



The Keeper's Log

Spring 2008 A PUBLICATION OF THE 'SCONSET TRUST

Nantucket CPC grant awarded for Lighthouse restoration

At April's Annual Town Meeting, the 'Sconset Trust received approval for a \$250,000 grant from Nantucket's Community Preservation Committee (CPC). The grant money, to go towards the restoration work of Sankaty Head Lighthouse, was recommended by the CPC in November. The Trust would like to extend thanks to the Nantucket community and the CPC for their support of the Sankaty Preservation project. Also thanks to Alix and David St. Clair, Bob Felch, Erika Mooney, Betsy Grubbs and Susan Ruddick for preparing and presenting the Trust's grant request.

Lighthouse Restoration Update

As most of you know Sankaty Head Lighthouse was successfully moved to safer ground in October of 2007. The move commenced October 1, just four days after the 'Sconset Trust took ownership of the Lighthouse and accompanying property, and the Lighthouse completed its journey October 9. Within a few days Sankaty was lowered onto her new foundation and the carrying beams were removed. Site work progressed, starting with the backfilling of the foundation then the smoothing out of the site. The property was then hydro-seeded and David Champoux's crew started removing most of the old chain link fencing and installed new split-rail fencing.

Lantern restoration work started in the late fall but bitter winter weather stopped the contractors from progressing very far. Lantern work resumed again in April, and site restoration and landscaping have begun. In mid-March scrub oak, under-planted with native shrubs (viburnum, bayberry, beach plum and sweet fern), were planted around the Lighthouse. Cape Cod Rambler Roses and Rosa Rugosa were also planted along the split-rail fence to the east.

Preservation and restoration plans of the Lighthouse itself are progressing with the anticipation of having the work completed by early fall.



Taken from atop the new Nantucket Fire Dept. ladder truck.



Betsy Grubbs & Erika Mooney soaping the beams

Lighthouse Gala Celebration

Mark your calendars for the **Lighthouse Gala Sunday, July 6** at Sankaty Head Golf Club. We will toast Sankaty Head Lighthouse in her new location and thank the many people who made this move possible. The campaign total will be announced and there will be an auction including baseball tickets, golf outings and marvelous art. Start the summer in the Lighthouse's glow.

Thanks to the gala committee members who have been hard at work planning the event and auction. Please contact them if you have auction items to contribute.

Carol & Rob Benchley
Lesley F. Blanchard
Patti & Doug Brown
Roxanne & Trip Casscells

Kathy & David Cheek
Caroline & Douglass Ellis
Elisabeth Bittner & Chansoo Jung
Erika Mooney

Susan & Perry Ruddick
Alix & David St. Clair
Lynn & Jim Wilson



October 1 – day one of the move



Risky Rescues

Watch your local television listings for the documentary by Windfall Films, London, on the Sankaty Head Lighthouse move. The program, entitled “Risky Rescues” documents the move of the Lighthouse as well as a village in Sweden. It will be aired as a part of **Mega Moves** (Discovery, TLC) and **Impossible Moves** (National Geographic). In addition we will have our on island screenings this summer at the 'Sconset Casino as well as in conjunction with the 'Sconset 02564 exhibit at the Peter Foulger Museum.



Above left: New split-rail fence installation

Above: Chris Perdue, Gabe Matyiko & Jerry Matyiko of Expert House Movers



Left: Relighting ceremony on the Friday of Thanksgiving weekend: Karen Coffin Quigley & Gannon Mooney (with outgoing Executive Director Erika Mooney) turn the Lighthouse back on

Sankaty Head Lighthouse Schedule

Due to continuing restoration and landscaping work, the Lighthouse grounds will be closed to the public this summer. There will be open days in the fall for donors and the general public.

The Trust is planning to publish a commemorative book in the fall listing all donors and containing articles and pictures on the move and the Lighthouse. To be listed in this keepsake publication your **donation must be received by August 1.**

“Keeper” Gear is still available in limited quantities!

Please contact the White Whale for more information. Many thanks to Cris Farley for his generous gift of a portion of the proceeds.



Above: The light shines again!

Left: Sankaty in January snow

Right: Bill McGrath in his Stearman bi-plane doing a ceremonial fly-by on the last day of the move



All photos by Rob Benchley