In ‘Sconset

NEWS FROM THE ‘SCONSET TRUST FALL 2019

Autumn Update from the Board Chair

On July 5th, Elliot Gewirtz completed his magnificently successful term as Chairman of the ‘Sconset Trust. As his successor, I have discovered that the depth and breadth of the Trust’s mission is considerable. Thankfully, the overwhelming support of our Board members and Patrons has made and will make achievement of our objectives possible. Elliot (and his predecessors) did much to set the stage for our organization to succeed.

The Trust is strong financially and managerially. Under the four-year leadership of our Executive Director, Betsy Grubbs, the Coffin Fund was completed, the Lighthouse Maintenance Fund was endowed, three parcels of land owned by the Town were transferred to the Trust and our commercial zone was consolidated.

The challenges to our village continue. We are monitoring closely any action proposed to be taken with respect to the Firehouse. The Summer House fire has reminded us of the community’s need for immediate response to protect our properties and lives. Bluff and beach erosion remains another serious and ongoing concern.

Thanks to an anonymous donor, the Trust is able to commission house histories of significant structures in our village. The product of this work, in tandem with the Preservation Committee, should inform owners of the benefit of providing easements and careful restoration of historic structures. The Land committee continues to monitor the Coast Guard use of the LORAN property and other significant parcels.

As you will read in this newsletter, all our events over the past year were hugely successful. Please note that there was no fog for Jog in the Fog but we did enjoy record attendance!

After 35 years of carrying out our mission to preserve and conserve ‘Sconset, the Trust—with your generous support—looks forward to continuing in perpetuity to keep our village as one of the most important historical sites in the U.S.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

What a year of milestones to celebrate our 35th year!
ELIZABETH G. GRUBBS
Executive Director

This newsletter tells of a busy summer and generous contributions by many.

A highlight of the year has been the acquisition of properties from the Town of Nantucket in exchange for sewer rights at Ruddick Commons. These properties add over 35 acres to our land holdings. We will conserve this land as open space and maintain it for the enjoyment of all. Thanks to Andrew Vorce and the Nantucket Planning Commission, the Nantucket Select Board, and Erika Mooney and Ken Beaugrand in the Town office for helping with this transfer. Also more thanks to our state representative Dylan Fernandez and his liaison Tom Dixon for helping with all the state approvals. It takes an island!

We are so grateful for the William Codd 1890 map donated to the Trust by Jerry and Jackie Eldridge. This is a stunning and informative map: that will be hung in the office for all to study and enjoy. Amazingly, Codd's survey was referenced in the deeds for our newest properties!

As our village tucks itself in for the winter, thank you for all you do: the volunteer hours to man the Lighthouse Open Days, produce a Gala, run a Jog and help with mailings; and your generosity in funding our preservation and conservation work and the maintenance of our properties.

Trust Annual Meeting

The 35th Annual Meeting of the Trust was held on July 5. President Elliot Gewirtz presided. Board members elected to a first term were David Brown and Chris Crampton. Danny Korengold returned to the board after a brief hiatus. Elected to second terms were Eric Baurmeister, Clement Durkes, Cynthia Gallagher, Johnny Johnson and Lynn Wilson.

Lesley Blanchard, Elliot Gewirtz and Don Shockey rotated off the board. Lesley served as Gala Volunteer Chair, head of the Nominating Committee and a member of the Development Committee. Don served as Chair of the Mission Committee and also on the Land Committee. He and his wife, Mary, hosted the 2014 Patrons’ Party. Elliot served on the board for eight years, including service as treasurer before becoming president. He was awarded the ‘Sconset Post for his service as president. He and his wife Barbara chaired the Silent Auction in 2014 and this year’s Gala.
Welcome New Trust Board Members

DAVID J. BROWN

David J. Brown was a partner in Choate, Hall & Stewart’s Business & Technology Group for over 20 years, specializing in mergers and acquisitions, venture capital, technology start-up representation, and search funds. Since retiring from Choate in 2018, Mr. Brown has been a principal in Flywheel Search Capital, LLC, a fund dedicated to search fund and entrepreneurship through acquisition investments. David and his wife Paula have been spending summers in Sconset for over 30 years. David previously served on the Board of the Siasconset Casino Association, including two years as President. Mr. Brown holds a BA in economics from Bowdoin College and a JD from Suffolk University Law School.

