Dear 'Sconset Friends:

We're looking forward to the return of the summer sounds of family, friends and children at play in the Village of 'Sconset. Don't get me wrong. For those of us who spend the off-season in 'Sconset, there is a certain charm to the quiet and solitude of the Village - no lines at the post office, no cars on the streets and an easy pace, unless the chill winds blow, to our walks along the bluffs and through the lanes.

We now look to a busy summer season for the Trust as we continue to address key conservation and preservation issues for the Village. Again, we thank you for your support in the past and look forward to your continued support as we work on conservation of open land in the green belt and the preservation of Sankaty Head Lighthouse and other historic structures in 'Sconset.

There are many fronts for action and collaboration in pursing our conservation and preservation goals. In the near future you will hear a great deal more about our efforts with the following initiatives:

1. The transfer of ownership of the Sankaty Head Light Station from the Federal government to the 'Sconset Trust. Part and parcel of this initiative is the need to prepare for the possible future relocation of the Lighthouse due to the march of Mother Nature's erosive effects.

2. The pursuit of open land conservation in the greenbelt surrounding 'Sconset's western and southern developed areas.

3. The completion of the preservation easement process at the Siasconset Union Chapel on New Street.

4. On-going work to preserve historic homes in the Village and to bring the island historic designation up to date.

In all of our efforts collaboration is a guiding theme. We continue to work with the island conservation and preservation not for profits to assure that our goals can be achieved here in 'Sconset while at the same time supporting the initiatives throughout the Island that benefit all members of the broader community.

The list of our sister organizations here in 'Sconset include the 'Sconset Civic Association, the Siasconset Beach Preservation Fund and the 'Sconset Advisory Board. Island wide organizations include the Nantucket Conservation Foundation, the Nantucket Land Bank, the Nantucket Land Council and the Nantucket Preservation Trust.

Erika Mooney, our executive director, and your board members meet and communicate frequently with all of these organizations.

Please make note of the activities and events highlighted in this newsletter. And please make a special effort to join us at our Annual Meeting on July 21 when we will have Rick Lohr, the president of International Chimney, speak about the amazing elements of lighthouse relocations.

Please feel free to contact me, Erika Mooney, or any board member with questions, comments and suggestions. Here's to a wonderful summer.

Robert Dean Felch, President
rdfelch@aol.com

The Trust's primary mission is to assist in the preservation of the Village's unique character through conservation and preservation of areas of open land and its structures of historic significance.
I began visiting Nantucket about ten years ago with my husband and our three children. After a summer at the tip of Smith’s Point in Madaket, we began renting a house in Sconset. We instantly loved the neighborhood, the small town feeling. The Village is like an extended wonderful family. The most important things about the Sconset Trust are keeping the green area in and around Sconset green, and working to preserve the lovely old buildings and landscapes. The Sconset Trust is what will make it all happen. But we all need to pitch in to keep the Trust strong: it won’t just happen by itself.

— Roxanne Casscells

What is a Conservation Easement?

A conservation easement (or conservation restriction) is a legal agreement between a landowner and a land trust or government agency that permanently limits uses of the land in order to protect its conservation values. It allows you to continue to own and use your land and to sell it or pass it on to heirs.

When you donate a conservation easement to a land trust, you give up some of the rights associated with the land. For example, you might give up the right to build additional structures, while retaining the right to grow crops. Future owners also will be bound by the easement’s terms. The land trust is responsible for making sure the easement’s terms are followed.

Conservation easements offer great flexibility. An easement on property containing rare wildlife habitat might prohibit any development, for example, while on a farm might allow continued farming and the building of additional agricultural structures. An easement may apply to just a portion of the property, and need not require public access.

A landowner sometimes sells a conservation easement, but usually easements are donated. If the donation benefits the public by permanently protecting important conservation resources and meets other federal tax code requirements it can qualify as a tax-deductible charitable donation. The amount of the donation is the difference between the land’s value with the easement and its value without the easement. Placing an easement on your property may or may not result in property tax savings.

Perhaps most important, a conservation easement can be essential for passing land on to the next generation. By removing the land’s development potential, the easement lowers its market value, which in turn lowers estate tax. Whether the easement is donated during life or by will, it can make a critical difference in the heirs’ ability to keep the land intact.

Why should I grant a conservation easement to a land trust?

