

MV Surfcasters Newsletter July 2007

MVSA President's Message July 2007

I hope everyone is having a happy and prosperous summer so far. It's hard to believe the 4th of July is already in the rear view mirror. I guess it's the hectic pace of the season that makes it go by so fast. Work schedules are crazy and the phone never seems to stop ringing with the usual, "When can we visit?" How come my phone never rings in February?

Don't you want to see the Vineyard in the off-season? I'm not here on vacation and no I can't afford to go out to dinner again! Anyway, as long as you can squeeze in some fishing it makes it all worth it. This time of year I like to walk the beach late at night casting a fly or plug into the darkness. It's about the most peaceful thing you can do in the summer.

When you're out there you feel like your miles away from all the traffic snarls, constant lines, and crowds. It's like a mini-vacation that transports you to serenity. But there's another motive to being out there as well. It's the best time to connect big a big striper during the summer months.

A lot of club members are having great seasons so far. Morgan Taylor is having quite a year with a 52 lber already to his credit. He also has a 39 lber to boot. Both from shore! He has really provided the push to put the MV Surfcasters in 2nd Place in the Striper Cup put on by On The Water Magazine. I would also like to acknowledge the contributions by Julian Pepper, Chet Loiselle, Pat Toomey, Jim Fraser and Charles Wendell for helping put us in the position we are in. If any members would like to get involved in this contest please check out www.onthewater.com for info.

Hopefully our big guns will keep up the good work and we'll get some new participants that bring in some monsters. It would be awesome to place in the top 5 or better this year !

Don't forget about our Chappy Shark Tournament that begins on July 21 and runs for two weeks. Sign up sheets will be at Larry's Tackle. I can be contacted at jeff@flyfishingthevineyard.com or 508 693 4841 if anyone has questions regarding the contest.

Tight Lines!

Jeff Sayre

MVSA Awards Scholarship

On June 8th, MVSA awarded it's first scholarship to a graduating senior from the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School. The scholarship was made possible by

the generosity of members and friends and is something that we hope we can continue to award year after year.

During the winter, a committee was formed to implement the scholarship program. They established the criteria, deciding that the recipient should demonstrate need, personal responsibility, an interest in the environment and wish to further his/her education or training in an approved program. Students submitted a standard application used by the high school guidance department that contained information regarding the student's grades, extracurricular activities, financial situation and faculty recommendations. In addition, the scholarship committee required that the applicant write a short essay addressing the island environment.

The high school guidance department provided the committee with a number great applicants and the selection process was difficult. In the end, the scholarship was awarded to James Bishop of Edgartown. James is the son of William and Donna Bishop and will be attending Mass. Maritime Academy at the end of the summer. James presently works as a traffic officer for the Edgartown Police Department. He is interested in environmental science and hopes to eventually become an environmental police officer. His essay talked about growing up on the island and memories of sewing spat bags while in middle school to grow shellfish as well as the early morning scallop trips with his father. He said, in part, that it was these experiences that helped him realize that certain resources had to be protected. We wish James all the best with his future.

The club should be proud of the work that we have done to give back to the community and especially to a young man that has decided to choose a path that could lead him back to the Vineyard to protect things that are important to us. The scholarship committee will continue to work to see that others are afforded similar opportunities. We will be soliciting input as to whether it might be beneficial to set up an endowment fund to ensure that we can carry on this tradition. I would like to thank the committee members for their time and hard work on this very important project.

Members of the Scholarship Committee are: Tom Smith, John Dropick, Will Geresy, Bob & Fran Clay

Surfcaster's Offer Science Fair Award

Every winter the MV Regional High School holds a science fair and this past year several Surfcaster members participated as judges. We were really impressed by the large number of entries (every kid in every science class must be participating!) As well as the diversity of subject matter covered. Entries ranged from thought provoking experiments to some a little bit simpler. When we saw entries which measured the breaking strength of fishing line we wondered if we could challenge the kids to come up

with experiments which focused a little more seriously on the marine environment and on the sport-fish we seek when we pursue our hobby. After discussions with Natalie Munn who coordinates the fair, we decided to offer a small award to the student who best demonstrated a project which supports those goals.

