continued from page 2

### **Land Donations**

- Martineau Woods: 2.0 rugged, wooded acres off Rockledge Drive in North Falmouth were donated to T3C in January 2017 by Barbara and Gerald Martineau.
- Mars Parcel: This 0.5-acre vacant parcel on Turner Road in Hatchville was donated in late 2016 by Christine Mars. With frontage on the Coonamessett River, and backing up (across the river) from the River Bend Conservation Area, this is another piece in the puzzle of the Coonamessett Greenway.
- Galleon Drive Parcel: Donated by Brendan Greene and Robert Whalen in December 2016, this 0.46-acre, steeply sloping lot abuts a town-owned conservation parcel with a vernal pool.

T3C extends its heartfelt thanks to these landowners who chose to donate their property for permanent conservation.

### Another acquisition on the horizon

In partnership with the MA Division of Conservation and Recreation, T3C is working on the acquisition of 8.5 acres of



Gerry & Barbara Martineau

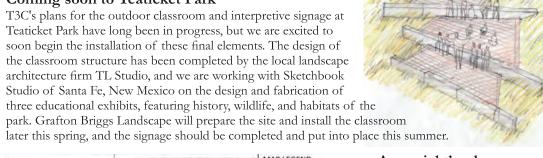
land on the Childs River in Waquoit owned by the Teixeira family. This parcel is slated to be permanently protected open space owned and managed by the state. The property abuts existing preserved state land on the river.

### Notes

### Coming soon to Teaticket Park

Teaticket Park have long been in progress, but we are excited to soon begin the installation of these final elements. The design of the classroom structure has been completed by the local landscape architecture firm TL Studio, and we are working with Sketchbook Studio of Santa Fe, New Mexico on the design and fabrication of

park. Grafton Briggs Landscape will prepare the site and install the classroom



Heritage Trail

The outdoor classroom at Teaticket Park will be installed later this spring in the back. corner of the Park, near the Teaticket Elementary School.

# . Matthew Souza Coonamessett . Dupee Conservation Area The 300 Committee land 3. George Souza Preserve Town conservation land Other town land Undeveloped or minimally developed river parcer 4. River Bend Conservation Cranberry bogs 5. Bartolomei Conservation 6. Location of Middle Bridge and wetland walkway Location of Lower Bridge and wetland walkway 8. Location of Coonamessett Greenway Gateway

## A special thank you

T3C is enormously grateful to the Massachusetts Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity (LAND) grant program for supporting T3C's acquisition of the Shallow Pond Woodlands. A reimbursement grant of \$400,000 is in the works, to be awarded to the Town of Falmouth for its purchase of a perpetual conservation restriction (CR) on the entire 70 acres. This CR, to be held by the Town, ensures the land's protection as publicly accessible open space in perpetuity.

### Coonamessett Greenway Update

T3C and the Falmouth Conservation Commission received a \$137,164 grant award from the Falmouth Community Preservation Fund for a conceptual plan for the Coonamessett Greenway Heritage Trail Gateway Park and for the construction of two pedestrian bridges. The Gateway Park will serve as a major trailhead for the Coonamessett Greenway and will include a sheltered, open-air amphitheater. The two pedestrian bridges will facilitate public access across the River in the current locations of Lower and Middle Bog dams. Both dams are scheduled for removal as part of the Coonamessett River restoration project. We appreciate this CP Fund grant that provides support for T3C's and ConCom's efforts to expand opportunities for public access along the Greenway.

(Left) This map of the Coonamessett River Corridor highlights existing conservation lands and forthcoming Heritage Trail waystations.



157 Locust Street Falmouth, MA 02540-2658

GIFTS IN MEMORY OF...

**♥Helen Affsa** from Mary Little

♥Dr. Richard Antoun from David & Linda Miller

**♥Earl, Lilly and Earl III Biscoe** from Eloise Biscoe

**♥Jamie Bugley** from David Whittaker

**♥Mary Coan** from Leonard & Patty Johnson, Fran & Sue Smith

**♥John L. Day** from Howard & Dorothy Ellis

♥Mario DiGregorio from Ken & Wendi Buesseler

♥Hugh Gibbons from Lawrence Abramson, Jodee Bishop & James Reber, Kathleen Bond, Joe Carreiro, Laurinda Morway, Leslie Pearce

