of years on our Arctic Char and Rainbow Trout main courses were mostly favorable, this April’s Dinner will once again be Atlantic Salmon – with a twist. Instead of sea-cage farmed salmon, we will be serving land-based aquaculture salmon from “Sustainable Blue”. They are a leader in this new and exciting aquaculture field and are based near Blomidon right here in Nova Scotia. We are proud to endorse their resource-friendly product.

Once again, I wish to thank our Directors and our Stream Enhancement Group for all their hard work in 2015.

Bill Yarn, March, 2016

CSA DIRECTORS 2015 - 2016

President  Bill Yarn  895-2132
Past President  Robert Gunderson  895-1907
Vice President  James Kelly  843-5332
Secretary  Doug Byers  893-4770
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Don Mattinson  673-2962
Paul Maclsaac  897-9844
Gary McMahon  639-2101
Gary Robar  893-2609
Hedley Fulton  843-2408

CSA Stream Enhancement Coordinator:
Wayne Forbes  893-2464
Office: 58 River Rd.
P.O. Box 550, Truro, NS  B2N 5E3

The Cobequid Salmon Association
P.O. Box 25047
Truro, NS  B2N 6C7
CSA MISSION STATEMENT

The Cobequid Salmon Association (CSA) is a non-profit incorporated society formed in 1983. It is an affiliate of the Nova Scotia Salmon Association and the Atlantic Salmon Federation. The CSA has a membership of about 250 and is directed and operated by a board of directors that at present stands at twenty.

The purpose of the CSA is to protect, conserve and enhance the salmon and other fish stocks, and to maintain and improve the general state of 22 rivers and major streams that empty into the Cobequid Bay, so that recreational fishing and the natural life and pleasant environment that is associated with these waterways may be enjoyed by all.

Cobequid Salmon Association Activities include:

• Leadership and support to studies aimed at restoring the troubled salmon stock in the Bay of Fundy.
• Operation of a River Enhancement program to improve spawning and rearing habitat.
• Operation of a River Watch program to protect waterways from pollution and poaching.
• Sponsors community education and recreational events: Fisherama for Children; Fishing Derbies; Fish Friends (fish tanks in schools).

The CSA is “fishing” for volunteers and members. Anyone interested in helping out by becoming a member of CSA please contact any director. See our newsletter or website for details.

32ND ANNUAL CSA
FUNDRAISING
DINNER

Our dinner was held at the Riverview Room, Dalhousie Faculty of Agriculture

The event was well attended, the rainbow trout served was a great success as was the evening.

The CSA would like to thank all sponsors for their generous contributions to both our live and silent auctions.

30TH ANNUAL KIDS
FISHERAMA
SATURDAY, MAY 21ST, 2016
KIWANIS POND TRURO

Registration is at 6:30am. Fishing starts at 7:00am.

For both boys and girls 15 years and under.

No registration fees - Prizes Awarded

Contact:
James Kelly  902-843-5332

21ST ANNUAL CSA
SHAD DERBY
SAT MAY 28TH, 2016

Birch Hill Bridge, Stewiacke River
Registration: 7:00am
Fish: 7:00am - 12:00pm

Contact:
Bill Yarn  902-895-2132

The CSA wishes to thank the Dalhousie Faculty of Agriculture for providing an office in Haley Institute.
SHAD DERBY
2015 WINNERS

COMING IN FIRST ($200) ROBERT BUTLER OF BLACK POINT WITH A CHUNKY 4.5 LB SHAD

SECOND PRIZE ($100) TO SUSANNE MURPHY OF MIDDLE SACKVILLE, 3.9 LB

THIRD PRIZE ($50) WENT TO MIKE PURDY OF TRURO, 3.8 LB

ONCE AGAIN, CAMERON EULOTH WON $50 FOR THE UNDER 12 CROWD WITH A 3.8 LB SHAD

GOOD SHOW, CAMERON!

