

The Needham Sportsman Club

NEWSLETTER

November, 2005



Opening day

Opening day was almost perfect! The breakfast was plentiful and better than ever. The water is crystal clear and the Ph was 7.5. (8.0 is ideal) It was a beautiful fall day and the only thing missing was the fish! This led to questions like, did anyone actually remember to stock the fish, or maybe someone should have told the trout their role in opening day. This only lasted one day because now the fishing is fantastic!

Sunday, Roy and I came back and stopped counting after 20 something fish. I actually saw Roy bring in 3 fish on three successive casts, and he wasn't even using one of his "technical" flies. The killer pattern was a standard black Wollybugger with a short marabou tail. Cast it about 20' from shore and bang, or rather bing. These are not the

monster 14-16" trout everyone hoped for but make no mistake, these are feisty tail walkers. I actually caught the same fish twice unless there are two Rainbows missing a right fin with a scratch over the eye.



Given all the trauma the pond has been through with dredging it, only made sense to stock it with 10-12" Trout. Who'd a think the pond would recover this quickly? It's better than I've seen in the past 10 years. Perhaps more remarkable is the number of holdovers that have been caught. Just because the recent stocking was on the smaller side doesn't mean there aren't some very big fish in the pond, they're just staying deep. Things couldn't have been better except for the announcement Paul made at the last meeting. After ten years as president, Paul announced he will not seek, nor accept if nominated, the role of club president.



October Meeting

Paul's announcement was a shock to everyone. This means at the December meeting we'll have to choose a new president. In the ten years I've been with the club, through good times and bad, Paul was always there to take care of many things no one ever bothered to volunteer for. He negotiated with the town to get the pond dredged, an effort that took years. He and Ed remodeled the kitchen. He MC's the Christmas parties and was always there with a joke

for the club. We'll miss him but hope he'll stay on as a member.

The irony here is that now we finally have the pond we always wanted; membership is down, way down. There are still enough members to keep the club open, but not enough to fund some of the things we'd like to see, like large Trout for the next stocking. Perhaps with the passing of the torch, this is a good time for members to revisit what members really want from NSC.

How about those Sunfish?

We had a great presentation at the last meeting about how acid rain was affecting sunfish, something I'm sure we all care deeply concerned about. Actually once we understood the significance of his research, it was very interesting. We learned about how you could tell what fish ate, and at what level of the food chain. This enabled scientists to determine how much different fish were being affected by acid rain, and why. We also learned that you can actually tell the age of a fish by looking at the scales under a magnifying glass, much like you'd determine the age of a tree. I was reminded of Joe's lecture on thermals and how they affected at what depth you most likely catch fish. When you start adding all these things up, you get some real insights into how fish behave, which helps you catch more fish. As for me, the next time I catch a Sunfish and toss it into the woods, I'll do it with more respect.

Next meeting November 17

It's turkey raffle time!!

That time has come again when Paul raffles off some really swell prizes at the annual NSC Thanksgiving dinner. As his last raffle as president, Paul promises to pull out all the stops, so you won't want to miss it. Will Jim Boesel win the same can of beans he has the past five consecutive years? Who will get Roy's coveted "technical" fly collection? Who says NSC doesn't recycle, half the prizes will probably be from last year. This time Paul has offered to autograph them, for free! Think how happy your loved will be when you bring home an autographed can of SPAM to proudly display in your living room. Imagine the bragging rights at your family Thanksgiving dinner when you'll be able to boast, "Sure it's a puny turkey, but I won it at the Needham Sportsman Club"!



Can I try?

My 8 year old daughter loves to fish, but never tried fly fishing. Hearing how well Roy and I did, she asked "Can I try"? Like was I going to say no? I started off with my teaching her how to strip line. She picked it up quickly so I decided it was time she tried her luck fishing.



Remembering how difficult a time I had when I first started, I was careful to repeatedly warn her that she probably wouldn't catch anything. She assured me that was okay, so we proceeded to what I told her was my "secret spot". She promised not to ever tell anyone.

I cast the line out for her and handed her the rod. As she stripped, with her tip in the water mind you, I noticed she would stop stripping and then suddenly start up again. I asked her why she did this and she said it was to make sure the fish could catch the fly. You can't teach these instincts! After about the third cast she said "Daddy I got something" and jerked the rod to set the hook like she did with

Sunfish. She worked the fish landing a nice 12-13" brown. Okay, I'd rather she hadn't gone ew, ew when I offered to let her hold the fish for a picture.



Talk about your proud father and imagine being able to tell people you started fly fishing at eight years old?

Okay, beginners luck but then a couple more casts and she caught a Rainbow, a real tail walker!

Then she offered me the rod and said "Dad, do you want to try"? Knowing how little girls idolize their dads, this was my big moment. On the first cast, I had one on and was she impressed, until she saw it was a Sunfish. "Gee daddy, wouldn't you rather catch a bigger one"? How do you respond when you've just been out fished a cute little 7 year old with a million dollar smile?



The new Newsletter

NSC is finally going electronic starting with the January newsletter. It will be emailed to you and it'll be in color! There will be links to other fly fishing websites and not to worry if you don't have email. Those few members without email can request a hardcopy be mailed to them which raises the question, why email?

Not including labor like writing it; collating it; printing mailing labels and then actually mailing it, costs about a dollar per copy to produce. Emailing will save the club over \$1,000 a year, and we'll have a much better newsletter. You can always print a hard copy yourself and it'll

also be posted on our website. There will be both a color printout and an online sample at the next meeting for you to see.

Unfortunately, we're missing a lot of email addresses so we're asking everyone, past and present members, to email us your current email address to info@troutpond.com Only your email address will appear on your email, and **the list will not be shared with anyone outside of NSC**. If you have any concerns please email them to us so we can address them.

See you at the next meeting!

Deep Trout

Join Today!

Send your name, address, phone number to
The Needham Sportsman's Club
P.O. Box 191
Needham, MA 02492
info@troutpond.com

