

The Kelly Woodland Another Key Acquisition Linking Protected Lands

The Kelly parcel on Sippewissett Road is a small property with a big mission — to connect protected lands and habitats from Buzzards Bay up and over the Falmouth Moraine. The 300 Committee and Buzzards Bay Coalition together are working to raise \$235,000 to complete the acquisition (which includes both

a land purchase from and a land donation by the Kelly family), comprising just over 3 acres, by the end of 2016. The Kelly Woodland and Wildlife Corridor will link the 28-acre Flume Pond area with Falmouth's treasured Beebe Woods and with Peterson Farm, creating a broad swath of more than 500 protected acres in this lovely part of town.



Future plans call for the creation of a small unpaved parking area on Sippewissett Road and new trail access into Beebe Woods. For the first time, the public will be able to enter Beebe Woods from the west without crossing private property.

“We are so grateful to the Kelly family for providing this wonderful opportunity,” said T3C Administrator Jessica Whritenour. “This acquisition is a missing piece in the open space connectivity puzzle. We are excited that it will create new public access to a variety of beautiful conservation lands.”

The new Kelly Woodland will be an important link between Beebe Woods, Flume Pond, and Buzzards Bay, creating a permanently protected wildlife corridor and the opportunity for improved public access to these signature conservation parcels.

Goats... ...coming soon to conservation land near you!

Two Ponds Conservation Area on Gifford Street will be the site of a new invasive species removal experiment. For a two-week period beginning at the end of May, T3C will be renting goats from The Goatscaping Company, based in Plympton, MA. Used increasingly in areas all over the country, goats have proven to be a low-impact, chemical-free way to control invasive plants, poison ivy and overgrown areas. They also help improve soil quality! A typical “goat crew” of two to four goats can clear one-quarter to one-third of an acre per week. T3C is grateful to The Friendship Fund for the grant that has made this goat grazing trial possible and we are eager to see the results.



Goats will help T3C remove invasive plants and poison ivy from a portion of the Two Ponds Conservation Area this spring.



Show off your support!
T3C has new mugs (\$5), hats in two colors (\$20) and organic cotton grocery bags (\$12) for sale at the office on Locust Street

T3C Outreach and Education New Partnerships Complement Traditional Programs

The past few months have been eventful ones for T3C's creative and energetic Outreach Committee. Below are short descriptions of activities undertaken to broaden awareness of our land trust and to expand its influence throughout the Falmouth community.

In November, T3C participated for the first time in the **Alternative Gift Fair**, a wonderful community event that provides opportunities for alternative gift giving and making a difference in unconventional ways. Held at St. Barnabas Church in downtown Falmouth, two very busy afternoons and several enthusiastic volunteers helped make this a successful venture that we hope we can repeat next year.



Outreach volunteer Alison Leschen, ready to greet visitors to T3C's table at the Alternative Gift Market in November.

T3C board members and outreach volunteers crafted an impressive birthday cake float for the annual **Falmouth Holidays by the Sea Parade** in December to commemorate our land trust's 30th anniversary.

Another new collaboration for T3C was with the **Falmouth Chorale**. The Chorale partnered with a different non-profit at each concert this year, and T3C was featured for the **March concert, A Choral Fantasia**. Held at Falmouth Academy, the performance featured music by Bach, Beethoven and Mozart. A packed house got to hear a little about T3C and how our land preservation work helps support the quality of life in Falmouth. Thank you Chorale for the opportunity!



Volunteers decorate T3C's 30th anniversary float — a giant birthday cake — for the 2015 Falmouth Christmas Parade. (L. to R.): Bruce Lancaster, Greg Souza, Vicky Lowell, Alex Lancaster, Kathie Mount, Valerie Butcher, Ken Buckland and Leonard Johnson.

Winter & Spring Speaker Series: This very successful partnership with Salt Pond Areas Bird Sanctuaries has continued at the lovely venue of the Falmouth Historical Society's Cultural Center. Thanks especially to Katey Taylor of Salt Pond and Mark Schmidt of the Historical Society for their wonderful support and cooperation. Held the first Thursday evenings of February, March, April and May, this year's lineup of talks focused on imperiled wildlife, turtle strandings in Cape Cod waters, habitat management at the Francis Crane Wildlife Management Area and bats of the Cape and Islands. All the speakers — Rhode Island-based science writer Todd McLeish, Mass Audubon's Bob Prescott, Mass DFW's habitat program leader John Scanlon, and Martha's Vineyard wildlife biologist Luanne Johnson — presented thought-provoking programs that were well received by our keen and spirited audiences.

