



## From the President



On May 1, Bob Felch stepped down as President of the 'Sconset Trust and, as noted below, became Executive Director of the Trust. The Trust has been very fortunate to have had Bob's strong leadership as its President for the past five years and the Board of Directors is delighted that Bob will continue to serve the Trust in a leadership role as Executive Director. Much has been accomplished by the Trust during Bob's five years as President, including the preservation easement for the Chapel, but its crowning achievement was certainly the daring relocation and preservation of Sankaty Head Lighthouse in 2007. The move involved several years of planning, extensive coordination with local, state, and federal agencies, restoration of the Lighthouse, the conservation of seven acres of open space at the site, and a highly successful campaign which raised over \$4.5 million. In the process, the Trust garnered support and appreciation from 'Sconset residents, the island community, and visitors alike. The Trust's efforts will enable future generations to enjoy



## Sankaty Head Lighthouse UPDATE

The Sankaty Head Lighthouse grounds are receiving raves from the island community. The serenity, vistas and general beauty of this 'Sconset Trust holding is a tribute to so many who worked to assure visitors feel a warm welcome. Special thanks go to Caroline Ellis and her committee who are putting the final touches on the project site plan.

What remains is for National Grid to remove the old utility box at the south end of the property and for the Trust to manage the installation of four interpretive signs celebrating the history of this cherished light, its keepers, an historic maritime event and the role of geology over 10,000 years at Sankaty Head. We expect the signs to be installed mid-way through the summer. In the mean time, attractive tri-folds tell in brief the story for visitors.

**Thanks again to the over 900 donors and volunteers who helped make the move and preservation of Sankaty Head Lighthouse a reality.**

The board and staff of the 'Sconset Trust wish to express a special thanks to David St. Clair, who provided invaluable leadership in the years leading up to the October 2007 move of the lighthouse. David will complete his 6 years of board service this July and we thank him.

—Bob Felch, [info@sconsetrust.org](mailto:info@sconsetrust.org)

**David Cheek** | [davidcheek@meridiangroupinc.com](mailto:davidcheek@meridiangroupinc.com)

the Lighthouse. The Lighthouse move was even broadcasted by BBC. It will be a lasting legacy for the Trust, and all of us are most grateful for Bob Felch's tireless efforts and leadership on the Lighthouse project.

Building on the momentum of the Lighthouse move, the Trust will now turn its focus to the celebration of our 25th anniversary this season. The celebration will be held on July 9 at our annual meeting at the Casino. The event planning is in progress, and we are excited about celebrating the mission, memories, and accomplishments of the Trust over the past 25 years. We hope to have a big turnout, so don't miss it!

Finally, our committees are already hard at work continuing efforts to achieve our mission—land conservation and historic preservation. The Trust will continue to work collaboratively with other land conservation groups on island. Moreover, efforts are underway to identify new opportunities for land conservation and preservation easements.

We appreciate your interest and participation in our activities, as well as your financial support, and we look forward to seeing you in 'Sconset this summer.

## New Executive Director at the Trust



**Bob Felch**

After serving for one year as acting Executive Director, Jeanne Miller has stepped down to pursue other interests. This follows a very busy 12 months and a friendly and rewarding relationship between Jeanne and the Trust and its members. We will miss her.

Effective May 1, 2009, Bob Felch stepped into the post of Executive Director on a part time basis (at least in the off-season) to lend his skills and long time experience to the Trust as we head into our second 25 years. Bob joined the Trust board in July 2003 and became its President in August 2004. He is now looking forward to continuing his commitment to and passion for the Trust and its mission.

Following Bob's completion of his time as board President, the board unanimously elected David Cheek as its next President.

## We need volunteers!

Helping with summer events including various needs at the July 9 Annual Meeting, office mailings and committee service, particularly on the Preservation Committee.

**Please call the Trust office at (508) 228-9917,  
or visit our new office at 16A Amelia Drive (in the back)  
and meet our summer intern, Laura Eshelman.**

# The 'Sconset Trust



## 'Sconset Trust Development Committee

The 'Sconset Trust's 25th Anniversary Year is upon us and what fabulous strides have been made in the past quarter of a century. Both 'Sconset, and indeed Nantucket Island, can be justifiably proud of the Trust's accomplishments.

