August Update from SMRA

By: Matthew Smith

Hi everyone! I’m back with another summer update from the St. Mary’s River Association. The month of August has been very dry. As a consequence, the river has been very low. I have been measuring the water and air temperatures twice daily and the water is very hot which makes it hard for the fish to survive. With lots of heat and low water levels the fish are more likely to get diseases and are easy prey for other fish and animals.

Another issue that is caused by heat is the river rocks turning white. The river rocks are granite. Once the river gets low, the calcium that was once stored in the plants get deposited into the water and as the water gets lower more of the rock shows. As more of the rock shows the rock gets white. This is caused from calcium deposits, at least that's our theory.

On hot days in the summer remember to be safe around the wilderness by not disturbing anything and be safe with fires. Cigarettes are an easy fire starter in dry woods so always use caution.

With that being said, we are hoping the fire ban will be lifted by August 17th. On August 17th, we are having our Magic on the River program. This program is open to all children that will be in the area that day. We will have a museum tour, fly tying, crafts, games and a scavenger hunt in Stonewall Park if the fire ban is lifted. If the ban is still in place, we have other fun activities planned in case we can’t do the scavenger hunt. To register, call 902-522-2099.

We have two trout in our aquarium that need names. Stop by the Salmon Museum at 8404 HWY #7 to put a name in. We will draw two names at the end of August. We're always excited to see new people and love when people come in to talk to us about the river and fishing stories. Come in and tell us a tall tale today!