

A REPORT FROM THE PARK

Converting Joe's Driving Range on Teaticket Highway into an 11-acre natural community park has been a tremendous challenge for T3C. But with the first two phases of park creation now completed, we are more excited than ever about what our members and community partners have helped us accomplish: the transformation of the streetscape, the completion of the accessible pathways, the restoration of the wetland, the installation of the boardwalk and observation platform. This spring we will begin to tackle phase three with the creation of the mowed walking paths and the addition of a picnic grove. With input from the local school community, we will plan the final element...the outdoor classroom. All of these features make Teaticket Park a treasure for Teaticket and indeed for all of Falmouth.

With spring advancing daily, we are especially eager to see new growth and progress in the wetland, where T3C has undertaken both passive and active measures to promote restoration of this degraded area. Since our purchase of the driving range in late 2011, the wetland has been left largely undisturbed, with the exception of the installation of the observation platform and boardwalk last fall, and the planting of dozens of native plants — highbush blueberry, sweet pepperbush, swamp azalea, winterberry, and chokeberry. In addition, along the new ADA-compliant wetland path, pathway shoulders were loamed and seeded with native grasses.



Spring emerges at the Teaticket Park wetland.



Workers from Brown Building Company put the finishing touches on the boardwalk.

Even before Phase 2 began, the Botanical Club of Cape Cod and the Islands (BCCCI) conducted several site visits and documented the re-emergence of a variety of native wetland plants. We have also been delighted to note the increase in a wide range of birds and wildlife, both in the wetland and in other parts of the park as well. This is a trend that we hope will continue!

We are grateful to the Falmouth Community Preservation Committee and the Fields Pond Foundation for their generous support of the Teaticket Park project.



The Teaticket Park observation platform with its benches allows visitors to enjoy the wetland without damaging the sensitive habitat.

Important Notes and Dates

T3C is grateful to the **Cape Cod Five Cents Savings Bank Charitable Foundation Trust** for funding that underwrites new conservation land signs and allows us to invest in important stewardship and office equipment.

We also heartily thank **The Falmouth Fund of The Cape Foundation** for a grant that will enable us to purchase and install a wheelchair-accessible picnic table at the River Bend Conservation Area, and the **8th grade engineering students at the Lawrence School** for building two benches that were installed at River Bend last fall overlooking the Coonamessett River.

Thursday, July 9 is our 30th Anniversary Annual Meeting. Join us as we reflect, celebrate and look ahead to the next 30 years!

T3C seeks runners for the **2016 Falmouth Road Race!** Through the Numbers for Nonprofits program, we have 10 guaranteed entries for those who wish to run the race this summer (Sunday, August 16) in support of our land trust, by raising \$750 or more to preserve and protect natural places in Falmouth. Interested runners can find the registration form at www.300committee.org, on the right side of our home page.

A feature article on T3C will appear in *Cape Cod Life Magazine's July, 2015 issue*. Keep your eyes on the newsstand!



157 Locust Street
Falmouth, MA 02540-2658

GIFTS IN MEMORY OF...