We also felt that the award would be a wonderful opportunity to acknowledge the generous gift to Surfcasters by the Stula family in memory of Fred Stula. We have therefore dedicated our science fair award to Fred.

More specifically, our award is stated as follows;

Martha's Vineyard Surfcasters Association Special Award: MV Regional High School Science Fair

The MVSA is a recreational fishing organization dedicated not only to the sport of fishing but also sportsmanship, conservation principles and public access. We also support education and understanding of the relationship between these pursuits and the natural environment. This award will be given for a project that focuses on increasing the awareness and understanding of aspects of our marine environment including fish and the flora and fauna with which they share our local waters. It is provided by the MVSA in memory of a former member, Fred Stula.

SSA Fishing Pier Project Is Still Alive

Thanks to the efforts of our hard working Environmental Action Committee Chairman Dave Nash, the Surfcasters were on the agenda of the June meeting of the MV Steamship Authority Board held in Oak Bluffs. This is the first time that the full board had discussed our petition since we sent it to them last winter. There had been little contact with SSA representatives since our petition so we were not terribly optimistic that our petition would receive favorable discussion. Wayne Lamson, SSA General manager, opened the agenda topic with an update of our meeting with he and Marc Hanover and efforts since then to continue discussions. Dave attended the meeting and offered a summary of our efforts and interests in reviving fishing and public access at the pier. He also provided the board members with a discussion of our unsuccessful efforts to obtain some Community Preservation Act funding last year. Surprisingly, the Board and Marc Hanover announced their support for the project while noting concerns over cost and security. As a follow-up to a previous request we had made, the Board then suggested that the SSA's engineer meet with us and go over some conceptual designs for a fishing pier. They clearly specified that this offer was without any commitment to support the project with SSA resources. This meeting has been set up for July 11 and we are trying to line up a few Oak Bluffs residents to attend with us. We have Steve Morris, Cooper Gilkes and Steve Ewing offering to attend so far. One or two additional people from Oak Bluffs who are familiar with long term uses of that section of the shoreline and also familiar with local regulatory requirements would be helpful. We've also heard that a member of the State Marine Fisheries agency will also be there to discuss available funding for

such a project. Please let Dave know if you have any suggestions for good attendees or if you have any thoughts on design and construction issues. So far, we have focused on some form of a stand-alone structure adjacent to the north/west side of the pier.

Designs we have talked about include floating, cantilevered, or the use of separate pilings but to date we have not spoken with people who would have comments on these structural details so we are looking forward to the meeting. Bids for the reconstruction of the Oak Bluffs pier are being received now so the start of construction is still up in the air.

Phil Craig; Husband, Father, Friend, Author, Fisherman, Member

Phil Craig passed away last month after a very brief illness. His passing has come as such a surprise to everyone and he will be very much missed.

Phil was a familiar face on the beaches around the Vineyard but most especially on South Beach around Metcalf's and East beach on Chappy. If you didn't know Phil personally you certainly knew how he felt about fishing from reading any of his wonderfully entertaining books featuring J.W. Jackson. His books said it all: tips on fishing, stories about times on the beach, cooking, caring for and preparing food, commentary on many issues which have such an impact on life on the Vineyard. Phil knew and wrote about life on a Vineyard just a little removed from the typical seasonal visitor or vacationer and gave us a great murder mystery diversion in the process.

We will certainly remember Phil for all those things plus his generosity to our organization over the years. To his family go our most sincere condolences and sympathy.

"Best Fishing Opportunity in 30 Years" or "A Deadly Vineyard Attraction?"
By: Dave Nash

The Surfcasters were recently invited to a discussion on how to deal with the recent breach in Katama Bay. All of the agencies and people involved with harbor management, property management, shell-fishing, public safety, tourism are working on how to deal with our new fishing spot. Their seasonal help has been trained on how to deal with a variety of issues One concern that they all share is that this cut is dangerous and treacherous.

