

# CHAPPAQUIDDICK ISLAND ASSOCIATION

## Winter 2021 Newsletter



### *A Message from the Board*

2020 was quite a year for everyone. Many of us have been fortunate enough to be able to spend much more time on Chappy and enjoy the wonderful change in seasons. While Covid-19 has prevented us from holding our usual annual meetings and many other events, you can see from this letter that we were able to hold some events such as our series of environmental talks as well as make progress on day to day activities such as UPS home delivery. While we expect 2021 to be much better but still challenging, we will strive to keep you updated as we get closer to the spring.

Sincerely,  
The Board of the Chappaquiddick Island Association

## Important Dates:

### CIA Summer 2021 Meetings

Time and format to be determined.

### 3rd Annual Chappy Point-to-Point Run

Sun. August 29, 8:30 AM

Photo Credits: All photos by Edwina Rissland.

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.

## Our Blessed Chappy Trails

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One of the best parts about being on-Chappy is that we have access to so many trails. The trail network here is so extensive that no matter where you are on the island, it is easy to find yourself deep in the woods just a minute or two after leaving your home. We are fortunate to benefit from the work of several different conservation groups: Martha's Vineyard Land Bank, Sheriff's Meadow Foundation, and the Trustees. You can walk from one end of Chappy to the other, up to the highest hills and down to the coast.



If you have been out on the trails recently, you may have noticed a bit of new work by the Land Bank. The Poucha Pond network received updates to its viewing platform with expansive views out onto the pond wetlands and sky. You can take in the view of the Outer Islands from the new bench, admiring the many beetlebung trees covering the islands in the distance. The Land Bank crew also updated boardwalks on the Pond Loop near Cove Meadow. The boardwalk bends elegantly with the existing trail, keeping hikers' feet dry. Otter tracks have been spotted underneath this boardwalk, so keep your eyes out for these elusive friends next time you visit.

To find your next woody adventure, download the new TrailsMV App created by the Sherrif's Meadow Foundation in collaboration with all the Island conservation organizations. With TrailsMV, you can find maps and suggested hikes (or bike rides!) all over Chappaquiddick.

- Lily Walter

## Open Space Committee

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Please use the attached link for an update on the fundraising activity of the Open Space Committee - <https://chappaquiddickislandassociation.org/news/2021/2/24/a-message-from-the-open-space-committee>.

## UPS Delivery for Chappy Residents

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UPS has recently changed their delivery policy for Chappy and will now focus on delivery to the home with the goal of delivering to as many homes as possible. They now have a small sized vehicle that is dedicated to Chappy. Here is a summary of their new policies.

The normal delivery method will be delivery to the home. Other delivery options include delivery to the UPS container or pick up at the UPS office in Vineyard Haven. You should contact UPS if you would like either of these alternative deliveries. The container will stay in place for the foreseeable future and will be accessible 24/7 as it will not be locked at night.

Most properties should be accessible with the exception of the last two at the end of North Neck Road and Cape Pogue on the far side of the Dike Bridge. If your property is inaccessible for any reason you should contact UPS. The drivers will not deal with locked gates and in such cases they would leave these deliveries in the container.

The telephone number for UPS Vineyard Haven is 1-508-693-7023. The office is open from 2:00 to 6:00 daily. The phone is generally not answered so you should leave a message for Tim or Angela and they will get back to you, or you can visit them at the office on Carrol's Way behind the Cash and Carry.

A huge thank you to Dennis Golden and Lionel Spiro for their efforts in making this happen.



### Share your news with the CIA

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If you have any news of interest to Chappy folks, please email the CIA Board at [cia.org2020@yahoo.com](mailto: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](http://www.chappaquiddickislandassociation.org).

## Slip Away Farm

Here at Slip Away Farm, we are gearing up for our tenth growing season. This year is bound to be another unusual one. Seed companies are seeing unprecedented orders as everyone hopes to start their own gardens and as farmers prepare for an increased demand in locally grown vegetables.

Our crew this year is once again small but mighty. We will be welcoming back Stefan Pla for his second season on our field crew and Peter Kirn for his fourth season as our field manager. Lucy Leopold will be taking a season off from the flower crew since she and Collins Heavener are welcoming a new baby in late April. We are excited to have our “family” expand a bit more into the next generation!

Our CSA membership is now available on our website at [slipawayfarm.com](http://slipawayfarm.com). In the hopes of ensuring that our vegetables are affordable for all, we are offering a sliding scale payment system for our shares, which you can read more about on the site. In addition to our vegetable shares, we also offer six-week flower shares. Sign up now to receive a big beautiful bundle of our blooms every week in July and August.

