservation is 85 deer per square mile.

**This estimate is about 10 times the goal for this region.** Such high numbers of deer overgraze the under-story (shrubs and small trees), damaging the habitat for other species like song-birds that nest in forest shrubs

and low tree branches.

To better understand the effect of deer populations on the forest, the DCR will study the vegetation in the Blue Hills, ideally by comparing existing conditions to species reports that were taken before the increase in deer populations. The DCR also has installed several 'exclosures,' or fenced areas, that prevent the deer from grazing. The fences are intended to allow the forest to recover from overgrazing. By comparing the plants that grow inside and outside of the exclosures, researchers will be better able to identify species that have been suppressed by overgrazing.

We will continue to work with our members, the community and DCR to better understand how deer populations are affecting the health of the Blue Hills forests.

## Sign up for Monthly Giving and You May Win a \$250 Shopping Spree at LL Bean!

If you love the Blue Hills and want to support the important work that Friends of the Blue Hills does to preserve and protect the Reservation, please consider becoming a **Blue Hills Sustainer**. By making a monthly donation to FBH, your tax deductible donation will provide a steady and reliable source of income for FBH and will ensure that your membership never lapses! Of course, you may stop the donations at any time by calling 781-828-1805 or emailing us at [info@friendsofthebluehills.org](mailto:info@friendsofthebluehills.org). **Even a small monthly donation will make a huge difference to our work.**

And when you enroll in our monthly giving program, you will be entered into a raffle for a \$250 gift certificate for LL Bean!

### YES! I want to protect the Blue Hills Reservation!

- Basic Membership – \$30
- Hancock Hill Hero – \$100
- Chickatawbut Champion – \$500
- Other \_\_\_\_\_
- Ponkapoag Protector – \$50
- Skyline Steward – \$250
- Great Blue Guardian - \$1,000

Payment Frequency (Choose one)

- Lump sum donation
- Monthly donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Become a Sustainer:**  Yes, have this gift renew automatically

- I've enclosed a check made payable to Friends of the Blue Hills
- Please charge my  Mastercard  Visa  Discover

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. date (MM/YY) \_\_\_\_\_ Card security code \_\_\_\_\_

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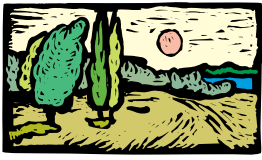
Please mail to Friends of the Blue Hills

P.O. Box 416, Milton, MA 02186

You may also donate through our secure server at [FriendsoftheBlueHills.org](http://FriendsoftheBlueHills.org).

**Thank you for your generous support!**

## Sunset Hike to the Top of Great Blue



Please join us on Saturday, October 18, from 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. for

a spectacular hike to view the sunset during peak foliage season. Bring your families, buddies or dates for this self-guided hike to the top of Great Blue. We'll provide complimentary snacks at the bottom of the mountain to give you

energy for the walk up and hot beverages at the top. You can even bring a picnic dinner to eat at the summit! This is your only opportunity to hike down Great Blue at night; after sunset, the ski area lights will be on to guide your way down.

For safety reasons, everyone must check in at the ski area at the base of the hill prior to hiking up. Park at Blue Hills Ski Area, 4001 Washington St., Canton

(Blue Hills Trailside Museum South parking lot). The Blue Hills Observatory will be open from 4:00-7:00 p.m. and will provide tours and viewing for a nominal charge.

The sunset hike is sponsored by Blue Hills Ski and the Friends of the Blue Hills.

For more information, visit [www.FriendsoftheBlueHills.org](http://www.FriendsoftheBlueHills.org) or email [info@FriendsoftheBlueHills.org](mailto:info@FriendsoftheBlueHills.org).

## Win a Once-in-a-Lifetime Dinner Party in the Blue Hills!

As part of our 35<sup>th</sup> year celebration, you have a chance to have a private catered dinner for six at the top of Blue Hills Observatory! Imagine treating a lucky group of friends and family to an

elegant meal with incredible 360 degree views of the Boston skyline and the Atlantic Ocean in the distance.

**Steel & Rye, the hottest new restaurant in Milton just named by Boston Magazine as the Best Restaurant on the South Shore, will be catering the dinner.**

Raffle tickets are \$15 each or 3/\$35 and can be purchased online on our secure website: [www.FriendsoftheBlueHills.org/celebrate35](http://www.FriendsoftheBlueHills.org/celebrate35). (Date to be mutually agreed upon; some restrictions apply. Please visit our website for more details.)

Award-winning chef Chris Parsons will be preparing the dinner.



