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The mission of the Nantucket Conservation Foundation is to assist in the preservation of Nantucket’s character by permanently conserving, maintaining and managing natural areas and habitats and to encourage an appreciation of and interest in the island’s natural resources.
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2009

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• Executive Committee member

•• Former President
A Message from the President

DAVID B. POOR

“Sometimes in the middle of a long New York winter when I wonder whether I’ll ever see the sun again, all I have to do is remember a lazy afternoon at Coskata, or a walk at Sanford Farm, or the energy of the Cranberry Festival, and you know what, life isn’t so bad after all.

This past winter was one of the worst. Some folks thought we were seeing the end of the world. But you know what? When we returned to Nantucket, Coatue, Sanford Farm, the Middle Moors, and all those other wonderful Foundation properties were there to welcome and nurture us and anyone else who wanted to enjoy Nantucket’s open spaces. In these difficult times, and as the Foundation enjoys its 46th year, I’m delighted to assure you that the resources of the Foundation remain sound. In fact, there is great news on a number of fronts. Very simply, our focus remains clear: we are “completing” the legacy of critical land acquisition initiated with remarkable foresight in 1963, while ensuring our financial stability so that we can continue the Foundation’s mission of science, education and, above all, the stewardship of our portfolio of iconic Nantucket landscapes.

Your thoughtful investments in the efforts to protect our beloved Nantucket continue to show a remarkably robust return. Our capital campaign has raised over $27 million in a little more than five years, providing us with significant financial resources to support our land acquisition and other mission-critical activities. We continue to work with landowners to protect key target properties in a cost effective manner, and we continue to manage our financial resources and operating budget in a manner that reflects our keen appreciation of your trust. Over the past 6 months, in anticipation of difficult times, we approved a series of immediate cost-cutting measures and identified a number of additional potential cutbacks that should ensure that the Foundation remains on sound financial footing under even the most severe economic scenarios.

Most importantly, near the end of last year, a strategic decision was made by our Trustees to prepay the remaining obligations on the note to the University of Massachusetts for the purchase of the Nantucket Field Station. We determined that, given current economic conditions, it would be wise to
quickly retire this debt and eliminate the operating impact of interest payments. The Trustees authorized a $3.5 million transfer from the Foundation’s operating reserve to pay off our obligation to the University ahead of schedule. We will now redouble our efforts to replenish our reserve fund.

Like everyone, the Foundation’s investment portfolio has suffered. However, we have long relied on wise counsel and attentiveness to rapidly changing market conditions. As a result, the impact to the Foundation has not been as harsh as that experienced by many institutions and endowments.

The public’s use and enjoyment of Foundation properties during the summer season achieved and often exceeded our expectations. Supervision and attention to the property maintenance needs of well used, favorite areas including the Tupancy Links and Sanford Farm, assures their ongoing reputation as quality visitor destinations. The Cranberry Festival held on October 11th attracted over 4,500 enthusiastic visitors to the Milestone Cranberry Bog for a celebration of this great part of Nantucket’s historic and now very current agricultural heritage. You will be pleased to know that a well managed cranberry operation is today a significant contributor to the Foundation’s “bottom-line.” Keep eating those cranberries!!

The Foundation’s highly qualified science professionals and seasonal field assistants spent April through October conducting ambitious field investigations at Eel Point and Squam Farm which are next in the series of management plans being developed to perpetuate the uncommon resources occurring on our properties. They have also been involved with important research and land management initiatives on several other Foundation-owned holdings, including Head of the Plains, Trott’s Hills, Medouie Creek, and the Middle Moors. This work involves developing a better understanding of how we can use techniques such as sheep grazing, prescribed fire, brushcutting, and tidal restoration as tools to support our ongoing land stewardship efforts. We are working diligently with supporters and potential grant sources to fund critical land management initiatives that reflect especially critical and nationally significant opportunities. Perhaps the most popular of these “land management” tools is our ever expanding flock of now native Nantucket sheep. They have become accustomed to grazing on Nantucket’s unique assemblage of grasses and shrubs, and if well managed, provide important invasive species vegetation management, as well as wool for some of our best selling Foundation keepsakes.

Support for the Foundation from its existing members is steady with new efforts currently underway to welcome island newcomers and reach out to the owners of properties that adjoin or otherwise benefit from our existing conservation lands. We are encouraged that our membership numbers and dollars while behind those of last year and below budget, still show a broad base of strong support. Your assistance in this effort by encouraging family, friends, and neighbors to become involved will be key to our ongoing success and is always appreciated. We continue to make our 9,000 acres of property (almost 30% of the island’s total) accessible without charge to not only our members and supporters, but the public at large. We provide a “campus” for such organizations as Strong Wings, the Maria Mitchell Association, the Nantucket Biodiversity Initiative, the Nantucket Boys and
Girls Club, the UMASS Nantucket Field Station, and many other academic institutions from off-island. As we like to say, our doors are always open to all, to provide the background settings that define the Nantucket experience.

By working carefully with our on-island partners, including colleagues at the Land Bank Commission, Nantucket Land Council, and ‘Sconset Trust, the complex last steps required to “complete the legacy” are becoming better defined each month. As you have previously heard, the Foundation’s remaining agenda includes one large acreage property which, if developed would have an enormous and irreversible impact on significant parts of the Middle Moors, most especially the dramatic views enjoyed by all from Altar Rock. Known as the Norwood Farm, this sprawling, 240-acre property includes a remarkable combination of natural landscapes and reminders of Nantucket’s rich history of farming and Native American habitation. Fortunately, discussions with the representatives of the private trust which owns this property have been underway for several years, and we are working on a proposal that will ensure the future, appropriate stewardship and protection of this wonderful property.

Thanks to all of you, the fundamentals are sound and the future of the Nantucket Conservation Foundation remains as exciting as ever. However, we will need your continuing financial support and involvement in our work as we move forward with our important mission. We look forward to welcoming you to the enjoyment of our community of spectacular properties all over this wonderful island.”

*Taken from David Poor’s address at the Foundation’s Annual Meeting on August 20, 2009.*
Revenues
Total Unrestricted Revenues for the year were $2.9 million and Restricted Revenues were $1.0 million. Revenues were derived primarily from Capital Campaign donations, Foundation grants, restricted land-fund gifts, membership donations and investment income.

Regretably, our cranberry operations for 2009 produced a $290,000 loss on $650,000 of sales as industry oversupply caused a severe price decline which coincided with a low crop yield due to fungus problems caused by an extremely wet spring and summer. The previous two years produced net cranberry profits of $285,000 and $495,000, respectively. We are carefully monitoring industry trends to react prudently when and where needed.

The Foundation received $212,000 in scientific grants during the year. Competition for scientific grants is fierce, but our science staff continues to explore all opportunities to help support our science agenda.

Expenses
Direct Operating Expenses were $3.7 million, a reduction of $508,000 from the prior year. Savings resulted primarily from a $300,000 reduction in interest expense related to the early extinguishment of the UMASS Field Station debt. Other reductions occurred in salaries, insurance costs, land management expenses, legal and professional fees, and support for our Science and Development groups.

The Foundation spent $3.6 million on principal and interest for the UMASS Field Station commitment during the fiscal year.

Balance Sheet
Our Balance Sheet remained in solid shape with high liquidity ($9.1 million of liquid assets vs. $10.3 million for the prior year) and no net debt (long-term liabilities consisted of a $611,000 note, which is fully offset by paid-up escrow accounts in favor of the sellers). Overall, net assets increased by $148,000 as a result of actively managing our costs and...
revenue streams in a difficult economic climate.

The note for the purchase of the UMASS Field Station has been paid-in-full using our reserve funds for the final payment. Of the $22.1 million in principal and interest ultimately paid for the UMASS property, pledges of $14.8 million have already been received, and $ 7.3 million has been funded from the Foundation’s reserves. An additional $2.3 million in committed pledges are due to be received over the next two years. Reserve funds will be replenished from these receipts as well as from new pledges.

The UMASS Field Station purchase was the Foundation’s largest single land expenditure. It is a great testament to our board, our members and the Nantucket community, all of whom helped to preserve this wonderful living, outdoor laboratory from development and without whose support this could not have been accomplished.

In summary, the Foundation responded to a difficult and challenging economy by constantly reviewing revenues, expenses and capital expenditures. Membership and grant revenues have been adversely affected by the difficult economy, but we have initiated new ideas and programs to ameliorate the effect. The Foundation enjoys a strong, fairly diverse revenue base and has managed its cost structure to ensure its ability to pursue its mission. Overall, the Foundation remains in solid financial shape, and we are confident in our ability to safeguard the Foundation’s assets, manage the current portfolio of properties, and pursue additional conservation properties as they become available.

