

FBH Founders Still Dedicated to the Blue Hills After 35 Years

As Friends of the Blue Hills prepares to celebrate its 35th year, we will introduce you to some of the individuals who have played an integral role in the organization over the past three and a half decades.

It would be difficult to find two bigger advocates for the Blue Hills Reservation than John and Maritta Cronin. John was serving as the Associate Commissioner of the Metropolitan District Commission in the mid-1970's when then Commissioner John Sears recommended he partner with local environmentalist David Hodgdon to create an organization to advocate for the Blue Hills Reservation. John and David founded Friends of the Blue Hills in 1976, and the organization became a tax-exempt non-profit in 1979. Since that time,

Friends of the Blue Hills has been the collective voice for tens of thousands of people who have fallen in love with the 22 hilltops, 125+ miles of walking trails, ski slopes, and glorious views.

John and Maritta spend a good deal of their time introducing others to the wonders of the Blue Hills, and their love of the Reservation dates back to their early childhoods. One of John's favorite memories is of the rowboat

concession stand at Houghton's Pond. Maritta remembers piling into her grandmother's car along with her siblings and cousins and taking a trip to the Blue Hills to run back and forth on the trails. Today, they lovingly spread their trail map, laminated by Maritta to protect it during hikes in all kinds of weather, and point to various trails, springs, ponds, bridges and hilltops that they have explored together.

John and Maritta are proud of the work that FBH does today-- protecting the Reservation and advocating for it both locally and legislatively. They hope everyone who enjoys the splendor and the countless recreational opportunities of the Blue Hills will join Friends of the Blue Hills to ensure that this treasure is protected and accessible for generations to come.



Maritta and John Cronin

Join Us at Our Annual Celebration!

**Thursday, October 10, 2013
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 10! You'll meet keynote speaker Jack Murray, the newly appointed Commissioner of the Department of Conservation and Rec-

reation, and hear his vision for working together for the Blue Hills.

Enjoy delicious hors d'oeuvres, cash bar, live music, silent auction, and much more. Tickets are \$35 each if purchased by October 4, and \$40 each at the door. Tickets can be purchased in advance on our website: www.friendsofthebluehills.org/celebrate.

Since 1979, Friends of the Blue

Hills has worked with people like you to protect and preserve the Blue Hills Reservation. At this year's celebration, we'll launch a year-long campaign to celebrate the Blue Hills, our members, and everything we have accomplished together over the past 35 years!

We look forward to seeing you on October 10.

You Otter Know There are Otters in the Blue Hills!

By Daniel Byrnes

When Steve Fullers of Brockton posted a photo of otters that he had spotted at Ponkapoag, our Facebook fans were thrilled. Turns out that researchers like Liz Baldwin from Biodiversity Works say you're likely to find signs of otters in any body of clean water. That means you might find otters throughout the Blue Hills! Daniel Byrnes sheds light on what that might mean for our favorite park.

Any child who has ever crowded around the otter pen at the Trailside Museum knows how fascinating otters are. Why are they so fascinating? After all, they are just large, aquatic weasels. But just ask a child watching them play in the water, using their paws with almost human dexterity, and she'll explain that otters are much more than just weasels, they are charming tricksters. They are also a sentinel species.

Sentinel species are animals whose welfare is indicative of the overall welfare of their environment. As the otter goes, so go the woods and wetlands they live in. Otters were once very abundant in New England, but were actively hunted by fur-trappers up to the early 20th century. Due to over hunting, destruction of wetlands, and pollution of rivers and streams, the number of otters in the United States dropped to dangerously low levels. Thankfully, through environmental and hunting regulations put into effect in the 1970s, otter populations rebounded. Now, increased land development in and around otter habitats is once again threatening their populations.

Otters are elusive creatures. They are nocturnal and difficult to track and monitor. Otters can be found throughout the wetland areas of the Blue Hills, but their exact numbers are difficult to determine. So why should we care about otters in the Blue Hills? Well for one thing, they are cute. Just listen to the delight of children watching otters. Their ability to play and use tools (like using rocks to crack

open shell fish) gives them a very human quality that we innately respond to. But



cuteness aside, otters are a vital part of the ecosystem of the Blue Hills, and their well-being is inexorably tied to the well-being of the Blue Hills. And they really are awfully cute.

