

April 2005

# The Salmon Run



Visit our website at [www.sacosalmon.org](http://www.sacosalmon.org)

A Publication of the Saco River Salmon Club, P.O. Box 115, Saco, Maine 04072, 207.282.6985

## **The President's Corner** *By Dan Bonville*

After what has been a very long old fashioned winter, spring has finally arrived, and with each new day so have many species of migrating birds. So far, I've counted flocks of robins and cedar waxwings and solitary redwing black birds, flickers, vultures, and lots of hawks. Along with the birds returning, so have the thoughts and plans of upcoming fishing days. Many phone calls are coming in from members who would like to go back up to the Restigouche and Matapedia rivers to fish for those beautiful big spring salmon. Peter Dube gives our club a special rate for our trips so if you call him to book a trip, try to plan double occupancy and don't forget to tell him that you are with the Saco River Salmon Club.

Our President, Jack Parker, has returned home from rehab after his stroke and he and Harvey and Victoria Patry are planning their trip to the Restigouche. Good Luck, Jack, but remember Victoria usually out fishes everybody. She's a hard act to try to beat!

Thanks to the entire hatchery crew for all of their work. The eggs are hatching out and foam building in the incubator system and Frank Connelly has told me that after hours and hours of siphoning foam off the incubators he has a great respect for all the work that Bob Monroe has done over the years keeping all these eggs and fry in top notch condition. Speaking of Bob, he has been working extremely hard everyday at Brighton Medical on his rehab and comeback after his stroke. He told me last evening that we will need to build some kind of a ramp so that he will be able to get back to work as soon as his leg is strong enough to allow him to be back in the hatchery. Editor's Note: They don't make them like that anymore!

Please send in your reservations for the annual banquet or at least call Nick Sibilias at 207-294-6311 so that we have a count of banquet attendees to give Lynne Jackson of On the Corner Cafe in Biddeford, who will be catering our gathering.

We would like everybody to either donate something (books, fishing lures, fishing caps, etc.) for our raffles or a larger item like fishing trips, restaurant meals, etc. for our auction. Call me at 207-625-7693 to donate.

*Enjoy spring everybody. It's back!*

## **L.L. Bean Spring Fishing Expo** *By Nick Sibilias*

Our thanks go out to L.L. Bean, and to Diane Donovan and Kelly Golden Somers, who made participation for us at the L.L. Bean Spring Fishing Expo smooth and enjoyable. Harvey Patry, Nick Sibilias, Steve Berry, and Ron Powell manned the SRSC display booth Saturday and Sunday on the Hunting and Fishing Store porch. We had one of the busiest displays and made many new members and contacts in addition to explaining what we do at the Saco River Hatchery to hundreds of visitors.

We also want to thank Dave Footer, Bob Popovics, Selene Dumaine, Kendall Sperry, Dave Klausmeyer, G. Loomis, Steve Rajeff, Cathy Scott, David Van Borgel, and others too numerous to mention, for their help with our goal of salmon restoration to the Saco River.

## **Annual SRSC Banquet** *By Larry Orme*

Yes, it's time to make your reservation to attend one of our highlight social evenings of the year, the SRSC annual banquet. The venue for the dinner this year is St. Martha's Church Hall in Kennebunk on Route 1 on the north side of town. Mark the Date, Friday, April 29. Social hour will start at 5:00 p.m. with a complete buffet dinner at 6:00 p.m. For those of you who have attended social meetings this past year you will be delighted to know that Lynne Jackson who has donated her time preparing meals for our social meetings, and who is the owner of On The Corner Cafe, has been engaged to cater the meal. The SRSC will operate a cash bar with alcoholic beverages available throughout the evening. Soft drinks will also be available and are included in the meal price. During the social hour assorted Hors d'oeuvres will be passed. Buffet entrees will be salmon and chicken Marsala accompanied by a mixed medley of vegetables, rice pilaf, salad, and bread. Coffee and cheesecake will complete the meal and put all attendees in the proper mood for the ensuing auction. The entire fee for this repast including tax, gratuity, and non-alcoholic beverages is \$25.00 per person.

