

The Salmon Run



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

From the President's Corner by Jack Parker

On a recent Sunday morning, I was sufficiently conscious in the pew to hear our pastor suggest that our supplications should always begin with thanks for our blessings & then we can ask for anything we want. Upon reflection, I thought our club might apply this advice by expressing our gratitude to members and friends for kindnesses in 2003, before seeking their continuing support of our Saco river salmon restoration in the coming years. So thanks to:

- US Fish and Wildlife hatchery staff at Craig Brook and Green Lake, Maine for providing hundreds of thousands of eggs for us to hatch plus juvenile fish to stock in the river.
- US Senators Snowe and Collins, and Congressmen Allen and Michaud for vigorously supporting the above hatcheries and continuously advocating for sound environmental policies
- Governor Baldacci and staff for scrubbing the state's inane lawsuit against the federal endangered species listing for salmon in the downeast rivers.
- Maine Atlantic Salmon Council biologists and staff for leading statewide restoration efforts and strongly supporting our Saco river project.
- Florida Power and Light for operating their upstream fish elevators at the Cataract and Skelton dams. Other species than salmon also are using these elevators in increasing numbers.
- The US chapter and the Maine Council of the Atlantic Salmon Federation for organizing the various salmon clubs and orchestrating the whole into an effective service and public relations entity.
- The marine biology interns and staff of the University of New England for helping in our water quality lab and picking eggs during the past three years.
- The internet newsletter and forum flyfishinginmaine.com (FFIM), Dan Tarkinson, and The Old Guide' for donating 50 percent of the proceeds from their first annual convocation at Moosehead to our hatchery fund.
- Dr. Wilson Hickman of the Omega Foundation for spending several days with us videotaping our stocking operation and running it as a public service on his weekly Portland TV program.
- Dr. Tim Linley and the MariCal Corporation of Portland, experts on the cutting edge of salmon biology, for the wealth of technological advice he has brought to our hatchery

- Our many supporting businesses and individuals who donated time, funds, and talents over the past year.
- Our 219 loyal members, the lifeblood of our organization, for their hands-on efforts in the hatchery, newsletter, website, fundraising and countless other tasks, and their generous donations to our hatchery that keep the water running.
- To our super board of directors whom do the lions share of the work and represent our club from the hatchery, throughout the state, and even to remote reaches of the planet.

SRSC members are truly thankful for the opportunity to participate in this little miracle of volunteering in a noble cause whose outcome largely depends on factors beyond our control. We ask only that our supporters carry on, our efforts persist, and that the creator of salmon and all of us looks with favor on this venture we share. Our best for 2004!

December Meeting with Ed Baum By RJ Mere

Our December meeting was made interesting on two counts. First, Lynne Jackson prepared a great feast for us to enjoy. There was plenty of food to go around and if you did not make it to the meeting, you missed a wonderful meal. Members brought an array of sweets to finish the feast. Thanks, Lynne, for presenting the great flavors to us that evening. Ed Baum brought us up-to-date about Atlantic salmon restoration activities with an informative Power Point presentation. He answered many questions pertaining to salmon issues on the Saco River. Thanks Ed, for spending the evening with us and a providing us with a great talk, too.

January Events By Jack Parker

Our next social meeting will be on Tuesday, January 20 at the Trinity Church on Route 1 in Saco. Attendees at our December meeting enjoyed a special moose lasagna dinner expertly prepared by Lynne Jackson followed by a well-received presentation by Ed Baum of his perspectives on Atlantic salmon restoration efforts in general, with some specific observations about the Saco River. Lynne Jackson will do her dinner magic again at 6:30. Suggested donations are \$7.00 for adults and children may eat free of charge. Try it, you may not find a better deal in 2004. Dan Bonville has arranged for an after dinner presentation by Bruce Bell. Bruce will talk about his adventures and the sights and scenes on his road trip through British Columbia and

into Alaska. Start enjoying the New Year by joining us about 6pm. Later in the same week, at 9am on Saturday, January 24 we will hold a field day at the hatchery to prepare for receiving our eggs from Green Lake. The more of us there the quicker we will get through. If you haven't volunteered before this is a good time to start. Veteran volunteers or not, please bring yourselves and friends; we will bring the coffee and donuts.

