

The Salmon Run

April 2011

A publication of the Saco River Salmon Club



Saco River Salmon Club, P.O. Box 115, Saco, Maine 04072
Visit our website: www.sacosalmon.com

From the President's Corner

By RJ Mere

This issue of The Salmon Run is going to focus on two important topics: how our fish are doing and the upcoming Annual Banquet.

Last week I put out a call for volunteers to help at the hatchery and the response was incredible. Some of us graded parr while others cleaned and sterilized the incubators and trays for storage until next season. The hatchery is swept clean and organized; it's amazing how much work can be done in two hours by a group of volunteer members. Thanks to everyone who showed up last Saturday.

Both parr and fry are doing very well. The fry started to take feed the beginning of last week and volunteers are watching over them. Mortality is low. Mortality on the parr is low also. They have lost their parr marks and looking very healthy.

Our scheduled stocking date is May 7, the Saturday following our Annual Banquet. There will be an email announcement with the details and latest updates a few days before the event. We will need lots of volunteers to distribute the fry from Saco to Porter. Please mark your calendars and reserve that morning for the Club and the important work of getting our fry to the river. Parr will be stocked in the lower section of the Saco River. This is an opportunity to gather your family and friends to help transfer parr and fry to their new homes and get some fresh air in the process.

Stocking day is always a big event for the Club and we hope to see you there, at the hatchery on Saturday. The Club's website, www.sacosalmon.com will post the latest updates on the home page.

The Banquet Committee is putting out a request for donated items for our auction at our Annual Banquet. Already some interesting items are coming in: Tools, art work, and fishing gear. Please help us make this a successful event. At the end of this issue you

will find a sheet of Grant's Camps at Kennebago raffle tickets. Please print them out on your printer, fill them out, and send them to us with the appropriate funds.

We also have kayak raffle. This item just came in so here is what we must do: there will be 100 raffle tickets for an Old Town Vapor 10 kayak. We will sell all 100 tickets before the drawing. Tickets are available online and at the banquet. Some directors also may have some but in any event, the odds are very good and the tickets are going fast so don't hesitate.

Our March 16 meeting was our last meeting for this season. The following names were vote in for officers and directors for May 2011 to May 2012:

President: RJ Mere

Vice-President: Dick Neal

Treasurer: Jim Black

Secretary: Carol Granger

Directors:

Steve Berry, John Blunt, Dan Bonville, John Burrows, Rey Dussault, John Franceschina, Garry Kasten, Dan LeBlond, Harold Porter, John Redman, Nick Sibilia

Honorary Directors:

Dave Bean, Al Hodson, Art LeBlanc, Skip Paolini, Jack Parker, James Sulikowski, Mark Woodruff

Jeff Knapp was our guest speaker. Jeff is an avid sportsman and his name is synonymous with bamboo fly rods. Antique collector and storyteller, we all enjoyed his talk. Good Luck on your book, Jeff!

Thanks to Lynn Jackson, One the Corner Café, for providing the great meals that keeps everyone envious of our meetings.

At the end of this issue, Ed Fortier gets

us chomping at the bit to get on the water and enjoy some fishing; I'm sure you are going to enjoy his article.

Annual Banquet

By Jim Black

The Annual Banquet is fast approaching and we will soon be enjoying a great meal with fun friends and guests. This year's banquet is on April 30, a Saturday. We are looking for a few members who will help with getting this banquet organized. Please contact us at info@sacosalmon.com

The venue this year is the same as the last several years: Pier 77 will host our event, Saturday, April 30. We have a webpage on our website for you to select your meal preference, purchase banquet tickets and raffle tickets.

Membership drive 2011

By Garry Kasten

Approximately 51 members have not yet renewed their memberships for 2011. Please reconsider renewing your membership to support our club for 2011. If you have any questions about the status of your membership, please e-mail me at

gkasten22@msn.com Memberships can be renewed on our website at www.sacosalmon.com It is not necessary to fill out an application if none of your personal information has changed. Just use the PayPal link or mail a check to the Saco River Salmon Club, PO Box 115, Saco, ME 04072 and I will update our data base and send you an acknowledgement for your membership and contributions. Thank you!

