**The 'Sconset Trust**

**25th 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.

**C e l b r a t i o n 25t h a n n i v e r s a r y of the 'Sconset Trust**

**Gala**

**“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 Ink, 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.

**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 the Lighthouse.

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**

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 kindle his skills and long 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.

**Sankaty Head Lighthouse UPDATE**

The Sankaty Head Lighthouse grounds are receiving ravens 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, a 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 fr-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. Cric 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@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 surrounding community. This 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 plan for guiding and educating the village. The new and broader paradigm for the Trust was preserving the character of the community. For the historic and meaningful ‘Sconset properties (structures and areas) the Trust has been working to ensure their 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 toward future challenges. 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.

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We are holding a combined feb/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 infectious 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

The Board of Trustees

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 served as Executive Director of the Trust in the late 90’s through 2003.

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

Fred McBride
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 2) and Louie overseeing.

Slate of new trustees for election July 9, 2009: Joe Hale
Laurie Reid
Penny Schaefer
Rhoda Zimmermann
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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 community in understanding the importance of 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 Arvey and Bob Felch

Land Report

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, reception 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.

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2009

MISSION

The ‘Sconset Trust is charged with carrying out the mission of the late Dr. Paul Judy: the preservation and documentation of the history of the north shore of Nantucket Island by encouraging and coordinating research and allowing access to, and understanding of, the island’s history.

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—Bob Felch, info@sconsettrust.org

New Executive Director at the Trust

David Cheek | davidcheek@meridiangroupinc.com

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David Cheek

David Cheek is a Boston-based author, historian, and educator. He is currently a member of the ‘Sconset Trust’s Board of Directors. He has served as the Trust’s President since May 2004. Bob Felch

Bob Felch

Bob Felch is a retired lawyer and real estate executive who has spent over 30 years in the real estate business in New England. He became Executive Director of the Trust in May 2008.

 twentieth anniversary —Bob Felch, info@sconsettrust.org

In’Sconset

www.sconsettrust.org

SUMMER 2009