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

Leaves

New Book Celebrates Falmouth's Trails

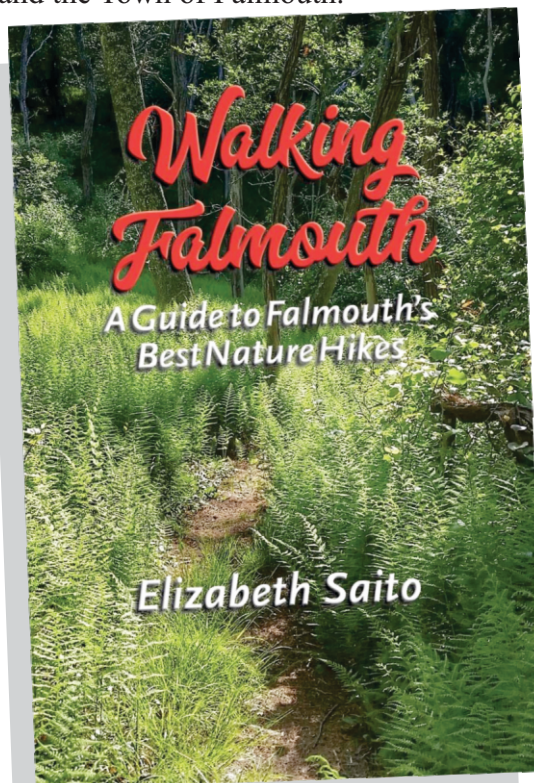
The 300 Committee Land Trust (T3C) is delighted to spread the word about Elizabeth Saito's new book, *Walking Falmouth: A Guide to Falmouth's Best Nature Hikes*.

Out this spring, the book is a guide to the trails and history of conservation lands in Falmouth and features 16 different walks in all parts of town. Each entry includes a map, route suggestion and information on parking, along with a narrative description detailing the parcel's natural and cultural history. Local favorites are featured, like loops in Beebe Woods, Long Pond and Bourne Farm, and others, maybe less known, like Collins Woodlot and the Quashnet River Greenway.



Author Elizabeth Saito is the Managing Editor of The Falmouth Enterprise.

The featured trails have been preserved by T3C and other land conservation organizations, including the Buzzards Bay Coalition, Oyster Pond Environmental Trust, Salt Pond Areas Bird Sanctuaries, and the Town of Falmouth.



Author Elizabeth Saito has dedicated the book to T3C's founders, and has generously pledged 50% of book sales to support T3C's land protection work across Falmouth.

We hope you'll want your own copy of this comprehensive guide to walking trails in Falmouth, available now at Eight Cousins Bookstore on Main Street in Falmouth and at Amazon.com. Perhaps it will inspire you to visit, explore and learn something new about our local conservation lands, and maybe even discover a new favorite.

Little Pond Area Gets Phase 2 Restoration Funding

T3C has steadily continued to support the Falmouth Conservation Commission (ConCom) in their efforts to bring the restoration project at Little Pond Conservation Area (LPCA) to fruition. In April, Town Meeting voted \$790,720 for Phase 2 work that will advance site restoration, habitat improvement and public access. T3C and the ConCom partnered in this funding request, following up on the successful Phase 1 CPC grant of \$121,000 approved at Fall 2020 Town Meeting.

In 2011, the town purchased the property off Spring Bars Road for community housing, recreation and conservation in a precedent-setting collaborative initiative for Falmouth. Eleven of the original 21 acres were designated for affordable housing; this piece was completed in fall 2020 by The Falmouth Housing Corporation, which has a long-term lease with the Town. Restoration of the remaining 9.6-acre conservation portion was in the planning phase for nearly 10 years.

CPC funding in 2020 covered invasive species removal and continued invasive treatment to prepare the site for restoration. The next phase will focus on adding native plantings and public access amenities — parking and trails — for passive recreation. As restoration progresses, re-established native plant communities will help improve water quality, as the restored area provides important buffer to Little Pond, which is a state-designated coastal pond of critical environmental concern and a priority estuary for the Massachusetts Estuary Project.

Subsequent phases will complete the master plan, expanding recreational and educational opportunities with the installation of interpretive signage, a kayak launch area on the shore of Little Pond and a boardwalk near the cedar swamp.



