



Newsletter February 2018

February Meeting on the 15th

The February meeting will be held on **Thursday, February 15th starting at 6:30 PM** at the clubhouse. We'll have dinner before the business meeting. The highlight of the meeting will be the elections for club offices for 2018.

Dues for 2018

Dues for 2018 are payable now. The rates for 2018 are:

Adult **\$175**

Junior **\$50**

Adult inactivity fee \$25

Please mail a check to the club PO box:

Needham Sportsman's Club
PO Box 920191
Needham MA 02492

If the ice ever thaws, you must be a paid up member to fish in the club pond. You will receive your membership card to display while fishing after you pay your dues.

Special Guest for March

We will have a special speaker for the March meeting on March 15th: **Bob Romano**. Bob is a Maine Guide specializing in the area around Rangeley. He's going to tell us all about fishing this beautiful area of New England which is the Home of some of the best wild brook trout fishing in the country. Bob Romano and his wife, Trish, have owned a camp in the Rangeley Lakes Region of western Maine for more than thirty years. He has updated his program on fly fishing the region to include a month by month guide of where to fish, what flies to use and when to use them. He'll also share proven techniques to take the brook trout and landlocked salmon for which this region is known. The tenth-anniversary edition of *Shadows in the Stream*, Bob's book of essays about fly fishing, is

often used by anglers as a guide to fishing the Rangeley Lakes Region. His latest book, *THE RIVER KING – A FLY-FISHING NOVEL* will also be for sale.

Bob is also the author of the Rangeley Lakes series of novels that include *North of Easie*, which won second place in the 2010 Outdoor Writer's Best Book Contest. Romano's essays and short stories have appeared in various anthologies, including *Christmas in the Wild*, *Fresh Fiction for Fresh Water Fishing*, and *Wildbranch: An Anthology of Nature, Environmental, and Place-Based Writing*. He writes articles for various magazines and newspapers and does his best to keep up with his blog: forgottentrout.wordpress.com and his website: <http://www.forgottentrout.com>

Fly Tying March 6th

The monthly fly tying session will be on Tuesday, March 6th. It starts around 6:00 PM or whenever you can get to the club house. Now is the time to switch from fishing flies to tying flies. If you need help

getting started, this is your chance. This is a fun evening of tying and instruction. Chip in \$5 and you get a pizza dinner along with a couple of new flies.

Ice Fishing

Ice fishing was a bust on January 27th. Thanks to Mike Herman and Matt Palmer for evaluating the ice and determining that it

would be unsafe for a bunch of guys to spend the afternoon on it. We can talk about another try at the February meeting.

Elections for 2018

The club elections for 2018 are in February. All the officers and three board seats are up for election. The president appointed three members to the nominating committee for next year's elections:

President – Bob Lynch
Vice President - Denis Martin
Secretary – John Aurelio
Treasurer – Tony O'Leary

Board of Directors:
Bob Timmerman - past president
(automatic 1 year term, no election)
For 2 year terms:
Phil Brown
Paul Defilippo
Matt Palmer

Lobbying for Bass

By Floyd Alvon (thank you for setting up this meeting and reporting on it)

Members meet with Senator Rush to enhance striped bass population

“Neither snow nor slow traffic” kept our members from participating in a special meeting with State Senator Michael Rush on Tuesday morning, January 30th at the NSC club house. The turnout for this meeting exceeded expectations given the early starting time (9:00 AM) on a weekday morning. More than one dozen members contributed to the success of this meeting. Mike Herman arrived early and got the wood stove cranking. Brad Voight was also helpful (he was even seen shoveling the unplowed parking lot!). And, Matt Palmer got there early to provide private security before his real tour of duty began.

The meeting began with brief introductions and Senator Rush saw that our club covers many of the towns in his district. Ray Capobianco was given the impossible task of summarizing the long history of the club in 10 minutes.

Dean Clark, a board member of Stripers Forever, gave a powerful presentation on the meeting's primary agenda - House Bill 466, an act focused on the conservation of the Atlantic striped bass. Dean has been a long-time friend of the NSC and joined us for one of our meetings earlier this year. He explained that it is in the State's best economic interest to preserve recreational fishing of striped bass. He distributed a one- page fact sheet put together by an economist, Frederic Jennings, entitled “The neglected one-billion-dollar MA recreational striped bass fishery”.

Dean highlighted that there are three categories of those who fish for striped bass – 1. The commercial fisher who have long pursued stripers; 2. The “recreational fishers” – those who purchase a commercial license and use the money to support their fishing boats and other related expenses; and 3. The recreational fisher – who, like many in our club, fish for stripers and for the most part practice “catch and release”. Dean emphasized that this legislation is the first one that has supported the traditional commercial fishery while laying the groundwork for a more substantial and sustainable recreational fishing.

Dean distributed two documents: 1. A bulleted fact sheet articulating the economic logic supporting this legislation and 2. A letter to the Editor published in the Cape Cod Times on 1/27/18. Both items will be available at the NSC Club House.

Members shared their experience with the decline in the striped bass population fishery. Ray Thibault noted that for a period of several years around 2,000, NSC would organize a spring or fall getaway to the Cape or Martha's Vineyard. Members would rent a cottage for one or two weeks and spend the time (and dollars) catching striped bass. Over the years, as it became clearer that the fishing was going downhill, members chose to spend their dollars elsewhere. Now, those who can go to Maine, Nova Scotia and even Iceland to pursue landlocked salmon and other species.

You might wonder how this meeting got set up? Stripers Forever sent out an email to its members asking that they write their state senators or representatives to support H 466. One of our members was surprised to get a response from Senator Rush's office indicating his interest in meeting to learn more about the legislation. That member wisely decided it was more important than one member meeting with the Senator. And, the rest is history (in the making). Stay tuned for updates.

To learn more about Stripers Forever and conserving striped bass see <https://www.stripersforever.org/>

Bears Den Show

Bears Den, one of our local fly shops sponsors an annual show. It is on February 17th. The show is free; you can get more information at <https://www.bearsden.com/>. This shop has been generous to the club with

gifts of raffle prizes, so support your local fly shop. The fly fishing film festival will also be on February 17th, just down the road from the Bears Den shop, see the website above for more information.

Classifieds

As a new feature the newsletter will print classified ads for members looking to sell or give items (or seeking items). Contact

Classified_ad@troutpond.com to list or respond.

Needham Sportsman's Club

President: Bob Timmerman
Vice President: Bob Lynch
Treasurer: Tony O'Leary
Secretary: John Aurelio
To contact all four officers:
Officers@TroutPond.com

Board of Directors: Roy Swartz, Brad
Voight, Phil Brown, Bill Dello Russo, Paul
Defilippo, Denis Martin, Mike Herman
Web master: Bob Lynch
Newsletter Editor: Bob Lynch

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

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