



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

President

Jo Ann Muramoto

Vice President

Gregory Mills

Treasurer

Richard Dotson

Clerk

Alexandra Lancaster

Directors

*David Bailey
Michael A. Duffany
Susanne Goodman Hallstein
Leonard W. Johnson
Marcia Macedo
Stephanie Madsen
Gregory Mills
Dina Pandya
Anne-Marie Runfola
Adam H. Thomas*

Executive Director

Jessica Whritenour

Director of Program Services

Lucy Helfrich

Director of Stewardship

Alexandra Zollo

Service Members

*Briana Lombard (TerraCorps)
Luke Hudson (AmeriCorps)*

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

Leaves

56 Acres in North Falmouth Under Agreement

Breaking News! After decades on T3C's Priority Parcels list, the 56-acre Healer property in North Falmouth is slated for acquisition. In October, T3C secured an agreement with LTC, LLC (owned and managed by Falmouth residents Ruth and Steven Augusta) to purchase this land for open space conservation and community housing. The Augustas bought the property from the Healer family earlier this year, and have come to the table as willing sellers, interested in furthering open space and community housing goals for Falmouth.

There are few remaining potential acquisitions of 50+ acres in all of Falmouth, and permanently protected open space in North Falmouth is surprisingly scarce. This land, which fronts on Quaker Road and Benjamin Nyes Lane, is close to the Shining Sea Bikeway, abuts the North Falmouth Elementary School and is within walking distance to the hub of North Falmouth Village. The 56 acres have been appraised using the "highest and best use" approach for a 110-unit Chapter 40B development.



Aerial view of the 56-acre North Falmouth Woodlands parcel. The star to the southeast represents the North Falmouth Elementary School.

The parcel was screened and ranked using T3C's thorough and well-honed system for potential acquisitions, and received very high scores for natural resource values. An extensive and largely undisturbed pitch pine-oak upland forest, the property is home to multiple isolated wetlands and potential vernal pools. The entire 56 acres fall within several rare species habitats as designated by the MA Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program, and is listed in the State Wildlife Action Plan as providing excellent habitat for up to 46 species of greatest conservation need. The landscape includes both Prime Forest and Prime Farmland soils, and the property lies within the Rand Harbor, Fiddlers Cove and Wild Harbor watersheds, all of which suffer from nutrient impairment. Protecting 50 acres in this area from development will save important natural resources while also supporting water quality goals for these embayments.

While many details of the acquisition still need to be worked through, early plans are aimed at carving off approximately 7 acres, where an old farmhouse

56 Acres in North Falmouth Under Agreement continued

now is sited, for community housing, with the rest of the land to be permanently preserved as open space. The conservation land presents public access and passive recreation opportunities, and T3C hopes to create trails and signage, eventually connecting to the neighboring elementary school for nature education opportunities.

The Conservation Commission has voted to hold a perpetual conservation restriction (CR) on nearly 50 acres. The CR will extinguish all development rights and will secure the Town's interest in the property while ensuring both permanent protection of the land and public access in perpetuity.

With this acquisition, T3C is seizing an extraordinary opportunity to permanently preserve one of the largest remaining swaths of Falmouth's woodland for priority habitat, vernal pool protection, passive recreation and water resource protection while also securing land for community housing development near a local school. We are confident that multiple funding sources—town, state and private monies—can be secured to help make this special acquisition possible. More information will be forthcoming as plans progress.

Bike Lab Sets Up Shop at Teaticket Park

T3C and the Falmouth Bike Lab have entered into a license agreement that will give the Bike Lab a new center of operations at Teaticket Park's maintenance shed. An all-volunteer bike shop that began as a community outreach program of John Wesley United Methodist Church, the Bike Lab operated for ten years, and gave away more than 1,000 bikes, before losing their space in the church basement. The organization focuses on teaching people about the power of bicycles, with programs based on the community bike shop model found throughout the country and around the world, accepting donations of used bicycles and refurbishing them. These refurbished bikes are then distributed back into the community to people who can use them.

Paul Lefebvre, Bike Lab president, thinks the Teaticket Park building is an ideal place to set up shop. “We'd been looking for new space for more than a year, and felt we were running out of options,” he said. “But Teaticket Park is a great location, and we are getting the space organized and outfitted so we can get back to work refurbishing bikes.”

