



Newsletter June 2009

June Meeting on the 21st

The June meeting will be **Sunday, June 21st at 1:00 P.M.** This will be our annual cookout for members and their families. Come join us for burgers and dog with the whole family. The club will provide hot dogs, hamburgers and soft drinks. We ask that members bring a side dish or desert of some kind of pot luck, if they are able. Last year this was a very

good time to socialize with members and their families and see some kids have a ball catching sunfish (and a few trout too!). This is the start of the summer fishing rules.

It's Fathers Day, so fathers bring your kids; kids, bring your fathers.

May Meeting

On May 21st the club hosted Jennifer Thomson of the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries as our guest for a presentation on the Massachusetts striped bass population and on her work in angler surveys. Jennifer provided some interesting information on the ups and downs of the striped bass population all over the East Coast and how management has helped bring the fish back. She also provided us with some free stuff in the form of key chains and tote bags. There

may be a few key chains and bags in the clubhouse for those who missed out the first time.

Jennifer also left some forms for any members who would like to join the program she runs for angler surveys of striped bass. This is a program where anglers collect scale samples and send them to the Division of Marine Fisheries for analysis to help the biologists understand the population of bass in Massachusetts's waters.

Grounds Keeping

We owe Richard Marashlian special thanks for cutting the grass and keeping the club looking nice over the last couple

of months. If you have some time to spare, help out; stop by and cut the grass or bring your trimmer and trim the edges.

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
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 21st through August 31st.

Club History Part IV (continued)

By Ray Capobianco

When we left off, the club had just purchased the pond in 1954 and the pond had been dredged. Ray continues this excellent history of our club...

The year 1955 brought about some interesting changes in Club philosophy. The pond committee, in order to raise the \$700 estimated dredging cost for the upper 1/3 of the pond, recommended soliciting no-interest loans from Club members. Loans would be paid back within 4 years by setting aside \$5.00 of the pond dues in a separate account. In this way work could take place immediately rather than waiting four years to accumulate the necessary funds. The Club treasury at that time was not as it is today. The trout pond had a self-sustaining budget and all associated cost was separate from the general treasury. With Board approval the funds were collected and all work completed by September 1955. The actual cost was \$659, well within the original estimate. More interestingly, of the 1000 trout stocked that spring, it was estimated 600 survived the summer; even with low water levels and summer heat, the trout showed a high rate of survival. These estimates

were fairly accurate because members were allowed to keep 4 fish per day and were required to record their catch in the pond log book. Based on these facts, trout were holding over in significant numbers. This prompted the club to institute a temporary policy of barbless hook, catch and release fishing only. In October it was decided to stock 400 trout of reduced size (7-9"), in this way the Club would avoid the higher cost of spring stocking, saving an estimated 30% for the same number of fish (9-12"). It was hoped that, with fish holding over and a catch and release policy in place, the spring program could be started with fewer stocked fish.

During this same period work continued on the grounds around the pond. Newsletters make reference to a bulldozer being used. Tree and brush removal continued along the roadway with provisions for additional parking near the shack. However, before this could be

done a 60-foot underground drain had to be installed from the NW corner of the Club property to the pond. Apparently a spring created a natural reservoir resulting in water problems for Club abutters. This area of concern is just behind the present tool shed and parking area.

During the spring of 1956 the Needham Park Commission approached the Club for assistance in running a fishing derby at the reservoir off Great Plain Ave. (behind the present Public Works building). This was well received by the membership and a cooperative effort has continued for more than 50 years to this day.

Over the years the Club maintained a very close relationship with Mass. Fish and Wildlife Department, not only stocking fish and game for public sport but in areas of conservation. It assisted the department in establishing the Junior Conservation Camp and sent one and

occasionally two boys age 15-18 to a 2-week summer camp, free of charge. With loss of the Park's Farm in Sherborn, the Field Trial Committee was looking for a new home; the department offered their headquarters site in Westborough. They also supplied all the live game birds for the trials; resulting in considerable savings to the Club.

When the Needham High School asked for help in running a hunter safety course for 15-18 year old boys, the Club in turn asked the Mass. Fish and Wildlife for advice. The State provided a game warden as instructor, and the National Rifle Association donated textbooks and a course outline. The Club coordinated the program, providing members to assist the instructor. This program continued for several years (could one imagine that happening today?).

Fishing Report

Fishing has slowed down in the last few weeks. There are trout out toward the center of the pond and they are working on the surface in the evenings. In past years there has been good fishing a few

feet under the surface with woolly buggers and streamers at this time of year. So don't give up on the pond; if you have a little time, give it try - you might be surprised.

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