Summer Update at SMRA

By Jenny Kaiser and Joanne Mailman

Riddle of the day:

Where do fish keep their money?

Hi everyone! We’re back with another summer update. This summer is going very good, we’ve had an increase in visitors along with yard sale and gift shop sales. So far a very successful summer!

On July 17th, we had thirteen people show up to watch the Butterfly presentation and check out the display and garden beds. On August 17th, we are planning Magic on the River which will include a museum tour, fly tying, crafts, games, and a scavenger hunt in Stonewall Park. This event is for kids ages 4-13(younger may attend with an adult). It will run from 9:30-11:30. To register, please call the St. Mary’s River association at 902-522-2099.

Next, we have our bi-annual fundraising dinner, auction, and fly tying conclave coming up on October 15th. The event will be held at the MacKay Room in the Bloomfield Centre on St. FX University Campus. With our partners, Antigonish Rivers Association and Nova Scotia Salmon Association, we hope to bring our friends together for a day of fishing, tying, dinner, and auctions and raffles. All proceeds go towards protecting and conserving wild salmon and trout in Eastern Nova Scotia. Tickets can be purchased by emailing Joanne Mailman at [stmarysriver@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:stmarysriver@ns.sympatico.ca) or by calling 902-522- 2099. Tickets are $65 each. A brief agenda includes a fly tying conclave with world experts, smoked salmon reception, opening remarks and buffet dinner and finally, a live and silent auction, card draw, and raffle.

With that being said, we are accepting donations for our auction. Donations can be dropped off at the museum at 8404 HWY #7 Sherbrooke or sent to St. Mary’s River Association PO Box 179  
Sherbrooke, Nova Scotia, Canada B0J 3C0.

Our river work continues. The St. Mary’s River Association has begun year 3 of its West Branch Habitat Restoration Project. With funding from Small Craft Harbours(SCH), Nova Scotia Liquor Commission /Adopt a Stream Program (NSLC/AAS), the Atlantic Salmon Conservation Fund (ASCF), Recreational Fisheries Conservation Partnerships Program (RFCPP), The AVIVA Community Fund and RBC/Blue Water Community Fund this much need work can continue.

The West River has been severely degraded, due to historical forestry practices, and log driving in the river, flood and ice events. This has resulted in over-widened, shallow channels and back channels. In the summer, water temperatures become lethal for fish and they can become trapped in shallow back channels. In the winter, the river channel freezes to the bottom, causing ice scour and damage to any fish eggs in the sediments.

Within the overall project area on the West Branch, eleven sites have been identified as needing restoration work at an estimated cost of $1.9 million. The type of work needed has been defined, the cost of work has been determined, and restoration work has begun. We have raised close to $600,000 over the past three years. Our fundraising efforts continue.

For more information on any of our programs, projects and events check out our new website at [www.stmarysriverassociation.com](http://www.stmarysriverassociation.com) or visit us on Facebook.

Answer:

In a riverbank