

Join Us at Our Annual Celebration!

Thursday, October 6 7:00 - 9:00 pm Milton Hoosic Club, 193 Central Avenue, Milton

Please join us for the Annual Celebration of the Friends of the Blue Hills on Thursday, October 6. We will celebrate the Blue Hills, our members and friends, and everything we have accomplished together over the past year!

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/celebrate16.

Keynote speaker: Richard Primack

We will also honor our 2016 Community Partners:

Fruit Center Marketplace in Milton

Meg McMillen, Quincy High School

REI

Bob Walcott, Trail Maintenance Volunteer

About the Speaker

Richard Primack is a Professor of Biology at Boston University with research interests in climate change biology. For the past 14 years, Prof. Primack and his colleagues have been investigating the effects of a warming climate on the plants and birds of Massachusetts, with an emphasis on continuing the observations made 160 years ago by Henry David Thoreau in Concord.



Volunteers and Weevils Put the Brakes on Mile-a-Minute

If you've visited the northwest portion of the Blue Hills called Fowl Meadow, you've undoubtedly walked past a lot of the invasive vine, mile-a-minute. You'll recognize mile-a-minute by its perfectly triangular leaves... not to mention its tendency to climb over everything in its way. This fast-growing vine can grow up to six inches a day!

Mile-a-minute was first discovered in the northern part of Fowl Meadow in 2004. Volunteers have been pulling this invasive weed since then to protect a nearby endangered species. In 2007, when it was discovered that the Asian vine had taken over 35 acres in the southern portion of Fowl Meadow, the state realized that manually pulling the weed was not sufficiently effective and began to look for additional help... in the form of tiny flying friends.



On Reebok's corporate volunteer day this summer, Sally Gifford pulls the mile-a-minute weed in Fowl Meadow.

Since 2010, the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources has released over 31,000 weevils in Fowl Meadow. The state introduced weevils as a 'biocontrol' because they feed exclusively on mile-a-minute.

Sarah M. Grubin, State Pest Survey Coordinator from the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources, acknowledges that "While we are optimistic about the weevils continuing to feed on [mile-a-minute], it could be

Prof. Primack has been involved in educating the public about the effects of climate change through public talks and popular writing, including a recent book about his work *Walden Warming: Climate Change Comes to Thoreau's Woods*. Prof. Primack will specifically address the impact of climate change on the Blue Hills Reservation.

a while before we see any significant changes. But ideally, once a biocontrol is established, it's a self-sustaining control!"

If you see mile-a-minute outside the Blue Hills, please report it to the state at massnrc.org/pests/mamreport.aspx. And if you'd like to help remove mile-a-minute or other invasive plants, come to one of our monthly trail maintenance events. For more information about them, visit FriendsoftheBlueHills.org/Trails-program.

Milton Students Tackle Lyme Disease Prevention

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 teacher Bill Baino and 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 displayed over the summer at Milton Town Hall, Cunningham Park Hall and the Milton Public Library.



Board president Denny Swenson with Saanah LeFevre and Carmen Albert from Tucker School during the Lyme disease presentation.

Sign up for Monthly Giving and You May Win a \$250 Shopping Spree at L.L. 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, tax-deductible donation, you will provide a stable and reliable source of income for FBH – and be entered into a raffle for a \$250 gift certificate to L.L. Bean. 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 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 |
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You may also donate through our secure server at FriendsOftheBlueHills.org.

Thank you for your generous support!

Your Chance To Win Fine Dining with Spectacular Views

Enter this year's Blue Hills raffle and you will have a chance to enjoy dinner for six from the Cypress Catering Company—the sister company of the popular Milton restaurants Abby Park and Novara!

You and five friends will enjoy a spectacular meal at the top of the Blue Hills Observatory in the heart of the Reservation. You will be able to select your appetizer, entrée and dessert from three exclusive menus, and Be Our Guest rental company will set the perfect table with elegant china for a truly memorable evening. Blue Hills Observatory will also give you and your guests a private tour of the oldest continuously working observatory in the country. **The value of the evening is over \$1,000.**

Tickets are \$15 each or 3/\$35 and can be purchased online on our secure website: www.FriendsoftheBlueHills.org/raffle2016. The winning ticket will



The rooftop of the Observatory offers spectacular panoramic views. Imagine having an elegant dinner with your friends as this previous winner did.

be drawn at our Annual Celebration to be held Thursday, October 6. You need not be present to win. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit FriendsoftheBlueHills.org/raffle2016.



Enjoy Salmon Picatta or another one of the delicious entrees from Novara or Abby Park.

