



Wild Trout Trust

News Autumn 2008

The Wild Trout Trust is dedicated to the conservation of wild trout in Britain and Ireland through protection and restoration of habitat

WTT & ORVIS Conservation Awards 2008 AND THE WINNERS ARE...

ANNUAL DRAW 13 December 2008

Tickets cost £1 each. We will complete the counterfoils and send you the corresponding tickets. It couldn't be easier!

Ticket Application enclosed (includes full prize details),
Or visit our Webshop at www.wildtrout.org

1st Prize worth £778

Donated by **Orvis**

An Orvis Helios Rod, Battenkill Fly Reel and G3 Wonderline

2nd Prize worth £570

Donated by **Three Eses Ltd**

4 days of Salmon Fishing in Skye with 4 nights' Accommodation

3rd Prize worth £250

Donated by **Patrick Lloyd and Robert Denny**

A day's Guided Fishing on the R Monnow with Picnic Lunch

4th Prize worth £212

Donated by

West of Scotland Holidays

2-night B&B Break with fishing at the Portsonachan Hotel, Loch Awe, Argyll

5th Prize worth £180

6 Bottles of The Balvenie Signature 12-year-old Malt



Photos. Top: Jenny Wheeldon accepting the award for Winner of the Professional category on behalf of the River Avon Stream Project Partnership. Bottom: Vaughan Lewis accepting the award for Winner of the Amateur category on behalf of River Dikler Restoration Project, Cotswold Fly Fishers. Awards were presented by Michael Edwards (left) of Orvis, and Brian Clarke (right) the WTT President.

Awards ceremony

The afternoon of the 21st October 2008 was clear, the sky was blue and adorned with small white clouds. It was perfect weather for your executive committee and your trustees to be about their customary daily activities of river-restoration and welfare of the brown-trout species. For once they were not there.

Your representatives were at the annual Conservation Awards ceremony of the Wild Trout Trust.

The venue for 2008 was the Savile Club, a building with a modest façade that hides a rather splendid interior. We were there by courtesy of Orvis, who sponsored the whole event and made the arrangements with the club. The premises also contain the headquarters of the venerable Flyfishers' Club - to which we had been invited for tea by the good offices of their secretary, Tim Boycott.

The main event of the day was held in the ballroom. The proceedings started at 7-15 pm.

Simon Johnson gave a short speech of welcome, thanking everyone for coming, thanking the competitors and the judges for their splendid efforts, thanking Orvis for their (now legendary) support and, in thanking the Flyfishers' Club (with whom the WTT shares so many aims) he made a very creditable attempt at pronouncing their motto - piscator non solum piscatur (There is more to fishing than catching fish).

In his last presidential address to a CA ceremony Brian Clarke said that this was the most significant event in the WTT's calendar: the time at which recognition was given to all of the workers, supporters, friends, sponsors and members for the combined strength that achieved the great levels of success that could be attributed to the Trust. Trustees and committee members, volunteers who give freely of their time and skills, and sponsorship in many forms, such as the provision of venues for meetings, all help to keep our running costs to a minimum. Government agencies and associations all give most valuable support and encouragement. Special mention was made of Orvis, sponsors of this event and promoters of so much environmental work. The WTT increased in achievement every year with habitat-surveys and practical demonstrations growing annually: 100km of rivers had been surveyed and a target of 150km was set for 2010. New fund-raising had

resulted in being able to make new appointments and in being able to introduce the Trout in the Town project with its propensity to involve local communities. However, we are not without difficulties. Membership is disappointingly stagnant at about 2,500. We do not know where the credit-crunch will take us so the generosity of individuals in providing auction-lots and buying draw-



tickets was becoming more valuable than ever. The WTT will strive to do whatever is necessary. There are, and will be problems but we believe that the future is not orange but golden... with red spots!

Allan Frake took charge of the awards. He introduced his report by saying that the judges had noted a pleasing increase in important peripheral activities such as monitoring, education and involvement of local communities. (The judges' reports on individual projects and the winners are given below). The total submissions weighed 1.6kg (three and a half pounds in trout-weight). It took the judges six hours to read the submissions and a further six hours to debate the virtues of each: that was in addition to visiting the sites. The overall standard was exemplary. There were 14 finalists and it was difficult even to arrive at a short-list. All entrants were to be congratulated.

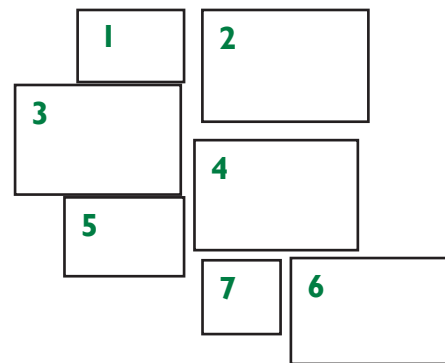
Michael Edwards, the managing



director of Orvis, said how pleased he and his company were to see the success of the WTT. He paid tribute to all present for the achievement of 100km mark in river-surveys. Orvis was delighted to have been able to help; it was disappointing to note how little support emanated from the tackle-trade in general. There were honourable exceptions but they were few; it was to be hoped that more support would be forthcoming in the future. The WTT's work is essential and that should be recognised by all.

Tributes were paid to Brian Clarke's work during his term of office. He has been a wise and

Awards ceremony



Photos: **1.** WTT Award Judges Jenny Mant - Center (River Restoration Centre), John Shillcock - right (Independent Fisheries Consultant), Allan Frake - left (Environment Agency).

2. Assembled guests enjoying wonderful surroundings and hospitality generously sponsored by Orvis. **3.** Michael Edwards (Orvis) - left, presenting the runner up award in the Professional category to

Dominic Longley (Cain Bioengineering). **4.** Edward Twiddy (WTT Chariman) - far-left, Orri Vigfusson (Chairman of the North Atlantic Salmon Fund) - left, Brian

Clarke (WTT President) right and Michael Edwards (Orvis). **5.** Michael Edwards (Orvis) - left, presenting the runner up award in the Amateur category to John Drewitt (River

Bourne Conservation Group) and Brian Clarke - right (WTT President). **6.** Orri Vigfusson (Chairman NASF) - left, Brian Clarke (WTT Chairman) and Martin Salter (MP Reading West) - right. **7.** WTT

are proud of strong links with the Flyfishers' Club and grateful for their warm hospitality.



influential President, who has played an active role in contributing to the Trust's success during the last five years. Brian was presented with an Orvis rod in appreciation of his achievements on behalf of the WTT.

It was another very successful event.



