

Beat the Winter Blues at Winter Fest!

Join Us on Tuesday, February 25, from 5-8 p.m. at the 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 outdoor activities, there is plenty of indoor fun too: you can tap your feet to the spirited Irish tunes of Songs for Ceilidh, taste chili from one of the best local restaurants, entertain the kids with crafts, and warm up to the

company of old and new friends.

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

Join us as we celebrate the best of winter... While it lasts!

Hundreds of Hikers Head Up Great Blue for Fall Colors, Sunset, and Ski Lights

Nearly 200 people enjoyed the beautiful crisp autumn air, viewed a gorgeous sunset from the Blue Hills Observatory, and sipped piping hot cider at the Fall Foliage and Sunset Hike on October 26. Thanks to the Blue Hills Ski Area for co-sponsoring and lighting the path down the ski slope for hikers.

The Two Best Cross-Country Skiing Trails in the Blue Hills

Want to ski in the Blue Hills? Not sure where to start? Take your map and head for these trails suggested by experienced skier Steve Olanoff.

If there's only a little snow, your choice is easy: the Ponkapoag Golf Course. At the golf course, located at 2167 Washington St, Canton, you won't worry about falling on rocks. And you'll be able to ski the grassy, rolling hills even with less than six inches of snow. Because the golf course is such a popular spot, Olanoff says, "There is always someone that goes out skiing very early, so you can follow their tracks. They know where they're going." By following the tracks of these early risers, you'll discover the trails between the fairways and add some variety to your tour.

If there's enough snow, you can also ski around Ponkapoag Pond. But watch out for icy spots. And expect to take off

your skis at least once where the road is plowed for the AMC camps.

If you're looking for the most remote and scenic place to ski in the Blue Hills, check out Braintree Pass Path. Olanoff describes this as a backwoods adventure on an easy trail with no big hills. But don't expect the snow to be already packed down by other skiers. "You can't count on this trail to be tracked," Olanoff warns. He suggests you leave your car at the small parking lot on Chickatawbut Road, just off Randolph Ave/Route 28. Take Braintree Pass Path straight through past marker 3092, to the cliff that overlooks Route 93. If you look across the highway, you might even see where the path used to continue before the highway was built.

For more suggestions for winter activities in the Blue Hills, visit FriendsOfTheBlueHills.org/cross-country-ski.



Mallory Walsh and Halee Prentiss, both of Milton, ready to hike with their little ones.



Sheri Anderson and family enjoying hot apple cider.

Stellar Photos Charm Judges and 'Public'

Many thanks to the 100 people who submitted photos to this year's 40th Anniversary Photo Contest. The judges who chose a winner and all the people who voted for the Popular Vote Award had over 150 amazing photos to enjoy before they voted. Both winners received an L.L.Bean gift certificate for \$250.



Chris Castasus of Randolph won the popular-vote award with his photo entitled "Reflections at Houghton's Pond."



Walter Keenan of Marshfield won the judge-awarded prize with his photo entitled "Owlet and Oriole."

Kudos to the Honorable Mention awardees: Tom Amsterburg of Mansfield, Randy Betts of Roxbury, Timothy Cutter of Canton, and Joe Riordon of Braintree. Visit FriendsoftheBlueHills.org/2019PhotoWinners to see their striking photos.

Thank you to our 40th Anniversary Photo Contest sponsors, Dedham Savings and L.L.Bean, and thank you to everyone who participated.

Is the Blue Hills in Your Will?

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 Blue Hills' visitors for years to come. To learn about the Skyline Society and see the answers to frequently asked questions, visit FriendsoftheBlueHills.org/support/donate-in-your-will or email judy@FriendsoftheBlueHills.org.

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

Editors: Maile Panerio-Langer, 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+\$10=\$40*
- Hancock Hill Hero – \$100
- Chickatawbut Champion – \$500
- Other _____
- Ponkapoag Protector – \$50
- Skyline Steward – \$250
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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.

*Optional \$10 for 40th Anniversary **Thank you for your generous support!**

40th Anniversary Annual Celebration: Our Biggest Celebration Ever!

Over 200 people attended last fall's Friends of the Blue Hills 40th Anniversary Annual Celebration at the Canton Town Club. Attendees enjoyed catching up with other Blue Hills enthusiasts, learned about what we have achieved together over the past year, and raised funds to protect and preserve the Blue Hills Reservation.

A huge thank you to our keynote

speaker, New York Times Best-Selling author, Tom Ryan, whose humorous and inspirational presentation on hiking with Atticus, Will, Samwise, and Emily was enjoyed by all.

We would also like to thank everyone who came and made this event such a success and 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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Photo credit: Ken Stampfer

Keynote Speaker, Tom Ryan, entertained attendees with tales of hiking the White Mountains and being a small-town journalist.



Annual Celebration Honorees (Left to Right, Paul Gannon, Eric Grady, and Carina Bandle of REI, Steve Cobble of NEMBA, Norman Smith of the Blue Hills Trailside Museum, and Friends' trail leaders, Bob Flagg and Caleb Blankenship).



Photo credit: Ken Stampfer

A packed crowd enjoyed the keynote presentation.



Board Member, Cheryl Weinstein, with 40th Anniversary Annual Celebration cake donated by Konditor Meister.

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Join Us for Winter Fest!
Feb. 25, 5-8 p.m., Blue Hills Ski Area
Chili tasting, live Irish music, kids activities,
skiing, night hike, and more!

Friends of the Blue Hills
 P.O. Box 416, Milton, MA 02186
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