

TEATICKET PARK STREETScape TAKING SHAPE

In mid-April, The 300 Committee signed contracts with two local companies—Lawrence-Lynch Corp. and Grafton L. Briggs Landscaping—to complete Phase I of Teaticket Park. Lawrence-Lynch will do the earth moving and will install the newly configured parking lot, handicapped-accessible park entry paths and benches, while Grafton Briggs will conduct the landscaping and irrigation work for the streetscape portion of the park. The 10.7-acre Teaticket Park is slated to open this summer.

“We are excited that progress along the streetscape will soon be evident to everyone,” said Jessica Whritenour, T3C administrator, “and we are thrilled to be working with Lawrence-Lynch and Grafton Briggs. This project is a true collaboration with the Falmouth community—residents, neighbors, the Teaticket Civic Association, the Town and local businesses.”



Work is underway to amend the soil for the upcoming streetscape plantings at Teaticket Park.

While many elements of the park project have been taking place behind the scenes, the streetscape’s dominant feature has been an enormous pile of topsoil at the front corner along the roadway. This soil is being screened, mixed and spread as the substrate for the new trees that will line the leading edge of the park.

Site clearing and grading have opened up the vista, showing the terrain sloping down to the wetland and then up again toward the back boundary. A boardwalk will span the wetland and protect its sensitive habitat; engineering design work is underway and we hope to submit funding proposals for the boardwalk before the start of summer.

The second and third phases of the park will complete the path network, the planting of meadow grasses and additional shade trees, and the boardwalk, observation platform, picnic grove and outdoor classroom area. Pathways will be wheelchair-accessible to enable all to enjoy the park’s natural resources in this very busy part of town.

Teaticket Park Still Needs Your Support! Help The 300 Committee raise the final \$135,000 to complete the park. To donate, please visit www.300committee.org.

OUTREACH REACHES OUT

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erous bids for the auction items at the Teaticket Civic Association’s pasta supper in support of Teaticket Park. For our Annual Meeting every summer, these volunteers secure all the food donations, and take care of the event setup and breakdown. Members of the Outreach Committee cheerfully orchestrate, coral, cook, and clean up; every effort large and small contributes to making T3C events worthwhile and successful.

A fabulous new event taking place as this newsletter is going to press is the first annual Pedal to Parcels, a bicy-

cle tour along the Shining Sea Bikeway that highlights the many conservation parcels that help make the bike path a scenic gem. With Outreach at the helm, we have full confidence that our fall report will be glowing. Future Outreach events in the works include a kayaking expedition in late June (details coming soon!) and more walks on trails all over town.

Thanks again to our wonderful Outreach Committee for everything they do. One last favor...do you think we could possibly put you in charge of the weather?!

BUSINESS PARTNER PROGRAM TAKES OFF

By making financial contributions to the Campaign for Teaticket Park, a number of local businesses have joined The 300 Committee’s Teaticket Park Business Partner program. Three different giving levels—Friends: \$500, Partners: \$1,500 and Leadership Partners: \$5,000 are recognized. Friends are listed on T3C’s website; Partners receive website recognition, a listing on the Teaticket Park’s permanent kiosk and a handsome plaque to hang in their place of business; and Leadership Partners receive the recognition of the other categories plus a public relations event. To date, these Falmouth businesses have committed to the project:

Leadership Partners (\$5,000)
Bank of Cape Cod
Grafton L. Briggs Landscaping, Inc.

Partners (\$1,500)
Andy’s Barber Shop
Deer Run Veterinary Services
Driftwood Plaza, LLC
Lawrence-Lynch Corp.
Mahoney’s Garden Center
Mayflower Homemakers
M. Duffany Builders
Mutual Bank
Sullivan Tire

Friends (\$500)
Johnny’s Tune & Lube
McDonald’s (McBee Enterprises, Inc.)
Paul Peters Agency, Inc.

For more information on how your business can join our Teaticket Park Business Partner program, please contact us by phone at (508) 540-0876 or by email: saveland@300committee.org.



Outreach co-chair Susie Goodman Hallstein leads Teaticket Elementary students in a habitat exploration at the wooded border between the school and Teaticket Park.

To receive news of these activities and more, please make sure to join our email list!



157 Locust Street
Falmouth, MA 02540-2658



Rose Breasted Grosbeak by Isabella, age 6

GIFTS IN MEMORY OF...

