

ONE VOICE ANGLER EXCHANGES

Fishing's lure unites two friends in war and peace

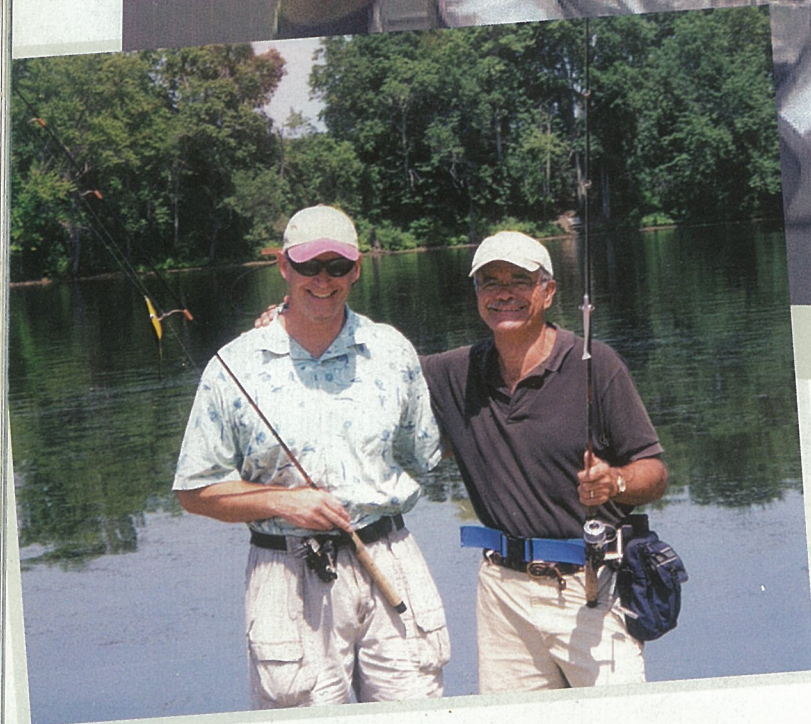
BY PETER BUDRYK / PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY MARCIA HUYETTE

TO MY FAVORITE LUREMAKER!

Peter



In the photo above, Bill Hurley, third from right, stands with other U.S. Air Force firefighters (in silver uniforms) and British pilots in Kuwait. (Photo courtesy of Bill Hurley)



Fishing buddies: Hurley and writer Peter Budryk pose along the Connecticut River in Northampton. (Photo courtesy of Elinor Budryk)

My friend Bill Hurley planned to fish the Cape's waters last spring, just as he has for most of his life. Late winter reports from the Mid-Atlantic states indicated an earlier migration of stripers to our coastline.

The last time I fished with Bill we walked and shoreline-trolled Coast Guard Beach in the pre-dawn last summer. Bill used this technique to fish with his kids who needed to be active rather than just standing and casting. In the process, he discovered it was a productive way to find fish.

At the same time Bill and I tested out some of his new fishing creations: a waist pouch that not only held some

plastic lures and quick repair glue, but also a spare rod rigged with a different lure to minimize down-time while switching offerings. We also used one of his popular Striper Magnet lures. He learned the pouch needed some refinements; I learned the lure lured. Among the 12 fish we caught just before sunrise, I landed a strong 20-pounder. Like an excited kid, I drove him and other anglers we passed nuts with my exclamations of "caught him early with a Hurley. Yes, early with a Hurley." An easy-going guy with an "aw shucks" grin, Bill didn't seem to be too embarrassed by my pitching his lures.

A husband, father and the deputy fire chief of Northampton, Bill spends most of his off-time fishing and restocking the Cape's bait and tackle stores that sell his lures. We kept in touch during the winter and I looked forward to fishing with my friend again this year.

Sept. 11 changed our plans.

