**MVSA February 2015 Newsletter**

**Annual Awards Ceremony and Luncheon**

On January 24th, more than 85 members and guests braved cold weather and a snow storm to attend the best kept winter secret of the year, our annual awards ceremony and lunch. President Don Scarpone and Treasurer Phil Horton welcomed guests and gave a state of the MVSA summary before electing officers and presenting the In-House Derby winners with their awards. With the exception of George Moran who is stepping down as club secretary, all other officers have agreed to serve another term. Don Scarpone will continue to serve as our president, Ralph Peckham and Peter Johnson were re-elected as vice presidents and Phil Horton will continue as treasurer. Don Scarpone said he is still looking for someone to step forward as secretary.

TTOR Superintendent Chris Kennedy was the speaker for the event and gave us an update on the state of the beaches and prospects of beach closures for the coming year. He referred to the narrowing Norton Point breach, which is rapidly reaching a point where it will close, as “the closing”.

With regard to OSV permits, he said the Trustees have no plans to increase fees this year and when asked about the possibility of issuing daily permits on Chappy, he said the program was tried two years ago but was not very successful. He said he would be willing to revisit the issue again this year.

Mr. Kennedy also expressed concern about the increase in the number of dog complaints and late night parties, particularly on Norton Point, and said he has increased staffing to deal with both issues. “We are trying to get control over parties on the beach. “We’re not trying to block access to fishermen.” To that end Chris said MVSA members will continue to have post midnight access to Norton Point. Also, as in the past, a key to the winter gate at Long Point will also be made available to the MVSA.

Chris Kennedy introduced Chris Bruno who has recently been hired as the new Chappy superintendent. Mr. Bruno expressed his appreciation of the property and said he looks forward to meeting everyone on the beach. “It’s good to be here” he said. Chris Bruno is married to Caitlin Brock who is the Trustees southeast-region ecology assistant and part of the land trust’s shorebird management program. Chris and Caitlin have taken up residence in the Mytoi apartment over the maintenance garage.

Paula Sullivan and her kitchen crew of Barbara Rogers and Mary Ann Angelone set out the usual luncheon of salads, wings, pasta, chowder, shellfish, and dessert much of which was donated by members. Shellfish shuckers were Ralph Peckham, Win Crocker, Will Geresy, Dave Kolb and Dave Nash.

Kathi Pogoda and her crew of solicitors went over and above this year as they solicited more than $8,000 in merchandise from local merchants and members which was raffled off or placed in the silent auction. Kathi’s crew of solicitors included Paul Schultz, Bob Yapp, Janet Messineo, Jeff Sayre, Dave Kolb, Dave Nash, Jim Cornwell and Bob Lane. In addition to this year’s solicitors Kathi thanked Dave Brennan and Phil Upham for their many years of helping to solicit merchandise for the event.

For the last few years Mark Wrabel has put the arm on members in the form of the 50/50 $5.00 raffle. This year Mark braved the snowstorm and travelled from Windsor CT. to again run this raffle which generated $350 to the club’s treasury.

Winners of reels in the random In-House Derby drawing for any member that placed first, second or third in the monthly contest were Jim Cornwell, Ralph Peckham and Dave Nash.

The MVSA would like to acknowledge and thank the following merchants and individuals that made a donation to our annual fundraiser and helped contribute to the success of the Martha’s Vineyard Surfcasters Association.

