

September 2007

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 John Blunt

Summer is over and another hatchery season is rapidly approaching. The directors have been working on many projects since shutdown. Behind the scenes Dick Neal is updating the bylaws for a future membership vote, Harold Potter and many members placed temperature loggers and did ongoing stream surveys. Garry Kasten worked on repairs, yard work, and also completed logging this years hatchery hours totaling 1,700, and R.J. updated membership. Ron Lewis and Rey Dussault are working on drainage, with Garry again, detailing a list of membership talent. Don't be surprised if you receive a call from Uncle Garry for service.

This year I hope our club can duplicate the many goals achieved last year. The fish friends, high school seniors, and primary school field trips combined to get our message out to over 2,000 juniors. Thank you to Dan, Rey, Garry, Skip, and all the others that helped.

The hatchery success is another whole story. Survival averaged 94% from a starting point of 830,000 eggs. That computes to 780,000 fry stocked. The runoff receded early and stocking commenced and ended in May. Our fish were the largest ever 2,000—2,300 fish per pound, reaching a goal Dave Bean set for us seven years ago. New habitat had to be found fast and it was. I'm betting the cool summer helped give them all a good start.

On a lighter note, I am happy to report that my spring fishing trip to the D. C. area with Carolyn was a possible "success". We visited the usual tourist sites, Museum of Natural History flower show of orchids, no less, and the recently built Museum of the Atlantic housing the original Monitor and rebuilt Virginia ironclads. We also saw the siege of Petersburg battlefields and drove Lee's retreat roads to Appomattox.

Finally, fishing on a great spring day was enjoyed at the Gunpowder River. We have been there before and appreciate the quiet park area. I knew enough to start with nymphs, so I tied on tandem bead head pheasant tails to both our rods a headed downhill. Carolyn walking downstream, I went upstream, every man for himself.

Two hours later we met. All I could report, was having one good run with a brown ending with an LDR. She had caught two and was not ready to quit. When I asked what she was using her response was, "what you gave me." This satisfied my ego and I headed back upstream, more determined. There was a

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deep pool on the bend and I knew if I persisted, Lady Luck would be on my side. Later, hearing voices, I headed downstream to find my wife landing a brown, to the applause of three male anglers. Wow, nice job I said and again asked, "what are you using?"

"What you gave me," She said.

"Great," I replied.

Later, sitting on the tail gate, tugging to pull my neoprene off, she handed me her rod to breakdown. Wait a minute dear, this isn't the fly I gave you. Yes it is, you gave it to me last fall! Hmmmm, I'm thinking technical details, thanks Joyce. "Anyway, what made you decide on the Prince Nymph?" I asked.

"I wanted to give them something they could see," and right there for the first time I saw Carolyn's competitive smile. Chivalry isn't dead in our family but it has taken on a new twist.

The directors and I hope to see many of you at our September dinner meeting. We are planning to have many great speakers this year, and hope you are prepared to share many bent rod stories with us. Tight Lines

Sept. 19 Marks First Social Meeting of the Fall Season

By RJ Mere

September 19 marks the first social meeting we'll have after a long summer of vacation. Rob Cotiaux is returning as guest speaker. Rob's topic is Bow Hunting Deer. He is a registered Maine guide and is a member of many organizations. Rob always puts on a great show and we are looking forward to him starting off our fall season. Please join us September 19 at 6:00 p.m. at the Episcopal Church, Route 1 in Saco.

Banquet 2007 ...One for the History Books

By Jim Black

I wanted to take a minute to thank all of those that volunteered and those that attended 'Banquet 2007'. It was by all accounts our most profitable banquet on record!

The gross receipts, cash and credit cards, received totaled \$7981. Of that \$7806 are accounted for by activities directly connected to this event. The remainder was associated with membership renewals and donations in kind. For the 'bean counters' out there...the following is a breakdown of the sources of revenues, expenses, and profits:

Meals: 65 attended this event. The club paid for 6 complimentary meals. With 59 members paying \$35/pp the gross revenues were \$2065. With a meal cost of \$32/pp the net profit was <\$15>. This was expected. The price we charge for the tickets is based on the cost negotiated with Pier 77. The banquet committee remains sensitive to the price for this event and as such we never price the dinner tickets beyond what is required to achieve a break-even on the meals.

Live Auction: We had gross revenues of \$2225. Our only cost was the framing of 3 prints. The net profit from the live auction was \$2009.

Silent Auction: Gross revenues were \$1210. As was the case in the live auction our only costs was the framing of 2 prints. The silent auction generated a profit of \$1066.

Canoe Raffle: Our goal was to sell a maximum of 100 tickets at \$10 each. The night of the event an ad-hoc group of directors agreed that we would pull the raffle if we could sell 75 tickets. Thanks to the generosity of one of our members (who purchased 25 tickets) we were able to raffle the canoe. Thankfully the canoe was won by that same individual! SRSC netted \$300 in profits!

