

## A MONITORING TRIP TO FLUME POND

By Carol Knox, Land Steward and Pam Polloni, Wildlife Habitat Subcommittee

On February 24, we monitored The 300 Committee's Flume Pond property with Jesse Ferreira, Land Protection and Stewardship Specialist for the Coalition for Buzzards Bay. The Coalition holds the conservation restriction (CR) for the 28-acre parcel and monitors its CR properties annually as does The 300 Committee, with its CR parcels checking boundaries and making sure the property has not been encroached upon.

This was Jesse's first visit here, and he took many photos with GPS data for the Coalition's records. We walked a large part of the property, beginning by following the entry trail along an old pasture stone wall to the Phragmites marsh inlet on the southeast side of the pond. We then walked west to the pond edge through a woodland area with lots of bull briar, large spreading coastal white oaks in the upland, and tupelos, blueberry, sweet pepperbush, hazelnut, and viburnum closer to the shore. At the

edge of the pond were swamp azalea in bud and in the marsh were rose mallow and cat tail.

In the snow along the marsh and pond edge we found deer, coyote, and rabbit tracks. The pond was mostly ice covered, but in the middle there was an open area with two swans.

After visiting the pond, we circled back along the inlet and took a secondary path northward to the highest part of the property, populated by impressive coastal oaks. At the high point there is a view of both the pond and Buzzards Bay in the West. We found large pignut hickories and collected a twig specimen for the Herbarium.

We returned in April to explore the southwest part of the parcel along the marshes and to begin a more complete listing of the plants and wildlife occurring there. We located the southwest property boundaries



Hickory tree at southwest boundary of Flume Pond parcel, where The 300 Committee sign was installed in 2004.

(near where new building may soon occur), and photographed the wind-shaped trees of the maritime woodland above the coastal bank. As required by the conservation restriction, we are exploring a possible trail route to the high point of the property while limiting public access to the more fragile areas.

## T3C THANKS...

**The George Frederick Jewett Foundation East** for its support of our acquisition of Joe's Driving Range with a grant of \$50,000 awarded in March.



Coonamessett Reservation

The late **Herbert L. Willett** and the late **William K. Bradshaw** for including a bequest to The 300 Committee in their wills.

**Todd and Mike Duffany** for all their hard work at the Coonamessett Reservation.

...and remembers with affection our long-time benefactor **Joan Wheeler**, who died last summer. Joan spent every summer of her life in Falmouth and truly believed in preserving open space for future generations in the town she loved.

Our **Outreach Committee** for lining up and carrying out a wide range of fascinating and well-attended talks for our 2011 Spring Speaker Series. Birds, ants, spiders, edible and native plants were all

featured in talks January through April. Hundreds of folks enjoyed these talks; hats off to all our committee members who worked so hard to make the Series a success!

Land Steward and devoted member **Dick Batchelor** of FC-TV 13, who wrote, filmed, edited and produced a wonderful BioBlitz video for us, and **Naomi Arenburg** of WCAI (Cape & Islands NPR station), who narrated the video. Thanks also to Dick who filmed

for production all of our Speaker Series talks. Check out Dick's work on FC-TV!

**Highfield Hall** and its gracious staff for hosting our Speaker Series.

Board president **Leonard Johnson**, new volunteer land steward **Ed Jalowiec** and **Rocky Gomes** and the **Falmouth Parks Department** for their help coordinating and controlling a springtime brush burn at Little Pond.

Our intrepid walk leaders **Beth Schwarzman** and **Molly Cornell**, who led an impressive number of nature and bird walks from January through April, on conservation lands all over town.

**The Falmouth Enterprise** (\$2,000) and **The Falmouth Fund of the Cape Cod Foundation** (\$1,000) for grants in support of our upcoming townwide conservation and recreation map, which is currently in the design phase.

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## GIFTS IN MEMORY OF...

- ♥ **Tom Abbott** from Bruce & Alexandra Lancaster, his cousins—the Lord Family, Vicky & Pete Lowell, Day & Kathie Mount, Joe & Joan Staples, Tom & Judy Stetson, Jim Vieira & Pamela Truesdale
- ♥ **Richard T. Antoun** from David & Linda Miller
- ♥ **Ruth & Ernest Augat** from Gretchen Reilly
- ♥ **Kenneth P. Battles** from Dorothy Battles
- ♥ **Carol Bissonnette** from Michael & Christy Duffany
- ♥ **Jamie Bugley** from David Whittaker
- ♥ **Jim Craddock** from Laurie Raymond
- ♥ **John & Dorothy Day** from Stephn Day Ellis
- ♥ **Irene Hallstein** from Allan Gordon & Christine Cowan
- ♥ **Edmund G. Hamann** from Philippa Hamann Comfort
- ♥ **John Lennon** from Leonard & Patricia Johnson
- ♥ **Barry Martin** from Francis & Susan Smith
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- ♥ **Virginia Medeiros** from Michael & Christy Duffany
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- ♥ **Marion S. Ratliff** from Joan Ratliff
- ♥ **John & Anita St. Clair** from Francis Lovell
- ♥ **H. Elaine Tripp** from Bruce Tripp