We look forward to warmer weather and once again opening our farmstand doors come Memorial Day weekend. As usual, the stand will be open every Friday and Saturday through the season and our roadside stand will be stocked with flowers during the week.

Thank you for supporting us all these years, we can't wait to grow for you again!

- Lily Walter



## Chappy Ticks

While Covid dominates our health concerns, the ticks are not going away on Chappy; in fact, research indicates the problems may be worsening. Biologist Richard Johnson, who has been studying this issue for so many years on Martha's Vineyard, tells us the lone star ticks are now found in large numbers on most of Chappy. While not transmitting Lyme disease like the deer ticks they can cause a meat allergy called alpha gal syndrome. While the deer hunt this fall was not record setting we do have evidence that many deer were culled, helping to reduce the primary vector in tick borne illness. It remains of utmost importance this Spring and Summer to wear protective clothing and tick repellent on exposed skin to guard against these tiny but deadly parasites. Also be aware that dogs can also bring home ticks despite wearing collars or repellent. Our group continues to explore proven methods of tick reduction. To cheer us up a solution may be on its way. Click on this link: [Human Testing Begins On Springtime Lyme Disease Shot Developed In Mass. | CommonHealth](https://www.commonhealth.org/news/2020/03/human-testing-begins-on-springtime-lyme-disease-shot-developed-in-mass/) ([wbur.org](http://wbur.org))

How significant are the ticks on your property? You can find out by having Dick Johnson survey your property for ticks and advise you on where tick "hot spots" are and what mitigation steps you may want to consider. For this service, a \$100 contribution is recommended to help cover costs of Dick's study. Dick can be reached at [ticksmv@gmail.com](mailto:ticksmv@gmail.com).

## Report from Trustees on the Upcoming 2021 Season

The Trustees is looking forward to another busy season at our beach properties, including Cape Poge and Wasque. There will be 3 new policies that we will be implementing this year to further ensure the protection of the habitat and resources on Cape Poge. These include:

1) A Kiteboarding Policy that will prohibit launching from our properties from April 1- October 1 during the shorebird nesting season for implementation April 1;

2) An Oversand Vehicle Policy that will determine the total beach area accessible by vehicular travel based on the 1994 Coastal Zone Management Barrier Beach Management Guidelines and calculate a total number of cars allowable per mile of beach based primarily on erosion and nesting shorebird habitat. This will be implemented on May 1st and


3) Dog Policy: Year-round prohibition on dogs at all of our Wildlife Refuges and allow dogs on leash at our upland trail reservations. This means that some properties will be more restrictive and other less so to dog walkers. This will be implemented on October 1st.

We are in the process of hiring a new Martha's Vineyard Stewardship Manager as well as a Chappaquiddick Steward. Both of this positions are new and will lead the stewardship team on Chappaquiddick year-round. We are very happy to announce this new stewardship structure and believe that the addition of these new positions will strengthen our work on Chappaquiddick.

The island at Mytoi will be replanted this spring with collaboration from our friends at Polly Hill Arboretum. The island was reconfigured last summer as part of our dredging project there. We will also be upgrading our communications at Mytoi as well, including high-speed internet to our gatehouse. We will also be replacing and upgrading our solar installations at all of our Chappaquiddick gatehouses.


Best regards,  
Sam Hart, Trustees Islands Director


Chappy Ferry Point - Edgartown, MA, USA



12°F

**HIGH: 22°F** at 12:00 AM  
**LOW: 11°F** at 10:08 AM

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 **Wind:** 19 mph NNW

 **Humidity:** 66%

 **Rain:** 0.00 in

 **Barometer:** 29.87 in Hg

High gust 42 mph at 02:29 AM

Feels like -6°F

Seasonal Total 0.97 in

Steady

## Environmental Committee Report

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The Chappy winter winds have not slowed the activity of our environmentalists. Since its inception a little under two years ago, the CIA's Environmental Committee has tackled an extraordinary number and range of issues focused on preserving the well-being of the island we love.

