

The Salmon Run



Visit our website at www.sacosalmon.org

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

It will be only two weeks by the time you read this, but by then we will have fished in Quebec's Restigouche River, enjoyed our annual banquet at Seascapes, mailed this newsletter, and prepared for our open house at the hatchery from 9 to 3 on Saturday, May 4. If you are reading this on open house day pack the kids or friends in the car and come on down. During the following week we will be stocking our prized fry in the Saco watershed. Please plan to get involved if you possibly can. It's the climax of all our efforts this year.

Congratulations to Susan Polan's for her honors presentation at the University of New England about her internship at our hatchery this year. Susan has worked hard for us while gathering material for her well-documented report.

Annual Banquet Well Attended By RJ Mere

Art and Angela LeBlanc surpassed their already high standards for great food, impeccable presentation, and wonderful service at their Seascapes restaurant in Cape Porpoise, for our annual banquet. Entrées were a choice between a grilled salmon or stuffed pork. Both could take awards for artistic presentation and unique flavors.

After the meal, John Cadwallader performed the swearing in of officers and Board of Directors. Lee Perry, Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, stood to say, "We're really impressed about what you folks are doing to restore Atlantic salmon." Lee also commented on the good number of returns to the Saco River. Paul Christman, biologist with the Atlantic Salmon Commission, also stated that he was very impressed with our progress and that he is, "Looking forward to continuing to work with the club."

Dave Bean, biologist and recipient of the SRSC 2001 Conservation Award, reported that, "The salmon fry are doing extremely well and mortality rates are very low." Dave thanked Bob Monroe, Nick Sibilila, and Susan Polans for doing an outstanding job at the hatchery this year. Details for the May 11 stocking were created on the fly. See more about the stocking time and events later in this issue of the Salmon Run. John Blunt urges all who have canoes and hip waders to bring them along on the Saturday stocking date. Bob Monroe asked that some volunteers help Nick Sibilila clean and prepare the coolers before the stocking event. Some of the members present volunteered to help but Nick could use more

hands for the job. Call the hatchery for more information. Jack Parker introduced Nick Sibilila, who announced the 2002 winners for the Sibilila Award. The 2002 winners were Dave Fenderson and RJ Mere. The Sibilila Award, which pays for a guided fishing trip, is given each year to two members of the SRSC for their active involvement in the club's projects.

Major contributors, Biddeford Saco Savings Bank and L.L.Bean, were represented by Carolyn Blunt and John Tanner, respectively. John is associated with the L.L. Bean Fly Fishing Hotline, 1-800-FISH-LLBEAN (1-800-347-4552). The SRSC is grateful for the generous contributions from all of our benefactors.

Jack Parker introduced Susan Polans, University of New England intern student currently working at our hatchery. Susan is studying light intensity impact on developing salmon fry. Susan said, "This has been a great opportunity and experience for me."

Jack awarded the 2002 President's Award to Nick Sibilila. The award is given to an individual for outstanding contribution of time and effort towards the salmon restoration goals of the SRSC. **Congratulations, Nick!**



Skelton Station

The 2002 SRSC Conservation Award went to Florida Power Light and Energy for their extraordinary cooperation and dedication to fish passage, in particular for the Skelton Hydro Fish Passage Project. Chris Shaw, FPL general manager, accepted the award and said, "Thanks, club members, this is important to FPL. We're honored to receive this award from the Saco River Salmon Club, and we appreciate their recognition of FPL Energy's deep commitment to balancing business interests with wise environmental stewardship." Chris then honored the SRSC

by presenting three wonderful prints by Ed Murdock. The first two prints were #1 and #2 of 100 limited edition signed prints by the artist. The first will be placed in the hatchery and the second went for auction. The third print, "Fall Run", also by Ed Murdock, was auctioned to a lucky recipient.

See You In The Fall!

By RJ Mere

Our next member meeting is September 17. We all stay in touch by attending numerous club fishing trips during the summer. So, if we don't see you on any of the fun fishing trips, we hope to see you in September. Have a great summer!

