

The Needham Sportsman's Club

NEWSLETTER

December, 2005



Thanksgiving meeting

We had a Thanksgiving dinner that couldn't be beat, thanks to Dan Socci, plus the traditional Turkey raffle. Although, it seems the NSC baked beans, after all these years, were *mysteriously* missing. We had so much fun we're gonna have another raffle at the Christmas party. But wait there's more. We just confirmed we're even going to have Floyd and his amazing accordion!!

Even though a good time was had by all, there's a bunch of former members who were really missed. The past few years have been tough on the club and for a lot of us, so

we'd like to invite any former members to join us at the Christmas party. It's a great chance to catch up with old friends and it's always been a special meeting. Mark your calendars for **Thursday December 15**. The food will be great, we'll have another exciting auction, and with Floyd ta boot, ya got anything better ta do? Non-members can always toss a couple of bucks in the kitty and if ya can't, come anyway. If we run out of anything, we can always send out for more

because hey, **IT'S A PARTY!!**



This Sport Does NOT Have to be **Expensive!!**

By: Jim Boesel

The advances in fly fishing technology have *not* kept up with the prices manufactures charge. The performance difference between starter equipment and the expensive stuff, other than cosmetics, isn't that great anymore. The \$200 rod of today was the \$500 plus rod 4-5 years ago. If you know what you're doing, you can get an awesome setup for about \$200 complete, or less!

Bargain basement beginner's outfits are really very expensive. An oxymoron I grant you but consider this. You buy cheap thinking you can always upgrade if you like fly fishing, or sell it if you don't. These \$100 bargain basement outfits have no resale value so either way you're out your initial investment. Besides, these outfits usually perform so badly you won't be getting a fair assessment of what fly fishing is all about.

Used equipment – Unless you know what you're doing and if you're a beginner you don't, only buy from someone you know. You may have just met the person at a fly fishing club but size them up. Are they willing to help you get started? Does their equipment look well maintained? Do you know what the equipment cost new? Finally,

unless the price is really absurd always haggle, like proposing a package deal.

Blems & bargain bins – Shops like Cote's Fly Shop (508-892-3765) sell fly rods built from blemished blanks for half the regular price. There's nothing wrong with these rods other than some cosmetics you probably couldn't find if you tried. There are also bargains in fly line like Cortland's 333 floating line you can often find in bargain bins for \$25. This is an excellent line any angler would be happy to use.

New equipment bargains – Cabela's offers an awesome starter outfit deal for \$180. The Lefty Kreh Temple Fork rod w/Cabela's CSR large arbor reel and Master GPX fly line is an outfit any experienced fly fisherman would be happy to use. Natick Outdoor Sports (508-653-9400) also carries Temple Fork plus most major brands. If you're looking for a good local shop they're hard to beat and they're just 20 minutes from the club off Rt. 135 in Natick. They have everything for the beginner to the most advanced fly fisherman and the best assortment of tying materials in the area!



Flies and leaders – Flies are cheaper if you buy them than tie them. Most fly fishermen tie their own flies, but getting started is an added expense you don't need right now, and you'll never save money tying your own flies. Consider the cost for all the materials, like a vise, feathers, tools etc.

When you're ready to learn, NSC has some excellent teachers Like Roy Swartz and Bob Rifchin. How about classes at the meetings?



You now have some excellent options for under \$200 that'll get the same results as a \$1,000 outfit. You wouldn't cast any better with a \$1,000 outfit and besides, equipment doesn't improve the odds of catching fish especially when you're just starting out. Fly Fishing is a lot like golf where there's no substitute for experience, lots of it. It's just like the saying about how you get to Carnegie Hall, practice, practice practice...

How Not to Catch Fish

By: Jim Boesel

This might sound like a silly subject but often knowing what you shouldn't do can teach you more than learning what you should do. For example, the best way to learn how not to create wind knots is to figure out how to make them on purpose. I spoke with several accomplished fly fisherman and everyone agreed the following are the deadly sins of what not to do if you want to catch fish. Of course, you probably knew all of these sins.

Haste – Do you decide which fly you'll use before you get to the pond? The most productive fishermen always watch the water to see what's happening before they decide on a strategy. If you don't know how to do this, try just watching someone who really does know. Sure you'd rather be fishing but with what you'll learn, in the long run you'll catch more fish. This is an area where reading books on the subject is always a good idea.

