



Martha's Vineyard Surfcasters Association

P.O. Box 3053 Edgartown, MA 02539

www.mvsurfcasters.org

October 2018 Newsletter

Hello Surfcasters,

What happened? How is it that the Derby is over, that the 2018 fishing season is coming to a close, and I'm still wishing it was mid-September and time could stand still on a perfect summer day with my feet in the sand on Wasque and my line in the water with a fat Albie screaming toward Nantucket?

There's a lot in this newsletter: tributes to Ed Jerome, Derby Wrap-up, Derby photos, our up-to-date calendar (page 11), lots of pictures, an article on Island streams by Nelson Sigelman (page 12), and more pictures.

Speaking of pictures, we'd love to share your fishing photos with the group. If you've got some fun photographed memories, please email me at: lisa@lisabelcastro.com. I'd love to print them here in our newsletter.

Also, the photo contest is still going on. See info below on page 9.

We start back up with our monthly meetings on Monday, November 4. Be there!

If you've entered OctoberFish, I hope to see your name on the board. Tight lines!

Lisa



Chris Tucelli's fishing partner, Mr. Ed, with his catch of the day.

MVSA Angler of the Year Standings

As of September 30

1. Cosmo Creanga	11
2. Ralph Peckham	8
3. Dave Kolb	6
4. Peter Sliwkowski	6
5. Phil Horton	6
6. Jonathan Cornwell	5
7. Tony Rezendes	5
8. John Piekos	5
9. Brad Holley	5
10. Kathi Pogoda	5
11. Dave Balon	4
12. Ed Amaral	4
13. Cody Creanga	4
14. Jim Cornwell	3
15. Dave Nash	3
16. Peter Johnson	3
17. Lisa Belcastro	3
18. Don Scarpone	1
19. Jason Patterson	1



Cosmo, with Hunter, accepting top honors for the Shore Grand Slam at the Derby awards ceremony. Well done, Cosmo! You rock!!

For the first time since Ron Domurat won a Shore Grand Slam in 2007, MVSA members earned Shore Grand Slams.

	<u>Striped Bass</u>	<u>Bluefish</u>	<u>False Albacore</u>	<u>Bonito</u>	
Cosmo Creanga	30.90 lbs.	6.24 lbs.	6.82 lbs.	4.01 lbs.	47.97 lbs.
Lisa Belcastro	11.55 lbs.	4.24 lbs.	6.78 lbs.	4.24 lbs.	26.46 lbs.

2018 MVSA Member Derby Accomplishments



Overall Division Leaders

All Tackle Shore Grand Slam, 1st, Cosmin Creanga
Flyrod Shore Grand Slam, 1st Steph Pond
Flyrod Shore Striped Bass, 1st, Brian McCarty
Flyrod Shore Bonito, 1st, Steph Pond
Junior All Tackle Shore Striped Bass, 1st Leah Wareing
Flyrod Shore Bluefish, 2nd, Steph Pond
All Tackle Shore Striped Bass, 3rd, Cosmin Creanga
All Tackle Shore Bluefish, 3rd, Don Scarpone
Flyrod Shore Striped Bass, 3rd, Steph Pond

Shore Team Competition

First, Cosmin Creanga, Don Scarpone (Woodpeckers)

Senior Grand Leader

Ray Metcalf Memorial Award, Shore Striped Bass, Dave Nash

Special Awards

Shore Top Rod Award, Cosmin Creanga
Roberto Germani Catch & Release Award: Fly, Dave Nash
David Finklestein Award, Shore Team Winners, Cosmin Creanga, Don Scarpone
Thomas Furino Memorial Award, Jonathan Cornwell, Jim Cornwell Jr.
Robert "Huff" Langley Memorial Award, Don Scarpone

Grand Slam

Shore - Cosmin Creanga, Lisa Belcastro
Shore Flyrod - Steph Pond
Boat - Chuck Wendel (Boat)