FIShARAMA 2015

The sound of excited children and the words of encouragement coming from parents, grandparents and friends filled the air around the Truro Kiwanis Park on Saturday of the May, 2015 long weekend as they took part in our 29th annual Kids Fisherama. Open to children 15 and under, the event starts with free registration at 6:30am with the fishing wrapping up at 12 noon. We do encourage all children to register so their names can be entered into a draw for a chance win one of three $250.00 RESP’s kindly donated by Scotiabank.

Every year an undisclosed number of large fish are tagged and if caught by the young anglers and taken to the registration area, they are rewarded with their pick from an assortment of prizes donated by our sponsors and supporters. This is definitely an event highlight. All prizes were claimed at last year’s Fisherama.

I would like to thank all our supporters and sponsors, volunteers and fellow directors for their help and hard work in putting together this much-enjoyed community event. ~ James Kelly CSA Vice-President
operate a smolt wheel in the Stewiacke River at the Rock Pile Pool below Stewiacke River Park. Results, although not finalized by DFO as yet, were encouraging. Because of a lack of certified people to operate and tabulate the daily results, the wheel was not operated during the weekends. We hope to have this rectified before next season.

With the arrival of our summer students, the crew moved on to the clearing of trees and scrub from an access road to the worksites upstream. Heavy equipment was then brought in to shape the road and provide drainage away from the roadway and worksites. With the access road drying out, the crew turned their efforts to the construction of two massive digger logs, each 21 meters in length. Five large rock filled deflectors were added to the structures to restrict the flow to the original streambed width and create the angles required to assist the river to recreate its’ natural meandering channel.

Moving upriver we encountered a small hidden pool that had to be protected and enhanced. Three rock steps were constructed across the river below the pool to increase water height and provide resting spots for fish on the
move upstream toward the pool. With this stage of the project completed it was time to move further up the system.

Restoration has been ongoing in the Little River for the past 9 years. During this timeframe the portion of river between its' confluence with the Stewiacke River and the village of Brookfield has been restored to the point that imbedded silt deposits are being removed and pools created for returning IboF salmon to rest on their journey to the major spawning and rearing areas located above the village of Brookfield.

Before any planning could begin for the 2016 season project location, stream assessments of sections of the Little River and Brandy Brook (main tributary) above the bridge in Upper Brookfield had to be completed. This completed, worksites were chosen with the assistance of the NSSA Adopt-a-Stream officials.

Water sampling and analysis continued to grow on the Little River with the aid of the CURA H2O database and another 7 rivers were added to the program.

During the project year, the CSA also organized public information meetings aimed at local residents along with “River Walks” showcasing our restoration work and the improvements this project has had on local fish populations and the recovery of IboF Atlantic Salmon populations. Display booths at local events promoting conservation and stewardship, school presentations and continuation of the Atlantic Salmon Federation “Fish Friends Program”, were also undertaken. The CSA also provided the public with their annual “Fisherama” and Shad Derby. We partnered with Big Brothers – Big Sisters in awarding prizes and knowledge of fishing at the Fisherama. We also hosted our annual Dinner and Auction for members, guests and partners involved in environmental conservation efforts in the region.

-Wayne Forbes, Stream Enhancement Coordinator
FISH FRIENDS

Gaining an Appreciation for Streams

The CSA continues to champion the ASF Fish Friends program and during the past year another 4 schools participated with raising speckled trout from egg through to swimming fry. Students in grade 2 at Truro Elementary, grade 4 at Bible Hill Central Elementary, Grade 5 at Redcliff Middle School, and high school science students at CEC participated. The students didn’t have long to enjoy the eggs as all of the delivered eggs hatched within one day of arriving in Truro. The students had quickly grown much attached to their new, small friends. While the fish at a couple of schools suffered some setbacks, we enjoyed a great release date in early June that saw several hundred fish released to local streams. The release provided the students with a new appreciation of the importance of quality stream habitat and the efforts of everyone to ensure Colchester’s streams continue to offer sanctuary to all fishes, big and small. Know someone interested in becoming involved with the Fish Friends program? Please feel free to contact director James Kelly at 902 843 5332.

