

T3C HELPS RESTORE FALMOUTH PONDS

This fall, a huge step was taken toward eradicating Phragmites, a highly aggressive weed invading Flume Pond and Gunning Point Pond. The Falmouth Conservation Commission approved an application submitted by the Buzzards Bay Coalition in collaboration with The 300 Committee, Salt Pond Areas Bird Sanctuaries and permission from property owners around the ponds to allow management of 4.5 acres of this non-native plant, also known as Common Reed (Phragmites australis). This invasive plant has been taking over the native marsh and dune habitats that fringe the ponds.

To stop the spread of Phragmites, the organizations hired Polatin Ecological Services, an experienced contractor who specializes in invasive species management. A three-year targeted approach using a combination of herbicide and mowing, followed by annual monitoring of the treatment area, is necessary for successful eradication. The majority of the work was conducted in early September, with the initial application of herbicide. Mowing during the second half of October completed the first-year treatment,

and will be followed by two smaller treatments in the second and third years. These activities are anticipated to eliminate 99% of the Phragmites.

The work is being conducted along the perimeters of the ponds, and the herbicide, Rodeo® (EPA Reg. No. 62719-324) is being used for all applications. Rodeo® is a wetland-approved herbicide that is considered the standard for successful Phragmites control and protection of wetland resource areas. In densely infested areas, the herbicide is sprayed onto the plant's foliage, so it can be absorbed into the roots. Where Phragmites densities are low and overspray to native plants is a



Phragmites growing along the edge of Flume Pond. Control of this invasive weed will improve the habitat for native plants.

STEWARDSHIP, SPRING TO FALL

Over the last several months, a large focus of T3C's stewardship activities has been Teaticket Park. The summer and early fall were dominated by efforts to keep the new grass and trees watered, and with the help of more than 30 individuals, 67 of 68 trees survived the hot, dry summer and nearly two acres of grass are now established. With several volunteers working on a daily basis, our new community park received more than 700 volunteer hours!

But Teaticket Park wasn't the only project in the works. Here are some highlights of additional land management efforts, organized by T3C Stewardship Coordinator Alex Etkind.

In May, as part of their senior project, Falmouth High School students Sam

Lavoie and Stefan Pina recruited some friends and spent 18 hours working to remove invasive species at Peterson Farm.

T3C held its first-ever Woods Forum on May 14, collaborating with Dave Kittredge and Paul Catanzaro from the UMass/Amherst Keystone Program, and supported admirably by T3C volunteers Pam Polloni and Kathy Mortenson. The full day's program included site visits with local forester Phil Benjamin to privately owned and managed woodlands in Bourne and Plymouth and to Town of Falmouth conservation lands. In the evening, the Woods Hole Research Center hosted our group for an informal supper. A roundtable discussion on forest conservation was facilitated by WHRC scientists.

concern, the Rodeo® is directly applied by hand to individual stems.

The herbicide is only applied during very low wind conditions to avoid reaching non-target plants. Rodeo® is deadly to plants but is not considered harmful to animals and humans. The chemical breaks down very quickly after it is applied.

This three-year targeted approach followed by annual monitoring has been successful in many projects throughout the region without any negative effects, including at Little Sippewissett Marsh and Oyster Pond. The goal of these actions is to restore the habitat for native plant communities at Flume and Gunning Point Ponds. Native marsh plants will re-establish where Phragmites pushed them out, and marsh and shore birds will increasingly use the newly recovered marsh areas.

T3C Secretary/Clerk Dick Payne deserves credit for slowly and steadily working behind the scenes to tackle the invasive Phragmites problem all over Falmouth.

Another first was a Mushroom Walk, held on May 18 at Peterson Farm. Led by Peter Spiller from mushroomwalks.com, 25 interested foragers came along for the hike. While the group did not find many mushrooms, it was a beautiful spring day and the woods were loaded with pink lady's slipper orchids in bloom.

A great deal was accomplished on June 1 when Michael Wheeler (Troop 38) conducted his Eagle Scout Project at Teaticket Park. The work focus was the removal of invasive species, trash and other debris along with the "release" of beach plums along northern and southern boundaries. This effort represented 93.5 volunteer hours and 150 golf balls!

— continued on page four



157 Locust Street
Falmouth, MA 02540-2658

GIFTS IN MEMORY OF...