- ♥ **Steve Aubrey** from George & Barbara Hampson
- ♥ **Dick Backus** from Judy Fenwick
- ♥ **Earl & Lilly Biscoe** from Eloise Biscoe
- ♥ **Tom Chase** from Maureen Conte & Bob Busby
- ♥ **Barbara Ann Day** from Howard & Dorothy Ellis
- ♥ **Leo J. Dunn** from Helen Dunn
- ♥ **Linda Falstein** from Julia Schneider
- ♥ **David Hayden** from Lary & Sue Ball, Hovey & Rose Clifford, Sheila Clifford, Janet DiMattia, Edward & Candida Franklin, Meghan Hanawalt, Ruth Handlen & Sharon Packer, Jane Harding, Richard & Janet Kaiser, Susan Kadar & Brenda Boleyn, Peter Kroll & Betsy Davis, Farley Lewis, Patricia Manganini, Mary Murphy, Fred & Louise Pratt, Maurice & Meg Trivey, Albert & Isabelle Williams, Nancy Wigley, Robert & Lynn Young
- ♥ **Skip Head** from John & Sharon Short
- ♥ **Jean Kowalski** from Edward Kowalski
- ♥ **Betty Jane Leschen** from Alison Leschen & Scott Lindell
- ♥ **Peter McGuire** from Carol Baker
- ♥ **Charles Edward Morgan** from Frances Weisberg
- ♥ **Edmund J. Naddaff** from Barbara Naddaff
- ♥ **Richard F. North** from Gloria North
- ♥ **Beth Schwarzman** from Rudolf & Nannette Oldenbourg, Edward & Frances Shibata
- ♥ **John & Anita St. Clair** from Francis Lovell
- ♥ **Miriam Gay Sullivan** from Gordon & Gay Sullivan
- ♥ **William Tannenbring, Jr.** from Pam & Chris Polloni
- ♥ **Gilbert & Iris Tavares** from Lisa Kellaher
- ♥ **Elaine Tripp** from David & Nancy Babin
- ♥ **Kate Heery Tulchin** from Joseph Tulchin
- ♥ **Cheryl Prigatano White** (of New Silver Beach) from Frances Weisberg
- ♥ **Cleveland S. White & Helen S. White** from Alison Brewster White

GIFTS IN HONOR OF..

- ♥ **Molly Cornell** from Bill & Joan Swift
- ♥ **Susanne Hallstein** from Eric Hallstein & Suzanne Lippert
- ♥ **Dr. Susan L. Hughes** from Paul & Elizabeth Hughes
- ♥ **Peter Kroll** from George & Marjorie Yost
- ♥ **Elsa Johnson Lundgren's 100th birthday** from Alexander & Gretchen Lewis
- ♥ **Ellen Moloney Peebles' birthday** from Meg Scarpetta
- ♥ **Pam Polloni** from Mark & April Robinson
- ♥ **Patricia Santello** from Jennifer Markello
- ♥ **Will Taylor** from Joseph Wisniewski
- ♥ **Bruce Tripp and Ken Foreman** from Ralph Herbst
- ♥ **Gary B. Walker** from Cynthia Walker-Condrich
- ♥ **Sheri White** from Olivia & Terry White

Printed on paper that is FSC certified 30% post consumer waste.

NON-PROFIT
PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
FALMOUTH, MA
02540
PERMIT #77



T3C bags, \$12 each, help commemorate our 30th anniversary.



With spring finally here, a Red-bellied Woodpecker like this one is a frequent visitor to the big oak tree outside T3C's offices. (photo by Craig Gibson)



157 Locust Street
Falmouth, MA 02540-2658
(508) 540-0876 • fax (508) 457-6406
www.300committee.org

President

Leonard W. Johnson

Vice President

Thomas A. Stone

Treasurer

Emily Kellendorfer

Clerk

Richard E. Payne

Directors

*Frank Carotenuto
Michael A. Duffany
Susanne Goodman Hallstein
Victoria H. Lowell
Day O. Mount
Jo Ann Muramoto, Ph.D.
Carey M. Murphy
Anne-Marie Runfola
Gregory Souza
Virginia Valiela
Paula Yanni*

Administrator

Jessica Whritenour

Director of Program Services

Lucy Helfrich

Stewardship Coordinator

Jack Sidar

Tax Exempt # 22-2659529

The 300 Committee is a private, non-profit land trust dedicated to preserving natural places in Falmouth for everyone to enjoy now and in the years to come.

Since 1985, The 300 Committee has taken a lead role to acquire treasured open space for conservation, recreation and water protection. In the last 30 years, more than 2,300 acres have been permanently protected through our efforts.