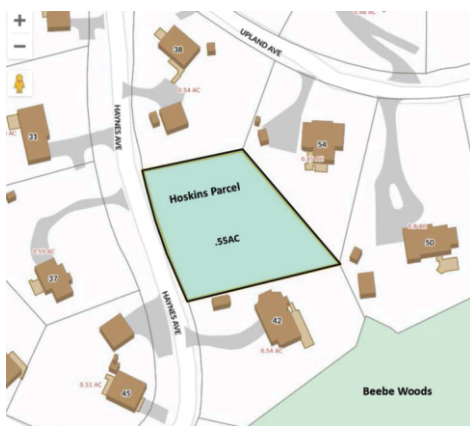
Little Pond Conservation Area

The Teaticket Civic Association (TCA) has a long history with the land and has actively supported plans for restoration. After the April 2023 Town Meeting vote, TCA co-president Cheryl Williams reflected, “The LPCA restoration project serves as a model of community cooperation. We have come so far, working together to accomplish a shared vision for this special land. With its water quality and conservation improvements, this project will encourage public use and enjoyment far into the future.”

New CPC funding will make a big difference as the Town moves forward with restoration. The community will soon have access to LPCA for walking, nature study and kayaking on Little Pond.

Local Property Owners Choose Conservation

At the end of December, T3C received a land donation from **Rosemary Hoskins**. This vacant, heavily wooded parcel (0.55 acres), on Haynes Avenue off Sippewissett Road, is very close to Beebe Woods. T3C owns a similar conservation parcel at the other end of Haynes Avenue, the Larson Woodland, which was purchased by T3C in 2007 with funding assistance from a group of neighbors.



The Hoskins parcel map shows its proximity to Beebe Woods.

Edward Brown-Leger, who lives in an historic home on Boxberry Hill Road in Hatchville, has donated a conservation restriction (CR) to T3C. Comprising 3.72 acres, this land's conservation values are high and include priority rare species habitat, wetlands, and linkage to existing open space. It is located within a Zone II wellhead protection area at the northern end of the Coonamessett River and the Great Pond watershed. After delays at the state level, T3C was pleased and relieved when this CR was recorded at the Barnstable County Registry of Deeds in early April.

We are enormously grateful to these landowners for their commitment to conservation.



Land protected by the Brown-Leger CR is very close to hundreds of acres of Town (purple) and State (green) protected land.

Stewardship Highlights

Over the past year, more than 600 hours of service have been logged by T3C volunteers and partners: AmeriCorps, local Scouts, students from Upper Cape Tech, Falmouth Academy and Lawrence Junior High, property monitors, land stewards, T3C Trail Crew, New England Mountain Biking Association and more. These volunteers have worked on everything from general clean-ups to sign-making, kiosk repair, marking property boundaries, and trail work.

Trail Crew. Each year at least one storm hits, downing trees across multiple parcels. Led by Charlie Peterson, T3C's Trail Crew is always ready for a challenge. Tree falls and overgrowth are no match for this devoted and hard-working group, and we are so grateful for their help. Some of the trails they worked on this year include: Roskovics Parcel, Beebe Woods, Shallow Pond Woodlands, Angel's Mirror, Collins Woodlot, Mares Pond & Spectacle Pond Reservation, Hayway Road, Mock Moraine, River Bend and others along the Coonamessett Greenway, Long Pond access trails, and Wald & Fender.



Stewardship volunteer and 2022 Mel Miller Stewardship Award recipient Ed Jackson at a recent workday.

Coffee Cleanups. Our Coffee Cleanups are open to any and all volunteers who want to join the effort. These Thursday morning stewardship sessions grew out of a need to tackle odd projects on conservation properties, with an additional goal to build community over a cup of coffee. We have been continually impressed with the willingness of these volunteers to tackle any project, and their work is a true manifestation of the saying, "Many hands make light work." Members of this group who warrant special recognition include Willy Burgess, Barry Good, Ed Jackson, Bob Laquidara and Helen Mangelsdorf. We thank everyone who has pitched in to



T3C volunteers have been part of a massive effort coordinated by Falmouth Conservation's Mark Kasprzyk (3rd from right) to clear invasives at the upper Coonamessett River restoration area.

help spruce up a variety of conservation lands in Falmouth: Teaticket Park, River Bend, Shallow Pond Woodlands, Breivogel Ponds, the Donald Whelden Preserve, Andrews Grove, Swift-Chute, Cardoza Farm and the Garland parcel.