Paul MacIsaac
CSA Director
When I was fishing salmon in New Brunswick last summer I was interested in learning which flies were catching fish during the season so I spent some time reading the camp’s log book where anglers record their catch, where they caught it and the fly they used. I was surprised to see that a white muddler minnow was the most successful pattern almost every week. I went a few years in the log book and saw that it was a consistent fish catcher for the camp members. I guess I shouldn’t have been surprised. Take a look in any local anglers’ fly box and there is a good chance that you will find an assortment of muddler minnows, or its modifications, in a variety of sizes. The muddler minnow, some would say, is the best trout fly ever invented and there are few that would argue with this statement. Famed angling writer the late Joe Brooks was a great fan of the muddler and its greatest promoter. In a 1963 story he wrote for Outdoor Life magazine, Brooks gave the history of the fly and its development. Don Gapen tied the first muddler minnow when fishing the Nipigon in Ontario. He tied the fly in an attempt to imitate a freshwater Skulpin. The minnow had a broad, flat head and a tapered body that he was able to imitate using deer hair combined with a gray squirrel tail and a turkey wing tail.

The muddler minnow imitates a wide variety of trout food and that is the key to its effectiveness. The muddler minnow is less well known as an Atlantic salmon fly but it is obviously just as effective on this species.

My first introduction to the white muddler minnow was on the St. Mary’s River. When I started salmon fishing there were a number of anglers who were legends on the river and one of them was the late Bill Strople. I had the good fortune to know Bill and he introduced me to the white muddler minnow as a salmon fly. He fished it in a variety of sizes, depending on water conditions, and consistently caught salmon. Bill tied the fly in a range of sizes from 16 up to 4/0 and also used it for striped bass, sea trout, rainbow and brown trout as well as mackerel. I often jazz up my white muddlers with a silver body and some pea-cock herl and mallard flank in the wing but the white muddler I saw in New Brunswick was all white except for a red under-wing. I am sure you can include any variation you wish and the fly will still be effective. I hope you have some fun with it.

The White Muddler Minnow

Thread: White
Tail: Small section of white calf tail
Body: White floss or silver tinsel wrapped over 2/3 of hook shank
Wing: Underwing of red calf tail
Head: White deer hair spun and trimmed. Clip front to shape and leave a collar of hair at the back

Don MacLean is an outdoor writer, fishing guide and biologist who lives In Nova Scotia. He is the author of Discover Nova Scotia Sportfishing and A Little Thing I Tied Myself-Stories of Atlantic Canadian Fly Tiers. He can be reached at: oldtrout@seasidehighspeed.com

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GALLERY

River

Memories

River John, NS
Happy Landings

St. Mary’s River, NS
SALMON FISHING FEVER — A REVIVAL

Sitting at a table at a Ducks Unlimited fund raising dinner in Truro I was chatting with Vince Pye and we started talking salmon fishing. Vince asked if I ever fished for salmon and I told him that it was big passion of mine years ago and that I did not salmon fish for about ten years. Vince said that there was a good run of fish in the Wallace River and River Phillip and there was about two week left in the season. I thought that I might give it a try if time would allow.

Driving up stream from Oxford I noticed the beautiful fall foliage had quickly disappeared from the Maple groves this year giving the branches a skeleton appearance while the Oak trees persistently held onto some of their dangling leaves. The sun was setting lower in the October sky as I rushed to put on my chest waders. Water conditions were perfect as I arrived at the river. A Ruffed grouse flushed noisily from a nearby apple tree as I made my way to the edge of the river.

I tied on my version of a green Cosseboom and waded knee-deep into the cold fast flowing river in search of Salmo Salar. After several casts the bulge of water under the fly signaled that a salmon was curious. This was the last day of October and the last day of the salmon season for 2008 and I was fishing the Spencer Bridge pool on River Phillip. I rested the pool for a few long anxious minutes before making a careful cast to the waiting salmon. The arch in my rod gave my heart a jolt as the bright fish cleared the surface and raced downstream, water flying in all directions as the powerful fish jumped time after time. Ten minutes later a tired twelve pound hen fish came to rest at my feet, the barbless hook easily pulled free and a the fantastic fish swan back into the current to continue her spawning run upstream. Salmon fishermen never forget those heavy lunges and head shakes that a fish makes trying to shake the fly in their jaw.

