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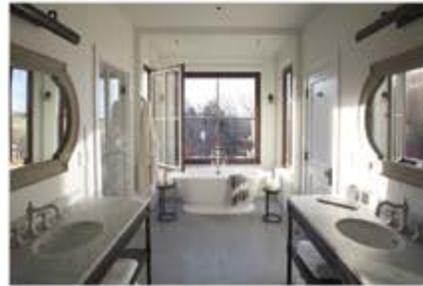
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BY HOLLY PRETSKY

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Cover photo: Oyster Bar 02557 executive chef Joe DaSilva and chef-owner Ben DeForest outside the restaurant in Oak Bluffs. Photo by Jeanna Shepard.

From the Editor

Possibilities

Every summer is the same. We start out with so much enthusiasm. We're going to swim every morning. Read twelve books. Learn to fish. Learn to cook a fish (on the grill). Dine out at every new restaurant. Go to every speaker series. See all the new artists' shows. Eat breakfast up at the cliffs, watch the sunset at Menemsha, visit Chilmark Chocolates every week.

And, no surprise, we never meet these lofty goals.

Our advice this summer: Pick one or two new things to do. And break down goals into bite-size pieces. Want to up your grilling game? Check out the cool new tools on page 8. Want to walk more? Get inspired by The Great Walk About on page 20. Only instead of walking around the Island in four days, you could do it in four months, or even four years. Ever been sailing on Edgartown harbor? Use visiting guests as an excuse to do a peaceful three-hour catboat charter (see page 5).

The one thing we can't help you with is narrowing down your reading list. When you see what's coming from the 2019 Martha's Vineyard Book Festival this August (and read our interviews with three of the Vineyard-loving authors on page 14), you'll be stumped. Good luck with that!

—Susie Middleton

THE VINE

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Tim Johnson

The Captain

AN INTERVIEW WITH KURT PETERSON

BY PAULA LYONS

NAME: Kurt Peterson

PROFESSION: Charter boat captain

BUSINESS NAME: Catboat Charters

WASHED ASHORE FROM:
Carver, Mass.

YEARS AGO: Five

FAVORITE SPOT ON-ISLAND:
Edgartown Harbor

FAVORITE PART OF HIS BOAT:
The sail

Kurt Peterson grew up in the small town of Carver, Mass. But it was summers at his grandmother's house in Cotuit on Cape Cod that introduced him to a lifelong passion: sailing. Kurt's father would arrive on weekends and take Kurt and his brothers out on his catboat to explore Cotuit Bay and waters beyond. Sometimes the family would sail over to Martha's Vineyard, and Kurt remembers falling in love with the Island immediately. But it took him years to realize that he could actually build a business around sailing that just might allow him to put down roots here.

He is now a charter captain, sailing his antique catboat *Tigress* out of Edgartown Harbor four-and-a-half months each year. He is a sailmaker during the offseason. And you probably already know his boat. It's the one with the Stars and Stripes on its sail!

Q. I know you've sailed since you were a kid. But how did you learn it could be a business?

A. I took a year off after college and sailed my own boat down the coast, all the way to the Florida Keys. Down there, I crewed on a 48-foot schooner. That's what opened my eyes to charter sailing as a career opportunity. Growing up in Carver, I was never exposed to something like that, so I didn't know it was a possibility.

Q. I was surprised to learn you could sail to the Island from the Cape in a catboat.

A. Oh you'd be surprised how seaworthy they are. They were made for

fishing these waters. Many times men would take them 20 miles offshore to go swordfishing. The old swordfishing catboats would have a very long bowsprit. One person would be aft at the helm and another would be forward, out on the bowsprit with a harpoon ready to spear a swordfish. The wide beam makes a catboat nice and stable in the water. And the boat was also designed with a shallow draft so that it could get around easily in waters that have a lot of shoals and sandbars. Another defining characteristic is the single, large mainsail, with just one

mast stepped all the way forward in the boat. And that's also for simplicity and ease of handling.

Q. Why did you decide to launch your business on Martha's Vineyard?

A. I sailed here for the first time with my dad when I was about four years old. I just totally fell in love with the Island. I could always see myself living here. But it didn't become a real possibility until 2015 after I bought my first catboat. It was called *Nantucket*. I met harbor-master Charlie Blair down on Memorial



Jeanna Shepard



Photos by Maria Thibodeau

Wharf and told him about my idea to do charter sails –after I got my captain’s license, of course – and he was very supportive. I really owe a lot to him.

Q. When did Tigress enter your life?

A. Tigress entered my life in 2016, after a successful season with my first boat. I found it for sale online, and it was way out of my price range. But I called anyway, because it looked like it would be the perfect boat for what I planned to do with it.

The owner actually ended up financing the boat for me after several meetings. Obviously I shared a lot of enthusiasm for his boat and it was very sentimental for him too. He wanted to make sure it was in good hands.

Q. So what was so special about this boat as opposed to your first boat?

A. It’s bigger and better in most every way. First of all, it’s wooden, where the Nantucket was fiberglass. It’s also a real antique. Tigress was built in 1927 by Charles Anderson in Wareham, Mass., right next to the town where I grew up. In all of New England, Tigress is the biggest catboat. She weighs about 22,000 pounds, she’s 29 feet long and is

just a real relic of a boat.

Q. Why the American flag sail?

A. In the late 1800s there was actually a boat that sailed these waters that had a very similar sail. It was right after the Civil War and it was a symbol of reunification. I think it’s appropriate now during these divisive times. I just thought it was a very beautiful thing. I saw photos of that boat when I was very young, and I was surprised that no one had tried to replicate it.

This past winter, we made a brand new sail for Tigress. It still has the flag, but the difference is that the old one was painted. This one is actually stitched together with red, white and blue Dacron. I think it will be more beautiful than the previous one.

Q. Sailing for pleasure or adventure is one thing. But deriving your living from it seems very different. Is it?

A. I would say yes, and no. What I do in the summertime is sort of what I’ve been doing for fun my whole life: taking folks out on the boat and showing them a great time. And when people who have never sailed come aboard, I love seeing their reaction when the



OPPOSITE: Tigress under sail in Edgartown Harbor. Kurt Peterson looks forward to getting more locals out this season. **THIS PAGE:** Kurt replaced his painted sail with a new Stars and Stripes sail stitched from red, white and blue Dacron. Tigress was built in 1927.

motor goes off and we’re just under wind power and it’s so quiet. But what’s different is I do so much sailing in-season, that when I have a day off, I don’t go sailing at all.