Conservation Awards 2008

Judges' Report

Background to the 2008 Awards

This annual award has been running since 1998. It recognises and encourages excellence in the management and conservation of wild-trout habitat. The award celebrates the efforts, skills, ingenuity and imagination of those involved. The competition is open to individuals or organisations in two different categories: amateur and professional. The prize money for both categories is sponsored by Orvis.

This year's judging panel comprised: Jenny Mant (River Restoration Centre), John Shillcock (Independent Fisheries Consultant), Allan Frake (Environment Agency).

In arriving at their decisions the judges mark each project according to 10 different major criteria:-

- General conservation value
- Appropriateness of the scheme to the site
- Funding and value for money
- Techniques used
- Impact on wild trout
- Sustainability
- Improved fishing value
- Ease of access and management
- Report presentation
- General value to the wild trout cause

AMATEUR CATEGORY WINNER

River Dikler Habitat Restoration Project, Stowe on the Wold, Gloucestershire

COTSWOLD FLY FISHERS.

Site Background

For many years the Rivers Dikler and Leach have been seriously neglected; they have fallen into significant decline. Reports from anglers who managed to fish the few accessible sections reported good fly hatches but large sections of river were filled with silt, over waist deep; emergent reeds were becoming the dominant vegetation. Large sections of the river therefore were un-fishable. The club had to decide whether to enhance the river for use by club members or remove them from the club's portfolio of angling waters.

Key Objectives

- Removal of weirs to increase velocity and direct flows in order to help the removal of sediment and prevent future colonisation of Sparganium.
- Selective opening up of the dense tree canopy and removal of fallen trees so as to allow light into the river to encourage in-stream plant growth and increase river velocities.
- Introduce a variety of in-stream structures to alter flow regimes.
- To create cover to cater for various parts of the life cycle of the fish.
- Removal of sediment and Sparganium by hand and mechanical means to define a clear 'Thalweg' in areas of lower flows.
- Introduce gravel to encourage spawning of the wild trout population.

Work initiated & completed

The primary source of the silt problem was identified and ameliorated with the help of the E.A. The removal of a number of weirs and clearance of the Sparganium enabled the in-channel habitat improvement structures to work



Large Woody Debris Flow Deflector

effectively. Selective canopy clearance has allowed submerged plants to develop. The channel has been re-energised by narrowing with brushwood-faggots, mid-stream islands, and flow deflectors. Local stone, trees and large woody debris have been used for this work. The installation of spawning gravels substantially has improved the habitat for fish and other riverine flora and fauna.

Conclusion

The tremendous enthusiasm, thought and effort that had been provided by a relatively small number of highly motivated individuals particularly impressed the judges. Also they admired the emphasis placed by the angling club on the educational aspects of the project involving local community groups and schools. The use of local materials and opportunism shown in acquiring spawning gravels from the local water company also was impressive as it resulted in a project that demonstrated outstanding value for money. Also of particular note was the successful liaison with the farming interests, gaining their support under the pressures of a difficult agricultural climate.



Fish easement by-passing a mill leat

AMATEUR CATEGORY RUNNER UP

River Bourne Habitat Enhancement Scheme, Hurdcott, Wiltshire

MANOR FARM & BOURNE CONSERVATION GROUP & THE WESSEX CHALK STREAM PROJECT.

Site Background

The River Bourne at Hurdcott has suffered from dredging works, impoundments and water-quality issues from a sewage treatment works, possibly exacerbated by the effects of water abstraction. These issues were manifested by an obvious lack of in stream habitat-diversity, poor fish populations; there was a scarcity of submerged vegetation and clean gravels due to siltation and high levels of algae smothering the substrate. A high level culvert, previously installed on a mill by-pass channel, also prevented the migration of salmonid fish.

Key Objectives

- Improve the habitat quality of over 1km of river by re-introducing habitat diversity to a uniform, channelised, section of river for the benefit of bank-side mammals, birds, fish, invertebrates and plants
- Establish a viable wild brown trout fishery.
- Plant bank-side trees for cover.
- Create a native species woodland and new pond/wetland feature adjacent to the river.
- Improve the spawning habitat and provide passage for migratory salmonids.
- Introduce photographic monitoring the reach.
- Introduce surveys of river-habitat and populations of invertebrates, voles and fish populations.

Work initiated & completed

Since 2003 log and chestnut faggot current deflectors have been introduced to vary the physical channel form and create a sinuous flow-pattern. Native trees and shrubs have been planted and a 3m marginal vegetation fringe has been created. Suitable spawning gravels have been introduced at two locations and a narrow, low-flow, two-stage channel has been installed. A 0.2hec wetland-feature linked to the river provides lateral wildlife and hydrological interest, and a nursery and fish-refuge area. A small plantation of several

hundred native trees has created new woodland habitat on the floodplain. The final phase of the project has included the construction of an elevated, stepped, breeze-block fish-easement structure to facilitate fish migration.

Conclusion

This project involves a small but determined group of individuals that has made excellent progress over the years by introducing many rehabilitation initiatives. The judges were impressed particularly by the emphasis placed on creating new tree and wetland floodplain-habitat for other wildlife in addition to the in-river improvements. Also of merit was the degree of innovation shown in all aspects of the project and how the new features blend well into the river and floodplain landscape. The extensive nature of the work using sustainable techniques should ensure that in the near future at least this section of the River Bourne would return to something approaching its former glory.

PROFESSIONAL CATEGORY WINNER

River Avon STREAM (Strategic Restoration and Management), Hampshire & Wiltshire

NATURAL ENGLAND, THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY, WESSEX WATER WILTS & HANTS WILDLIFE TRUSTS

Site Background

In 2003 a Conservation Strategy for the Avon Special area of Conservation (SAC) identified the main threats to the river's ecological health and agreed on a range of activities to address them. STREAM is a £1million, four-year project. It is centered on the River Avon and Avon Valley in Hampshire and Wiltshire, primarily undertaking river restoration at 6 sites and linking management of the river and valley to the benefit of a wide range of river interests including various fish species, plants, invertebrates and birds. Also it is linked closely with the Avon 'Living River Project' which fosters both physical and intellectual access to the river and its catchment.



'Dragons teeth' flow deflectors on the R.Nadder

Key Objectives

- Restoration of 7 km of river, addressing habitat degradation due to past river engineering and land drainage that had destroyed habitats, damaged fish and vegetation communities, silted-up gravels and disconnected the river from the floodplain – with the resultant loss of wetland.
- Tackling wider biodiversity issues outside the European protected sites including additional priority species and habitats, particularly linking water levels in the river and valley and identifying ways to prevent fish entrapment
- Developing a prioritized programme of ditch restoration and producing protocols for operating key hatches and sluices
- Improving public access, awareness and support for the important natural-heritage of the river and the valley.