Games, (Salmon Squares): We sold 66 squares at \$5/sq for a total revenue of \$330. The only expense associated with this game is a 50/50 split of the proceeds with the winner. The club netted \$165.

Advertising and promotional sales: This year we really stepped up and started selling ad space in our auction brochure (thanks Nick and Carl!). This effort yielded \$265 in pure profits!

Grants Camp Raffle: Thanks again to the generosity of John and Carolyn Blunt we raised \$516.....every dollar of which drops to the bottom line!

General Raffle Revenue: The sale of raffle packets and tickets to the general raffle totaled \$445.

If my math is correct, gross receipts for the evening were \$7806 and gross profits were \$4751. When we deduct the \$118 in charges incurred for processing credit card purchases the net profit on the night was an amazing \$4633!!!

Thanks again to all the volunteers and to those that attended, without your support none of this would have been possible. Tight Lines and Warm summer breezes.

Many Thanks from Dan

By Dan Bonville

As a director, a general member, and past officer of the Saco River Salmon Club, I personally want to thank my fellow members who have recently moved on and have given up their membership on our board of directors.

A big thank you to Harvey Patry who has worked tirelessly bringing in new members and for

bringing us the ads and moneys needed to keep our club and our hatchery up and running. Thank you, Lionel Bouthot for years of supporting the club and for all of your work - especially with the young people from our surrounding communities. Thank you to Bud Peck, who worked in our hatchery for many, many hours on whatever needed to be done and to Sue Poland who likewise worked day after day in our lab and with our eggs and young fry.

Thanks also to our past secretary Dr. Larry Orme who kept track of our director's meetings and always saw to it that I had something to go by to help run the meetings.

Your friendship and your help has been greatly appreciated by all of us and I know we'll be working together and just in some other capacity.

Hatchery Lab News

by Garry Kasten

A one day seminar was presented by Garry Kasten to four volunteer high school students from Cape Elizabeth High School on Thursday, May 31, 2007.

The purpose of this seminar was to instruct the students on the hatchery operations, fry stocking procedures, stream analysis for proper stocking and on the duties of the Lab Technician. This encompassed chemical analysis, mechanical checks on equipment operation, and building security procedures.

Shapleigh Pond

By Dan Bonville

Our first outing on May 5 was held on a lovely warm Saturday. Accompanying me was Fred Pierce and Mark Woodruff and his family.

It was my hope that the bluegill, redbreasted

sunfish, and crappies would be in the pre-spawn or spawning mode but even though the water temperature in the warm shallows was 57 degrees, the fish were not on the redds.

Pickereel however more than made up for it by striking at every streamer that my 3 weight fly rod put into their strike zone.

Everyone munched out on treats that Fred brought from Tony's Donut Shop and enjoyed our picnic lunches while out on the pond in canoes and kayaks.

One week of warm weather finally brought the sunnies in, so if you get a chance grab your light weight rods and head up to Shapleigh Pond. You'll have a fun filled time, I guarantee.

Cape Elizabeth Graduates Help the

By Dan Bonville

For two weeks from May 21 through June 1, four Cape Elizabeth high school seniors performed their Senior Year community service by working at the Saco River Salmon Club's hatchery.

Seniors Matt Bishop, Chris Ortengren, Davey Gruen, and Austin Brown did everything from repairing the screening on incubator trays to exterior painting, cleaning feeding troughs and biological filter tanks, to class room lectures on the work of the salmon club, its founding, the role of volunteering in the club, how we fund the hatchery, and learning about all the roles that our salmon club members fill to keep our organization up and running.

One day was spent doing stream enhancement and one afternoon was spent stocking out the last of the fry that we had kept just for their experience. Thanks goes out to RJ Mere, Nick Sibia, John Blunt, Mark Fohlin, Rey Dussault, Garry Kasten,

and to the seniors for making the two weeks a success and congratulations to the graduates.

Busy Spring and Summer Outings

By Dan Bonville

After the opening fishing trip to Shapleigh Pond in early May our summer outdoor program really took off.

Many of our members and some guests as well spent a two week period before and after Memorial Weekend up at the Berry family camp on Moose River. Again this year Steve and his Uncle Tommy welcomed us back to fish for and catch and in some cases actually feast on fresh caught trout and salmon. Again this year I was able to catch a lake trout on the fly rod and this time I brought it home with me to cook up and share with my dad.

A couple of nice salmon and one other lake trout were cooked up for all of us to enjoy as were deer steaks and lots of other great camp food. This yearly trip is always looked forward to with high expectations and remembered with great memories.

On the weekend of June 1 through June 3, we enjoyed another wonderful trip up to Chris Bond's place near Sugarloaf Mountain. Everybody caught brookies and salmon, mostly on the North Branch of the Dead River, though Chris and his companion canoed the Chain of Ponds and caught record numbers of yellow perch as well. Moose were all over the place and it was a good weekend to view and photograph wildlife.

