

## Meditech Conservation Restriction Protected

You can't see the Meditech building from Route 93. That's intentional. After a controversial and high-profile debate, the Codex



Senator Brian A. Joyce amended legislation to help maintain a no net loss of conservation land on Meditech property that borders the Blue Hills.

Company granted a conservation restriction (CR) to the Town of Canton in 1978. Another CR was the result of an eminent domain taking by the state, filed in 1984 after six years of litigation.

In an unusual agreement, both the DCR and the Town of Canton essentially co-own the resulting CR. In establishing the CR, the DCR set out to protect the view from the highway as a scenic drive for tourists and residents as they pass through the Blue Hills Reservation.

Years later Meditech purchased the property and became one of the largest employers in Canton. In the last couple

years, Meditech has sought to meet its growing business needs by expanding its parking area into the conservation restriction.

Because the purpose of establishing a

*(continued on page 5)*

### Seasons of the Blue Hills Photo Contest

Help celebrate the Blue Hills in every season! Submit photos which best captures one of the seasons in the Blue Hills and you could win \$500 gift certificate to LLBean or REI backpack. One of your photos could also be selected for a special 'Seasons of the Blue Hills' poster. Enter as many photos as you'd like at no cost on our FaceBook page. (If you're not on FaceBook, you can email your photos to [contest@FriendsOftheBlueHills.org](mailto:contest@FriendsOftheBlueHills.org).) Prizes awarded to people with the most votes. Photo submittal deadline: February 2, 2013, noon.



Photo by Diana McNamara, Dedham

Thank you for celebrating the Blue Hills all year!

Many thanks to our contest sponsors: LLBean, REI, Blue Hills Bank, Middlesex Savings Bank and Dedham Savings Bank.

## The Deer Are Not Watching... So You Need To!

### In the Fall Deer Have Better Things to Do Than Avoid Your Car

Most of the year male and female deer live quite happily apart, but as the days become shorter, both genders experience hormonal changes and the mating, or "rutting season", begins. During the months of late October and early November, the male forsakes his bachelor pad to mate with as many females as he can, ready to spar with competing males.

As he hunts for new partners, he becomes less aware of his surroundings. Females, for their part, may be no more attentive. Leaving their scent on a tree that the male has marked, they usually wander off and wait for the male to find them. In the Blue Hills area, how-

ever, there are many more females than males. Instead of acting hard to get, observers have witnessed females chasing down the males to make sure they mate this season.

The result? You're more likely to hit one. According to national statistics from State Farm auto insurance, the three fall months, October, November and December have the highest number of deer-car collisions, with most accidents occurring during November.

### Accidents Happen... More Frequently with More Deer

Although deer might be most erratic in fall, don't expect deer to watch road signs come Christmas. Vehicle-deer

*(continued on page 2)*

# Milton Resident is Not Just “in it” to Win

Nineteen-year-old Chris Riley won the Friends of the Blue Hills ‘We’re in it Together’ Photo Contest, but for Chris, the Blue Hills is the real prize.

Milton resident Chris Riley received the most votes for his photo in the ‘We’re in it Together Photo Contest’ and was awarded a \$500 Gift Certificate by



Rep. Walter Timilty awards the First Prize for the ‘We’re in it Together’ Photo Contest to Chris Riley of Milton. Chris received a \$500 gift certificate to LLBean.

Rep Walter Timilty at the Cool Summer Fest at Houghton’s Pond in July. But this college student values the Blue Hills

much more than the gift certificate. This is his sixth summer working at the Norman Smith Education Center on Chickatawbut Hill in the Blue Hills. His work at the summer camp is just another way he shares his love of the Blue Hills:

“The Blue Hills has been like a second home to me through my entire life.”

Chris remembers his father taking him to the Trailside Museum to watch the otters and feed the deer.

