

That Old Feeling.

This season we've been blessed by good water conditions and anecdotal evidence, so far, indicates that we have a good number of large salmon, a fair number of grilse, and that our gorgeous sea-trout are now present throughout the system.

In late June, Molly and I were persuaded by friends to try an open section of the river one evening. We thoroughly enjoyed the experience, even capturing a spectacular photo of the river.



Last week a friend and I had the honor of accompanying a first-time visitor to Nova Scotia on a morning's fishing. We were in great spirits, the weather was great, and the few other anglers we encountered were very genial as well, making our guest feel welcome on the river. The St. Mary's has always been a friendly river, where anglers of all stripes share in its magnificence.

A few fish that appeared to be nice sea trout showed themselves on the pool's surface. A couple had risen to flies that morning, but no one had been lucky enough to hook one.

When our visitor's turn to fish came he was primed and excited, wasting no time getting started at the top of the pool, then working his way carefully downstream with a wet fly.

My turn came next, so I followed him with a dry fly. Near the tail end of the pool a grilse rose abruptly and grabbed my fly. He (grilse are mostly male) ran and jumped three times, then was released bouncing and kicking.

Although our guest's offering provoked no response, we all enjoyed the morning immensely. At home later the familiar feeling of a good day on the St. Mary's came over me, covering me like a warm blanket. It's always great to know there are salmon in the river and that I had the honor of returning one to complete his cycle of life late this fall.

It was a wonderful feeling that I hadn't experienced for a very long time, far too long.

Thank you St. Mary's River!

Here's a dry fly that appeals to both sea-trout and salmon, one of Chris Williams tiny deer-hair microbugs.

Bill Carpan, Stillwater NS



MicroBug

Hook:	#10-12 bronze wet fly hook
Thread:	Red
Tail:	Orange calftail
Body hackle:	Orange cock saddle hackle
Body:	Red deer hair, clipped to shape
Head:	Red thread finished with clear head cement