- ◆ We've created a comprehensive approach to **the fight against ticks**, engaging with experts, developing communications, organizing preventive measures (including an island-wide deer cull), even distributing "tick-free" socks! Thanks to Alan Feldman and his team for their continued and expanding efforts.
- ◆ Under the leadership of Bruce Fowle, the committee organized four highly successful "Zoom" sessions on a variety of topics related to the impacts of **climate change** on Chappy and the risks resulting from **sea-level rise**. We are currently establishing **guidelines** based on the lessons learned from these talks while expanding the list of **resources** to facilitate access to critical information. Simultaneously, we are planning an island-wide communications campaign to drive home the importance of mitigation and adaptation and encourage volunteering for activating a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) to ensure our safety in a major weather event. **Summaries and recordings of all sessions are available on the CIA website** - <https://chappaquiddickislandassociation.org/news/2021/3/2/chappaquiddick-climate-work>
- ◆ Members of the committee participated in the Edgartown's MVP Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment project meetings and were proactive in the Selectmen's decision to place the ferry on the "shortlist" for infrastructure funding. Once the final assessment report is completed, the committee will work with Chappy's **Ferry** Task Force to help guide the development of a viable long-term solution
- ◆ Although no Chappy-specific data on **COVID-19** exists, the committee - lead by Jo Solet and Bob Gurnitz - has been keeping abreast of virus developments island-wide, including data on testing and cases, and information about vaccinations. (See an update in this newsletter.)
- ◆ Finally, we're beginning to pay attention to two new issues: Edgartown's attempt to manage activity in **Cape Pogue**, and the increasing amount of over-the-sand vehicle traffic at both **Wasque and East Beach**. Stay tuned for more information on those matters.

Many thanks to the dozen-plus committee members, who have contributed time and talent to our task. We welcome your thoughts, not only on the issues above but on any other matters you think are relevant to keeping Chappy environmentally healthy. Please feel free to contact me by email or phone.

Pete Taft, Committee Chair

[petetaftis@gmail.com](mailto:petetaftis@gmail.com)

609-306-8878

## Cape Pogue Boating Issues

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You may have heard about the alarming increase last summer in boat traffic and anchoring in Cape Pogue, particularly around the Gut. To keep you informed, here is a summary of what Edgartown officials are doing regarding this situation.

The Edgartown Marine Advisory Committee has proposed a temporary one year ban on anchoring in Cape Pogue amid concerns about the pond's wildlife and a surge in recreational boating. At a November 17 meeting, the Edgartown Planning Board approved a one-year moratorium on anchoring in the area. The moratorium will allow the town time to reform the Cape Pogue DCPC Advisory Committee (CPAC), make zoning bylaw changes to establish the constitution of the committee, then allow the committee the time to develop comprehensive regulations. In order for the moratorium to be implemented, certain changes need to be made to the Cape Pogue DCPC agreement.

At a December 8 meeting the Edgartown Planning Board approved changes to the CPAC and changes in enforcement of regulations applicable to the Cape Pogue DCPC. There are several changes to the CPAC, one of which pertains to the CIA. As it stands today, the CIA has the right to appoint a Cape Pogue Property owner to the CPAC, however with the proposed changes the CIA will no longer have this right. Here is the link to minutes of the Planning Board meeting on December 8 where you can review all proposed changes. Page 5 covers the changes to the CPAC. Edgartown Planning Board: [Minutes 12/8/20](#)



On January 12 the Edgartown Planning Board held a public hearing to receive comment on these proposed changes. The changes will be added to a Warrant Article at the Town Annual Meeting in April.

On February 23 the Edgartown Selectmen held a public hearing on the proposed regulations for Cape Pogue. More than 75 people attended the virtual meeting and numerous Chappy residents voiced their concerns and offered advice on possible steps to take. The Selectmen asked the Edgartown Marine Advisory Committee to look into these matters further and provide their recommendations within 3 to 4 weeks. The meeting was recorded and is accessible on the Edgartown website. We encourage our members and friends to voice their concerns and suggestions.

## Chappy COVID Update

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Although there is no Chappy-specific data on COVID-19, there are two websites that provide excellent Vineyard-wide information. For a comprehensive snapshot of COVID-19 testing and results as well as more general information on the virus, visit the **Island Health Care website** (<https://www.ihimv.org/covid-19/>). For up-to-date data on vaccinations and to learn how you might receive one, go to the **Martha's Vineyard Hospital website** (<https://www.mvhospital.com/>). Some of you have inquired about a clinic at the Chappy Community Center. For a host of very good reasons - staffing, logistics, the need for centralized administration (the Hospital) - we're told that such a clinic is highly unlikely. Remember: Even if you've been vaccinated, **experts advise to continue to wear a mask and maintain social distancing.**