As always, we express our deepest gratitude to the great assistance received from the Tupancy-Harris Foundation.

The audited Financial Statements for the fiscal year ending October 31, 2009 have been prepared by our CPA, Kirkland Albrecht & Fredrickson.
## Statement of Financial Position 2009

As of October 31, 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>12 MONTHS</th>
<th>12 MONTHS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>October 31, 2009</td>
<td>October 31, 2008</td>
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### REVENUE & SUPPORT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2008</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>708,748</td>
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<td>Investment Income</td>
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<td>Grants</td>
<td>888,739</td>
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<td>Membership Dues</td>
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<td>Cranberry Revenue</td>
<td>486,777</td>
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<td>Gatehouse Revenue</td>
<td>147,948</td>
<td>141,436</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Income</td>
<td>4,726</td>
<td>1,540</td>
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<td><strong>Total Revenue &amp; Support</strong></td>
<td>$3,862,704</td>
<td>$3,743,427</td>
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### EXPENSES

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<td>Program Services:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Land Management</td>
<td>2,095,559</td>
<td>2,736,504</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gatehouse Expenses</td>
<td>45,446</td>
<td>44,861</td>
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<td>Supporting Services:</td>
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<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>439,014</td>
<td>524,280</td>
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<td>Management &amp; General</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td>$3,714,517</td>
<td>$4,223,072</td>
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**Net Assets, End of Period**

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2008</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$109,804,685</td>
<td>$109,656,498</td>
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### ASSETS

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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2008</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash &amp; Cash Equivalents</td>
<td>10,731,927</td>
<td>11,867,975</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accounts Receivable</td>
<td>422,911</td>
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<td>Pledges Receivable</td>
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<td>3,617,981</td>
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<td>Prepaid Expenses</td>
<td>70,340</td>
<td>71,738</td>
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<tr>
<td>Land Held for Conservation</td>
<td>95,874,657</td>
<td>95,874,657</td>
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<tr>
<td>Property &amp; Equipment, Net</td>
<td>2,496,164</td>
<td>2,451,530</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Assets</td>
<td>583,084</td>
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<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td>$112,252,736</td>
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### LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2008</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accounts Payable</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accrued Expenses</td>
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<td>93,073</td>
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<tr>
<td>Long Term Debt</td>
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<td>4,110,282</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Liabilities</td>
<td>1,630,274</td>
<td>1,388,305</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
<td>$2,448,051</td>
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### NET ASSETS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2008</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Board Designated</td>
<td>6,933,849</td>
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<td>Other Unrestricted</td>
<td>98,579,949</td>
<td>95,797,181</td>
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<tr>
<td>Temporarily Restricted</td>
<td>2,814,892</td>
<td>4,885,870</td>
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<tr>
<td>Permanently Restricted</td>
<td>1,484,995</td>
<td>1,765,973</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Net Assets</strong></td>
<td>$109,804,685</td>
<td>$109,656,498</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</strong></td>
<td>$112,252,736</td>
<td>$115,345,646</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
From the Executive Director

JAMES F. LENTOWSKI

State of the Organization
One of the questions that I’m often asked is how is the Foundation getting on during this difficult economic time? Fortunately, while income is off slightly, the loyalty and participation of our membership remains high.

Tupancy-Harris Foundation
The current financial stability of the Foundation is, in large part, due to the continued generosity and confidence of the Tupancy-Harris Foundation. Having known them well, I am confident that late Foundation Trustee Sallie Gail Harris Tupancy and her late husband, Oswald “Tup” Tupaney, both would be very pleased that their vision of being able to help the Foundation deal with the care of conservation properties across the island and the organization’s essential operations is working.

Member Visitations
Demand for opportunities to visit Foundation properties with well-informed staff through our increased Mornings for Members offerings continues to grow. Not only have additional dates been added, but new destinations have also been included to the delight of those who are taking advantage of these summer and winter outings.

Efforts to Recapture Lapsed Members
One of the major efforts which is now underway by our Development Department is to recapture lapsed members, especially our Colleagues, who have supported the Foundation generously for years. Every member is important to this voluntarily funded organization and be assured that we value and rely heavily on this annual support. Please, when you receive a request to renew your membership, respond as quickly and as generously as you can. Thank you, thank you, thank you.
**Neighborhood Associations**

Over the past year we have reached out to several neighborhood associations, making visits to groups in Madaket, Sheep Pond, Polpis, Tom Nevers, and Surfside. These presentations acquaint our neighbors with the Foundation’s programs, our need for broad community support, and the way the Foundation collaborates with its conservation partners. Making the uniqueness and goals of the numerous organizations which work in different ways and with different land protection tools to maintain the island’s quality of life is valuable information for everyone to understand.

Recent arrivals to the island, some of whom have purchased property abutting a Foundation parcel, are often unaware of the organization’s status as a member-supported nonprofit, its 45-year history of generous voluntary support, its nationally acclaimed accomplishments or its mission. Without belittling the work of any of our land conservation partners, when we reach out our goal is to clarify the niche each organization fills and the efforts each of us go to in communicating with each other and coordinating rather than duplicating programs.

**Overview**

The Nantucket Conservation Foundation’s operations are comprised of four departments consisting of Administration, Properties Maintenance, Science and Stewardship, and Cranberry Operations. Within these departments are a total of 18 full-time, year round employees and 14 part-time or seasonal staff. In addition, the Foundation and The Trustees of Reservations, with whom we partner in the cooperative effort that protects lands north of Wauwinet, hire three people to staff the Wauwinet Gatehouse where Oversand Vehicle Permits are issued from early summer into the early fall.

**Properties Maintenance**

As you may expect, the year-round responsibility of overseeing and caring for nearly 9,000 acres that are open to the public—30% of the island’s land area—can be a daunting task. The Foundation continues to be ably served by Tom Lennon, Director of Finance and Administration, and a full-time
properties maintenance staff of four energetic individuals who are supplemented by rangers, a Field Station-based educator, and a shepherdess.

Science Operations

The Foundation’s Science and Stewardship department is an outgrowth of our Board’s role as the stewards of many uncommon habitats and resources. These consist of moorlands, sandplain grasslands, coastal ponds and forests, cranberry bogs and salt marshes—each of which provide for the needs of very different communities of living things.

For example, globally rare sandplain grasslands, a natural community included in The Nature Conservancy’s inventory of the earth’s Forty Last Greatest Places, occupy many upland areas along Nantucket’s south shore. The Island’s sandplain grasslands account for 90% of the remaining grasslands of this type anywhere. Because of their very limited distribution, the requirements of plant and insect species which occupy this rare habitat are not well understood. At The Head of the Plains just east of Madaket, the Foundation’s commitment to high-quality science is noticeable. On these Foundation acres, its scientists and interns have been accumulating detailed information on the occurrence of uncommon species and their response to management strategies including prescribed fire. An evolving management plan guided by off-island experts, recommends practices to perpetuate these rare resources and how best to measure the effectiveness of our work.

Closely related to this is the work being done in cooperation with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the Town of Nantucket, the Land Bank Commission, the Land Council, and others to resolve an extremely complex issue surrounding the federal government’s deacquisition of 90 very sensitive acres surrounded by hundreds of acres of existing protected land at The Head of the Plains. A portion of this former FAA tower site has been of ongoing interest to the town as the possible site for the eventual construction of a wastewater treatment facility to serve Madaket. This neighborhood’s historic development patterns, the existing density of structures, often chaotic relationships of private wells and septic systems to each other, and increased occupancy of residences in what has traditionally been a summer enclave, are all assumed to be impacting the water quality of Madaket Harbor. Landowner concerns over the potential for future unwanted growth in Madaket that could be driven by the installation of central water and sewer are now among issues being addressed by town-sponsored proposals to amend zoning and health regulations. As I mentioned, this is a very knotty situation.

Cranberry Operations

Another specialized group of Foundation employees work on the Milestone and Windswept Cranberry Bogs. The constantly fluctuating demand for berries and the region’s ever-changing growing conditions make the job of achieving profitability an annual challenge. Fortunately, following the expected, though disappointing withdrawal of the
Foundation’s last bog tenant/operator, Northland Cranberries, Tom Larrabee, Sr., assisted by a very determined group has returned the nearly 150-year old Milestone Bog to average or above average production levels.

