

## Balon, David R (David)

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**From:** Robert C. Lane [robert\_lane@fc.mv.k12.ma.us]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 19, 2007 4:40 PM  
**To:** jeff@flyfishingthevineyard.com; phil.cronin@capawock.com; RD\_BJR@msn.com; paulasully@yahoo.com; rclay@claycars.com; itwas@adelphia.net; otiscop@bcn.net; cwindram@saltwaterflies.com; domf@capecod.net; DOGFISHBAR@aol.com; Robert Yapp; info@macommclean.com; gar900@hotmail.com; John Fiorito; John Custer; philasis@earthlink.net; Bonitoed22@aol.com; jpuranker@jpuwoodcarver.com; petenronna@bigfoot.com; gsmcpa@aol.com; tedbread@aol.com; thor@fastdial.net; thorf@csa.bu.edu; dbb@rivint.com; mvchip@gmail.com; Mike Tinus; nelson@mvtimes.com; Mlovewell@mvgazette.com; arniezie@adelphia.net; caliper@gis.net; DRHOOKLENOX@aol.com; hortonn@comcast.net; captain.john@theislandangler.com; fishingmv@earthlink.net; kkukolich@gis.net; sdemel@capecod.net; blindley@.com; claminjan@aol.com; ; royhott@vineyard.net; frankpellegring@yahoo.com; contact@drdavidgleason.com; jkim@msn.com; epmv@adelphia.net; stanwood@tiac.net; eaglepadre@yahoo.com; Matthew Malowski; wlawre3760@aol.com; g.mirando@verizon.net; g.mirando@verizon.net; kenb44@aol.com; jsdarabi@aol.com; josephdart@comcast.net; dianejack@attbi.com; stan\_rome@yahoo.com; littlebigbarr@aol.com; sjcraig@adelphia.net; mohrmvy@aol.com; mwrabel@megahits.com; dukester@waynesmithphoto.com; michaelrandrews@hotmail.com; winnyc67891@comcast.net; cahodg@aol.com; robertsluresmv@earthlink.net; douglas.keeler@verizon.net; dvadsign@gis.net; bcklash101@aol.com; dktimour@snet.net; efwessel@aol.com; tannerlyn@aol.com; chappy7@charter.net; jabajo@charter.net; papuzzo@snet.net; chapnwitt@aol.com; surfat1@hotmail.com; mbardeen@aol.com; mseeger@lr.net; gems6910@msn.com; rmdcpa@msn.com; rjlane48@earthlink.net; Robert C. Lane; sherm@mvmansionhouse.com; jdrhend@garden.net; keith@synergyonline.com; t\_hegerty@yahoo.com; jhkky@cs.com; pptoomey@aol.com; jdripick@hotmail.com; zahariades@sbcglobal.net; jennings@kx3.com; gorcutt@vineyard.net; tkowal28@cs.com; Balon, David R (David); jim@corridon.com; jimjoycecornwell@msn.com; winemac7@aol.com; paperfly1@aol.com; kdrehwing@optonline.net; dvadsign@gis.net; jwhenderson@comcast.net; Wasquewill@aol.com; steve@larrystackle.com; FHVC@aol.com; basicpatrick@aol.com; andkeenan@aol.com; jeff canha; grandmasterben\_lapierre@hotmail.com; mpo370@aol.com; dnunes@mindspring.com; jimjoycecornwell@msn.com; sjcraig@adelphia.net; cunniffe1@adelphia.net; keepvine@aol.com; MikeWMcDonald@aol.com; hans513@hotmail.com; islandbobcat@yahoo.com; Paul Dulac; jblake@nesmw.com; jackblake55@earthlink.net; mitcgoff@aol.com]mitcgoff@aol.com.Émitcgoff@aol.com.mitcgoff@aol.com; gone4blues@yahoo.com; pgs@progress.com; clois20313@aol.com; thicket07@aol.com; rigelblu@aol.com; wendell@frontiernet.net; vcolantonio@comcast.net; john@johnpiekos.com; b\_cooney1234@yahoo.com; berinielelectric@comcast.net; holligras@aol.com; dls1093@aol.com; badams1975@yahoo.com; fishstickscharters@comcast.net; wilsonilkerr@gmail.com; jaroslavkral@aol.com  
**Subject:** March Fishin' Times

Hi folks, hard copy will be in the mail soon. Bob L

The Fishin' Times

All the news that's fish, we'll print!

