STEWARDSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

In spite of the long and difficult winter, there have been many opportunities for T3C and our volunteers to get out on the land. The following is a brief description of activities undertaken on conservation lands all over Falmouth.

Volunteer Work Days with AmeriCorps at the Dupee Parcel (January 13 & 27). 100+ volunteer hours went into reclaiming an old field and clearing around the foundation of an historic dairy barn. The restoration of these areas is interesting from the historical and cultural perspective, but also very valuable in terms of habitat. Abandoned fields and other areas of "open" habitat are on the decline in Massachusetts. Later in March, Will Clarke volunteered use of his brush mower to finish the job.

Volunteer Work Day with AmeriCorps at the Coonamessett Reservation (January 17). Nineteen AmeriCorps members and six T3C volunteers focused on grassland habitat restoration and the removal and burning of invasive species. The DPW parks division lent the water tank, and the Coonamessett Pond Association funded the repair of the fence at the Ranch Road parking area.

Volunteers clear English Ivy at the Garland Parcel on Palmer Ave.

Members of AmeriCorps Cape Cod celebrated the organization's 15th anniversary by planting trees in every town on the Cape. These folks show off T3C's new red maple tree, the planting of which unofficially launched T3C's wetland restoration at Teaticket Park.

Winter Trail Crew. Volunteers from T3C's Trail Crew, led by Board Treasurer Gary Walker, cleared miles of trails on conservation lands throughout Falmouth this past winter. The work focused on trails at the following properties: Hanson-Powell Parcel, Donald Whelden Preserve, Dupee Parcel, Moraine Trail, Beebe Woods, and Peterson Farm.

Annual Stewardship Meeting (February18). More than 40 stewardship volunteers attended to connect with T3C staff and board members, learn about stewardship initiatives and hear about townwide projects presented by guest speaker, Chuck Martinsen, from the town's Marine & Environmental Services Department. A special feature was the raw bar featuring littlenecks and oysters from Falmouth's own shellfish beds.

Volunteer Work Day at Garland & Lakeview Ave. Parcels (March 29). 20 volunteers spent a morning working to remove invasive species, especially English ivy.

Volunteer Work Day with WHOI/MIT students at Two Ponds Conservation Area (April 12). On a gorgeous, warm day, this group of graduate students worked hard to remove invasive species at various locations around this new conservation area. Thanks to Hamilton Tree & Landscape for chipping and hauling away the debris!

Graduate students in the WHOI/MIT Joint Program pulled invasive plants during a spring work day at Two Ponds Conservation Area.

Spring 2014 Moraine Trail Hike w/ AMC (April 19). This hiking adventure, led by John Gould, was the reward for all the manual labor that keeps the trails open! 30 hikers enjoyed the 9.3-mile trek south from Route 151 to Goodwill Park.

IMPORTANT DATES

Annual Meeting, July 10: Mark your calendars! The 300 Committee's annual meeting will be held on Thursday evening, July 10, at the Portuguese American Association of Falmouth's Navigator Club, 55 Ashumet Road, Hatchville, just off Sandwich Road.

Snacks and desserts will begin the evening at 6:30; the meeting will start promptly at 7:15. We encourage members and friends to attend to catch up on land trust activities, talk with the staff and directors and learn about new initiatives. Invitations will be mailed in June.

Race for Open Space… Falmouth Road Race 2014: The 300 Committee is gearing up to partner again this summer with the Falmouth Road Race in the Numbers for Nonprofits program. The race will take place on Sunday, August 17, and we are hoping to assemble a strong team to run in support of our land trust. If you or anyone you know would like to run the 7.1-mile scenic course from Woods Hole to Falmouth Heights and is interested in raising money to help protect natural places in Falmouth, please let us know.

This is how it works: Runners sign up with T3C for a guaranteed number (no worries about the lottery!) and agree to raise a minimum of $750. In past years, these dollars have been matched by generous friends and members…last year's Road Race proceeds totaled more than $14,000.

Visit www.300committee.org and scroll down the home page to find the Road Race blurb. Links to the registration and pledge forms are provided.

T3C THANKS…

…**The Falmouth Fund of The Cape Cod Foundation** for its important grant awarded in March that supports our expanded Stewardship Coordinator position.