“Having the opportunity to share something I am so passionate about with others, whether in the form of a contest, or the blog that I write, gives me a feeling of pride. I am really glad that there are people like the Friends of the Blue Hills who care equally as I do for the Hills and the animals that inhabit it.”

Chris snapped the winning photo at the Blue Hills Trailside Museum when a baby squirrel was hurt and brought into the museum for safety. To see all

the photo contest finalists, visit [www.FriendsoftheBlueHills.org](http://www.FriendsoftheBlueHills.org).

## Help us Exhibit the Blue Hills

For an upcoming event, Friends of the Blue Hills is looking for individuals with access to documents, prints, displays and photos that offer a unique historical or artistic perspective of the Blue Hills Reservation. Are you a professional or amateur artist or photographer who can offer a few of your pieces to be displayed at an event to benefit FBH? Or perhaps you, or someone you know, is a collector with access to historical maps, pictures or documents related to the Reservation? If so, please let us know!

For more information contact us at: [info@friendsofthebluehills.org](mailto:info@friendsofthebluehills.org) or 781-828-1805. We may have to limit participation. We look forward to hearing from you. Thank you!

*(Deer continued from page 1)*

accidents are fairly common around the Blue Hills throughout the year with over 30 accidents reported each year in Milton and Canton alone – and these numbers are undoubtedly low. A study in Connecticut found that for every 1 deer-vehicle accident reported by law enforcement officials, five additional deer were hit and killed by vehicles, but not reported.

As the deer population in the Blue Hills increase, we’ll only see more accidents. A 2008 study of three urban areas demonstrated a direct correlation between deer population and collisions. As would be expected, when deer populations were reduced, fewer collisions with deer occurred. For example, in Princeton, New Jersey, when deer populations were reduced 72%, deer-car collisions decreased 75%.

Best to keep a lookout for deer year-

long, especially as the deer in the Blue Hills continue to multiply.

Sources cited:

Kilpatrick, Howard, “Deer-Vehicle

Accidents: How Many Really Occur in CT?” *Connecticut Wildlife*, May/June 3004

DeNicola, Anthony J and Scott C Williams. *Human-Wildlife conflicts* 2(1):28-33, Spring 2008.



Photo by Evan Lipton

# Calendar of Events

Pull and post this section of the Friends of the Blue Hills Newsletter and join us for some exciting events in the Blue Hills Reservation!

## Fall 2012

▲ FBH sponsored event

### Fall Festival Blue Hills Trailside Museum

October 6, 7 and 8, 10:00 am - 4:30 pm

Celebrate the autumn season at Mass Audubon's Trailside Museum Fall Festival. Kids of all ages are welcome to join in the fall family fun. Live animal presentations, leaf peeping, and more! Admission fee. Call for info: 617-333-0690.

### TrailWatch Mountain Bike Rides,

Beginner ride: Saturday, October 6,  
9:00 am start time, (4-6 miles)

Intermediate ride: Saturday, November 3,  
Start time 9:00 am (10 – 12 miles)

Pedal with DCR TrailWatch Volunteers. Bring a bike, helmet, and water. Eye protection, snacks, a spare tube, a pump and tools are also recommended. Call 617-698-1802 to register.

### Trail Maintenance Events

Saturdays, October 13, November 10,  
December 8, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Join the Friends of Blue Hills Trail Crew in sprucing up the trails. Includes a hike to the work sites. Wear long pants and gloves. Tools, water, snacks and lunch provided. Meet at the Houghton's Pond main parking lot at 840 Hillside St, Milton. For details, contact [trailwork@FriendsoftheBlueHills.org](mailto:trailwork@FriendsoftheBlueHills.org). ▲

### Charles Eliot Landscape Hike

Saturday, October 27,  
9:00 am - 11:00 am

Join a DCR ranger on this hike up to Eliot Tower. You'll discuss Eliot's life and the impacts he had on the idea of public land. Co-sponsored by the National Park Service. Meet at Trailside Museum north parking lot. For details call 617- 698-1802

