

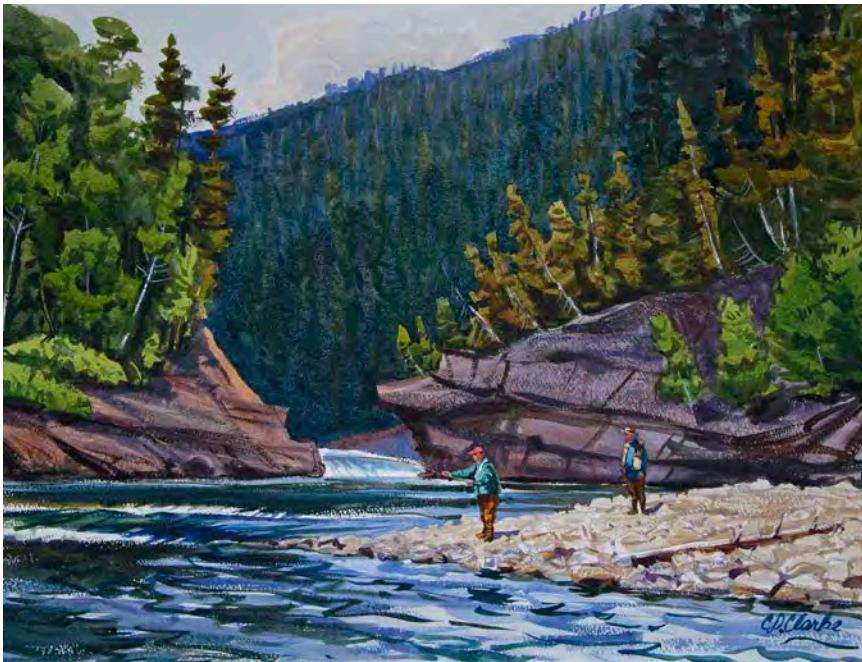


THE CONNECTICUT RIVER SALMON ASSOCIATION N·E·W·S·L·E·T·T·E·R

PUBLISHED BY THE CONNECTICUT RIVER SALMON ASSOCIATION

WINTER 2018~2019

43RD CRSA Dinner & Auction!



"A Day on the Gaspé"

2019 Sporting Guest Artist CD Clarke (See page 4 to learn more about CD Clarke)

Saturday, January 12, 2019

USS Chowder Pot IV – 165 Brainard Rd, Hartford CT

Social hour, live music & Auction Preview: 5-6 pm

Live Auction: 6:00 pm, followed by Dinner at \$50 a person

Visit ctriversalmon.org for reservations and auction preview



**Join us as we kick off
2019: The International
Year of the Salmon!**

The Board of Director's Mystery Wine Auction is back!

Buy a mystery bottle of wine — it just may be worth \$100!

*All young conservationists and anglers 16 and under will receive
a CRSA fly box with six salmon flies!*

2019 President's Award: Dr. Vincent P. Ringrose
2019 Distinguished Service Award: Richard G. Bell, Esq.



**INTERNATIONAL
YEAR OF THE SALMON**

The International Year of the Salmon (IYS) Launches in Boston

The North American portion of the IYS was launched October 30th at the New England Aquarium in Boston. The IYS aims to create awareness of the issues facing salmon, and the impact of salmon on communities in two continents.

The event, co-sponsored by the aquarium, the Downeast Salmon Federation(DSF), the Atlantic Salmon Federation and NOAA Fisheries, featured a lecture by Catherine Schmitt, author of *The President's Salmon* and the Honorable Madonna Soctomah, former Passamaquoddy Tribal Representative with the Maine State Legislature and current St. Croix International Waterway Commissioner.

CRSA President Emeritus and former NASCO Commissioner Dave Egan and current President Tom Chrosniak attended and presented the DSF with a \$1000 donation towards their Parr Project Matching Grant Program (mainesalmonrivers.org).

