

# 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

Another summer season has begun as of this past Memorial Weekend and I had a wonderful weekend. Driving up to Steve Berry's camp on the Moose River Friday evening after work was pleasant enough until I got off I95 in Newport, but from there up to Greenville the highway was packed with everybody headed up to the North Country. Just before Greenville is a DOT salt yard that must leach into a small bog because as I drove through the traffic jam I counted seven moose out in the wet area below the sand and salt pile. From Greenville to Rockwood, I slowly crept around two more bulls and one good size white tail buck.

Fishing with my own personal guide, Nick Sabilia, out of an anchored boat on the Moose River upstream of the camp was a blast. Nick and Steve fish those pools regularly and know many of their secrets. The routine begins at 4:00 AM when Nick wakes us up then a quick coffee or snack and it's up river to cast streamers to the fish. Everybody got salmon and brook trout including 18 inches to 20 inches and my brookie at 14 inches but I also landed my first hard fighting 20 inch lake trout on a fly (my first in Maine) and believe me it put the fight of an old boot to shame! Moose steak and burgers with lots of veggies for supper ended our Saturday but at 4:00 AM Sunday we were back at it and another great day!

This past weekend (as I write this it hasn't happened yet) a group of us fished out of Chris Bond's camp in Carrabasset Valley and up on the North and South branches of the Dead River as well as on some of the local trout ponds.

Next weekend another weekend will be spent up on Dodge Pond at Art Leblanc's camp. What a beautiful time of the year this is. Check our program and trip calendar and try to make one of our trips. Just call one of the trip leaders and set up a date if a certain date hasn't been listed. There's night fishing for stripers with RJ Mere on the Mousam River, striper fishing with Steve Berry and Tom DeBruin, trout and bass fishing with Don Sicard on the Androscoggin and bass fishing out of canoes and kayaks on the Saco or Big Ossipee with Mark Howland and Bill Diamond.

Another BIG thanks to Jim Black and his whole crew for such a wonderful banquet, considered by many of the members as one of our most memorable. The President's Awards went to Steve Berry, Art LeBlanc, and Chris Bond for the annual use of their camps for our spring fishing weekends. We thank them



for their hospitality. Thanks also to Steve as we use his log cabin each fall as well for our cast and blast weekend. Congratulations to these members and their families.

Our prayers and good wishes go out to Lillian Monroe and her family as she and our entire club lost Bob after his long illness on Easter Sunday. My thanks also to all of the Saco River Salmon Club members and friends who attended the viewing and funeral and who donated monies to the club in Bob's memory.

Another thank you goes out to all who helped with our stocking fry this year, the wettest day (we hope) of the year and one that will go down in the record books as it was the day the floods started in York County. At least the fish will be well spread out.

Hope to see you all out somewhere fishing this summer and I look forward to our upcoming meeting and program season beginning in September. Remember; keep that slack out of your lines.

### **The 2006 Conservation Award** *By Mark Woodruff*

Each year, the Saco River Salmon Club bestows the Conservation Award to an individual or organization that supports Atlantic salmon restoration in the Saco River Watershed. This year the directors chose Mrs. Sally Beatty as the recipient. We recognized Sally for her enthusiasm and eight years of dedication with the Atlantic Salmon Federation's Fish Friends program. Sally is a fifth grade teacher at the Kaler Elementary School in South Portland. She is one of several teachers in southern Maine incorporating lessons about the life cycle of Atlantic salmon into her curriculum. Her students take part in a project to raise salmon eggs in their classroom incubator. Not unlike our own hatchery raising young salmon has its difficulties. The kids remain undaunted and eventually release their fry into the Saco River after a tour of FPL Energy's fish lift at Cataract Dam.

I had the opportunity to present the award to Sally and meet her students. They all had a lot of enthusiasm and the kids definitely know the stages of the salmon life cycle. Thank you Sally for your dedication; your award is much deserved.

(Post script: One part of the Fish Friends program that was not available this year was a tour of our hatchery. Due to scheduling conflicts we did not have a volunteer available to guide the students and teach them about the hatchery. So, for next year please consider helping make the hatchery tours a highlight for the students. Sally and five other teachers in southern Maine really need our support to complete the experience for their kids. If you are interested in helping with the tours contact John Burrows of ASF (725-2833) for further details.)