Sunset Hike to the Top of Great Blue

Photo by Julie Flynn



Please join us on Saturday, October 15, from 4:30-7:30 p.m. for a spectacular hike to view the sunset during peak foliage season. Bring your family and friends 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 cider and apples 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 (at approximately 6 p.m.), 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 before and after 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 until 7:00 p.m. and will provide tours and viewing for a nominal charge.

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

For more information, visit FriendsoftheBlueHills.org/sunset or email info@FriendsoftheBlueHills.org.

A Gift that Honors a Lifetime of Loving the Blue Hills

Rex and Margie Anderson raised their family in the shadow of the Blue Hills. They lived on York Street in Canton, and they couldn't drive down their street without seeing the long shadow of the Blue Hills. Visiting the Blue Hills was a welcome retreat especially for Rex who walked two miles a day. Often those walks led him to the Blue Hills.

For their children, Sheri and Ken, childhood was filled with activities in the Reservation: picking blueberries and blackberries along the trails, laughing at the otters at the Trailside Museum, swimming at Fisherman's Beach, attending nature camp at Chickatawbut, and celebrating Easter sunrise service atop Great Blue.

Rex continued hiking in the Blue Hills well into his 70s, and Sheri remembers a poignant moment when she—as an adult-- invited him to join her on

a hike around Ponkapoag. He had long forgotten this particular trail, but together, they rediscovered it and walked it often. When a medical condition forced Rex off the trails, he started walking up the access road to Great Blue, always admiring the spectacular panoramic view from the summit.

When Sheri married Mark Ingalls and started a family in Easton, she did not visit the Blue Hills as often, but they continued to maintain a connection to the place her family loved so much. A new generation was introduced to the Blue Hills, and Mark volunteered regularly doing trail maintenance with his co-workers at Dedham Savings.

Sheri and Mark made a generous donation to the Friends of the Blue Hills in memory of Rex and Margie. "We have a lot of happy memories of the Blue Hills," Sheri explained. "They

will always be important to our family." The Friends of the Blue Hills is grateful that Sheri and her family chose to honor Rex and Margie by ensuring that future generations will be able to enjoy the Blue Hills as much as they did.



Margie and Rex Anderson instilled in their children a deep and abiding love of the Blue Hills.

Summer Soiree Honors Members of the Hilltop Society

This summer, members of the Hilltop Society were honored for their generosity at a cocktail party at the home of board member Laura Beebe, whose estate abuts the Blue Hills Reservation. Karl Pastore, South Region Director at the Department of Conservation and Recreation, spoke to those gathered about priorities for the Reservation in the coming year.

The Hilltop Society, founded in 2015, recognizes members who have given \$1,000 or more in one calendar year to the Friends of the Blue Hills.

For more information, visit FriendsoftheBlueHills.org/hilltop-society-benefits or contact Judy Lehrer Jacobs at 781-828-1805 or judy@FriendsoftheBlueHills.org.



Karl Pastore (center) from DCR with board members (l to r) Cheryl Weinstein, Rick Kesseli, Laura Beebe, and David Dobrindt at the Hilltop Society reception this summer.

Help Eliot Tower and Visitor Pavilion Get Much-Needed Facelift

Photo by Craig Johnston



The Eliot Tower is a popular destination in all four seasons.

The Department of Conservation and Recreation, the Friends of the Blue Hills, and interested volunteers are working together to restore the Eliot Tower and Visitor Pavilion located at the summit of Great Blue. This historic structure was built by the famed landscape architect Charles Eliot in the 1930s as part of the New Deal government work program.

The tower offers spectacular panoramic views of Boston, Massachusetts Bay and the Blue Hills Reservation. DCR is also repairing the nearby Eliot Bridge, which was built in 1904. If you would like to join the committee “Friends of Eliot Tower,” please email info@FriendsoftheBlueHills.org.

Photo by Lisa Cash



The North Face and Chakra Power Yoga sponsored a series of free hike and yoga sessions throughout the Blue Hills over the summer. This session included a hike up Wolcott Path and yoga at Eliot Tower.

Buying Something on Amazon this holiday season?

Your purchases on Amazon could help the Blue Hills!

Just go to smile.amazon.com... designate the Friends of the Blue Hills as the charity to receive donations... and shop as you normally would! You only need to designate the charity the first time – and the Blue Hills will benefit each time you shop at smile.amazon.com!



Is the Blue Hills in Your Will?

Photo by David Gouthro



Learn about how to join a select group of people who choose to protect and preserve the Blue Hills Reservation for years to come: FriendsoftheBlueHills.org/skyline-society.



Friends of the Blue Hills
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Don't Miss our Annual Celebration!
Thursday, October 6, at the Milton Hoosic Club.
Please join us for this special evening of
food, friends and festivities.
Buy your tickets today at
FriendsOfTheBlueHills.org/celebrate16

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