

Beat the Winter Blues at Winter Fest! Join us on Tuesday, February 28, from 5-8 p.m. at Blue Hills Ski Area

Join the Friends of the Blue Hills and the Blue Hills Ski Area for an evening of winter fun at Winter Fest! Come for a night hike or get your exercise on the slopes downhill skiing. Whether or not you choose the outdoor activities, there is plenty of inside fun too: you can tap your feet to the spirited Irish tunes of Songs for Ceilidh, taste chili from some of the best local restaurants, entertain the kids with crafts, and warm up in the company of old and new friends.

Blue Hills Ski Area will be offering discounted ski tickets for the night. If planning to ski, print the front page of www.FriendsoftheBlueHills.org or the FBH Facebook page and bring it to the event. For more information, email info@FriendsoftheBlueHills.org.

Many thanks to AFC Urgent Care and Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage for sponsoring this year's Winter Fest!

Dedham Savings Supports Trailwork



Mark Ingalls, a Trustee of the Dedham Institution for Savings Foundation, and Judy Lehrer Jacobs, Executive Director of the Friends of the Blue Hills, in front of a new storage shed donated by the Foundation. The shed was installed adjacent to the DCR Headquarters on Hillside Street in Milton and is used to store tools and supplies for trail maintenance.

Many Hands Make Light Work Trail Maintenance Volunteers Up Nearly 50%



Thanks to three grants the Friends of the Blue Hills received in 2016 to support our trail maintenance program, we were able to recruit nearly 700 volunteers who pulled invasive weeds, cut back branches, raked drainage ditches, and removed rocks and fallen tree limbs that blocked trails in the Reservation. These hard-working

volunteers spent 2,363 hours on trail work --the equivalent of a full-time staff person working for 60 weeks! We also worked with a number of larger groups last year, including Ernst & Young above.

The Friends host monthly trail maintenance events from April through December, weather permitting. In

addition, we welcome companies, schools and other organizations who wish to schedule Community Service Days in the Blue Hills. We provide training, tools, snacks, and lunch if the group volunteers four hours or more. Please contact info@FriendsoftheBlueHills.org for more information.

TARC Presents Check to the Trail Maintenance Committee of FBH

The Blue Hills are a popular destination for many runners who enjoy the scenery and solitude of the trails.

One such group, the Trail Animals Running Club (TARC), has over 4,000 members nationwide, many of whom can frequently be seen scaling the rocks and flying past on the trails in the Blue Hills. TARC and its members both enjoy the trails and play an important part in protecting them.

Once a year, TARC coordinates a trail maintenance event in conjunction with the Friends of the Blue Hills. In addition, TARC raises money for the Friends through the TARC Skyline Trail Race held in the Blue Hills every year in July.



Conleth Berry, a local attorney and Race Director for the TARC Skyline Trail Race, presents a check for \$250 on behalf of TARC to Bob Flagg of the Trail Maintenance Committee of the Friends of the Blue Hills.

Be a Blue Hills Sustainer!

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. 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!

- 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.

Thank you for your generous support!

REI and FBH Opt Outside Campaign

The Friends of the Blue Hills partnered with REI last fall for the OptOutside campaign on Black Friday. REI encouraged people to enjoy the outdoors on the day after Thanksgiving. The Friends partnered with DCR to offer two hikes that day—one for adults and one for families. At right are Paul Gannon, Jr., Market Manager at REI Outdoor Programs & Outreach – New England and Anne Comber, Associate Director of Friends of the Blue Hills, with one of the signs for the self-guided hike.



Trail Adopters Make Big Commitment to the Blue Hills

The Friends of the Blue Hills offers a special way for people who love the park to “adopt” a trail to ensure it is always clear and accessible for hikers, mountain bikers and horseback riders. These volunteers agree to inspect the trail regularly and tend to the trails at least three times a year to make sure the trails are in good shape year-round.

We are pleased to learn that one of our most dedicated trail adopters, Pete Tierney, is the new chair of the AMC Southeastern Massachusetts Chapter. This AMC chapter has agreed to adopt a portion of the Skyline Trail and another member, Rob Hirseman, has also agreed to adopt a different section of the Skyline Trail.

Years ago, the Friends of the Blue Hills Adopt-A-Trail Program was modeled after an AMC program, and we are delighted that the two organizations continue to work closely to ensure that visitors to our park will enjoy its 125 miles of trails and spectacular views.

Congratulations and many thanks to Pete and Rob and to our many other trail adopters for their special commitment to the Blue Hills! For more information about the Adopt-A-Trail program, please visit www.FriendsoftheBlueHills.org/adopt-a-trail.

Pete Tierney is a Blue Hills Trail Adopter and also the new chair of the AMC Southeastern Massachusetts Chapter.



Do You Want Safe Crossings for the Skyline Trail? Sign the Petition!