We've moved the Sankaty Light to safer ground and created a beautifully landscaped park around it, receptive and welcoming to visitors. We have assumed the Light's care and maintenance in perpetuity. A number of preservation easements have been effected, including the Chapel and the Casino. We are actively pursuing Land Conservation projects in addition to holding over 84 acres of open land.

The Trust's Annual Meeting, to be held at the Casino on Thursday, July 9th, will focus on and celebrate this Silver Anniversary. The 'Sconset Trust's historical moment will be emphasized and we look forward to high attendance. An Annual Meeting Program Committee is industriously working on that.

The current economic status continues to pose financial challenges to all of us, but especially to non-profit organizations. We must persist in our efforts: **to lose 'Sconset is unthinkable; saving 'Sconset is not someone else's responsibility.**

Our yearly Membership Drive remains our bedrock, our infrastructure. We were able to count over 400 active and interested folks in 2008. Our donations totaled a little over \$300,000.00. We have instituted some new community events, which will be of interest and hopefully will grow the Membership. We plan to hold Neighborhood gatherings. These will be hosted at a Board member's home in Sconset and will be of a congenial and informative nature. We hope to educate our residents and raise many more friends.

We are holding a conjoined fete/street fair with the Nantucket Preservation Trust in the Village on August 6th. This winter we hosted a very successful Soiree at the Metropolitan Club in New York City. New members were present.

Of course, the future of the Trust rests with our youth and last year we organized a Young Associates Group, headed up by Laurel Reid and Kendall Brown. Their enthusiasm is infective and gratifying to see. They have held their own soirees as well.

Philanthropic initiatives and opportunities will also be more readily available on a Planned Giving basis.

You can see, therefore, that "Development" becomes much more than just fundraising, albeit very important to our activities. This year we need to increase our membership rolls in all categories and to raise the funds necessary to continue our activities.

**The Conservation and Preservation of 'Sconset depends on all of us.**

—Submitted by Larry Guido



Photo: Larry Guido

### Board of Trustees

#### UPDATE

#### Special Thanks to Retiring Board Members

The following board members are completing 6 years (two three-year terms) on the Board of Directors of the 'Sconset Trust at our July 9, 2009 annual meeting and we wish to thank them for their years of generous leadership and service.

##### Caroline Ellis

Secretary, former chair of Preservation Committee, she also served as Executive Director of the Trust in the late 90's through 2003.

##### David Kinsley

Chair and founder of the MEM Committee in 2004 – with oversight of marketing, education and membership.

##### Fred McRobie

Chair of the Mission Committee which he started in 2004 and recently in charge of the Trust governance policy.

##### David St. Clair

Chair of the Lighthouse Committee (*see tribute in Sankaty Head Lighthouse article on page 1*) and By-Laws overseer.

#### Slate of new trustees for election July 9, 2009:

Joe Hale

Laurel Ried

Penny Scheerer

Rhoads Zimmerman

# 'Sconset News



## Board of Directors

David Cheek  
PRESIDENT

Pam Hendrickson  
TREASURER

Caroline A. Ellis  
SECRETARY

Mary Lathrop Will  
CLERK

Kathy Arvay  
Patti Brown  
Roxanne Casscells  
William J. Charlton  
Barry Cooper  
William B. Holding Jr.  
David Kinsley  
Bonnie Block Levison  
Donna J. Lockhart  
Fred S. McRobie  
Michael A. F. Roberts  
David St. Clair  
Amy Tercek

Robert D. Felch  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## The 'Sconset Trust

P.O. Box 821  
Siasconset, MA 02564

Phone: 508 228 9917  
Fax: 508 228 0810

Email:  
info@sconsettrust.org

[www.sconsettrust.org](http://www.sconsettrust.org)

## LAND Report

The Land Committee continues to focus on the 120 acre Coffin property on Milestone Road and the 190 acre Loran Station on Low Beach Road. These are two of the four largest properties on Nantucket with potential for development; conservation of this land is a top priority of the Trust. The Coffin property is still listed for sale at an unrealistic price of \$45 million. The Trust is working on the Coffin property with other land conservation groups on Island as well as other stakeholders.

We are also tracking the content of the new Town Master Plan for the Loran Station in case it is ever declared surplus property by the Federal Government. We plan to form a subcommittee, which will include residents of the Low Beach Road area, to monitor the Loran Station, and we will continue to communicate with Town officials regarding potential uses for it. While development of these two properties is not imminent, we are also evaluating other properties with potential for significant development in 'Sconset, using our new database.