CHRISTOPHER CRAMPTON

Chris grew up in Washington, D.C., and graduated from high school in Hinsdale, IL. A Princeton University graduate who has lived in New York City for nearly 20 years, he is currently a Partner in the Merchant Banking Division of Goldman Sachs and serves on several private and public company boards. Chris has been coming to ‘Sconset annually with the broader Crampton, Ridder, and Culman families since he was three months old; today, he and his wife Chrissi have two daughters and a son (Maddie, CeCe and Savvy, nearly 6, 4, and 2, respectively) whom they are excited to introduce to cherished ‘Sconset traditions. Longtime members of several island organizations, including the ‘Sconset Trust, they are typically in residence on Sunset Ridge Lane for all of July and August, as well as for island festival weekends in the spring and fall.

DANIEL L. KORENGOLD

I am a businessman (an automobile dealer) from Washington, D.C., who first visited Nantucket in the summer of 1973. My wife Martha Dippell and I have four young adults—our house is named “Four is Enough”—and not one of them has ever missed a summer on this island. We also have three new daughters- and sons-in-law from weddings over the last four years. We love to go antiquing, play golf, exercise and socialize with many friends and family on this spectacular island.

Samantha and Matt Fremont-Smith hosted the annual Patrons’ Party on August 18. This event recognizes members who donate to membership at the Patron level of $1,000 and above. Guests had the chance to appreciate the rewards of preservation easement that the Lourie family placed on Atlantic House.
In celebration of the Trust’s 35th year, the Night Under the Light netted $164,000 to support the Trust’s conservation and preservation missions. Thanks to all who contributed so generously.

Our outstanding leadership put in weeks of work:
- Gala Chairs Barbara and Elliot Gewirtz
- Silent Auction Chairs Hollie and Jamie Holt and their committee
- Marketplace Chair Kate Heller O’Reilly
- Volunteer Chair Lilo Cunningham
- All of our amazing volunteers
- Lori Snell and the Sankaty Head Golf Club staff
Thanks to our Gala Sponsors

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Eric and Anne Baumreister
Charles Byrne and Ellen Mitchell
David and Kathy Cheek
Christina Craighead
Lilo and Thomas Cunningham
Rindy Dodge
Mark and Lynn Filipski
Matthew and Samantha Fremont-Smith
Karyn Frist
John and Cynthia Gallagher
Greg and Heather Garland
Elliot and Barbara Gewirtz
John and Maureen Graf
Elliot and Barbara Gewirtz
Greg and Heather Garland
John and Cynthia Gallagher
Greg and Laura Spivy
Mark and Amy Tercek
Eileen Shields-West and Robin West
George and Nell Wilson

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DeWitt and Kristin Alexandre
Frank and Georgine Anto
Joseph and Kathy Arvey
Mary Randolph Ballinger
Jane Condon and Ken Bartels
John and Judy Belash
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Gina and Jan Hilensrath
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Johnny and Sheila Lathrop
Edward and Joyce Lawrence
Virginia Laugham
James and Alice Malone
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Betsy Michel
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Doug and Marcia Moran
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C.O. and Shelley North
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John and Debbie Osborn
Will and Colleen Overlock
Mike and Trina Overlock
Jeffrey and Valerie Paley
Jeffrey and Elizabeth Peek
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Molly Ryan
Rob and DeeDee Sherman
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35th Anniversary Contributions
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Caroline and Douglass Ellis
Barbara and Elliot Gewirtz
Hepburn
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Silent Auction Donors
Doug and Patti Brown
Barnes Foundation
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Mark Donato
Caroline and Douglass Ellis
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Hepburn
Jamie and Hollie Holt
Henry Holt
Linda and George Kelly
Elizabeth Locke
Mary Adair Macaire
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Emma Ward
Helmut Weymar
Lynn Wilson
PRESERVATION AWARDS

ELIZABETH CHURCHILL

The Lourie Family Preservation Award is given by the ‘Sconset Trust to a group or individual for their commitment to restoration and preservation of historic ‘Sconset. This year the ‘Sconset Trust honored the Siasconset Civic Association and the Nantucket Department of Public Works for their combined efforts in the restoration of the ‘Sconset Rotary and flagpole. For more information on David Gray, visit our website.

