

President's Letter

I write this letter in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic – most certainly a crazy time. I first want to express my hope that you and your family are in good health, and that you are safely in residence whether that be on Nauset Heights, your winter home, or with loved ones.

Though we must stay physically apart, I believe these times of crises can bring communities even closer together. I've seen this in the outpouring of neighbor helping neighbor in communities across the globe, in our towns and cities, and abundant in Nauset Heights. A simple offer to get groceries or make a run to the dump are wonderful gestures for a neighbor who's needing to stay shut in. It's times like these that make simple deeds go a long way – a silver lining we all can use.

With social distancing a reality of everyday life for the foreseeable future, you might have guessed that our typical summer schedule of events needs to change. With that, the NHA Board has voted to hold off on all scheduled summer activities, including the Lawn Party. While a difficult decision, I believe it's best for our families, our neighbors and our community. I'm confident this is temporary, and that there will be many summers ahead where we will all be able to be together again.

In the spirit of keeping our strong community together – but apart – for Summer 2020, we welcome ideas to reimagine NHA activities. As such, we're forming an ad hoc committee, headed by Maura Fitzpatrick. We've already got some great ideas up our sleeves. If you'd like to join the committee or if you have suggestions, please send along a note to: summer2020@nausetheights.org.

Our Spring Clean-Up, originally scheduled for May 2nd, will no longer be a group effort. However, the NHA Environmental Committee is encouraging members who are able to still head outside and clean up on your own. While we will miss the social aspect of the gathering, we will all appreciate and benefit from the effort. We welcome any photos of your undertaking which you can send to: nha@nausetheights.org. As you can see from the image to the right,



Duke Duquette and his trusty companion have already started their own clean up effort. Thank you.



Aerial view of Nauset Heights, July 2019

For those that are planning to travel to Nauset Heights at some point this summer, I wish you a trouble-free journey.

Until our next community gathering, be safe.

Dave Strickler
NHA President





Nauset Heights History – Embedded in Plymouth 400

The history of Nauset Heights is deeply embedded in the history of the early Pilgrims, and this year's celebration of the 400th anniversary of the Plymouth Colony.

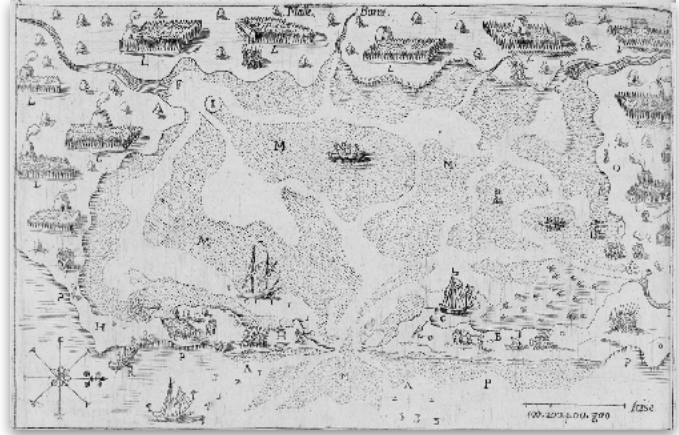
The first recorded European exploration of Cape Cod began in 1602, when Bartholomew Gosnold is credited with naming the Cape based upon the abundance of cod that was caught off the present location of Provincetown. Samuel de Champlain, an explorer for the King of France, provided the first written account of Nauset Harbor when he sailed over the shoals and sandbars on July 20, 1605. Nauset Harbor was a large embayment surrounded by the densely populated village of about 300 members of the Wampanoag tribe.

Fifteen years later in November of 1620, historians believe that the Pilgrims' first sighting of the New World was of the bare sand bluff of Nauset Heights. Sailing southward in the *Mayflower* toward Chatham, the Pilgrims encountered the Pollock Rip south of Monomoy, nearly ran aground, but reversed course northward and eventually anchored in the vicinity of Provincetown harbor.

Having been blown off course from their intended destination in the Virginia Colony, the Pilgrims decided to settle in New England. During their third "discovery expedition" from Provincetown, they explored far enough south to encounter the Nauset Indians, and to discover the rich agricultural region of Nauset Heights.

After establishing the Plymouth Colony, the Pilgrims often returned to the area around Nauset Harbor to purchase corn and other crops from the Indians. The soil at Nauset was far superior to that of the Plymouth Colony, consistently producing crop surpluses. The Pilgrims and the Nauset tribe maintained a friendly relationship, even though European diseases were wide-spread among the Indians, and the tribe's population declined drastically over the next decade.

In December of 1626, the English voyage of the *Sparrow Hawk* grounded on the bars of Nauset Beach. The small, ketch-rigged ship was carrying another group of Pilgrims bound for the Virginia Colony. The Indians from Nauset Heights sent runners to notify the Plymouth Colony. After rescuing the passengers and crew, the tribe helped transport them across to



Namskaket on the bayside of the Cape, where they helped the weary voyagers continue on to Plymouth in small boats.

