

**Martha's Vineyard Surfcasters Association**  
**2007 January Newsletter**

**2007 Awards Banquet and Raffle**

Thanks to our volunteer solicitors the raffle drive is in full swing for this year's banquet. Last year, the support and generosity of 147 local and off island merchants donated almost \$10,000 worth of merchandise that was raffled off or placed in the silent auction. This generosity enabled us to collect over \$6,000 from raffle ticket sales and allowed us to support programs like the Boys & Girls Club, Big Brothers, Big Sisters and others. This year's raffle should be even better than last year's so be sure to mark January 27, 2007 on your calendar. For those members that are unable to attend this year's event, raffle tickets are included in this mailing and can be returned with your annual dues. If you would like to purchase additional tickets, please e-mail Chuck Hodgkinson at [cahodg@aol.com](mailto:cahodg@aol.com) with your mailing address and how many additional raffle books you would like to buy. ***Checks can be made out to the MVSA and returns mailed to, MVSA, PO Box 3053, Edgartown, MA 02539.***

Here is how it works:

Schoolies: 3 Tickets for \$5.00; Each ticket entered in drawings for "Schoolie" sized prizes.

Keepers: 2 Tickets for \$5.00; Each ticket entered in drawings for "Keeper" sized prizes.

Lunkers: 2 Tickets for \$10.00; Each ticket entered in drawings for guess what size prizes.

As in the past, we need "shuckers" to arrive early. We are also looking for our wonderful volunteer chefs to prepare appetizers and desserts.

#### Membership Dues

Your membership dues for 2007 are due upon receipt of this newsletter. Our membership fees remain unchanged from last year.

Family \$35  
Regular \$25  
Senior (Age 65 & Over) \$10  
Junior (16 & Under) \$10

Please make your checks out to the MVSA and return to: PO Box 3053, Edgartown MA 02539.

(Note-if you joined the organization for the first time within the last three months, the fee submitted will cover your 2007 dues).

#### Annual Election of Officers

Our annual election of officers will take place at the Awards Ceremony and Banquet on Jan 27, 2007. After many years of dedicated service, our good friend and Vice President Walter Lison is stepping down, but the remainder of our current slate has agreed to serve another term. Will Gersesy's name has been placed in nomination to replace Walter but additional names for any office may be also placed in nomination by contacting Jeff Sayre at 508-693-4841 or [jeff@flyfishingthevineyard.com](mailto:jeff@flyfishingthevineyard.com).

## Current Officers

<b>Jeff Sayre</b>	<b>President</b>
<b>Paul Schultz</b>	<b>Vice President</b>
<b>Will Geresy</b>	<b>Vice President</b>
<b>Ron Domurat</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>
<b>Bob Lane</b>	<b>Secretary</b>
<b>Paula Sullivan</b>	<b>Secretary</b>
<b>Phil Cronin</b>	<b>Program Chairman, Web-master</b>
<b>Chuck Hodgkinson</b>	<b>Prizes</b>
<b>Dave Nash</b>	<b>Action Committee Chairman</b>

## Surfcasters Excel in Derby

In what was considered by most to be tough fishing, MVSA members once again distinguished themselves in the 61<sup>st</sup> Annual MV Striped Bass and Bluefish Derby. Led by Ed Lepore who won the Top Rod Award and placed third in the competitive Boat Grand Slam Division, Surfcaster members garnered six major, thirteen weekly, more than ninety dailies, a number of special awards, and cleaned up on Mystery Prizes. At least forty members, or more than one quarter of our total membership, won an award of some kind. On October 4<sup>th</sup>, MVSA members won 11 of the 20 daily awards presented including all four shore striped bass pins.

Other major award winners were Phil Cronin who won the Flyrod Boat Bonito Division. Phil Horton placed second in the extremely difficult Shore Grand Slam Division (one of only two recorded). Phil was also the recipient of the Abe Williams Memorial Award for the first shore angler to achieve a Shore Grand Slam. Karen Kukolich placed second in the Boat False Albacore Division and Bob Clay was third in the Shore Bonito Division. For Clay and Cronin it was their second consecutive year on the award stage.