Norwood Farms

On the land acquisition front, the Foundation continues to be engaged with representatives of the Norwood Farm Trust. The Trust owns a property that occupies 241 acres between Altar Rock and the Polpis Road. The owners have been proceeding methodically with detailed surveys and inventories which they must go through with local and state permitting agencies including the Conservation Commission, the Planning Board, and the state Natural Heritage Program. The hope is that this rigorous process will satisfy the objectives of the property’s several owners and that through sales and gifts of the remaining acreage a major portion of the parcel will remain undeveloped, protecting views from Altar Rock, wetland-bordered “hidden forests,” as well as portions of the property where signs of early island farming and cranberry culture are still visible.

Field Station

If you have been paying close attention to the Foundation’s efforts to permanently protect the 110-acre harbor front property called the Nantucket Field Station, you may recall that the final payment for this $22 million purchase from the University of Massachusetts was due this October. While the project is not fully funded, last fall the Foundation’s Board chose to deal aggressively with falling interest rates and returns on invested assets by “borrowing” $3.5 million from the Foundation’s limited land fund reserves. This made it possible for us to complete mortgage payments to the University ahead of time thus saving hundreds of dollars a day in financing charges related to the purchase. Needless to say, we would like to quickly repay our Land Fund since having that money invested will help dramatically with our day-to-day expenses.

With regard to the Field Station, you may remember reading that the Town’s Community Preservation Committee recommended the approval of a 2007–08 Foundation request which resulted in an additional Town Meeting approved grant—this time for $250,000—to help with the purchase. In all, nearly $1 million has been made available for this project through gifts and grants related to the Town’s Preservation Committee. The Board has relayed the Foundation’s thanks to the committee members for their enthusiastic support of these grants which represent the largest ever town involvement in an island nonprofit organization’s project, impressive evidence of how islanders feel about the Field Station’s importance to the community.

Another Field Station subject is the Weezie Foundation’s $150,000 challenge grant which will fund a seasonal education coordinator at the Field Station. By matching the Weezie grant, we will create a permanent endowment of at least $300,000 to pay for the annual staffing of a coordinator and the ongoing development of age-appropriate interpretive materials for youngsters visiting the Field Station. The Foundation met
From the Executive Director

the 2008 and 2009 challenges, the first two of three successive $50,000 installments which we and the Weezie Foundation hope will be the result of gifts from new Foundation supporters.

Activities at the Field Station and public visitation are on the increase. We were recently pleased to hear of Dr. Sarah Oktay’s efforts in building new connections to other researchers and organizations. The Field Station is again an active member of a nationwide network of biological field stations thus providing an opportunity to boost Nantucket’s and the Field Station’s visibility as a national/international destination for scientists of all different capabilities and interests. This property is an incredible site on which researchers can interact and complement the earlier work of respected researchers like Dr. Sam Telford, one of the country’s foremost authorities on deer ticks. Dr. Telford’s Nantucket research, conducted at the Field Station with his colleague the late Dr. Andrew Speilman, established the basis for what is known of the deer tick’s two-year lifecycle.

Field Trips

This summer a long-standing practice of getting the Foundation’s Board of Trustees into the field as a group was revived with a post-July Board meeting trip to Ram Pasture. This spectacular ocean-front and pond-front property was the Foundation’s first land purchase in 1971. During the July trip, a group of about 25 Board members traveled with Foundation staff in several vehicles from Ram Pasture’s “west gate” off of Barrett Farm Road, along a rutted road which meanders through the property’s sandplain grassland to a line of sand dunes bordering the ocean. Following a stop to hear about the property’s acquisition and natural history, the group made its way up to the Ram Pasture Barn where the brilliant afternoon sky illuminated a panoramic view of the south shore from the Bartlett Farm to Madaket.

Verney Retirement

We were pleased that following the 2008 Annual Meeting of Members, 75 people including Board members, family, friends, and well wishers celebrated Richard Verney’s ten exceptional years of service as Foundation President with a “retirement party” at the Nantucket Field Station. A great time was had by all at this incredible harborfront setting where we were treated to a spectacular Nantucket sunset.

Recognition

This year’s recognitions include a lengthy list of individuals. The list includes the Foundation’s Trustees, Officers, and Advisors, many of whom are active on a very frequent basis and whose experience and wise counsel is invaluable to our staff.

Heartfelt thanks to every one of the full-time, part-time, and seasonal staff and to those in the community with whom we regularly work.

And, of course, my sincerest thanks to Foundation President David Poor whose lifelong passion for Nantucket and effervescent personality inspires all of us.
I would also like to acknowledge those who are “retiring” from various leadership roles with the Associates and welcome those succeeding them.

Recognition of Supporters
This year we would like to spotlight individuals and families who had key roles in the Foundation’s early successes. These include the Larsen Family with particular focus on the accomplishments of Roy and Margot Larsen; long-time Board member, the late Earle M. Craig, Jr.; the late Thomas H. Gosnell an engaged Board member, wise counselor, and generous supporter; and Joan Craig and her late husband Alexander “Sandy” Craig who, along with their three daughters, have kindly provided the Foundation with 35 years of seasonal housing at Bass Point for the use of our Coatue Ranger.

Public Understanding
As you’ve probably gathered, the Foundation’s objectives continue to include preserving the island’s unique aesthetic and natural qualities as well as to help residents and visitors understand why we are so committed to the responsible stewardship of rare resources. We want everyone to learn why the Foundation’s properties and other protected lands on the island need to be used responsibly if they are to retain their qualities for everyone’s lasting benefit and enjoyment.

With our members’ generous support, what began in 1963 will continue to prosper long into the future. For Nantucket’s sake and those who will hopefully acquire our affection for it, these efforts must continue to be successful. Thank you for your steadfast support. It means a great deal to your Foundation and to our island.
Science & Stewardship

The goal of the Science and Stewardship Department is to undertake focused research projects aimed at providing increased understanding of the rare resources found on our properties. This information is used to make well-informed ecological management decisions and to develop detailed management plans for the Foundation’s conservation lands. To do this, we work closely with the Property Maintenance staff, seasonal field assistants, volunteers, and outside collaborators. The following is a brief summary of the major research projects that we focused on in 2009.

Science

The staff members of the Science and Stewardship Department apply their varied experiences in the field of ecology to designing, implementing, and interpreting research projects that help inform management practices on our properties. Karen Beattie serves as the Manager of the Science and Stewardship Department she is supported by Research Supervisor, Jennifer Karberg, and Danielle O’Dell and Kelly Omand, our Research Technicians/Field Supervisors. The Department employed two fantastic and dedicated Seasonal Field Research Assistants in 2009, Joshua Drizin and Nathaniel Pope. Our field work was also supplemented by two enthusiastic volunteers, Victoria Stulgis and Kelly Connelly.
Property Management Plans
In 2004, following a Board of Trustees initiative, our department began developing Property Conservation Management Plans. The major goals of these plans are to inventory species and habitats of special concern, determine the management needs of these rare resources, and identify appropriate public use and education opportunities for each property. These plans are already being used to guide future research and management. Property Conservation Management Plans have been completed for the Foundation’s Head of the Plains, Eel Point and Squam Farm properties, and a plan for our Sanford Farm and Ram Pasture property is currently under development.

Squam Farm Sheep Grazing Project
Sheep farming initiated by the earliest European settlers of Nantucket played a very important role in shaping the vegetation communities that are present on the island today. Several hundred years of intensive grazing created sandplain grasslands and coastal heathlands that today support numerous rare species. In order to gain a better understanding about how we can use this historically-correct land use practice today, we are continuing our efforts to restore and maintain grassland habitat on our Squam Farm property by rotationally grazing our flock of locally-raised sheep.

We welcomed a “bumper crop” of lambs during lambing season, with a total of 23 lambs born in the spring of 2009. We have observed that our “Nantucket Native” lambs learn very quickly to eat both grass and shrub vegetation in our pastures at Squam Farm as soon as they are weaned. Under the able care of Nicole duPont, our shepherdess, a total of 56 Romney, Cotswold, and Romney-Cotswold crossbred sheep, including our new lambs, were grazed at Squam Farm during 2009. This was a significant increase from last year. We have been keeping detailed records of the precise areas that have been grazed, along with the number of sheep and amount of time they spend in each of these areas. This will enable us to gain a much better understanding of how the sheep can be used as a meaningful land management tool to treat larger areas multiple times per season.

In addition to using them as effective land management tools on our properties, we also make good use of the wool from our sheep. Adults and lambs need to be shorn at least once a year and the wool is made into yarn, toy sheep and hand-woven rugs (for more information see the article on page 43).