It has currently stabilized but erosion continues and chunks of sand slough off periodically without warning. It is approximately 1000 feet across and more than 12 feet deep. The currents are ripping through the opening and are also creating currents wrapping around the inside of the bay. The ocean and the bay are at such odds with each other that tides

cannot be reliably predicted. The situation in the harbor proper isn't much better as the "On Time" Chappy ferry is having difficulty navigating the fast currents. This has been compounded now that boating traffic has increased.

Updated information is available at the Harbormasters website at www.edgartownharbor.com.

The Surfcasters were contacted because we have a reputation for acting in a responsible manner. There are no other fishing related groups that have a presence out here or that have the experience and reputation to make a difference in people's behavior. Signs and informational materials have been posted in tackle shops and boat yards. So what can we do about making this a safer situation?

Surf fisherman and Courtesy patrol members;

Read the new signs that have gone up and remind people of the dangers.

Signs and lifesaving equipment has been placed at Lighthouse Point, Chappy Point, Memorial Wharf and both the Katama and Chappaquiddick sides of the breach. If you fish these places, please take a minute to familiarize yourself with their use.

Set a good example; wear your wader belts and PFD's; don't take chances and stay in the more stable areas of the shoreline. Consider not wading in the vicinity of the break at all—Many will be tempted to wade out to some of the bars that have set up.

Keep vehicles well back of the cut.

Speak up, politely, when tourists or visitors wander too close or decide that they need to get out there a few more feet to get closer to the big one.

Don't fish alone and keep an eye on those who do.

Boaters

New buoys have been installed at the Harbor entrance and in front of the opening. Contact the Harbormasters office for updates on new rules and cautions. (www.edgartownharbor.com) or 508- 627-4746.

Currents are stronger than anyone realized they would be; vessel control problems are occurring daily. The harbor water platform has not been set up this year.

Short Casts

Fish Long Point This Summer!

Once again The Trustees Of Reservations has trusted the MVSA with a pair of keys to the winter entrance to Long Point. Keys are available from either Ron Domurat 627-4956 or 627-5088 (Larry's Tackle Shop) or from Matt Sudarsky 693-2117. At the request of Long Point Supervisor Chris Egan, the keys will be available to any anglers as long as they abide by a few simple rules. Before obtaining the key from either Ron or Matt you must agree to follow these rules:

You must call Chris Egan at 693-7392 and leave a message for Chris so he knows that people will be using the property. This saves Chris the hassle of investigating lights or noises in the middle of the night.

2. A carry in - carry out policy is in effect at all times.
3. This access is not to be used for paid guided shore trips.
4. Gate is to be locked when going in both directions.
5. Sorry, no access on the nights of the "Full Moon Kayak Tours" (July 9, 10 & 11; August 7, 8 & 9)
6. Key must be returned by the next day to whomever you got it from (Ron or Matt).

As part of the agreement with the Trustees, both Ron and Matt are required to keep a log of users and their contact phone numbers which will be turned into Chris Egan at the end of the season. We hope you get a chance to fish this productive stretch of shoreline by taking advantage of TTOR's generous offer.

If you have never fished Long Point, it allows you to get to the eastern or down island side of the Tisbury Great Pond opening. Just how productive can this spot be? Get a copy of Bob Post's book Reading The Water, Adventures in Surf Fishing on Martha's Vineyard, and check out the chapter on the Columbus Day Blitz. That world famous blitz of 30 to 50 pound stripers occurred in the early 1980s on this very stretch of beach!

Things were a bit different back then with 4 wheel drive access to either side of the opening still allowed by the riparian owners. These days the closest you can get a vehicle to the opening is the Long Point Parking lot, or the Quansoo lot which will be behind a locked gate until mid September.

The hike to the opening from the Long Point lot is about 1/2 mile, but as many top hooks are hesitant to tell you, this can be an awesome spot when the conditions are right. Even when the pond has closed up there are many bars and

troughs along this beach that were formed by the outflow of the pond, and where bass and blues regularly feed on trapped bait. It's a long walk back with a big fish so think carefully before deciding to take a fish home. If you do decide to take a fish, a 4' - 6' length of rope will help make things easier. Run the line through the fish's mouth and out the gills. You can now carry it any number of ways or float it back half of the way in the shallows of the pond, and then drag it the rest of the way over the grass along the path.

