

The Ponkapoag Eagle

April 1, 2008

A Community Newsletter Published by the
Volunteer Management Committee of the Appalachian Mountain Club Camp at Ponkapoag Pond

April 1, 2008



Opening Day

Saturday, June 21st

There will be a work party at Ponkapoag from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm on Saturday, June 21, 2008. We need many hands to prepare the cabins for summer rental. A Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled from 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm (meet at the Lodge). All are welcome to attend. *See page two for a listing of other meeting dates.*

Summer Manager News

Ponkapoag is looking for potential candidates for this summer's management position. While we have a few bites, we have yet to choose our person. This position requires the manager to live at camp for the duration of the summer season (10 weeks, from June 21st to Labor Day). The manager is paid a salary, and lives, free of charge, in one of the camp cabins. The manager is expected to be on-duty, in the office, for several hours each morning and is "on-call" for emergencies at other times throughout the day. Sundays tend to be the busiest day with campers checking in and out. The job is ideal for a family who already knows the camp. A family with kids may enjoy the opportunity to live free at camp while sharing the tasks that keep it up and running. It

is a great way to teach kids respect for both nature and community. If you think you might be interested, or know someone else who might be perfect for the job, please contact Henry Barbaro at 617-524-7510.



Looking For a Lifeguard

The Ponkapoag Lifeguard committee is looking for that special someone or some ones to fill this very special position(s). We would prefer someone who knows camp well, is a self-starter, and loves working with kids. The job pays very well at \$12 an hour. We often hire two lifeguards who split the full time hours but we are also willing to offer all the hours to one lifeguard. Of course, our lifeguard must be certified. If you think you might be interested and are not yet certified, Ponkapoag would be willing to reimburse the cost of your lifeguard certification class.

Classes are offered over April vacation week as well as Saturdays and Sundays throughout the Spring in various locations. You must be at least 15 years old to get certified. If you or your child are interested, please contact Darlene Dowd at 617-323-2654.



Letter from the Chair

Well, I'm into my second year as Camp Chair and things still appear to be running O.K. I would like to say that it's due to my shrewd leadership, but the truth is that the Ponkapoag Camp is being run by a terrific team of Officers.

Ponk Officers (provisional 3-year terms ending November 2009)

Henry Barbaro – Chair

Kevin Dowd – Vice Chair of Facilities

Don Baker – Facilities Coordinator

Betsy Hewitt – Facilities Coordinator

Ed Dowling – Vice Chair of Administration

Ann Ryther – Treasurer

Beth Furth – Membership Secretary

Francesca Stark – Reservations Secretary

Trisha Minton – Roads & Trails Coordinator

Of course, the rest of the Committee members, as well as the other volunteers, also have been critically important to the Camp's operations.

This work season, April-October '08, we will once again be relying on the contribution of time and effort by our community of altruistic volunteers. The Camp will continue to sponsor work

parties (see Facilities article herein for specific dates), in addition to keeping a running "To Do" list of repairs and improvements to the cabins and grounds. I encourage you to go to our website at <http://www.ponkapoagcamp.org/> (passwords = "out" and "house") to see the list of Camp chores, and decide which one(s) resonate with your skills (and/or your demeanor). Please let the Camp Manager (@ 781-961-7007) know what you would like to do and when. You may work best with the camaraderie of a Work Party, or you may prefer the convenience of making your own schedule. Either way, as a "volunteer managed facility," the Camp will be grateful for any time and/or work you can contribute.

Note: Once again, I would like to sincerely thank Wendy Rapson for her conscientious attention to detail in putting this newsletter together. Her enthusiasm and perseverance embodies the Ponkapoag volunteer spirit.

- Henry Barbaro, Chair
hbarbaro1@yahoo.com
 (617) 524-7510

Ponk Goes Geek

The Ponkapoag Camp is slowly gravitating towards the new-fangled technology of computers (although we'd rather be walking in the woods than be trapped in the virtual world behind a computer screen). There are two notable examples:

Tracking Camp chores. As was described in the Chair's letter above, the Camp is keeping a running "To Do" list of repairs and improvements to the cabins and grounds. The list can be found on our website at

<http://www.ponkapoagcamp.org/> (passwords = "out" and "house"). We hope that this will add to the time-efficiency of Work Parties and other volunteer efforts. The Manager will be tracking which chores need doing, and can help with tools and/or materials.
E-mail addresses. The Camp officers recently sent out a variety of e-mail notices to our member list, e.g., one in January and one in February. If you did not receive either, then you probably are not on our e-address list. If you would like to be on the list (and we hope you do) please provide us with your e-mail address by contacting Beth Furth at ponk@comcast.net.

