

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

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

Well, here it is, March has arrived and along with the month that spring finally begins we're in the Deep Freeze! It's evening as I write this and I just got in from my twice a day 30 minute walk and it is minus two degrees with a 30 knot wind. So much for an early spring!

There's been quite a bit of talk among our club members about our up coming trips and two of them will be coming up soon. The first will be the annual Atlantic salmon trip up to the Restigouche and Matapedia Rivers. I think back with real pleasure to all the times that I have stayed in Peter Dube's Hotel Restigouche and to all of the friends that I have made on these trips and to all of the lovely large spring salmon that I have landed. From what folks have been telling me, Pete will have a special offer for fishermen if he can plan on 20 or more fishermen on a weekend beginning Saturday and Sunday and Monday morning's breakfast. This would begin with a Friday night supper, three meals a day on Saturday and Sunday, and a Monday morning breakfast. This would be lodging from Friday night till check out on Monday morning and guided fishing with two anglers per canoe for both Saturday & Sunday. If the ice is out in time most of our club's fishermen will go up to Quebec the first or second week of May. Call Pete Dube at the Hotel Restigouche at 877-865-2848, ext. 0.

The second outing that has a lot of people interested is the bluegill and crappy fishing and fish fry day on Saturday, May 5, at Shapleigh Pond in the town of North Shapleigh. The bluegills and other sunfish should be on their beds or getting ready to spawn by that time and the fishing with light fly rods or ultra light spinning can be fabulous. I have caught big slab-sided bluegills and red-breasted sunfish as well as bass, pickerel and crappies all on woolly buggers while my wife, Sandy, has used an ultra light spin rod with small diving plugs. Some of the

bluegills have been seven inches to ten inches long! Some anglers fillet these fish out and others skin them but however you prepare them it's easy to pile your dinner plate up with these sweet tasting sunfish. There used to be a lot of crappies in the pond but I think that heavy pressure on them from ice fishing has thinned the population down. If you do catch a crappy however, they are, to my way of thinking, one of the best tasting of Maine's freshwater fishes. We'll be having a tailgate fish fry that day if it isn't pouring rain outside. I'll fish that day no matter what the weather however. Many of us will bring a canoe or kayak or small boat; a belly boat will work just fine. If you're interested give me a call at 207-625-7693.

The month of May will be one of our busiest months with club trips but also with fry stocking and tours of our hatchery with the children and teachers on the Fish Friends program. We will have three seniors from Cape Elizabeth High School volunteering to work in and around our hatchery as part of the service work in order to graduate this year. They will be Matt Bishop, Austin Brown, and Chris Ortengren. Their high school advisor is Ted Jordan. We will need club members to volunteer to oversee these students while they give us a hand during the weeks of May 21 and May 28. They will work six hours a day for nine days.

I'm looking forward to working with everybody in the up coming months and especially in hopes of seeing you all at our annual banquet. We need donations for our raffle tables and for the auction at the banquet. There will be all kinds of fishing equipment as usual and again this year a table of special items for the ladies. We are ready for your donated items, just call Jim Black at 207-985-2677, Nick Sibilia at 207-294-6311, or Dan Bonville at 207-625-7693. Stay warm, think spring, and get ready for a great up coming fishing season.

New Officers Nominated by Committee Vote to be Held at March Meeting By RJ Mere

The Nominating Committee has offered John Blunt to replace Dan Bonville as President and RJ Mere to replace Mark Woodruff as Vice President. Dan and Mark have served the club well with the maximum of two 2 year terms as dictated by the club's by-laws. James Black is nominated to remain as Secretary of the club and Tom DeBruin is nominated to remain as Treasurer. The general membership will vote in the new officers and the existing and new directors at the upcoming March 21 meeting at the Episcopal Church, Route 1, Saco. Members may also write in their own suggestions for regular members as officers. Voting will be done by ballot in accordance to our by-laws. Proxy voting or mail in voting is not allowed.

