



The Shore

Cape Cod National Seashore at 50: *Reflections on the Past, Commitment to the Future*

In 2011 Cape Cod National Seashore will turn 50. Like people reaching “middle age,” this milestone provides an opportunity for all who love this special place to reflect on where we’ve been, and to consider what we hope to collectively achieve in the future to ensure that the values of the national seashore are protected and appreciated in perpetuity.

When President Kennedy signed the bill authorizing the establishment of the national seashore on August 7, 1961, he mentioned how significant it was to “preserve the natural and historic values of a portion of Cape Cod for the inspiration and enjoyment of people all over the United States.” The *Berkshire Eagle*, of Pittsfield, editorialized that the bill “...can probably be labeled the finest victory ever recorded for the cause of conservation in New England.”

Several celebratory activities are planned for 2011. New permanent exhibits at Salt Pond Visitor Center will be dedicated in the spring. When Old Harbor Life-Saving Station opens its doors in May it will be furnished much as it was in 1900, thanks to the Friends fundraising campaign. A series of displays featuring the many dimensions of the national seashore will be on exhibit at the Salt Pond classroom throughout the year. Look for paintings, aerial photographs, quilts, student art, and science exhibits. During summer “Retro Days” park visitors and neighbors will step back in time to attend the same ranger programs visitors enjoyed in 1963. The 2011 issue of *Park News* will feature in-depth articles reflecting on the past and contemplating the future of the national seashore. Our education partner, Eastern National, is developing several interpretive items that will be available at Salt Pond and Province Lands bookstores. Look for pins and patches, decals, and drinking glasses.

Many of our partners and local businesses have asked to join the party, and we hope to have a celebration that is as community-based as the remarkable legislation that established the park. If you have ideas for how to mark this special year, please let us know. We are still making plans for the hallmark event on August 7, but don't expect to see any



black candles or balloons so typical of a 50th. This is one event that is all about celebrating. We hope you'll join us!

*Sue Moynihan, Chief,
Interpretation and Cultural Resources Management*

50th Logo Unveiled!

In spring 2010 the national seashore's educational staff partnered with teacher Ginny Ogden and students in the Art Department at Nauset Regional High School to solicit logo artwork for the park's upcoming 50th anniversary. It was exciting to see the different approaches taken by the 15 students who submitted art. After much deliberation, park staff selected the logo designed by Joe Fish of Eastham. Joe graduated from Nauset in 2010 and is currently attending Cape Cod Community College, where he is interested in studying art and science.



The SHORE NEWSLETTER



Published by:
Friends of the Cape Cod
National Seashore
P.O. Box 550
Wellfleet, MA 02667

508 957-0729
www.fccns.org
E-mail: info@fccns.org

Board of Directors

President

Dick Spokes, Eastham

First Vice-President

Austin Smith, Eastham

Second Vice-President

Betsy Richards, Eastham

Treasurer

Tom Harmon, Eastham

Clerk

Tony Hodgin, Truro

Past President, *Ex Officio*

Judy Parmelee, Eastham

Directors

Janet Bush, Orleans
Pat Canavan, Eastham
Marty Haspel, Eastham
Dave Hubbard, Orleans
Richard Ryder, Eastham
Dave Spang, Truro
Carl Sylvester, Eastham
Barbara Williamson, Brewster

CCNS Liaison

Sue Moynihan,
Chief, Interpretation and
Cultural Resources Management
Cape Cod National Seashore

From the President

On September 1, 2010 my wife Carol and I celebrated our third anniversary as retirees and residents of the Outer Cape. Marconi, Nauset Light, and Coast Guard Beaches had lured us here for 38 years of one-week vacations. There is not much sea in Vermont and we needed those ocean fixes. We had little time in our one-week to venture away from the park's beaches.

Have we ever learned in the last three years that Cape Cod National Seashore is so much more than its beaches. We have kayaked in Nauset Marsh, and hiked over the dunes, along ocean cliffs, around kettle ponds, and through heath lands. Some of those hikes are the seashore's hidden gems: Tin Pan Alley, Bound Brook Island, and Pamet Hills. We have absorbed the history of Old Harbor Life-Saving Station, the Atwood Higgins House, the Penniman House, and Wellfleet's mid-century modernist houses. We have visited the Jenny Lind Tower and researched its lore. We have picked wild cranberries and spent hours watching right whales from Race Point, seals off High Head, and the piping plovers' life cycle on Coast Guard Beach. Then there were the countless educational and entertainment programs. How could we not join the Friends and help preserve the nation's first national seashore for future generations?

