

# **SMRA SPRING NEWS**

**SPRING, 2012  
Volume 23, Issue 1**



The SMRA Education and Interpretive Centre offers fly tying to visitors each summer. Pictured here are the Bucci Family of Fletcher's lake with summer student Josie Jordan. Drop in to see us if you're in the area.

## **St. Mary's River Association**

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## ST. MARY'S RIVER ASSOCIATION

The St. Mary's River Association is a charitable, non profit organization providing leadership and engaging partners to enhance, protect and promote the St. Mary's River as a healthy ecosystem for Atlantic salmon and other native animals and plant species as well as a rich community resource.

Our vision:

"Health for the river, the Atlantic salmon and our community."

SMRA News is a publication of the St. Mary's River Association as a service to our members.

The opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the policy of the St. Mary's River Association, the editor or the publisher.

Memberships, suggestions and comments are welcome. Address all correspondence to:

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(see ad on pg 10)

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT— Kris Hunter

It has been another busy year at the St. Mary's River Association with the board of directors working hard on a number of different issues relating to salmon. Some of these issues have been or have the potential for positive impacts whereas others did or will not. I would like to outline some of these issues and how diligently your board of directors has worked on your behalf and on the behalf of salmon.

In the spring of course we were confronted with the issue of people fishing for salmon during a closed season and a move by the government to crack down on these activities. In response the St. Mary's River Association Board drafted several resolutions that were presented at the ZMAC and later again at the fall RFAC. After the ZMAC the St. Mary's River Association Board was approached by DFO with their plan for this issue, which involved increases in enforcement activity as well as closures of certain pools to all fishing. The intent of this controversial plan was to provide safe havens for salmon from any type of fishing pressure; much in the manner that wildlife refuges work. The request DFO put to the SMRA was for us to provide local knowledge on which pools would be the best candidates for "refuge" status. Not wanting to proceed without our membership and in an effort to be transparent, the SMRA board hosted a public meeting to discuss DFO's request. At that meeting tensions were justifiable high and it became clear that our

members and the public wished to reject DFO's plan outright so the SMRA board sent a letter to DFO to that effect. Unfortunately as this was not an option DFO was going to consider, they proceeded without input and closed Cumminger Pool, Foot Bridge Pool, Ford Pool, Indian Man Pool, McKeen Brook (East Branch), Silvers Pool, and Sutherlands Bridge Pool, as well as pools in the LaHave and in the Medway.

In September members of the board met with DFO to discuss the future of their assessment and management programs and the implications for the St. Mary's River. This meeting led to further dialogue that is still continuing. The two most important outcomes of these meetings are that rivers will need to meet 100% of their conservation requirements to be opened to fishing and that assessments are going to be curtailed due to budgetary restrictions. While neither of these is particularly good news it has opened an opportunity for collaboration where we may be able to help shape and contribute to the assessment process in a meaningful manner. This certainly is positive, as there has long been mistrust about the assessment values, which can be repaired with a healthily and mutually beneficial collaboration. As I said this dialogue with DFO is ongoing and it is our intent to consult with our members on this issue in the near future.

A major part of the effort exerted by the board of directors has been

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT— Kris Hunter continued

to focus our organization and really push for recovery of the St. Mary's River salmon populations. To this end we have been in discussion with other groups about recovery and how it may be achieved. We met with both the Nova Scotia Salmon Association and representatives of the Eastern Sportfish Association on this issue. In response we have moved forward putting together several grants to try and finalize our recovery plan, but also to develop a clear roadmap to address the various issues that face St. Mary's River salmon recovery and guide us and other interested groups in how to realistically achieve recovery. A period of public and membership consultation is included in the plan that was submitted with these grants. So if we are successful with these grants then we hope to be meeting with people this summer and have a plan in place by the sometime in the fall. The board has worked hard on this issue and I feel it has been a really positive step forward that will ensure a healthy salmon population in the St. Mary's River.

The board has been closely following the process associated with the listing Atlantic salmon as an endangered species. In brief the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) has recommended that Atlantic salmon in the Southern Uplands, Eastern Cape Breton, and Outer Bay of Fundy be listed as an endangered species and that Atlantic salmon in the Gulf of St. Lawrence be listed as a

species of special concern. That recommendation was sent to DFO in late August/early September. DFO has a set number of months to respond to the recommendation, part of which includes an RPA (recovery potential assessment) document. DFO's response is due sometime this spring/summer, and so in preparation for that the board has been discussing options and talking with other organizations such as the Nova Scotia Salmon Association. DFO's response and the RPA document will be outlined at a meeting that will also provide an opportunity for dialogue. It is our intent to attend that meeting and establish a course of action based on the response and subsequent discussion.

The board of directors has dealt with and continues to deal with a number of other issues as well. We have participated on behalf of the organization in the province's 12% land review process. This is a process that will see 12% of all Nova Scotia land protected by 2013. This process has identified many riparian zones on crown land along the St. Mary's River that are candidates for protection, which would of course be beneficial to salmon as well as other wildlife in the area. The board has also been very active in discussing the current and potential aquaculture development on the eastern shore. We have attended public meetings and engaged in dialogue with the company and with other organizations such as the NSSA.

The board entered into discussions with the Nova Scotia Nature Trust to look at a large scale riparian zone restoration project. The board also weighed in on the Biomass harvesting issues, spearheading an information session that was held in the new Antigonish library. This information session brought together the different stakeholders and was very successful. Don Barnes on behalf of the board ran a successful mail-out fundraising campaign. The board also provided support to several programs and initiatives notably Trailblazers and the Atlantic Society of Fish and Wildlife Biologists. This is by no means a complete list or description of all the activities that the board has undertaken on the behalf of you and the St. Mary's River salmon. I know I have omitted several other pertinent board activities and issues, but I wanted to demonstrate the commitment and passion that the board of directors has shown in these trying times.

I personally want to thank the board for committing such energy and enthusiasm for salmon, especially given the difficulties with salmon closures and declining support. With such passionate and dedicated people pushing and advocating for salmon in the St. Mary's River I am confident in our ability to turn this situation around and recover this great species in this great river.

Cheers,

Kris

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**PENDING CHANGES TO DFO BY KRIS HUNTER**

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Over the past several months the St. Mary's River Association has been meeting with DFO – Maritime Region to discuss the upcoming changes to its Science division, in particular the effect that the changes will have on its assessment and management programs. These changes are being brought about for various reasons. DFO, like many government departments, has undergone dramatic cutbacks to their budget and as a result have had to downsize many of their divisions and programs. In addition to these cutbacks, legal action is being taken against DFO. Further, the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) has recommended that Atlantic Salmon in the Southern Uplands region be listed as an endangered species. The combination of these three factors will result in significant changes to the way that DFO will assess and manage salmon populations in the Maritime Region.

