Plants belonging to the heathland plant community are also abundant on the property. An evergreen, woody ground cover known as heathberry, with pink flowers in early spring and bright red, pea-sized berries in late summer and fall, covers slopes along the trails. False heather is a low-growing ground cover that bears brilliant yellow flowers in early summer. Thickets of bayberry, beach plum, pasture rose, low bush blueberry, and black huckleberry are also abundant on the property, all of which serve as important sources of food and cover for wildlife such as eastern cottontail rabbits, white-tailed deer, and a number of species of songbirds. Dense groves of pitch pine and Japanese black pine occur along the southern and western edges of the Tupancy Links. The stunted, bonsai-like form of some of these trees is the result of powerful winds and salt spray that comes in from Nantucket Sound during storms and gales. The Japanese black pine has been designated as a highly invasive, non-native species on Nantucket. Black turpentine beetles have infested many of these trees. The boring of these beetles causes resin to flow, harden, and produce pitch tubes where the beetles lay their eggs. When hatched, the larvae feed on the inner bark and will inevitably girdle and kill the tree. The Foundation’s properties maintenance staff have been working to remove these dead and dying trees for many years.

The trails crossing the rolling terrain on the property lead to a spectacular view overlooking Nantucket Sound and beyond. The path to the bluff is a former golf course service road slopes upward past shrub thickets that become interspersed with beach grass near the bluff. There is also an abundance of poison ivy just off the edge of the paths in this area. The cliff at this location is approximately 42 feet above sea level and regularly experiences high rates of erosion. Please stay behind the fence and away from the edge of the bluff, which is extremely steep.

The vantage point from this location provides a spectacular scenic view of the north shore. Down the shoreline to the east, Jetties Beach and the entrance to Nantucket Harbor is visible, with Coatue beyond. On a clear day, the Great Point Lighthouse can be seen 8 miles away across Nantucket Sound to the northeast. The church steeples, Town Clock and whaling captain’s mansions of Nantucket Town are silhouetted against the eastern horizon. To the west are Dionis Beach and Ed Point, with Tuckernuck Island just visible on the horizon. With a good pair of binoculars, this location offers birders an excellent vantage point for observing many species of sea birds, shorebirds and sea ducks on Nantucket Sound.

We encourage you to visit this remarkable gift of land, where you can appreciate the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Oswald A. Tupancy.

The Nantucket Conservation Foundation’s Tupancy Links property contains approximately 70 acres of open grassland, pine woodland, heathland, maritime shrubland, and coastal bluff located within one mile Nantucket’s downtown Historic District.
golfing became more popular on Nantucket, the course expanded to eighteen holes and a permanent clubhouse was constructed in 1926 at 118 Cliff Road. In 1981, this building was acquired by the Foundation from other benefactors and was transformed into the organization’s administrative offices.

**Tupancy Links History**

In 1949, Mr. Tupancy, a talented and dedicated golfer, purchased enough of the Nantucket Golf Course property to operate a nine-hole course. By this time, the balance of the course’s original acreage south of Cliff Road was gradually being converted to house lots. Mr. Tupancy operated his course for only a few years, closing it to play in 1953. He and his wife, Sallie Gail Harris Tupancy (who served on the Foundation’s Board of Trustees), donated the Tupancy Links property to the Nantucket Conservation Foundation in several transactions occurring between 1976 and 1987. As a result of their planning, insight and generosity, their land is now an open space refuge for the enjoyment of future generations.

The trails crossing the rolling terrain on the property lead to a spectacular view overlooking Nantucket Sound and beyond. With a good pair of binoculars, this location point offers binders an excellent vantage point for observing many species of sea birds, shorebirds and sea ducks on Nantucket Sound.

Mr. and Mrs. Tupancy also provided an abutting parcel of land for the construction of the Foundation’s staff residence and workshop facility, located just west of the parking area on Cliff Road. This portion of the property was contributed specifically for the purpose of addressing the management needs of the Tupancy Links, as well as other Foundation properties. The Foundation’s year-round and seasonal staff has made good use of the much-needed workshop, equipment storage barn, and residence since its completion in 1993. A portion of this area also contains a small greenhouse that is used to propagate native plant species used in various restoration projects on the Foundation’s conservation lands, as well as a community vegetable garden for the Foundation’s employees.

**Natural Features**

The rolling, expansive grasslands on the property are the remnants of the fens and greens that were in use when the golf course was open for play. This open grassland habitat is now maintained by the Foundation through annual mowing, conducted just prior to the spring growing season. The dominant grass in this area, little bluestem, forms 2-3 foot tall flowering stems in the late summer that turn a distinctive purplish-blue color in early autumn, thus giving the species its common name. In addition to little bluestem, a wide variety of wild flowers and other native grasses can be observed here, including sandplain blue-eyed grass, ox eye daisy, evening primrose, Pennsylvania sedge, yarrow, Queen Anne’s lace, and a variety of goldenrods and asters. Mowing these areas only once per year at the beginning of the growing season allows the native grasses and wildflowers to grow, flower and set seed over the course of the summer, fall and early winter. This management is an important and effective means of maintaining this unique open habitat.