T3C is pleased as well, delighted that the building at the Park can be put to good use, now that the new Headquarters on Thomas Landers Road will serve as our home base and stewardship hub.



In a prior season, the Bike Lab had a terrific assortment of refurbished kids' bikes ready to donate to community youngsters.

Falmouth Bike Lab's goal is to make sure everyone in Falmouth and surrounding communities who wants a working bike can have one. The group also seeks to educate riders so that they can operate and maintain their bicycles safely and effectively. Days and times of operation will be posted on Facebook (search “Falmouth Bike Lab”). Look for information, too, on how to donate a bike along with details about “Open Shops,” times when community members can come in, use the lab's tools and get help with a bike.

If you are interested in becoming a Bike Lab volunteer, please contact falmouthbikelab@gmail.com. Their new mailing address is PO Box 2060, Teaticket, MA 02536 and phone, (774) 255-3123, for voice and text messages. No bicycle experience or knowledge is required to be part of the Bike Lab team, only a willingness to learn and a desire to help others.

New Seasons for Stewardship

As we move through fall and winter, T3C is lining up numerous projects for its stewardship program. Regular volunteer opportunities include our Thursday morning Coffee Cleanups and Trail Crew sessions on Sunday mornings. If you would like to be involved, please email Director of Stewardship Alexandra Zollo, azollo@300committee.org.



Coffee Cleanup volunteers relax and enjoy a cup o' joe after an invigorating session at the Upper Coonamessett River Restoration site. (R to L): Julia Lloyd, Tom Duncan, Ed Jackson, Will Poirier, Celia Gayer, Tor Clark and Briana Lombard.



Stewardship volunteers hard at work clearing invasives during a recent Coffee Cleanup.

Meet our 2023-2024 Service Members



Briana Lombard (TerraCorps) will be assisting The 300 Committee until July 2024 with community engagement capacity-building projects. Briana comes to us with a unique range of experiences, including a position in New Jersey in municipal Public Works where she served as Community Rating System Coordinator and Municipal Recycling Coordinator. Most recently, Briana worked for the Grand Strand Humane Society in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. She applied to The 300 Committee to be of service to our local conservation efforts. She views land-based solutions as an integral component of climate change mitigation and appreciates the public health benefits open space can provide. She aspires to continue public service work as an attorney for a nonprofit organization advocating for environmental justice and natural resource protection. When not at work, Briana can be found hiking,

reading, playing tennis, or exploring New England with her pup, Buffy.



T3C's service members for 2023-24, Briana and Luke.

Luke Hudson, (Barnstable County AmeriCorps Cape Cod) a recent graduate of St. Michael's College in Vermont, hails from upstate New York. Interested in ecology and conservation, he will serve this AmeriCorps year with T3C and FCTV, spending one day a week with us focusing on making conservation lands more accessible through signage and website updates. In his overlapping project with FCTV, which involves the production of short videos featuring different conservation areas, Luke will get to know Falmouth well. The goal of his placement is to engage and educate our community about local natural resources and garner appreciation for our land protection efforts.

Welcome Luke and Briana!

Annual Meeting Marks 38 Years of Successful Land Preservation

T3C held its annual meeting on July 12 at the Navigator in East Falmouth, with 150 friends and members in attendance. In her opening remarks, retiring board president Anne-Marie Runfola thanked everyone for their commitment to T3C's mission of preserving land in Falmouth.

An early agenda item was the election of two new officers. Dr. Jo Ann Muramoto* of Falmouth, Director of Science Programs for the Association to Preserve Cape Cod (APCC) was elected president. A valued and dedicated member of T3C's board since 2000, Jo Ann served both as vice president (for several years in the early 2000's, and then 2018 to 2023) and as chair of T3C's Land Acquisition Committee for more than 15 years. "While it is the opportunity of a lifetime, and a huge honor, to serve as T3C president," she remarked, "I realize I am following in the footsteps of many talented leaders, including our most recent, Anne-Marie Runfola (president, 2018-23). Thanks to Anne-Marie for her tremendous direction...I know I have some very big shoes to fill."



Outreach volunteer Marcy Klattenberg, T3C's Invaluable Volunteer for 2023.



Helen Mangelsdorf received the Mel Miller Stewardship Award.