The Trust expanded its ownership of open space to 84 acres upon acquiring the seven acre Lighthouse site from the U.S. Coast Guard in 2007. We will certainly let the membership know of our new land activities and initiatives this season. Thank you for your commitment to land conservation in 'Sconset.

—Submitted by David Cheek

## The 'Sconset Trust—*Why preservation?*

The board of the 'Sconset Trust commissioned a groundbreaking book called *Saving 'Sconset* (1999) when the numbers of changes (increase in number of structures and people) were perceived as a threat to the character of the village and the bordering community. The book successfully captured what was special about 'Sconset and what visitors and owners could do to perpetuate a sense of place and keep the village core in an unchanged condition. Of course, the message applies to both key elements of our mission: Preservation and Conservation.

With the escalating pace of change in mind and after a review of the articles of incorporation, the board of the 'Sconset Trust decided to incorporate preservation into its action plans for guiding and educating the village. The new and broader paradigm for the Trust was preserving the character of the community. For the past 10 years the Trust set the tone and engaged the community in understanding the importance of preservation.

Offering a well-tested legal means for protecting historic and meaningful 'Sconset properties (structures and related land) from change was consistent with our mission. The Nantucket Preservation Trust (NPT) had been formed and was offering to hold restrictions on properties in Nantucket. The Trust board members decided to offer 'Sconseters the opportunity to set up easements (known in Massachusetts as restrictions) to be held by the 'Sconset Trust. Just as the Trust emerged out of a larger island movement for conservation of open



land, the organization agreed to take up the preservation role for the southeast end of the island — understanding that villagers would prefer to take care of 'Sconset themselves.

As land values escalated along with rapid built out, preservation initiatives underscored the need to retain the character of the core village. Although we have the Historic District Commission (HDC) and the 'Sconset-based voluntary 'Sconset Advisory Board (SAB) of 5 members who advise the HDC, the Trust board was concerned by numerous changes not covered by the HDC. In 2005 the board voted to fund preservation initiatives by directing 5% of annual donor revenue to go into a Preservation Fund. This fund has grown over the years and is defined as a dedicated fund.

In our next newsletter we'll provide additional preservation news and information.

—Submitted by Kathy Arvay, Caroline Ellis  
and Bob Felch



# Events

## The 'Sconset Trust

25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

# Gala

CELEBRATION

1984 – 2009

*Help celebrate the first 25 years  
of the 'Sconset Trust*

JOIN US FOR A TRIBUTE TO OUR FOUNDERS AND SUPPORTERS

*Cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, silent auction, exhibits, gifts*

**Thursday, July 9th, 2009, 5:00 – 7:30 P.M.**

**Brief Annual Meeting at 6:15 P.M.  
SIASCONSET CASINO**

ANNOUNCING THE FIRST

## “'Sconset History Night”

**Monday, August 17, 2009 at the Casino**

Did you know that a small group of 'Sconseters and islanders interested in advancing the preservation and documentation of 'Sconset history has come together and is now functioning under the umbrella of the Nantucket Historical Association? The idea man behind the formation of this group is Paul Judy, local historian and inveterate researcher. In collaboration with the NHA, the Nantucket Preservation Trust (NPT) and the 'Sconset Trust, Paul has defined a longer range plan for collecting, archiving and sharing historical information about 'Sconset land, structures, people and community groups and institutions. An initiative to work on house and family histories is already under way. Paul has brought together a programming team including Ben Simons at the NHA, Michael May and Betsy Tyler at the NPT, Mary Warren Moffett of On The Isle, and Bob Felch at the Trust.

Plans are underway for the first presentation of the 'Sconset Historical Research Group's (SHRG) research program at “'Sconset History Night” at the Casino on **Monday, August 17 at 7 P.M.** Everyone interested in 'Sconset's history is invited to hear about the SHRG's early initiatives, to enjoy a presentation about “'Sconset Land” and to provide input about SHRG's program. Put this date on your calendar.

[www.sconsettrust.org](http://www.sconsettrust.org)

PO Box 821, Siasconset, Massachusetts 02564  
Phone: 508 228 9917 Fax: 508 228 0810 Email: [info@sconsettrust.org](mailto:info@sconsettrust.org)

## The 'Sconset Trust