The directors are diligently rounding up items for the table raffle, and the auction. All members are ardently encouraged to donate items to both of these important fundraisers. There will be a separate raffle for a fishing trip for two to Grant's Kennebago Camps again this year, and tickets for that raffle are included in this newsletter and will be available throughout the banquet evening up to the raffle drawing.

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We will have a few short announcements, installation of officers and directors (again short), well-deserved award presentations, and our best auction ever. Please don't miss this highlight event and the opportunity to join with other club members for an entertaining evening.

A reservation form with return address information is printed on a separate sheet included in the mailing of this newsletter. Alcoholic beverages will cost \$3.00 for beer, \$4.00 for wine, and \$5.00 for mixed drinks, and these beverages will be paid for with "chits", which can be purchased in advance with your reservation or during the evening. **Due to the fact that Lynne is catering this dinner at a rented facility, it is absolutely necessary to have the exact number of people attending one week before the event.** Timely reservations are necessary to determine proper amounts of food and table settings. Please return the reservation form as soon as possible or e-mail Nick Sibilias at nsibilias@maine.rr.com with your reservation and drink information. Payment will gladly be accepted at the door, but this banquet will necessarily be by reservation only. Thank you for your cooperation. Save your spot now! Friday, April 29, 5:00 p.m. at St. Martha's Church Hall.

### Smolt Project Adjustments *By Mark Woodruff*

On March 23, 2005, the directors held a special meeting about our Smolt Project. Several problems had arisen during the past couple of months. Many of the directors were in attendance and we were fortunate to have Dave Bean of NOAA Fisheries Service, Tim Linley of MariCal, and Bob Marsh of Pine Tree Hatchery in attendance. The meeting began by reviewing the current three year smolt plan approved by the State Technical Advisory Committee. In each year, the Club has their approval to raise up to 50,000 fry to the smolt stage. Smolts will receive MariCal's SuperSmolt treatment prior to release.

The Club has an agreement with Bob Marsh to raise 25,000 smolts using two 15 foot tanks. The Club has been reimbursing Bob \$200.00 per month plus any expenses he incurs on behalf of our salmon. During the past year, limited tank space and cold water temperatures have slowed fish growth. For instance, in August 2004, Bob received the 25,000 fry. At this time there are approximately 22,000 yearling smolts. Although we expected to treat and release all of these fish in May 2005, most are too small. Tim Linley explained that due to cold water temperatures in our hatchery and Pine Tree plus high rearing densities the fish did not reach the size necessary for survival in the wild. Bob also received 45,000 eggs in February 2005. They have hatched out. Crowding and care will quickly become problematic.

The group reached a solution whereby fish growth at Pine Tree will be improved by grading and raising water temperatures. In the spring and fall all fish will be graded for size to improve rearing densities. Fish that are too small will be stocked as fry in the spring and parr in the fall. A simple solar heating technique will be employed to raise water temperatures. These measures should produce smolts that can easily transition to salt water

with the MariCal SuperSmolt treatment and be released at a larger size to avoid predation.

### Superb Auction and Raffle You Won't Want to Miss *By Mark Woodruff*

Our 2005 Fund Raising Auction and Raffle the night of the Annual Banquet is shaping up to be entertaining and replete with great items. Returning this year from a grueling schedule of auctions with Sotheby's of London, England will be our own auctioneer, Art LeBlanc. With help from his wife Angela, they are renowned for creating bidding wars that leave the losing bidders in anguish and coaxing the last dollar out of the winner's wallet. In case you get panicky from the quick pace of the bidding, several raffles will take place throughout the evening.

At this writing, only a partial listing of auction and raffle items is available.

TRIPS: Grants Kennebeco Lake Camps weekend for two donated by John and Carolyn Blunt (you must buy raffle tickets) – 4 person day trip (fish or just cruise) in Casco Bay aboard the 36



foot yacht Emma (see photo) skippered by Capt. Sue Polans and First mate Frank Connelly (lunch provided) – One day striper fishing trip for 2 Anglers in Saco Bay led by Capt. Tom DeBruin and Steve Berry – Fly fishing for stripers for 2 anglers on a June or July morning tide guided by Capt. Mark Drummond out of Kittery Point.

