

# 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

Innovation has always intrigued me, particularly when it appears as breakthrough technology in a tradition bound field. Having started making a living at the dawn of digital data processing in the 1950's I was fortunate to participate in several breakthrough applications during the technology revolution of the ensuing decades. Upon retirement I thought life on the 'bleeding edge' was history until SRSC director Harvey Patry brought MariCal and their unique SuperSmolt process to our hatchery. Intrigue has returned!

This year MariCal and we, with partners Florida Power and Light, US Fish and Wildlife, and the Pine Tree Salmon Hatchery in Sanford, have embarked on a highly promising trial program to produce the most numerous and hardy salmon smolts in the Saco since the dams of the industrial revolution were built. The accompanying article by Tim Linley, senior scientist for MariCal, concisely introduces MariCal's SuperSmolt process and what benefits it may bear for the Saco restoration. This is the most ambitious step we've taken since constructing our fry hatchery in 1996 and could quite possibly be a key breakthrough for the long-term success of our mission.

Next year we'll be busier than ever with simultaneous fry and smolt programs. In February we'll receive eyed-out eggs from USFW Green Lake hatchery, most for our fry program and up to 50,000 to produce smolts. In March we'll start MariCal's SuperSmolt process on our 25,000 parr now in Sanford's Pine Tree hatchery. About May 1, we'll stock the sea-ready smolts close to Saco tidal waters. During the rest of May we'll stock our hatchery fry as usual.

Our expectations for returning adults salmon in the Saco are high. By 2007 we hope to realize marked improvement in their numbers. However, as well as we perform our roles, our influence ends when we put the fish in the water. The rest is up to the fortunes of the fish and the beneficence of nature.

We hope to see you at our first membership meeting of the year at the Trinity Church in Saco on Wednesday, January 19, at 6pm. Our best wishes to you all for serenity during the holidays and good fortune for 2005.

## Dues Notice – 2005

It's that time of year again. Dues and hatchery donations submitted by our generous members cover about forty per cent of our annual expenses. All dues and hatchery donations are tax deductible. Just a few of you have prepaid for 05 but, except for life members, most have not. If you have prepaid, a '2005' or 'Life' will follow your name. If you missed paying your dues last year just send your 2005 dues. Past dues are voluntary on your part. To help defray escalating costs: e.g., power and postage, and new production programs like our smolt program, our members approved a motion to raise dues in 2005 by five dollars annually across the board. Annual rates now range from ten dollars for students and seniors, to twenty dollars for individual memberships, and thirty dollars for families. Life memberships remain at three hundred dollars.

## Hatchery Donations

Voluntary donations by members and non-members comprise a vital part of our annual revenue. They come from members, nonmembers, volunteers, organizations, or just plain people who are in tune with our mission and support our unique hatchery operation. With our new supersmolt program beginning this spring, ***we need your donations more than ever.*** Each dues payer will receive a membership card and a hatchery decal will be sent to each donor. Will you help us? Prompt payments will help cover our heaviest operational expenses from January through June. ***Thank you!***

## Volunteers Give the Gift of Time By Mark R. Woodruff

Before Christmas, I visited the hatchery and found the 2004 Volunteer Time Log sitting out on the desk. I filled in my time for a recent meeting and was about ready to set it aside when I began to wonder how much time Club members had donated in the past year. With a little rummaging around through the top desk drawer, I found twelve other sheets documenting the amount of time and work done on behalf of our salmon restoration program. I totaled 1,232 hours! This number is staggering and the story behind it attests to our members' commitment. As I scanned through the remarks column, I saw how our hatchery season progresses from egg picking and cleaning trays to feeding and finally stocking. (There must have easily been 400 hours noted as "picking.") Throughout the five months of hatchery operations there were the water tests, maintenance, and mechanical fixes. I noted the long days spent

at meetings, fund raising events, and stocking. We can be proud of this generous commitment and the success it has produced.

The other part of this story is that there are countless hours that don't make it on the log. I know there are hundreds of hours spent at fisheries meetings, purchasing equipment, producing the newsletter, and arranging trips and social events that are left unrecorded. And who knows how many more hours picking and cleaning!

