

CHAPPAQUIDDICK ISLAND ASSOCIATION

Summer 2020 Newsletter



Photo Credit: All photos by Sheny Leon, except where otherwise noted

A Message from the Board

We hope that you are well in these turbulent times. Summer is finally here. The weather has improved, so it looks like summer may be off to a good start. With COVID-19 it will be a very different summer with many events curtailed. We have canceled our July Annual Meeting and are including updates that we usually include in our annual meeting in this Summer Newsletter. We will strive to keep you updated as the summer goes on and will make a decision about

the format of an August annual meeting as the summer progresses.

Sincerely,

The Board of the Chappaquiddick Island Association

Remembrances

Please take a moment to remember those from Chappy who have passed in 2019-2020:

Siamak Adibi, Marie Fountain, Dick Knight, Lanning Macfarland

Important Dates:

NO CIA Summer 2020 Meetings

Due to COVID-19 there will be no in-person Summer 2020 meetings

Tick Talk Zoom

June 27, 2020, 9-10:30 AM with Richard Johnson and Sam Telford (pp. 7-8)

2nd Annual Chappy Point-to-Point Run

Rescheduled to August 30th, 8:30 AM

<https://runsignup.com/Race/MA/Edgartown/>

The Chappaquiddick Island Association (CIA) works to promote the welfare and operate in the best interests of the Island of Chappaquiddick and of those who make it their permanent or seasonal home. We aim to preserve the beauty and charm of the island, and to maintain its ecological and environmental character by directing progress into channels which will retain its uniqueness without causing hardships to its residents.

Make a Donation to the Chappy Fund

We are grateful to Sheriff's Meadow Foundation for acting as our fiscal agent. All money designated for the Chappy Fund is used to purchase conservation land on Chappaquiddick.

Please mail your tax-deductible donations to:

Sheriff's Meadow Foundation -
Chappy Fund
PO Box 1088
Vineyard Haven, MA 02568

Gifts of Stock:

Please call Sheriff's Meadow Foundation at 508-693-5207 Nevenka Daniels, Susan Hughes, or Adam Moore

Online by MC and Visa:

Click "donate" at www.SheriffsMeadow.org and make a "Chappy Fund" notation

Trustees of Reservations Report

An update from Sam Hart, Islands Director

What a strange, strange season it has been so far! We hope this report finds you all well and safe.

One of the biggest changes we have instituted this year in response to COVID-19 is the decision to move all of our permit and admissions to online purchasing only. That means to purchase an Oversand Vehicle permit you must do so online (www.thetrustees.org/mvOSV) and then pick up your permit at our Mytoi gatehouse, Norton Point gatehouse, or our Vineyard Haven office. Likewise, in mid to late June, we expect to move all of our parking and walk-on purchases to an online basis. You will be able to purchase and admission ticket or parking pass from an online website and then either show your receipt in paper form or on your smartphone at the gatehouses OR just show up and our rangers can look up your ticket purchases on our computer at the gatehouses. This is an attempt to reduce the amount of contact between staff and the public for safety.

Shorebirds are back! To date we are hosting 14 pairs of plovers of which 12 are actively nesting. Two of these nests have been predated and lost. One interesting point is we also have a pair of nesting plovers at our Long Point Wildlife Refuge in West Tisbury. The first such nesting attempt in more than a decade.



Photo Credit: MDE, Wikipedia

At Norton Point and Chappy we also have found 17 American Oystercatcher nests but unfortunately 9 of these nests have been predated to date, 2 nests were washed away by high tides and 4 pairs are incubating their eggs and 2 pairs currently have chicks. There are a very few tern nests scattered at Norton Point and Chappy and the years first black skimmers were noted on May 28.

The beaches are in good shape right now and all are open for OSV and walking. Occasional overwashing is seen at Norton Point and Wasque but for the most part the beaches are in their normal summer building profile. Expect scattered shorebird closures from mid-June through July. These temporary closures will be promptly announced on our Facebook (www.facebook.com/trusteesmv).