- ♥ Tom Abbott from Jayne Abbott
- ♥ Dick Backus from Laurie Raymond
- ♥ Carol Bissonnette from Kay Paine
- ♥ Barbara Broitman from Selwyn Broitman
- ♥ Ben Brown from Richard & Nancy Milburn
- ♥ John Coyne from David & Anne Jarvis
- ♥ Jim Craddock from Laurie Raymond
- ♥ Ray Davis from Ken & Mary Jane O'Brien
- ♥ Yvonne Deuser from Werner & Barbara Deuser
- ♥ Lillian & Thomas Ferguson from Al & Helen Micciche
- ♥ Chad Evan Goldstone from Daniel Goldstone
- ♥ Friederun & Holger Jannasch from Hans & Elizabeth Jannasch
- ♥ Ziggy Jarosiewicz from Theresa Jarosiewicz
- ♥ Patricia Laffan from Ken & Mary Jane O'Brien
- ♥ Daniel Lopes from George & Naomi Botelho
- ♥ Peter-John Maheras and John "JP" Maheras from Gail Maheras
- ♥ William J. Mahoney from Beth Mahoney
- ♥ Peter McGuire from Carol Baker
- ♥ Joseph & Augusta Medeiros from Jay & Susan Zavala
- ♥ Jacqueline Moore from Frederic & Elizabeth McCurdy
- ♥ Paul Murphy from Cynthia Hines
- ♥ Armand Ortins from Francis & Shirley Hersey
- ♥ Holly Pedlosky from Joe Pedlosky
- ♥ John Klein Robbenhaar from Geraldine Klein Robbenhaar
- ♥ Sarah Snyderman from Steve & Valerie Buller, Wendy Craig, Mike Duffany, Leonard & Patty Johnson, Stephen & Elizabeth Rosen, Doug Taylor & Maryann McCall-Taylor, Ventas Charitable Foundation
- ♥ Denise Spanos from Stephen Spanos
- ♥ Shirley Tavares from Larry & Mary Lou DeNardis
- ♥ Robert Velleman from Judith Velleman
- ♥ Beth Schwarzman from Frank & Mardi Bowles, John & Olivann Hobbie, Anne-Marie Runfola & Ken Kostel, Gisela & Pierre Tillier
- ♥ Dr. Artemas J. Stewart from Jean Stewart
- ♥ Joseph Verba from Linda Heck

GIFTS IN HONOR OF....

- ♥ Brian & Dawn Callahan's birthdays from Ellen Callahan
- ♥ 1st Lt. Mark H. Dooley from Peter & Marion Dooley
- ♥ Mike Duffany from Day & Kathie Mount, Geoffrey & Kristin Nickerson, and Jeffrey & Valerie Oppenheim
- ♥ Craig Gibson from Robert & Iris Fanger
- ♥ Our four grandchildren from Al & Helen Micciche
- ♥ Leonard Johnson from George & Ellen Citron and Yolanda Landrau
- ♥ Selma Pastor's 90th birthday from Joan Hester
- ♥ Teaticket School from Eric & Rebecca Edwards

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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 1986, The 300 Committee has taken a lead role to acquire treasured open space for conservation, recreation and water protection. In the last 27 years, more than 2,300 acres have been permanently protected through our efforts.

WAYS TO GIVE

- Annual membership contribution
- Gift in honor/memory of— friends, relatives, special occasions
- Outright gift of cash, securities, real estate
- Make a pledge (for a maximum of 5 years)

- Estate Planning *
 - Life Insurance
 - Retirement Plan
 - Trust Instruments
 - Bequests

If you would like to talk about giving, please call The 300 Committee office at 508-540-0876. Your support is appreciated. Thank you!

* Consult your attorney or estate planner for advice as to what's best for you.



19 people biked the Moraine Trail on a beautiful Saturday in October

Leaves

fall 2013



View east from Teaticket Park Streetscape toward the meadow and wetland, showing accessible paths and newly planted American holly and "Princeton" elm trees.

TEATICKET PARK...PHASE 1 IS COMPLETE!