In January, Bill left a phone message saying that he had been activated by the Air Force Reserves and would be in Kuwait for the foreseeable future. Like the plans of thousands of other men and women from Cape Cod and the rest



"Believe it or not, there actually is fishing over here. They have a species of pelagic mackerel in the Gulf. Are the stripers hitting? I came out with a new color Striper Magnet that matches dogfish in the Chatham inlet to a T. I will send some when I get home which I hope is sometime in June. Please write soon and give me the fish report. Stay safe. -- Bill"

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of the country, his, too, had to be put aside.

In April, while I left the comfort of my Cape home to prowl clear and tranquil kettle ponds to research a book I was writing on fishing, Bill was dealing with the polar opposite.

Well I survived my first desert storm, he said in one of his many email messages. It was unbelievable. I would take any storm over sand. The storm did major damage throughout the base. We were actively involved with trying to minimize the damage. The thing that was the hardest to deal with was the sand striking my face, but we got through it and I chalk it up to a life experience. How is the fishing shaping up? Have the small bass arrived and have you had an opportunity to check out the inlet behind your house? Stay safe and don't catch all the fish. — Bill

Blessed by the accident of my birth date— too early for participation in some conflicts, too late for others and grateful for it — I have avoided direct involvement in our military campaigns. My contribution was a paltry four-year stint in the Army National Guard during my college years.

So instead of sharing some of the joys of the Cape with my friend, I found myself contrasting my station with his. Putting up with the heat waves here paled in comparison to what Bill and his colleagues were enduring.

It sure does get hot in these bunkers! We have to be in them when we receive reports of Iraq Scud launches. The problem is the heat. In the picture the guy next to me fainted from the heat. I am the one waving. We had three bunker dives in three days. Sometimes they can last hours. Stay safe and see you in June. — Bill

How many Bill Hurleys are out there? I wondered. To me, Bill typifies the Bay Stater who loves the Cape and spends as much time as he can here even though his career and family are anchored in Northampton. I learned there are many like him, enduring what he endured. The U.S. Department of Defense Web page reports that 82,515 members of the National Guard have been called to active duty from across America, serving in the Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marines and Navy as part of Operation Enduring Freedom. Those lives have been drastically changed: family plans deferred, children and spouses separated, careers

stopped in their tracks, unresolved relationship issues spinning in the wind like plastic bags caught in trees. And here I sit in paradise with my wife, Elinor, our older daughter and our three grandchildren summering with us, and our son and his two boys visiting from Virginia.

But Bill and his comrades were settling for letters, occasional expensive phone calls and emails from home. In another email, he shared a very touching poem he found:

A Dad's Poem

Her hair was up in a ponytail,
Her favorite dress tied with a bow.
Today was Daddy's Day at school,
And she couldn't wait to go.
But her Mommy tried to tell her,
That she probably should stay home.
Why the kids might not understand
If she went to school alone.
But she was not afraid;
She knew just what to say.
What to tell her classmates
Of why he wasn't there today...

With two daughters of his own thousands of miles away, and both of my daughters and a granddaughter within

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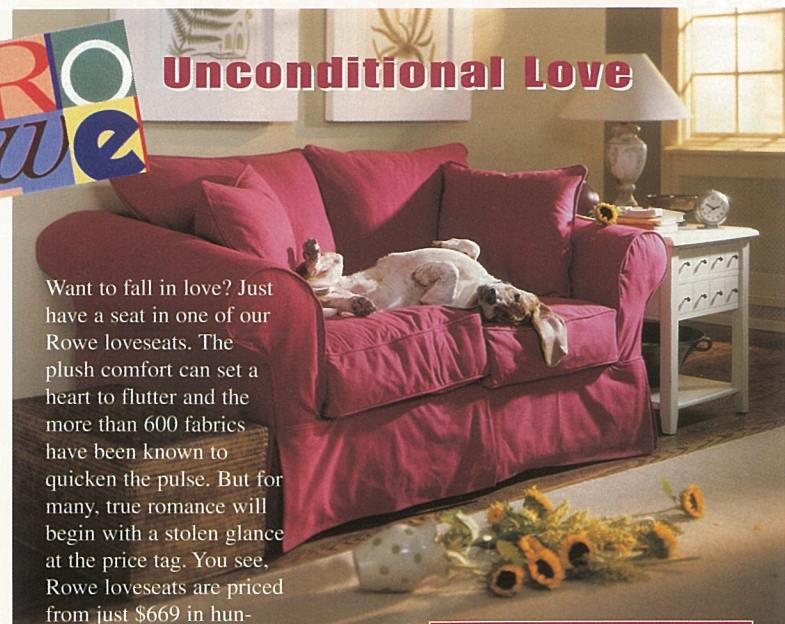
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The Curiosity Shop
I am returning your copy of the August issue of your magazine. Until now, I had been enjoying the magazine.