- ♥ Ernest & Ruth Augat from Gretchen Reilly
- ♥ Dick Backus from James & Susan Condon, William & Joanne Gilbrook, Bill Hallstein and Susie Goodman Hallstein, Frank & Erica Messman, Sidney & Anne Wanzer
- ♥ Evelyn Bestic from Janet & Noah Totten
- ♥ Earl & Lilly Biscoe from Eloise Biscoe
- ♥ Carol Bissonnette from Kathryn Paine
- ♥ Jayne Bissonnette from Cynthia Rankin (for the River Bend Silo Fund)
- ♥ Leo J. Dunn from Helen Dunn
- ♥ Liana Jacquelyn Fitzgerald from Patricia Fitzgerald
- ♥ Ellen M. Haggerty from Walter Haggerty
- ♥ Jamie Hailer from Donald & Sheila Hailer
- ♥ Kate Heery from Joseph Tulchin
- ♥ Joseph D. Hughes of Silver Beach on the 100th anniversary of his birth from Paul & Elizabeth Hughes
- ♥ Paul Brooks Kelly, Jr. from Ann Sears (for the River Bend Silo Fund)
- ♥ Les Martin from Kevin & Jeanne Dunn
- ♥ Peter McGuire from Carol Baker (“Every tree, every flower is a reminder of how Peter loved his gardens.”)
- ♥ Helen Owens from Edward & Frances Shibata
- ♥ Judy Podradchik from Elaine Podradchik
- ♥ Mike Syslo (of Chilmark, MA) from Dave Whittaker
- ♥ John & Anita St. Clair from Francis Lovell

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

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Vice President
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Alexander Etkind

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The 300 Committee is a private, non-profit land trust dedicated to preserving natural places in Falmouth for everyone to enjoy now and in the years to come.

Since 1985, The 300 Committee has taken a lead role to acquire treasured open space for conservation, recreation and water protection. In the last 26 years, more than 2,300 acres have been permanently protected through our efforts.

Leaves

OUTREACH REACHES OUT

The 300 Committee’s Outreach Committee deserves enormous recognition and thanks for their energy, creativity, organization, collaboration and sense of fun as they have worked diligently through the fall, winter and spring months to broaden awareness of our land trust and to extend its influence throughout the community.

Team Outreach is led by dynamic co-Chairs Anne-Marie Runfola and Susie Goodman Hallstein, and its members are Valerie Butcher, Molly Cornell, Barbara Fanger, Emily Kellndorfer, Alex Lancaster, Alison Leschen, Vicky Lowell, Stephanie Madsen, Kathy Mortenson, Kathie Mount, Hannah Nadel and Dina Pandya. Members bring a broad range of interests, backgrounds and areas of expertise to the group, and the scope of events they have planned and organized is impressive!

Walks on conservation lands from Waquoit to Woods Hole are always at the forefront of Outreach Committee activities. Parcels explored recently include the Margaret Douth Preserve, Beebe Woods, and an abandoned cranberry bog where participants actually picked berries. Annual traditions continued with the Winter Waterfowl Safari, which covered a number of local ponds, and the springtime trek to watch the mating dance of the woodcocks at Crane Wildlife Management Area.

The group planned the annual Speaker Series, and formed partnerships along the way. The first four talks—on wild turkeys, local osprey, the bird-dinosaur connection and Cape Cod seaweeds—were held in conjunction with Salt Pond Areas Bird Sanctuaries, Inc. Talks 1 and

2 took place at Falmouth Historical Society’s new Hallett Barn, a bright, fresh venue for community events; the second two were held at the magnificent Highfield Hall. The final talk in the series, a beautifully filmed documentary on bird migration, was a collaboration with the MBL’s Falmouth Forum, held at the Lillie Auditorium in Woods Hole. The presentations were all well attended; audience members were eager, inquisitive and appreciative!

A subset of the committee served as coaches for Teaticket Elementary School students exploring the habitat at the boundary between the school and the emerging Teaticket Park, and another group helped judge the “This Land is Your Land” poster contest. Still others provided refreshments, including home-baked treats, to the “This Land” reception at Falmouth High School.

Last fall, their creative touches and helping hands were key in securing gen-

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Members of T3C’s “Team Outreach” help out at the Speaker Series finale at the MBL’s Lillie Auditorium (l to r): Vicky Lowell, Stephanie Madsen, Molly Cornell, co-chair Anne-Marie Runfola, Alex Lancaster, Kathie Mount, Barbara Fanger and T3C president, Emily Kellndorfer.

LEARNING ABOUT AND CELEBRATING OPEN SPACE

“This Land is Your Land” is a project that was funded completely by the Falmouth Educational Foundation. This was the second year of the project, and its goal was to provide young people with opportunities to experience, appreciate and reflect on open space in Falmouth.

This year’s project began in September, when Falmouth High School art students visited numerous conservation



FHS senior Sam LaVoie practices plein air painting at the edge of Beebe Woods.

lands with The 300 Committee. They created drawings and paintings on site while students in the graphics program made promotional posters for The 300 Committee, and oral history students interviewed Falmouth natives about their experiences in a changing Falmouth. These three elements came together in a wonderful event at the high school in March.

