

Join Our 2020 Annual Celebration Support Friends of the Blue Hills!

Thursday, October 22, 6:30 - 8:00 pm
On Zoom

Please join us to celebrate the past year of protecting and preserving the Blue Hills... and help raise funds to continue caring for the park! While we will not be able to be together in person this year, we will have opportunities to socialize and 'see' friends virtually! We will offer themed breakout sessions, where you can discuss shared interests like favorite trails, the ecology of the Blue Hills, and more! After the breakout sessions, we will have the pleasure of listening to our keynote speaker, Derick Lugo, author of *The Unlikely Thru-Hiker*, and we will celebrate all we have accomplished together over the last year!

We will also celebrate two Department of Conservation and Recreation veterans who are retiring this year, both of whom have been invaluable in our work to improve the Blue Hills

Keynote Speaker

Derick Lugo

Author, The Unlikely Thru-Hiker

2020 Community Partners

Jim Comeau

Karl Pastore

Both honorees have worked for the **Dept. of Conservation & Recreation** for decades and the Blue Hills Reservation has benefitted greatly from their tenures.

and our natural environment.

Tickets are free, but we recommend a \$35 donation. There will be a silent auction online prior to the Annual Celebration. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit FriendsOfTheBlueHills.org/Celebrate2020.

About the Keynote Speaker

Derick Lugo had never hiked or camped a day in his life, but one day this Brooklyn-born, New York City urbanite hopped a train to Georgia, grabbed a taxi at the station, and told the cab driver to drop him off at the beginning of the Appalachian Trail. Then he did as he has always done — put one foot in front of the other and never looked back.

After hiking for more than 2,000 miles, he now feels invincible and plans to cross the Sahara barefoot. (Not really, but when an ambitious spirit is successful, it will strive for even greater accomplishments.)

The Unlikely Thru-Hiker is his debut memoir.



photos courtesy of Derick Lugo

Hundreds of Voters Learn the Positions of Congressional Candidates at Town Hall on the Environment

Thanks to our members, a dozen co-sponsors, and hundreds of viewers, July's Congressional Candidate Town Hall on the Environment helped voters in the Eighth Congressional District learn more about where candidates Dr. Robbie Goldstein and Rep. Stephen Lynch stand on critical environmental issues facing our communities today. The candidates revealed their stances on the Green New Deal, how to best address and adapt to climate change, and how best to protect our open space.

We're grateful to our partners who co-sponsored the event: Blue Hills Climate Action Coalition, Clean Water Action, Community Action Works (formerly Toxics Action Center), Environmental League of Massachusetts, FRRACS, Neponset River Watershed Association, Mass Conservation Voters, Mass Sierra Club, Milton for Peace, Quincy Climate Action Network and Sustainable Milton.

To view the video, visit FriendsoftheBlueHills.org/Town_Hall.



Congressional Candidates Dr. Robbie Goldstein (upper right) and U.S. Congressman Stephen Lynch (lower right) answered questions from panelists, who included Mamadu Tchamo (lower left), a junior at Brockton High School, and Alice Arena (upper left) from Fore River Residents Against the Compressor Station.

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

Name _____

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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!

Join the Better Forest Challenge - Blue Hills! Take Photos of Plants and Animals... and Help Improve the Forest!

What do high school students, college students, nature enthusiasts, and professionals all have in common? A love of the Blue Hills and the ability to help us understand the health of the forest!

When we understand the health of the forest, we can better care for the habitat and wildlife that we all love. Collecting data on over 7,000 acres of forest, however, is an enormous task. That's why, as part of our recent Strategic Plan, we launched the Better Forest Challenge, a community

science project that invites anyone who loves - and visits - the Blue Hills to upload photos of the species they see to help measure the current health of the forest and to help gather the data necessary to better care for it.

In just the first month, community science participants have already recorded over 59 species by taking photos and uploading them to the Better Forest Challenge – Blue Hills project located on iNaturalist, an app designed to capture this data.

The project was inspired by Mare Parker OToole, a Friends member and Newton librarian. With Mare's help, scientists, high school and college students, and people who just love hiking the Blue Hills joined the effort. Some volunteers, like Lucia Cheney who is studying environmental science at the University of Massachusetts - Lowell, have helped develop the website. Others, like high school students Emma Weeber of Milton and Olivia Spielberger of Hingham, have committed themselves to recruit other high school students in their towns to participate. Still other high school students, like Megan MacDonald of Westwood, have committed to researching invasive species and their effects in the Blue Hills.

Whether you're a student, senior, or somewhere in between, we invite you to participate in the Challenge, by taking photos and becoming part of this community science project!

To learn more about the Better Forest Challenge - Blue Hills, visit FriendsOfTheBlueHills.org/forest-challenge.

