

## Historic Eliot Tower Rescued from Decay

If you have walked up the popular Red Dot trail in the last few years, you may have noticed that the bridge and tower named in honor of Charles Eliot, considered the founding father of the Blue Hills Reservation, has begun to degrade. Last fall, the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) worked to repair Eliot Memorial Bridge, and this summer, DCR will perform essential repairs on Eliot Observation Tower and the Visitor Pavilion.

To ensure that people can continue to safely enjoy this popular hiking destination, DCR will replace the roof of the tower, salvaging and reinstalling the original slate tiles and installing where necessary new slate tiles to match. DCR will also install a new synthetic slate roof on the pavilion that will look like the original slate. Additional repairs will be done to improve the safety and appearance of the historic structure

The Friends of the Blue Hills is working with DCR on the next

phase of the rehab project, which includes landscaping, trail work, and improving the view from the pavilion. For more information, please email [info@friendsofthebluehills.org](mailto:info@friendsofthebluehills.org).



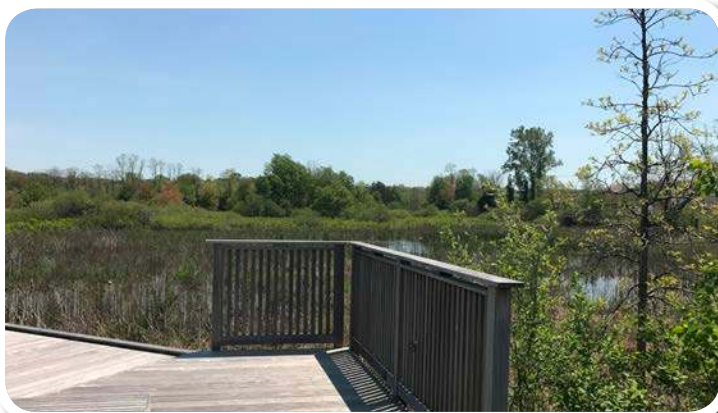
*One of the Blue Hills' most iconic buildings, the tower on top of Great Blue, has been saved from on-going deterioration. FBH members are helping to ensure that this much-beloved historic building is protected for future generations.*

## Members Enjoy Exclusive Hike with Climate Change Expert

Richard Primack, professor of biology and a plant ecologist from Boston University, led a “Members Only” interactive walking event at Ponkapoag Pond this spring. Members enjoyed hearing Professor Primack’s insights on everything from how nutrients move between trees to how climate change will affect the Blue Hills.



Photo by Ken Cohen



## Protecting Vulnerable Habitats

The part of the Blue Hills called Indian Line Farm and the nearby Farnham-Connolly park (pictured at left) are designated by the state as ecologically critical. These properties are also on a list of four properties being considered for a skating rink. Our members are helping to make sure that the special habitats in both of these locations are protected. For more information visit [FriendsOfTheBlueHills.org/ice-rink](http://FriendsOfTheBlueHills.org/ice-rink).

# Winning the Battle To Save the Habitat at Ponkapoag Pond

For five years, volunteers have been pulling the invasive weed garlic mustard near the AMC cabins at Ponkapoag Pond at our annual stewardship event: Green Up the Blue Hills Festival. At last year's Green Up, volunteers removed more than 100 bags of the weed that threatens the habitat for local wildlife, including birds, pollinators (like bees and butterflies) and other animals.

This spring, as we prepared for our annual stewardship event, we were happily surprised to see that almost all of the garlic mustard has been eliminated in that area! THANK YOU to our faithful volunteers and members for achieving this milestone! At this year's Green Up, more than 100 volunteers moved to Fisherman's Beach at the pond and pulled both garlic mustard and another invasive plant, Japanese barberry.

As a Friends of the Blue Hills member, you are making a real difference to the wildlife in the Blue Hills.



*Erick and Elizabeth Straghalis of Dedham pulled weeds with Daisy Troop #62235 at Green Up.*



*Colin Truong, Kate Upatham, Patrick Upatham, and Sayer Upatham of Milton worked hard pulling weeds.*



*Katie Comber of Milton noticed that "unicorns" were the most-requested design for face-painting.*



*Emily Mevers from Brighton helped lead a team from the New England Aquarium "live blue" Volunteer Program.*

## How Life Insurance Can Help the Blue Hills

You can help the Blue Hills for years to come by designating the Friends as a beneficiary of your life insurance policy. By doing so, you would ensure that the Blue Hills are taken care of in the future... and you will become a member of the Skyline Society today!

