

The Thacher Island News

Volume 2, Issue 1

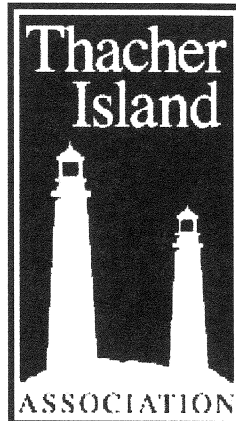
April 2002

Keepers House Available for rent

After months of work and refurbishment the assistant keeper's dwelling is now available for rent to the public. New bedding has been installed with the generous gift of Gardner Mattress Corporation. Rooms have been repainted and ceilings and walls re-done by the volunteers and various keeper's this past summer. Rentals will be available from June 1 through September 15 on a weekly or weekend basis. Donation is \$300 per weekend (Friday noon to Sunday 6PM) or weekly at \$1000 per week (Friday noon through Friday noon). Reservations should be made through the Thacher Island Town Committee by phoning 978-546-7341. Checks should be made payable to *Town of Rockport* and sent to Thacher Island Town Committee, 34 Broadway, Rockport MA 01966. The apartment is 2 1/2 stories and includes a kitchen, livingroom, bath with shower and 3 bedrooms. It sleeps six comfortably, more if you bring your own sleeping bags. There is water for washing but not for drinking, bring your own. Bring your own food and other necessities. There is a washer and dryer and phone available. An outdoor grill is available. All pillows and blankets are supplied, bring your own linens and towels. The kitchen is fully



Principal keeper's house on left and Assistant keeper's house on the right from the back.



IN THIS ISSUE

Keepers Needed

TIA is instituting a keeper training program. See details on page 5.

Members Wanted

Lots of reasons why we need you to re-up for 2002. See sign-up form on Page 3.

New Roofs for Keeper's Dwelling.

Contract signed for replacement of the roof system on the assistant keepers house. Story on Page 5.

Association Receives Grant.

Essex county Community foundation awards grant to TIA. Story on Page 2.

equipped with dishes, pots and pans and silverware. Smoking is not permitted. Transportation will be provided by the Thacher Island Town Committee launch and arrangements must be made in advance. Transportation is subject to weather conditions and we cannot be held responsible if weather prevents us from getting to or from the island in a timely manner. It should be noted that accommodations are rather spartan and are not meant to be a bed and breakfast. Live like a real lighthouse keeper!

Please come to our monthly meetings

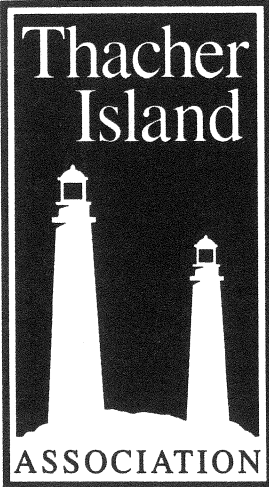
We need more participation from our members. Please come to our monthly meetings held at the Rockport Library on the third Thursday of each month at 7:30 pm. We need as much input and help as we can get. There are a number of fun projects that need to be completed each summer and all are welcome to participate. We have our annual lighthouse cruise, membership drive, Art and Photo Day on the island as well as our weekly work crews out on the island. Now is the time to join and participate in an exciting and historical adventure. Our next meeting will be held on April 18. We hope to see you there.

Special gifts help with restoration projects.

Two very special and significant financial gifts were received by the Association this past fall. One from Mrs. Corrine Waring and another from Mr Paul Sargent. Also we received a donation from the North Shore Kayak and Outdoor Center of Rockport in thanks for allowing their customers to use the island during the summer. Their organization brought out 196 people this past summer on kayaking adventures. The Association thanks these benefactors for their generous donations.

New Look for the Association Logo.

You may have noted our new newsletter design and a new logo. These designs as well as new layouts for our letterhead, membership cards, window stickers, T-shirts, etc. were all created by Mark Drury who heads-up his own firm called Percolator Design, Inc. Mark became a member of TIA last year and has donated his services and time to bring us some exciting ideas and concepts. Mark, his wife Alicia and son Julian live in Rockport since their return to Massachusetts about a year ago from San Francisco where Mark ran his own graphic design studio. He has done extensive work for such clients such as Cisco, Sun Microsystems,



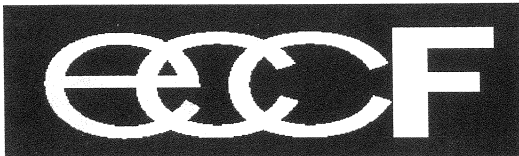
Apple Computer, National Football League among others and has established himself here on the East Coast while developing his business. He has done work for the Rockport Chamber of Commerce as well as a number of new clients locally. Mark was born and brought up in Newton, MA, graduated with his Bachelors in Fine Arts from the University of North Texas in Denton Texas. He worked in a large advertising agency here in Boston to start his career and later took a position with Apple Computer in their graphic design group in California. He moved back to the area about a year ago to start Percolator Design. Mark can be reached by phone at 978-335-4962 or via E-mail at mark@percolatordesign.com. We want to thank Mark for all the great work he has done for us.

own graphic design studio. He has done extensive work for such clients such as Cisco, Sun Microsystems,

TIA Receives Grant from Essex County Community Foundation.

