

CORAYER (from page 16)

We love to believe we are the highest of highs but a million tiny fireflies had much to teach us on many late evenings.

It's been a few years since we leaned on that wall. It was barely dark the last time; fishing had been very slow. Two old salts, starving to stand on river rocks, casting ten foot poles for far off sandbars, saw writing on a stone wall.

Nature has a fine way of winning but we keep making the odds more unstable. Somewhere near a narrow river, a thick grass lot without a white summer house hosts sparkling late night courtships but it's a different dance for striped bass now.

Those fireflies were rudely evicted but not lost. Yet.

The loss of striped bass abundance will be a tragedy of our doing. Continuing to take as many as we can will cut down those late night shows on the rocks and extinguish the vitality of their population, not merely move it to another cove. Striped bass are not fish alone, they are part of what makes many fishermen whole, they are essential threads in the fabric which makes us us. There's incalculable value in leaning on a damp wall, sleepy, a little sore from casting and catching, silently watching, amazed, a sea of twinkling bright stars three feet off the earth.

And it all rests on striped bass abundance.

RISAA member Todd Corayer is a lifelong fisherman who lives not far from the Saugatucket River with his wife, who supports his fishing mainly to get him out of the house and a young son who regularly catches more fish than him.



Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers

**Foundation
Committee**

Capt. Mike Warner, Chairman



To assist in fund-raising efforts for the Foundation

Special raffle for Patriots tickets at August 26 meeting!



August 29, 7:30 PM - Gillette Stadium
Pre-season game

Thanks to a donation by member **MARK PACHICO**, a special raffle will be held - with **all proceeds going to the RISAA Foundation** - for a pair of tickets to the August 29 pre-season game between the New England Patriots and the New York Giants.

The tickets will sell for **\$5 each** at the August 26 monthly meetings. The drawing will be held that night. The winner does not have to be present to win.

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