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to Foundation members David Wolff, Lucy Dillon, David Roby and Gretchen Penrose for providing funding to support our sheep grazing management project.
Northern Harrier Census
The northern harrier is a rare bird of prey that was once a common sight in open, un-forested habitats throughout New England. However, development and re-forestation of former agricultural lands has resulted in habitat loss, causing serious declines in populations of this species. During the summer of 2009, Dr. Rhys Bowen conducted an island-wide breeding survey of harriers through funding provided by the Foundation and the Partnership for Harrier Habitat Preservation to follow up on similar research done in previous years. These past surveys conducted by Dr. Bowen indicated that Nantucket hosts the largest breeding population of this species in the northeast. Results from this year’s survey indicate that 42 pairs of harriers nested on the island, as compared to 51 pairs in 2008, 36 pairs in 2007, 39 pairs in 2006, and 53 pairs in 2003. Nest success (i.e. the percentage of nests that successfully fledge chicks) continues to be high among Nantucket’s nesting harriers, indicating that the population appears healthy and sustainable.

Prescribed Fire Management
Prescribed fire serves a very important management role as a natural, ecologically important process that helps maintain many of Nantucket’s rare species and unique plant communities. Fire has been a part of ecological processes for thousands of years and is used under very controlled circumstances to prevent woody shrubs from encroaching into rare grasslands and heathlands and to open up patches of bare ground allowing seeds to germinate. The implementation of this management tool is vital to the ecological health of sandplain grasslands, coastal heathlands and scrub oak barrens and their associated rare plants. Our efforts to implement burns were somewhat hampered this year due to extremely wet and windy weather experienced during both the spring and fall but we were able to complete a new project and continue monitoring the effects of previously implemented prescribed burns.

Broom Crowberry Research
In 2009, we initiated and completed the management portion of a project examining the effectiveness of fire in promoting the germination and expansion of broom crowberry, a rare, low-growing, evergreen shrub. This species requires fire for seedling germination to occur, but little is known about how it responds to fire conducted in different seasons. Under the
leadership of Joel Carlson, our Prescribed Fire Manager, we burned a total of three research plots in the Middle Moors: one during the spring (May 13th), the second during the summer (August 21st), and the final plot in the fall (November 9th). All three burns were successful and Department staff will be monitoring seedling germination in all three plots over the coming year to document any potential differences due to burn seasonality.

Head of the Plains

The Foundation’s Head of the Plains property represents one of the largest contiguous areas of sandplain grasslands and coastal heathlands remaining on Nantucket. These vegetation communities are globally rare and host high concentrations of plant and animal species of special concern in New England. Grasslands and heathlands evolved in response to frequent disturbances such as fire, sheep grazing, wind and salt spray. Therefore, disturbance of some form (prescribed fire, mowing, grazing, etc.) is necessary to prevent encroachment by woody shrubs and trees. Developing effective management strategies for these rare plant communities is a high conservation priority.

In 2005, our department embarked upon a comprehensive research project to examine the effects of prescribed fire conducted during different seasons at the Head of the Plains. We are collecting detailed data before and after each burn on both common and rare plant species that occur in the area, as well as documenting environmental variables and fire behavior during each burn. Analysis of this data will help us make educated decisions about when and under what conditions to employ this management tool on Nantucket.

Effective Management Techniques for Nantucket Shadbush

Nantucket shadbush is a low growing, clonal shrub that is regionally rare but relatively abundant within Nantucket’s sandplain grassland and coastal heathland communities. It is currently listed as a “Species of Special Concern” under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act. This species appears to respond positively to periodic disturbances such as fire and brushcutting, which reduces competition from other woody plants. Funding was provided by Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program in 2007 to support research examining the effects of prescribed fire and brushcutting on this species at two Foundation properties.

At Head of the Plains, patches of Nantucket shadbush are being managed with prescribed fire. A suite of physiological and population characteristics are being measured in shadbush patches occurring in established prescribed fire management units and in unburned control units to examine the influence of burning vs. no management. At the
Foundation’s Tiott’s Hills property, we are conducting a similar study to document the response of Nantucket shadbush to brushcutting. Data from these studies will enable us to plan effective future management of this rare species, which occurs on many other Foundation properties.

**Medouie Creek Wetland Restoration**

Salt marsh habitats throughout New England have been subjected to dredging, diking and filling for centuries because they were considered worthless, undevelopable property. The immensely important ecological role that these habitats play as nurseries for commercially important marine species and as reservoirs in flood control has only recently been understood. Therefore, efforts to restore degraded salt marshes are a high priority.

The Medouie Creek wetland complex, located on the northern shore of Polpis Harbor, was originally one large interconnected salt marsh. Dredging and diking that occurred sometime prior to 1938 severely restricted tidal input to a large portion of the area, which now supports freshwater plant and animal communities. A 3.9 acre population of common reed, also known as *Phragmites*, a highly invasive wetland plant is also present.

In December 2008, the Foundation implemented salt marsh restoration plans at the site that were developed in collaboration with colleagues at the Massachusetts Wetlands Restoration Program. Our goals are to restore the ecological conditions that favor salt marsh vegetation, soils and hydrology and reduce populations of *Phragmites*. In order to achieve this, a culvert was placed through the dike road and a channel was excavated to allow tidally-influenced salt water to flow into the previously impounded freshwater marsh. We are conducting extensive monitoring to document changes that occur in the plant communities, soil salinity levels, changes to water flow, and increased tidal action in the previously restricted marsh.

We are encouraged by the results of our first season of post-restoration monitoring conducted in 2009, which documented an increase in salinity and tidal influence, as well as die-back of freshwater plant species, including *Phragmites*, in the previously restricted marsh.

*Funding for this project was generously provided by Foundation members Mr. and Mrs. Donal O’Brien, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Wright, and Mr. and Mrs. Richard Hanson of the Medouie Creek Homeowners Association. We would also like to thank the Massachusetts Landowners Inceptive Program, the USDA Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program, the Massachusetts Wetland Restoration Program, the US Fish and Wildlife Service Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, and the FishAmerica Foundation/NOAA Restoration Center Partnership for their respective financial and logistical support, as well as the Horsley Witten Group for their environmental consulting expertise.*
**Spotted Turtle**

**Population Monitoring**

The spotted turtle is a small, semi-aquatic, freshwater species of eastern North America. Throughout much of its range, this turtle is considered threatened, endangered, or vulnerable, primarily due to degradation and fragmentation of wetlands, mortality from crossing roads and collection for the pet trade. Because island populations are physically and genetically isolated from mainland populations, results of research on Nantucket’s spotted turtles will provide a better understanding about conservation and management of our island population, as well as mainland populations that have become isolated due to habitat fragmentation.

Our department staff is collecting blood samples from spotted turtles across the island to document population genetics and to compare results to similar data collected in other areas of Massachusetts. We are also monitoring spotted turtle movement patterns at the Medouie Creek wetland complex in order to document changes in habitat use that occur in response to increased salinity in the marsh. While these freshwater turtles are occasionally found in brackish water, we expect to see a shift in home range and habitat use as tidal action and salinity increase throughout the marsh. The results of this research will help us make more informed management decisions aimed at assuring the continued health of spotted turtle populations on Nantucket.

**‘Sconset Dump Habitat and Rare Species Management**

The ‘Sconset Dump is a unique, man-made wetland area that hosts a large number of rare plant species that prefer open habitat with little competition from larger woody shrubs and trees. The encroachment of taller shrubs along the margin of this wetland prompted the development of a management plan in consultation with the Massachusetts Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program. With permitting from the Nantucket Conservation Commission, management was initiated during February of 2008 to remove taller shrubs encroaching along the margin of the wetland and thereby increase habitat for the unique plant community at this site.

The Foundation is monitoring how populations of rare plant species, particularly subulate bladderwort, and thread-leaved sundew are responding to the shrub removal treatment. We are also measuring changes in the size of the open habitat within the wetland and conducting photo monitoring to determine if and when management will need to be re-applied at this site to prevent additional shrub encroachment.
**Grassland Restoration Efforts**

The Foundation is an active participant in the Partnership for Harrier Habitat Preservation (PHHP) initiated in 1996. The goal of this collaborative effort is to restore sandplain grassland and coastal heathland habitat within the shrub-dominated communities of Nantucket’s Middle and Eastern Moors region to benefit populations of the northern harrier, a rare bird of prey. Consequently, approximately 500 acres in the Middle and Eastern Moors are being managed by annual mowing to reduce the cover of woody vegetation and encourage the establishment of grass and wildflower species.

