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**For Immediate Release**

**From: Nantucket Lightship Basket Museum**

**NANTUCKET LIGHTSHIP BASKET MUSEUM PRESENTS THE FIRST ANNUAL  
NANTUCKET BASKET FESTIVAL & SALE**

**Nantucket, MA., November 21, 2011** – The Nantucket Lightship Basket Museum, [www.nantucketlightshipbasketmuseum.org](http://www.nantucketlightshipbasketmuseum.org), announces its First Annual Nantucket Basket Festival & Sale to be held December 2 and December 3 as part of stroll weekend festivities. The museum will feature one of kind baskets for sale made by local weavers that represent varied interpretations of the traditional lightship basket making process. This local art form, which originated in the early part of the nineteenth century, continues to be a viable cottage industry on Nantucket today. “We are hoping with this event, to draw attention to the wonderful work that is being created by these basket makers and to provide them with a forum to make their baskets more broadly available to the public. This event is historically significant because it is the first time ever that so many present day artists are represented in one show. In today’s difficult economy, the museum wants to do its part in helping to preserve this uniquely Nantucket basket making tradition by supporting the present day artists as they continue to work at their craft” said Maryann Wasik, Executive Director. In addition to the Basket Festival & Sale, the museum will offer free admission, weaving demonstrations and refreshments. As part of the festivities on Friday December 2, a two hour workshop in weaving will be lead by renowned basket weaving instructor, Tim Parsons.

The museum will be open Friday, December 2 – 10:00 AM – 4:00 Pm and Saturday, December 3 - 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM.

**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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