

# 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

## From the President's Corner by Jack Parker

Early on Saturday, September 6, more than 120 area youths gathered at the York County Fish and Game Club in Lyman to participate in the fourth annual Maine Youth Field Day. The event was sponsored by regional outdoor organizations including ours. Bob Monroe organized a fly-casting clinic in which everyone in attendance was invited to get hands-on instruction in the basics of hook and feather angling. Having fun in helping Bob make this a big success were Lionel Bouthot, Dick Neal and yours truly. Many other outdoor sport demonstrations made for a full, rewarding day for the kids aged 8 to 15 and their families. We thank all parties who either worked at or donated to this great day.

Our thanks also to the Maine Atlantic Salmon Commission for recommending that 20,000 salmon parr from USFW Green Lake hatchery be stocked in the Saco within the next few weeks. The 2004 allotment of eggs for our hatchery will be voted on at the October meeting of the salmon commission's technical advisory committee. This year to date the returning salmon count in Biddeford is 35 fish. We feel most of these were from our hatchery fry stocked in 1999. We'll know more once the biology reports are done.

Our social meetings resumed on September 16, at the Trinity Episcopal Church on Route 1 in Saco. The next will be on Tuesday, October 14, featuring another popular Dan Bonville slide show. Please mark your calendar and enjoy the evening with us.

## FFIM Spring Conclave Revenues Donated to SRSC and TU By Dan Tarkinson (taken from Dan Tarkinson's website)

Portland, Maine - June 30, 2003 - Fly Fishing In Maine (FFIM) held its Spring Conclave event June 20-22 at Casey's Spencer Bay Camps on Moosehead Lake. The event raised over \$1500.00 which is being donated to the Saco River Salmon Club and Trout Unlimited's Youth Program in Maine. The event was attended by nearly 100 fly fishing enthusiasts hailing from Maine to as far away as Maryland and Montana. Over 600 tickets were sold for the general raffle, in which fly rods, wading jackets, autographed books, and fishing trips were among the over 60 items that were raffled off. Additionally, lucky angler Aaron

Walden of Brewer, Maine took home a brand new Old Town Predator Kayak, while Nick Chandler of Topsfield, Massachusetts won an authentic Carrie Stevens Gray Ghost.



The event kicked off on Saturday morning, with a wonderful slideshow presentation on area fishing opportunities by Danny Legere of the Maine Guide Fly Shop in Greenville.

Danny talked about the area rivers, hatches, and the techniques that can be used to achieve success there. Following the presentation, R.W. Brown of Livingston, Montana held a fly tying



class, in which he shared many useful tips and techniques for tying flies in a wide variety of sizes and styles. Mr. Brown, a renowned national fly tier, has the distinction of having his flies appear in the popular 1990's movie "A River Runs Through It". Matt Lambert, a class participant, has this to say about the instruction, "I've been tying flies all my life and thought I knew just about everything, but Ron really showed me some tips and tricks that have improved my tying immensely!"

In the afternoon, there were casting demos available for folks to try out rods from Orvis, Sage, Temple Fork Outfitters and Thomas and Thomas. Orvis representative, John Shaner, was on hand with a full selection of fly rods and worked with many folks to improve their casting techniques. Following the tying class and casting demos, many folks headed off to fish for the evening, while others stayed behind to enjoy the large pot of baked beans provided compliments of the campground. The evening brought two very exciting activities, the raffle drawings, followed by a intimate lakeside book reading by Maine author Jim Babb.

Events wrapped up on Sunday with R.W. Brown conducting a streamside fishing class on the East Outlet of the Kennebec River. Mr. Brown taught participants how to improve their casting and presentation, how to read the water, fly selection and many other useful skills. Dan Tarkinson, publisher of FlyFishingInMaine.com, says "We are very pleased with the success of our first event. Everyone I talked with had a wonderful time, learned a lot, and met some great fellow fly fishers. We are really looking forward to making next year's event bigger and better".

A special thanks to all those companies and individuals who donated raffle items contributing to the events success! Also thanks to all those whose hard work made this event possible...including, but not limited to: tim\_s, brookie, fly tier, maineguide and oldguide. Thanks!!!

Editors note: This event and the resulting revenues donated to our club and to Trout Unlimited was the result of a lot of work by Dan Tarkinson. The Saco River Salmon Club sincerely thanks Dan for all of his effort and generosity.

## **Alaska 2003** **By Dan Bonville**

On August 25, Mark Fohlin, Larry Orme, Bill Winward, and Dan Bonville flew up to Petersburg, Alaska to experience the Southeast as it is called, in all of its beauty and its fury. Jim Fawcett and son, Jamey, flew in 2 weeks later and Tom Elliott and Al Hodson the week after that.

Fall and winter are the rainy season for the Southeast, thus the temperate rainforests that extend all the way from the California coast up through Oregon, Washington, British Columbia and Alaska.

On the island, Mitkof, Petersburg is a lovely commercial fishing and logging town of approximately 3000 people year round. Its canneries bring in even larger populations to process the salmon, crab, codfish, rockfish, and halibut fisheries, and recently logging was re-opened.

