



# Sound Waves

A Monthly Newsletter from Save Our Sound

## SEPTEMBER 2024

### Alliance News & Notes



We hope that you had a happy and healthy Labor Day holiday. As always, summer seems to go by so quickly here on the Cape and Islands. The Alliance had a very busy—and exciting—summer season! We attended a series of events to strengthen our presence within the community as well as hosted several of our own fundraisers to support our mission for the **permanent preservation of Nantucket Sound**.

In May, we attended the 53rd Figawi Race Weekend. This iconic race through Nantucket Sound was a fantastic opportunity for us to connect with the sailing community. In June, we attended the Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner, participated in the Father's Day Car Show in Hyannis, and had the pleasure of speaking at the annual meeting of a local home-owners group on Great Island in West Yarmouth.

In July and August, the Alliance hosted several of our own local fundraisers to ensure that we continue to have the resources to support our programs and succeed with our mission to designate the Sound as a **National Historic Landmark**. These events were well attended, and we are grateful for the opportunity to personally update our supporters.

For those of you unable to attend one of our events, we discussed our progress in seeking **National Historic Landmark** designation for Nantucket Sound, both legislatively through Congress and administratively through the U.S. Department of the Interior. In Congress, we are working hard to encourage our congressional delegation to introduce and enact federal legislation - the **Nantucket Sound National Historic Landmark Act**. Within Interior, we are awaiting an eligibility determination after government-to-government consultation with the Mashpee Wampanoag tribe and the Wampanoag tribe of Gayhead/Aquinnah is completed.

Many of our supporters who attended our events expressed concern about the recent **turbine blade failure** south of the Islands and the two blade failures off the coast of England. The effects of the local turbine failure are still being felt today, weeks after the incident, highlighting the importance of the proper siting of offshore wind projects and serving as a stark reminder of why we must continue our fight to protect Nantucket Sound. The federal waters in the center of the Sound remain vulnerable and open to development, making designation of the Sound as a National Historic Landmark more crucial than ever. We cannot afford to wait until it's too late.

***Now more than ever***, we need your support to safeguard the future of Nantucket Sound. Our goal is to secure permanent protection for this unique and historic body of water. If you have not already done so, please consider [a tax-free donation today](#) to help in our preservation efforts for Nantucket Sound. Together, we can ensure that this cherished body of water remains a treasured resource for generations to come.

Thank you for your continued support. - ***Audra Parker, President***





# Discover Nantucket Sound



## Pedaling Paradise: Scenic Rides Along the Sound

The early days of fall are just weeks away—the perfect time to take your bike out for a leisurely ride with spectacular views of Nantucket Sound. One of the most popular routes on the Cape is the **Cape Cod Rail Trail** (CCRT), which stretches about 25 miles from South Dennis to Wellfleet. While it doesn't directly follow the coastline, the CCRT does connect to a number of trails and roads that lead to beaches along the Sound. The **Old Colony Rail Trail** connects to the CCRT and runs through the towns of Harwich and Chatham. There are also local roads and bike-friendly paths in towns like Falmouth, which have scenic routes along the shoreline.

The island of Nantucket has several scenic bike paths that offer beautiful views of the Sound:

- **Milestone Road Bike Path** runs from the town of Nantucket to Siasconset. Running parallel to Milestone Road, this path offers views of Nantucket Sound, especially as you get closer to Siasconset.
- **Polpis Road Bike Path** is more scenic and runs along Polpis Road for about 8 miles, taking you from Nantucket town to Siasconset. This path offers views of the harbor, wetlands, and rolling landscapes, providing access to some beautiful areas near Nantucket Sound.

On Martha's Vineyard, **State Beach Path** runs along the Joseph Sylvia State Beach between Oak Bluffs and Edgartown, offering stunning views of the Sound. About 3 miles long, it's ideal for a leisurely ride with scenic ocean views.

These paths are great for enjoying the natural beauty of the region, with options for both leisurely rides and more extended explorations. If you are looking for something to do or sites to see in and around Nantucket Sound, [visit the Discover page](#) on our

website, which provides you with information on beaches, parks, historic sites, and more - a great resource to create your very own Nantucket Sound Bucket List!



*This month, we put a spotlight on **Woody Bowman**. A graduate of Trinity College & Princeton Theological Seminary, Woody first sailed on Nantucket Sound in 1973 when he was a crew member on a small racing sloop based in Hyannis and competing in the races of the Southern Massachusetts Sailing Association. He and his family have lived on Martha's Vineyard since 1987 where he's been able to pursue and enjoy both ministry and sailing. His wooden catboat, *Julia Lee*, was built on Martha's Vineyard in West Tisbury and launched in 2003.*

## **1. What does Nantucket Sound mean to you?**

My sailboat, *Julia Lee* (21' long and a classic Cape Cod catboat design) is my entry for exploring Nantucket Sound, which I do avidly and with increasing knowledge and understanding of this unique body of water, her currents, her shorelines, her shoal waters, and her vastness. When I'm out of sight of land nearing Horseshoe Shoals, Nantucket Sound represents a true ocean experience that is incredibly special for a small boat sailor with all the possibilities, both challenging and delightful, that wind, wave, and current can bring. I'm very familiar with the waters of the western sections of Nantucket Sound -- racing and day-sailing between Vineyard Haven, Edgartown, Cape Pogue, and the shoreline of Cape Cod over and between the shoal waters of Squash Meadow, Hedge Fence, and L'Hommdieu Shoal, but the waters north and east of Horseshoe Shoal represent adventure and ocean wilderness.

## **2. Why do you support the Alliance to Protect Nantucket Sound?**

The success of the Alliance's efforts to keep Cape Wind from building on Horseshoe Shoal was a critical first step, but the permanent protection of Nantucket Sound is now the ultimate goal. There are many important reasons for securing the future of

Nantucket Sound for the public. Among them is its uniqueness for small boating, which has the most emotional resonance for me personally. I have sailed all the northeast coast from the Chesapeake to Maine, and there is no other body of water that is so open, so wild, and allows the small boat sailor to get beyond the sight of land, yet is also protected. I strongly believe that this water should be kept open and wild for all to enjoy in her most natural state. I first donated to the Alliance in 2009 to help secure Nantucket Sound for all of us who love to take our small boats long distances and have donated time and money annually since then. I will continue to do so and to speak out on behalf of their mission until this beautiful body of water is secured in its entirety for any one of us who want to be on the water, open, wild, and beautiful.

### **3. What are your favorite spots to visit in and around Nantucket Sound?**

With her shallow draft, I particularly love sailing Julia Lee close to the shore between Edgartown and East Chop with a following breeze. Just this summer, I spent a night on Julia Lee deep up Katama Bay for the first time and look forward to returning. And, of course, I relish sailing across Horseshoe Shoal and someday hope to explore more deeply the coast of Cape Cod between Popponesset Bay and Lewis Bay.

### **4. Share with us a bit about yourself and the work that you do.**

I moved to Martha's Vineyard nearly forty years ago to take on leadership of a retreat center serving a Christian ministry with high school students, and part of the appeal of coming to the island was the maritime history and all the possible recreational activity on or near the water. Nantucket Sound is a substantial part of that ongoing experience.

**[The Alliance to Protect Nantucket Sound](#)**

**[4 Barnstable Rd., Hyannis, MA 02601](#)**

**[saveoursound.org](http://saveoursound.org)**