Depending on the wind and the surf conditions anglers will fly fish, or go all tackle slinging eels or their favorite bass plugs. Travel as light as you can, bringing only the essentials you need. You will want to be able to fish and move a bit and fish some more without lugging a lot of equipment as you prospect for where those feeding troughs are. A backpack with some lures, eels or flies; a beverage to fend off dehydration, and of course the obligatory snack and you're all set for an evening of enjoyable fishing on a beach where you are likely to be the only one there.

Fifth Annual Chappy Shark Tournament

Rumors of sharks caught off of East Beach have already started to trickle in. Are you ready for the excitement and fun of the Fourth Annual MVSA Members Only Chappy Beach Shark Tournament?? Once again the event will be of two week duration beginning on July 20 at 6:00PM and ending on August 5 at 8:00AM. The cookout and awards ceremony will be held at 4:00PM on Sunday August 5 at a site TBA. Last year's winner Chet Loiselle will be out to defend his title. Chet landed the only shark during last year's event but honed his skills in the weeks following by catching a number of large brown sharks. He will be the man to beat. The fee for members current with their dues is \$15 which includes the cookout. The fee for non-members is \$50 and includes MVSA membership. For information please contact Jeff Sayre @ 508-693-4841, [<mailto:jeff@flyfishingthevineyard.com>] jeff@flyfishingthevineyard.com or sign up at Larry's Tackle Shop.

Surfcasters Score in Local Tournaments

MVSA members continue to distinguish themselves in local tournaments. Our membership includes flyrodders and a number of them proved their worth in the Rod and Gun Club Catch and Release Tournament on June 9 and 10.

Gary Mirando finished in a first place tie for the largest striper at a combined girth plus length of 47 ? inches. The fish was 31.5 inches in length and Gary wasn't talking about where it came from.

In first place for the highest average number of fish caught per team member was the Cronin family team with an average of 10.2 fish per man. Members Phil Cronin and son Jay fished with Ross Brawn, Gary Hoffman and Tom Fay.

Ed Lepore fishing with his son Jim as Team Catch-Up and Release in the "One Fly Division" finished in second place with a total of eight fish.

Dave Nash fished with off-island regulars Dottie and Ron Sullivan and their team did well due, in no small part, to Dottie's finesse with a striping technique that drove some very finicky stripers absolutely crazy.

They managed a third place finish with 9.3 fish per team member. Ron took in a 29 ? inch fish for his best of the night.

In the Annual Memorial Day Tournament run by Dick's Bait & Tackle MVSA members walked off with top three finishes in three of the four categories. Steve Purcell took 2nd place in the Boat Striped Bass division with a 31.3 pound fish and Chet Loiselle was 3rd in the shore bass division with a 17.7 lb striper. In the Shore Bluefish Division, Jim Fraser and Jim Cornwell finished 2nd and 3rd with 8.3lb fish. Jim Cornwells son Jonathan was visiting from Rhode Island and won the division with an 8.9 lb fish.

Finally, iron man Chuck Wendel took second place in the recently held Pink Squid Tournament with a 39.05 boat caught striped bass.

Congratulations to all for their high finishes!

The Striper Cup

Thanks to the efforts of new members Morgan Taylor, Julian Pepper and Jim Fraser along with hard-core surf rats Chet Loiselle and Pat Toomey and Iron Man Chuck Wendel, the MVSA is still in for the Striper Cup in the second annual On the Water competition. Morgan's beautiful 52lb fish leads the club and has him in the lead for the individual Shore Angler of the Year award. He has also beached fish weighing 38.8 and 33lbs for a total of 123.8lbs, which is 44 lbs ahead of his closest competitor.