Q. Anything missing from your business so far?

A. I’d love to get more locals out on the boat. Right now we take out about 10 to 15 percent locals, and 85 to 90 percent are tourists. I really love meeting people who live here, and if you want to see the Island in a different way, try something that you’ve never done

before, come out for a sail with us.

Q. And what about Martha’s Vineyard? Permanent home or temporary?

A. I hope it’s permanent. I don’t take anything for granted. I just hope the town continues to embrace Tigress and Catboat Charters. I just love every minute of being here.

Paula Lyons is a former ABC and CBS television consumer journalist. She lives in Vineyard Haven.



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ON THE ROCK

Cook Out

Right now it seems like warm weather may never arrive, but if history repeats, we'll soon be spending more time cooking and eating outside. Feeling hopeful, we paid a visit to LeRoux at Home in Vineyard Haven (lerouxkitchen.com) to check out new tools and fun equipment for summer grilling and entertaining.

EVERYTHING BUT THE PEARL

Not surprising on the Vineyard, but one of LeRoux's bestsellers is this **1. Toadfish Put 'Em Back Oyster Knife (\$38)**. With an ergonomic no-slip grip, a handle made from recycled materials, a curved blade and pivot point that makes opening the oyster shell much easier, and a company commitment to replanting oyster beds with proceeds from every sale, the oyster knife is both user-friendly and earth-friendly. Also popular is Toadfish's machine washable, anti-microbial **2. Put 'Em Back Shucking Cloth (\$18)**. Cut-proof and puncture resistant, the cloth is an improvement over bulky gloves and much more sanitary than an old dishtowel. We were also excited to see this **3. Cast Iron Oyster Grill Pan (\$40)**, made by Outset. (There's a scallop pan, too.). Great for making oysters Rockefeller on the grill or grilling any oysters without losing all the juice, the pan can also be chilled and used to serve oysters cold. Or put the pan into service as a baking dish and make drop biscuits or mini corn muffins.



Courtesy Toadfish Outfitters



Courtesy Fox Run Brands



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ON THE ROCKS

Looks like we're guaranteed to have cold drinks this summer. If you like your Scotch (or anything) on the rocks, you'll want a **4. Prepara Big Ice Ball (\$3.99)** to make an orb of ice that won't melt quickly and dilute your drink. You can also add herbs or fruit to the mold to make ice for tea or lemonade. If you're a wine drinker, you'll want the **5. 25-ounce bottle from S'well (\$45)** since it will hold an entire bottle of wine—and keep it cold for 24 hours. Perfect for a boat ride, outdoor concert or picnic hike. All S'well bottles feature triple-walled vacuum-insulated construction and will also keep hot liquids hot for up to 12 hours. They come in a variety of sizes, shapes and finishes. (This handsome one is called Teakwood.) You'll want to bring along a pair of **6. 18-ounce stainless steel stemless wine glasses from Endurance (\$13 each)** to keep the chill going.



Courtesy Prepara



Courtesy S'well

**GRILLING
UPGRADES**

LeRoux is stocked with a huge variety of grilling tools; but we saw some items that were especially smart upgrades to old ideas. We're intrigued by these **7. Nonstick mesh grilling bags (\$12) made by Charcoal Companion.** They look like they'll be a lot easier to handle than the cumbersome old wire baskets. Made of PTFE nonstick fabric which is heat-safe to 600 degrees, the bags come in a few different sizes and are dishwasher safe. They'd be great for cooking shrimp, small pieces of vegetables, garlic cloves, tomato halves and anything else that might fall through grill grates. Charcoal Companion has also introduced the **8. Safe Scrape (\$16),** a wooden grill grate scraper that is a much better option than the old wire bristle brush which left bristles behind. The edge of the hardwood scraper conforms to your grill grates over time and can be used to clean the grill while it is still warm. And since we are huge fans of grilled pizza, we love this **9. Emile Henry smooth pizza stone (\$50).** This heat-resistant, high-performance ceramic can tolerate heat up to 932 degrees and can go on your grill or in your oven. You could also use it to grill fish or vegetables or for bread baking. The handles should make it easier to transport. Comes in burgundy or charcoal colors.



Courtesy The Companion Group

Courtesy The Companion Group



Susie Middleton



Courtesy Emile Henry



Ben DeForest is known for his ingredient-forward cuisine at Cardboard Box (heirloom tomato salad, top) and Red Cat Kitchen (Island fresca, bottom). He and Joe DaSilva (in front of Rez Williams painting) will drive The Oyster Bar menu with high-quality fish and shellfish.

Oyster Bar 02557 Makes Three Ben DeForest tags Joe DaSilva for his newest restaurant.

BY LOUISA HUFSTADER • PHOTOS BY JEANNA SHEPARD

Chef-owner Benjamin DeForest is expanding his presence on the Island restaurant scene with the May 24 opening of The Oyster Bar 02557 at 6 Circuit avenue in Oak Bluffs.

Located above Ben's Cardboard Box restaurant and bar, which opened in the spring of 2018, The Oyster Bar 02557 occupies the space long held by the Lampost nightclub. The back doors of both eateries are just across Kennebeck avenue from his flagship eatery, Red Cat Kitchen.

Anything Ben does with food is well worth sampling. Just ask Barack and Michelle Obama, repeat customers at Red Cat Kitchen, where Ben changed the menu more than 100 times last year to keep up with local harvests and his own imagination.

To create the menu for The Oyster Bar 02557, Ben has been collaborating with Joe DaSilva, who he asked to be the new restaurant's executive chef. Well-known for his cooking at the former Standby Café in

Oak Bluffs and the Lambert's Cove Inn, Joe first worked with Ben years ago at the former Dry Town Café in Vineyard Haven.

"I have his trust. He has my trust," Joe said.

The kitchen at The Oyster Bar 02557 will focus on the highest quality seafood, simply prepared with top-of-the-line ingredients, Joe said. Ben also promises a chicken dish with arugula salad and a flatiron steak. But the rest of the menu is fish and shellfish. "It's very New England seafood driven," he said.

