

The Blue Hills Spring to Life!

Longer days and warmer temperatures mean it's time to spring into action in the Blue Hills!

Peek-a-Blue Hikes will start on Tuesday, April 23, at 11 am at Houghton's Pond. These free, guided, one-hour hikes were created just for babies and toddlers. Parents, grandparents and child care providers are all welcome too! We will have games, music and storytelling at the

launch. And as always, we will provide healthy snacks and drinks. The hikes will then continue every other Tuesday morning throughout the year. For more information and a complete list of dates, visit FriendsOfTheBlueHills.org/peekablue.



Babies and tots are welcome at Peek-a-Blue Hikes!

Trail Maintenance will kick off on Saturday, April 27, from 9 am – 1 pm at Houghton's Pond. Lend a hand for DCR Park Serve Day and join us as we do some “spring cleaning” in the Blue Hills! Activities may include raking, digging out water bars and culverts, cutting branches, and removing downed tree limbs. You will be hiking to the work sites, and we suggest you wear long pants, sturdy shoes and gloves. We will provide tools, water, snacks and lunch. Find out more

on our website, FriendsOfTheBlueHills.com/trails-maintenance.

For those volunteers who want something a little less strenuous, we'll be partnering with Wakefield Estates just down the street to count birds on their property at 1465 Bush Hill Road. For more information, please email info@FriendsOfTheBlueHills.org.



Employees at Dedham Savings pitched in to remove downed tree limbs from the trails after a big storm.

We look forward to seeing you this spring in the Blue Hills!

Friend of the Friends Finds 40!

Dave Levy has been visiting the Blue Hills since he was a child growing up in Weymouth. His passion for the park has stayed with him throughout his life, and he now enjoys bringing his grandchildren to the Blue Hills to enjoy the same trails—especially the Red Dot Loop and the Skyline—that he visited when he was their age.

So when Dave saw that the Friends were encouraging people to celebrate the organization's 40th Anniversary by visiting 40 sites in the Blue Hills, he immediately accepted the challenge! As of press time, Dave had already scaled 2 hilltops, hiked 5 trails, and visited 18 historic sites within the reservation's

7,000 acres. He is well on his way to checking off all 40 locations!

Dave became a member of the Friends a couple of years ago, explaining: “I visit the Blue Hills all the time, and I appreciate all the great work that the Friends do. Becoming a member is one thing I can do to help!”



Find 40 (and Win Prizes !)

Check out our website FriendsOfTheBlueHills.org/FBHfind40 to get your checklist of 40 MUST SEE places in the Blue Hills. Visit some or all of these places and snap a pic and post it on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram with the hashtag #FBHfind40

When you request your checklist, you will automatically be entered into a raffle for a \$250 gift card to L.L. Bean! If you snap and post a pic of all 40 places, you'll also be eligible to win a year's membership to the Friends of the Blue Hills, a special 40th anniversary t-shirt, and a new laminated trail map!

Love in the Blue Hills...thanks to you!

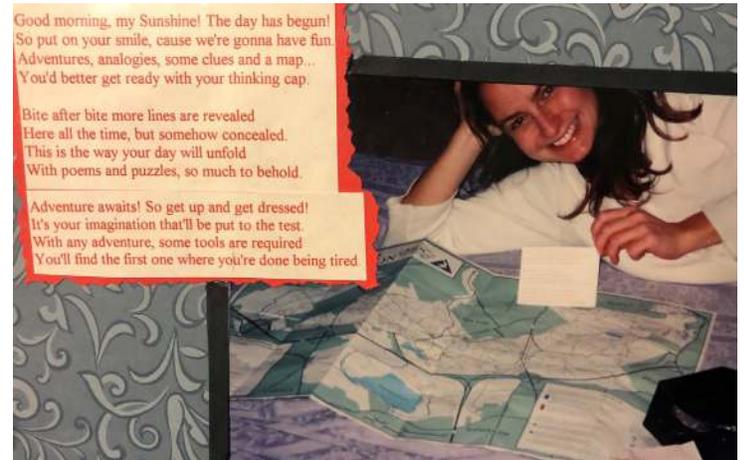
For Valentine's Day, we asked you to share your Blue Hills love stories with us, so we could post them on our website on February 14... and we were overwhelmed by the response! Lovely stories of Blue Hills first dates, a touching story about a how a woman's love for a horse led her to the love of her life, and even how our own Blue Hills Park Ranger met his wife while leading a dog walking program in the Blue Hills! But the one that really knocked our socks off came from Vicky Varnum, whose then boyfriend