This past November Thacher Island Association was awarded a \$5000 grant by the Essex County Community Foundation. The grant written by the Association is the first of its kind since the take over of the Island by the Town of Rockport. The purpose of the grant is for the rehabilitation of the Keeper's Guest Apartment. The Trustees of the ECCF unanimously agreed to provide funds for this project. ECCF was established in January of 1999 to increase local philanthropy and provide support to non-profit organizations located in and serving Essex County, MA. ECCF awards general grants across the broad areas of non-profit activity in Essex County, including Arts and Culture, Education, Environment, Health, Social and Community Services and Youth Services.

This grant will be used specifically to help refurbish the Keeper's guest apartment so it can be rented. This rental income will provide an income stream to be used for further restoration efforts particularly the principal keepers dwelling which someday we hope to use as a museum/interpretive display, gift shop and visitor center.

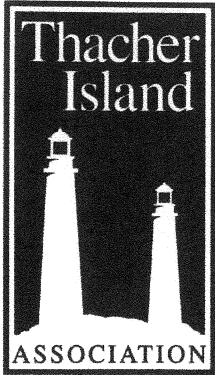


Beds Donated by Gardner Mattress Corporation.



In our efforts to spruce up the keeper's dwelling and make it more comfortable for our volunteer keepers and guests in the apartment we knew we needed new beds. The old cliché that "Washington slept

here" may be true when it comes to the age of the old beds. We were pleasantly surprised when we were notified by one of our new members, Susan Burrage, that Mr Gardner Sisk, owner and operator of Gardner Mattress Corp of Salem, Ma had agreed to donate 7 brand new beds. Gardner Mattress is a premier custom bed manufacturer that has been around since We truly appreciate their kind contribution and the volunteer keepers especially thank Gardner for this most comfortable and much needed contribution.



**Thacher Island Association
P.O.Box 73
Rockport MA. 01966
Annual Solicitation**

For Membership Year 2002

Standard	Individual or family, minimum of	\$25.00
Business or Corporate	Minimum of	\$50.00
Life	Individual or family, minimum of	\$250.00

Please make checks payable to Thacher Island Association
a 501(c) (3) organization donations are tax deductible to the extent allowable by law

Name _____

Address _____

City or Town _____ **State** _____ **ZipCode** _____

Comments or Suggestions:

Time to renew your membership

Its time to renew your membership. We have over 500 members today and want to keep each one of you on the list. Its more important than ever now that the island is reopened and ready to receive visitors. With your membership you receive a member card, a member window sticker for your car or boat as well as a ride to the island on Saturday mornings plus issues of our newsletter 3 times a year.

We are beginning to do some major renovation work including the re-roofing of the two keepers dwellings at a cost of over \$50,000. Your assistance is needed to continue our efforts to save and restore this National Historic Landmark. Please use the enclosed form to renew today.



Thacher Island...An adventure with keeper Russell Grubb.
115 pgs. Soft cover, many b/w photos.

In December of 1980, Russell Grubb became the first volunteer civilian keeper at Cape Ann Light Station on Thacher Island. This is the story of the first 5 years that made him part of Thacher history. Gives great insight as to what a keeper faces on a day-to-day basis.

Available for \$8.00 including postage.



Denim Keeper Shirt.

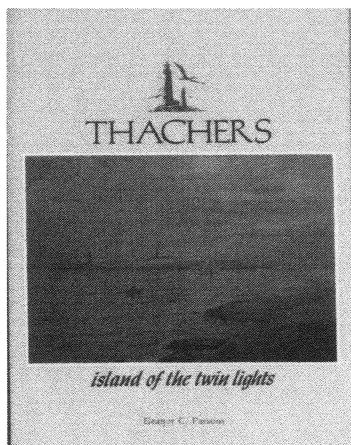
This 100% cotton soft denim shirt is a key item to own .It proudly shows off the Thacher Island twin lights just like the hats above. Comes in S,M,L,XL.

\$40.00 incl. postage and handling.



New hats for the summer. Shows off the Thacher Island Twin Lights logo in great summer colors Yellow, Periwinkle Blue, Lime and Tangerine. One size fits all adjustable, 100% cotton washable.

\$20.00 incl shipping and handling.



Thachers.... island of the twin lights
149 pages with many b/w photos.

Book by Eleanor Parsons. The definitive book on the history of Thacher Island. Signed by her as well!

To order make checks payable and send to:
Thacher Island Association
Box 73, Rockport MA 01966

Keepers Wanted- Training Program Announced.

