



Photo courtesy of Bic Sport

A Winning Combination

What could be more in keeping with TWI's water-friendly philosophy than a kayak? That's what we thought when we put on our fundraising thinking caps. So, for \$10 some lucky sea-going Vineyarder has the chance of winning, not just any old kayak, but Bic Sport's two-person thermoformed polyethylene Tobago which wins points in manoeuvrability, stability and gliding properties. Its ergonomic seating positions and well researched design allow for going solo or partnering up with an adult or child. Paddles and padded seats are included. Tickets are limited, so buy early and spread the word. Tickets will be sold at various events this summer including Sail Martha's Vineyard Seafaring Festival, July 7; the Tisbury Street Fair, July 8, and

the Ag Fair, August 16 - 19. The drawing will be at the fair on its last day.

And speaking of that jam-packed July weekend, don't forget, as part of the Seafaring Festival, TWI will sponsor its successful **Children's Marine Discovery Program**. It was such a hit at last year's festival, we're on for a repeat performance. Once again, kids will be urging on their favorites at the crab races while hunting for marine treasures such as shellfish and sea glass and depositing them in our mini "aquarium." Our thanks, in advance, to our own Doctors of "Sea-ology," Derek Cimeno and Rick Karney, for their informative contributions. Look for us at the Packer Wharf.

News and Views...News and Views...News and Views

Digging a Little Deeper

The town of Tisbury is planning to dredge two major areas in our local waters. One project, funded by the Massachusetts Seaport Council, involves the entrance to Lake Tashmoo. The Town has hired the Bourne Engineering Group to study the feasibility of changing the configuration of the Tashmoo inlet at Herring Creek. Since this inlet has required dredging at least once every two years, the Bourne Group is analyzing the tidal currents and long term patterns of the sand build up causing shoaling at the entrance to the lake. Their aim is to propose methods to interrupt and reduce the constant flow of sand into the lake. The project will also result in updating and enlarging the permit for dredging the entire length of the channel. There is sufficient circulation in Tashmoo to keep it healthy thus far, but the increased nitrogen loading from new homes and the constant flow of new boaters are threatening the shellfish grounds, herring run, spawning area, swimming and fishing.

TWI is also playing an active role in promoting another dredging project at the smaller opening into the VH harbor

(photo). Since most of the permits are already in place and disposal sites have been identified, this project should be a great deal easier to initiate than when the harbor was dredged 10 years ago. After that dredging,



Photo by Melinda Loberg

water circulation in the harbor immediately improved; the shellfish population grew, more fish spawned within the harbor and the stench of Japanese seaweed was almost totally eliminated. When water can flow easily into and out of the harbor, boaters, swimmers and fishermen immediately notice a dramatic difference. Small boat operators will also benefit as they can enter and exit the harbor out of the busy ferry channel.

All's Fair

Over the years we've come to expect innovation plus from the winners at our Regional High School's Science Fair and this year's crop didn't disappoint. The third prize winner, Evan Kendall, explained to us how 6 or 7 wind turbines like the ones proposed for the Wind Farm could supply 100% of the island's need for power. The second prize winner, Eliza Gowell, learned, surprisingly, that red pepper flakes do a good job killing fruit flies. And the first place award winner, Blake Stelle, examined the hatching rates of worms at different temperatures. TWI sponsors the top prizes. These budding scientists were among the 230 students who participated this year - that's nearly 1/3 of the school! In her eighth year of organizing the



*In the Winner's Circle...
Blake Stelle, Eliza Gowell, Evan Kendall*

fair, Dr. Natalie Munn of the school's science department has made this event one of the premier attractions of the school calendar and the crowds proved it. TWI is glad to be involved in promoting the recognition of these thoughtful students.

Photos by Denys Wortman

Smart Thinking

In the "Next New Thing" Department, TWI has learned of a technological innovation in the battle against non-point source pollution – that stuff that runs into our waterways from roads such as oil and grease, trash and sediment as well as bacteria – the cause of most beach closures to swimming and shellfishing. It is called a Smart Sponge and is manufactured by AbTech Industries (abtechindustries.com). The sponge can be molded to fit any catch basin, drain or pipe. It absorbs oils, PCBs, and other toxins while allowing water to pass through. The contaminants permanently bond to the sponges, which can be thrown away without harming the environment (or even recycled). Their latest version comes dipped in an antimicrobial coating that destroys bacteria as well.