In order for DFO to make a recommendation on whether or not to list Atlantic salmon as an official Species at Risk, they have undertaken a review of what is known and not known about the Atlantic salmon and salmon rivers within the Southern Uplands. The outcome of this salmon review, termed the Recovery Potential Assessment or RPA, will be completed by DFO this spring. The RPA document will lead to a recommendation on whether or not to list Atlantic salmon in the Southern Uplands as an endangered species. In anticipation of the RPA, and in light of the other factors (legal and financial), DFO – Maritime Region has completed an internal review of their divisions and programs. This review has resulted in a shift of resources that will change the focus, the personnel and the procedures of its assessment and management programs. In general terms, the focus will shift to a greater emphasis on recovery of the species as opposed to maintenance of the sport fishery. Changes to job descriptions and personnel reductions are currently occurring, and procedural changes (ground level changes in how assessment and management is done) will be rolled out in the coming season.

A document outlining the results of this internal review, including the changes to DFO's focus and

procedures, is currently being finalized. However, some of the specific ground level changes have already been announced. The most significant of these to most anglers is the shift in management policy that will require rivers to meet 100% of their spawning requirement before any salmon fishery will be allowed. Previously a salmon fishery could remain opened until a river fell to 25% of its spawning requirement, although historically the recreational salmon fisheries on many rivers were maintained even below this level. At the most recent meeting at the beginning of March between DFO and the SMRA, we were informed of another change, the reduction of the assessment program on the St. Mary's River from an electrofishing, smolt wheel, and adult assessment to an electrofishing assessment only. However, despite this reduction in effort, DFO did allow for the possibility of private assessments (assessments completed by organizations such as the SMRA) that could be used by DFO. These private assessments would be dependent on the conditions that the assessment would need to be beneficial to both DFO and SMRA, and that the assessment would have to be developed through mutual consultation to ensure that standards are maintained. As such, the SMRA is continuing to meet with representatives of DFO to explore this possibility. The ramifications of these changes and the future of assessments will be discussed at the SMRA AGM to ensure that the entire membership is informed and able to comment on these issues.

*There are two types of fisherman - those who fish for sport and those who fish for fish. ~Author Unknown*

*A bad day of fishing is better than a good day of work. ~Author Unknown*

*There is certainly something in angling that tends to produce a serenity of the mind.*

*~Washington Irving*

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## Bird's Eye View Program – Bird watching for nature conservation by Karen McKendry

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“Bird's Eye View” is a new, field-based, citizen science volunteer program for birders offered by the Nature Trust. It provides an opportunity for anyone interested in birding to get out bird watching on Nature Trust conservation lands, and helps increase knowledge about the bird species using them. For expert birders, there will be opportunities to go to properties being considered for conservation, and to gather some of the first biological data about these sites. All participants in the program will be contributing to nature conservation in Nova Scotia through citizen science, and improving their birding skills at the same time.

The Nature Trust has recognized that conserving important bird habitat has been a gap in our strategic land conservation initiatives. The purpose of this project is to put in place a program, including a strong volunteer birder network, to help advance effective conservation and management of priority bird habitats on NSNT conservation lands. More specifically, the project aims to do the following:

1. Through partnerships with bird conservation organizations, gather data about bird populations and bird habitats in Nova Scotia, integrate this data into our conservation planning, and identify data gaps. Recruit and train birding volunteers to help us fill data gaps.
2. Identify important areas for birds *on our existing protected lands* through our birding volunteers, and procure information to help us to better manage and steward our conservation lands for the benefit of birds.
3. Use birding volunteers to improve the ability of the Nature Trust to identify important bird habitat and species at a “local area scale” and prioritize *candidate properties for permanent protection* through our land conservation program.
4. Educate and engage Nova Scotians directly in wildlife conservation, through volunteer opportunities (including building field skills) and awareness-increasing public events.

Part of the intent of the project is to secure birding volunteers to help the Nature Trust identify priority lands for conservation based on bird populations and

bird habitat.

On another level, we want to involve more people in birding, and in learning about bird habitat conservation. We will provide training and educational opportunities for volunteers interested in improving their bird watching skills, and in receiving training to become part of our “Bird's Eye View” team.

Understanding and conserving birds is critical in Nova Scotia, and around the world. Just one reason is because birds provide important “ecosystem services” – they do things in the environment, for free, that humanity needs, such as pollination and insect control. Unfortunately, many bird populations are in decline, including common species. One of the main threats to birds is habitat loss, which can be partially addressed through habitat conservation, such as the private land conservation work that the Nature Trust specializes in. We have already protected 47 properties across Nova Scotia, some of which provide habitat for rare species such as the Bobolink, Piping Plover, and Canada Warbler. If you have an interest in birds, please consider volunteer in our new “Bird's Eye View” program, and join in our work to help out our fine feathered friends!



NSNT staff member Karen McKendry, dressed as a Piping Plover, encouraged people to get involved in the Great Backyard Bird Count while birding on the roof of the Seaport Farmers' Market (Halifax). Photo by Kestrel Musselman.

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## Effect of Chain Pickerel on Lake Fish Communities – A Cautionary Tale for the St. Mary's by Sean Mitchell, PhD

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The chain pickerel (*Esox niger*), an introduced fish species to Nova Scotia, was initially planted in three lakes in 1945 as an alternative recreational fishery. Since the early 1800s people have been moving pike and pickerel throughout watersheds in the US and other parts of Canada to provide local commercial resources, control populations of non-sport fish, and enhance recreational fisheries. Since 1945, however, the distribution of the pickerel in Nova Scotia has spread to 95 known locations in the province. Most of these introductions into new lakes are likely through illegal movement of live fish by humans among watersheds. The problem with introducing the pickerel is that it is a significant predator – indeed, it is the classic “ambush predator”, lying patiently in wait until a food item passes close by then seizing it in an explosive and lightning fast action. There is evidence from other areas that introduction of shallow water predators, such as chain pickerel, can change the fish assemblage structure of lakes and displace native brook trout populations. The majority of the known pickerel lakes are in the southern extent of the province, with few known locations in the northern half of Nova Scotia (i.e., 4 in Pictou County, 1 in Cape Breton). The East River, Pictou system, in Pictou County is the northern-most extent of pickerel distribution on the mainland, and closest to St. Mary's River, with the introductions there being recent (i.e., since 1998). Some of the lakes in this system containing pickerel (West Branch, Long, Speicht's lakes) are within 10 km of headwater lakes of the St. Mary's (e.g., Moose and Perch Lakes).

In 2010 I conducted a study looking at the effect of chain pickerel on fish communities in the East River Pictou, and these results are relevant to the St. Mary's due to the proximity of the pickerel lakes in that system to the headwater lakes of the St. Mary's. Lessons learned from the East River Pictou show the consequences of introduction of pickerel to St. Mary's River lakes.