Work initiated and completed

Physical features and geomorphological processes have been restored using various traditional and new techniques including deflectors, islands, trees and large woody debris to vary the flow, direction and speed of the stream.

Channel- narrowing using berms, bank re-profiling, raising streambed levels and introducing new gravel-riffle spawning areas.

Fencing.

Floodplain scrape-creation and water-level management has been implemented and best-practice guidance information has been produced.

Extensive physical and ecological monitoring has been done. Emphasis has been placed on improved stakeholder and public appreciation of the sites. Species/habitat improvement has been achieved through use of a project website, workshops, leaflets, posters, open days, river walks and display boards.

Conclusion

The judges were impressed by the way in which the fisheries' and conservation interests had been integrated and combined with a comprehensive monitoring programme to assess the effectiveness of the restoration work. Particularly impressive was the extensive engagement with angling interests, landowners and especially the lengths to which the local communities and the general public were involved at all stages of the project.

PROFESSIONAL CATEGORY RUNNER UP

The Bourne Rivulet Rehabilitation Project

CAIN BIOENGINEERING, MICHAEL MALYON & NATURAL ENGLAND

Site Background

The Bourne is a small but revered chalk-stream tributary of the River Test. It is subject of the celebrated fly-fishing book 'Where Bright Waters Meet' by Harry Plunket-Greene. This 700m section of river had been extensively dredged, the gravel having been removed from the bed and piled on the bank in a continuous bund. Channel re-alignment had resulted in an over-wide watercourse, with depleted wet margins and a lack of physical diversity in



Reprofiled gravel rich bank & channel narrowing

terms of flow, depth, and substrate resulting in a virtual absence of fish.

Key Objectives

- Recreation channel sinuosity, pinch points, depositional areas, and pool- and-riffle structure with a variety of depths and flows.
- Improvement of trout spawning, nursery, yearling and adult trout habitat.
- Encouragement of dense beds of *Ranunculus* and chalkstream headwater invertebrate communities.
- Develop typical diverse bankside plant structure.
- Provide access points for fly fishermen with good adult brown-trout holding features upstream adjacent to these access points
- Produce a showcase of value-for-money soft engineering design and techniques.

Work initiated & completed

Various structures have been installed, largely sourced from materials on site such as timber, brushwood, gravel and flint (hand picked from the local fields). Only chestnut posts, coir blanket, wire and fencing staples were brought in. Chestnut posts were used to mark out the outlines of the structures, large woody debris and large flints were installed at the toes; coir blanket was placed to retain the gravel and smaller flint. Brushwood mattresses were installed within the structure and that was followed by careful grading of bank-side gravels into and around the structure and elsewhere in the channel. Re-graded river banks were left unseeded. The whole project took less than 4 weeks to complete.

Conclusion

The judges admired the quality of the thought that had gone into the planning and installation of specific features at particular points. These are all working well together to produce a superb mosaic of habitats for fish and other flora and fauna. The whole reach, albeit artificial functioned as a classic, diverse ecological unit. The innovative use and re-use of predominantly on-site material was excellent. Using the project to demonstrate a variety of value-for-money techniques to others interested in this approach also was to be applauded.

The Game Fair 2008

The sun shone. For three glorious days it shone on Blenheim, it shone on the tents and the marquees, it shone on the dusty avenues between the stands, on despairing umbrella-sellers seeking consolation in the beer-tent and on the rejoicing ice-cream vendors. The misery of 2007 faded from memories and visitors flocked to the site from the early hours of every day.

Thanks to the mighty efforts of the director and his team, plus the superb co-operation and sponsorship of John D. Wood, our partners on the stand, we were ready to meet all-comers from the moment the gates were opened.

Jason Lovering and his crew from Five Rivers surpassed even their own previous achievements with their installation of the stream and their work was enhanced with plants generously donated by British Flora. The children's art competition attracted continuous attention throughout the three days; the children loved it and parents were seen to sigh with relief as they sat down to rest their hot feet for a quarter of an hour. The bug-corner was as popular as ever amongst older children and there was a steady flow of adults waiting to peer through the microscope at the mini-beasts from the lake.

The WTT's on-site team was a living example of perpetual motion. The stream of visitors was continuous. On every side there were happy cries of welcome to old friends, old members, prospective members and those who had stopped, only to look, and found themselves the smiling



Photos: above: Stuart Croft entralls adults and children alike with his demonstration of river fly life, 'Put the fly back into fly fishing'; below: the very popular WTT stand.

recipients of a joke or two and a handful of raffle tickets. The team worked without flagging and with every sign of enjoying the process.

So much chat, plus the underlying serious intent, inevitably was enervating in such hot weather but we (and a number of our visitors) were saved by the contents of a well-stocked 'fridge and the most welcome presence of firkins of Freeminer real ale (kindly donated by David Marriott and set-up by founder and brewer Don Burgess).

Our more formal entertaining was

AN EXCELLENT DECADE

Brian Clarke, the trust's President, welcomed members, conservation partners and sponsors to a small celebration on the Saturday evening, to mark what he called "the trust's stunningly successful first 10 years of existence". The party would, he said, have been held last year had it not been for the floods that washed the fair out – a phenomenon for which, naturally, he took entire responsibility.

Brian commented on the WTT's extraordinary growth and to the fact that, thanks to our people and our can-do, will-do attitude, we were already a significant and highly respected player on the conservation scene. We were immensely grateful to our partners, who included the Environment Agency, Natural England, the National Trust and the Esme Fairbairn Foundation. In addition we had important and generous friends in game-fishing and the tackle trades, whose help we could not do without. Brian said that for some years we had consistently been launching around 50 habitat studies a year, 90 per cent of which turned into in-the-water improvement projects. Wild trout on over 100 kilometres of river a year in England, Wales, Ireland and Scotland, benefited.

All of these activities would now be shifting up a gear, thanks to the appointment of our three new conservation officers - Dr Tim Jacklin, Dr Paul Gaskell and Andy Thomas. Paul would be managing our Trout in the Town project. We had high hopes of the way this project could not only benefit wild trout, but bring local communities to a closer understanding of the rivers that flowed through their lives - and of the fascinating creatures that lived in them. Brian paid special tribute to the work of Simon Johnson (Director) and Christina Bryant (Administrator), as well as to that of Denise Ashton (sponsorship and communications officer), our chairman Edward Twiddy and our dedicated Trustees and Management Committee members.

Finally, he offered a special vote of thanks to all our partners, sponsors and other benefactors, without whose support - and cash - the trust might well have been stillborn. We looked forward to continuing fruitful collaboration with all of them - and to a future that would see more wild trout in more healthy streams.

