



Newsletter May 2012

May Meeting on the 17th

This month's meeting will be **Thursday, May 17th** at **7:30**. We will have a presentation by Rollie Stewart on fishing in Boston Harbor.

June Meeting on the 10th

The June meeting will be **Sunday, June 10th** at **Noon**. This will be the annual cookout event. Families are invited to come. The club will have hamburgers, hot dogs, sausages, condiments and soft drinks. Bring a side dish

or something to share. Note that the special summer fishing rules for kids take effect on this day (see below). This has become a great event - it's like a big family cookout.

A Letter from Richard Marashlian

If you missed our last meeting, you missed Paul's presentation to me. He had many kind words to say about my being president and what we, as a club, have accomplished in the past two years. I was then presented with a large gift wrapped box. Inside the box was a jacket, sweatshirt and a polo shirt. Each piece was beautifully monogrammed with the N.S.C. logo, with the words "Past President" written underneath. Bob Timmerman and

Co. did a great job. To all of you, I thank you for making my two years most pleasurable. Our club has grown into a great place to meet, fish and enjoy the friendships we share.

Thank you all again so very much,

Richard Marashlian

Pond Committee

Richard Howell and the pond committee are pursuing the aerator project. The paperwork for the necessary permits has been filed with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. The committee is working on the documents for filing with the Needham Conservation Commission. The paperwork is a confusing and difficult job,

especially for an amateur. We owe Richard our thanks for taking this on. We could use the services of a professional engineer or registered land surveyor. If anyone has these skills, please contact the secretary (boblncs1@yahoo.com).

Club History – the 60s

By Ray Capobianco

The Club maintained a robust meeting schedule during the 60s. All monthly meetings were held at the Village Club in Needham Heights. Meetings consisted of a short business meeting, speaker/film, refreshments and raffle table.

Speakers were authorities in their field ranging from fisheries biologist, angling and firearms representatives, sporting celebrities or destination camps. Films were very popular, always hunting/fishing related.

For several years a venison stew dinner was highlight of the January meeting. This was prepared by Sam Loomis and a couple of hunter/members however depended on a successful deer season (occasionally supplemented with a little beef, lamb and veal). The Club annual banquet was a catered roast beef affair, always held in February and combined with installation of the newly elected officers. An annual favorite, a baked bean dinner at the April meeting, was prepared by several loyal members.

The May meeting was Family Night that included a film or two directed toward the youngsters and a raffle table dominated with items of interest to the fairer set. As mentioned earlier, the traditional November turkey raffle brought in much needed revenue.

The Club's annual field trials held in April were the largest in New England and a high point of the year. It included a banquet for the participants and money making concession stand, tended by the Club members.

A Good Start for 1960s

The May 1961 monthly newsletter makes reference to water aerators. It seems the pond committee and its chairman, Matty

Mathis, was having concerns about water quality and pond's ability to hold-over trout through the summer. Gilbert Trout Hatcheries was contacted and they recommended a consultant/supplier of water aerators. One was procured and installed in July; however, how long it was used and what became of it remains unknown. It didn't seem to have much effect on the brook trout; when it rained they headed up the brook in the gorge. Being late summer, most thought the brookies were just following their instinct to span. A weir was built thus eliminating the problem and saving the Club a large sum of stocking funds.

The year closed with Sam Loomis being recognized at the December meeting for his hard work and dedication to the Club. He had spent many hours finishing the interior walls of the club house, helping to install the pond aerator, and conducting the annual turkey raffle, which netted over \$400.

Club dues remained at \$5 per year with an additional \$15 for those wishing to join the trout pond. Membership to the pond was limited to 100 (junior were not part of quota).

A Challenge to the Club's Existence

The following story is well documented and part of public record. How it precipitated is questionable; however, the reader can draw his/her own conclusions. Sometime in 1963 the Club was notified that nine acres of land in Rose Mary Glen had been acquired for the purpose of subdivision and development. At the subsequent Zoning Board hearings, Club council voiced serious objection, "The collection system of storm water imposes an extra-ordinary burden beyond the

outflow of the pipe within the subdivision.....on all abutters.....down stream". Other abutters also objected to the proximity of development to the glen. Approval of the sub-division was ultimately denied.

Coincidentally, in early 1964, one of the Club officers became aware that, although the cottage had a valid occupancy permit issued in January 1960, the Club, a separate non-profit entity, also needed a permit and therefore was operating illegally.

Immediately upon being made aware of this situation Phil Trowbridge, Club President, submitted the necessary application to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a "special use" permit“To conduct a non-profit club.....organized for the perpetuation of conservation”.

At the Board of Appeals hearing on August 4, 1964 the only opposition came

from the council for the sub-division (abutters)“it seemed obvious.....the Planning Board in denying his client's petition (to the sub-division) would protect the unlawful or illegal use of the property down stream....”.

Four land owners abutting the Club spoke, offering glowing reports, that the Club was a good neighbor, a benefit to the Town, and its presence increasing property values.

The Club was “granted a permit to conduct a club.....for the purposes set forth in its charter of incorporation....” (One partner in the denied sub-division, Ralph Woodcock, had been a member of the Club.)

To help offset litigation costs for the above episode, members were asked to make donations to a Club “Land Development Fund.” Donations were still being accepted through 1965.

Summer Fishing Rules

The same rules as last year will be in force for summer fishing in the club pond:

1. Children 12 years old and under may fish by methods other than fly fishing.
2. The only bait allowed is worms or night crawlers. No live fish (shiners, etc...) or power bait allowed.
3. Fishing with anything other than flies (i.e., bait) is allowed only within 10 feet of the shore.
4. Children must be accompanied by a member. These rules are not a public invitation to fish in the pond. It is still members only.
5. Trout caught must be released immediately.
6. Sunfish caught must be released into the brook below the driveway bridge (bring a bucket).
7. These rules are in effect from June 10th through August 31st.

Pond Map

Paul McKechnie and Rollie Johnson have done a survey of the club pond. The result is the attached map showing the depths of various parts of the pond. This may be helpful in locating those elusive fish

Fishing Report

Fishing has been hit-and-miss lately. Some members are reporting good, consistent success; others have been visited by the skunk more than they'd like. Surface action has been unusually slow, but some fish are being caught on small wet flies (#16-18) or nymphs

just below the surface in areas where fish are feeding sporadically. Some members have had success on streamers.

The Orvis fly fishing classes will be using the pond a few days this spring. If you are interested contact the Orvis store in Dedham.

Needham Sportsman's Club

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