Have you been to Wasque yet to view the newly mowed grassland areas? Trustees staff took advantage of the mild winter to mow 150 acres of the grasslands. And, at Mytoi the dredging of the western half of the pond and the rebuilding of the island are slowly being completed. Many thanks go out to Erik Gilley and George Fisher for the tremendous work they did this winter in dredging the pond! It looks terrific and will help the pond stay oxygenated throughout the summer. The goldfish and turtles will be happy!

Finally, we want to thank the Chappaquiddick Island Association for your support, your understanding and for just being good neighbors. You help make Chappaquiddick stronger and healthier.

Share your news with the CIA

If you have any news of interest to Chappy folks, please email the CIA Board at cia.org2020@yahoo.com. We would also be glad to receive any photos to include in our next newsletter.

For more information about the CIA mission, activities, and membership information please visit www.chappaquiddickislandassociation.org.

Covid-19 and Chappy

A general update regarding life on Chappy from Pete Taft, Chair of the Environmental Committee

We are facing a historic summer here on Chappy as the coronavirus pandemic drags on. We are looking forward to the season, but it is going to be a much different summer than what any of us have experienced. Here is a little bit of what you need to know to keep yourself and others safe and happy on Chappy this summer.

If you are not already here, the first change you will see is on the **Chappy Ferry**. The ferry is asking passengers to sit on the side of the ferry opposite the pilot house to keep social distancing, and they have marked the boat to make sure we know where to go. Crew will remain on the opposite side so please keep your distance from them and the captain. Depending on how crowded the ferry is, the captain may limit the number of passengers allowed on board, so be prepared to wait if you are coming to and from on foot. Make sure you listen extra closely to all instructions from the ferry captain and crew this summer.

If you are paying your fare with blue or pink tickets or with a receipt from the kiosk, rather than handing them over to the deckhand, you will be asked to tear them in half yourself. Do not tear them until directed to do so by the ferry crew. When the crew member arrives at your window, hold the whole ticket or tickets in clear view. Wait until you are signaled to tear the tickets. Tear them completely in half in clear view. Show the two halves clearly. This is to reduce the contact between travelers and ferry crew. It is to protect you. Your cooperation is necessary for this new procedure to work. If the ferry captain or deckhand didn't clearly see the whole ticket before and two halves after tearing, it doesn't count and you will have to do it again with fresh tickets.

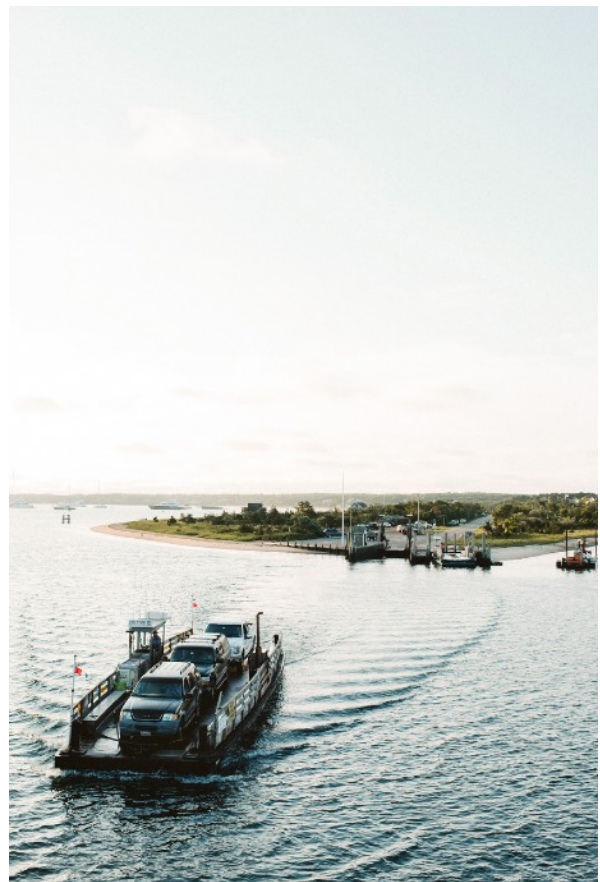
Once you are on Chappy, keep in mind the safety basics that you are already probably practicing when around other people: wear masks or a face covering, keep six feet of distance, wash your hands thoroughly and often, and stay away from others if you don't feel well.