2004 Membership Dues Pay the Bills *By RJ Mere*

We are all aware of the great work this club does for the fishery restoration on the Saco River. We attend meetings statewide, we have a state-of-the-art hatchery to raise Atlantic salmon from egg to fry, we stock the Saco River watershed with numerous healthy fry and monitor their lives as they prepare for their major life event to swim downstream to the ocean and, hopefully, to return in a few years as mature spawning fish. We publish a newsletter for our members, for the press, and for local, state, and federal agencies. We also offer instruction for fly tying and fishing, and we offer many opportunities for our members to have fun on club trips and events. We receive annual dues from 220 members each year. These funds are stretched to help fund the newsletter, to pay for our meeting place where members get to meet each other and hear from knowledgeable people from across our state, and to pay for operating expenses at the hatchery. Funding for hatchery equipment comes from grants provided by foundations that support our efforts. None of the grant money is used for our operating expenses. The electricity, water, and phone bills arrive each month. **The funds to pay those bills must come from your annual dues as a member of this club. Please take the time right now to fill out the membership form included in this (and every) newsletter and send in your dues and, if you can afford it, a donation to the hatchery.** The past few years have seen an increase in the hatchery donations and we appreciate that very much. To reduce our costs, we will discontinue the individual complimentary newsletters starting March. If you are not a business, environmental organization, local, state, or federal agency, your private complimentary subscription will cease. Please send in the membership form with the appropriate dues to continue receiving the newsletter. **Next month, clip out the membership form and convince a friend to join the Saco River Salmon Club. You are already aware that this is a great club with a great cause. It should be easy to talk a friend into joining you and us in our efforts to restore the Atlantic salmon to its native waters of the Saco River. Thanks.**

Temperature Loggers Shed Light on Fry Habitat *By Mark Woodruff*

Our set of temperature loggers has once again proved to be an invaluable tool for characterizing fry habitat. The loggers were purchased two years ago with a grant award from the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund. This year loggers were deployed in Buzzell Brook in Dayton, Cooks Brook in Hollis, and Stackpole Brook in Saco. These brooks were selected to see if suitable fry habitat was available in the lower reaches of the Saco River

Watershed. The maximum temperature in degrees Fahrenheit in Buzzell Brook was 65, while the minimum temperature was 43. The maximum temperature Cooks Brook was 84, while the minimum temperature was 49. The maximum temperature Stackpole Brook was 76, while the minimum temperature was 45. The temperature data will be passed along to biologists at the Maine Atlantic Salmon Commission. They will use it along with future habitat surveys to characterize the suitability of each stream for fry stocking. Special thanks go out to Tom Knobloch, Rosanna and Emile Woodruff for helping deploy and collect the temperature loggers. Also, thanks to John Blunt and Nick Sibilia for old the window weights used to anchor the loggers in the streambeds.

A Time in history, A Look at the SRSC Past *By Bob Monroe*

I was at the hatchery one afternoon a few weeks ago doing some work. While there, I discovered some boxes of old club records. They were left there by John Cadwallader. John is a retired club member and past secretary and treasurer for many years. Reading some of its contents, some going back to the 1980's, I thought it would be interesting to share with my fellow members, especially the new members. This item was taken from the spring of 1988 issue of The Rusty Rat, concerning the Atlantic Salmon Federation Award for \$5000 to the SRSC.

