

Members Only Event Is “Epic”

Over 50 FBH members joined Joe Bagley, the City Archeologist in Boston, for a highly enjoyable hike through the Blue Hills at the Members Only Event on May 3rd. Attendees were treated to a light brunch at picturesque St. Moritz Pond before heading out for a hike to Great Dome and Little Dome, described by Bagley as an “archeological site of epic proportions.” Members enjoyed learning about the earliest inhabitants of the Blue Hills and how artifacts provide clues about their lives. For information about other events, visit FriendsoftheBlueHills.org/events.



Joe Bagley, the City Archeologist in Boston, led a fascinating hike in the Blue Hills, pointing out areas of archaeological interest to FBH members.

Ground Breaking Work by Corporate, School and Youth Groups



Volunteers from Dedham Savings spent an afternoon cutting back branches to keep trails accessible for hikers, mountain-bikers and horseback riders. Many companies and organizations sponsor community service days to help maintain the 125 miles of trails in the Blue Hills.

This spring, groups with over 150 volunteers are improving the Blue Hills trails and forests.

Reebok, Liberty Mutual, City on a Hill Charter School and the Boy Scouts are just some of the volunteer groups who have raked leaves, dug ditches and pulled invasive plants so far this year. With the help of groups and individuals who attend our monthly trail maintenance events – plus volunteers who become Trail Adopters— thousands of hikers, mountain bikers and horseback riders can enjoy the Reservation’s trails and forests each year.

If you would like to organize a community service day for your school or company, email us at info@FriendsoftheBlueHills.org. To learn about upcoming trail maintenance events, visit FriendsoftheBlueHills.org/events.

Put Your Best (Horse) Shoe Forward...

by Maxine MacPherson



Looking for a new way to get some exercise this summer? Try the St. Moritz Horseshoe Pitching Club on

Jim McDonough, president of the St. Moritz Horseshoe Club, demonstrates the proper form for throwing a horseshoe.

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 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.

As an added incentive, when you enroll in our monthly giving program, you will be entered into a raffle for a \$250 gift certificate for L.L. Bean!

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

Monday nights. While the Club has been calling the Blue Hills Reservation's horseshoe facility home for more than 80 years, this is not the same game started by blacksmiths and horse-shoers decades ago.

Horseshoes today are played in pits with stakes 40 feet apart, and the horseshoes are bigger and heavier to accommodate pitching by hand. There are six Reservation courts with clay around the stakes instead of sand or dirt. The St. Moritz Club shares maintenance of the grounds and buildings with the Reservation to keep the courts in top pitching condition from spring to fall.

While the courts are open to the public, joining the Club for their Monday night games can provide a more structured and complete experience. On Monday nights, everyone plays everyone else at least once. "It's more

about practice then competition; exercise, fresh air and socializing," explained Jim McDonough, Club president. St. Moritz is part of the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association (NHPA), and members' shoes are recorded each Monday and forwarded to the NHPA, where they are entered into a national database. This allows members to play in local and national tournaments – and many members compete around Massachusetts during the summer.

Men, women and juniors are invited to join the St. Moritz Horseshoe Pitching Club. The courts are located on Bunker Hill Road, West Quincy. Monday night games run from 6 to 9 p.m. Membership is \$25 (an additional fee may be required to be part of the NHPA). For more information, visit www.FriendsoftheBlueHills.org/horseshoe or contact Jim McDonough at 781-848-008.

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
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Become a Sustainer: Yes, have this gift renew automatically

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

Thank you for your generous support!

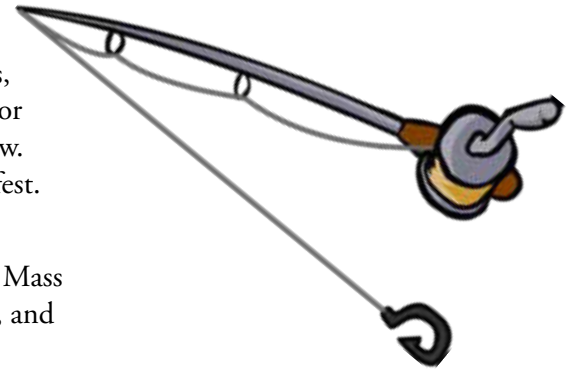
Join Us for Fun at the Fishing Festival!

**Saturday, July 25, 9 a.m.-noon
Houghton's Pond, 840 Hillside
Street, Milton**

Bring your friends and family for a morning of fishing fun! Learn the fine art of casting and participate in a fishing derby with prizes from L.L. Bean Legacy Place. You can borrow equipment at no cost - or bring your

own rod and reel. There will be wacky water games, arts and crafts, and face-painting for extra fun. For more information, please visit www.FriendsoftheBlueHills.org/fishingfest.

Sponsored by the Department of Conservation and Recreation, the Mass Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, and the Friends of the Blue Hills.