Last year the MVSA finished in tenth place out of the thirty clubs entered and Pat Toomey won the coveted Shore Angler of the Year honors. This year more than forty clubs from New Jersey to Maine have entered the club competition which has been made more equitable for shore anglers in the club competition as On the Water has leveled the playing field by applying a 1.3 multiplier for shore caught fish. In addition, only the top two fish from each angler count in the club division standings. As of 7/5/07 with nine fish on the board the MVSA has a total of 413 points for an average of 45.8 per fish. Stripers.com from NJ leads with ten

fish and 473 points and an average of 47.3 per fish. Also contributing to the MVSA total are Julian Pepper with a 43.2 lb shore fish, Pat Toomey with 35.7 and 26.5 lb shore fish, Chet Loiselle with 33.2 and 28.2lb shore fish, Jim Fraser with a 30.1 lb shore fish and Senior member Chuck Wendel with a 39.5 boat caught striper.

Beach Clean-Up

Thanks to all of our members that participated in the Earth Day Beach Clean-up. Members fanned out both in front of and behind the dunes between the right and left forks of South Beach. As in past years the MVSA had the honor of collecting more trash than any other organization. Participating members included: Pat & Wally White, Jim & Joyce Cornwell, Tom Black, Chet Loiselle, Ron Domurat, George Moran, Walter Lison, Sue Geresy, Paul Schultz, Paula Sullivan, Chuck Hodgkinson, Phil Horton, Lee Bruni, Janet Messineo, Gary Mirando and Dave Nash.

Fish Tagging

To date MVSA members have tagged twenty-seven striped bass and six bluefish with Littoral Society tags provided by the club. No returns have been recorded yet. Members currently participating in the program are:

Ernie Baracchini, Ron Domurat, Will Geresy, Jeff Sayre, Janet Messineo, Paula Sullivan, Chet Loiselle, Gary Mirando, Bob Clay, Tom Smith, Jim Cornwell and Joe Gubitose. A few packets of tags are still available if anyone else would like to participate. Packets are provided free of charge to current members and include instructions, 10 string tags, 10 return cards and a tagging needle. Contact Ron Domurat for information and/or a packet. 508-627-4956, [mailto:rd_bjr@msn.com]rd_bjr@msn.com.

Annual Summer Picnic

More than 70 MVSA members, family and friends attended our Annual Summer Picnic held on a beautiful summer afternoon at Bend in the Road Beach on July 7th. Once again Phil Horton organized the event and served up his tasty and popular barbecued ribs. Special thanks go to Phil, Bob DiGiantomaso for his yeoman work at the grill and Peter Johnson and the Roberts Lure Company for the donation of lures that were used as prizes for the casting contest and raffle. Bob (Hawkeye) Jacobs won the casting contest followed closely by Victor Colantonio and Phil Horton. For the second consecutive year the Sayre family won the 50/50 cookie jar raffle when Jack pulled dad Jeff's \$5 bill from the jar.

Youth Has Been Served

Finally, the rumor on the street is that two of our more experienced and consistent SB & BF Derby & In House Derby winning fly fishermen were out fished badly by their sons in the recent Rod & Gun Club Catch & Release Tournament. In fact, had it not been for the efforts of the "kids" it's likely that the teams would not have finished where they did.

We try not to embarrass anyone by naming names but our source indicated that one prominent angler for Team Capawock, the winners of the Roberto Germani Trophy for the most striped bass caught and then released, was out fished by his son Jay to the tune of 25 to 1. Also, in the Arnold Spofford one fly competition, JL bested dad EL by catching seven out of their eight fish to carry team Catch-Up and Release to a second place finish.

Has the torch been passed???

Catching Bigger Stripers From the Surf-A Primer

Observe & Listen! You'd be surprised how much you can learn from what you see and hear on the beach. Observe trends and patterns. Keep a journal. Note when you catch fish, what you catch them with, the tidal stage, the weather and wind direction, moon phase, and anything else that you think is important. Refer to your journal from year to year. You'll be surprised how you'll start to home in on fish!

