

May/June 2010

# The Salmon Run

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](http://www.sacosalmon.com)**

## *From the President's Corner*

By RJ Mere

This is a short issue of the Salmon Run; we have stocked all the fry and parr, cleaned all the incubators, feeding trays, and have completed all of the Fish Friends Program school tours and stockings, and the hatchery is effectively shut down until the winter season later this year.

To summarize the 2009/2010 season: it was a success but not without its moments of stress and quick changes for the fish and for our hatchery. We had a persistent problem with saprolegniaceae, a white fungus that attached itself to the fins and gills of our parr. John Blunt, our hatchery manager, worked with US Fish and Wildlife Service North Attleboro hatchery manager, Larry Lofton, to mitigate the problem. It was a long and careful process but John was able to get the fungus under control by the time the parr were ready for stocking. Good work, John, and many thanks to you and to Larry for helping us through this issue.

The Fish Friends Program was successful for the schools that participated in it this year. With school budget cutbacks and other issues we had a total of six schools participating in the program this year. Dayton Consolidated School, Marshwood Middle School of South Berwick, Memorial Elementary School of New Gloucester, Plummer Motz of Falmouth, St. Brigid School of Portland, and Kennebunk Middle School successfully raised egg to fry Atlantic salmon. After touring the Cataract Dam fish lift and our hatchery facility all salmon fry were released in the Saco River watershed. Needless to say, this is an important aspect of our mission and we need to expand this to many more of the schools in York and Cumberland County. If you want to get in on this exciting and educational program, contact me and we will start planning for the 2010/2011 season.

So, what happens between now, closing the hatchery until the next season, and the long languid days of summer? We party! The Saco River Salmon Club has had the good fortune of having an adventurer as our Program Director and he, Dan Bonville, in the

past has taken us to Yellowstone National Park, Alaska, Florida, not to mention familiar and remote places in Maine. Dan has organized trips to the Deerfield River in Massachusetts, the Housatonic River in Connecticut, the classic fly fishing waters of the Beaverkill, the Willowemoc, Delaware and West Branch of the Delaware rivers in New York. Due to the downturn in our national and local economy, we are keeping our trips close to Maine this year. Be sure to check out our club trips later in this issue and also on our website, [www.sacosalmon.com](http://www.sacosalmon.com)

Be sure to contact the appropriate person for each trip. We keep these excursions as cheap and fun as possible.

Another task during the summer, not as exciting as fishing for brookies and landlocked salmon, is finding funding for the hatchery expansions and research projects we need to ensure our relevance and goals in Atlantic salmon restoration. We spent over \$10,000 to expand the hatchery to rear over 12,500 parr and over 450,000 fry this year. We will try to find a foundation to support our program along with other necessary projects for next year. Now is the time to contact us for volunteering to write grants and fundraising. This summer, we need to seek out the funds available to help pay for our restoration program. Please contact me this summer and we'll get started for paying for 2010 season and for our 2011 needs.

## *Our goals and a membership drive update*

by Garry Kasten

Our mission is to restore a free running natural population of wild Atlantic salmon to the Saco River. We work closely and cooperatively with local, state, federal, and international organizations in our efforts to achieve this goal. We are funded exclusively through club member dues, donations and support from area businesses and foundations.

This year we incubated, hatched, and stocked over 400,000 fry. We also fed and released 12,500 undersized parr / smolts into the upper Saco River. Area schools participate in our Fish Friends program from January through May.

In addition, we have been involved with negotiating upstream and downstream passage agreements for the adult salmon and other species of sea-run fish native to the Saco watershed, including American shad, American eel, blue back herring and alewives. We host tours at our hatchery, bringing in hundreds of school age students, boy scouts, girl scouts, university students, interns, interested groups and individuals who want to learn more about the Atlantic salmon.

During the year, we monitor returning adult salmon and work with biologists from the Maine Department of Marine Resources Bureau of Sea-Run Fisheries and Habitat by conducting habitat surveys and work to im-

prove spawning and rearing habitat within the watershed.

We will be contacting former club members, within the next couple of months, who have not renewed their memberships. Please re-consider renewing your membership to support our club. If you have any questions about the status of your membership, please e-mail me at [info@sacosalmon.com](mailto:info@sacosalmon.com) or at [gkasten22@msn.com](mailto:gkasten22@msn.com)

### *Membership and Volunteer update*

by Garry Kasten

As of the end of May 29, 2010, we have 120 members with current memberships and 121 volunteers who logged in 1874 hours so far this year. I wish to thank all of our members, volunteers and donors for continuing to support the Saco River Salmon Club hatchery and help us to achieve the clubs objectives.

### *Wish List*

by Garry Kasten

We are in need of a used lawn mower to mow the back lawn at the hatchery. It does not need to have a bag attachment since we only mulch the grass. It can be as small as 19" wide since it is only a small area to mow. Front or rear wheel drive would be handy, but if it is a light machine we can pull it up the hills. If you have a mower you are not using but it still functions and you

are willing to donate it to the hatchery, give me a call at 207-283-4003 or e-mail me at [gkasten22@msn.com](mailto:gkasten22@msn.com) so I can arrange to have it picked up. I will give you a receipt for the donation. Thank you.

### *2010 club trips and events*

By Dan Bonville

This calendar gets regular updates as the season progresses so watch for more dates coming soon. Also if you would like to post a club trip or event please contact us at the address found on the membership application page. Be sure to call me at 207-625-7693, in advance of each trip to let me know if you are attending. We share the cooking of meals by teams to help make it an enjoyable outing.

**June 11 thru 13** – Art LeBlanc’s camp in the Rangeley area.

**June 19** Stripers with RJ Mere. Wade fishing around Hills Beach.

**July 9 thru 11** – Gold panning with RJ Mere. Searching for gold. We will combine river and pond fishing with gold panning in two locations in the Eustis area this year.

**October 2 thru 10** – Steve Berry’s camps. Fish East and West Outlet and hunt for partridge and woodcock.

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](http://www.sacosalmon.com)

Email at: [info@sacosalmon.com](mailto:info@sacosalmon.com)