Brian ended by proposing a toast to the WTT and all those who support it, before handing over to Simon.



The Game Fair

supported, almost entirely, by a splendid gift of Chablis from Chris Watson's vineyard: there was much smacking of lips and mutterings of "Oh yes, very nice". Thanks Chris.

There was one interval of formality. Our President, Brian Clarke said a few words of introduction to a short ceremony in which our Director presented two awards.

The first award was to Christina Bryant, the mainstay of the Trust's organisation, who has exceeded the calls of duty for so many years. The phrase "we do not know what we would do without you" is heard often - in this case it is true. Well done Chrissy, you have saved the day for every one of us more times than we can remember.

The second award was the Bernard Venables Award; won by Theo Pike for his work on the river Wandle.

Brian's introduction and Simon's tribute to Theo are reported separately below.

A final word of thanks is due to William Twiddy, who organised sponsorship of our stand through



SHORT NEWS ITEMS

Blog Spots

Keep up-to-date with the activities of WTT staff on the internet: www.urbantrout.blogspot.com, and www.wttdirector.blogspot.com

A Generous Donation

Birdsgrove Flyfishing Club raised £130 for the WTT's funds at their Annual Dinner. A great effort! MANY THANKS!



John D. Wood and the Agricultural Mortgage Corporation, to all of our visitors, famous, infamous or just plain nice guys and girls, and to all of the team – a winning combination.

The Game Fair proved to be a really successful event of the Trust. We made 93 new members including 1 new life-member. We sold £558 of merchandise, and £1713 worth of raffle tickets.

Photos: above: I love fish - childrens art competition entrants; below-left: a generous donation proved a real draw in the hot dry weather, below: children and adults enjoyed the chance to be creative with trout and fly life and the results were spectacular.



CASTING FOR RECOVERY

We had an unusual visitor to our stand at the Game Fair.

Many of the members of the WTT came to the Trust through fishing. We progressed from catching trout to taking an interest in their welfare and from there to entomology, river management, conservation and restoration. Most of us did those things because we enjoyed the physical activity and the mental stimulation of a diversion from the less interesting activities of daily toil. In short, we felt better in bodies and minds.

Sue Hunter visited our stand at the Game Fair. She (and others) have taken the therapeutic benefits of flyfishing a stage further by one of those actions that is obvious once it has been done but brilliantly innovative in its conception. *Casting for Recovery* is an organisation that introduces women that are recovering from the physical and mental traumas of breast cancer to flyfishing.

Casting for Recovery combines flyfishing, counselling and medical expertise with breast-cancer recovery. "Physically, the motion of fly casting is similar to the exercises that surgeons prescribe after surgery or radiation, thus promoting soft-tissue stretching. Being in a natural setting also relieves everyday stress and promotes a sense of calm".

All of us that fish, especially those that have seen the effects of breast cancer, can emphasise with this.

Sue and her colleagues are doing excellent work and producing good results. They are supported by the Countryside Alliance, the England Ladies' Flyfishing Association and Orvis. Full details of their work can be found at:

info@castingforrecovery.org.uk or www.castingforrecovery.org.uk or from PO Box 361 I, Slough, SL3 3BY

The Bernard Venables Award

The award was presented at The CLA Game Fair – 26th July 2008.

Director Simon Johnson said – ‘To many people Bernard Venables is the greatest angler and angling writer of all time. With a life that spanned the greater part of the twentieth century he has been described by many as a visionary. Bernard had an intense love of the environment, the countryside and the gentle art of angling - sentiments that closely match the philosophy of the Wild Trout Trust. After his death in 2001 aged 94, his widow Eileen allowed the WTT to create an award using his name; something we are intensely proud and very grateful for.

This year we decided to cast our net further, to recognise some of the unsung conservationists outside the WTT.

We are delighted to announce that the award for 2008 year is Theo Pike of the Wandle Trust.

The award is presented in recognition of Theo’s outstanding contribution to the Wandle Trust.

The Wandle Trust is an ecological charity committed to cleaning up the River Wandle (a chalk stream in south London) in particular, and improving the Wandle Valley as a whole.

I met Theo for the first time about three years ago on the steps of St Pauls Cathedral in October 2005. We were about to enjoy a dinner to celebrate the Bi-centenary of the birth of Nelson. For those of you that don’t know, Nelson was passionate about two pastimes in the Wandle valley, one was his fishing, the second was a certain Lady Hamilton. When Nelson gave his lady love, Emma Hamilton, the funds to buy Merton Place in September 1801, his new country estate was the dominant property in an ancient Surrey village, just across the Wandle from an Abbey whose history stretched back almost to the Norman Conquest. That river was one of the most famous chalk stream trout fisheries in the world, where Frederic Halford would later learn to cast a dry fly, and where even on opening day in 1899 a local resident could take sixty fish from a hundred-yard stretch of its headwaters in Carshalton.

In fact, naval duty called so insistently that Nelson was able to spend only short periods at Merton, from October 1801 to April 1803, and from mid-August to mid-September 1805. But it is clear that he made the most of his time on the banks of "the



best and clearest stream near London." Despite having lost his casting arm in battle several years before, he taught himself to fish with his other hand: one issue of London Illustrated from 1890 carries an account from a very old man remembering the Admiral fishing at Abbey Mills in Merton - and stopping to talk to little boys who might even have helped him tie on his flies and net his fish.

Two hundred years later, the world had changed: Nelson's river had died and been reborn. During the 19th and 20th centuries, London crept out around it: the Victorians recorded at least ninety mills on eleven miles of water and by the 1960's the heavily re-engineered stream had been designated as a sewer. The water was so polluted the river regularly caught fire.

In the year 2000 the JetSet (Junior environmental taskforce Senior environmental taskforce) Club was formed to rescue the river: a few years later the club became the Wandle Trust. Theo Pike became the director of the trust about five years ago and has co-ordinated the activities of this group of local volunteers since then.

Theo said that this he how he first became involved with the Wandle -

“ I’d seen the river for the first time in 1998, researching an article about the old Liberty printworks at Merton Abbey Mills. I remember hanging over the footbridge in front of the Sainsbury’s Savacentre, trying to ignore that monstrous grey shed behind me and the knowledge that its

THE AWARD IS FOR...

Supporting the aims of the WTT over a lengthy period and for inspiring by example many other volunteers to give freely of their time and energy in the cause of conservation of the wild brown trout throughout the British Isles and Ireland.