**Larry’s Bait and Tackle Coop’s Bait and Tackle**

**Dick’s Bait and Tackle Vineyard Propane and Oil**

**Murdick’s Fudge The Mansion House**

**Island Entertainment Tristan Isreal**

**MV Derby Committee Cape Air**

**Your Market Summer Shades**

**Boneyard Surf Shop Cronig’s Market**

**Little House Café Brickman’s**

**E.C. Cottle Copper Wok**

**The Granite Sun Dog**

**Jardin Mahoney Rocco’s Pizzeria**

**SBS Rockfish**

**Claudia’s Entertainment Cinema’s**

**Edgartown Marine Chappy Ferry**

**The Square Rigger Lucky Hanks**

**Al’s Package Store Dock Street Diner**

**Isola Restaurant Donaroma’s**

**Edgartown Books Stop & Shop Edgartown**

**Espresso Love ` Edgartown Meat & Fish**

**Lauging Bear Clothing Good Dog Goods**

**Linda Jean’s Restaurant Philip’s Hardware**

**Offshore Ale Company Allison Shaw**

**DaRosa’s Cottage City**

**West Marine Rainy Day Gift Shop**

**Vineyard Cash & Carry Mardell’s**

**Stop & Shop Vineyard Haven Menemsha Blues**

**Shirley’s True Value Hardware Martha’s Vineyard Shipyard**

**The Trustees of Reservations HInkley/Ace Hardware**

**Edgartown Pizza Shop Vineyard Home Center**

**Vineyard Auto Supply The Wharf Pub**

**Soingne Vineyard Cloths**

**The Black Dog Tavern LeRoux Home Center**

**Waterside Market The Green Room**

**RM Packer Bryn Walker**

**Moonstone Jewlers Morrice Florist**

**Leslie’s Drug Store Woodland Variety & Grill**

**Vineyard Electronics**

***MEMBERS***

**Peter Johnson/Roberts Lures Janet Messineo/Island Taxidermy**

**Bob & Brenda Beal Jim Mullen**

**Bob & Fran Clay Ron Domurat**

**Chris Dryer Family Ed Lepore**

**Louis Paciello Dave & Robin Nash**

**Don Scarpone Kathi Pogoda**

**Mark Wrabel Bob Lane**

**February Meeting**

At our January meeting, President Scarpone introduced and welcomed new members, Linda Mott Smith, Cosmo Creanga and Paul Cotton and then laid out plans for the upcoming MVSA club year. The March and April meetings will be held at the MV Rod & Gun Club on the first Tuesday of the month beginning at 7:00 PM. As has become customary, pizza will be served.

If you missed the February meeting, you missed one of the best speakers we ever had. Our own Cooper Gilkes turned the clock back for forty five minutes and awed us with stories of fishing on Martha’s Vineyard in years past the likes of which we will probably never see again.

Coop said he started fishing with his grandfather at age six. He said they would fish the Big Bridge using conventional rods and reels spooled with linen line. He described catching mostly all squeteague (weakfish) and a *few* stripers. As he got older he says pretty much all he did was fish, fish and fish some more. He told about often getting dropped off at night at a beach somewhere and getting picked up the next morning. He told tales of driving from Long Beach (near the area of where the painted house is now) all the way around Gay Head to Lobsterville looking for big fish. He said they actually looked for

and fully expected to catch 50 lb. fish every time they went fishing. He spoke of fishing for big stripers right in the Katama surf using fresh sea clams for bait and he recalled a night when he and some friends scored fish up to 53 lbs.. He described another night at Metcalf’s Hole using 20 lb. test line when they broke off every fish they hooked. He said they re-spooled with 30 lb. test the next day and went back and landed 30-40 lb. fish on almost every cast.

He described another experience at the Big Bridge when he and his wife trapped four adult bunker while dragging a net for smaller bait. He said he put the bunker on a rod and Lela caught three large bass to 30lbs. before the late Art Winters chided him into trying one himself. Using a small trout rod spooled with six pound test, he hooked a fish which he fought for forty five minutes that on two occasions took him down to the knot and up to his neck in deep water, before finally subduing it. The fish weighed 49 lbs.,15 ounces.

Finally, in what he described as the last showing of big striped bass on the Vineyard, he talked about the infamous 1981 Columbus Day Blitz near Tisbury Pond when big fish had a school of bunker pinned along the beach for the entire day from early in the morning right up until it got dark. He said his smallest fish that day was 28 lbs. and his largest 50.1 lbs.. Not even big enough to win a daily Derby pin.

As with a lot of anglers that fished back then, Coop wrapped it up by lamenting the current state of striped bass fishing. Most will say that they thought that kind of fishing would never end. Coop said if they knew then what we know now, things might have been different. As many of us know, Coop has is a staunch advocate for the conservation of striped bass and said they are to beautiful not to protect and save. He says he feels sorry for the younger generations of anglers that will never experience the kind of fishing he did. He went on to say he thought the 1983 moratorium and subsequent protection of the Young of Year class of 1982 was a good thing and he fully expected the good fishing to return. He says “we had them back but they (the regulators) just blew it”.

**March Meeting**

The March meeting will feature member Jim Fraser who will present a demonstration of the steps involved in making his hard plastic lures. Jim will have a video as well as photos and examples and a list of references for materials. In addition, Jim will present everyone in attendance with a ready to fish plug. This is going to be great meeting.

**Used Tackle Sale and Swap**

New this year will be a used tackle swap and sale which will be held at the April meeting. More info will follow but members are encouraged to sell and/or swap any used tackle they might want to get rid of. A small donation to the club of the individual proceeds is encouraged.

