

## EVENT WRAP UP

Over the last several months, The 300 Committee's education and outreach efforts included a variety of activities and reached more than 1,000 people! The following is a summary of these exciting projects.

### "This Land is Your Land"

A multi-media, cross-disciplinary, collaborative project between faculty and students at Falmouth High School and The 300 Committee culminated February 9 at FHS with an enormously successful event that celebrated open space in Falmouth through artwork and oral histories. This project was generously funded by a grant from the Falmouth



More than 200 friends, family members and others attended the "This Land is Your Land" event.

Education Foundation. Jane Baker's art students and John Holladay's graphics students visited several open space parcels, documented their visits through photographs and sketches, and created drawings, paintings, etchings and posters from their studies. Students involved in Darrell Morey's and Tom McManamon's Oral History project traveled to the same conservation lands and then sought out lifelong Falmouth residents familiar with these places. These students then trained with staff members at Atlantic Public Media (the organization that created the Cape's NPR station, WCAI) and learned how to conduct interviews. The goal was to create living histories of these places based on the life experiences of folks who grew up in Falmouth. The art show featured well over one hundred artworks and posters, most of which were for sale. Proceeds went to the students, with one-

### Family Event at Sea Farms Marsh

On a bright Sunday afternoon in March, enthusiastic T3C volunteers Molly Cornell, Amy Kukulya and Shona Vitelli hosted a child-friendly event and guided walk through the 87-acre Sea Farms conservation area in East Falmouth. This pine and oak woodland features several easy trails and a variety of wildlife, bird and

plant habitats. With beautiful views of Bourne Pond, Israel's Cove and the marsh at Black Duck Cove, more than 80 visitors had a taste of this special area and will, we hope, return to Sea Farms for further exploration. Families who came received a copy of The 300 Committee's free *Passport to Falmouth's Conservation Lands*. This illustrated

### Spring Speaker Series

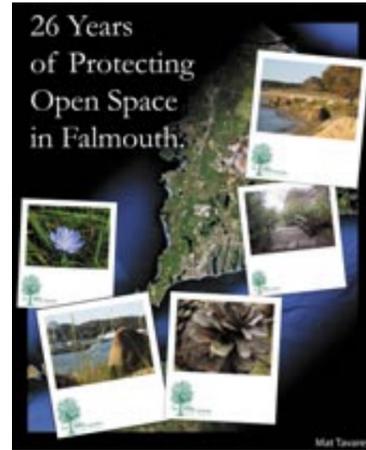
Our annual Speaker Series featured a fantastic line-up of presenters.

- March 15, Highfield Hall: Speaker Joanne "Joey" Mason talked about "Kestrels & Cranberries," sharing her experiences with American Kestrels in and near cranberry bogs in southeastern Massachusetts, and their idiosyncratic nesting box behaviors. The captive audience was especially taken with her live Merlin, a bird about the same size as a Kestrel.

- March 30, FHS Auditorium: Dr. Thomas Seeley, professor in the

Department of Neurobiology and Behavior at Cornell University, spoke to a packed house. "The Honeybee Democracy" was a talk sponsored jointly by T3C and the MBL (as its final talk in its annual Falmouth Forum series), and offered a fascinating look at swarm intelligence in honeybees. In studying the bees' search for a new home, Tom's research shows how these insects achieve collective wisdom and group decision-making. Truly amazing!

- April 20, FHS: Wrapping up our series was well-known birder Vern



This poster, by FHS student Mat Tavares, was one of three dozen works "promoting" The 300 Committee and was created for the graphics arts piece of "This Land is Your Land."

third of each sale donated to The 300 Committee.

booklet is filled with information and activities to encourage hands-on learning—a "must" for families wishing to explore Falmouth lands with children and grandchildren. Copies of the *Passport* are available at T3C's Locust Street office and in the Children's Room at the Falmouth Public Library's Main Branch.

Laux, and we were thrilled to have him back! An impressive crowd was captivated by his whirlwind photo tour in "Birds of Cape Cod and Beyond." Vern presented multitudes of slides and anecdotes of common and not-so-common birds, and ended his talk with a delightful video about Sandhill Cranes in Nebraska.

We applaud the outstanding efforts of our energetic and capable Outreach Committee, which is co-chaired by Anne-Marie Runfola and Susie Goodman Hallstein.

