

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

First of all I want to once again send a heartfelt "Thank You" to our recently retired President, Jack Parker. The only reason that he left the position was because of illness. I am glad to say though, that Jack is still working with us once again as a director. I will be needing his help in the future as we deal with our parr and smolt raising program and all of the surprises that we will find along the way. It was great to have Jack at our annual banquet, and a pleasure to award him with a certificate of Appreciation for all of the wonderful work and dedication that he gave our club. **THANK YOU JACK!!!**

Speaking of the banquet, all of the feedback that the banquet committee has been receiving has been favorable. Comments to Larry Orme, Nick Sibilia and I have been very supportive on all aspects, especially the dinner; catered by Lynn Jackson and her staff from On the Corner Cafe in Biddeford. The hall at St. Martha's Church in Kennebunk is quite large and it was easy to get around to the bar, raffle tables, and to access the auction items as well as appetizer and coffee tables.

"Thank You" to our auctioneers; Art LeBlanc and Nick Sibilia and to Mark Woodruff who helped us as a runner with the items won from the raffles or bought from the auction.

"Thank You" all for donating items and for contacting other members and friends, and all of those companies that offered us trips, fishing gear, guided trips, food items, and much more. One exceptional item for auction was a lovely model of a drift boat; handcrafted by Bud Peck. Sue Polans bought that prize and is now the proud owner of 2 of Bud's boats. "Thank You" to both Bud and Sue!

Our first outing of this new fishing season was a success, though the crowd was smaller than last year; 14 members and guests did attend our casting and fishing day at the Shy Beaver Fishing Club and Hatchery, owned by Sonnie Pierce. It rained off and on but most everyone got a chance to get out in the club's boats to fish. Fred Pierce caught a lovely brown trout, and a few others were landed; but just because it's a pond attached to a trout hatchery, that doesn't mean the trout are easy! Many of the brookies, browns and rainbows have lived in the pond all of their lives and are truly wild trout. Some 5 and 6 pound fish are caught by those members who fish there regularly, and a few larger were landed. "Thank You" Sonnie for letting us visit and fish. Anyone interested in joining the Shy Beaver Club can give me a call and I will introduce you to Sonnie and the pond. We'll try and catch a few trout, and maybe even try and keep a couple! It's fly fishing at its best! This month

and next the Saco River Salmon Club's calendar is full of events and trips. We'll be stocking and fry and smolts, cleaning the incubators and lots of other work at the hatchery. Our outing to fish will begin with our annual trip up to the Moosehead River at Steve Berry's camp. From then on we'll be up to the North branch of the Dead River with Chris Bond, to the Rangely area with Art LeBlanc and striper fishing with Tom DeBruin and Steve Berry and night fishing with RJ Mere for stripers.

It has been suggested that we have an outdoor style summer gathering. We already have soda and alcohol beverages, left over from the recent banquet as well as two guided trips, a couple of fly rods and a lovely fishing net. When and where to auction these remaining items is up to us all. Let me know your thoughts please.

One final note: We do not have a regular monthly membership meeting until September. Business meetings, sometimes called officers' and directors' meetings, are still held at the hatchery at 7:00 pm on the first Wednesday of each month, and are open to members as well. During the summer, we publish a May/June newsletter and a July/August newsletter. Everyone involved with the newsletter has to have a little time off for fishing, too! The monthly newsletters will return to regular schedule in September.

Have a great Spring You-All!

Stocking Season is here! By Mark Woodruff

Hats off to everyone who helped pick eggs, feed the fry, and fix-up the hatchery. The reward for this effort is that we have many healthy fry that are ready to be stocked. So, mark your calendar for Saturday May 14. Stocking Day begins at 8:00 a.m. at the hatchery. Whether you have volunteered on Stocking Day in years past or want to help for the first time, there are a couple of ways to help. Volunteers are needed to meet at the hatchery by 8:00 am to prepare coolers and load them with fry for the stocking teams. You will want to wear clothes you can get wet and be sure to bring a lunch and plenty of water. For the more adventurous, volunteers are needed to transport and release the fry. You can organize your stocking group ahead of time or that morning. For convenience, stocking trips stop at release sites in the same general area of the watershed. Groups will be needed to complete trips in the Biddeford-Saco, Lyman, Dayton-Hollis, Limington, Hiram, and Brownfield areas. Bring a lunch and boots for wading. Coolers, buckets, and stocking sheets will be provided. Stocking sheets must be returned to Mark Woodruff by June 15.

Once the fry are out, volunteers will be needed to clean the incubators and feeding troughs. Information about spring cleaning will be sent via email. If you have further questions or want to make sure you get hooked up with a stocking group, contact Mark Woodruff at 929-5300.