Committee Meetings

for 2008

Meetings have been tentatively scheduled from 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm on the following Work

Party dates:

April 5th Saturday

May 4th Sunday

June 1st Sunday

June 21st Sunday

Please contact Henry Barbaro at 617-524-7510 or hbarbaro1@yahoo.com

for confirmation prior to each meeting.



Letter from the Vice Chair of Facilities

Dear Fellow Ponkers,
(Punkers as the natives would say)

Yes, 2008 is upon us and we have a lot of great stuff

coming your way. I will start with *The Open Work Forum*; this will be a running email work list. The purpose is to give people an open invitation to come to camp and get some work done on their own terms, look for it this spring. AMC and YOP folks are looking to use camp to bring the city to the country or is it the country to the city? Either way, we will have some work to do at Missionary Point to accommodate them; we are working out the details as you read.

I need a small group of people that like to paint, to take on THE OUTSIDE PAINTING OF THE LODGE. I will be supplying all tools, paint, ladders, etc. This will be a start to finish venture to be done on your own schedule. Let me know if you and a small group want to take it on. And now what you have all been waiting for... the work party dates:
April 5th Sat **May 4th Sun**
June 1st Sun **June 21st Sun**
 Lunch will be served about 1pm for everyone who participates in the work party, PIZZA AND DRINKS MAYBE, one never knows.

Trish will be working with Friends of the Blue hills and AMC on trails in and around camp. Many hands make for little work, so anyone interested in learning the art of trail work, contact Trish.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone come spring and over the summer.

- Kevin C. Dowd
 617-323-2654 or
kevindowd2@msn.com



A Ponk Child is Born

On the warm fall afternoon of October 22, 2007, my trusty obstetrician told me to pack my bags and have Darlene, my appointed labor buddy, drive me straight to the hospital. After 38 weeks in mama's belly, this baby wanted out. The plan was unfolding...I called Henry, our fearless chairperson, and Lucy, teenage daughter extraordinaire, and we all met at the hospital. I rode out my labor with good humor and great expectations in a fabulous maternity room Jacuzzi. I can't stress enough how wonderful the staff and facilities were at Newton Wellesley hospital. Six hours into labor I finally emerged from the tub and into a bed. At this final transitional stage my entire body was writhing and my face thoroughly contorted, though I did not want to rip Henry's head off, as so often seen in the movies. I wanted jokes—REALLY FUNNY ONES. So Henry, Darlene and Lucy were like a comic EMT team, trying to keep me laughing as my eyes rolled up inside my head.

They were so good, in fact, that the midwife started to worry that this baby was getting birthed into some weirdo open mike night. She wanted me to *be one with* the pain, rather than

distract myself away from it. When she threatened to make "my friends" leave, Darlene, Lucy and I looked at each other (our mouths in little "O's) like guilty little bad girls. At first, of course, we wanted to kick the midwife out of our labor party but we soon realized that she was absolutely right. From that point on, the jokes were over. I closed my eyes, concentrated on the pain, and three pushes later, a little boy was born. Lucy and Darlene were holding my hands as Henry, in scientific awe, greeted his son into the world. The exact moment was 2:32 AM October 23.

We look forward to years of dock warming, camp fires, moonlit swims, and lodge Monopoly games. Lee Francis Barbaro had his first walk around the pond in early February. We can only hope that he will be as lucky as Lucy has been to have Ponkapoag as his woodsy home away from home. He truly is a child of the Ponk; let's just say, we considered naming him "Duncan." Indeed, baby Lee was born, not coincidentally, about 9 months after last year's mid-winter dance party. Our dream for him is minimal TV and lots of sticks, stones, bugs and dirt. We look forward to getting him filthy this very summer.

Love to all,



- Marianne and Henry

Calling all Ponkapoag Worker Bees!

The Facilities Committee has made a comprehensive list of tasks to be completed on work party days. The next scheduled work party is April 5, 2008 beginning at 10 AM. There are jobs on the list like painting, digging dirt, removing & replacing rotten wood on the exterior and the interior of cabins and repairing screens. For these projects come prepared with work gloves, tape measure, hammer, stapler, paintbrushes, roller & paint pan - if you have them on hand. It is not required. Wear work clothes and roll up your sleeves to improve your favorite cabin or one that needs TLC. If you would like to work on a project at Ponkapoag but the date for the work party doesn't work into your schedule, consider picking something from our list during your next visit to Ponkapoag for a day trip or overnight stay.