### GIFTS IN MEMORY OF...

- ♥ Ernest & Ruth Augat from Gretchen Reilly
- ♥ C. John Berg from Elizabeth Berg & Anne Berg
- ♥ Jamie Bugley from David Whittaker
- ♥ Leo J. Dunn from Kevin & Jeanne Dunn
- ♥ Edmund G. Hamann from Philippa Hamann Comfort
- ♥ Tom Kramer from Elizabeth Craig
- ♥ Maureen Kelleher from Matthew & Jeanne Mase
- ♥ Stephen Loizides from Chris Loizides
- ♥ Peter J. L. McGuire from Carol Baker. "Peter's love of nature came from the heart."
- ♥ Betty Musacchia from X. J. Musacchia
- ♥ Marion Ratliff from Joan Ratliff
- ♥ Ginny Reuman from Virginia Patterson
- ♥ John & Anita St. Clair from Francis Lovell
- ♥ Donald Whelden from Robert Whelden
- ♥ Katharine Gaylord White from Patricia Shoyinka

### GIFTS IN HONOR OF...

- ♥ Molly Cornell from Kirstin Moritz & Rod Hinkle
- ♥ Andy Dufresne from Leonard & Patty Johnson
- ♥ Alice Fanger from Joseh Tulchin
- ♥ Miguel Gomez-Ibanez from Lauren Leveque
- ♥ Leonard Johnson from Sara Morner, Carolyn Partan
- ♥ Thomas & Emily Morrison from Douglas Morrison
- ♥ Tim & Jessyn's 5th anniversary from Jessyn Farrell
- ♥ Rebecca Upton's Retirement from Al Barak, Joyce Burt, M. F. Cooperbrand, Teri Cotham, Celeste Cruse, Susan Lane, Winfred & Joyce McLane, David Minehart, Hannah Nadel, Pam & Chris Polloni, S. Jeffress Williams, Deborah Winograd & Clyde Tyndale and many other friends and colleagues
- ♥ Buck & Carol Williams from S. Jeffress Williams & Rebecca Upton
- ♥ Christine Weisiger from Philippa Hamann Comfort

We are grateful to the Falmouth Enterprise for its support in publishing this newsletter.



157 Locust Street  
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The Garland Parcel on busy Palmer Avenue  
Story on page 5.



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#### 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 26 years, more than 2,300 acres have been permanently protected through our efforts.

# Leaves

spring 2012

## NEW STATE TAX CREDIT FOR LAND CONSERVATION

by Mark H. Robinson  
Starting in 2011, for the first time ever, landowners who engage in conservation transactions with The 300 Committee Land Trust or other land trusts or agencies may be eligible for a powerful new tax advantage—a State income tax credit worth up to \$50,000. This is exciting news for land trusts and landowners alike. While there have always been income tax deductions available for land gifts on a donor's federal returns, we have never been able to offer any incentives on the State tax side. Now we can.

The Commonwealth has provided guidelines on how the program works. The type of transaction (land gift, conservation restriction, bargain sale, reserved life estate) is less important than the characteristics of the land itself, so long as the land is permanently protected. The Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs must certify that the land preserved is significant to protect drinking water supplies, rare species and other wildlife habitats, agriculture or forestry, recreational opportunities and scenic or cultural values of state or regional importance. While those themes are fairly broad, a gift of a vacant lot in a subdivision might not qualify.

The landowner must have the land pre-certified by the State before the gift or bargain sale is completed. An appraisal is needed to justify the land's market value and establish the credit amount. The State will refund any unused credit in the first year of the gift. That means that not only would the MA income tax be wiped out for that year, but the State

would issue the landowner a check for the difference between that year's tax and \$50,000 or 50% of the appraised value, whichever is less. For example, if you donated a parcel worth \$30,000, your tax credit would be \$15,000. If your MA income tax is \$5,000, you would pay no state tax and get a tax refund for the remaining \$10,000. If you donate a conservation restriction appraised at \$120,000, your tax credit would be the maximum \$50,000. If your MA income tax is \$10,000, you would pay no state tax that year and would get a check for the \$40,000 difference. (The total of tax credit and refund check cannot exceed \$50,000.) You do not need to reside in Massachusetts or even pay taxes here; if you own the land and the land qualifies, you qualify. The State approved the first 22 applications in December, returning \$976,000 in credits to landowners. A full \$2 million is available statewide in 2012.

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The Bella Shephard Reserve, at 368 Central Avenue, is a 1.29-acre waterfront parcel with 450 feet of marsh frontage on Eel Pond in East Falmouth. The late B. Jean Thomas divided her property and sold the vacant lot to The 300 Committee in a bargain sale. She also put her adjacent house lot under a conservation restriction. The CR was recorded in December, 2011.

