

Sponsoring a Trail to Inspire Her Grandson

Margo Newcomb joined the Friends of the Blue Hills to help care for the park and also Sponsored a Trail in honor of her grandson to help him love the park like she does.

Margo has lived in Randolph since 1985 but didn't start hiking the Blue Hills until much later. She knew about the Blue Hills and would take her children to the park to visit the museum and feed the horses stationed at the stable near the Headquarters building.

But, she says, she "never really discovered it" until her daughter introduced her to the trails 15 years ago. Since then they have been exploring all of the park trails, walking together, and enjoying each other's company and the beautiful nature.

For the last five years, she's experienced the Blue Hills in yet another way. She takes her grandson, Stephan James, on hikes around Houghton's Pond.

To Margo Newcomb, the Blue Hills have given her wonderful times with her family, restorative experiences after surgery, and great exercise. Her love of the Blue Hills is something she can pass on to her grandson. She recently joined the Friends of the Blue Hills because... she feels so lucky to have the Blue Hills in her life!

In addition to becoming a member, Margo also Sponsored a Trail in honor of her grandson. "I wanted to inspire him to appreciate the park – and it worked! Every time we hike the Red

Dot Trail to Eliot Tower, he proudly says 'grandma, this is our trail!'"

We're grateful to Margo and her grandson for their love of the Blue Hills and for Sponsoring a Trail. To learn more about Sponsoring a Trail, visit FriendsOfTheBlueHills.org/Sponsor.



Friends of the Blue Hills member, Margo Newcomb, was introduced to hiking in the Blue Hills by her daughter Renee Schmidt. She Sponsored a Trail in honor of her grandson, Stephan James. Learn more about Sponsoring a Trail for someone you care about, visit FriendsOfTheBlueHills.org/sponsor.

Smartphone Photography

Wednesday, March 25, 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm

L.L. Bean Legacy Place, Dedham
Do you take photos with your phone when you're hiking in the Blue Hills? If so, please join us at a special FREE clinic on smartphone photography with L.L. Bean. Their expert staff will cover topics like lighting, composition, digital zoom, resolution, editing, and stabilizing your shot. RSVP to info@FriendsOfTheBlueHills.org; space is limited.

Look inside for more events and opportunities.

Peek-a-Blue Hikes

Bi-weekly hikes for tots beginning April 14, 11 am

Houghton's Pond main parking lot, 840 Hillside St, Milton

Bring your tots to Peek-a-Blue Hikes, free, guided, one-hour hikes were created just for babies and toddlers. Parents, grandparents and child care providers are all welcome too! You'll enjoy games, music and storytelling

at the launch, April 14. 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.



Young children and their adults are invited to Peek a Blue Hikes, bi-weekly guided hikes for tots beginning April 14.

Trail Adopters' Dedication Helps All of Us Hike

If you have ever hiked the trails in the Blue Hills, you are indebted to all our trail volunteers who keep the trails clear of branches and help prevent erosion. The dedication of a few, however, deserves particular recognition.

Our Trail Adopters are responsible for maintaining a particular trail or portion of a trail, visiting the trail several times a year to make sure hikers, bikers and horseback riders can safely travel the path.

Trail Adopters are encouraged to

commit to a year, but some have been dedicated for years.

We are particularly grateful to Denise Butler, Bob Flagg, John Goldrosen, James Green, The Higashi School, Dave Humphreys, Dexter Robinson, and Bob Vogel. All of these individuals – and the school students – have maintained the trails for 10 years or more.

If you would like to learn more about the Adopt-a-Trail, visit FriendsoftheBlueHills.org/Adopt-a-Trail.

Leave a Lasting Legacy



Photo credit: Bettyann Needham (Randolph)

By letting us know that you have remembered the Friends of the Blue Hills in your Will, you will join others in the Skyline Society... and make sure the park will be enjoyed for generations to come. You do not need to be wealthy to leave a lasting legacy. For information about the Skyline Society and remembering the Blue Hills in your Will, visit FriendsoftheBlueHills.org/donate-in-your-will.