planned to propose in the Blue Hills. Not content to just popping the question while walking along the Skyline Trail, he designed a day-long scavenger hunt throughout the Blue Hills using poems he wrote as clues for each location. After a day of mountain biking, playing golf at Ponkapoag, walking on the Bog Boardwalk, having a picnic, and hiking on Chickatawbut Trail, Ken finally proposed at the end of a horseback ride!

All these stories make us appreciate YOU, our

members, even more. Thank you for helping to make sure the Blue Hills are there for

people to create wonderful memories and love stories!



Vicky Varnum received her first clue on her way to a Blue Hills Scavenger Hunt marriage proposal in 2001. She and her husband, Ken, have been happily married for 16 years!

Special Meeting to Approve Change in Our By-Laws

The Friends of the Blue Hills Board of Trustees has proposed a number of changes to the organization's by-laws. These changes can be found at FriendsoftheBlueHills.org/special-meeting. Our current by-laws require that members vote to approve the

changes. To this end, we will have a special meeting to vote on these changes on Thursday, May 23, at 7 p.m. at Fuller Village at 1372 Brush Hill Rd in Milton. For more information, please email us at info@FriendsoftheBlueHills.org.

Do You Have a Good Eye?

Share what you see – and love – in the Blue Hills by entering your photos in the 40th Anniversary Photo Contest! You could win one of two \$250 L.L. Bean gift certificates. Enter your photos and vote for your favorite: FriendsoftheBlueHills.org/Photo-Contest.

Is the Blue Hills Wildlife in Your Will?



Photo by Jean Lewis

A gift to the Friends of the Blue Hills in your Will is one of the most meaningful ways you can help protect the Blue Hills for all who live in it – and enjoy it. To learn about the Skyline Society and people like you who are protecting the park for future generations by remembering the Friends of the Blue Hills in their Will, visit: FriendsoftheBlueHills.org/support/donate-in-your-will.



Photo by Chris Riley

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

Hot Times at a Cold Winter Fest!

With the wind chill dipping temperatures below zero, it was the perfect night to warm up with a bowl of hot chili at our annual Blue Hills Winter Fest. Local restaurants competed in the Battle of the Blue Hills Chili Cook-Off, with Blue Hills Grille and Cooking in with Stephanie winning Judges' Choice and People's Choice respectively, and The Fours winning Best Traditional Chili. In addition to the chili, attendees enjoyed discounted skiing, live Irish music by Songs for Ceilidh, winter crafts, and stargazing.



Songs for Ceilidh entertained attendees and helped celebrate the Friends' 40th year with contagious energy and foot-stomping Irish music.

Special thanks to Blue Hills Ski Area for hosting the event and to our sponsors, AFC Urgent Care in Braintree and Dedham, Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in Milton and Boston Solar.



Photo by Barbara Newman

Betty Hayward enjoyed a winter craft.



Tim Colton from The Fours in Quincy provided one of the five delicious chilis that attendees could vote for, taste – and enjoy!

We are also grateful to the businesses that helped make Winter Fest a big success: Fruit Center Marketplace in Milton, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center- Milton, and Star Market in Dorchester.

Congratulations and THANK YOU to our wonderful Chili Cook Off Competitors:

- Blue Hills Grille in Canton
- Chili's in Braintree
- Cooking In with Stephanie in Milton
- The Fours in Quincy
- Whole Foods Market at Legacy Place



Judges undertook the tasty task of tasting each chili and designating a winner. Judges from left to right include Jeremy Comeau, Lisa Connell, Jeanne Falconi Schmidt, Joe Papagno, Jody Leveroni, Walter Timilty, Eric Grady, Mike Albert, and Richard Wells.

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Save the Date!
Green Up the Blue Hills
Saturday, June 22, 9 am-noon
Farnham-Connolly Park in Canton

Friends of the Blue Hills
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