Salmon have played a major role in our lives in the northern hemisphere. Europe and the east and west coasts of North

(See IYS, page 7)

In Belated Memoriam: Orri Vigfússon

Orri Vigfússon, 74, was an Icelandic entrepreneur who sold vodka to the Russians, and an angler credited with saving wild Atlantic salmon from extinction. He died July 1, 2017. "My dream," he said, "is to bring salmon back to the great rivers of Europe."

Vigfússon negotiated settlements which provided compensation to fishermen while buying out fishing rights in Greenland, Iceland, the Faroe Islands and Britain. He was awarded the Goldman Environmental Prize for conservation, a conservation award from the Prince of Wales, and appointed Chevalier du Mérite Agricole by the French government.

CRSA's relationship with Orri began early in his development of the North Atlantic Salmon Fund (NASF) when he attended a CRSA Dinner with his friend and CRSA Board Member Ed Ruestow. Later he was the Guest Speaker at our 19th Dinner in 1994 and was given an award for his conservation efforts for Atlantic Salmon with NASF. The CRSA is grateful to see that his efforts are being continued by Chad Pike, who became Chairman of the North Atlantic Salmon Fund (US) upon his passing. ♦

At the 1994 CRSA Dinner, left to right (seated): Dick Buck ("Silver Swimmer") and Orri Vigfússon (NASF). Standing: Dave Egan (CRSA)



THE CONNECTICUT RIVER SALMON ASSOCIATION

The Connecticut River Salmon Association (CRSA) is a nonstock, nonprofit Connecticut corporation. Our mission is to support Atlantic salmon in the Connecticut River basin.

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Enter the 2018-2019 CRSA New Member Raffle!

Join the effort to save Atlantic salmon and get a chance to win a complete fly fishing outfit!

The first fifty new members will be entered into a drawing for this Atlantic Salmon/Steelhead Fly Fishing package.

The package includes a Sage SLT 9' 8 wt, 4 pc flyrod with tube, a Cheeky Boost 400 Fly Reel, a selection of 58 Salmon Flies tied by Joe Ravita in a Wheatley fly box, an 8wt fly line, two leaders and a CRSA hat.
\$1400 value.

Join today!!

As a member, your dues help support the award winning "Salmon-In-Schools" science program.

You will also be kept up to date on current issues concerning salmon restoration by receiving the CRSA Newsletter, updates and information on Atlantic Salmon in the Connecticut River watershed and elsewhere.

Join us at our annual dinner/auction featuring guest speakers, guest sporting artists and an opportunity to meet and socialize with other members.

➡ **See back page for application.**

Developments in Regulating Open Ocean Salmon Fishing: NASCO Meets in Maine; New Regulatory Measures Adopted

By Stephen Gephard, US Commissioner to NASCO

The North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO) meets annually in June, the location rotating among member nations. This year it was the turn of the United States to host in Portland, Maine, on June 12 – 15. The US Delegation was led by Kim Damon-Randall of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Kim, a Connecticut native, has been a member of the delegation for years but this was her first year as Head-of-Delegation.

The big issue facing NASCO was regulating the West Greenland fishery. Included in the regulatory measures is a catch quota, but the measures include more than just determining how many salmon may be caught. The measures also cover catch reporting, enforcement, general rules, and allowance for sampling. Of course, the quota is the main attraction. (Parties like the United States that have rivers in which salmon spawn share the species with places like Greenland that has waters in which salmon feed.)

Best management practices dictate that it is best to harvest anadromous fish in the river of origin so if you over-harvest, you impact only your own river. The West Greenland fishery is a mixed stock fishery (fish from all over North America and Europe mingle there). The challenge is that some of those stocks (like US stocks) are in bad shape and cannot sustain harvest. It is impossible to harvest only the healthy stocks and leave the others alone. So the United States, as well as other parties, argue to minimize the catch in West Greenland to protect those weak stocks.