2011 will be a busy, but exciting year for the Friends. It is the 50th anniversary of the Cape Cod National Seashore, followed in 2012 by the 25th anniversary of the Friends. The second edition of our highly successful magazine is scheduled for late May. The Old Harbor Life-Saving Station capital campaign has surpassed the half-way mark and will head to the finish line. We are striving to add to our volunteer force, as more and more opportunities to assist the seashore appear. As always, we have a wealth of talent on our board, and we welcome Janet Bush, Pat Canavan, Tom Harmon, Dave Spang, and Carl Sylvester to that mix. This group, both old and new, will ease the challenges I face as I take over as your new president. Together we hope to continue the accomplishments of our predecessors.

If you haven't already done so, visit our great new website to view the first issue of *Friends of the Cape Cod National Seashore Magazine*, and subscribe to the recently created E-news. JOIN US, VOLUNTEER WITH US, AND ENJOY OUR WONDERFUL CULTURAL AND NATURAL RESOURCE.

Dick Spokes

New Friends in 2010

Friends is pleased to have received many new memberships and donations since our spring newsletter. Thanks to the following members, who joined or renewed for 2010 at our special membership levels.

SUSTAINERS (\$100 level)

Ron & Judy Ablow
William S. Beinecke
Janet S. Bush
Austin & Aili Flint
Louise R. Hammann
Fred & Barbara Murphy
Jon Sinnott
Susan E. Spokes

PARTNERS (\$250 level)

Judith Stephenson
Clyde Watson

DONATIONS

During the past few months, donations were gratefully received in honor of:

Steve Moore & Sue Balzano
Lynn & Barney Horowitz
Mellisa Renn & Rob Zeiller

Friends 2010 Annual Meeting

Friends of the Cape Cod National Seashore held their annual meeting on July 15, 2010 at Salt Pond Visitor Center.

Superintendent George Price reviewed the highlights of the past year, noting that Cape Cod National Seashore was among the top ten parks in visitation. He spoke of the upcoming 50th anniversary of the park in 2011. Noting all the accomplishments of the Friends, he presented Judy Parmelee with a gift, expressing admiration for her terrific work as president of FCCNS. He then answered questions regarding ORV access and the issue of Eastham resident parking.

Nat Goddard gave a brief FCCNS treasurer's report, saying that we are in good financial shape, with a balance of approximately \$180,000 and annual expenses of around \$20,000.

President Judy Parmelee gave her annual meeting report (see page 4).

Betsy Richards, chair of the nominating committee, presented the slate, which was elected unanimously:

Officers: Dick Spokes, President; Austin Smith, 1st Vice President;
Betsy Richards, 2nd Vice President; Tony Hodgins, Clerk.

Directors: Janet Bush, Pat Canavan, Tom Harmon, Carl Sylvester

Finally, newly elected president Dick Spokes spoke glowingly of the versatility and energy of departing president Judy Parmelee, and referred to retiring director, Nat Goddard, as an unsung hero for his endless contributions to the Friends and the park during his six-year tenure.

Following the meeting, Greg Skomal presented a fascinating program on his experiences studying and tagging great white sharks off the Cape Cod Atlantic coast to an overflow and extremely enthusiastic crowd.

New Friends Directors

Janet Bush was an editor for 30 years at Bulfinch Press, the art and photography imprint of Little, Brown in Boston, where she was in charge of the Ansel Adams publishing program and worked with many other artists and photographers. She now lives, with her husband John, in East Orleans, in the cottage they built in 1984. She is on the board of the Nauset Heights Association. Janet is active with Mass Audubon's Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary, serving as a volunteer naturalist and as a monitor for the Sanctuary's horseshoe crab, piping plover, and diamondback terrapin programs. An avid tennis player and kayaker, she has an abiding interest in the natural world. Janet has a BA from Stanford University.

Pat Canavan recently retired from a career in the public and philanthropic sectors, most recently as Housing Advisor to Boston Mayor Tom Menino. A Massachusetts native, she and her husband Matt Rowe live full time in North Eastham, where they enjoy searching for the International Space Station overhead, right whales from the shore in Truro, and wild turkeys crossing Park roads. Pat has a lifelong interest in social history, which now includes learning more about the history of the Outer Cape and the creation of the Seashore. She has volunteered for Friends brush clearings, beach clean-ups, and plantings. Pat has a BA from Harvard University's Extension Program and a MA from Tufts University's Department of Urban and Environmental Policy.