The Trust also recognized Mary Williams and her daughter Kristen Williams-Hasetotes for their contribution to the village in the preservation of seven ‘Sconset cottages. Some of these include the Grey Goose, Cockpit, Willow Harp, Dexioma, Shanunga, 14–16 Coffin Street.

The ‘Sconset Trust Tradesman Award was presented to Angus MacLeod, designer, for his ‘Sconset work that has thoughtfully combined renovation and preservation in keeping with the historical integrity of the village. Angus has also been an active preservationist through his work with the Nantucket Preservation Trust, the ‘Sconset Trust and the ‘Sconset Advisory Board of the Historic Distrct Commission.

Out & About in ‘Sconset

Lemonade stands in ‘Sconset were a special and tasty source of support for the Trust. Thanks to Teo Fremont-Smith and, (pictured) Mitch and C.J. Byrne and George and Finn Moore for their generous contributions totaling $100.

Sarah Michler held three Ocean Camps, and the Trust office became a happy center for whale murals, ocean facts and dozens of enthusiastic campers. Stay tuned for camping opportunities with Sarah next summer.

More than three dozen members participated in the monthly members’ walks through Ruddick Commons. Thanks to naturalists Dr. Sarah Bois and Seth Engelbourg and the collaborating Linda Loring Nature Foundation for leading these educational outings.

The Lighthouse Committee and a trusty band of volunteers, led by Kate Heller O’Reilly, hosted Open Days in June and October, as well as some special climbs for members throughout the summer. Special thanks to intern Charlie Price, who greeted visitors to the Lighthouse.
Thank you

The Trust has received the gift of an outstanding 1896 map of ‘Sconset, through the generosity of Jerry and Jackie Eldridge of Clifton Street. This hand-drawn map came into the Eldridges’ possession years ago during Jerry’s 22 years as the Superintendent of the Siasconset Water Department. Today, although retired, he still serves as a Commissioner for the water company, and said the map had been found in a corner of the old W. B. Marden plumbing building near the Civil War monument in town.

This remarkable document was drawn by William F. Codd (1855–1940). A superb draftsman, he also was the Superintendent of the Wannacomet Water Company until 1920; before that he was a sewer engineer, a stone-cutter, a banker, surveyor, inventor, and even a photographer. And Codd was no stranger to ‘Sconset: his name appears on dozens of plans and land documents related to the development of the village at the end of the 19th and into the early 20th Centuries. Moreover, Codd’s superior at Wannacomet was Charles H. Robinson, its president; one may recall that Robinson built not only the Ocean View House and many homes in ‘Sconset in the 1880s, but the Union Chapel and the footbridge as well.

The map will hang in the Trust office for all to enjoy and study. The Trust is deeply grateful to the Eldridges for this unique and extraordinary ‘Sconset gem.

An enlarged detail of Codd’s map shows ‘Sconset’s historic core, with Shell, Center and Broadway seen in the middle. This view is a composite of other features from the map, and it represents only 15% of its entire width.
A record 135 registrants participated in this year’s Jog in the Fog. Kudos to Chair Eric Baumeister and his committee. Congratulations to Reed Halpert, who reached the lighthouse first.

Mission
Our mission is to protect the unique character of the ‘Sconset community through conservation of open land and preservation of historically and/or architecturally significant structures in and around the village.

P.O. Box 821
Siasconset, Massachusetts 02564
Phone: 508 257 4100
Fax: 508 257 6200
info@sconsettrust.org
sconsettrust.org