People execute a conservation easement because they love their open space land, and want to protect their land from inappropriate development while keeping their private ownership of the property. Granting an easement to a conservation organization that qualifies under the Internal Revenue Code as a “public charity” - which nearly all land trusts do - can yield income and estate tax savings. Moreover, land trusts, some of which are more than 100 years old, have the expertise and experience to work with landowners and ensure that the land will remain as permanent open space.

Are conservation easements popular?

They are very popular. In the 5 years between 1998 and 2003, the amount of land protected by local and regional land trusts using easements tripled to 5 million acres. Landowners have found that conservation easements can be flexible tools, and yet provide a permanent guarantee that the land won’t ever be developed. Conservation easements are used to protect all types of land, including coastlines; farm and ranch land; historical or cultural landscapes; scenic viewsc; streams and rivers; trails; wetlands; wildlife areas; and working forests.

How can a conservation easement be tailored to my needs and desires?

An easement restricts development to the degree that is necessary to protect the significant conservation values of that particular property. Sometimes this totally prohibits construction, and sometimes it doesn’t. Landowners and land trusts, working together, can write conservation easements that reflect both the landowner’s desires and the need to protect conservation values. Even the most restrictive easements typically permit

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MEMBERSHIP DRIVE & GENERAL FUNDRAISING CONTINUE

We encourage you to continue spreading the word about the Trust mission and Trust membership to friends and family. If you know of any foundations or other potential donors to our land conservation efforts, please forward their information to us. Also we’re more than happy to send prospective membership packets, so please just let us know if you would like us to mail one to you.

SECOND ANNUAL NYC SORREE (SNOW FEST)

Despite the dramatic weather during February’s New York City Soree weekend (26” of snow the night of the event) those who attended had a great time and the evening was a financial success. The jazz duo did a fine job of entertaining and Harvard Hall in the Harvard Club provided a dramatic backdrop for many mini-'Sconset reunions. This year’s NYC Soree also boasted a record number of sponsors. We look forward to Mother Nature’s cooperation next year as we hold our third annual event.

‘SCONSET TRUST BIRD WALKS

On the educational front, the Trust will hold our second annual bird walks with Bob Kennedy, a naturalist from the Maria Mitchell Association. Last year’s walks were a big hit and we look forward to continuing this tradition of sharing knowledge about the natural beauty around ‘Sconset. This year’s walks will be held on Monday, July 3rd and Monday, August 14th.

‘SCONSET TRUST MERCHANDISE

As many of you know, we’re currently selling Forrest Rodts’ limited edition, giclee prints of the ‘Sconset Rotary. Forrest has generously offered all profits from the sales of the print for the Trust. We printed 150 and they have been selling fast. We recommend ordering one while they last. In other Trust merchandising efforts, we unveiled our new ‘Sconset Trust white, collared shirts. Please see our merchandise page for information on purchasing the print, shirt, or one of our books.

SANKATY HEAD LIGHTHOUSE UPDATE

When our fall newsletter was published last year, a special meeting of the members of the Nantucket Historical Association (NHA) was about to take place to consider the NHA’s acting to pass through Sankaty Lighthouse and its property from the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) to the ‘Sconset Trust. Legislative technicalities required the NHA to be in the chain of title even though they would have no continuing role once the Trust owned the properties. Happily, NHA’s members voted for the approval and the process began.

Next, the USCG and the Trust must by federal laws complete several tasks prior to “decommissioning” the Lighthouse property, including completion of an archaeological survey of the Trust site (Indian and other artifacts), doing an environmental clean-up of the present site (lead based paint chips), creating an extensive photographic archive of the interior and exterior of the structure, responding to advice and oversight from the Massachusetts Historical Commission and obtaining approvals of various easements.

With effective help from our counsel, Steven Cohen of the Reade, Gullicksen, Hanley & Gifford firm and working with very helpful USCG attorneys, it appears that the environmental clean-up can be done by the USCG after transfer of the property to the Trust. International Chimney Corp., our contractor to manage a possible relocation of the Lighthouse, has weighed in with its expertise regarding the logistics of the move.

Of course, clearance must be obtained from several local Nantucket governmental authorities. Our goal is to become owners of the property by mid-summer this year.

We are excited to have Rick Lohr, President of International Chimney as our guest speaker at the ‘Sconset Trust Annual Meeting in July. Hope to see you there.