Leaves



T3C collaborated with NOAA on March 28 for *Whales in Your Backyard*, which featured numerous learning activities including a 40-foot inflatable model of a North Atlantic Right Whale.



WHOI geologist Jeff Donnelly's Speaker Series talk in April revealed fascinating information about past storm and climate activity gleaned from the 2,000-year-old sediments in Salt Pond.

Turning 30!

The 300 Committee's 30th anniversary year is filled with special events, activities and collaborations that celebrate our land trust's many accomplishments. With the theme of "Celebrating 30 Years of Connecting People with Nature," we hope there is a little something for everyone.

Since we are always looking for ways to share the message of land conservation with youngsters, several outreach efforts are aimed at young families. "Turtles!" presented by Mass Audubon's Sean Kortis in February offered a close-up view of a diamondback terrapin and a snapping turtle. In March, "Whales in your Backyard," run in collaboration with NOAA, was an action-filled afternoon that

drew 350 people, including many excited kids eager to learn about whales. Another family event is planned for the fall.

The winter-spring speaker series, again held with Salt Pond Areas Bird Sanctuaries, featured three of four engaging talks, with the fourth one rescheduled to kick off the 2016 series next winter. Larry Dapsis, Deer Tick Coordinator and Entomologist with the Cape Cod Cooperative Extension, talked in February about deer ticks and how to enjoy the woods while preventing tick bites. In April, Jeff Donnelly, WHOI geologist, discussed how the sediment record in Falmouth's Salt Pond reveals intriguing evidence of storm and climate

continued on page 2



Representing both T3C (Vice President) and WHRC (Scientist Emeritus), Tom Stone leads a group of walkers along the field edge at Peterson Farm in the organizations' joint Earth Day celebration.

continued from page 1

activity over the past 2,000 years. And in May, Ed DeWitt, Executive Director of the Association to Preserve Cape Cod (APCC), presented important groundwater issues that affect all of us on Cape Cod. The Falmouth Historical Society's Cultural Center provided a friendly welcome and lovely space for our series, while the many questions that followed each talk reinforced the interest and attentiveness of our audience members.

Another collaboration of note was the Earth Day celebration hosted jointly by T3C and the Woods Hole Research Center, also commemorating its 30th anniversary in 2015. While the two organizations work on different scales—local vs. global—we share a common concern for the health of



T3C's stewardship coordinator Jack Sidar, board member Greg Souza and board president Leonard Johnson proudly display the newly installed Shivericks Pond Pathway sign.

the environment. On April 22, WHRC was the gathering place for a lovely event that included interpretive walks to and from Peterson Farm, a short presentation on land use and open space in WHRC's Harbourton Auditorium, given by Tom Stone, T3C vice president and WHRC scientist emeritus, and a casual reception for friends of both groups.

Walks at numerous conservation parcels virtually every month of the year showcase the wide range of landscape and habitat represented in our protected lands. Salt marsh, riverfront, farm and meadow, oak and pine woodland and glacial moraine are all featured in our walk schedule with visits to Peterson Farm, Breivogel Ponds, Sea Farms Marsh, Quashnet River, and many other areas. In addition to her annual evening excursions to hear and see the woodcock mating display (which attracted dozens of participants), Molly Cornell is planning several bird walks throughout the spring and fall.

Two special events highlight T3C's newest land acquisitions. On May 1, in conjunction with the Bank of America, an Ice Cream Social celebrated the opening of the Shivericks Pond Pathway, the 0.67-acre parcel in downtown Falmouth that provides passive recreation opportunities and public access to Shivericks Pond, just seconds from Main Street. In the fall, T3C friends and members of the public will be invited to walk the new loop trail at the Swift and Chute Preserve, the 15+ acre parcel abutting Long Pond recently donated to T3C. (See the story, New Lands Protected, for more information about these acquisitions.)