Photos: top: Theo Pike with his Bernard Venables Award on the banks of the Wandle; bottom: The Wandle at Hackbridge.

bulk obliterated the site of one of Britain's most venerable monasteries, peering into the dark water for a sign of life. Perhaps a dace rose, perhaps it didn't: it was mid-February, after all, and less than three years since the river's very own Great Stink.

But when discussion on an internet fishing forum turned to the Wandle, almost five years after that, I knew what the problem looked like. I won't say I knew right then that my life was about to change, but I certainly sensed



some game afoot.

A chalkstream! In London! Forgotten by almost everyone else, free for us to turn back into a healthy fishery again!

How inconceivably cool was that?"

There are three main thrusts to the Wandle Trust's Work:

- River Clean-ups
- Trout in the Classroom
- Habitat Restoration (and thus WTT got involved :we have been advising on a ten reach restoration project).

The Wandle Trust's mission is to restore the Wandle to full health and biodiversity as the very best sustainable urban showcase chalkstream in the world.

Things were going well for Theo's team until one fateful morning in September last year when a large quantity of sodium hydrochloride cleaning solution was released from Beddington sewage treatment works into the Mill Green area of the river.

Local Environment Agency officers were on the scene within minutes, but at least 2000 fish were killed instantly over a 5km reach, and the longer-term impact on water weeds and invertebrate life in the river has been severe.

Thames Water Group (TWG) has pledged to work with all local groups

to repair the damage. In the weeks and months after the event the Wandle Trust, the Wandle Piscators, the Environment Agency, and the Anglers' Conservation Association worked with Thames Water, putting all the necessary safeguards in place to ensure that the unceasing work on the Wandle can never be compromised in this way again.

There were public meetings and press interviews many of the duties fell on Theo. One approach would have been to attack TWG and settle things in court. But the Trust has worked with TWG and has secured £500,000 of funding to go towards conservation work on the river. (This is in addition to any fines TWG incur.)

Small charities need people like Theo (the Wandle Trust is well blessed with them): people who give up hundreds of hours per year, never even claiming the most basic out-of-pocket expense.

Two hundred years ago the country needed heroes like Lord Nelson, today our rivers need people with similar strength of purpose. People like Theo and his fellow volunteers. They are prepared to make the continuous

Photos: This page: practical conservation work on the River Wandle (photo by www.duncansor.com).

effort required to conserve the Wandle's precious natural heritage and return wild trout to this most special of trout streams.

WTT could not think of a more worthy recipient of this year's award - which this year has been made that little bit extra special with this wonderful trophy sponsored by SAGE and a rod chosen from the Sage catalogue.

At this point we must mention the constant support Marc Bale at Sage has given to the WTT. Sage was there from the start and we are proud of this prestigious association.

TROUT ON A PLATE.

Artist Richard Bramble announces the launch of his new Brown Trout, 30 cm, porcelain dinner plate. The plates are £35 each; they are part of a set of Trout & Grayling designs by the artist. Ten percent of the profits from sales to WTT members will be donated to the Trust. When ordering, either by telephone 01935 815236 or online www.richardbramble.co.uk just mention 'WTT' for the donation to go through.

The logo for SAGE, featuring the word "SAGE" in a bold, italicized, sans-serif font with a registered trademark symbol.

NEWS IN BRIEF

MORAY FIRTH SEA TROUT PROJECT

I was invited to attend the Quarterly Management Committee Meetings of the Moray Firth Sea Trout Project (MFSTP) on behalf of the Wild Trout Trust and the Sea Trout Group, who are each contributing funds to the project. This is a brief synopsis of a meeting held at the Spey Research Office, Knockando, on 3 Oct 2008. Minutes were maintained separately. Further background details of the Project are available through a website (www.mfstp.co.uk).

The meeting was attended by Marcus Walters (Project Officer), Richard Miller (Deveron, Bogie and Isla Rivers Trust), Bob Laughton (Spey Research Trust), Keith Williams (Ness and Beaully Trust) and Simon McKelvey (Cromarty Firth Fisheries Trust). Iain McMyn (Kyle of Sutherland Fisheries Trust) was unable to attend and sent his apologies. I already knew most of these people but met Marcus for the first time and was impressed with his organisational and presentational skills.

Significant progress has been made since the last meeting (22 May 08) on distribution of sea trout questionnaires, presentations undertaken and scheduled and other publicity plans, contacts with schools, colleges and universities. Returns from the questionnaires and uptake of catch logbooks and scale sampling, mainly by angling clubs and ghillies, are coming in slowly (numbers will take time to build up); they are helped by personal contacts, provision of feedback-information from the project and some peer pressure. We discussed other aspects of data acquisition (historical and current), GIS and habitat mapping, plans for genetic sampling of sea trout stocks in different rivers and tributaries (tissue samples will be stored for later analysis) and ways to access information on marine ecology and fisheries, especially through university contacts.

Initial administration costs and fundraising aspects were detailed. A link with a Swedish/Norwegian project (Northern Periphery Programme Funding) was described but, although the funding opportunity was important, there were some doubts as to how relevant the link was proving to be because of differences in emphasis between the countries; time will tell.

The programme of work of the MFSTP is at an early stage but is progressing well. MWV presented sea trout catch-graphs for selected Moray Firth rivers, showing some interesting

similarities in trends over time after allowing for differences in scale. I backed this up with catch-graphs for All-Scotland and compared opposite regions Moray Firth and Solway Firth, again illustrating similarity of trends. Possible underlying causes were discussed. I outlined the broad geographic scope and interests (UK and Ireland) of the Wild Trout Trust and the SANA Sea Trout Group (Scotland) and the group welcomed our involvement. Due to my previous involvement through Fisheries Research Services, I may be helping the group with sea trout scale reading, linked through the Spey Research Trust. The next meeting of the Management Committee will be on 30 January 2009, the venue to be decided.

Andy Walker

PRACTICAL VISIT ON THE RIVER NAR

In early October the WTT Conservation team descended upon the River Nar in Norfolk to undertake a Practical Visit with the fishing syndicate of the West Acre estate. The Nar is a small chalkstream that has suffered from extensive dredging, as evidenced by heaps of coarse flint gravel on both banks. The section under inspection is heavily shaded by trees. The dredging must have occurred more than 40 years ago judging by the size of the trees now growing on the spoil banks. This has led to an over-wide, uniformly shallow channel with limited marginal vegetation; large volumes of sand, probably from agricultural activity in the catchment upstream, have been released into the river and that has resulted in a considerable loading of fine material, some of which inevitably has become entrained within the interstices of the gravel.