Currently, the club has twenty directors:

Mike Arsenault	Mark Woodruff
Dave Bean	Art LeBlanc
Steve Berry	RJ Mere
John Blunt	Dick Neal
Frank Connelly	Skip Paolini
Raymond Dussault	Jack Parker
David Fenderson, Sr.	Harvey Patry
Alfred Hodson	Susan Polans
Tom Knobloch	Harold Porter
Dan Bonville	Nick Sabilia

New Directors will be presented for the membership to vote upon: Gary Kasten

Membership Dues Notice By RJ Mere

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. To check your current membership status look on the mailing label if you receive the newsletter by US mail. If you have a "2007" or "Life" or "Comp" (complimentary issues go out to media, advertisers, foundations, organizations, and state and federal entities) following your name, you are paid up to date. Thank you! For the rest of you, the date indicates (according to my records & contact me if you don't agree) the last time you paid for membership. If you missed paying your dues last year(s) just send your 2007 dues. Past dues are voluntary on your part. Annual dues rates now range

from ten dollars for students and seniors, to twenty dollars for individual memberships, and thirty dollars for family membership. Life memberships remain at three hundred dollars.

At the March 7, 2007 business meeting, the Board of Directors approved dropping from our database all names of members who have not paid their dues up to the year 2006. We will continue to issue this notice in the next issue of The Salmon Run but after that April issue we will have to remove all names that have not paid their dues. We will continue to carry all Complimentary entities. Please send in your dues and be sure to update your mailing and email information at the same time.

Social Meeting Was a Turkey Primer By Mark Woodruff

If you are an avid turkey hunter or just want to call turkey in, Rob Cotiaux's presentation at our February social meeting was certainly a great motivator to pursue this interest. Rob is on the board of directors' of the Maine Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation. This group is marking its 30th anniversary since the re-introduction of turkeys in Maine. Since the first flock was released at Mt. Agamenticus, the Maine turkey population has grown dramatically. Rob accounts their expansion to good breeding years, plenty of acorn production (plus the ubiquitous backyard feeders), state biologists with a strong trap and transfer strategy, and the effect of global warming to change habitat.

Rob emphasized that knowing the nature of turkeys is essential to finding and calling them. During these winter months the birds have segregated themselves by age and sex. But, as the amount of sunlight increases with approaching spring, the gobblers will begin looking for the hens. If you want to find where the turkeys are, spring is also the time to take walks at dusk listening for gobblers flying up into trees to roost for the night. Another way to locate the gobblers and hens is by their unique scat. Gobbler feces are always J-shaped; while hen feces are round. After the hens have incubated the eggs and the chicks hatched, you'll see groups of hens with their young on the move through summer and into fall feeding on acorns and beechnuts.

Rob's keen understanding of turkey behavior helps him to call the birds. First, he showed us several types of call devices: box call, pushpin, wing-bone, slate call, and diaphragm. His favorites were probably

the pushpin and diaphragm calls, as they require the least amount of motion that might otherwise be noticed by the approaching gobbler's keen eyesight.

The fact that you would be mimicking a hen to call a gobbler is the paradox of the spring turkey hunt. We often think of a large male turkey impressing his perspective harem with gobbling sounds and the display of his fanned tail feathers. So, how do you distract him? Be able to make a sexier hen yell or tree yelp, to put it plainly. Making these calls work requires practice and patience. Rob suggested listening to CDs about turkey calling as another way to improve this skill. However, if your calling doesn't lure the male, what really irritates a big gobbler is seeing a jake (1 year old male) mating with a female. Rob has successfully used a jake and a hen decoy in the throes of love to lure a jealous gobbler within range.

Thanks Rob for a very impressive presentation. We look forward to having you back in the future. I think everyone left that evening with a greater understanding of turkey behavior and calling techniques. Here are three web sites that can also help: www.nwtf.org, www.tricountynwtf.org, www.maine.gov/ifw/hunttrap/turkeyhuntinghtm

