

Masseys Mill Pond

30.4 acres

Cheswold

This pond was drawdown to stream level as a result of preparations for Hurricane Irene in August 2011. Most of the fish were flushed downstream into Garrisons Lake. The pond refilled quickly due to precipitation from the hurricane. Both bluegill (1100 fish, 3-5 inches) and golden shiner (mill roach, over 1,000 fish, 3.5-5 inches) were stocked in fall 2011 to provide spring spawning stock and to establish a forage community.

The pond was sampled in spring 2012 to check the status of the fish populations. Bluegill were dominant at that time although pumpkinseed sunfish were present in good numbers also. The bluegill had a wide size range, up to nine inches. Golden shiners were also present in good numbers.

Largemouth bass were relatively scarce but several schools of bass fry were observed indicating that some spawning had occurred. Advanced (> 3 inch) bass fingerlings will be stocked in late summer 2012. American eel and brown bullheads were present in moderate numbers. Black crappie were scarce. Common carp, which had been relatively abundant before the emergency drawdown, were relatively uncommon. Surprisingly, no gizzard shad, which had been abundant before the drawdown, were collected. Many had been observed dead in the bottom sediments following the rapid drawdown.

VEGETATION

Spatterdock beds covered much of the upper part of the pond, but are much less abundant in the lower half. Some duckweed floated over the surface with the wind, but has not affected fishing. Floating mats of filamentous algae have been present throughout spring 2012, possibly resulting from the rapid drawdown and refilling. Two of the Division's weed harvesters spent several weeks removing the algal mats from the pond. The many deadfalls are a good place to target when fishing.

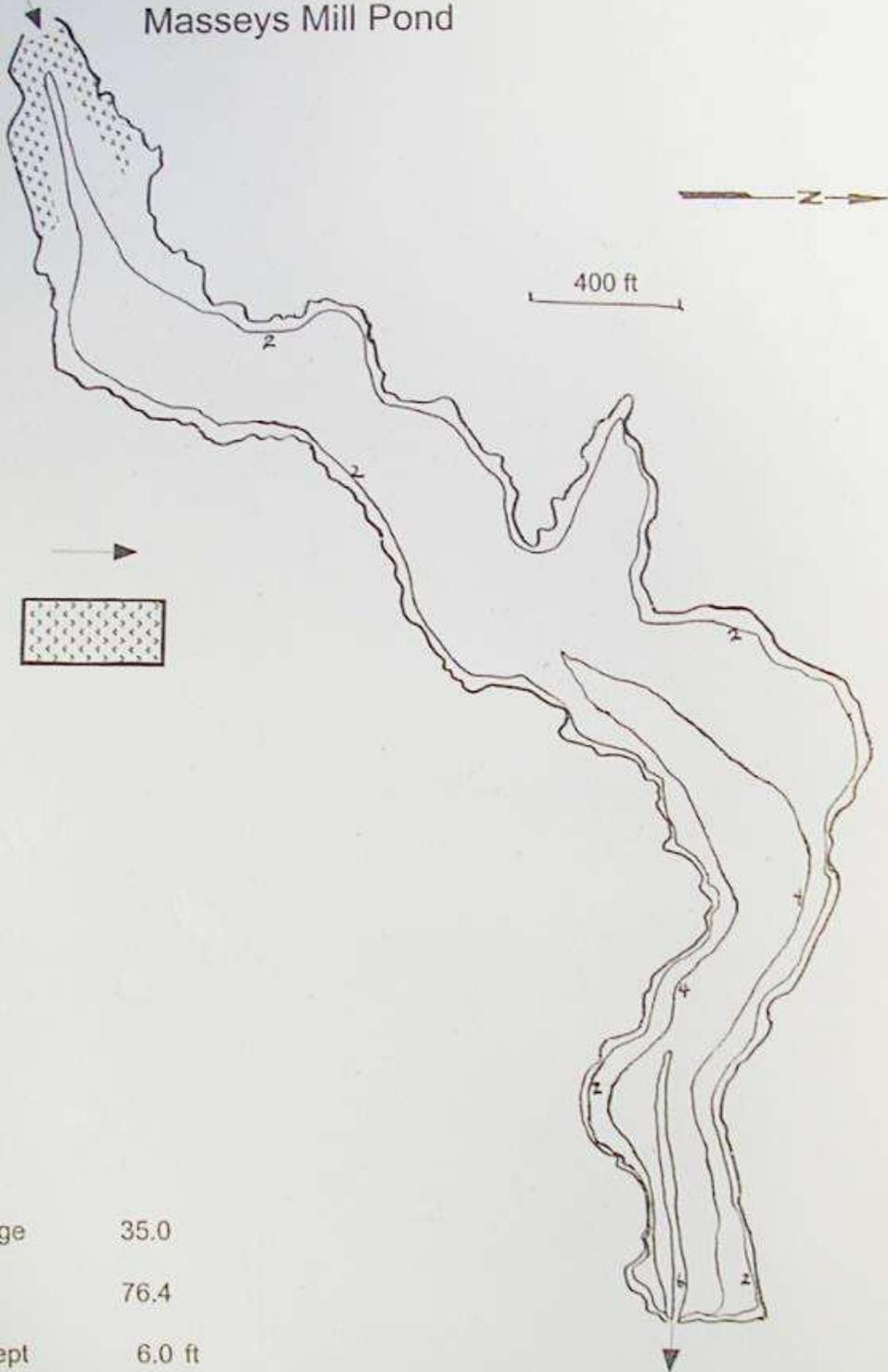
SPECIAL CONDITION

This pond does not have a boat ramp, but small boats and canoes often launch from the side of the road on County Rd 148 (Masseys Millpond Rd). However the drop-off is close to shore so some care must be taken during launching and loading.

Shore anglers often fish along the road frontage both on Brenford Rd and Masseys Millpond Rd.



Masseys Mill Pond



Legend

Water flow



Wetlands



Pond acreage	35.0
Acre-feet	76.4
Maximum dept	6.0 ft
Mean depth	2.2 ft