Once introduced to a lake, the pickerel consume all other fish in the waterbody. Fish communities were reduced from multiple species and large abundance (typically 5-7 species and more than 100 minnows and perch caught in a single gill net set not unusual) to two species – the pickerel and those white sucker which were too large to be consumed. All small fish were gone – the perch, minnows, trout, small suckers. The pickerel remaining once this food source is exhausted are feeding on aquatic insects and most likely cannibalistic on smaller pickerel. Not only is the fish community greatly simplified, but the abundance of fish in the lake is greatly decreased. This is due not only to loss of prey species but the little food does not support a large number of pickerel. And so, the lake has been effectively changed from a diverse ecosystem with a large variety of species, including abundant species such as yellow perch and brook trout for the recreational fishery, to one of low abundance pickerel and sucker. This has clear ramifications for recreational fisheries as the value and return of the lake fishery has been greatly diminished.

From an ecological point of view, the change wrought by the pickerel is profound and likely far-reaching. Such a fundamental change in the fish community likely has significant effects on in-lake ecosystem functioning such as nutrient cycling, phytoplankton/zooplankton production, etc. as well as significant ramifications on avian and mammalian fish predators such as mergansers, cormorants, kingfishers, eagles, mink and otter who have lost their prey base. These changes are likely to be permanent as long as the pickerel are present. Effectively, the pickerel have changed the ecological “state” of the lake from one with a complex food web to a very simplistic one.

A practical question then becomes, “what can be done if pickerel are found in a lake”. Unfortunately, control measures for introduced fish species are difficult, being either financially

**Sean Mitchell, continued from page 6**

expensive, socially not supported (e.g., piscicides), requiring extensive maintenance (e.g., barriers), or ineffective. The only true solution is to prevent the introduction in the first place. On the positive side of the equation, based on the East River study, the pickerel do not appear to be particularly prone to moving from one lake to another after introduction but rather largely remain within the lake of introduction.

The only way in which chain pickerel could find their way into the St. Mary's is by some misguided person intentionally introducing them. There have been several past and ongoing education programs by Federal and Provincial governments as well as Non-Government organizations regarding effects of introduced species. As well, angling organizations are well aware of the issue and are actively working with anglers to prevent this. This approach of education and changing behaviour of those few individuals who introduce species is likely to be much more successful than expensive and largely ineffective removal programs.

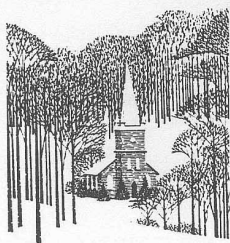
This work could not have been completed without the assistance of Jason LeBlanc and Anthony Heggin of Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture. Funding for this work was provided by the Freshwater Fisheries Research Cooperative. The completed report describing this work is available through the NSDFA and will be posted to their website in the future.

**NOTICE TO MEMBERS****ANNUAL MEETING**

*The annual general meeting of the St. Mary's River Association will be held on Sunday May 27, 2012 at 2 pm at the Association's Education & Interpretive Centre, located at 8404 Highway #7, Sherbrooke, NS. All are welcome.*

*All paid up members are eligible to vote at the meeting. Memberships will be available for those wishing to join or renew their membership.*

*We are always saddened to hear of any members who have passed away. This year we learned that Neil Watson, Charles Widgery and Wilson MacLeod passed on. They will be missed by all who knew them.*

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## EDUCATION & INTERPRETIVE CENTRE NEWS

### Joanne Mailman, Manager

Well it's kind of unofficial but the 2011 years' tourist season was a disappointment for us here at the Interpretive Centre. The "perfect storm" so to speak...high Canadian dollar kept many US visitors away; the high cost of gas keep our Canadian visitors away and the lousy weather kept everyone away! PLUS the closure of the salmon catch and release fishery here again this year AND the closure of many pools, kept many fisherman, who would drop in, away from our doors. Oh well, we have to move on now and hope that this coming season will be better, if not the best!

The summer of 2011 marked the 10<sup>th</sup> summer the Education & Interpretive Centre was in operation. In this period of time over 25,000 people have walk through our doors to experience our salmon fishing culture.

We have had a total of 53 people employed here during that period alone, either through contract or salary. With restoration projects, turtle projects, river research projects and interpretive staff, that's a lot of people!

Over the summer we had two summer students working in the Centre, Colin Feltmate as Historical Researcher and Josie Jordan as Museum Assistant. Their positions were funded by the Provincial Government Student Career Development Program and the Federal Government Canada Summer Jobs.

In June, Tom Moffatt from ASF came for a visit on his way to Newfoundland and Labrador. He was stopping at local salmon places. NSSA held their AGM here and SMRA hosted a Bio Mass forum in Antigonish (more on this on page 11) . We hosted a meeting for the community on pool closures — it was impressive to see so many concerned people attend. SMRA displayed information at the Sherbrooke branch of the Royal Bank. SMRA received funding from the RBC/Blue Water Grant (more on page 21). Other events included: NS Government Land protection meeting with Raymond Plourde of the Ecology Action Centre, fishing derby with Josh Corkum, Recreation Department and Jocelyn Ellis, SMRA director, and our annual Canada day yard sale. We hope to have new programs in place for the upcoming season and hope you will join us. Please feel free to drop in anytime.



Joanne Mailman with artifact from Education & Interpretive Centre

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## NS Youth Conservation Corp Summer Student Report

This past summer we hired two summer students through the NS Youth Conservation Corp. SMRA is no stranger to the program as we have had students in the past come through this program. In 2011, Mike Reid returned to work on the river along with St. FX student Korey Mabee. Below are highlights as submitted Mike and Korey to the Youth Corp of their work in the watershed.

*"After the initial training camps, the main goal was to do reconnaissance of the watershed and assess current state of old structures. The reconnaissance led us to appreciate the vast untouched wilderness and stunning scenery of the St. Mary's watershed. At the current time we are beginning to reclaim the old structures that have been damaged from the substantial ice flow within the watershed. The goal of this reclamation is to return the tributaries to a natural state.*

*The past few weeks, we have been focusing our efforts on locating and removing large woody debris on the surrounding tributaries of the St. Mary's. The main tributary that we have been working on is Macquarries brook; there is a large clear cut on both sides of the brook with an inadequate buffer zone causing large amounts of blow down. We are trying to balance on a fine line with respect to the amount of large woody debris removal because too much large woody debris causes channel jumping and obstruct fish passage. The positives of large woody debris are: provides cover and creates pools for fish. This balancing act is what we are trying to achieve."*

Their summer work plan was interrupted many times due to high water. Assisted a few times by Colin Feltmate and Josie Jordan, they managed to get much debris removed and many old structures repaired.

SMRA would like to thank the NS Youth Conservation Corp for funding this project.