**Disk Harrowing Research and Management**

Although mowing has effectively reduced the height of woody shrubs such as scrub oak and huckleberry, these species appear to be very effective at re-sprouting from root reserves following disturbance. Therefore, we initiated a research project exploring the use of disk harrowing (a form of tilling that breaks up topsoil and root masses) to reduce woody cover and increase potential colonization sites for grassland-associated species. Preliminary data analysis suggests a substantial decline in woody species cover by as much as 50% compared to pretreatment cover. However, there has been no significant increase in native grasses and wildflowers in our study plots, suggesting that seeds of these species may no longer be present in the soil seed bank and addition of native seed may be necessary for effective grassland restoration to occur.

**Soil Seed Bank Composition Study**

In an attempt to explore the hypothesis that seed additions may be necessary for effective grassland restoration, we initiated a soil seed bank study in 2007. We collected soil cores from representative grassland, heathland, and shrubland communities across the island. Collected soil cores were over-wintered and germinated in the Foundation’s greenhouse. Seedling germination was recorded and individual plants were identified to the highest taxonomic level possible.

Our results indicate that shrubland seed banks contain a dramatically smaller component of grassland-associated species, compared to seed banks in areas currently dominated by sandplain grassland or heathland communities. Our findings suggest that the addition of native, locally-collected seed may greatly enhance management efforts aimed at converting shrubland to grassland habitats. Based on these results, we have started collecting seed of key grassland species such as little bluestem grass and a variety of native wildflowers for use in future research and management of seed addition effectiveness.
Stewardship

The Foundation’s role as caretaker of Nantucket’s largest conservation areas continues to present our staff and Board of Trustees with new challenges on a daily basis. Many of the natural resources found on our properties are rare and in need of protection. We constantly strive to develop and implement effective land management strategies, and we collaborate with local and regional conservation partners to ensure that the land under our stewardship is properly maintained and monitored.

Shorebird Monitoring Program

We continue our ongoing efforts to monitor and protect the piping plovers, least and common terns and American oystercatchers that nest and feed on the Foundation’s beachfront properties in order to comply with endangered species regulations and perpetuate populations of these rare species. Our goal is to prevent disturbance and determine if our protection efforts are effective. The Foundation has been actively managing nesting areas on its properties since 1990. Over the past 20 years, population numbers have increased significantly due to these efforts.

Eel Point was a hot spot of nesting activity this year, hosting nesting pairs of piping plovers, American oystercatchers, and least terns. Coatue was another significant resource area for plovers, oystercatchers, and least and common terns. Other shorebird nesting sites monitored on Foundation properties in 2009 included Squam Pond, the Haulover, Polpis Harbor and Hummock Pond. Overall, productivity for the 2009 nesting season was very low, due to several severe storm and high tide events that occurred in late May and early June, when nests and young chicks were present in beachfront areas that were subjected to overwash.

Common Reed Removal

We have continued our efforts to remove three small patches of common reed (Phragmites) at West Hummock Pond, located in the southeastern portion of our Head of the Plains property. Removing stands of this highly invasive species while they were relatively small and conducting follow-up management will prevent it from spreading and forming a large monoculture, a situation that has already occurred in the main portion of Hummock Pond. Despite annual efforts undertaken since 2006 to manually remove and dispose of approximately 0.5 acres of this invasive species, persistent re-sprouting has occurred. We therefore received permission from the Nantucket Conservation Commission to conduct targeted application of herbicide to prevent future re-sprouts, which was implemented during the 2009 growing season. Follow-up monitoring and treatments are planned for the next several years.

Pond Water Quality

The Foundation once again jointly sponsored an internship with the University of Massachusetts Boston Nantucket Field Station this past summer. Matt Liddle, a science teacher at the Nantucket New School,
worked with Dr. Sarah Oktay to oversee high school students participating in the Field Station’s “Adopt a Pond” program. This program trains volunteers to conduct nutrient and bacterial analyses of water samples from ponds located on Foundation property and elsewhere around the island. Matt also worked with Dr. Oktay on conducting water quality sampling at Pest House, Hummock, and West Hummock Ponds. This internship has improved our awareness about the health and status of Nantucket’s water bodies, as well as contributed towards the Field Station’s research and public outreach endeavors.

Properties Maintenance

As more people visit our various properties, the responsibilities involved with being the island’s largest landholder require us to take on varied and changing skills. The duty of managing our properties to accommodate the increased traffic on trails and open spaces falls to our Properties Maintenance group. The construction of new trails (see article on page 28 on the new Overlook Trail) and maintain miles of existing trails requires hundreds of hours of work. Mowing and brushcutting, often done in conjunction with research being conducted by the Science and Stewardship Department, is a never ending task. Heavy equipment is often used to cut back plant growth from road edges to enable clear sightlines for the safety of drivers, walkers and bikers. In addition, trail signage, fences and parking lots must be continually monitored and maintained for any disrepair or misuse. Building repairs on our numerous structures are ongoing but our maintenance staff’s skills enable us to do most work in-house allowing us to better control costs and scheduling. The maintenance crew also participates with the members of the Science and Stewardship Department in the prescribed burn program that helps restore our rare grassland and heathlands habitats.

Led by Chris Iller, a 21-year Foundation veteran, the Properties Maintenance team consists of Richard Mack, Donnie Mack and Todd Worth. Chris coordinates work with our science department to ensure effective land management tactics are implemented while planning and scheduling the crew’s efforts. Richard is an accomplished carpenter and focuses his efforts primarily in the maintenance of our buildings and structures. Donnie and Todd perform the majority of the year round field work and maintain the vehicle fleet. We thank them for their fine efforts and note that these four employees represent over 33 years of service to the Foundation.
Science & Stewardship

Ram Pasture Controlled Deer Hunt
The Properties Maintenance crew significantly contributed towards the Nantucket Hunting Association’s safe and successful controlled deer hunt conducted within our Ram Pasture property during December. A total of 18 Hunting Association members took part in the hunt and a total of 25 deer were taken. There were no public safety issues reported or any negative feedback received from the public. This hunt was authorized by the Foundation’s Board of Trustees acting on advice from the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife to reduce the island’s white-tailed deer population in an attempt to control the spread of tick-borne diseases.

Rangers
The Foundation’s Ranger Program has expanded to become an important part of the interpretation, management and oversight of our vast land holdings, now about thirty percent of Nantucket’s acreage. A ranger presence on our properties provides assurance that our conservation lands are watched over and properly managed. Allen Reinhard completed his nineteenth year as Moorlands Ranger for the Foundation this year.

In addition to his rangering duties, Allen also plays a vital role in the education of our members and the public on the topics of conservation, preservation and history of our properties by leading the Mornings for Members interpretive walks in cooperation with our Science and Stewardship Department (for more details see the Mornings for Members article on page 30).

During the summer months, the Foundation also maintains a ranger presence on its Coatue property to interact with beach visitors arriving by vehicle and boat, conduct land management activities, and supervise public use of this pristine wildlife refuge. For over 30 years, the continuing generosity of Joan Craig and her family has made this program possible by allowing the Foundation to use their Bass Point cottage as a ranger station. Andy Harris, who is the husband of Nicole duPont (the Foundation’s shepherdess), once again took on the responsibilities of Coatue ranger this past year. Andy could often be seen with their newborn son Jack in tow as he patrolled the beaches, marshes and backcountry of this spectacular property.
New Milestone Overlook Trail

During the 2009 summer months, the Foundation’s Property Maintenance crew worked diligently to create a new walking trail overlooking the Milestone Cranberry Bog. The “Milestone Overlook” trail offers excellent views of the bogs as well as the Middle Moors, ’Sconset and surrounding areas. The trail is configured in a loop that offers about 2.5 miles of walking with the option of a shorter route of approximately 1.5 miles as well. While still new and under development in some areas, the trail covers moderately hilly terrain and is accessible for walkers of all ages.

During the Spring months, visitors will see the white blooms of the shadbush and trailing arbutus. These are followed by the purple blossoms of the milkweeds and then the sickle-leaf golden asters and many species of goldenrod. Of course, the fall months will also showcase the great views of the cranberry bogs getting ready for harvest as well as the fabulous Autumn colors of the Middle Moors. Walkers are also likely to see northern harriers, red-tailed hawks, peregrine falcons and other birds of prey during their seasonal migrations.