Special thanks to Alex Lancaster and Molly Cornell who have led the majority of our recent walks. In December, Alex completed a series of walks at Sea Farms Marsh, “Identifying Plants Throughout the Year.” This was a great opportunity to visit the same conservation area during all four seasons to see and appreciate the natural evolution that takes place there. In January, Molly guided her annual Winter Water Safari, an adventure to see the wintering ducks, mergansers, geese and swans that are feeding, and resting, in the saltwater inlets that lace the shore of Vineyard Sound. After some extended travel, Molly returned in time to guide groups down the bike path on two separate chilly evenings to a wonderful spot to see and hear woodcocks conducting their spring mating ritual. We always post upcoming walks on 300committee.org, so please visit often to keep your calendar up to date!



Pausing at the Punch Bowl during the family bike in Beebe Woods in March.

In February, the **Falmouth Chamber of Commerce** featured T3C as its “featured nonprofit” at its **Business After Hours** event held at LeRoux Kitchen on Main Street. This social networking event was great chance to showcase T3C land protection projects to local business owners.

Our **Family Walk in Beebe Woods**, held on a brisk Saturday in March, introduced families to these treasured woods with a walk to the Punch Bowl. Walk leaders Stephanie Madsen, Alex Lancaster and Kathie Mount shared our “Passport to Beebe Woods” booklet, produced by T3C and

Historic Highfield in 2012, to help guide the participants on this exploration in the hope that they will return again on their own for further adventures.

After a very successful event last year, T3C teamed up again with NOAA's Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary and the NOAA Outreach and Education on Protected Species (NOEPS) Program based at the Northeast Fisheries Science Center for the “Whales in Your Backyard” event held at the Gus Cauty Community Center on April 9. More than 250 people including kids of all ages participated in activities designed to help them learn about and celebrate these amazing marine mammals. NOAA staff members and volunteers offered interactive stations,

including whale sounds, migration challenge, blubber glove, bones & baleen, marine debris and “measure up” to a whale. Through these activities, they shared important information about the whales that come to our waters every year to feed and raise their young and how we can enjoy and help protect them. Perhaps the busiest area was the 43-foot inflatable model of Salt, the great-great-grandmother humpback whale who visits Stellwagen Bank Sanctuary each year, occasionally with a new calf. Scores of people climbed inside Salt to see her inflatable bones and organs and get an idea of what it would be like in the “belly of the whale.” (Visit 300committee.org to see the video and watch the time-lapse inflation of Salt!)



Mike Simpkins from the NOAA Northeast Fisheries Science Center explains how a whale's baleen works at the “Whales in Your Backyard” event.

And on April 22, **T3C and the Woods Hole Research Center** partnered for the second consecutive year on a **joint Earth Day celebration**, which focused on trees, as the 2016 national Earth Day theme was “Trees for the Earth.” More than eighty people including a couple dozen children came to picturesque Peterson Farm to celebrate. This eager crowd joined friendly walk leaders from the Woods Hole Research Center on a tree identification stroll, designed by T3C volunteer Molly Cornell, on a wooded path at the Farm. Participants were provided some key points on six important tree species in addition to some basic information on how T3C's and WHRC's work contributes to a healthier planet Earth. Tree-related crafts and educational activities were provided, with apples, leaf-shaped cookies and the sight of a just-born lamb as the special treats of the day! Thanks to everyone who came to learn about trees and enjoy being outside at the Farm on this beautiful afternoon, and of course to our wonderful volunteers. As a result of this event, the two organizations will plant 135 trees through the Earth Day Network's Canopy Project—one for each participant plus 50 more, thanks to the additional donations we received that day. Together we can make a difference.



Woods Hole Research Center scientist and volunteer walk leader Marcia Macedo shares pitch pine cones and black locust seed pods during a tree ID walk at Peterson Farm on Earth Day.

