



www.300committee.org

2017 Winter and Spring Speaker Series

Presented by
**The 300 Committee Land Trust
& Salt Pond Areas Bird Sanctuaries, Inc.**



at the Falmouth Historical Society's Cultural Center
(parking & access on Katharine Lee Bates Road)

www.saltpondsanctuaries.org

Thursdays at 7:00 pm

The talks are free and open to the public. Please join us!

January 12



Creating Habitat for Wild-life and People-Life in the Home Landscape

Often when people hear “Naturalized” or “Native” Garden, their first impression is of an untamed, uninviting or even downright messy landscape. But imagine a landscape that meets the needs of both people AND wildlife; a garden that is beautiful, sustainable and ecologically healthy. This is not a utopian vision, but a realistic and desirable goal for the home landscape. Through colorful photographs and real project examples, **Theresa Sprague of BlueFlax Design LLC** will share with us the aesthetic qualities and wildlife habitat value of a range of commercially available native plant species while considering principles of good ecological design including site analysis, wildlife needs, zones of use, sensory experiences and cues to care. Bring your Cape Cod plant and garden questions!

February 2



Winter Moths, Gypsy Moths and Black Oak Gall Wasps: Can Biological Control Solve our Forest Pest Problems?

Joseph Elkinton, Ph.D., professor of entomology in the Department of Environmental Conservation at UMASS-Amherst, will present information on the population dynamics and biological control of invasive forest insects. He is currently involved with efforts to introduce predators and parasites to control winter moths and similar pests. He and his research team for a decade have been working on the importation of a fly called *Cyzenis albicans*, whose only prey is the winter moth; they have introduced this parasitic fly at numerous sites on Cape Cod, with some success in reducing the moth population. It is hoped that continued efforts will combat the pests that are killing our trees. Join us to learn more!

March 2



Understanding the Elusive Coastal River Otter

Liz Baldwin is the **Assistant Director of BiodiversityWorks**, a Martha's Vineyard non-profit. In 2011, Liz and her colleague Luanne Johnson founded BiodiversityWorks to focus on regional wildlife research and monitoring and to mentor students in field biology. One of their early research projects was to document river otter activity across Martha's Vineyard. Liz expanded this work for her master's degree and looked at the activity patterns, behaviors, and population status of the river otter in a northeast coastal environment. In 2013, she graduated with a degree in Conservation Biology from Antioch University New England. She will talk to us about the biology and natural history of the North American river otter (*Lontra canadensis*), results from her thesis, and how to identify otter track and sign. Come learn all about otters!

April 13



From Kestrels to Grasshopper Sparrows—Conserving Bird Populations in MA

The American Kestrel is North America's smallest falcon, and throughout New England, these beautiful birds have been in decline, due to the loss of open space habitat and competition for nesting cavities, among other factors. We are delighted to present **Andrew Vitz, Ph.D., State Ornithologist for the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife**, who has worked with T3C and the Town of Falmouth to install kestrel boxes at several local conservation lands. Andrew is a key force in bird conservation across the state. He will talk about his work to restore bird populations focusing on southeastern MA. There is good news for kestrels and other species!

May 4



Awareness Inspires Conservation: White Sharks in the North Atlantic

Despite its well-established presence in the North Atlantic, the white shark is not considered an abundant species. Off the coast of Cape Cod, scientists have predictable access to white sharks, but rely on outside funding to conduct research. The Atlantic White Shark Conservancy (AWSC) was established in 2012 to fund this research and promote shark education. Since 2009 Massachusetts scientists have tagged 100 white sharks with coded acoustic transmitters and/or satellite-based tracking tags to examine fine- and broad-scale movements along the U.S. east coast. In 2014, these scientists began a multi-year study to estimate local and regional white shark populations in the western North Atlantic. Please join us to hear **Cynthia Wigren, President and founder of AWSC**, as she presents the results of this key research.

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

Salt Pond Areas Bird Sanctuaries, Inc. is a member-based, nonprofit corporation founded in 1962 to preserve the natural resources of the town of Falmouth and to protect wildlife habitat, historic buildings and open space.