♥George Hampson from Pat Fitzgerald, Bruce & Alex Lancaster

♥Hugh Hanlon Goldberg from Michael Goldberg

♥Dr. Seth Harvey from Thomas & Andrea Harvey

♥Eric Johnson from Fran & Sue Smith, Greg & Carrie Souza, Tom & Ann Stone

♥Ray Kenney from Allan Gordon & Christine Cowan **♥Peter McGuire** from Mom, Carol Baker

♥B. McKeon and M.P. King from William & Elizabeth McKeon

**♥Paul Mort** from Isabelle Mort

**♥Carol Powers** from Michael & Nancy Bridges

**♥Doreen Purcell** from Scott Mueller

**♥Elliot Rosenberg** from Paul Rosenberg

♥Dr. Howard Sanders from Jack & Ruth Pearce

♥Beth Schwarzman from Wallace & Pamela Stark **♥Beth C. & Gary Schwarzman** from Rebecca Lash ♥Robert C. Swenson, Sr. from Karen & Robert Swenson, Jr.

**♥Arlette Swift** from the Barrows Family, George & Christine Bachrach, Jodee Bishop & James Reber, Frederic H. Hilton, David A. Langbart, Joanna Lowell, Susan Morse, Anne Sawyer Shields, Fran & Sue Smith, Clifford Snyder, Frederica Valois

**♥Eileen Tripp** from David & Nancy Babin

**♥Kate Heery Tulchin** from Joseph Tulchin

**♥Mary C. Wright** from Allan Gordon & Christine Cowan

### GIFTS IN HONOR OF...

**♥Barbara Bunker's 95th birthday** from her children and their families **♥Molly Cornell** from Ellen Silbergeld

♥Nicole & Jon Goldman from Mary Goldman

♥Susanne Goodman Hallstein from Eric Hallstein & Suzanne Lippert

**♥ Hartley & Rosemary Hoskins** from Maureen Conte & Bob Busby

**♥Leonard Johnson** from Barbara & Jerry Fanger

♥Peter Kroll from George & Marjorie Yost

♥Vicky Lowell from Nawrie Meigs-Brown & David Brown

**♥Doug Marlow & Linda DeYoung** from Joe Goodman & Michele Heist

**♥Gini Patterson's birthday** from Gail Wells ♥Greg Souza from the Dolotta Family Charitable Foundation

♥Phil Stanton from John & Olivann Hobbie ♥Gary Walker from Cynthia Walker-Condrich & Russell Condrich

Marisa Dell-anno and Mattie Madsen, FHS senior art students, proudly display the bird mural they created with the second graders at Teaticket Elementary School as part of a project funded by the Falmouth Education Foundation. The mural will be installed this summer at Teaticket Park.

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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 Anne-Marie Runfola

Treasurer Paula Yanni

Clerk

Richard E. Pavne

### Directors

Kenneth Buckland Michael A. Duffany Susanne Goodman Hallstein Leonard W. Johnson Emily Kellndorfer Victoria H. Lowell Day O. Mount Jo Ann Muramoto, Ph.D. Gregory Souza Adam Thomas Virginia Valiela

Administrator Iessica Whritenour

**Director of Program Services** Lucy Helfrich

Stewardship Coordinator Jack Sidar

Tax Exempt # 22-2659529

The 300 Committee is a private, nonprofit 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 2,400 acres have been permanently protected through our



# Town and T3C Partner to Save **Tony Andrews Farm**

With unanimous support of Article 1 at the April 2017 Special Town Meeting, the Town of Falmouth and The 300 Committee are embarking on a collaboration to permanently protect the landmark Tony Andrews Farm and associated lands including critical habitat along the Coonamessett River in East Falmouth, a total of more than 46 acres. The goals of the project are to protect all the land in perpetuity, keeping the Farm parcels as working agricultural lands and preserving the waterfront lands for conservation, active recreation, habitat and water quality.

Acting together, the Town of Falmouth and T3C have reached an agreement in principle with the Andrews family. The general terms of the agreement are: The Town will purchase the 36.5 acre Farm-related parcels for \$2 million and T3C will purchase 9.84 acres on Ronnie Road for \$950,000. Contingencies include provisions for: title examination work, environmental site assessments,

and funding approvals at November Town Meeting. The closing is anticipated to take place by December 31, 2017.