- Facilities Committee:
*Don Baker, Kevin Dowd,
Betsy Hewitt & Trisha Minton*



Reserve Your Summer Cabin or Tent-Site Soon

Campers may mail in summer reservation requests after April 1, 2008. The requests must be postmarked by April 25th in order to be entered into the summer lottery. After that, reservations will be processed on a "first come, first served"

basis. Include a check or money order written to "AMC Ponkapoag" for the deposit indicated in the rental policies. Please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope for confirmation. Send to: P.O. Box 582, Randolph, MA, 02368. The rental form is located at the end of this newsletter.



Stose Cabin

Have you ever wondered about how the cabins at AMC Ponkapoag got there names? We all know that the Bourbeau cabin was owned by Frank Bourbeau. Frank has a long history with the camp. He served as camp committee chair over the years. Frank can still be seen at the Saturday night pot luck suppers.

The Stose Cabin was owned by Louisa B. and Harold F. Stose. Louisa taught at Boston University and Harold was a graduate of MIT.

Now enter Gwen Stose. It was my privilege to work with Gwen at the AMC Cold River Camp in Chatham N. H. Gwen was the cook at extension and I worked in the kitchen as a volunteer. What was my first question to her? You guessed right! Did you have any relatives who had a cabin at AMC Ponkapoag? Her answer was yes. At this time it was decided that we would meet and come to Ponkapoag to view her Aunt and Uncle's Cabin.

Gwen was only at camp once. She does not recall much about camp, but she does remember that she visited on July 4 many years ago. Her aunt and uncle met while walking around the pond.

Gwen came to camp in August 20, 2007 and stayed for the evening. A special thanks goes to Emily Fisher (Gwen's daughter) who helped coordinate the trip to Ponkapoag. Gwen lives in Conway NH.

Ann C. Landers

Committee Membership

The Ponkapoag Camp Volunteer Management Committee held one of its off-season Committee meetings on a snowy February morning (2/23/08). One of the action items of the meeting was to re-appoint Committee members. Based upon their expressed interest, and their selfless contribution of time and energy given to the Camp, the following Committee members were reappointed by unanimous vote of the continuing members:

Baker, Don	Barbaro, Henry
Brown, Kate	Carito, Heather
Cohen, Jamie	Dowd, Darlene
Dowd, Kevin	Dowling, Ed
Fitzgerald, Tom	Furth, Beth
Furth, Peter	Hewitt, Betsy
Katz, Gerald	Landers, Ann
Maher, Dennis	McDonald, Kevin
Minton, Paul	Minton, Trisha
Rapson, Wendy	Riley, Victoria
Ryther, Ann	Shugrue, Ed
Stark, Francesca	Taylor, Marianne
Toohey, Kate	Whitehead, Phil
Leary-Gomez, Patty	

In addition, Rob Hardesty was appointed as a first-time Committee member. For now, the member terms are scheduled to expire on 2/28/10.



Illegal Trespass into the Blue Hills Reservation

In December 2006, a homeowner at 21 Harrison Road in Canton illegally cleared shrubs and small trees from an area of wooded Reservation parkland between his lot and Ponkapoag Pond.

The Acton Path, the trail that makes a circuit around Ponkapoag Pond, crosses the affected area. Why would anyone do such an inconsiderate and lawless act? Because the cutting created a "waterfront view" from the back of the house to the edge of the Pond.

Since the cutting was performed right down to the shoreline and because approval was neither sought nor obtained, the homeowner violated the State's wetlands protection law, in addition to trespassing on State land. To address the former, the Canton Conservation Commission issued an Enforcement Order requiring the homeowner to submit a replanting plan for the site.

Reservation manager Peter Church said the homeowner "is willing to make restitution" and that he intends to see that the Department of Conservation and Recreation "comes to a fair and beneficial settlement." As of early March 2008, the owner has presented a planting plan to the

Commission, and has surveyed the property line that abuts the Reservation.

Note: the Ponk Campers have been quite vocal against this illegal clearing of public parkland, and will continue to be vigilant until this area is restored to the fullest extent possible.

(This article was primarily taken from the Spring 2007 newsletter of the Friends of Blue Hills.)

