



Civilian Conservation Corps 1933-1937
Blue Hills Reservation 

Welcome to Blue Hills Camp SP-1
As the Great Depression took hold, President Franklin D. Roosevelt established a federal work relief program, the Civilian Conservation Corps, one of the greatest conservation efforts in America's history.




Setting Up Camp




In June 1933, 250 World War I veterans, ages 20-40, arrived here, in a 95-acre site in the Blue Hills. Their first year was spent constructing camp including signal towers, officers' quarters, a kitchen and a hospital. Later, the Veterans Corps was replaced with a junior CCC camp, ages 18-25.

Life in the Corps



CCC members received job training, food, lodging and \$20 a month. They used \$25 loans to support their families and \$5 was there to spend locally, helping to revitalize the economy.


Work Hard




The CCC men tackled an extraordinary range of projects in the Blue Hills, including:

- planted 11,000 trees, drained swamps and built loam levees
- built two downhill ski runs and over 23 miles of trails and roads
- constructed towers at Great Blue Hill and Chickatawbut Overlook

Play Hard




Fortunately for the men, life was not all work. The men at the Blue Hills camp enjoyed fall-made sports and concerts in their outdoor establishments. The camp also included areas for sports, like tennis, basketball, and horseshoes.



Time Marches On
The men of the CCC lived and labored here until 1937 when the camp closed. In 1966, twenty buildings were removed from the site. Today visitors in including the former camp but you may notice old concrete foundations and camp metalwork remains.

History happened here. Please enjoy and respect the legacy of the Blue Hills Civilian Conservation Corps.



New Interpretive Sign Reveals Insights Into Historic Past

Thanks to the installation of a new interpretive sign last October, visitors to the Blue Hills can deepen their understanding of how the Civilian Conservation Corps shaped the Blue Hills.

The sign, mounted at the site of the former Civilian Conservation Corps Camp in Milton, reveals the fascinating 1930's history of Roosevelt's "Tree Army."

Friends of the Blue Hills, in partnership with the Department of Conservation and Recreation and with a grant from REI Co-op, cleared invasive plants that were taking over the site and installed and a new interpretive panel to commemorate the hard work and contributions of the Civilian Conservation Corps and offer visitors a glimpse into this hidden history of the Blue Hills.

Over the past year, volunteers and staff from the Friends of the Blue Hills and the Department of

Conservation and Recreation have improved the trails and cleared invasive species to uncover some of the hidden camp features. The sign, mounted in October, highlights historic photos and descriptions of camp residents and their lives. The Civilian Conservation Corps was a work program initiated by President Franklin Roosevelt when America was in the grip of the Great Depression.

Residents camped at the site while they worked on projects in the Blue Hills, like constructing stone observation towers at Chickatawbut Overlook and Great Blue Hill as well as stone steps up Buck Hill, Nahanton Hill, and Great Blue Hill.

For more information about the Civilian Conservation Corps, their work in the Blue Hills, and directions to the new sign at this historic site, visit FriendsOfTheBlueHills.org/CCC.

Winter Children's Programs

No matter the weather, families can always explore nature with our Winter Children's Programs. Perfect for families with children in grades 2-6.

Birds of Winter

Wednesday, January 20, 4:00 p.m.

Birds appear to be such delicate creatures. Yet, some species live in the northern parts of our country all year. Why do some birds migrate and others stay in the same habitat year-round? We'll discuss the habits and adaptations of birds and give you some tips to make your yard a winter oasis for the birds!



Winter Survival!

Thursday, February 18, 4:00 p.m.



Winter can be a time of scarcity. Many animals face the challenges of reduced food, limited water and exposure

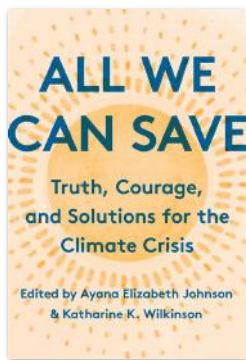
to the cold. We'll explore the adaptations of mammals, birds and insects that allow them to survive nature's most trying time.

