



Fly fishing outings continue all season

The May 24 Fly Fishing Committee's fishing outing at Potter Pond was well attended, and for those with the necessary patience, successful.

Eighteen folks fished including committee members **John Barrett, Mel Blake, Paul Brookes, Greg Houde, Jim Jaques, Joe Kearns, Dino Messina, Dennis Pelletier, Glenn Place, Barry Rideout, Edwin Rodriguez, Steve Roman,** and I (**David Pollack**) were joined by guests Joe Czapski, John Genovesi, Mark Hagopian, and Dave Sill. I expect that at least two of the guests will be joining RISAA by the time this goes to print.

While most of us had assembled by 4:45 PM, I had promised to wait until 5:00 PM for everyone who had told me they would attend. Accordingly, Dennis led most of the group down to the water at 4:45 and a couple of us joined them thirty minutes later.

When I got to the pond I saw a line of fly fishers casting as if it was opening day of the trout season, as well as several fly fishers who had walked so far out into the pond that I recognized a couple of them only by the color of their wading jackets.

No one was catching anything, there were no bent rods, and no sign of cinder worms or fish, although Dennis said that they saw a few worms and rises when they first arrived.

Instead of joining the casting practice, I walked out into the pond in search of fish, and wandered about, chatting with everyone I encountered, until about 6:45, when I ended up at our put-in point, not having wet a line.

The weather had turned cold and windy and most of our group had left by then. At about 7:00 PM those of us remaining saw worms and then bass rising to them, and so we stepped out into the pond and had some fine fishing. Plenty of stripers were caught.

I was near Mark, Greg, Barry, and Dennis, and we all caught fish, with Barry as high hook with six or so. Others caught fish



Dennis Pelletier

as well, I think, but I was fishing, not counting, except when I stopped to take a picture of Dennis with a striper.

Action slowed and we left the pond at about 8:00 PM.

Many more fly fishing events are scheduled. Check the RISAA calendar at www.risaa.org/calendar.html

If you would like more information about the Fly Fishing Committee send me an email at pollack@risaa.org

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WINTER FLOUNDER (from page 5)

Another suspect is pollution, either as legacy impacts from the Industrial Revolution, where metals and toxins were dumped directly into the bay or from nitrogen inputs from sewage treatment plants or lawn fertilizers washed into the bay when it rains.

"The bay has been dramatically cleaned up in the last few decades, but we still have concerns from nitrogen inputs," he said, explaining that fertilizers on a lawn work the same way in the ocean, causing a bloom in marine plants. This may sound like a good thing, he said, but when they die, they die all at once and as they decompose they suck all of the oxygen out of the water.

The key to understanding the driving force behind low winter flounder populations is finding at which point in its development the species takes the biggest hit.

Langan has been able to reconstruct the entire life cycle of winter flounder at each stage using decades of data from the University of Rhode Island fish trawl survey, the Department of Environmental Management's stock assessments, and both Brayton Point and Manchester Street Power stations, which regularly sample inflow water for cooling. This data provides an estimate of how many winter flounder larvae were in the bay each year.

"We're finding that the first six to eight months [of life] is a danger zone, which makes sense when you consider the different climate factors that can impact these life stages, as well as all of the predators. (to page 33)