The Rusty Rat Newsletter of the Maine Council, Atlantic Salmon Federation Vol. III, No. 1, Spring, 1988
Atlantic Salmon Federation Awards \$5000 to Saco River Salmon Club By Clinton B. Townsend

The Atlantic Salmon Federation (ASF) has awarded \$5000 to help to restore Atlantic salmon to the Saco River in Maine. ASF initiated a matching grant program in celebration of its 40 year anniversary, to help local affiliates of ASF improve Atlantic salmon habitat. The Saco River Salmon Club is the recipient of the first grant and will use the funds to create a low-cost, locally operated salmon stocking program along the river. The Club plans to place 80,000 juvenile salmon in the Saco River in the spring of 1989. The Saco River Salmon Club presented its proposal to the MC-ASF delegates at their December, 1987 meeting. MC-ASF approved the proposal and recommended it to ASF. In January 1988, John Blunt, Leon Ogrodnik, Dave Bernstein, and Ed Laing of the Saco Club met at St. Andrews, New Brunswick with Cr. Wilfred Carter and Cr. John Anderson and Arlie Winn who manages the Miramichi hatchery. As a result of this meeting, the proposal was reviewed and approved by ASF, and the award was made in February, 1988. The fry stocking program is a joint effort of the Saco River Salmon Club, a non-profit organization dedicated to fisheries restoration, and the University of New England's Division of Life Sciences. The program has been endorsed by the Maine Atlantic Sea Run Commission and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Fly Tying and Rod Making *By Dan Bonville*

Beginning January 14 at 6:30 PM at the Saco River Salmon

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Club Hatchery, we will again have our classroom/conference room open to anyone who would like to spend an evening, every other Wednesday night, tying flies, learning to tie flies, or building from kits, fly rods, spinning rods, boat rods or casting rods. This is a great way to get out with other anglers all winter long to enjoy fellowship and to make the winter go a little quicker and to prepare for the upcoming 2004 fishing season. Fly tyers Don Sicard, RJ Mere, and Mike Arsenault have been on hand to help us all in the past as has rod maker Bob Foisy and Robin Thayer. It has been a lot of fun. Hope to see you there. The cost? Zip. Nothing. Instruction for our fly tying and rod building classes are free of charge. Just your time, effort and costs of a rod kit are all you need.

Planning for 2004 Club Trips *By Dan Bonville*

Every January for years now it has been my job in the Saco River Salmon Club to put together a list of the upcoming club fishing trips, of fly casting lessons, canoe and kayak trips, BBQ and other outings so that we can send this information out to both members as well as the general public. I would love to have help from other club members to put this list together. Many of you own or have access to a camp or campsite that others would like to visit, to fish, camp, kayak, or do the many other outdoor things that we dream all winter of doing next summer.

Instead of fishing alone next spring, summer or fall, perhaps you might enjoy company on that one day outing with your boat on the Saco River or Sebago Lake, or possibly ultra-light spin fishing for wild trout in one of the many small brooks in Cumberland, York, or Southern Oxford counties. Nick Sibilina, Bob Monroe, Chuck Clark, Mark Fohlin, Tommy McNeil and I just, just to name a few, would love to have company for the day. I suggest we put together a list of people who might be interested in a one day, last minute, outdoor get together.

Sonny Pierce of Shy Beaver hatchery and fly-fishing club has offered me the opportunity to hold fly-casting seminars and to introduce you all to the Shy Beaver Club. More on the dates later.

Our annual ice-fishing trip up to the Belgrade Lakes will be held on the weekend of February 20 through February 22 this year. It will be our fourth year at Bob and Laura Richters' Belgrade four season camps, and all of us who have attended these past trips are looking forward to the great food, great fishing stories, getting out onto new water (Long Lake is open to ice fishing this year) and, in my case, making a two-piece, three-weight fly rod while in camp.

Our second annual fishing trip up to Steve Berry's camp on the Moose River will be held the weekend of May 21 through May 23. Readers of this newsletter will remember that 13 members and guests fished the Moose River, Indian Pond, the Kennebec River, both the East and West outlets and branches, and that we shared the best tasting salmon that I have ever eaten.

It was caught by Rick Kennedy and cooked by Nick Sibilina and Steve Berry, along with Steve's donation of fresh fiddleheads. Book early on this one!