## GIFTS IN HONOR OF...

- ♥ **Jayne B. & T. W. Osler Abbott** from Alexander Abbott
- ♥ **Jeremy F. Hamann** from Philippa Hamann Comfort
- ♥ **Paul Hughes' Retirement** from Paul J. L. Hughes
- ♥ **Leonard Johnson** from Barbara & Jerry Fanger
- ♥ **Dr. John Klein Robbenhaar** from Geraldine Klein Robbenhaar
- ♥ **Margaret Hough Russell** from Joan & Peter Boyer, Patricia & David Gadsby, John & Lyn Gould, R. Michael & Carolyn McNaught, Nawric Meigs-Brown & David Brown, Chip & Susan Morse, Janet & Noah Totten, Mary & Redwood Wright, Marcia Young
- ♥ **Margaret Russell, Lucy Helfrich & Jessica Erickson** from Leonard & Patricia Johnson
- ♥ **Dick & Carolyn Ryczek** from Philip & Judith Ryan
- ♥ **Jay & Nancy Smith** from Kirstin Moritz & Rod Hinkle
- ♥ **Manley Williams** from Lawrence & Mary Kavanagh

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157 Locust Street  
Falmouth, MA 02540-2658



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

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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 2,200 acres have been permanently protected through our efforts.

# Leaves

spring 2011

## A PARK FOR TEATICKET

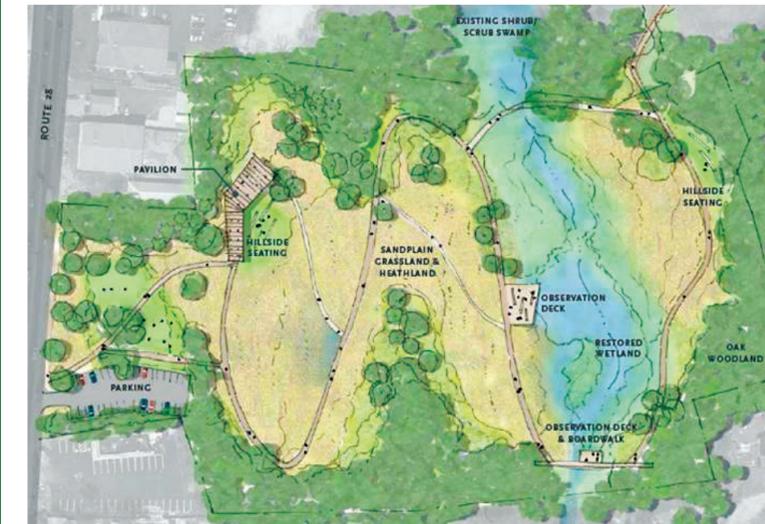
Joe's Driving Range on Teaticket Highway has long been a unique island of green in the most densely populated village of Falmouth, with an estimated 3,000 residents living within ¼ mile of the site. Today, the driving range is the only remaining parcel of 10 acres or more in Teaticket available for open space. Of all Falmouth's villages, Teaticket has the most commercial development, the highest percentage of low-income residents and residents over 65, and the least open space. The 300 Committee has the opportunity to buy the driving range and ensure that it is permanently protected; given its proximity to so many residents, we think it is an ideal location for a community park!

Joe's Driving Range has been owned and operated by the Vieira family since the early 1950's. After two years

of negotiations, The 300 Committee entered into a purchase and sale agreement with Bill and Donna Vieira to purchase the 10-7 acre parcel in December 2011 for \$1.65 million. (An appraisal by Clancy Appraisal Company in 2009 valued the property at \$1.87 million). Once the purchase is completed at the end of this year, the land will be owned by The 300 Committee and we will convey a permanent conservation restriction to the Town.

We are in the midst of our campaign to raise \$1.95 million for the purchase and creation of the park. Our goal is to raise \$1.2 million from private donors and foundations; we are now more than halfway there! In addition to private funding, we will apply for a grant from the Town's Community Preservation

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The concept plan for Teaticket Park was designed by Stephen Stimson Landscape Architects of Falmouth.

Board member Vicky Lowell was a founder of The 300 Committee, and our first president and administrator. In a talk presented this spring to the congregation of the Falmouth Unitarian Universalist Church, Vicky reviewed our land trust's long history and addressed challenges we will face in the future. The following are excerpts from her talk:



Vicky Lowell.

years of concrete production were assembled and removed. More undevelopment projects are likely in our future.