### *Weekly Awards:*

**Three:** Janet Messineo

**Two:** Karen Kukolich

**One:** Steve Baccelli, Tom Barlosky, Phil Cronin, Ron Domurat, Inku Sim, Lois Kelly Stout, Paula Sullivan, Conor Smith (Junior)

### *Daily Awards:*

**Eight:** Ed Lepore

**Six:** Steve Baccelli, Tom Barlosky

**Five:** Ed Amaral, Ron Domurat, Janet Messineo

**Four:** Keith McArt, Jim Cornwell, Chuck Wendel

**Three:** Chet Loiselle, Pat Paquette, Ralph Peckham, Peter Swilkowski, Bob Jacobs, Ed Jerome

**Two:** Will Geresy, Inku Sim, Conor Smith, Peter Hermann, Justin Smith

**One:** Ernie Baracchini, Pat Toomey, Phil Cronin, Tom Kieras, Jeff Sayre, Russ Lawrence, Frank Dougherty, Cooper Gilkes, Paul Schultz, Don MacGillivray, Lois Kelly Stout, Victor Colantonio, John Dropick, Win Crocker, Gary Mirando, Phil Horton, Dave Nash, Bob Clay, Matt Gamache, Liam Smith, Peter Hess.

## Short Casts

**Corrections**-In our last newsletter we published a list of past derby accomplishments of our members. Unfortunately, we inadvertently omitted the names and accomplishments of some members. They are:

<b>Al Premo</b>	1998 Arnold Spofford Award-Senior Boat Bonito. 2003 Howie Leonard Award-Senior Shore False Albacore
<b>George Gomez</b>	2005 George Pye Award-Senior Shore Bluefish 2005 Arnold Spofford Award-Senior Shore Bonito
<b>Lois Kelly Stout</b>	2005 Ray Metcalf Award-Senior Boat Striped Bass.
<b>Frank Dougherty</b>	2005 Howie Leonard Award-Senior Boat False Albacore.

*Our apologies to these deserving anglers. Our records have been corrected.*

**Angler of the Year-Congratulations to MVSA member Pat Toomey for winning the shore division Angler of the Year in the Striper Cup Contest sponsored by On the Water Magazine. Pat averaged 31.7 lbs for a five fish total of 158.5lbs and finished in front of more than 1000 entrants from New Jersey to Maine. Pat received a handsome trophy at the awards ceremony and Striper Fest held recently at the Harpoon Brewery in Boston.**

**As an organization, the MVSA finished a very respectable 10<sup>th</sup> out of a field of 30 club division entries. The MVSA averaged 30.4 lbs per fish for their ten fish limit. Toomey led the way entering fish of 38.2, 35.4, 33.2 and 31.1lbs. Other members entering fish were Phil Horton, 32.0lbs, Ron Domurat, 30.5 and 24.95lbs, Keith McArt 30.2lbs, Janet Messineo, 24.9lbs and Bob Jacobs, 24.6 lbs.**

**Octoberfish XIV -Congratulations also to Ron Domurat, Steve Baccelli and Pat Toomey for finishing in the top three in the Octoberfish contest run by Larry's Tackle Shop. Ron finished first in the false albacore division with a 9.69 lb fish. Steve was runner- up in the bonito division with a 9.31 lb fish and Pat's 22.70 lb striper was third in the striped bass division. The Octoberfish contest makes no distinction between shore and boat caught fish.**

**Young of Year Index**-The Maryland Division of Natural Resources reports that samplings from seine net draws throughout Chesapeake Bay indicates a down year for newly hatched striped bass. On average, draws netted only 4.3 fish, well below the fifty-three year average of 12.0 per draw. Last years YOY index was 17.3. Maryland DNR officials said a likely cause for the low number was a relatively dry spring that made it difficult for fish to find good spawning conditions. In addition, a low

water flow can allow eggs to sink to the bottom and get smothered. While it is normal for striped bass to have large swings from year to year, several straight years of poor reproduction is cause for alarm. Seventy five percent of the Atlantic Coast striped bass population spawns in the Chesapeake Bay.