Ponkapoag Camp Facilities Description

20 Rustic Cabins and two tent sites are situated on the wooded southern shore of Ponkapoag Pond. Cabins vary in size, accommodating 2 to 8 people. They are furnished with beds, tables and chairs. Almost all cabins have wood stoves that keep the cabins toasty warm even in the coldest weather. Each cabin has parking for only one vehicle. Guests using more than one vehicle are required to park the additional vehicle in the day use parking lot. Please note that cabins have no electricity, running water or linens. No housekeeping is available.

- All cooking is done on personal camping stoves or in outdoor grills and or existing fire-pits. Firewood can sometimes be purchased from managers or fallen wood can be gathered in the woods using common sense. Cutting standing trees or branches is strictly forbidden in the Blue Hills.

- You must bring your own drinking water except for the 59 days before Labor Day, when you can usually have the option to fill containers from the tap at the lodge providing drinkable well water.

- The lodge, in the center of camp, provides indoor space for games, reading, get-togethers, educational exhibits, information sharing and some electric light most evenings. Two outhouses are located near the lodge, and two more “porta-johns” are located at the southern end of the camp. You must take out your trash; there is no trash disposal at camp. We have a Carry-in/Carry-out Policy.

- Swimming, canoeing, and sailing activity centers around a small sandy beach and wooden dock. A life guard is on duty during the summer. A row boat and life jackets may be rented during the summer season. Swimming is only allowed when there is a life guard present. This is a DCR regulation.

- Fishing from the shore or boat is also popular, but must be kept well away from the beach/dock area.

- Hiking opportunities abound on over more than 7,000 acres of the Blue Hills Reservation. Local jaunts include the six miles trail around Ponkapoag Pond and a variety of destinations like the duck pond, Great Blue Hill, the bog board walk, and lemon squeeze rock.

- Organized educational activities are often led by

volunteers. Guided hikes focus on geology, plants, birds, mammals as well as hiking and trail maintenance skills. Past work shops have included basketry, paper-making and photography. Check the bulletin board at the lodge, or ask the manager how you can lead an activity.

- Golf and horseback riding facilities are within a few miles.

- Winter sports include alpine and Nordic skiing, snow shoeing, skating, sledding, and ice fishing.

- Saturday night pot-luck dinners have long been a tradition at camp. Bring your favorite recipe to share and bring enough plates and utensils for yourselves.

- Access is limited to vehicles that can negotiate rutted unimproved roads. The entrance is off of Randolph Street in Canton. The combination to the gate lock is provided when you make a reservation.

Ponkapoag Eagle Editorial Policy

Contributions: Given limitations of space and time, every effort will be made to print all contributions and opinions. Send in things like listings of bird and animal sightings, news about trails, discussion of conservation issues, drawings, boating safety suggestions, recipes, and contributions from children. Deadlines for Eagle contributions are:

**September 1 for Fall edition
March 1 for Spring edition.**

All forms of communication are very welcome, but computer files in Microsoft Word are the easiest. Email to Wendy Rapson at Riverwench@verizon.net



The Dam Problem

To dam or not to dam, that is the question. Well, that was just one of the dam questions that came up at our meeting on February 11th when the dam people showed up at the Ponkapoag Golf Course.

The meeting was chaired by Donald Crawshaw, the project engineer who informed us that 1.4 million dollars has been allocated for the new dam. Out of that you would think they would spring for a box of donuts but that wasn't to be at this dam meeting. It's only dam money! Aside from that bitter disappointment it was a pretty good dam meeting.

Now back to the fellow that brought up the question of "Why have a dam at all?" When I first heard that I just figured he had too many fruit loops for breakfast but then he went on to talk about how Punkapoag Pond was a well known fishing spot and recreational area for many years before the dam was ever constructed in the 1930s and I learned that the reason the dam was built was actually for the golf course. Until that moment I never questioned why there was a dam. It was just there. A lively dam discussion got underway about how the white cedar swamp needed to be flooded and drained each year in order for it to survive and

thrive and how they would be endangered if the dam wasn't there. As you all know, planks of wood are in the path of the outflow and at different times of the year a plank is removed to allow more water to flow into the stream and later another will be removed and this allows the pond to become more shallow and the white cedar trees start smiling, they have been saved again. Later, the boards are replaced and the pond refills and the cedar trees are flooded once more. *Yipeee* for the dam you think.