As we gear up for the 2005 hatchery season and beyond, please do your part to volunteer your talents to our salmon restoration program. Also, don't forget to write down your hours even if it's a small amount or you've done something at home for the hatchery. The 2005 Volunteer Time Log will be found on the desk in the office. The time we document is valuable. Granting foundations look at volunteer time as a sign of an organization's commitment and as a monetary match to their donation. I am sure that if every hour were documented, we would exceed 2,500 hours.

## **Important Discussions for Upcoming Meetings** *By Larry Orme*

While our membership meetings are generally social affairs with dinner and a guest speaker, we do occasionally need to conduct some club business. The business portion of our membership meetings is usually short, but important club decisions are made.

That will be the case at the next several membership meetings as follows:

January - members will discuss bylaw changes recommended by the directors.

February - members will vote on those recommended bylaw changes.

March - members will elect new officers and directors. (A nominating committee is preparing a slate of candidates and nominations will be open from the floor at this meeting.)

April - at our annual banquet the new officers and directors will be sworn in.

## **New Federal Funding Secured for Atlantic Salmon Conservation Activities in Maine** *By John Burrows, Maine Coordinator* *Atlantic Salmon Federation*

Editor's Note: John will be our guest speaker for the January 19 membership meeting. Please attend this meeting to learn more about the status of Atlantic salmon and the accomplishments of ASE.

Maine's Congressional Delegation has successfully obtained \$3 million dollars in new federal funding for Atlantic salmon conservation and restoration activities in Maine for 2005. Senators Olympia J. Snowe and Susan Collins were instrumental in getting the first \$1 million for the Penobscot River Restoration Project while Representatives Mike Michaud and Tom Allen along with the Senators secured \$2 million for the Maine Atlantic Salmon Conservation Fund. These funds were included in the federal omnibus appropriations bill that was signed by President Bush

on Wednesday, December 8.

The Maine Atlantic Salmon Conservation Fund (MASCF) is jointly administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The fund supports community, conservation, industry, and government organizations that undertake Atlantic salmon conservation activities throughout Maine. Projects that have received funding include the Machias River corridor protection project, land acquisitions along the Ducktrap River, and a smolt enhancement program on the Saco River.

"Despite the difficult fiscal climate in Washington the delegation really came through for Atlantic salmon in 2005," said Andy Goode of the Atlantic Salmon Federation. "This is a great first step for the Penobscot and the MASCF will benefit numerous local projects on salmon rivers throughout Maine."

"We're grateful for these funds and committed to working with the Senators and federal fisheries officials to use these funds to best achieve the goals of this river restoration," said Laura Rose Day, director for Penobscot Partners, the coalition of ASE, other conservation groups and the Penobscot Indian Nation that are spearheading the project. "The purchase of the dams is the centerpiece of the agreement, so funding to purchase the dams is the project's most pressing need."

"The effort to improve the Penobscot, a river that flows through the heart of our state, represents an effort to restore a portion of our heritage," said Senator Susan Collins. "This river plays a vital role in the lives of countless individuals including the Penobscot Nation, Maine's sportsmen, and the communities that reside on the banks of this river."

The Delegation's work over the past several years to bring federal funds to Maine is making a difference in salmon recovery and river restoration. Adult salmon returns on the Penobscot River edged up for the fifth year in a row, although their numbers remain perilously low in the Midcoast and Downeast rivers. The work being done, including the protection of over 80 percent of the riparian habitat in the Ducktrap and Machias Rivers, and the landmark agreement to restore the Penobscot River, provide myriad benefits far beyond just Atlantic salmon. Other native migratory fish species, including American shad, Atlantic and shortnose sturgeon, American eel, and river herring, native wildlife and birds of prey, like the bald eagle and osprey all benefit from restored free-flowing rivers.

"There are over 30 local river groups and clubs working to restore Atlantic salmon and improve the health of our rivers," said Representative Mike Michaud. "I applaud their efforts to work with public agencies and business to achieve meaningful restoration while accommodating the needs and realities of a diverse Maine economy."

The support of the congressional delegation in the salmon restoration effort should not go unnoticed. Let them know you appreciate their support and hope we can continue to count on them. Congressional delegation contacts on next page.

