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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 35 years, more than 2,500 acres have been permanently protected through our efforts.

# Leaves

## A Note From T3C's President

Dear Friends,

Last year, I spent *a lot* of time outdoors. When I wanted stress relief, a good walk, a reminder of things bigger than myself, I checked The 300 Committee map of conservation lands on our website, picked a trail, and embarked on a mini-adventure. We are fortunate in Falmouth because outside means wooded groves, sandy beaches, and rocky trails — all open to the public. I saw many of you on those walks and hope they kept you going, too.



*T3C President  
Anne-Marie Runfola*

In addition to relying on the land, we couldn't have weathered this past year without you. I am grateful for the incredible resilience and grace shown by our talented staff and our dedicated board, committees, volunteers, funders, partners, and members. Together, we continued to serve our community though land conservation, stewardship, and education, including:

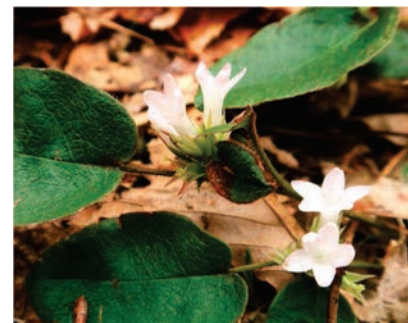
- Purchasing a 10.45 acre conservation restriction on Pariah Dog Farm to protect the environment and working farmland.
- Supporting Falmouth's Outdoor Learning Project by providing funds, maps, activities, and volunteers to help teachers use our open spaces as natural classrooms.
- Offering a dozen webinars and book discussions; 65 walks, including our Wayfinding Series; trail challenges; winter bingo; scavenger hunts; a bicycling tour of open space and an art contest.
- Creating new trails, maps and wayfinding signs such as in Shallow Pond Woodlands.
- Organizing an alliance of land conservation organizations in Falmouth to work together for justice, equity, diversity and inclusion on our lands and in our community.

In addition to working farmland, we are helping the town identify and conserve properties that provide important services to Falmouth, such as Little Pond — affordable housing linked to open space and lands for climate resiliency.

Wendell Berry said, "The earth is what we all have in common." We also have each other in common. Working with you to conserve and enjoy the benefits of our town's special places has been a joy. Here's to a healthy and beautiful Falmouth, for all of us.

THANK YOU,

Anne-Marie Runfola, President



*Mayflower blooming along wooded trails is a sure sign of Spring's arrival.  
(photo by Sandy Sutherland)*

## Nest Box Project Shows Community Support of Native Bird Populations



*Mike Tucker installs a nest box.*  
(photo by Heather Cauldwell Ramp)

**by Mike Tucker**

In late January I decided to take on a small-scale project to build nest boxes that would be used at various conservation properties and some private land as well. Natural tree cavities are always in high demand by several species that rely on them for nesting. Eastern Screech Owl, American Kestrel, Eastern Bluebird, Great-crested Flycatcher, both nuthatch species and several woodpeckers are among the birds we commonly see in our area. Loss of habitat and competition with invasive bird species (that also use cavities), have resulted in the decline of many native populations over the past 50 years. Providing boxes (artificial tree cavities) in key areas is one way we can help make a positive difference.



*An Eastern Screech Owl in residence.*  
(photo by Mike Tucker)

I expressed my idea on Falmouth Wildlife, a local Facebook group: For anyone wanting to be involved, I would accept donations to purchase materials for nest boxes that I would construct and install. The response was overwhelming, and the demand was high! A lot of people wanted nest boxes on their own property. They eagerly agreed to donate the cost of their own box plus the cost of a box to be installed on protected land. I asked Kevin Friel, another local birder and photographer, to help; he was more than happy to build and install nest boxes. Peter Trimble, former President of Cape Cod Bird Club, also agreed to help by assessing properties for box locations and lending a hand with installation.

By the beginning of April, we had built and installed more than thirty Eastern Screech Owl boxes; five were quickly occupied by owls, which was better than expected for first-year boxes. As of this writing, we have shifted our focus to building boxes for smaller birds like Eastern Bluebird, Great-crested Flycatcher and others. With all the help and resources available, we have the luxury of offering new nest boxes to conservation organizations while also keeping stock on hand for replenishing older boxes in need of replacement.