Additional Stocking Information *By Larry Orme*

BOAT STOCKING--MAY 12th. We need two more river canoes (wide or flat bottom) and three paddlers. Meet at the hatchery about 8:00 a.m.

MAJOR STOCKING--MAY 14th. We need volunteers to help place the fish into the coolers and to accompany team leaders to do the actual stocking. You do not need a canoe or previous experience to help with this. Meet at the hatchery about 8:00 a.m.

LEFT OVER STOCKING--May 15th. If all fish are not stocked on the 14th, we will need a few crews to finish on the 15th. Please hold that date open.

******CONTINGENCY PLAN****--MAY 21st.** Water flow in the Saco River watershed is presently way too high for stocking. If this high water persists, we will need to do the entire stocking starting on the 21st. Please call the hatchery (282-6985), Nick Sibilis (294-6311), Mark Woodruff (929-5300), John Blunt (282-5264), or Skip Paolini (283-1220) Tuesday or Wednesday of next week to see where things stand. Thanks in advance for your help--this is what the whole year's work is about.

Keeping Up with FERC *By Mark Woodruff*

On February 1, 2005 the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued its "Notice Soliciting Scoping Comments" which stated that FPL Energy's license application for the Bar Mills Project "[was] not ready for environmental analysis at this time." Strangely, on the same day, FERC's "Notice of Application Ready for Environmental Analysis and Soliciting Comments, Recommendations, Terms and Conditions, and Prescriptions" was also issued and this document stated "the application [had] been accepted, and [was] ready for environmental analysis at this time." Unless these documents were in error, the Saco River Salmon Club would not have much opportunity to comment on the FERC analysis. Not expecting clarification, I filed comments for the Scoping Document and the Ready for Environmental Analysis on behalf of the Club. If you would like to read the filings, they can be viewed on the Club website - . In the Latest News section of the home page, click on Bar Mills Re-licensing.

The next steps are tentatively scheduled during June and July. FERC will release the Environmental Assessment in June followed by a one month public comment period. Their final decision on the terms of the new license will be issued in July.

Lionel Bouthot Receives ASF's Roll of Honor Award *By Mike Tracy and Tom DeBruin*

Editor's Note: At the Club's Banquet April 29, the Atlantic Salmon Federation honored Lionel Bouthot with their Roll of Honor Award. The award is presented annually to "individuals who exhibit outstanding commitment to salmon conservation at the grass-roots level. The award acknowledges the hard work that is performed on behalf of the Atlantic salmon by the many volunteers within the federation's affiliate network - the so-called unsung heroes who are the life blood of the salmon conservation movement." Theresa Bouthot, Carl Bouthot, Tom DeBruin, and Mike Tracy collaborated to write the following biography.

Lionel "Toots" Bouthot, life long native of Biddeford, Maine has been very active in salmon conservation in Maine for many years. He has been involved in the Fish Friends program and educating school children about the life cycle of the wild Atlantic salmon since 1995. He is on the board of directors of the Saco River Salmon Club and has worked for FPL Energy also since 1995 giving tours of the Cataract Dam fish way. Lionel has many letters from school children thanking him for the tours and some are very humorous. I think Lionel treasures those the most, having a great sense of humor and a quick laugh.

Lionel spent 38 years working for Metropolitan Life Insurance Co., 25 years as a salesman and 13 years as a district manager. He and his wife, Theresa, raised 7 children and are now grandparents of 5 boys and 6 girls. Two of his sons are his fishing buddies. His children have become enterprising and talented individuals that Lionel and Theresa are very proud of.

Lionel had natural musical talent as a young boy and he and his brother, Donald, entertained at talent shows and at parochial schools. At school on special days and on the last day of school, the nuns had them go from class to class to entertain the children. Consequently Lionel began his own band in his early 20's. His band played at social dances and activities and at marriages throughout the state. When Lionel became semi-retired, he got involved in Atlantic salmon fishing in the late 70's early 80's. Lionel was well known and liked by all at the Bangor salmon pools on the Penobscot. I think much to his chagrin he was also known to hook and land a beaver at one of the Veazie pools on a fly called the Penobscot Devil. He is also a talented fly tier and once while fishing the York River Toots caught what felt to him like a very large salmon when hooked. He struggled with that fish for a long time only to find out that he had hooked it in the dorsal fin on one of his modified flies. He is now famous as the originator of the "Fin Fly."

His friend and fishing companion Mike Tracy says that "if you ask him to do something for you, you can count on it being done right and on time".

During striper season Toots can be frequently found at his Hills Beach "Office" at the mouth of the Saco River.

Upcoming Club Trips and Events

By RJ Mere

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 at 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 Dam / Day trip walk in to dam 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. If you disagree with the membership status on your mailing label please contact Nick Sibilis or RJ Mere.

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!

(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 _____

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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@zwi.net

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