## INCHING FORWARD AT TEATICKET PARK

Since the end of December, when The 300 Committee closed on the purchase of Joe's Driving Range, a lot has happened. The most visible progress is the aftermath of a recent spring cleanup effort, tackled over two separate days. The first was a bright Wednesday morning in April, when a handful of T3C folks picked up trash, moved flagstones, and hauled out garage debris. Several days later, volunteers from the Teaticket Civic Association, as part of the Town-wide Spring Cleanup, collected and removed more litter from the perimeter of the property. This sprucing up was necessary and we are pleased with the results.

Behind the scenes, The 300 Committee Board of Directors has worked closely with Eddie Marshall, principal landscape architect at Stephen Stimson Associates, to finalize the design plan for Teaticket Park. Site work, to begin imminently, will include removal of the buildings and existing parking lot. This work will be conducted by Gary Sylvester Building Movers and will be the first dramatic change at this highly visible property on Teaticket Highway. The one building to remain is a large garage that will serve as the maintenance shed for the emerging park. Streetscape landscaping with new tree plantings and creation of a new parking area will commence in September.

Additional projects have included coordinating the safe removal of asbestos from the structures, completing the



T3C's Director of Program Services Lucy Helfrich helped clean out the old garage at the driving range. This building will remain on the property to become a maintenance shed for Teaticket Park.

## NEW STATE TAX CREDIT FOR LAND CONSERVATION

— continued from page one

Remember that this new tax credit is in addition to the regular federal income tax incentives for charitable contributions of

land or interests therein. The 300 Committee can be contacted for more details or a free, confidential consultation.

Mark H. Robinson is the Executive Director of The Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts, Inc. and serves on the Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition.



The design for Teaticket Park was approved in April by The 300 Committee Board of Directors. A major change was the relocation of the parking area.

permitting process for the upcoming demolition and finalizing the conservation restriction for the property with the Town and the State.

We are looking forward to seeing the transformation to Teaticket Park as it unfolds!



Willing hands made for a successful effort at the former Joe's Driving Range: Volunteer Hannab Nadel, board member Virginia Valiela, Matt LePere and Jessica Erickson.

## THE GARLAND PARCEL

by Bob Butcher  
Next time you drive down Palmer Avenue, please take a moment to look diagonally across from the Steamship Authority parking lot and admire the shady woodland where a T3C sign is posted.

Orville Garland donated these two small linked parcels, totaling .73 acres, to The 300 Committee in 2002 to save as permanently protected open space. Hundreds of cars drive by the parcel every day on Rt. 28, making this one of the most visible parcels that The 300 Committee owns.

## TRAIL CREW LOGS 100+ HOURS

The 300 Committee's Trail Crew covered a lot of ground during the winter months. Led by T3C Vice President Gary Walker, the Trail Crew is an all-volunteer workforce whose members help out as work schedules, travel plans, family time and other commitments allow. This year's trail crew included 16 different individuals who spent from 2 to 26 hours helping clear overgrowth and widen trails, an important part of T3C's work to manage conservation lands in Falmouth.

During nine work sessions spanning the 6½ weeks from January 8 to February 21, the crew logged 116 man hours. Much of the trail crew's work focused on the central portions of the Moraine Trail: all the trails in Collins Woodlot, which lies south of Blacksmith Shop Road between the Service Road and Fire Tower Road; and the main Moraine Trail through the Kettle Holes Area, which runs north from Blacksmith Shop Road to Thomas Landers, skirting the spray irrigation area of the Falmouth Wastewater Treatment Facility. For those who may not be familiar with these areas, the 130-acre Collins Woodlot offers trails that follow ridges, dip down into kettle holes and loop back on each other for a satisfying and secluded walk in the woods. While the adjacent 440-acre Kettle Holes Area includes the municipal wastewater plant, much of the land is heavily wooded and rugged. Off the Moraine Trail are many side paths that offer great terrain for off-road runners and cyclists. Trail maps for both of these areas are available on The 300 Committee's web site.

Paths in Beebe Woods also received trail crew attention, and a new loop trail was cut at River Bend to expand the walking opportunities there.

For their help making trails more accessible and user-friendly for everyone in town, The 300 Committee extends a huge thank you to Gary Walker, Bob Boudreau, Jim Chandler, Bruce Tripp, Reza Ahi, Keith Bleiler, Will Clarke, Jeff List, Bob Smith, Jay Smith, Camrin Braun, Stace Beaulieu, Betsy Gladfelter, Paul Ketchum, Dick Payne and Jacek Sulanowski.