The newsletter of the Martha's Vineyard Surfcasters Association

Volume XVI, Issue 2

March, 2007

"Ö.to encourage the sport of surfcasting; to gather for entertainment and good fellowship; to promote and uphold sound conservation practices and laws, and to see that these laws are properly carried out by members; to further good sportsmanship; and to seek and protect public access to fishing areas on Martha's Vineyard. " A. Spofford, 1989

March 2007 President's Message

March is here and the signs are there that tell us spring is right around the corner. The days are noticeably longer, the sun is stronger and the Red Sox are playing in

Florida. As a bonus, Daylight Savings Time started early this year to help the onset of Spring Fever! After a mild start to this winter we endured some very cold temperatures over the past few months. It actually stayed cold long enough to provide some good ice fishing, unlike last year. I saw a number of people out on Seth's Pond, but never got out there myself. No fishing getaways were in the cards for me either so I'm chomping at the bit to wet a line! By the time this newsletter is out, we'll be only a month away from the return of the schoolies. I can't wait to feel that hit from the first striper of the year! Watching that fish's scales glisten in the light before you release it is special. It will mark the start of another season of fishing memories here on the Vineyard.

The return of the herring and osprey also remind us another event filled season for the MVSA is almost upon us. It all starts in April when we meet at Left Fork on Earth Day for the annual beach cleanup. Each year we have the largest group participating in this Island wide event. I'm sure this year will be no exception. With any luck the sun will be out and we won't have to endure the cold, wind and rainstorm that we did last year. By the time we have our Annual Summer Picnic in July and hold the Chappy Shark Tournament at the end of that month, the weather is guaranteed to be nicer!

This past January we held our Annual Awards Banquet and once again it was a raging success. I would like to thank the dedicated members that do an unbelievable job of organizing this event. From planning the menu to collecting raffle prizes, it takes a lot of effort to put it all together. We continue to be very fortunate to have such great support from local as well as non-local merchants and businesses. Without their generous donations our fund raising success would not be possible. The money we raise allows us to continue to support the groups we have over the years. We are also looking for other ways to give back to our community so any new ideas are welcomed. At the February meeting a new idea was presented and a sub-committee was formed to look into it. They will explore the possibility of contributing to a scholarship for MVRHS students. This idea was brought to the club's attention by one of our members and reaffirms our commitment to our community.

I'm excited to work with everyone again towards the goal of having another safe and successful season for the MVSA. Good luck to all of you in the 2007 season!

Tight Lines,  
Jeff Sayre

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#### Awards Ceremony & Banquet

More than 100 MVSA members and guests attended the recent MVSA Annual Banquet and Awards Ceremony held at the Old Whaling Church in Edgartown. Guest speaker was Sarah Pautzke Masters Candidate from the University of Massachusetts Wildlife and Fisheries Program who gave a presentation on her striped bass research particularly that of Martha the striper who was adopted by the MVSA last summer.

This very popular event celebrates the accomplishments of the top MVSA anglers by awarding handsome plaques for outstanding achievement during the past year. Plaques were presented to twenty-five members in a number of different categories in both the open and senior divisions. In addition, this year a Janet Messineo sculpture was presented to outgoing Vice President Walter Lison in appreciation for his years of outstanding volunteer service to the MVSA.

The event also serves as our primary fundraiser for the year. A near record \$5700 was raised and will be donated back to the community through the MV Rod & Gun Club Trout Derby, The Boys & Girls Club, the MV Big Brothers/Big Sisters program, the Red Stocking Fund and the MVRHS Fishing Club.

Once again prize chairman Chuck Hodgkinson and his dedicated crew of solicitors collected more than \$10,000 in raffle and silent auction items.

The highlights this year included a beautiful framed giclee photograph of the beloved SSA vessel the Islander, donated by photographer and member Gary Mirando. Other silent auction items included a NE Patriots mini-helmet autographed by Tom Brady and a Red Sox baseball autographed by Josh Beckett.

Special thanks to all of our volunteers particularly Chuck Hodgkinson and food chairman Paula Sullivan who organized the kitchen crew again this year. Also, Striper Cup Angler of the Year and proprietor of Among the Flowers Cafe Pat Toomey who prepared the terrific luncheon buffet.

Additional volunteers included Ron & Barbara Domurat, Jeff & Dawn Sayre.

Phil Cronin, Walter Lison, Gary Mirando, Bob Lane, Janet Messineo, Phil & Alice Upham, Tom & Mary Kowalski, Will & Sue Geresy, Tom, Conor & Liam Smith, the Digiantommaso family, Bob Ozcycz, Dan Geary, Don MacGillivray, Dave Nash, Phil Henning, Paul Schultz, Brian Adams, Ernie Baraccinni, Bob Lane and Ed Pierce. Thanks also to Mark Wrabel and Jim Jackson who again organized the very popular "50/50 cookie jar" raffle. This year Mark not only organized the profitable raffle but won the cookie jar and \$285. He promptly donated the jar back to the raffle and \$185 back to the MVSA!

Thank you Mark!!!

We are extremely grateful to more than 100 merchants who donated to our raffle and auction. Please patronize these merchants and thank them for their generosity. Without them we would not be able to continue our support of Island charities and events.

