

## Trail Maintenance Volunteers Swing into Action!

From April through December, volunteers meet monthly to clear overgrown brush, remove downed tree limbs, and repair water channels to keep the trails clear and accessible for all. Starting in late winter, the volunteers on the Trail Committee began surveying the winter damage and identifying which paths require immediate work. If you love the Blue Hills and want to ensure the 125 miles of trails are open to hikers, horseback riders and mountain bikers, helping to maintain the trails is a great way to give back! Don't worry if you've never done it before... you'll receive training, tools and even lunch! For more information visit <http://FriendsOfTheBlueHills.org/trails-program>.



*The Boston Higashi School is just one of many groups that help with trail maintenance in the Blue Hills. Please see article on page 4.*



*Ben and Melissa Pond of Quincy with daughter Charlotte at last fall's Peek-a-Blue Hike.*

## Help us kick off another great year of Peek-a-Blue Hikes

On Tuesday, April 12, you are invited to bring your tots to the first Peek-a-Blue Hike of the season. Thanks to a generous grant from the Milton Junior Woman's Club, parents, grandparents and caregivers can encourage their young ones to get out and explore the Blue Hills. Many thanks to L.L. Bean for providing a naturalist to lead the hikes.

11-12 p.m. Participants enjoy free water, juice and healthy snacks, and while the meeting point is always in the Houghton's Pond main parking lot, the hike route varies.

For more information and a complete schedule of Peek-a-Blue Hikes, visit [www.FriendsOfTheBlueHills.org/peekablue](http://www.FriendsOfTheBlueHills.org/peekablue) or email [info@FriendsOfTheBlueHills.org](mailto:info@FriendsOfTheBlueHills.org).

The hikes are offered every other Tuesday morning from

# Paying it Forward... to the Blue Hills

Denny and Win, who live right next to the Blue Hills, say they have benefited from generous people before them. They included the Friends of the Blue Hills in their Will because they'd like the next generation to say the same about them.

Recently, Denny researched the deeds in her current neighborhood and discovered that people who lived before her had helped protect the Blue Hills and the surrounding area through gifts and other efforts. "The history here is full of wonderful people who came together with a love and respect for the nature they lived in. I so appreciate the work that past generations have done to protect this land for me. So here we

are, and I guess it's our turn to do what we can to protect and preserve the Blue Hills for future generations."

That's why Denny and Win joined the Skyline Society by remembering the Friends of the Blue Hills in their Will. To learn more about the Skyline Society, visit [www.FriendsoftheBlueHills.org/skyline-society](http://www.FriendsoftheBlueHills.org/skyline-society).

*Denny and Win Swenson of Milton joined the Skyline Society this year. Denny explains: "I guess it's our turn to do what we can to protect and preserve the Blue Hills for future generations."*



## Congratulations to Bill and Ellie Chapman—Winners of the 2015 Sustainers Raffle!



The Chapmans won a \$250 gift certificate donated by L.L. Bean for supporting the Friends of the Blue Hills with a monthly donation. If you become a Sustainer, you could win your own \$250 L.L. Bean gift card this year, too. So why not consider signing up for our Sustainers program? By making a monthly donation to the Friends, you will provide a steady and reliable source of income for Friends of the Blue Hills 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](mailto:info@FriendsoftheBlueHills.org). Thank you for your generous support!

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

- Basic Membership – \$30
- Hancock Hill Hero – \$100
- Chickatawbut Champion – \$500
- Other \_\_\_\_\_
- Ponkapoag Protector – \$50
- Skyline Steward – \$250
- Great Blue Guardian – \$1,000

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](http://FriendsoftheBlueHills.org).

**Thank you for your generous support!**

# Team Up with Friends of the Blue Hills to Green Up the Blue Hills!



**Sunday, June 5, 1-3:30 p.m.**

We had a very mild winter (thank goodness!), and that means the invasive plants are out in force this spring!

