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*Will Poirier*

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

# Leaves

## T3C Acquires Property for New Headquarters

After a search spanning more than three years, The 300 Committee (T3C) has found and acquired a property that will provide the organization with a wonderful new, permanent home: 2.98 acres at 13 Thomas Landers Road. While the attractive brick building on the property was built as a residence, it is perfectly suited to serve as our land trust's headquarters and meets all the criteria established when the search began. Preserved open space, offices for staff and volunteers, handicapped accessibility, functional stewardship space, equipment storage, and room for small events and educational programs all exist in this new location close to the geographic center of Falmouth.

The property has been called "Millstone Farm," and indeed, the setting is farmlike, with an open field spread out in front of the building. The southwest corner of the land abuts the Coonamessett Greenway and is close to T3C's Shallow Pond Woodlands and hundreds of acres of Town conservation land.

"We are thrilled to establish a permanent home for T3C after 37 years," remarked executive director Jessica Whritenour. "This will deepen our roots in Falmouth and energize our work in land protection, outreach and stewardship. During this important time with development pressures and stressors on our ecosystems, it is exciting to lay this foundation from which to grow our mission."

T3C closed on the \$1.4 million acquisition in early November, with funds provided by T3C's Opportunity Fund. Over the next six months or so, we will work through special permitting and make plans for minor site and building renovations. Also during that time, a capital campaign will raise funds to support acquisition costs, building improvements and endowment, with the goal to fully replenish the Opportunity Fund. Soon, we will be thrilled to invite our friends, members and volunteers to visit and to share the vision for T3C's future.



13 Thomas Landers Road

## T3C Gains Land Protection Expertise

We have been delighted to welcome Land Protection Specialist Kelly Grant to T3C. This is a full-time position coordinated by The Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts (The Compact) and shared with three member land trusts. T3C joined forces with the Harwich Conservation Trust, Barnstable Land Trust and The Compact to create this position with the shared goal of increasing capacity and advancing the pace of our land protection efforts across Cape Cod.



*Kelly Grant*

Most weeks, Kelly is in T3C's offices on Thursdays, where she works on a wide variety of projects, including acquisition plans, conservation restrictions, mapping and more.

Kelly spent the last 6 ½ years working as the Conservation Administrator for the Town of Yarmouth. After focusing much of her time over the last decade on regulatory matters, she is happy to take on more proactive land protection work that covers a greater share of Cape Cod.

Hailing from the southern hemisphere—she was born in Australia and grew up in New Zealand—Kelly lived in England and Australia and moved to the States in 2006. She and her husband, Neil, a sculptor, live in Martsons Mills with their two busy teenage daughters.

## T3C Welcomes New TerraCorps Member

In September, Will Poirier joined T3C's team for our third TerraCorps season and has jumped right in to support our stewardship and community engagement initiatives.

A self-described naturalist, forager, artist, and environmental advocate, Will believes that humans are lifelong learners. Born and raised in Providence, RI, Will has spent many summers working on the Cape, and last year worked on an organic farm in Barnstable. His undergraduate degree is in psychology, and he is currently enrolled at Antioch University of New England completing a Master's degree program in Sustainable Development in Climate Change. Will received his permaculture certificate in 2020, and says he “strongly believes that permaculture is a potential remedy for what ails us as humans.”

Will enjoys spending time outdoors in the natural world. From photography and identification to harvesting and cooking, mushrooms have captivated him and he is pursuing this exploration with gusto. (See photos, page 3.) Before coming to T3C, Will spent several years teaching in New England, first at Nature's Classroom and then at a Montessori school. When he talks about these experiences working with young people, his enthusiasm is infectious. This energy and excitement will serve him well as he shares his skills and passions with T3C and the Falmouth community.

We intend to tap into Will's additional interests in meditation and mindfulness. He will lead the Monday Mindful Meanders series on the third Monday of each month, beginning November 21. Locations will be announced...keep an eye on your inbox for details.

T3C is happy to have Will on board!



*Will Poirier on a local trail.*

Like music and art,  
love of nature is a  
common language that  
can transcend political  
or social boundaries.