#### RESTAURANTS/FOOD

David Ryan's	Chicama Vineyards	Wharf Pub
Your Market	Chilmark Chocolates	Soigne Restaurant
The Net Result	Vineyard Cash & Carry	Zapotec Cafe
Linda Jean's	The Captain's Table	PJ's Cafe
Our Market	Cronig's Market	Dock Street Diner
Stop & Shop	Al's Package Store	Depot Market
Edgartown Pizza Shoppe	Among The Flowers CafÈ	Mocha Motts
Season's Eatery & Pub	Dippin Donuts	Square Rigger
Louis' Tisbury Eatery & Take Out	Off Shore Ale Company	Fresh Pasta Shoppe

#### CLOTHING & ACCESSORIES

Soft As A Grape	Dr. David Finkelstein	Laughing Bear
Above Ground Records	Claudia's	Summer Shades
Sun Dog	Black Dog	Charlie "73" Cinto
Vineyard Cleaners	Trader Fred's	Grunden's USA
Island Taxidermy	Vineyard Vines	

#### FISHING EQUIPMENT

Roberts Lures	Larry's Tackle Shop	Bobby Blanchard
Charlie Harner	Point Jude Lures	Charlie Stula Family
MV Derby Committee	Spofford Lures	Natalie Family
Walter Lison	Line Stretcher Tackle Co.	Woody Lures
Trustees of Reservations	Bonito Ed LePore	Cabela's
Gary Mirando	AquaSkinz	Bob & Fran Clay
Acme Tackle Company	Coop's Bait & Tackle	

#### HARDWARE & SUPPLIES

DaRosa's	E.C. Cottle's	Vineyard Propane
Herring Creek Marine	Vineyard Home Center	Phillips Hardware
Airport Mobile	Granite Ace Hardware	Jardin Mahoney
NAPA Auto Parts	Martha's Vineyard Shipyard	SBS The Grain Store
Vineyard Auto Supply	Hinkley Ace Hardware	R.M. Packer Co.
Shirley's Hardware		

#### SERVICES

Cape Air/Nantucket Airlines	Chet & Marie Loiselle	The Boston Red Sox
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Island Entertainment  
Chappy Ferry  
Foxwoods Resort & Casino  
The New England Patriots

Laptev Productions  
Bob & Fran Clay  
Mansion House  
Arabella

Entertainment Cinemas  
Clarion Hotel  
Mohegan Sun Casino

ARTWORK

Gary Mirando  
Charts  
Nicholas Thayer Ceramics  
Gallery  
Phil Craig  
Strong Woodworking  
Larry's Tackle Shop

Guy Harvey Publishing  
  
Tristan Israel  
  
Dan & Versie Geary  
Ron & Barbara Domurat

Cap't. Seagull Nautical  
  
Edgartown Scrimshaw  
  
Alison Shaw  
The MV Derby Committee

HOMEGOODS

Mardells  
Brickman's  
MV Gift Certificate.com  
Marston Clough

Rainy Day Gift Shop  
MV Gift Certificate.com  
The Toy Box  
Ron & Barbara Domurat

Island Electronics/Radio Shack  
LeRoux Home Center  
Craft Works

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Short Casts

Last Issue-If you have not paid your 2007 dues, this will be the last newsletter you will receive. Please renew your membership now!!!! Our 2007 dues schedule is: Families \$35, Individual \$25, Senior, Individual (over 65) \$15, Senior Family \$25, Junior (under 16) \$10.

April Meeting-Hold open the date of April 10 to attend the next MVSA meeting at the MV Rod & Gun Club. Guest speakers will be Dr. Martha Mather and Holly Frank, from the University of Massachusetts Wildlife & Fisheries Conservation Program who will make a presentation on the restoration of river herring (blueback & alewives) in MA. Pizza will be served beginning at 6:30PM.

We Did it Again-In our last issue we published a list of the 2006 MVSB&BF Derby accomplishments of our members but we inadvertently omitted the name of Conor Smith who won a major award for placing second in the Junior Shore Bluefish Division with a 9.05lb fish. Sorry Conor!!!

American Littoral Society-The MVSA has joined the American Littoral Society and has purchased twenty fish tagging kits that are available to members free of charge on a first come-first serve basis.

The MVSA joins forty clubs currently participating in the ALS tagging program. More than 1100 individual anglers from Maine to New Mexico are enrolled in the tagging program and tag more than 25,000 fish annually. ALS encourages the tagging of most species of fish including striped bass, winter and summer flounder, bluefish, sea bass and scup. All the information gathered from retrieved tags becomes part of the National Marine Fisheries Service master-tagging database in Woods Hole and is available to scientists worldwide. Taggers are notified upon recapture of a tagged fish including information on where and when it was captured as well as other pertinent data.

The species most often is striped bass with more than 17,000 annually. Summer flounder are second with 2500, and bluefish third at 1300.

The longest striped bass return was out more than eleven years and eight months and the fish had grown from 13"to 45" .