If you are a frequent user of trails on Town or T3C conservation land and would like your favorite routes to be considered for the trail crew's efforts next winter, please let us know.

The Garland parcel's visibility presents an opportunity to demonstrate the conservation ideals of our land trust. In recent months, AmeriCorps and T3C volunteers have spent more than 60 hours removing invasive Japanese knotweed, Norway Maple, bittersweet and English Ivy. Trees blown down in Hurricane Irene last summer were cut up and hauled away, and the parcel has been surveyed.

We are especially grateful to board member Jeff Hamilton, owner of Hamilton Tree & Landscape, who donated his time and crew to remove five huge piles of tree branches, dead limbs and debris that were cut, collected and stacked by volunteers Frans Rowaan, Hal Leeds, Sandy McLean, Leonard Johnson, and Bob and Valerie Butcher.

There is always more to do, but this attractive woodland lot on a highly traveled road showcases The 300 Committee's important work in the Falmouth community.

Bob Butcher serves as a key member of T3C's Stewardship Committee, and was a member of our Board of Directors from 2001–2005.

## COMING ATTRACTIONS

### NEW TOWN-WIDE MAP

We are delighted to announce that, at long last, the 2012 edition of the Falmouth Conservation and Recreation Lands Map will be available for the upcoming summer season. The new maps include complete and up-to-date parcel listings and depictions of all Town, State, federal and non-profit lands in Falmouth, in addition to descriptions of selected parcels with information on access, trails and parking. We anticipate that the maps will be both desirable and useful for all outdoor enthusiasts in Falmouth.

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

The 300 Committee's 2012 Annual Meeting will be held at 6:15 pm on Thursday evening, July 12 at The Navigator, clubhouse of the Portuguese-American Association of Falmouth. We hope to see you there.

### AMERICORPS VOLUNTEERS WILL TACKLE SPRING PROJECTS

The 300 Committee is planning two group projects in conjunction with AmeriCorps Cape Cod. The cutting of a loop trail at our Flume Pond parcel, off Sippewissett Road, and a Work Day at Cardoza Farm in West Falmouth, will be coordinated by Matt LePere, the AmeriCorps volunteer who has been working in the office with Jessica and Lucy since October. Matt has been a great asset to T3C! Stay tuned for a report in the next issue of *Leaves* (November, 2012).

## GRANT NEWS

The 300 Committee extends its appreciation to the Bank of Cape Cod for its recent grant of \$5,000 to help with the completion of Teaticket Park. The grant specifically supports the purchase and planting of trees at the front of the parcel, along Teaticket

Highway. The bank joins us in our efforts to improve the streetscape along that stretch of road. Bank of Cape Cod, with branches in Hyannis and Osterville, is opening its third branch at 445 Main Street in Falmouth this May. Bank President and CEO Timothy

T. Telman said the grant reflects the bank's commitment to support the local community and be a good neighbor. Bank of Cape Cod is the only locally-owned commercial bank on Cape Cod, providing business and personal banking options.

## RESTORATION PROGRESSES AT RIVER BEND

The restoration of River Bend Conservation Area, situated along a lovely wooded and winding section of the Coonamessett River, has been a top priority for The 300 Committee over the past two years. The restoration work completed so far includes removal of buildings, the extension of the trail system, and clearing of fencing and debris. Additional site work and re-planting will take place later this spring. Volunteer Land Steward Barry Good has spent countless hours mowing the property and keeping the trails clear and passable. Our future stewardship and restoration activities at River Bend will be guided by a land management plan that is being prepared under the leadership of T3C Board member Beth Schwarzman.

The historic silo will remain standing on the property pending grant funding for its preservation. The level of community support for the preservation of the silo led the Historical Commission to begin the process of seeking funds for the project. If adequate funding is obtained, then the silo will be restored and a kiosk will be constructed to house information on the ecological values of the Coonamessett River Corridor along with historical information about the River Bend property and silo. We encourage you to visit this special riverfront conservation land.



In March, Board Members Greg Souza and Leonard Johnson worked with volunteer Land Steward Barry Good to install a new, two-sided sign at the 10-acre River Bend Conservation Area on Sandwich Road



Looking up from the Coonamessett River through the brambles, The River Bend silo remains in place after the removal of other buildings on the property.



Removal of more than 100 yards of fencing was part of the major spring cleaning effort at River Bend.



Sweaty and smiling at the River Bend cleanup: T3C VP Gary Walker, Administrator Jessica Erickson, steward Barry Good and Matt LePere (AmeriCorps). Additional helpers were Brad Barnes, Tom Gregg and Lucy Helfrich.