*~ Jimmy Carter*



## T3C Thanks

We are grateful for important funding support from:

**Martha's Vineyard Bank Charitable Trust**, whose grant supports T3C's Year 3 partnership with TerraCorps.

**The Friendship Fund.** This grant will allow us to conduct surveys and install permanent boundaries at the Swift-Chute Preserve at Long Pond/Falmouth Town Forest and at Lowell Woods, the newest addition to Beebe Woods.

**Roger & Cathy Kligler**, whose special gift is supporting the purchase of “No Hunting” signs for Beebe Woods and Peterson Farm.

**All 11 runners who ran the 50<sup>th</sup> Falmouth Road Race in August:** Arna Vatuk, Dan King, Kelly Connellan, Hank, Caleb & Graham Jones, Sarah Mangelsdorf, Karl Rosengren, Emily Rosengren, Richard Lee and Sandy Lee.



## A Mushroom Montage



*Fly Agaric ('amanita muscaria'). One of the most commonly photographed mushrooms. This one is poisonous!*



*Violet Cort ('cortinarius violaceus'). Common but breathtakingly beautiful mushroom found throughout New England.*



*Pig's Ear Fungus ('gyromitra ancilium'). Commonly found growing on organic farms.*



*Fallen Star ('astraeus hygrometricus'). Puffball family indicator species of mycorrhizal\* connection with conifers. (\*Symbiotic association between fungus and plant.)*

*Chicken of the Woods, "Sulfur Shelf" ('laetiporus sulphureus'). Edible and delicious when cooked; tastes like chicken. (T3C staff cooked and tasted these ...yummy!)*



*Limp Coral ('phaeoclavulina flaccida'). Commonly found in conifer forests; resembles sea coral.*

*Photos by Will Poirier*

## Clarity Coming to Beebe Woods

Beebe Woods and Peterson Farm have long been the crown jewels of hiking areas in town. While Falmouth offers many diverse hiking experiences, no other properties offer the variation of wide cart paths, stone

walls, ponds and pasture across nearly 500 acres. With trails leading from Sippewissett Road, Ter Heun Drive and Woods Hole Road, and from all the surrounding neighborhoods, it is no

wonder that T3C receives occasional calls from distressed, disoriented visitors. Even outfitted with our excellent map, too many hikers take a wrong turn and end up somewhere different than they intended.

In an effort to help hikers orient to the woods, T3C has drafted a new numbering system that will mark each trail intersection. This navigational approach was inspired by the Barnstable Land Trust, which they implemented successfully at their Eagle Pond Sanctuary. T3C's Stewardship team has drafted a plan and presented it for approval to the Falmouth Conservation Commission, which oversees and manages these lands. This winter, we will update our Peterson Woods/Beebe Woods map and work with volunteers to install the numbered posts throughout the woods. Maps will be available online and posted at trailheads and other strategic intersections.

Today I have grown taller from walking with the trees.  
~ Karle Wilson Baker

After years of discussion and inaction, we are delighted to have the ability through our TerraCorps placement to partner with the town on this initiative. The numbered posts will be simple and relatively unobtrusive, providing a helpful navigational system with minimal visual clutter. Once the posts are in place, we are hopeful that hikers will feel more comfortable exploring all the trails in these beautiful open spaces.



*During an AmeriCorps work day in October, T3C had extra hands to help post signs along the Beebe Woods perimeter.*

**On another note:** The ConCom voted in August to post No Hunting signs in accordance with the deeds to both Beebe Woods and Peterson Farm. To support the land management plans for these properties and to promote the safety and comfort of visitors, T3C is installing the signs along all property boundaries.

Between every two pines is a doorway to a new world.  
~ John Muir



## T3C Supports Outdoor Learning

Working with the Falmouth Public Schools' Outdoor Learning Committee, T3C is creating resources designed to help teachers, students and families become more familiar with, and at home in, local conservation lands. Early discussions focused on identifying the conservation lands with trails closest to Falmouth's four elementary schools, with the idea that short, easy and free walking field trips to these areas would be beneficial for everyone in the school community.

T3C's outreach team is creating short videos showcasing these areas: Shivericks Pond Pathway, adjacent to the Mullen-Hall School; Teaticket Park, at the back corner of Teaticket Elementary; the Donald Whelden Preserve, a short walk from East Falmouth Elementary; and the Florence Sylvia Woodland, down the street from the North Falmouth School.

