NAUSET LIGHT PRESERVATION SOCIETY
Post Office Box 941
Eastham, Massachusetts 02642
508-240-2612

APRIL 1996 NEWSLETTER

A Message from the President

Sometimes the goal seems to be too distant, and the obstacles too difficult to overcome. Just when you feel like chucking it all in, something happens to remind you that you are not alone in your struggle, and help is there for the asking. Such was the case when we asked for your support in gaining National Seashore approval of the appropriate new site for Nauset Light. We asked for your participation in the public hearing, and for letters to be sent to the Seashore superintendent. Your response was magnificent! Attendance at the hearing was around 200, and the comments expressed there were unanimously in favor of our preferred Site D. Letters to the Seashore appear to have exceeded 200, with a landslide for Site D. Thank you! Not only did you remind us that this is an effort with wide public support, but you also accomplished the mission.

True to her word, Superintendent Burks took the strong public support for Site D as a mandate for recommending that site for approval to her superiors in the National Park Service. Site D has now been approved as the new location for Nauset Light. Many have congratulated me for the successful conclusion of the siting issue, but I assure each of them that the deciding factors were your support and the determination of the Seashore superintendent to do the right thing. Many thanks for your efforts, and congratulations for a job well done!

Now we move on towards the tasks involved in moving the light which, due to recent erosion, is only 43 feet from the edge. We must prepare a Request for Proposal, select a contractor, insure that the requirements of the state for funding are met, and work out the details of the relationship between NLPS and the Seashore for the long term operation of the light. If all goes well, this autumn will find Nauset Light looking out to sea from her new home, and all will be perfect again in Eastham.

Hawkins Conrad

Nauset Light Shop on the Move

Another move has already taken place. The two units we occupied at Main Street Mercantile were sold, and we had to vacate the space. On April 18, 1996, Boy Scout Troop #83 assisted NLPS in moving the shop to temporary quarters at Units 18B and 18C in Main Street Mercantile. Unit 18B will be used for an office, and Unit 18C will house our merchandise. The space continues to be free, thanks to the generosity of the Cape Cod Five Cents Savings Bank. Since the units are on the second floor and are not handicapped accessible, we cannot sell out of this location. We are actively seeking suitable first-floor space, preferably in Eastham. If anyone has any suggestions, please call Pam Nobili at 508-240-2612.

As many of you know, we also sell our merchandise in the boathouse just below Nauset Light. That shop is open whenever the light is open. We hope to add an extra weekday at the boathouse during the summer, but plans have not yet been finalized. Watch for our flag!

Fund Raising

Fund raising efforts continue in high gear. As of March 30, 1996, $92,000 has been raised from memberships, donations, and the sale of merchandise. The shop was open during the Christmas season and did a brisk business. Kudos to Pam Nobili and Ian McConnell who produced a catalog of some of our most popular gift items which raised $3,100. Thanks to all who sent orders. The catalog is still available, and you may request a copy by mail, telephone, or e-mail. Orders are filled promptly.

There is potential for our receiving grant money. The proposal submitted to the Massachusetts Highway Department last spring for federal transportation funds under the Intermodal Surface Transportation Enhancement Act (ISTEA) qualified for funding in December. ISTEA funds may provide a total of $300,000, $30,000 of which would be contributed by NLPS.

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An additional $60,000 may be forthcoming from the state Department of Environmental Management. Congressman Gerry Studds, his aide, Mark Forest, and Senator Henri Rauschenbach, have been diligently spearheading these efforts on our behalf.

While the above grants would cover the cost of physically moving the lighthouse, more funds will be needed for engineering, site work and restoration of the tower. In addition, the Society will be responsible for ongoing expenses (utilities, maintenance, and upkeep) for the light. We hope to raise enough money to establish an endowment fund which will generate sufficient interest to pay the annual expenses.

A beautiful quilted wall hanging measuring 55-1/2" x 55-1/2" has been given to the NLPS for a raffle. It features twelve Cape and Island lighthouses surrounding a large map of Cape Cod. The quilt was made by the members of the "Eastham Washashores," a group of twelve women from Eastham, Orleans, Wellfleet, and Brewster. Tickets will be $1 each, or $5 for a book of 5. Sales will begin Maritime Week (May 11-19, 1996) and will continue until December 14, 1996, when the drawing will take place. This summer, the quilt will be displayed and tickets sold at libraries and craft fairs throughout the Cape. Tickets will also be available at our boathouse shop and by mail by writing or phoning the NLPS.

Several other major fund raisers are tentatively being planned for this summer. If you have any ideas, give us a call.

We're on the Internet

Nauset Light is in cyberspace! We have our very own web pages, thanks to Ian McConnell who designed the site for us and keeps it updated. They contain information on the history of the Nauset Light Station, erosion, the Nauset Light Preservation Society, and updates on what is currently happening. Also included are several items from our catalog, complete with an order form. Visit us at: http://www.tiac.net/users/icm/NLPS.html. You can e-mail us at: ssabin@capecod.net.

Cape Cod Maritime Week '96

This year, five lighthouses will be open during the two weekends of Cape Cod Maritime week. On Saturday and Sunday, May 11 and 12, and Saturday and Sunday, May 18 and 19, from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., there will be free open houses at Nobska Light, Woods Hole; Chatham Light; Nauset Light and the Three Sisters, Eastham; and Race Point Light, Provincetown. Work on the relocation of Cape Cod (Highland) Light will have begun; therefore, it will not be open. Plan on visiting us at the old site one more time, and come back again next year to see the light at its new location.

Heritage Week

On Sunday, June 16, and Sunday, June 23, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., you will have another opportunity to visit us. Nauset Light will be open both days to celebrate Heritage Week.

Open Houses at the Light

On Memorial Day weekend, the light will be open on Sunday, May 26, from 2-5 p.m. Our regular schedule commences on Sunday, June 30, 5-8 p.m., and will continue every Sunday until further notice. Preliminary site work for the move may begin this summer, but the current plan is to keep the tower open as long as it is safe to do so.

Annual Meeting

The third annual meeting of the Nauset Light Preservation Society will be held on Friday, May 31, 1996, at 7:30 p.m. at the Eastham Town Hall. We encourage you to attend. You will hear the latest news on the upcoming move!

Volunteers

We have a very active and dedicated crew of volunteers, but we can always use more. Every time we hold an open house, we need at least three people at the light and two people in the shop. That adds up to a lot of bodies over the course of the summer! Would you like to join us? It's lots of fun, and it gives you the opportunity to meet people from all over the world. Call Pam Nobili at 508-240-2612 to tell her you will help.

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Membership Renewals

Once again, it is time to renew your membership in the Nauset Light Preservation Society. Dues are $10.00 for individuals, and $20.00 for a family membership. All donations are tax deductible. We hope you will continue to support us. Please cut off this bottom section which includes the mailing label on the other side and return it with your check to the Nauset Light Preservation Society, P. O. Box 941, Eastham, MA 02642. Thank you!