Peek-a-Blue Hikes Are a Hit with Parents and Tots!

On April 14, the Friends of the Blue Hills launched the second year of Peek-a-Blue Hikes, the free hour-long hikes held every other Tuesday morning in the Blue Hills. Drawing as many as 60 parents and tots each time, the hikes have become a popular way for parents to enjoy the outdoors with their children.

Parents and children enjoy different hikes-- including stroller-friendly routes--if there are people who ask for it. Each hike starts at the same place: the parking lot of Houghton's Pond.

Thanks to a grant from the Milton Junior Woman's Club, the FBH is able to provide free snacks and drinks for parents and children, and L.L. Bean Legacy Place in Dedham provides a naturalist to lead the hikes.

For more information or a complete list of 2015 dates for the Peek-a-Blue Hikes, please visit www.FriendsoftheBlueHills.org/peekablue.



Peek-a-Blue Hikes give kids a chance to explore and enjoy the Blue Hills.

Is the Blue Hills in Your Will?

Some people think Wills are for wealthy people... but an estate plan helps people of any income protect their loved ones.

Some people think leaving a gift in their Will is only for the rich... but anyone can leave a gift that makes a difference to the Blue Hills for years to come.



To learn about the Skyline Society and leaving a gift in your Will, visit: <http://friendsofthebluehills.org/skyline-society>.

Protect the Beauty: Photo Contest

Shouvik Gangopadhyay of Waltham took this photo 'Atop Rattlesnake Hill... on a cold but sunny spring day' and said "I can't wait to get back."



Why not enter your best photo and help protect the Blue Hills! To vote for your favorite photo or enter this free photo contest, visit friendsofthebluehills.org/photo-contest.

Volunteer Spotlight: Jessica Baumgart

Volunteer does it all: rakes, weeds... and gets married

Jessica will assure you that she didn't start volunteering with Friends of the Blue Hills to find a husband. But after maintaining the trails with Ben Houston for about five years, they are now jumping the broom... or perhaps the rake, in their case.

When Jessica moved to the area, before she even found a place to live, she visited the Blue Hills. After growing up in the mountains of South Carolina, she says, "I knew I would need somewhere to be outside."

As a child, she had done a bit of trail maintenance after storms, so seven years ago when she saw a sign for trail maintenance on one of the park bulletin boards, she jumped at the chance. Over the years, she's become more involved, joining the Trail Maintenance Committee and leading groups like the Boy Scouts she brought out in May to rake and rebuild ditches.

"I'm the kind of person who likes helping other people," Jessica said. "And I like spending time outdoors. This was an opportunity to do both." She also likes meeting the other volunteers and visiting new places in the Blue Hills with the trail crew. She's never chosen to Adopt a Trail because,



Jessica Baumgart and Ben Houston met at a trail maintenance event—and recently married!

as she explains, "I'm a maverick. I like to go where the need is greatest."

Even now that she's married, Jessica will most definitely continue to volunteer... in fact during her wedding weekend, she made time to check on the invasive mile-a-minute vine in Fowl Meadow. But she promised not to do any weeding in her wedding dress... at least until after the ceremony.

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!

Jessica and Ben (at left)—along with all of our volunteers—will be entered into a raffle for \$100 L.L. Bean Gift Card to be drawn at the end of the year. Each time you volunteer for one of our programs or for trail maintenance, your name will be entered into the raffle. THANK YOU for all you do to protect and preserve the Blue Hills!

Boots N Brews— Best of Both Worlds!

Calling all Millennials! Here's an event just for you! On Saturday, August 29, please join us for Boots N Brews—a 2 hour hike in the Blue Hills starting at 10 a.m. followed by a beer tasting at Blue Hills Brewery in Canton. Space is limited, so RSVP soon to Charlie at 617-922-7112 or charliemaloney@gmail.com.



Boots N Brews hikers consulting a map.

Blue Hills Green Up a Big Success!

More than 50 hearty volunteers braved a forecast of heavy rains to help Green Up the Blue Hills on May 31. Local schools, community groups and businesses pitched in to pull all of the mature invasive garlic mustard that threatens the forest around the Ponkapoag AMC cabins. Many thanks to all who helped with the effort and to Randolph Savings Bank for providing refreshments for the volunteers.



David and Ethan Dobrindt and Sebastien (in yellow), Raphael and Claire Yunger, all from Milton.



Fiona McGarry of Quincy with daughter Nia.



Adora and her mother Egesta Faber from Braintree.



Aaron Jean Pierre, Sebastien Yunger, and Pierce Middle School science teacher Jeff Stoodt, all of Milton, learn about invasive weeds from volunteer Jasmine Garani from Sharon.



Volunteers from the New England Aquarium Barbara Moesing, Lace Garland and Alissa Minot.

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Save the Date for our Annual Celebration!
Thursday, October 8, 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
www.FriendsoftheBlueHills.org/Celebration2015.



Friends of the Blue Hills
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