On May 28, just before the meeting, the Atlantic Salmon Federation (ASF) and the North Atlantic Salmon Fund announced they had signed a conservation agreement (CA) with the Association of Fishermen and Hunters in Greenland (KNAPK). The details of

the agreement were kept secret but the press release stated that there would be no commercial fishing for salmon for twelve years.

However, upon arriving in Portland, delegates learned that the agreement was only between the two salmon NGOs and KNAPK and that neither NASCO nor the Greenland government was a party to the agreement or knowledgeable about it. Furthermore, not all of the people who fish for salmon in Greenland are members of KNAPK and the CA is not binding on them. The commercial fishing referenced in the CA apparently referred to the landings to factories that were initiated in 2015 but then discontinued in 2016 and 2017. The Greenland government arrived prepared to discuss a quota for the subsistence fishery, which is not affected by the CA and amounted to 28 metric tons (mt) in 2017. It was essential that the other parties of NASCO engage Greenland in such a discussion to ensure that there was a quota and that Greenland wouldn't let the subsistence fishers catch as many fish as they wished.

By the end of the meeting, NASCO had adopted a 30 mt annual quota for 2018-2020 for the subsistence fishery. This is consistent with past years but the regulatory measure also includes improved reporting, communication, enforcement and clarification on licensing—all things the United States has been working hard to include. As of this writing, the 2018 Greenland fishery has begun but it is too early to know how much of the quota has already been caught.

So, there remains a bit of confusion about what the CA actually covers and what its impact on the conservation of salmon will be. Questions about the CA should be directed to the ASF, since the US delegation still doesn't fully understand the details.



The status of Atlantic Salmon at sea and in North American waters has not improved significantly and NASCO must continue to work with all parties to promote conservation, especially for stocks at risk. The new regulatory measure was not able to reduce the quota but, in effect, it holds the line and other aspects of the regulatory measure represent a step forward.

Non-federal commissioners at the gathering included Pat Keliher, commissioner of Maine's Department of Marine Resources, and myself. Staff from NOAA and the State Department rounded out the US Delegation. Tom Chrosniak represented the CRSA as an accredited Non-Governmental Organization (NGO). The meeting represented extra work for the United States since it hosted the meeting. It was also notable that this was the first meeting for new NASCO Secretary Dr. Emma Hatfield after the retirement of Dr. Peter Hutchinson and that new regulation measures for the West Greenland fishery needed to be adopted. It was a challenging week!

There was the normal business that NASCO always conducts: meetings of its Financial Advisory Committee and the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board, receiving advice from the International Council on the Exploration of the Seas (ICES), etc. There was a special session on evaluating progress reports submitted by all parties relative to their Implementation Plans. There was a special session on planning for the International Year of the Salmon (IYS), which will be 2019. CRSA and the DEEP plan to partner with others to host events for IYS in Connecticut. ♦

The CRSA “Salmon-in-Schools” Program

Salmon-in-Schools Stockout 2018!



*Top left, Hartland students with teacher Deb Costolnick.
Top right: Hartland students testing the water quality.*

*Center and lower right, students from Coventry and
Hebron, with teachers Stacey Fortin and Adam Parks
release their fry.*

*Bottom left, Waterford High School students with
teacher Tessa Castleberry*



World Fish Migration Day ~ Limestone Outing



World Fish Migration Day 2018



CRSA at Rainbow Dam with DEEP for World Fish Migration Day, April 21, 2018

Limestone Member Outing Day 2018



A warm sunny day;
large, cooperative
trout, an outdoor
lunch and a wine
tasting by High
Hook Vineyards with
friends. Perfect.

High Water Techniques for Broodstock Atlantic Salmon

By Ben Bilello

As I mentioned in my last piece, low water conditions seemed to be the new norm the past few years. Last season, however, we saw fall water levels bounce back after the season got underway. In all, the water levels were lower than average, but much better than they had been in 2013-2016. Fall of 2012 was similar to last fall. The rivers were lower than average, but not excessively so. The last sustained high water season we had was in 2011, when a hurricane and a freak October snowstorm keep the rivers high all season long. Even though there was a lot of water to cover in fall 2011, there were plenty of salmon to catch.