Thomas S. Harmon of Buckland and Eastham, MA is the former president and owner of Harmon Personnel Services, Inc. located in Greenfield, MA and Brattleboro, VT. Tom is a graduate of American International College with a BS in business. He has 45 years of accounting experience in various business environments, life insurance, service, construction, and manufacturing industries. Tom is presently treasurer of the Mary Lyon Education Foundation

and director emeritus of the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce. Throughout his career he has volunteered as treasurer for many organizations including the Franklin County Community Development Corp., Buckland Historical Society, Franklin Community Action, and Buckland Fire District. Tom is hoping to permanently locate to the Cape with his wife Karen pending sale of their home in western Massachusetts.

Dave Spang has been married for 52 years; he has four children and nine grandkids. He has a BS from Tufts and a MS from Boston College. Dave is a retired teacher of secondary school science, teaching physics for 36 years. He worked for 42 seasons as National Park Interpreter at Cape Cod National Seashore, and now volunteers for the seashore at the Visitor Center, Race Point Lighthouse, and giving beach apparatus demonstrations. Dave is a volunteer and board member of the Truro Historical Society and a volunteer at Provincetown Coastal Studies with Dr. Graham Geise. He enjoys boating, gardening, and winter activities at their place in northwestern Maine.

Carl Sylvester grew up in Abington, MA and received a BS in electrical engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, NY. He served four years in the Air Force and worked for nearly 34 years at the MITRE Corporation in Bedford, MA specializing in military satellite communications system development and testing. He volunteers with the Eastham Department of Natural Resources shellfish group. Every summer he volunteers at the Kokrine Hills Bible Camp for four to six weeks in the remote wilderness of Alaska, serving the native Athabaskan Indian and Eskimo youth. Carl has a wooden boatbuilding hobby and plays the trombone. He is retired and lives in Eastham in a house originally built as a summer cottage by his father in 1960.

Annual Report to Friends Membership

At the annual meeting of FCCNS on July 15, 2010, President Judy Parmelee gave the following report:

"It has been a busy year. We have done all our regular stuff like summer activities, program sponsorship, trails, volunteers, cut and burns, a sustainer event, newsletters, and garden maintenance. But since the annual meeting last year we have taken on just a few new things.

First, we continue to try to keep up with the younger set by improving our web-based access. Everyone can now pay dues or donate to Friends by credit card online via Network for Good. One can complete a membership application online as well as volunteer.

We began an e-newsletter via Constant Contact and you can sign up for it via a button on the website. The third issue just went out. If you have e-mail and you want to receive this it is just a click away.

Last week we began a new volunteer project called SET--Seal Education Training. Teams of volunteers will be out at High Head at low tide to educate the visitors about the grey seals who pull out to rest on a new sandbar. This will continue through August.

So that was the small stuff. In addition we began two not insignificant projects. Fortunately, we had some excellent help, and the projects complement each other.

First, we did a feasibility study and resurrected the Old Harbor Life-Saving Station Furnishings Project. The campaign is moving into high gear and we have high hopes of completing our goal. With early pledges from the board and other old friends, an unexpected contribution from the park, and one foundation grant so far, we have pledges of nearly \$65,000 toward a goal of \$200,000. We have been most fortunate to have found our consultant, Peter Dubay of Sandwich, who did the feasibility study and is leading us through the maze of fund raising. I'd like to thank him for all his help.

But that isn't the end of the story. I trust all of you have received the new *Friends of the Cape Cod National Seashore Magazine*. This project, which has helped us to publicize Old Harbor as well as provide people with a wonderful picture of the area, is the brainchild of Glenn Ritt, longtime Friends member, Eastham resident and local publisher. Due to his heroic work and with the help of his wife Joan Urraro, we are now out there with a striking magazine supported by 83 advertisers.

I want to thank all the board members for putting up with me, but especially Friends membership chair, Lois Lessard, who is resigning next month after five years due to family issues, and my friend, retiring treasurer Nat Goddard."

Volunteer Opportunities

Here are two winter volunteer activities:

SEANET: The Seabird Ecological Assessment Network is a citizen science program that brings together interdisciplinary researchers and citizen scientists in a long-term collaborative effort. Volunteers conduct beached bird surveys to record information about bird mortality along Cape Cod. These surveys provide baseline information about bird mortality and help to detect mass mortality events such as oil spills, algal toxins, and disease outbreaks.