Sadly, the **Chappy Community Center** is closed for the summer, but the tennis courts are open. Massachusetts is currently in its Phase 2 of reopening, which allows for outdoor athletic facilities to reopen with proper social distancing measures. If you want to play tennis and have paid the community center fees, brush up on the state's instructions for outdoor sports facilities (and wear a mask!). There are some Zoom meetings being scheduled through the center; check the calendar online and posted at the center.

Our beaches will be open, but may look a little different. The state has ordered beachgoers to wear masks if you can't maintain six feet of distance, so bring yours and wear it when walking from the car or taking a stroll. (Please don't wear it swimming!) Groups gathered on the beach can't be larger than 10, and beaches have been instructed to keep 12 feet between groups.

It's important to also make sure you unpack from your car and get to the beach quickly to prevent loitering and clogging parking lots. So make sure you're well organized and ready to go before you leave home. On Trustee beaches, no ball games or contact sports are allowed.

If you want to drive your car or an ATV on the sand, be aware that beach managers may be restricting vehicle capacity to keep beaches from getting too crowded. The Trustees are distributing vehicle permits on a scheduled basis to prevent congestion, and are asking drivers to keep vehicles 20 feet apart. Make sure to listen to all staff and lifeguards, and be prepared to wait for a spot at the beach or plan to go elsewhere.



Biking and walking on the Chappy roads is a popular way to get around, but as we all know the sides of the road can often get clogged. If you're on the road and not in a car, make sure to keep other groups of walkers or bikers on the opposite side of the road from you when passing them. This may mean crossing the road to temporarily pass another group of walkers, joggers or bikers. Please be extra alert for cars to make sure we are all staying safe. Drivers need to be very careful this summer: Be sure to stay below the Chappy 25-miles-per-hour speed limit this season!

As of early June, both **Mytoi** and **Wasque** reservations, which are maintained by the Trustees of Reservations, are open for hiking. **Cape Poge** tours, including kayak, wildlife and lighthouse tours, are still listed on the Trustees website and are scheduled to begin in July. We encourage you to keep an eye on the Trustees page for updates on the tours and open properties.

We are sorry to say the **Chappy Store** is closed this summer, so make sure you are well stocked up on provisions before you come on island (and remember that local officials are recommending a two-week quarantine once on island!). The UPS shed is still available for mail pickup, and the Slipaway Farm stand is also open for self-service. The CDC has said that both mail and food is unlikely to spread coronavirus, so no extra precautions are needed when touching those things, but it is important to not crowd either place and enforce social distancing measures. If you see other people in the farm stand or UPS shed, wait outside until they are done. Throughout the summer, check with those who work at Slipaway for any particular rules they may have put in place.

We all want to enjoy our special island. But to do that this summer will require some special measures. Please be cautious, use common sense, and have a wonderful season!

For more information, check out:

[Edgartown COVID resources](#)

[Marthas Vineyard Chamber of Commerce COVID page](#)

[Trustees of the Reservation COVID page](#)

[Resources from the Marthas Vineyard Hospital](#)

[Dukes County COVID resources](#)

Update from Edgartown Police Department

An update from Edgartown Police Chief Bruce McNamee

I hope this message finds you all well. At the summer CIA meeting last year I told the assembled membership that it was my intent to have the Edgartown PD's annual firearms qualifications concluded well before the warmer weather was upon us. This remained our intent into early spring but was derailed with the COVID-19 pandemic which drastically affected not only our operational practices, but also caused a state-wide moratorium on all police training. Presently, the restriction on all this training remains

in effect but we anticipate it being lifted in the near future. So long as the State gives us a waiver for our expired firearms qualifications, which I anticipate that they will, it is my intent to wait until fall to re-qualify our officers. I am very mindful of the impact that our shooting qualifications have on Chappy's quality of life, and I'll remain in communication with your group's leadership on this matter.