Most seasons, we don't have the sustained high water that we had in 2011. Each season, even in the lowest of low water seasons, we are able to fish in high water conditions at least once or twice, but usually more often. As such, it pays to be as comfortable as possible when fishing in high water is necessary. There is some strategic overlap between fishing in periodic high water and sustained high water, but there are some key differences.

Periodic high water is inevitable. We get precipitation and the rivers rise. If we happen to be fishing during the beginning of the precipitation, there is a short window of time when fishing can be terrific. If rain falls heavily enough to raise the river, the salmon get active until the water gets very dirty. When I notice the river begin to rise and take on some color, I tie on a brightly colored fly, such as Ally's Shrimp. This is usually a great time to hook a salmon. Once the water gets very dirty, however, the bite tends to turn off until the rain stops, the rivers crest, and begins to recede.

When the river starts to drop to a wading-friendly level, it is time to fish again. The first day or so of receding water is dirty water fishing. The best pools are usually the widest ones. These pools distribute the fast current over a larger volume of water. Look for areas of moderate flow. This can be right in the middle of a broad pool or near the tail, but don't neglect the water near the bank. Sinking lines or tips and big, flashy flies become necessary, as do slow swings. We need to give the salmon a chance to feel our flies. When the water is very dirty, my top fly is a big, bright orange Temple Dog tube fly, tied with lots of gold flash. A cone or disc on the front of the tube helps to push water. I call this fly the "Dirty Water Dog." If tube flies aren't your thing, another good fly is called "Out-to-Lunch," a Gaspé-style fly tied on a large gold spey hook. It's bright and flashy. Both salmon



At top, a "Dirty Water Dog" fly. Below, a high water Dirty Water Dog salmon. [Photos: Ben Biello]

and brown trout seem to like it.

The second day of receding water usually offers better fishing. The water will be noticeably clearer, though it usually takes at least one more day for the water to return to normal clarity. As the water clears, my fly size drops. I have great luck with modestly sized "motion flies" in these conditions. These flies move water or have a little "wobble." Some favorites are a sz. 4 Butterfly or Black Marabou Muddler. If the water is relatively warm, I don't bother sinking the fly. If the water is below 45°F or so, I use a light sink tip. The second and/or third day of a falling river can be a very productive time to fish.

When fishing in sustained high water, the time it takes for the river to fall to safe levels can be much longer. It might take the better part of a week for the river to rise, crest, and fall to fishable levels. For reference, the highest level in which I have caught a salmon, in the lower Naugatuck River, was around 1,000 cfs. It was

not easy, but the power was out at home and I was really bored. Fishing paid off that day! In sustained high water, the river might already be clear by the time it is once again safe to fish. In these conditions, I fish the same broad pools, but I don't feel it necessary to sink a fly as deep or to fish it as slowly as I would when the water is colored. I like shrimp and long tail flies, such as the Superman Shrimp and the Cascade, in these conditions. Also, it pays to try a large Sunray Shadow with a fast retrieve.

When the water is low, salmon usually congregate and catching multiple fish is not out of the ordinary. I fish quickly, but thoroughly, in these conditions. In high water, the fish spread out. When the river is high, I slow down, particularly when it is cold. I find a two-handed rod an especially valuable tool when fishing in high water conditions. Especially in the widest pools, there are fish I would have never reached with a single-handed rod. If you do not fish a two-handed rod, really focus on the water close to the near bank. You'd be surprised how close some of the fish are when the river is up.