Welcome New Members

By John Cadwallader

Let's hear a big round of applause for the following:

Kenny Gilman, Biddeford Pool
Kevin Adams, Kittery
Stine Brown, Arundel
John Hoyt, Lyman

Paid membership is now 153 compared to 167 for the same time last year. If you are holding this newsletter in your hand, check the code in the URH corner of your mailing label: P2, P3 or PL means your dues are current (thank you). Email recipients will be advised of their dues status in the cover message.

Hatchery Clean-up & Shut-down To Start

By John Cadwallader

This is a call for volunteers to help with the not-so-glorious but essential task of cleaning the incubator trays in the hatchery and getting them ready for next year. I'll be organizing the effort this year, but I don't have a specific work schedule laid out at the moment. In past years we've gotten a crew together on a Saturday, plus some midweek evening hours. Please contact me if you can spare some time like that: 207-985-6199.

Open House Scheduled For Early May

By John Cadwallader

The Saco River Salmon Club is having an Open House at their Biddeford hatchery on Saturday, May 4 from 9am to 3pm. This year the club is raising more than 600,000 Atlantic Salmon fry to be stocked throughout the Saco River watershed. The hatchery has produced more than three million fry since 1997 to restore a self-sustaining salmon population in the river. The hatchery is at the Marblehead boat landing on Route 9 in Biddeford, 1.3 miles west of the University New England. The fry will be stocked during the following week, so come see them at their friskiest!

Atlantic Fry Stocking Planned For May

By Mark Woodruff

We've nearly completed another successful hatchery season! Stocking will begin the week of May 6. During this week, Bob Monroe will be leading teams to sites in the Biddeford-Dayton area. On Wednesday May 8, Dave is planning a canoe stocking on the Big Ossipee River from Kezar Falls to the confluence with the Saco River. Saturday May 11, starting at 9:00 AM at the hatchery, is the big push. Dan Bonville will lead a team to the Big Ossipee from the New Hampshire border to Kezar Falls. Bob Monroe will take a team to the Shepherds River in Brownfield. John Blunt will lead a team to sites between Buxton and Biddeford.

A team leader is needed to guide folks to small tributaries in the Cornish, Limington, Standish area. Dave Bean and Paul Christman (Maine Atlantic Salmon Commission) ask all teams to have a reliable thermometer (to be provided) to measure river temperature and a data sheet. The thermometer will verify that water in the transport cooler is within five degrees of river water. Water temperatures along with locations, numbers of fry stocked, and river conditions will be recorded on the data sheet. These must be returned to Mark Woodruff.

The fry will benefit from us taking the time to find good cover for them. As in the years past, we will release fry into riffles where water depth is no more than knee deep. Spots with gravel or cobble stream bottoms and undercut banks make good hiding places for the young fish.

Stocking is a great way to spend a full day with your family or a group of friends. Make sure to bring plenty of food, drinks, boots, and perhaps a change of clothes. Shorter stocking excursions can possibly be arranged. For more details contact Mark at 207-929-5300. I look forward to seeing many of you. Have a great time!

Thank You Kittery Trading Post

By Mark Woodruff

I am pleased to announce that Kittery Trading Post recently donated \$500 to our restoration program. You will remember that last year they made a similar contribution. Corporate donations are important part of our fund raising effort and we are especially grateful for Kittery Trading Post's long term commitment.

Bar Mills Dam

The Portland Press Herald (April 24) that Florida Power Light and Energy will host a public meeting April 30 to discuss the relicensing process for the Bar Mills Dam in Buxton. This is the beginning of an application procedure that must be completed by June 30, 2003. Any sort of change to the dam for fish upstream fish passage must begin in 2005. The new license is good for 50 years so some important decisions will be made with long term consequences. The Saco River Salmon Club looks forward to being involved with this process.