***A Tough Derby-If you were among those who considered it to be a tough Derby, you were not alone. In response to an MVSA web-site question conducted during the event that asked how the Derby was going so far, 70% of respondents rated it as poor to downright miserable. Consider these statistics provided by Greg Skomal:***

Only 2302 fish were weighed in which was the lowest total since 2000 when only 2070 fish were weighed. By comparison, 2709 fish were weighed last year and 3106 in 2004 which was the highest total in the last seven years.

**Bonito**-This year 142 bonito were weighed in and only 10 were caught by shore anglers. (3 by MVSA members) The total was the lowest in seven years and considerably less than the most recent peak of 446 in 2000. Last year, 347 were caught.

**False Albacore**-As most of us know, the fishing for false albacore was way off this year. Only 107 were weighed in which was down considerably from last years total of 334 and well behind the 601 weighed in 2004. . The good news here is that slightly more than half (55) were caught by shore anglers and the average weight of all the albies weighed in was a very nice 9.2lbs per fish.

**Striped Bass**-The number of stripers weighed in was 689 which was slightly less than last years total of 692 but off of a seven year high of 813 in 2003. Of this year's total, 434 fish were caught by boat anglers and the average weight was 21.1 lbs. The average weight of the 255 fish caught by shore anglers was 16.8lbs.

**Bluefish**-There were 1364 bluefish weighed in which was up slightly from 2005 but down from their recent peak of 1505 in 2003. Of this years catch, only 321 were caught by shore anglers.

MVSA Braggin Board

Jenna Digiantomasso 19" Bluefish (first fish ever)

Tom Barlosky-38.08 Striped Bass

Lois Kelly Stout-35.30lb Striped Bass

Janet Messineo-12.26lb False Albacore  
32.35lb Striped Bass

Steve Baccelli-9.31 Bonito

Ed Lepore-31.64lb Striped Bass

Jeff Sayre-15lb False Albacore

## **Final In House Derby Standings**

*Open Division*

*Shore All Tackle*

Striped Bass

1. Pat Toomey 38.20 lbs
2. Phil Horton 32.00 lbs
3. Ron Domurat 30.50 lbs

Striped Bass Release

- Pat Toomey 43"  
Ron Domurat 41"

Bluefish

- Ralph Peckham 11.30 lbs  
Will Geresy 10.74 lbs  
Dave Balon 10.68 lbs

Bluefish Release

1. Ron Domurat 29"

False Albacore

- Janet Messineo 12.26 lbs  
John Piekos 10.05 lbs  
Ron Domurat 9.69 lbs

False Albacore Release

1. Paul Schultz 26"

Bonito

- Bob Clay 7.69 lbs  
Phil Horton 7.03 lbs

Shore Flyrod

Striped Bass Release

- Dave Nash 31 ¼"

False Albacore

- Will Geresy 8.87 lbs

False Albacore Release

1. Dave Nash 27"

Boat All Tackle

Striped Bass

1. Janet Messineo 32.35 lbs

Bluefish

- Russ Lawrence 10.98 lbs

Tom Smith 8.62 lbs

Bonito

1. Steve Baccelli 9.31lbs

False Albacore

1. Karen Kukolich 11.54 lbs

*Boat Flyrod*

Bonito

1. Phil Cronin 7.82 lbs

Senior Division

*Shore (All Tackle)*

Striped Bass

1. Jim Cornwell 28.32 lbs

2. Will Point 22.70 lbs

3. Jim Cornwell 20.32 lbs

Bluefish

1. Vince Frye 6.10 lbs

Bonito

1. Inku Sim 5.46 lbs

*Boat (All Tackle)*

Striped Bass

Lois Kelly Stout 35.30 lbs

Ed Lepore 31.64 lbs

Ed Amaral 25.06 lbs

Striped Bass Release

Ed Amaral 41 ½"

Ed Amaral 41"

