

The Salmon Run

May/June 2011

A publication of the Saco River Salmon Club



Saco River Salmon Club, P.O. Box 115, Saco, Maine 04072
Visit our website: www.sacosalmon.com

From the President's Corner

By RJ Mere

A busy personal schedule delayed the May/June issue of The Salmon Run but here it is! We have some catching up to do.

The Annual Banquet held in April was well attended and it was the best year to date for raising funds for the hatchery. Jim and Holly Black did a great job organizing the Banquet Committee, assigning tasks, coordinating printing materials and that was just leading up to the banquet! Jim and Holly and their small army of dedicated volunteers kept the evening running smoothly and on schedule. We had lots of good auction items – probably 90 percent of them were solicited by Nick Sibilica! We also had lots of innovative games of chance this year. A big Thank You to all who worked hard before, during, and after the banquet to make this one unforgettable as it was profitable.

The President's Award went to Dan LeBlond for his help and expertise on our electrical components of the hatchery and for improving the efficiency of the hatchery lights.

The fry and parr stocking went smoothly last May thanks to the volunteers who helped to drive their assigned coolers to specific stocking sites. We received good press coverage and there was even a documentary film producer to record the event to be included in his upcoming film about salmon restoration in Maine.

More volunteers came to the hatchery over the two days following the stocking to clean and to shut it down for the season. It looks neat as a pin; thanks to everyone who showed up for the cleanup.

It's been all quiet on the email announcement front from us for the past few weeks but look in your email inbox shortly for some requests to help with some stream barrier work. US Fish and Wildlife Service, Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Atlantic Salmon Federation, and the Saco River Salmon Club are in meetings to prioritize

the locations.

The Club's officers and directors are working on improving the hatchery to expand its capabilities as well as making it more efficient. Details will follow in the next issue of The Salmon Run.

Club members have already enjoyed a few of the trips this summer. Dan Bonville, Fred Pierce, Mark Fohlin, and I fished the famed Prestile Stream in Presque Isle a few weeks back; we caught lots of brook trout. I took a break from catching fish to pick nearly four pounds of fiddleheads. We all returned to our motel room tired and beat from the long day of fishing only to hear a "working girl" through the thin walls in the next room. We left the room to find something to eat somewhere downtown Presque Isle and she was still "working" when we got back – right up to 10:30 pm! I made my regular weekly call my 84 year old mom and shared that little tidbit of gossip with her. Ever the optimist, she said with a chuckle, "Well, in these [hard economic] times people are just trying everything to make a living!" There are four more scheduled club trips left between now and October. Please check the listing by Dan Bonville at the end of this newsletter.

We have a batch of quality hats for sale and Garry Kasten came up with an advertising blurb and we are all hopeful that the hats will fly off the shelves. Look for Garry's ad later in this issue.

Also later in this issue is an article by Ed

Fortier about streamside ethics. We have a lot of positive feedback about his articles over the past several months and we are proud to present another of his writings in this issue.

Membership Update 7/7/11

By Garry Kasten

Our current club membership is 191 members. Approximately 34 members have not yet renewed their membership for 2011. Membership numbers are very important for the club when we write grant proposals because it shows support for the club and its objectives. If you have any questions about the status of your membership, please e-mail me at gkasten22@msn.com. Your membership can be renewed on our website at www.sacosalmon.com using PayPal or a credit card. It is not necessary to fill out an application if your personal information has not changed. Otherwise, please mail a check to the Saco River Salmon Club, PO Box 115, Saco, ME 04072 and I will update our data base and send you an acknowledgement for your membership and contributions. Thank you for continuing to support our club and its objectives.

Volunteer Update

By Garry Kasten

The Saco River Salmon Club is an all volunteer non-profit organization. As of July 7, 2011, we have 113 volunteers who continue to contribute to the club by volunteering their valuable spare time. Our volunteer

time log as of 5/25/11 indicates that volunteers have contributed 1570 hours since the first of the year. Thank you to all our volunteers that have helped keep our club in operation this year.