The trailhead and parking lot are located at the 5th milestone on the Milestone Road located just east of the Tom Nevers Road turnoff.
2009 Membership

The Foundation is extremely fortunate to be the beneficiary of considerable financial support from its members. Many individuals, families, businesses, foundations, and trusts generously and regularly support the Foundation’s programs. These voluntary contributions are the sole source of funds for the Foundation’s land acquisition efforts, scientific research, educational programs and land management activities. We are extremely grateful to our members for their trust and generosity.

Despite the generous support of our members, the Foundation was not immune to the financial turmoil of late 2008 and 2009. As expected, overall revenue was down slightly but there were also several very encouraging and positive indicators as well. Overall membership numbers were almost on a par with 2008 which indicated to us that people are still very interested in continuing their support of the Foundation. The number of members who kept their donation amount the same as previous years was consistent with prior years and we were pleased to see 152 members increase their donation levels in 2009.

Colleagues

In 1990, “The Colleagues of the Nantucket Conservation Foundation” was established to acknowledge those who have demonstrated, through their regular and substantial support, a deep commitment to the Foundation’s work. In recognition of their generosity, Colleagues are invited to participate in special events and programs to explore Foundation properties with knowledgeable staff members which puts them in direct contact with the natural resources they are helping to protect. The program continues to be successful, with 241 donors contributing $1,000 or more this past year. Contributions from Colleagues accounted for 82% percent of the Foundation’s annual membership income in 2009.

Land Fund

The Foundation’s Land Fund is used for the purposes of purchasing and maintaining conservation land on Nantucket. The balance of membership gifts above $500 are automatically applied to this fund. Other support for the Land Fund comes from gifts that are specifically designated for land acquisition or through specials donations such as memorial or honorary...
Overall donations to the Land Fund in 2009 amounted to $123,028 which was an increase of $38,018 from our 2008 level of $85,010.

**Mornings for Members**
The Foundation completed its 15th season of “Mornings for Members” walks, an annual program designed to familiarize those who support us with the plants, animals and geological history of our many properties. These informal walking tours allow members to explore and learn about the properties that they are helping to protect. This year, walks were led by Middle Moors Ranger Allen Reinhard, local naturalist and birder Edie Ray and members of the Science and Stewardship staff.

The 2009 schedule was expanded to accommodate growing demand from the Foundation’s membership to this popular program and included walks at Masquetuck Reservation, Shawkemo Hills, and the new Milestone Overlook trail. For the first time, members were also able to enroll for the walks via an online reservations system on our web-site. The walks were particularly popular in 2009 with more members participating in the program than ever before.

In addition to the summer Mornings for Members outings, Winter and Spring walks were also held. These were shorter and focused on areas of the island with spectacular landscapes in the off-season months.

**Trail Guides**
In addition to our comprehensive Properties Map outlining all of the Foundation Properties, the Sciences and Stewardship Department has also prepared detailed trail guides for the Nantucket Field Station, Squam Swamp, Middle Moors, Squam Farm, Tüpency Links, Sanford Farm and the Masquetuck Reservation. Copies of these guides are available from the Membership office or may be downloaded from our website at www.nantucketconservation.org.

**Junior Memberships**
In an ongoing effort to get younger generations more involved with the Foundation, Junior memberships are now available for children under the age of eighteen. Children enrolling in the program for the first time receive an embroidered backpack and a Junior membership patch. Since its inception, nearly 50 families have participated in the Junior Membership program.

**Stay informed**
If you would like to receive updates on activities and events at the Foundation, please provide the Membership office with your e-mail address. Seasonal newsletters, invitations to Foundation events and current news will be sent to members on a consistent but not overwhelming basis. Starting the with the 2010 edition, the Foundation’s annual report will also be available online. Please help us save natural resources and reduce our production costs by using the reply card in the middle of this report to sign up for electronic delivery of next year’s report.

The Foundation does not sell, share or distribute our electronic mailing list to any third parties.
Cranberry Report

Visitors, summer residents, and even long time Foundation members are often surprised when they learn that the Foundation’s Milestone Bog is the oldest, continually operated farm on the Island. There are currently 193 acres under cranberry cultivation at the Milestone Bog with an additional 25 acres in production at the Windswept Bog on the Polpis Road. The Windswept Bog is also notable because of its status as one of the few certified organic cranberry bogs in the country. An important part of the Island’s history has been preserved at the bogs, along with the protection of two beautiful and unique ecosystems.

Cranberries have been grown on Nantucket since 1857 and were an important part of the Island’s economy until just prior to World War II. The Nantucket’s Conservation Foundation’s stewardship of the Island’s two remaining commercial cranberry bogs began in 1968, when Roy Larsen, Walter Beinecke, Jr. and Arthur Dean, joined forces to purchase the assets of what was then known as Nantucket Cranberries and incorporated the Milestone Bog’s total of nearly 1,000 acres into the holdings of the Foundation. The Windswept Bog, a man-made bog built at the turn of the century, was purchased by the Foundation in August, 1980.
This conservation property incorporates 105 acres of freshwater marsh, woodland and bog. Cranberry farming was an important part of our original trustees’ mission and remains an important part of our future.

2009 Harvest
Slightly over 12,000 barrels (or 1.2 million pounds) of cranberries were harvested from both of our bogs in 2009. This included 600 barrels of organically grown berries from the Windswept Bog. This harvest was slightly lower than the 2008 because of the adverse affects of the abnormally wet growing season. The price of cranberries this year was also slightly lower than in 2008 due to an excess of existing inventory throughout the industry.

Family Farming
Since 1959, one individual has been synonymous with cranberry framing on Nantucket and that is Tom Larrabee, Sr. Once described as having “cranberry juice running through his veins,” Tom has managed the planting, growing and harvesting of cranberries at the Milestone Bog for fifty years. In November of 2009 at the conclusion of his 51st harvest, the Foundation recognized Tom’s years of tireless service with a luncheon in his honor. A proclamation from the Board of Trustees noted the Board’s “sincere appreciation for advancing a more than 150 year tradition of cranberry farming on Nantucket through his leadership, personal involvement and the unrestrained passion for what he does.”

In keeping with the tradition of family farming Tom’s son, Tom, Jr., heads our effort as General Manager. Between these two men, nearly every aspect of the mechanical, plumbing, and hydrological trades are covered, along with an innate ability to feel their way through weather events that often mystify others. With the aid of a USDA grant, we are in the midst of installing a new irrigation system at the Milestone Bog, which will be critical to future production there. Also part of our fulltime crew is

Hristo Krastev, a multi-skilled foreman. Hristo runs our crew of local seasonal field laborers over the course of the year and especially during the harvest in October, where long, cold days are the norm as they harvest and transport the berries to market as quickly as possible. Added to our full time crew this year was Bill Coffin as our maintenance mechanic.

Organic Cranberries
As the demand by American consumers for more organically grown produce increases, so do our efforts to increase the production of organic cranberries. As noted above, over 600 barrels, the equivalent of 60,000 pounds, of organic berries were harvested this year with the hope that this amount will increase to 1,000 barrels in 2010. Local grocers, notably Bartlett’s Ocean View Farm, are now carrying both types of Foundation berries with reported surges in the sales of organics in 2009. Strict guidelines and growing procedures issued
by a variety of government agencies make the organic cranberries more expensive to grow but potentially higher sales prices justify the additional emphasis towards organics.

Cranberry Festival
Held during the height of the picturesque cranberry harvest, the Foundation’s annual Cranberry Festival has become a mainstay of the Columbus Day weekend for both visitors and year round residents. Attendees were able to enjoy firsthand the natural beauty of the Middle Moors as well as learn more about the intricacies of cranberry farming. Approximately 4,500 people were in attendance at the historic Milestone Bog and enjoyed seeing old friends and watching the harvest. One of the great sights of the day was Tom Larrabee, Sr. atop his yellow “Berry Beater” harvesting the bogs for his 51st consecutive year as Bog Manager.

Under the main tent, our Bailey Berry Bouncer sorted berries as it has done for more years than even Tom Larrabee, Sr. can remember. Members of the Foundation’s Board of Trustees ably manned the very busy cranberry table selling nearly a ton of fresh berries by the pound. Chocolate covered cranberries, cranberry sauces, and a variety of other cranberry products were also available. The Science Staff’s table was a trove of information illustrating their ongoing research and they also sold native plants such as Golden Asters and Seaside Goldenrod. Local hand-weaver Kelly Knight and spinner Amy Cabré also exhibited the rugs and yarn they had made from wool shorn from our Squam Farm sheep herd.