The longest bluefish return was out four years to the day. It was tagged in MA and

recaptured in New York.

The longest summer flounder was out eight years and one day and grew from 11" to 26". (6 ? lbs)

A tagging kit may be obtained by contacting Ron Domurat: [ [mailto:rd\\_bjr@msn.com](mailto:rd_bjr@msn.com) ] rd\_bjr@msn.com or 508-627-4956. The kit contain a tagging needle, instructions, and ten tags and return data cards.

Additional information may be obtained at: [ <http://www.littoralsociety.org> ] www.littoralsociety.org

OSV Permit Fees-The Trustees of the Reservations have set the following OSV permit fees for the 2007 season.

	Cape Poge/Wasque	Norton Point
Resident	\$180	\$ 60
Non-Resident	\$180	\$100
	Combined (If Purchased at the Same Time)	
Resident	\$225	
Non-Resident	\$265	

Earth Day Beach Clean-Up-The Surfcasters will again take on South Beach as part of our contribution to the island-wide earth day beach clean-up sponsored by the Vineyard Conservation Society. This year the event will occur on earth day, April 21 from 10:00 a.m. to noon. We will start at left fork and clean around the parking areas and the Norton Point trails.

(Let's hope Norton Point is open again by then!). If enough people show up we will send some over to right fork and try to clean that as well.

Last year a few Surfcasters went down to that beach but could have used more help. Let's hope that the trend of rain on Earth Day reverses itself.

Seven out of the last nine have been rain and wind affairs.

Beach Report-The good news is that the winter weather was kind to areas like East Beach including Leland's Point, Arruda's, the Jetties, and the trail under the Poge Lighthouse. Unfortunately, the same can't be said for Wasque and Norton Point which have taken a beating. For the time being at least, Wasque Point as we've known it, is gone. What was a beach last year and a wide area for parking, has turned into a concave bowl with the surf line almost back to the MVSA line recycling box. The rip appears to be re-positioning itself and has moved about 150 yards to the west as the beach seems to be building out in that area. As it stands right now, unless things change dramatically, it doesn't appear likely that we will have OSV access to the area.

Portions of the Norton Point Beach trail were also completely washed out during the winter and recently were temporarily closed to OSV traffic pending approval from the Edgartown Conservation Commission to cut a new trail thru the dunes.

Edgartown Dredge Committee-Paul Schultz and Dave Nash have recently been appointed to the Edgartown Dredge committee. Their terms expire in April 2008. They join five other local residents who work to help the town employee, Lynne Fraker, handle the job of securing permits for various dredging projects. Edgartown has purchased its' own dredge in an effort to both keep down costs and provide added flexibility to direct priorities to where the committee feels they should go. Paul and Dave have only attended a few meetings so far and are working to get up to speed on the very large number of pending projects. The dredge crew has recently finished up a project left over from last year down at the Katama boat launch ramp and the channel that leads up to it. The cold snap delayed work on the Eel Pond area but they have now finished up the boat ramp at that location as well as some work further into the pond. Next will be the channel that leads out of Eel Pond.

A project just heading into the preliminary permitting stages is a major beach nourishment effort for State Beach using materials from the much needed dredging of Sengekontacket pond. Future editions of the newsletter will feature updates on both developing dredge projects as well as on-going dredge operations.

Tisbury Dredge Update-Dave Nash is also tracking activities of the Tisbury dredge committee so that the Surfcasters can participate as a stakeholder whenever we can support a dredge project. Earlier this year, we reported on the Tashmoo dredge study and that is still proceeding under a grant awarded by the Seaport Council. The only new development is with the North groin dredging in Vineyard Haven Harbor. Preliminary discussions with the State DEP to determine the scope of that work are underway.

SSA Pier Update-At our annual banquet in January, over 70 signatures were collected for a petition that we have now presented to the SSA. It will be entered into the record at their March 13 off-island board meeting. For those who did not see the petition, we are asking the Steamship Authority to work with us on efforts to complete a public access pier at the SSA pier in Oak Bluffs. We continue to maintain a dialogue with Marc Hanover, the Vineyard's SSA representative as well as local Oak Bluffs officials in an effort to keep interest going on this project. Marc did report to us that the funding for reconstruction of that pier is a bit mired in the politics of a new administration in Boston. If all goes well and we receive some support this time from the SSA we will submit another application next December for Community Preservation Act funds for this project. Of course, we are still hopeful that somewhere along the way the SSA will come up with the funding for this pier.

Committees Formed at February Monthly Meeting-Two committees have been set up to do some brainstorming on a couple of initiatives that came up. One involves the formation of a committee to look into different ways that we could support local education either through an award at the high school science fair or some form of scholarship support. The discussion at the monthly meeting seemed to generally support the concept that it might be time for us to branch out a bit and get involved in more direct support to some high school students. The committee is being chaired by Janet Messineo and its members include Will Geresy, Dave Nash, John Dropick, Tom Smith & Bob Clay.