Bluefish

Ed Lepore 12.33 lbs

Ed Amaral 11.34 lbs

Ed Amaral 11.17 lbs

Bluefish Boat Release

1. Ed Amaral 34"

Bonito

Ed Lepore 7.77 lbs

False Albacore

Ed Lepore 7.69 lbs

*Flyrod*

Shore Striped Bass Release

1. Ken Beebe 29 ½”

Boat Bluefish

Ed Lepore 5.69 lbs

Ed Amaral 4.38 lbs

*Junior Divison*

Shore All Tackle

Striped Bass Release\

**1. Conor Smith 19”**

Bluefish

Conor Smith 9.05 lbs

Bluefish Release

Conor Smith 22 ½”

Matthew Digiantommaso 19”

Jenna Digiantomasso 18”

Boat All Tackle

Striped Bass

Justin Smith 32.69lbs

Bluefish Boat

Liam Smith 10.74 lbs

Justin Smith 7.96 lbs

*All Tackle Shore Grand Slam*

Phil Horton 53.12lbs

*All Tackle Boat Grand Slam*

Ed Lepore 59.43lbs

*Abe Williams Memorial Award-Largest Shore Striped Bass-Pat Toomey 38.20lbs.*

**\*\* Note: Only the first place finishers will receive plaques.**

## **Public Access at the Oak Bluffs SSA Pier**

*Dave Nash*

The state of Massachusetts has approved the application by the SSA for reconstruction of the O.B. Pier. Fishing access was not mandated by the state and in separate discussions with us the SSA indicates they cannot budget for a public access dock. They did, however, say they would be willing to install/maintain a floating dock if it can be funded by other sources such as Community Preservation Act funds. In our discussions with Oak Bluffs town representatives, we found that their CPA people are supportive of this, as well as selectman Kerry Scott. We are reviewing an application package to see if it would be appropriate for the Surfcasters to actually file an application with the CPA committee in an effort to keep this project alive. This year's applications are due by 12/1. We have asked the SSA, through Mark Hanover, to assist with drawing specs and a description of the scope of the project. The SSA has estimated they would need \$150,000 to fund this project.

## **Herring Creek Restoration Project**

*Dave Nash*

We are continuing to monitor activity with respect to the Herring Creek restoration project. It was a slow summer for this effort as various plans and applications have been going back and forth between the Edgartown Ponds committee and the Dredge committee as they continue to define the scope of the project and its impact on Katama Bay, Edgartown Pond and Craxtucket pond. Like many other activities on the Vineyard, fall and winter are the times when the most progress is made on the planning end of these types of projects.

## **General Dredging Activities**

*Dave Nash*

As a result of contacts made as we follow the Herring Creek project, we are also following some of the various dredge projects going on throughout the island. We are currently a member of the Tisbury Dredge committee and have attended a couple of meetings. Planning for a comprehensive approach to problems at Tashmoo is underway. Their primary concerns include silting within the main channel, resurrecting a two-sided channel, and conducting an investigation of what may be a bedrock shelf near the south jetty at the pond entrance.

This fall some minor dredging is going on under previously received permits at Sengekontacket and in the back end of Katama bay.

The various committees seem to be welcoming our involvement since they can always use the support of stakeholder groups like us with interests in water quality, fishing and public access.

## **Island Plan Work Groups**

*Dave Nash*

A contingent of Surfcasters made an appearance at a recent *Island Plan* workgroup session. The goal was to be able to participate in the process of trying to plan the Island's future and to make those involved in this process aware of the Surfcasters and our mission. By participating in this effort we can seek to help promote recreational fishing related opportunities in addition to the other values and ideals we feel are important to life on Martha's Vineyard.

For those of you not necessarily following this, the Island Plan initiative is an effort being coordinated by the Martha's Vineyard Commission. It will consist of a two year effort to bring people together through forums and workgroups to begin to define the issues which will confront the Island over the next few decades and to develop a comprehensive plan which can be used by the MVC and local governments and really all of us, to perhaps gain a little control over our own destiny. Growth and development, build out, tourism, the economy and even our basic identity are going to be just some of the factors, which will have impacts on our future. This effort was started by drawing on a volunteer network to serve as a steering committee. These steering committee members in turn serve as advisors who will help to manage this process. Workgroups are now being formed to help identify and refine the issues in certain specific subject areas. These workgroups will come up with goals and eventually strategies to identify how those goals can be realized. The workgroups will be covering such issues as Natural Resources (the topic of this update), Water Quality, Housing, Livelihood and Commerce, Energy and Solid waste, Built Environment, Health and Education, Culture and History, Transportation and Governance. Much more information, including how you can get more involved is available on the MVC website, [www.mvcommission.org](http://www.mvcommission.org), or the Island Plan website, [www.islandplan.org](http://www.islandplan.org).

