

# Opinion

## EGAN MARITIME FOUNDATION

### The legacy continues

Through his vision and generosity, Albert F. "Bud" Egan has left Nantucket with a rich legacy that will be enjoyed for generations to come.

Interested in maritime art, Bud began to collect in the '80s after encountering the work of Anton Otto Fischer, an illustrator of marine subjects for the Saturday Evening Post. He then commissioned British artist Rodney Charman to paint pivotal scenes from Nantucket history. Soon, it was clear that his passion for collecting would outgrow his wall space.

Concurrently, Bud established the Albert F. Egan Foundation, a 501 (c) 3 private operating foundation. He also became interested in the Coffin School, which had fallen into disrepair. Bud collaborated with the school's trustees and agreed to underwrite the restoration of the historic building's interior. In exchange, he was granted a 30-year lease.

In 1996 Bud appointed Nathaniel Philbrick — author

of a book published by another of Bud's ventures, the Mill Hill Press — as founding director of the "Egan Institute of Maritime Studies." Bud charged Nat to develop "education, research, and publishing components and, more particularly, to establish the Egan tradition of philanthropy for the 21st century and beyond."

Later, the Coffin School became the headquarters of the Egan Maritime Institute, along with its affiliates Mill Hill Press and the newly re-named Nantucket Shipwreck & Lifesaving Museum, which merged with Egan Maritime in 2004.

Fast forward to today.

Out of 120-plus nonprofit organizations on the island, Egan Maritime is the only one devoted exclusively to advancing appreciation of Nantucket's maritime heritage, which has shaped the island's rich history and distinctive character for 400 years. It boasts a permanent collection of contemporary and illustrative art, books and artifacts, reflecting Nantucket's nautical legacy, which serves as the basis of ongoing displays and special exhibitions. Additionally, Egan Maritime sponsors a popular speakers program on a variety of special interest topics, all which relate to maritime heritage, history and culture.

Mill Hill Press is a publisher of distinctive Nantucket

books and is recognized as the most prolific publisher of books relating to the island and its maritime heritage. Topics include the island's history, literature and art. Mill Hill Press is currently publishing two books a year, stimulating interest about Nantucket, and proposals for new publications continue to outstrip the press's capacity to publish.

The Nantucket Shipwreck & Lifesaving Museum shares the fascinating stories of yesterday and today's maritime heroes through permanent and changing interpretive exhibits, drawing on a collection of over 5,000 objects. Established in 1968 by Robert Caldwell, USCG (Ret.) and friends, the museum at 158 Polpis Road will reopen this summer following a \$3 million renovation. The museum promises to be fun and informative — a not-to-be missed experience for all ages. Children, in particular, will appreciate the compassionate rescue tale of "Marshall the Dog."

Together, these three entities strive to fulfill Bud's vision to create "a healthy and vigorous future for Nantucket through widespread understanding of and deep respect for the island's rich heritage."

*Jean Grimmer is executive director of the Egan Maritime Foundation.*

## KAIZER

*Continued from page 7*

organization, the expenses incurred by the homeowners are paid to S.B.P.F. (nonprofit) and then are

deducted on their personal tax return at approximately 38 percent, of which this tax liability is then shifted to the rest of the common taxpayer, like you and me. So, I guess we are all being asked to fund this project, which, by their own testimony, is

designed to fail and devastate the environment. What ever happened to common sense? ■

*— Capt. Peter Kaizer  
F/V Althea K*

## ROOSEVELT

*Continued from page 7*

will not dredge any mussel bed at the borrow site.

Distortion: "There are mussels and sea clams in the borrow site. The dredge will suck up these shellfish and the mortality rate will be 100 percent."

Based on a scientific survey of sea duck feeding of the area off of 'Sconset, the areas north, east and south of the borrow site are intensely used by feeding sea ducks and the borrow site itself is relatively unused.

Distortion: The borrow site "is now an important feeding ground for our winter population of sea duck and would be lost."

Beach nourishment has been a widely used beach preservation technology for decades in the northeast and globally, and there is virtually no precedent for destruction of active local ecologies as a result.

Distortion: As a result of prop scour caused by the dredge as it pumps sand onto the beach, "there will be nothing left of the bottom."

Based on extensive monitoring of prior beach nourishment projects, the benthic community in the near-

shore area reestablishes itself quickly, in a matter of months.

Distortion: "SBPF's new sand will kill the entire benthic community. There will be nothing for the birds to eat."

To be fair, Captain DeCosta also acknowledged a number of the positive features of the SBPF proposed project, though in each case he went on to downplay the benefit of those features. Again, some examples:

"SBPF states that the loss of cobble habitat will only be five percent of the total cobble bottom". True, based on a meticulous survey and unchallenged.

"SBPF has stated that they will mitigate for any damage done to the cobble bottom or the environment." True, and SBPF fully expects to be held to that pledge by the Nantucket Concom and 10 other state and federal agencies.

"SBPF believes that they can just dump a bunch of rocks overboard and everything will be all right." True: the offsetting cobble will be essentially identical in nature and origin to 'Sconset cobble. Extensive precedent and science indicate that the flora and fauna settling on and among the offsetting cobble will be well established in a year and thoroughly developed within two-to-three years.

"SBPF has stated that the new beach created by the project will create new habitat for endangered birds such as plovers." True. This feature of beach nourishment projects has been promoted by the Massachusetts Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program, and specifically acknowledged in their comment letter regarding the SBPF project.

"SBPF has stated that they will pay the commercial fishermen for any lost income." Again true. SBPF has been willing to offer this guarantee, since based on extensive dialogue with fishermen it has substantially tailored the project to have minimal impact on commercial, charter or recreational fishing.

Again, the SBPF project is targeted at preserving 'Sconset Beach and successfully addressing 'Sconset's long-run erosion challenge. It is 100 percent privately funded and it employs the technology which has been commonly used for decades to address erosion in the northeast and globally. Please vote yes on ballot question number five to ask the Board of Selectmen to approve this project subject to appropriate conditions. ■

*Kermit Roosevelt is president of the Siasconset Beach Preservation Fund*

Advertisement



Why don't we simply let  
the people in 'Sconset enlarge  
their beach?

Because it's not their beach.

It's ours. You might not realize over 95% of the beach from Sankaty Light to Codfish Park is town-owned. So the proponents of this project have to get the town's permission before they begin the largest construction and engineering project in Nantucket history. And by voting on April 15th, we have an opportunity to let our Selectmen know how we feel about the real possibility of devastating our marine environment while trying to save a few houses. Just ask any fisherman.

Please vote no on Question 5.

Paid for by the Coalition for Responsible Coastal Management, D. Anne Atherton and Bob DeCosta, Treasurers, 22 Sesapana Road, Nantucket MA 02554