



President's Letter

I've heard there was a mild winter on Nauset Heights but as is typical along the coast of the Cape spring is slow to arrive. I will return from Florida in early May and hope that the Florida warmth and sunshine follow me. May will be a time to clean up my yard, plant some flowers and put up my flag.

How will this summer on Nauset Heights be different from last summer? With many people vaccinated, I am hoping to see family, friends, and neighbors at many gatherings. The Nauset Heights Association Board just held a Zoom meeting and I'm happy to report that we are hopeful for a full schedule of activities. We are planning on a Lawn Party, our signature event, on August 7th as long as the legal guidelines set by Gov Baker and CDC recommendations allow a 200 person event outside on private property. There will be Spring and Fall Clean up days, an Environmental Committee Program, a Donut Dip, and Sand Sculpture Contest. There will be two Member Meetings and a Bonfire with S'mores. A golf outing and tennis tournament are also on the docket. A list of all the events and dates can be found in this newsletter and also on the Events page of our website at www.nausetheights.org/nha/events/.

Details about all the events will be sent to you in emails. The Spring Clean up date is Saturday, May 15th. Bill Dunham will be hosting the event in which we meet at his house in the morning and then walk around Nauset Heights cleaning up any trash and winter debris. No refreshments this year so bring your own cup of coffee. The Pollinator Program will be held Saturday, June 5th. The event will be outside in the Strickler/Pattison yard and speakers are Dave Strickler and Ann Rickard Thompson.

There are now 200+ members of our Association and I hope you will all enjoy many of the NHA events this summer.

Ann Farnham Deming
NHA President



We encourage all members to share their photos of the beauty of Nauset Heights for use in the newsletters, directory, website, and social media. Please send any submissions to nha@nausetheights.org and include photo credit.

Dredging Update

We asked fellow Nauset Heights resident Charlie Carlson for an update on the Nauset Estuary dredging project. Charlie's report follows...

Background

Woods Hole Group (WHG), a well known consulting firm, has been working for the Town for the past six years to complete various studies and examine various alternatives in connection with the proposed Nauset Estuary dredging project.

Two Town officials are primarily responsible for the project. They are Nate Sears, Natural Resources Manager, and Tom Daley, Director of the Department of Public Works. Also involved are John Kelly, Town Administrator, and members of the Select Board, which has ultimate authority over dredging.

The Nauset Estuary Stakeholder Group (NESG) is a committee composed of Town officials and citizens from Orleans and Eastham (see Note 1 below). This committee acts as the local advisory body for the Nauset Estuary dredging project. The NESG meets periodically with WHG to review and comment on dredging issues and plans. I am a member of the NESG and currently serve as the committee's Chairman (See Note 2 below).

Recent Developments

In mid-April, WHG delivered a DRAFT Expanded Environmental Notification Form (EENF) for the Nauset Estuary dredging project to the NESG and Town officials. To date, the NESG and Town officials have not discussed the EENF. Their discussions will be scheduled soon and may lead to some revision of the draft. Eventually, a final EENF will be delivered to state officials for review.

Submission of the EENF to the state will be the first step in a permitting process that will require at least two years and a variety of Federal, state and local permits before any dredging can occur. After state officials review and comment on the EENF, WHG will prepare a full Environmental Impact Report for the project.

The DRAFT EENF contains a comprehensive proposal for the dredging of a main channel between Town Cove and Nauset Inlet as well as a spur channel from the main channel to Priscilla Landing and a spur channel from Priscilla Landing to the Mill Pond. The document describes the many alternatives that WHG evaluated in developing the EENF and the large number of studies that WHG completed for the Town. The
(continued on page 3)



Dredging Update (cont)

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document also describes the proposed dredging methods and the proposed placement arrangements for the dredged material.

One element of the DRAFT EENF will be of greatest interest to Nauset Heights residents. The document proposes that dredged sand from the Priscilla Landing spur channel and the Mill Pond spur channel will be sent by pipe to an area north of the Nauset Beach parking lot and south of Callanan's Pass. There, the dredged sand will be formed into a dune that will lie between the existing beach dune and the upland where homes are situated.