The workgroup, which met on November 20, was the Natural Resources Workgroup, which broke into four sessions covering Biodiversity, Character, and Recreation and Working landscapes. Janet Messineo, John Dropick and Will Geresy participated in the "Recreation" workgroup and were able to contribute both to the education of other workgroup members as well as to identify important goals for the protection of recreational fishing opportunities such as public access to beaches and fishing locations and the need to continue to highlight the efforts of groups such as TTOR. The concept of having a goal, which would seek to turn back the clock to reestablish access opportunities was brought to the group. Dave Nash attended the "Character" workgroup and also added public access as one of the attributes that defines this island along with the system of trails and publicly available lands. Our natural resources shouldn't be on the other side of a "no trespassing" sign. That group also identified many of the summer events that help define the island such as the Ag Fair and the Oak Bluffs fireworks but we also added the MV Derby as an important element that helps define who we are. We also talked about issues that maybe don't define us too well like trophy houses and high end health club facilities and maybe even the shark tournament (the ESPN version, not ours!).

These workgroups will distribute their recommendations for future action. In the months ahead the other workgroups will meet. It is very easy to get involved and have your opinions heard. If you are not up to attending meetings, they also have an on-going survey, which you can participate in.

## **My Most Memorable Fishing Experience**

In our last issue, Phil Cronin related a once in a lifetime fishing experience he shared with his son Jay and Jeff Sayre. We thought it would be a good idea to start a series that relates the fishing experiences of our members. If you have a story to tell about a fishing experience you have had, please consider sharing it with the rest of our members. It may be a story about the one that got away, a trip with your son or daughter or the catch of a lifetime. Whatever it is, our members would love to hear about it. Please e-mail it to Ron Domurat [rd\\_bjr@msn.com](mailto:rd_bjr@msn.com) or mail it to PO Box 3053, Edgartown, MA 02539.

### **An Army of Stripers**

*By: Ron Domurat*

My most memorable fishing experience took place at the Edgartown Pond opening on June 11, 1998. I can remember it like it was yesterday. A couple of days earlier I had heard that the pond had been opened and had fished it the day before with a friend of mine from CT. We each had a pretty good morning with a half dozen stripers in the mid teen to low twenty pound range along with a similar number of nice sized bluefish from eight to ten pounds. All the fish were caught using 2oz. blue/white Danny's. That afternoon I called Walter Lison and asked him if he would like to join me at the opening the next morning. He agreed and we decided to meet at the right fork parking lot at 4:00AM.

We met as planned and arrived at the opening just as the cloudless sky started to lighten. The outflow from the pond was still running strong and the current had carved out a five-foot cliff on both sides of the opening almost all the way back to the pond. The wind was still and the full moon was setting in opposition to the soon to be rising sun. Since my visit the morning before, a crescent bar had formed in front of the opening and a series of criss-crossing waves was building up as the current from the outflow met the incoming tide that had just started to rise.

Armed with our Dannys, Walter and I made our first cast of the morning and almost immediately hooked up with twin 15 lb stripers. The scene repeated itself on the next cast, and the cast after that as well. From then on, almost every cast resulted in a hooked fish. As the sky continued to brighten I started to see fish in the waves but when I mentioned it to Walter he said it was just my imagination running wild. But as day got brighter, there was no doubt in my mind and Walter began to see them as well. All this time every cast produced a nice striper or a solid hit, sometimes two or three hits per retrieve. By the time the sun was full up over the horizon, the sight in front of us would take any surfcasters breath away. Every breaking wave held rows of stripers three or four deep from the top on the wave to the bottom, and across its entire width. There was no real aggression but the Danny wouldn't travel more than a few feet before a fish would break out of formation to pounce on the lure. It was as if they were taking their turn at the lure. It was manna from heaven! An anglers dream come true! And the best part was the fact that we could watch the whole thing play out as if we were watching a movie. The slower the retrieve, the more time we had to watch it. It was almost as if it was in slow motion. A surreal experience to be sure.