Please help protect the forests by joining us at the annual Green Up on Sunday, June 5, from 1:00 - 3:30 p.m. If everyone pitches in a little, we'll make a big difference to the native plants by removing lots of invasive weeds around Ponkapoag Pond. But it's not all work... there will also be music, face painting, crafts, and a scavenger hunt along the way!

If you're interested in volunteering, please RSVP to [Greenup@FriendsoftheBlueHills.org](mailto:Greenup@FriendsoftheBlueHills.org) or call



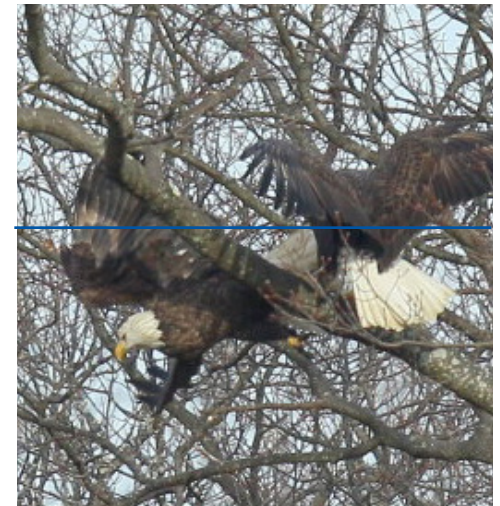
*Anna and Alison McGarry of Quincy lend a hand at last year's Green Up.*

617-696-8248. Parking is available at Temple Beth David, 1060 Randolph Street, Canton. It is a short, scenic walk from the parking lot to the Ponkapoag AMC Cabins. The event will take place rain or shine – so come on out, bring the family and your gardening gloves!

## Two rare eagles spotted at Milton Landing in January

By Lawrence Meyer

Since October 2014, a number of people have been watching eagles that have been perching almost daily in trees along the Neponset River. Where they perch is a short distance from a public parking lot and small riverside park, called Milton Landing, hidden past the Milton Yacht Club in Milton Village. By birding standards, viewing them is ridiculously easy. It is like a drive-in for eagle viewing; you don't even have to get out of your car. Off in the distance is the traffic of the Southeast Expressway. The green line trolley rumbles by over to the left. And then there are the eagles...



*Photo by Craig Gibson.*

## Join us for the Grand Re-Opening of St. Moritz Nature Trail in Quincy!

**Saturday, May 7, 2016**

**9 a.m.-noon**

**651 Willard Street (Shea Rink), Quincy**

Celebrate the grand re-opening of scenic St. Moritz Nature Trail! Join a scavenger hunt for kids, read along on a spring StoryWalk®, stretch your legs on a variety of self-guided marked trail hikes and enjoy some free refreshments as we unveil a new sign and log benches at St. Moritz Nature Trail. This event will also coincide with Quincy Park Department's Cleaner and Greener Day. Visitors can choose between the hikes or assisting with litter pickup and improving a playground

at St. Moritz. Clean-up volunteers should be age 16 and up, but all ages are welcome on the hikes. If helping with the clean-up, please wear clothes to get dirty and sturdy, closed-toe shoes or boots. For more information, email [anne@FriendsoftheBlueHills.org](mailto:anne@FriendsoftheBlueHills.org). This event is sponsored by the Friends of the Blue Hills, the Department of Conservation and Recreation, and the Quincy Department of Planning and Community Development.

**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](http://www.FriendsoftheBlueHills.org) or call 781-828-1805**

**for membership, maps and schedule information.**

**P.O. Box 416, Milton, MA 02186**

# Enter the Incredible Blue Hills Photo Contest

You're invited to enter this year's photo contest! Submit up to four photos that help demonstrate why we all think the Blue Hills Reservation is so incredible. You have two chances to win a \$250 L. L. Bean gift certificate: judges will award one prize, and another prize will be awarded to the photographer who receives the most electronic votes. Many thanks to this year's sponsors: Dedham Savings and L.L. Bean.



