

Join us for our Annual Celebration and Support the Friends of the Blue Hills!

In-person and Online Opportunities

Thursday, October 7, 2021, 7:00 - 9:00 pm
Canton Town Club, 300 Bailey Street
Canton, MA

Please join us to celebrate over 40 years of protecting and preserving the Blue Hills and help raise funds to continue caring for the park!

This year, you can attend the evening in-person or choose an engaging virtual experience with a pre-celebration breakout session and a special Q&A session with the keynote speaker.

Whether in-person or online, you will enjoy hearing from the keynote speaker, David Abel, who is an award-winning Boston Globe journalist and documentary filmmaker. Abel will discuss his career as an environmental reporter and filmmaker covering climate change and conservation.

In-person guests will enjoy music by DJ Ed Broms, delicious hors d'oeuvres, a silent auction, and visiting with friends. We will be honoring our Community Partners who have been working to improve the Blue Hills and our natural environment.

Tickets for the in-person event are \$45 per person if purchased by September 30th and \$50 per person at the door. Online tickets are \$40 per person. For more information, please visit friendsofthebluehills.org/celebrate2021, or email courtney@friendsofthebluehills.org.

About the Keynote Speaker

An award-winning reporter on the Boston Globe staff since 1999, David Abel has covered war in the Balkans, unrest in Latin America, national security issues in Washington D.C., terrorism in New York and Boston, and climate change and poverty in New England. Abel, also a documentary filmmaker and an occasional professor of journalism, was part of the team that won the 2014 Pulitzer Prize for Breaking News for the paper's coverage of the Boston Marathon bombings. He now covers the environment for the Globe. Born and raised in New York, Abel studied political science and philosophy at the University of Michigan and has a master's degree in journalism from Northwestern University.



Keynote Speaker: Award-winning Boston Globe journalist and documentary filmmaker, David Abel.

We are excited to honor our 2021 Community Partners

Ruth Bigio
Maggi Brown
Debbie Merriam
Mark Smith

Annual Celebration: In-person and Online Options

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Remembering Kathy McDonald

Patroller, Firefighter... and Lover of the Blue Hills

Kathy McDonald was an instrumental leader in several initiatives central to the mission and work of the Friends of the Blue Hills. These initiatives may surprise people who are new to the Friends.

In the 1970s, the Friends created the Blue Hills Nordic Ski Patrol, a chapter of the National Ski Patrol, which trained patrollers in first aid and wilderness rescue techniques. Patrollers cross-country skied throughout the park, offering support and assistance to other skiers and winter hikers. Kathy, a psychiatric nurse with medical experience and a love of the outdoors, was a natural fit as a patroller. She soon took on the role of chapter director. As part of her responsibilities on the ski patrol, she served on the Board of Friends of the Blue Hills for many years.

Kathy also participated in another activity of the Friends during the 1980s: fire watch and suppression. As part of the Fire Patrol, she joined

continued on page 2

The Friends Partner with Local Groups to Advocate for Public Transportation Study

One hundred years ago the Blue Hills Reservation was created as a haven for city dwellers wanting to escape from the stress of urban life. At that time people could conveniently hop on trolleys that originated in Mattapan and other Boston neighborhoods to travel to “one of the greatest recreation grounds in the world, in scenery far superior to parks of Paris.” That was how the Blue Hills were described in a 1904 trolley brochure.

Today the Blue Hills is much harder to access for those without cars who live in city neighborhoods. Trolleys no longer operate and public transportation is limited. As a result, the park and its resources remain inaccessible for tens of thousands of families in Boston and surrounding communities because there is no MBTA service to the area.

Eager to improve access for people in nearby Boston, the Friends has been working in partnership with Urban Outdoors Association, Mattapan Food and Fitness, Brookwood Community Farm and the Mary May Binney Wakefield Arboretum. Together, this coalition has successfully petitioned the Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to conduct a study of public transportation options from the traditionally marginalized neighborhoods of Dorchester and Mattapan. As part of the study, the Friends will work with the MPO to engage these communities in developing options to improve transit service to, from, and within the Blue Hills.

*Source for trolley brochure:
Stoughton Historical Society.*

continued on page 1

Remembering Kathy McDonald

other Friends’ members to put out brush fires in the Reservation using only brooms and an occasional hand and back-carried water pump.

Kathy lived close to the Blue Hills in Milton, and loved hiking in the park, usually with one of the several white dogs that she had over the years. In fact, she may have taken up skijoring just to stay close to her dog even in the winter. By attaching a harness to her dog with a leash that wrapped around her waist, she was able to cross-country ski, her white dog pulling her down the snowy Blue Hills trails.

Over the years Kathy remained connected to the Friends, keeping up with the news of the organization, offering guidance and suggestions, and faithfully attending the Annual Meeting Celebration in the fall. In fact, one year, she was the lucky winner of the Friends’ dinner raffle and enjoyed a catered dinner with close friends atop Great Blue Hill.

