

Fish Tales

Fall 2007

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Mission

The Mission of the Friends of Craig Brook shall be to undertake educational and other activities both independently and cooperatively with Craig Brook National Fish Hatchery operated by the United States Fish & Wildlife Service.

Activities undertaken by the Friends of Craig Brook are aimed at maintaining and enhancing Atlantic Salmon resources and promoting responsible stewardship of related watersheds and ecosystems. All activities will benefit the fish, wildlife & habitat resources, and the people of Maine and elsewhere through increased information and outreach.

Friends of Craig Brook, partners in recovering the endangered Atlantic Salmon

Who are the Friends of Craig Brook NFH?

The Friends of Craig Brook is a non-profit, charitable group. We are organized for educational and scientific purposes. Fundamentally the Friends of Craig Brook is an independent yet supportive group with a helping, auxiliary role charged with promoting Craig Brook National Fish Hatchery's mission; to preserve the Atlantic Salmon and its habitat. A basic belief held by the Friends of Craig Brook is that the people of Maine and elsewhere are concerned about watersheds, ecosystems and the Atlantic Salmon. We believe the people of Maine and elsewhere want to be involved with and learn how to become better stewards of our natural resources. Being better stewards means taking personal responsibility. These people want to be active, responsible agents in promoting a healthy, productive environment. The Friends of Craig Brook wants to identify and deliver educational activities and projects that assist the public in examining and supporting total ecosystem concepts resulting in a rallying of support for strategies and activities targeting the recovery & preservation (continued page 2)



Purpose of the Friends of Craig Brook (continued from page 1)

of the only remaining wild Atlantic Salmon populations in the United States which are located in the State of Maine. The Friends of Craig Brook aims to achieve its mission through the pursuit of some of the following educational activities and goals:

1. Promoting the exceptional economic and ecological importance of healthy Maine watersheds;
2. Providing education exhibits that inform the public and promote US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) and Friends of Craig Brook (FCB) purposes at various appropriate events throughout Maine in general and coastal organizations and communities in particular;
3. Affecting through support, outreach and educational efforts with communities, schools, salmon and sporting clubs & groups, a deeper awareness of the environmental and economic benefit for Maine.
4. Fostering through educational efforts, a general public awareness of the Atlantic Salmon, its habitat and its interactive niche within the total dynamic ecosystem;
5. Becoming an important effective and valuable force in USFWS and Maine Atlantic Salmon Authority efforts to preserve the species and its heritage for future generations;
6. Conducting an annual Craig Brook National Fish Hatchery open house or Atlantic Salmon festival or other educational event bringing together the efforts of other organizations that harbor an interest in the Atlantic Salmon and its habitat as an extremely important natural resource and economic asset for the State of Maine and;
7. Promoting, in conjunction with Maine's many salmon and sporting clubs, the establishment, development, staffing, operation and maintenance of an Atlantic Salmon Museum located at the Craig Brook National Fish Hatchery. The goal of the museum will be to support the USFWS and FCB purposes within the context of balanced interpretive exhibits and presentations which target the past, present and future of the species and opportunities for the preservation of the Atlantic Salmon.

We're eager to have more Friends involved with our mission. Contact us at the hatchery. 207.469.6701 x215

FCB Sponsors Educational Opportunity

In line with one its primary goals, the Friends of Craig Brook sponsored two Orland Consolidated School students to attend a week-long environmental camp last summer. Josh and Zachary Chapman, pictured at right, were chosen by teachers at the school. They spent a week at the Greenland Point Center in Princeton, Maine. At Greenland Point the boys experienced hands-on learning in a natural environment. They learned about watershed and environmental protection techniques during their week at the overnight camp. They spent time learning about our environment while having fun in the outdoors— a chance they would not have had without the support of the FCB. We thank the many donors who contributed at the visitor's center to make this possible. This is the first time that the Friends has been able to send area children to camp.

