



Newsletter April 2016



Denis Martin with the first fish caught on opening day

April Meeting on the 21st

The April meeting will be held on **Thursday, April 21st starting at 6:30 PM** at the clubhouse. We will have a pasta dinner cooked by Bob Timmerman. The business meeting will be at 7:00 PM followed by a

presentation by Andy Bonzagni of Concord Outfitters on landlocked salmon.

Fly Tying May 3rd

The monthly fly tying meeting will be held on May 3rd starting at 6:00 PM. Bring your own tools and materials; you can learn a lot and

have a good time doing it. If you want to eat and tie, you can chip in \$5.00 for pizza.

Opening Day March 19th

Spring opening day on March 19th was very successful. Denis Martin led our team of cooks in preparing a great breakfast. The morning was cold, but the fish were willing. Denis was rewarded for making such a good

breakfast by catching a very nice brown trout as the first fish of the day. The only problem that morning was that icy guides and cold hands required frequent breaks to thaw out.

Cleanup Day April 9th

The spring cleanup on April 9th was a success; we had a good turnout and a lot of good work was done. Thanks to all who participated.

This is not the end of cleanup. It needs to be an ongoing effort, so if you see some trash in or around the pond, pick it up.

Pond Update

Here is an update on the pond committee from Richard Howell: The committee has voted in favor of submitting a notice of intent to the Needham Conservation Committee to improve the stability of the pond banks and improve access to the pond. This link will take you to the submission document. Please note that the plan is to ask for the project to

take place over an extended period of time, when finances and manpower allow. The costs used are taken from the internet – clearly if we can source materials such as washed stone and the various coir materials more cheaply then we can progress faster! We will keep you posted on the dates for the actual submission.

Richard has done a lot of work on this, and the excellent document that he prepared is available on the website: www.troutpond.com/Public/Pond_Committee/Trout_pond_NOI_V1a_2016.pdf

Fish Handling

This is a reminder that the trout in the pond need to be handled carefully. We want them to be around for as long as possible. At this point in the season, handling of landed fish is probably the leading cause of death. To start with, remember the pond rules:

Barbless (or crushed barb) hooks only.

One fly at a time – no two-fly rigs.

When finishing the fight with a fish, the less handling the better. If possible, don't remove

the fish from the water - remove the hook with the fish in the water at your feet. If you do remove the fish from the water, don't touch it with you dry hands; either wet your hands or better yet hold the fish in the net. One rule of thumb is to hold your breath when you remove a fish from the water - as long as you can hold your breath, the fish can too.

Favorite Flies

This spring we've had the best midge hatches on the pond in several years. Some of them are big (for midges) up to a #16 fly size. The trout have noticed and can be seen swirling (and even jumping) after them on the surface almost all day. Trying to catch these "midging" trout can be frustrating. A dry fly seems an obvious answer but sometimes the fish just don't take it; they are feeding just below the surface on the emerging insect. If they are willing to eat the dry fly it can hard to see the tiny speck of a size 18 dry fly from 40 feet away, so you can set the hook when they take it. My solution for this is a small, gray wet fly. I fish it close to the surface and vary the retrieve from a crawling hand-twist retrieve to slow, short strips to quick strips. This works when the fish are mostly feeding just below the surface and it eliminates the problem of figuring out which speck on the water is your dry fly – you fish on a tight line

and feel the take. I'm not saying this is some kind of miracle fly that will catch every trout in the pond, but I usually get a few hits when the trout are going nuts on midges.

The pattern is:

Hook: #16-20 standard length wet or dry fly hook

Thread: Gray or black 8/0

Body: Dubbed dark gray muskrat under fur

Rib: Midge flash, pearl (note regular Crystal flash will work too), 3 or 4 turns

Hackle: Grizzly hen, 3 turns



Fishing Report

Fishing has been very good lately. All sorts of flies are working from large streamers to tiny midges. The midging fish are tough to catch but it is fascinating to try. If that's not your thing, then streamers imitating shiners have been getting interest, and never discount the classic black or olive wooly bugger.

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