A second committee was formed to look into the possibility of putting together an entry for the Agricultural fair this coming summer. One of the categories for the Ag Fair would allow us to submit an exhibit as a non-profit organization. Janet Messineo is also chairing this committee and participants include Paula Sullivan & Ron Domurat

Salt Water License-A year ago we wrote about the possibility of a salt-water license being imposed upon MA anglers. It now appears as though that possibility is moving closer to a reality as the recent re-authorization of the Magnuson Stevens Sustainable Fisheries Act calls for all states to enact a fee based registry of all anglers by the year 2011. Presently the only states without a pay to fish fee are those from Delaware to Maine, but Connecticut lawmakers have already set the wheels in motion for a salt-water license in that state. Anglers opposed to the idea are concerned that the funds generated by the fee would disappear into a states general fund rather than be channeled into the DEP to be used toward fisheries programs and research. Those in favor of the idea say the license will in fact provide for those funds. In addition, proponents argue that a state based national registry will also provide a large constituency and evidence that recreational fishing is a driving economic force. A recent MVSA web-site poll had 41% of respondents favoring the idea and 59% opposed.

The American Eel-or two years the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has been evaluating the status of the American eel as a threatened or endangered species under the Endangered Species Act. On January 30, 2007, the Service announced that the protection of the American eel is not warranted under the Endangered Species Act. In their study, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service did find that the eel population has declined in some areas but it was not in present danger from extinction now or in the foreseeable future. Eel populations are impacted by dams, power plants, over fishing and the harvesting of "glass eels" and elvers as gourmet food.

Stay tuned, as in the near future there will be some activity in both the U.S. and Canada with regard to rulemaking for managing the eel fishery.

To read more on the subject:

[ <http://www.gulfofmaine.org/times/summer2005/eel.html>

] <http://www.gulfofmaine.org/times/summer2005/eel.html>

[  
<http://www.fws.gov/news/NewsReleases/showNews.cfm?newsId=73C49E66-CA1E-2EC5-22EBD499912EC3E3>

]http://www.fws.gov/news/NewsReleases/showNews.cfm?newsId=73C49E66-  
CA1E-2EC5-22EBD499912EC3E3

[ <http://www.stripersurf.com/eels.html>

]http://www.stripersurf.com/eels.html

[http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/subjects/fish/286019/286074/?version=1&lang=\\_e](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/subjects/fish/286019/286074/?version=1&lang=_e)

Catch & Release Mortality-Biologists from the Northeast Fishery Center and the New York Dept. of Environmental Conservation recently conducted a study to determine the contribution of catch & release mortality in the Hudson River north of the Kingston-Rhinecliff Bridge. The study included volunteer anglers who caught striped bass, which were then transferred to holding tanks. Upon capture each fish was tagged and data recorded that included the hook type and bait used as well as the actual physical location of the hook. The fish were held for five days with visual mortalities removed and recorded daily. After the five-day period all remaining fish were removed and released back to the river. The overall estimates of hooking mortality for all hook types was 14%. However, the mortality rate for J-hooks was 16% compared to only 5% for fish caught with circle hooks. Necropsies conducted on dead fish suggested that hook related damage to the esophagus and surrounding organs including the heart, led to hemorrhaging and was probably the most likely cause of death.

The Striper Cup-The MVSA has again registered as a club in the On the Water Striper Cup contest after the Magazine made changes that should help level the playing field for shore anglers in the club competition. Beginning this year for the club competition only, the weight of a surf caught striped bass will be multiplied by 1.3lbs. In addition, only the two heaviest fish per angler will count toward club division standings. Entrants must register in either the boat or shore division and can only weigh in fish for the division they registered in. Last season the MVSA finished tenth out of the thirty competing clubs with all surf caught fish.

In an unrelated change this year The Striper Cup will feature a catch & release division. Fish caught and released must be weighed in the field, the length & girth recorded, and a formula applied to determine the weight. Catch & release division fish are eligible for "pounder pins" only and will not count toward the club competition and/or personal points or trophies.

MVSA members will receive a \$5 discount off their \$35 entry fee. All entrants receive a tournament t-shirt, a commemorative pin, an invitation to the Striper Fest Awards Ceremony and a chance to win a North Coast 21' hard top. A complete list of the rules and additional information and entry forms are available at the OTW web-site [ <http://www.onthewater.com> ][www.onthewater.com](http://www.onthewater.com), Dick's Bait & Tackle or Larry's Tackle Shop. The contest runs from May 1, 2007 thru September 6, 2007.

Early Season Fishing-Dust off the rods, oil the reels and sharpen your hooks. After a long winter the salt water fishing season is almost upon us and most likely migrating fish are already well on their way to Island waters. Last year the first migrating striper was caught by Russ Lawrence on April 11, and the first keeper striper by Ken Beebe on May 6. Ron Domurat caught the first bluefish on May 8.

