



# Penobscot Fly Fishers NEWSLETTER

**MAY 2017**

**Monthly Meeting May 3, 2017 @ 6:00pm**

**Speaker Rolfe Gerhardt**



Our speaker for May 2017 will be PFF member Rolfe Gerhardt. Rolfe has been fly tying and fly fishing for some sixty-five years. He had a dual career as a Unitarian Universalist minister and a professional builder of mandolins. He and his wife moved last September to a retirement cottage in Avalon Village in Hampden, with excellent space for fly tying and his wife's art quilting. He joined the Penobscot Fly Fishers after meeting Ed, Rob, and Zach at the Craig Brook National Fish Hatchery last summer. Prior to moving to Hampden, he lived in South Thomaston where his back yard went down to the Upper Bay of the St. George River. He fished the St. George casually for almost fifteen years with the distinction of leaving countless samples of his fly tying skill in a tree at Payson Park. He will share his lore of fishing "The Saint", plus important information from others who have been more successful than he has.

The May meeting will be Wednesday May 3 at the PCCA clubhouse in Brewer. Social hour begins after 5:00pm, followed by an optional full course meal at 6:00 and a short business meeting. Please plan to attend this always fun and informative meeting of YOUR club!

## From the President's Fly Box

We finished up the month of April with a flurry of activity! ...

On Saturday, April 29th, forty students were introduced to our beloved sport of fly fishing at our 6th annual Fly Fishing 101 class. It was a tremendous success based on numerous positive comments from the students. A discussion of equipment led by Mike Hegarty introduced the group as a whole to the basics. Then in smaller groups, the students rotated through individualized instruction: Ernie MacDonald provided excellent instruction on knot tying; Hamish Greig added realism to his presentation on aquatic insects by bringing in some live samples along with flies that imitate them; Rob Dunnett expertly guided students through tying flies; and Mike May provided hands-on casting instruction to complete the basics. The lead instructors were backed up by a great group of club members who provided personalized attention to the students. A sincere thank you to all the volunteers who contributed to make Fly Fishing 101 such a success!. I would be remiss if I did not extend my appreciation to the PCCA for use of their wonderful facility and to Nancy for the great lunch provided. It was a perfect venue.

On Sunday, April 30th, we kicked off our summer fishing events with an outing on Toddy Pond, trolling for landlocked salmon. Had a great turnout with several new members participating in the event. The weather was perfect with a fresh morning breeze providing a nice salmon chop. Roland and Noelle Bourre provided a welcome place to stretch our legs, get out of the wind, and have lunch by opening up their house on Toddy.

Salmon were landed!



On to Green Lake next Sunday for more trolling!

See you out there....

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## **Summer Fishing Events Calendar !**

The fishing events list is out and posted on the club's website! Take a look and mark your calendars.....there is something there for everybody, be it wading or boating, trout, salmon or bass. There are some new fishing waters on the schedule as well as some old favorites. Hopefully, all of our Club Members will plan to attend one or several of our Fishing Events and make some lasting memories with old or new friends.

It's time to "Quit Wishin" and " Go Fishin"!

## **Fly Swap 2017 Wrap-up**

This year, 20 talented tyers participated in the Fly Swap and received a very nice collection of flies in return.



Members who did not participate in the fly swap but are interested in acquiring this nice collection will be able to do so at the May meeting where a couple of sets will be auctioned off.

### **Fly-a-Thon Wrap-up**

Many thanks go out to the members who tied flies to be donated to the Casting for Recovery program in Maine. This year over 340 flies were donated, bringing the total number of flies that have been collected over the six years of this event to over 1840 flies! The flies were sent directly to Bonnie Holding in Coplin Plantation who runs Maine's program. The flies will be used for fishing at retreats to introduce women in the cancer recovery process of the healing powers of the sport of fly fishing, and for fund raising.

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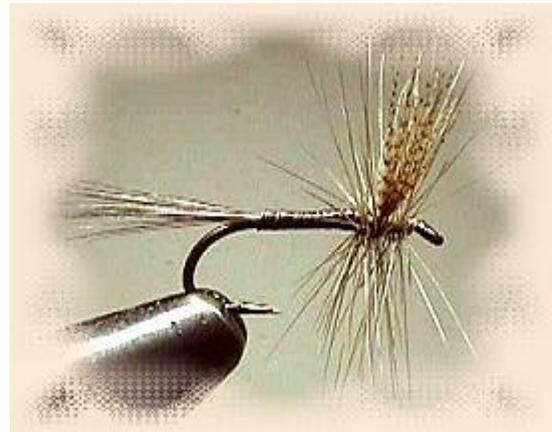
### **It's Budget Time**

Per the Penobscot Fly Fishers bylaws, the budget for the upcoming year gets presented and approved at the May General Meeting. The proposed 2017 budget, that was prepared by the Treasurer and reviewed by the Board of Directors, was emailed earlier to members by separate email. Please review the proposed budget before the meeting. If you have any questions on it, contact John Weinmann at treasurer@penobscotflyfishers.com or bring them to the meeting on May 3rd.