Teaticket Park, The 300 Committee's new, 11-acre open space community park, is finally a reality. Created on the site of the former Joe's Driving Range, a family business for more than 50 years, the park property under T3C's ownership is now permanently protected land, open to the public for passive recreation and enjoyment of nature. Phase 1—the Streetscape—the front two acres along busy Teaticket Highway, has just been completed. ADA-compliant park entry paths and a greenway of newly planted

trees and grass welcome visitors. Vistas of the meadow and wetland beyond show the sloping expanse of the parcel.

Phases 2 and 3 are slated for 2014 and will make the back portions of the park property more accessible. Additional pathways, a boardwalk across one end of the wetland, an observation platform at the other, a picnic grove and an outdoor classroom will complete the park plan. We encourage you to visit the new Teaticket Park!



Tiger Swallowtail feeding on swamp milkweed, one of many native wetland plants at Teaticket Park.



"If you build it, they will come." Cyclists take advantage of newly installed bike racks and benches.

PROCEEDS FROM NORTH FALMOUTH PROPERTY DONATION SUPPORT OPEN SPACE

In 2004, The 300 Committee was deeded a small parcel of land with a cottage in the New Silver Beach area of North Falmouth. The donor, Elizabeth “Bettina” Blake, through meetings with her legal and financial advisors and with then T3C Administrator Peter Boyer, established this gift with a “life-tenancy” provision, which affords significant estate tax advantages, particularly for an out-of-state landowner. The arrangement allowed Bettina and a longtime friend of hers full use of the property for the duration of their lifetimes while conveying ownership to our land trust. The life tenancy is extinguished at the time of the donor’s death and the organization is free to use or sell the property as the Board of Directors sees fit.

Fast forward to 2013...Bettina released the “life tenancy” clause of her gift,



Blake house, New Silver Beach



Bettina Blake

September closing, The 300 Committee board voted to allocate the proceeds equally to the Endowment Fund and the Opportunity Fund for use in future conservation land purchases. This is vital financial support for our land trust.

T3C is fortunate to have been chosen as the beneficiary of this wonderful gift. “This donation was a great surprise when it was made 9 years ago,” said T3C President Leonard Johnson. “We were so pleased that Bettina continued to enjoy her house and property, and ultimately, she made a very generous gift.”

Bettina Blake retired after a distinguished career as Vice Chancellor, Academic Dean and Professor of French at the University of Minnesota, Morris. Prior to that, she served as a professor of French at Wellesley College. Her

having decided she was no longer able to enjoy her North Falmouth property. T3C offered the house for sale through word of mouth. With an agreed upon sale price of \$340,000 and a

primary residence for years was in Minnesota; she now lives in Boston. She held title to the property beginning in 1967, and visited Silver Beach in the summers for many years before that.

The Blake property borders marshland and the history of the cottage suggests that it is one of the oldest structures in New Silver Beach, dating back to 1899. In the mid-1920s, when used as a painting studio by Dr. Blake’s mother, the house had no heat, insulation, electricity or hot water, but did contain an indoor flush toilet and a three-burner kerosene stove for cooking. A fieldstone fireplace was added at that time. The first major renovations came in the 1950s, when electricity and hot water were installed, along with a shower in the cellar, a tiny kitchen and a sleeping porch. More recent renovations and expansion of the century-old cabin were undertaken in 1999 and completed in 2003, under the direction of Falmouth architect Beatrice Bunker.

The 300 Committee is indebted to Bettina Blake for her extraordinary generosity, and hopes that her gift can serve as a model for other property owners to support the preservation of open space in Falmouth.

T3C THANKS...

...All the dedicated volunteers who watered the grass and trees at Teaticket Park, who spent more than 700 hours watering.

...The Falmouth Community Preservation Committee (CPC) for recommending a grant to support Phase 2 of Teaticket Park (installation of the boardwalk, observation platform and ADA-compliant wetland path). Grant award is subject to Town Meeting approval...stay tuned for November TM.

...The Friendship Fund for awarding T3C a grant to cover the engineering costs for Phase 2 of Teaticket Park.

...Our very generous anonymous donor who matched gifts of \$100 or more made to Teaticket Park from August through October. Gifts + matching funds—\$50,488.

...The devoted members of the Outreach Committee who worked so hard to organize and promote the successful Pedal to Parcels and Paddle to Parcels events.

...The Teaticket Civic Association for sponsoring another fabulous pasta supper to benefit Teaticket Park.