### Blue Hill Section Hike

Saturday, November 3, 10:00 am

FBH joint hike with AMC. 7 mile hike on a variety of trails, some steep, including the Skyline Trail with views. 5.5 hours. Meet at Houghton's Pond lot. Leader: Steve Olanoff, 781-326-6585. ▲

### DCR Skyline Hike

Sunday, November 4, 9:00 am start time

Join a DCR ranger on this rugged 8-mile jaunt over the peaks and valleys of the Skyline Trail in the Blue Hills. Wear hiking boots and bring water and lunch. You will car caravan to the starting point. Ages 16 and up. 5-7 hours. Pre-registration required by calling 617-698-1802, ext. 212

### Quincy Quarries: Taken for Granite

Saturday, November 10,  
1:00 pm – 2:30 pm

In this event co-sponsored by FBH and DCR, you will join Les Tyralla, a registered geologist to explore the geology and quarry history to understand why the granite of Quincy was so valuable. Additionally we'll admire some glacial features at the edges of the quarry. Sturdy footwear is required and the ability to climb rugged, narrow trails. 1.5 hours. Space is limited. Call 617-698-1802, ext.213 to register. ▲

### DCR Dog Sled Fun Run

Saturday, November 17,  
1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

The Yankee Siberian Husky Club and Boston Snow Dogs will present an educational exhibit on dog sledding in New England. Demonstrations with wheeled rigs, if weather permits. (Demonstration only; no rides given.) Meet at Houghton's Pond main parking lot.

### Houghton Section Hike

Sunday, November 18, 10:00 am -

FBH joint hike with AMC. 7 mile hike on a variety of trails with several views and lunch atop Buck Hill. 5.5 hours. Meet at Houghton's Pond main parking lot. Leader: Steve Olanoff, 781-326-6585. ▲

# Calendar of Events (2)

## Holiday Toy Drive & Mountain Bike Ride or Hike

Sunday, December 2  
 Toy Drop & Refreshments  
 10:00 am – 1:00 pm  
 Mountain Bike Ride 10 am,  
 Houghton's Pond Hike 1:00 pm

Join the DCR Park Rangers and volunteers from Blue Hills TrailWatch and NEMBA for our annual holiday toy drive collection. Bring a new unwrapped toy, then go on a guided or self-guided ride or hike. All toys donated. Gifts for children ages 11-16 are most needed. Details: 617-698-1802, ext. 212. Meet at the Houghton's Pond main parking lot.

## Chickatawbut Section Hike

Sunday, December 9, 10:00 am -

FBH joint hike with AMC. 7 mile hike in the wildest and most remote area of the Blue Hills. 5.5 hours. Meet at Shea Ice Rink. Leader: Steve Olanoff, 781-326-6585. ▲

## Little Blue Hill Nature Walk

Saturday, December 15, 10:00 am

FBH joint hike with AMC. 3 mile hike in the least-known section of the Blue Hills to look for signs of birds and animals in winter. 2 hours. Meet at rear of Park-&-Ride lot on Route 138. Leader: Steve Olanoff, 781-326-6585. ▲

## Keeping Trails Clear and Forests Healthy

Erica Rose of Quincy was one of 300 volunteers who helped maintain the Blue Hills this year. Thanks to your support, a grant from REI and over 1,000 hours of hard work from our volunteers, the Friends of the Blue Hills removed hundreds of pounds of invasive weeds from the forest and maintained dozens of trails.



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

**Editors:** Sue Christensen,  
 Judy Jacobs,

**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.  
 PO Box 416, Milton, MA 02186

## Enjoy Sunset at the Blue Hills

Saturday, October 20, 4:00 pm – 8:00 pm (Raindate October 27)

For one night only, you can take in the sunset on the top of Big Blue and walk down the ski slope with the night lights guiding your way. Be sure to wear sturdy shoes. For more information visit [www.FriendsoftheBlueHills.org](http://www.FriendsoftheBlueHills.org) or FaceBook page. Co-sponsored by FBH, Blue Hill Ski Area and Blue Hill Observatory.