**Restoration:** Joe's Driving Range in Teaticket will be a challenging and exciting project. In consultation with the Teaticket Civic Association, and the expertise of Stephen Stimson Landscape Architects, we have developed a plan to turn what is now an expansive asphalt parking lot, a small mini-golf area and a 10-acre mowed grassy swale into a natural park. Implementation will begin with restoration of the wetland and planting of trees and native grasses along Teaticket Highway. We hope to use a lot of sweat equity in the restoration.

(I should add that The 300 Committee does not yet own the driving range. The outlook is promising, but we are raising funds as I speak.)



Aerial view of Falmouth from Buzzards Bay looking east, with Great Sippewissett Marsh in the foreground and Long Pond in the upper right of the photo.

**Mixed Use:** Little Pond, again, is a prime example. Land along the shoreline of Little Pond and surrounding a cedar swamp will be permanently protected by a CR, whereas the balance will be developed with no more than 30 units of affordable housing. The expansion of Atria's assisted living (Woodbriar) is another mixed-use model. As part of its development agreement, Atria will give 15 acres of the former golf course to The 300 Committee. These acres will be preserved in perpetuity with trails open to the public.

We want to increase the accessibility of conservation land. Some habitat is too

fragile to accept regular human intrusion, but there are parcels we would like to make accessible to disabled visitors. Our first project was the Bartolomei parcel on Sandwich Road, which now has a lovely trail and picnic table that meet ADA standards. The plan to transform Joe's Driving Range into Teaticket Park includes a serpentine trail that meets accessibility guidelines.

Falmouth's Open Space and Recreation Plan approved by the state in 2009 has a goal of setting aside 30% of Falmouth's land as permanently protected open space. We remain several percentage points short of this goal. Whether it is reachable or not, we shall continue to prioritize parcels for their open space values and try to generate the resources to protect them.

One long-term endeavor is the creation of a green corridor through the heart of Falmouth, along the Coonamessett River. We are slowly filling in the pieces, but experience has shown that patience is required. It also shows that it can be rewarded. One has to be ready when a landowner is ready to sell. The beach parcel in Menauhant finally purchased in 2007 had been in our sights since 1986!

Vigilance will also be part of our future. Vigilance to make the words *protected in perpetuity* truly mean **in perpetuity**. Mark Robinson, Director of the Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts is sounding the alarm. He writes: "Conservation land isn't free land. It is land that has been set free. If it is to have meaning at all as protected open space, it must be immune from the pressures to do something with it." Mark predicts that as there is less land up for grabs, the pressure to use open space for other purposes will come not from commercial developers but from ourselves. In other Cape towns there are proposals to put solar gardens and wind turbines on land acquired for well protection and wildlife habitat.

The 300 Committee is not immune from

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criticism. A common lament is that the open space movement is taking away the potential for affordable housing. Yes, once land is purchased for conservation, it is unavailable for competing uses. But in the 26 years of The 300 Committee, the total number of acres developed in Falmouth far exceeds the 2,200 acres set aside as open space. Developing affordable housing, like open space protection, does not just happen. It takes dedicated advocates, and Falmouth has them. I predict we shall see more joint efforts between The 300 Committee and affordable housing activists.

Richard Louv, author of "The Last Child in the Woods" decries the disconnect between today's children and nature. How can they have a sense of the web of all existence if they never "get their hands wet and their feet muddy in the natural world?" "We cannot love

what we do not know," he says. I was a lucky child. I grew up with woods to explore, and the freedom to do it, without the competing attractions of TV, texting and video games. Thus began my love of natural places and being outdoors, and I trust you can tell I have not lost it. The 300 Committee has an active program of walks and lectures, but we shall put more emphasis on enticing children into the woods!

On a personal note, I would like to say it has been a privilege to be part of The 300 Committee. I can't say it better than in a piece I wrote a few years ago: 'Being a person who exults in being outdoors, listening to the wind high in the trees of the moraine or the trickling water of the Herring River, bedazzled by the sparkle of the late summer sun on the Punch Bowl or Ice House Pond, pausing to view winter ducks on the Moonakis River... I am exceedingly grateful that so many people share this wonder.'



Accessible trail and picnic table at the Bartolomei Conservation Area on Sandwich Road.



The 300 Committee hopes to attract more children to Falmouth's woods and open spaces.