Hat Trick

Cosmin Creanga
Ralph Peckham

Weekly Awards

Three - Steph Pond
One - Leah Wareing, John Piekos, Brian McCarty, Dave Balon, Cosmin Creanga, Lisa Belcastro

Daily Awards

Eight – Cosmin Creanga
Four – Steph Pond, Ralph Peckham
Three – Bob Bottary, Chuck Wendel, Dave Balon, Peter Sliwkowski, Patrick Paquette, Cody Creanga
Two – Jack Livingston, John Schillinger, Sol Watson, John O'Connell, Lisa Belcastro, Brian McCarty, Kelly O'Connell
One – Don Scarpone, Leah Wareing, Dave Kolb, John Piekos, Pete Gingras, Jason Patterson, Chantale Duguay, Brenda Beal, Mark Wrabel, Keith McArt, Paul Cormier, Dave Nash, Tony Rezendes, Ron Domurat



Derby Memories



In what might have been the closest, last-minute, hold-your-breath victory, President Don and Cosmo held onto their lead for first place in the Shore Team competition. It was a “shore thing” for The Woodpeckers, who tallied up 55.87 pounds over second place Finja’s with 55.10 pounds.



David Nash won the Senior Shore Bass division with his 25.79-pound striper. Way to go, Dave!



Ron McKee won the Shore Bass
Roberto Germani Catch and Release
Award. Sweet!



Brenda Gerosa-Beal weighs in her
Bluefish to get a daily pin. Yes!!



Joyce and Jim Cornwall. The Cornwalls -- Jim,
Jonathan, and Jim Jr. won the David Furino
Memorial Award for family members who
show determination and sportsmanship.
Wonderful people, and so deserved!



The Derby is about a lot more than chasing big fish and earning pins. MVSA relaxes between casts: Friends, Food, Fun, and, of course, a little Fishing.



Happy Birthday, Karen!

Tributes to Ed Jerome

When I asked MVSA members to send in a memory of Ed Jerome if they wanted to share, I was prepared to read some funny, some amazing, and some heartwarming stories. This one had me sobbing. Grab your tissues:

Hi Lisa, I wanted to pass on a story about Ed Jerome (and Coop). In 2010 my friends' son, Brendan, was diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumor with the prognosis being very poor. He was 7 at the time and a very avid fisherman. I've been fishing the Derby for years and thought it would be great to have him come down and see if I could get him on a boat to catch a Derby winner. He was in a wheelchair at that point so we really needed a boat to get him to the fish. Ed Jerome and Coop stepped in and jumped at the opportunity to take him out on *Wayfarer*. Brendan ended up catching the 2nd place overall mini junior boat bluefish that day. It was one of the best days of his shortened life. He came back down a few days later to go up on the stage and get his awards at the Derby ceremony. A few months later Brendan passed away but his family will always remember that day and the kindness that Ed and Coop showed to him. Truly a testament to Ed and what the Derby has meant to so many people over the years.

Lastly, I attached the eulogy that I gave at the service for Brendan. Looking back now I wish I had sent Ed a copy. **For just a few short hours Ed made a little boy forget all about his problems.** Thanks, Kevin Lord

In the World of a Fisherman – *shortened for our newsletter*

Brendan was a fanatical fisherman, as was I when I was his age. Brendan and I were kindred spirits separated by only 38 short years. Fishing is an addiction and Brendan was hooked very early on in life.

In Brendan's world names like Kevin Van Dam, Gene Ellison, **Ed Jerome**, Ben McCormick and **Cooper Gilkes** are as big as Tom Brady, David Ortiz, Tim Thomas, and Paul Pierce.

The Super Bowl of fishing in New England is an event called the **Martha's Vineyard Striped Bass and Bluefish Derby**.