...Falmouth Road Race runners and



Mel Miller inspects a wheelbarrow that he refurbished and donated to T3C.

matching donors whose contributions exceeded \$14,000.

...Mel Miller, Steward Emeritus, for donating numerous tools: two large wheelbarrows, four sets of loppers, shovels, rakes and more.

ANNUAL MEETING 2013: T3C ELECTS NEW PRESIDENT, HONORS VOLUNTEERS

At The 300 Committee’s July 11 Annual Meeting, held at The Navigator Clubhouse of the Portuguese American Association of Falmouth, Leonard Johnson of North Falmouth was elected to replace retiring president Emily Kellndorfer, who led the board of directors for the last two years. Johnson is a retired professor at Boston University School of Management. He has been a member of T3C’s board for many years, most recently as Treasurer, and served three consecutive two-year terms as President from 2005 to 2011. “The 300 Committee is a vibrant organization with strongly committed members, supporters and volunteers. I am honored to serve again as president, because as a group it is one of the best there is. I congratulate Emily Kellndorfer on two excellent years at the helm. We have made, and will continue to make, great progress protecting land here in Falmouth.”

Retiring President Kellndorfer is not leaving the board; rather she will continue to serve as a member of both the Nominating and the Public Relations Committees. Two members of the board did retire—Jeff Williams and Jeff Hamilton—but they, too, will continue to be involved with T3C committee work.

Other newly elected officers to T3C’s board of directors include Tom Stone as Vice President, Gary Walker as Treasurer and Dick Payne as Secretary/Clerk. New board members are Carey Murphy and Anne-Marie Runfolia; returning board members are Frank Carotenuto, Mike Duffany, Susie Goodman Hall-

stein, Emily Kellndorfer, Vicky Lowell, Day Mount, Jo Ann Muramoto, Greg Souza and Virginia Valiela.

Volunteers play a major role in the work of The 300 Committee and annual meeting tradition recognizes outstanding contributions made by particular individuals.



Board member Vicky Lowell presents the Special Places Award to Jeff Hamilton.

exceptional leadership and commitment to Teaticket Park.

The Invaluable Volunteer Awards were given to two hard-working and highly esteemed volunteers. Kathy Mortenson was recognized for her many-pronged efforts: as a key extra hand with office projects, as a land steward and as an Outreach Committee member. Board member Greg Souza of East Falmouth was praised for his significant contributions to the Land Acquisition and Stewardship Committees and for his important work at various parcels, particularly the Bartolomei Conservation Area on Sandwich Road.

STEWARDSHIP, SPRING TO FALL

— continued from page three

It is a positive experience whenever T3C collaborates with AmeriCorps, and June 17 was no exception. Debris and trash were hauled out from the Flume Pond parcel and Bella Shephard Reserve, while invasive species were removed from both the Garland parcel and Beebe Woods.

Stewardship and Outreach together planned and executed two successful and fun kayaking adventures to visit conservation lands by water. These “Paddle to Parcels” trips featured Bourne’s Pond on June 23 and the conservation lands on its edges—Sea Farms Marsh, Hanson-Powell and the Carter Reservation—and Little Sippewissett Marsh on September 15.

The Mel Miller Stewardship Award, for outstanding efforts in land stewardship, was presented to long-time volunteer and North Falmouth resident Jay Smith. Jay plays a vital role in the annual process of monitoring T3C-owned lands and private parcels protected with conservation restrictions, and serves as a valuable hands-on member of the Stewardship Committee.

Additional highlights of the meeting included a summary of current projects, presented by T3C Administrator Jessica Whritenour, illustrating the transformation of the former Joe’s Driving Range into Teaticket Park. With new pathways installed and dozens of new trees planted in June, a widespread volunteer watering effort has helped the streetscape—the two acres fronting on Teaticket Highway—to become a refreshing natural greenway along Teaticket’s heavily traveled commercial corridor. Jessica also highlighted the 15 acres of conservation land that Atria will soon donate to T3C. Another centrally located parcel, this land fronts on both Jones and Sol’s Ponds and includes walking paths and benches for the public.

