

Beat the Winter Blues at Winter Fest!



Join us on Tuesday, February 27,
from 5-8 p.m. at Blue Hills Ski Area

Join the Friends of the Blue Hills and the Blue Hills Ski Area for an evening of winter fun at Winter Fest! Come for a night hike or get your exercise on the slopes downhill skiing. Whether or not you choose the outdoor activities, there is plenty of inside fun too: you can tap your feet to the spirited Irish tunes of Songs for Ceilidh, taste chili from some of the best local restaurants, entertain the kids with crafts, and warm up to the

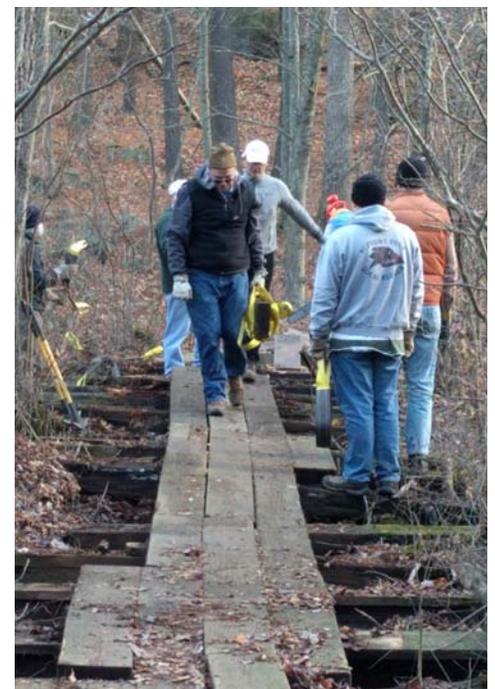
company of old and new friends.

Blue Hills Ski Area will be offering discounted ski tickets for the night. If planning to ski, print the front page of www.FriendsoftheBlueHills.org or the FBH Facebook page and bring it to the event. For more information, email info@FriendsoftheBlueHills.org.

Join us as we celebrate the best of winter... while it lasts!

Building Bridges in Blue Hills Protects Trails and Visitors

Bridges Built in Partnership with REI and New England Mountain Bike Association



We depend on the bridges throughout the Blue Hills to protect the trails from erosion and to keep visitors safe, whether they are hiking, biking or horseback riding. After years of use, though, bridges decay and must be repaired or replaced. This past summer, the Friends partnered with the New England Mountain Bike Association (NEMBA) to build one new bridge and repair two others. We are extremely grateful to REI who provided a \$5,000 grant to purchase the needed supplies, and to NEMBA who provided the bridge building expertise!

Blue Hills Wetlands Protected from Development

By Denny Swenson, Friends of the Blue Hills Board

Three years ago, the part of the Blue Hills called Fowl Meadow was threatened by a proposed 276-unit development, called Milton Mews. The four- and five-story buildings would have been built on forest land that abuts the Blue Hills and would have destroyed the park's adjacent wetland habitat.

Fast forward three years, and instead of apartment complexes and dried up wetlands, the land will contain just two

more homes and most of the land will be conserved.

That's a tremendous win for the Blue Hills and the community.

After years of negotiating, the successful solution concluded when the Department of Conservation and Recreation purchased over one third of the land that was originally slated for development. While this

Continued on page 4



This blue spotted salamander is one of the rare species found on Hemenway Drive in the Fowl Meadow area. The salamander and many other rare plants and animals were threatened by a large development, but after years of work, they are now protected by conservation restrictions.

Controlled Deer Hunt in the Blue Hills

For the third year, the Department of Conservation and Recreation and Mass Wildlife organized a controlled deer hunt in the Blue Hills to manage deer populations. The hunt reduced the population by a total of 67 deer. This year's hunt included 11 days of permitted archery hunting in November in designated areas in the Reservation. In late November and early December, there were four days of controlled shotgun hunting.

Trail Leader Earns Accolades and Funds for the Friends

Congratulations to Caleb Blankenship who was recently honored by Fox 25's Cox Conserves Heroes. Caleb is our longtime co-chair of the Trail Maintenance Committee and was a finalist in this year's contest. The Friends received a \$5,000 grant to support trail maintenance in Caleb's honor.