Become a Student of the Game-Read all you can about catching striped bass. There are plenty of good articles in periodicals like 'The Fisherman' and 'On the Water' magazines as well as many good books on the market dedicated solely to catching stripers. There is no finish line in this game. The only time you will stop learning in this sport is when you think you know it all. Keep it Simple-Catching big stripers is not all that difficult. The hard part is finding them. You do not need to own every lure with every color and finish on the market. Last season we heard of stripers caught with stomach contents that contained crabs, lobsters, eels, sea bass, flounder, squid, herring, sand eels, scup, bunker and sea robins. One cannibal even had another striper in its belly. Stripers are opportunists and do not have discriminating pallets. Four or five lures that loosely resemble our local baitfish will do the trick. Profile and silhouette are important. As for colors, stick with the old adage of black or dark colors on dark nights and white or lighter colors on bright nights. If you insist on colors, go with a natural blend of a darker color on top that fades into a lighter color on the underside. Colored lures and fancy finishes catch more fishermen than fish. The late Arnold Spofford was once heard to say: "fish don't carry wallets".

Put Your Time In-Many times anglers arrive at a spot, make ten or twenty unsuccessful casts, decide there are no fish there, move on to the next spot, repeat the drill, then arrive at the conclusion, the fishing is bad.

It doesn't work that way. Stripers move in and out of places in their search for food. For God sakes man, put your time in! Ever notice the same names keep showing up on the leader boards of the Derby and local tournaments? They are not casual anglers who fish only during the day and when the weather is good. In addition, they do not spend their time lamenting about how bad the fishing is. They put their time in! To catch big bass, you are going to have to spend a lot of time at the edge of the surf-with your line in the water!

Fish at Night- If you want to catch bigger fish, you are going to have to put in some time after dark. Early in the season, striper fishing may be good during daylight hours but by late May it is strictly a nighttime thing. While there are exceptions to every rule, as soon as the last light of day fades from the sky, big stripers start looking for dinner.

Conversely, when the first bit of light creeps into the eastern sky, their dinner hour is usually over.

Be Multi-Dimensional- To be successful at catching bigger fish, you may have to switch tactics even to the point of dunking bait! And as distasteful as it may be to some anglers, if you don't already know how, you should learn to fish with eels. More big stripers are caught with bait, live or dead, than any other method and stripers find eels almost irresistible. They are not called "striper candy" for nothing.

Think Big- Remember, this piece is about catching big fish. The "big bait for big fish" theory has truth to it. Use big lures and big baits. If you hadn't eaten all day and were suddenly presented with a choice between a snack and a full course meal, which would you choose? Big stripers are lazy and are looking for big meals while using the least amount of energy.

Open up the stomach of a larger fish some day and examine the stomach contents. What you'll most likely find are the digested (or undigested) remains of some larger bait.

Be Patient- A big striper uses her energy wisely. Retrieve your lure or eel as slow as possible and then slow it some more.

Get Down- The bigger fish in a school tend to hang near the bottom! Get it down there .

Use the Right Tackle-You wouldn't send a boy to do a man's job would you? While light tackle may be fun, long drawn out fights are hard on the resource and it is doubtful you are ever going to drag a big striper up out of the surf with it. At a minimum use a ten-foot rod matched with a good quality reel spooled with at least 17# test line or 30# braid and a three-foot leader made from 40# or 50# monofilament or fluorocarbon. Your terminal tackle should be high quality and able to hold heavy fish.

Keep Your Hooks Sharp-Big striped bass have very large mouths surrounded by solid tissue and crushers that allows them to eat crustaceans. Many fish are missed or lost because of dull hooks. With the exception of the custom made lures on the market today, most mass produced lures come equipped with hooks that dull easily. Carry a hook file and use it to touch up your hooks after catching just a few fish. Better yet, replace the factory supplied hooks with the newer super sharp hooks that most hook manufacturers offer. Finally, put your big boy pants on when it comes to setting the hook. Set the hook hard, and then again a second, maybe even third time. Drive it home!

Move Around-Stripers, even bigger ones are school fish and not always found in the same spots. Sometimes they move a lot, sometime very little. While you may find them in your favorite spot one night, they might be gone the next or just a few hundred yards away. Pick out four or five likely spots. Once you've done that, get to know them like the back of your hand. You should know where every rock is as well as bars and troughs, how deep the water is, and where the drop offs are. You should also know what affect the wind and current has on the place and what stage of the tide produces the most fish. When you fish your favorite spots, don't be afraid to move. Work the beach fifty yards at a time making at least ten casts. Some nights you may have to cover a lot of ground to find fish and once you've done that, you may have to move to stay with them.