Upcoming Dates for your Calendar

Pedal to Parcels...A Bicycling Adventure Sunday June 5, 9:30 to noon

Grab your bike, your helmet and plenty of water for this exciting group ride. We will visit and learn a bit about 14 parcels of protected open space in approximately 14 miles! The bike tour will begin and end at the Chapoquoit Beach parking lot in West Falmouth. Fun and educational, with a poker game along the way and refreshments at the finish, this cycling event has become an annual T3C activity. Groups of about 8 riders each will focus on safety and fun. (This is not a race.) RSVP to lhelfrich@300committee.org; we hope to get a head count ahead of time so we have enough “leaders” and “sweeps.” We are crossing fingers for good weather as there is no rain date scheduled. Hope you will join us on your bike!

T3C Annual Meeting, Thursday, July 14, at the Navigator Clubhouse, Ashmet Road, Hatchville 6:30 pm: snacks and desserts on the patio 7:15 pm: Meeting and Awards

Note: This year we will be sharing our annual meeting with the Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts. See how Falmouth's conservation efforts fit into the bigger picture of land protection across the Cape.

Falmouth Road Race, Sunday, August 21. T3C has 10 guaranteed numbers reserved through the Numbers for Nonprofits program for runners who wish to raise funds in support of our land trust. Visit 300committee.org for more information.

T3C Thanks....

The Falmouth Fund of The Cape Cod Foundation for a grant to support our stewardship initiatives.

Jane Baker, Fine Arts teacher at Falmouth High School and her amazingly talented students, who put on a fabulous art show, “Drawing on Common Ground,” in January and February. This exciting exhibit was inspired by studies of Falmouth's open spaces and the birds that inhabit them. A portion of the proceeds from art sales were donated to support T3C's work.

Lawrence School Engineering teacher Bob Porto and his 8th grade students for their hard work building three new fabulous information kiosks. Two have been installed — at Two Ponds and Breivogel — and the other will soon be placed at the Bartolomei Conservation Area.

All our Members and Friends who supported our 30th anniversary New Member Drive. We are delighted to report that we met our ambitious goal — 300 new members! Here's to 30 more years of preserving open space for Falmouth.

Breivogel Restoration Work Underway

Exciting habitat restoration work was finally launched this spring at the Breivogel Ponds Conservation Area off Blacksmith Shop Road. The 67.3-acre Breivogel property, an old gravel mining pit just north of the Falmouth Compost Facility, was purchased by the town in 2000, and in 2003, a restoration fund was created through a combination of Town Meeting vote and a contribution by former landowner Carl Breivogel. Even before the land was acquired by the Town, Mr. Breivogel had begun his own restoration efforts by digging two small ponds at the back of the sand pit.

Once the land was under Town ownership, a dozen or more volunteers worked sporadically over many years on ideas and plans for restoring the parcel. But it took the creation of a Town Conservation Department position responsible for land management for this project to finally move to the top of the priority list. Alexandra (Alex) Brandt has served as the Town's



T3C's Stewardship Coordinator Jack Sidar, wetland restoration specialist Tom Biebighauser, bulldozer operator Billy Washington and the Town of Falmouth's Conservation Technician Alex Brandt confer on the upland regrading portion of the Breivogel project.

Audubon's Long Pasture Wildlife Sanctuary in Barnstable, another recognized vernal pool expert, has been involved as well. Biebighauser explained that the pools are the foundation for the project, and that "once we have the foundation, a habitat can be built."

For the last 18 months, Alex and Jack have been monitoring groundwater in the sand pit to determine how deep to dig for the vernal pool creation. In early April, a bulldozer and operator, donated by a local business owner, worked to dig the sand to create the pools, each at a different depth to suit the variety of species that will be introduced later this year; these include Eastern spadefoot toads and spotted salamanders. Other species that the new habitats are aimed to attract include frogs, box turtles, dragonflies and numerous bird species.

"As stewards for the Breivogel conservation land, T3C is thrilled to be part of this exciting restoration work," said Jessica Whritenour, T3C administrator. "We applaud Alex and Jack who have taken the initiative to kick this project into high gear. After years of planning and preparation, and two weeks of intensive on-the-ground work, we are so impressed with the new vernal pools and emerging grassland habitat. This is an excellent start of more great restoration to come."

Visit 300committee.org to check out the cool YouTube video about the Breivogel restoration project produced by outreach volunteer Alison Leschen.



