

November means spawning Season!



Students from Ms. Stevens' class at Dexter Primary School view a Penobscot Atlantic salmon male. The male's brilliant coloration and kype (the lower jaw hook) really impressed the students as they watched the artificial spawning process. As seen in the following pictures, a Penobscot female fish



is relieved of her average 8,000 eggs by the air-spawning process. The fish is first anesthetized to reduce stress, then a syringe is used to introduce low pressure oxygen into the egg cavity, causing the eggs to be released. After the eggs are harvested, the female is returned to fresh water, and to her home river—in this case the Penobscot—within a few weeks.

Next the students watched as the male was used to fertilize the eggs with a quick squirt of sperm, also called milt. He, too, is anesthetized to reduce stress, and returned to his home river. Students are always intrigued by the process of spawning, and in learning how the Craig Brook staff is working to prevent the extinction of Maine Atlantic salmon. Each year some 1,600 fish are spawned at Craig Brook NFH.

FCB

After the spawn they return home !

Craig Brook National Fish Hatchery's annual Atlantic salmon spawning season takes place in early to mid-November. Once all the broodstock fish are spawned to produce next spring's fry, they're released into their home river.



Pictured above on the banks of a snow-laden Narraguagus River, Friends of Craig Brook member Richard Hero of Brooklin releases Narraguagus broodstock after the spawn. Craig Brook NFH Assistant Manager Denise Buckley shares in the task. The fish are released to migrate to the ocean and return next summer to spawn naturally in their home river. Spent broodstock of other river populations are released into their home rivers as well. Craig Brook has the capacity to hold seven populations of salmon from the Narraguagus, Penobscot, Dennys, Machias, East Machias, Pleasant and Sheepscot rivers.

FCB

*Craig Brook National Fish Hatchery
Administrative Officer Lynne Cudaback
has produced the facility's new website !*

Thanks Lynne !

You'll find the Friends there too!

Check us out!

<http://www.fws.gov/northeast/mainefisheries>

The top buttons will connect you with Craig Brook and Green Lake National Fish Hatcheries and the Maine Fishery

Resources Office. FCB is found under Craig Brook.

Click on the "Friends Group" fish on the left. Lots of other information is there too ~ just click the fish !

Cabin Fever Reliever ~ Winter 2008

Late last winter several members of the Friends of Craig Brook NFH drummed up some interest in the new museum addition with their displays at the annual Cabin Fever Reliever. Sponsored by the Penobscot Fishers at the Brewer Auditorium, the event offered many angling, recreational and educational and scientific research activities were offered for all to see. The Friends displayed a number of items from the FCB Atlantic Salmon Museum in the interest of recruiting some new members for the Plank Member program in support of our capital campaign and also for FCB membership.

Fly tiers were in good abundance, and one could pick up some works of art from any of them. Ed Muzeroll of Muzzy's Flies in Sidney was there displaying his talents, and it was great to see so many young folks at the Cabin Fever Reliever, learning the art of fly tying. In this age of video games, blogs and cell phones it's reassuring that many young people in Maine still have an innate interest in the natural world through recreational fishing.



Friends staff at the Cabin Fever Reliever in Brewer last March "Manning the rail", left to right, are Friends of Craig Brook members Barry Curtis, Dave Cassidy, Taylor Gray, Richard Hero and Bill Mulliken. Wally Palmer (not pictured) also staffed the Friends of Craig Brook table. Many thanks to all!!

The Friends of Craig Brook National Fish Hatchery group presented a table-top display of items from the Museum, information on Atlantic salmon and other river-to-ocean and return migrating fish species as well as displaying the painting of an Atlantic salmon created by Rob Shetterly of Blue Hill for the Plank Membership capital campaign. Each Plank Member will receive a signed print of



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Rob's work, and a 3" x 15" polished metal "plank" with the donor's name inscribed, will be displayed in the entrance of the new museum addition. More details of the Plank Member campaign are found at the end of the newsletter.

FCB



Some of Muzzy's Flies

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| 1 Murat | 3 Sean Synon |
| 2 Scarlet Chatterer | 4 Johnny Walker |

(Lower left and upper right flies are unidentified.)