David W. St. Clair
Sankaty Lighthouse Committee Chair
SECOND ANNUAL NEW YORK CITY WINTER SOIRÉE

Clockwise from upper left: Bonnie Block Levison and Fred McRobie; Steven Della Rocca, Courtenay Handy and Bob Felch; Barbara and Bill Charlton; Kathy Arway and Barbara Gewirtz; David A. St. Clair, Duncan St. Clair and Chris Krantz; Rena Crisp, Nicholas Bertha, Michael Viano and Leslie Bertha; Tom Ward and Jody Hilton.
Clockwise from upper left: Jeff and Valerie Paley; Forrest Rodts and Bob Felch surrounding the original oil of "Sconset Rotary"; Sally Mott Carter and Charles Liddle; Allison Stassenburgh, Paul Nitze and Laurel Ried; Amy Tercek and Bill Psusen.

**SOIREE SPONSORS**

**Sconset Lights**
- Barbara & Bill Charlton
- Sophia & Greg Gushue
- Elisabeth Bittner & Chansoo Yoong
- Betsy Michel
- Bill Moore
- Amy & Mark Tercek
- Deborah & Jim Walker

**Sconset Roses**
- Kathy & Joseph Arvay
- Batia Zumwalt & Andrew Edlin
- Patty & Paul Gibian
- Pam & Doug Hendrickson
- Judy & Bill Holding
- Andrea & David Kinsley
- Carol & Ken Kinsley
- Bonnie Block Levinson
- Nantucket Noose
- Valerie & Jeff Paley
- Bill & Laura Taft Paulsen
- Lydia & Bob Petty
- Karen Urbani & Frank Rovinski
- Susan & Perry Ruddick
- Alix & David St. Clair
- Anne & David St. Clair
- Cathy & Stephen Weinroth
- Bunny Whiteley
- Joanne & Derby Wilson
Executive Director Erika Mooney attended the Land Trust Alliance's National Land Conservation Conference in Wisconsin October 13-18, 2005. This nation-wide event occurs once a year and allows conservationists to share expertise in the tools and issues vital to private land conservation.

The Trust again participated in the Nantucket Historical Association's Festival of Trees in December 2005. Our theme was "Sconset Charms" and featured photographs of and around Sconset made into charms attached to a garland bracelet. Susan Whitlock helped Erika take photographs, make the ornaments and decorate the tree. Thank you Susan!

The Trust held its second winter board meeting, this year in New York City. Our meeting coincided with our Second Annual Winter Soiree, held this year at the Harvard Club. The Soiree was a hit, despite the 26" of snow that fell on the city. For the brave souls who made it out, it was a fabulous event.

May was National Preservation Month and the Sconset Trust took part by sponsoring a Sconset House Tour on Mother’s Day. Many thanks to the homeowners for graciously opening their doors.

The Trust will be hosting bird walks in July and August, led by Dr. Bob Kennedy of the Maria Mitchell Association. Please pre-register as the group size is limited.

The Sconset Trust Annual Meeting & Reception is Friday, July 21. Our special guest will be Richard Lohr, president of International Chimney, who will be discussing Sankaty Head Lighthouse. We hope to see you there!

**SConset Trust Bird Walks**

with Dr. Bob Kennedy, Director of Natural Sciences at the Maria Mitchell Association

He's back! For the second year, the Sconset Trust, partnering with the Maria Mitchell Association, will be sponsoring bird walks in Sconset led by Dr. Bob Kennedy. These walks will take place on Monday, July 3 and Monday, August 14. Dr. Kennedy will be covering the 10 most common breeding birds of Sconset. Bring your binoculars if you have them!

There is a maximum group size of 25 for each date so please contact Erika at (508) 228-9917 or SconsetTrust@comcast.net to pre-register for this event.

The cost of the bird walk is $15.00 per adult and $10 per child.

The bird walks will start promptly at 8:30 a.m. and we will meet in the lobby of the Siasconset Casino. We hope you will join us!

Dr. Bob Kennedy with a young friend. Photo courtesy of the Maria Mitchell Association.

**Preservation in Sconset**

May was National Preservation Month and the Sconset Trust once again sponsored a Sconset House Tour. Three houses were opened on Sunday, May 14: The Corners at 8 Center Street, Wade Cottages (the Main House) at 35 Shell Street, and Hedged About at 10 Sankaty Road. We thank the owners and hosts for helping the Sconset Trust raise awareness about historic preservation by generously opening these homes.

