



Newsletter February 2008

February Meeting on the 21st

The February meeting will be held on Thursday, February 21st at 8:00 PM. The annual elections will be held at this meeting. This is a great opportunity to participate and express your opinions

about the club and our future direction. The stove will be hot, so come on down and spend some time discussing fish, past and future.

Membership Renewal

The renewal reminder letter was mailed to all current and recently lapsed members in December. The board has decided that dues will remain unchanged for 2008 (\$125 for adult members). Most of us

realize what a bargain this is; don't forget to renew - you need the membership card to fish the club pond. Please renew as soon as possible.

Nominations

The slate of nominations for club offices for 2008 was announced at the January meeting. The nominating committee of Ed Van Sickle, Bob Proctor and Floyd Alwon are proposing the following members for election:
President – Jon Cave
Vice President – Richard Marashlian
Secretary – Bob Lynch
Treasurer – Douglas Donaldson

Past President – Dave Matthes

Board members:
Roy Swartz 1 year
Rollie Johnson 1 year
Danny Socci 2 years
Ed Van Sickle 2 years

No other nominations were received from the membership at large.

NSC Day at Orvis

Orvis Boston has invited the club to participate in a program where clubs and other outdoor organizations set up a table in their store and tell the public about the

organization. This is scheduled for a Saturday in March. Details will be discussed at the February meeting.

Recommended Sources

With fishing season fast approaching (not fast enough!) Roy Swartz has prepared a list of web sites that he recommends as a good place to purchase that gear you've been dreaming about. Let's face it, you can't have too much fishing stuff. Here are Roy's favorite tackle sites:

Hook and Hackle (20% off on most items!) www.hookhack.com

Fly Fishing Closeouts (30-50% off retail) www.flyshopcloseouts.com

Adam's Outlet (lots of closeouts on Orvis, Hardy, etc) find it on Ebay

Buy Fishing Stuff (Check out the Martin Mohawk fly reels – I bought the little one for 3 wt – great) <http://buyfishingstuff.com>

Yager's Flies (Flies for \$1, plus a full range of good stuff) www.yagersflies.com

Participation

The turnout for some of our recent events has been very high, notably the spring opening day and the fall clean up day, which is encouraging. It would be great to see more members at the monthly

meetings, especially during the winter. Come out - a lively meeting makes the club better for all of us. What else have you got to do on a cold Thursday night?

Club History Part III

By Ray Capobianco

Ray Capobianco has been working on a history of the club over the last couple of years. The first two parts are posted on the web site. I recently heard Ray talking about the process of researching and writing the history and that itself is a very interesting story - BL

Before proceeding with Part III we must digress a little. Sometime after Part II was released, a box of old club archives was discovered that contained information important to the origin and early activities of the club. This included minutes of the initial club meetings, a list of charter members, elected officers and board of directors, preliminary by-laws and certification of incorporation. We owe a vote of thanks to Don Michael, a long time member and secretary for many years during the 1990s. He had secured the archives for safe keeping after most of the old club records/data, for some unknown reason, had been lost.

Throughout the archives, names of certain members continually appear as officers, committeemen or just members who were very active in the club for many years. An attempt will be made to identify some of these individuals.

One point of interest not made very clear in Part I or Part II and needs clarification were the NSC's primary objectives, which, as stated in the corporation charter were "the perpetuation, propagation and protection of our game and fishand development of the New England shooting dog.....education of its membership and the public.....to the benefits derived from the

aforementioned.” At the end of the first year, membership stood at 82 paid-up members.

The primary interest of the club was trapshooting, target shooting, hunting and dog training. Trap and skeet fields were set up at a farm on Brookside Road and a rifle range off Great Plain Ave. with other locations identified, mostly on private property. However, permission was granted to use town land at several sites.

The club was heavily involved with Mass. Fish & Wildlife Department's conservation programs, such as raising hares and game birds and to a lesser degree, rearing trout. The MF&W supplied pheasant and quail eggs, (as many as 250-300 per year), that committee members incubated at home. The surviving chicks would be pen raised until stocked on huntable land located in the Needham-Dover area. They also supplied fingerling trout (as many as 4,000) that were reared in screened off sections of local water until they were 6" or more, at which time they were stocked in local brooks; i.e. Rosemary, Fuller, Clay, & Strawberry Hill, to name a few. On occasion the state supplied full grown (9-12") trout for stocking in public waters.

Until around 1940 club members were limited to fishing the local stocked brooks and ponds. About that time the Walker-Gordon ponds became available for lease. Trout rearing was phased out so full attention could be devoted to the new ponds; however, the club continued to assist the MF&W in stocking public waters. Annual club dues stayed at \$2.00;

however a separate fee of \$5.00 was charged to members fishing the club ponds. The ponds were private water so the club had to procure trout from private hatcheries.

Of interest, one of the charter members by the name of Archie Friswell, becomes club treasurer sometime around 1940 and remained treasurer for the next 30+ years. He played a crucial role through the years not only in fund raising but also in coming up with innovative ways to keep the club solvent during difficult times. It appears he maintained a tight reign on spending and was a force in collecting dues.

By the mid 40s the NSC was recognized as the premier field trial club in New England. Ted Whittemore, Dr. W.H. Beard, Frank Bridges, Bob Proctor Sr. and others club members are credited with establishing field trials as a sporting event throughout New England. The annual spring trial drew more than 60 entries from all over the East coast. Club members under the leadership of Archie Friswell, manned the ever profitable food tent during the two-day event and also organized an annual banquet for all attendees the weekend of the trial. In addition to its field trial recognition, the club was the recipient of several awards from the MF&W for its wildlife conservation initiatives. The most important and still being conducted to this day, Massachusetts Junior Conservation Camp.

To be continued...

Fishing Report

It's been a pretty slow winter for fishing in the club pond. The fish will well rested after ice-out!

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