IMPORTANT NOTES

- The 300 Committee and the Compact of Conservation Trusts are sponsoring an **estate planning workshop on Thursday, May 26, 2011, from 6:30 – 8:30 pm** at the Canal Club in Bourne (100 Trowbridge Road). The workshop will cover land conservation options and new tax incentives that can help you meet your goals for your land by saving on taxes and making it easier to pass your land on to your heirs. Light snacks and refreshments will be served. Space is limited. Please contact The 300 Committee office at (508) 540-0876 or email [saveland@300committee.org](mailto:saveland@300committee.org) if you would like any additional information.
- Beginning in June, **The 300 Committee's web site** will add a new feature: a **monthly nature calendar** highlighting what to look for outdoors each month—birds, wildlife, plants, flowers and more. A teaser for June... "Swamp Azalea blooms, mostly around wetlands, filling the air with its fragrance." Or this, for July... "Wild Blueberries start to ripen in sunny areas all over town." The calendars will be posted on line quarterly, and we hope you will visit it often to see what's in store for the coming weeks... [www.300committee.org](http://www.300committee.org); visit often!
- Mark Your Calendar! The 300 Committee's **Annual Meeting** will be held on the evening of **Thursday, July 7, 2011** at the Navigator, clubhouse of the Portuguese American Society of Falmouth, on Ashumet Road. Social hour with desserts under the tent will take place beginning at 6:30; the meeting and awards will begin promptly at 7:15 in the clubhouse. Our guest speaker this year will be Tom Stone from the Woods Hole Research Center. Tom will talk about how land use has changed Cape Cod over the last 50 years. Please Join Us! All T3C members are welcome to attend.



Tom Stone will discuss 50 years of land use changes on the Cape at T3C's Annual Meeting on July 7.

■ **Falmouth Road Race, Sunday, August 14, 2011:** The 300 Committee has five guaranteed numbers for the annual 7-mile running race from Woods Hole to Falmouth Heights. If you would like to run the race in support your favorite land trust—T3C—by raising a minimum of \$750, we can help make that happen. Visit our website for instructions, registration form and pledge information: [www.300committee.org](http://www.300committee.org).

- Annual membership contribution
  - Gift in honor/memory of—friends, relatives, special occasions
  - Outright gift of cash, securities, real estate
  - Make a pledge (for a maximum of 5 years)
  - Estate Planning\*
    - Life Insurance
    - IRA or other retirement plan
    - Trust instruments
    - Bequests
- If you would like to talk about giving, please call The 300 Committee office at 508-540-0876. Your support is appreciated. Thank you!
- \* Consult your attorney or estate planner for advice as to what's best for you.

PROGRESS AT LITTLE POND

On January 27, 2011 the Town completed its purchase of 9.6 acres on Spring Bars Road for permanently protected open space. The \$1 million purchase was funded by a \$500,000 LAND Grant from the Massachusetts Division of Conservation Services and \$500,000 in Community Preservation Act funds. The 300 Committee "pre-acquired" this parcel in June 2010 in order to make it possible for the Town to apply for and receive the \$500,000 in LAND grant funding. The protection of this land with a permanent conservation restriction (held by The 300 Committee) will ensure that this environmentally sensitive area next to Little Pond is protected in perpetuity.

The 300 Committee also paid \$70,822 to cover many of the site costs, including demolition and asbestos removal for the warehouse and vacant office building, 21E environmental assessment, engineering survey costs, and appraisals. The buildings have been removed and we look forward to working with the Conservation Commission and our land stewards on the long term restoration and stewardship of this valuable open space parcel.



9.6 acres on Little Pond in Teaticket are now permanently protected as open space.

Boxed sets of Craig Gibson notecards make wonderful gifts for birthdays or other special events. Or, buy a set for yourself! One of Craig's gorgeous, up-close bird photo cards, with your own handwritten note, would be a lovely surprises in anyone's mailbox. These boxed sets include 5 notecards and envelopes and sell for \$12 per set. Please visit us at 157 Locust Street to purchase yours, but remember to call ahead to make sure Jessica or Lucy is in: 508-540-0876.



Notecard sets include photos of a Common Tern, Red-Bellied Woodpecker, Snowy Egret in flight, male Yellow Warbler and Herring Gull with Starfish. All proceeds from notecard sales benefit The 300 Committee.

A PARK FOR TEATICKET

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Fund and a \$500,000 state PARC grant (formerly urban-self help). We will know the status of both grants in November 2011.

The members of the Teaticket Association provided their leadership at community meetings as we worked to develop a concept plan for the Park. The concept plan, which was designed by Stephen Stimson Landscape Architects and funded by one of our donors, illustrates the vision for a passive recreational park. The plan includes a handicapped-accessible walking trail curving through the property, restored wetlands with an observation deck that could serve as an education site for students at nearby Teaticket School, and an open pavilion where small gatherings and events could take place. We will implement the concept plan in phases over the course of a couple of years. We hope to have many 300 Committee members provide their "sweat equity" as we put in plantings and work on other site improvements.

We appreciate the support from our members and Board of Directors who have contributed towards this project so far. We hope many additional 300 Committee members will contribute, as well. Working together we can purchase Joe's Driving Range and begin our efforts to convert this land to a beautiful park for all to enjoy.