Hey, not so fast. That white cedar swamp was there long before the dam. It was a well respected hunting and fishing area for the Wampanoag Tribe for thousands of years and when the Europeans settled in the area and finagled a way to steal the land from the Wampanoags, they harvested the cedar for shingles for homes. So that swamp was doing quite well long before that dam was put there. It was speculated that the shock of the dam to the environment was so overwhelming to the white cedar swamp that many thousands of trees died. Any of you who have walked the boardwalk through the swamp have seen a large area of long dead cedar trees. It is believed that they died when the dam was activated.

So, the question is: To dam or not to dam? The short quick answer is replace the dam if for no other reason that if it were removed the pond would become much lower and the shock to the environment this

would create could very well kill the white cedars that have grown acclimated to the dam and more importantly, it would probably mess up my bass fishing.

The dam people have determined that the dam is in serious structural decline and there is great probability of collapse endangering life and property downstream. The dam tree growth along its 1,300 feet has weakened the dam and the dam has seepage. A serious storm would knock down the trees that now grow on the dam and the pond water would breach and flood the wetlands downstream wreaking havoc on the wetlands and maybe hit the hockey rink and wash the town of Canton into Boston Harbor, some people feel that might be a bad thing. So, on May 1st, a board (called a stop log in dam people's language) will be removed and the pond will began lowering as it does each year. This will continue through the summer.

On July 1, if Gov. Patrick gets lucky, there will be a new state budget in place and the funding for the dam will become available. Construction of the new dam will start. When constructing dams it is best to do it when the water is at its lowest level, the low flow season is late August, early September. On Course 1, Hole #2 green will be the contract staging area. People will be restricted from walking through the construction site. A detour plan will allow people to walk on clearly marked maintenance trails, not the fairways. This

will include equestrian passage. It will add about 10 minutes to a walk. Serious calories will be burned off, dam calories.

Other issues discussed touched on the use of rocks from the area (called Wamsutta Formation) to reduce the visual impact of the dam and the possibility of a fish passage to Punkapoag Pond in the future. Punkapoag was an important spawning ground for alewives in years past and there is hope that in the future those dams and other obstacles that block the way of alewives will be removed throughout the Commonwealth and they can once again spawn in their ancestral spawning ponds.

Well, that's it in a nutshell. A new dam likely will be constructed at the end of summer.

One other thing. You might notice that I call the pond Punkapoag. I do that because that is its Wampanoag name. In the last 100 years some newcomers couldn't spell worth a dam and called it Ponkapoag on a few documents and before long that is what the new folks called it. That steamed up the Wampanoags pretty much but they had other fish to fry back then (alewives no doubt) and they let it go. I think perhaps that if a few of us start spelling it correctly in our letters and other postings, that it may become Punkapoag once again. And dam it all, why not?

Tom Fitzgerald
fitzgerald.photovid@comcast.net



2008

Soupe De Poisson News

On February 10th, a hardy group of hikers arrived at Ponkapoag Camp ready for a luscious bowl of chowder. Our own famous Chef Maurice Laffin and Cathy prepared the homemade chowder. Thank you Maurice and Cathy. A great job as usual. After a long hike there is nothing like a bowl of chowder and hot chocolate. A special thanks to the trip leaders Jim Goyea and Lou Carreras.

- Ann C. Landers



The Second Annual Mid-Winter Dance Party

The Trinity Episcopal Church was the site, once again, of our February event. The potluck tables were filled with fantastic entrees, the kind of *real* food we would never dare to cook over our temperamental Colman stoves. Not that we don't love those baked beans and Rice-a-Roni surprises! Before long the room was filled with freshly showered friends in *real* clothes. Not that we don't love our smelly ponk buddies in their ratty shorts and tomato

stained T-shirts. We sat around candle lit tables and caught up on all our favorite subjects...the upcoming election, the Comcast monopoly, the pros and cons of the Roomba 500.

I thought about rallying the troops to the dance floor—even bribing kids with money like we did last year, but as I looked around the room I saw how happily engaged everyone was--as if no one had seen each other all year. I then realized this was because no one *had* seen each other all year! The Ponkers wanted to do what the Ponkers do best—talk with their mouths full. And...just when I decided *not* to harass my brethren, that's when the dance floor started to sizzle. Moves to remember were Francesca's Mashed Potato, Eileen's Electric Slide, and Kate's Roll Mama Roll.

Despite an unwelcome strike of winter flu, the Dowd family swung by to set up, clean up, and even socialize a bit. The only thing they didn't pull off was their usual Soul Train dance moves—which, by default, upped the boogie ante on the Dowd family for next year's dance party. Let's hope they stay healthy and make us proud. The same, of course, can be said for us all.