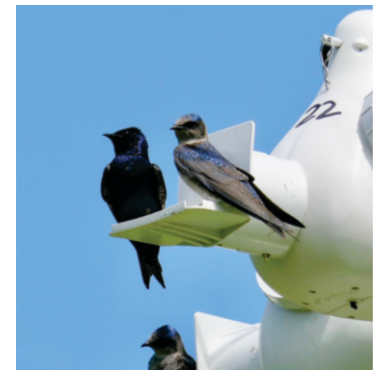
Monitoring. T3C monitors three types of property: (1) Fee Simple lands that T3C owns outright; (2) Conservation Restrictions — town or privately held properties that are protected from development in perpetuity; (3) town conservation lands where T3C provides stewardship support. (These town lands are typically those that T3C has helped the Town acquire for permanent protection, and many are named in a Stewardship Memorandum of Understanding between T3C and the Falmouth Conservation Commission.) T3C has more than 50 property monitors who help us fulfill our annual obligations on more than 100 properties. Many volunteer monitors take on more than one property, and we simply could not meet our monitoring requirements without their commitment. We are especially grateful to Dick Payne, Pam Polloni, and Tom Stone. With the end of another monitoring season in sight, we offer congratulations and a huge thanks to all of our dedicated monitors!

Nest Boxes Show Promise

T3C has partnered with several groups over the past ten years to build and install bird boxes to bolster the availability of nesting habitat for a variety of local bird species. AmeriCorps Cape Cod, Girl Scouts and Scouts seeking their Eagle ranking have worked on this effort, which has resulted in successful nesting for tree swallows, bluebirds, and kestrels. This spring, we are particularly delighted to report that our purple martin colony is home to 20 mating pairs.



American kestrel (Mike Tucker)



Purple martins at Falmouth Country Club (Barry Good)

New Developments in Beebe Woods

T3C's Stewardship team has coordinated the installation of **more than 300 No Hunting signs** along the entire perimeter of Beebe Woods and Peterson Farm. This effort was endorsed by the Falmouth Conservation Commission in accordance with the deeds to both properties. Posting supports the land management plans for the Farm and the Woods, and will in turn promote the confidence of all visitors to these beautiful conservation lands.

To help hikers navigate the complex web of trails in Beebe Woods, T3C has developed, with Falmouth ConCom approval, **a new system that features numbered posts installed at trail intersections**. T3C's 2022-23 TerraCorps member, Will Poirier, is working with student teams from Falmouth Academy in a community outreach initiative to install these attractive, unobtrusive and hopefully vandal-proof wooden posts, numbered 1 through 40, throughout the Woods. The posts were built by 8th grade engineering students at the Lawrence School. Our new Beebe Woods map (at right) shows the locations of the numbered posts, and will soon be available on the trailhead kiosks and on T3C's website. Hikers who download the web version to their smartphones will have easy access to the map when they are out on the trails.

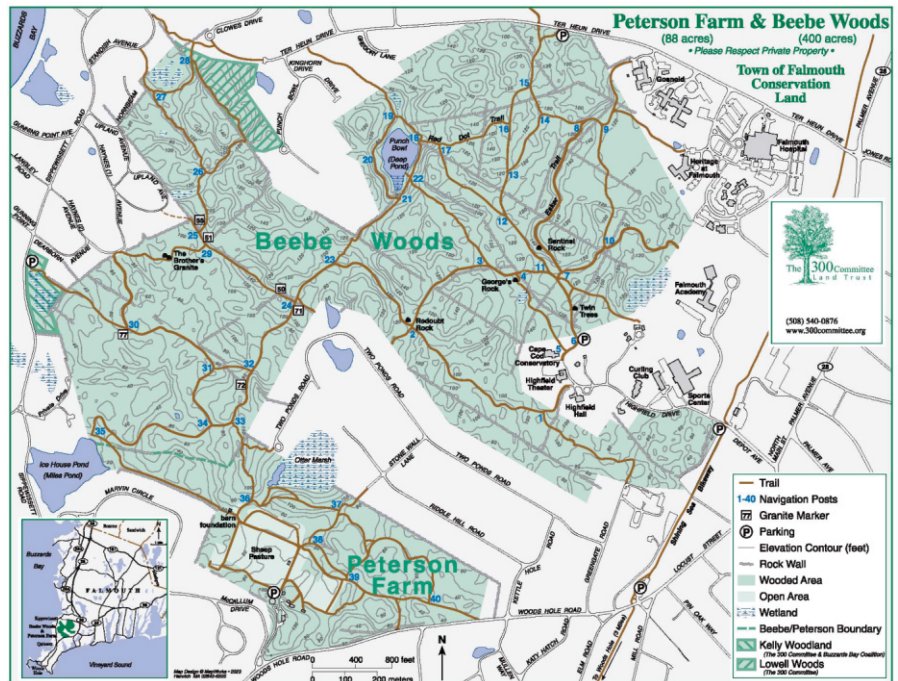
In the fall, Town Meeting approved \$20,000 to support initial steps to **address erosion at the Punch Bowl pond** in Beebe Woods. College students working with the Student Conservation Association, based in western Massachusetts, will spend 10 days in June installing mitigation infrastructure on the pond's eroding banks.