Vineyard Conservation Society-Do you want an easy way to keep up on things "environmental" on Martha's Vineyard? Subscribe to the weekly Almanac of the Vineyard Conservation Society at [ <http://www.almanac.vcsmv.org> ][www.almanac.vcsmv.org](http://www.almanac.vcsmv.org). It doesn't cost anything, they don't send you any e-mails and you can cancel it if it is not interesting enough for you. It is a very simple way to keep up with what's happening by providing links to newspaper articles and special reports.

Plant Beach Grass-Want to plant beach grass to help save a beach? Friends of Sengekontacket is looking for volunteers to help with their beach grass planting on Sunday March 24. This will be in the area of the groins by Little Bridge. They are running two shifts from 9 to noon and noon to 3 and will have both kneeling and standing type plantings to do. If interested, contact Debby Lewis at 508-693-1599 or e-mail at [ <mailto:luvmvi@aol.com> ][luvmvi@aol.com](mailto:luvmvi@aol.com).

One of the things that happens on the Vineyard during the off-season is that various projects and initiatives get a lot more attention. Like the Island Plan process currently underway, a preliminary study of some of our great ponds and water bodies is also nearing completion. The Massachusetts Estuaries Project (MEP for short) is a government-funded evaluation of our coastal water bodies. The report on Edgartown Great Pond is among the first that will be released followed by Lagoon Pond then Tashmoo. Once these studies come out, we will all have a better understanding of the environmental health of these various water bodies so that efforts to protect water quality can then be more precisely developed and implemented. Those who fish and shellfish are not only the most involved but also most likely to notice the impacts of pollution on the resources we so enjoy.

The MEP study will provide, in part, information on water movement through each pond, it will outline the existing watershed and identify potential impacts from present and future development, will evaluate the condition of existing eel grass growth and present models identifying the Nitrogen loading levels. Certain information from these reports is already suspected. Development is having a significant impact on these water bodies. Among the more serious contributors are; run-off from lawns, roads and parking lots, erosion and run-off from farms, excessive use of fertilizers, golf courses, and atmospheric deposition (acid rain). But perhaps the most significant source of problems is the Title 5 septic system. Although effective at controlling bacteria and pathogens in sewage, Title 5 systems do little to reduce nitrogen and it is excessive nitrogen that causes algae blooms in ponds which then interferes with eelgrass and fish populations. A recent meeting, covered by the Gazette, addressed the unique problems facing the Ocean Heights area on Sengekontacket Pond. This pond suffers from all the above problems and unless a plan is developed to deal with existing failed sewage systems and future development, it will continue to deteriorate. Unfortunately, one of the solutions, sewerage, also brings the opportunity for more dense development which is probably not an option favored by existing residents.

Solving these problems will not be easy or inexpensive so everyone should try to stay informed so they will be able to participate in and support the changes necessary to protect our ponds.

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Island Plan

By: Dave Nash

The Martha's Vineyard Commission is sponsoring the development of an all-island plan to help guide the Vineyard in making decisions about it's future. If you have not heard about this effort or are looking to participate, go the Martha's Vineyard Commission website ([www.mvcommission.org](http://www.mvcommission.org)) and click on the link to the Island Plan. The planning process is addressing multiple subject areas each with sub-groups focusing on more specific issues. The "Natural Environment" committee for example is dealing with the sub-topics of Working Landscapes, Biodiversity, Character and Recreation. On Feb. 13, a meeting of the Recreation sub-group took place. Surfcasters Janet Messineo, John Dropick, Will Geresy and Dave Nash took part in this meeting as a follow-up to their involvement at other meetings of this workgroup. As with the previous meeting we were able to give strong support to recreational fishing and shellfishing opportunities on the island. Since these are such a strong element of life on Martha's Vineyard we seem to be making some headway with the committee supporting considerations of public access and land protection that would increase access to the shoreline. In fact, one of the recommendations now coming out of this committee would focus on initiating a repeal of the Massachusetts law that restricts access. As an alternative, the suggestion has been made that regulation of our shoreline resources adopt the laws in effect in New York State at the time that the Vineyard became a part of Massachusetts.

We are seeing strong support for protection and increase in shoreline access opportunities in a variety of the working groups formed to develop the island plan. They all seem to recognize that the way of life out here may be more severely threatened that we realize and there need to be land use controls developed and implemented to both protect what we have left and to attempt to "turn back the clock" so that public access to all of the



resources the Vineyard has to offer can be improved.

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TTOR Outlook for 2007  
By: Chris Kennedy

It seems hard to believe that we are approaching the one-year anniversary of the signing of the Norton Point Beach Memorandum of Agreement between Dukes County and The Trustees of Reservations. As I sit here and think back on the past year, I realize it never would have happened if not for the actions of the Martha's Vineyard Surfcasters Association!