The new part of the project, added this year, was a collaboration between Teaticket Elementary School and the National Art Honor Society (NAHS) at the high school. The 300 Committee’s purchase of Joe’s Driving Range created a new opportunity for Teaticket schoolchildren to have access to open space. In October, volunteers from The 300 Committee and Teaticket staff members took the kids on nature walks to the edge of the woods between the school and the park property to see and think about habitat and land protection. The NAHS students followed those field trips with a visit to the school to oversee the creation of habitat-based artworks.

The NAHS students photographed and printed all of the elementary works, or “creature images,” which they then used to create a giant mural panel for the



The habitat mural that will hang in the Teaticket Elementary school nears completion.



FHS art students enjoy a break during their fall field trip to Coonamessett Pond.



FHS sophomore Jessie Edgar guides 2nd graders as they create their habitat artworks.

Teaticket School. Also using this habitat artwork, the HS students built kites for each K-4 class. On May 2, the mural and kites were presented to Teaticket School, where the project culminated in a celebratory kite festival.

The 300 Committee applauds Jane Fay Baker, teacher at FHS and art coordinator for the Falmouth Schools, for managing the many facets of this program, especially for the creative vision that drew them all together. Thanks go to the following FHS students: Jamison Orr, president of the Art Honor Society; Drew Kutcher, who took the majority of the photos of the elementary habitat walks as well as the art visit in October; Hadlee Coker and Kenna Melkonian, who designed the habitat mural; the dozens of NAHS members who worked in shifts painting the panel; and Sam LaVoie, who designed all the kites for each classroom. The Falmouth Chapter of the NAHS currently has 68 members; faculty advisors are Jane Baker and Corine Adams. We are grateful, too, to the Falmouth Education Foundation for making the grant possible that has supported this cross-age, multi-disciplinary project celebrating open space in Falmouth.

IMPORTANT NOTES

THE 300 COMMITTEE THANKS...

... **The Edward Bangs Kelley and Elza Kelley Foundation** for a grant to support the installation of handicapped-accessible park entry paths at Teaticket Park.

... **The Falmouth Fund of the Cape Cod Foundation** for funding that supports our growing stewardship program: new equipment, including a hand-held GPS unit and a chainsaw, and new conservation land signs for several of T3C’s most visible parcels.

...**the estate of Worthington Campbell, Jr.** for a bequest that boosts our mission to protect open space in Falmouth.

... **Crane Appliance and Sound & Vision, Teaticket Market and Chef Roland’s Catering** for sponsoring a festive business event in support of Teaticket Park. The beautiful showroom venue, great beverages and scrumptious hors d’oeuvres were heartily appreciated.

DATES—MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

T3C Annual Meeting: Thursday, July 11, at the Navigator Clubhouse, Ashumet Road, Hatchville 6:30 pm: Snacks and desserts on the patio; 7:15 pm: Meeting & Awards.

Falmouth Road Race, Sunday, August 11. The 300 Committee has 10 numbers reserved in the Numbers for Nonprofits Program, for runners who wish to raise funds in support of our land trust. For more information, please visit www.300committee.org.

Friday, October 4: 28th Annual Crane Charity Classic at Falmouth Country Club to benefit Teaticket Park. Crane’s first-ever Glow Ball (night golf) event...fabulous food, great prizes, lots of fun!

WHY I JOINED THE 300 COMMITTEE

Alison Leschen



I admit it—I’m becoming a carbon-geek. I used to walk through the woods and listen to the birds and relish the green and the quiet. I still do, but now I also think of all the carbon the trees are “breathing in” through photosynthesis and storing in their leaves, stems and roots, helping temper the changes in climate that are becoming increasingly obvious to all of us. Human-caused greenhouse gases are warming our planet, causing a cascade of effects that locally are being manifested by more frequent intense storms and coastal erosion.

To get a better sense of our role in this drama, we just did a greenhouse gas (GHG) analysis of the Waquoit Bay Reserve, where I work. We looked not only at what we produce through our fossil fuel emissions (driving, heating and electricity), but at the amount of carbon we store in the 1,300 acres of forest and marshes we own. We then did that analysis across the state; it turns out that in Massachusetts we produce 7.5 times more GHGs each year than our forests can take up. These results show that: a) we need to get really serious about reducing our fossil fuel emissions, and b) preserving remaining forests is critical to helping offset our emissions, or that ratio of emissions to storage will get even worse.