The three-day Practical Visit concentrated on narrowing the river channel by introducing large woody debris (LWD) sourced from trees that were selected for felling on the south bank of the river. In turn this will allow more light to reach the river channel



and promote the growth of marginal vegetation and water crowfoot in the faster water. The LWD will re-energise the river by creating pinch points in the channel and create localised scour to clean gravel and create depth variation to the benefit of trout and a range of other species including brook lamprey and bullhead.

Around 300 metres of river channel were tackled and the fishing syndicate learned a range of techniques that they can put to good use on the remainder of the fishery in the future. Thanks must go to Nick Zoll and all the volunteers who helped over the three days, especially Steve (who certainly gets the award for most posts knocked in!) and to Derek and Andrew, the estate woodsmen.

Tim Jacklin

BLAST OFF!

Recent weeks have seen the latest addition to the WTT's habitat-improvement toolbox put to good use – a back-pack leaf blower. Gravel jetting has long been practised in the autumn prior to trout spawning in order to break up concreted gravel beds and clean out fine sediments, to promote better egg survival. Various methods have been employed over the years including harrowing with a tractor (or horse!) and jetting the gravels using modified water pumps and hoses.

Last year's Conservation Award winners, Gopsall Fishing Club, hit on the novel solution of using a powerful leaf blower to clean the gravels and the Trust has followed their lead. The great advantage is the portability of the equipment; it is self-contained and lightweight, enabling the user to treat a substantial length of river without the need for vehicle access.

The equipment has been put to good use on the Rivers Swarbourne and Blithe in Staffordshire, the Ecclesbourne in Derbyshire and the Stiffkey in Norfolk. The only downside is the complete drenching the operator gets!

Tim Jacklin
Conservation Officer

ACTION PLANNED FOR THE RIVER COLNE

Today I attended a meeting in Huddersfield convened by the MP for that constituency, Barry Sheerman, to discuss how to clean up the town's waterways (Rivers Colne and Holme, and the canal). The meeting was attended by a wide range of interested parties including EA, Yorkshire Water, Kirklees Borough Council, Paddock Community Forum, River Colne Project, Calder Catchment Rivers Assn (soon to be Calder & Colne Rivers Trust),



Slaithwaite Angling Assn, Urban Mines, Environmental Alliance, and Britvic (large local drinks manufacturer, formerly Ben Shaws).

We looked at the River Colne where there was clear evidence of fly-tipping and cable burning, and where a pollution had killed hundreds of grayling and trout earlier in the year. Following this, at a round table discussion it was decided to form a partnership of those present to tackle these problems. Three of the partners (Urban Mines, Environmental Alliance & the River Colne Project) were tasked with coming up with a draft action/business plan for discussion at the next meeting.

Mr Sheerman is obviously determined to make something happen here, and was very focussed on actions rather than talking about them. His particular interest is in the educational angle and involving schoolchildren in extra-curricular learning opportunities outside the classroom. Trout in the classroom, voluntary river clean ups, and yellow fish-type projects were discussed (<http://www.sepa.org.uk/-yellowfish/index.htm>). Securing funding is going to be a key issue, but Mr Sheerman pledged his support in helping with this and has a lot of experience in this area. I mentioned the Trout in the Town project and that there may be potential for WTT to provide some resource to assist with building the project.

It is worth mentioning that this came about as a result of a WTT auction lot bidder buying the lot on the River Colne supplied by Slaithwaite AA (recipients of an AV). The bidder had a great day, but was appalled by the rubbish in the river, so contacted his good friend, Barry Sheerman MP.....

Some links to the partner organisations above, FYI:

<http://www.urbanmines.org.uk/>
<http://greenstreams.org.uk/>
<http://www.benshaws.com/-trade/index.php>
<http://www.yorkshirewater.com/>

Tim Jacklin
Conservation Officer

IN AN IDEAL WORLD

Like many parts of the country, we have in the south a number of rivers that are blessed with a statutory designation designed to protect them. I used the word "blessed" with care because I am increasingly concerned that perhaps we as anglers and conservationists don't always appreciate the benefits a statutory designation can bring. When rivers are designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) or perhaps as in the case of the Rivers Itchen and Hampshire Avon also as a Special Areas of Conservation or SAC river, then we really do need to understand what the implications are for us and our trout.

Unfortunately for many fishery managers the most obvious implications are that when wishing to undertake improvements or even routine maintenance then an extra layer of buracracy is faced before recieving permissions from Natural England or the Environment Agency. Any potential activity that you as the fishery manager might want to undertake is scrutinised to insure that your proposal will not adversely effect the features of interest within the designated site. Activities that have been in the spot light include fish stocking, weed cutting, tree work and fencing. It is all too easy to dismiss any concerns put forward by those tasked with protecting and in some cases improving the quality of these protected sites as people not in tune with our aspirations as anglers and fish conservationists. Given the choice, we should all breath a sigh of relief that our particular river is a designated site because if we feel pressure as fishery managers then the water companies, cress farmers, fish farmers, agricultural abstractors, highways authority and potential developers are probably also feeling the heat. The Habitats Directive in particular is an extremely powerful piece of legislation as the Irish drift netters found out and we really must use the legislation to our advantage. Water companies, private abstractors and discharges are facing massive expenditure to ensure that their businesses comply with new conditions that will insure full protection from potential adverse effects caused by their activities.

Anglers, the conservation bodies , even the water companies and the

regulators all want the same outcomes. Rivers full of clean water with abundant insect, plant, animal and fish life. The trouble comes when we can't agree how to achieve these goals. In an ideal world we should all be working together. Fortunately for us, the naturally born brown trout is a classic indicator of the health of a river system, requiring good supplies of clean water through a variety of habitat types.

So perhaps the next time we grind our teeth at the thought of having to compromise over allowing some light bank poaching to facilitate a rare invertabrate or forgo a bit of tree work because of a bat colony we might just give a thought to what others may also have to do which will in the end benefit our beloved trout.

Andy Thomas
Conservation Officer

TROUT IN THE TOWN

Thanks to generous sponsorship from the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation, the Wild Trout Trust has now launched the Trout in the Town initiative, bringing our habitat restoration expertise into the urban environment. Like all our work, Trout in the Town is designed to be carried out in partnership with local communities and other conservation organisations. Even today, many people are incredulous when they see a living example of that totem of pure flowing water: a wild urban trout. The Wild Trout Trust aims to shift the perception of city streams as dead open sewers - towards the proper expectation of healthy rivers supporting thriving, sustainable wildlife communities. Just as importantly, by helping local groups get stuck into restoring habitat on their city streams, we'll be helping to recruit and educate future generations of guardians for these once-forgotten havens.