The growth of this project has been truly gratifying, from one guy wanting to make a small difference with a few nest boxes to a large group of people making a big difference. The Falmouth community stepped up and showed their love for the natural world with enthusiasm and generosity. This is a boost to our local birds and I thank everyone involved.



*Nest boxes attract numerous bird species, including Great-crested Flycatcher, Red-breasted Nuthatch and Red-bellied Woodpecker.*  
(photos by Mike Tucker)



## New Lands Permanently Protected

**Pariah Dog Farm, Trotting Park Road, 10.4 acres in Teaticket.** T3C closed at the end of 2020 on the purchase of a Conservation Restriction (CR) on this farmland, ensuring that these fields and their prime agricultural soils will be protected in perpetuity. This project was supported by more than \$130,000 in federal funding from the Natural Resources Conservation Service of the US Department of Agriculture.



*Pariah Dog Farm's 10+ acres off Trotting Park Road are now permanently protected with a conservation restriction held by T3C. (photo by Mark Robinson)*

**Moller, Old Main Road, 3.05 acres in North Falmouth.** T3C accepted this gift of land in February from Donald and Janet Moller, wooded upland behind their home that was subdivided into a separate lot. The land abuts the Shining Sea Bikeway and two adjacent private properties that are protected by CRs. We are so grateful to the Moller family for this terrific donation, which was made in honor of their neighbors, Ivan and Virginia Valiela.

*Three acres donated to T3C by Donald and Janet Moller expand our conservation holdings in North Falmouth.*



*Falmouth Girl Scouts Juniors Troop 82179 helped clean up Teaticket last fall and again in April. During their spring visit, in addition to picking up litter, they enjoyed walking and running along the park's pathways, then sitting and chatting at the outdoor classroom at the back. According to troop leader Jim Partan, "the girls saw a garter snake, watched some ospreys flying overhead, heard birds singing, and (quite possibly the highlight) found what we think was a rat skull." (photos by Colleen Smith and Heather Benway)*



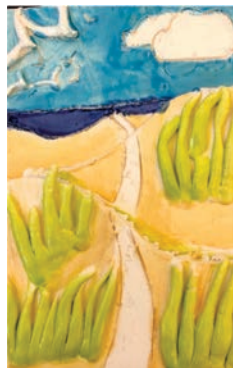
## Local Schoolchildren Inspired by Open Space

The fourth grade team at Teaticket Elementary School installed three Story Walks at Teaticket Park in April. Each class chose a book with an environmental theme: *The Mess that We Made*, by Michelle Lord, *We Are Water Protectors* by Carole Lindstrom and *Hike* by Pete Oswald. They laminated all the pages of the book, numbered and attached them to stakes and installed them in order throughout the park. The Story Walks went up on Fridays and came down on Mondays, which allowed Falmouth families and other visitors to enjoy the stories over the course of each of three weekends. **Thanks to Teaticket Elementary Reading Specialist Jennifer Cleary** for facilitating this great project that encouraged literacy, physical activity and community engagement.

Morse Pond School's 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students embarked this winter and spring on a community project in collaboration with T3C under the direction of **art teacher Aimee Maseda and student teacher Jeanine Cappuccino**. As the young artists were introduced to our mission, their awareness grew about the importance of conservation in Falmouth and about the wide variety of land and trails available to them, to their families and to the community at large. The students developed their view of protected lands by creating original sketches. They then transitioned these images to clay to complete finished ceramic tiles. A gallery of the students' completed artworks will soon be posted on T3C's website.



Teaticket Elementary School fourth graders installed Story Walks at Teaticket Park over three separate spring weekends, a great project for the students and the community. (photos courtesy Teaticket School)



The creation of ceramic tiles was the final step for Morse Pond School's 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders in a project to artistically interpret conservation lands and nature. (photos courtesy Jeanine Cappuccino, Morse Pond School)

### T3C Thanks...

...**Cape Cod 5** for its funding support of our Year 2 partnership with TerraCorps (2021-22). This grant will help us continue a full-time stewardship staff position, building on a very successful Year 1 foundation and also leveraging more than \$20,000 in federal and state funding.

... **the Hermann Foundation** for its generous grant toward the acquisition of the Florence Sylvia Woodland in North Falmouth.

...the **Sporting, Safety, Conservation & Education Fund of Falmouth, Inc. (SSCEFF)**, the charitable foundation of Falmouth Rod & Gun Club) for its continued support of T3C's stewardship efforts.