Two weekends later, on June 4, 5, and 6, we are again planning a fly-fishing trip, our fourth, to fish for brook trout and landlocked

salmon. Chris Bond and family have opened their skiing home to us and again we have had large groups of anglers who fished the Chain of Ponds, North and South branches of the Dead River and the Carrabassett River. On my way home last June, I stopped off on the Kennebec River and fished for salmon upstream of Steep Bank Pool and landed a lovely female salmon. July or August usually sees club members fishing the Penobscot River below Lincoln for smallmouth bass and August we will once again try to kayak and fish for smallies on the Saco River with guides Mark Howland and Bill Diamond. Hopefully, John Cadwallader will come back to visit us and to put together another September trip to the West Branch of the Penobscot River, an annual several day camping/fishing trip.

And, in October, we will have our second annual cast and blast trip, fishing the east and West Outlets of the Kennebec River and hunting for Roughed Grouse from Steve Berry's camp on the Moose River in Moosehead Lake country. Hunting dogs will be welcome! Only four members made it this past fall but all of us, Nick Sibilina, Tommy McNeil, Fred Pierce and me caught salmon and trout. Next year, I am expecting a full house, so book early. So, all of you please help me on this yearly calendar; set aside a day or weekend, put together a trip, bring us to your camp or out on your boats. Even if you only have an afternoon or evening planned, invite one or more of us to share the outdoors with you. We would love it. Thanks.

A Treasure? *By Mark Fohlin*

After a great week of fishing and viewing wildlife the day arrived when we had to leave Portage Bay and return to Petersburg, Alaska. As we stuck the nose of our boat into Frederick Sound, four to five foot waves hit our 18-foot Lund head on. We knew it was going to be a wild and wet ride. We also knew that if we continued further down the Sound where it opened up, the waves would be higher. The decision was made to turn around and go back to the cabin. There were four of us, Dan Bonville, Larry Orme, Bill Winward, and myself. Both Bill and Larry were scheduled to return back to Petersburg to get their flight. After returning to camp, we decided to walk to a logging camp, about two miles away to call for help. Dan, Larry, and myself started to walk down. Bill stayed at the camp to keep the fire going. As we walked along the beach, I happened to look down and saw in the rocks and sand, a holster. I picked it up and opened it. Much to my surprise and joy was a stainless steel 44-magnum Rugger pistol. I was elated at my find. An early Christmas present! At that point, Dan and Larry said they saw it first. Let's see now, I'm the one holding the pistol, and possession is nine-tenths of the law. Sorry, guys. I hung the holster and gun on a tree branch to be picked up later, when we returned. As we walked along we discussed our good fortune. Then came the questions, How did the gun get there? Was it used in some crime? How are we going to get it home? Whom is it registered to? My wife accepts the fact that I have rifles and shotguns but does not want a handgun in the house. All of the sudden, the great treasure we found became a burden. When we reached the logging camp, we met Dan Jones, an engineer working for the Forest Service. Dan was

just finishing with his work installing fish-friendly road culverts to allow for upstream salmon passage. He offered to take us to a point on the island where we could make a call to a floatplane service. The only point on the island to make the call is the telephone tree because it offers the only clear signal for a cellular phone. As we rode to the tree, Dan happened to mention to Dan Jones that we had found a pistol on the beach. Response was, It wasn't a 44-magnum, was it? He went on to explain that several weeks earlier a friend of his had been four wheeling and the gun fell off his ATV. Before leaving, I gave the pistol to Dan Jones to return to his friend. I was actually happier to give it to the rightful owner than I was when I found it. That afternoon, Larry, Bill, and I flew back to Petersburg on a Beaver floatplane owned by Pacific Airways that, with the help of Dan Jones, we were able to contact.

Dan Bonville was able to make it back to Petersburg the next day as the seas and winds had calmed down considerably for a safer boat ride.

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

Visit our website at www.sacosalmon.org

Editors: Dan Bonville and RJ Mere

Saco River Salmon Club Membership Form

Name:

Address:

City:

State: Zip:

Phone: ()

E-mail address

Dues are annual - January through December

Single \$15 Family \$25 Student \$5 Senior \$5 Life \$300
Donation to hatchery \$

I would like to volunteer in the following areas:

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Board of Directors | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hatchery Operations | <input type="checkbox"/> Stocking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hydropower Issues | <input type="checkbox"/> Legislation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public Relations | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership |

