



For Immediate Release

From: Nantucket Lightship Basket Museum

NANTUCKET LIGHTSHIP BASKET MUSEUM OPENS 2011 SEASON WITH EXHIBIT Members' Collection

Nantucket, MA., May 20, 2011 – The Nantucket Lightship Basket Museum www.nantucketlightshipbasketmuseum.org, begins its 12th season on May 27th with Members' Collection. This season's exhibit celebrates the Nantucket basket collections of many of museum's members. On display, are over 100 baskets, from simple antique work baskets to the elaborate treasures that are made by professional weavers today. The exhibit celebrates the story of these baskets and the collectors who cherish them.

Included in the exhibit are baskets from the Katherine and Edgar Seeler book, "Nantucket Lightship Baskets," that various museum members have collected over the years. The Seelers were founding members of the museum as well as renowned authorities on Nantucket lightship baskets.

The exhibit also features three significant weavers from three different time periods. The first, William D. Appleton, was a lightship keeper and wove baskets aboard the South Shoal lightship. Ferdinand Sylvaro wove on land in his shop on Orange Street during the post lightship era and had connections with many of the lightship keepers. Stephen Gibbs primarily wove ladies hand bags in the late 1950s through the 1970s. The display includes examples of their work and biographical information.

In addition to the basket collections on display, the museum holds a weekly lecture series with topics on other interesting collections such as antique postcards, canes, quilts and pueblo pottery. "There is something for everyone at the museum this season. In addition to the exhibit and weekly lectures, several members have opened their homes for the public to see their extensive collections in a personal setting. We are also nurturing future weavers through the youth weaving program and the adult weaving workshops," said Maryann Wasik, Museum Director.

The museum is open Tuesday – Saturday, 10:00 AM – 4:30 PM through October 8. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for seniors and children under 17.

About the Nantucket Lightship Basket Museum - The Nantucket Lightship Basket Museum is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization whose mission is to promote the awareness and appreciation of lightship baskets and their makers, by educating and engaging the public about the complexity of this art form unique to Nantucket, and placing it within a broader context of related crafts. The museum is dedicated to preserving Nantucket's rich history of basket making by exhibiting historic and contemporary baskets, providing a permanent home for lightship baskets, supporting scholarship of this art form, and encouraging and mentoring new generations of lightship basket makers.

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