...**all our friends and members** who steadfastly support our conservation mission, and who have been out on the land, seeking respite in nature during this last challenging year.



## Stewardship Updates

### Trail Crew

After an unprecedented year, our trail crew was off to a delayed maintenance season. Nevertheless Falmouth's beloved hiking trails were maintained by 11 volunteers under the guidance of our trusted Trail Crew Leader Charlie Peterson. On weekends, with a typical session lasting three hours, T3C's crew has ensured that 13+ trails town wide are ready for another season of increased activity.

### Annual Monitoring Overhaul

In a massive effort to orient stewardship volunteers to a new monitoring software, 53 property monitors were trained over two sessions in late February. T3C is committed to annually monitoring 102 properties throughout town; this achievement is made possible through the dedication of these volunteers. The LANDSCAPE software allows for infield data collection through a mobile application, streamlining our forms and processes. Our call to action received an overwhelming response from more than 80 stewardship volunteers! While we couldn't include every individual in our monitoring efforts, we are excited to harness this energy and offer more work days coming soon.

### TerraCorps

T3C's first year as a TerraCorps service site has been terrific so far, with our TerraCorps member Colleen Smith providing outstanding support for land stewardship. While Colleen's placement with T3C will end in July, we are hoping to continue our partnership with TerraCorps, which provides a full-time position over 11 months. We are now working to secure grant funding for Year 2, August 2021–July 2022; grants support T3C's site administration costs and leverage more than \$20,000 in additional funding from state and federal sources.

### Coffee Cleanups

Stay tuned to your email for Coffee Cleanup workdays which we will begin scheduling later this spring.



*As part of a combined Outreach & Stewardship initiative, volunteers are adding blazes to a number of trails around town to make it easier for visitors to find their way in the woods. Pictured here are Alex Lancaster, Molly Cornell and Val Butcher, painting blazes along the Angel's Mirror trail west of Long Pond. (photo by Alison Leschen)*



*Trail crew members Bob Laquidara, Lenny Collins, Willy Burgess, Zach Karmen and Charlie Peterson (who took the photo) had a great day for trail clearing at Dupee/Matt Souza on the first day of spring, working to make sure all the trails were clear and open.*



*Gordon Waring, T3C's new land steward and monitor at the Kealey Conservation Area off Wild Harbor Road in North Falmouth, during a monitoring visit in March. (photo by Pam Polloni)*



## New Partnerships for T3C

T3C is delighted to welcome the **Boston-based environmental and risk sciences consulting firm, Gradient**, as a new Business Member. Gradient has selected T3C as a pro bono client, and will be working with us this spring and early summer primarily to develop a new Moraine Trail map. Gradient is well-known for its work in Toxicology, Epidemiology, Risk Assessment, Product Safety, Contaminant Fate and Transport, Industrial Hygiene, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and Environmental/Forensic Chemistry. Gradient Principal Tim Verslycke lives in Falmouth adjacent to conservation land and recognized that the company's GIS experience could support T3C's mapping needs. We will be excited to share results of this partnership in a few months' time.



T3C is excited to be teaming up with new Business Member **AutoCamp Cape Cod**, which has just officially opened for its first season in Falmouth. AutoCamp Cape Cod is where great design meets the great outdoors. Its design-forward accommodations in nature make spending time outdoors fun and easy for everyone. AutoCamp Cape Cod has selected T3C as its Dollar a Night program recipient, with \$1 from each room night sold being donated to T3C. In addition to its newest location on the Cape, AutoCamp has California locations in Russian River wine country and Yosemite National Park, with AutoCamp Joshua Tree coming in Fall 2021.

**AUTOCAMP**  
CAPE COD

## Zoom Talks Attract Many

T3C's virtual programming has been a great success during recent months, with several very popular talks about birds presented by Mike Tucker: *Birds of Upper Cape Cod* in November, *Owls of New England* in February, *Welcoming Spring Migrants* (a joint offering with West Falmouth Library) and *Songbird ID Workshop* in May. We are delighted that so many people have enjoyed these talks and we are grateful to Mike for sharing his expertise and beautiful photos.

