

T3C Launches Family-Friendly Hiking Challenge

New “Passports” Encourage Families/Youth to Explore Local Trails

With the goal to get more young people out on Falmouth's open spaces, T3C's new Youth Outreach subcommittee began its work late in 2019. Once the coronavirus pandemic hit, the Youth Outreach team believed more than ever it was important to provide structured outings to families seeking fun and safe outdoor activities. Seizing on an initiative created by the Freeport Conservation Trust in Maine, T3C's group worked over several weeks to develop the “Falmouth Trails Challenge.” Using two new hiking “passports,” each challenge presents a series of hikes at four different conservation properties. Passport #1 features short hikes of a mile or less, suitable for families with young children, while Passport #2 includes four longer hikes of 2 or more miles.

T3C published the passports online on Earth Day, April 22, and sent them electronically to the email list of over 2,200 subscribers. A reward incentive built into the Passport program asks participants to send T3C an on-trail photo of themselves; this will enter them in a series of prize drawings.

To get your own copy of T3C's Trails Challenge Passports, visit T3C's web site (300committee.org) and scroll down the home page to the “For Kids” section link. You can print and fold your passports at home—into a true passport-sized document that can easily fit in a pocket, or download in a different format that is easily viewed on your cell phone.



The new passports for T3C's Falmouth Trails Challenge can easily be viewed on a mobile phone.



Hiking in Falmouth's beautiful woods is good for body and soul.



Looking north across Pond 14, one of the most scenic views along the northern Coonamessett Corridor hike, featured in Passport #2.

Girls Scouts Build Nestboxes

T3C has been delighted to continue the tradition of collaborating with the scouting community. Over the winter, girl scouts in Brownie Troop 82179 and Junior Troop 62640 contributed to our habitat enhancement efforts by building more bird boxes. Thirteen



Building...

girls, ages 8 to 11 helped build and install bluebird nestboxes, which have been installed at Breivogel Conservation Area and Andrews Grove.

Troop leader Jim Partan remarked on the girls' participation. “Our Girl Scout troops had fun and learned a lot in the Bluebird Nestbox Project with The 300 Committee. We learned about bluebirds and their habitats, did the woodworking to build the boxes, and got out into the field to help install the nestboxes. It was a great experience!”



...Installing



157 Locust Street
Falmouth, MA 02540-2658

GIFTS IN MEMORY OF...

- ♥Louise Adler from Laurinda Morway
- ♥Virginia “Ginny” Barnes from Susie Goodman Hallstein
- ♥Earl, Lilly and “Wiggy” Biscoe from Eloise “Pam” Biscoe
- ♥Bruce Dobberteen from Lisa Dobberteen
- ♥Bob Duffany from Susie & Bill Hallstein
- ♥Donald Durell from Jon Durell
- ♥Pat Dwyer from Leonard & Patty Johnson
- ♥John Haddad from Mike & Christy Duffany
- ♥George Hampson from Thomas & Janet Chadie, Daniel “Pup” Gould
- ♥David Hayden from Deborah Hayden
- ♥Katharine Gaylor Hopkins from Patricia Shoyinka
- ♥Carl Bostwick Ketchum from Paul & Robin Ketchum, Lorraine Stratis
- ♥Alexander I. Lewis III and Elsa J. Lundgren from Gretchen Lewis
- ♥Roger A. Litman from Roger & Beverly Litman
- ♥Pete Lowell from Peter Clark & Ellen Barol, Mike & Christy Duffany, Richard & Susan Houghton, Marcia Macedo, Jo Ann Muramoto & Bob Skilton, Tom & Ann Stone
- ♥Bill Mackey from Will & Lyn Clarke
- ♥Leslie & Jimmy McDonald from Hovey & Rose Clifford, Sheila Clifford
- ♥Arlene Mollo from Robert Clifford & Marie Lawrie
- ♥Robert Morrison from Janet Lea Shade
- ♥Josephine & Charles Muller from Joan Muller
- ♥Judy Podradchik from Elaine Podradchik
- ♥Mark Kenneth Robbins from Pelle Robbins
- ♥John & Anita St. Clair from Francis Lovell
- ♥Sylvia Werner from Ruth Segal
- ♥Jean Whitaker Westwater from Alexandra & Bruce Lancaster, Pat Vincis, Julia Westwater, Pat Westwater-Jong
- ♥Cleveland & Helen White from Allison Brewster White
- ♥Roy Yoerger, Sr. from Dana Yoerger
- ♥Yvonne from Werner & Barbara Deuser
- ♥Alexander Ziss from Judith Ziss



Coming soon to your backyard, if you're lucky...Baltimore Oriole! (Werner Deuser)



A view south across Peterson Farm. (Gisela Tillier)

GIFTS IN HONOR OF...

