

# Your Blue Hills

The Newsletter for Supporters of Friends of the Blue Hills

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

FALL 2023

## Celebrate the Blue Hills with Us

Join us on October 19th  
for our Annual Celebration

*Details inside*

# Kindness Counts

Keynote speaker Brian Arrigo, Commissioner of the  
Department of Conservation and Recreation

Our Annual Event, October 19th

## Support the Park and the People Who Protect It

Join your fellow Blue Hills' lovers for Friends of the Blue Hills Annual Celebration. This event supports the Friends mission of the last 40+ years: Protecting and preserving the Blue Hills right now and for future generations.

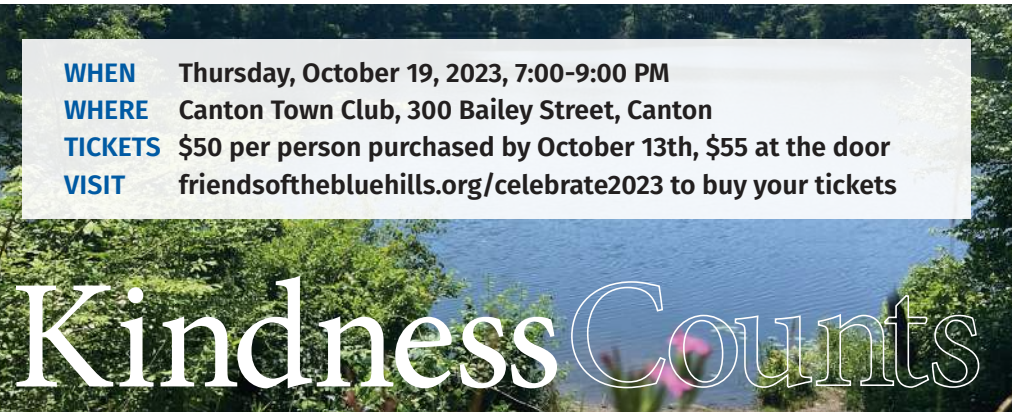
This year's theme is *Kindness Counts* and we're excited to announce that our featured speaker will be the new DCR Commissioner, Brian Arrigo. You'll also get the chance to salute honorees Bob Vogel and Rosa Zhang, both dedicated stewards who have been so kind to the Blue Hills through many hours of trail maintenance and hike leadership. It will also be a special opportunity to thank Judy Lehrer Jacobs for her years of service

and to wish her well in her next professional endeavor.

The event is going to be interactive and fun, with mouth-watering appetizers, cash bar, games, and a silent auction that will include many unique items and experiences for you to bid on.

### Win a Dining Experience Like No Other

Imagine a gourmet dinner for six sitting at the top of the Blue Hills Observatory. Chef Marc Sheehan of Canton's acclaimed Northern Spy restaurant will prepare an amazing meal with a view you can't buy anywhere. Tickets are \$15 each or 3 for \$35. Visit [friendsofthebluehills.org/raffle2023](https://friendsofthebluehills.org/raffle2023) to get yours.



**WHEN** Thursday, October 19, 2023, 7:00-9:00 PM  
**WHERE** Canton Town Club, 300 Bailey Street, Canton  
**TICKETS** \$50 per person purchased by October 13th, \$55 at the door  
**VISIT** [friendsofthebluehills.org/celebrate2023](https://friendsofthebluehills.org/celebrate2023) to buy your tickets

# Kindness Counts

## New Friends' Leaders Double Board Capacity

After an extensive recruitment and vetting process, the Friends of the Blue Hills Board welcomed six new Board members, who bring diverse skills and passions to their new position.

The new members double the capacity of the current leadership team and add expertise in marketing, trail maintenance, organizational strategy, fundraising, education and environmental science

You can learn more about the Board members on our website: [friendsofthebluehills.org/fbh-staff-board](https://friendsofthebluehills.org/fbh-staff-board). You can meet them in person at the Annual Celebration on October 19th.

Judy Lehrer Jacobs

## Sincere Thanks to Friends of the Blue Hills Members, Supporters and Partners

I am writing to share the news that after 19 rewarding years as the Executive Director, I'm leaving the Friends of the Blue Hills on October 21st.

I'm incredibly grateful for the opportunity to have lead the organization for the last 19 years, and appreciate working with



Friends' leaders, volunteers, members, and partners that have helped grow the

organization and the Friends' ability to care for the Blue Hills Reservation.

Together, we've transformed the organization, broadened our base from under 100 members, to nearly 2,000 and increasing volunteers from a handful, to over 400 each year. More volunteers, better relationships with decision makers, increased resources, and a strong leadership team means we can now do more for the park.

When I joined the Friends, the organization was fighting to protect the park from development threats. Soon, the Board realized that in addition to fighting imminent threats, we could also work to prevent them. We have since focused on proactive strategies to protect the borders of the park by helping to pass legislation, and working with decision makers to redirect development to areas that do not harm the park. Most recently, we have developed a

tool that we are using to prioritize properties around the park that are most vulnerable to development that could harm the Blue Hills' habitat and views.