I was lucky enough to have Brendan escort me to the Derby last year. A couple of Derby legends, **Coop Gilkes** and **Ed Jerome**, took us out on their boat to attempt to chase down a Derby winner, something I have been trying to do for the last 30 years of my life with only very limited success. Within 5 minutes of Brendan dropping his line into the water he caught a huge 12.61# bluefish, Yes Ms. Boyle, he did miss school that day, but he did learn about weighing fish using 2 decimal places. This monster blue ended up being the first-place bluefish for the day (beating 2nd place by a whopping 4 pounds) and the 2nd place overall Derby bluefish for his age group. First place daily prize is a gold bluefish pin and Brendan's name was written on the top of the daily Derby leader board and the Derby web site for 24 hrs. Second prize overall meant Brendan's name was immortalized on the Derby leader board in the Derby's Edgartown headquarters and the Derby web site for the entire year, and it's still there today. He got to go up on stage at the awards ceremony where hundreds of people cheered him on as he collected his many prizes, and most importantly in the fishing world--he has bragging rights for eternity!



Cooper Gilkes, Brendan Duhaime, Ed Jerome

While I contemplated the thousands of hours I have put into catching a Derby winner over my life, I realized that Brendan's fight with that huge fish was only overshadowed by the fight for his life. He gave it everything he had and he did it with a smile on his face and a will to keep going and catch another big one. The sign of a true fisherman, never giving up, whether it's bad weather, the wrong tide, or a life-threatening disease.

It was no surprise to me when I found out that Brendan was out fishing last Friday night at a local pond, where he was a regular fixture. It's ironic that he would catch fish at this pond every time he went fishing there, but Friday night was the first time he caught nothing. It seems like it was God's way of telling him it was time to move on to a bigger and better fishing hole. A fishing hole where every fish is a Derby winner, and you never have to stop fishing.

Nelson Sigelman's tribute to Ed:

If a community is lucky, it has an Ed Jerome. A "go to" person.

Ed Jerome of Edgartown died suddenly Tuesday, September 18. The news rippled across Martha's Vineyard in small Island waves: word-of-mouth, Facebook posts, conversation in coffee shops.

The retired Edgartown School principal and longtime — forever, it seemed — president of the nonprofit Martha's Vineyard Striped Bass and Bluefish Derby, was a great guy.

I knew him as a fisherman first, then as a member of the Derby committee, and later when I worked as a news reporter, as a respected Island educator. His death was sad news for the entire Island and extended fishing community. No matter the organization, Ed's was always the firm guiding hand.

He led the Edgartown School for 26 years. When he retired he figured he'd go fishing and play golf. But when a sudden leadership void occurred in the regional school district, he stepped up to be interim superintendent. Later, he served as interim principal at the West Tisbury School. That was in addition to numerous committees and boards. I never heard a disparaging word about him, which is an accomplishment in its own right — we do like to gossip.

But it was as president of the Derby committee, which runs the nonprofit, where his ability to referee schoolyard battles carried the day. I served on the committee for ten years. Trying to reach consensus in a room full of fishermen would test the patience of any man or woman.

Ed was a consensus builder. He was a listener. Above all, he was a gentleman. If there was an issue, the first question was: "Have you talked to Ed?"

Ed and I did not always agree on Derby policy, but I always appreciated his thoughtful approach, and I valued our conversations about fishing, Island politics, and life in general.

Ed's contributions to the Derby, now a fixture of Island life, cannot be overstated. This small fishing tournament, conceived in 1946 as a way to attract visitors and bolster the off-season economy, is celebrating its 73rd year. It annually attracts more than 3,000 entrants over five weeks in September and October.

Think about it. If you consider the effects of all that fishing on spouses and employers, short of a power outage, no other event has a greater impact on Vineyard life. Far more than a fishing contest, it is has become an annual reunion of individuals bound in spirit.

On the practical side, last year the Derby awarded \$37,500 in scholarships to Island high school graduates. Ed was the driving force behind the scholarship program.

Some time ago Ed suffered a near fatal heart attack. Quick work in the Martha's Vineyard Hospital emergency room saved his life.