- ♥Jayne Abbott from Alexander Abbott
- ♥Mardi & Frank Bowles from John & Olivann Hobbie
- ♥Molly Cornell from Judy Fenwick, Wallace & Pamela Stark
- ♥Betsy Gladfelter from Leonard & Patty Johnson, Jeff & Valerie Oppenheim
- ♥John & Nicole Goldman from Mary Goldman
- ♥Leonard & Patty Johnson from Jerome & Barbara Fanger, Carolyn Partan
- ♥Peter Kroll from George & Marjorie Yost
- ♥Vicky Lowell from Will & Lyn Clarke, Lucy & Karl Helfrich, John & Olivann Hobbie, Alexandra & Bruce Lancaster, Joanna Lowell, Susan Morse, Jo Ann Muramoto & Bob Skilton, Jessica & Robert Whritenour
- ♥Anne-Marie Runfola from Ken & Wendy Buesseler
- ♥Sue & Fran Smith from Phil & Kathy Wessling
- ♥Greg Souza from the Dolotta Family Charitable Foundation
- ♥Tom & Ann Stone from Kirstin Moritz & Rod Hinkle



Wild cherry in bloom.



Visiting Peterson Farm in the spring to see the lambs is an annual tradition for many.

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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 35 years, more than 2,500 acres have been permanently protected through our efforts.

Leaves

A Note from our President

Dear Friends,

I found a quote from novelist Helen Oyeyemi in January and thought it summed up what The 300 Committee is all about: “*Wherever there is air and light and open space, things grow.*” For me, this simple line evoked solace and beauty, health, and hope of spring in the mid-winter chill.



Spring unfolds on a branch at the Coonamessett Reservation. (Jessica Whritenour)

A lot has changed since January, yet much that is hopeful continues to unfold with spring. At this time, we are reminded even more of how important it is to preserve natural places in Falmouth, forever, and for all of us. The 300 Committee Land Trust staff, board, volunteers, and partners like you are as passionate and committed as ever about realizing our vision for a healthy, sustainable, beautiful Falmouth. We are working from our dining room tables, over webinars, and still walking and monitoring our land for just that reason.

As you'll see in this newsletter, some things have not changed. We are still acquiring new properties and still helping residents conserve the natural value of their own properties forever. On our website, you'll also find new “passports” to help families to explore our trails and a new video to virtually enjoy the restoration of the Coonamessett River.

I cannot wait to walk the land with you again soon. In the meantime, please let us know how you're doing and what our natural places have meant to you during this time. Thank you for continuing to partner with us on this important work and giving us hope. I'm grateful for you and wishing you all that is good.



Anne-Marie Runfola (Ken Koste)

Onward Together,

Anne-Marie Runfola, President

Snowy egrets touch down at Sea Farms Marsh. (Jessica Whritenour)



T3C Adds to Conservation Holdings in North Falmouth

On March 4, The 300 Committee closed on the purchase of a new 9.3-acre conservation parcel in North Falmouth, located off Millstone Street. Seller Gerald Sylvia had long hoped to permanently protect this land; with the acquisition completed, he honored the memory of his mother by naming it the Florence Sylvia Woodland.

The property is mostly wooded and has a path snaking through it. As part of the pre-acquisition screening process, Land Acquisition Committee (LAC) volunteer and botanist Pam Polloni's inspection report suggests that at one time the land may have been used as sheep pasture. Its soils, boulders, slopes and pine and oak habitat indicate that much of it is glacial moraine deposit unsuitable for growing crops.