We at the Edgartown PD hope you all had a great "off season," and we are looking forward to the summer season...

Thank you

Update from Slip Away Farm

An update from Lily Walter, Founder & Owner of Slip Away Farm

During the pandemic, as the virus exposed the fragile nature of our food system, many Americans experienced food insecurity for the first time in their lives. On the Island, this has led to an unprecedented demand and interest in locally produced food. Here at Slip Away, we have our largest CSA membership ever and expect to have a busy farm stand season. In order to meet the foreseen Chappy demand, we have decided not to attend the West Tisbury Farmers Market this year. We have participated in the market for our nine years of being in business and are saddened to be absent in this challenging season, but we are hopeful that we will be able to dramatically increase the food we are providing for the Chappy community.

Although our CSA is currently sold out, you can support us by shopping on our Farm Stand every Friday and Saturday from 10 AM - 5 PM. Some items are available each week to pre-order on our website : Slipawayfarm.com. Please be sure to order by 9 PM on Thursday night; your order can then be picked up (contact-free) anytime after 10 AM on Fridays.

Once our flowers start blooming, our roadside flower stand will return and be stocked with availability.

We thank you for your continued support. We are proud to be part of the Chappy community and look forward to feeding you this summer.



Chappy Ferry Steering Committee



In March 2020 by order of the Edgartown Selectmen, the Chappy Ferry Steering Committee was created. The official mission statement of the committee is: "To develop recommendations to the Town (and other relevant governmental entities), ownership, residents of Chappy, and other customers designed to ensure the safe, reliable and affordable operation of the ferry for decades to come."

The committee consists of Chappy homeowners as well as James Hagerty, Edgartown Town Administrator. They will meet quarterly and the minutes of their meetings will be their official communications. The committee members are:

Rick Schifter, Chair
 Rick Biros
 Bill Brine III
 John Dropick
 Peter Getsinger
 James Hagerty
 Dick Knight
 Dana Strayton
 Sally Snipes
 Tom Tilghman
 Peter Wells

Environmental Committee Update

An update of Environmental Committee business from Pete Taft, Committee Chair

While COVID set us back a bit, the CIA Environmental Committee is now plowing ahead with two upcoming meetings - Zoom, of course, on our two major issues of focus: ticks, and climate change.

Our Tick Talk Zoom will be held **June 27 from 9 - 10:30AM** and will feature Richard Johnson, tick biologist for Martha's Vineyard, and Sam Telford, noted researcher and Tufts University faculty member. They will discuss the latest data gathered from the island as well as alternatives for managing this growing health problem here on Chappy.

In August, date to be determined we will host another Zoom to raise awareness of the effects of climate change on Chappy (and on the Vineyard and the globe!) and to discuss ways we can both mitigate that change as well as adapt to what is already happening along our coastal areas relating to sea-level rise. Stay tuned for date, speakers and format, which will be announced later this summer.

Watch for Zoom signup information to come. Also look for our flyer, Ticks on Chappy: What You Need to Know, which will be posted (and available) at various points on Chappy.

[Click here to view the flyer!](#)

The Committee welcomes any input on future issues of focus.



Photo Credit: U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

The Edgartown Firemen's Association is Seeking Your Support

Dear Chappaquiddickers,

At the June town meeting the taxpayers voted to purchase a used Mini Rescue Pumper for Chappaquiddick. This vehicle will be the primary response piece for medical calls, fire & CO alarms, motor vehicle accidents, brush fires and water rescues on Chappaquiddick.

We are looking to raise \$15,000 to upgrade the suspension and tires to make it off road capable and to add an assortment of rescue & medical equipment.

Any donations can be made out to EFA and earmarked "Chappy Truck". Our Association is a 501c(3) charity and a tax receipt will be sent to you.

Thank you for your help in supporting us, so that we may better serve the Chappy community.

Have a great summer and stay safe!

The Edgartown Firemen's Association
PO Box 737
Edgartown, MA 02539