Inside the restaurant, which is licensed to seat 175 people, a wrap-around oyster bar fitted with custom-made ice troughs will allow customers to belly up to the counter for shucked-to-order bivalves from local and regional waters.

"We're going to source great oysters from here, the Cape, the Chesapeake," Ben said. The restaurant will be open seven days a week.

Uncompromising quality and fresh, local ingredients are at the heart of Ben's



While running three restaurants means less time at the stove for Ben DeForest, he can still exercise his creativity in adapting and fine-tuning the concepts with customer feedback.

cooking, but it wasn't a love of food that first drew him to the restaurant world – it was the excitement he sensed as an Island kid, riding his bike to Menemsha on summer evenings when the Home Port restaurant was in full swing.

“The energy, the buzz, the roar – when you came down the hill, you could hear the Home Port,” he said. “It's something that was special.”

Years later, Ben rediscovered that “frenetic energy” at Raymond Schilcher's Oyster Bar, which occupied 57 Circuit avenue in the 1980s and early 1990s.

“It was this huge party,” he recalled. “Raymond had this real knack for creating a buzz. The food, the beverages, the vibe – he was good at that, and that's something that I have carried with me through my career.”

Ben has also carried the lessons he learned in the kitchen of Aujourd'hui at the Four Seasons Hotel in Boston.

“That was my education for almost four years,” he said. “That's where you learn how to do things properly and how to serve people.”

While learning his trade at Aujourd'hui, Ben absorbed the wisdom of the Four Seasons' general manager, Robin Brown, now a well-established real estate developer.

“I still remember things he said daily,” Ben said. “‘One thing soup is never supposed to be is warm.’ It's silly little things like that that shape you.”

In creating his own restaurant experiences, Ben expresses both sides of his background: That meticulous training at the Four Seasons as well as the “champagne and cocaine” party atmosphere of Schilcher's place – “minus the cocaine,” he said.

“Now I get to do it my way, and that's exciting.”

Part of the excitement for Ben is seeing how his customers make their mark on a place. It requires keeping an open mind and being willing to change and adapt, he said.

“You can start a restaurant with what you believe it's going to become, and once the public comes in and starts pollinating the place, the identity of the restaurant then presents itself,” he said.

“I think that energy steeps in a place like tea.”

That's more or less what happened after Ben launched Cardboard Box early last May. Over the summer, the restaurant developed “some funk and some soul and a flavor and tone of its own, and once we recognized that, we tailored and flavored the room to what it had become,” Ben said.

At the end of the season, he ditched the room's original cool, neutral-toned decorating scheme for more vibrant colors and textures.

“We warmed it up. Everything was grey,” Ben said. “It feels more like me down here than it had in the past.”

And if customers also take The Oyster Bar 02557 in a direction he hasn't anticipated, Ben is ready to make changes.

“That's the beauty of collaboration,” he said. “When you open a restaurant, you end up collaborating with the dining public.”

“You hope that, like any great thing, it stays great, and evolution has to become a part of that.”

Louisa Hufstader is an Edgartown-based reporter.

Three in O.B.



Ben DeForest opened the Red Cat Kitchen in 2012.



In 2018, the Cardboard Box debuted on Circuit Ave.



Oyster Bar 02557 just opened in May in the old Lam-post space on Circuit Ave.

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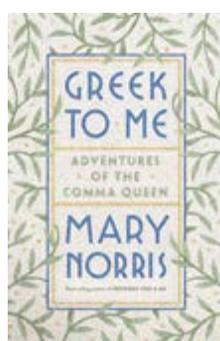
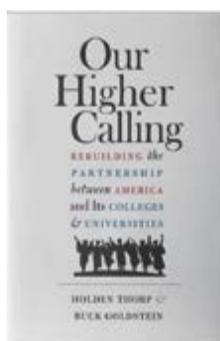
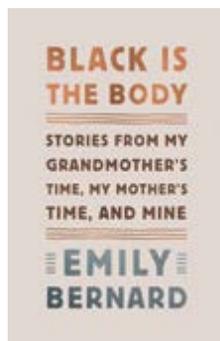
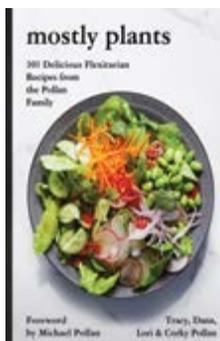
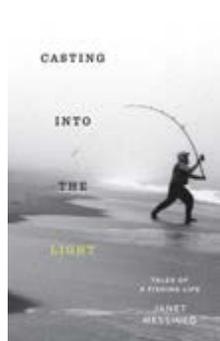
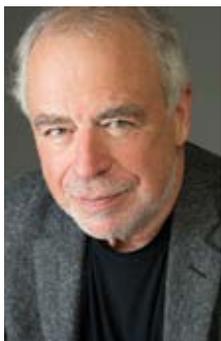
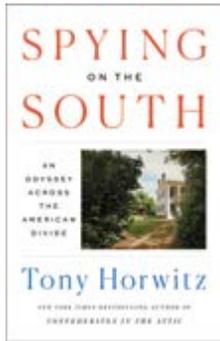
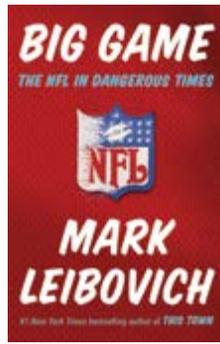
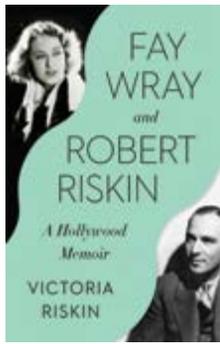
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Liz Dolan Durkee

Literary Island

Many of the 2019 Martha's Vineyard Book Festival authors have something in common: a love for the Vineyard.

Since the biennial Martha's Vineyard Book Festival was founded in 2005, its scope and reputation have grown to feature nationally acclaimed authors – and some of the hottest book releases of the year. But despite the wide net it casts, the festival always seems to catch more than a few Vineyard lovers for its star lineup. The 2019 roster is no different, with many authors connected to the Island in some way. Some live here seasonally, some visit every summer, some lived here once, some live here year-round. Knowing this, we were curious: Do they get inspiration from this place? Where are their favorite spots on the Island? And what does participating in the Martha's Vineyard Book Festival mean to them?

