

## June

June is the time of blooms and babies in the natural world. In Falmouth June weather can be quite variable—we can have warm winds from inland or the cool water around us can bring fog and chilly sea breezes. If it is windy, a walk along the Quashnet/Moonakis River\* or in Beebe Woods\* is sheltered from the wind, but these places are also cool and shady if it's hot. Wherever you go, here are some thoughts on what to look for in June:



**Cranberries** bloom. You can see these delicate pink or white flowers on short stems above the vines in cultivated bogs as well as in abandoned bogs and in their native habitat around coastal plain ponds.

**Black Locust** trees bloom, producing large racemes of white pea-shaped flowers. These trees, native to the south, were planted on Cape Cod where they did well and enriched the soil due to the nitrogen-fixing bacteria that populate their roots.

**Ducks, Geese, and Swans** can be seen leading their newly-hatched young around ponds and protected estuaries looking for food. The young of these birds can walk and swim soon after hatching.

Male **crickets** begin to “sing” at night by rubbing tooth-like projections on one wing against the projections on the other. The loud chirp attracts females and discourages other males.

**Swamp Azalea** blooms, mostly around wetlands, filling the air with its fragrance.

**Fireflies** flash from low vegetation in the dusk to attract mates.

Diving **Terns** fish in salt water for small fry to feed their hungry and growing hatchlings. Most of the terns to be seen in Falmouth nest on Bird Island on the west side of Buzzards Bay.

The **longest day** of the year is about the 21<sup>st</sup> of June, with almost 15½ hours of sunlight.

**Salt marshes** green up.



*Piping Plover chick. Photo by Craig Gibson  
Calendar by Beth Schwarzman*

This is the beginning of **fog season**. Humid air warmed by the Gulf Stream condenses as it blows over the cool waters of the Cape. That humidity also dims the bright, dry, blue sky of winter, creating our typical pale-blue summer skies.

This is the peak of **songbird nesting**. Almost all songbirds in Falmouth are sitting on eggs or raising young now.

\*Trail maps at [www.300committee.org](http://www.300committee.org)

### Preserving Open Space for Falmouth

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