Fishing in high water can be hard work, but it can be productive. Many anglers wait until the river falls to a normal level, so high water can offer some much needed solitude during a busy season. Wade safely and cover water methodically. If you find the high water holding lies, you will find the salmon, some of whom might be takers. ♦

CRSA 2018 DINNER DONORS AND CONTRIBUTORS

Without the support of the following organizations and individuals, our fund raising dinner and many of our activities would not be possible. Our thanks to each for their contribution and their support of Atlantic salmon restoration.

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 **It's NOT TOO LATE to DONATE!**

Donations are gratefully received for the CRSA 2019 dinner. Contributions need not be fishing or conservation related. Arrangements can be made for pickup at your home or business. Please contact Tom Chrosniak at president@ctriversalsmon.org or (860-729-5064) with questions and to arrange donations.

IYS (Year of the Salmon) *continued from page 1*

America are home to salmon species vital to our environment, employment and subsistence.

2019 activities will highlight salmon's cultural, economic and social importance, and the risks from environmental and human intervention that challenge the health of the salmon species. The risks are real. Healthy salmon stocks tell us that rivers and oceans are also healthy, but many salmon populations are endangered.

The CRSA will be participating in several more of the North American programs, and will be notifying members and friends of each activity. Scheduled events for the IYS can be viewed here: <https://yearofthesalmon.org/> ♦

Dr. Vincent Ringrose to be Honored with 2019 CRSA President's Award

The 2019 Connecticut River Salmon Association (CRSA) President's Award will be given to Dr. Vinny Ringrose for a half century of dedicated work toward the preservation of Atlantic salmon and trout in Connecticut streams and beyond.

Dr. Ringrose, who caught his first trout in 1936 when he was five, became active in trout conservation in the early 1960's and hasn't paused for breath since. In addition to serving as a charter member on the board of the CRSA since 1974, over the years he has been heavily involved with the Theodore Gordon Anglers, The Connecticut Fly Fishers' Association (CFFA) and the Henryville Fly Fishers.

Dr. Ringrose considers his most significant legislative success to be the establishment of minimum stream flows on Connecticut rivers, legislation he helped sponsor and write, and which he testified for. Connecticut became the first state to enact such regulations. These minimum flows keep the resident trout and salmon from dying off during low, hot water periods in summer. He continues to serve on the Connecticut Fishery Advisory Council and the Connecticut Water Planning Council, and as legislative coordinator for the CFFA. He also played a major part in a 1980 film about the restoration of Atlantic salmon to the Connecticut river basin.

Vinny, as his friends call him, was a noted pediatrician in New Britain, CT, retiring in 2001 after forty years of service. Born

in 1931 in Winsted, CT, he has four sons, Mike, Pat, Dan and Vin by his first wife Jean Ryder, and lives in Kensington, CT with Carolyn Holyst, his wife of thirty-seven years.

Dr. Ringrose has fished for Atlantic salmon since 1981, when he went to Iceland and caught a 43" salmon, the longest caught in that country for the year. He has vivid memories of fishing the Ponoï river in Russia in 1992, shortly after the river was opened up to anglers, and has also fished in Canada and Alaska.



Dr. Vincent P. Ringrose

A multi-faceted conservationist, he is a lover of song birds and since 2000 has helped maintain the Bluebird Box Trail at the Timberlin golf course.

His tireless legislative campaigning on behalf of trout and salmon conservation is both influential and greatly appreciated by conservation communities in Connecticut. Well done. ♦



Dick Bell, right, with his guide on Quebec's Petit Cascapedia River.