Your promotion of "The Curiosity Shop" I find quite offensive and would never consider putting the magazine in my Community Room for my senior citizen tenants to read.

It seems to me that there are so many wonderful stories to be told about life on Cape Cod that it was not necessary to promote such an offensive article.

Please take our name off your mailing list and never send me another issue.

Sincerely,
Barbara Thurston
Executive Director
Bourne Housing Authority

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Angler Exchanges

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hugging range, Bill's feelings were not difficult to imagine. While I was intellectually aware that we were at war, emotionally I was on cruise control. The great spring striper fishing, the embrace of my family, the gloriosa daisies and hollyhocks in my garden — the paradise that is the Cape — insulated me directly and indirectly from the hideousness of September 11.

I felt somewhat uncomfortable sending fishing reports to Bill, even though he asked for them. I was doubly embarrassed to tell him of that wild Friday when I was fly-fishing and couldn't not catch a striper — most of them keepers — including one 36-incher on a sloppy back cast.

Peter it's good to hear that you are slaying those large bass with your fly rod. As far as the Kuwaiti people they are just fine. They do appreciate the fact that Americans are protecting their country. Recently I did get a chance to wander through their fish market. It turned out to be quite a learning experience. What caught my eye was a couple of large cobia on ice. Time to go. Stay safe. — Bill

Believe it or not there actually is fishing over here. They have a species of pelagic mackerel in the Gulf. Are the stripers hitting? I came out with a new color Striper Magnet that matches dogfish in the Chatham inlet to a T. I will send some when I get home which I hope is sometime in June. Please write soon and give me the fish report. Stay safe. — Bill

Lowering the window to decrease the Atlantic breeze blowing across my bed and swatting an annoying moth, I recalled several of his other messages:

This is a picture of a camel spider eating a rat it captured. They are huge and incredible! They can leap onto the back of a camel and start feeding. The camel owners really have to be alert...


I can't wait to get home! Today it was 136 degrees and the power went out when a contractor hit a power line. It is unbelievable the temperature inside the tents. Last night one of my friends woke up in bed when he felt something rubbing his foot. He looked and found a small rat in his bed. What we worry about is the rat is part of the food chain, and the next thing you know, there is a viper in your bed looking for the rat. Time to go. Write soon and stay safe. — Bill

Continued on next page



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Weeding and watering our gardens and changing the tippets on my fly lines is as hard as I work lately.

Working for the British has been quite an experience. This picture is of a G4 Fighter Bomber Tornado Aircraft. The people that I am with are my boss, two British pilots and two American firefighters who are on my shift. The drill we performed was [that] the aircraft landed, and we had to open the canopy and secure the munitions and pin the ejection seat. Then we did the extrication of the pilots. It was quite interesting trying to perform the drill with the aircraft running. See you in a couple of weeks and stay safe. — Bill

He's telling me to stay safe?

I am chagrined by the ease with which I can take for granted Bill's uncomplaining sense of duty, his sacrifices and those of the thousands of other Americans — active and reservists. And with Iraq now in America's crosshairs, I wonder how many more of our neighbors, friends and family members will be over there while we're here enduring freedom. I feel I owe Bill and them more than mere appreciation for placing their lives between terrorism and me. I feel very grateful to Bill for asking for homefront fishing reports; I have been

awakened from my complacency.

