



Newsletter May 2009



Alan Kane of the Down East Salmon Federation at the April meeting

May Meeting on the 21st

The May meeting will be Thursday, May 21st at 7:30 P.M. The highlight will be a presentation by Jennifer Thomson of the Massachusetts Division of Marine

Fisheries on her work with angler surveys of the local striped bass population.

June Meeting

On June 21st we'll have a special Sunday afternoon meeting. This will be a cookout for members and their guests. Last year

this was good time and we look forward to seeing a lot of participation. We will discuss this more at the May meeting.

April Meeting

On April 16th the club hosted Alan "Chubba" Kane, the president of the board of the Down East Salmon Federation (DSF). Chubba gave us a very interesting description of the great work they are doing to restore Atlantic Salmon to the Down East rivers of Maine. He described an organization that is involved in all aspects of salmon restoration, from habitat preservation to running a hatchery.

Of special interest to our members was a video from the 1950's showing landlocked

and sea-run salmon fishing in Maine. The landlocked salmon anglers featured were members of the Needham Sportsman's Club.

The salmon federation owns a couple of cabins on the land they are conserving. These are on the Machias River with access to good Brook Trout fishing (sorry no salmon fishing, but maybe someday!). You can contact DSF about renting the cabins at info@mainesalmonrivers.org.

The Bugs are Back; and Fish are Eating 'Em

By Roy Swartz

Those of you who were there for the wonderful breakfast on opening day know it was a very slow day, with no fish showing and water so murky, even a chartreuse wooly bugger was invisible a foot below the surface. I think I caught about 10% of all the fish caught that morning...and I only caught one. It goes that way sometimes.

But I went back a week later, and things had changed. The water was clearer and there was some visible activity. The weather was dreadful, 30's, windy and intermittent rain that felt like it could turn to snow at any moment. I had just three hardy companions, and they all drifted away as the rain intensified and fingers froze.

But the obvious and welcomed change was that the bugs were hatching, and it was amazing in such conditions. The trout were eating too, visibly sipping and sometimes splashing at the surface in pursuit of emerging midges. After downsizing my opening-day fly pattern twice, I finally arrived at the proper size to imitate the hatch, a number 16 grey/fuzzy wet fly. The trout liked it, and I got several strikes. I landed two fish before

the rain really intensified, and even Ray Capobianco said he'd had enough and left. As I warmed my shaking body in the car, I pondered the choices: stay warm, be happy with two fish and go home; or be true to my fishaholic nature and give it one more shot.

Of course, I put on the gloves, changed flies and strode back to the benches, where most of the surface activity had been concentrated. By now, the rain was coming down sideways, and the surface was just too messy for a fish to see a small midge. The surface activity had waned, but I figured they'd still be on the prowl and looking to continue their binge. The fly I chose was a cross between an attractor and a midge imitation, the well-known Hornberg. When imitating midges, a very small Hornberg provides the silhouette, flash and action of a struggling insect. It can be fished dry, or better, slowly retrieved within the surface film. It works well because it "pushes water" and attracts feeding fish, then seals the deal with its buggy appearance.

Well, this is what I've been leading up to. On my third cast, that Hornberg was

nailed by a very large trout. Now, I knew there were some nice fish in the pond, as I'd heard about the 16-inch hold-over brookies. Bob Lynch actually landed a rainbow of about 18 inches just before the rain intensified and he departed. But the tail that slapped the water after I set the hook appeared to be the size of a softball, and the following splash stopped my heart cold. Needless to say, I was very careful playing this fish, and several minutes later I was rewarded with a vision unseen (by

Mono Master

Jon Cave has arranged for the club to obtain some Mono Master tools for an extra low price. The Mono Master is a device to tame those scraps of monofilament that we all generate by changing leaders and flies. It makes it easy to keep the scraps under control on the water so that we can bring them home and dispose of them properly. This will

me, at least) outside the broodstock enclosure at the trout hatchery! The fish was roughly 20 – 21 inches, and probably about 3 1/2 pounds; a brilliantly colored and very healthy Rainbow Trout. And best of all, he swam strongly away after our encounter, and he awaits you (or hopefully me) for another epic battle. So get your midge patterns out and come on down to the Club. Bug time is back.

help keep our pond and the rivers or oceans that we fish in cleaner. The special price is \$10.00, which includes the Mono Master and a high quality retractor. This is quite a deal because Cabelas sells the Mono Master alone for \$11.95. To learn more about this great tool see www.grasshopperproducts.com.

Fishing Report

Fishing became very good during the weeks after opening day (see Roy's article). Small mickey finn streamers were accounting for fish. As we get further

into May, the flies to match the hatch are becoming smaller. Small wet flies (16 – 18) or even smaller midge emergers have been working.

Needham Sportsman's Club

President: Jon Cave
president@troutpond.com,
Vice President: Richard Marshlian
vicepresident@troutpond.com,
Treasurer: Douglas Donaldson
treasurer@troutpond.com,
Secretary: Bob Lynch
secretary@troutpond.com

Board of Directors : Roland Johnson,
Roy Swartz, Ed van Sickle, Danny Socci,
Dave Matthes
Web master: Jon Cave
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.

Needham Sportsman's Club
PO Box 191
Needham MA 02492