I understand that a number of Nauset Heights residents are quite concerned about the dune creation plan. I expect a public forum for discussion of this plan and the other elements of the EENF will be scheduled for later this spring and this forum will be led by WHG. The NESG and Town officials will also discuss the dune creation plan with WHG as part of their overall review of the DRAFT EENF.

I expect the DRAFT EENF will be available on the Town's website soon. It is a very lengthy document.

Note 1: The Orleans representatives to the NESG include Select Board members Kevin Galligan and Mark Mathison, John Kelly, Nate Sears, Tom Daley, two representatives from the fishing industry and yours truly as an interested neighbor. There are corresponding representatives from the Town of Eastham.

Note 2: Until recently, I also served as Chairman of the Orleans Dredge Advisory Committee. This committee was charged with providing input to the Town of Orleans and its consultant on plans for dredging in Nauset Estuary, Pleasant Bay and Rock Harbor as well as other related matters. The committee completed most of its work over the winter and was recently dissolved by the Select Board.

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2021 NHA Events

Spring Fling Clean-up

May 15, 2021

Pollinator Program

June 5, 2021

Board of Directors Meeting

June 12, 2021

Donut Dip

July 3, 2021

July Member Meeting

July 10, 2021

Sand Sculpture Contest

July 17, 2021

Golf Outing

July 19, 2021

Family Beach Bonfire

July 24, 2021

Lawn Party

August 7, 2021

Tennis Tournament

August 14 & 15 2021

Annual Member Meeting

August 21, 2021

Board of Directors Meeting

September 11, 2021

Fall Spruce Up

October 16, 2021



Did You Know?

We've pulled some fun facts from the *Nauset Heights* book written by Jim Tyng and first published by the NHA in 2015 to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of our community. The book features stories about the origin, history, and development of the Heights. See Page 5 to order your own copy.

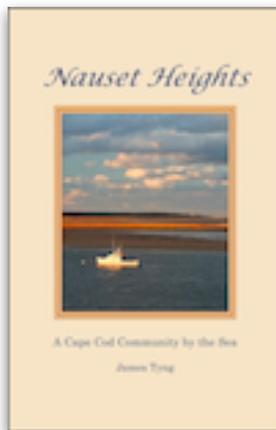
- In the mid-1800s, there was a navigable channel between Nauset Harbor and Pleasant Bay in Chatham. The channel ran between Pochet Neck and the dunes of the barrier beach to the east.
- The French Trans-Atlantic Cable was laid through Nauset Harbor, and down the center of the Town Cove to the Orleans Cable Station in 1898. Another heavy black cable, which ran through the harbor and along the outer beach, provided communications between the Life Saving Stations in Eastham and Orleans.
- A wide, open entrance to Nauset Harbor was directly east of the Big Rock in 1900. A barrier beach with very tall sand dunes extended miles southward from Eastham, with an early U.S. Life Saving Boathouse on its point, directly opposite from today's NHA Stairs.
- The U.S. Government built a Life Saving Boathouse on Priscilla Beach by 1914. A smaller structure was built on the beach under the Bluff in front of the Farnham and Brezina properties. It was used to store emergency provisions and clothing for mariners who were shipwrecked on the bars off Nauset Beach.
- By 1915, a dirt road called "Cliff Road" ran along Nauset Bluff from Alden Road to a point south of Callanan's Pass. The road provided primary access to the early houses along the Bluff. Only small sections of the road remain today, as much of the banking has eroded away during the past hundred years.
- As late as the 1940s, the beach at Priscilla Landing was known as "Bixby's Beach", named after the Bixby family who lived at 21 Standish Road in the early 1900s. Later, it was also known as the "Red Boathouse Beach".
- The Big Rock is a glacial boulder left behind by the ice sheet about 15,000 years ago. Once located well inside the waters of Nauset Harbor, it is now nearly covered by the sand dunes of Nauset Beach. It has also been known as "Fighting Chance Rock" since 1966.
- Callanan's Pass was named in 1962 when the Callanan family deeded a parcel of land at the entrance to the beach in order to ensure restricted access to Nauset Spit for "The Inhabitants of the Town of Orleans". In 1915, this unpaved road was known simply as "Beach Road", and later as the "Tippy Way" due to its steep, eroded condition.
- During the past century, there have been three roads called "Beach Road" on Nauset Heights. The first was the extension of Cliff Road southward, a sand road running behind the dunes to the Nauset Public Beach. The second was today's Callanan's Pass. The third is the current paved road from East Orleans to the Nauset Public Beach.
- Snow Goose Lane was originally called Samoset Road, and Pendleton Drive was originally called Nauset Knolls Lane. Deer Run Road once connected Nauset Heights and Grandview Estates until its center was blocked off, and the portion in Nauset Heights was renamed as Red Fox Trail at the request of the Orleans Fire Department.
- There are only three Orleans public roads on Nauset Heights. All the roads are private ways except Nauset Heights Road, Doane Road, and the lower portion of Priscilla Road from Ivanough Road to Priscilla Landing. There is also another town landing located at the end of Doane Road.