Over casting – Trying to impress people by how far you can cast ain't gonna help ya catch fish if your fly hits the water like a bombshell. Trout may have brains the size of a pea, but their senses and instincts are second to none.

That Woolly Bugger may look small to you but to a trout it's the size of a brick. Proportionately compared to us, they have very large mouths, which is why they can eat much larger things than we can. In the "eat or be eaten" world of a trout, a brick (Woolly Bugger) being dropped in the water is a real attention getter. Most fish eat in the shallows because the kill zone is smaller so you're better off with an excellent presentation at 30 feet than an explosive horrible presentation at 50 plus feet. Cast within your limits.

Bug repellent – If you get bug repellent on your fingers, don't bother fishing, you won't catch anything. Even if you wash your hands, the scent will still transfer off your fingers onto the fly. Try tasting the stuff and then consider the senses of a trout. Besides, bug repellent damages some fly lines.

Your image – Standing with the sun to your back makes a heck of an image to a trout looking up at you. Bright colors are also something to avoid. Trout have excellent vision and to them, you're the size of a Mack

truck. Although you can usually catch trout standing by the clubhouse, you'll never catch the big ones. Get hooked a couple of times and you learn a thing or two, so they tend to go deep beyond the casting limits of most people. You might consider working on that roll cast. Dark clothes against the trees makes you hard to see.

Jerk that line – Half the time you try to set the hook, you lose the fish. Putt once told me when he feels a hit, he says half a Hail Mary before setting the hook. Unlike stream trout,

pond trout are expecting flies with hooks, so they're extra careful before eating your fly. They often tap the fly first just to see if it jerks out of their mouth.

Bad line – Great fly fishermen always stretch their line and clean it every few hours. A well prepared fly line doesn't make a ripple in the water, and these fish quickly learn that a bug following ripples is not a meal. It might take you 5 minutes to stretch and/or clean your line, but if it means catching more fish...

Newsletter Update

There was some "spirited" discussion about the newsletter, like how much it should cost. Postage alone is almost \$50 an issue (130 copies at .37 each) and when you add up all the other expenses like printing, mailing labels and disks it's about \$100 an issue. Over half the recipients are non-paying former members which costs the club about \$600 annually for 10 issues. If we only make the newsletter available to these people via email, and half the current members get the newsletter via email, the cost per issue would only be about \$25. This would save the club about \$900 annually. I propose that starting

February, the newsletter will be emailed and that only current members who specifically request it will receive a hard copy. Any former members who still want to receive the newsletter via email can contact me at jboesel@troutpond.com.

HELP!! I could use some help writing this newsletter, so if you have any articles or suggestions, please email them to me at jboesel@troutpond.com. Please send them as MS Word files so I can format them to fit.

January Elections

Voting for a new president is a big decision and not everyone agrees on which direction the club should go. In the next newsletter we could give anyone wishing to run for president a full page to address why they feel they should be the next president. If we only sent these issues to current members it would only cost the club about \$4 per candidate and everyone would benefit from being able to make an informed decision.

Those interested should email me at jboesel@troutpond.com before 12/31/05 and I'll give you the specifics on what you'll need to do. Unless the clubs votes against this idea your final copy will be due 1/9/06. Your copy will appear without editing but will need to be an MS Word document with certain formatting guidelines I'll provide you.

Renewal fee increase to \$125

It's been over 10 years since the last membership increase and with all the increased expenses, the membership has finally been increased to \$125 a year. Considering that

utilities fees have gone up 50% in the past 5 years (Boston Globe) and the cost for stocking has skyrocketed, I'm sure everyone agrees this increase was way overdue.

Things are really looking up for NSC

With the pond back and the economy finally making a comeback, we could be heading for some exciting times at NSC. Although we probably won't have another movie to jumpstart the sport, consider this. How many times when you tell someone you're into fly fishing do they say they've always wanted to try the sport? Even at \$125 a year, NSC is the biggest bang for the buck if you want to go fly fishing.



This picture was taken 12/3/05 from the roof of the clubhouse and if you look carefully, you can actually see the bottom of the pond. Anybody still doubt the quality of the water? The Ph is 7.5 where ideal is 8.0.

See you at the next meeting, Thursday December 15, 2005!

Deep Trout