The Environmental Protection agency has ordered all towns with populations of more than 10,000 to stop grease and oil contaminated storm water from running into lakes, rivers and other waterways by 2008. On a city-wide scale, the Smart Sponge technology is a much more cost-effective solution to achieve this goal than the currently

used technology. Although our island towns are not yet large enough to trigger this requirement, we will be able to gauge the effectiveness of the Smart Sponge for our local use as a model project is to be installed in Oak Bluffs in the storm water drains emptying off Inkwell Beach.

Lake St. Children's Park

A small group of dedicated parents in Vineyard Haven has been working towards the development of a children's playground by the Town's tennis courts on Lake Street. TWI has taken an interest in working with this project because of our historic involvement with road run-off mitigation at the Lake Street boat landing and our work with the Town to install first flush basins to decrease pollution.

Due to the sensitive nature of the wetlands located in this parcel between the tennis courts and Lake Tashmoo as well as the sometimes competing demands of various user populations, a cooperative plan among the park group, Department of Public Works, Conservation Committee, Tashmoo Management Committee and Tisbury Waterways Inc. is in order.



Photo by Melinda Loberg

A Clean Sweep...

Still going strong as it approaches its fifth anniversary, TWI's Adopt-A-Beach groups were out in force for the Vineyard's Earth Day Beach Clean-up on a blue sky April morning. Among the bag-fillers were various Girl Scout members and many Big Brothers Big Sisters volunteers who cleaned up around the Lake St boat ramp and surrounding coastline and made the biggest haul collecting everything from coat racks to rubber boots and aluminum chairs. Also among those doing their part: Brian Kennedy's group from the Sheriff's Department at Herring Creek and at the Tashmoo inlet where it unearthed - of all things - two televisions; and the YMCA crew, led by Eric Adams at Inkwell Beach. These hearty volunteers will continue to clean their assigned beaches at least once a month throughout the year, with many meeting every two weeks during the busy summer months.

...The Wrong Haul

Making national headlines recently was the news that the growing amount of debris found on the nation's highways is becoming more and more hazardous to drivers trying to navigate, for example, a trampoline or a rocking chair or a sofa which have all been found on various California Interstates.



Photo by Robert A. Culbert

While Vineyard beaches may not boast - yet - the same staggering amount of debris that festoon some of our highways, judging from this packed pickup (representing trash collected during the Earth Day Clean-up from the beaches at Owen Park, the Lake St. boat landing and Owen Little Way) can a La-Z-Boy siting be far behind? Some beach trash can be attributed to items that wash ashore, but much of it is caused by us - careless Vineyarders and island visitors. TWI's Adopt-a-Beach program has been at the forefront in targeting beach trash, but we all need to pitch in and pitch trash where it belongs, in a trash can.

Making Waves

The best way to introduce Janice Perrin, TWI's new water tester, is to tell you she's the one who wears many hats. You may have seen her at one of the many events she's organized as



program director for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Martha's Vineyard, a job she's held for the past four years; or you might have spotted her flipping burgers for a Rotary Club fundraiser, or contributing to TWI's Adopt-A-Beach program, specifically digging in with her BBBS helpers most recently to clean up around the Lake St. boat ramp area. Oh, did we forget Meals On Wheels? This New Hampshire native thought she could never leave behind her mountainous roots, but like a fish to water, she admits "I'm much more water oriented now." So, adding another line to her resume as TWI's water sample gatherer, a crucial role in keeping our beaches safe, was a natural. "Besides making a difference in kids' and adult lives, which you see with the matches at Big Brothers Big Sisters, I want to help with the environment in any way I can." Despite a seemingly 24/7 workload, Perrin says, "I do find time for myself." Not surprisingly, it's by the seaside, specifically "escaping to Chappy" where one time she managed to catch 13 blue fish.

Not in Our Backyard

Have you wondered whether cruise ships and passing recreational cruisers are allowed to empty their treated effluent in our local waters? The answer, disturbingly, is yes. The waters around our island, un-like some waters around Cape Cod and our neighboring states of Connecticut, New York and New Hampshire, have not yet been designated as Federal No Discharge Zones. So TWI worries that traveling cruisers wait until they are in our neck of the woods to make these unsavory contributions to our waters.