Ed bounced back. He ran a successful charter fishing boat that allowed him to do what he enjoyed — talk to people and take them fishing. And he spent the cold, damp Island winters in Florida, working on his seemingly ever-present tan.

Many years ago, I was walking through the Port Authority Bus Terminal in New York City. An elderly man collapsed after stepping off an escalator. A group of teens thought it was funny. How sad, I thought, to have drawn his last breath among strangers. The image stayed with me. I value the closeness of our small, caring community.

Ed will be missed. But it is comforting to know that he died on the Island that he loved, doing what he loved — shellfishing in Sengekontacket Pond in Edgartown with fishermen nearby. And it was Derby time. I can tell you when the current will begin to ebb off Wasque Point and the rip will form that attracts Derby winning blues and striped bass. But the tide of life is not predictable. It is drawn by different forces than those that affect the sea that surrounds our Island. And one day it falls for each of us. Fair tides, Ed Jerome.

Don't Forget

1. The **MVSA** reusable shopping bags are still available. They cost \$15 each. President Don will have them at our monthly meetings. They make great Christmas gifts.
2. **The photo contest** is still open. Email Don your pictures – NO fish/catch pictures. Get creative – sunsets with fishing rods, beach scenes with our beach buggies, you get the idea. Don will submit the photos anonymously to our three judges: Barbara Domurat, Kathi Pogoda, and Michelle Scarpone. The winning picture will be framed. And, we might do a calendar. Let's get those photos in.
Email pictures to: Donaldscarpone@yahoo.com
3. We have a **MVSA Facebook Page**. It is private, for group notices. If you'd like to join the group, please send President Don an email, letting Don know you want to be in the club's FB group, and then send a friend request via FB and he will add you.



BE A WINNER IN THE MVSA IN-HOUSE DERBY

MVSA In-House Derby - This is a fun and loosely run tournament based solely on the honor system and club members are eligible to win prizes by submitting entries for one or more of the eligible species (striped bass, bluefish, false albacore, bonito). Fish can be kept but catch and release is strongly encouraged. To determine the weight, the fish can be weighed or the weight can be estimated by using the following formula. (length x the girth squared, divided by 800=total weight). It's surprisingly accurate.

HOW TO ENTER -----

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

Use the weigh-in slip on the MVSA website and make as many copies as you need.

When you catch a fish you want to enter, use the calculation above or weigh on a digital fishing scale.

To be eligible for consideration, your fish must conform to the minimum sizes below:

Striped bass 32"

Bluefish 22"

Bonito 21"

False Albacore 25"

Boundaries: To be eligible, a fish must be caught in or around the waters of Martha's Vineyard, within MVSB & BF Derby Boundaries. *(Fish caught during the trip to Cuttyhunk are not eligible for any prizes)*

DIVISION AND AWARDS

A monthly pin will be awarded to the member that submits an entry for the largest fish in each species. All monthly entries will participate in a "luck of the draw" raffle to win a Ron McKee custom lure. All first, second and third place monthly winners will also be entered into a year-end raffle to win new fishing reels. There will be three raffles, one each for all first, second and third place entries.

A special prize will also be awarded to the member who catches and releases the largest striped bass over 20 lbs.

The 'Angler of the Year' will be determined by a point system based on monthly entries. Five points will be awarded for a first-place monthly winner, three for second, and one for third. The member who finishes the year with the most points will be declared the '**Angler of the Year**'.

Entries: Must be received within seven days after the catch and may be submitted by **email** to Dave Balon at: WeighSlip@mvsurfcasters.org . If you do not have an email account, mail your entry to: MVSA In-House Derby, P.O. Box 3053, Edgartown, MA 02539

Slips must be postmarked within seven days of the date of catch. During the 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.

In-House Derby entry forms may be obtained on the MVSA web-site www.mvsurfcasters.org (Then go to the Club tab, 2018 In-House Derby) The Official Weigh-In Slip link is under the MVSA Derby Info section.