SRSC Fund-raisers Are On The Road Again *By Harvey Patry and Nick Sibilia*

We attended two shows this year, the first was in March at L.L. Bean, in Freeport, with raffle ticket sales totaling \$357.00. In May we attended the Portland home show and sold \$800.00 worth of raffle tickets. Nick and I extend our thanks to all who help with the booth. In particular, Don Sicard, Larry Orme, Bob Monroe, Jack Parker, Dick Neal, John and Carolyn Blunt were a great help to us. A special thank you to Fred Pierce for the use of his trunk and helping with setting up and taking down of both shows.

SRSC Slide Shows Well Received *By David Fenderson*

On April 4, twenty five members of the Rockland Kiwanis Club, meeting at Navigator Motel, enjoyed our slide show. Many questions about our club and the process of raising Atlantic salmon from eggs to fry were asked. A delicious beef stew was served. On April 24, the Camp Ellis Rod and Gun Club was the second group to see the SRSC slide presentation. Thirty nine members were present at their Route 9 clubhouse. John Andrews is the president of the Camp Ellis Rod and Gun Club. There was considerable interest and I was surprised at the number of questions they had about our salmon rearing activities. At least 6 people asked for membership applications, which I happened to have with me. I was treated to an excellent BBQ steak dinner and homemade coleslaw with homemade brownies for dessert. No rubber chickens here!! We need to put together a group of three or four people and provide them with training and practice so that we can present our slide show to more groups. There are appreciative organizations just waiting for us to tell our story. Besides having great fun, the food is great!

DONATIONS CORNER *By Dave Fenderson*

From time to time we need items which some of our members may own but have no use for. If you have any of the following items, contact Dave Fenderson, 207-781-4240
35 MM Slide Projector
Projector-Portable Screen
Photo Copy Machine

The Biologist's Notebook *By Ed Baum*

National Academy of Sciences Reviews Maine Salmon Restoration Program

The controversy surrounding the November 2000 federal listing of Maine Atlantic salmon as an Endangered Species led Congress to request the National Academies of Science to review the available scientific information on the status of Atlantic salmon in Maine.

The Academies assigned this task to the National Research Council, which appointed a special 13-member "Committee on Atlantic Salmon in Maine." The Committee consists of distinguished scientists from eight states (Texas, California, Oregon, Minnesota, New Jersey, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and Maine), two Canadian provinces (Ontario and Newfoundland), and one European country (Sweden). The Committee's tasks are: 1) to submit an interim report addressing the genetic makeup of wild salmon in Maine, and 2) to submit a final report synthesizing all available information on the biology of Maine salmon, causes for population declines, threats to their survival, options for salmon recovery in Maine, and estimated costs of those options.

Committee Completes Genetics Report in January 2002

The Committee made two visits to Maine (June 12-13 and September 20-21, 2001) where members toured the Downeast salmon rivers, visited selected facilities involved in current salmon recovery efforts (e.g., Craig Brook National Fish Hatchery), and listened to presentations from various representatives of business and industry (e.g., agriculture, aquaculture, etc.) which may potentially be affected by the ESA listing. They also received testimony from numerous State and Federal agency employees and many non governmental representatives (including the author of *The Biologist's Notebook*). Following its comprehensive review of all available scientific information pertaining to the often controversial genetics questions surrounding Maine's Atlantic salmon, the Committee issued its genetics report in January 2002. In case you missed the news a couple months ago, here are a few of the Committee's conclusions in the genetics report:

"Maine has wild salmon populations in the 8 DPS rivers that are as divergent from Canadian populations, and from each other, as expected among wild populations elsewhere in the Northern Hemisphere."

"Maine salmon are not hatchery mixtures but rather show the typical metapopulation structure that characterizes wild populations of salmon in places where stocking has been absent or insignificant."

"Collectively, the data are persuasive on these points, from which we conclude that the natural salmon spawning in Maine's DPS-designated rivers are 'Maine salmon' not just 'salmon in Maine'."