Erosion at the Punch Bowl in Beebe Woods. T3C founder and long-time board member Vicky Lowell wrote the petitioner's article that brought the erosion issue to the attention of the Conservation Commission. The town now has a plan to begin addressing the eroding hillside. (Will Poirier)



These No Hunting signs are now posted along the entire perimeter of Beebe Woods and Peterson Farm.



T3C's new Beebe Woods & Peterson Farm map shows the locations of the wooden posts, numbered 1 through 40.



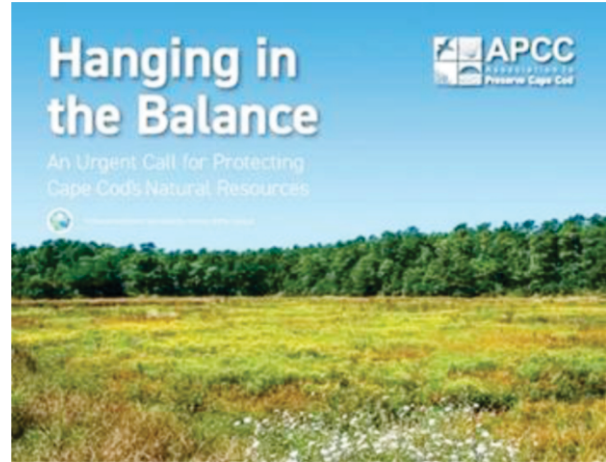
T3C-TerraCorps member Will Poirier (kneeling) and a group of Falmouth Academy students after a session installing numbered posts in Beebe Woods. Students (l to r): Nolan (2028); Philip (2027); Elyse (2027); Charlotte (2027); Chloe (2027); Lila (2028); Sylvie (2028). (courtesy The Enterprise)

Urgent Call for Increase in Natural Resources Protection

Hanging in the Balance: An Urgent Call for Protecting Cape Cod's Natural Resources is a report by the Association to Preserve Cape Cod (APCC) that provides a comprehensive analysis of key natural resources on Cape Cod. The report examines past and present impacts to natural resources, current threats, case studies, and recommended actions that promote protection, preservation and restoration of the region's most important resource areas.

The report illustrates that historic development patterns on Cape Cod have fragmented and diminished critical habitats, negatively affected drinking water supplies, and degraded the quality of both freshwater and marine ecosystems. The conclusion is that if Cape Cod continues to follow existing growth trends, the Cape's environmental problems will only get worse.

APCC contends that our marine waters, freshwater ponds and wetlands, groundwater, iconic natural landscapes and critical habitats are under assault by land use practices that have failed in the past and that continue to fail today. **With only an estimated 14 percent** of the Cape's land remaining as undeveloped and unprotected, the report urges us to understand that the actions we take now to protect what we have left will decide what kind of Cape Cod our future generations will inherit. Eighty percent of the undeveloped land overlaps with priority natural resource areas as mapped by APCC and Housing Assistance Corporation (HAC) through the *Grow Smart Cape Cod* project (growsmartcapecod.org)



APCC's report

To read and download the full report, visit [APCC-Natural-Resources-Assessment-2023_B.pdf](#)

To view the story map, visit [Hanging in the Balance \(arcgis.com\)](http://HangingintheBalance(arcgis.com)) For more information, please contact APCC's assistant director, Don Keeran, at dkeeran@apcc.org

Technical assistance in preparing the report was provided by Horsley Witten Group. The report is an accompaniment to Grow Smart Cape Cod, a project by APCC and the Housing Assistance Corporation (HAC) that identifies areas where natural resource protection are a priority and areas most suitable for housing production. Funding was provided by Barnstable County and its Economic Development Council License Plate Grant Program through the Cape Cod Commission.

T3C's Pathway to Permanence

T3C is entering a new chapter in pursuit of our land preservation mission. With the purchase of the 3-acre Millstone Farm at 13 Thomas B. Landers Road in East Falmouth, we are creating a permanent headquarters for our land trust. This new foundation will deepen T3C's roots and broaden our reach as a conservation resource for Falmouth. It will also serve as the basis for a sustainable future, so that we can flourish as we continue our important work to permanently protect land throughout Falmouth.

