



Newsletter April 2012

April Meeting on the 19th

The March meeting will be **Thursday, April 19th** at **7:30**. We will have a presentation on fishing in Alaska by Ray Capobianco. We'll

have sandwiches and snacks before the meeting. Come early and compare notes on opening day.

Dues for 2012

Please pay your 2012 dues now! **The dues for 2012 are \$150 for adult members and \$50 for junior members.** You can mail your check to the address on this newsletter - see the last page. Note: there are issues with Paypal collecting the new amount on the web, so please send a check to the address on the

last page. You can't fish if you haven't paid your dues!

Unclaimed 2012 membership cards for members who have paid their dues were mailed to members on April 9th.

Opening Day

Spring opening day on March 31st was cold and a little damp with hints of snowflakes. But the breakfast was excellent and the fishing was good. About 30 members enjoyed breakfast before fishing. The fish cooperated and some large fish were caught. Bill Hagar and Richard Howell were credited with first

fish honors. Bill Hagar's gymnastics to land the first fish were widely appreciated. But the judges on the porch only gave him a 2.5 because he failed to stick the landing! There was small story about the event in the Needham Times featuring a picture of Rollie Johnson with a nice rainbow.

Tuesday Night Fly Tying May

The Tuesday night fly tying will be on May 1st. Attendance seems to get bigger each month. Come down to the club house around 6:30 and join in. Bring your vice, tools and materials and see what you can learn

and share. We'll chip in for pizza and have a great evening. The topic this month will be the basic saltwater flies: Clouser minnow, Lefty's Deceiver, Gartside Gurgler.

Pond Committee Update

By Richard Howell

Aeration project

It was decided at the committee meeting to prioritize the aeration of the pond. Three quotes are being obtained and Richard Howell has contacted the conservation commission to ensure that we can put the equipment into the pond.

Algae control

Richard Howell has also contacted the conservation commission for advice on using barley straw as an algae inhibitor. This is an effective natural treatment but does need to be introduced soon to be useful.

Control screen – pond outlet

This is a less urgent issue but we have lost fish because of the screen. The current screen is aluminum and fits poorly. Ray has designed a replacement but it can't use the existing cutouts as these have been damaged and also suffer from water coming through the surrounding rock (see next point). A replacement will require fabrication of a steel or high-grade aluminum screen, two channels for it to run in and some concrete work to embed / attach the channels to the existing concrete.

It was decided that this is a "nice to have" – especially as we are prioritizing the aeration so might not have the money for this as a commercial venture. However we are looking for club members who might be able to source a reduced rate on:

1. Concreting
2. Fabrication of the new gate and channels
3. Who might have the skills to fit the new gate

If we cannot source something within the club then we will try and get a commercial quote for the job and prioritize it for when the funds are available.

Pond leak near outlet

It appears that there is a leak from the pond close to the outlet; this leak is visible in the

culvert. We don't know the implications of this on the pond; it appears to be linked to the collapse of the stones to the left of the outlet (looking towards the pond). Rollie is asking around some of his contacts to see if there is anyone who might be able to give us an insight into the implications on the pond. We don't currently believe it is a big problem, although there is evidence that some undermining of the bank has taken place.

Visit from Patricia Barry - Needham Conservation Committee

Patty Barry met with Ray Capobianco and Richard Howell on the March 20th. We had a very useful discussion and told her about the issues that we face with the pond. Whilst we were talking to her we developed the concepts for two further projects for the pond: the improvements of the banks and the creation of a marshland upstream of the pond. She responded favorably to both these ideas and we are now in the process of working up a couple of proposals for these.

Bank improvements

The banks of the pond continue to erode due to natural erosion and human access. We would like to stabilize the banks and at the same time introduce some fishing platforms to facilitate casting. The banks would be stabilized mechanically – probably with rocks; and by planting emergent plants between the fishing platforms. We might also look at low shrubs as well. The emergent shore plants would improve the habitat for the fly life as well as tempt the fish towards the sides of the pond. We are a ways off yet on finalizing details on this; we need to consult with a specialist in this area initially in order to prepare a plan that would be acceptable to the conservation commission. This could be a long-term project - gradually adding fishing platforms as funds and "elbow grease" allow. We would lose the ability to fish all the way along the bank between the platforms but looking at the current usage of the banks we

tend to use the same spots over again anyways! In return we will get a better fishing experience.

Wetland Creation

This is a large project that will require involvement of the commission as it involves that whole of Rosemary Glen. The concept is to alter the stream flow so as to force it to drop its sediment higher up the glen rather than washing it down into the pond. The water will then tend to percolate through the soil in order to reach the pond. This means that the wetland acts like a giant filter allowing the plants to clear up a lot of the phosphates that currently find their way in to the pond and cause the algae blooms. It should also reduce the thermal pollution coming into the pond. This project isn't the total solution to the current problems with the town's run off but should help ameliorate it. We are still at the "thinking about it" stage; it's a complex

project involving many different fields of expertise. We will almost certainly have to have a thorough recording of the current biology and hydrology in more depth than the review done for the pond drainage in 2002. However this could also be an opportunity for a flagship project for the town working with universities and schools in the area. The next steps are a "data collection" to try and work out the best route to progress this project and get some idea of the costs of doing it (and who will pay!).

Editors update:

At the board of directors meeting on April 12th the board approved proceeding with the aeration project, including filing for a permit with the Needham Conservation Commission, purchasing the aerator and installing it. This is estimated to cost up to \$3,500.

DVD Library

We are proposing to set up a DVD library for the club. Where members can borrow outdoor-related videos. To start we will be looking for donations. It's a good way to share that DVD you got as gift two years ago

and watched once. Mike Herman is donating a self to hold the collection, let's fill it up!

Fishing Report

Fishing was good for the first week after opening day. Fish were caught on a wide variety of flies, with the usual suspects, woolly buggers and small nymphs accounting for most fish. Fishing slowed down the second week of the season, with colder temperatures the fish seemed to slow down. As the days are warming lately, we can expect surface action to pick up again. Midges will become

more important over the next few weeks. Small emergers (#16 – 20) and nymphs fished on or just under the surface will become very effective.

Just to remind members, please release fish quickly and carefully. Also, remember that a single barbless (or crushed barb) hook is the rule for the club pond.

Needham Sportsman's Club

President: Paul McKechnie
Vice President: Mike Herman
Treasurer: Douglas Donaldson
Secretary: Bob Lynch boblnc1@yahoo.com

Board of Directors: Roland Johnson, Roy Swartz, Bob Timmerman, Shane Yellin, Richard Marashlian
Web master: vacant
Newsletter Editor: Bob Lynch

Send comments on the newsletter or articles for the newsletter to boblnc1@yahoo.com
If you received this by regular mail but can receive it by email, please send your email address to boblnc1@yahoo.com.

Needham Sportsman's Club
PO Box 920191
Needham MA 02492