



Maine's Legacy



A publication of Maine's Youth Fish & Game Association
TWP .32MD Chapter 1

September 2004

Volume 2, Issue 3

Our "Maine" objective is to enhance our most precious and valuable renewable resources, our youth and our wildlife.



Designed by Charlie Mann

Atlantic Salmon Field Trips

This newsletter is intended to provide readers with a glimpse into some of the many projects that

Maine's Youth Fish and Game Association are involved with. This edition will feature an Atlantic Salmon theme. Here are six good reasons to maintain an active membership in **Maine's Youth Fish and Game Association**. Six youth members received the honor of accompanying fishery biologists as they studied the endangered Atlantic Salmon from the Penobscot River. The six are active members of **Maine's Youth Fish and Game Association** and were therefore eligible for special lotteries. Read about their adventures in this newsletter. Special thanks to Ken Beland, biologist with the Atlantic Salmon Commission and his patient crew (Dimitry Gorsky, Anna Kettell, Coley Powers, Mark Martin, Luke Whitman).



Penobscot River's Atlantic Salmon Leap Into the Future by Michelle Georgia 06/27/04

Recently, myself and two of my friends, Meagan and Ashley McGreevy were invited to go to the



Michelle Georgia and twins, Ashley and Meagan McGreevey

Atlantic Salmon Preservation By Adam Lauer, D.O. 6/27/04

"You've won the Megabucks," a strange voice



Patrick 3, Benjamin 8, Paul 9

spoke to me on the telephone. I thought this must be wrong because I don't play Megabucks.

"You've actually been selected by lottery to bring your 3 children to observe in collection of Atlantic Salmon at the Veazie power station," said Game Warden Georgia.

A wonderful opportunity, we were allowed to watch the labors of dedicated environmentalists as they work to preserve the Atlantic Salmon in the Penobscot River. Paul, Benjamin, and Patrick Lauer of Bangor were allowed onto the barge at the Veazie plant along with Game Wardens Chris Dyer, Dave Georgia and several Biologists.

Salmon are hatched in the spring far up the river. They spend two years living in the river, growing into adult salmon. Then they venture into

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Veazie Salmon Trap by **Maine's Youth Fish and Game Association**. We accompanied 4 biologists and a Game Warden as they studied the Penobscot strain of Atlantic Salmon. These fish that were once very abundant are now endangered.

The biologists showed us how the fishtrap worked in the dam. This particular morning we had 30 fish and a total of 770 had entered the fishtrap this spring.

The biologists measured each fish, took scale samples, and checked the overall health of each fish showing us healed seal bites, lamprey eel bites,

cont... from page 1 and sea lice. They also showed us if the fish were wild fish or an escapee from the salmon farms. We got to see the biologists tag and insert a data chip into each fish so that their computer system could track the fish every time they passed through a dam. Me, Ashley, and Meagan all got to take turns releasing some of the fish back into the river. The biologists took the female salmon and placed them into a special tank where they were transported to a fish hatchery in order to take their eggs so that they could be reared in a controlled environment.

All three of us would like to thank **Maine's Youth Fish and Game Association** and the **Atlantic Salmon Commission** for this learning experience. And a special thanks to my Dad for making this happen.



Resiliency Program

The Dr. Lewis S. Libby School in Milford, through Mr. Kingsbury (8th grade), has been working with **Maine's Youth Fish and Game Association** to form an outdoor resiliency program. The Old Town Police Department and the Old Town Rotary has partnered with **Maine's Youth Fish and Game Association** to build six Adirondack shelters for the purpose of teaching youth in the area about winter camping and survival.

A special thanks goes to Karla Hysman and David Cole of IP for securing all of the necessary permits from LURC. It should also be noted that between the shelters and the shooting range, total acreage donated by International Paper is now 28.3 acres. The Town of Milford is committed to supporting **Maine's Youth Fish and Game Association**. As a result, their generous cash donation will be used to support this project.



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Canoe Hullabaloo

The fishing derby, sponsored by **Maine's Youth Fish and Game Association**, was held July 11 from 10-5. Three fish were tagged by biologist Nels Kramer and Game Warden Chris Dyer. Each bass carried a cash prize of \$75, \$50, and \$25. An annual membership in the **Maine Youth Fish and Game Association** was given to each youth who participated. Although none of these tagged fish were caught, a consolation prize of \$25 was awarded to Wane Loring. Congratulations Wane!



Old Town/Orono YWCA

For two weeks this summer the **Old Town/Orono Y.M.C.A.** utilized **Maine' Youth Fish and Game Association's** facility out to Pickerel Pond under the supervision of Youth Director, Lester Cowan. Area youth participated in traditional activities including...