In these videos, just a few minutes each, young students host and introduce the parcels, leading viewers on a quick trail hike highlighting special features along the way: tree and plant species, rocks, special habitats, water features, stone walls and more. The overall goal of these video vignettes is to orient teachers and others ahead of their visits, so they know where these parcels are, how to access them and what they have to offer.

T3C is delighted to support outdoor learning in Falmouth, and we hope that these efforts will get more teachers and students out on the land.



*The video crew, T3C's Lucy Helfrich with producer Alison Leschen and important support by members of the Outreach Committee, shot portions of the first video in the series on a cloudy October afternoon at the Florence Sylvia Woodland in North Falmouth. Student hosts (l to r) are: Tilu Pandya, Johanna Mehrtens and Evelyn Shertzer.*

People usually consider walking on water or in thin air a miracle. But I think the real miracle is...to walk on earth. Every day we are engaged in a miracle which we don't even recognize: a blue sky, white clouds, green leaves, the black, curious eyes of a child—our own two eyes. All is a miracle.

*~ Thich Nhat Hanh*

## Shivericks Pond Day

Falmouth's first graders learn about the environment around them and the structures and behaviors that plants and animals have that allow for survival. Last May, students from across the district had an opportunity to engage with the natural world through a special field trip hosted by Mullen-Hall School and teacher Cristin Petisca. All 207 first graders visited the dynamic Shivericks Pond environment, and explored the hidden world of pond water, interacting with T3C volunteers — Staci Jasin, Dina Pandya, Cathy Kligler and Susie Goodman Hallstein—at a fun, interactive pond ecology station with microscopes. At the School's vernal pool, they learned about pond life from seventh grade students and science teacher Kristina Woods. They practiced mindfulness during a nature walk with volunteers from Calmer Choice. Students also read the



*The pond ecology station, with multiple microscopes to accommodate groups of students, is ready for action.*

story *Pond Circle* by Betsy Franco and each student took home a copy of the book *Over and Under the Pond* by Kate Messner.

T3C director Jessica Whritenour joined the activities as a parent and chaperone. "I really enjoyed seeing T3C's

volunteers connect with the students," she said. "They did a wonderful job talking about wildlife on the pond and leading the first graders through a hands-on investigation of pond water, using the microscopes. Our Outreach team members helped provide a really meaningful nature experience for Shivericks Pond Day."



*T3C Outreach volunteer Staci Jasin talks to the youngsters about wildlife at Shivericks Pond.*



*A group of Falmouth first graders gets an up-close look at the components of pond water while another group looks on in anticipation during Shivericks Pond Day.*



## T3C Honored in Coonamessett River Partnership

In June, at a special gala in Boston, T3C was recognized by the Environmental Business Council of New England as one of 18 partners in the Coonamessett Greenway restoration project. All the partners received The EBC Nicholas Humber Award for Outstanding Collaboration, “In recognition of the Local, State, and Federal Collaboration to transform Abandoned Cranberry Bogs into a Thriving Ecosystem in Falmouth, Massachusetts.” T3C board member Greg Mills attended the celebration, and accompanied Falmouth Conservation Commission member Betsy Gladfelter, who served as project manager for this fabulous, multi-phased, environmental restoration project.

Other partners who shared in this exciting award include: The Town of Falmouth Conservation Commission; Inter-Fluve, Inc.; Tighe & Bond, Inc.; SumCo Eco-Contracting; STIMSON; Sciaba Construction; Coonamessett River Trust; MA Division of Ecological Restoration; MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife; MA Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program; MA Environmental Trust; NOAA Restoration Center; USDA- Natural Resources Conservation Service; US Fish and Wildlife Service; Falmouth Community Preservation Fund; Association to Preserve Cape Cod; Falmouth Rod & Gun Club, Inc.

If you haven't yet visited the restored Coonamessett River area and the Coonamessett Greenway Heritage Trail, we urge you take a walk there and experience this beautiful place.