*A small group of enthusiastic T3C supporters has issued a challenge of \$160,000 in matching funds. We hope you can help us meet this challenge and support T3C's Pathway to Permanence campaign. Your gift can be made at 300committee.org, or by cash, check or securities. (For information on transferring securities, please contact our executive director, Jessica Whritenour by email jwhritenour@300committee.org or phone: 508-540-0876.....thank you!



Outreach Walk Showcases Evolution of Breivogel Property

On a beautiful April morning at the Breivogel Ponds Conservation Area, two dozen hikers joined Outreach volunteers, T3C staff and former landowner Carl Breivogel to walk the property, learn about its history and appreciate the Town's and T3C's restoration efforts on the land.

Once approved for a 32-home subdivision, Breivogel Ponds in Hatchville abuts several large tracts of open space: 95 acres of the town composting area to the south, the 52-acre town waste management facility across Blacksmith Shop Road and T3C's 70-acre Shallow Pond Woodlands to the east. Accompanying the now restored open portion of Breivogel are several different habitats with their own unique features: the southwest shore of Shallow Pond, an original vernal pool, two manmade ponds and thick woods of tall pines.

After the town purchased the 68-acre property in 2000, funds were set aside to restore the open expanse of the

sand and gravel mining pit. Left alone, natural regrowth would eventually occur, but Carl proposed a restoration plan and set aside funds for the town to use for restoration. In spring of 2016, the town conservation department partnered with T3C to at long last begin the restoration process.

Today, Breivogel Ponds is used extensively by walkers, birders, dog walkers and nature enthusiasts who enjoy the conservation area's varied habitats. If you haven't yet discovered this special place, we encourage you to visit.

To tour the property from home, view the video on T3C's Breivogel Ponds page on our website:

<https://300committee.org/conservation-lands-2/breivogel-ponds-conservation-area>

We are grateful to walker/volunteer Andrew Jablon for creating this lovely video.



Carl Breivogel, at left, was joined by some of the hikers for a photo, including T3C's executive director Jessica Whritenour (2nd from left), volunteer walk leaders Valerie Butcher and Marcy Klattenberg (with walking poles), T3C-TerraCorps member Will Poirier (kneeling) and director of stewardship Alexandra Zollo (far right). T3C's director of program services, Lucy Helfrich, took the picture.



Carl describes how, after years of sand and gravel mining, he planted many acres of the property with beach grass for commercial harvesting.



About a third of the Breivogel parcel is wooded. A path from the old gravel road on the north side of the ponds leads into the woods. The trail runs along the back side of the property and then branches off into the 70-acre Shallow Pond Woodlands. Hikers can loop through the woods and emerge back at the old open gravel mining area.



Carl Breivogel shares some of his original ideas for restoring the property.



Restoration work at Breivogel included the creation of five vernal pools in about a 2-acre area, followed by the establishment of sandplain grassland habitat on an additional 15 acres. The five vernal pools were dug to different depths to suit the variety of species introduced there, including Eastern spadefoot toads and spotted salamanders. Other species that the new habitats aimed to attract include frogs, box turtles, dragonflies and numerous bird species.



At the back of the Breivogel property, on the east side, are the ponds created by Carl Breivogel to provide water for the beach grass he grew for sale to nurseries and towns. Carl stocked the ponds with trout and invited youngsters to fish there, and planted a range of aquatic plants to line the shores. Beach grass still comes up in the sand. Earlier this year, in an effort coordinated by Falmouth Conservation's Mark Kasprzyk, clumps of beach grass harvested here were replanted at Woodneck Beach to bolster the dune system decimated by a winter storm.



Fencing, added in 2019, helps protect and invigorate the new native habitat while curbing rampant dirt bike use. (Andrew Jablon)

Summer & Fall Calendar Additions

T3C Annual Meeting: Wednesday, July 12. We hope you'll join T3C board members, staff and fellow members at The Navigator on Ashumet Road in Hatchville to celebrate conservation in Falmouth. Social segment begins at 6:30 PM; meeting will start at 7:15.

Falmouth Road Race: Sunday, August 20. Get a bib for the race and support T3C! Continuing our long tradition in the Numbers for Nonprofits program, T3C will have opportunities for runners to participate in the 7.1-mile scenic road race along the shore from Woods Hole to Falmouth Heights. Interested runners should reach out to T3C as soon as possible.