T3C will pay for the \$600,000 acquisition in installments over three years, with the final payment due in March 2022, and will seek to raise private monies, including grant funds, for the purchase. A small parking area off Millstone Street will accommodate trail access for walking and hiking.

“T3C is tremendously pleased to acquire the Florence Sylvia Woodland for open space protection,” said Jo Ann Muramoto, vice president and LAC chair. “Its large size, healthy forest, undisturbed groundcover, and lack of invasive plants not only attests to the excellent stewardship by the Sylvia family but also means that the parcel will provide valuable wildlife habitat. Visitors will enjoy strolling along the pleasant trail through the woods and discovering what a healthy forest looks like. As it is close to the Shining Sea Bikeway, bicyclists who find their way here can take a break and enjoy the coolness of the woods on a hot summer day. Finally, this parcel will benefit an area of town where there is surprisingly little permanently protected open space. We thank Mr. Sylvia for his land stewardship and for offering the land for sale to T3C.”

We are in the midst of finalizing plans for parking and signage to encourage public access. Please stay tuned to our website www.300committee.org for more information.



James and Lucy the dog enjoy a family exploration of the Mock Moraine Trails in West Falmouth. (Clarke Morrison)



The return of the osprey is another sure sign of spring in Falmouth. (Craig Gibson)



Aerial view of the Florence Sylvia Woodland parcel in North Falmouth, T3C's newest acquisition.



A sunny spring morning at the Florence Sylvia Woodland.

Outreach's Busy Spring Derailed by Coronavirus

Through mid-March, T3C's Outreach Committee had planned and executed perhaps its most ambitious schedule of walks and talks ever. The Beebe Woods walk series in partnership with Highfield Hall was successfully nearing its end, and walks in conservation lands had attracted record numbers of participants. (More than 100 people showed up for T3C's New Year's Day family walk at Sea Farms Marsh.) The first speaker series talk on edible mushrooms, held in January, saw a full house, and the February talk on coyotes brought overflow crowds to the Museums on the Green Cultural Center. But in mid-March the coronavirus brought everything to a screeching halt.

While all walks, talks and other outreach activities have been cancelled, at least through the spring, members of the Outreach Committee remain upbeat and enthusiastic. The group is eagerly awaiting the opportunity to reschedule events and resume programming so that volunteers and the public can enjoy being together to learn about and appreciate the natural world and Falmouth's open spaces.



An enthusiastic group joined T3C for one of the first hikes in the winter-spring Beebe Woods series coordinated by T3C and Historic Highfield. Molly Cornell was being silly, and we love that! (Sarah Flynn)

Stewardship Highlights

The mild winter was a boon to T3C's stewardship efforts. Our annual Trail Crew and the new Coffee Cleanups initiative together meant that a record amount of work was accomplished on trails and conservation parcels all over town. What we didn't know until the work was finished is that while this off-season stewardship is important every year, this year's activities were more vital than ever — preparing Falmouth's trails and protected lands to shine as a respite during the coronavirus pandemic. With schools and businesses closed, and the majority of Falmouth residents sheltering in place, Falmouth's conservation areas have provided many people with critical opportunities for fresh air, outdoor recreation and respite in nature.



Trail crew volunteers this year totaled 23. Pictured here are (l to r) Steve Faloutico, Bob Butcher, Willy Burgess, Andy Mattox, Mary Hope, Laurie Raymond and Steve Morris. (Charlie Peterson)

T3C's trail crew are volunteers who help keep our trails maintained. This is an open group that anyone can join weekend mornings in late fall, winter and early spring. Volunteers are asked to bring a favorite pair of loppers and their own protective gear (gloves, eye wear, hearing protection). Chainsaws, gas-powered brush cutters, rakes and heavy-duty loppers are the tools key to this effort. During this past winter, the trail crew, led by Charlie Peterson, met on 13 Sunday mornings with 23 different volunteers. The group amassed a whopping 260.5 hours of trail work at multiple conservation areas: Bartolomei, the Donald Whelden Preserve, the northern, central and southern portions of the Moraine Trail, the Coonamessett Reservation, Beebe Woods at the Ter Heun Drive

Special Thanks...