Despite my gratitude, Bill and the U.S. Department of Defense turn the table on me:

Peter, how is the fishing? Our Commander has approved an appreciation letter for you since you sent emails which I forwarded to other GIs that I am with. You will receive a package from our Commander. In the package is a certificate and a flag that has been flown over Afghanistan in your name in support of Enduring Freedom. Write soon. — Bill

Embarrassed by such an unwarranted gesture, I try to convince Bill that it is misplaced. But he is undaunted.

Peter, you have to realize the small things like sending the fishing report gives the GIs something to talk about and to look forward to. Stay safe. — Bill —CCM

(Editor's note: While Bill arrived home safely in June after six months in Kuwait, thousands of other soldiers continue to work as part of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Noble Eagle (homeland defense). To learn how to contact any of them, enter either operation name in an Internet search engine, or call the military branches listed in the Cape Cod telephone directory.)



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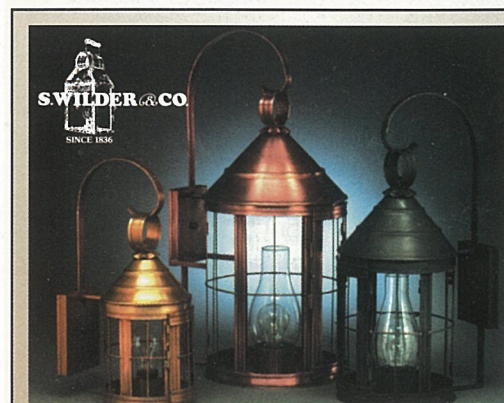
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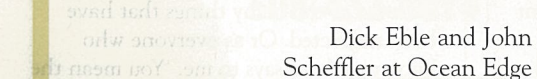
Eileen and Sidney Chase
at the museum



John Finnegan and Gregory
Milne at the museum



Kate Millea and Sarah St.
George at the museum



Dick Eble and John
Scheffler at Ocean Edge



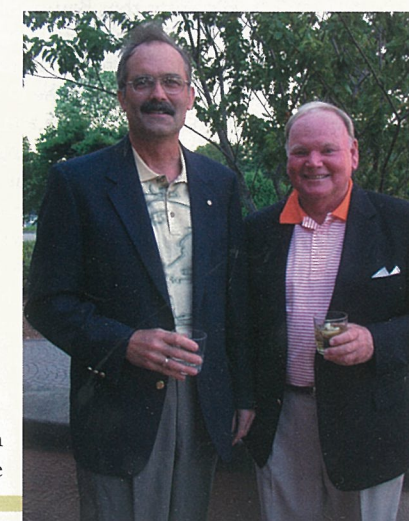
Bob Dilworth, Stefan Edberg, Paul White,
Kevin Joyce and Russ Sandblom at Ocean Edge

Tennis Pros and Presidential Memories

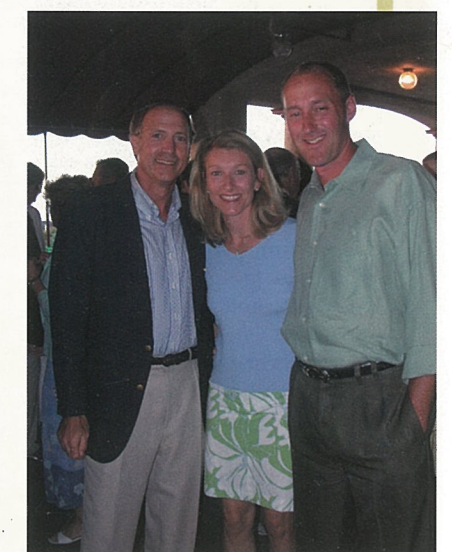
The Adidas Tennis Smash to benefit the Tim and Tom Gullikson Foundation was held at the Ocean Edge Resort and Golf Club in Brewster. The JFK Hyannis Museum celebrated its 10th anniversary and recent renovations.

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Photos by Paul Blackmore



Jenny Hopkins and Brett Haber
at Ocean Edge



Howard Honig, Elain
Cosseboom and Bud Schultz at
Ocean Edge