**Make Your Own Lure**

Also new this year will be a ***Make Your Own Lure*** fishing contest that will be held at either the May or June meeting on East Beach (TBA). Prizes will be awarded to the members whose home crafted lure catches the first, most, and biggest fish. Members are limited only by their creativity and imagination when it comes to building a lure but President Scarpone says he will personally inspect all lures beforehand and no alterations of existing lures will be accepted. This event should be a lot of fun and could grow in years to come.

**Summer picnic**

The annual MVSA summer picnic and get together will be held on July 11 at Bend in the Road Beach beginning at 4:00 PM. Details to follow.

**VCS Beach Clean-Up**

Also, the MVSA will once again participate in the MV Conservation Society Annual Beach Clean-up that will be held on April 11. As in the past, members will meet in the parking lot at the left fork at 10:00 AM. Trash bags will be provided but participants are advised to bring their own gloves.

**Island Cup Fishing Challenge**

The Nantucket Anglers Club has fifteen men and three women signed up for the 2015 Island Cup Fishing Challenge which will be held on Nantucket the weekend of June 19-June 21. In addition to our regular MVSA participants, the club is looking for three women to match-up against the Nantucket women. Questions or sign-ups can be forwarded to Victor Colantonio at [v.colantonio@gmail.com](mailto:v.colantonio@gmail.com) or Don Scarpone at [donaldscarpone@yahoo.com](mailto:donaldscarpone@yahoo.com) or call Don at 508-627-1269.

**Beach Report**

On February 21st Chris Kennedy sent along the following update on the state of our beaches.

The Chappy and Norton Point Beaches have been pretty much closed for OSV traffic since the January 27th blizzard which dropped 18" of snow on the beaches and brought sustained 40 mph winds out of the north for several hours.  At the Elbow, one of the two Phinney chimney's toppled onto the beach during the storm but surprisingly the beaches held up well.  The issue preventing beach access are the persistent snow drifts which fill the trail depressions.  It appears as if the surface of the trail may be covered by only an inch or two of snow.  However, vehicles venturing onto the surface of the snow quickly discover that, in fact, they've driven into several feet of snow which has collected in the trail. Subsequent snowfalls have only exacerbated the situation with more drifting snow.

The Norton Point Breach is slowly moving towards Wasque Point.  Several recent photos show the tip of Norton Point has moved within a hundred feet of Wasque Point.  Woods Hole Oceanographer Steve Elgar tells us *"it is possible for the inlet to open\ and close often. There’s a lot of water going through there.  As it lengthens and shallows, friction gets more important and water slows down, and eventually cannot transport enough sand to stay open."*So, it appears that the opening is truly closing.

The recent slate of snowstorms have certainly confused a number of sea ducks who we have found dazed and confused sitting on land far removed from open water.  We have been collecting these sea birds and bringing them to the closest open water where they are able to begin diving and feeding again.  Strange days!



**Calendar**

March Meeting, 7:00 PM, Tuesday March 3, 2015. MV Rod & Gun Club. Speaker Jim Fraser, making plastic lures. Pizza [donaldscarpone@yahoo.com](mailto:donaldscarpone@yahoo.com), 508-627-1269

April Meeting, 7:00 PM, Tuesday, April 7, 2015. MV Rod & Gun Club. Used Tackle Swap & Sale. Pizza

[donaldscarpone@yahoo.com](mailto:donaldscarpone@yahoo.com), 508-627-1269

Vineyard Conservation Society Annual Beach Clean-Up, 10:00 11:00 AM, Saturday April 11, 2015, Left Fork, South Beach. Dave Nash, 508-627-4987, [oystercatcher@verizon.net](mailto:oystercatcher@verizon.net)

May Meeting, Site and Time TBA

June Meeting, Tuesday June 2, 7:00PM. Site and Time TBA

Island Cup Fishing Challenge-Nantucket. June 19 –June 21. Victor Colantonio, [v.colantonio@gmail.com](mailto:v.colantonio@gmail.com), or [donaldscarpone@yahoo.com](mailto:donaldscarpone@yahoo.com) at 508-627-1269.

MVSA Annual Summer Picnic, 4:00 PM, July 11, 2015, Bend in the Road Beach. Don Scarpone, 508-627-1269, [donaldscarpone@yahoo.com](mailto:donaldscarpone@yahoo.com) .

70th Annual MV Striped Bass & Bluefish Derby, 12:01 AM, Sept. 13, 2015 thru 10:00 PM, October 17, 2015.