This aerial photograph shows the existing ponds at Breivogel with the five new vernal pools to the right. The vernal pools differ in size and depth to attract a variety of birds, insects and amphibians including the state-listed Eastern spadefoot toad (inset).

land management technician since 2014. She is leading the project, with close collaboration from Jack Sidar, T3C's Stewardship Coordinator. Alex and Jack have worked very hard to plan and execute the restoration work. The focus is to create five vernal pools in an area of approximately 2 acres, followed by the establishment of sandplain grassland habitat on an additional 15 acres of upland.

Tom Biebighauser, a Kentucky-based wetland ecologist who has helped develop similar vernal pool systems in other parts of Cape Cod as well as overseas in New Zealand and Taiwan, was hired to provide leadership and expertise. Ian Ives, director of Mass

Winter & Spring Stewardship

In addition to the huge restoration effort at Breivogel, T3C's stewardship program has been busy with a variety of projects over the last several months. Here are some highlights:

- Two Boy Scouts worked with T3C to complete projects for their Eagle Scout rank. John Turner, a junior at Falmouth High School, conducted trail work at Collins Woodlot and gave a presentation on this project at the Annual Stewards Meeting. Collin Simpson, an FHS senior, built four Kestrel nest boxes and has installed three at the John Parker Road bogs. The fourth is slated for the Barnstable County Fairgrounds.
- At the Annual Stewards gathering on January 27, we celebrated our volunteers, showcased stewardship partners over the last year and previewed upcoming land management projects.
- Three walks this winter and spring explored unique conservation habitats throughout Falmouth with a focus on the stewardship

and land management efforts that help keep these ecosystems healthy. Led by T3C Stewardship Coordinator Jack Sidar and Falmouth Conservation Technician Alex Brandt, the focus areas were Exploring the White Cedar Swamp (February, at the town parcel south of Breivogel), the Breivogel Vernal Pool Project (March) and Managing a Sandplain Grassland at The Coonamesset Reservation with a focus on grassland birds (April).

- The Trail Crew, led by new captain Charlie Peterson, conducted 13 work days with 18 volunteers and more than 130 hours of trail maintenance. Work areas included the Northern Moraine Trail, Beebe Woods, Peterson Farm, Swift and Chute Preserve and the Roskovics Parcel.
- Bat boxes were installed at Teaticket Park and the River Bend and Bartolomei Conservation Areas.
- T3C is working with the Town Conservation Department to expand existing sandplain grassland habitat at the Coonamesset Reservation through a combination of mowing and prescribed fire.



157 Locust Street
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GIFTS IN MEMORY OF...

- ♥Earl & Lily Biscoe from Eloise Biscoe
- ♥Mary Bishop from George & Naomi Botelhoe
- ♥Jamie Bugley from David Whittaker
- ♥Brenda Burke from Joseph Burke
- ♥George & Marge Christman from Paul & Pam Stuedler
- ♥Jim Clark from Peter & Joan Boyer
- ♥George Hampson and his many contributions to Falmouth, from William & Sarah Adams, Jodee Bishop & Otto Reber, Thomas & Janet Chadie, Hovey & Rose Clifford, Werner & Barbara Deuser, Anne Dewees, Edward DeWitt & Kathy Mortenson, Steve & Rosemary Fassett, David & Janet Folger, William Hallstein & Susanne Goodman Hallstein, John & Olivann Hobbie, Leonard & Patty Johnson, Vicky & Pete Lowell, Gerard & Barbara Martineau, Chris & Pam Polloni, Gretchen Reilly, David & Edith Ross, John & Martha Ross, Jay & Margaret Russell, Dan & Deborah Shearer, Greg & Kerry Souza, Thomas & Ann Stone, Ivan & Virginia Valiela, Jeff Williams & Rebecca Upton, Susan Witzell
- ♥Dr. Seth Harvey from Thomas & Andrea Harvey
- ♥David Hayden from Deborah Hayden
- ♥Katharine G. Hopkins from Patricia Shoyinka
- ♥Marilyn A. Howard from her loving husband, Jack
- ♥Emily Maher from William Maher
- ♥Joseph Jarosiewicz from Theresa Jarosiewicz
- ♥Gladys Price Jenkins from Sherry Martin
- ♥Edward Leadbetter from Gloria Leadbetter
- ♥Emily Maher from William Maher
- ♥Peter J. L. McGuire from Mom
- ♥T. Richard McIntosh from Debbie McIntosh
- ♥Edmund Naddaff from Barbara Naddaff
- ♥John M. Nelson from Linda Nelson (for the Kelly Woodland)
- ♥Sheri Day Nolan and Esther Thorstensen from Howard & Dorothy Ellis
- ♥Doreen Purcell from Scott Mueller
- ♥Roux from Caroline Norton
- ♥John & Anita St. Clair from Francis Lovell
- ♥Beth Schwarzman from Anonymous, Robert McIntire
- ♥Dr. Artemas J. Stewart from Jean Stewart
- ♥Gay Sullivan from Gordon Sullivan
- ♥Kate Heery Tulchin from Joseph Tulchin
- ♥Frances Weiffenbach from Carol Chittenden, Peter & Lindsay Hopewood, Dana & Eileen Miskell, Wilson & Mary Jane Smith, Tom & Judy Stetson, Mary Walsh



