



Newsletter October 2009



Rollie Johnson with the first fish caught on opening day

October Meeting on the 15th

The October meeting will be Thursday,
October 15th at 7:30 P.M. We will
re-cap opening day. We will also discuss a

developer's plan to build a house next to
the pond and what we can do about it.

Fall Opening Day

Our Fall opening day was October 10th. It was pleasant morning, not too cold, with a little fog visible on the water in the headlights as we arrived in the dark. But the clubhouse was already lit up and you could smell bacon and sausage cooking as you approached the door. The breakfast crew was hard at work at this early hour. Starting at 6:00 we had an excellent

breakfast prepared by Dennis Martin, Dave Matthes and Jon Cave. As usual they did a great job on the pancakes, eggs, bacon sausage, ham and potatoes. The fishing started a little slow, but soon Dennis Martin and Rollie Johnson had fish on. Rollie landed his first to claim first fish honors.

Clean up day

The clean up day before the opening day was scheduled for October 3rd. It was not a good day to be out. A few members including Danny Socci and Ray Capobianco anticipated the rainy weather and got an early start on Friday afternoon. Trash was picked up and some weeds cleared. A couple of hardy souls showed

up on Saturday morning and continued the work in the rain. This was Danny Socci and Bob Lynch. Ray Capobianco came by later in the day to take care of the grate at the outlet. The result of all this effort was that the grounds looked very good for opening day. Thanks to those who participated.

Club History (part IV)

By Ray Capobianco

When we left off this story, it was the late 1950s and the club had owned the pond for a couple of years.

Whenever changes were being proposed to Massachusetts Fish & Wildlife regulations, the Club was asked to review and respond with their member's input. It was during these years that fishing and hunting, in general was beginning to come under political pressure. Access to streams and ponds was being challenged by landowners and the proximity of hunting i.e. the discharge of firearms, was an even greater concern.

The Club had stopped raising pheasant several years previous and now, no longer assisted in the state distribution program. State owned property through out the commonwealth was being developed into game management areas. These rural locations around the state provided easy access, stocked 2 or 3 times a week and were ideal for pheasant hunters.

By mutual agreement the Club stopped participating in the trout stocking program. The state was consolidating its trout rearing hatcheries at Sandwich on the Cape and the newly developed Belchertown facility was nearing completion.

In the fall of 1957 the Park Commission requested permission to use the Club pond for recreational skating. To bely any fears by the membership, a lease was drawn up and approved; assuring the Club's pond/trout was adequately protected. The "lease will be automatically renewed from year to year....outdoor skating season....December through March....removing snow from the surface....windrowed along the middle of the pond....will not, in any way....interfere with the dam....or any

other act tending to lower the water level...injure or destroy the fish in said pond" the price, \$1.00/year. Although not stated in the lease, the town has faithfully plowed the pond roadway/parking area and the Club has allowed public use of the parking lot. This lease has held for over 50 years and is still in effect.

In the October 1957 newsletter appears the first reference to a "staged affair" fund raiser held at the Needham Paramount Theater. This was a double feature movie evening, the first being a Disney film for children and the second a film for the older set. It was felt the annual November turkey raffle was limited and not bringing in adequate funds. A theater night could draw 350-400 at \$.90 per person showed more potential. Although this turned out not to be true, the Club felt some minor changes would increase receipts and the members were relieved of peddling raffle tickets and delivering turkeys.

Over the years the Club occasionally brought in a fly fishing celebrities to speak at the monthly meeting. Because of limited seating at the Village Club the Needham Theater would once again be rented. With a little free advertising through the local sporting clubs and charging a nominal fee, it became a profitable event. Many of us remember seeing Lee Wulff for the first time during the late 50s.

With the expanding Club membership, in 1958 the Trout Pond Committee elected to limit pond memberships to 110. The committee also proposed changes and some new fishing regulations: "Fly fishing only. One fly to a line. No spinners or other hardware allowed ahead of the fly. No sinkers."

"It is strongly suggested that only barbless hooks be used but this is left up to you as sportsmen and not made a definite rule"

"You may keep four fish in a day, no more than 20 in a month, no more than 40 in a full season. When you have a guest his fish apply to your limit. No more than one fish 15 inches or larger may be kept in a season."

"Again we make a suggestion.....do not take your limit of fish on opening day. If everybody who fishes takes a full limit, the stocking is rapidly dissipated and a lot of money is spent for one day's fun."

"....most important is a (new) rule which limits to 15 the number of fish which may be handled in one day. It is hoped through this to spread good fishing further."

"One last rule, wear your button and register in the log when you fish."

Fishing Report

Fishing on opening day started a little slowly, but picked up as the day went on. The hot fly was the old favorite, the black woolly bugger, often with a bead added. There were also catches on nymphs. The fish seem to be schooling, so you need to keep moving until you find fish and then the action can be constant. There are some very nice fish in the pond this

season. On opening day a couple of brook trout up to 20 inches were landed. On Sunday, the editor managed to land a rainbow that measured 17 inches. Towards evening the surface activity picked up. Soon it will be time to strain your eyes with those tiny midge patterns, so enjoy the fishing woolly buggers while you can.

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