To register for either or both of these programs, visit FriendsOfTheBlueHills.org/Families2020.

Blue Hills Book Club

Tuesday, January 19, 4:30 p.m.

Join us for our next virtual book club as we discuss *All We Can Save: Truth, Courage, and Solutions for the Climate Crisis*, edited by Katharine K. Wilkinson and Ayana Elizabeth Johnson.



Intermixing essays with poetry and art, this book is both a balm and a guide for knowing and holding what has been done to the world, while bolstering our resolve never to give up on each other or our collective future.

For the discussion, you can read any of the provocative and illuminating essays in the book, written by women at the forefront of the climate movement.

Learn more and register at, FriendsoftheBlueHills.org/Book-Club.

The Friends of the Blue Hills newsletter is produced quarterly.

Editors: Maile Panerio-Langer
Judy Lehrer Jacobs
Barbara Kirby

Visit us at
FriendsoftheBlueHills.org
or call (781) 828-1805 for
information on membership,
maps, and programs.

P.O.Box 416, Milton, MA 02186

Thank You Trail Volunteers

Many thanks to those who have volunteered for trail maintenance and to those who have adopted a trail to maintain.

Trail work will resume in the spring! For more information and to sign-up, visit FriendsoftheBlueHills.org/trails-maintenance.



Who Can Help Blue Hills Wildlife With a Gift in Their Will?



Anyone who cares about the Blue Hills! Although very large gifts receive the most publicity, you can leave a gift of any amount. Thousands of Americans have given bequests through their Wills. All gifts are meaningful and greatly appreciated.

To learn about the Skyline Society and leaving a gift in your Will, visit FriendsoftheBlueHills.org/Skyline-Society.

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

Name _____

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Please mail to: Friends of the Blue Hills, PO Box 416, Milton, MA 02186

You may also donate through our secure server:
FriendsoftheBlueHills.org/Support.

Thank you for your generous support!

Enduring Love of the Blue Hills Inspired Romantic Courtship and Support for the Blue Hills

By Mary Ellen C. Welch

The late Rev. Dr. Theodore “Ted” Klein considered the Blue Hills an extremely fine and dear friend. He left this life quite unexpectedly but also left his love for family, friends, and the Blue Hills very much alive and well. Reflecting his deep love of the Blue Hills, his family chose the Friends of the Blue Hills as the organization to support in his memory.

Rev. Klein performed his ministry for nearly four decades and held a Ph.D. in Philosophy. He exuded an innate zeal for and was extraordinarily devoted to ethical action which was all-inclusive.

Dr. Klein’s life’s work was dedicated to ethical behavior regarding nature, animals, and people. He knew the significance of cherishing our environment and how we are intensely

linked to it. He taught people to respect and sustain the natural life surrounding us and used more than words to communicate his ideas. He was vigorously involved in numerous projects. So, one may wonder, when did he have time to become engrossed in the Blue Hills and how did it start?



“It was in the 1960s,” his wife of 52 years, Mary Kay Klein stated. “He was a graduate student at Boston University and he’d go to the Blue Hills to hike and climb rocks. We met at the end of 1966, and during the summer of 1967, I remember, we spent time in the Blue Hills hiking. He

referred to the Blue Hills very lovingly.”

Mary Kay realizes how unique it was that the Blue Hills contributed to their courtship. “Very special!” she acknowledged.

“We moved in 1969 to Ohio, where we lived until 1985. By the time we came back to this area, we had three kids, one of whom could not walk very far, so hiking was not possible. But Ted always followed what was going on at the Blue Hills and maintained an interest.”