A dozen members of the Squam Farm sheep herd and Vermont sheep shearer Andy Rice were on hand for a shearing demonstration as our shepherdess Nicole duPont Harris answered questions about the sheep and our ongoing grazing research. Delicious food from Simply with Style catering, children’s events, hayrides and the music of two local bands, The Shingles and The Shepcats, all complemented the scenic vista of our the bogs being harvested as they have been for the previous 150 years.
Nantucket Field Station

We continued our fundraising efforts for the purchase of the Nantucket Field Station in Quaise during the past year. In addition to being a research facility, the Field Station also serves as an educational resource for UMASS Boston students as well as local school and community groups. The primary focus of the curriculum is on natural sciences but also includes educational seminars on historic preservation, Nantucket history, the arts and other exciting subjects.

In addition to its role as an educational facility, the Nantucket Field Station is also one of the most beautiful and ecologically diverse areas of the island. Totaling 110 acres, this protected parcel contains harbor beach front, freshwater ponds and salt marsh habitats. Many native and rare wildlife species utilize these habitats for feeding and breeding.

The $22 million commitment to purchase this property and save it from development was the largest financial undertaking in the Foundation’s history. We would like to thank all of our generous supporters who have contributed to this effort so far and ask for your continued support to bring the capital campaign to a successful conclusion.
“The chance to continue to learn and grow is boundless here...The property is beautiful and wild...”

—Len Germinara
Education Coordinator

Education

Led by experienced naturalist and education coordinator Len Germinara, the Nantucket Field Station’s educational outreach appeals to a wide variety of groups with an assortment of educational programs aimed at visitors of all ages, abilities and interests. Among the most frequent visitors are children’s camp groups—most notably The Boys and Girls Club, The Murray Camp, Strong Wings, the Nantucket Family Adventure, the Lighthouse School, Childrens House, Nantucket New School, and the Nantucket Public Schools. Each camp visitor is given an age specific “Field Journal” to chronicle their visit as Len guides them through the fresh water ponds, marshes and beaches of the property. An ideal outdoor classroom, the Field Station gives students and campers the ability to see a wide variety of plants, animals and birds in an area that is easily accessible.

In addition to school and camp groups, the Field Station also has an extensive “Directed Study” program, led by Dr. Sarah Oktay of the University of Massachusetts Boston. Since the inception of the educational outreach in 2003, the directed study program has studied issues particular to the ecosystems and habitats found at the Field Station in order to further understand issues pertaining to the care of this unique environment. It is not uncommon for as many as twenty Nantucket students to seek unpaid internships in the directed study program each summer.

The “Junior Ranger” program entered its second year in 2009. Junior Rangers are middle school students who serve and assist with summer programs to further supplement their individual academic needs. The summer 2009 Junior Ranger, Caillean Daily, helped out with the Wednesday Nature Walks series (a weekly scheduled event) as well as pursuing her own specific interest in plants and their medicinal qualities.

With the continued growth and success of the Wednesday Nature Walks series, other weekly events will be offered in 2010 with the hope that these new programs will stimulate and encourage families to come out and experience the wealth of opportunities that the Field Station provides. Among the new programs will be weekly scavenger hunts highlighting the flora and fauna found at the Field Station during various times of the year. Geocaching, a type of scavenger hunt, is likely to be our most popular curriculum activity as well as Drawing Nature classes and kite making.

From May through October it is not uncommon to have several hundred visitors per week visit the Field Station. With the addition of the new kiosk at the front of the property stocked with information, every visitor to the Field Station is given the opportunity to learn of the conservation efforts that the Foundation and University of Massachusetts Boston are undertaking to help preserve this precious resource.

The Field Station Education Coordinator is funded by the generosity of Bill and Lucile Hays through a grant from the Weezie Foundation.
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Education Report

F.I.E.L.D. Days
As mentioned in the article about our Associates’ program on page 42, the most popular education programs are the day outings for children on various Foundation properties during the summer. The Field Days are wonderful ways for children and their parents to explore conservation lands with the guidance of extremely knowledgeable Foundation staff.

Elizabeth F. Reighley Education Fund
The Elizabeth F. Reighley Education Fund was established by her family in 1983 to commemorate her deep commitment to conservation on Nantucket. The fund is designed to help the Foundation educate the public about the fragility of our Island’s natural resources. As land acquisition becomes more of a challenge, donors like the Reighley family seek to make a difference by providing an opportunity to broaden the scope of the Foundation’s educational efforts.

At a June 1st academic awards ceremony, the Foundation’s 9th Annual Elizabeth F. Reighley Book Award was presented to River Bennett, a graduating Nantucket High School senior, and one of two students chosen to receive a Nantucket Golf Club Scholarship. This Reighley/Ferguson family-funded program also provided for the high school to receive a generous grant to purchase books for the school library in honor of River’s accomplishment.

George A. Fowlkes Scholarship Fund
In August 2000, the Foundation’s Board of Trustees established the George A. Fowlkes Environmental Studies Scholarship Fund to honor George’s 20 years of leadership and service to the organization. During his 18 years as President and two years as Chairman of the Board, 3,100 acres were added to the Foundation’s land holdings, including key properties such as the Sanford Farm, Squam Swamp, and the Middle Moors. George’s family and friends, fellow board members, colleagues and Island residents have honored his accomplishments by generously contributing to this scholarship fund.

Proceeds from the Fund are used to provide annual scholarships to qualified graduating Nantucket High School seniors or other island residents enrolled in post-secondary school study with a concentration in environmental studies or a closely related field. A selection committee appointed by the Foundation’s Board of Trustees reviewed nearly twenty applications for these prestigious awards. The three winners who were awarded the $1,500 scholarships are all Nantucket High School graduates currently pursuing undergraduate or advanced degrees.
2009 GEORGE A. FOWLKES SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Justine Paradis (NHS '08)
A Vassar College freshman majoring in Sustainable Agriculture

Ryan Munnelly (NHS '07)
A University of North Carolina Wilmington junior majoring in Marine Biology, two-time recipient

Haley Cabré (NHS '09)
A University of Vermont freshman majoring in Wildlife Biology

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Weezie Foundation Grant
In 2008 the Weezie Foundation generously awarded a $150,000 grant to the Foundation for the purpose of endowing an education coordinator at the Nantucket Field Station. The grant was made on a “matching” basis—a like amount of funds need to be raised by the Foundation in order to receive the full funding of the grant. With the help of the donors listed below we have been able to meet our goals for the first two years and are confident that 2010 will find this endowment fully funded.

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The Nantucket Conservation Associates is a group of dedicated young adults, aged 21–40, who assist in the Foundation’s mission of preserving and protecting the Island’s open spaces and natural habitats. The Associates strive to encourage an appreciation of Nantucket’s fragile environment by providing educational opportunities for children, increasing participation in Foundation activities by young families and sponsoring fund-raising events.

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Chrissy Coolidge  Devon Rodonets  Ryan Wagner
Stephanie Harvey  Michelle Stewart  Kinloch Yellott

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Taylor Breed  Katherine Raphaelson  Tara Vittone
Chrissy Coolidge  Devon Rodonets  Ryan Wagner
Stephanie Harvey  Michelle Stewart  Kinloch Yellott
Race for Open Space

The Race for Open Space, the most recognizable event organized by the Associates, has become an important and much anticipated event on the Nantucket summer calendar. The race attracts serious runners, casual joggers, walkers and people who are simply avid conservation supporters. This past year’s race saw 335 participants, the largest in the race’s eight year history, brave summer thundershowers to support the Associates’ efforts to raise conservation awareness as well as funds for the Foundation.

True Story—A gentleman came running up to the race registration table this year after the race had started with his registration fee in hand. Out of breath, he explained that he had a scheduling conflict that morning and would be unable to participate in this year’s race that day but felt so strongly enough about supporting the cause that he wanted to at least pay as if he were participating. He promised to run the course later that day which, according to sources, he did.

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The generosity of our sponsors allows us to host a wonderful community event and we would like to thank them all for their encouragement and support:

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VOLUNTEERS
**FIELD Days**

F.I.E.L.D. (Find, Identify, Explore, Learn and Discover) Days are ways for children ages 4–12 to learn more about Nantucket’s open spaces and conservation all in fun, outdoor settings. Organized by the Associate’s Education committee, this year’s FIELD Days attracted well over 100 children, parents and grandparents—the most that have ever participated in these activities. The Nantucket Field Station was the site of the first outing led by resident naturalist and education coordinator Len Germinara. Children attending the event were excited to receive the first in a series of patches depicting an important icon related to each of the Foundation’s properties. The kingfisher, often seen on the north shore in the summers, was beautifully illustrated on the Field Station patch (at left).