Archery



Fly Tying



Fly Fishing

Canoeing

Y.M.C.A.'s Executive Director, Jill Nitardy advised that the day trips were a big hit and expressed a desire to expand next years program.



And just plain having fun with a frog!!!





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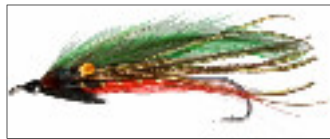
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the Atlantic ocean where they are prey to other sea creatures, seals, and



Atlantic Salmon Biologist prepare the barge at the Veazie Power House before checking the fishway trap

osprey. The few lucky adults who survive return to the same river where they were hatched four or more years earlier.

They are prevented from passing up the river by the hydroelectric dam. They swim into the large fish trap at the base of the dam and are hoisted up to the barge for collection.

Biologists take scale samples to determine the age of the fish. They also take fin samples for genetic analysis. The fish are tagged with radio transmitters, injected into the large muscle of their back.

Paul is 9 years old. He enjoyed watching the tagging and measurement process. Paul is concerned about the fish and wonders if they will be around when he is grown up. Atlantic Salmon are endangered and fishing by people is not allowed on these beautiful creatures. Eagles and seals try to eat them however. Several had deep scars where they were attacked, but managed to slip away alive. Paul thinks "these fish are cool." He also hopes they can make a comeback. He has visited the fish hatchery in Orland, ME, where some of these salmon will be taken in order to stock the rivers and re-populate the species.

Benjamin is 8 years old. He had fun helping measure the fish's



10lb+ Atlantic Salmon being measured and tagged

length. He got splashed several times by the powerful tails of these mammoth salmon, some measuring over 3 feet long. Ben also hopes these fish make a comeback. "I would like to be able to catch one someday in the river." Ben would like to return to the fish hatchery and watch them get fed. He says, "they feel slimy."

Patrick is 3-and-one-half years old. The huge salmon are intimidating for him, but he still thought they were cool. "There are good fish, and bad fish," said Patrick. He understands that these fish are special. "These are the good fish," he replied when asked about their importance to the food chain. He says that "sharks are bad fish because they try to eat the good fish." Well sharks won't be eating these salmon anytime soon. If all goes well, the salmon that were released will continue upstream to spawn. Those taken to the hatchery will spawn a whole new generation of salmon, continuing their delicate life cycle.

Many thanks to the Biologists and Game Wardens who shared this amazing experience with my boys. Who knows, perhaps one of them will help manage the beautiful wildlife we are blessed to see in Maine.



Annual Banquet



Date: Saturday September 25th

Time: 5:00PM

Location: Old Town Elks Club

Meal: Spaghetti Dinner, Salad

Entertainment: Mathew Hines aka Northwoods Balladeer

It is rumored that Game Warden Dave Georgia will be the entertainment

Other Activities: Auction, Silent Auction, Raffles

Emcee: Rick Tyler

Tickets will be \$3 for children, \$5 for adults, under age 5 free. Dinner is free, the charge is for the entertainment. Come support **Maine's Youth Fish and Game Association** and all they have done for our area youth. Last year, this was a sold out event. A great time was had by all. Let's make this year's event just as memorable.

Thank You \$

The following individuals and businesses have contributed to **Maine's Youth Fish and Game Association** since our last newsletter. Thank you all for supporting the youth of Maine.

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Maine's Legacy

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September 12th, 2004

October 3rd, 2004

November 7th, 2004

December 5th, 2004

Board meetings occur on the first Sunday of each month...



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Please renew your membership. This is your last issue (if box is checked)

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Calendar of Events

Mark your calendar for these upcoming events. All activities are free of charge. Events will be held at the Pickerel Pond Facility unless otherwise noted.

September 11th, 12th—Bow Hunter Education Safety Course—9AM to 4PM

September 25th—Annual Banquet and Auction

Old Town Elks Club—5PM—Spaghetti Dinner—

Rick Tyler (Emcee) - Matt Hines—Northwoods

Balladeer \$3 for children, \$5 for adults

October 3rd—Trapper Education Course—9AM to 5PM

December 4th—ATV/Snowmobile Safety Course

Check our website calendar for activities that are not listed here: www.maine-youth-fish-and-game.org

Reminder!!!!!! Renew your membership so that you can be eligible for one of several once in a lifetime lotteries sponsored by the Dept. of IF&W. A winner from only updated youth members are eligible to participate.

To schedule an event, please contact : David Georgia, 18 Tallwood Drive, Milford, Maine 04461 207-827-8586

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