How we are achieving these aims:

- Educational initiatives like Trout in the Classroom
- Helping local groups plan and carry out habitat restoration
- Collaborating with conservation bodies such as local Wildlife Trusts
- Obtaining support and sponsorship from local businesses
- Securing funding from national bodies: the Environment Agency, Scottish Environmental Protection Agency, Natural England
- Developing and documenting guidance for carrying out urban river restoration
- Creating and disseminating educational and interpretative material for local projects
- Sharing expertise between urban projects, and creating a network of river restoration groups.

Paul Gaskill
Conservation Officer

REVIEWS

THE CALL OF THE CHALKSTREAM.

DVD. Ninety minutes. £24-99 from Jaypark Studios, Brunel Park, Bumpers Farm industrial Estate, Chippenham, Wiltshire, SN14 6NQ.

www.beyondtherise.co.uk

£0-50 from every sale is donated to the Wild Trout Trust.

This is the second DVD from Jaypark Studios. As with "Beyond the Rise", the combination of Matt Wicker's superb photography and sensitive editing with Tony Jay's relaxed and informative style produces an hour and a half of therapeutic and educational viewing.

There are no gimmicks in the Jaypark DVDs; no strange lenses on the cameras, no zooming that is rapid enough to leave the watcher dizzy, no music that is so intrusive that the words can not be heard. And Tony Jay's narrative and demonstrations are equally easy to assimilate. Tony believes in taking the basic elements of the subject and presenting them in simple terms: he does not preach, lecture or set out to show his own expertise. For example, his demonstration of the tying of an emerger shows every step so

clearly that a newcomer to flytying could produce the fly after his/her first lesson.

We are shown how Tony prepares his leaders. Perhaps some of us will not agree with his methods but they are worth trying if they are new to you and they will work, even if your own favourite set-up suits you better.

There is a section on some aspects of river-management, work that many of us do during the off-season months. As with most aspects of the countryside, the beauty that is perceived by the casual onlooker is not entirely a product of nature; gentle and informed management plays an important part in keeping a balance in the workings of (chalk-stream) environments that have been controlled by the hands of men for two thousand years. The business of river-management is not the subject of this DVD, that is a huge subject in its own right. What we are shown is that rivers are not only for fishing, they are an obligation, gladly undertaken.

Those who do not fish will find the DVD pleasant and interesting. Those who are thinking about fishing will be informed and encouraged. Those who do fish will be able to look at this in the cold, dark winter and think of summers past and seasons to come. The rain does not fall on Matt and Tony. We know

what that is like and we do not need a reminder.

JOHN WILLIAMS

DRY FLY DELIGHTS OF NEW ZEALAND

DVD. www.struck2soon.com
struck2soon@tiscali.co.uk. £16-99

The promoters will make a generous contribution to the WTT for every copy sold. Please mention the WTT when ordering.

Readers who buy this DVD in the expectation of receiving a BBC-quality production might be disappointed. This is a DVD of wilderness-fishing for wild trout. There are no amenities lorries or backup trucks; there is no professional camera team. This is a record of three anglers on an expedition into the backcountry of New Zealand: they carry their gear in rucksacks and that means small hand-held cameras. Their skills as cameramen are varied and these ordinary men have the same failings as the rest of us – there is some camera-shake, some scenes unaccountably cut short and some starting without preamble; two scenes have wildly revolving pictures as though the operator was falling over and using a flailing camera to restore his balance. We have all been there.

But there is compensation for all of

ABEL - LIMITED EDITION WILD TROUT TRUST REEL

Sealed bid auction to support the Trout in the Town project

Abel Reels, in partnership with UK dealers Wellard and Scott, have donated a limited edition 'Super 5N' reel to WTT to raise funds for the Trout in the Town Project. The reel, number one of a limited edition of 50, has been anodized with a brown trout graphic, which also includes the WTT Logo.

The reel is machined from cold finished 6061-T6 aircraft quality aluminium with extra processing steps taken to ensure enhanced product performance. The end result is a lightweight reel that's tough as a moving van and destined to be fished by you, your children, grandchildren and theirs.

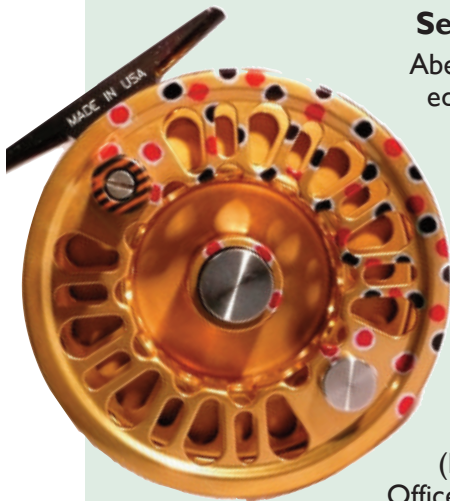
WTT will be running a sealed bid auction, until December 5th. This will enable the winning bidder to receive the reel before Christmas and perhaps even give it as a present to the angler in their life. There is a reserve price of £250 (RRP£499) and all bids should be submitted to the WTT Office by email or in writing to: office@wildtrout.org, or WTT, PO Box 120, Waterlooville, Hampshire, PO8 0WZ

The sealed bid auction is part of a wider strategy aiming to raise £50,000 to go towards the costs of delivering conservation projects on the many urban trout streams throughout the United Kingdom.

WTT Director Simon Johnson said, "We are delighted to accept this very kind donation from Abel and Wellard & Scott. All monies raised will go towards our fundraising efforts for Trout in the Town. I hope bidders will bid generously to support this vital urban conservation work"

More information on the Trout in the Town can be accessed via the projects blog, www.urbantrout.blogspot.com or www.wildtrout.org

For more information on Abel reels visit www.wellardandscott.co.uk



that. The scenery is magnificent: mountains, woods, valleys and rivers to dream about. Most of the water is snow-melt and the rivers are as clear as a freshly filled bath tub. The rivers are not too wide for the cast of an average mortal, they are not too deep to wade and the flows are a perfect mixture of runs, riffles and pools. The fishing is all by sight so no small (under about two and a half pounds) fish are caught. The anglers could take as much as a couple of hours to find a sizeable, feeding fish (just as our forebears did a hundred years ago). A four-pound fish is a fish, a six-pound fish is quite a good fish, an eight-pound fish is a good fish/very good fish, after that it is a beauty. To my eyes these wild trout are huge. But they are not farmed monsters, they are big, strong fish in their own wild environment and they can put a hoop into a 9foot, 6 weight rod without any trouble.

The anglers are shown catching many fish. They are shown missing fish and losing fish. Most importantly they are shown taking great care in releasing their fish.

The back-country of New Zealand's South Island is an angler's paradise.

