

Join Us at Our Annual Celebration!

Thursday, October 5 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 5. 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 2 and \$40 each at the door. Tickets can be purchased in advance on our website: www.FriendsoftheBlueHills.org/Celebrate2017.

Keynote Speaker: Peter Gittleman

Community Partners:

AFC Urgent Care – Braintree and Dedham

John Goldrosen

Tucker Smith

Joe Woodman

About the Speaker



Peter Gittleman is the Team Leader for Visitor Experience at Historic New England. He started in 1985 as a volunteer tour guide at the Otis House in downtown Boston and later became head of interpretation for all Historic New England's historic house museums. Today, Peter supervises the visitor experience at the organization's 37 sites, including the Eustis Estate in Milton.

The Eustis Estate is a rare surviving example of late nineteenth-century architecture. Designed by renowned Boston architect William Ralph Emerson and built in 1878, the house sits on 80 acres of picturesque landscape at the base of the Blue Hills. The Eustis Estate is a historic site unlike any other in the Greater Boston area, and Peter will discuss the history of the estate and its significance to the Blue Hills Reservation.

Your Chance To Record the Big Bang

You have probably walked the trails in the Blue Hills and listened to the wind blowing, the birds singing and the spring peepers chirping. You have also most likely hiked to the sound of planes, cars and trucks. How does this noise affect wildlife and visitors? You could help discover the answer--just by walking in the Blue Hills.

A research team, led by Boston University Professor Richard Primack and BU graduate student, Lucille Zipf, is studying noise pollution in protected areas and parks (including the Blue Hills). Professor Primack, who gave the keynote address at last year's Annual Celebration, is looking for people like you to walk the trails and collect noise data with a simple app on your cell phone.

If you'd like to help the Blue Hills and record the next big bang (or low rumble), visit our website: FriendsoftheBlueHills.org/noise.



Photo by Jen Abbe of Quincy

Enter the Photo of the Day Instagram Contest

Your photo could be featured on the Friends of the Blue Hills Instagram account as the Photo of the Day just by tagging [@friendsofthebluehills](https://www.instagram.com/friendsofthebluehills) or using the hashtag #LoveBlueHills. Jen Abbe (@jabbify) submitted the above photo which was one of the featured photos in August. Follow us at [@FriendsoftheBlueHills](https://www.instagram.com/friendsofthebluehills) and submit your own!

Members Help Achieve Budget Wins

A big thank you to our members and friends who advocated for the Blue Hills and helped secure funding for the Reservation in the state budget. And a big thank you to the legislators who worked with our members, including Senator Walter Timilty and State Representatives Bill Dricoll, Bill Galvin, Dan Cullinane, Bruce Ayers, and Mark Cusack. We are grateful for their work to include funding in the budget for key Blue Hills institutions and initiatives, including:

- \$250,000 for the Blue Hills Trailside Museum
- \$100,000 for the Blue Hill Observatory and Science Center
- \$15,000 for a study to improve the safety of trail crossings on Routes 28 and 138

Funding for the trail crossing study is a result of member advocacy to protect visitors who hike the Skyline Trail and cross two busy highways. This study is the first step to improving safety. Funding will also provide crucial resources for programs and research at the Museum and Observatory.



A fox from the Trail Side Museum
Photo by Rita Stuopis of Canton

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!

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 |
| <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

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

Thank you for your generous support!

Enjoy the “Best of Boston” in the Best of the Blue Hills!

Your Chance to Win Fine Dining with Spectacular Views

By entering our Dinner in the Blue Hills Raffle, you have a chance to enjoy dinner for six from The Townshend in Quincy, voted “2017 Best of Boston for General Excellence- South.”

You and five guests will enjoy an unforgettable meal with spectacular views of the ocean and the Boston skyline in the heart of the Blue Hills Reservation. Staff from The Townshend will serve appetizers, entrée and dessert in an elegant setting on the rooftop of the Blue Hill Observatory. You will also receive a private tour of this historically significant landmark, the oldest continuously working observatory in the country.

Tickets are \$15 each or 3/\$35 and can be purchased online on our secure website: www.FriendsoftheBlueHills.org/Raffle2017. Some restrictions apply, so please visit our website for more details.



The rooftop of the Observatory offers spectacular panoramic views.

The winning ticket will be drawn at our Annual Celebration to be held on Thursday, October 5. You need not be present to win...but you have to enter to win, so buy your raffle ticket today!

Best of Boston

2017 BEST RESTAURANT, GENERAL EXCELLENCE, SOUTH
The Townshend



Grilled pork chop with napa cabbage is a favorite at The Townshend.

Sunset Hike to the Top of Great Blue



Milton family Brian and Amber Kelsey with children Beckett and Parker enjoy last year's sunset hike.

Please join us on Saturday, October 14, 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 Hill 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.