- Marianne Taylor





Winter Cabin Requests

The Ponkapoag Camp Volunteer Management Committee will make four cabins available for 6 month rentals during the winter months. A 3 month schedule is also available during the winter months (November – January and February – April). These are assigned by lottery conducted at a general meeting of the Committee. Winter cabin requests must be received by September 15 and include a letter describing 40 hours of volunteer work done at camp.

Friends of the Blue Hills...Protecting your park!

(The following article has been primarily provided by the Friends of the Blue Hills.)

If you're like most people, you think the Blue Hills Reservation is protected land, safe from development. Someone surely is responsible for maintaining the park and its 120 miles of trails, right?

Unfortunately, the Reservation is far from protected. Public and private development continually threatens the borders and ecosystems of the park. Dwindling state funding hamstring the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR - the state agency responsible for maintaining the park), which severely limits resources available for maintaining buildings and trails.

For over 30 years, Friends of the Blue Hills has worked to protect the park by opposing inappropriate development, and by working with the DCR to recruit volunteers to maintain the trails and park structures.

Preventing Development

A private developer has proposed converting three acres of Reservation land on High Street in Randolph to a 408-space parking lot. When he submitted his project to the state for approval, we rallied several hundred people [including Ponk Camp activists] and other non-profit organizations to write urging the agency Secretary to require the owner of the Lantana to demonstrate that he had made every effort to avoid, minimize, and mitigate damage to the environment. The agency Secretary agreed with us that allowing a private developer to develop a parking lot on public parkland, while providing no significant compensation to the public, threatens not only the Blue Hills Reservation, which is bordered by numerous commercial developers, but all public parks in Massachusetts. The landowner is now required to prepare and file an extensive Environmental Impact Report in which he must justify why he needs to destroy public parkland.

Improving the Trails and Recreational Resources

Friends of the Blue Hills not only protects the Reservation, we also work to improve the park's trails and structures to the benefit of the park's many visitors.

Throughout the spring, summer and fall, we organize volunteers to maintain trails and clean up key recreational areas within the park. Just this past summer, we mobilized over 100 volunteers in trail maintenance and clean-up activities, including a thorough clean-up of the historic Eliot Tower, atop Great Blue Hill. This year, in addition to our ongoing trail maintenance events, we are launching the Friends of Blue Hills Adopt-a-Trail program, where volunteers commit to visiting a portion of a trail two to three times each year to perform basic maintenance.

How can we continue to protect the Blue Hills? With your help!

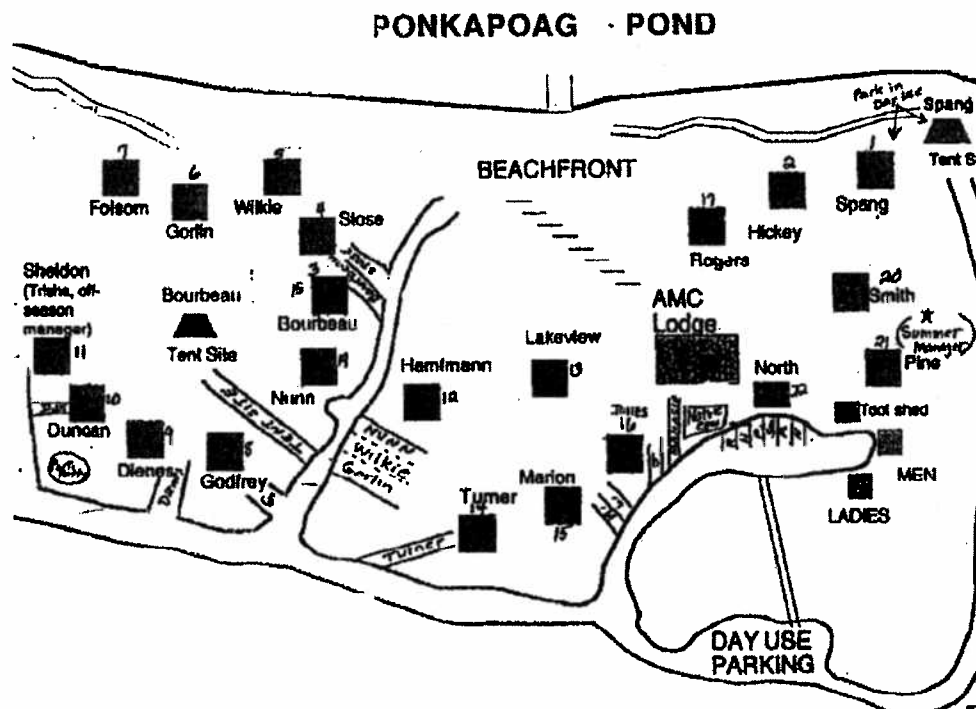
In the last three years, Friends of the Blue Hills has more than quadrupled in size. With over 900 members, we are building a strong, vocal constituency that can stand up to developers. We hope you'll join us! Visit us at www.FriendsoftheBlueHills.org or call 781-828-1805 for more information.