Calendar of Events

November 5 -- Monthly Meeting – 7 PM

We're meeting at the Rod and Gun Club in Edgartown. Pizza will be served at 7 PM. The meeting will get underway at 7:30.

In November, Don will be handing out Striper Maniac plugs to all who entered a fish in October. Don will also be giving out pins for largest fish caught. We're going to discuss upcoming events and plan what we'd like to do this winter. Hope to see you there!



December 3 -- Monthly Meeting – 7 PM

We're meeting at the Rod and Gun Club in Edgartown. Pizza will be served at 7 PM. The meeting will get underway at 7:30.

January 7 -- Monthly Meeting – 7 PM

We're meeting at the Rod and Gun Club in Edgartown. Pizza will be served at 7 PM. The meeting will get underway at 7:30.

January ?? -- MVSA Annual Banquet

Date to be decided at our November meeting.



March 4 -- Monthly Meeting – 7 PM

We're meeting at the Rod and Gun Club in Edgartown. Pizza will be served at 7 PM. The meeting will get underway at 7:30.

April 1 -- Monthly Meeting – 7 PM

We're meeting at the Rod and Gun Club in Edgartown. Pizza will be served at 7 PM. The meeting will get underway at 7:30.

May 6 -- Monthly Meeting – 7 PM

We're meeting at the Rod and Gun Club in Edgartown. Pizza will be served at 7 PM. The meeting will get underway at 7:30.

Down By the River

by Nelson Sigelman

They may not be majestic, or even rolling, but the Vineyard’s formerly hard-working streams are a vital link in the Island’s ecosystem.

In the fall of 1832, Dr. Jerome V.C. Smith was crossing Mill Brook in West Tisbury when a disturbance in the water caught his attention. A passionate angler, Smith was stunned by the number of brook trout he saw and recalled the experience in his book, *Natural History of the Fishes of Massachusetts*, published the following year.

“In no place, however, do we remember to have seen them in such abundance as in Duke’s county, upon Martha’s Vineyard,” he wrote. “It was here in the month of November last, and of course in their spawning time, while returning home from a ramble among the heaths and hills of Chilmark and Tisbury, that crossing the principal brook of the island, our attention was attracted towards the agitated state of the waters, and never do we recollect so fully to have realized the expression of its being ‘alive with fish,’ as on this occasion.”

Today the Vineyard is closely associated with the scenic ocean beaches that lie at the heart of the Island’s vacation destination appeal. Less visible, and possessing a subtle charm distinct from the crashing surf, are the brooks and streams that originate as small rivulets in sun-dappled Island woodlands and swamps and flow into ponds or the sea. The Island is home to some twelve such “rivers” and more than sixty ponds, which include kettle ponds, salt ponds, and man-made impoundments, according to an incomplete 2015 survey by the Martha’s Vineyard Commission (MVC), the Island’s regional planning and permitting agency.

While many of the smaller streams go largely unnoticed, man-made alterations to the water flow of Mill Brook, most notably Mill Pond, have been the focus of a long-running debate in West Tisbury that encompasses the natural, economic, and cultural history of the waterway.

In June, a specially appointed West Tisbury committee presented its forty-seven-page “Mill Brook Watershed Study Report and Recommendations” to a roomful of Island officials and residents. The report, the culmination of four years of meetings, data gathering, and hard work, is expected to form the basis of continuing study of Mill Brook and its associated 2,928-acre watershed, and provide a framework for future discussion – and perhaps action – to protect the brook.

Within these waterways, anglers may still find various native species of fish, including chain pickerel, bullhead, and perches. But it is the native brook trout, *Salvelinus fontinalis*, that is most closely associated with New England and the natural beauty of its streams. And it is they, according to the Massachusetts Audubon Society, that serve as “indicators of the location of relatively undisturbed environments.”

To finish reading the article, visit: <http://mvmagazine.com/news/2018/09/01/down-river>