While there will be two distinct transactions, with the Town to purchase the Farm lands and T3C to purchase the waterfront lots, the deals are inextricably linked — one piece will not take place without the other.

The Andrews properties were identified as high priority parcels for acquisition during the early days of The 300 Committee (1980's) and ranked as Falmouth Land Bank priorities (2000). T3C and the Andrews family have been in discussions since 2014. T3C's evaluation of the Farm and pond front parcels confirmed the conservation values of the land for open space and agricultural land preservation. In late December 2016, the family put the land on the market.

The acquisition of the Tony Andrews Farm properties offers a unique opportunity for the Town to acquire working farmland and to keep this land open and protected in

The Andrews Farm parcels, outlined in blue, will be acquired by the Town of Falmouth, creating opportunities for continued farming on the land. The green-lined Ronnie Road parcels, along Pond 14, will be purchased by T3C as permanently protected public open space.

Aerial view of Tony Andrews Farm and its surroundings. John Parker

Road is at the far left, just west of Pond 14 and the Coonamessett River;

the right (east side) of the photo shows a portion of the Falmouth

perpetuity. Located in East Falmouth at 398 Old Meeting House Road, Tony Andrews

The Andrews Farm together with the adjacent pond front parcels will provide farmland, riparian corridor, and wooded buffer to Pond 14 and the Coonamessett River. Keeping these parcels undeveloped will protect water quality as well as important fish and wildlife habitat, as the Coonamessett River is Falmouth's most important herring run. Protection of water quality is particularly important as the Coonamessett watershed influences both Great and Green Ponds, "impaired" coastal embayments which are negatively affected by excess nitrogen from septic systems.

Furthermore, this project complements the Town's planned restoration of the Coonamessett River, which has begun at Lower Bog to the south. Preservation of the Andrews Farm will

help to protect the restored river by preventing additional development. The naturally vegetated pond front parcels to be acquired by T3C will help to maintain habitat and the health of the water in Pond 14.

Scenic and aesthetic values of the combined project are high; visitors will be able to enjoy both farm and water views. As the farm is level, it affords easy public access for families with children as well as for seniors.

It is the Town's intent to plan for the continued agricultural use of the Farm. From April to November — the time between Spring Town Meeting and Fall Town Meeting — the Town and the Andrews Farm Working Group, which includes members of the Falmouth Agricultural Commission, Falmouth Preservation Alliance, and T3C, will solicit input from the community to develop a plan for the Farm properties.

Clearly, many details need to be worked out by the November 2017 Town Meeting when the funding for the remainder of the Town's portion of the land purchase will be voted, including Community Preservation funds. The Town and T3C will seek funding from two state grant programs. T3C will also be undertaking a fund raising campaign to support the land acquisition. We hope we can count on our members' support for this exciting project!

## **More Land News**

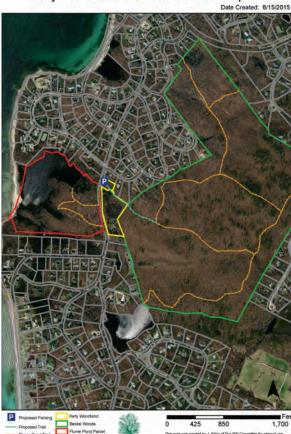
We are delighted to report that the closing on the Shallow Pond Woodlands went off without a hitch as scheduled on March 31. With wonderful, generous support from a handful of key donors, the fund raising for this land acquisition was very successful. Assisting this effort was a significant contribution for open space mitigation from Falmouth Woods Golf (FWG), LLC, which resulted from their Cape Club redevelopment project. The Shallow Pond Woodlands, located south of Thomas Landers Road, is the largest undisturbed parcel left in Falmouth. Its 70 acres connect to both the 68-acre Breivogel Ponds Conservation Area to the west and the 46-acre Wald & Fender property to the north to create a 183-acre linked expanse of open space. This acquisition forever preserves significant upland, wetland and wildlife habitat, frontage along Shallow Pond, and magnificent stands of tall white pines.

Public access improvements, including parking and trails will be coming soon to both the Shallow Pond Woodlands (see description above) and the Kelly Woodland off Sippewissett Road, which provides first time public access to Beebe Woods from the west. We are excited about these plans and are eager to open up new exploration and recreational opportunities for Falmouth residents and visitors.



A view of the Shallow Pond Woodlands from the north, across the pond.