Think Like a Striper (A Big One)- Put yourself between the stripes. Big stripers are very efficient in their energy use. Remember all the energy you had as a child? How much energy do you have now? Chances are, not nearly as much and what you do have, you use wisely and pretty much out of necessity. It's not that different in the world of nature. Think like a big fish that's been around a while. Where would you hang out during different stages of the tide? Would you hang around a strong current for six hours or hunt for your food during periods of slower water? What would you be eating? Where would you find the protein and fat you need to survive? Would you be an opportunist and eat all day or night or just find a meal now and then? Habitat and structure is extremely important. Look for places a big striper would find her dinner. Consider these things and more when looking for big fish!

"Chasing stripers is a compulsion that fuels the imagination, weakens the body, stresses relationships, but ultimately feeds and unburdens the soul". Charlie Soares!

Pink Is For Striperrrrs!

Mention the use of a pink colored lure to an angler new to the salt-water surf game and you're likely to draw a few snickers as a response.

Certainly a raised eyebrow! But mention it to a seasoned surf caster who fished the outer Cape beaches during the fabled 70's and most likely you'll receive a positive reaction in the form of a simple knowing smile.

Pink lures catch striped bass! Why they catch more fish than other colors is not exactly clear but the phenomenon appeared to start in the late 50's when Jersey Shore sharpies fishing the outer Cape beaches added pink highlights to their lures with Revlon nail polish. Another story circulating is about an Eastham tackle shop owner who experimented with faded red hackles believing they imitated the iridescent hue of a flashing sand eel in the pinkish glow of a rising or setting sun. Whether that's true or not can be the topic of a late night conversation between blitzes but the shop owner apparently did so well that his reputation for catching big stripers grew to the point that the New Jersey Fisherman Magazine sent a writer to check it out. The writer was guided to the surf by a local resident who proceeded to catch a 50 lb striper on a pink dropper. The story was reported in the magazine and the rest is history. Word spread and soon, Muso, Gibbs and Pradco were painting plugs pink. The brightly colored lures quickly became hot sellers and very successful in catching big bass on the Cape and elsewhere.

So what is about pink that makes it an effective color? Many think visibility has a lot to do with it. Others subscribe to the iridescent flash theory while still others believe the color resembles one of the many changing hues of squid. Perhaps it's just that the striped ladies of the surf have a penchant for pink, What ever the reason - pink works!!!

Walk into any of the better tackle shops and you'll find an assortment of pink lures. Pink Danny's, pink swimmers, pink darters, pink sluggo's and pink bomber style lures are interspersed between the new realistic paint jobs, and most of the good custom manufacturers of wooden lures include pink in their color selection.

Don't believe all this? Talk to a grizzled old surfcaster from the hey-days of the sixties and seventies and watch for that wry smile. Check out his plug bag and chances are you'll still find a couple of pink lures in there.

BLUES, BASS AND BOURBON

By: Bob Clay

Over thirty years ago, on the nearest Thursday to the 12th of June, Mac, Ziggy, and I would go blue and bass fishing on Chappy for the long weekend.

We were all married with 2 young kids. The trip was very unpopular with our wives because they never saw us during the work week and we were expected to perform family functions on the weekends. Our contentious behavior was exacerbated by the three of us focusing on our trip the week prior to that Thursday. Then we spent the week after the trip cleaning up our gear and

recovering from various degrees of alcohol poisoning. Mac was originally from the N.Y. City area; Ziggy was a downtown Boston boy.

For sustenance, we stocked up on a variety of chips, peanut butter, candy bars, bread, hamburger, and alcohol. I liked Old Grand-Dad bourbon and Molson Golden. I think Mac was a Bud guy. Ziggy would drink anything. He also provided the party with good weed. It stands to reason that three guys without their wives, stuck together in a beach buggy half full of booze, would start to drink it pretty early and often.