We reached out to three of them to answer our questions. Fans of Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist Richard Russo will be happy to learn that his newest book, *Chances Are...* (Knopf, July 2019), takes place right here on the Vineyard. And you could probably guess that the Island is at the heart of beloved fisherwoman Janet Messineo's first book, *Casting Into the Light: Tales of a Fishing Life* (Pantheon, July 2019). And Mark Leibovich, the chief national correspondent for *The New York Times Magazine* and au-

thor of *Big Game: The NFL in Dangerous Times* (Penguin Press, 2018), has been coming to the Vineyard in August since he was seven years old (though thankfully his new book does not have a Vineyard history, NFL fans notwithstanding).

After hearing from these authors, you may be curious about the rest. The complete list of authors (including John Grisham, Ruth Reichl, Kwame Onwua-achi, Dani Shapiro and Jim Acosta) and their new books is on page 18, and you can look forward to a robust preview of the 2019 festival in the *Vineyard Gazette's* special supplement, published just before the event. (The *Vineyard Gazette* is the media sponsor for the festival.) This year, the free festival runs August 3 and 4 at the Chilmark Community Center.

In the meantime, the festival website (mvbookfestival.com) is updated regularly, and of course you might want to get a hold of some of the books now so that you can read them before meeting the authors. Bunch of Grapes bookstore in Vineyard Haven is a long-time partner of the book festival and will have all books available as they are published.

The following interviews were done by Louisa Hufstader.

Book festival authors with a Vineyard connection include Victoria Riskin (*Fay Wray and Robert Riskin: A Hollywood Memoir*); Tony Horwitz (*Spying on the South*); Richard Russo (*Chances Are...*); Dana, Tracy, Corky and Lori Pollan (*Mostly Plants*); Nicole (N.D.) Galland (*On the Same Page*); Mark Leibovich (*Big Game*); Lisa Taddeo (*Three Women*); Janet Messineo (*Casting Into the Light*); Emily Bernard (*Black is the Body*); Buck Goldstein (with Holden Thorp, *Our Higher Calling*); Mary Norris (*Greek to Me*).



Tim Johnson

RICHARD RUSSO

Richard Russo is the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Empire Falls*, a 2001 novel in which Martha's Vineyard plays a role. He's written many other works of fiction, essays, screenplays and a memoir. Russo's new novel, *Chances Are...*, is set on the Vineyard and comes out July 30 from Knopf, just before Russo appears at the book festival in August.

What do you remember about your first trip to Martha's Vineyard?

My mother took me to the Island when I was around ten and we were staying out at an inn (Menemsha Inn).

I didn't know what an island was. I thought if everyone went to one side of it, it would tip up. You can see on the map, they're just sitting there like lily pads.

I don't think my mother had any idea where we were going. She seemed to think we would be able to go wherever we wanted to go and do whatever we wanted to do, so I think the week was a little disappointing for her.

I, on the other hand – I loved it. It was a magical place when I was ten and that's the magic that stays, isn't it? The magic from when you're susceptible to magic is the magic that stays.

Why did she take you to the Vineyard?

Where I came from, and where my mother came from, was an upstate New York grungy mill town. I think she wanted me to see there were beautiful places in the world. I think it was her eyes I was seeing through – her desire for me to see something magical and beautiful – and I tend to still see things through those eyes.

There's an aura about the place for me that goes back and I'm sure it has some-

thing to do with that first visit. Even things on the Vineyard that are a complete pain in the ass, like the ferry – there's something magical about getting on a ferry still.

When did you begin visiting the Island regularly?

I didn't get a chance to go back until Barbara and I were married. I had never forgotten the place. I don't think we have missed more than one or two summers since our daughters were born. We've got grandchildren now that have been, and I'm sure will continue to go.

What's your chosen Vineyard destination—one of the towns, or up-Island where so many other Pulitzer winners hang out?

(Laughs) It's funny to think of the Vineyard as having so many Pulitzer winners. We rented in Vineyard Haven one year when the kids were little, then we started going out to Katama before the Mat-takesett condos were built. We rented a little bitty cottage.

Katama is pretty convenient for us. It seems to have a lot of what we want. We wait for all the politicians and frat boys to go home, then we come in September.

For a number of years we were empty nesters and just the two of us would go. But our daughters, to our surprise, just came home with their husbands and we're all in Portland, Maine, now. Emily is the mother of our two grandchildren and owns a book store, Kate is a painter and writer.

Will the whole family be joining you in August for the book festival?

Probably not. We do like to get back to the island as much as we can, but Emily won't be able to get away from the store and Kate is in the process of selling her first novel.

How do you spend your September vacation on the Vineyard?

Strangely enough – because I can do it anywhere – what my wife and I love about being on the Island is the number of books we read. Right around now, we'll start a couple of baskets of books.

We don't read a lot for credit or obligation. We tend to read books by writers we love. If there's a new book by Kate Atkinson – and there is – that will be one of the books that will go into my basket. I'm not going to read it now, because I know I'm going to love it.

We try to make it so we don't have a lot of other obligations and we plow through a lot of books while we are there. Barbara is a more voracious reader than I am. Since we're usually there about three weeks and we read on the beach, she probably takes twenty books and reads a dozen. She'll read one every other day.

I will write in the morning and spend the afternoon reading and soaking up

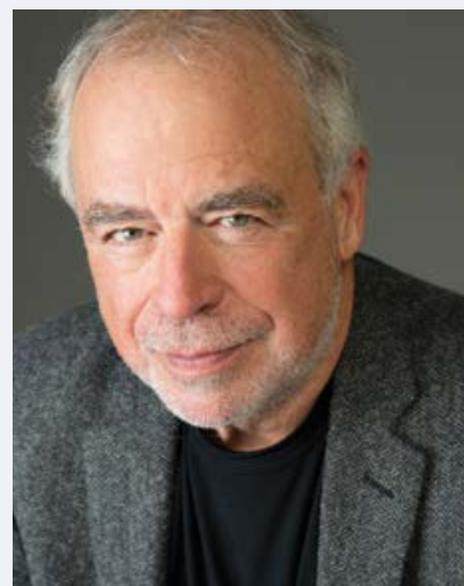
what's left of the September sun.