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## ST. MARY'S RIVER ASSOCIATION LOTTERY WINNERS 2011

**\$1200.00 winner was Gerald Teasdale...Congratulations!** \* denotes winnings given back to SMRA

### April 2011 Winners:

\$150.00 ... Allister Jordan  
 \$100.00 ... Owen Duffy  
 \$50.00 ... Peter Archibald  
 \$25.00 ... Hardy Eshbaugh \*  
 \$25.00 ... Wayne Lantz  
 \$25.00 ... Tim Handforth \*  
 \$25.00 ... Winston&Tim Sawlor

### May 2011 Winners:

\$150.00 ... Dan Smith  
 \$100.00 ... Hilda Sherman  
 \$50.00 ... Allan MacDonald  
 \$25.00 ... Mark Pulsifer  
 \$25.00 ... Maudie Mathews  
 \$25.00 ... Gerry Doucet  
 \$25.00 ... Jack Duffy

### June 2011 Winners:

\$150.00 ... Maudie Mathews  
 \$100.00 ... Janice Silver  
 \$50.00 ... Maudie Mathews  
 \$25.00 ... Robert Sidler  
 \$25.00 ... Tim Nobes  
 \$25.00 ... Owen Duffy  
 \$25.00 ... Peter Udle

### July 2011 Winners:

\$150.00 ... Tom Corcoran  
 \$100.00 ... Willie Wong  
 \$50.00 ... Paul D'Entremont  
 \$25.00 ... Don Barnes  
 \$25.00 ... David Eshbaugh\*  
 \$25.00 ... Steve Eshbaugh  
 \$25.00 ... Janice Silver

### August 2011 Winners:

\$150.00 ... Gwen Robar  
 \$100.00 ... Ken Silver  
 \$50.00 ... Colin Coady  
 \$25.00 ... Peter Udle \*  
 \$25.00 ... George Newell  
 \$25.00 ... Paul d'Entremont  
 \$25.00 ... Steve Eshbaugh

### September 2011 Winners:

\$150.00 ... Eric Pineault  
 \$100.00 ... Tim Handforth \*  
 \$50.00 ... Parker Wong  
 \$25.00 ... Allan MacDonald  
 \$25.00 ... Gary Baudoux  
 \$25.00 ... John Hamilton \*  
 \$25.00 ... Allister Jordan

### October 2011 Winners:

\$150.00 ... Gary Baudoux  
 \$100.00 ... Ron Clark  
 \$50.00 ... Kris Hunter  
 \$25.00 ... Steve Eshbaugh \*  
 \$25.00 ... Peter Udle \*  
 \$25.00 ... David Sobey  
 \$25.00 ... Tom Purves

### November 2011 Winners:

\$150.00 ... Robert Anderson  
 \$100.00 ... Dan Smith  
 \$50.00 ... Tim Handforth \*  
 \$25.00 ... John Sherman  
 \$25.00 ... Ted Fowler  
 \$25.00 ... Janice Silver  
 \$25.00 ... Owen Duffy

### December 2011 Winners:

\$150.00 ... Janice Silver  
 \$100.00 ... Bob Bancroft  
 \$50.00 ... Gary Baudoux  
 \$25.00 ... Gary Fleuren  
 \$25.00 ... Scott Fraser  
 \$25.00 ... MacGillivray  
 \$25.00 ... Dan Macdonald

### January 2012 Winners:

\$150.00 ... Gary Baudoux  
 \$100.00 ... Willie Wong  
 \$50.00 ... George Sutherland  
 \$25.00 ... Tom Corcoran  
 \$25.00 ... Mark Pulsifer  
 \$25.00 ... Charles Fraser  
 \$25.00 ... David Sobey

### February 2012 Winners:

\$150.00 ... Robert Sidler  
 \$100.00 ... Mark Pulsifer  
 \$50.00 ... David Eshbaugh  
 \$25.00 ... Gwen Robar  
 \$25.00 ... Colin MacDonald  
 \$25.00 ... Barb Crosby  
 \$25.00 ... Judy/Charles MacInnis

### March 2012 Winners:

\$150.00 ... Parker Wong  
 \$100.00 ... David Sobey  
 \$50.00 ... David Sobey  
 \$25.00 ... Gerry MacIntosh  
 \$25.00 ... Tim Nobes  
 \$25.00 ... Jack Duffy  
 \$25.00 ... Tom Corcoran



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## Biomass Harvest Information Forum: Confronting the Controversy

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The harvest of Nova Scotia forests for biomass to provide an alternative source of industrial energy is a new paradigm and has proven to be controversial, contentious, and fraught with misinformation and misunderstanding. Within northeastern mainland Nova Scotia (Antigonish, Guysborough and Pictou counties) the principal industrial forest user with an interest in biomass harvesting is NewPage Port Hawkesbury, who in partnership with Nova Scotia Power are proceeding on developing a significant biomass based energy generating facility. The St. Mary's River Association (SMRA) perceived a great deal of opinion and unnecessary conflict around this issue in northeastern Nova Scotia, which was alleviated by providing information to interested parties and to ensure everyone is working from the same knowledge base. This information was to be conveyed by a Biomass Harvest Information Forum titled: *Confronting the Controversy – Hosting a Biomass Harvest Information Forum*.

The forum was aimed at an audience of conservationists/environmentalists, private landowners, firewood cutters and concerned citizens. The format was four 20 minute presentations (by NewPage Port Hawkesbury, Nova Scotia Power, Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources, and an environmental organization), each was followed by a maximum 15 minutes of Question and Answer directed at that speaker. This was followed by a short break after which a panel discussion and Q &A directed at any of the four. The Forum was held in Antigonish to attract parties from all three counties.

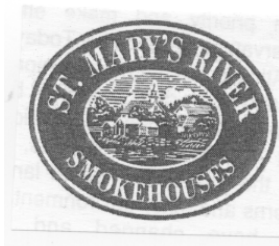
We anticipated that by working to ensure everyone had the same basic knowledge of the issue, unnecessary conflict would be minimized. The forum was very well received. We had a turnout of ~35-40 people (good considering the rare appearance of the sun in the sky). The 3 presentations and the resultant questions and discussions went really well. Terry MacIntyre, our moderator, kept the discussion going and ensured that everyone who wanted to speak got their say. The feedback we received both verbally and through a little exit survey was very positive with the majority of the attendees coming away with a clearer view of the various viewpoints and a better understanding of the issue. The forum provided us with the information that we need to formulate our position statement on biomass harvesting. Everyone in attendance seemed very happy with our format and speakers chosen and we received many thanks to both St. Mary's River Association for hosting and the Nova Forest Alliance for funding the forum. When asked about what we could improve, it was suggested that it would have been good to have a few more presentations (especially neutral party presentations) and some more discussion time to provide even more dialogue and information on this issue. In talking about this with people afterwards most understand that this was simply due to time restrictions (we didn't want this to be a whole day long forum). Thank you goes out to our funding partners: Nova Forest Alliance, New Page Port Hawkesbury, Ecology Action Centre and NS Department of Natural Resources.



## MEMBER OF THE YEAR– Don Barnes

The St. Mary's River Association is pleased to nominate Don Barnes as volunteer member of the year. Donnie has been an active member of the association for over 30 years acting as board member, educator and fundraiser. He is always willing to lend a hand working on the river, helping out at the Centre teaching casting at our day camps and relating family fishing history. Donnie is also an active volunteer with the Lions Club and other local organizations.