**Gail Kelly, Senator Olympia Snowe: 207-945-0432**

**John Ford, Senator Susan Collins: 207-945-0417**

**Mark Ouellette, Representative Tom Allen: 207-774-5019**

**Rosemary Winslow, Representative Mike Michaud: 207-942-6935**

**Delorme Contributes to SRSC**  
*By RJ Mere*

We receive donations from businesses throughout Maine. Their funds are needed to run the hatchery and are greatly appreciated. Recently, we received a \$150 contribution from Delorme. Of course, Delorme is synonymous with mapping software, GPS, GIS tools, datasets, and don't forget those indispensable Atlas and Gazetteers that we all have tucked behind the seat of our cars and trucks. We'd be lost without them. Mine is marked with secret fishing spots that have taken years to stumble upon (or stolen from inebriated anglers). Because the SRSC is run entirely by volunteers, 100 percent of all donations go directly to our hatchery operations and salmon restoration effort, including The Salmon Run. Thank you, Delorme.

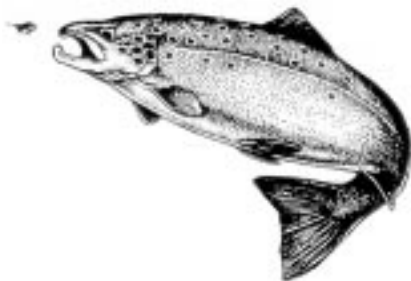
**Maine Council Meeting of ASF Announcement**  
*By John R.J. Burrows*

The next meeting of the Maine Council of the Atlantic Salmon Federation will take place on Saturday, January 29, 2005 at the Craig Brook National Fish Hatchery in East Orland from 10 am to 2 pm. Agendas will be distributed in mid-January. Please contact me if you have any issues that you would like to have discussed at the meeting. Happy Holidays!

John R.J. Burrows Maine Coordinator  
Atlantic Salmon Federation, Fort Andross, Suite 308, 14 Maine Street, Brunswick, ME 04011  
Phone: (207) 725-2833  
Email: asfjb@blazenetme.net  
Web: www.asf.ca <http://www.asf.ca>

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- Tom Debruin, Treas. 207-282-5125
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- Dave Bean
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- Mark Woodruff.

**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

Editors: Dan Bonville and RJ Mere

Visit our website at [www.sacosalmon.org](http://www.sacosalmon.org)  
**Or email us info@sacosalmon.org**

(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!***



**Directors Meetings are the 1st Wednesday of the Month 7pm at the Hatchery Marblehead Lane 282-6985 all 12 Months**  
**Dinner Meetings Doors open at 6pm Dinner is served at 6:30pm at the Trinity Episcopal Church, Rt One and Cleavland St. Saco**  
 For this coming year the dinner meetings will be the third Wed of the month for Jan, Feb, Mar, Sept, and Oct. There is no Nov. dinner meeting and the Dec dinner meeting is the SECOND Wed of the month. April is the month we hold our annual banquet--date TBA

**2005**

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SEPTEMBER							OCTOBER							NOVEMBER							DECEMBER						
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- Jan. & Feb. Ice fishing for smelts with registered Maine Guide Don Sicard. Call Don at 207-353-9433
- Jan. 14-17th Ice Fishing, Fly tying and rod making at Steve Berrys Camp. Moosehead Lake Region  
Call Dan Bonville 625-7693
- Feb. Ice fishing, fly tying and rod making Belgrade Lakes. Dates to be announced call Call Dan Bonville 625-7693
- April 22-25 Spring salmon fishing on the Restigouche & Matapedia Rivers.  
Hotel Restigouche Call Pete Dube 877-865-2848 for reservations.
- May 1st Fly casting day at Shy Beaver Club, barbecue and fly fishing for trout. Call Dan Bonville 625-7693
- May 20, 21, 22 Fly fishing Moose River area. Steve Berrys Camp Call Dan Bonville 625-7693
- June 3, 4, 5th 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 Rangely Lake area Art Leblancs 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, Boats Canoes and Kayaks Dates to be announced.  
Call Steve Berry 282-5468 or Capt. Tom DeBruin 2825125
- June Night time fly fishing for stripers with R.J. Mere wading. Time depends on tides  
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
- Aug. Small Mouth Bass on Saco River canoes and kayaks needed. Registered Maine Guide Mark Houland 625-7676
- Sept. West branch of Penobscot River dates and times to be announced
- Oct 1,2,3 Cast and blast Moose River Steve Berrys camp Call Dan Bonville 625-7693

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