Westbrook Stream Update

By Garry Kasten

July 7, 2011 Westbrook is a stream in Biddeford, ME, that flows between West Street and the tidal Saco River. There are two IFW approved stocking sites for fry in this stream. Some fry were stocked in Westbrook at West Street and some were stocked above the water falls at a site near the end of Parkside Drive. We were curious to see what the river flow looked like from West Street to the mouth of the river. Unfortunately, we were surprised to find 4 significant obstructions in water flow that were down river of the two stocking sites and all the obstructions also cause massive flooding during heavy stream flow. After 12 fun filled hours, two of the significant obstructions have been removed with the help of Charles Borg. There are two pieces of good news. First, the stream is flowing much better in both locations and second, we found that Charles' Husqvarna chainsaw will run under water (oops) and still be operational after being retrieved. (I have to get one of those!). The bad news is that after revisiting the first major blockage that Charles and I had cleared, somebody had thrown some of our sawed up wood back into the stream and it was again partially clogged. It took another hour of hard labor to clear the obstructions again. There are at least two major obstructions yet to clear and some minor ob-

structions down stream from the waterfall. Also, the stream has to be checked from West Street to the Parkside Drive stocking point. We have something to do in our spare time! We are hoping that by improving the flow rates, it will enable our wild Atlantic salmon to migrate down stream when they are ready to leave Westbrook and head into the lower Saco River and to the ocean.

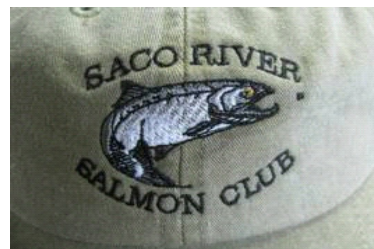
Saco River Salmon Club Hats for Sale

By Garry Kasten

We have a limited number of quality embroidered hats available for sale to club members and associates. Please also consider purchasing these hats as presents for friends and relatives. In stock are 32 long bill caps (especially good for dealing with the setting sun) and 55 standard bill caps.



These hats are available on a first come, first serve basis. We will sincerely appreciate a \$23 donation per hat, which includes shipping, payable to the Saco River Salmon Club, PO Box 115, Saco, ME 04072. Or make a donation of \$23 per hat at PayPal on our website



www.sacosalmon.com and I will ship your hat to you, or to a person of your choice, by first class mail as soon as I receive your payment. Please specify if you wish a long bill or short bill hat.

I will look forward to receiving your orders soon and I will mail them out as soon as possible.

Excuse Me!

By Ed Fortier

Despite the hot August morning, the warmth of the sun reflecting off the tall sandstone bluff on the far side of the river felt comforting in contrast to the high-forty degree waters of northern New Mexico's San Juan River. Flowing from the bottom of the Navajo Lake Dam, the river provides several miles of top quality trout fishing in the pleasant dry climate of the surrounding high desert country, and is known as one of the finest trout fisheries in the world, both for the size and number of trout. Due to its popularity it is heavily fished, but there always room for everyone whether as a stationary or wandering type angler, and as many years that I have fished it, I never had a problem with other anglers; that is, until this one particular incident.

I was standing along the edge of a thirty yard run and had been fishing for ten minutes or so when another angler approached the lower part of the run, but from the opposite side of the river, and I didn't think much of it as there was plenty of water for both of us. The size eighteen Hare's Ear Nymph began its rising swing when a nineteen inch rainbow rose up and took. I set the hook and while focused on working the fish, noticed this angler stopped fishing and was wading across the stream and moving upstream towards me with an obvious destination in mind. I hadn't even landed the fish and this guy was already casting to the spot I had hooked this one. After landing it, I realized there wasn't enough room to make a decent cast or drift, because this guy was in my way, so I was very obvious in shaking my head and chuckling while remarking, "I don't believe it!", and moved off to another part of the stream

Was this ignorance or was he a product of the me generation? I don't know, but this lack of stream manners, at least in my observations has become much more common in recent years and yet there has always been a code of ethics since Theodore Gordon's era of the eighteen hundreds. Traditionally it was considered just part of the sport and was taught early on in the sport right along with casting and other aspects the novice needed to acquire.

At the age of five, my dad started me out fishing with bait on very small brooks where I learned the basics of trout fishing, along with two simple rules. Always kill and clean the trout as soon as it was landed, and to hopscotch the brook, well away from the water so each had new and undisturbed water to fish. Nothing too complicated. But by the time I was ten and into fly fishing, it was a different situation. When it came to fishing the larger streams where there were more anglers than I was accustomed to I simply didn't know how to act. But dad stayed close by me those earlier times and was constantly emphasizing the practice of good manners, and it didn't take long to realize that just being considerate and respectful solved most situations. But there were specific guidelines then which are just as applicable today.

The first person fishing a run or pool has the right to that piece of water, and it doesn't make any difference if he is fishing upstream or downstream, it is inconsiderate to start fishing ahead of him. Where to enter the stream depends on the size of the river, and the conditions, but usually a hundred feet would be respectful to the other angler.