With a King's grant in 1640, the Pilgrims "purchased" all of the Nauset territory from the native Indians, first through verbal agreements, subsequently by formalized legal documents. Whether understood or not by the natives, the Plymouth court obtained deeds from the native sachem leaders.

In April of 1644 seven Pilgrim families were allowed to leave the Plymouth Colony and resettle in the Nauset territory, a large area then encompassing all of Orleans, Eastham, and Wellfleet. Among them were Deacon John Doane and Nicholas Snow. The new settlement was centered near Nauset Harbor, and was called "Nosett" or "Nawsett". Because of its superior natural resources, the Pilgrims had long considered relocating the entire seat of government for the Plymouth Colony to Nauset. However, such a move was determined to be impracticable as the area was deemed too remote from the Massachusetts Bay Colony.

Upon their arrival in 1644, however, the Pilgrims carefully reserved the peninsula of Nauset Heights for the Nauset tribe to maintain their cornfields and other crops. The tribe was also granted rights to dig shellfish and to share the blubber of whales driven ashore on Nauset Beach. For decades to come, the Nauset Indians continued to summer on the Heights, while wintering in the southern part of Orleans known as Potanumaquut.

Our history with the Pilgrims is just the beginning of the rich story of Nauset Heights, a sequence of many events which would become unique to our country.





Environmental Committee News

Tips to Preserve Nauset Heights' Environment

The Nauset Heights Environmental Committee has been honored to serve as a voice for Environmental Education for the NHA Association Members- Families –Friends and Environment.

We believe that there is a growing interest in how to preserve our beautiful environment. Many neighbors participate in our successful fall and spring cleanups and in the past two years, we have sponsored well-attended events on horseshoe crabs (2016 and 2017) and organic gardening (2018).

All of us who live in this unique place appreciate its natural beauty and want to see it preserved. We recognize how fragile and vulnerable our land and waters are to the whims of Mother Nature and to the impact of our own actions.

Here are a few things for you to consider and can do to help:

- Recycle or reuse whatever you can.
- Pick up litter.
- Pick up pet waste and dispose of it in the trash.
- Grow a "Cape Cod" lawn. Instead use native plants to landscape your home as they are hardy, require less water and do not need fertilizer or pesticides to flourish.
- Allow grass clippings to remain on the lawn to provide nutrients and reduce the need for fertilizers that degrade our waters. It also limits the use of noisy leaf blowers.
- Keep telephone poles free of weeds to prevent loss of electricity during storms and keep storm drains free of debris to prevent flooding.
- Remove invasive vines such as bittersweet and dispose of them in trash bags. They spread easily and are killing Eastern Red Cedars and other native plants.
- Turn off outside lights at night to enjoy the dark sky's amazing array of stars. Consider motion detecting lights if need be.
- Avoid using spray insecticides that may kill ticks and mosquitos but also kill important insects such as bees.



For making other suggestions and help from your Environmental Committee, contact Chair, Bill Dunham, wpdunham@juno.com or 617-484-5502.

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Member Corner

For over 60 years, the mission of the Nauset Heights Association has been to foster a sense of community and cooperation among homeowners to protect and preserve this special place.

As of the time of this writing, our association today is 196 member families strong. Please join us in welcoming our newest families who joined in 2020:

- Beth & Todd Baker
15 Cullum Rd
- John & Whitney Colleran
12 & 16 Aspinet Rd, 11 Cullum Rd
- Polly Keener
50 & 52 Nauset Heights Rd
- Mefford & Bonny Runyan
43 Nauset Heights Rd

The NHA reaches out and welcomes newcomers to our neighborhood. We ask that if you are selling your home or if you know of a neighbor who is selling or has sold their home, please pass along the new owners' information to our general email address: nha@nausetheights.org. The membership committee has created a welcome packet and we'd appreciate your help in making sure we are able to get it into our new neighbors' hands.



2020 NHA Events

Due to COVID-19 precautions, the NHA Board of Directors voted to hold off on all in-person events this summer.

Of course we are saddened by this turn of events, but remain committed to keeping our strong community together even when we are apart. Accordingly we are forming an ad hoc committee, headed by Maura Fitzpatrick, to develop ideas. If you'd like to join the committee, please email summer2020@nausetheights.org. All are welcome.

In remembrance

The following Nauset Heights residents or former residents have passed away since our last newsletter publication. We send our sympathy to their families. They will be dearly missed.

- Teresa Gillman
January 11, 2019
- Elizabeth (Betty) Martin
May 26, 2019
- Barbara (Bobbi) Howe Tucker
June 19, 2019
- Richard (Dick) Cuda
October 12, 2019



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