New Member Welcome Hike

In July, new members were treated to dinner at Ponkapoag Pond and a guided tour of Ponkapoag Bog, led by Boston University biologist and Friends' board member, Rick Kesseli. Both new and returning members are crucial to caring for the Blue Hills. Each year, members are invited to exclusive events to recognize their contribution to protecting and maintaining the Blue Hills.



Rick Kesseli pointing out unusual plants at the New Member Walk.

The Best Way to "Participate and Contribute to the Park's Preservation"

George Keefe attended the recent New Member Welcome Walk and shared why the Blue Hills – and being a Friends' member – is important to him.

"My favorite activity in the Blue Hills is hiking. The amazing variety of terrain and landscape makes any walk interesting. The large network of trails makes it easy to put together a loop that's either very challenging or more relaxed for enjoying the seasonal changes. My favorite places in the park are Buck Hill for the view of the city and the Slide Notch Path / Sassaman Notch Path section of the Red Dot Trail.



I've been enjoying the park for years. It's an amazing resource that's easily accessible to so many people in Massachusetts. Membership in the Friends of the Blue Hills provides the best opportunity for me to participate and contribute to the park's preservation."

Join us at the Annual Celebration on October 5 to meet other people like George – and like you – who love the Blue Hills and want to protect it. Visit FriendsOftheBlueHills.org/Celebrate2017.

Honoring Hilltop and Skyline Society Members Celebrating Gifts of Today and Tomorrow

Members of the Hilltop and Skyline Societies were honored for their generosity and commitment to the Blue Hills at a soiree this summer. Participants enjoyed an evening in the home of board member Laura Beebe, whose historic estate abuts the Blue Hills Reservation.

The Hilltop Society recognizes members who have given \$1,000 or more in one calendar year to the Friends of the Blue Hills. Skyline Society members have remembered the Friends of the Blue Hills in their Will with a gift of any amount.

For information about both societies, visit FriendsOftheBlueHills.org/societies or contact Judy Lehr Jacobs at 781-828-1805 or judy@FriendsOftheBlueHills.org



Friends of the Blue Hills Board Members welcomed guests from the Hilltop and Skyline Societies at a special reception in a historic estate overlooking the Blue Hills. To learn more about both societies, visit FriendsOftheBlueHills.org/societies.

Rake, dig or clip... Volunteers Maintain Trails for All Visitors



Volunteers from Dedham Savings raked side ditches along Sawcut Run Path, helping to protect the trail from erosion. You can help care for the trails with your company for a service day... or come by yourself and make new friends at one of our monthly trail events. For more information, visit FriendsOfTheBlueHills.org/trails-program.

Helping You Explore the Reservation *'Facebook Live Blue Hills Guide' Launches September 19 for Four Weeks*

When you hike the Blue Hills, do you wonder about the natural world around you? Maybe you notice ancient scrapes along the rocks or have questions about the plants and animals that change dramatically depending on where you are in the park or what season you visit. Or maybe you want some tips on new places to explore.

To help you see the hidden changes in the



Blue Hills, learn about places you may not have visited and guide you in an exploration of the Blue Hills, we are launching a four-week Facebook Live video show called Blue Hills Guide. The Blue Hills Guide will run on Tuesdays at 1pm, beginning September 19. If you can't watch the live show, you can always watch the replay on Facebook or on our blog. Please tune in, ask questions, add your own insights, and be part of the Blue Hills community.

In a Facebook Live video this July, Jim Lagacy (at left), from Massachusetts Fish and Wildlife, revealed tips for how to enjoy fishing in the Blue Hills.

Threat to Blue Hills Natural Buffer Averted

Working with the community helped transform a proposal that would have clear-cut woods next to Great Blue.

In the spring of 2016, a developer met with the Friends of the Blue Hills to review options for developing the 46-acre Carberry Estate which sits next to the Blue Hills on Canton Avenue in Milton, not far from the Trailside Museum and Wolcott Path. The developer, Northland Development, offered several development proposals. One plan included sub-dividing the lot into 32 two-acre single family house parcels, a proposal that would require clear-cutting trees on most of the land. An alternative plan included an initial proposal of 76 units and would require changing the Town of Milton's zoning bylaws, but would preserve 50 percent of the total land area for open space (not including wetlands and streets which were already protected).

Friends of the Blue Hills worked with the community to encourage the second development option that would protect the most open space on the property.

In addition to concern about optimizing the amount of preserved open space, neighbors expressed concern about the number of units. After extensive negotiations, the neighbors were successful in having the number of units reduced from 76 to 54. The developer also agreed to work with Milton's Shade Tree Committee to protect the special trees and plant life on the property.

Challenges in the next phase of development include how to address traffic in this already high-traffic area along Route 138 and Canton Avenue and ways to be sensitive to the potential for archaeological finds on this property abutting the Blue Hills.

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

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**Save the Date for our Annual Celebration!
Thursday, October 5, at the Milton Hoosic Club
Please join us for this special evening of food, friends
and festivities. Watch for your invitation in the mail!
For more information, please visit
FriendsOfTheBlueHills.org/Celebrate2017.**

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