Other Zoom talks have included the inspiring *Nature's Best Hope* by Doug Tallamy in February, co-sponsored by T3C and APCC (the Association to Preserve Cape Cod) and *The Cape Cod Osprey Project* by MA Audubon's Mark Faherty in March. The MBL Falmouth Forum in April was a collaboration with T3C and WCAI, the Cape & Islands NPR station; *Wildlands and Woodlands: A Vision for Sustaining Forested and Natural Landscapes* was a thought-provoking conversation with David Foster of Harvard and Zoe Cardon of MBL's Ecosystems Center, moderated by Mindy Todd, the host of WCAI's The Point. The talks were recorded and are available to view on T3C's YouTube channel.



*Seeing Long Pond through a beech grove on an early spring hike.*  
(photo by Lucy Helfrich)

## Upcoming Dates....more details to come

**T3C Annual Meeting, Thursday, July 15**, format to be determined. Plan to join T3C board members, staff and volunteers as we celebrate our continuing efforts to permanently preserve land in Falmouth.

**Falmouth Road Race, August 15, tentative.** There will be a race, but plans are still pending for the 7-mile event. In-person, hybrid or at-home are all options; an announcement is due around June 1. No matter the format, there are opportunities to participate and support T3C at the same time. Please contact [lhelfrich@300committee.org](mailto:lhelfrich@300committee.org) for information.

**Zoom Talk with Kerri Andrews, author of *Wanderers: A History of Women Walking*. Sunday, October 24, 4:00 PM.** A joint presentation by T3C and the Woods Hole Library.



## Hikes are a Hit

With the goal of getting people out on the land, T3C's Outreach Team did a marvelous job of planning and scheduling 8 months of walks on conservation parcels all over Falmouth. "Once we felt comfortable knowing that we could lead safe, socially distant walks for small groups, said Board Clerk and Outreach Chair Alexandra Lancaster, "we galvanized our core group of walk leaders and made plans to share with others the beautiful protected lands and trail systems we love."



*Outreach volunteer Marcy Klattenberg leads a hike along the bog bridges in Two Ponds Conservation Area. (photo by Andy Jablon)*

In "normal" times, T3C's walks are open to all. However, to promote safety during the pandemic, it has been important for T3C to develop a registration system to keep hiking groups small (12 or fewer people) and to ensure that participants agreed to wear masks and follow social distancing protocols. While this system has worked extremely well, we are nonetheless eager to re-open our walks to everyone, share closer spaces and see real smiles. **T3C extends its thanks to walk leaders and sweeps Valerie Butcher, Ann-Marie Carroll, Molly Cornell, Sarah Flynn, Susie Goodman Hallstein, Marcy Klattenberg, Liz Klein, Alex Lancaster, Alison Leschen, Vicky Lowell, Stephanie Madsen, Kathie Mount, Dina Pandya and Mike Tucker.**



*Participants on a Wayfinding hike at Sea Farms in East Falmouth stay socially distanced in March as leader Alex Lancaster shares special features about the conservation area. (photo by Sarah Flynn)*

T3C's "Wayfinding Series," began in October and has spanned the late fall, winter and spring months, with hikes scheduled through May. All of Falmouth's conservation lands with trails were featured at least once. More than 60 hikes took place; only a handful had to be cancelled or re-scheduled due to weather. In the spring lineup, T3C also featured bird walks, four evening outings to look and listen for American Woodcocks during courtship (2 each led by Molly Cornell and Mike Tucker) and a round of spring migration walks led by Mike Tucker.



*Lovely views of Israels Cove on Bournes Pond are a reward for a hike at Sea Farms Marsh off Davisville Road. (photo by Sarah Flynn)*



*Old stone walls line several trails in Beebe Woods. (photo by Lucy Helfrich)*



*Peace and tranquility at a Town-owned Atlantic white cedar swamp. (photo by Alexandra Zollo)*





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#### GIFTS IN MEMORY OF...

