



Newsletter March 2007

March Meeting on the 15th

The March meeting will be held on Thursday, March 15th at 8:00 PM.

Before the meeting, starting around 7:00, some members will give demonstrations on fly tying. The focus will be basic patterns for the Spring. Bring your fly tying gear and join in and share ideas and

tips. This is a great opportunity for novices to learn from some of the best tiers around.

Starting at 8:00 we'll have the business meeting and a presentation by Bob Lynch on rod building.

Elections

The annual elections were held at the February meeting. The nominated slate was elected as a whole. So for 2007, the officers and board of directors are:

President: Dave Matthes
Vice President: Jon Cave
Treasurer: Joe Biotti
Secretary: Mac Sterling

Board: Joe Biotti (1), Mac Sterling(2), Ray Capobianco (1), Bill Hagar (1), Roland Johnson (2), Roy Swartz (2) and Richard Marashlian (1) to replace Paul Defillipo (who has decided to step down from the board).

The numbers next to the names above are the length of the terms for each director.

Spring Opening Day on April 7th

The Board of Directors has set Saturday, April 7th as Spring opening day. If the weather continues to be as cold as it has been the last few weeks, we may be fishing with tip ups, but we'll be fishing on opening day!

Breakfast starts at 6:00 AM with the first cast at 7:00 AM.

Last year's Spring opening day had a big turn out and was great fun with good food and good fishing. Be sure to come this year!

Volunteers to buy, set up, cook, and cleanup the breakfast are needed. This will be organized at the March meeting.

Stocking

The club pond will be stocked for opening day on April 3rd, so there is no fishing after that point until the 7th. The pond will be stocked with rainbow trout, predominantly 10 to 12 inches in size. A few larger fish will be included just to make it interesting.

Stocking policy was much discussed at the February meeting. One thing everyone

agrees on is that the fishing last Fall was disappointing. There are many opinions as to the cause, but no clear answers. Mac Sterling visited with one of the state Department of Fish and Wildlife biologists recently. He suggested some factors we have already discussed, such as dissolved oxygen levels. The Ph of the pond will be tested later this Spring, thanks to Rollie Johnson.

Smoking Proposal

At the February meeting Jim Boesel introduced a motion on smoking in the clubhouse. The motion proposed was to ban smoking in the clubhouse until the smoke eater (that big metal thing next to the front door) is installed and operating. This motion was narrowly defeated. An

alternate motion to investigate the installation of the smoke eater was passed. According to Paul DeFillipo (our resident electrician), it will be difficult and expensive to get the system installed and working.

Build Your Own Rod

Building your own rod is both easy and satisfying. You'll also learn something about your favorite toys in the process. It doesn't take much skill or many tools to make a rod you'll enjoy using. This is a great winter activity; it helps keep your mind off the frozen water outside. You can also customize the rod the way you want it. For example, I like single foot guides on fly rods because I think they help me shoot line better. But most manufacturers make rods with the traditional two footed snake guides. By building my own rods, I can use any of the variety of guides that are available (single foot or black finish or titanium alloy or ceramic ring – there's a lot more out there than the chrome plated snake guide).

There are several good books on this topic that will help you every step of the way. My favorite is an old book, but it's

still got a lot of good information, the book is *Fiberglass Rod Making* by Dale P. Clemens. This book is out of print but is available on Amazon.com. Another resource is the web, one site with step by step instructions is Fly Anglers Online, www.flyanglersonline.com/begin/graphite

The tools are pretty basic. You don't need a fancy rod winding jig - a stack of books to tension the thread will do. And there are rod finishes that need minimal turning to get a smooth finish, so you might not need a rod turning motor. A sharp knife to cut the winding thread, a round file to adjust the grip hole size to fit it on the rod, and brushes to apply the finish are needed too.

The process of building the rod is not complex. Start by selecting the rod blank and then the components you want on it. Then, glue on the reel seat and grip, use

rod winding thread to attach the guides, and apply a finish over the thread wraps. Of course, the devil is in the details, guide spacing is the most critical detail to worry about. There are recommended guide spacing charts in books and on the web. Some rod blank manufacturers provide recommendations on their web sites.

There are a lot of sources for materials; most larger fly shops carry some rod

building materials. The company with the largest selection is Angler's Workshop (www.anglersworkshop.com). I've purchased materials from them for most of my rod building projects and I'm very satisfied. Angler's Workshop carries the biggest selection of materials, including the most blanks, that I've found. Another source of materials that I've used is REC, Inc (www.rec.com); they have some very nice reel seats, rod tubes and specialty guides.

Fishing Log

Keep in mind the fishing log set up last Fall and remember to update it. This will help us determine the effectiveness of

stocking. Before the Spring stocking this is especially important as we try to gauge how many fish have held over.

Needham Fishing Derby

On May 12th the Town of Needham will hold its annual Fishing derby at the reservoir. Save the date if you would like

to help out and represent the club at this event.

Membership Invoices

Memberships expired at the end of December. Invoices for 2007 dues will be in the mail this week.

Dues for 2007 will remain at \$125.00. You can send your dues to NSC, PO Box 191, Needham MA 02492.

Visit the Website (www.troutpond.com)

Jon Cave has updated the web site and it looks great. The forums are back in business too. So logon and give it a try. Back issues of this newsletter are available on the web site too.

Keep Us in the Loop

When you move or change email addresses please update the club list so that we can get information to you.

Send updates to editor@troutpond.com or NSC, PO Box 191, Needham MA 02492

Needham Sportsman's Club

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Treasurer: Joe Biotti
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