I still remember our initial meeting in my office a year earlier. Ron Domurat, Walter Lison, Jeff Sayre and Charlie Barr laid out a persuasive case for The Trustees to help the County manage Norton Point Beach. There were a lot of hurdles to overcome. We're not a government agency—how could we pay for management of this new beach? How could we provide basic beach access while still adhering to federal and state shorebird protection laws? Why would the County even consider turning over management to us? Lots of sizeable questions, but what I didn't consider was the tenacity of the Surfcasters! The MVSA was the catalyst that made the difference. They pushed, they dragged, they cajoled and they made it possible for all parties to come to the table to begin the dialogue. Meetings with the Town of Edgartown, the County Manager and The Trustees led to eventual agreement that we could make this work. The rest is history, as they say.

Well, the 2006 beach season was a challenging one, with more than a few interesting moments. Shorebirds nested en masse in the center of Norton Point Beach forcing the vehicle closure of this center section of the beach. This happened just days before the fishing vessel Midnight Rider came to rest there as well. However, we worked hard to ensure that we were able to maintain access to the two ends of Norton Point throughout most of the summer. In the end, we fledged nine Piping plover chicks and thirty Least tern chicks. That was quite a success and we did it together. The fishermen were great supporters of our shorebird protection efforts and you should take pride in your accomplishments over the past year!

So, what does 2007 look like? Well, as I write this, Norton Point Beach is closed to vehicle access due to severe coastal erosion in several locations. It's one of the hazards of managing a barrier beach. We are confident that the Town of Edgartown and The Trustees will find alternative OSV trails in the next few weeks and the trail system will reopen soon. The Norton Point air station will reopen as soon as we can be assured that the danger of freezing is past, and the spring ritual of posting shorebird areas will begin in late March and April.

On Chappaquiddick permit fees are undergoing a small change at the encouragement of the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The Service originally provided the funds which allowed the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries to purchase the Leland Beach. The Trustees of Reservations manages the Leland Beach for the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries, and as part of that agreement, the USFWS has the right to review our OSV fees. The USFWS was very critical of the fee differential between island residents and non-residents, so last year we were directed to begin a phased-in elimination of that differential. That means for

2007 the Chappaquiddick OSV permits will cost \$180 for everyone (last year's permits were \$160 for island residents and \$180 for non-residents).

Norton Point Beach permits will remain at \$60 for island residents and \$100 for non-residents. If you purchase both permits at the same time there is a \$15 discount offered off the total cost.

We're anticipating a great year in 2007 and expect to see many of our rangers from last year returning for this new season. Hopefully, we will see lots of clear skies, lots of fish and no stranded fishing vessels on our beaches.

Chris Kennedy is Island Regional Director for The Trustees of The Reservations

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How to Stop Pinhole Leaks in Neoprene Waders

By: Will Geresy

Crazy Glue<sup>®</sup> is the secret weapon to stop small leaks in your neoprene waders. The hardest part is finding the leak. I use a shop vac for both locating and stopping the leak.

1. If you can't visibly locate the hole follow this step. Make a soap solution of dish detergent and water and fill an old spray bottle. Set your shop vac up to exhaust through the hose and stick the hose into your waders. Gather up the waders around the exhaust hose with your hands to inflate the waders a bit. BE CAREFUL! Not too tight or you might explode your waders. Spray the outside of your waders where you think the leak is with the soap solution. When you see the telltale bubbles mark the spot with a waterproof felt marker.

2. Dry the area where the hole is with a paper towel. Next set the shop vac up to vacuum and place the nozzle on the inside of your waders opposite the hole. Then turn on the vac and dab the hole from the outside with a small drop of Crazy Glue or equivalent (cyanoacrylate adhesive). Don't overdo the application of adhesive, just a drop or two. You will see the adhesive wick into the hole. Stop the shop vac and do not flood the area with more glue. The vacuum will pull the adhesive into the hole where it will set up as fast as it will on your fingers if you get messy. Follow the directions on the adhesive container to protect yourself. This stuff can create havoc if you get sloppy.

Unlike with other wader patch materials, a repair with this type of glue is immediately good to go.

This repair is easy and fast. You can even do a repair on the beach without the help of the shop vac but my experience is that the repair is more permanent if you suck the glue into the hole with the shop vac. This gives the adhesive the most surface area to bond to.

I've tried this repair on my breathable waders and do not advise it. The adhesive is not very flexible when cured and tends to create even bigger problems later on.

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FLYROD BLUEFISH - PERSONAL WORLD RECORD BROKEN  
News Flash, Dateline May 16,2000, Janet Messineo

Although she truly believes that the fly rod has many defects in it's design, such as, it's too long, it's too flimsy, the butt is much too short, the handle on the reel is ridiculously small and it cracks your knuckles when your fish takes a run...to name just a few problems, she has bravely hung in and tried to overcome these drawbacks.