The 300 Committee Land Trust

157 Locust Street
Falmouth, MA 02540-2658

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GIFTS IN MEMORY OF…

- **Arielle** from Susan Wigley and Jay Burnett
- **Lilly & Earl Biscoe** from Eloise Biscoe
- **Arthur T. Doyle** from Rita L. Doyle
- **Ellen M. Haggerty** from Walter Haggerty
- **Landi Landrau** from Nancy Michaud
- **Daniel Lopes** from Fran & Sue Smith
- **Bernie McMahon** from Patricia McMahon
- **Branch Archer Parrish** from Christiane C. Collins, Edward & Susan Hughes
- **Judith B. Podradchik** from Elaine Podradchik
- **Beth Schwarzman** from Wallace & Pamela Stark, Tom & Ann Stone
- **Sarah Snyderman** from Chris & Pam Polloni
- **Barbara J. Souza** from Gregory Souza
- **The Telfers** from Yutaka & Sally Ishizaka
- **Elaine Tripp** from David & Nancy Babin
- **Kate Heery Tulchin** from Joseph Tulchin
- **Cleveland S. & Helen S. White** from Allison Brewster White
- **Katharine Gaylord White** from Patricia Shoyinka
- **Jane Whipple** from Virginia Patterson

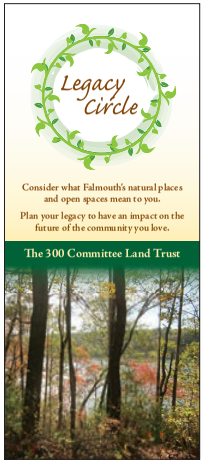
GIFTS IN HONOR OF….

- **Chris Cowan & Allan Gordon** from Stephen Ford
- **Susanne Goodman Hallstein** from Eric Hallstein & Suzanne Lippert
- **Leonard Johnson** from Milton & Susan Williamson
- **Leonard Johnson's 75th birthday** from Bob & Mary Smith
- **Peter Kroll** from George & Marjorie Yost
- **Vicky Lowell** from Nawrie Meigs-Brown & David Brown
- **Day Mount** from Jeff Williams & Rebecca Upton
- **Larry Noonan of Silver Beach** from Paul & Elizabeth Hughes
- **Anne-Marie Runfola** from Anthony & Joyce Runfola
- **Tom Stone** from Judy Fenwick

CONSIDER LAND PRESERVATION IN YOUR ESTATE PLANNING

Through the years, several friends of T3C have included our land trust in their wills or trusts. These planned gifts are indispensable to the future of T3C and to protected lands in our community.

To recognize and celebrate individuals who support our land preservation efforts in this way, we have launched the new Legacy Circle. Please consider joining this important group of friends and members by making a bequest to T3C. There is no better way to make a lasting difference for land conservation in Falmouth. If you have already included T3C in your will, please let us know so that we can express our deep gratitude for your foresight and generosity and recognize you as a member of the Legacy Circle.



We are grateful to the Falmouth Enterprise for its support in publishing this newsletter.

THE 300 COMMITTEE LAND TRUST Open Space for Falmouth

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Alexander Eikind

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 1986, The 300 Committee has taken a lead role to acquire treasured open space for conservation, recreation and water protection. In the last 29 years, more than 2,300 acres have been permanently protected through our efforts.

spring 2014

Leaves

Wetland plants such as water willow, lily pads and rushes emerge along the edge of the Atlantic white cedar swamp.

Rows of mature trees frame this former fairway. The area is now re-vegetated and managed as grassland habitat.

INTRODUCING…TWO PONDS CONSERVATION AREA

In February, it was official: The 300 Committee became the owner of 14.75 acres of land off Gifford Street in Falmouth. Donated to T3C by Atria as a condition of the development permit for Atria Woodbriar Place, the land is permanently protected with a conservation restriction held by the Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts (The Compact). This parcel is special for a number of reasons: it is located within a state-designated "priority habitat" area; it includes an Atlantic white cedar swamp; and it has lovely frontage on both Jones Pond and Sols Pond hence the name, "Two Ponds." Plus it is minutes from downtown Falmouth and easily visible and accessible from Gifford Street. The handicapped-accessible pathways and benches on the site are open to the public; four parking places for visitors to the conservation area are designated at the northern end of the Atria Woodbriar Place parking lot.

In mid-April, WHOI/MIT graduate students began removing invasive species in areas formerly maintained as golfing greens and sand traps. Residents at Atria Woodbriar are making regular visits to the benches and walkways. T3C plans to host a walk this summer introducing the natural features of the new conservation area; we hope you will join us!

View looking west across Sols Pond. Asters and goldenrod thrive on the knoll at Two Ponds.

T3C DEDICATES SPECIAL PLACES

The Bella Shephard Reserve on Central Ave. is a small hidden gem in T3C's inventory of conservation lands. In 2008, B. Jean Thomas sold this vacant waterfront lot to T3C "for a song," ensuring that her land on Eel Pond in East Falmouth would be protected long after she was gone. Jean also donated a conservation restriction on the adjacent property, which houses the small cottage where she lived for many years. The parcel has a new trail that leads to a wide expanse of marsh that provides a sweeping view across the pond. In December, a group of T3C friends gathered to walk the trail and remember Jean Thomas and her mother Bella Shephard. Both loved this land, and a bench overlooking the water has been dedicated in their memory.