Board member Greg Mills* was elected as Vice President for a two-year term, along with Richard Dotson returning as treasurer and Alexandra Lancaster as clerk. T3C looks forward to working with Jo Ann and Greg in these new leadership roles and we are grateful for Richard and Alex's continued commitment as T3C officers. (*see More about our New President and VP, Page 5)

The program progressed with Executive Director Jessica Whritenour's Year in Review, which focused on land protection successes. These included a Conservation Restriction in Hatchville, a gift of land in Sippewissett near Beebe Woods and T3C's purchase of the 3-acre Millstone Farm on Thomas Landers Road for a new, permanent headquarters. Staff members Alexandra Zollo and Lucy Helfrich presented highlights from their respective programs: outreach and education projects for the public and stewardship initiatives undertaken on protected lands across town.

Following tradition, the meeting recognized outstanding contributions by volunteers. Outreach Committee member Marcy Klattenberg was named the 2023 Invaluable Volunteer. A popular walk leader, Marcy was applauded for sharing her knowledge and infectious enthusiasm as part of many T3C engagement and educational activities. Volunteer Helen Mangelsdorf received the Mel Miller Stewardship Award for her "steadfast commitment to the stewardship of conservation lands in Falmouth," and for her many hands-on contributions to the management of protected parcels around town. The Special Places Award went to Lawrence School 8th graders Tilu Pandya and Evelyn Sherzer. These young people each donated more than a dozen hours as on-camera "hosts" for T3C's new educational video Guided Hikes series that showcases the four conservation areas closest to our local elementary schools.

Retiring president Anne-Marie Runfola was celebrated for her outstanding leadership, and board member Tom Stone was presented with a lovely gift as he stepped down after serving on the board since 2011, including stints as both Vice President (2013-15) and President (2015-18). We are grateful to have this annual opportunity to celebrate T3C's continuing advances in Falmouth land protection with friends, members and conservation partners.



Eighth graders Tilu Pandya and Evelyn Sherzer won T3C's Special Places Award.

More about T3C's New President and VP

Jo Ann Muramoto, Ph.D., is T3C's new president as of July. Jo Ann is one of our longest-serving board members. As Chair of the Land Acquisition Committee, she has steered virtually every significant T3C open space acquisition project



Jo Ann Muramoto, T3C President, elected in July

in recent years. In her professional life, Jo Ann works at the Association to Preserve Cape Cod (APCC) as Director of Science Programs and as regional coordinator for the Massachusetts Bays National Estuary Program where her work centers on water quality, monitoring programs, and restoration. Jo Ann has a Ph.D. in geological sciences from Cornell University and a B.S. in biology from Caltech. Her work experience also includes scientific research, environmental consulting, and working for the Town of Falmouth as conservation administrator. Jo Ann's familiarity with many of Falmouth's natural areas serves her well in evaluating and preserving open space. She and her husband, Bob Skilton, live in Falmouth where Bob is a T3C steward for a nearby conservation area. Jo Ann's hobbies include botanical illustration, painting, walking, and gardening. She and Bob have just adopted a lovely rescue pup and we expect they will spend a lot of time walking our local trails with their new family member.

bought a house in Falmouth, an ideal place to pursue some of his favorite outdoor activities—sailing, kayaking and cycling, and in 2015 moved here full-time from Wellesley, MA. Greg first became involved with T3C as a stewardship volunteer in Beebe Woods; he joined T3C's board in 2018, and has actively served on the Land Acquisition and Development Committees. He recently retired after a four-decade career in economic research and public policy that focused on improving the upward mobility of working families. “My areas of specific interest at T3C include meeting the challenges of climate change and environmental justice and seeking opportunities that enable Falmouth to both preserve open space and promote affordable housing. I am delighted to take on this new role with T3C.”

Greg Mills first connected with nature as a youth while backpacking and rock climbing in the Sierra Nevada. Since moving east, he has discovered the joys of snowshoeing in the White Mountains. In 2005, he and his wife, Carol,



Greg Mills, T3C's new Vice President

Exciting Fall Migrants

The autumn season on Cape Cod is a great time to see migrating birds. T3C volunteer and bird specialist Mike Tucker has spotted a few uncommon bird species during this fall's migration.



Dicksissel



Orange-crowned Warbler



Western Kingbird



Clay-colored Sparrow

Outreach in Action

Long Pond Water Filtration Walk. On October 6, T3C Outreach volunteers Val Butcher and Marcy Klattenberg led a walk from Goodwill Park to the Long Pond Water Filtration Plant.