My love for salmon fishing had been reborn and I was as you say HOOKED again. Thanks Vince.

Don Mattinson
CSA Director

CSA’S NEW ENTRANCE SCHOLARSHIP!

The Cobequid Salmon Association was founded out of a concern for maintaining our very precious environmental and water resources. No one is an island and no initiative or movement, no matter how noble the cause, can gain much traction without wider community support. Perhaps the best audience to this message is the younger generations who still have so much curiosity and who will eventually take on the heavy burden of trying to reverse the trend of environmental degradation that has been left to them. To that end, as mentioned elsewhere in these pages, the CSA has started several very successful initiatives targeted to a younger audience like the Fish Friends program or what will be this year, the 30th Annual Fisharama.

Now we have one more initiative to announce: we will be awarding an entrance scholarship to Dalhousie University’s Agricultural Campus. The award will be granted to an environmentally minded, graduating, local high school student. The Association is particularly interested in fostering students who are looking to pursue academic studies related to wild fish ecology, conservation or habitat restoration. The award of $750 has been introduced to ensure that was cannot only help students financially but also to let them know there is a whole community behind them in their very important, chosen field of study.

Chris Nelson
CSA Director
It is rare when an opportunity can truly be labeled “once in a lifetime”, but this is one of those cases. The Aesculapius Club is one of New Brunswick’s oldest salmon fishing clubs. Founded in 1933 by a group of Moncton physicians, it has held the angling lease on almost 10 kilometers of remote, productive salmon water for over 80 years.

The Club’s water on the Lower North Branch of the Little Southwest Miramichi provides members with a true wilderness fishing experience and some of the finest dry fly and sight fishing for Atlantic Salmon anywhere in the province.

Although it is located in a remote area of New Brunswick, the club facilities are modern and comfortable, with a spacious six bedroom camp possessing a large screened porch overlooking the river. The sense of history at the club is enjoyed at mealtimes, when members eat in a camp dating to the early days of the club which has been converted into a dining room.

The Aesculapius is a “club of clubs” with five separate groups operating within the overall club. Each group is assigned 12 days of fishing in July and August, broken up into three trips of four nights each. The dates are rotated among the groups in sequence each year.

This year, perhaps for the first time since the club’s inception, there is an opportunity for an entire new group to become members of the Aesculapius club. If you enjoy salmon fishing and would enjoy spending time on one of the most scenic salmon rivers you will ever see, contact one of the members below for more information including a brochure that can be sent to you via EMAIL.

Henry Hicks 1-902-678-8074
Bob Power 1-866-477-55774

Visit Our Web Site: www.cobequidsalmonassociation.ca
Mi’kmaw Conservation Group (MCG) would like to say “Hello” and “Thank You” to the many members of the Cobequid Salmon Association. We enjoy working with CSA to learn about salmon and improve salmon habitat in the Inner Bay of Fundy. Thanks especially to CSA members who helped us set up our smolt wheel and assisted with fish sampling all season. That’s dedication!

MCG’s mission is to promote and restore the concept of Netukulimk to the Bay of Fundy watershed. Netukulimk means taking what we need to live while also sustaining the environment for future generations. That’s why MCG works with Mi’kmaw communities to protect species at risk, value traditional foods and cultural activities, restore lands and streams, and educate youth about their environment.

Mi’kmaw Conservation Group is part of the Confederacy of Mainland Mi’kmaq in Millbrook, and serves six Mi’kmaw Communities in NS and NB: Annapolis Valley, Glooscap, Fort Folly, Millbrook, Pictou Landing and Sipekne’katik. MCG has an advisory board with members from each Mi’kmaw Community and Mi’kmaw elders.

We tackle aquatic resource issues and environmental challenges by combining Mi’kmaw and scientific perspectives, for the benefit of the next generation.

