

Take the “Strive for 35 Challenge” and Explore the Blue Hills

Help us celebrate our 35th year by registering for the free Friends of the Blue Hills “Strive for 35 Challenge.” As part of the challenge, you’ll enjoy 35 Blue Hills activities and events throughout the year! Whether it’s a family hike to the top of Big Blue, snowshoeing or skiing the trails, mountain biking some pretty rugged terrain, camping overnight at Ponkapoag AMC cabins, organizing a group picnic and baseball game at Houghton’s Pond, hiking the Skyline Trail end to end (Boston’s answer to the White Mountains!), rock climbing the Quincy Quarries, or simply enjoying the Boston skyline from Chickatawbut

Road, you will discover the amazing natural treasure that is right in our own backyard.

Take the “Strive for 35 Challenge” and discover YOUR Blue Hills all over again – or for the first time! Visit www.FriendsoftheBlueHills.org/challenge for more information.

Just by registering, you’ll be entered into a raffle for FBH goodies, including a t-shirt. In addition to exploring all the wonderful sites in the Blue Hills, when you complete the challenge, you will be entered into a raffle for the GRAND PRIZE—a weekend at the Appalachian Mountain Club cabins on Ponkapoag

Pond and a \$250 Gift Card from L.L. Bean!



Kristin Olsen is the first person in Canton to register for the Strive for 35 Challenge. Shown here at marker #8 Chickatawbut Overlook.

A New Relationship with the Blue Hills

Evans and Meline (“Mel”), both transplanted New Yorkers (and Red Sox fans) now living in Boston, were searching online for places to hike on a beautiful, sunny day last spring. They noticed that the Blue Hills Reservation was not too far away-- just 20 minutes south of the city--and came up in every review or article they saw as the best local hiking around Boston. They decided to check it out, and that was the beginning of their relationship with the Blue Hills.



Mel and Evans Longacre

Evans and Mel instantly fell in love with the majestic views, the rugged terrain, and the multitude of trails within the Reservation. They decided to set a goal for themselves: split up the Skyline Trail into a number of shorter, training hikes with the hope that on Labor Day, they could hike the entire length of the trail in one day. They knew it would be a challenge. Mel is the first to admit she’s not exactly the “outdoorsy” type. In fact, Mel’s friends were shocked when she agreed to go skiing for the first time with Evans on their first date three years ago. They knew this guy had to be someone pretty special! But Mel has discovered a love of the outdoors over the course of their relationship, and this continued this summer while exploring the Blue Hills with Evans. A planner by nature, Mel would examine the trail map, estimate how far they would go that day,

and pack snacks to enjoy at scenic stops along the way. And on Labor Day, as planned, the couple successfully hiked the nearly 10 mile Skyline Trail end to end.

For Evans and Mel, hiking in the Blue Hills is more than a pastime; it’s a passion. They enthusiastically explore the trails with each changing season, and treasure the joys of this unique and special place. To express their gratitude to the Friends of the Blue Hills for maintaining this sanctuary and the 125 miles of trails that they have so enjoyed, the Longacres became “Great Blue Guardians” of the Blue Hills. “It only seemed appropriate,” said Evans. “We are new to Boston, and the Blue Hills Reservation has become one of our favorite places to spend time together. We want to ensure it is maintained and preserved so others may enjoy it as we do.”

The Blue Hills Are Part of Our Family

By Thu-Hang Tran

Our first son celebrated his ninth birthday hiking the Red Dot Trail with nine other boys. They ate birthday cake mid-way up to the Observatory, and I gave out flashlights at dusk as party favors when they came back down to the parking lot. The Blue Hills Reservation is one of the main reasons we moved to Milton twenty years ago, and hiking the Blue Hills has been a common theme in our family ever since. Introducing nature to our children is as important to us as teaching them how to say “Please” and “Thank you.”

My daughter relished the special weekly time with Dad at the Discovering Nature Together class when our third child arrived sixteen years ago. He started “hiking” in my backpack carrier soon after and went on to cross-country running because “the trails are

more interesting than the track.” Starting them hiking at a young age makes the outdoors a natural part of their life, like homework or playdates. The common tip of ‘driving your children’ places to hear them talk can be modified to ‘hiking with your children’ to have insightful discussions enhanced by the delightful, changing sounds of the woods, depending on the seasons.

Our children now include hikes in our domestic and foreign travels. Although our knees sometimes groan trying to keep up with them as they march forward enthusiastically, singing Broadway musicals, we are gratified to have given them the gift of hiking since they were preschoolers. Now when the older ones come home to visit, we still reserve time to ‘hike down our memory lane’ in the beautiful Blue Hills!



Minh-Anh, Elly, and Jefferson Day of Milton enjoy a hike in the Blue Hills

Sign up for Monthly Giving and You May Win a \$250 Shopping Spree at LL 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. **Even a small monthly donation will make a huge difference to our work.**

And when you enroll in our monthly giving program, you will be entered into a raffle for a \$250 gift certificate for LL Bean!

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

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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!