Photo by Nicolass Strik

## Save The Date For Jimmy Tingle!



Join us for a night of comedy with Jimmy Tingle! The benefit will be Saturday, July 30, at Curry College in Milton. For more information, visit [www.friendsofthebluehills.org/tingle](http://www.friendsofthebluehills.org/tingle).

## Are you an accountant or lawyer?

The Friends are looking for two new volunteer Board members with a passion for the Blue Hills and an accounting or a legal background. Do you have accounting skills? Or experience in real estate or environmental law? If so, please contact us to learn more: [Board@FriendsoftheBlueHills.org](mailto:Board@FriendsoftheBlueHills.org).

## Boston Higashi School—Students Reap Rewards from Giving Back

Maintaining the trails sometimes benefits the volunteers as much as the Blue Hills. One good example is the Boston Higashi School, a school for autistic students in Randolph, where the students learn useful skills and help give back to the community.

For more than six years, students in the Higashi School's Emergence Program—a transition program for students aged 18-22—have participated in our Adopt-a-Trail program. The Boston Higashi School, situated on a beautiful 55 acre campus just minutes away from the Blue Hills Reservation, brings students twice a week (weather permitting) to work on the Ponkapoag section of the Blue Hills. According to Hiroshi Abe, a Master Teacher of Employment Education at the school, trail maintenance is a perfect fit for their students. "Many of our students find it very fulfilling to be in a natural setting, working with their hands, and accomplishing something concrete and worthwhile," Hiro said. The trail maintenance work also fits in with the school's goal of connecting with the local community.

Students prepare by working on a trail located on campus that is very similar to the Blue Hills. Hiro supervises and

guides the students as they perform the various trail maintenance tasks and become familiar with the tools. Once the students are comfortable with the work and the setting, they move to the Blue Hills. According to Bob Flagg, a trail maintenance volunteer leader, the Boston Higashi School is providing a real service to the community. "Hiro and the students have been a pleasure to work with and are an inspiration to all students to take an active role in their community."



Lisa Irwin of Weymouth submitted this photo to last year's photo contest. To see photos submitted to this year's contest, vote for your favorite or submit your own, visit [www.FriendsoftheBlueHills.org/photo-contest](http://www.FriendsoftheBlueHills.org/photo-contest).

# Not too chilly, but plenty of Chili!

Nearly 200 people joined Friends of the Blue Hills for an evening of lively Irish music, chili tasting, crafts, and winter fun! Mild temperatures made for a very pleasant night hike!

**Special thanks to Blue Hills Ski Area for hosting the event and to our sponsors, Doctors Express of Braintree and Dedham and William Raveis Real Estate in Milton.**

We are also grateful to those businesses that helped make Winter Fest a big success: Food Should Taste Good, Fruit Center Marketplace in Milton, and Blue Hills Brewery in Canton.



*Greg and Kate Glass from Milton with children Autumn and Dylan enjoy the fun.*



*Congratulations and THANK YOU to our wonderful Chili Cook Off competitors (l to r): Tim Slason of The Plate in Milton, Ed Morris and Tim Colton, both of The Fours in Quincy and Tim's brother Jack, and Rick Sampson of Queen Anne's Restaurant in Canton. Not shown: Chili's in Braintree.*



*Dele Omotosho from Quincy and Onome Ukpokpo from Boston sample some chili.*



*Thank you to our Chili Cook Off judges (l to r): Stephen Teehan (who was celebrating his birthday that night), Christine Cedrone, Jeremy Comeau, Victor Del Vecchio, Warren Mohn, Scott Wayne, Julianne Bridgeman, and Kelly Lannutti.*



*Isabella and Holden Carey of Quincy enjoy a craft.*

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**Join us at Green Up!**  
**Sunday, June 5, from 1:00-3:30 p.m.**  
**Ponkapoag AMC Cabins**  
**A Day of Stewardship and Fun**  
**Music, face-painting, crafts and pulling weeds!**  
**Visit [www.FriendsOfTheBlueHills.org](http://www.FriendsOfTheBlueHills.org) for details**

Friends of the Blue Hills  
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