Looking ahead, we are excited about our 30th anniversary annual meeting on July 9,

which will feature guest speaker Norm Smith talking about The Snowy Owl Project. On October 1, T3C will join forces with the MBL Falmouth Forum series to host renowned ecologist Tom Lovejoy. And in September and October, the Falmouth Art Center's "Art of Conservation" exhibit will showcase works by local artists featuring our many beautiful and varied protected lands, with The Gallery Reception scheduled for October 16.

T3C's website is a great place to find news of our events and activities. If you aren't yet on our email list and would like to be informed regularly of walks, talks and other happenings, send your email address to saveland@300committee.org. We hope you will join in and help us celebrate this significant anniversary!

Anniversary Membership Challenge

We have much to celebrate, including the loyalty and commitment of our many members and friends. An ambitious goal for our 30th anniversary is to sign up 300 new members to expand support for our work to protect special places throughout Falmouth. A one-year "discount" rate — \$30 — is available for new memberships and **all new memberships will be matched by a group of dedicated supporters.** Please consider giving a gift membership to a friend or neighbor to help T3C broaden its reach and meet this anniversary milestone!

NEW LANDS PROTECTED

Since our last newsletter, T3C has acquired three new properties for permanent conservation:

Swift and Chute Preserve: These 15.35 acres between Long Pond and West Falmouth Highway were a gift, completed in December 2014, of the Swift and Chute families from the estate of Oliver Swift Chute. Land protection is part of this parcel's history; Oliver S. Chute in 1980 granted a conservation restriction (CR) on this land to the Board of Selectmen. The CR indicates that the land was owned by "Oliver S. Chute and his ancestors since approximately 1680." The property is

subject to the Town's watershed agreement for the protection of Long Pond dating back to 1960. The watershed agreement and CR require that the family convey a 500-foot deep buffer strip along the shore of Long Pond to the Town. T3C signed an agreement allowing the Town to subdivide off the 500-foot buffer for Town ownership; the subdivision and conveyance will be completed later this year. The Swift family donated an adjacent parcel to the town in 2006. The 2014 gift brings the preserve total to 28.6 acres. A new trail from Pumping Station Road, approved by the Conservation Commission and cut early this spring, connects to the Long Pond ring road and

loops around Angel Mirror Pond, providing beautiful water views.

continued on page 4



The new trail at the Swift and Chute Preserve affords lovely views of Angel Mirror Pond.



Shivericks Pond Pathway provides public access to this scenic pond in Falmouth Village.

continued from page 2

Shivericks Pond Pathway: T3C purchased this 0.67-acre parcel through a favorable partnership with Bank of America. With frontage on Shivericks Pond, just seconds from Main Street in downtown Falmouth, and an existing path from Katharine Lee Bates Road to the back of the Lawrence School, T3C acquired this parcel for use as a pocket park and for public access to the pond. Employees from the Bank accompanied T3C staff and volunteers on a parcel

cleanup at the end of April and an ice cream social and public celebration were held on May 1. A fun and festive time was had by all!

Schiller parcel, Woods Hole: Two small parcels on James Street, totaling 0.49 acres, were donated to T3C by Ralph Schiller in 2015. One of the two parcels slopes steeply down to an Atlantic white cedar swamp owned by MBL. This land provides important conservation value as vegetated buffer to the adjacent wetland.

THANK THE SUPERHERO IN OUR MIDST

by Alison Leschen

There is a quiet, real-life superhero in our midst and most of us don't even realize it. It provides Cape Codders with myriad benefits, and helps address most of our pressing problems. It increases our real estate values, attracts tourists, enhances our quality of life and the character of our towns, improves our mental and physical health, saves towns money by reducing flooding and erosion, filters ground- and stormwater, cleans the air, and provides a place for us to walk, run, kayak and fish.

That's more than Superman or The Hulk can claim, yet our superhero — Conservation Land — gets far less glory and adulation.

How many of us walk our dogs or run in the woods, bird-watch in open meadows or salt marshes, or drive past scenic vistas, all without thinking of how it is that those places are available for all of us to enjoy?