The marsh and water view from the memorial bench at the Bella Shephard Reserve.

Sixty friends attended the River Bend dedication in memory of Beth Schwarzman.

On April 27, T3C dedicated the River Bend Conservation Area in memory of Beth Schwarzman, who died unexpectedly in August 2012. Beth was a dedicated and active member of T3C's board of directors, who championed our mission to preserve and protect Falmouth's special places. More than 60 friends and fans of Beth's gathered together to remember Beth and her zest for ideas, people and the natural world, and to recognize her dynamic and invaluable efforts on behalf of protecting open space in Falmouth.

The following dedication wording was read by Molly Cornell, T3C volunteer and dear friend of Beth's. It is now posted on the new kiosk at River Bend:

"The River Bend Conservation Area is dedicated to the memory of Beth Schwarzman, a board member of The 300 Committee Land Trust from 2005 to 2012. Beth's extensive knowledge of natural history and geology was matched by her passion for preserving natural areas such as this beautiful woodland. Beth expressed her passion through writing, trail mapping, leading walks and applying her tremendous energy to preserving open space. Beth envisioned a continuous green corridor along the Coonamessett River. River Bend is a key element of this greenway."

After the ceremony, many people in attendance admired the new kiosk and took a walk on the River Bend trails.

The new kiosk at River Bend features information about the land, its importance along the Coonamessett River Corridor and the role Beth Schwarzman played in working for its permanent protection.

WINTER AND SPRING WALKS AND TALKS

T3C's Outreach Committee has sponsored a full calendar of events since our last newsletter, reaching out to members and friends and bringing in others new to our land trust.

The Winter-Spring Speaker Series, held at the Falmouth Historical Society's Hallett Barn, offered a diverse range of presenters and topics. These informative talks ranged from Cape Cod's backyard birds and the state of Massachusetts' bird populations, to new and emerging wildlife, climate change effects documented in the sediments at the Punch Bowl in Beebe Woods and a behind-the-scenes look at the Polly Hill Arboretum on Martha's Vineyard. Hats off to our outstanding presenters: Mike O'Connor of The Bird Watcher's General Store in Orleans, Ian Ives from Mass Audubon, Bryan Nolan Shuman from the University of Wyoming, Joan Walsh from Mass Audubon and Tim Boland from Polly Hill. Each talk attracted enough folks to fill the seats in the barn. Eager to get out and learn something new, they enjoyed the presentations and asked probing questions at the end of each talk.

We are grateful to our dedicated Outreach volunteers who organized the series. For the first time since its inception in 2005, the series was co-sponsored in its entirety by Salt Pond Areas Bird Sanctuaries. While this collaboration surely helped attract audience members, it also served to remind us that T3C and SPABS share a common goal: the preservation of important natural places in Falmouth.

Winter and spring nature walks covered a lot of ground, from the Moonakis/Quashnet River and the Margaret Doutt Preserve in Waquoit to the Roskovics parcel in North Falmouth, from the Flax Pond and Lower Coonamessett Cranberry Bogs in Hatchville to Black Beach on Buzzards Bay, to River Bend Conservation Area, Collins Woodlot, Breivogel Ponds, Long Pond and Peterson Farm. Special thanks go to Molly Cornell and Alex Lancaster for sharing their expertise and love of Falmouth's many conservation lands.

A special collaboration continues between T3C and Ian Ives, Director of Mass Audubon's Long Pasture Wildlife Sanctuary. T3C combined with Ian on two walks at Ashumet Holly Wildlife Sanctuary in Falmouth: a winter bird walk in mid-February and a vernal pool walk including a look at the annual salamander migration in late March. Both activities were very well attended and we look forward to more joint efforts ahead!

On the docket as we go to press are a Family Passport Walk at the Matt Souza Conservation Area, scheduled for Saturday, May 17 from 1 to 3:00 PM, and a Pedal to Parcels bicycling event Saturday, May 31, 10 AM to 2 PM to showcase conservation parcels along the Shining Sea Bikeway.

Many families joined T3C and Mass Audubon's Ian Ives for a visit to the vernal pools at Ashumet Holly Wildlife Sanctuary. The pools were created for the Spadefoot Toad and other species.

Bob Porto (just visible at right) and Lawrence School students build a kiosk for T3C in 8th grade Engineering.

LOCAL STUDENTS CONTRIBUTE TO OPEN SPACE

When Bob Porto, teacher of 8th grade Engineering at the Lawrence School, reached out to The 300 Committee last fall, asking if there was a design-and-build project that he and his students could be involved in, we were eager to take advantage of the skills, energy and enthusiasm of his students. Since then, more than 80 students, boys and gids, have had a hand in building two kiosks for T3C conservation lands: at River Bend Conservation Area and at the new Teaticket Park.

