

Murphy's Perfect Fish -

By Jack Mauer, 2004

It is always a pleasant surprise to locate the hold of a real good fish, particularly in a place you wouldn't suspect. Last year after the snows finally melted, the river was totally rearranged and the trout found some new niches along some familiar spots.

For over 1000 yards not a fish rises along this bank with very slow shallow water. I got into a practice of rowing through it as quickly as possible. There's better fishing ahead. However on a windy day in early fall we were pushing down, fisherman John Edward's made a great cast and hooked the fish. She promptly broke off. The hold was a deep log bucket I've overlooked. Ten miles of river and I've been too

complacent. Now, I was anxious to see this fish John found.



About a week later, I was on this reach again with a south Florida couple, Frank and Liz. They already had a super day of fishing and were a bit concerned about the length of the float. I pushed down to the log bucket. Liz cast the hopper pattern just off the bank and got a good drift down to the hold. She hooked the rainbow solidly. It ran wildly to the middle of the river, jumped and went back toward the boat under the log and broke off again. It was nice to get a look at this

splendid hidden rainbow trout but we were disappointed for Liz that we didn't land it.

After several more times of floating this reach and trying hard to catch this trout and failing, I'm ready to concede this is no ordinary fish. This spring before run-off we're going to entice her with a large stonefly dry...Murphy's trout.

I know she'll be ready!!!