### **Kittery Trading Post: A Long Time Supporter** *By Mark Woodruff*

I'm pleased to announce that we received a \$500 donation from Kittery Trading Post. For the past six years, Kittery Trading Post has been one of the cornerstones supporting our salmon restoration effort. We thank Kevin Adams, Gary Adams, and the entire staff of Kittery Trading Post for recognizing this important work.

### **Smolt Spotting!!** *By Mark Woodruff*

We received a very interesting telephone message at the hatchery in early May. The caller explained that he had observed 50 to 60 Atlantic salmon smolts feeding in the Skelton head pond! Hopefully that freshwater meal did some good before they reached the estuary. With any luck we might count one of these fish as a returning grilse or spawning adult in the next year or two.

### **Stocking Fry in the Woods** *By Mark Woodruff*

Several years ago my wife, two nephews, and I joined a group of Club members to camp and fish the West Branch of the Penobscot in the vicinity of the Big Eddy campground. It poured all weekend. According to John Cadwallader, rain routinely accompanied the trip. In fact, a year or two before my excursion, a low-pressure system from the west converged with the remnants of a hurricane over northern Maine. It turns out he was right because next time I went it rained most of the weekend. So where was John Cadwallader on May 13, 2006 when we were stocking during the sixth consecutive day of rain in southern Maine? Probably safe at home watching the Weather Channel.

Joking aside our 2006 fry stocking went off pretty well considering that York County and seacoast New Hampshire were in a state of emergency. As scheduled, volunteers began arriving at 8:00 a.m. with plenty of waterproof clothing to ward off the down pours that Mother Nature had to throw at them. Stocking routes were assigned; coolers and oxygen injectors were quickly assembled; and fry were weighed out for each team.

I joined with Marty Tripp to stock fry in four streams in Cornish, Limington, and Hollis. What was unsettling was that I stood knee deep in the stream (where normally I would have been on dry ground in the woods) pouring fry into the water! There had been so much rain stream widths were more than tripled or quadrupled. I could only hope that as the floodwaters receded the fry would be able to find the channel and avoid being left high and dry.

### **Habitat Surveys** *By Mark Woodruff*

Last summer Dan McCaw of the Atlantic Salmon Commission and I assessed the fish habitat along a portion of Swan Pond Brook in Dayton and Biddeford. Although the streambed was predominantly sandy (good trout habitat), there were a few gravel and cobble stretches suitable for salmon fry and parr. There is an urgency to complete the habitat survey for Swan Pond Brook. Adult salmon have been sighted in one section of the brook while smolts have been caught below the Goodwins Mill dam. Results of the assessment will determine how many fry we stock in the brook.

Dan McCaw and other biologists from the Atlantic Salmon Commission are planning to assist the Club with the surveys this summer. The work involves spending five to eight hours wading in a stream on a hot day in July (sounds good so far). You will assist the biologist you're teamed with by observing and recording dimensions and features of the stream. We anticipate completing the surveys in two possibly three days in mid to late July. As the time approaches and the weather forecast is more certain final dates can be set.

In the meantime, I'm starting a list of volunteers who will be available during that timeframe. If you're physically able to do be in the stream for the day, I encourage you to call me at 929-5300 or email me at [markw@sacoriver.net](mailto:markw@sacoriver.net) . I highly recommend volunteering for a habitat survey. You will end up knowing a lot more about the type of habitat suitable for the various life stages of Atlantic salmon as well as other species.

Early June: Fly fishing on the lower Androscoggin River with Don Sicard.

Early June: Night fishing for stripers with RJ Mere (207-985-4420).

June: Fishing stripers on the Saco River with Steve Berry and Tom DeBruin. Call Dan Bonville.

July 9: Fly fishing Rapid River at Middle Dam. Call Dan Bonville.

August: Smallmouth bass fishing on the Saco River in canoes and kayaks. Call Dan Bonville.

October: Cast and Blast in the Moosehead area. Call Dan Bonville.

## Saco River Salmon Club Membership Form

Name:

Address:

City:

State: Zip:

Phone: ( )

E-mail address

*Dues are annual - January through December*

Single \$20 Family \$30 Student \$10 Senior \$10 Life \$300  
Donation to hatchery \$

I would like to volunteer in the following areas:

Board of Directors

Newsletter

Hatchery Operations

Stocking

Hydropower Issues

Legislation

Public Relations

Membership

### ***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)

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