*Collaboration was established at the first technical meeting more than a decade ago, as the groups involved—Town, volunteer organizations, government agencies and contractors—forged a common vision that was celebrated at each of the five ceremonies marking milestones in the Coonamessett project.*



*Betsy Gladfelter accepts the award backed by the many project partners, who filled the entire stage.*



Join with the Earth and each other, to bring new life to the land, to restore the waters, to refresh the air, to renew the forests, to care for the plants, to protect the creatures, to celebrate the seas, to rejoice in the sunlight, to sing the song of the stars, to recall our destiny, to renew our spirits, to reinvigorate our bodies, to recreate the human community, to promote justice and peace, to love our children and love one another, to join together as many and diverse expressions of one loving mystery, for the healing for the Earth and the renewal of all life.

*~ Martin Luther King, Jr.*



## The 300 Committee Annual Meeting Celebrates 37 Years



*T3C President Anne-Marie Runfola's warm and friendly demeanor set a lovely tone for our first in-person annual meeting since 2019.*

After virtual gatherings in 2020 and 2021, T3C was delighted to host its 2022 Annual Meeting in person on July 14. With more than 120 friends and members in attendance, we celebrated outdoors at the Navigator in East Falmouth. Board president Anne-Marie Runfola got the meeting underway, with a warm welcome and thank you to members, friends, volunteers, project partners and business sponsors for their commitment to the mission of preserving land in Falmouth. Treasurer Richard Dotson presented a summary of T3C's solid financials. Executive Director Jessica Whritenour shared land acquisition updates and introduced the idea of a permanent headquarters, which the board and staff have begun to explore and research. Staff members Lucy Helfrich and Alexandra Zollo presented highlights of their respective programs: outreach and education projects for the public, and stewardship initiatives undertaken on protected lands across town.

Dina Pandya was elected to the Board of Directors. A long-time volunteer with T3C's Outreach Committee, she has been involved in numerous outdoor programs and educational activities designed to encourage people to be outdoors and active in Falmouth's conservation lands. A professional web designer at WHOI, Dina also has led the design and development of T3C's website.

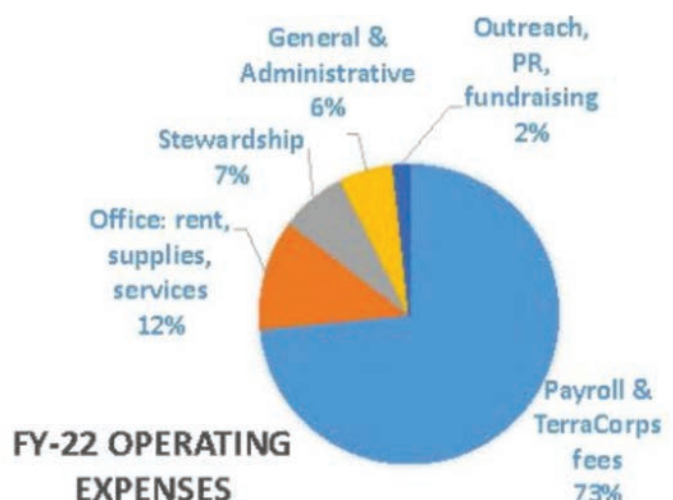
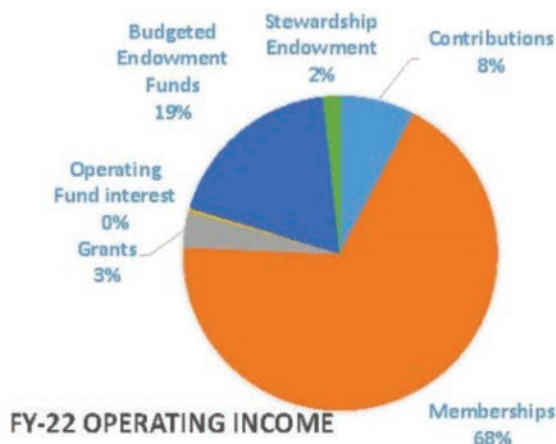
A tradition of T3C's annual meeting is to recognize outstanding contributions by volunteers. Valerie Butcher received the 2022 Invaluable Volunteer Award. For more than 20 years, Val has supported a vast array of both stewardship and outreach activities. T3C honored Captain Ed Jackson with The Mel Miller Stewardship Award for his "steadfast commitment to the stewardship of conservation lands in Falmouth." The Above & Beyond Award was presented to Tim Verslycke of Falmouth, a principal of the Boston-based environmental consulting firm Gradient, who, along with colleagues and mapping experts Naomi Sadowski and Matt Mayo, worked with T3C *pro bono* for more than a year to create a beautiful new map and guide to Falmouth Moraine Trail. Retiring board member Greg Souza was applauded for his 14 years of service to the land trust, and board member Tom Stone was presented with the Leadership Award, "For those without whose leadership, work and vision The 300 Committee would not be what it is," an award which has been bestowed only seven times in T3C's 37 years.