Looking ahead: **Thursday, October 18: T3C and Falmouth Art Center joint event**, featuring the exhibit, "A Walk on the Wild Side: Falmouth Conservation Areas" and a talk on the history of land conservation on the Cape by Mark Robinson, Executive Director of The Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts (The Compact).



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GIFTS IN MEMORY OF...

♥**Dick Backus** from Laurie Raymond
♥**Louise Bailey** from Dave & Ellen Bailey
♥**Stephen Chalmers** from Susanne Goodman Hallstein
♥**Ed Chute** from the WHOI Retirees Lunch Bunch
♥**Jim Craddock** from Laurie Raymond
♥**Peter Gallerani** from Shirley Gallerani
♥**Alan and Ginny Gibb** from Jan Hamilton-Sherwonit
♥**Hugh Gibbons** from Nancy Gibbons
♥**Irving Goldberg** from Lance Beizer, Donald Coen, KyungAh Chung-Benedetti, Leslie Devos, Caitlin Dolan, Christopher Duggan, Jayne & Dan Lilienfeld, Barbara Ryder-Levinson
♥**David Hayden** from Deborah Hayden
♥**Selma Hoff** from Jamie & Leila Rome
♥**Susumo "Sus" and Kazuko "Kay" Honjo** from Bill & Joanne Gilbrook
♥**Susan Joslin** from Anne Richards & Mike Fogarty
♥**Theodore S. King** from Annalisa Fox
♥**Lorraine Lawrence** from Julie McGrath
♥**Thomas P. Leonard** from Marge Dupee
♥**Caroline S. Lloyd** from Jim Lloyd
♥**Frank Mello** from Sharon Jaquith
♥**Arlene Black Mollo** from Peter Mollo
♥**Richard and Sara Morner** from Williston & Patricia Case
♥**Jackie Moore** from Jean Burnett
♥**Kenneth M. and Marion D. Smith** from Bill & Joanne Gilbrook
♥**Mignon J. Smith** from Janet Buckingham
♥**Jayne Starosta** from Peter & Cynthia Starosta
♥**John and Anita St. Clair** from Frank Lovell
♥**Mary Jane Thomas** from Keith & Mary Jo Bradley, Judith & Clifton Genge, Bill & Joanne Gilbrook, Susanne Goodman Hallstein, Michael Morris, John & Sueann Moody, David & Gail Puopolo, Anne-Marie Runfola & Ken Kostel, Sharon & Ted Sharp, Paul & Judy Tarr, the Committee for Scouts BSA Troop 38, North Falmouth

♥**Elaine Tripp** from David & Nancy Babin
♥**Virginia Valiela** from Judy Fenwick, Mary Kay Fox, Joanna Lowell
♥**Cleveland and Helen White** from Allison Brewster White
♥**Bert Wickersham** from Meredith Golden
♥**Roland L. Wigley** from Cynthia Domack
♥**Francis C. Wood, Jr.** from Larry & Shann Wood
♥**Roy and Patricia Yoerger** from Dana Yoerger
♥**Yvonne** from Werner & Barbara Deuser

GIFTS IN HONOR OF...

♥**Bruce Beal and Frank Cunningham** from Mary Goldman
♥**Amy Bower's Birthday** from Carolyn Fisichella
♥**Sally Chandler** from Carola Zavorskis
♥**Kevin Chu, Ph.D.** from Leeland Cole-Chu & Emily Williams
♥**Molly Cornell** from Hugh & Kate McLean
♥**Lore Lottfield deBower** from the Solstice Singers
♥**Nicole and Jonathan Goldman** from Mary Goldman
♥**Barry and Terri Good** from Delaney Haisell
♥**Susanne Goodman Hallstein** from Bill Hallstein, Eric Hallstein & Suzanne Lippert, Jerry & Lalise Melillo
♥**John and Olivann Hobbie** from Erik & Alison Hobbie
♥**Peter Kroll** from Marjorie Yost
♥**Vicky Lowell** from Ann Piccolo
♥**Mary Saudade and Donald Landing** from Tom & Deb Saudade
♥**Dr. James C. (Jay) Smith** from Jesse Smith
♥**Susan and Francis Smith** from Phil & Kathy Wessling
♥**Greg Souza** from The Dolotta Family Charitable Foundation
♥**Tom Stone** from Judy Fenwick, Michael & Emily Stone
♥**T3C's Staff** from Patricia Gadsby

Chestnut-sided Warbler (Mike Tucker)