Thank you Donnie for all you do for the St. Mary's River Association.



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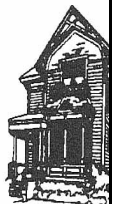
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ATLANTIC SALMON FEDERATION



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## **SALMON ASSESSMENTS ON THE ST. MARY'S RIVER by *David Hardie, Alex Levy, Heather Bowlby and Jamie Gibson* Fisheries and Oceans**

The St. Mary's River Association (SMRA) and Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) completed another year of collaborative salmon assessment work on the St. Mary's River. This year's activities included summer electrofishing surveys, operation of a smolt wheel, and a fall adult mark and recapture experiment. Unfortunately, river conditions presented many challenges on the St. Mary's in 2011. The operation of the smolt wheel had to be discontinued due to high water, and the recapture phase of our fall adult assessment was cancelled for the same reason. Efforts continue to develop the Recovery Potential Assessment (RPA) for Southern Upland salmon populations.

This year's electrofishing surveys took place between 18-29 July. Twelve sites were surveyed in total; five sites were located on the East Branch and seven sites were located on the West Branch. This year's average fry (age-0) and total parr (age-1 and age-2) densities (fish/100m<sup>2</sup>) were 17.3 and 7.4 respectively for the East Branch, and 9.7 and 3.9 respectively for the West Branch. The 2011 average fry density was higher than 2010 (7.7) and was the highest average fry density since 2001. The 2010 total average parr density was slightly lower than 2010.

This year fall seining took place in Cumming's, Indian Man, and

Sutherland's pools on September 27 & 28 but no recapture trip was conducted due to high water levels. A total of 70 salmon were seined. Of these salmon 96 % were grilse. Adult salmon counts conducted at the Morgan's Falls fish way on the LaHave River, which is the other index river in the Southern Upland region of the province, showed a slight decrease in grilse this year (i.e., 294 grilse counted in 2011 versus 300 grilse counted in 2010), whereas the multi-sea-winter count of 76 fish was higher in 2011 than in 2010 (53). When using the ratio of escapement of St. Mary's to LaHave method, 168 small and 21 large salmon were estimated to return in 2011. Alternatively, the mean catch rate of mark and recapture mark and recapture experiments for years 2006-2008 and 2010 (0.37) was used to estimate the 2011 escapement for the West Branch of the St. Mary's River and the ratio of 1SW to MSW found during seining in 2011 (0.96 for 1SW and 0.04 for MSW) was applied to the escapement estimate (Table 1). Using this assessment method, 182 small and 8 large salmon were estimated for 2011. Both methods estimated the total number of salmon returning in Saint Mary's River to represent 11% of the conservation requirement for the West Branch.

As many of you are already aware, the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada

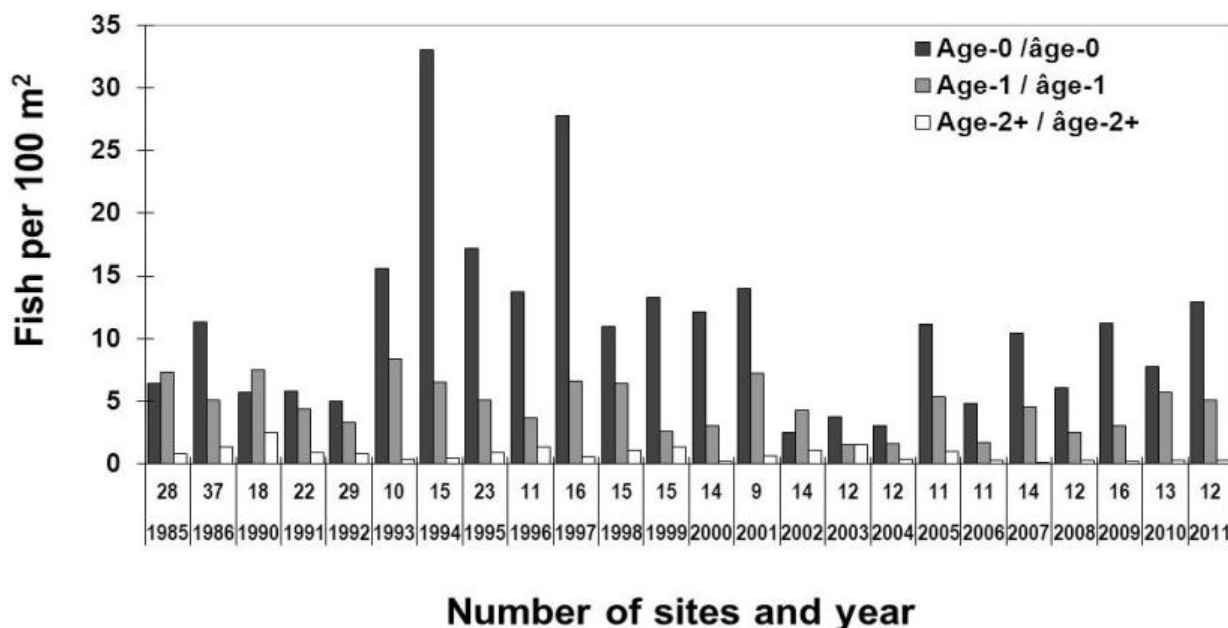
(COSEWIC) has finished their preliminary assessment of the status of all Atlantic salmon populations in Canada. COSEWIC has designated Atlantic salmon populations in the Southern Upland (SFA 20 and 21) as Endangered. As part of the process to determine whether or not these populations will be listed under the Species at Risk Act (SARA), DFO will undertake a Recovery Potential Assessment (RPA) in the spring of 2012. The documents produced by DFO Science for the RPA will: (1) summarize information about the status, trends, trajectories, threats, habitat requirements, and habitat availability for Southern Upland salmon, (2) explore scenarios that could lead to recovery, and (3) provide information for public consultations. The Minister of Environment and Federal Cabinet will consider this information from Science as well as information from public consultations and the social and economic costs/benefits of recovering Southern Upland salmon when they decide whether or not Southern Upland salmon will be legally protected under SARA.

We are preparing for another year of salmon assessment on the St. Mary's in 2012. As always, we greatly appreciate your participation and thank you for volunteering to ensure the success of these programs.