Photo by Mark Lotterhand, West Townsend

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

**I want to become a Friends of the Blue Hills member**

(Please choose one of the following:)

Personal:  Individual \$25  Family \$45  Senior \$20

Business:  Agency \$50  Business \$100  Corporate \$500

**I would like to make an additional donation of:**

\$50  \$75  \$100  \$500  Other: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to Friends of the Blue Hills, and mail to:  
 P.O. Box 416, Milton, MA 02186

# Engaging the Community

## Milton Students Teach Others About Lyme Disease Prevention

As part of FBH's partnership with the Milton public schools, hundreds of Milton fourth graders developed

posters to help raise awareness of the growing rate of Lyme disease in their community. Posters were displayed at

the public library, police station and schools.



*(Meditech continued from page 1)*

conservation restriction is to protect the land in perpetuity, modifying or rescinding a CR is rarely done.

To ensure that modifying the conservation restriction did not set a precedent that would weaken future conservation efforts, FBH engaged key stakeholders, including Meditech, the DCR and legislators, Senator Brian A. Joyce and Rep William C. Galvin. As a result, legislation introduced by Rep Galvin to allow the conservation restriction was modified by Senator Joyce to require Meditech to pay fair market value for the property. In addition, to maintain no net loss of conservation land, Meditech is required to donate land or the cash value of the conservation land. The amendment also ensured a buffer from

the highway to screen the parking area and the building from Route 93 drivers.

While Meditech land is not within the Blue Hills Reservation, the company's land contains a DCR conservation restriction that ensures a highly valued scenic view from the highway. Through Senator Joyce's leadership, a dangerous precedent that would have weakened our protection of conservation land was averted. Many thanks to Senator Joyce for his leadership in this issue. We also greatly appreciate Meditech and Rep Galvin for their will-

ingness to work collaboratively with FBH on behalf of the Blue Hills and future conservation land.

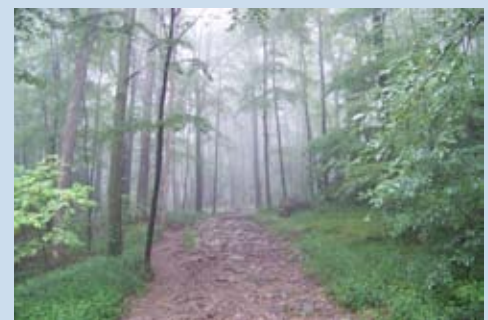


Photo by Terilyn Ellbero

The Friends of the Blue Hills gratefully accepts bequests, beneficiary designations of IRAs and life insurance, and gifts of securities. Your gift will help protect and preserve the Blue Hills for years to come.

# Blue Hills Annual Celebration

to Benefit the Friends of the Blue Hills  
Saturday, November 10, 7:00 pm – 10:00 pm  
Fuller Village, 1372 Brush Hill Rd, Milton  
[www.FriendsoftheBlueHills.org](http://www.FriendsoftheBlueHills.org)

**Staff:** Executive Director: Judy Lehrer Jacobs;  
Membership Coordinator: Ken Jones

**Officers of the Friends of the Blue Hills:**

President: John Sheehan, Dover;  
Vice President: Garrett Owen, Franklin  
Treasurer: Robert Mazairz, Weymouth

**Trustees at Large:**

Hilary Blocker, Canton; Ryan Carpenter, Canton;  
James Green, Canton; Peter Jeffries, Milton;  
Joe Sloane, Milton; Denny Swenson, Milton

Trails Committee Co-Chairs: Caleb Blankenship, Bob Flegg;

Board Development Chair: Garrett Owen  
Program Committee Chair: Ryan Carpenter

Advocacy Chair: Denny Swenson

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Friends of the Blue Hills.  
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