Bell to Receive Service Award

CRSA director Dick Bell will receive the Distinguished Service Award at the 2019 CRSA dinner. Dick, an avid salmon angler, has been an active and energetic board member for over twenty years, and was the linchpin of the CRSA's Salmon-in-Schools Program. A distinguished lawyer and member of several other boards, Dick's expertise, broad experience and sharp wit have informed and improved board decisions for many years. The picture above shows Dick and his guide on the Petit Cascapedia river in Quebec, catching and then releasing a twenty-four pound salmon. ♦

2019 CRSA Guest Artist CD Clarke

CD (Christopher) Clarke is a renowned and often commissioned artist in oils and watercolors. His creations focus on fresh and salt water fishing, and upland and waterfowl hunting. His work has appeared in magazines such as *Gray's Sporting Journal*, *Fly Rod & Reel*, and *Field & Stream*, and in books such as "River Music" by Jim Bibb and a special edition of "Trout Bum" by John Gierach. His paintings have been exhibited in the Easton Waterfowl Festival, The Birds in Art exhibition at the Woodson Art Museum, and the National Sporting Library and Museum.

Clarke is a dedicated angler and hunter who began fishing and hunting as a boy in upstate New York, and is well versed in the sports he portrays. After earning a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Syracuse University in 1981 he has spent decades focusing in on the people, game and equipment involved in the pursuit of fish and game. He and his wife both serve on the board of directors of the Atlantic Salmon Federation.

Perhaps uniquely among sporting artists, Clarke will accept commissions to accompany patrons on fishing or hunting trips and create art based on their experiences together. He uses both a camera and sketches on four to six trips a year, fixing the picture in mind, and then either creating the work on site or on his return to his studio in Oldwick, NJ.

Examples of his pictures and additional information is available on Clarke's website: <http://www.sportsmanartist.com/clarke/> ♦

Awards Highlight CRSA's Dinner on January 13, 2018

The January 13, 2018, CRSA dinner was highlighted by honors presented to the Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association (CFFA); teachers in Berlin and Hebron, and a school in Berlin; and John E. (Jack) Kinnear.

The Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association was honored for fifty years of dedicated conservation and education at the dinner, at which former and current presidents of the CFFA were presented with the CRSA President's Award.

The Fly Fisherman's Association, which meets monthly in East Hartford, was cited for its instrumental role in establishing minimum stream flows for Connecticut rivers, promoting catch and release fishing, and educating novice fly fishers. The CFFA, which has statewide membership, can be reached at www.ctflyfish.org.

Adam Parks of the Hebron Elementary School and Tom Francolino of McGee Middle School received framed certificates for fifteen years of teaching students about the science of wild Atlantic salmon and their environment. Susan Zibell accepted a similar award for the McGee Middle School.

The dedicated efforts of these teachers and schools to foster natural science education and the restoration of Atlantic salmon to Connecticut rivers is much appreciated.

John E. (Jack) Kinnear, a decades-long resident of Enfield and Suffield and a local Allstate insurance agent, was posthumously honored at the January 13 dinner. His widow, Marianne (Poggi) Kinnear accepted the award on behalf of the family. An avid and expert fly fisherman and CRSA board member, Mr. Kinnear was for many years an able representative of the CRSA's efforts to restore Atlantic salmon to Connecticut rivers. ♦



Pictured at right, from top: Elizabeth Kendall, CRSA director; Adam Parks, Hebron Elementary School; Tom Francolino, McGee Middle School; Susan Zibell on behalf of the McGee Middle School.

Middle: Former CFFA presidents Gary Bogli, Ray Riley, and Dr. Vinny Ringrose, current CFFA president Gary Steinmiller, and CRSA president Tom Chrosniak.

Bottom: Marianne (Poggi) Kinnear and Tom Chrosniak, CRSA president

Support our friends! Partner fishery organizations have these upcoming events:

- *Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association: Saturday February 2, 2019. Exposition from 9 am, dinner at 6 pm. Maneeley's Banquet Hall, South Windsor, CT. For more information, contact Phil Apruzzese at (860)489-4319.*
- *Farmington River Anglers' Association: Saturday, March 2, 2019 at Chatterly's restaurant in Torrington, CT. Call (860) 309-5510 for further information.*
- *Farmington Valley Trout Unlimited: Saturday March 23, 2019 6 pm at the Chowder Pot restaurant, Hartford, CT. For more information, call (860) 666-3447.*

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