Our hosts, Grant and Lila Trask, owners of Das Hagedorn Haus, their lovely Bed and Breakfast, helped us in so many ways (picking us up at the airport, dropping us off, lending us a couple of coolers, etc.), that a simple thank you doesn't seem enough.

We stayed at Das Hagedorn Haus at the beginning and end of

each week off into the wilderness and for the whole last week of our trip. Grant and Lila made us feel right at home and part of the extended Petersburg family.

Alaska isn't just a fishing trip, it is a whole experience, with sightings of Alexander Archipelago wolves, black bears, sand hill cranes, eagles, ducks, geese, a sea lion and a rare sighting of a lynx, not to mention huge sea tides, getting stormed into Portage Bay with 50 knot winds and five to seven foot waves, airplane rides in a Beaver and rain and more rain. We did have two and a half days of sun and then we saw sharp-pointed mountain peaks separated by huge glaciers and icebergs floating out in Frederick Sound and down into the Wrangell Narrows in front of town.

I took seven rolls of slides with three different cameras and could have taken a dozen more but had to take time out to fly fish for silver salmon, Pink salmon, chum salmon, immature king salmon, called simply 'jacks' as well as sea run Dolly Varden, char, and rainbow and cutthroat trout with a smattering of small steelhead and river-raised rainbows and cutthroats.

I'll be doing a slideshow at our October meeting so I'll be seeing you there. It looks to be another good upcoming year for the Salmon Club. I'm looking forward to it.

## **Hope to See You Both Soon** **By Dan and Sandy Bonville**

John and Roe Cadwallader have retired and are off for their farm in Vermont, and I just wanted to say good luck and thanks for these last 18 years that we have been good friends and close workers for the Saco River Salmon Club. Your lives have enriched the lives of many of us not the least of which is Sandy and me and of our nephews, Tom and Mike Elliott, who were just young boys when you came into our lives. We wish all the best for you both in the future.

## **A Kah Sheets Experience** **By Jim Fawcett**

I tied on a Double Egg Sperm fly, mostly because it was pretty. Then, the guys back home said it was a good pattern and the Hump backs seemed to be taking egg-type flies.

The air temperature was around 50-52, water temperature, 56 degrees Fahrenheit. It was cloudy, drizzling, perhaps (it was usually raining, just stopped raining, or getting ready to start again). It didn't matter. We were having fun.

I cast my pretty fly across and downstream. Near the end of my drift came a soft bump-bump-bump. Sort of like a 10-inch brookie taking a worm off the bottom. I set the hook.

I don't remember much about that fight. We caught so many; it is almost like a blur in my mind. Across stream, splash, upstream, downstream, splash! Will my knots hold? Will he go below that riffle? They have teeth. Will he fray my leader before I get him in?

As the fish was winding down, Mark Fohlin came waling by in the shallow gravel bed area near me. "I've brought you good luck, Jim," said Mark. He then took my picture with the fish and helped me unhook him. We released him - a fine looking male Hump back or Pink salmon. Mark continued to bring me luck several more times just by walking past me as I worked my fly.

We were fishing Kah Sheets Creek on Kupreanof Island, 24 miles south of Petersburg, Alaska. I was with Dan Bonville, Mark, and my son, Jamie. It was a first-time trip to Alaska for my son and me and we learned so much about Southeast Alaska, Petersburg, the rain forests of Alaska's 'inside passage', and the salmon. I could go on and on about how important the salmon are, ecologically and economically. That's a separate course all in itself.

It was 25 paces from our cabin door to the creek's edge. You could step into the water right there and catch a salmon. You could watch them make their redds and see their eggs. You could watch their courtship, reach down and touch them. We did all this. You could say that we lived along side them for five days as they did what they had to do.

We got rained on often. We felt the soft, spongy, water-saturated soil under our feet. We smelled this sweet forest. Also, we smelled the dead salmon that collected along the shoreline. Where there were lots of redds, we could smell the multitude of eggs and sperm of spawning salmon. The sound of the creek was always present - dropping over a ledge, gurgling over rocks and gravel.

A salmon jumps, a raven shrieks, an eagle cries, a gull crackles. A black bear silently disappears into the dark forest. A salmon with no skin on its back slowly swims by, heading upstream, turns, and drifts back down. I describe him as "bewildered". It's a "bewildered"; all over for him, but he is still alive. It begins to rain.



No one else is here! Just our party of four, living in a little cabin by the creek with the bare necessities. I take it all in, a deep breath, and I wonder, "Did Maine used to be this way, a long time ago"?

Bump, bump, bump! Whoops! Here we go again. Thanks, Dan. It was Terrific!

Here is a 70 pound King Salmon caught by Grant Trask on F/V Hazel B., Shelikof Bay, near Sitka, Alaska, on July 1, 2002.



Above photos taken by Harvey & Victoria Patry on fishing trip to Alaska Sept. 2003 Notice the structural differences on the two fish. The bottom fish is in full red spawning color with the hook jaw.

## 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 \$

**Submit your short article for "The Salmon Run."**

Send to RJ Mere, 9 York St., Kennebunk, ME, 04043 or email to [rjmere@gwi.net](mailto:rjmere@gwi.net)