The unbelievable action continued until tide finally forced us off the bar but not before each of us had landed about two-dozen fish in the low teen to mid twenty pound range. All of the fish were released and there wasn't a single bluefish to be found.

The next morning, along with Don Mohr, we returned. As we arrived at the opening, Cooper Gilkes was pulling up with the well known fishing photographer Sam Talarico. Walter and I related our experience from the day before and we were ready to get at it again. Talarico was eager to get some pictures. The flow out of the pond appeared to be running even stronger than the day before but a SE wind had come up and changed the way the waves were building up on the bar, and the water was a little dirty as well. Walter, Don, Coop and I waded in while Talarico stood on the cliff overlooking the surf line, telephoto lens at the ready. On his second cast, Don hooked and landed a fish around twenty pounds but for the next hour and a half, save for few weak hits, that was it for the action. The school that had been there the day before had either dispersed or headed for parts unknown. Talarico had not only missed the shot of Don catching his fish but had he been there the day before, he could have filled volumes with photos of those fish in the waves.

To this day, Walter and I still talk about that morning. Between what we saw in the waves, and what we figured must have been there but out of sight, we estimated there were well over a thousand fish in the school. I had good trips before and some great nights since, but I'll never forget the sight of those stripers in the waves. I described it this way in my fishing log: *"An army of 15 to 20lb stripers moving thru. Row upon row of soldiers in striped suits swimming over the bar, stacked for almost a hundred*

*yards in a series of merged waves. Each wave a picture frame with a painting of striped bass highlighted by the rising sun”.*

## **2006 MVSA Activities**

In addition to giving back to our members in the form of our annual banquet and awards, summer picnic and pizza night, your dues money, fund raising efforts and active participation allowed us to give back to the community in the following ways:

**Donated \$1,500 to the Martha’s Vineyard Boys and Girls Club that was used to fund three fishing trips on board the Skipper party boat.**

**Donated \$1500 and fishing equipment to the Big Brothers, Big Sister Program.**

**Donated \$200 to the Red Stocking Fund for needy Island children.**

**Donated \$500 to support the Martha’s Vineyard Rod & Gun Club Annual Kid’s Trout Derby.**

**Donated \$100 to Camp Jabberwocky on memory of Al (Ang) Angelone.**

**Donated \$250 to the Martha’s Vineyard Regional High School Fishing Club.**

**Donated \$250 to the Martha’s Vineyard Regional High School Building Trades Dept. that was used to construct the Norton Point gate-house.**

**Spent a day fishing with the Safe Haven Project Kids at Duarte’s Pond.**

**Worked with the TTOR to clear Norton Point of rusted fence stakes and polyester rope.**

**Participated in the VCS Beach Clean Up at Norton Point.**

**Maintained several ‘spent fishing line’ boxes on the Island’s most popular fishing beaches to encourage the proper disposal and recycling of old fishing line.**

**Maintained our “Courtesy Patrol” on the Islands OSV beaches.**

**Participated in University of Massachusetts striped bass research by adopting a “Fish called Martha”.**

**Advocated for a public access fishing pier to be added to the plans for the new Steamship Authority dock in Oak Bluffs.**

**Advocated for the completion of the herring run between Katama Bay & the Edgartown Great Pond.**

**Participants in Island Plan-Natural Resource Workgroup.**

## **RodFather Bass Cakes**

If you have some striper filets left in your freezer, here's a great recipe for fish cakes that comes to us from Lisa Dorichi, a guide on Chesapeake Bay and an avid Derby participant.