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## SALMON ASSESSMENTS ON THE ST. MARY'S RIVER (continued)

### Electrofishing Results: 1985 - 2011



*Table 1. Estimated escapement of one-sea-winter (1SW) and multi-sea-winter (MSW; including both two-sea-winter and repeat spawning salmon) Atlantic salmon relative to the conservation requirement in the West Branch of the St.*

Year	1SW	MSW	% Conservation Re-	Assessment Method
1995	1,121	240	78	Recreational Catches
1996	844	325	67	Recreational Catches
1997	390	61	26	Adult Mark-Recapture Experiments
1998	1,059	41	63	Adult Mark-Recapture Experiments
1999	307	83	22	Adult Mark-Recapture Experiments
2000	315	25	20	Adult Mark-Recapture Experiments
2001	319	106	24	Adult Mark-Recapture Experiments
2002	220	16	14	Seining and Mean Mark-Recapture Catch Rate
2003	600	122	42	Seining and Mean Mark-Recapture Catch Rate
2004	464	23	28	Seining and Mean Mark-Recapture Catch Rate
2005	192	8	12	Seining and Mean Mark-Recapture Catch Rate
2006	222	18	14	Adult Mark-Recapture Experiments
2007	182	23	12	Adult Mark-Recapture Experiments
2008	361	36	23	Adult Mark-Recapture Experiments
2009	96	15	6	Ratio of Escapement of St. Mary's to LaHave
2010	75 <sup>a</sup> / 171 <sup>b</sup>	14 <sup>a</sup> / 15 <sup>b</sup>	5 <sup>a</sup> / 11 <sup>b</sup>	<sup>a</sup> Adult Mark-Recapture Experiments / <sup>b</sup> Ratio of Escapement of St. Mary's to LaHave
2011	182 <sup>a</sup> / 168 <sup>b</sup>	8 <sup>a</sup> / 21 <sup>b</sup>	11 <sup>a</sup> / 11 <sup>b</sup>	<sup>a</sup> Seining and Mean Mark-Recapture Catch Rate

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## ATLANTIC SALMON FEDERATION REPORT

### Lewis Hinks, Director of Programs from Nova Scotia

One of the bigger stories of the year is the study on the economic value of wild Atlantic salmon.

The Atlantic Salmon Federation has launched a major campaign to convince the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) of the value of protecting and restoring Canada's wild Atlantic salmon populations.

Armed with a socio-economic study, prepared by Gardner Pinfold Consulting Economists Ltd. (GP) of Halifax, ASF, our councils, and affiliates brought the media into the mix on January 9. As well, government officials at all levels are being contacted and sent copies of the study to ensure that they truly understand the wild Atlantic salmon's value to Quebec and Atlantic Canada.

Wild Atlantic salmon were worth \$255 million and supported 3,872 full time equivalent (FTE) jobs in eastern Canada in 2010. The GP evaluation includes a gross domestic product (GDP) value of \$150 million, relating to activities such as recreational and First Nation fishing, tourism, education and spending by governments, universities and non-government organizations. Spending in the recreational salmon fishery in 2010 alone amounted to \$128 million and drew large numbers of non-resident anglers from the United States, where there is no Atlantic salmon fishery due to their endangered status.

Higher angler numbers are the key driver for growth in spending and even greater economic benefits from this fishery. For example, more anglers participated in the recreational fishery in 2010 (53,883) due to better salmon runs, compared to 2005 (41,737). In 2005, DFO valued Canada's recreational Atlantic salmon fishery at \$62 million. The GP study showed that the value in 2010 more than doubled this amount. A relatively simple concept to this study is that more fish mean more anglers traveling to eastern Canada, more money being spent, and more jobs being generated in rural areas that are very much in need of an economic boost.

The study also concluded that eastern Canadians hold a special place in their hearts, and pocket

books, for restoring this iconic species. More than 80% of the public supports investing in salmon restoration and are willing to pay from \$4.50 to \$12.50 annually per tax-paying household on programs that have a high likelihood of success. This amounts to \$105 million in tax dollars annually to support programs to ensure that wild Atlantic salmon continue to exist and contribute to ecosystem integrity.

GP randomly surveyed the general public in Atlantic Canada and Quebec during an economic downturn, when the average Canadian was preoccupied with debt and declining incomes. According to GP economist Greg MacAskill, the results were great and the strong support for wild salmon among non-users, against that dire economic backdrop, adds extra weight to the results, and cements the fact that protecting the species rests solidly among the core values of Canadians.

In our political climate, money talks, and government tends to invest in industries that provide economic benefits and jobs. The GP report confirms that wild Atlantic salmon support a sustainable green industry that attracts tourists and generates income and jobs in rural communities that are often faced with massive job losses in other industries, such as forestry. For example, the recreational salmon fishery on Nova Scotia's Margaree River attracts visitors from around the world, supports annual spending of \$2.5 million, and provides 70 (FTE) jobs to rural communities surrounding the river.

In Nova Scotia, the gross domestic product (GDP) of wild Atlantic salmon was valued at \$10.3 million in 2010. The GDP value of the recreational salmon fishery alone was \$4.4 million. NGOs contributed \$2.4 million to the province's GDP, nearly as much as the Federal Government's \$2.8 million, and far above the province's \$600,000.

Increasing salmon numbers is important to both the general public and the recreational fishing segment. To improve numbers, governments must take a lead in implementing effective restoration programs. Despite its core mandate to conserve

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## ATLANTIC SALMON FEDERATION REPORT - cont'd

and manage wild Atlantic salmon, DFO budgets related to wild Atlantic salmon have declined by nearly 75% since 1985.

Gardner Pinfold has provided a legitimate socio-economic value for wild Atlantic salmon, utilizing standard, transparent and comprehensive surveying techniques and analyses that have been the basis of many economic studies, some of which DFO itself has commissioned. The study clearly demonstrates that additional conservation and restoration measures for wild Atlantic salmon will significantly strengthen the economy and quality-of-life of Canadians.

If DFO adds \$15 million annually (a fraction of the \$105 million that the general public is willing to contribute) to restore its budget for wild Atlantic salmon to near what it spent in 1985, Canadians could see a return on investment within six years, according to Gardner Pinfold. Far from asking for a hand-out, ASF is asking government to invest in a legitimate industry that can provide sustainable jobs in rural areas.

Last year, we saw great returns to many of the rivers in eastern North America. Anglers and counting facilities reported strong runs on many rivers in 2011. Some matched or bettered 2010, while others surpassed previous five-year averages. As examples, by mid August, the Sand Hill River in Labrador had more than a 450% jump over 2010 and more than doubled its five-year average; and the Penobscot in Maine had more than 3,000 salmon, the best run since 1986. Here in Nova Scotia, strong runs were reported in the Cheticamp, North and Margaree rivers. Those strong runs continued into the fall, and most fall run rivers reported excellent angling.

On the aquaculture issue ASF is partnering on a pilot research project to grow farmed Atlantic salmon in a freshwater closed-containment system. Local community members from St. Mary's Bay and ASF filed an appeal to the Nova Scotia Supreme Court to oppose the creation of one of the province's largest fish farms that threaten endangered wild Atlantic salmon in the Bay of Fundy.

ASF and its partners continue to work on the Greenland program. The Greenland Government agreed at NASCO to maintain its commercial salmon quota at zero for the final year of a three-year regulatory agreement. As part of our continuing agreement to suspend this fishery that kills North American salmon, ASF and the North Atlantic Salmon Fund are working with Greenland fishermen to find alternatives to commercial salmon fishing.