...to **The Falmouth Fund of The Cape Cod Foundation** for a grant to grow T3C's stewardship capacity through the TerraCorps program. This support leverages more than \$22,000 in additional funding from state and federal sources. ...to the **Sporting Safety, Conservation & Education Fund of Falmouth, Inc.** (SSCEFF, the charitable foundation of Falmouth Rod & Gun Club) for its continued support of T3C's stewardship program. ...to volunteers Valerie Butcher, Molly Cornell, Sarah Flynn, Mary Klattenberg, Alex Lancaster, Kathie Mount and Mike Tucker for wonderful help leading hikes and other activities.

Upcoming Dates...More Details Coming Soon

T3C Annual Meeting, Thursday, July 9, Special Virtual Format. Join T3C board members, staff and volunteers as we celebrate 35 years of protecting open space in Falmouth. **Summer 2020, Yoga in the Park.** Saturday mornings at Teaticket Park. A partnership of T3C and Calm Studio, Falmouth. **Falmouth Road Race At-Home Edition, August 15-29.** Run or walk at home this year and support T3C at the same time. This will be a truly unique Road Race! For more information, please contact lhelfrich@300committee.org.

NOTE: We wish to correct an error that appeared in the Fall 2019 edition of *Leaves*. The video tribute to Vicky Lowell shown at the July annual meeting was produced by **Alison Leschen**. Another video featuring Eric Turkington's personal toast to Vicky (since he couldn't attend the event), was filmed by Brian Switzer. We apologize to Alison for the error.



Coffee Cleanup volunteers at the Teaticket Park Stewardship Shed: Willy Burgess, Celia Gayer, Andy Rosen, Bob Olsen, John Bowers, Charlie Peterson, Bob Lacquidara, Ann Mulligan, Barry Good. (Alex Zollo)

entrance and at Kelly Woodlands, Shallow Pond Woodlands, the Dupee Parcel and Matt Souza Conservation Area, Flume Pond, Mares Pond and Collins Woodlot.

Coffee Cleanup volunteers gathered on Tuesday mornings to tackle a variety of projects at different parcels around town: litter cleanup, fence installation, trail blazing and more. Everyone was encouraged to bring their own coffee mug; T3C supplied the coffee! Led by Stewardship Coordinator Alexandra Zollo, the format developed so that volunteers would meet at the Stewardship Shed at Teaticket Park to chat informally, enjoy a cup o' joe and discuss the plan for the morning. Then volunteers would set out with the appropriate tools to that day's focus area; work was conducted this winter at River Bend Conservation Area, Shallow Pond Woodlands, Teaticket Park and Breivogel Ponds. The Coffee Cleanup crew accrued 166 volunteer hours, using 21 volunteers across 8 mornings. We are looking forward to the continuation of this program on Tuesdays throughout the year once the threat of Covid-19 is behind us.

We are so grateful to T3C's volunteer stewards, monitors, and crew members, who are invaluable to our efforts to keep special places in Falmouth enjoyable for all who visit.



Trail crew chief, Charlie Peterson

Collaboration Continues with New CRs

Two properties within the Buzzards Bay Watershed are positioned nicely for a conservation partnership between T3C and the Buzzards Bay Coalition and add nearly 40 acres to the inventory of permanently protected lands in Falmouth.

The Wilson CR (6.8 acres) in West Falmouth protects important wildlife habitat including beach and intertidal shore, dunes, shrub swamp and buffering upland. T3C and the BBC purchased this CR for \$225,000, made possible through private gifts to both organizations from generous donors. The original property included 188 feet of frontage on a salt pond and 1,010 feet of frontage on West Falmouth Harbor, in addition to a lovely old summer home. The Wilson family, with an eye toward conservation, worked with the BBC and T3C to sell the entire 8.8 acre property. The new deed was recorded with a 2-acre buffer around the house, while the 6.8 acre balance of the property, with significant natural resources, was placed into a perpetual conservation restriction.

The Wheeler Forest Reserve (30.42 acres), which sits between Woods Hole Road and Quisset Avenue south of the Quisset lights, contains diverse habitats including forested upland, freshwater swamp and potential vernal pools. BBC is the landowner and T3C will hold the CR. A particularly noteworthy feature of this CR is the fact that the Wheeler Forest represents 18% of all remaining undeveloped, natural land in the Quisset Harbor watershed -- providing an incredible opportunity to protect coastal water quality. T3C congratulates the Buzzards Bay Coalition on this tremendous acquisition and we extend a heartfelt thank you to the Wheeler family for their foresight in preserving this land.