At the Filtration Plant, participants received an in-depth and informative tour of the system that brings Falmouth our pristine drinking water. The tour was organized by Michael Reghitto, Acting Water Superintendent, and led by Brian Gardiner, one of the facility's operators.

The citizens of Falmouth are fortunate to have this state-of-the-art filtration plant and a top-notch staff devoted to bringing us clean drinking water. This T3C educational walk is sure to be a repeat; stay tuned for news of another tour in the Spring.



T3C walkers experience the dramatic “back flush” in Long Pond’s water filtration process. (Water enters the treatment facility through a large screened intake area. About once a week, the screen is “back flushed,” which clears it of debris, primarily leaves and sticks.)



Walkers inside the Water Treatment Facility, learning about the system that provides Falmouth with a drinking water supply that meets stringent state and federal regulations.

T3C Outreachers and other volunteers get ready for their river sampling session with Morse Pond fifth graders.



Coonamessett River Adventure with Middle Schoolers. Also in October, T3C Outreach members joined the Falmouth Public Schools at the Coonamessett River to explore the river habitat with students in the fifth grade at Morse Pond School.

The path to the river was alive with bees on the wildflowers. Turtles sunned themselves nearby while dozens of birds flitted about. The fifth graders waded into the river with nets and collected numerous critters including eels, crayfish, tadpoles, frogs, snails, and many beetles and bugs.

The students also sampled the river water and checked its chemistry for dissolved oxygen, nitrates, phosphates and pH. These chemical markers, along with the diversity of aquatic critters caught, indicated a healthy Coonamessett River as it flows through the Greenway.

This was a fun and educational outing for all involved.



Bees on Goldenrod along the Coonamessett Greenway.

T3C Thanks

We are grateful to these foundations for their recent support:

- **The Woods Hole Foundation**, for funding awarded last spring to create and install educational signage at the Florence Sylvia Woodland in North Falmouth.
- **The Friendship Fund**, for a grant in support of the T3C-TerraCorps partnership for 2023-24.

And we truly appreciate the efforts of our 13 runners who ran the 2023 Falmouth Road Race and raised nearly \$20,000 in contributions to support of T3C's land conservation mission. Thank you to: Arna Vatuk (who has now run 20 times for T3C!); members of the Jones Family—Hank, Caleb and Graham; Greta Gans, her son, Charlie, and his girlfriend, Dale; the Mangelsdorf-Rosengren Family pictured above: Richard, Sarah, Emil, Sandy and Karl; and Arlo Valiela, who ran the race in memory of his grandmother, Virginia.



Nature Inspires Art

T3C teamed up with the Falmouth Art Center this fall around the exhibit, “A Walk on the Wild Side: A Tour of Falmouth's Conservation Areas through Fiber Art and Photography.” The exhibit in the Landrau-Partan Gallery of the art center ran from the end of September through October 23 and featured the gorgeous fiber work of Sue Colozzi, Carol Ann Knox and Cathy Williamson and stunning photos by Walter Knox, David Williamson and Milt Williamson. These local artists, including two married couples, all feel a strong connection to nature and love spending time outdoors exploring Falmouth's protected lands. For more than a year, they worked to depict Falmouth's beautiful landscapes and animal and plant life they saw along local conservation trails. Protected lands represented in the exhibit included: Ashumet Holly Wildlife Sanctuary, Bourne Farm, Breivogel Ponds, Chapoquoit Marsh, Coonamessett Greenway, Crane Wildlife Management Area, Herring River Marsh, Ice House Pond, Little Island, Peterson Farm, Oyster Pond, Quaker Marsh, Salt Pond Reservation, Sea Farms Marsh, Shining Sea Bikeway, Great Sippewissett Marsh, Trunk River, Woodneck and more.



Fiber artists Sue Colozzi, Cathy Williamson and Carol Knox after hanging the show.



“Plymouth Gentian at Breivogel,” quilt by Carol Knox.

Wanting to be part of this exhibit, T3C collaborated with the art center for an evening event on October 19. Fifty+ attendees viewed the exhibit and then listened to a talk by Mark Robinson, Executive Director of The Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts: *Saving the Cape: A History and Future of Land Conservation on Cape Cod*.

