The fundamental goal of a public health project is to defeat disease and advance the quality of human life. Our project is intended to reduce the number of cases of tick borne illnesses, such as Lyme disease, babesiosis, and anaplasmosis through education, surveillance and intervention on Cape Cod, Martha’s Vineyard and Nantucket Island.

**EDUCATION**

We have a new and improved tick ID card featuring clear graphics, timely tips and beveled edges to better fit a wallet. We also have color posters, coloring books for children and a limited number of tick removal tools. Call 508.375.6642. More free information is available from our web site!

**FAQ - What good are ticks?**

From an anthropocentric point of view, ticks may provide the necessary buildings blocks to create novel molecules important for medicine or science. For instance, tick saliva includes effective anticoagulants and antihistamines that may someday be used in open-heart surgery! Similarly, ticks use tenacious glue like material to cement themselves in place when feeding on a host; perhaps we will see ‘tickglue’ on retail shelves!

From the universal view, soft and hard ticks are two or three of the hundreds of families of animals and organisms on this sphere. Because their mode of life is parasitic, we describe them as ‘annoying’ and because they may harbor pathogens we regard them as medically important. In truth, they have evolved into a life style that requires a host species for sustenance. In this regard however, ticks are not unlike an herbivore requires vegetative nutrition (a cow feeding on grass), or a carnivore feeding on prey.

**SURVEILLANCE**

Adult deer ticks are active if the air temperature is above 38 F. We found questing ticks in January and February this year when temperatures were mild, but none when the temperature dropped. Likely, the freezing weather did not decrease the tick numbers and adult ticks are once again active, as are adult American dog ticks. Remember that adult deer ticks carry at least three tick borne diseases, and SOME TICKS CAN TRANSMIT ALL THREE TO A PERSON AT THE SAME TIME!
We have been busy setting out 4-poster deer baiting stations on Cape Cod, Nantucket and Martha’s Vineyard, including a new grid on Chappaquiddick Island (Edgartown). We placed and activated 40 stations on CC, 5 on Nantucket, 20 on Martha’s Vineyard, and 10 on Chappy Island. Because deer are feeding actively, they are being treated by the permethrin solution. The upkeep and regular maintenance of all stations will continue now through September.

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