

## New Friends' Sustainer Becomes Volunteer Leader ... and Creates Meaningful Ways For You to Help the Park

Lorna Jane Norris, shares her passion for the Blue Hills and why she stepped up to form a new Membership Committee to encourage people to join, volunteer and give back to the Blue Hills.

**Q: You recently joined the Friends of the Blue Hills as a Monthly Sustainer. Can you share what prompted you to join?**

**Lorna Jane:** Like so many of your readers and members, the Blue Hills have been my sanctuary over the past year. I am at my happiest when I am running among the trees. It's my church. I cannot put a price on it, but as someone who has been in non-profit leadership my whole career, I understand how organizations rely on sustaining gifts, however small. I love being part of a group of people who are passionate about being in and preserving our natural resources. It's frankly the most important responsibility we have.

**Q: Why did you choose to volunteer with the Membership Committee? What are your hopes for the committee?**

**Lorna Jane:** I am not in a position to give as much money as I would like right now, but I do have the gift of time and expertise. I am a consultant to the non-profit sector and so bringing my experience of growing and building communities was one way I could give back. At

the end of the day, if the Friends is going to fully realize its vital mission of protecting and preserving the park and growing participation, then we need to strengthen and sustain the organization financially. That means growing membership. The objective of the committee is to grow a community of invested and engaged members who in turn will play an important role in the park's future.

**Q: How can folks join the Membership Committee?**

**Lorna Jane:** We are in the process of building out ways in which folks can get involved in particular initiatives to grow membership through events, social media strategies, and volunteerism. If you are interested in giving back to the park or have creative ideas about ways to grow the Blue Hills family, I would love to hear from you. Just email us at [info@friendsofthebluehills.org](mailto:info@friendsofthebluehills.org) and write "Membership Committee" in the subject line!

*Friends' volunteer, Lorna Jane Norris, launched our new Membership Committee to help engage more visitors in caring for the park.*

## Remembering Two Former Leaders of Friends of the Blue Hills

This February, two prominent figures in the history of the Friends of the Blue Hills passed away. David Hodgdon served as president and later executive director, and David Morse served on the Board and as president when David Hodgdon was executive director. Both were dedicated to the Friends and the park. We are grateful for the countless hours they devoted to the Friends and the efforts they took to protect – and improve – the park.

We are honored that the families of both former leaders have asked that donations in their memory be directed to the Friends of the Blue Hills.

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## Join the Blue Hills 125-Mile Club... #BlueHills125Club

Do you love exploring the natural and historical treasures in every area of the park?

You're invited to join the 125-Mile Club, joining other Blue-Hills-loving explorers to see every part of the park!

In the 125-Mile Club, you'll visit Fowl Meadow, the largest freshwater marsh remaining inside Rte. 128. Maybe you'll be lucky enough to spot some of the many migrating waterfowl and songbirds that stop in Fowl Meadow. You'll explore the unique ecosystems of Ponkapoag Boardwalk, which includes insect-eating plants.... and step back in time to visit the historic Civilian Conservation Corps camp.

Even if you've been to many places before, signing up for the 125-Mile Club will connect you to others who also love the park and give you the opportunity to share your adventures - and see others - throughout all seasons. Sign-up and participate with #BlueHills125Club!

For more information, visit [FriendsoftheBlueHills.org/125MileClub](http://FriendsoftheBlueHills.org/125MileClub).

## You Can Help Improve the Forests and Trails!

Every spring, the trails in the Blue Hills need repairs and invasives begin to grow! To prepare for hikers and other visitors and to keep our forests healthy, our volunteers will meet in small groups to care for the trails and forests. If you'd like to join us to improve habitats, clean up trash, and clear the trails, the Blue Hills needs you! No experience required. For dates and to register, visit: [FriendsoftheBlueHills.org/Trails-Maintenance](http://FriendsoftheBlueHills.org/Trails-Maintenance).



Throughout the year, volunteers of all ages work to maintain the trails and keep the forests healthy. We're grateful to the Friends and AMC volunteers who rebuilt this dilapidated bridge near Wood Path last winter.



### 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](http://FriendsoftheBlueHills.org).

**Thank you for your generous support!**

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

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Visit us on the web at [www.FriendsoftheBlueHills.org](http://www.FriendsoftheBlueHills.org) or call 781-828-1805 for membership, maps and schedule information.  
P.O. Box 416, Milton, MA 02186



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## Remembering Two Former Leaders of Friends of the Blue Hills

### David Hodgdon, Founder, President, and Executive Director

Although you may not know it, your experience of the Blue Hills today was significantly influenced by David Hodgdon, first president of the Friends, who passed away this February at the age of 78.

In the mid-1970s, Dave, MDC Associate Commissioner John Cronin, and others founded the Friends of the Blue Hills, in part because of Dave's relentless efforts to improve the park.

"He loved the Blue Hills. No question about that," John Cronin affirms. And Dave's love for the Blue Hills motivated his numerous efforts for decades.

One of Dave's priorities was to protect the historic structures in the park. He not only advocated for funding to repair historic landmarks like Eliot Tower, but he was also instrumental in registering over a dozen Blue Hill sites in the National Register of Historic Places.

His love of history led him to collect artifacts from various historic granite quarries. He later founded a small museum that the Friends operated for

several years.