“What a wonderful evening! Seeing these exquisite quilts and photographs, and hearing about the challenges and successes of protecting the Cape's special natural places has been incredibly moving,” exclaimed T3C board member and Outreach Committee co-chair Susie Goodman Hallstein. “This was one of the best events I've been to all year.”

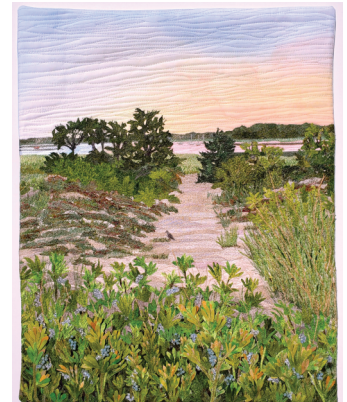
T3C is gratified that its land conservation work touches so many people. And we are amazed by the talent and creativity of artists who are inspired by the lands our community has worked so hard to preserve.



The artists organized the exhibit by location, providing short descriptions of the protected areas represented with corresponding numbers pinned to T3C's conservation map. This system enabled viewers to see the artworks in the context of their geographic location in town.



“Ashumet Autumn,” quilt by Cathy Williamson.



“Sunrise at Chapoquoit Marsh,” quilt by Sue Colozzi.



157 Locust Street
Falmouth, MA 02540-2658

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

GIFTS IN MEMORY OF...

- ♥ **George Botelho** from Naomi Botelho
- ♥ **Lois Day Butterfield** from Dorothy Ellis, Stephen Day Ellis
- ♥ **Arthur Calfee** from Claire DeMello, Susie Goodman Hallstein & Bill Hallstein, with love from Booje's Book Club
- ♥ **Edward H. Chute** from Hovey & Rose Clifford
- ♥ **Howard Ellis** from Mark Ellis
- ♥ **Robert and Ella Loftfield** from Lore Loftfield DeBower
- ♥ **Richard F. Lopes** from Pat & Ted Davis, Glenda Hoppe, Carolyn Martin, Carl & Shirley Paige, Chris Pine & Janet Azarovitz
- ♥ **Frank Mello** from Sharon Jaquith
- ♥ **Shirley Mossman Nisbet** from Ian Nisbet
- ♥ **David Parker, Jr.** from Joshua Berry, Rita Ottaviano, Andrew & Lee Parker, Lois Parker, Jodi Reid-Buckle, Marshall Ries
- ♥ **Louanne and George Plough** from Jeb & Francie Plough Seder
- ♥ **Philip and Betty Richer** from Paul & Annette Bakstran
- ♥ **Bruce Tripp** from Ken & Nancy Brink, Hovey & Rose Clifford, Sheila Clifford, John & Shirley Farrington, Samuel Friedman & Lauren Stein, Barbara Hampson, Deborah Hayden, Leonard & Patty Johnson, Bruce & Alex Lancaster, Vicky Lowell, Jo Ann Muramoto & Bob Skilton, David & Edith Ross, Fran & Sue Smith, Bob & Jessica Whritenour, Carl & Nancy Wirsén, Oliver & Marsha Zafiriou

- ♥ **Bruce and Elaine Tripp** from Nancy Cloos Babin
- ♥ **Roland Wigley** from Susan Wigley & Jay Burnett

GIFTS IN HONOR OF...

- ♥ **John Carleton-Foss** from Mary Swope
- ♥ **Mike Duffany, Vicky Lowell and Greg Souza** from Eileen & Dana Miskell
- ♥ **Ken Foreman** from Mardi & Frank Bowles
- ♥ **Francis Fox's 90th birthday** from Alison McMurry
- ♥ **Susie Goodman Hallstein and Vicky Lowell** from Sarah Flynn & David Prosten
- ♥ **Tom and Ginny Gregg** from John & Olivann Hobbie
- ♥ **Lucy Helfrich** from Tom & Ann Stone
- ♥ **Vicky Lowell** from Helen Wilson



This autumn's crop of sunflowers at Andrews Farm.

*Even a wounded world is feeding us.
Even a wounded world holds us,
giving us moments of wonder and joy.
I choose joy over despair.
Not because I have my head in the sand,
but because joy is what the earth gives me daily
and I must return the gift.*

~ Robin Wall Kimmerer