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The Library Review- May 2017  
by Quill Gordon

*The President's Salmon: Restoring  
the King of Fish and its Home Waters*  
Catherine Schmitt  
240 pages



Greetings fine Fly Fishers of the Penobscot!

It seems as though my last submission was at least reasonably tolerated by the membership. So I am back for another go. This month's Library Review, *The President's Salmon*, is obviously more about Atlantic salmon than trouts or other fish. Admittedly, I have little experience in fishing for The King, and even less in landing one. Some years ago, when Kennedy was President I think, I was whisked-off to Newfoundland with a school of other fishing scribes for an alleged Atlantic salmon fishing trip. The weather was miserable, the salmon were elsewhere, and the Seagram's-toting supply plane was grounded for three days in Corner Brook. But the lodge was comfortable, the coffee was strong, the resident cats were friendly, and we ended up tying a mess of lovely salmon flies under the tutelage of Lee Wulff. It

turned out to be a nice fishing vacation without the fish. Still, it would have been nice to at least hook a salmon. What I'm trying to say here is that many of you have much more experience and knowledge of Atlantic salmon fishing than I do. And with the Feds closing off our Maine rivers, I doubt I will ever catch-up. So I found this book very informative about the Penobscot and its Atlantic salmon fishery.

*The President's Salmon* is a book based on a tradition. That tradition being the presentation of the season's first Atlantic salmon caught in the Penobscot River to the President of these United States. And while that tradition IS the basis of the book, Catherine Schmitt goes much deeper into the past and present plight of the fish and the river.

I found *The President's Salmon* to be incredibly well-written and researched. What I found it NOT to be is easy to categorize. It is part history book, part biology book, part hydrology book, part environmental book, part government and civics book, part.... But keep reading because this turns out to be the book's charm! After a chapter or two I fell into sync with the author's style. She has the wonderful ability to weave all of these categories and more into a very readable story. A typical chapter begins with the telling of a local fisher catching that first Penobscot salmon and its subsequent journey, on ice, to Washington DC (or in one case, Kennebunkport). She touches on what tackle was used, whether the fish was caught from shore or boat, even the local customs of the day. Then the chapter takes a sharp turn and goes deeper into what was the condition of the salmon population and river, as well as the environmental, political, and other conditions at the time. This is where the author's writing talents come to the fore. She hooks you with some interesting history, then lands you with carefully presented science. In addition to what's happened in the past, there is much here to be learned about restoration of salmon habitat in the Penobscot watershed, and where the fishery may be heading. Of interest to long-time local fishers, all of the stories and people in the book are real. Many of you will recognize some of the names, some of you will recognize many of the names.

Admittedly, I am a sucker for history books, especially those on subjects in which I participate. And this is where *The President's Salmon* got my initial attention. I began seeking a fun and factual history of the once-mighty Penobscot River Atlantic salmon fishery, and left with a much broader knowledge of its present and future. Fun fact: did you know Bangor was once known as Salmon City U.S.A.? So please give this book a try, and tell me what you think.

Support you club library,  
Quill Gordon

## **Help Wanted: Newsletter Editor**

The club is really seeking a new editor for the monthly newsletter. Really. The current editor will be stepping down over the summer and would like to identify a replacement soon so we might have a smooth transition. Like really soon.

The job entails receiving inputs from various club members and then pasting them into a set format. A Microsoft Word compatible computer and the ability to copy, cut, and paste items are all that is needed. Creativity is a plus. The rough copy is then forwarded to the president for publication. Time requirement is about 2-hours per month.

If you are interested in taking on this valuable service to our club, please see me or any club officer at a future meeting. You may also email me directly at [pr@penobscotflyfishers.com](mailto:pr@penobscotflyfishers.com) if you have any questions.