*Leonard Johnson presented fellow board member Tom Stone with the 2022 Leadership Award. Both Leonard and Tom have served as T3C's president.*

The meeting was simple and low-tech; attendees enjoyed cakes donated by Windfall Market and beautifully decorated by Karen Wilson. This annual meeting celebrated our success over 37 years, recognizing that T3C friends, members, and project partners in Falmouth and beyond are instrumental in helping make our important conservation work possible.

## FY 2022 Finances at a Glance





## Teaticket Park Hosts Local Fitness Event

T3C provided the Falmouth-based WellStrong organization an opportunity to use Teaticket Park for its first annual spring fundraiser, the Go Well, Go Strong Fun Run this past June. WellStrong is a fitness and wellness community for people in recovery from substance use disorder. The group promotes the idea that getting stronger physically and emotionally contributes to staying well. Participants in this event completed a half-mile run through Teaticket Park where they performed 15 challenges including things like jump rope, army crawl under netting, pushups, and other fitness challenges.

“We are grateful we were able to use the park to provide a day of fun, not only for the WellStrong community, but also for the town of Falmouth,” wrote Alicia Conlin, Studio Program Director for WellStrong, Inc. “Our goal with this annual fundraiser is to bring people together, whether they identify with being in recovery or not. Thank you again for all your help! We look forward to the growth of our Go Well, Go Strong Fun Run event.”



*Photos courtesy WellStrong, Inc.*



Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts. There is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrains of nature—the assurance that dawn comes after night, and spring after winter.

*~ Rachel Carson*



It had to do with how it felt to be in the wild. With what it was like to walk for miles with no reason other than to witness the accumulation of trees and meadows, mountains and deserts, streams and rocks, rivers and grasses, sunrises and sunsets. The experience was powerful and fundamental. It seemed to me that it has always felt like this to be a human in the wild, as long as the wild existed it would always feel this way.

*~ Cheryl Strayed*





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#### GIFTS IN MEMORY OF...

- ♥William Carney from Frances DiRusso
- ♥Mary Daigle from Claire Bisio & Donald Bohlken
- ♥Pat Dwyer from Leonard & Patty Johnson
- ♥Lillian Etkind from Alexander Etkind
- ♥Mignon M. Holz from George Holz
- ♥Tom Manchester from Jonathan Loveland
- ♥Frank Mello from Sharon Jaquith
- ♥Philip S Robertson from Francis McLean
- ♥Betsy Stegeman from John Stegeman
- ♥Virginia Valiela from John & Olivann Hobbie
- ♥Roland L. Wigley from Susan Wigley & Jay Burnett

#### GIFTS IN HONOR OF...

- ♥Kathy Abbott's Birthday from Alexander Abbott
- ♥Kevin Chu from Leeland Cole-Chu & Emily Williams
- ♥Molly Cornell from Anne-Marie Runfola & Ken Kostel
- ♥Howard Ellis from Mark Ellis
- ♥Marie Gallagher from Lisa Gallagher
- ♥Greg Souza from Jay Austin
- ♥Tom Stone from Michael & Emily Stone
- ♥Carl Wirsén's 80th Birthday from Alexandra & Bruce Lancaster



*Last spring, local artist Hillary Osborn was delighted to discover Breivogel Ponds Conservation Area. She set up her paints and easel here after joining a T3C walk with former property owner Carl Breivogal as a guest leader. "I was wondering if you could pass this picture along to Carl so he knows how inspiring it was for me discover this unknown property," she wrote. "The variety of the plantings, the topography and the history all go into the uniqueness of this space. It truly is a special place for Falmouth, and residents are lucky to have this open land, thanks to Carl and his interest and foresight in preserving it for generations to come."*