RODS: LL Bean 9' 6 wt Travel Series Rod – LL Bean 9' 9 wt 4pc Streamlight Saltwater Rod – LL Bean 8'6" 6 wt Angler Outfit – Albright top quality graphite fly rod 4pc 9'5 wtsack and case donated by Nick Sibilias – Fly rod donated by Dan and Sandy Bonville.

REELS: Orion #2 Freshwater Reel donated by LL Bean – Pflueger large arbor 6 wt reel donated by Larry Orme – Albright aluminum arbor disc drag reel for 5/6 wt loaded with weight forward floating line and 100 yards Dacron backing donated by Nick Sibilias.

FLIES: 6 salt water flies tied by Bob Popovic w/ signed card – 6 Tube Flies by Don Sicard – Framed custom fly by Selene Dumaine – A dozen flies from two fly tiers.

**FLY LINE:** Two fly lines donated by Skip Paolini – 2 handmade furred leaders.

**ACCESSORIES:** LL Bean Buzz Off Hat – LL Bean Buzz Off Kennebago Shirt – Custom made landing net.

**READING MATERIAL:** Signed hard cover copy of "Headwaters Fall As Snow" by Cathy Scott – Signed hard cover copy of "Moose in the Water Bamboo on the Bench" by Cathy Scott – "Fly Tyer" Magazine subscription from David Klausmeyer.

**ART WORK:** 3 prints donated by Dave Footer.

**MANY MORE ITEMS TOO NUMEROUS TO LIST!!!**

All proceeds from the auction and raffle go toward the operation of our fry and smolt programs. Please spend generously.

## Spring finally springs By Dan Bonville

As you read this, Maine's opening day of freshwater fishing has arrived and though there's still a lot of snow and ice around, people have found places to wet a line and hopefully renew their faith in an upcoming season of fishing for some of the many species of both fresh and saltwater fishes.

I have attended fly show in the Wilmington, Massachusetts and at the Eldredge Brothers Fly Shop and programs at L.L. Bean, Kittery Trading Post, and at other fly shops this spring and at everyone I've run across lots of members of the Saco River Salmon Club. At every gathering anglers have been telling me of upcoming trips and of special places that they plan to fly fish for everything from bluegills to trout, salmon, bass, pike, stripers, bonito, and bluefish all the way up to tarpon, tuna, and sharks!

The Restigouche and Matapedia rivers received lots of snow and as of the end of March, still had a solid layer of ice. Our tentative fishing dates are April 22 to April 24 but by keeping in touch with Pete Dube at 877-865-2848 or online at [www.matapedia.com](http://www.matapedia.com) you will know whether he'll be going on time or putting the days off for a week or more. Remember, when setting your dates, our banquet is on Friday April 29. Saturday, April 30 through Tuesday, May 3, would be a great time as our trip consists of one drive up day, supper that evening, fishing with a guide, breakfast, lunch, and dinner for two days and breakfast and the drive home on the fourth day. The price includes lodging, meals, and guides but does not include your tips, licenses, and day permits.

Among auction items at our banquet, day trips with Captains and registered Maine guides to fish for stripers out of Kittery Point. Also trips on the Saco River, in Casco Bay, and on the Kennebec River will be offered. Other auction and raffle items will be fly rods, fly reels, fishing clothing and vests, fly line and flies and spin fishing gear, books, artwork and more.

Upcoming club trips will be on such waters as the Androscoggin,

Saco, Mousam, and West Branch of the Penobscot rivers and in the Moosehead, Rangeley, and Eustis regions.

Fly casting day will be at the Shy Beaver Club beside the Shy Beaver Hatchery again this year from 11:00 AM until sunset if you wish to fish for a while in Sonny Pierce's lovely pond. Hot dogs and sodas and coffee will be available. Beginners to experts are all welcome and the day offers us all a chance to get together locally to enjoy the camaraderie, the cook out, the casting, and trout fishing so I hope to see you all there. We will have fly rods for people who don't own fishing gear and we will explain what fly fishing is all about from the equipment we use to the flies we use and how, where, and why we use them. Great 2005 season to you all.