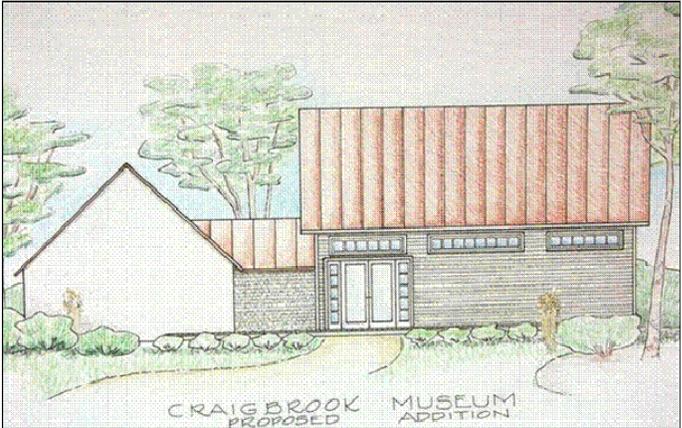


Friends of Craig Brook Break Ground for the New Atlantic Salmon Museum Addition



Ground breaking took place during the summer on an addition to the Craig Brook Atlantic Salmon Museum. The Friends of Craig Brook National Fish Hatchery started a museum dedicated to Atlantic Salmon heritage and angling memorabilia in the Ice House on the grounds of the fish hatchery in East Orland. The Ice House, built around 1896, is the oldest building remaining at the facility. The Ice House served in its original capacity as storage for ice cut from Alamoosook Lake each winter. The ice was used during the summer to moderate the temperature of the water that fish lived in within the hatchery's pools. In the years since, with the advent of electricity and refrigerators, the building was an Atlantic salmon incubation facility. In 1994 the FCB began an Atlantic Salmon museum in the building.

The Friends of Craig Brook have raised over \$30,000 to date for the museum expansion. Plans for a 32' X 24' timber-frame room and connector hallway exiting the Ice House will add needed space to the museum. Many items held in personal collections will be added to the only Atlantic salmon museum in the country when the completion of the expansion project is accomplished. This summer a local contractor completed the groundwork, footings and poured the concrete floor that the timber-framed addition will be built upon.



Architect's rendering of the new post & beam museum

We have targeted the building to be completed in 2008 and need additional contributions of at least \$110,000.00 to achieve this goal. We have established a Plank Membership program to recognize donors of the project. In helping us achieve this goal, local artist Robert Shetterly will be providing a limited set of 100 signed prints of a painting he is offering exclusively for the benefit of this project. The first 100 donors to the Plank Membership project will receive a signed copy of his print in recognition of their support to the country's only Atlantic Salmon museum. Mr. Shetterly has established himself as a recognized artist whose recent works includes a series of portraits depicting historical figures whose influence has had a significant impact on the history and growth of the United States.



Interior of the existing museum

The museum houses a collection of memorabilia related to the fish and its impact on the State of Maine. On display in the museum are Atlantic salmon angling memorabilia including reels, rods, tackle, flies, many Atlantic salmon club logos and other items which convey the heritage of Atlantic salmon angling.

The Friends of Craig Brook are fortunate to have this artist help us achieve our goals in this manner. All donors to the project are significant. We appreciate the support the community has shown for the project to date.

Atlantic Salmon Spawning Season 2007 at Craig Brook NFH



Preparing for spawning

Fall at the Hatchery means spawning! Craig Brook NFH staff began sorting salmon for ripeness the second week in October, and spawned the first sea-run on the 24th. We have a total of 589 Penobscot River adults in our remodeled pools to spawn this year, out of a total preliminary run count of 916 returning salmon through the Penobscot River trap in Veazie. With the help of our resource partners such as the Penobscot Indian Nation and Maine Department of Marine Resources, Bureau of Sea-Run Fisheries and Habitat (formerly the Atlantic Salmon Commission), we have completed the 2007 season. After spawning comes the care of the incubating eggs, which staff will do from now until they are stocked as fry into their home rivers in the spring.

The onset of autumn finds the staff at Craig Brook National Fish Hatchery very busy. Partnering organizations assist the staff during the annual spawning of Atlantic salmon. Wild immature Atlantic salmon brought to the hatchery over the past summers from the ESA-listed* river populations are paired and mated by staff using a computer database. Some 1500 adult Atlantic salmon are spawned at Craig Brook National Fish Hatchery each November. At a later date, all the fish are returned to their home river to be released.

* ESA: Endangered Species Act protection



Pictured above is Justin Stevens of the Maine DMR, Bureau of Sea-run Fisheries and Habitat, assisting the Craig Brook staff with the artificial spawning of Narraguagus sea-run salmon. All the fish receive a general anesthesia to reduce the stress of spawning (they awake after the process a few minutes later). Eggs are collected in a pan and identified with a tag which follows them all the time they're incubating at the hatchery.



Once the eggs are collected from a female, a male of the same river population, selected by genetic database for its greatest genetic variation, is used to fertilize the eggs. Once fertilized, the eggs are rinsed. At this time they take on water, change color and become very hard as the growth process begins. They are then disinfected in an iodine solution for a half hour, and taken to the incubation room where they'll spend the next four months.



