Douglaston Salmon Run Management:

I fully recommend Nate Adam. He is a young, up-and-coming talent with excellent personal qualities and business savvy, a combination that often loses authenticity on the personal side, but in his case, I think this never will happen. I know Mr. Adam means business, because we conversed on how he came to do what he does, and his grasp of the fishing scene from the St. Lawrence River to the Salmon River, and his ability to fill the needs of anglers from flies to guided adventures, became apparent to me on a broad scale.

I phoned Mr. Adam early last year, planning a steelhead trip for a long weekend in November when my son would have some time off from school. Our phone conversation included a request for information that might help my writing, and Nate obliged with stories that ranged from steelhead and salmon, to the rare northern pike that goes upriver. We booked for November 6th.

We met at the Black Hole parking lot near dawn, and Nate led us into the upper DSR, all of us well aware of, but a little nervous about, the 2015 fall steelhead runs lacking fish. I liked the stretch Nate had us focus on first, and we covered it by switch-casting thoroughly before my son hooked up. We all know how steelhead require a persistence--by fishing a current over and over--like no other form of fishing, and Nate’s patience sort of supported against my tendency to feel shut out of any results. So when my son came fast to a fish, I realized our guide’s steadfast encouragement favored us much more than the reasonable fee, because to have gone home without catching anything would have been worse than a bad day of fishing. A writer invests a whole lot in success.

Later, when we fished a stretch further downstream, the river walker spoke with Nate at length, and among other things, told him my son’s seven-pound steelhead was the only one caught on the DSR that morning! They spoke at noon.

When I hooked up a little later, and made a bad move with the steelhead at the net, Nate pointed out he had told me to keep the rod low and to the side. I’m not yet very experienced fly fishing big steelhead, so his advice will always be with me hereafter.

Bruce Edward Litton

