

Passport to Falmouth's Conservation Lands **In celebration of The 300 Committee's 25th Anniversary**

What is the 300 Committee's Passport Project?

The 300 Committee has published a pocket-sized "passport" for families (children and adults) dedicated to five conservation sites in Falmouth. Each section in the booklet contains a map, information specific to the site, a page to enter observations, plus activities that families can do together.

Each child will receive an award when all of the sites in the booklet are "stamped" to validate the passport holder's visit to each conservation site. Locations for validation stamps are: all Falmouth Public Libraries, the West Falmouth and Woods Hole libraries, Eight Cousins Book Store and The 300 Committee office.

The conservation sites have been chosen on the basis of easy accessibility and proximity to a variety of Falmouth neighborhoods. Each site demonstrates one or more *environmental themes* unique to Falmouth (for example: cranberry bogs, kettle hole topography, wetlands, oak and pine woodlands, herring and other wildlife, coastline, and Falmouth's farming & grazing history).

To introduce the project and to encourage the use of the booklets, T3C volunteers plan to organize events at one or two of the sites each year. The first event will be the BIOBLITZ on June 26-27 in Hatchville.

Where can I get my Passport to Falmouth's Conservation Lands? In addition to the Bioblitz event, passports can be picked up at any of the validation sites listed above.

Have fun ... Discover! We hope you enjoy exploring these special places in Falmouth!

Background

The purpose of the passport project is twofold: to promote *environmental literacy* in the town of Falmouth and to engage families (children & adults) in conservation sites in Falmouth.

Environmentalists nationwide are responding to a growing concern that children have become disconnected from the natural world. Children especially, and also adults, need to experience the nature first-hand if they are to become effective advocates for a sustainable environment. The health of our planet Earth will depend to a large extent on the choices and decisions made by the current generation of children.

Environmental literacy is a term used to encompass a basic understanding of natural processes of the environment. Promoting an understanding of the environment is a goal of educators and environmentalists alike. In celebration of The 300 Committee's 25th anniversary year, the Family Outreach subcommittee has taken on a project to increase awareness of the natural resources unique to Falmouth.