

# The Needham Sportsman's Club

NEWSLETTER

January, 2006



Oh ya should been there. The Christmas meeting was more like a reunion party with many former members, old friends. Old stories got even taller and the jokes, well....um, the jokes were funny and colorful. Several members donated prizes for the raffle although neither the turkeys or baked beans were anywhere to be found. In their place were a number of cans of Spam, a recycled cutlery set we'll undoubtedly see again and some terrific flies! Floyd was there with his accordion and Paul even jumped in with his harmonica. Everyone was abuzz about all the recent developments in the club and with the elections coming up at the next meeting January 19<sup>th</sup>, who will the new officers be?



*The gang was all there, even Santa!*



*It's the **FLOYDIFLIPPOS!!***



*Hey isn't that Don and Joe?*



*Hey Dave, why don't you be president?*



*Spam and flies, it doesn't get any better*



*Bill awarded the recycled cutlery set*



*Hey it's what's his face, ya know, that guy?*



*Goodnight John Boy.....*

## “DNA” for Trout Flies

By: Roy Swartz

I consider myself a more or less typical northeast fly tyer, in that I do most of my tying during the winter months when fishing doesn't (unfortunately) distract me. Sure, I tie during the season, but mostly just to replenish what I lose to fish, rocks and trees. The winter is a time for stocking up, to be sure, but the real fun is in experimentation, learning new techniques, trying new materials and generally stretching the fly tying envelope. That's why I look forward with such anticipation to the fly fishing shows, especially the first one in our area (Marlborough, January 20-22, 2006). This show, more than any except the Fly Tyers Symposium in New Jersey, highlights the art of fly tying. It features some of the best and most innovative tyers in our region and beyond (like Europe, etc!).



It was at last year's Marlborough show that I discovered a wonderful new fly tying material called DNA. Bob Rifchin (fellow member in case you come from another planet) and his friend Jake (the local rep for Temple Fork Rods) showed me some really cool flies tied with it. This remarkable product is available in a vast assortment of colors and styles, all in a very versatile 9 inch length. The basic DNA, called "powder fish fiber," is fine and slinky. According to the package, "the dull powder-like finish plays down the subtle incandescent hues that signal the life that's generated by the light passing through the fibers" (only a portion of a description worthy of fine literature!). Although similar to the very best of the

craft fur variations, powder DNA is much more versatile due to its color choices and length. Next, there's a "frosty fish fiber" version that features a subtle, textured light reflective coating. Frosty fiber is considerably thicker and stiffer than the powder DNA, but still quite supple and easy to work with. The "brightest" surprise of this product line was a slinky, pearlescent version called "chromosome flash". This is very similar to pearl crystal flash and so many other materials designed to add glitter and light-reflecting sparkle to a fly, only more supple and brilliant in appearance. The newest variation, "holofusion", combines fine flashy strands with the powder fiber to create what just might be the most attractive fly tying material of its type. In addition, there are 40 colors to complement the various textures, presenting infinite possibilities for the creative fly tyer.

At virtually my first glimpse of DNA, I immediately began to imagine the lifelike saltwater forage imitations I could create with this new material. Indeed, that's all Bob and I tied with it for months, creating DNA versions of several well known sand eel patterns (and other baitfish) that were more lifelike than anything I had previously been able to achieve. You may have noticed us experimenting with the stuff before some of the Thursday meetings! The stripers loved it throughout the 2005 season, both on the flats and wherever small bait had to be carefully imitated.

My success with the stripers got me thinking; if DNA is so effective on stripers, what about trout? Why not use DNA to create interesting variations of some standard freshwater patterns? Synthetic materials, long a staple for the saltwater fly tyer, have become increasingly popular for freshwater flies. And DNA may be the most versatile synthetic yet, with its mind-boggling array of colors and textures. A single session at the vise last March made it clear to me that this material can be used as a substitute for many traditional freshwater tying materials. It can be easier to work with than some, and often produces a better looking, more effective fly. For example, it can be wound flat to create a floss-like body or you can twist it first and then

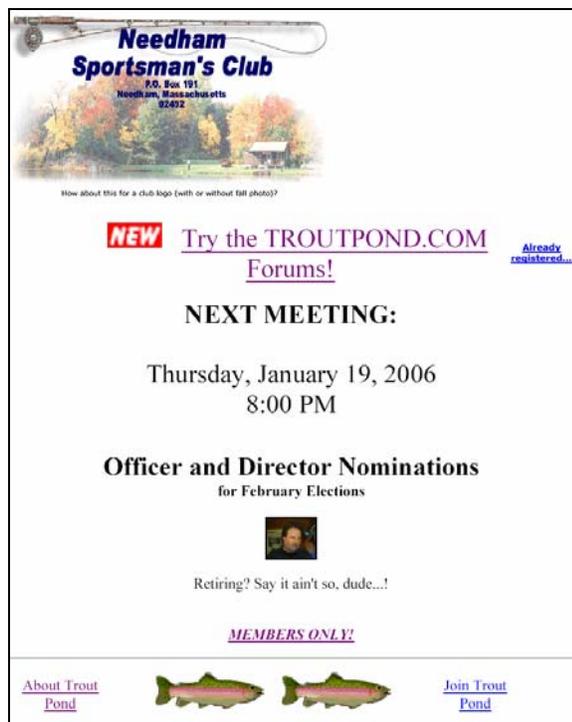
wind for a segmented body. The frosty fiber makes excellent tail or spinner wing material, and a great “post” for hackling a parachute dry-fly. The textures and colors can be combined in layers to create streamer patterns like the classic Mickey Finn or Black-Nosed Dace. I’ve only just begun, yet I have already identified dozens of standard trout patterns that can be nicely modified, and perhaps greatly

improved, by substituting DNA for commonly used materials (yes, especially those pesky midges I love to imitate when the fish are slurping at our trout pond). If you’d like to see some specific examples of what can be done, come to the next meeting. I’m sure we can whip up a few DNA trout flies!

