

September 2004

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*

As I write this, six consecutive days of glorious weather disguise autumn's imminent approach. A few miles west the Acton Fair is in full swing, signaling curtain time for the summer of 2004. Although our hatchery closed in July our things-to-do list persists.

The fry we held back to stock as next year's smolts now bear distinctive parr markings and weigh about 200 per pound, 50 percent more than in July. Mortality has been slight reports Pine Tree Hatchery owner Bob Marsh, who regularly removes the few 'sleepers' he finds. In recent years USFW has drastically reduced smolt stocking in the Saco, resulting in dwindling numbers of returning fish. Thus far this year seventeen fish have returned and we suspect most are wild fish or were stocked as fry. The diminishing returns directly reflect the need for more smolts and our hatchery is working to provide them – more and harder than ever. For the restoration to progress our stocking program must be consistent – nature will provide variables enough!

This month we will start preparing for next year's eggs. Dave Fenderson will bring his commercial steam cleaner and our hatchery crew will scour the incubator trays, feeding troughs, and the four basement 4000-gallon water treatment and supply tanks. Time permitting; we will do some preventive and corrective maintenance to improve our 2005 operations.

We will resume our fall supper meetings at the Trinity Church in Saco on Wednesday, September 22 at 6:00pm. Once again Lynne Jackson will serve up a delectable dinner for us, and after a short business meeting, Cal Robinson will present one of his popular programs. The supper dates for the rest of the year will all start at 6:00pm on Wednesdays. Mark these dates on your calendar: Oct 20, Dec 8, Jan 19, Feb 16, and Mar 16. For a suggested donation of 7 bucks you won't find a better meal in the area. Dessert donations are welcome again.

Lastly, we are remiss in acknowledging your membership payments and contributions this year. We have reasons but no excuses and our highest priority is to rectify the situation this month. We have new cards and decals to send to all paid-up members and plan to mail them PDQ. Thanks for your patience.

The Friends of Green Lake Hatchery *By Jack Parker*

A few days ago Harvey Patry and I took a 400-mile day trip to Ellsworth to attend the newly formed Friends of Green Lake's first open house. As Green Lake houses the brood fish that spawn all the eggs we receive, and has undergone recent pressures to stop this program, we felt it incumbent to demonstrate our hatchery's support in person. I'm glad we did. At a well attended gathering, staffers Jerry Marancik and Fred Trasko showed us building that houses 300 plus magnificent adult fish, which spawn 1.3 million eggs per year for our and other programs including aquarium programs in about 150 Maine elementary school classrooms.

We took the opportunity to toss a few feed pellets to these beauties, which were to be discarded along with their offspring earlier this year to cut hatchery costs. Thanks to efforts of many Green Lake supporters, many in our organization, our congressional delegation, and USFW management took action to preserve them. You all deserve to be proud that they survived. May Green Lake and its many friends prosper.

Help Needed at the Hatchery *Bob Monroe and Dave Fenderson*

Wednesday, September 15, we need as many hands as we can get to steam clean the On hatchery trays and the holding tanks in the cellar. The steam cleaner does a great job and dramatically reduces the time necessary to do this important job. Dave Fenderson is providing the cleaner again this year and he has concocted a new biodegradable soap with a disinfectant. This job should take three hours to complete not several days, as it used to. AND the BIG bonus is that coffee and famous TONY'S DONUTS will be available to all. Come have some fun, help the club, and more importantly, create a clean place for next year's eggs. Come even if you can only spare an hour. Thanks to all.

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