For those who haven't read *Empire Falls*, what's the Vineyard connection?

The protagonist, Miles Robey – like his creator – went to the Island as a boy. Now he's kind of hitched to the sled in the town where he's living. His wife is divorcing him. He takes daughter Tick to the Island and they go to a bookstore. He's going to buy this used bookstore in his imagination. I pictured it as Book Den East.

You're also an advisor for the Martha's Vineyard Book Festival. Does having a daughter with a bookstore help you in this regard?

I consult with my daughter, and for the last decade or so I have been active in promoting young and emerging writers. We always have our ear to the tracks for good writers with books coming out. It's a kick for me. I love discovering new writers and spreading the news.



Elena Seibert





Jeanna Shepard

JANET MESSINEO

Surfcasting is the story of Janet Messineo's life. "I never thought about fishing from a boat," she writes in her memoir *Casting Into the Light: Tales of a Fishing Life*, to be published by Pantheon July 2. Messineo arrived on Martha's Vineyard in the days of the big striped bass, settling here in 1966 and working in restaurants while she pursued her passion for fishing from the shore. Her love of fish and fishing also led Messineo first into the art of taxidermy, which allowed her to leave restaurant work and become a surfcasting guide, and then into the craft of writing.

How did you become a writer?

About thirty years ago, I had just become a taxidermist and a magazine out of Boston called *New England Outdoors* asked if I would write a taxidermy column. I did that for about six months and they went out of business. Then *On the Water* magazine came to me, and I said, "I'm really not a writer, but I'll give it a stab."

Then I was asked to join Cynthia Riggs' writing group. I had done some work for Martha's Vineyard Magazine and *Edible Vineyard*. The base of my book became some of my old articles that I had written.

What did it take to get a publishing contract for your book?

In lieu of self-publishing, I wanted to find a publisher, so I was sending it around. Someone knew a senior editor and vice-

president at Knopf, Victoria Wilson. She read the first few chapters and now here I am, an author! She already had a love of the Vineyard. And she was one of the first women to be working at Knopf, so I think it rang a bell with her also. I was a woman in a man's world and I stuck to it.

Female fishing authors are rare, aren't they? I can only think of Linda Greenlaw.

Actually, the first sports fishing book ever written, in 1496, is by a woman, a nun, Dame Juliana Berners. It's called *The Treatyse of Fysshynge Wyth an Angle*. I have a copy. It's not an original!

Did you have to change your book much before it was ready to publish?

Once I signed the contract with the publisher I spent last winter putting more in, more detail, more detail. I was definitely guided. I had been writing for people who knew what it means to "snag some bunker." I had to learn how to explain what I'm doing to people who have never fished before. I had to learn how to describe West Chop, history...how do you do that without getting out of the story? I've learned so much from writing my book.

Are you looking forward to the book festival?

I'm a virgin author. I have no idea what

I'm doing. I've never even done book signings before, and to be invited to the festival – that's an honor. I've been speaking to fishing clubs for quite a few years, but that's been on fishing.

I understand that the Martha's Vineyard Museum has purchased one each of every fish you've ever preserved. Does that mean you're retired from taxidermy?

They actually purchased my collection; that's so exciting to me. As the species decline, it will be so nice for people to see these fish first hand. I'm basically retired, I'm not taking any new taxidermy work. It's a chance to finish some things I've started. I want to create what I call the art of taxidermy. I specialize in skin mounts and reproductions.

What's the biggest fish you've ever mounted?

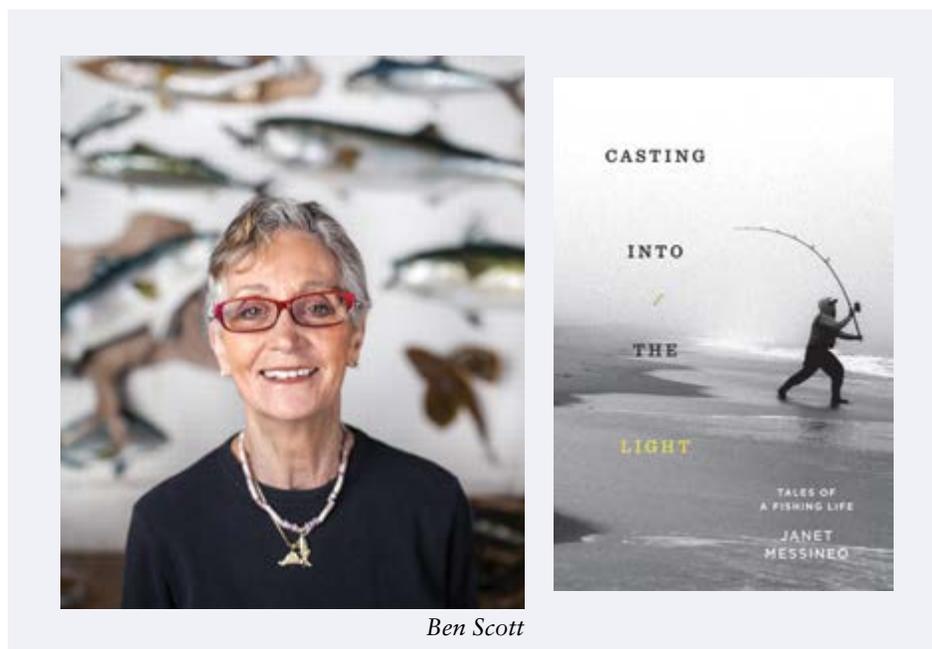
My biggest so far have been two forty-five-pounders. But of all those big trophy fish that I did, the most exciting for me is the kids' first fish.

Are you still working as a surfcasting guide?

I retired from that last year. I'm 71 and I can do it, but I really suffer with leg cramps afterwards, from going back and forth between people on the beach.

Is it okay to ask about your favorite fishing spots?

I have some secret spots. I was out at Quansoo yesterday. I call that Heaven. But my favorite spot is wherever my feet are.