MCG, in partnership with DFO, operated a rotary screw trap in the Stewiacke River in Spring 2015. The purpose of this trap or “smolt wheel” is to count the endangered inner Bay of Fundy salmon smolt as they travel downstream. This year we were excited to work with the Cobequid Salmon Association. CSA directors and staff helped up assemble the smolt wheel and place it in the stream. CSA staff, Doug and Ben, assisted with the daily checks of the fish trap.

The Stewiacke smolt wheel was installed on May 5, 2015 and operated until June 26, 2015. The wheel was installed just below Rockpile Pool. Total Atlantic salmon captures were 212 smolts (wild or LGB fry origin) and 2 smolts (LGB parr origin). The smolt run was estimated to be between 3340 and 15460. We hope to have a more precise estimate next year by using some new techniques.

Sana Kavanagh
Research & Education Officer
Mi’kmaw Conservation Group
The Risks to Wild Salmon from Open Sea-Pen Aquaculture

The following facts are hard to ignore:

• Wild salmon populations decline significantly when exposed to salmon feedlots.
• Salmon escape from open-net cages wherever salmon aquaculture is practised—millions of them in the North Atlantic.
• Farmed salmon have been bred to grow fast and fat. Interbreeding of escaped fish with wild Atlantic salmon has been shown by peer reviewed international scientific studies to be catastrophic to wild stocks.
• Unnatural blooms of sea lice attracted to salmon cages are known to devastate outgoing wild juvenile salmon leaving the rivers for the sea.
• Stressed farmed salmon crammed into floating cages are at high risk for several infectious diseases thereby placing nearby wild species at risk.
• Wild salmon running to 33 rivers draining to the Bay of Fundy have totally collapsed since the advent of open pen salmon aquaculture in the Bay. This parallels what has happened in Norway, Scotland and Ireland.
• Two decades of independent research has shown wild salmon have been displaced in the Bay of Fundy after the escape of hundreds of thousands of farmed fish incapable of surviving in the wild.
• Marine fish farms are simply permitted to dump their affluent and chemicals residues into pristine bays. Before long, dead zones appear under and adjacent to the net pens, sometimes threatening lobster nurseries. No other industry is permitted to pollute the environment with such impunity.
• Newfoundland’s Conne River salmon population could soon be listed as “endangered”. There are salmon cages near its estuary. It is the only badly depleted stock on an island of otherwise healthy rivers. With the expansion of open pens more Newfoundland rivers are threatened—750,000 farmed salmon have already escaped on the south coast of Newfoundland and are showing up in nine local rivers.
• The Cohen federal commission of inquiry into the decline of wild Pacific salmon stocks last year recommended a halt to salmon farming expansion in British Columbia.

Ecologically harmful copper-based chemicals are used to try to keep net pens from fouling. The insecticides administered to farmed salmon are toxic to lobster and other marine life. At least two major lobster kills have occurred in Atlantic Canada when illegal insecticides were used.

Open Sea-Pen Salmon Farming is Simply Not Sustainable

(This article first appeared in our 2014 Newsletter...it bears another look)
LEAD FISHING TACKLE EXCHANGE

The Cobequid Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre (CWRC), in cooperation with the EcoAction fund from Environment Canada is offering a non-lead tackle exchange to anglers in the Atlantic Provinces. Lead is a toxic heavy metal that is often ingested by loons and other birds. Birds and other wildlife can mistake the lures or weights for prey, they can eat it if the line breaks and the tackle stays with the fish, or when they are foraging in the water for grit. The CWRC will have various types of non-lead tackle, lures and weights available for exchange. There is no monetary cost for the tackle, it is a straight exchange where anglers can bring their lead based tackle and receive non-lead tackle in exchange.