Whenever we come upon another angler who is stationary or slow moving, we should quietly wade out of the stream well away from him, and move well up on the bank away from the angler and out of sight of any trout. Never wade noisily by or come too close to the holding water, especially wearing bright, reflective clothing; this will only put the fish down.

We all love to lean over a bridge and watch a fly fisherman working a pool, but it would be more considerate if we stationed ourselves on one of the stream banks well away from the angler. This is especially important if the angler is working over rising trout. Even then, we should ask if it bothers him with us watching.

Never enter a pool that is being fished without asking first. This is a common situation we hit on some of the more popular streams today (it was no different fifty years ago).

If you come across an angler sitting by a pool just observing, he has the right to that water and you should ask permission before attempting to fish. He may be just resting the pool or studying it before starting to fish. Again, walk by him well away from the stream to avoid disturbing it.

Traditionally the dry fly fisherman working upstream has the right of way over the angler fishing downstream. Theory is that the dry fly man disturbs the water less.

If invited to go fishing by another angler never bring along another friend unless you ask permission first. If you're fishing a larger stream together, this usually doesn't present a problem being large enough to accommodate two fishermen. But if it is a smaller

type river, then you should hopscotch the pools so each is always fishing new water.

Never rush ahead of another fisherman to reach a piece of water first. This is childish and inconsiderate.

Noisy and sloppy wading near the principle lies of the trout is poor manners, even if no one else is fishing it. The disturbance will put down the trout for hours, which is unfair to any angler following you. We should move slowly and patiently.

Generosity is an asset to any sport and I can still recall when I was a youngster the many incidents when an old timer would give me words of encouragement or maybe some sound advice along the stream and how it would lift my youthful spirits to persist and work harder at the game.

Offering a productive fly to an angler whose luck has been poor only makes the day more gratifying. Selfishness doesn't belong on the stream.

As we can see, stream ethics are just simple common sense thinking. Other sports have their own code of ethics just as fishing does, and the reasons for them are very clear. When respect and consideration of your fellow comrade starts being neglected, the sport itself begins to deteriorate.

Club Trips for 2011

By Dan Bonville

There are some changes that will effect where we will have our Club trips this year so please check this listing in each issue of our newsletter and our calendar page on our website. Please call Dan, 207-625-7693, unless otherwise indicated:

July, 16 and 17:

BBQ and family picnic, fishing and swimming: Bonny Eagle Lake, Buxton, at Dan LeBlond's camp. Spend Saturday night or arrive by 9:00 am. Email info@sacoslmon.com for directions and details. Sleep over Saturday night or come early on Sunday, July 17 for BBQ. Directions are on our website.

July, 23: Striper fishing: Hills Beach, Biddeford, at RJ's cottage. 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Email info@sacosalmon.com or call RJ (207)985-4420 for directions and details.

August 20: Gold Panning and trout fishing: East Branch of the Swift River and surrounding rivers: Coos Canyon Campground. Contact RJ.

October 1-8, Cast and Blast for salmon and partridge: Steve Berry's camp on the Moose River.

Submit your short article for "The Salmon Run." General interest stories, recipes for fly tying or foods are welcomed. Send to RJ Mere, 9 York St., Kennebunk, ME, 04043 or email to rjmere@gwi.net

Application for membership
Saco River Salmon Club
"Dedicated to fisheries restoration"

Date: _____

Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Where did you hear about us? _____

Individual Family Student Senior Life Business
\$20 \$30 \$10 \$10 \$300 \$125

Dues: _____

Hatchery Fund Contribution: _____

Total Amount Enclosed: _____

I WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER TO HELP IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS :

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> BOARD OF DIRECTORS | <input type="checkbox"/> NEWS LETTER |
| <input type="checkbox"/> HATCHERY OPERATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> HYDROPOWER ISSUES |
| <input type="checkbox"/> STOCKING | <input type="checkbox"/> LEGISLATION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC RELATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> MEMBERSHIP |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CLASSROOM INCUBATORS | <input type="checkbox"/> EVENTS & PROGRAMS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FUNDRAISING | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER |

Please add my name to the volunteer e-mail list so that I receive information regarding volunteer opportunities at the hatchery.

Remarks: _____

Mail to: SACO RIVER SALMON CLUB, P.O. BOX 115, SACO, ME 04072

Phone: (207) 282-6985

Website: www.sacosalmon.com

Email at: info@sacosalmon.com