Craig Gibson photo

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GIFTS IN HONOR OF...

- ♥Molly Cornell from Robert & Gwyneth Loud
- ♥Jeff Cutter, Cutter Financial Group, from Rita L. Doyle
- ♥Susanne Goodman Hallstein from Eric Hallstein & Suzanne Lippert
- ♥Tom Gregg's 80th birthday from John & Olivann Hobbie
- ♥Leonard Johnson from Milt & Sue Williamson
- ♥Leonard & Patty Johnson from R. Michael & Carolyn McNaught
- ♥Peter Kroll from George & Marjorie Yost
- ♥Charles E. Kuehn from Jeanne M. Shupe
- ♥Nick Lowell from Henrik Gulmann
- ♥Vicky Lowell from Philip Duffy & Lauren Kass Lempert
- ♥Pam Polloni from David & Patricia Gadsby
- ♥Marguerite Ryder from Stephen Ryder
- ♥Sue Smith from Phil & Kathy Wessling
- ♥Tom Stone from Judy Fenwick
- ♥T3C's staff from Chris & Pam Polloni
- ♥Gary Walker from Shelby Walker

Ways to Give

- Annual membership contribution
- Gift in honor/memory of — friends, relatives, special occasions
- Outright gift of cash, real estate
- Stocks & Securities (please contact T3C for new instructions)
- 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 on what's best for you.



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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 30 years, more than 2,300 acres have been permanently protected through our efforts.

Leaves

spring 2016



With the acquisition of the Shallow Pond Woodlands, more than 183 contiguous acres will be permanently protected.

70 Acres Under Agreement

T3C to Purchase Falmouth's Largest Remaining Undisturbed Parcel

After 22 years at the top of The 300 Committee's priority acquisition list, the Shallow Pond Woodlands (aka the Daddario parcel) are finally slated for permanent conservation. Verbal agreement was reached between T3C's board and the trustees of Daddario Enterprises, LLC, in late March, and the Purchase and Sale Agreement was signed in mid-April. The land trust will close on the deal by March 31, 2017 and will pay a total of \$1.4 million for these beautiful 69.7 acres of undisturbed woodland along Shallow Pond.

The property has been among the highest-ranking of all lands evaluated by T3C's Land Acquisition Committee; its many natural resources will protect drinking water, wetlands and the coastal watershed. It links to existing conservation land — the 46.4-acre Wald & Fender property to the north and the 67.3-acre Breivogel Ponds Conservation Area to the south, and together, all three parcels will create a large expanse of 183.4 contiguous acres that will be preserved forever for conservation, passive recreation and water protection. The land provides excellent wildlife habitat with numerous natural communities, a potentially certifiable vernal pool, scenic views and easy public access including opportunities for new walking trails.

"Preserving lands like these provides so many benefits for the citizens of Falmouth," said Tom Stone, T3C president. "Beyond protecting drinking water, conservation land provides wooded trails for hiking, critical wildlife habitat and trees that help clean the air by absorbing CO₂. We are, of course, delighted that we are approaching permanent protection of this parcel, one of the most important land parcels left on Cape Cod."



Majestic white pine trees are a notable feature of the Shallow Pond Woodlands.