The complete report may be purchased (for \$18) from the National Research Council or read for free on the Council's Internet website: <http://www.nap.edu/catalog/10273.html>

Fourth Meeting Recently Concluded in Portland

On April 18-19, 2002, the Committee on Atlantic Salmon in Maine held its fourth meeting (the third was held in mid-January in Boston). Day one was spent on a bus tour of the Kennebec, Sheepscot, and Ducktrap watersheds where Committee members heard presentations pertaining to ongoing and/or potential salmon habitat restoration and population recovery efforts on those drainages. Day two was spent at the Doubletree Hotel in Portland, listening to presentations about salmon recovery efforts in the

Kennebec and Penobscot watersheds and water quality monitoring in Maine salmon rivers by the DEP. The Committee also heard presentations concerning the Greenland fishery in 2001, issues relating to forestry and Atlantic salmon habitat protection, and Project SHARE habitat protection and restoration activities on the Downeast Rivers.

The Committee's Work Is Far From Complete

During the recent meeting in Portland, it became clear to this writer that the National Research Council has much more research to conduct in the next nine months, since the Committee on Atlantic Salmon in Maine has received little or no information pertaining to ongoing and potential Atlantic salmon restoration programs on the Saco, Androscoggin, Union, Saint Croix, Aroostook, and Meduxnekeag rivers and Prestile Stream. It must be emphasized that the Committee's "Statement of Task" does not specifically mention any individual rivers - their charge is to review all available scientific information on the status of Maine Atlantic salmon populations, and, where relevant, in adjacent areas.

The Committee has not scheduled a fifth visit to Maine, but, if they do we should all urge them to visit the Saco, Androscoggin, Union, Saint Croix and Aroostook County rivers to gather pertinent scientific information pertaining to those watersheds, and to speak with and those individuals involved in Atlantic salmon recovery efforts at the grass roots level!

To have your questions answered or to contact Ed, write to:
**Ed Baum, Fisheries Consultant, Atlantic Salmon Unlimited,
PO Box 6185, Hermon, ME USA 04402-6185 or E-mail
address: ASUnlimitd@aol.com or visit his website at:
maineatlanticsalmon.com**

Sibilia Award Trip, April 1 - 3, 2002 by Dan Bonville

Nick Sibia, Tom DeBruin and I made the trip out of Key West Florida with Captain Wally Albrecth traveling almost to the Dry Tortugas, to fish with flyrods for false albacore, black fin tuna, permit, yellowtail snappers, blue runners, and barracuda. Speeding along in Captain Wally's 27 foot walk-around fishing boat with a 250 hp outboard, we put over 300 miles under our feet to travel out to the shrimp fleet to obtain three bushels of chum and to fish over reefs and wrecks in water so green and clear that we could see schools of many species of fish in depths 30 and 40 feet deep.

We caught six species of hard-fighting speedy gamefish but you never know what's going to come up to the chum. There were groupers, mangrove snappers, jewfish, and sharks at each fishing spot as well as rolling tarpon and loggerhead turtles.

Ten weight rods were OK but the false albacore, permit, and blackfins really stressed both rods and fisherman so Nick and I used 12 weight rods. All in all, our time both in the boat and ashore was wonderful. And we'd all like to go back. If you decide to do such a trip, whatever you do, don't forget to take about a dozen Del Brown Permit crab flies and a dozen good sized white bodied Deceivers or Spanish flies, it could mean the difference

between success or failure. Tight lines.

SRSC Fishing Trips By RJ Mere

We have several trips coming up soon after we close down the hatchery for this season. Be sure to call the organizers well in advance of the trip date so that proper arrangements can be made to accommodate everyone. Watch this section of the Salmon Run in future issues for updates and new trip listings.

May 11: Fry stocking.

John Cadwallader 207-985-6199

May 17-19: West Branch of the Delaware, NY.

John Cadwallader 207-985-6199

**May 31-June 2: North Branch of the Dead River,
Carrabassett River.**

Dan Bonville 207-625-7693

June 6-9: Big Lake and Grand Lake Stream.

Bill Winward 207-773-1673

July (TBA): Penobscot River, Lincoln.

Dan Bonville 207-625-7693

September 19-25: Penobscot River, Big Eddy Campground.

John Cadwallader 207-985-6199

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:

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

Visit our website at www.sacosalmon.org

Editors: Dan Bonville and RJ Mere