Have you ever wanted to live and work in a lighthouse? The Thacher Island Association may have just what you want. Beginning this summer the folks at Thacher Island in Rockport Massachusetts will be training prospective volunteer keepers to live and work on the Island as temporary keepers. Prospective keepers will be trained by a staff of experienced civilian keepers who have watched over the Island for the past 20 years. Duties will include welcoming and monitoring visitors, general upkeep of grounds and buildings and towers, and collecting donations and gift shop revenue.

To qualify a person must be 21 years of age or older, agree to serve for free, preferably be a couple, physically able to perform chores such as mowing, painting, boat handling, winch operation and conduct minor repairs. Also the ability to positively interact with the public and able to commit 1 to 3 months of continuous time.

Thacher Island Association is in the process of trying to develop an ongoing staff of available volunteers to oversee the Island while it is open to the public from May through October of each year. Currently we have a staff of 8 volunteers but need more to strengthen the team and allow for a more varied complement of people.

Volunteers will be housed in the newly refurbished assistant keepers dwelling. This dwelling was built in 1861 and is a duplex design allowing one half to be used for the two keepers and the other for a rental unit for visitors. The dwelling contains 14 rooms which include 2 kitchens, 2 baths, 2 living rooms, an office, workshop and 6 bedrooms. New beds have been installed and much of the furniture upgraded. Volunteers must provide their own food and linens.

The Island was recently reopened to the public after being closed since 1991 when the boat ramp was lost to the "Perfect Storm". Last summer the Island hosted over 1500 visitors who arrived by private craft, kayaks or the Thacher Island launch. Volunteer work crews go out every Wednesday from April through October to work on trails and do restoration work to the various structures.

Thacher Island is located about one mile seaward of the town of Rockport and was designated a National Historic Landmark in January of 2001. The northern end of the Island is owned by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and is a National Wildlife Refuge area. The southern end is owned by the Town of Rockport, which manages the entire Island via an agreement with USF&WL.

Anyone interested in applying for a volunteer position should contact the Thacher Island Town Committee c/o Town of Rockport, 34 Broadway, Rockport MA 01966. You can also call Dr. Sydney Wedmore Chairman of the Committee at 978-546-7341. To find out more about the Island log on to the web site at www.thacherisland.org. You may also e-mail your questions to, info@thacherisland.org.

New Roofs planned for Keeper's Dwellings.



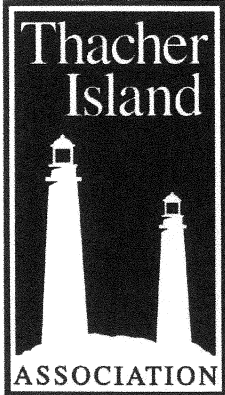
Last re-roofed in 1989, the wind and weather has deteriorated the roofs of the keeper's dwelling

significantly. It was decided that the roofs were the first major project that needed to be done this spring. Protection of these dwellings integrity is key because once the weather and birds begin to make inroads the chances of saving the buildings become more remote. Because the work is very dangerous it was decided to have an experienced contractor do the work. Campbell Construction Group of Beverly MA. was chosen by the Thacher Island Town Committee. They have significant experience working on lighthouse properties having recently completed a restoration of the Annisquam Light in Gloucester. They have done a lot of work for the U.S. Coast Guard and their various light stations over the years including Brant Point Lighthouse, Dyce's Head Light Tower in Castine ME, Petit Manan Lighthouse on Petit Manan Island ME, and Highland Lighthouse in Truro, MA among others. Campbell was also awarded the first annual Contractor of the Year Award by the US Coast Guard's Civil Engineering Unit (CEU) Providence for 1999.

They are particularly experienced in historic preservation work which is very important to us as regards to the National Historic Landmark status of this property. Many of their projects have been listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Construction should start in April and the hope is that we will have new roofs, trim work and painting completed by June.

Thacher Island Association
Box 73
Rockport, MA 01966

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Rockport, MA.
Permit No. 19



We need stuff !

Still looking for used or new furniture. We could use 2 sofas, easy chairs, a couple of coffee tables, end tables and lamps and a refrigerator. Give us a call at 978-546-7697 or 978-546-7214 . We will come and get them.

D.A.R. Award to TIA and Charter Members

At the meeting of the daughters of American Revolution (D.A.R.) held at the Gloucester House, Gloucester, on December 8, John and Mary Bennett, of Rockport, were each presented a Community Service pin as well as an engraved certificate in recognition of their many years on the Thacher Island Town Committee. During that time they were involved with historical restoration efforts as well as day-to-day operation of the island and lighthouses. They recently resigned from the Co-Chairmanship of the Town Committee, but are still members of that committee and contribute almost daily to the continued preservation of the island. Their knowledge of Thacher Island, and their willingness to share it, has been a bonus to not only the Association but

also the Town of Rockport.

At the same program, a financial donation from D.A.R. was given to the Thacher Island Association for general maintenance .George and Dottie Carroll, former Keepers of the Island and now Island liasons, accepted the gift for the Board of Directors. In accepting the check, Dottie gave an update on the opening of the Island this past May with Keepers and over 1500 visitors. She also expressed her appreciation of organizations such as D.A.R., for their continued support and interest in Thacher Island.