Business Members

Open green spaces are good for all of us, and good for business, too! We are grateful to the following local businesses for supporting T3C:

Act 1 Carol O'Loughlin Real Estate • Artisan Salon • Atria Woodbriar • Brian Switzer Video • Grafton Briggs Landscaping • Brown Building Co. • Calm Studio • Cape Cod Aggregates • Cape Cod Bagel • Cape Cod Five • The Clam Man • CMS Landscape • Coonamessett Farm • COT, Inc. (including American Sunglass, Board Stiff) • Dana's Kitchen • Deer Run Veterinary Service • M Duffany Builders • Eagle Fence • Energize & Organize • Falmouth Wine & Spirits • Foley & Foley, PC • Glynn Law Offices • Hamilton Tree and Landscape • Dr. Kenneth Heisler • Holmes & McGrath, Inc. • iKitchens, Etc. • innerglow yoga, Mashpee • Inn on the Sound • Jack in the Beanstalk • Jill Neubauer Architects • Kappy's Fine Wine & Spirits • Lawrence-Lynch Corp. • Liam Maguire's Irish Pub • Liberty Mutual Insurance • Maison Villatte • J. Miller Pictureframer & Gallery, Mashpee • Molly's Parking • Molly's Tea Room • North Falmouth Cheese Shop • Oppenheim & Nickerson LLP • Pariah Dog Farm • Perennial Solutions • Ryan Family Amusements • SEAK, Inc. • M.R. Soares Co., Inc. • Village Café • West Falmouth Aluminum & Glass • West Falmouth Market • Windfall Market • Wood Lumber/ Mid-Cape Home Centers • Woods Hole Research Center

T3C Contributes to Coonamessett River Accessible Trail

In November, the Falmouth Board of Selectmen voted unanimously to accept a \$295,000 donation from T3C for the construction of the handicapped-accessible river loop trail and trailhead parking near John Parker Road, both major features of the Coonamessett Greenway Heritage Trail (CGHT).



Looking south toward John Parker Road along the Coonamessett River as restoration work continues. (Jessica Whitenour)

The CGHT, when complete, will be a 3.2-mile continuous passive recreation trail along the entire river corridor, winding through more than 280 contiguous acres of Town- and T3C-owned conservation lands, from Coonamessett Pond in the north all the way to Great Pond. The Lower River Loop trail will cover the newly restored portion of the Coonamessett River—a flat pathway on both sides of the river connected by the two new boardwalks at Swift's and Dexter's Mill Crossings. River restoration work is ongoing further north.

T3C has long supported the overall Coonamessett River restoration project. The contribution to the Town is the culmination of private fund raising that will ensure that the Lower River Loop trail becomes fully accessible. This work is projected to be completed in June 2021.

The creation of accessible trails has been a major T3C initiative in recent years. The first handicapped-accessible trail was installed at Bartolomei Conservation Area in 2010. Two years later came the restoration of Teaticket Park and the creation of its accessible network of walking paths, along with other accessible features: the boardwalk, wetland observation platform and picnic area. In November, the Jeffress Williams Pathway and the wetland boardwalk at Two Ponds Conservation Area were opened to the public.

“We are embracing the idea that experiences in nature are important for all people,” said Jessica Whitenour, T3C's executive director, “and we believe it is critical to make a commitment to serve everyone, regardless of their capabilities. We are really excited about the all-access Lower Loop Trail and think it will be a really great resource for all those who visit the Coonamessett River.”



A grant to T3C from the Horizon Foundation in Maine was earmarked for educational signage along the CGHT. Fifteen interpretive panels, researched and designed largely by T3C volunteers, were installed at various waystations along the CGHT trail this past winter. The research and design team for the panels is pictured here at Andrews Grove, with Pond 14 in the background: Marcy Klattenberg, Valerie Butcher, Betsy Gladfelter, Alison Leschen and Alex Lancaster. (Alexandra Zollo)