Daniel Byrnes grew up in Braintree and has taken advantage of all the Blue Hills have to offer. He hikes several times a week, but has yet to catch sight of an otter.

Introducing Monthly Giving!

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. **Even a small monthly donation will make a huge difference to our work.** Thank you for your generous support!

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 _____ | |

Monthly Giving with credit card:

Donation Frequency

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$5 per month | <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 per month |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 per month | <input type="checkbox"/> Other \$ _____ |

Credit Card information:

☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ Discover

Card Number _____

Exp. Date _____ Card Security Code: _____

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Checks should be payable to Friends of the Blue Hills and mailed to:
P.O. Box 416, Milton, MA 02186

You may also donate through our secure server at FriendsOfTheBlueHills.org.

Thank you for your generous support!

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 2013

▲ FBH sponsored event

Friends of the Blue Hills Annual Celebration

October 10, 7-9 p.m. Fuller Village,
1372 Brush Hill Road, Milton

Help us kick off our 35th year with a very special celebration! Please join us for heavy hors d'oeuvres, silent auction, special awards and much more! Meet newly appointed Commissioner of the Department of Conservation and Recreation Jack Murray and hear his vision for working together for the Blue Hills. Tickets are available at www.FriendsoftheBlueHills.org/Celebrate. ▲

Friends of the Blue Hills Trail Work

October 5, November 2, 9 -1 p.m.

Join the Friends of the 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. Email trailwork@FriendsoftheBlueHills.org for registration and meeting place. ▲

DCR Adult Walking Club

September 15, September 28,
October 19, October 20,
November 3, November 9,
November 16, 1 p.m.

Join the DCR on walks of various lengths and difficulty throughout the Blue Hills. Walks will be led by a Ranger or a Walking Club volunteer leader. The Rangers recommend wearing hiking boots and bringing water on all hikes. For details, please visit www.FriendsoftheBlueHills.org or call 617-698-1802.

Quincy Quarries Geology Walk, Taken for Granite

October 26, 2 - 3:30 p.m.

Join a DCR ranger and Les Tyralla, a registered geologist, for this co-sponsored geology walk. Sturdy footwear is required and the ability to climb rugged, narrow trails. 1.5 hours. Space is limited, preregistration is required. Email raymond.f.mckinnon@state.ma.us. ▲

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

Help celebrate our 35th year with your own private party atop Great Blue Hill! As part of our 35th Year Celebration, we are offering a chance to win 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. The Blue Hills Observatory is the oldest continually operating weather observatory in the country and a picture-perfect loca-

tion for a private dinner!
Well-known local chef Joyce White

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/celebrate. (Date to be mutually agreed upon; some restrictions apply. Please see our website for more details.)

We hope you'll come to the raffle drawing at our Annual Celebration on October 10, but you don't need to be present to win. Please support Friends of the Blue Hills by purchasing your raffle tickets today!