CWRC is continuously purchasing non-lead tackle so if anglers are looking for particular types of angling gear, please feel free to contact Helene Van Doninck at 902-893-0253 or cwrc@cwrc.net to offer specific suggestions. Please also use the same contact information if you would personally like to exchange tackle or have someone from CWRC attend an event to do a group exchange. Helene Van Doninck is also available for presentations about non-lead angling and hunting and takes part in a non-lead ammo exchange in association with the Halifax Wildlife Association and the Nova Scotia Habitat Conservation Fund. Currently the tackle exchange and non-lead presentations can be done anywhere in Atlantic Canada, whereas the ammo exchange is in Nova Scotia only. For ammunition exchange please contact Michael Pollard at 902-434-1925 or mikepollard@ns.sympatico.ca

Helene Van Doninck DVM
Cobequid Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre
2220 Irwin Lake Rd
Brookfield NS Canada
BON lCO
902-893-0253
helene.birdvet@gmail.com
www.cwrc.net
Find us on Facebook and Twitter

PAINTING AT AUCTION

An original oil on canvas from Truro artist Bruce John Wood

“Tall Ships Race for Ireland”, is amongst Mr. Wood’s most memorable sea scenes (an area in which he has garnered more than a few critical kudos). You will have a chance to bid on this unique painting at our Annual Fundraiser Dinner.
Can any other sport boast as diverse a fraternity as Salmon fishing? From Prince Charles to sporting legends Jack Nicklaus and Bobby Orr to actors Lee Marvin and Robert Duvall, on down to a mixed multitude of less-renowned individuals like you and I. The pursuit of the king of fish is a shared obsession; a sweet madness.

A cynic may wonder why anyone would ever take up the sport? Salmon fishing (or Angling as we are wont to say) has never been a pastime for the seriously thrifty or those impatient to catch fish.

In Nova Scotia, there are small to medium annual migrations of summer-run and, more often, fall-run salmon in many of our rivers. The cost of a license to fish them is low, the requirement for a Guide nil and the scenery, gratifying. But, as it is an obsession, we eventually look over the mountain and over to the next, maybe greener pasture in order to chase bigger and/or more plentiful fish in richer waters. Rich is generally the operative word here.

While a trip to New Brunswick’s fabled Mirarnichi may only set us back $600-800 per week, an excursion further afield to Iceland or Russia could set us back $10,000 for that same week. Air fare, gratuities for Guides and the stipend for our dram of choice will all cost extra. Ah, sweet madness.

In all these storied locales as per our own salmon waters close to home, one constant remains. There is never a guarantee that one will hook a salmon. River levels may be too high; they may be too low. The water may be too clear; it may be too dirty. It may even be too fast or too slow. The fish may be languishing in the estuary or they may have “all gone through”. The vagaries of this obsessive pastime may drive one to drink or to the brink of insanity. After all, once hooked on this sport we have an all-consuming quest. We will drive miles of gravel-strewn or mud-holed back roads, constantly donning vest and waders, casting a couple of thousand times, in the hope that we will feel that familiar tightening of our line. It may not happen that day, or the next when we repeat the process. Ah, sweet madness.

As the cold Scotia spring gives way to fairer days and warming waters, our diverse fraternity will once more break out Sages, Hardys or Fenwicks, don vest and waders and trek to our favourite salmon stream. Flies, lovingly created during long winter evenings will be broken out as we approach our favourite salmon “hole” with slow, almost reverential steps to savour that initial, yearly glance into familiar, swirling waters.

The annual madness has begun once more. Do we care if we actually catch a fish? Do we care if our spouse discovers our cache of fishing expense receipts? Do we care if we have two weeks booked with the family at the beach later this season?

Nah, two weeks on the Costa-del-Sunstroke won’t be half as attractive as standing up to our armpits in a chilly Atlantic river trying to hook a salmon that may exist only in our imagination. Ah, sweet madness.

Michael McAdam
The largest “In Stock” selection of Fishing & Hunting gear in northern Nova Scotia!

Come See For Yourself!

We Sell: General and Salmon Fishing Licenses & Hunting Licenses

Also, we sell Baits for all types of fishing

A big Thank You to the Cobequid Salmon Association for the excellent work & education your volunteers provide

765 Willow St., Truro, NS 902-895-8280
dave.mackay@ns.sympatico.ca
www.mackayswildoutdoor.com