After 5 years of struggles and sacrificing many flies, she landed her first Bluefish in 1999. The thrill of landing a 14" fish was overwhelming and caused her to dance in the surf under the stars. On May 16, 2000, on her beach trip to stalk linesiders, She bumped into Chip Bergeron. Her tendonitis was aching from catching Bluefish in the rip the preceding Saturday on her 11 foot graphite rod. So, with a hook-less Spofford Ballistic Missile she was enjoying teasing fish toward the beach to bring them within Chip's target zone. Once Chip landed a couple of beautiful Blues he coaxed her into trying her hand at FLYFISHING. At first she was reluctant but he was persistent They traded the 11 foot graphite surf rod (her machine gun) and his long, skinny, whippy fly rod. He strapped his basket around her waist. She was ready! After a few attempts of stripping that fly through charging fish, she hooked up. Without much grace and absolutely no technique, with her expert guru at her elbow and a long walk down the beach, finally, she landed her catch. She learned alot that day. She was so thrilled that she threw the fish in her cooler to be weighed in at Coop's later that evening.

Her fish weighed 5.94 LBS. She has a bittersweet feeling about this fish. She thought that at the rate she was going in her fly-fishing adventures, it would take at least another 10 years to catch a fish of this magnitude. Now she thinks it could take many decades before she can break this record. She does realize that she can focus on the stripers because her world record with this species is 23" to date.

Janet and Chip parted at this point. Janet continued on her journey and managed to catch and release three nice keeper Bass in the Wasque rip. The largest being 34". She had

a fun and successful evening unwinding from a hard day at work.

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MVSA Calendar or: What's On The Line?

April 10, MVSA Monthly Meeting (Pizza Night) 7:00PM, Martha's Vineyard Rod & Gun Club, "Restoration of River Herring in MA" Dr. Martha Mather and Holly Frank, University of Massachusetts Wildlife & Fisheries Division.

June 12, MVSA Monthly Meeting  
7:00PM, Site TBA

July 7, Annual MVSA Summer Picnic  
5:00PM, Bend In The Road Beach, Edgartown

July 21-August 5  
Fifth Annual Members Only Chappaquiddick Shark Tournament

September 9-October 13, 62nd Martha's Vineyard Striped Bass & Bluefish Derby

November 13, MVSA Monthly Meeting  
7:00PM, Martha's Vineyard Rod & Gun Club

December 11, MVSA Monthly Meeting (Pizza Night) 7:00PM, Martha's Vineyard Rod & Gun Club

January 26, 2008, Annual MVSA Awards Ceremony, Banquet and Awesome Raffle 12:00PM, Old Whaling Church, Edgartown

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BE A WINNER IN THE 2007 MVSA IN-HOUSE DERBY

The rules are easy and the challenge among members is a lot of fun whether you're fishing from shore or boat for blues, bass, bonito, or albies.

HOW TO ENTER -----

You must be a paid in full member before catching and weighing in any fish.

1. Use the enclosed weigh-in slip as a master and make as many copies as you need.
2. When you catch a fish you want to enter, bring the fish to any island tackle shop and have the weigher sign and date the slip.
3. To be eligible for consideration fish must conform to the minimum sizes below:

Striped bass 32"

Bluefish 22"

Bonito 21"

False Albacore 25"

4. Boundaries: To be eligible, a fish must be caught in or around the waters of Martha's Vineyard. MVSB & BF Derby Boundaries will prevail.

5. Mail the slip to:

Paul Schultz  
PO Box 1245  
Edgartown, MA 02539

Entry forms must be received before the fifth of the following month.

During the fall MV Bass & Bluefish Derby, there is no need to fill out our weigh-in slip; simply mail in the official MV Derby weigh-in slip or a copy of it to Paul.

DIVISIONS AND AWARDS

Divisions are the following: Junior (under 16), Adult (16 through 64), Senior (65 & up). The categories for the four species are as follows: All Tackle Shore, All Tackle Boat, Fly Rod Shore, Fly Rod Boat, and our special Release Award for both All Tackle and Fly Rod. Awards are made for the heaviest fish in each of the four categories. In addition, awards are also given for the longest fish in each of the four categories that was caught and then released. Record the overall length of your released fish, not the weight, in the weight section of the slip and be sure to mark it clearly: 'RELEASE'

Finally don't forget the Grand Slam category that was added a couple of years back. Plaques will be awarded to the boat & shore anglers who, over the course of the season, weigh in the heaviest aggregate (total weight) of all four eligible species. Anglers must catch all of their fish in the division entered. (i.e. all boat or all shore)

GOOD LUCK AND HAVE FUN!

To download a copy of the MVSA Weigh In Slip....go to our website at [www.mvsurfcasters.org](http://www.mvsurfcasters.org)