Atlantic Salmon the Topic for March Social Meeting By Mark Woodruff

March 21 at 6:00 p.m. is the date of our next social meeting at the Episcopal Church, Route 1, Saco. The guest speaker will be Rory Saunders of the National Marine Fisheries Service. He will be giving an overview of the status of Atlantic salmon restoration in New England and Maritime Canada and introduce listeners to the importance of restoring not just salmon, but other anadromous fish species. Time will be set aside for questions and answers. This is a very timely presentation as we hear mounting debate about listing Atlantic salmon as endangered and the human impacts on the environment. Rory's presentation ought to shed some light on where our club fits into the salmon restoration equation. Rory has recently co-authored two reports that you can access on-line. The first, "Status Review for Anadromous Atlantic Salmon in the United States" can be found at: <http://www.nero.noaa.gov/nero/hotnews/salmon/salmon.html> The pdf version you will click on is large,

so it may take some time to load to your computer. The second report, "Maine's Diadromous Fish Community: Past, Present, and Implications for Atlantic Salmon Recovery" can be found at: http://www.fws.gov/northeast/gulfmaine/publications/Saunders_etal_2006_MaineDiad

Hatchery Report By John Blunt

The stork came early this year, very early; by 5 weeks compared to last season. On January 5th, 118,000 eggs were received; the first of three shipments. The second batch of 604,000 came in January 25. In addition, approximately 200,000 eggs arrived since then. Our equipment was turned on right after New Years. To our surprise everything started perfectly. You might remember last year's start up problems with the refrigerator freezing just before delivery of the first batch of eggs. We have Rey Dussault, Nick Sabilia, and Skip Polini to thank for the great rebuilding job that saved the day! We're currently using 100 percent well water, relying on city water only for cleaning and rinsing. The PH of the well is at 7.8. We lower the acidity to a desired 6.9 by adding small amounts of citric acid; the same acid found in most fruit juices. "They prefer oranges." Temperatures are now running 38.5+ or - degrees, a little high for this time of year but we'll hold it back for a normal hatch out around March 5th. (hatch-out temperature is 44 degrees) Everything after should happen seasonally on schedule with feeding starting about April 15th. Volunteers did a great job cleaning and preparing with such a short notice on delivery. The first batch of eggs has been picked once, with very few losses. That was along with a bath remodeling project. Again thanks to our volunteers, Skip, Rey, Nick, and Al Hodson. We now have a much higher demand for volunteers to help clean the new 900,000 eggs. The job is easy but time consuming, so we need as many hands on board as possible. When you first arrive to help, check the clipboards or chalk board for the most recent dated cleaning and start there. You may come at random times to fit your schedule and just mark down what you've done to help the next guy.

We also have repair and improvement projects located on the office desk list. These include such things as fish collection box for Tank #4, upgrading feeder drains (call Rey 282-3136), exhaust piping for blower and generator, miscellaneous equipment cleaning, and zeolite sand. This is only half of the to-

do list, so please consider some of this inside work. When complete these items improve our hatchery survival rates. It is very satisfying to have helped out the club and learn at the same time. Any questions call my cell phone 207-468-1688 or evenings at 207-282-5264.

Hatchery Help By Nick Sibilis

This year we will have the largest number of eggs to hatch than ever before; over 900,000. What usually happens in April, hatch-out to sac fry, is happening now with our first batch of eggs. Our egg pickers have become baby tenders and the work increases. What took a minute to pick and clean now takes many minutes. Egg shell protein and warming water temperatures create an ideal culture for fungus growth. Water quality control becomes critical. We have enough help to keep up with water quality, but we need volunteers to step up to help pick eggs and tend our newly hatched sac fry. Present volunteers and any new volunteers may call the hatchery (207-282-6985) and let us know when you can come in to help. You can leave a message at any time of day. We will all see the reward of healthy feeding fry ready to be stocked in May near Mothers Day.

Get Well Wishes to Two SRSC Members By RJ Mere

Jack Parker is recovering from heart surgery in Boston and Skip Paolini is off his feet (literally) with an infection. We will miss our two members over the next few weeks as they recover. Hopefully, they will be well enough to make the first day of open fishing season!

We are also saddened by the news of the death of club member and avid fly fisher, Harry Navelski. Harry died February 25 at York Hospital after a period of declining health. He was a member of the York Fish and Game Club, as well as the Saco River Salmon Club. Prior to living in Maine, he had been a resident of Rochester, N.H., where he was a longtime member of the Hackle and Tackle Fish and Game Club and the Atlantic Salmon Federation. Our condolences go to Harry's family. We will miss him.