Blue Hills Photo Contest Enter Your Photos for Great Prizes

If you take photos in the Blue Hills, you could win one of two gift certificates to L.L.Bean in the 2020 Blue Hills Photo Contest. Enter up to four of your favorite photos and become eligible to win a prize for the popular vote – or the prize awarded by a panel of judges.

Even if you don't enter, you can vote for your favorite... and enjoy the amazing photos that others have submitted. For details, go to FriendsoftheBlueHills.org/photo-contest.



Photo credit: Doug Martland (Milton)

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
- Great Blue Guardian -\$1,000

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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!**

Winter Fest Fills Bellies and Warms Hearts

Many thanks to the hundreds of people who turned out for this year's Winter Fest! Participants enjoyed delicious chili prepared by **Blue Hills Grille of Canton** (which one the judges award), **Cooking In with Stephanie** of Milton (which one the popular vote), **The Fours** in Quincy (winner of the 'Best Game Day Chili' award and **Whole Foods Market** of Dedham (the 'Most Savory Chili' award winner).

A big thank you to **AFC Urgent Care in Braintree** and **Trillium Brewing Company** for sponsoring the Winter Fest.



Jessica Morrissey and Marlin Mancuso of Canton enjoyed the Irish band and face painting at this year's Winter Fest.



The judges – and all who attended - treated their tastebuds to a variety of delicious chili. Judges included (from left): Milton Planning Board member Denny Swenson, Canton Selectman Thomas Theodore, Canton Selectman Christopher Connolly, and Canton Selectman Mark Porter. Not shown are Senator Walter Timilty, Representative William Driscoll, Milton Selectman Richard Wells and Eric Grady of REI.



Four chili vendors participated in the chili cook-off: Blue Hills Grille of Canton, Cooking In with Stephanie of Milton, The Fours in Quincy and Whole Foods Market of Dedham. Congratulations to Blue Hills Grille of Canton for winning the judges' award, to Cooking In with Stephanie of Milton for winning the popular vote, to Whole Foods for being recognized with the 'Most Savory Chili' award and to The Fours of Quincy for earning the 'Best Game Day Chili' award.

Skills in the Hills: Basic Map & Compass Navigation

Saturday, April 18, 10:00 am
Houghton's Pond main parking lot,
840 Hillside Street, Milton

Back by popular demand! If you have ever gotten lost while hiking, then you will love this program. Bring your Blue Hills trail map and your compass/smartphone and learn some tips about navigation from an expert at L.L. Bean.

RSVP to info@FriendsoftheBlueHills.org, in case there are last-minute changes.

Park Serve: Trail Maintenance Kick-off

Saturday, April 25, 9 am – 2 am
Houghton's Pond main parking lot

Every month, beginning in April, you have the opportunity to volunteer to help care for the trails. You can join us once – become a regular! We're kicking off the season on April 25th for DCR Park Serve Day. Join us to help prepare the trails for the season ahead. Activities may include raking, digging out water bars and culverts, cutting branches, and clearing tree limbs. There is usually a short walk to the worksite. We meet up after a morning of hard work to enjoy each other's company... and delicious pizza. For details, event dates, and to sign up for reminders and updates, visit FriendsoftheBlueHills.com/trails-maintenance.



Liberty Mutual is one of the businesses that dedicates a service day to care for the Blue Hills.

Fruit Center Marketplace
L.L.Bean
Milton Junior Woman's Club
Quirk Auto Dealers
REI
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**Climb It for Climate: Blue Hills – 50th Anniversary of Earth Day
Wednesday, April 22, 10 am – 2 pm
Friends of the Blue Hills.org/Climb-it
Sponsored by the Blue Hills Reservation,
Blue Hills Climate Action Coalition, and REI**

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