Nauset Bluff and Fighting Chance Rock, 1954. Photo provided by Bill Burling.

Nauset Heights Centennial Book

With many new homeowners in the neighborhood, we'd like to let you know about the Nauset Heights Centennial book which was published by the NHA in 2015 to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of our community. The book features stories about the origin, history, and development of the Heights. Historic homes and events from the past one hundred years are presented with a collection of vintage photographs, maps, and charts of the community.



If you would like to order the book, please complete the order form at www.nausetheights.org/nha/news/nauset-heights-centennial-book/. The cost is \$25.00 per copy.

Books may be picked up in person by appointment with Meredith Farmer or mailed for an additional cost of \$6.00 per copy. Books will also be available at NHA Member Meetings in July and August. Payment is by cash or check made payable to the NHA, P.O. Box 12, East Orleans, MA 02643.

Environmental Committee News

Pollinator Program

The NHA Environmental Committee will host a short program with beekeeper and NHA Past President Dave Strickler, and organic Master Gardener neighbor, Ann Rickard Thompson.

You will learn the importance of bees and other pollinators to our world and how to protect them in our neighborhood, homes and gardens with ideas for using native plants that attract bees and butterflies.



Russian sage provides for pollinators when food isn't plentiful

Please come to the Strickler's home at 1 Standish Road on Saturday, June 6 at 10:00 a.m. Lawn chairs advised. For more information, contact Bill Dunham (chair), Janet Bush or Rigney Cunningham.

Board of Directors



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Maura Fitzpatrick
1st Vice President

Member Corner

For 68 years, the mission of the Nauset Heights Association has been to foster a sense of community and cooperation among homeowners to protect and preserve this special place.

At the time of this writing, our association is record-setting 203 member families strong. We welcome our newest members:

Thomas and Nancy Dawicki	12 Doane Road
Richard Dennis/Alison Finnegan	11 Pendleton Drive
Brian and Rachel Garity	2 & 7 Skunk's Bluff
Jim and Kathryn Hourdequin	48 Nauset Heights Road
Thomas Kalinoski	8A Alden Road (Pilgrim Lane)
Susan Kalinoski-Franklin	8A Alden Road (Pilgrim Lane)
Gerard and Terry McCarthy	84 Nauset Heights Road
Caroline Ogonowski	25B Doane Road (Pilgrim Lane)
Laura Ogonowski	25B Doane Road (Pilgrim Lane)
Christopher and Suzanne Pasko	5 Standish Road
Walter and Dagmar Sall	51 Nauset Road
Fernando and Kim Silva	9 Priscilla Road
Tighe & Christy Smith	14 Standish Road
Elizabeth Ann Whitmore and David Drake	24 Alden Road

The NHA reaches out and welcomes newcomers to our neighborhood. We ask that if you are selling your home or if you know of a neighbor who is selling or has sold their home, please pass along the new owners' information to our general email address: nha@nausetheights.org. The membership committee has created a welcome packet and we'd appreciate your help in making sure we are able to get it into our new neighbors' hands.



Socially distanced August 2020 member meeting under stormy skies

In remembrance

The following Nauset Heights residents or former residents have passed away since our last newsletter publication. We send our sympathy to their families. They will be dearly missed.

- [Frank Csonger](#)
February 8, 2021
- [James Gunsualas](#)
January 20, 2021
- [Joyce Hoffman](#)
April 26, 2021



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