Ben Scott



Peter Simon

MARK LEIBOVICH

Mark Leibovich is the Washington, D.C. – based chief national correspondent for The New York Times Magazine. He got his start in journalism with the Boston Phoenix and went on to work for the San Jose Mercury News and the Washington Post before joining the Times.

Leibovich's books include *The New Imperialists* (2002), *This Town: Two Parties and a Funeral – Plus, Plenty of Valet Parking!* – in *America's Gilded Capital* (2013) and *Citizens of the Green Room: Profiles in Courage and Self-Delusion* (2014). His latest, *Big Game: The NFL in Dangerous Times* (Penguin, 2018) comes out in paperback August 27.

What do you remember about your first trip to Martha's Vineyard?

I grew up around Boston and we went for the first time when I was maybe seven years old, around that. There was some event on the Island that they dragged me to. I remember the ferry and eating Drake's Cakes for the first time. That was my first taste of coffee cake.

And now that you have a family with kids of your own, what is your Island connection?

I do love the place. What's not to love, right? Except for getting there and getting back. But we make a day of it. We've been going for a long time. We try to go

for a week or two at the beginning of August, which often coincides with the festival. My mother sometimes goes.

One thing I'd love to do is to go some time off-season.

Where and how do you like to spend your time here?

We usually stay in Aquinnah. I try to bike as much as I can. I swim a fair amount every day. I read. This is a completely unexciting version of what people do on the Vineyard! I like to run, I like to walk. I used to do the 5K.

What are your summer touchstones on the Vineyard?

Night swims, early morning swims. Menemsha, Larsen's, the Galley. Alley's. And I have a friend, a lawyer in D.C., who has a house in West Tisbury and we always meet for breakfast at the airport café (Plane View). Love that place! That's become a summer thing too. The farmers' market. We go to Oak Bluffs once a summer. We like the Bunch of Grapes. Shout out for the bookstore!

Do you have any friends who live here year-round?

Shelagh Hackett. We've known each other since we were kids. She's a total genius. I love her to death.

For your latest book, you spent years following the National Football League and spent a significant amount of time with men like Roger Goodell, Robert Kraft and Tom Brady. What's the quarterback like in person?

I found him, within the context of how incredibly ridiculous his level of success is, to be relatively normal and down to earth. He's loved and loathed – it's kind of like a Rorschach test for who you root for – but I wound up liking him more than other people I met around the league, like Kraft and Goodell. I really did enjoy spending time with him. I'm actually friends with his father now.

Are you fielding more questions about Robert Kraft since his arrest in the prostitution and sex trafficking case?

I get a lot of that. Everyone asks if I orchestrated the whole thing to try and get goose sales. When something like this happens, you get a new round of free publicity around it.

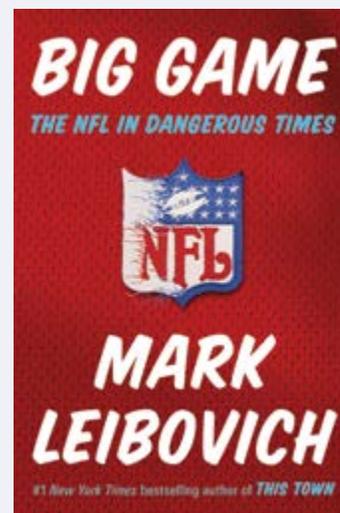
I don't have any great insight into what he was thinking. There's a fair amount in the book around him, but it's not that fun a story, I think.

Are you working on another book?

No. I love not writing a book. Being done with a book is by far the best part of writing a book. Embrace the doneness!