The Salmon Run Only Available Online by This Summer By RJ Mere

The Board of Directors voted to stop mailing The Salmon Run due to increasing costs of printing and stamps. The phase out will be gradual, however, to allow for our members to adjust to the change. The newsletter will be available online at our website, where everyone may view this month's issue as well as archived issues of our past newsletters. The advantages of having our newsletter online are great. In addition to computer owners online being able view the newsletter, they may also download it to their own computers, send a copy of it by email to friends and family members, print it off on their own printers, hyperlink to topics within the articles, hyperlink to advertisers who support our club, and, for the first time for many, view our newsletter in vivid colors as it is originally published by the editors and Tom DeBruin. We have always printed in black and white to save money but the members who receive the electronic version of it are able to see photos, graphs, and other artwork in color. In the future, club members may download membership applications and renewals, raffle tickets, and banquet tickets with the option to pay online or send them in to us by standard US mail. I will continue to maintain an email list for those members who wish to receive their newsletter by email automatically each month. Members without computers may still get a hard copy of the newsletter and the other items listed above by having a friend who has access to our website to print copies out. Public computers, such as those at the library or Internet cafe's can be used also.

If you haven't been to the club's website, give it a try! There's a lot of great information on it along with a virtual tour of our state-of-the-art hatchery. View our calendar, present and past issues of The Salmon Run, and do so knowing that we are saving lots of money and lots of trees.

Club Events

First Wednesday: Officer's Meeting 7 PM at the Hatchery, Marblehead Ln, Ph. 282 6985
Third Wednesday: Social Meeting Trinity Episcopal Church, Rt 1and Cleveland St., Saco open at 6 PM, dinner 6:30.

Mar 14: WINTER FLY TYING - Steve Berry;

Floating Smelt
 Apr 28: BANQUET: Pier 77, Cape Porpoise
 May 5th: Shapleigh-Bluegill/crappy- tailgate & fish fry(hopefully)
 May 25-28: Salmon/Trout, Moose R., Steve Berry's camp
 Jun 1-3: Trout; North Branch Dead R., back ponds; Chris Bond's camp
 Jun 8-10: Trout/Salmon, Rangeley - A. LeBlanc's camp
 June 23: Fish w/Friends: Bring boats and share;

Saco Stripers
 July 14: PM (Bewitching hour), fish for Stripers, Dan and RJ.
 July 21: Striper fishing w/ Capt. Sue Polans, 2 guests
 Sept. TBD: Striper Fish and BBQ, Goose Rocks w/Dan and Larry
 Sept. 28-30: Salmon/trout, Moose R, S. Berry's camp
 Oct 6: Deep sea fishing on Indian II, Portland

Saco River Salmon Club Annual Banquet 2007

Pier 77 Restaurant, Cape Porpoise • Saturday, April 28, starting 6:00 P.M.
 Menu includes cup of chowder, salad, entrée, and apple cobbler

Please select (with "X") the entre choice for each member in party:

	Name	Grilled Salmon	- Roasted Half Chicken	- Vegetarian
1	_____	_____	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	_____	_____
3	_____	_____	_____	_____
4	_____	_____	_____	_____
5	_____	_____	_____	_____
6	_____	_____	_____	_____
7	_____	_____	_____	_____
8	_____	_____	_____	_____

Total number of party attending: _____ at \$35.00 per person = _____

If you are paying dues at this time please complete this form:

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
 Email address: _____ Phone _____

Student or Senior (65 years or older)	\$10.00	= _____
Single	\$20.00	= _____
Family	\$30.00	= _____
Life	\$300.00	= _____
Hatchery Donation		= _____

Please make check payable to Saco River Salmon Club **Total** = _____

Saco River Salmon Club Banquet
 PO Box 115
 Saco, ME 04072

You may present this form with cash or check (no credit cards) on banquet night.
 Mailing deadline is April 24. We are all volunteers; to avoid confusion, mail early!!!