TWI President Melinda Loberg recently attended a meeting to hear Steve McKenna from the Environmental Protection Agency discuss how we, either as an island or

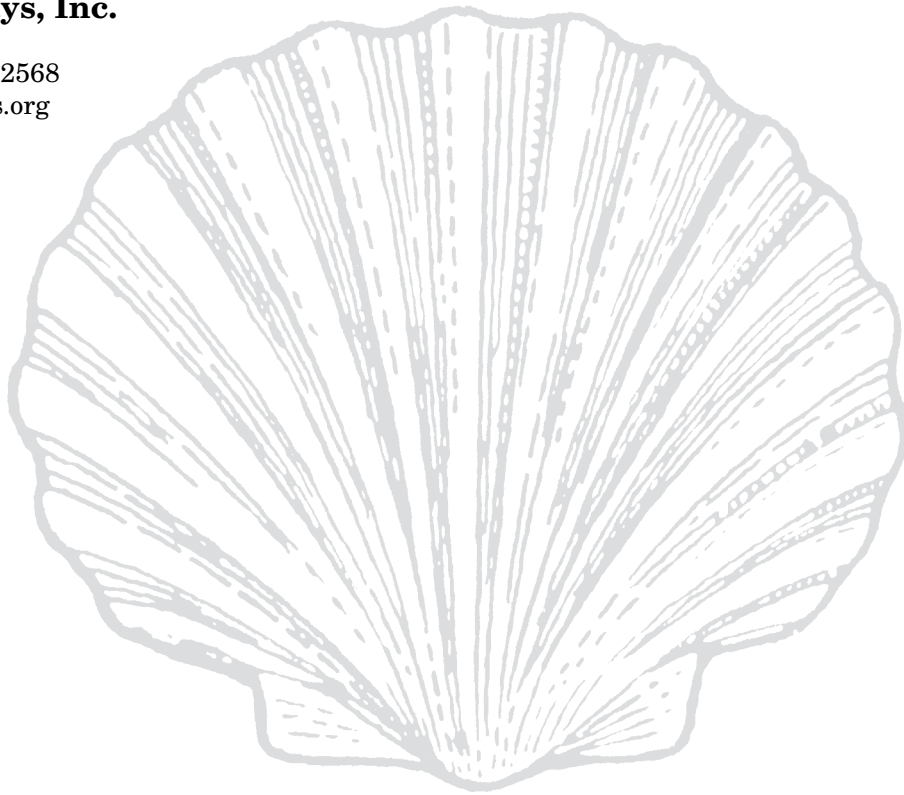
a town entity, can apply to have this valuable Federal protection. Information is collected locally regarding the numbers of visiting boats and pump-out facilities available as well as water testing results and eelgrass bed mapping. This information is submitted to the State which, through the Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management department, applies to the Federal Government for its approval. Once approved, our No Discharge Zone designation appears on all marine charts and can be enforced at both a local and Federal level. Since we have all or most of the required data, we intend to work with our local agencies and Town government towards this very important goal.

Tisbury Waterways, Inc.

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Visit our Website: www.tisburywaterways.org

MISSION STATEMENT

Tisbury Waterways Incorporated (TWI) is a citizens' non-profit organization whose mission is to provide a community presence in matters involving the quality and improvement of waterways in the Town of Tisbury. TWI acts as an advocate and catalyst to enlist the active participation of the public in support of municipal, educational and research programs designed to improve local marine water quality.

Hail and Farewell

Many hands make short work goes the saying. And while TWI's work safeguarding our waters is always ongoing it's the many hands over the years that have made our numerous successes possible. We would like to acknowledge two individuals that deserve mention for their worthwhile contributions.

It is more than fitting to give a big thanks to **Jim Pringle** on the occasion of his departure from the position of Assistant Harbormaster. Besides his friendly, low-key tone and informative approach to visiting boaters, Jim was always ready to pitch in and support the work of TWI such as wielding his shovel to help with the planting of our demonstration garden at Owen Park. Jim also regularly operated the pump out boats in the Harbor, the Lagoon and Tashmoo, a service initiated in Tisbury and a model for other New England harbors. The addition of this free pump-out service has made a dramatic difference in the quality of our marine environment.

TWI was greatly saddened this spring to learn of the passing of **Miles Carpenter**. His contributions to Tisbury were numerous, including serving on various committees including the Tisbury Harbor Management Committee, the Waste Water Coalition Group, the Site Plan Review Committee and Friends of Tisbury. As the goals of TWI coalesced over its 16-year history, Miles guided us every step of the way. We benefited from his sensitivity to the needs of Vineyard waters as well as his uncanny ability to work with the town. He was a gracious listener with profound ideas and had a delightful sense of humor. TWI fondly remembers the time when Miles, along with one of us, jammed himself into a tiny four-seater for a flight to Nantucket to help us voice our opinion at a Steamship Authority meeting which included issues that would directly impact the VH harbor. We will miss him greatly.

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