



Sound Waves

A Monthly Newsletter from Save Our Sound

MAY 2025

Alliance News & Notes



With peak tourist season on the Cape & Islands just weeks away, it's a great time to focus on the mission that drives the Alliance—permanent protection of Nantucket Sound. Through both legislative and administrative avenues, we are working to achieve **National Historic Landmark** designation for this iconic body of water—recognizing its deep environmental, historical, and cultural significance.

In addition to building political support and expanding our coalition of stakeholder organizations, we're also focused on raising public awareness and deepening understanding of why Nantucket Sound deserves permanent protection. One of the

ways we do this is through our free educational webinar series, **ACONS (A Celebration of Nantucket Sound)**—a program designed to inform, inspire, and highlight the uniqueness of this beautiful and nationally significant body of water.

Launched in 2020, ACONS shines a spotlight on the Sound's rich biodiversity, compelling history, contribution to our economy, and vital cultural value to the Cape and Islands. These Zoom-based webinars are designed to be accessible, engaging, and informative for individuals and families alike.

To date, we've hosted over 25 webinars and have welcomed more than 5,000 registrants, building a growing community of advocates and supporters. We invite you to be part of this continued journey! You can register for our webinars on our website (www.saveoursound.org/acons) and view all of our past episodes on our YouTube page. We encourage you to subscribe to our [YouTube channel](#) so you never miss an episode.

Summer ACONS Webinars:

June 12 – *Songbird Banding on Nantucket*

Libby Buck, Conservation Scientist and Land Steward at the **Linda Loring Nature Foundation** on Nantucket, will share insights on the science of bird banding. This webinar will offer a behind-the-scenes look at the fascinating world of bird migration research.

August 14 – *Marine & Cultural Connections: Nantucket Sound & the Azores*

Robert Rocha, Associate Curator of Science and Research at the **New Bedford Whaling Museum** will explore the connections between the Azores and Nantucket Sound in a fascinating historical context.

Both webinars are open for free registration now.

We're also in the midst of finalizing plans for our summer events that will bring our community together in celebration and action. To make sure you stay in the loop about upcoming events, news, and advocacy opportunities, we encourage you to also join our physical mailing list (www.saveoursound.org/join-us/).

Spring is here, and with it comes renewed energy to protect and preserve the Sound for generations to come. Thank you for standing with us.

Warm regards,

Audra Parker, President

Discover Nantucket Sound

Cape Poge Lighthouse



Perched at the northeastern tip of Chappaquiddick Island, **Cape Poge Lighthouse** is one of Nantucket Sound's most enchanting and secluded beacons. First built in 1801 to guide mariners through the shoals and shifting sands at the Sound's eastern entrance, this lighthouse has seen centuries of storms, shipwrecks, and history unfold.

The current wooden tower, built in 1893, is the eighth version on this site—the earlier ones repeatedly lost to erosion and time. Today, it stands 35 feet tall, painted a crisp white, and offers panoramic views of Cape Poge Bay, the Sound, and the Atlantic beyond.

Fun Fact: The lighthouse was once moved—by helicopter!—in 1987 to save it from shoreline erosion.

Wildlife Watch: The surrounding Cape Poge Wildlife Refuge is a haven for osprey, seals, and rare coastal plants.

Best Way to Visit: Join a guided over-sand vehicle tour from The Trustees of Reservations. It's the only way to access the lighthouse, and it's an unforgettable off-road adventure through salt marshes and dunes.

Remote and windswept, **Cape Poge Light** is a perfect symbol of Nantucket Sound's enduring beauty and maritime legacy. A must-see for explorers and lighthouse lovers alike!

For more places to discover in and around Nantucket Sound, please visit our website at www.saveoursound.org/explore/.



*This month, we put a spotlight on **Seth Engelbourg**. As the Naturalist Educator and Program Manager at the **Linda Loring Nature Foundation** on Nantucket, Seth brings more than a decade of experience in ecology and environmental education to his work. He designs and leads programs, coordinates field research on the foundation's 275-acre property, and guides popular birding trips across the island. He also serves as co-chair of the Emerging Professionals Committee for the **Massachusetts Environmental Education Society (MEES)** and is a member of the MEES board. Seth is especially passionate about integrating emerging technologies with community science to deepen public engagement in conservation efforts.*

1. What does Nantucket Sound mean to you?

Nantucket Sound is a special waterbody to me. It serves as an excellent wintering area for the waterbirds that I love to observe and teach about when I lead birding field trips. It also connects my life on the island of Nantucket to the mainland, every ferry trip I take, I am grateful for the peaceful waters that make the crossing easy. Nantucket Sound is also a place I like to swim when visiting Nantucket's north shore beaches, fish, and look out over when I need a break from work; luckily for me, I can see it from my office!

2. What are your favorite spots to visit around Nantucket Sound?

Nantucket's north shore beaches from Jetties to Eel Point are always a favorite of mine. Seeing the bioluminescence late at night light up the waters of Nantucket Sound or a bonfire at 40th Pole followed by an afternoon swim are experiences that are hard to beat.

3. Can you tell us a bit about the Linda Loring Nature Foundation and your role as a Naturalist Educator and Program Manager?

Linda Loring Nature Foundation protects a 275-acre property around the North Head of Long Pond on Nantucket. Our organization conserves the land and stewards its resources, conducts ecological research on the flora and fauna found here, and educates people of all ages and backgrounds by using our landscape as a living laboratory. Most of my role as Naturalist Educator and Program Manager is focused on the education and outreach spaces, although I also assist with bird research and property stewardship. At LLNF we offer a variety of programs for adults, children, and families across all seasons.

4. What do you enjoy doing in your free time?

I love to hunt, fish, and gather food from Nantucket's bountiful habitats. I also enjoy cooking and baking sourdough bread. Chances are if I am not doing one of those activities, then I will be at home spending time with my partner, Kara, and our pet hedgehog, Poke Bowl.