♥Jayne B. Abbott from Alexander Abbott  
♥Robert Angland from Paul Angland  
♥Richard E. Batchelor from Alice Batchelor  
♥Margaret Bowler from Daniel Bartolomei  
♥Darryl A. Buckingham from Janet Buckingham  
♥Michael DellaBarba and Gordon Lindsay from Richard & Judith DellaBarba  
♥Tom Dorsey from Elizabeth Campbell  
♥Alan and Virginia Gibb from Jan Hamilton-Sherwonit  
♥Sherman A. Goodell from Janice Goodell  
♥George Hampson from Thomas & Janet Chadie  
♥David Hayden from Deborah Hayden  
♥Eric Helm from Jean Helm  
♥Mignon Holz from George Holz  
♥Hartley Hoskins from Arthur & Jennifer Gaines  
♥Holger and Friederun Jannasch from Hans & Elizabeth Jannasch  
♥Joan T. Kanwisher from Nancy Kanwisher  
♥Barbara Kazlauskas from Robert Doyle, David Ingraham, Kelli Jameson, Margaret Jones, Jocelyn Peccei, John Perry, Rick Schaffer, Douglas Welsh  
♥Dick Kendall from Susie Goodman Hallstein & Bill Hallstein, Bruce Tripp  
♥Carl Ketchum from Lorraine Stratis  
♥Alexander I Lewis III and Elsa J. Lundgren from Gretchen Lewis  
♥Barbara and Bert Little from Perry Coppola  
♥Robert and Ella Loftfield from Lore DeBower  
♥Jim and Leslie McDonald from Andreas Teske and Carol Arnosti  
♥Merle Mizell from Jodee Bishop & James Reber  
♥Shirley Mossman Nisbet from Ian Nisbet  
♥Richard F. North from Gloria North  
♥Fay Blakeslee Rossley from Paul Rossley  
♥Steve Ryder from Marguerite Ryder  
♥Benjamin & Shirley Dell Stahl from Heidi Stahl  
♥John & Anita St. Clair from Francis Lovell  
♥Stacey Lyn Strong from Stacey Strong  
♥Kate Heery Tulchin from Joseph Tulchin  
♥Kim and George Veronis from Elizabeth Clark  
♥Sylvia Werner from Ruth Segal  
♥Marilee Wheeler from Emily Ferguson, Russ & Joyce Ottey  
♥Dr. Roland L. Wigley from David & Alice Berry, Elizabeth Brooks, Paul & Helen Gigley, Nancy Wigley  
♥Wissett, the golden retriever from David & Abigail Young  
♥Eleanor Wortley from Robin Singer

#### GIFTS IN HONOR OF...

♥Bruce Beal & Frank Cunningham from Mary Goldman  
♥Amy Bower, on her birthday, from Carolyn Fisichella  
♥Jeff Bryant from Erin Bryant  
♥Molly Cornell from Hugh & Kate McLean  
♥Botanists Don Schall and Pam Polloni and AmeriCorps member Alaina Irvine, for their work on behalf Deep Pond, Hatchville, from Kim Comart and Mary Grauerholz  
♥Barbara Perkins Gaffron from Winnifred Woods  
♥Betsy Gladfelter from Linnea Dayton

♥Nicole & Jon Goldman from Mary Goldman  
♥Eric Hallstein's birthday from Susie Goodman Hallstein & Bill Hallstein  
♥Susie Goodman Hallstein from Nawrie Meigs-Brown & David Brown, William Clarke & Lyn Brady Clarke, Bill Hallstein, Eric Hallstein & Suzanne Lippert  
♥Susie Goodman Hallstein, Leonard & Patty Johnson and Vicky Lowell from Alison Leschen & Scott Lindell  
♥Lucy Helfrich, for 20 years at T3C, from Susie Goodman Hallstein  
♥Peter Kroll from George & Marjorie Yost  
♥Vicky Lowell from David & Nancy Babin, Susie Goodman Hallstein & Bill Hallstein, Joanna Lowell, Pierre & Gisela Tillier  
♥MGH medical professionals from Ron Wing  
♥Kathy Mortenson & Ed DeWitt's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary from Chris & Pam Polloni  
♥Capt. John P. Nolan, Jr. from John & Maureen Nolan  
♥Leah & Emily Porto from Robert Porto & Janice Lewis  
♥Anne-Marie Runfola & Ken Kostel from Ken & Wendi Buesseler  
♥Dr. James C. Smith from Stacy Smith  
♥Ralph Struckhoff from Stacey Strong  
♥Bruce Tripp from Jo Ann Muramoto & Robert Skilton  
♥Virginia Valiela from Peter & Joan Boyer  
♥Arna Vatuk from Marianne Gould  
♥Jessica Whritenour from Dana & Eileen Miskell



*Nature's beauty in fungi: Violet-toothed polypore on a decomposing log at Shallow Pond Woodlands. (photo by Colleen Smith)*