At the close of the meeting, old and new presidents and Jessica thanked The 300 Committee’s many members and friends throughout Falmouth and recognized the contributions of several local businesses that donated food for the event: Dana’s Kitchen, Jack in the Beanstalk, Molly’s Tea Room, Roche Bros., Shaw’s Supermarket, Stop & Shop, the Village Café and Windfall Market.

Looking ahead, the fall, winter and early spring months will feature trail crew work on numerous parcels and continued efforts to remove invasive species. Anyone wishing to participate in outdoor land projects should send their email contact information to aetkind@300committee.org.

PEDAL TO PARCELS: BIKE RIDE PROMOTES CONSERVATION AWARENESS

by Sarah Elizabeth Murphy

(originally written for the Falmouth Bulletin; published at www.wickedlocal.com/falmouth. Edited & reprinted with permission.)

On Sunday, September 29, cyclists hit the roads in Falmouth traveling familiar routes while also discovering new ones. The 300 Committee staged Pedal to Parcels Around Falmouth, a bicycle tour of conservation lands, with the hope of promoting awareness about its mission in addition to the land it has protected.

The event featured a 16-mile route spanning more than 16 parcels, beginning and ending at Goodwill Park, with about five stops along the way. Land stewards were available at the stops to offer background information about their respective parcel. The event was organized by outreach committee member Dina Pandya, who has been involved with The 300 Committee for about two years.

“This ride highlighted some lands that are not as well known and it was also a great opportunity for people to meet the stewards and learn about their passion for the land,” Pandya said. “It was a fun event combining nature and exercise.”

Pandya added that Ted Rowan, a member of both The 300 Committee and the Falmouth Bikeways Committee, was instrumental in establishing the route. Rowan, an avid cyclist who works at Corner Cycle Cape Cod, offered a free bike check on Thursday, September 26 in the parking lot outside The 300 Committee office.



Ted Rowan, who helped plan the ride, held a free bike check for the public a couple of days before the event. During the ride, he led a group of cyclists, and is shown here giving a bike safety talk before the groups set out. Ted is a member of the Falmouth Bikeways Committee and T3C. Thank you, Ted!

“We have a very enthusiastic and active outreach committee (led by Anne-Marie Runfolia and Susanne Goodman Hallstein) which has been working to spread the word of The 300 Committee around the community,” said Lucy Helfrich, Director of Program Services. “We hope that people who took this ride will visit the parcels on their own and explore the lands.”

Other events have included a bike ride highlighting parcels located along the bike path, and Paddle to Parcels, a kayaking exploration of lands in proximity to the water. A lecture series is also offered each year as are bird, nature and geology walks.



SARAH ELIZABETH MURPHY
Dina Pandya, chief P2P organizer!

roadway, is almost complete. We planted 68 trees and 67 survived the summer. We did some reseeding because the summer was so hot and dry,” Helfrich said. “The parking lot is in and the lines are painted. The entry paths are also in. Once the grass takes hold we will install benches and bike paths. We hope to have a grand opening celebration later this fall.”

Phase 2, slated for next spring, will involve portions of the back of the park, including the installation of a boardwalk and observation platform and additional trails. “We have some grant requests out to help with the funding for the next phase. We’ve made great progress in the last few months and we’re really excited,” Helfrich said. “A portion of



We even had a dog join us on the P2P ride!

the park plan calls for an outdoor classroom, so Phase 3...includes a trail from Teaticket School through a gate that can be locked. We’re hoping to get grant money to do that too.”

Hallstein said the consensus from the public has been enthusiastic. “People are excited now that they see the trees and pathways. I think they are surprised at the backdrop and the wetland there, which is loaded with birds and wildlife,” she said.

The Teaticket Civic Association in September sponsored a pasta supper at the Falmouth Navigator, which raised about \$7,000 to benefit the park.

Pandya, who grew up in Needham and traveled around New England with her family for camping and hiking trips, is grateful for all that Falmouth has to offer. “You’re lucky to find a place where you can do those things right in your own backyard,” she said.

Helfrich agreed. “This community has so much to offer. I love the variety of lands that we can explore, run, ride on,” she said. “It’s important to keep corners of it protected forever.”

Hallstein underscored the importance of young people’s involvement. “All the work that we’ve done has been with the next generation in mind, for permanent protection,” she said. “We want to leave behind a Falmouth that is beautiful, protected and a special place to live for future generations.”