We slept on the Chappy beaches, usually up against the fence at the Gut. We would each lay down our sleeping bag on top of an Army poncho liner. After climbing into the bag, we would pull an Army shelter-half over everything. We were dry even in the worst rainy weather because the water would run off the shelter-half and be immediately absorbed into the sand.

Foster Silva was the Trustee superintendent. He had to have known that we slept on his beach. He checked up, but never bothered us. Foster was a very nice man. "How ya doin' boys?" Somehow we sensed that if we wanted to remain on the beach we shouldn't create a problem for this soft-spoken gentleman.

Each year we ran into "the guys from Jersey". They had three jeeps full of middle-aged men. The right rear window in each of their jeeps read, "ITALIAN STAFF CAR, KEEP-A-YOU-HANDS-OFF". There were always N.Y. firemen and policemen fishing at Wasque. They were big, good fishermen, and all nice guys.

We could drive on the outside beach from Wasque to the Jetties (maybe from the Edgartown Pond opening to the Jetties). The sand got very soft some place about half way on the outside between the Dike Bridge and the Jetties. There was an optional trail similar to today's outside trail except it ran along the tops of the dunes and very close to the beach. Young women were dressing provocatively in those days, and we would often be bumping along the tops of those dunes and come upon a couple of young ladies sunbathing without their suits. Yes, we definitely looked.

I don't think Spofford lures were invented yet. Our surface lures of choice were Stan Gibbs bottle poppers and a variety of pencil poppers. At night I think we often used Stan Gibbs swimmers, darters and red fins. Mac and Zig caught a lot of bass in the 30 lbs. + range. I didn't do as well. We released almost all of our bass except what we ate on the beach.

The biggest bass I ever caught weighed about 44 lbs. I hooked it at Wasque at 12 noon on a warm, sunny day. Something was pushing bait about 3 feet from shore just inside the eddy formed there by the west tide. I was fishing with a small crocodile and a light rod. I kind of lobbed it out there. It was a great fish. I

wish now that I had released it. Instead, out of excitement, I took time to weigh it and take a picture. I gave it to the Edgartown fire chief who was also fishing.

On one trip, we discovered that we could sell our bluefish. The Colonial Inn bought all of the blues we could provide. The next year, thinking that we were so smart, we filled up our vehicle with what seemed like hundreds of pounds of smelly, blues to sell (not iced). It was a great business lesson confirming my economics 101-class message about supply and demand.

We clearly were the last to market because all the restaurants already had their limit of bluefish inventory. Our blues were worthless. We ended up filleting (if that's what you call it) all that fish for the Colonial, free of charge, except for complimentary bourbon, scotch and beer.

As I reread this I can't help thinking objectively, "So what's the big deal? None of this sounds remarkable. Who cares?" In fact, there's not one single story I could tell about those trips that would amount to more than a remote footnote in my life, but the overall memory sparks magic in my mind.

I think the trips stopped when Mac's company relocated him. He now lives in Laguna Beach, CA. He's V.P. of a large carpet manufacturer. Ziggy is retired and living in Sandwich. He is battling Parkinson's disease. As for me, I've always been a lucky guy. I retired here to our Garden of Eden.

MVSA Braggin' Board

1st Migrating Striped Bass, Sue Geresy, 4:00PM, 4/21/07, Peter Sliwkowski, 4:30PM, 4/21/07

1st Bluefish, George Moran. 5/5/07

1st Keeper Striper, George Moran, 30" 5/10/07,

Morgan Taylor, 52.0lb, 38.8, 33.0 lb Striped Bass

Julian Pepper, 43.2lb Striped Bass,

Chuck Wendel, 39.05 lb Striped Bass

Pat Toomey, 35.7lb Striped Bass,

Chet Loiselle, 33.2lb Striped Bass

Steve Purcell, 31/3lb Striped Bass,

Jim Fraser, 30.1 Striped Bass

MVSA In House Derby Standings
Senior Division

Shore Striped Bass

1. Jim Henderson, 15.45

Shore Bluefish

1. Jim Cornwell, 8.3lbs

Boat Striped Bass

1. Charles Wendel, 39.05lb

Open Division

Shore Striped Bass

1. Chet Loiselle, 33.2