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service staff member Joe McKerley “lays down” eggs of the Narraguagus River broodstock population into their incubation trays. In addition to the Narraguagus River, Craig Brook National Fish Hatchery also operates population recovery programs for the Dennys, Machias, East Machias, Pleasant, Sheepscot and Penobscot rivers. Each river has its own separate egg incubation room to maintain the unique genetic make-up of its particular population. The facility also adheres to a stringent disease protocol which reduces the chance of transmission of a pathogen from one population to another.

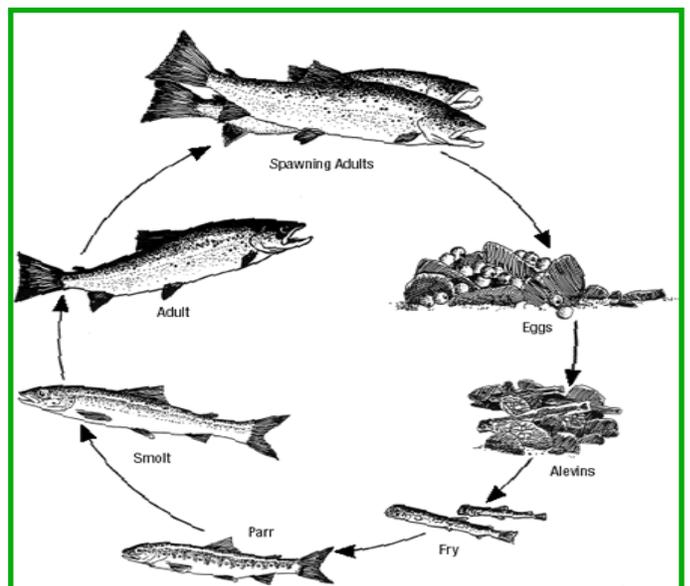


Craig Brook’s water treatment plant, pictured above, sand-filters the water, subjects it to ultra-violet radiation to kill bacteria, removes some nitrogen and adds oxygen. The treated water flows to each of the facility’s seven incubation rooms, bathing the egg-filled trays with water, and acts like our own blood system— delivering oxygen to the cells and removing waste products.

The eggs remain in their respective incubation room tray from spawning in November until they hatch in March. During this period the eggs undergo slow growth, just as they would in the wild, because of the very low water temperature— just above freezing ! Craig Brook National Fish Hatchery produces over three million young salmon each year, as well as providing Green Lake National Fish Hatchery in Ellsworth with another million for raising and release at the smolt stage into their parents’ native Penobscot River.



With the coming of warmer temperatures in the spring, they start to grow faster. They hatch as sac fry (alevin) by mid-March. More to come in the winter edition of Fish Tales !



Atlantic salmon life cycle

From our Friends of Craig Brook Summer Volunteers...

Hello to our fellow Friends of Craig Brook National Fish Hatchery. We wish to introduce ourselves as Val & Carl Farley, two of your newer members and the volunteers who helped the hatchery staff perform their duties last summer. The purpose of this message is to provide you with a little background of ourselves and of the volunteer service; to explain a little of what we did here; and to invite you to join us and others in promoting our hatchery and its programs.

We are Maine natives who grew up in Rockport and Camden. After a 4-year stint as a Maine high school teacher and a career as a W.T. Grant Co. store manager, together Val & I developed and operated five country stores, the last two being in Otis and Orland. Chris, one of our sons, operated the Orland store and is still a resident of town. He is the treasurer of your group. Thus, we have a real interest in Friends of Craig Brook. For the past twelve years we have lived and traveled fulltime in our Holiday Rambler motor home. We have many 'full timing' friends "on the road". Some of them have been Craig Brook volunteers in past summers. They all have enjoyed their time working here, and they liked the locale. Several encouraged us to volunteer here, 'in our own back yard'. And here we are! Nationally, traveling volunteers donate their time and talents to a great many organizations from U.S. National Parks, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish & Wildlife facilities, Army Corps of Engineer sites and many state and local facilities to groups such as Habitat for Humanity and FEMA relief efforts. There are many different programs offering large and varied lists of jobs, some simple and some offering more challenging opportunities. The amount of time required and the locations of the positions is equally diverse. Information concerning these opportunities is readily available on the internet and Craig Brook outreach office has information available. At Craig Brook we have performed a very diverse list of jobs from refurbishing a purple martin platform to tagging salmon, mowing lawns, painting doors, preparing for the upcoming spawning, and repairing 'crowders'. The list goes on.