I'm excited for the opportunity that you now have to continue to build on what we have accomplished together, growing the new Adopt-a-Forest initiative so that more people can care for a greater portion of the forest, amplifying the 'Be Kind' campaign to foster a culture of stewardship in the Blue Hills and all our state parks, strengthening efforts to reduce trail erosion, making sure that people in nearby Boston neighborhoods can access the Blue Hills with public transit, working with local and state government to better protect properties around the park from development, and continuing to build a vibrant Blue Hills community.

Rest assured that I am taking my years of knowledge and advocacy for our natural world into my next professional chapter. The Board has formed a Transition Committee to find the Friends' next leader who will work alongside our amazing members, dedicated volunteer leaders and newly expanded Board to continue to uphold our mission.

Thank you all for your dedication to the Blue Hills and for giving me the privilege of working with all of you to care for the park.

Sincerely,



Judy Lehrer Jacobs

## Future Generations Will Benefit from Planning Ahead

Why did Farley Sullivan donate to the Blue Hills in her Will?

Because she loves nature — and people.

Farley Sullivan moved to Milton during the pandemic. Finding herself right next to the Blue Hills, she began to hike more. She soon started to meet other hikers who were members and volunteers of the Friends of the Blue Hills. Farley started maintaining the trails as a volunteer, then joined as a member. The natural next step was to join the Skyline Society,



a group of generous people who have remembered the Friends in their Will, or intend to when they update their Will.

*"I really fell in love with the Friends of the Blue Hills and the people involved. The Friends volunteers are so inspiring."*

### Leave a Gift for Future Generations

Many people who love the Blue Hills want to help protect them for years to come. Joining the **Skyline Society** by remembering the Blue Hills in your Will is a way that you can help make sure

future generations can enjoy the hills too. To learn more about the Skyline Society and people like Farley who have donated in their Will, visit [friendsofthebluehills.org/donate-in-your-will](https://friendsofthebluehills.org/donate-in-your-will).

### Engaging Webinar for New Members

This summer, new Friends' members were welcomed to the Blue Hills community with an engaging webinar. New members learned Blue Hills history and fun facts, met Friends' leaders, and were given an inside look at how their membership helps to meet the challenges that the Blue Hills face every day. You can watch the



recording: [friendsofthebluehills.org/new-members-welcome-webinar](https://friendsofthebluehills.org/new-members-welcome-webinar). A huge thank you goes to Cramer for producing the video.

## Adopt-a-Forest... on Your Own Time

If you want to learn about plants and how to protect endangered species, and don't mind getting a little dirty, you'll want to sign up for the Adopt-a-Forest training that takes place on Saturday, September 23 from 9:00 to 11:00 am at Fowl Meadow, 1339 Brush Hill Rd, Milton.



You'll learn about invasive and native plants that you see every day. You'll also hear expert advice on how best to remove the plants. After the training you can become a Forest Adopter. That means you'll take on responsibility for a portion of the forest along the trail. You can choose to remove all the invasive plants

in that area or just focus on one type of plant. The choice is yours! Whatever you choose, your efforts, paired with those of other Forest Adopters, will dramatically increase the quality of habitat for Blue Hills wildlife. If you can't make the training, we'll schedule another time for you to gain the skills you need to help care for the forest. To learn more, visit: [friendsofthebluehills.org/adopt-a-forest](http://friendsofthebluehills.org/adopt-a-forest).

## Green Up the Blue Hills — Twice!

While rain washed out the first Green Up the Blue Hills in April, a dozen hearty volunteers participated and removed over 30 bags of garlic mustard at Ponkapoag Pond! Other volunteers returned in June to remove 30 bags of mile-a-minute vine at the part of the park called Farnham Connolly

Park in Canton. Both groups helped to protect the habitat of vulnerable, endangered species from these destructive invasive plants. Green Up the Blue Hills was sponsored by FM Generator, the Canton Cultural Council and Barrie Naji, MBA Realtor. Check our calendar for opportunities: [friendsofthebluehills.org/calendar](http://friendsofthebluehills.org/calendar).



## Celebrating Members with Good Cheer

Friends' members were feted this summer for all they do. During Membership Month last June, more than 60 Friends' members, both long-term and new, were treated to a celebration at Trillium Brewery in Canton. They feasted on gourmet pizzas and enjoyed a variety of nearly a dozen types of ale and beer. Three cheers for Friends members and all they do!



## Thank You to Our Partners

Barrie Naji, MBA realtor  
Canton Cultural Council  
Colonial Road Runners  
Cramer  
Dedham Savings  
FM Generator  
Liberty Mutual Group Inc.  
Milton Garden Club  
Morgan Stanley: The McGowan Group  
Orchard Cove  
REI Co-op  
UL Solutions

**YES! I want to keep the Blue Hills trails and forests healthy for hiking and other recreational activities.**

Please use my gift to maintain the trails, improve the habitat, and preserve native species against invasives to keep the wildlife and the woods safe for all visitors.

Enclosed is my gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Return this coupon with your check to: Friends of the Blue Hills  
PO Box 416  
Milton, MA 02186

Or give securely online at:  
[friendsofthebluehills.org/support](http://friendsofthebluehills.org/support)