Those who worked with her on the Friends Board admired her deep knowledge of the Blue Hills and remember her fondly as upbeat and confident, always willing to help and do what was best for the Blue Hills.

We are tremendously saddened by Kathy’s passing and are honored that she and her family chose the Friends of the Blue Hills as one of the charities to donate to in her memory.



Quarterly Newsletter

**Editors: Judy Jacobs Lehrer,
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Enter to Win a Gourmet Picnic Dinner for Six in the Blue Hills

Maureen Connors of Milton won last year's picnic raffle and enjoyed a memorable meal with a stunning sunset view from the top of Great Blue. Where would you choose to enjoy a mouth-watering Gourmet Picnic Dinner for six in the Blue Hills? Purchase a raffle ticket today and you and five guests could hike to your favorite vista and enjoy a three-course meal prepared by award-winning caterer Stephanie McFadden of Cooking In With Stephanie. The prize also includes a picnic basket and blanket!

The winning raffle ticket will be drawn at our Annual Celebration on Thursday, October 7th. You need not be present to win, but you have to enter to win, so buy your raffle ticket today!

Tickets are \$15 each or 3/\$35 and can be purchased at friendsofthebluehills.org/raffle2021.

Do you want to protect Blue Hills' wildlife for years to come?



Photo: Farley Sullivan (Milton)

Learn about the Skyline Society and leaving a gift in your Will: www.friendsofthebluehills.org/donate-in-your-will.

Three-Year-Old 125-Mile Club Participant Finishes Event Before Her Parents!



Thea McElwaine, age 3, certainly earned her 125-Mile Club badge! Thea hiked all the trails, sometimes with just with her mom, Debbie, and other times with just with her dad, Colt. Colt said "she hit all 125 miles before even my wife and I." Colt said it has been 20 years since he's hiked a lot of the trails, "so it was a real treat to have some motivation to go back and experience them again with the kids!" To learn more about the 125-Mile Club, visit our website: www.friendsofthebluehills.org/125mileclub. If you've already signed up, be sure to join our new 125-Mile Facebook group! Just search Facebook for '125-Mile Club.'

Fall Foliage and Sunset Hike

October 17, 4:30 pm – 7:30 pm (sunset at 6:00 pm)

What could be more spectacular than fall foliage? Sunset from atop Great Blue! Enjoy the season's finest colors this fall from the region's highest hill. Hike to the top of Great Blue with your friends and family, bring a picnic and enjoy all nature has to offer. You'll enjoy complementary beverages and take in nature's finest nighttime show. Don't miss the only time you can hike down Big Blue at night. You'll even have the ski area lights to guide your way.

Park at Blue Hill Ski Area, 4001 Washington St, Canton (Blue Hills Trailside Museum South parking lot).

More information: www.friendsofthebluehills.org/sunset2021 or email us: info@friendsofthebluehills.org. Co-sponsored by Blue Hill Ski and Friends of the Blue Hills.



Celebrating Our Members during Membership Month!

We dedicated the month of July to thanking our amazing members, who are critical to helping to make sure the Blue Hills Reservation is cared for all year long! Throughout July we offered

special events and highlighted some of our amazing members and why they care about the Blue Hills. Here are a few highlights of the month.



Over 70 members attended the Membership Celebration at the Lyons Turning Mill near Quincy Quarry. At the event, participants learned the stories behind these historic ruins from Tom Bonomi, who led a series of tours throughout the afternoon.



Brian Baldeck, a new member and volunteer, celebrated Membership Month at the Lyons Turning Mill.



Members were treated to a Boots n' Brews hike led by Ken Cohen and Mike Paglia, members of the Board of Friends of the Blue Hills. The group enjoyed hiking and then relaxed with some cold brews at the Widowmaker Brewing Co. in Braintree.

Celebrating Our Members during Membership Month!



Photo: Eva Borsody

Registered geologist, Les Tyralla, dug deep into the fascinating geology of the Blue Hills with members as part of our Membership Celebration.

Improving Habitat at Ponkapoag Pond Survey and Save the Forest



Patricia Roberts of Lowell and Marni Bolstad of Newton were two enthusiastic participants in the Survey and Save the Forest trainings. Everyone who attended an online or in-person training learned to identify five invasive plants and record them using their cell phones. We will use the photo data collected by participants to develop an invasive species management plan for Ponkapoag Pond. The plan will help us better protect native plants and animals in the Blue Hills.

To learn more and sign up for a training, visit:
www.friendsofthebluehills.org/survey-ponky.

Photo: Joanne Newton (Berkley)

Hard Work Helps Care for the Trails



Over 200 trail volunteers were active this season, clearing and rebuilding drainage structures, and even building a much-needed bridge at Quincy Quarries. Above, Tim Sidor, Lora Golann, Mark Buckle, and Bob Flagg rest after rebuilding a waterbar. To learn about volunteering to help clear the trails, visit www.friendsofthebluehills.org/trails-maintenance.



Friends of the Blue Hills
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Staff:

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