Common Eider Research: Common eiders gather to overwinter at Great Island/Jeremy Point on Cape Cod. Several eider mass mortality events have been documented over the past few years. Volunteers assist with beach surveys to record dead and dying eiders in an effort to document baseline numbers of dead birds and determine reasons for these die-offs.

If interested, contact Shelley Hall, CCNS Chief of Natural Resource Management at shelley_hall@nps.gov.

Have You Signed Up for E-news? The inaugural issue of the Friends e-mail newsletter was sent out in May 2010. It has been very well received and means that we are able to contact you more often than in the past, with up-to-date information about National Seashore issues and events, as well as Friends activities. The E-news is sent out on a monthly basis in the summer, changing to a bi-monthly basis during the off-season.

We encourage any member who has not yet enrolled to do so. Go to the Friends website www.fccns.org and use the box at the bottom of any page, or e-mail us at info@fccns.org. One does not have to be a member to subscribe, so encourage your friends to sign up to introduce them to the FCCNS.

Did You Know? The Cape Cod National Seashore is one of the national parks that allows individuals to pick cranberries, rose hips, blueberries, beach plums, etc. for personal consumption. There are limits, however, which are listed in the park compendium (local regulations) on the CCNS website www.nps.gov/caco or simply ask at the visitor center. Cranberries are still plentiful!

National Seashore Wish List: Are you tackling a basement or attic clean-up this fall? If you have an urn-style coffee maker gathering dust, consider donating it to the Atlantic Research Center classroom for use during public presentations about the park's extensive research program. Contact CCNS Research and Monitoring Coordinator Megan Tyrrell at 508-487-3262, x 0510.

Planning for the Dune Shacks of the Peaked Hill Bars Historic District

The dune shacks have their roots in the lifesaving huts of the maritime era in the mid-19th century. The first lifesaving station was built in 1872. In 1914, the first recorded transition from a lifesaving station to a private residence took place in what is now the historic district. The 1920s and 1930s saw the construction of the shacks that exist today, and of several that no longer exist. Over the years the shacks have been owned and occupied by a wide range of families and individuals who have enjoyed the experience of living close to nature in an environment of few amenities. Several shacks have also provided the creative environment desired by artists and writers, notably Harry Kemp and Eugene O'Neill.

The creation of the Cape Cod National Seashore (CCNS) in 1961 marked the beginning of a difficult relationship between the National Park Service (NPS) and the dune shack dwellers. The root of the problem was the lack of any clear title to the land underlying most of the shacks that would permit the dune dwellers to continue to occupy the property once the national seashore was established. Since the district was deemed eligible for the National Register in 1989, there have been several efforts by the CCNS and its advisory commission to determine how to best preserve the historic district and allocate appropriate public use and occupancy, while also recognizing the value of the traditions carried out by long-time dune dwellers.

George Price, the current CCNS superintendent, recognized the need for a more comprehensive effort and worked with the advisory commission to form a sub-committee to address the need. The sub-committee included members of several long-time dune shack families, representatives of the non-profit organizations that manage a number of the shacks under agreement; representatives of the towns of Provincetown and Truro, Friends of the CCNS, Art's Dune Tours, the CCNS Advisory Commission; and the CCNS historian. The sub-committee received strong and



open support from the NPS and the CCNS with George Price and Sue Moynihan from the national seashore, and Sandy Hamilton from the NPS Environmental Quality Division attending most meetings.

The sub-committee met 11 times between November 2009 and July 2010. Meetings were facilitated by the Consensus Building Institute, under contract to the NPS. The goal of the sub-committee process was to openly discuss the many varied elements of resource protection, historic structure preservation, public access, perpetuation of traditions, management models and mechanisms, and transitions between uses and users. The discussions were carried out in a constructive and collegial manner and the final report was submitted to the advisory committee, which subsequently adopted it and forwarded it on to George Price, who is shepherding it through the Environmental Assessment process. A final plan will be released in summer 2011.

Austin Smith

Watch your mailbox – Annual membership renewal forms coming soon. Our 2011 dues notices will be mailed soon. Please watch for them and reply promptly. The Friends membership year is the calendar year, but those new members joining after September 1 receive the remainder of the current year plus the following year membership. You may also renew via the Network for Good on our E-news or the Friends website www.fccns.org. **Please be sure to send us your e-mail address when you renew.** Your membership is vital for Friends continued support of the Cape Cod National Seashore.