Be a Blue Hills Sustainer!

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, tax-deductible donation, you will provide a stable and reliable source of income for FBH. To learn more, visit FriendsOfTheBlueHills.org/Sustainer.

Thank you for your generous support!

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

Editors: Anne Comber,
Judy Lehrer Jacobs,
Barbara Kirby

Layout: Donald Souliere

Visit us on the web at www.FriendsOfTheBlueHills.org or call 781-828-1805 for membership, maps and schedule information.
P.O. Box 416, Milton, MA 02186

YES! I want to protect the Blue Hills Reservation!

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Basic Membership – \$30 | <input type="checkbox"/> Ponkapoag Protector – \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hancock Hill Hero – \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> Skyline Steward – \$250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chickatawbut Champion – \$500 | <input type="checkbox"/> Great Blue Guardian – \$1,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | |

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 _____

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

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.

Thank you for your generous support!

Eliot Tower Renovation Complete

The Eliot Tower underwent extensive renovations last fall that included replacing the roof of the tower and installing a new synthetic roof on the adjacent pavilion. The repairs were made to improve the safety and appearance of this historic structure. The tower and pavilion reopened in December.



Three Generations of Blue Hills Enthusiasts

Rebecca Murphy recently became a member of Friends of the Blue Hills and attended the New Member Hike at Ponkapoag Pond. We asked her why she joined the Friends...

My parents took my sisters and me to the Blue Hills when we were very young, and I have been enjoying it ever since. We would go with my cousins and hike, check out the animals, enjoy the Trailside Museum and even ski every once in a while. I have such great memories as a kid playing in the streams and hiking the trails with my family. I continued going as a teenager and young adult with hikes on the Green Dot Trail to the Skyline Trail and everything in between. I now take my two young boys there at least once a week. My dad takes the boys to Houghton's Pond in the summer, and we all love to participate in the "First Day Hike" on New Year's Day. I grew up in Quincy and now live in Hyde Park. I think it is one of the most wonderful places, and thankfully it's now right in my backyard.

We greatly appreciate Rebecca—and all of our members—for helping to give back to the Blue Hills!



Rebecca Murphy and her son Thomas enjoy the Blue Hills!

Volunteers Map the Noise



This past fall, dozens of Friends' volunteers hit the trails with a special app on their iPhone to measure sound in the Blue Hills. The volunteers were part of a Boston University research project, led by Professor Richard Primack and doctoral student Lucy

Zipf. The BU research team recorded the data delivered by volunteers to create a sound map of the trails around Ponkapoag Pond and between Route 138 and Buck Hill. To see the map, go to FriendsoftheBlueHills.org/soundmap.

Blue Hills Wetlands Protected from Development

Continued from page 1

parcel will still contain two single-family homes under the agreement, the DCR's purchase means that these homes will be surrounded by protected conservation land. The remaining properties have also agreed to single-family homes and conservation restrictions.

The Friends of the Blue Hills worked with the local community to demonstrate the unique value of this conservation land, which contains wetlands and is designated as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern. The proposed number of apartment buildings would have threatened numerous rare and endangered plants and animals who depend on the rare intersection of three habitats: wetland, upland and meadow.

This effort took years of patient persistence by numerous advocates and community groups including the Friends of Blue Hills, Fuller Village, The Neponset River Watershed, the Wakefield Estate and generous, thoughtful people in the surrounding neighborhoods and broader community, including Senator Walter Timilty and former Senator Brian Joyce, who all steadfastly sought creative solutions.

In the end, we are very happy to have reached a win-win-win solution for the property owners, the community and the ecosystem. The final deal shows that it is possible to bring people with differing goals together to reach a better result for all.

Blue Hills A-Live: Your Weekly Guide to the Blue Hills

Beginning this January, you can learn about the Blue Hills in a weekly Facebook Live video, called Blue Hills A-Live, your guide to the Blue Hills. During these short, weekly videos on Thursdays at noon, you will meet guests like Molly Ross, Blue Hills Ski Area Manager, who will help you explore the park's recreational opportunities, new places in the park, history... and more!