Over fifty percent of Massachusetts forests are considered at high risk for development. Conserving land in its natural state is therefore one of the most important things that can be done to combat global warming, not just in Amazon rain forests (though that is also crucial), but right here in Falmouth. The 300 Committee’s role in doing just that is critical. So next time you’re out enjoying the beauty of one of the special places that exist thanks to this wonderful organization, think of the hidden and silent service the trees are providing.

Alison S. Leschen is the Reserve Manager at the Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, administered by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation. The Reserve is located at 149 Waquoit Highway, in Waquoit, Falmouth’s easternmost village, and its headquarters are perched on the bluff overlooking Waquoit Bay. www.waquoitbayreserve.org. Waquoit Bay Reserve is one of 28 NOAA Research Reserves around the nation. www.nerrs.noaa.gov

SILO WILL STAY

The future of the silo at River Bend Conservation Area is now certain. In April, Town Meeting approved a Community Preservation grant of \$86,251 to restore the structure as an historical monument, representing the agricultural history of the River Bend parcel and this part of the Coonamessett River Corridor. Jeremy Ballard, of Heritage Restoration, Inc., will conduct the preservation work on the silo. Additional contributions to this project from members of the community total \$27,358, which includes \$15,000 for the silo’s long-term maintenance.



The silo at River Bend Conservation Area will be restored thanks to a major grant from the Community Preservation Committee.

STEWARDSHIP GOING STRONG

Last fall, we reported on the arrival of T3C’s new Stewardship Coordinator, Alex Etkind, and some of his early projects. Since then, Alex has coordinated numerous land management projects with the help of approximately 50 volunteers. Highlights are described below:

WORK DAYS

• In November, T3C volunteers and members of the Botanical Club of Cape Cod & the Islands conducted a plant survey at the Breivogel Ponds Conservation Area. Collecting GPS data, the group recorded the extent of invasive phragmites, delineated the wetland edge and marked the locations of rare plant species.

• 10 volunteers attended a Work Day at the Coonamessett Reservation, focusing on the field and parking area on Ranch Road. Activities included removing invasive vines from the fence, the field edge and nearby trees, clearing debris and cleaning up trash.

• The Breivogel Ponds Work Day brought 20 volunteers in spite of 20° temperatures! On this January day, efforts removed invasive black locust trees to promote the growth of native species in sandplain grasslands and pitch pine-scrub oak communities.

• At the Little Pond Conservation Area Cleanup in February, nine volunteers removed trash and the remains of several illegal campsites. Special attention was given to the Atlantic white cedar swamp, a unique feature of the property. Thanks to the DPW highway division for hauling away the piles!



Volunteers Will Clarke and Elise Leduc show off their finds at the Little Pond Cleanup.

• On April 5 and 29, T3C volunteers collaborated with seven AmeriCorps members at Cardoza Farm, off West Falmouth Highway, to remove invasive species, restore the field, clean up trash and conduct strategic brush burning to promote the growth of native grasses.

TRAIL CREW

Members of the trail crew worked for eight sessions, and 67 total volunteer hours, from January to April. The first get-together tackled the trails at the Roskovics parcel in North Falmouth, while the next seven sessions cleared overgrowth, fallen trees and other debris along the Northern Moraine Trail. We are grateful to Trail Crew members Jim Chandler, Bob Bordeleau, Bob Smith, John Gould, Jacek Sulanowski, Skip McCormack, Will Clarke, Charlie Stacey and Jay Smith for all their time and hard work.



Above, 17 of the 20 brave souls who volunteered at the Breivogel Ponds Work Day in January are flanked by the fruits of their labors—two enormous piles of cut black locusts.

At left, volunteers Pam Polloni and Alison Robb document rare plants at Breivogel Ponds.

Thanks go to ALL the stewardship volunteers who helped out this winter and early spring!

OTHER STEWARDSHIP ACTIVITIES

The storms of the last several months downed many trees, some of which block trails in conservation parcels throughout Falmouth. Storm cleanup continues! Feel free to notify us if fallen trees compromise your favorite trails.

The annual monitoring of 300 Committee properties, Town lands and private lands under conservation restriction has been underway since January and is nearing completion.

T3C has helped coordinate two Eagle Scout projects: The first was completed in November at River Bend Conservation Area by FHS senior Thomas Moakley and 38 volunteers who worked on field restoration and removed fencing and invasive species. The second was led by Lucas Brown, a junior at Sturgis Charter School, at the Allen and Hayway Road parcels. A new trail at each parcel increases the potential for hiking, passive recreation and nature study and minimizes the impact on the nearby wetlands.



Four members of the Trail Crew tackle overgrowth along the Northern Moraine Trail.

On a gorgeous April Sunday, 25 hikers joined Alex and Trail Crew member John Gould for a 9-mile, 5-hour, end-to-end trek along the Moraine Trail.