

1850 HOUSE OF MYSTIC

Enhance your Mystic experience by staying at the Historic Resolved Irons Home

VOLUME I—THIRD ISSUE SUMMER 2008

1850 House become an Eco-Friendly Vacation Rental

Typically people do not associate historic properties with the current focus on greening, but the reality is in the 1800s people were obviously more environmentally in line with the current thinking and trends. Not so much because they were conscientious about the environment, but primarily because they did not have the technology, electricity etc. What they did have was a keen understanding of how to design and build homes such that they captured the best the environment had to offer such as sunlight and protect against the worst the environment had to offer, and here in New England that means winter. As an example, you will see that there are fewer windows on the north side of the 1850 House and more in the south and west. If you look around the neighborhood you will see porches and overhangs that tend to block the summer sun when it is high in the sky while allowing the winter sun access to the windows to enhance the warming effect. While a few years



ago we renovated the kitchen and bathrooms, we focused on the more traditional construction methods and materials. As we move forward we will be paying more attention to more eco-friendly ways. One change we recently made was to restore an old door and replace the outside kitchen door with that old door. It is a beautiful door with four window panes allowing more morning light into the kitchen.

Our efforts to be more ecologically responsible at the Historic 1850 House of Mystic is part of a community wide initiative we are calling the Sustainable Mystic Initiative. I wrote about the SMI in our Spring Newsletter, and that is available online at www.1850house.com.

What this means is the

following:

The usual – we recycle bottles and cans in one bin and newspaper/other paper in another.

We installed a programmable thermostat that has been a wonder for conserving fuel oil, and we ask that you set the thermostat so you are comfortable, but set it lower during the sleeping times.

We used to dry our linens in the dryer, we have started (weather permitting) using a clothes line. Sheets smell better and we minimize electricity consumption. We will be installing a clothes line in the back yard for your use also.

Last year we planted an herb garden and this year we cleared the hill behind the house and will be planting vegetables. Depending on the dates of your visit there may be vegetables ripe and ready enough to pick. We invite our guests to use whatever is ready during their stay with us. The gardens are for all our guests so ask that you

MYSTIC WEB SITES

Visit the following web sites for
[Calendar of Events](#)

Mystic Aquarium and Institute for Exploration
www.mysticaquarium.org

Mystic Seaport
www.mysticseaport.org

Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center
www.dpnc.org

Mystic Chamber of Commerce
www.mysticchamber.org

Mystic Coast & Country
www.mysticcountry.com

Sea Everything
www.mystic.org

Mystic Arts Center
www.mystic-art.org

Other interesting Mystic Web Sites

Live Mystic Web Cam
www.sectlive.com

Mystic Weekend of Rowing
www.mwvor.org

Contact us at:
860.514.8716
acmpc@1850house.com
www.1850house.com

What's Happening in and around the 1850 House

Eco-Friendly *continued*

pose of anything that is not considered acceptable for composting.

We have installed energy efficient lights wherever feasible and ask that when you leave the house to turn off lights and other electrical appliances as appropriate.

In the future we will be including more eco-friendly features. We anticipate using more eco-friendly cleaning materials, etc.

Thank you for helping us make a small contribution.

If you are interested in the Sustainable Mystic Initiative please let me know and I will include your email address on our distribution list.

Coastal Environmental Services

As part of our focus on the environment, we are affiliated with a new not for profit entity, Coastal Environmental Services (CES), whose purpose is to:

- (a) Keep the waters of Long Island Sound clean;
- (b) Provide pump-out services to boaters at no charge;
- (c) Raise awareness of the importance of proper recreational marine waste disposal;
- (d) Aid local boaters in education of marine discharge systems.

For our boating visitors please contact us for more information on CES Services and schedule.

Pushing the Limits: The Story of Greek Sponge Divers.

The Sea Research Foundation & Immersion Presents of the Mystic Aquarium have produced a movie titled *Pushing the Limits*, and is based



on the book *The Bellstone: The Greek Sponge Divers of the Aegean*, written by Mr. Michael Kalafatas's published in 2003 by Brandeis University/University Press of New England.

The movie was first presented at the Maliotis Cultural Center on the campus of the Hellenic

College / Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology in Brookline, MA on May 4, 2008.

The movie chronicles sponge diving from the business, scientific and personal perspectives, explaining how the economic imperative to more efficiently harvest sponges and the advent of new technology resulted in the shift from naked diving, or breath-hold diving, to machine diving that uses compressed air and diving suits. Associated with this advance in diving method was an increase in physical danger, due to decompression and overexposure. Indeed, the film points out that sponge diving was at one time the most dangerous profession in the Aegean and the United States.

The movie can be viewed at:

www.mysticaquarium.org. Then select Fun Learning and then select Channel Sea and scroll down to "Pushing the Limits."

Historic Research

We did some research at the Mystic River Historical Society as part of our renovation planning and found this image of the 1850 House circa 1925. Not much has changed in 85 years. Today there are more trees on the property and the garage in back no longer exists. Our next area for renovation is the front porch. We were researching whether the front porch always had siding below the columns or if it was open at one point. We are on a mission locate older photos that will hopefully solve this mystery. Historic homes are an amazing quest.



"Did you know" facts about Mystic

People	Mystic, CT
Population	4,033
Pop. Density	1,205
Pop. Change	0.80%
Median Age	44.7
Households	1,827
Household Size	2.06
Male Population	47.84%
Female Population	52.16%
Married Population	52.51%
Single Population	47.49%

Data excerpted from www.fizber.com