Mary Kay continued. “When we came back, every time we drove down around the Blue Hills he’d start talking about how beautiful they were. He talked about the Observatory too. Then he discovered the Friends of the Blue Hills so we joined that. We were thinking after he died—he was only ill for a few days—where do we want contributions to go? We knew he was really interested in the Blue Hills, nature, and animals. Our backyard is sort of a shrine to nature. He planted all kinds of things. We looked

at the different organizations he belonged to and the consensus was that this was the right one to ask people to donate to (Friends of the Blue Hills).”

“He talked about nature and environmental issues in his courses and he incorporated these topics into his services when he was Pastor. I think a lot of it has to do with awareness and how we are interconnected. We are not here to dominate the Earth. We’re part of the web.”

Concerning her husband’s short August hospital stay, Mary Kay imparted an exceptional detail.

“He was at the Faulker Hospital up on the 7th floor, and we were talking about how, just out of the corner of the window where he was, you could see the Blue Hills. They were hard to see, but they were there and he was aware!”

Things unquestionably happen for a reason, don’t they?

“Yes, I think so,” agreed Mrs. Klein.

How Climate is Changing the Blue Hills and Our Communities

Friends partner with the Blue Hills Climate Action Coalition to Educate and Inspire

Last fall, Friends of the Blue Hills members tuned into the lecture series ‘*Our Climate Crisis: Research and Action for Change*,’ sponsored by the Blue Hills Climate Action Coalition. Experts from diverse disciplines revealed to participants how our climate crisis will change the Blue Hills, its habitat, its visitors, and its surrounding

communities. Speakers included climate change researchers, activists, youth leaders, and social scientists.

To gain new perspectives on the climate crisis and what we can do, check out the recordings of the speakers at FriendsOfTheBlueHills.org/Climate2020.



Rebecca Herst, Director of the Sustainable Solutions Lab at UMass Boston was one of the speakers in the ‘Our Climate Crisis’ Series.

Over 100 Photographers Delighted Judges and Viewers

Many thanks to the 135 people who submitted photos to this year's Blue Hills Photo Contest. The judges who decided the Judge-Awarded winner and everyone who decided the Popular-Vote winner enjoyed viewing over 230 amazing photos before they voted. Both winners received an L.L.Bean gift certificate for \$250.



Matt McNamara of Bridgewater won the Popular- Vote award with his photo entitled, "Lake Views."

Kudos to our Honorable Mentions: Kevin Flaherty of Walpole, Allison Brown of Hyde Park, and Ankita Sexena of Framingham.

Thank you to our Blue Hills Photo Contest 2020 sponsor, **Dedham Savings**, and thank you to everyone who participated.



Andrea Aparicio of Woburn won the Judge- Awarded prize with her photo entitled, "Buck Hill."

Youth-led Efforts Improve the Blue Hills

"Yes, but what *more* can I do?" When Westwood High School student, Megan MacDonald, asked this simple question, a youth-led invasive species community science research project with impact was born. Megan shared her experiences of researching invasive species in Nova Scotia's Bay of Fundy - the effects that invasive species there have had on native species - and wanted to bring some level of invasive species research to the Blue Hills. "The Blue Hills are our backyard and I want to do more to protect them."

The invasive research project has grown to include student teams from

Westwood High School and Hingham High School. In partnership with the Department of Conservation and Recreation; Debbie Merriam, Arboretum Director, Mary May Binney Wakefield Arboretum; and the Friends, the students have learned about invasive species in the Blue Hills, identified areas in the reservation to study, learned how to take invasive species density-plot measurements, and have begun to collect plot-density measurements. This data will provide valuable forest health data and allow for better stewardship of the Blue Hills.



Westwood High School students on a recent invasive species data gathering hike.



Friends of the Blue Hills
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Upcoming Virtual Winter Family Programs!

Birds of Winter, Wednesday, January 20 at 4:00 p.m.
 Winter Survival! Thursday, February 18 at 4:00 p.m.

Register at FriendsOfTheBlueHills.org/Families2020

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