Ralph Answang

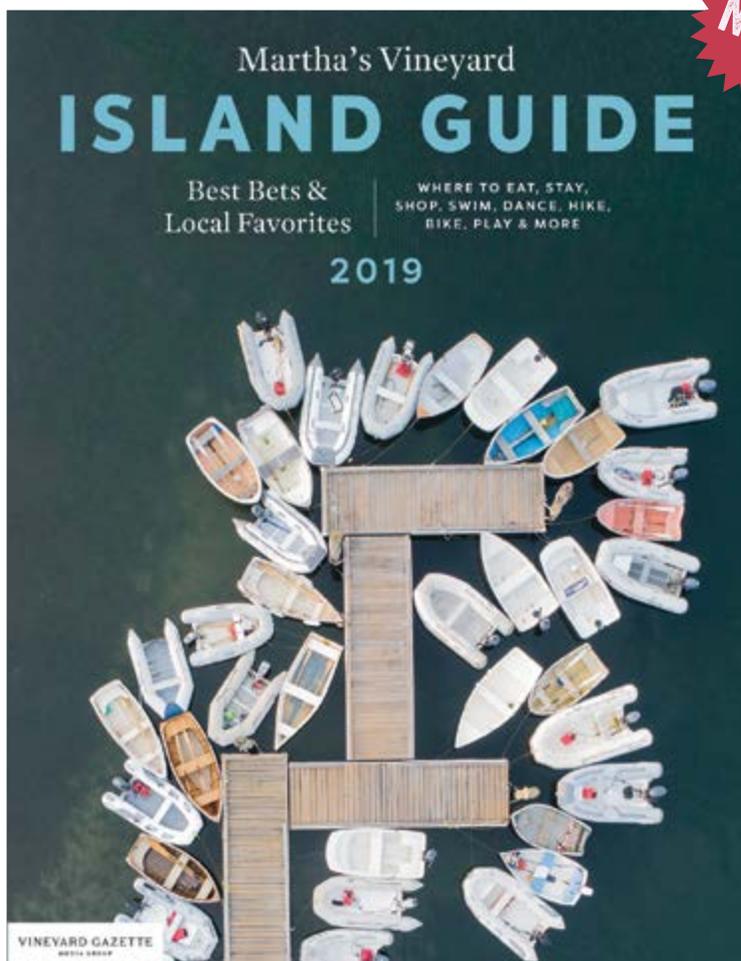


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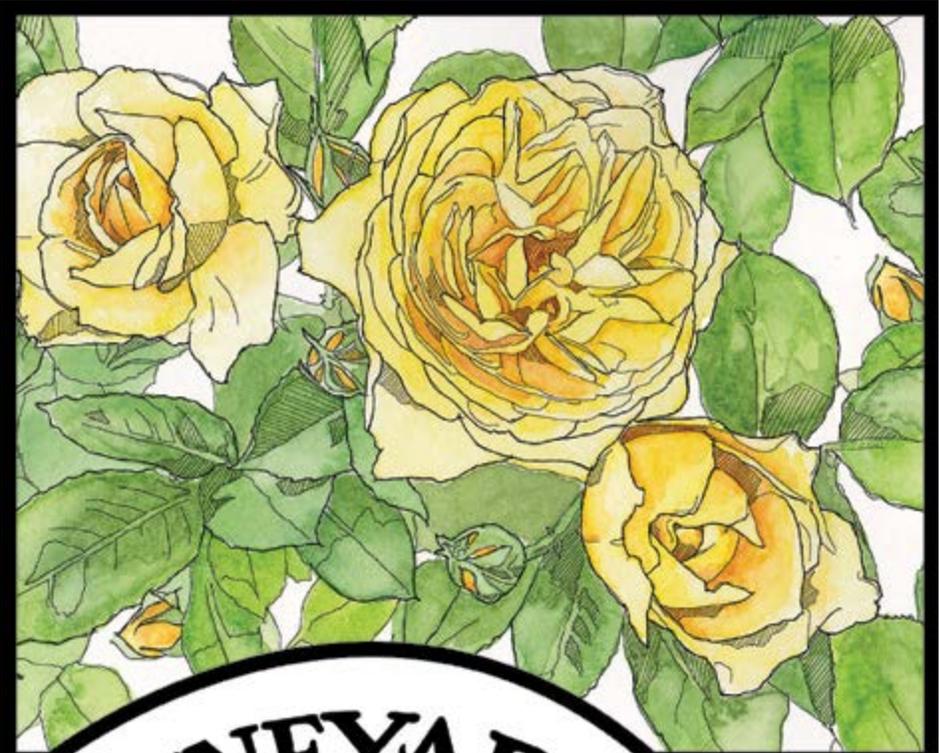
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 JUNE 12 - 6:30 PM - OCEANSTATE WAVES
 JUNE 14 - 6:30 PM - NEW BEDFORD BAY SOX
 JUNE 15 - 6:30 PM - MYSTIC SCHOONERS
 JUNE 22 - 6:30 PM - SANFORD MAINERS
 JUNE 23 - 6:30 PM - DANBURY WESTERNERS
 JUNE 26 - 6:30 PM - DANBURY WESTERNERS
 JUNE 30 - 7:00 PM - N. ADAMS STEEPLECATS
 JULY 1 - 7:00 PM - OCEANSTATE WAVES
 JULY 6 - 7:00 PM - DANBURY WESTERNERS
 JULY 7 - 7:00 PM - NEWPORT GULLS
 JULY 11 - 7:00 PM - NEWPORT GULLS
 JULY 12 - 7:00 PM - KEENE SWAMPBATS
 JULY 14 - 7:00 PM - OCEANSTATE WAVES
 JULY 18 - 7:00 PM - VERMONT MOUNTAINEERS
 JULY 19 - 7:00 PM - UPPER VALLEY NIGHTHAWKS
 JULY 21 - 7:00 PM - NEW BEDFORD BAY SOX
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Photos by Jeanna Shepard

The Great Walk About

Walking the entire perimeter of Martha's Vineyard may not be for the casual hiker, but every so often a few adventurous souls tackle the feat.

BY HOLLY PRETSKY

There are many unofficial badges of honor on the Vineyard: One goes to the first person to hear the pinkletinks or see snowdrops in the spring; another goes to those who find an arrowhead or a perfect piece of sea glass on the beach; yet another goes to the fearless few who take the New Year's Day ocean plunge.

Perhaps one of the most impressive feats though is completing a beach walk around the entire perimeter of the Island. Many have attempted it, but it seems all come away with a stronger connection to the Island they thought they knew.

Rob and Elisha's Big Adventure

Rob Meyers and Elisha Wiesner made the trip all at once – a four day odyssey that included cooking fresh fish on the beach and very narrowly avoiding an arrest. It was August 1995. Rob was 22 and Elisha was 18, just graduated from the regional high school.

"I seem to remember that somebody

was talking about getting a group of people together to do it," Elisha said. "And then everybody backed out."

Everybody except the two of them. They spent the day before the trip burying food and water at three different places: Makonikey, Lucy Vincent, and South Beach. Water and canned tuna were two stowed supplies that stayed in their memories. In the early morning the next day, they set out after breakfast at the Black Dog Tavern in Vineyard Haven and headed toward West Chop.

They hadn't planned how they would get across the first major obstacle of the journey: The deep cut at the opening of Lake Tashmoo. "We were like, 'it'll work itself out,'" Rob said. "And it did work itself out. There was just a guy in a canoe."

After they were conveniently ferried across, their luck held – at least at first. On day one, they walked from Vineyard Haven all the way to Menemsha, stopping for buried refreshments at Makoni-

key. Rob said the landscape was arresting on that side of the Island.

"The north shore just has so many twists and turns and you never know what's going to happen next," Rob said.

"You keep going to the next bump in the beach and then you go around the turn and there's another little cove. And then there's one after the other, after the other."

After they made it to Menemsha, they



Elisha Wiesner and Rob Meyers spent four days in 1995 walking the Island's perimeter.

Two Guys, Four Days, One Island



DAY 1: Start - Black Dog Tavern, Vineyard Haven
End - Menemsha, Chilmark



DAY 2: Start - Menemsha, Chilmark
End - Philbin Beach, Aquinnah



DAY 3: Start - Philbin Beach, Aquinnah
End - South Beach, Katama



DAY 4: Start - South Beach, Katama
End - Vineyard Haven Harbor



Ray Ewing

ate out and slept in a construction site Rob had been working on that summer.

On day two, they went from Menemsha all the way around Aquinnah, but got waylaid when a generous fisherman gave them some of his catch early in the day. They stopped to cook it on the beach near Lobsterville before forging onward, somewhat behind schedule.

As the afternoon progressed into evening, they came upon a private beach. Elisha and Rob had encountered private beaches already, but they had simply explained their mission and were always allowed to pass.