June 8 through June 10 found another bunch of us staying at Art and Angela LeBlanc's camp up on Dodge Pond. Such great hosts they are and as usual everybody had great eats and hours of fun discussions in front of the fireplace during the late evenings. Brook trout and landlocked salmon were caught at

Middle Dam and Upper Dam in the Richardson's at Kennebago Lake, and in Kennebago River and on both the South and North Branches of the Dead River.

Saturday June 23 saw three boats on the Saco River and out around the beaches and islands at the mouth of the Saco with ten of our salmon club members fishing for stripers and blues. Fishing was slow with a few stripers landed and I actually had a blue fish on for all of two or three seconds. The bluefish were periodically busting bait upon the surface and Tom DeBruin would hurry over to the diving terns only to get a half dozen casts in before the fish would sound and come up to the surface a third of a mile away, again for only four or five minutes. Skip Paolini with his boat and crew tried patience with the bluefish and held out for the stripers that he felt were probably down on the bottom, cruising around under the bait busting blues. They landed a couple of stripers. Steve Berry and crew fished the pool and caught little but he agreed with Skip and Tom that a Northwest wind never produces many fish.

However, Fred Pierce, Larry Orme, Marty Tripp, and I still felt that the day was a beautiful outing and nobody went away unhappy. I didn't see Steve and his brother and their young friend, and Nick Sibia again after running into them up in the Biddeford Pool area but I'll bet that the day was wonderful as well.

Stripers at night in July, Stripers with Larry Orme in September and deep sea fishing in October are still to come. Hope to see you there. Tight lines!

SRSC Member Bud Peck Dies

By Nick Sibia

Frank "Bud" Peck [1917—2007]

With deep sadness we said goodbye to a friend and faithful director Frank "Bud" Peck who died in

June at the Broadwater Health Center in Townsend, Montana where he was visiting his daughter and family.

We treasure the many times we shared workdays and meetings at the SRSC hatchery, social meetings, banquets, fly tying nights, fly casting lessons, egg picking, fry feeding, Bud did it all. He lived nearby and was ever ready to assist in any project, especially when we fed our fry by hand. He often tidied up the hatchery keeping it in ship shape condition.

His talents and knowledge showed in his many projects, fly tying vises, fly rods, neatly tied flies, and especially his made to scale drift boat models which he donated to our annual banquets where they always brought top dollars for their quality. He enjoyed his garden, flower beds, his church, the Saco River Salmon Club, many friends, his family especially his grandchildren to whom he was a mentor in their love for fishing. They know it is not the fish they are after, Bud got much pleasure fishing with a fly even when he was not rewarded with a fish.

Much of this pleasure was with the beauty of Mother Nature. He often gave pleasant recollections of the Rangeley Area and Montana experiences while fishing there.

A smile instead of tears would be appropriate for Bud. He lived honestly, successfully, and completely.

We all miss you Bud.

Editor Note: Memorial service was held on Friday, July 6, at the Union Church in Biddeford Pool. Bud's daughter requested that any members who tie flies can send her a salt and fresh water fly that she is putting in a remembrance frame. Nick Sibia has offered to collect any from those who could not attend the memorial and will send them to her in Montana.

School Tours

By Dan Bonville

Our hatchery has been the scene of school children visiting and learning about the life cycle of Atlantic salmon and the Saco River Salmon Clubs commitment to rebuilding our river’s population of this beautiful king of fish.

I have led four tours so far with the help of Skip Paolini and RJ Mere. Our first tour was high school juniors and seniors from Massabesic High School.

The others were fourth and sixth graders from schools in South Portland, Falmouth, and Portland. These students took part in the Fish Friends Program, raising swim-up fry in their own classrooms, later to be released after visits to Florida Power and Light’s truck and trap and fish elevator at the mouth of the Saco River and after visiting our hatchery. From our hatchery we led the school buses up to Swan Pond Brook in Goodwin’s Mill where each student gets to stock their fry into the natural environment.

This is a wonderful program sponsored by the Atlantic Salmon Federation and FPL and the SRSC. A Great partnership!

Club Events

First Wednesday: Officer’s Meeting 7 PM at the Hatchery, Marblehead Ln, Ph. 282 6985

Third Wednesday: Social Meeting Trinity Episcopal Church, Rt 1 and Cleveland St., Saco open at 6 PM, dinner 6:30.

Sept. TBD: Striper Fish and BBQ, Goose Rocks w/ Dan and Larry Call Dan 207-625-7693

Sept. 28-30: Salmon/trout, Moose River, Steve Berry's camp

Oct 6: Deep sea fishing on Indian II, Portland



The Saco River Salmon Club Membership Form

Name:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Phone: ()

Email address:

Dues are annual - January through December

Single \$20 Family \$30 Student \$10 Senior \$10
Life \$300

Donation to hatchery \$

I would like to volunteer in the following areas:

- Board of Directors
- Hatchery Operations
- Stocking
- Public Relations
- Classroom Incubators
- Fundraising
- Newsletter
- Hydropower Issues
- Legislation
- Membership
- Events and Programs

Mail to: Saco River Salmon Club
P.O. Box 115
Saco, ME 04072

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