We have enjoyed our time here and have found manager Tom King and his staff to be friendly, knowledgeable and fun to work with. It seems to us that the vast size of this facility, along with perpetual budgetary constraints, makes their jobs difficult at times. Indications are that most any efforts on our part are sincerely appreciated. We recently joined your Friends of Craig Brook, which was formed in the early 1990's to facilitate the hatchery staff in its primary mission in a supportive and helping role charged with promoting Craig Brook National fish Hatchery's mission; to preserve the Atlantic salmon and its habitat. The group has been fairly successful. It raised funds to make the Leaper sculpture that greets visitors to the hatchery possible. It

has helped to staff the visitor center and created a small fishing museum among other activities. However, during recent years we have failed to attract new members, attendance at functions has declined, and the need for our help has increased. So, we are asking that you consider offering suggestions to help us revitalize our group, that you join us in providing assistance if possible, that you actively recruit new members, and that you continue your support of our goals. Your national fish hatchery is a unique facility and surely worth our efforts. It provides more than 130 acres of native woodlands on Craig Brook & Pond and Alamoosook Lake. It is home to a varied wildlife population. The hatchery maintains nature trails, a visitor center, a soon-to be-expanded fishing museum, two beaches and two boat launching ramps, all available to the public free of fees. All of these areas require staff and maintenance, and the hatchery staff strains to find time to do all that should be done.

We ask that you please consider what assistance you can offer to keep this unique location active and successful.

And, oh, by the way, if you're wondering, as I did, what a 'crowder' is come and help us repair some of them. You'll learn a lot about 'crowders' and many other things while you're at it. You're sure to have a good time and learn plenty too!

Sincerely,

Carl & Val Farley

Friends of Craig Brook News

Officers of the Friends for 2007–2008

Clara Fish, President 207.469.2073
Richard DiBiase, Vice President 207.469.3569
Charlene DiBiase, Secretary 207.469.3569
Chris Farley, Treasurer 207.469.8445, csfarley@att.net

Board of Directors— Clara Fish, Charlene DiBiase,
Chris Farley, Richard DiBiase, Roger D'Errico, Taylor Gray,
Richard Hero, Wally Palmer, David Cassidy,
Frieda Tscheimber, E. Peter Steenstra, Ex-officio/Staff

Treasurer's Report

The Friends of Craig Brook now has 3 separate accounts for our funds. The general fund for basic operating needs remains at Camden National Bank in Bucksport. A Certificate of Deposit for money donated specifically for the upkeep of the Leaper statute has been obtained in order to earn interest on those infrequently used funds. An interest bearing money market account at Bar Harbor Bank & Trust in Blue Hill has been opened for the purpose of the museum expansion funds project. Dues for the current year should be paid as quickly as possible. The basic dues schedule is

Student \$2.00 Seniors \$4.00
Single \$5.00 Family \$15.00
Steward \$25.00 Lifetime \$250.00

Please send dues to:

Friends of Craig Brook NFH
PO Box A
East Orland, Maine 04431

Check out these interesting books !!

Last Child in the Woods by Richard Louv

and

Americans Who Tell the Truth by Robert Shetterly

Visitors Center

●Some minor movement of displays took place late in the summer to enhance the Visitors Center at CBNFH. Displays and the FCB desk were moved to allow an increased amount of natural light in the center. The FCB desk was moved to improve the flow of people walking through. Plans are being made for better display of clothing and products for sale. We hope to feature a display of museum materials to increase awareness for the museum and its expansion project.

●Hatchery staff have plans to coordinate the construction of a model of the hatchery complex for display within the center. The model will be an educational one with the goal of explaining the systems required to operate the hatchery. One focus of the display will be the watershed surrounding the hatchery and the importance of watershed protection. A student at Boggy Brook Technology Center has been contacted regarding the actual construction of the model. Hatchery staff and FCB members will assist in the production of the display.

●We are looking at making further enhancements to the Visitors Center. Any FCB member with ideas for such a project is encouraged to contact Clara Fish, Chris Farley or Peter Steenstra. Please help us make the Visitors Center at CBNFH a fun and exciting place for all of our visitors.

●FCB member Chris Farley recently returned from an informative trip to the Wolf Creek National Fish Hatchery in Jamestown, Kentucky. A new Visitor and Environmental Education Center was opened at the facility in September 2006. Many ideas have emerged from that trip. Thanks to Hatchery Manager Tom King for suggesting the trip and making it possible.

Check out www.fisheriesfriends.org for information regarding Friends groups.



Salmon, Craig Brook National Fish Hatchery

Encourage your friends to become a part! Friends of Craig Brook are actively seeking more Friends in the recovery of the endangered Atlantic Salmon! <csfarley@att.net>