The Windswept Organic Cranberry Bog was the location for the second outing hosted by our Science and Stewardship Manager, Karen Beattie, Middle Moors Ranger Allen Reinhard and Len Germinara. In addition to exploring the bogs and a nearby hardwood forest, the children participated in a kite making class and then thoroughly enjoyed flying their own creations.

**Social**

In addition to the hours of planning, coordinating and hosting various activities and events, the Associates have also been successful in attracting new members to their organization and the Foundation in general by hosting several social functions both on and off island throughout the year. These gatherings have been successful in introducing people to the Foundation, explaining the mission and objectives of the Associates and, most importantly, getting together conservation supporters in casual and informal settings.
When the Foundation’s flock was originally brought to the Island to study its effectiveness as a potential land management tool, the Foundation was faced with an interesting dilemma. As part of their normal hygiene and health maintenance programs, both adults and lambs are shorn at least once a year. However, as a land trust organization, the Foundation did not have an inherent use for the raw wool. In 2009, the Foundation enlisted the help of local weaver Kelly Knight to turn the wool from our Cotswold and Romney sheep into beautifully designed handcrafted rugs. Using Nantucket’s natural palette as her guide, she created rugs in sea green, natural beige, cranberry red and ocean blue. Kelly’s love of the island, along with her passion for open space, makes her an ideal artisan to help the Foundation’s sheep program.

Kelly’s rugs are available in a variety of different sizes and may be purchased directly from the Foundation’s Membership office.
Tupancy–Harris Foundation

The creation of the late Sallie Gail (Harris) Tupancy and Oswald A. “Tup” Tupancy, the Tupancy-Harris Foundation was created in part to provide resources for the perpetual care of several properties contributed to the Conservation Foundation by the Tupancys. This includes the very popular “Tupancy Links,” a former nine-hole golf course operated by Tup until 1957.

A member of the Foundation’s Board of Trustees from 1978 until her death, Sallie Tupancy learned about the importance of open space protection and was one of the Foundation’s strongest supporters. She also became familiar with the financial obligations of being the Island’s largest landowner. Together with her husband, Mrs. Tupancy created the Tupancy-Harris Foundation in 1987 as a way of supporting the Conservation Foundation and a variety of other organizations which they felt benefited Nantucket’s year-round population.

Today, the Conservation Foundation receives generous annual grants in support of its organizational operations and to help bridge some of the gap that exists between membership revenues and expenses associated with the responsible stewardship of several hundred properties.

The Foundation would like to acknowledge and thank Mr. Robert Karelitz and Mr. Doug Burden, executors of the Tupancy-Harris Foundation, for their support and generosity.
Forty-Year Contributors

As the Nantucket Conservation Foundation nears its 50th Anniversary in 2013, we would like to recognize those individuals and families who believed in the organization’s mission long before being involved in conservation efforts and “green” issues were popular. Without their loyal and generous support over the past four decades, Nantucket would be a very different place than it is today. There is little question that their foresight and diligence in protecting open space has been crucial in preserving the Island’s natural beauty. The individuals listed below have all been members of the Foundation for forty years or more:

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Over seventy-five percent of land held by the Nantucket Conservation Foundation has been generously donated, either totally or in part, by over 300 landowners. We encourage you to consider joining our generous friends listed below who have safeguarded the island we all care about.
To honor their memory, gifts were made in 2009 by the families, friends and colleagues of the following members and friends of the Foundation who have passed away:

Memorial Gifts

- William Grieder
- Phyllis Berman
- Margaret Berkheimer
- Peter Gilfoy
- Palmer Leroy
- Bathsheba "Bash" Veghte
- Beverly Savery
- Joseph Garrita
- Laura Worth
- Bob McGrath
- Frances Dewey
- Mary Chapel Humphrey
- Carolyn Horchow
- Jane Donovan
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- Virginia Townsend
- Lorimer Brooks
- Claude Bamberger
- Franklin Leonard
- Ginny Herlitz
- Heidi Berry

Special Contributors & Gifts In Kind

- Daniel Sutherland
- Paola Gonfrade
- Decas Cranberries
- Simply with Style Catering
- Shannon Schuster
- Julie Higgins
- The Shingles
- Kelly Knight
- Amy Cabré
- Sam Meyers
- Andy Rice
- Acktivities
- Quint Waters
- Tom Olcott
- Dr. Greg Hinson
- The Shepcats
- Cisco Brewers
- Peg Davidson
- Lightwedge
- Katherine Raphaelson
- Nantucket Airport
- Nantucket Police
- Reis Trucking
- Nantucket Steamship
- Phillip & Dorothy Bartlett
- Authority
- Cheryl Beaton
- Bruce Perry
- Joan Craig
- Poets Corner Press
- Don Allen Ford
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- Hy Line Cruises
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- The Inquirer & Mirror
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- Jarvime Design/
- Bear Naked Granola
- Eileen Powers
- Ande Grennan/Sperry Tents
- Gene Mahon
- C. Strang & Sons
- Angus MacVicar
- Sweet Inspirations
- Nantucket Fire Department
- David Visco
- Nantucket Golf Club
- Steve Visco
- Nantucket Health Club
- The Westmoor Club
- Nantucket Independent
- Youngs Bicycle Shop
- Nantucket Office Products
- Nantucket Parks & Recreation

Honorary Gifts

Gifts were made in 2009 to honor the following individuals:

- Terry Sanford & Marla Mullen
- Dr. Clark Sisk & Ms. Sharon Marshall
- The Wedding Guests of Dr. Clark Sisk & Ms. Sharon Marshall
- Mr. & Mrs. Clark M. Whitcomb
- Mr. & Mrs. Edward I. Wight
- Mr. David Worth Jr. & Ms. Leslie Forbes
- Ms. Lucy E. Broadus
- Mr. & Mrs. Porter Grey Dawson
- Mrs. John M. Felleman
- Dr. Jim Fingleton
- Mr. & Mrs. Robert Larsen
- Mr. & Mrs. Leslie C. Mitchell Jr.
- Mr. & Mrs. Ernie C. Parizeau
- Miss Lucy E. Broadus
- Mr. & Mrs. Porter Grey Dawson
- Mrs. John M. Felleman
- Dr. Jim Fingleton
- Mr. & Mrs. Robert Larsen
- Mr. & Mrs. Leslie C. Mitchell Jr.
- Mr. & Mrs. Ernie C. Parizeau
To respect the privacy of our members, the 2009 donor list has been omitted from the on-line version of the annual report. Please contact our offices if you would like a printed version of the Annual Report sent to you.
In Memorium

THOMAS H. GOSNELL
The Foundation mourned the passing of one of its most influential and devoted members when Thomas H. Gosnell died on April 27, 2009. He was elected to the Foundation’s Board of Trustees on August 8, 1988 and served continuously on the Board until 2006. He was then named as a Trustee Emeritus, a position he held until his passing. A decorated World War II veteran and successful businessman, he was also a devoted husband, father, and grandfather as well as a land conservationist both on and off-island. He was a big-hearted supporter of the Nantucket Conservation Foundation’s land conservation efforts beginning in 1990 when he and his wife, Georgia, joined their island neighbors in preserving the 291-acre Squam Swamp and more recently in the campaign to protect the Nantucket Field Station. Thomas Gosnell will always be remembered as a passionate sailor, lover of history and the island’s connection to the sea, as well as a person who delighted in sharing with family and friends his enjoyment of the ocean and love for protected places.

ROBERT W. MCGRATH, SR.
The Foundation lost one of its long time employees and unique personalities when Bob McGrath passed away at the end of 2008. Bob was born and raised on the island during far simpler times, educated at the Coffin School, and answered the call to service in World War II as a very young man. Following his discharge from the Navy after serving on an aircraft carrier in the Pacific, Bob returned to Nantucket and became totally engaged with “his island.” Bob, who was normally called “Diesel” by his closest friends, spent years raising a family, running his service station, and unexpectedly stepping into a position which he had dreamed of—working outdoors as the Foundation’s Properties Supervisor. Bob did this with great enthusiasm for more than 20 years. His captivating personality, all-embracing skills and encyclopedic local knowledge were perfect matches for the Foundation. Bob’s crooked, hunter-orange stocking cap, well-chewed pipe, and friendly wave to nearly all who passed him were familiar road sightings cherished by islanders and countless summer residents.
Nantucket Conservation Foundation

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