Team Up with Friends of the Blue Hills to Green Up the Blue Hills! Sunday, June 8, 1-3:30 pm



All are invited to join the Friends of the Blue Hills for a spring festival of stewardship and fun! The annual Green Up will be held on Sunday, June 8, from 1

p.m.-3:30 p.m. at the Ponkapoag AMC Cabins. Volunteers will enjoy music, face painting, crafts and a scavenger hunt while helping with an essential task: pulling up invasive weeds that threaten the Blue Hills. Volunteers should park at Temple Beth David, 1060 Randolph St. in Canton. It is a

short, scenic walk from the parking lot to the cabins. The event is rain or shine, and while some gloves will be available for weeding, volunteers are encouraged to bring their own gardening gloves if they have them. Please RSVP to Greenup@FriendsoftheBlueHills.org or 617-696-8248.



Friends of the Blue Hills kicked off its 35th Year at the First Day Hike at Houghton's Pond. Shown above are (left to right) Jack Beylea, Dave Beylea, Gregory Miller, Jackie Wilbur, Olivia Bussell, Liza Kabanova, Christine Miller, Emily Miller, Noah Chorniyak, and Gabrielle Jacobs. Dave Beylea is the owner of Jack-rabbit Design, which created the 35th year logo for Friends of the Blue Hills.

Take a Hike!

Be sure to check our website for the complete list of guided hikes April through June. The Department of Conservation and Recreation sponsors hikes of varying lengths and skill levels throughout the spring. The Friends of the Blue Hills also partners with the Appalachian Mountain Club on guided morning and evening hikes to explore the Reservation and discover nesting birds and scenic vistas. Visit www.FriendsoftheBlueHills.org/events for more information.

Do You Love the Blue Hills?

Why Not Help Maintain the Trails?

From March through November, trail maintenance volunteers meet monthly to clear overgrown brush, remove downed tree limbs, and repair water channels to keep the trails clear and accessible for all. Training, tools and lunch are provided. Please visit our website for more details www.FriendsoftheBlueHills.org.

Remembering Anne S. Parker

We were greatly saddened to learn that Anne S. Parker passed away in February. Anne lived next to the Blue Hills Reservation in Canton and was a long-time supporter of the Friends of the Blue Hills. She served on the FBH Board as Treasurer and Trustee for many years. She loved Ponkapoag Pond: walking around it, skating on it, and exploring the Boardwalk with her family and friends. Her kind spirit and gentle nature will be missed. In photo below, Anne (left) with her longtime friend and former FBH Trustee Kathy McDonald.



Good Times Heat Things Up at Winter Fest!

Over 200 people joined Friends of the Blue Hills for a night of music, chili tasting, skiing, hiking, crafts, and winter fun! Congratulations to **Queen Anne's Restaurant** in Canton, which took the top prize in the Winter Fest Chili Cook-off!

Special thanks to our other chili competitors: **G.H. Bents** of Milton and **The Fours** of Quincy.

And a big thank you to those businesses that helped make the Winter Fest a big success!

Blue Hills Ski Area
Blue Hills Brewery
Doctors Express
Food Should Taste Good
Milton Marketplace
Ocean Spray
Songs For Ceilidh
The Northface



Judges who lent their taste buds in the Chili Cook-off were (left to right) Rep. Bruce Ayers, Milton Police Chief Richard Wells, Colleen Parker of Northface-Braintree, FBH Executive Director Judy L. Jacobs, Rep. Walter Timilty, Liz Ryan of the Canton Cultural Council, Jeremy Comeau of the Canton Planning Board, and Paul Meoni of the Randolph Town Council. Not pictured are Arthur Goldstein of the Randolph Town Council and Sen. Brian Joyce.

Is the Blue Hills in Your Will?



Photo by Tiffany Mohamed, Canton

Most people don't have wills, even though creating a will or trust is a relatively simple legal procedure and will protect your assets for family and loved ones. Please consider making a will and including in it a gift to the Friends of the Blue Hills. It is one of the most meaningful ways you can help us protect the Blue Hills for future generations.



John Lattuca from Blue Hills Brewery served up some beer from their Canton microbrewery.

Send us your photos and news! Like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter @FriendBlueHills!



Engaging the Community



Michael Power from Milton with kids Lucus Ortiz from Quincy, Jack and Michael Lydon from Milton, and Mateo Ortiz (Quincy).



Kerri Elliot and Carol Gregory from Doctors Express in Braintree were on hand to put fake casts on kids who wanted to know how it felt.



Rick Sampson from Queen Anne's Restaurant in Canton and Senator Brian A. Joyce with the popular vote award.



Mark Chella of Quincy with his son Jack enjoy the Irish music and chili.



The Northface employees Patty Grawzis from Quincy and Colleen Parker from Randolph.

Help us Plan our 35th Birthday Party!

Friends of the Blue Hills was founded in 1979, so we are celebrating our 35th year in 2014! Please help us plan a very special annual celebration this fall.

If you are able to help, please email Anne@FriendsoftheBlueHills.org.

The Friends of the Blue Hills newsletter is produced four times a year.

Editors: Anne Comber, Judy Jacobs, Barbara Kirby

Layout: Owen Hartford

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

Join us at
Green Up
 Sunday, June 8, from 1 - 3:30 p.m.
 Ponkapoag AMC Cabins
 A Day of Stewardship and Fun
 Music, face painting, crafts and pulling weeds!
 Visit www.FriendsoftheBlueHills.org for details.

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