To learn more about the Skyline Society and to see if naming the Friends of the Blue Hills as a beneficiary of your life insurance policy is right for you, please visit [www.FriendsoftheBlueHills/life-insurance](http://www.FriendsoftheBlueHills/life-insurance).

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

# Dinner Raffle Offers Very Best in Dining and Views!

For this year's Dinner in the Blue Hills Raffle, you have a chance to enjoy a mouth-watering dinner for six provided by The Townshend, the hottest new restaurant in Quincy!

You and five friends will enjoy dinner at the top of the Blue Hills Observatory in the heart of the Reservation.

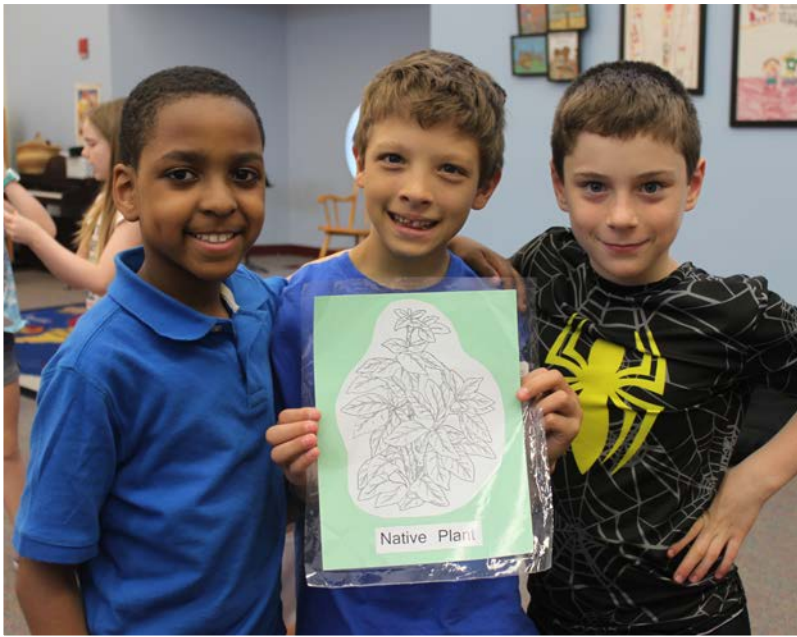
Your meal will include an appetizer, entrée and dessert from what the Boston Globe calls The Townshend's "well-crafted menu."

Tickets are \$15 each or 3/\$35 and can be purchased online on our secure website: [FriendsOfTheBlueHills.org/raffle2017](http://FriendsOfTheBlueHills.org/raffle2017).

The winning ticket will be drawn at our Annual Celebration to be held on Thursday, October 5. You need not be present to win.

Please visit the website for more details and restrictions. And start thinking about who YOU will invite to this extraordinary evening!

THE  
**TOWNSHEND**



## Fourth Graders Learn How to Safely Play Outside

Fourth grade Future Problem Solvers, Eli Morisset, Philippe Bienick and Nathan Bedingfield from Tucker Elementary in Milton, help demonstrate how native plants are an important part of a healthy forest. As part of a partnership with the Friends of the Blue Hills and the Milton Health Department, fourth graders learned how deer populations degrade forest health and how unhealthy forests affect human health. Students also learned how Lyme disease is a problem in their community, and from Milton Health Department Nurse and Director, Caroline Kinsella, learned to identify the signs and symptoms of Lyme disease. As members, you're helping to encourage children to play outside and in the Blue Hills while reducing the risk of Lyme disease.

## State Budget Update

The otter at the Blue Hills Trailside Museum is not the only one affected by this year's budget. To see how the Trailside Museum, the Blue Hill Observatory and the Department of Conservation and Recreation fared in the final budget, visit [FriendsOfTheBlueHills.org/state-budget](http://FriendsOfTheBlueHills.org/state-budget).



Photo by Kent Harnois

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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 [www.FriendsoftheBlueHills.org/Celebrate2017](http://www.FriendsoftheBlueHills.org/Celebrate2017).

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