Membership update

By Garry Kasten

As you all know, the Saco River Salmon Club is an all volunteer non-profit organization. As of March 24, 2011, we have 181 members and 117 volunteers who continue to contribute to the club by volunteering their valuable spare time.

Treasurers Report

By Garry Kasten

As of March 24, 2011, the club has received \$355.00 donated to the Robert Sturtevant memorial. Thank you very much for your donations in Bob's memory. Our current checking account balance is \$4470 and we have \$5349 in savings reserved for hatchery improvements. I hope that contributions will still keep pouring in to help to keep our checking account above the water line. Between now and the end of May we experience our biggest expense months. Thank you for very much for your contributions of membership dues and for the hatchery fund.

Addiction !

By Ed Fortier

Well, like many of the Hollywood celebrities are doing today, I'm going to follow in their footsteps and come out of the closet and admit that I have an addiction. No it's not that I'm using drugs, or overindulging in the happy sauce, or even have an eating disorder, and my exposure won't predominate the news media overshadowing the real news. On the contrary, my addiction is

healthy and fun and I know it implies some new form of mind altering substance, and it is in a way, but it is simply that I have a passion for midge fly rods. It started very innocently some fifty years ago, and like any addiction, it grew to the point where most of my stream fishing is with the midge rod, and I'm not unique in my love of those little wands, there have been many other addicts. These short rods are rarely seen along the stream today, probably because they weren't available in graphite until just recently, and there has been some writings criticizing the use of these short rods, which I think we're just fabrications of the writer because they were simply not true. But you have to be cautious, because after a few hours casting one of these rods, and hopefully catching a trout of the average size of ten or twelve inches, you may feel a strong inner compulsion to reach for that rod the next time you're heading out to the river.

My first midge rod was a Philips six foot amber colored glass rod that weighed one and three quarter ounces, and handled a five weight line. Whatever motivated me to purchase this rod is beyond me, but once I got the timing of the cast down, and felt the immense resistance of a ten inch trout, I fell in love with it. Unfortunately, my dangerous habit of leaping rock to rock landed me up laying across a boulder with the butt of the rod laying under me in two pieces. Rather than cry about it, I ran to the local sporting goods store and bought the shortest rod available which happened to be a six foot six inch rod, which I wasn't really content with because of the added six inches, so when I had the finances I purchased a rod that I still use today after some

forty five years.

How many of you old timers remember the old Thompson Company which I believe was located in Oregon? They were in the fly fishing business, one of only a few at the time compared to today, and carried many of the English and foreign products, as well as the American made equipment. All my Wheatly fly boxes were through them, along with several other items, and when their new catalog arrived I caught the ad for the new Lee Wulff six foot midge bamboo rods, with two tips, and it wasn't but a couple of days before my order went out. It was everything I thought it would be and after all these years of fishing with it, it is still in primo condition. Even though I have an addiction for the midge rods, this is the only one I own and have not become addicted to the collecting of them like some have.

Arnold Gingrich, the previous owner of Esquire Magazine, loved his midge rods so much, that when he passed away his collection consisted of twenty, all made by Paul Young who was the only rod maker of these short rods at the time. Arnold was concerned that if anything happened to Paul he wouldn't have access to replace a broken one. Paul would cringe when Arnold would tell him how he fished everything with his midge rods; streamers, weighted stoneflies, as well as the smaller stuff, because basically the rods are made to fish the lighter weight flies. For many years I fished the heavy stuff with my rod, but in recent times have avoided it, but I have no hesitation to cast a weighted nymph or even size eight and smaller streamers as they don't seem to over stress the capabilities of the rod. But like all rods there are some limitations.

Common sense will tell you that you won't be able to reach out with your casts as far as you would with your nine foot rod, unless of course you're an accomplished caster like the late Lee Wulff who could cast further than most of us with his bare hands and no rod. I actually saw him demonstrate this and it's quite impressive. But within normal fishing distances and slightly beyond, they are as easy as the longer rod, but requiring a bit more casting motions. I really never noticed this until one afternoon I was fishing the Crooked River and there was an fly fishing instructor with three students just upstream from me when I overheard him telling them to notice how many casting strokes I needed with the short rod compared to their longer rods; almost gave me a complex.

