



## Welcome Spring with The 300 Committee's 2010 Speaker Series

**Where & When: Highfield Hall, 7:00 PM\***  
**The talks are free and open to the public.**  
**Please Join Us!**

**January 28  
Thursday**



### Taking Flight: Learning the Art of Bird Photography

A lifelong amateur photographer and birder for more than 10 years, Craig Gibson combined both interests when he began taking photographs of osprey in Falmouth. This fueled his passion and he expanded to shooting photos of other birds throughout the Cape. Capturing birds in flight and other action photography is his primary interest. Craig works constantly to improve his technique using hand-held intermediate and large telephoto lenses. He is also working on a better understanding of bird identification and behavior, so that he can anticipate, for the best photo, what birds might do. Craig's photos have appeared in *The Enterprise* throughout the last year. He is a contributing photographer to the Natural History Notes blog published by Mass Audubon Society's Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary and to *Birds of North America*, an online project for the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Several of Craig's prints will be available for sale at the talk and on-line, with proceeds benefiting The 300 Committee.

**February 11  
Thursday**



### Eelgrass Restoration in Boston Harbor

Alison Leschen, new Reserve Manager at Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (WBNERR), will talk about eelgrass restoration in a formerly eutrophic estuary (Boston Harbor). Though the project was successful, Alison and fellow researchers have concluded that restoration is not necessarily a practical or efficient way of addressing eelgrass loss. She will discuss other possible mitigation/management strategies that focus more on preventing loss in the first place, such as water quality improvements and avoidance of physical damage. A Falmouth resident and member of FACES, Alison will tie these issues into the current discussion on wastewater management in town. Finally, she will discuss WBNERR's role in the research, education, training, and stewardship around these issues. Alison has Master's degrees in Public Health and Marine Science. She has been a Regional Planner, Solid Waste/Recycling Coordinator, and Marine Fisheries Biologist. She joined WBNERR in late October from the Mass. Division of Marine Fisheries.

**March 18  
Thursday**



### Becoming a Better Gardener:

#### The Plants and Practices that Lead to Happier People and Plants

C.L. Fornari is a gardening expert, author and professional speaker. C.L. believes that whether your thumbs are green or black, the lessons learned in the garden are relevant to work, relationships, spirituality and personal growth. C.L. will talk about how to have the type of landscape you would like while working with Mother Nature. Whether you wish to grow flowers, vegetables or an attractive foundation planting, she will highlight "good" plants and how to best grow and enjoy your landscape. A year-round resident of the Cape, C.L. is the author of *A Garden Lover's Cape Cod* and *A Garden Lover's Martha's Vineyard*, and is the host of GardenLine on WXTK radio.

**April 9  
Friday**



### Birds on the Cape & Islands—Why They Matter

**\*(Note: this talk begins at 7:30)**

E. Vernon Laux, long-time newspaper columnist, author, tour guide, radio commentator, and bird watcher extraordinaire, will present a talk and slide show that draw on his extensive bird watching experience, illustrating why Cape Cod and the Islands are important habitat for the survival of many bird species. Vern has watched birds all over the world: the tropics, Antarctica, and Martha's Vineyard, where he discovered the famous Red-footed Falcon several summers ago. He is the resident land manager and ornithologist for the Linda Loring Nature Center on Nantucket and the author of *Bird News—Vagrants and Visitors on a Peculiar Island*. He appears regularly on WCAI's *The Point* with Mindy Todd and his birding column appears every Saturday in the Cape Cod Times. Bring your bird questions!

*The 300 Committee is a private, non-profit land trust dedicated to preserving and protecting natural lands in Falmouth, Massachusetts.*

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