Trailwork Day with the Friends of the Blue Hills Sat, May 10 & Sat, June 7 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

Take a few hours to help improve the trails for the park we all love! FBH will supply tools and training; you supply the energy and enthusiasm. Together we will clear dirt from drainage ditches and remove branches from the trails. Meet at Houghton's Pond main parking lot. To register call 781-828-1805.

cabin	size	bed space occupancy	inside beds	porch beds
Wilkie	small	3	3	0
Stose	small	3	2	1
Spang	small	3	3	0
Smith	small	3	3	0
Lakeview	small	3	3	0
Jones	small	3	2	1
Hickey	small	3	3	0
Dienes	Medium	5	4	1
Duncan	Medium	5	4	1
Folsom	Medium	4	4	0
Godfrey	Medium	4	3	1
Gorlin	Medium	5	4	1
Nunn	Medium	5	5	0
Bourbeau	Large	5	3	2
Hamfman	Large	5	3	2
Marian	Large	6	6	0
Rogers	Large	5	5	0
Turner	Large	6	5	1
Pine	Large	6	4	2

* some cabins are not available for winter rental, call the winter manager for availability during the off season.



AMC Ponkapoag Camp Rental Rates and Policies

Facilities: Large cabins sleep 5-6; medium, 4-5; small cabins sleep 2-3; there are also two single family tent sites. No electricity, running water, or trash receptacles. Pit toilets. Cabins come with furniture and (for cold weather rentals) wood burning stove. Bring bedding, cook stove, dishes, etc. Tent sites and many cabins have outdoor fireplaces; there are also two common fireplaces.

Rental Requirements - Renters must be at least 21 years old, and have a primary residence other than camp. All persons staying at the camp must be registered. Large groups cannot be accommodated.

Inquiries: For availability and other inquiries, call the manager at 781-961-7007 on weekdays between 8:30 and noon. For general information, visit www.ponkapoagcamp.org.

Volunteering: Families who have worked 25 volunteer hours in the last year get priority for summer reservations. Work parties are scheduled throughout the year; get on the email list for announcements. Or let the manager know you'd like to volunteer to fix something or otherwise help out during your stay.

Arrival / Departure Time: Weekly rentals are from 2:00 pm check in on Sunday to 11:00 am check out on Sunday. Weekend rentals run from Friday 1 pm to Sunday 11 am. Phone (781-961-7007) after 8:30 the morning of your arrival to get the gate lock combination and to inform the manager of your estimated arrival time.

Deposit: Reservations are only accepted with payment in full for weekend stays, and a deposit as described on the reservation form for longer stays. Cancellations with 30 days' notice get 50% refund. Campers will be charged for the full rental period regardless of late arrival or early departure. In cases of severe weather or extreme emergencies, dates can be rescheduled without penalty.

Early Reservations for Summer: For first consideration for summer rentals, have your reservation postmarked by April 25. Reservations received after that date is processed as they arrive.

Cleaning Deposit - During the summer season, campers must leave a \$25 cleaning deposit on arrival.

Rental Rates

	Summer*	Off-season**				TENT SITES \$35 per weekend (minimum rental period) \$16 per additional day \$65 per week
	week*	weekend (Fri-Sun)	extra day	week	month**	
CABINS						
Large	\$200	\$50	\$20	\$100	\$270	
Medium	170	40	16	80	215	
Small	140	30	12	60	160	

* Summer runs from the 4th Sunday in June to Labor Day. During the summer, rentals are by the week only. There is a 3 week maximum for summer reservations. (Last-minute fill-ins do not count against this limit. To be on the fill-in waiting list, leave a deposit with the summer manager.)

** Off-season: One month maximum for the period Sept-Oct and the period May-June. "September" begins Labor Day. "May" ends the Friday of Memorial Day weekend. "June" runs from the Monday of Memorial Day weekend to the fourth Sunday in June.