### Kelly Woodland Trail Connection Map



From the Kelly Woodland (outlined in yellow), trail connections are in the works to existing footpaths in both Beebe Woods (to the east) and the Flume Pond (Peterson) Conservation Area.

continued on page 3

# **Upcoming Dates for your Calendar**

### Pedal to Parcels...A Bicycling Adventure Sunday, June 11, 9:30 am to noon

Grab your bike, your helmet and plenty of water for this enjoyable group ride. Volunteer leaders will guide riders to and share highlights about 14 parcels of protected open space over 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.

RSVP to <u>lhelfrich@300committee.org</u>; we hope to get a head count ahead of time so we have enough "leaders" and "sweeps." Our fingers are crossed for good weather as we have not scheduled a rain date. Hope you will join us on your bike!

## T3C Annual Meeting Thursday, July 13, 6:30 pm

One of nine kestrel boxes that are being monitored

kestrel chicks hatched in and fledged from this box

by T3C's new wildlife stewards. Last June, five

at the Coonamessett Reservation.

Falmouth Navigator, Ashumet Road, Hatchville Guest speaker Betsy Gladfelter, member of the Falmouth Conservation Commission, will present "The Coonamessett Greenway: a very simple secret."



Along the 2015 Pedal to Parcels route, participants stopped to learn about the new protected land at the Oyster Pond Headwaters in Quissett.

# Falmouth Road Race Sunday, August 20, 9:00 am

T3C has several guaranteed race bibs reserved through the Numbers for Nonprofits program for runners who wish to raise funds to support our land preservation mission. Visit 300committe.org for more information.

# **Fall-Winter-Spring Stewardship Activities** Pollinator gardens

Working with the Town of Falmouth Conservation Department and the Friends of the Mashpee National Wildlife Refuge, T3C has supported the planting of more than two acres of pollinator meadows at Sea Farms Marsh in East Falmouth and the Dupee Parcel in Hatchville. Fields were tilled and hand seeded with flowering plants and shrubs native to Barnstable County. A pollinator meadow at Teaticket Park will be coming soon, with planting to be completed this spring. Mary Kay Fox, president of the Friends group, has led this amazing effort and we truly appreciate her initiative and dedication.

### Wildlife stewards

T3C's Wildlife Stewards program is up and running! Twenty-two stewards are helping to monitor 9 kestrel boxes and 12 wood duck boxes. Both kestrels and wood ducks have been spotted early this season scoping out potential nesting spots and we are hopeful that breeding pairs have a successful season.

# **Eagle Scouts**

T3C continues to assist local Boy Scouts with conservation projects. Congratulations to FHS juniors Hale Thomas (son of T3C board member Adam Thomas) and Zack Bowerman on earning the rank of Eagle Scout.

# Winter trail crew led by Charlie Peterson

Twelve work days took place and involved 15 volunteers for a total of 113 hours of work. Trails tackled this year spanned the central sections of the Moraine Trail, including Collins Woodlot and the Kettle Holes Area, the Hanson-Powell Parcel off Central Avenue, Donald Whelden Preserve and Sea Farms Marsh off Davisville Road, the Bartolomei Conservation Area on Sandwich Road

and the Mock Moraine Trails in West Falmouth. Huge thanks to Charlie Peterson and the trail crew for all their terrific work sprucing keeping trails open and friendly to hikers. In March, twelve AmeriCorps Cape Cod members conducted a work day at the Coonamessett Reservation, removing a hedgerow between the old riding ring and the larger field to create a continuous field area for ground nesting birds. This included selectively

removing trees and shrubs while leaving perch trees. The group also worked on the removal of invasive plants. T3C extends a special thank you for continuing stewardship volunteer work to Jeff Hamilton who has provided wonderful support at Teaticket Park!

# T3C Bids Adieu...

...to our wonderful Stewardship Coordinator, Jack Sidar, whose hard work and dedication over the last two and a half years have moved the stewardship program forward in many ways. Jack launched new initiatives in wildlife conservation, habitat management and restoration, and advanced existing efforts to remove invasive species at several conservation areas. Working closely with the Town, Jack developed productive new partnerships with other nonprofit organizations, with volunteers, and throughout the community.

T3C is currently looking to fill Jack's very large shoes and hopes to announce the arrival of a new Stewardship Coordinator in a few weeks' time.