David Dobrindt of Milton tries to cross Route 138 with his children. The Friends of the Blue Hills is working with DCR to try to improve the safety of trail crossings on Routes 28 and 138.

Have you ever followed the Skyline Trail and tried to cross Routes 28 or 138?

If you're one of the many hikers who hike the Skyline Trail, you know how dangerous crossing these highways can be. People who are new to the trail or have impaired mobility are especially at risk at these intersections.

Possible solutions include rerouting the trails or installing traffic calming measures. If you care about making the Blue Hills safe and the trails accessible, please visit our website to sign the petition: FriendsoftheBlueHills.org/skyline-crossing.

Adding your name will demonstrate to legislators that their constituencies care about safe trail crossings.

Photographers Showcase the Incredible Blue Hills

We're grateful to the nearly 80 photographers who submitted nearly 170 photos to the Incredible Blue Hills Photo Contest.

Congratulations to Sherry Carney of Milton who received the judge-awarded prize for her photo "Houghton's Pond Winter."



Photo by Sherry Carney of Milton

Kudos as well to Thomas Montgomery of Boston for winning the popular vote prize for his photo "Spider Dances on Web." Both photographers received a \$250 gift certificate to LLBean.

Many thanks to photo contest sponsors Dedham Savings Bank and LLBean.

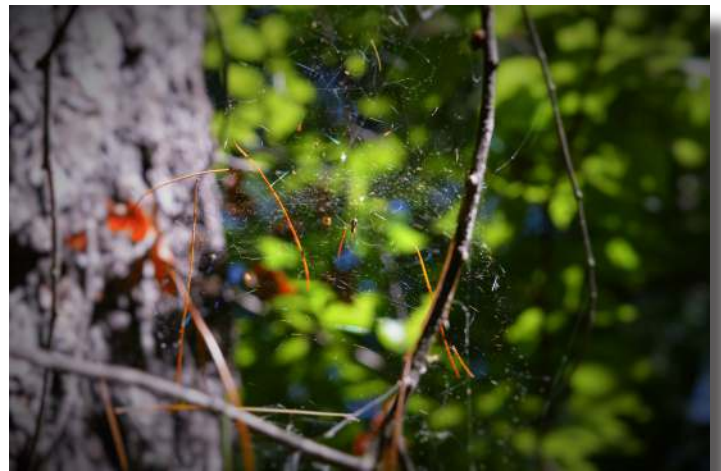


Photo by Thomas Montgomery of Boston

Is the Friends of the Blue Hills in Your Will?



Photo by Mark Milliken of Braintree

By leaving a gift in your Will to the Friends of the Blue Hills, you join the Skyline Society, a select group of people who are committed to the future of the Blue Hills. Learn more at FriendsoftheBlueHills.org/skyline-society.

Deer Population Study Planned for Spring

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) continued the managed deer hunt begun last fall, and have reduced the deer population by 58. The DCR, in conjunction with the Division of Fish and Wildlife, plans to survey the deer population this spring. In 2013, the agencies' deer population study found that there were about 85 deer per square mile of deer habitat. Healthy populations range from 6 to 18 deer per square mile.

Are You Our Next Treasurer?

Do you have an accounting or finance background? Do you want to give back to the Blue Hills? Why not consider applying for the position of Treasurer on the board of the Friends of the Blue Hills? Send your resume to info@FriendsoftheBlueHills.org. We welcome your interest.

Members and Friends Celebrate the Blue Hills!

Over 150 people attended last fall's Friends of the Blue Hills Annual Celebration at the Milton Hoosic Club, making it the most successful gathering ever! Attendees enjoyed the opportunity to catch up with other Blue Hills enthusiasts, learn about what we have achieved together over the past year, and raise funds to protect and preserve the Blue Hills Reservation.

A big thank you to our excellent keynote speaker, Boston University Professor Richard Primack, who shared his research on how global climate change is affecting the Blue Hills Reservation and other parks similar to it.

We would also like to thank everyone who came and made the event such a success and to the many individuals and businesses who sponsored the event and donated to the silent auction!

Thank You to Our Generous Sponsors:

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All photos by Brian MacLean of Milton.



First time attendees Bob and Katherine Ell enjoy themselves at the Annual Celebration.



Maile Panerio-Langer, Kim Kroha and Therese Joyce welcome people to the Annual Celebration.



Esteemed Boston University Professor Richard Primack addresses a rapt audience during his keynote address on the impact of Global Climate Change on the Blue Hills Reservation.



State Senator Walter Timilty and Rebecca Padera enjoy the reception before the program.



Friends of the Blue Hills
P.O. Box 416, Milton, MA 02186
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Winter Fest
Tuesday, February 28, from 5-8 p.m.
Blue Hills Ski Area
Night hike, Irish music, chili tasting and more!
FriendsOfTheBlueHills.org/winterfest

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

Officers of the Friends of the Blue Hills:

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