In Labrador, ASF, the Salmonid Council of Newfoundland and Labrador, the NunatuKavut Community Council of Labrador and others piloted the harvest of wild Atlantic salmon by trap net to allow a better product for subsistence purposes and to promote live release of large salmon. We hope that this project will serve as a model for other First Nations.

ASF and our partners continued to fundraise to remove three dams on the Penobscot River. Plans are to remove the first dam, the Great Works, in 2012.

I wish to congratulate the St. Mary's River Association for all the great work you do for wild Atlantic salmon, and I look forward to working with you in the future.

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To all our volunteers, a great big thank you goes out to you as well. Without your generous contribution of time and energy, we would not be here. **THANK YOU!**

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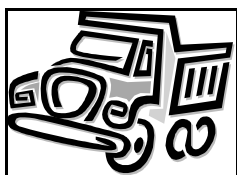
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## ST. MARY'S RIVER ASSOCIATION RECIEVES RBC BLUE WATER GRANT

The St. Mary's River Association (SMRA) was selected in 2011 as a RBC Blue Water Project Community Action Grant recipient for its Monitoring Watershed Condition in the St. Mary's River Watershed project.

"Engaging partners, enables the St. Mary's River Association to continue its work in the watershed. In order to sustain a healthy ecosystem, good water quality is essential. This project will assemble past data and highlight areas of concern. From there, we can develop plans to guide future restoration efforts," says Joanne Mailman, Manager, St. Mary's River Association. "Without partners like the RBC Blue Water Project, this important work could not be undertaken. A healthy ecosystem is not only important to our community right now but to future generations. Thank you RBC Blue Water for helping us. Your financial support is very much appreciated."

The RBC Blue Water Project is a 10-year, \$50 million philanthropic commitment to organizations that protect watersheds and ensure access to clean drinking water. Since 2007, RBC has pledged over \$28 million to more than 400 not-for-profit organizations worldwide that protect watersheds or ensure access to clean drinking water.

"Water is one of the world's most precious natural

resources, and we are truly impressed by how passionately the St. Mary's River Association cares about protecting and preserving water," says Heather Laybolt, Branch Manager, RBC Sherbrooke. "Their work is critical to the protection of our continent's valuable water resources, and we are proud to support them in their efforts."

Dr. Sean Mitchell, on behalf of the SMRA, was presented \$3,000 to be used towards monitoring watershed conditions in the St. Mary's Watershed area. He then spoke to the RBC Sherbrooke staff to outline the project. The goal of this project is to identify, confirm and locate water quality issues in the watershed using the historical data provided by government and the SMRA. This project will highlight areas and water quality parameters of concern as well as provide information to residents on the risks to the watershed.

On Friday, June 10, 2011, RBC Sherbrooke celebrated the second annual RBC Blue Water Day with a display showcasing various SMRA projects, contest, pledge poster, and cake. RBC staff, wearing blue water t-shirts, served a cake and gave out post it note pads to clients. They had the branch decorated with balloons and blue waves under the CSR wickets. The contest in a box lucky winner was Barbara Helen Moore.

**Heather Laybolt, branch manager RBC and  
Sean Mitchell , SMRA**



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## Angling Ethics—Don MacLean

Every day when I pick up the paper I read about new threats to the environment and sport fishing. Whether the threat comes from over fishing, acid rain or global warming, they all affect angling. With all the pressures on our sport fish stocks anglers are realizing the need to protect the resource. This includes fishing in an ethical manner. Ethical anglers realize that fish, and the environment they are found in, are a valuable natural resource. They recognize, and value, Nova Scotia's angling culture and long history of sport fishing and, while they know and obey angling regulations which are in place to protect the sport fishing resource, they also realize the need for a personal code of ethics or unwritten laws which covers behaviour on the water.

Webster's dictionary defines ethics as "The system or code of morals of a particular person, religion, group or profession." American outdoor writer Lee Wulff once defined the difference between games and sports by the fact that in games we require referees or judges to ensure compli-

ance to the rules, while in sports, such as fishing, we serve as our own referee. Most Nova Scotia anglers respect sport fishing regulations on bag limits and gear restrictions, as well as the protection of private property, and conduct themselves accordingly. Enforcement programs carried out by Provincial and Federal enforcement staff reveal very high compliance to regulations in Nova Scotia. However, there will always those who flaunt the law, take more than their share and soil our waterways with their garbage.

Ethical anglers respect all fish species as a valuable natural resource and appreciate healthy aquatic habitats by keeping them clean and leaving them in a better condition than when they found it. They understand the need for a personal code of ethics or unwritten law while also knowing, and obeying, angling regulations which serve to protect the resource. Most anglers I know respect both fish, and the environment they are found in. They make it a practice

of never leaving any garbage and even pick up the mess other people have left behind by including a garbage bag in their tackle box or fly vest and packing up any litter they find.

They also learn proper hook and release technique to allow released fish to survive and ensure quality angling by limiting their catch rather than caching their limit. Anglers should treat all fish in an acceptable manner whether they are retained, released or used as bait. This means that if you are planning on releasing all your catch use appropriate gear and play the fish accordingly. If you are practicing selective harvest, and decide to retain a fish, kill it quickly and store it in a manner which will ensure it maintains its quality for food.

Through wise use of our sport fishing resources, and the habitats they are found in, we will help ensure future anglers will be able to discover the joys of sport fishing on the lakes and rivers of Nova Scotia.



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## A Conservation story - A day in Bhutan with George Archibald and the White-bellied Heron (*Ardea insignus*) - W. Hardy Eshbaugh

After breakfast in Punakha we drove along the Puna Tsang Chhu River. It was harvest time and all along the route villagers were threshing rice. Rice is the bread-basket of Bhutan but the many faces of rice are startling. On a crystal clear sky-blue day the scene could not have been more picturesque. Suddenly, our driver Tanden exclaimed "White-bellied Heron" and there on the other side of the river, not so very far away, was a heron searching and feeding on a rock beach. All thirteen of us got a good look at this mythical species, one of the rarest birds on earth and the rarest bird in Bhutan. The White-bellied Heron belongs to the family Ardeidae that includes the herons, egrets, and bitterns. Sixty-one species belong to this group and they all fly with their necks retracted in contrast to the cranes that fly with necks extended. No one knows just how many individuals survive but we do know that from what was once a larger extent Bird Life International reports a range from the foothills in Bhutan and northeast India to the hills of Bangladesh, north Myanmar and historically at least, across west and central Myanmar. It is believed that the White-bellied Heron range once covered parts of China, Tibet, India, and Nepal. In Bhutan there are perhaps fewer than 30-40 individuals. We all found positions where we could watch the heron and some of the more ambitious and perhaps reckless photographers tried to inch ever closer to the bird. Dr. George Archibald, founder of the International Crane Foundation, was the

closest and he just sat on the edge of the river absorbing this precious moment. Perhaps the bird got tired of so many people encroaching on its space because suddenly it took flight and headed down river. What a thrill! Then it was time to walk across the rice paddies wending our way up toward the hills. We soon stopped at a collection of buildings that turned out to be a White-bellied Heron rehab and research site maintained and operated by Rebecca Pradham and Tsheweang Norbu in collaboration with the Royal Society for the Preservation of Nature. Rebecca's training is in botany and her passion is the Lauraceae especially the spice bushes (*Lindera*). She has studied with Dr. Peter Ashton at Harvard. We were shown around this amazing facility to learn about the efforts to hatch these herons in captivity and to raise them successfully for release back into the wild. They are employing techniques learned from the International Crane Foundation experiences. When the young are hatched they are feed by puppet heads so that they won't imprint on their human mentors. It is very humbling to see what these two advocates for the herons have accomplished in the most minimum of circumstances. The researchers live in tents while the birds have the run of the two more substantial structures at the study site. What they have learned has been collected into a book, *The Critically Endangered White-bellied Heron*, published by the Royal Society for Protection of Nature.