## Upcoming Club Trips and Events By RJMere

Fly tying and rod making every other Wednesday until April at the Hatchery. Call Dan Bonville 625-7693

April 22-25: Spring salmon fishing on the Restigouche and Matapedia Rivers. Hotel Restigouche Call Pete Dube 877-865-2848 for reservations. Due to ice and snow conditions on the rivers, this trip may occur on a different date. Please call Dan Bonville for information.

May 1: Fly casting day at Shy Beaver Club, barbecue and fly fishing for trout. Hot dogs, hamburgers, and soft drinks will be on hand. Call Dan Bonville 625-7693

May 20, 21, and 22: Fly fishing Moose River area. Steve Berry's Camp Call Dan Bonville 625-7693

June 3, 4, 5: Fly fishing North Branch Dead River area. Chris Bonds camp at Sugarloaf. Call Dan Bonville 625-7693

June 10, 11, 12: Fly fishing and trolling Rangeley Lake area Art Leblanc's camp. Call Dan Bonville 625-7693

Early June: Fly fishing day with registered Maine guide Don Sicard on the lower Androscoggin River  
Call Don Sicard 207-353-9433

June: Striper fishing on Saco River with Boats, Canoes, and Kayaks. Dates to be announced. Call Steve Berry 282-5468 or Capt. Tom DeBruin 282-5125

June 18: Saturday night fly fishing for stripers with registered Maine guide R.J. Mere, wading. We will meet midnight and fish through the low tide (2:05 AM) until sunrise. Call R.J. 985-4420

Mid July: Trout Salmon and Smallies on Rapid River below Middle Damn / Day trip walk in to damn 1.5 miles thru gate Call Dan Bonville 625-7693

August: Small Mouth Bass on Saco River canoes and kayaks needed. Registered Maine Guide Mark Howland 625-7676

September: West branch of Penobscot River dates and times to be announced.

October 1, 2, 3: Cast and blast Moose River Steve Berry's camp  
Call Dan Bonville 625-7693

## Check Your Membership Status By *RJ Mere*

The date or word "Life" after your name on the label of this newsletter indicates your present membership status as it stands in our database. If the printed date is not 2005 or "Life", please take a moment and fill in the membership form included in each issue of the Salmon Run. Membership fees go a long way to help pay for this newsletter and other regular bills that grant foundations do not support. Imagine operating your home without electricity or a phone! Please update your membership now!



DeBruins secret spot in Montana

(Detach here) \_\_\_\_\_

### 2005 DUES NOTICE

RENEWAL \_\_\_\_\_ NEW MEMBER \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ +4 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Dues: Individual \_\_\_\_\_ \$20. Family \_\_\_\_\_ \$30.

Student \_\_\_\_\_ \$10. Senior \_\_\_\_\_ \$10. Life \_\_\_\_\_ \$300

Dues \_\_\_\_\_ Hatchery Donation \_\_\_\_\_

Total Due \_\_\_\_\_

Please Mail to:

SACO RIVER SALMON CLUB,  
PO Box 115, Saco, ME 04072

*Thank you for your support!*

### Submit your short article for "The Salmon Run."

General interest stories, recipes for fly tying or foods, comments and suggestions are welcomed. The editors reserve the right to edit all materials. Send to RJ Mere, 9 York St., Kennebunk, ME, 04043 or email to [rjmere@gwi.net](mailto:rjmere@gwi.net)

Editors: Dan Bonville and RJ Mere

Visit our website at:

[www.sacosalmon.org](http://www.sacosalmon.org)

Or email us [info@sacosalmon.org](mailto:info@sacosalmon.org)



# Banquet Reservation Form

**Friday, April 29, 5:00 p.m. at St. Martha's Church Hall**

**Number Attending at \$25. per person** \_\_\_\_\_ =

**Beer at \$3. per** \_\_\_\_\_ =

**Wine at \$4. per** \_\_\_\_\_ =

**Mixed Drink \$5. per** \_\_\_\_\_ =

## For Dues Payments Calendar Year 2005:

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership type** \_\_\_\_\_ =

**Hatchery Donation** \_\_\_\_\_ =

**Email Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Names of Banquet Attendees** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please mail checks with names of those attending OR e-mail all names and information to Nick Sibia / nicksibia@hotmail.com

**Total=** \_\_\_\_\_

Saco River Salmon Club  
PO Box 115  
Saco, Maine 04072