



## Adam's Salmon

*Why this photo simply couldn't be left out.*

I know I'm going to get in trouble, but it's better to get this right out in the open. I have never caught a salmon.

Not that I haven't had the opportunities, having been taken under wing by some of the best salmon people on some of the top rivers over the years—Adams on the Matapeda, Campbell on the Moisie, Gilker on the Cascapedia, Dudley on the Salmonier, LeGrand and Dubé on the Bonaventure to mention only a few. I can drop names like Art Lee, but when it comes to fish caught, I am his absolute opposite, stuck in the bizarre world of salmon angling, the one where no one catches a fish.

It's not as bad as it seems. I'm more inclined to climb out on the bank after a few casts to take pictures, or hike up or down stream to watch and talk with other anglers, or visit a river guardian sitting

alone in his hut. Please don't feel sorry for me about the lack of notches on my rod. It helps me keep a cool detached demeanour which is necessary in this job, especially when putting together an issue on how a younger generation of anglers gets hooked on salmon fishing and, more importantly, live release.

From the cover of a salmon conservationist icon passing on his love of the sport to two smiling youngsters, to Bill Taylor's first salmon (President's message, page 4), there was no shortage of stories or photos to sift through. A young angler meets a live release missionary (Our Man Manfred, page 34) in a land where this powerful conservation ethic has yet to catch on. A father takes his two boys fishing and worries on whether they will have the patience to love the sport (Through Young Eyes, page 56). There were some tough decisions to be made, however, none more difficult than whether or not to publish this shot of young Adam and his first salmon.

Grandfather and grandson, each catches a record-size salmon in the same pool thirty years apart (Generation No-Kill). In the magical, mystery world of magazine design, however, the picture didn't quite fit, a tough decision for sure, but one I could make being the detached, cold-hearted editor I am.

That's until Faruk, the grandfather explained to me how Adam has been talking about this salmon since he released it last summer. How he wonders and asks and reads everything about salmon and their lifecycle to better understand what might be happening to his fish. And not just to his fish, but to all Atlantic salmon everywhere. Suddenly the link between Wilfred and Bill and Adam seems a lot more direct, and that's what this issue is all about, that turn-on moment, which I never experienced.

So there you go Adam, in the end your fish made the cut. I would have preferred to have a picture of myself with my first salmon but as I have confessed above, that would be impossible at this time. Not to worry, though. That's one more amazing thing about live release; your first fish can end up being my first fish, too. And if that happens, I guess, I would own the record on the Petit Saguenay. So, with that in mind, see you on *La Poussière* next year.

*Martin Silverstone*

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