**White-bellied Heron  
(*Ardea insignus*) in Bhutan**

**"I never for a day gave up  
listening to the songs of  
our birds, or watching  
their peculiar habits, or  
delineating them in the  
best way I could." -John  
James Audubon**

**Use the talents you possess - for the woods would  
be a very silent place if no  
birds sang except for the  
best.  
Henry Van Dyke**

*\* Local author Ruth Legge of Liscomb was one of three women from Nova Scotia to join George and Hardy on this remarkable trip.*

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## NSLC — ADOPT-A-STREAM ON THE ST. MARY'S RIVER by Amy Weston

NSLC Adopt A Stream, the Nova Scotia Salmon Association's community-based fish habitat restoration program, has been working to expand the services and support it provides to community groups for the benefit of the waterways of our province.

Providing project funding and technical support to community groups is at the core of the program. With the contributions of our title sponsor the NSLC, the anglers (through the NS Sportfish Habitat Fund), and NS Fisheries and Aquaculture, we've been able to do a lot more of both.

In 2011, twenty-five community groups, including the St Mary's River Association, were directly involved in NSLC Adopt A Stream. Their efforts resulted in the restoration of more than 143,400 square meters of stream and riparian habitat. For the most part, their projects continue to focus on in-stream habitat improvements using tried and true techniques like removing major debris jams, installing digger logs and deflectors to re-establish stream meander and develop pool and riffle habitats, and doing bank work to provide cover and protect the bank from excessive erosion. Streamside replanting of trees along denuded banks is also a component of many projects; a total of 19,065 trees were planted this past season. Another aspect of aquatic habitat restoration is re-establishing fish passage. Community projects established fish passage to 49.6 kilometres of rivers and streams through a dam

removal, the completion of a fishway, and culvert remediation. Community-based habitat protection and restoration is improving 46 watercourses in 27 watersheds across Nova Scotia. To better assist our community group partners, we have been expanding the training, planning and assessment components of the program. The now annual spring NSLC Adopt A Stream community group workshop was held April 30<sup>th</sup> 2011 at the NSAC, providing an opportunity for groups to meet face-to-face, share experience and learn about our newly developed Watershed-based Habitat Restoration Plan template. The 2012 gathering is in the works for the end of April.

Early in July we offered one-day "Restoration technique refresher" training to which virtually all groups with habitat projects sent their field crews. Three different sessions were held across the province featuring a short classroom intro to the form and function of digger logs and how to get them in right, followed by hands-on field time installing them. Approximately 75 people participated in the training. We expect to run similar training again this coming summer.

NSLC Adopt A Stream is also offering its Aquatic Connectivity program, partnering with the Clean Annapolis River Project to provide training to community groups for assessing culverts for fish passage, arranging for the loan of survey equipment

(thanks to Dalhousie University) and analyzing data collected over the summer to help groups prioritize remediation efforts of the many sub-standard culverts they located. In 2011 nine groups took advantage of the training opportunity and 192 culverts were assessed.

**Thermal monitoring** was conducted in six watersheds this year. Community group volunteers and summer staff deployed data loggers to record summer temperatures in tributary streams of their river system. Data collected will be analyzed to categorize watercourses as cool, warm, or intermediate. Temperature profiles will help prioritize restoration efforts based on where the most benefit to fish populations can be expected.

There are many pieces to the puzzle of restoring our rivers and in particular our native fish species populations. But the key piece is the interest and commitment of community members and the coordinated efforts of local organizations like the St Mary's River Association.

For more information contact:

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NSLC Adopt A Stream Program Manager

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902-644-1276

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## **MARK YOU CALENDARS!**

### **ATLANTIC SALMON BUFFET/ AUCTION** **FLY TYING CONCLAVE**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2012**

**ANTIGONISH, NOVA SCOTIA**

**MacKay Room, Bloomfield Ctr. St. FX**

**Hosts: St. Mary's River Association**

**Antigonish Town & County Anglers Association**

**Nova Scotia Salmon Association**

#### **EVENING AGENDA**

**4:00 Fly Tying Conclave**

**6:30 Smoked Salmon Reception**

**7:30 Buffet**

**Table wine**

**Live and Silent Auction, Card Draw, Raffle**



Summer crews participating in Training session

**NSLC**  
**adopt**  
**a stream**

## Jocelyn Ellis — Fishing Derby


***“Spend some quality time with your kids. Take them fishing..... At the end of the day the kids will remember the fish. During their lifetime they will remember the person who first took them fishing.”***

On August 13, 2011 the St. Mary's River Association partnered with St. Mary's Recreation to offer a fishing derby at Nimrod's Campground. Young anglers from the area enjoyed several hours of catching fish. A barbeque was held at noon for the hungry young fisherman.

We wish to thank Nimrods Campground for the use of their facility. Without the use of the campground the fishing derby would not have been possible. The

children were also given prizes for their efforts. The prizes were given by organizations in the area and we thank them for their donations. Also, we would like to thank the St. Mary's River Association for use of their fishing rods and the St. Mary's Recreation staff and Josh Corkum for planning the event.

Fishing is one of the most enjoyable and enduring outdoor activities your child can pursue. Check the St. Mary's Newsletter this summer as we hope to make the fishing derby an annual event. You don't have to be a fisherman to bring your child or children. There will be someone there to help the children and who knows you may learn to fish or receive a few tips also.



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**PHIL'S FANCY**

Type: Wet  
Origin: 1982  
Reference: Phillip Turner



"This fly is my standby on the St. Mary's, especially up to the middle of July. It has also produced a lot of fish in Quebec and Newfoundland." - Phillip Turner

Hook: Wet  
Thread: Red  
Tip: Silver wire  
Tail: Orange D.M.F. floss  
Ribbing: Silver oval  
Body: Black floss or wool  
Hackle: Blue (Silver Doctor)  
Wing: Red (Pine) squirrel (barred)  
Cheeks: Jungle cock  
Head: Red (clear cement over thread)

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