Visitors and Day Users: During the summer season, day users, including visitors, are charged \$3 per person / \$10 per family. Season passes are available.

Carry-in / Carry-out: Camp has no facilities for trash disposal. Campers must carry out all their trash.

Drinking Water: Bring your own drinking water. Drinking water from a public spigot is usually available from July 10 to Labor Day.

Camp Rules: Campers are expected to follow posted camp rules and rules governing the state's Blue Hills Reservation to protect the peace of fellow campers, the environment, and public safety.

Appalachian Mountain Club / Ponkapoag Camp

P.O. Box 582
Randolph, MA 02368
781-961-7007

When mailing request, please add either "Attention: Summer Reservations" or "Attention: Off-Season Reservations"

- Be sure to include deposit (\$50 per week for summer; see below for off-season)
- For summer reservations only: include stamped, self-addressed envelope for confirmation
- For priority reservations in summer, include statement of volunteer hours

Reservation Request

We're sorry, but we accept only advance reservations by mail. Phone reservations cannot be accepted.

RENTER Last name	First Name	Age
------------------	------------	-----

Address _____ Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone: _____ Email: _____

Renter's Signature: _____ Date: _____

For summer reservations only: Priority Reservation for Volunteering? ____ If yes, attach a note describing your 25 volunteer hours.

List all additional persons staying overnight: (If you need more space, use the back of this form)

NAMES (PRINT) Age (if under 21)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Official Use Only

Assigned Cabin: _____
Dates Rented: _____
Rental Fee: _____
Deposit: _____
Amount Due: _____

To be filled out on arrival:

Car make/model & color: _____ State & License Plate # _____

Cell phone (optional; to help us reach you during your stay) _____

For Summer Reservations: Total # of Weeks Desired _____

Preferred Weeks (Sunday to Sunday)
(for tent sites, preferred week or weekend)

1st choice: _____ to _____

2nd choice: _____ to _____

3rd choice: _____ to _____

Preferred Cabin (or cabin size) or
tent site

1st choice: _____

2nd choice: _____

3rd choice: _____

For summer reservations, confirmation is by mail; be sure to include a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Deposit of \$50 per week must accompany reservation.

For Off Season Reservations: Rental dates desired

From _____ to _____

For off-season reservations, confirmation is by phone. Deposit, which must accompany reservation, is full fee for weekends and extra day, half fee for week or month.

What is the AMC Ponkapoag Camp Anyway?

Maybe you've never seen a Ponkapoag Eagle before, and you are wondering what this is all about? Well, the answer is that it's a publication about a volunteer managed camp that enables you to feel hundreds of miles away from civilization and be less than 15 miles from its hub at the same time! Ponkapoag Camp is your ticket to the outdoors. Hiking, kayaking, biking, skiing, mountaineering...from nature walks to weeklong wilderness explorations of the beautiful Blue Hills, the AMC Ponkapoag Camp offers a world of fresh-air activities. We teach skills, maintain trails, protect the natural environment – and have a great time together enjoying the outdoors. The camp has its own resident manager. Advance reservations are required. Looking for more information about Ponkapoag Camp? Call for volunteer opportunities, activity information and reservations at: 781-961-7007. Or Visit the Appalachian Mountain Club website at www.outdoors.org

Officers of AMC Ponkapoag Camp

Henry Barbaro - Chair (hbarbaro1@yahoo.com)
Kevin Dowd - Vice Chair of Facilities (kevindowd2@msn.com)
Don Baker - Facilities Coordinator (bakerboys4@comcast.net)
Betsy Hewitt - Facilities Coordinator (betsyhewitt@yahoo.com)
Ed Dowling - Vice Chair of Administration (lanicoed@comcast.net)
Ann Ryther - Treasurer (atryther@gmail.com)
Beth Furth - Membership Secretary (furthfolk@yahoo.com)
Francesca Stark - Reservations Secretary
(francesca_stark@brookline.k12.ma.us)
Trisha Minton - Roads & Trails Coordinator (vztrisha_ponky@yahoo.com)

Newsletter published Spring and Fall

Comments and questions about our newsletter are welcome: please call Wendy at (508) 586-1018 or email at Riverwench@verizon.net

Contact Beth for address corrections and deletions at Ponk@comcast.net

AMC PONKAPOAG CAMP

PO Box 582

Randolph, MA 02368