For the start date and to receive weekly reminders, background on the speakers and - if you are not on Facebook- links to the videos on our blog, visit FriendsOfTheBlueHills.org/video.

Is the Friends of the Blue Hills in Your Will?



Photo by David Gouthro



Molly Ross, the new manager of Blue Hills Ski Area, will be an upcoming guest on Blue Hills A-Live.

A gift to the Friends of the Blue Hills in your Will is one of the most meaningful ways you can help protect the Blue Hills for generations to come. Learn more at FriendsOfTheBlueHills.org/skyline-society.

Memorable Celebration Entertains Members and Friends

Over 150 people attended last fall's Friends of the Blue Hills Annual Celebration at the Milton Hoosic Club. Attendees enjoyed the opportunity to catch up with other Blue Hills enthusiasts, learn about what we have achieved together over the past year, and raise funds to protect and preserve the Blue Hills Reservation.

A big thank you to our excellent keynote speaker, Peter Gittleman of Historic New England, whose entertaining and informative presentation on the Eustis Estate was enjoyed by all.

We would also like to thank everyone who came and made the event such a success and the many individuals and businesses who sponsored the event and donated to the silent auction!

Thank You to Our Generous Sponsors:

Blue Hills Champion

Sunrise Erectors Inc.

Skyline Trail Supporter

Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital-Milton

Tucker & Hale Smith

Great Blue Hill Guardian

Bank of Canton

Blue Hills Bank

Mike & Ann-Margaret Caljouw

Dedham Institution for Savings

Falconi Companies

Fruit Center Marketplace

Bob Mazairz

Quirk Auto Dealers

Success! Real Estate – Tom O'Neill

The North Face

Buck Hill Benefactor

Anne & Jim Comber

Curry Hardware

John Erickson

Mary Ellen Erlandson &
Richard Maloney

Gene & Judy Lehrer Jacobs

Poirier Sales & Service

Special Thanks to

Konditor Meister

The Townshend



Dr. Allen Waltman and Dr. Ann Marie Madigan



Current Friends board member Laura Beebe and past board member Deb DaSilva



Incoming Friends board president David Dobrindt and his wife Patti



2017 Community Partners Award Honorees John Goldrosen, Tucker Smith, Carol Gregory, John Woodman, and outgoing Friends board president Denny Swenson

All photos by Brian MacLean of Milton

Staff: Executive Director: Judy Lehrer Jacobs
 Associate Director: Anne Comber
 Membership Coordinator: Maile Panerito-Langer

Officers of the Friends of the Blue Hills:
 President: David Dobrindt, Milton
 Vice President: Laura Beebe, Milton
 Treasurer: Cheryl Weinstein, Sharon
 Secretary: Denny Swenson, Milton

Trustees at Large:
 Ken Cohen, Brockton
 Jim Green, Canton
 Barbara Huggins, Newton
 Rick Kessel, Milton
 Charlie Maloney, Milton

Bob Mazairz, Newton

Trails Committee Co-Chairs:
 Caleb Blankenship,
 Chris Mullin and Robert Shine

Program Committee Chair: Therese Joyce
 Advocacy Chair: Denny Swenson

Partners
 AFC Urgent Care
 Bank of Canton
 Blue Hills Bank
 Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital - Milton
 Mike & Ann-Margaret Caljouw
 Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage
 Colonial Road Runners

Curry Hardware
 Falconi Companies
 Dedham Savings
 Fruit Center Marketplace
 Kohl's
 L.L.Bean
 Robert Mazairz
 Milton Garden Club
 Milton Junior Woman's Club
 Quirk Auto Dealers
 REI
 Success! Real Estate
 The North Face

Winter Fest
 Tuesday, February 27, from 5-8 p.m.
 Blue Hills Ski Area
 Night hike, Irish music, chili tasting and more!
FriendsOfTheBlueHills.org/winterfest

Non-Profit Org.
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Boston, MA
 Permit No. 56571

Friends of the Blue Hills
 P.O. Box 416, Milton, MA 02186
 Address Service Requested