He also founded the local Blue Hills chapter of the Nordic Ski Patrol and incorporated it into the activities of the Friends. Participants in the patrol were trained in first aid and basic rescue techniques to aid skiers in the park. Board members of the Friends at the time still remember their time serving on the patrol with pride and a sense of accomplishment.

Those numbers on the intersections of trails that help you find your way... Dave designed the numbering system and hammered the first signs onto trees at trail intersections. Have you noticed the steel gates on every trailhead that prevent illegal dumping and unauthorized motor vehicles from entering? Dave successfully advocated for those gates to protect the park and its visitors.

Dave's unyielding perseverance might have been difficult for some, but he had the patience and persistence to fight for what he thought was right. Steve Olanoff, a long-time Board member while Dave was president, summed up Dave's devotion to the Blue Hills: "He dedicated his whole life to the Blue Hills Reservation."

### David Morse, past President and Secretary

For his entire life, David Morse loved hiking the Blue Hills and being outdoors. He grew up in the heart of the Blue Hills on Hillside Street in Milton and hiked the park throughout his childhood. As an adult, he lived in the same house where he grew up and continued to frequent the trails and ponds. He often hiked from his home to Buck Hill. His friend and fellow Board member, Bob Romeri, remembers hiking up Buck Hill with David, "sitting on wind-swept Buck Hill for lunch, and listening to the towhees serenade 'drink your tea' (the phrase that reflects the bird's beautiful song)."

Board members remember David as a fine lawyer and a gentle person who ran Board meetings efficiently and who wrote extraordinary minutes as secretary. With a calm demeanor, he would keep other passionate Board members on topic and on mission, always moving forward.

His devotion to the Blue Hills helped the Friends advance the mission that benefits all of us who love the Blue Hills.



David Hodgdon and John Cronin, two founders of the Friends of the Blue Hills.



David Morse, past President and Secretary of the Friends of the Blue Hills.

# Enter the Blue Hills Photo Contest - and Vote!

Photo credit: Dan Keefe, Boston



During the pandemic, more people than ever have visited... and fallen in love with the Blue Hills. Enter this year's free photo contest to show why we all love the Blue Hills. Whether or not you enter, you can always enjoy the photos others have submitted, and vote for your favorite.

One prize will be awarded to the photographer with the photo that has the most electronic votes and another prize will go to the photographer chosen by a panel of judges.

To enter the contest, vote for your favorite photo, and to learn more, visit [FriendsoftheBlueHills.org/photo-contest](https://FriendsoftheBlueHills.org/photo-contest).

## Who Benefits When You Leave a Gift In Your Will?

A gift in your Will is the simplest way for you to make a significant, lasting contribution to the Blue Hills Reservation – and all its fine-feathered friends. When you decide to include a gift – of any amount – in your Will, you join the Skyline Society, a select group of people who love the Blue Hills and want to care for it for years to come. To meet some of the members of the Skyline Society and learn more, visit [Friendsofthebluehills.org/Donate-In-Your-Will](https://Friendsofthebluehills.org/Donate-In-Your-Will).



Photo credit: Janet Lawn, Quincy



# Members Advocate and Gain Support for Legislation to Protect the Park

Thanks to our members for writing their legislators about *An Act Preserving Open Space in the Commonwealth* (SD146/ HD271), also known as the *Public Lands Protection Act*, this legislation, introduced by Rep. Ruth Balser and Sen. James Eldridge, garnered support from new legislatures in the state senate to start the legislative session. We're grateful to all the legislators who co-sponsored this bill, including Senator Walter Timilty, who represents much of the Blue Hills.

This bill would codify existing policy in addition to requiring that the public be notified of any proposed land disposition or change in use. The bill would require:

- Any land taken must be replaced by land of comparable acreage, location, and market and natural resource value, (which would help protect the total acreage of parkland).
- Evidence that a feasible alternative to destroying parkland is not available.
- Notification of the public and the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs prior to filing legislation petitioning a change in the use or disposition of public land. This would allow municipalities the chance to confirm if replacement land is deemed suitable by EEA and the public prior to moving forward with the land disposition process.
- Enforceable regulations to implement the law.

In 2002, the legislature voted to transfer over three acres of the Blue Hills in Randolph to a private developer. This bill would help put safeguards in place to protect the Blue Hills — and all our open space. To learn more about the legislation, and how you can help visit: [FriendsoftheBlueHills.org/PLPA](http://FriendsoftheBlueHills.org/PLPA). If you're interested in helping to advocate for the park, please email: [info@friendsofthebluehills.org](mailto:info@friendsofthebluehills.org).



Photo credit: Ivy Croxen, Boston

## Climate Change in the Blue Hills

The Friends have partnered with over a dozen organizations to bring a Blue Hills-perspective to global issues. In a series of lectures sponsored by the Blue Hills Climate Action Coalition and presented by organizations that work to improve the ecology of the Blue Hills and surrounding habitats, attendees will explore how the plants, watershed, and vernal pools of the Blue Hills have responded to the changing climate. For more information, visit [FriendsoftheBlueHills.org/Climate2021](http://FriendsoftheBlueHills.org/Climate2021).

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**Free Blue Hills Photo Contest**  
Enter the contest or enjoy all the entries and vote for your favorite.  
[FriendsOfTheBlueHills.org/Photo-Contest](http://FriendsOfTheBlueHills.org/Photo-Contest)

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