As reported in our fall 2005 edition of In Sconset, the Trust is working with the board of the Siasconset Union Chapel on a preservation easement that will preserve the Chapel building along with the surrounding gardens and columbarium. Work on this easement document has been steady over the winter and we hope to have a signed agreement this summer. This will become the second preservation restriction that the Sconset Trust will hold and we encourage homeowners who are interested in an historic preservation easement to call us!

(Photos courtesy of Erika Mooney)

Check out our website!

www.sconsettrust.org
Voices of the Village, An Oral History of 'Sconset
with interviews by Nancy Newhouse and photographs by Rob Benchley.

29 interviews take the reader back to a simpler time in our lives. This wonderful book of Sconset oral history is truly a keepsake and is a must have for your Nantucket book collection. $25

WANTED: SANKATY HEAD LIGHTHOUSE PICTURES!
We are planning to get a head start on our Sankaty Head Lighthouse tree for the NHA Festival of Trees. We would like to borrow your photos and postcards, be them old or new. Please contact Erika Mooney at (508) 228-9917 or SconsetTrust@comcast.net.

Saving 'Sconset, How Responsible Villagers Can Protect the Future of a Fragile Place
This important book focuses on how Sconseters can cope with the changes and pressures that face the village as it continues to develop. It contains specific references to the character and scale of different architectural neighborhoods. $12.50

The Sconset Trust
Golf/Tennis Shirts
These polo-style shirts are short-sleeved, white, and all-cotton, made by Boast. The Sconset Trust logo is featured over the heart and our mission of "Conservation and Preservation" is on the left sleeve. Adult sizes S, M, L and XL currently available. $45

Sconset Trust
How You Can Protect the Future of a Fragile Place
Written by Georgia Urbanor Raysman.
This small black and white booklet discusses the general ins and outs of the restriction process, and how we can help to preserve the 'Sconset we know and love by placing either historic preservation restrictions or conservation restrictions on our properties. $5

Please Forward Your Email Address!
The Sconset Trust is gathering member email addresses in order to communicate about Trust events and news, and defray costs. If you'd like to receive such emails, please send your email address to SconsetTrust@comcast.net.

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2006 Calendar

JULY
1 St. Mary's Church Summer Fair. 8 A.M.-2 P.M.
3 'Sconset Bird Walk led by Dr. Bob Kennedy/MMA.
8:30 A.M. at the Casino. Pre-registration required. Call the 'Sconset Trust (508) 228-9917.
4 Bike Parade. 9:40 A.M. at the Casino. Helmet required.
4 Fireworks display. Dusk at Jetties Beach.
10 'Sconset Civic Association meeting at the Casino.
12 Community Green Thumb Flower Show. 10 A.M.-5 P.M. at the White Elephant. Nantucket Garden Club.
13 Annual Rummage Sale. 9 A.M. at the Casino.
13 St. Paul's Church Fair. 9:30 A.M.-2 P.M.

MAKE SURE YOU MARK YOUR CALENDARS!
We will be holding a Sankaty Head Lighthouse fundraising auction in July of 2007. More details to come...

'A Sconset Trust Dates to Save!

JULY 4 — Field Day after the Parade at the Siasconset Union Chapel. Refreshments.
JULY 21 — Reception & Annual Meeting at the Casino. Richard Lohr, president of International Chimney, will be our guest speaker to discuss Sankaty Head Lighthouse.
AUGUST 9 — Patrons' Party for Leadership Donors at Joanne & Derby Wilson's home on Sankaty Head Road.

AUGUST
4-6 Nantucket Historical Association Annual Antiques Show. 10 A.M.-5 P.M. at the Nantucket New School.
5 First Congregational Church Fair & Auction. 9 A.M.-1:30 P.M. at 62 Center Street.
7 'Sconset Civic Association meeting at the Casino.
9 Nantucket Garden Club House Tour. 11 A.M.-5 P.M.
10 Nantucket Preservation Trust August Fete. 6-10 P.M.
12 Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra. 7 P.M. at Jetties Beach. Nantucket Cottage Hospital Benefit.
14 'Sconset Bird Walk led by Dr. Bob Kennedy/MMA.
8:30 A.M. at the Casino. Pre-registration required. Call the 'Sconset Trust (508) 228-9917.
19 Sandcastle & Sculpture Day. 11 A.M. at Jetties Beach.
Pre-registration required.