 $\Gamma 3C$  friends gathered to celebrate Stewardship Coordinator Jack Sidar and his fine work on behalf of our land trust. The group hiked the new Angel's Mirror trail at the Swift-Chute Preserve next to Long Pond.



3C president Tom Stone, director of program services Lucy Helfrich and administrator Jessica Whritenour thank Jack Sidar with a framed Craig Gibson photo.

# Walks, Talks and other Outreach Events

Members of T3C's Outreach Committee continue to enthusiastically and energetically promote our land trust's work through a variety of activities. Highlights of the last six months include:





The Atlantic white shark

Walk leaders Marcy Klattenberg

and Alex Lancaster have fun

a winter walk at Breivogel.

(photo by Alison Leschen)

identifying a pine branch during

Nature and Bird Walks: Special thanks to our devoted

volunteer walk leaders Molly Cornell, Alex Lancaster and

included a hike at Long Pond along the Moraine Trail, an

Marcy Klattenberg who continue to trek all over town, sharing

with dozens of friends and outdoors aficionados. The fall cycle

their love of Falmouth's many and varied conservation lands

exploration of fall bird migration at Salt Pond Area and along

the Shining Sea Bikeway, and a Thanksgiving Stuffing Stroll in

Beebe Woods. Getting outdoors to scope out birds in winter

meant visiting the ponds of West and North Falmouth for the

winter bird count and scanning Vineyard Sound from various

shore points for the Winter Waterfowl Safari. Other cold-month

adventures explored Flax Pond, Middle and Lower Bogs and the

Breivogel Ponds Conservation Area. (This is a recurring seasonal

a ramble along the Quashnet River

Corridor, a trip to Hatchville to

explore the Toner Parcel, George

Souza Preserve and Matt Souza

Conservation Area, and a return both

to Long Pond and to Beebe Woods,

with an end-to-end hike with the

Buzzards Bay Coalition along the

good measure. Joining T3C for

these walks is great exercise!

entire Moraine Trail thrown in for

walk to investigate the plants here and how they change. Check

out 300committee.org to see when the next visit is scheduled.)

The spring focus has included two woodcock walks at dusk,

Annual Winter-Spring Speaker Series: in partnership with Salt Pond Creating habitat in you Areas Bird Sanctuaries, Inc., our 2017 talks covered a wide range of topics. Offered on Thursday evenings once each month, January through May, audience members learned about: creating habitat in a home landscape; winter moths and other invasive forest insects and progress made to curb these insects' damage to our trees; river otters and their elusive behaviors; efforts to conserve bird populations in Massachusetts (especially the American kestrel and the grasshopper sparrow); and insights about the North Atlantic white shark. We are grateful to all our

Theresa Sprague, Blue Flax Design (January), Joseph Elkinton, Ph.D., UMASS-Amherst (February), Liz Baldwin, BioDiversity Works (March), Andrew Vitz, Ph.D., Massachusetts DFW (April) and Cynthia Wigren, Atlantic White Shark Conservancy (May)

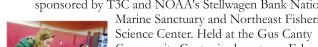
presenters for sharing their knowledge and enthusiasm with T3C members and friends:

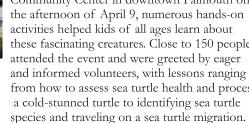


schools, the event sported high spirits and a packed house. More than \$1,700 in proceeds were donated to T3C by individuals and by Anejo (the Mexican restaurant that sold Pandya, Kathie Mount and burritos at the event) to support our work



Pickering of Grumpy's. A great time was had by all!





Ali Clark, an intern with

Sea Turtles in our Backyard! This free family program was sponsored by T3C and NOAA's Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary and Northeast Fisheries



Live music, dancing and fun were all part of a special Outreach friend raiser at Grumpy's Pub on Friday evening, March 24. Featuring the local band, Puffy Elvis, which is made up of nearly a dozen teachers from the Local band Puffy Elvis rocked T3C's friend raiser event at Falmouth public Grumpy's Pub in March.

Andrea Harvey pose with Joel to preserve open space in Falmouth.

Community Center in downtown Falmouth on the afternoon of April 9, numerous hands-on activities helped kids of all ages learn about these fascinating creatures. Close to 150 people attended the event and were greeted by eager and informed volunteers, with lessons ranging from how to assess sea turtle health and process