Line mending on longer casts can be a bit more cumbersome, but on the whole I've never found it to be a determining factor in catching fish, and when casting the normal fishing distances, actually in some instances find it easier, but if you're accustomed to the nine foot stick, you may find it awkward in the beginning.

There was an article in one of the fly fishing magazines a couple of year back, stating midge rods were detrimental to the trout because you had to fight the fish for too long, and no one should use them. This is pure malarkey because it is the strength of the leader tippet that determines the length of the fight, not the rod. A fine tippet of two pound breaking strength doesn't change whether your using a six or nine foot rod; you still need to take more time landing a fish, and in most cases, the midge rod will handle these delicate

tippets more efficiently. The drawback with the midge, although very slight, is if a large fish runs downstream into some heavy currents, more line will be on the water causing extra drag on the tippet, but usually this problem can be minimized by raising the rod high up and moving downstream with the fish. I always follow the advice of Vince Marino who wrote in one of his several books, that when it comes to landing a large trout on a fine tippet, don't fight the fish, but rather tease it in; a successful strategy that has proved itself many times.

Probably the one fact that drew me to the midge is that it added a bit more fun to the game. The average size trout that we catch is now feels a bit more stronger and heavier, and to catch a lunker size trout is a feeling of elation that no other rod can give; but be cautious if you ever consider one, the addiction slowly sneaks up on you, and then one day you can't deny it, you're hooked!

Club Trips for 2011

By Dan Bonville

There are some changes that will effect where we will have our Club trips this year so please check this listing in each issue of our newsletter and our calendar page on our website. Please call Dan, 207-625-7693, unless otherwise indicated:

May 21-28, Trout and salmon fishing: Steve Berry's camp on Moose River.

June 2-5, Trout fishing: Upper Presque Isle Stream, Prestile Stream, and Number 9 Stream, in "The County". We will be staying at Arndt's Aroostook River Lodge and Campground.

June 10-12, Trout and salmon fishing: Rangeley and Eustis area. Accommodations TBD.

Date TBD, Muskie Tournament: Fort Kent. We will stay at Lake View Campground in St. Agatha ("Ah-GOT")

July, Date TBD: Largemouth bass and trout fishing and picnic: Bonney Eagle Lake, Buxton, at Dan LeBlond's camp.

July, Date TBD: Striper fishing: Hills Beach, Biddeford, at RJ's cottage.

July, Date TBD: Gold Panning and trout fishing: East Branch of the Swift River and surrounding rivers: Coos Canyon Campground.

October 1-8, Cast and Blast for salmon and partridge: Steve Berry's camp on the Moose River.

Submit your short article for "The Salmon Run." General interest stories, recipes for fly tying or foods are welcomed. Send to RJ Mere, 9 York St., Kennebunk, ME, 04043 or email to rjmere@gwi.net

Application for membership
Saco River Salmon Club
"Dedicated to fisheries restoration"

Date: _____

Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Where did you hear about us? _____

Individual Family Student Senior Life Business
\$20 \$30 \$10 \$10 \$300 \$125

Dues: _____

Hatchery Fund Contribution: _____

Total Amount Enclosed: _____

I WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER TO HELP IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS :

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> BOARD OF DIRECTORS | <input type="checkbox"/> NEWS LETTER |
| <input type="checkbox"/> HATCHERY OPERATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> HYDROPOWER ISSUES |
| <input type="checkbox"/> STOCKING | <input type="checkbox"/> LEGISLATION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC RELATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> MEMBERSHIP |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CLASSROOM INCUBATORS | <input type="checkbox"/> EVENTS & PROGRAMS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FUNDRAISING | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER |

Please add my name to the volunteer e-mail list so that I receive information regarding volunteer opportunities at the hatchery.

Remarks: _____

Mail to: SACO RIVER SALMON CLUB, P.O. BOX 115, SACO, ME 04072

Phone: (207) 282-6985

Website: www.sacosalmon.com

Email at: info@sacosalmon.com