Interested in becoming a volunteer? We could not accomplish our mission of supporting the CCNS without our volunteers, who help with a whole range of activities – trail maintenance, summer programs, natural resources projects, the Seal Education Team, and many others. In the last 12 months, Friends volunteers contributed some 642 hours. **E-mail us or go to our website to sign up.**



Friends of
Cape Cod National Seashore
P.O. Box 550
Wellfleet, MA 02667

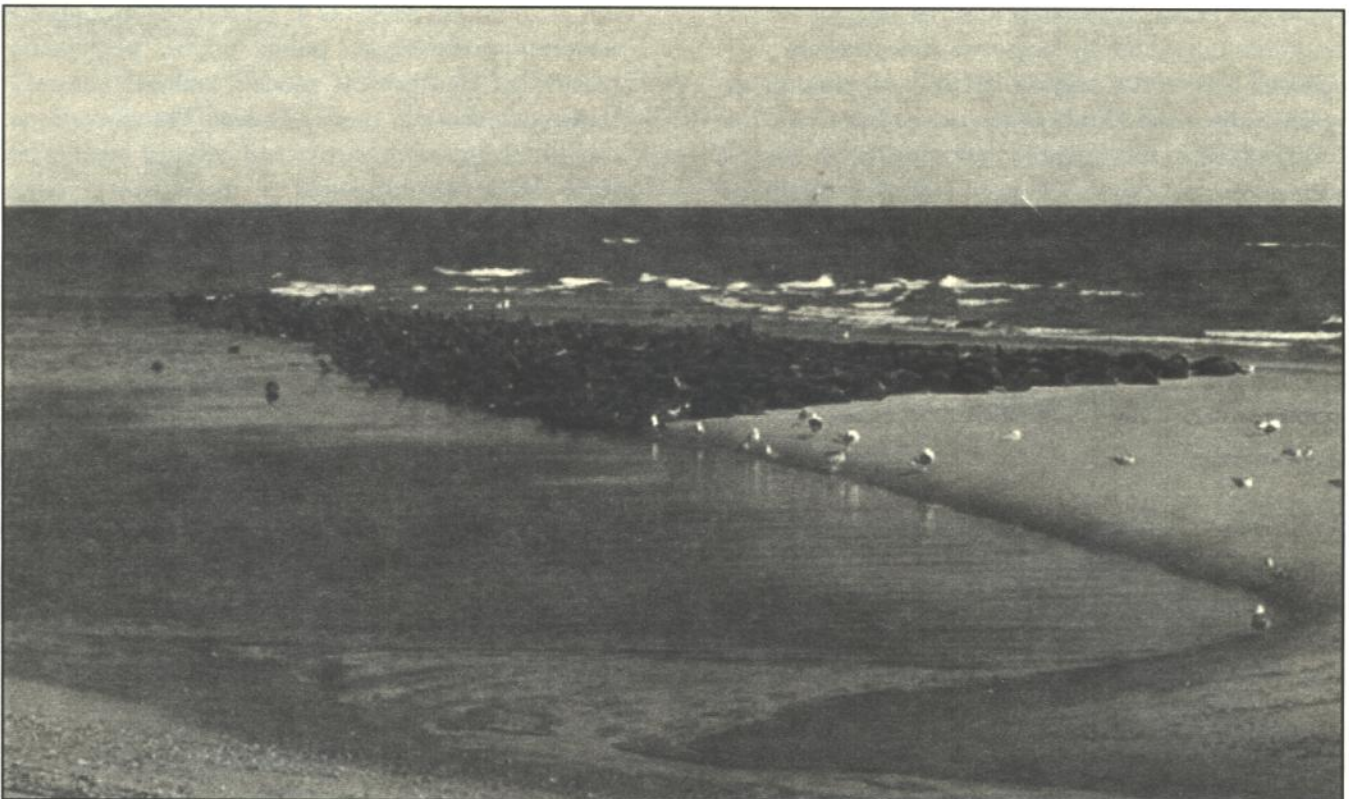


Photo by Dick Spokes

Seals resting on High Head. The Seal Education Team (SET), including many Friends volunteers, provided interpretation and education to 2,143 visitors in July and August.