If you haven't been using these places, you might want to start. Conservation land is like a no-cost health program. Studies have shown that, in addition to the physical benefits, walks in nature — and for children, unstructured outdoor play — have positive impacts on stress, mental acuity, memory, ADHD, and creativity (see, for example, <http://www.nwf.org/be-out-there/why-be-out-there/health-benefits.aspx> and the references listed there).

A study by The Trust for Public Land found that every dollar invested in conservation land returned \$4 in these natural goods and services. So where do those investment dollars come from? Some are state, federal, or town programs. But much of the funding for conservation land is raised from private individuals by local land trusts, non-profit organizations that exist to preserve local open space for everyone, forever.

Almost every town on Cape Cod has a land trust. For example, The 300 Committee Land Trust of Falmouth, currently celebrating its 30th anniversary, has preserved 2300 acres, often working in partnership with the town. Most land trusts offer talks, walks, and other programs that can introduce you and your family to these beautiful places and the natural treasures they hold.

There are other ways you can get involved to support these organizations that have brought us so much. Memberships are usually very reasonable and provide an important base of support. If you like to work outside, find out about stewardship days and help maintain the trails. Contact your local land trust to find out what other skills are needed. If you can make more substantial



The newly cut trail at the Swift and Chute Preserve winds between this gnarled beech tree and the lichen-spotted boulder behind it.

contributions or bequests, consider doing so — there are significant tax benefits, and it's a great investment in your community and a way to leave a lasting legacy that will benefit everyone.

And next time you drive past that beautiful view, just take a moment to appreciate the people and organizations that had the foresight to preserve it for all of us. Then park your car, unload the kids, introduce them to your local superhero and go for a walk! You'll be glad you did.

Alison Leschen is an active member of T3C's Outreach Committee. A marine scientist, she is the former director of the Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve. This piece originally appeared in the Cape Cod Times on April 22, 2015, Earth Day.

STEWARDSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

After a long, cold and snowy winter, stewardship is back on the fast track. The list below summarizes recent activities undertaken on Falmouth's conservation parcels:

- T3C volunteers worked on January 23 to remove invasive bittersweet at the River Bend Conservation Area along the Coonamessett River.
- The winter trail crew established a new trail around Angel Mirror Pond and maintained portions of the Moraine Trail.
- In late March, AmeriCorps Cape Cod members helped build and install kestrel boxes on six conservation parcels. With volunteer monitoring, data collected from the boxes will be shared with the state to support a study investigating the recent decline of the American Kestrel.
- The Annual Stewards meeting, March 2, was a night of recognition for T3C stewards during which they learned about upcoming habitat improvement projects.
- T3C and the Town are collaborating at the Breivogel Ponds Conservation Area to monitor five test wells. Information on water table levels will help in the construction of vernal pools aimed at attracting Spadefoot toads and other amphibians.



Barbara Wiggins, Assistant Vice President for the Bank of America, Falmouth branch, hauls cut bittersweet vines during the Shivericks Pond workday.



T3C board member Vicky Lowell also pitched in to tidy up the Shivericks Pond Pathway.



This image of a red fox was captured on T3C's trail cam at the River Bend Conservation Area.

- Trail cams installed during winter and spring are helping to document the different types of wildlife found on our conservation lands.
 - An AmeriCorps workday on April 21 cleared trails and expanded field habitat at the Dupee Parcel and Matt Souza Conservation Area.
 - A training workshop for current and prospective volunteer property monitors was held on April 25 and focused on major principles and procedures of monitoring protected lands.
 - On April 27, T3C and Bank of America volunteers worked to remove invasive bittersweet and clean up debris at the new Shivericks Pond Pathway.
- Many more projects are being planned for the warmer weather. Contact Stewardship Coordinator Jack Sidar if you would like to join T3C's outdoor volunteer list: jsidar@300committee.org.