

# Boston Malacological Club Summer Outing at *Martha's Vineyard* -- June 11, 2023

By Leonor Desmarais, Scott Robichaud, and Kristina Joyce



Photo courtesy of Courtney Hennessey

Standing: Evan, Amber, Ciara, Sheila, Dani, Martha, Leonor, Kristina, Steve D., and Bill.

Kneeling: Dennis, Joslyn, Scott, and Stacy.

Missing from Photo: Courtney (taking the photo) and Steve S.



*Mercenaria mercenaria* L., 1758

Hybrid form "notata"

Photo courtesy of Kristina Joyce

Discussed during the outing was that the **Northern Quahog**, *Mercenaria mercenaria*, has hybridized with the **Southern Quahog**, *Mercenaria campechensis*, to produce form *notata*, which has no purple interior and a unique zig-zag or striated pattern on the outside of the shell. We did not see any of the Southern Quahogs but did find the Northern Quahog pictured here, along with the small specimen of the form *notata*.

**Scott Robichaud** conducted a wonderful **BMC Summer Outing** on **Martha's Vineyard** with sixteen in the group, including Club members and friends. Scott did an excellent job keeping the group informed and together amidst attendees' varied individual travel arrangements/agendas. The group traveled around the island by bus, stopping to visit favorite spots in **Vineyard Haven**, to **Oak Bluffs** for a quick lunch, and then on to **Sengekontacket Pond** and **Edgartown** for more beach walking to search for shells. One shelling location was near the "**Jaws Bridge**," formally known as the **American Legion Memorial Bridge** – wholly renovated since the 1975 movie.



Photo courtesy of Leonor Desmarais



First three photos courtesy of Leonor Desmarais



Photo courtesy of Scott Robichaud

Empty **Bay Scallops** (*Argopecten irradians*) of various shades and **Northern Quahog** valves, tinged with irresistible purple, were plentiful and easily collectible in shallow water. Stacy found a few cool live **Chitons** and brought them back to nurture in her home aquarium. Some members found live **Whelks** (*Busycon carica*). At the end of our outing, there was a lot of discussion about some **Quahog** subspecies found in a pile of shells discarded by **scallop** fishermen.