## Go Out and Play: Check Every Day!

Over 300 fourth grade 'Future Problem Solvers' from Milton Public Schools helped their community learn about Lyme disease this spring. Friends of the Blue Hills teamed up with Milton Public Health Director Carolyn Kinsella to introduce students to the signs and symptoms of Lyme disease and how the increase in Lyme disease

has been linked to the declining health of our forests. Students then shared their new knowledge by designing posters to help educate the community.

Some of the posters were on display at Milton Town Hall, Cunningham Park Hall and the Milton Public Library.

The Friends of the Blue Hills newsletter is produced four times a year.

**Editors:** Anne Comber, Judy Jacobs, Barbara Kirby

**Layout:** Owen Hartford

Visit us on the web at [www.FriendsoftheBlueHills.org](http://www.FriendsoftheBlueHills.org) or call 781-828-1805

for membership, maps and schedule information.

P.O. Box 416, Milton, MA 02186

## Defending the Forest from Invaders

*Members help remove mile-a-minute vine and protect endangered species.*

Over the spring and summer, more than 150 volunteers devoted over 300 hours to remove invasive plants from priority habitats within the Blue

Hills.

Fowl Meadow is one such habitat that is threatened by the mile-a-minute vine. We worked with volunteers and focused on hand pulling this thorny vine in a small patch in the

northern portion of the meadow. We returned several times throughout the season to remove all visible plants and successfully prevented the plants from seeding and spreading. This allows the native and endangered species to continue to thrive in the

northern portion of the meadow.

The mile-a-minute in the southern part of the meadow, however, covers more area than hands can pull: 50 acres. To control mile a minute in this larger section, the state has released weevils as a biocontrol. Weevils damage the vine by eating the leaves as adults and burrowing into the stem in the larval stage. The Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources and Department of Conservation and Recreation have released close to 10,000 weevils this year. Over time, the hope is that the weevils will eventually slow and stop the spread of this invasive vine in Fowl Meadow.

In the meantime, your support makes sure that mile-a-minute is contained to areas that will not harm endangered species. Thank you!



*Lauren Hunter of Somerville was one of 150 enthusiastic volunteers who pulled invasive plants this year in the Blue Hills.*

## Friends of the Blue Hills Offers a Chance To Sponsor a Trail This Holiday!

Looking for the perfect holiday gift for someone who loves the Blue Hills? Why not give them a trail?! For a donation of \$35 or more, you will receive a certificate with the recipient's name and the name of the sponsored trail along with a Trail Map so the recipient can see where his/her trail is located in the Blue Hills Reservation. We will either mail the certificate to you or

to the recipient with the information you supply. Best of all, your gift will help Friends of the Blue Hills maintain the trails so that everyone can enjoy them! For more information, please email [info@FriendsOfTheBlueHills.org](mailto:info@FriendsOfTheBlueHills.org).



*Cathi Connelly of Milton gave each of her children a trail for Christmas last year. No problem with color and size!*

Send us your photos and news! Like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter @FriendBlueHills!



# Engaging the Community

## Cool Summer Fest a Big Hit at Houghton's Pond

Over 600 people headed over to Houghton's Pond in July to enjoy Cool Summer Fest presented by the Friends of the Blue Hills and the Department of Conservation and Recreation. It was a perfect summer day, and kids and adults alike cooled off with wacky water games while enjoying the music, arts and crafts, face-painting and free fishing with Mass Wildlife.



Miss Money, aka Julie Beckham from Blue Hills Bank (right), and Elyn Bartell demonstrate their hula hoop skills.



Robert Beatty from Braintree and his son Michael enjoy the day.

Thank you to our sponsors  
for their generous support of  
Cool Summer Fest!

Blue Hills Bank  
Charitable Foundation  
Doctors Express  
Braintree and Dedham



Olivia Campbell from Quincy gets her face painted, compliments of Doctors Express.



Autumn the Faerie sprinkles fairy dust on Sayra Chireno from Milton.



Simone Flaherty of Canton is impressed by the fish her son John caught.

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 Milton Junior Woman's Club  
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 Park Planning Associates  
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 Colonial Road Runners  
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 Milton Conservation Commission

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 Chris Mullin and Robert Shine  
 Program Committee Chair: Therese Joyce  
 Advocacy Chair: Denny Swenson  
**Corporate Members**  
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 Laura Beebe, Milton; Jim Green, Canton  
 Jackie Wilbur, Hyde Park  
 Denny Swensen, Canton

**JOIN US AT OUR ANNUAL CELEBRATION!**  
 Thursday, October 9, at Fuller Village in Milton.  
 Celebrate our 35th year by joining us for this  
 special evening of food, friends and festivities!  
 For more information, visit  
[www.FriendsoftheBlueHills.org/Celebrate35](http://www.FriendsoftheBlueHills.org/Celebrate35)



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