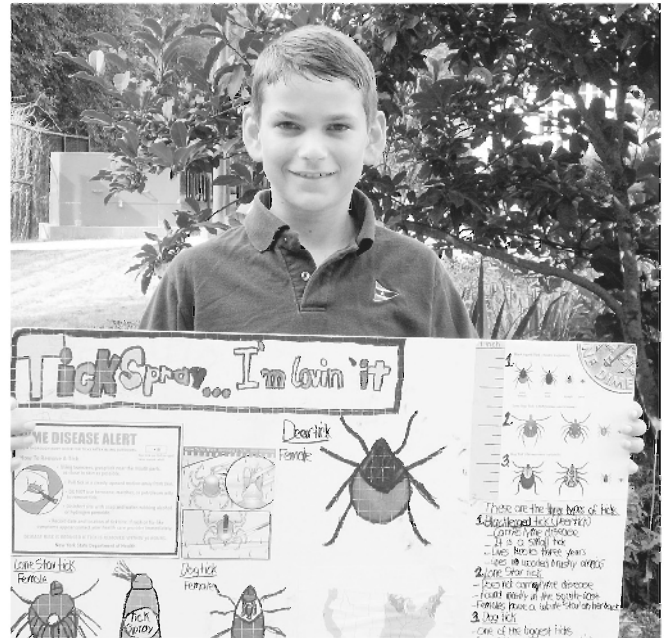
Photo by Evan Lipton

Engaging the Community

Milton Students Learn and Teach Others about Lyme Disease

This past spring, Friends of the Blue Hills teamed up with Milton Town Nurse Caroline Kinsella and the town's fourth grade Future Problem Solvers to help increase awareness of Lyme disease and how to prevent it. Over 300 fourth graders from all four Milton elementary schools participated in an interactive program to understand how deer populations and ticks affect the community. Students created posters to encourage people to enjoy nature, but to be sure to check for ticks after being outside. The

theme of the presentations was "Go Out and Play; Check Every Day!" The creative and informative posters were hung around town throughout the summer to remind residents of the risks of Lyme disease during the peak months.



Hugh Cronin of Milton with his poster

Who Wins the Beauty and the Blue Hills Photo Contest? You Decide!

Enjoy all the photo finalists and vote for your favorite!
www.FriendsoftheBlueHills.org/photofinalists



2011 Photo Contest entry by Kerri Dailey of Quincy

Did You Notice? A Small but Important Change!

For almost 35 years, the logo of Friends of the Blue Hills has included the words "Protect & Preserve." As part of our 35th Year Celebration, we have added the word "Participate." Our mission is not only to ensure that future generations are able to enjoy all that the Blue Hills have to offer; we also want to encourage today's generations to explore and enjoy the many wonders of the Reservation. So PARTICIPATE! Take a hike. Go for a bike ride. Grab your binoculars and look for birds. Write a letter to decision makers. Clear the trails. Protect the forests. Do all this and more in and for the Blue Hills!

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



Engaging the Community

Cool Summer Fest Is a Big Hit!

Hundreds headed to Houghton's Pond in August for Cool Summer Fest, presented by Friends of the Blue Hills and the Department of Conservation and Recreation. It was the 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. Many thanks to Blue Hills Bank for sponsoring this great family event!

*Andrej Manjulov 6 year old from Milton
with Silly Sally and Silly Meghan*

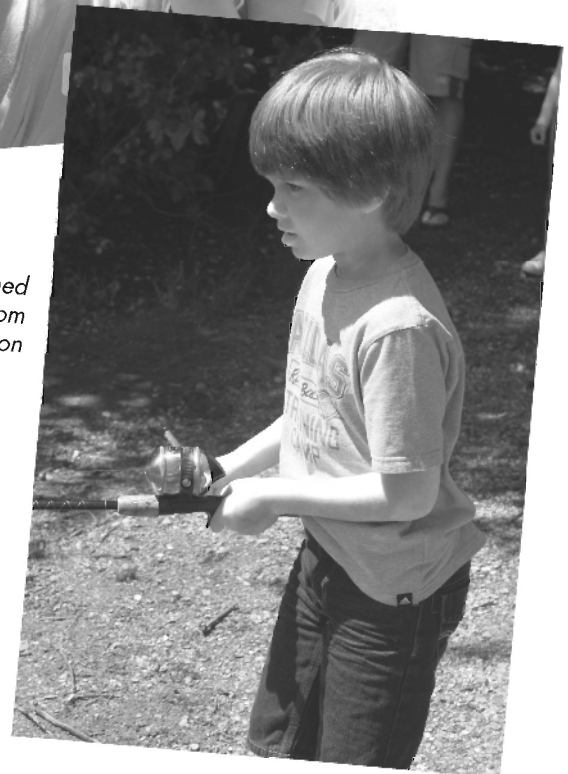


Kate and Sara Kaufman from Mansfield



*Svetlana
Nebelitsky and
daughter Diana
from Norwood*

*Ben Melamed
6 yr old from
Canton*



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Friends of the Blue Hills Annual Celebration
Thursday, October 10, 7-9 p.m.
Fuller Village
Hors D'oeuvres, live music, silent auction and more!
Visit www.FriendsOfTheBlueHills.org for details.



Friends of the Blue Hills.
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