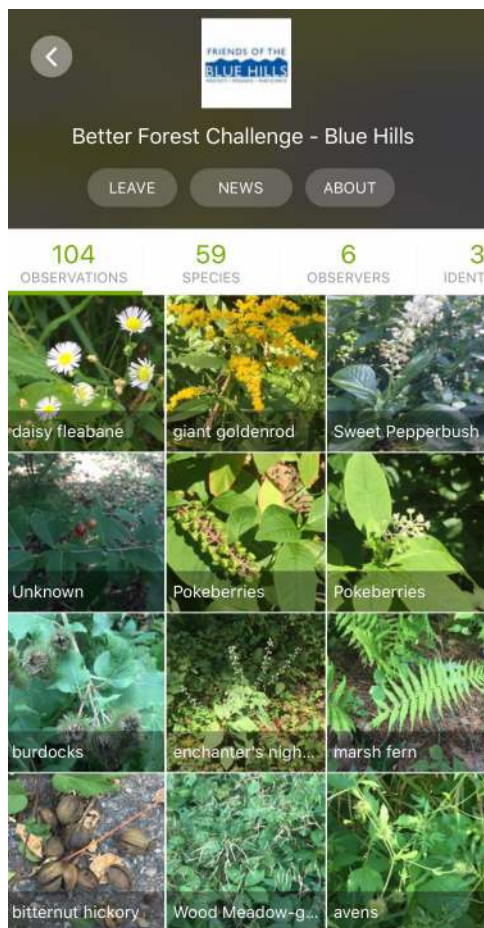
Volunteers Repair the Trails ... Thanks to Member Support



Amanda Ford of Rockland helped kick-off the trail maintenance season this year sporting her face mask.



While volunteers now wear masks and observe social distancing, they bring the same enthusiasm to caring for the park that they always have. Restrictions imposed because of COVID-19 delayed our trail maintenance efforts, but thanks to



Participants of the Better Forest Challenge - Blue Hills have recorded over 100 observations so far! To learn how you can become part of the fun, visit FriendsOfTheBlueHills.org/forest-challenge.

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Enter to Win a Gourmet Catered Picnic for Six!

When you enter our Picnic for Six Raffle, you have a chance to enjoy a once-in-a-lifetime experience: a scrumptious gourmet catered picnic for six from The Seasoned Palette!

Imagine you and five guests hiking to your favorite vista in the Blue Hills. Is it the view from Buck Hill? Or the serene flowering lily pads on St. Moritz Pond? Or perhaps Fisherman's Beach at Ponkapoag? Now imagine sharing a succulent meal with dessert as you and your family or friends take in the beauty of the Blue Hills. The winner will also receive a water-resistant picnic blanket and a picnic cooler basket.

Tickets are \$15 each or 3/\$35 and can be purchased online on our secure website: FriendsOfTheBlueHills.org/Raffle2020.

Some restrictions apply, so please visit our website for more details.

The winning ticket will be drawn at our Annual Celebration to be held on

Thursday, October 22. You need not be present to win... but you have to enter to win, so buy your raffle ticket today!



Scrumptious picnic sample menu provided by chef Lauren Barone of The Seasoned Palette.

Did You Hear?

You can protect the Blue Hills' wildlife for years to come. To learn about the Skyline Society and leaving a gift in your Will, visit FriendsOfTheBlueHills.org/skyline-society.

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If you haven't heard about the Skyline Society, visit our website to learn how you can join a community of people who care about the future of the Blue Hills by including the Friends of the Blue Hills in your will. Visit: FriendsOfTheBlueHills.org/skyline-society.

Find Five Friends Campaign

Do you have friends in your flock that love the Blue Hills? Have you asked them if they're members of the Blue Hills? Why not join the Find Five Friends Campaign! All you need to do is tell five friends about why you belong to the Friends of the Blue Hills... and then ask them to join!

To show our appreciation for your being a dedicated

ambassador for the Blue Hills, we have special gifts for the top 'Friend Finder': a 2021 Blue Hills calendar and a canvas print of the stunning beauty of the Blue Hills. The top 'Friend Finder' will also be thanked at our Annual Celebration on October 22.

For details, visit FriendsoftheBlueHills.org/Find5Friends



Attention Dog Owners



Sorry, There Ain't No Poop Fairy.

Please don't leave your poop behind!

Scoop It • Bag It
Place It In The Trash
Or Take It With You.

dcrcolorado.org
Tossing or leaving dog waste in a state park is punishable by a fine of up to \$200.

In response to the frustrations of our members and other visitors about all those poop bags that people leave on the trails, the Friends encouraged the DCR to improve signage in the Reservation. In response, the DCR has recently posted 'Poop Fairy' signs throughout the Blue Hills.

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Volunteers Repair the Trails ... Thanks to Member Support

member support, we were ready to bring volunteers into the park as soon as we were permitted to do so.

Beginning in August, we organized small groups to repair the damage to trails from storms and erosion so that visitors can safely use and enjoy the trails. Many thanks to volunteers for cutting brush, building erosion control structures, raking and pulling invasive plants that threaten native species. To sign up for trail events, visit FriendsoftheBlueHills.org/trails-maintenance.

Signs of Improvement



Samurai, Shawn, Leo, and Lyla Thompson rest under the new safety sign while hiking up the service road to the Blue Hill Observatory. In response to member concerns, the Friends successfully worked with the DCR to install signage to help slow down the bikes on this steep road.

**FRIENDS OF THE
BLUE HILLS**
PROTECT • PRESERVE • PARTICIPATE

Friends of the Blue Hills
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Save the Date!
Annual Celebration 2020
October 22, 6:30-8:00 pm, on Zoom
FriendsOfTheBlueHills.org/Celebrate2020

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Associate Director: Maile Panerio-Langer

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