## NSC’s new website

Jon Cave has been busy working on a new website for the club. We don’t know the launch date yet but so far I think everyone will agree, anyone surfing on the web who finds the new website is going to be very impressed! This is a huge work in progress but check out the difference so far. Nice job Jon!

Old



**Needham Sportsman's Club**  
P.O. Box 191  
Needham, Massachusetts  
02492

How about this for a club logo (with or without fall photos)?

**NEW** Try the [TROUTPOND.COM](http://TroutPond.COM) Forums! Already registered...

**NEXT MEETING:**

Thursday, January 19, 2006  
8:00 PM

**Officer and Director Nominations**  
for February Elections

Retiring? Say it ain't so, dude...!

**MEMBERS ONLY!**

[About Trout Pond](#)  [Join Trout Pond](#)

New



**Needham Sportsman's Club**  
P.O. Box 191  
Needham, Massachusetts  
02492

January 7, 2006

**MEMBER LOG IN:**  
User name:   
Password:

**CLUB NEWS**

The Needham Sportsman's Club is a fly-fishing only trout pond located 1/2-mile from the center of Needham, Massachusetts.

"Trout Pond" is stocked twice yearly with good-sized rainbow and brown trout. As all fishing is catch-and-release, there is a holdover population of trout as well.

The club meets every third Thursday in the clubhouse on the property. Members bring everything from fly-tying gear to favorite rods, trip photographs and tall tales.

The club features:

- Fly fishing only
- Catch-and-release
- Stocked rainbow and brown trout from 10" to 22"
- Monthly meetings w/presentations, slide shows
- Spring and Fall "Opening Days"
- Numerous holiday raffish and drawings
- Junior and Adult memberships
- "Member-only" web site, bulletin board
- Online registration and payment

If you are interested in joining, or just want to check us out, plan on coming to a meeting to meet some members and hear about the club. Meetings are every third Thursday evening at 8pm, except in July and August.

We hope to see you there!

**CLUB NEWS**

Elections will be held at the February meeting. Paul DeFilippo is stepping down after 10 years as President. [More >>](#)

Opening Day did not disappoint. And the fishing was great, too... [More >>](#)

The newsletter is a smashing success! [More >>](#)

You can actually see the new website by clicking the “**MEMBERS ONLY!**” link on the current website. Remember this is only a work in progress so not everything works yet. Basically Jon purchased a pre-made website and copied content from the current website and past newsletters into it, it’s just the start. Some of the links may go to pages that don’t exist yet but be patient, he’s busy working on it. Notice it’ll also have a section for joining or renewing memberships to pay online. You can still pay by check but isn’t this an exciting option?

## Remember nominations for club officers at the 1/19/06 meeting

Next year we’ll have a new president, vice president and board so if you want to throw your hat in the ring, this is your chance! Be sure to email me at [jboesel@troutpond.com](mailto:jboesel@troutpond.com) and I’ll let you know how you can write something for the newsletter about

why we should vote for you. Due to the new newsletter format, the cost to the club for providing this valuable information wouldn’t be worth a vote. Speaking of money.

## Thank you Steven Cohen!

The response to the new newsletters has been overwhelmingly favorable. When I took on this job I had a few objectives. The first was to produce a newsletter that demonstrated NSC is very much alive and growing. I also wanted to demonstrate to the club how we could benefit from trying new ideas and save a few bucks in the process.

Ever since the first issue, I've been hearing from lots of people, many of whom are former members. At least five of these former members have decided to rejoin the club. I also had the pleasure of meeting Dave Attisani and his son at the pond. After reading his kids the story about my daughter's first fly fishing experience (*Can I try?*), his young son

was now giving fly fishing a try. I understand he also tied his first flies and actually caught fish with them. Way to go dude! Then Steven Cohen, a life member, did something that really blew me away. Steven emailed me that he was so pleased with our new direction, he wanted to make a donation to help fund the effort. The next week I received a check made out to NSC for \$200.

I am delighted to report that Steven's \$200 donation will almost completely fund the newsletter for the entire year! Add to that the over \$550 annual savings in postage alone, and over \$600 additional revenue from returning membership fees and that's a huge financial boost to the club.

In order to continue lowering the cost, if any of the following members have email, please email me at [jboesel@troutpond.com](mailto:jboesel@troutpond.com) so we can get you online.

Frank Brendon  
Duncan Browne  
Chuck Capone  
George Carini  
Robert Carmichael

Ronald Culgin  
Bill Hagar  
Melvin Harris  
Chuck Hasenfus  
Miles Hulse

Tom Koerber  
George Lambert  
Richard Marashlian  
Dennis Martin  
Richard Merson

Derek Moody  
Jerome Mullins  
Thomas Scott  
Scott Shepard  
Danny Socci

**Spam, old friends, great fishing, a new website and newsletter...  
it just doesn't get any better!!!**

*Deep Trout*

A.K.A. Jim Boesel