### ***INGREDIENTS***

Striper meat (2 lb)  
Eggs (2)  
Fresh Red pepper (1/4 cup chopped fine)  
Red onion (1/2 fresh onion chopped fine)  
celery ( 1/2 stalk chopped very fine)  
Salt (1/4 T-spoon )  
Mayonnaise(2 Tbl-Spoons)  
Dijon Mustard (1 T-Spoons)  
Parsley Flakes(1 T-Spoon)  
Old Bay (1 T-Spoon) or a seafood seasoning will work  
4 slices of white bread (crust removed)  
Worcestershire Sauce ½ tsp  
Red-Hot/Tabasco (2 T-spoons)  
Hot pepper flake (1 T spoon)  
Melted Unsalted butter (1/3 cup)  
Clam juice (2 Tbl-spoons)  
Fresh Lemon juice (1-1/2 T-spoons)  
Sherry (1/2 cup)  
Corn Flakes about 3 cups

Lightly steam the bass meat and pick apart only the whites pieces. The pieces should resemble crabmeat like pieces. Put pieces aside. Soften the red peppers, onions & celery in the unsalted butter

Add and whisk together all the other ingredients except the corn flakes, then gently fold in bass meat.. Chill covered for at least 2 hours.

Pulse the cornflakes in a food processor until coarsely ground and put in a shallow dish.

Form cakes and squeeze out any remaining juices through your fingers if too runny. Roll in the cornflakes and if you plan to serve them that night, freeze for 20 minutes. This will keep them from falling apart when you cook them.

Sautee each side in canola oil for 4 minutes until dark and crusty on the outside! Enjoy your efforts! These are delicious...

### **What's a Stuffer?**

*By Dave Nash*

I've been making and eating stuffed quahogs since before I moved out here but I never heard them called "stuffers" until our picnic last year—describes them perfectly! Harvesting your own food and then cooking it up has to be one of the most rewarding things to do and we certainly have those opportunities on Martha's Vineyard. I decided to make up my own for our picnic and was surprised to see so much variety in the various recipes out there. I think the main difference between

those store bought impersonators (and even some of the restaurant versions) is the decided lack of clam. Stuffer recipes probably fall into that category of highly personal maybe even handed down from family members and maybe even closely guarded secrets. If you don't have one from one of those sources, maybe you can use mine.

It's probably mandatory that you begin with the freshest possible clams, preferably the dig-them-yourself variety of a medium size. You probably need at least a two to one ratio for a really good stuffer—that is, two clams for every one stuffer you're going to make. I steam the clams until they just open, then scrape out the meat and coarsely chop it. (Save the broth) Then you need to clean out half the shells removing the bits of shell from the edges. Saute a finely chopped onion, half a green or red pepper and a few garlic cloves in a little olive oil. I sometimes add a small handful of minced chorico. When the onions are opaque, add a half stick of butter. I think the next most important ingredient is some really good quality bread; a nice peasant bread or multi-grain lightly toasted and cubed. Probably 6 or 7 pieces depending on thickness (if pre-sliced, about ½ "). Place the bread in a large bowl, add the onion mixture, a handful of fresh chopped parsley, one egg, black pepper, about a quarter cup of seasoned breadcrumbs and a few shakes of tabasco sauce or cayenne pepper. Mix everything up and add some of the reserved broth until the consistency is just right—i.e. it holds together without being mushy.

Pack the mixture into the clam shells; sprinkle on a little Parmesan and a little paprika then bake at 350 degrees for about half an hour. Serve with lemon juice or cocktail sauce.

### *2007 MVSA Calendar of Events*

#### **January 27, 2007-Annual MVSA Awards Ceremony, Banquet and Awesome Raffle**

12:00PM, Old Whaling Church Edgartown,

#### **February 13, MVSA Monthly Meeting**

7:00PM, Martha's Vineyard Rod & Gun Club

#### **March 13, MVSA Monthly Meeting**

7:00PM, Martha's Vineyard Rod & Gun Club

#### **April 10, MVSA Monthly Meeting**

7:00PM, Martha's Vineyard Rod & Gun Club

#### **June 12, MVSA Monthly Meeting**

7:00PM, Site TBA

#### *July 7, Annual MVSA Summer Picnic*

5:00PM, Bend In The Road Beach, Edgartown

#### *Fifth Annual Members Only Chappaquiddick Shark Tournament*

July 21-August 5

#### **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