"I can't emphasize enough how many people were like, 'Oh that's so cool!' They could tell we were doing something. We had backpacks. It was the very height of the summer," Rob said.

But now, at the border of Philbin Beach, they were stopped by a security officer on an ATV. They tried to explain their adventure as they had to everyone else, but the security officer was adamant: It was a private beach. No trespassing allowed. Elisha and Rob went back over the border to Philbin, where some friends and onlookers had witnessed the

exchange. One man in the group identified himself as an attorney.

"He was egging us on to like stand up for our rights of fishing, fowling and navigating," Rob said. Equipped with borrowed fishing poles, they decided to try again, but the security guy said no dice.

Rob and Elisha weren't ready to give up.

"So now picture a comical second or third approach," Rob said laughing. "This time, I think we waited all the way until it became low-tide and then waded into the water like up to our knees. We had these broken fishing poles," he recalled. "The guy was like, 'Nope.'"

They weren't ready to give up yet, though. They approached the border again.

"Then the police were there," Rob said.

As they realized the situation could land them in jail, they thought better of this plan.

"The lawyer was like, 'You should do it. Get arrested. I will come represent you in court,'" Rob said.

But they admitted defeat. Somehow, they got in touch with their girlfriends

for a ride home.

"It just seemed not worth it to push the issue any further," Elisha said.

They slept indoors that night. The next day, they got a ride to the other side of the private beach to continue the journey.

Day three took them from there to their campsite on the beach near Katama.

"I remember on the south shore specifically, basically all the way from Lucy Vincent almost to Edgartown, I'd really

never spent any time on that beach over there," said Elisha, who grew up on the Island. "So that was really interesting for me.

Then, their final day took them through the down-Island towns, skipping Chappaquiddick. In Edgartown and Oak Bluffs, they walked straight through downtown where the beaches gave way to harbors.

"I remember we stopped at Our Market and got some beer," Elisha said.



Tim Johnson

TOP: At the Tashmoo cut, Elisha and Rob got a ride across on a canoe. **BOTTOM:** Lucy Vincent Beach looked a little different when the guys walked the south shore in 1995.



Jared Maciel

Even 24 years later, the details of the trip stick with them.

“It was definitely a really good way to spend four days,” Elisha said.

Taking the Walk in Smaller Bites

For those who aren’t up to taking the trip in one go, there are other options. Julius Lowe and friends did the trip in two parts: one in 2010 and the other in 2011. Each trip was two days, and they slept on the beach at night.

One trip took the group from Makonikey to Philbin Beach. The other took them from Norton Point beach to Squibnocket.

“Out on the beach you feel like you’re away even if you’re not that far away from things,” Julius said.

Nancy Weaver completed the feat over the course of four years with her friend Patrick, who was 10 when they began. Nancy estimated they did it in about 40 trips, highlighting their progress on a shared Island map.

“We had hiked around Lagoon Pond, and then we got the idea maybe we’d hike the whole Island,” Nancy said.

They took the bus home or arranged rides when they got tired. The approach meant they could complete parts of the

walk at all times of the year. They found a mammalian fossil on the beach in the winter.

“There aren’t many beachcombers at the south shore in February,” Nancy said.

Or Try the Cross-Island Hike

And for those in search of another very long walk that doesn’t involve hours and hours of trekking across sloped sand, there is the annual cross-Island hike (this year, June 1), organized by the Martha’s Vineyard Land Bank. The route changes every year, but always showcases some of the most beautiful Island trails. Last year, more than 100 people participated. The 2019 route is 16.2 miles and starts at Blackwater Pond Reservation and ends at Big Bridge at State Beach, Edgartown. Many hikers elect to walk only a portion of the route.

It may seem daunting, but Nancy has some advice for anyone who wants to make a very long trip on foot:

“Just start.”

Holly Pretsky is a reporter for the Vineyard Gazette.

Editor’s Note: Be aware that not all Vineyard beaches are public and plan accordingly.



Ray Ewing

TOP: In Edgartown, you can do part of the hike along Lighthouse Beach and Fuller Beach. **BOTTOM:** in Oak Bluffs, you can walk along State Beach and the Inkwell (above) before cutting through town to skirt the harbor.

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Liquid Refreshment

It's always 5 o'clock on Instagram. Sometimes it's a bit strange to see a chilled martini floating by on your photo feed at 9 a.m., but it's a great incentive to jam through the workday.

Right now, Island mixologists and just-opened restaurants are using Instagram to show us what's new and exciting for the 2019 season. Therefore, we felt it was only fair to curate a collection of virtual cocktails and craft beers to share with you. Granted the cold glasses and tropical fruit garnishes will make a little better sense in actual hot weather, but we can dream in the meantime.

Tag your photos:

#theVineMV #vineyardgazette @vineyardgazette or email thevine@mvgazette.com

Libation / lī'bāSHən/ noun/

1. A drink poured as an offering to a deity.
2. A liquid refreshment.
3. On the Vineyard, a cocktail with a name like "The Circuit" or "Island Bird" or "The Cold Snap."



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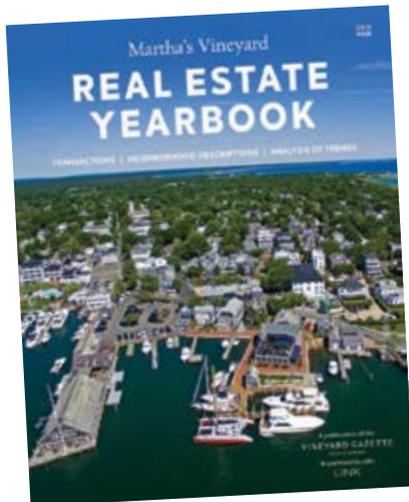
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74
PROPERTIES



14
Beaches

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30
FISHING
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16
Ponds

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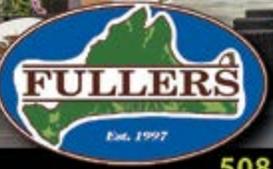


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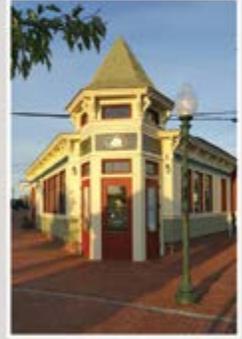
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