Paul Markson, Editor

## Fly Fishing 101







**Minutes PFF Board of Directors Meeting April 19, 2017**

**Present:** Jere Armstrong, Mike Curtis, Ed Dailide, Rob Dunnett, Chris McCauley, Hank Metcalf, Charlie Tuck, and John Weinmann. **Absent:** Bud Farwell, Barb Goos, Mike Hegarty. **Guests:** Zack Dunnett and Paul Markson.

The President called the meeting to order at 6:11 PM.

1. **M/S** to accept Secretary's Minutes of March 22 as published. Motion **Passed**.

2. **M/S** to accept the Treasurer's March P & L as distributed. Motion **Passed**.

**3. Committee Updates:**

**A. Events Committee:** the event calendar has been posted on the website. Prior to each event, a contact person will be posted on PFF web site, Facebook, and in the e-mail notice.

**B. Fly Tying Committee:** Rob reported 32 students signed up for the Basic Class and an average of 24 attended the intermediate classes. One class was cancelled due to snow. We picked up eight new members.

**C. 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee:** Hank reported three possible sites for the September 6 banquet and the Committee selected Spectacular Events Center. There will be a plate dinner with four choices for the main meal. The social hour is from 6 to 7 PM followed by dinner at 7 PM. There will be a cash bar available. The ticket cost of \$10 per person would not cover the cost of the meal and other event costs. The committee proposed that the club reserves be used to cover the balance. **M/S** to support the Committee recommendation with each attendee paying \$10 for the dinner. The proposed 2018 club budget would show that the net balance of the event would be covered by club reserves. Attendance shall be limited to a member and his/her guest (spouse, significant other or . . .). More details will be forthcoming in early summer. Motion **Passed**. The Committee proposed to conduct a 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary streamer fly tying contest. There was considerable discussion, which led to **M/S** that we not conduct the proposed contest. Motion **Passed**. The President directed that the final draft of the event program be provided to him for final review and approval before printing.

**4. Old Business:**

**A. Fly Fishing 101-2017:** Rob said the event was sold out with 40 participants and all volunteers are in place.

**B. Maine Youth Fish & game Program update:** Paul reported that based on an evaluation of last year's program, we would not be providing casting classes at MYFG summer camps.

**5. New Business:**

**A. Proposed 2018 Budget:** John presented a 2018 Budget that will be voted at the next General Meeting. **M/S** we accept the treasurer's budget as amended. Motion **Passed**.

**B. Equipment Swap Event:** a new member had asked if there could be a way where members could swap fishing gear. The Board decided that a swap table at General Meetings would be tried. Details to be worked out and promulgated.

**C: Other:**

- The program for June General Meeting will be a presentation on stretching exercises for fly fisherman and an auction of donated items that the club has collected.
- We received a request to participate in Milo's Black Fly Festival. **M/S** we not participate in the Milo Black Fly Festival. Motion **Passed**.

6. **M/S** to adjourn at 7:55 PM. **Passed** unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Hank Metcalf, Secretary

## Penobscot Fly Fishers Profit & Loss

March 2017

Mar 17      YTD

	Mar 17	YTD
<b>Income</b>		
<b>Cabin Fever Income</b>		
Cabin fever advertising	50.00	
<b>Total Cabin Fever Income</b>	50.00	
Contributions and Support	10.00	
<b>Fly Tying/Fishing Classes</b>		
Fly Fish 101	260.00	
<b>Total Fly Tying/Fishing Classes</b>	260.00	
Meeting Meals	473.00	
<b>Membership Dues</b>		
Family Membership	210.00	
Individual Membership	90.00	
<b>Total Membership Dues</b>	300.00	
Savings account interest	0.54	
<b>Total Income</b>	1,093.54	15395.81
<b>Gross Profit</b>	1,093.54	
<b>Expense</b>		
Administrative Expense	35.00	
<b>Cabin Fever Expenses</b>		
Administrative cost	129.52	
Cabin fever Advertising	150.00	
Event booklet	742.72	
Hall Rental	1,204.82	
<b>Total Cabin Fever Expenses</b>	2,227.06	
<b>Fly Tying/Fishing Class Expense</b>		
advance tying	38.47	
<b>Total Fly Tying/Fishing Class Expense</b>	38.47	
Meeting Meal expense	504.00	
<b>Office Expense</b>		
Postage	0.00	
Supplies	37.96	
<b>Total Office Expense</b>	37.96	
Rent	99.95	
Small tools & equipment	42.19	
<b>Total Expense</b>	2,984.63	12571.55
<b>Net Income</b>	-1,891.09	2824.26