A third kiosk is on the drawing table for this spring; a new team of students will build this kiosk that will replace the existing one behind T3C's office adjacent to the Shining Sea Bikeway.

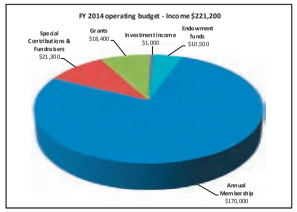
We were delighted to receive funding for the materials for the River Bend kiosk from the Coonamessett Farm Foundation. This group is involved with Friends of the Silo and will share the kiosk space with T3C, posting information about the agricultural history of the area and the historical importance of the recently restored ceramic silo. Both T3C and the Friends of Falmouth Bikeways also contributed to the materials budget. Bob Porto and the Lawrence School students held an Ecothon fundraiser to raise the remaining necessary funds.

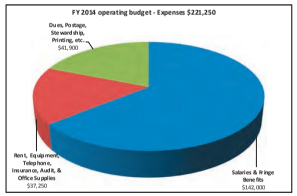
Weather-proof and made to last, these kiosks will enable T3C to expand its outreach and education about individual conservation parcels and the importance of protecting land in Falmouth.

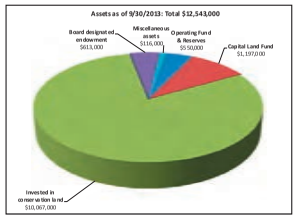
Volunteers Greg Souza, Barry Good (Land Steward) and Leonard Johnson installed the new kiosk at River Bend.

The shrub swamp just north of Teaticket Park about to burst with spring color.

FY 2014 AT A GLANCE







T3C'S CONSERVATION HOLDINGS

(AS OF MAY 1, 2014)

167 acres… owned

475 acres… permanently protected by conservation restriction (CR)

2,000 acres… under active stewardship by T3C

Pending for 2014:

24 acres… 3 parcels…land donation and new CRs

Assisted by T3C staff members Lucy Helfrich and Jessica Whritenour, President Leonard Johnson and the Teaticket Civic Association's Mary Little and Mary Bishop cut the ribbon to mark the opening of Teaticket Park.

TEATICKET PARK OPENING FEATURES COMPLETED STREETSCAPE

CELEBRATES COMMUNITY EFFORT

After a long, cold winter, November 10 seems like a long time ago, but remembering the Teaticket Park dedication and official opening elicits happy memories for many people close to The 300 Committee and the Teaticket Civic Association.

Phase 1 of the Teaticket Park creation was newly completed; the final details included the mowing of the Meadow Path (a preview of Phase 2) and the installation of the bike racks and dedication plaques on the park benches.

During a three-hour Open House, visitors were encouraged to get to know the property, walking along the handicapped-accessible park entry paths and the grassy meadow path, and exploring the areas of the park designated for the future walking pathways, boardwalk, observation platform, picnic grove and outdoor classroom. These elements are slated for Phases 2 and 3 which will begin later this spring. Some of our youngest visitors enjoyed a Scavenger Hunt challenge led by T3C volunteer Molly Cornell.

The day itself was cool and cloudy with a steady breeze blowing across the open expanse of the park's nearly 11 acres. But at 2 PM, a crowd of more than 100 gathered at the edge of the grass near the portable lectern. As if on cue, the sun broke through the clouds, casting a golden glow over the park and the proceedings.

The dedication ceremony got underway with musical selections performed by members of the a capella group, Notescape. This was a fun and festive beginning that set a celebratory tone to the event. Short speeches were delivered by T3C President Leonard Johnson, Administrator Jessica Whritenour and board members Mike Duffany and Vicky Lowell. (Vicky was a founder of the land trust in 1985.) Mary (Pat) Flynn of the Falmouth Board of Selectmen said a few words, as did State Representatives Tim Madden and David Vieira (Vieira's parents are Bill and Donna Vieira, the owners of Joe's Driving Range who sold the land to T3C.) Cheryl Williams, President of the Teaticket Civic Association, spoke about the importance of this open space to the village of Teaticket. The festivities closed with a ribbon-cutting by T3C's Leonard Johnson and Teaticket Association members Mary Little and Mary Bishop. The crowd cheered heartily; smiles and hugs were shared all around. It was a proud day for The 300 Committee, for Teaticket and indeed for all of Falmouth.

Falmouth residents Tom Goux, Peter Hopewood, Doug Mann and Joe Hackler lent their voices to the Teaticket Park opening celebration.

A crowd of members, friends and other well-wishers helped celebrate the opening of Teaticket Park.