

Nantucket native Thatcher Spring sports a quietly elegant look topped off by one of his company's silk ties.





The safari-themed series of ties features playful images of African animals such as giraffes and rhinos.

# *Tied to the Rock*

## A Young Nantucket Sailor Starts a Designer Neckwear Company

By Tom Keer

Visitors to the Cape and Islands look for ways to savor their memories long after the summer has faded away. But what happens when you grow up in a place like Nantucket? You take your show on the road.

Twenty-five-year-old Nantucket native Thatcher Spring, a former competitive sailor who spent a year as an intern for Senator Bill Frist, founded his Thatcher Spring, Inc. necktie business on the island in 2005. Sales of the designer-quality ties have skyrocketed, going from a start-up business to 75 retailers nationwide in one year. If you think a tie from Nantucket might be made from fishing nets or canvas sailcloth, think again. These ties are 100% silk, equally at home at an island garden party or in a Manhattan boardroom.

"All of my ties are printed in Como, Italy, the epicenter of the necktie world," says Spring. "They're made from the finest silk. Attention to detail is a critical focus for me. First, I went with a sleeker cut of 3 5/8 inches as opposed to the standard American width of 3 3/4. Then, I lined the tips with silk instead of

the standard nylon. Finally, my labels are tone-on-tone for a tasteful look, and they, too, are made of silk." Every Thatcher Spring tie is cut and sewn in New York City.

Spring offers his ties in two distinct styles. For the 'new traditional' series, Spring uses bold color and design to offer fresher, more contemporary paisleys, stripes, and polka dots. A whimsical series of prints features favorite past-times and animal designs, such as a new safari-themed series of rhinos, lions, elephants, hippos, and other African animals. Look closely at one of his ties to see if you can pick out the subtle thematic variations.

"Most people view Nantucket as a destination," says Spring, who donates a percentage of proceeds to various charities. "But when you grow up and live here, you look at the island as a starting point. My designs are inspired by freedom, the outdoors, and the brightness of life."

With more than 100 ties available for 2007, you can bet we'll see more Thatcher Spring apparel in the near future.