JOHN WILLIAMS

WATER MEADOWS: HISTORY, ECOLOGY AND CONSERVATION

Hadrian Cook and Tom Williamson (Eds)

Windgather Press. ISBN 10 1-905119-12-7

Understanding is an essential prerequisite of successful conservation and restoration projects, and this excellent book is essential reading for anyone with an interest in river habitats. Whilst its focus is primarily the chalk streams of Wessex, it looks at the history of agricultural river modification across the whole of the UK and its effect on and potential for, biodiversity.

The chapters are based on papers given at a conference by Friends of Harnham Water Meadows Trust at Salisbury during March 2004. They cover the history of water meadow construction, use and decline; their archaeology; the practicalities of meadow operation; their plant communities; the hydrology, soils and geology of the Wessex water meadows in comparison with other river systems; and the many issues affecting the future of drowned meadows, not least the many government initiated schemes and the conflicts between agricultural, historical and wildlife interests. The texts are succinct and informative and the illustrations excellent. The authors include farmers, academics, consultants and government officers, all with a day to day involvement, or interest in the management of water meadows.

Whilst there is patchy evidence for medieval "floating", water meadows appear to have been developed in Here-

fordshire and, or Dorset in the late 16th century; reached their apogee of technical complexity and maximum geographical extent during the Napoleonic Wars. They fell rapidly into disuse after World War II, although some continue to be managed traditionally. They worked best in Wessex, because of the particular hydrology and geomorphology of the chalk rivers, where they extended the growing season and increased grass and hay production to levels possible now only with chemical fertilizers. That productivity derived, in part, from the relative warmth of spring-fed water in winter, its high oxygen content and – critically – the effect of meadow management on water nutrient content.

The latter is one of the most startling revelations in the book, especially when coupled with explanations of how water nutrient content was deliberately enhanced, in a manner that would now attract the scorn of fisheries interests, not to mention DEFRA. It is of immediate relevance to the work of the Wild Trout Trust that the abandonment of water meadow management in the middle of the 20th century coincided with the decline in fly life and water quality identified by Peter Hayes et al, might not be purely coincidental (cf. Frank Sawyer's observations about the benefits of "chalking" on snail and grayling populations). The book concludes with an optimistic and realisable assessment of the potential of rejuvenated water meadows in that regard.

Fish are mentioned only in passing, but there is a wealth of information on factors affecting fish and fishing. Should a second edition be considered, a chapter on aquatic biodiversity would perfect an already invaluable contribution to river-habitat studies.

MICHAEL HEATON

ON FISHING BY BRIAN CLARKE

Readers will recollect our review of the hardback edition of this excellent book in our newsletter of autumn 2007.

We are pleased to announce that a paperback edition has been published by Collins at £8-99 (ISBN 13 978 0007281107).

This is a well-produced volume. The text is clear, the binding is robust and a delightful picture has been commissioned for the cover.

With 396 pages of text and a useful index this is very good value.

JOHN WILLIAMS

A CLEAR WATER STREAM.

Henry Williamson. Hardback. 218pp. Coloured frontispiece and 24 pen and ink illustrations by Mick Loates. £19-99 post free from The Henry Williamson Society, 14 Nether Grove, Longstanton, Cambridge.

CB24 3EL. Telephone 01954 200598. ISBN 978- 1-873507-30-8

This book was published first fifty years ago. It has been out of print for

many years. Beautiful illustrations by Mick Loates and an introduction by John Bailey have been added to create a new edition that is worthy of the prose. Henry Williamson restored a part of the River Bray in North Devon. His efforts, trials, mistakes and successes are leavened with tales of the countryside and acute observations of its inhabitants. This delightful book will be at once fresh and familiar to members of the Wild Trout Trust who are engaged in restoration works.

JOHN WILLIAMS

"THAT STRANGE ALCHEMY. PHEASANTS, TROUT AND A MIDDLE-AGED MAN."

Laurence Catlow. Merlin Unwin Books, 7 Corve Street, Ludlow, SY8 1DB. Hardback 304 pages £17-99 ISBN 978-1-906122-03-4

www.merlinunwin.co.uk

Laurence Catlow acknowledges having reached middle-age. One suspects that he has been middle-aged since his years were a mere 20 and that he will be middle-aged when his years total 90. He is, and always will be, a countryman at one with a way of life that embraces shooting and fishing in all of its many aspects in the north of England. His accounts of days with his rods, dogs and guns are observed and described with the clarity of detail that comes only from a deep empathy with his surroundings.

If you see a book-shaped parcel, about 10" x 7," under your Christmas tree, open it first: you will have no need for further entertainment after dinner.

JOHN WILLIAMS

ATLANTIC TALES.

Henry Williamson. Hardback. 240pp. Coloured frontispiece by Mick Loates and 21 other illustrations by C. F. Tunnicliffe. £19-99 post free from The Henry Williamson Society, 14 Nether Grove, Longstanton, Cambridge.

CB24 3EL. Telephone 01954 200598. ISBN 978- 1-873507-26-1

Without an anthology of this type, much exceptional writing can be lost forever. Henry Williamson's work is best preserved in book form; it can be found with diligent searching. His output in the form of contributions to newspapers and magazines is much harder to find. "Atlantic Tales" comprises essays and stories that were printed in the "Atlantic Monthly" between 1927 and 1947. Williamson's writing has that rare quality by which a reader's attention is gripped within the first few words and is not released until the last line. Do not dip into a Williamson piece; start at the beginning, otherwise you will find yourself reading to the end and then returning to discover what the beginning was about. This is a countryman's book that can be enjoyed by anyone.

WILD TROUT TRUST SHOP

All WTT merchandise can be ordered via the Shop on our website at www.wildtrout.org; by sending an appropriate cheque to the WTT Office; or by credit card over the phone – call the WTT Office on 023 9257 0985

Polo Shirt

The Orvis Signature Polo's distinct details outperform the competition with more comfort and character than any other polo shirt. 100% cotton. Washable.

Soft, 10oz, 100% cotton has substance. You'll feel its quality instantly and know it rates above other polo shirts.

Double-stitched hem and reinforced side vents for superior durability.

A piqué weave breathes well, feels good against your skin, and wicks perspiration for comfort in the heat.

A longer tail stays put when tucked in.

Exclusive underarm gussets give plenty of room and keep sleeves from riding up and digging into your skin.

Soft knit, banded sleeves and collar feel better against the skin than the average polos, and won't shrink, bind, or rub.

Utility loop, a place to put your sunglasses.

The shirt comes embroidered with the WTT logo.

Colour: Clover.

Sizes: M(38-40), L(42-44), XL(46-48).

Price: £30 plus £2 p&p for UK - please ask for Overseas postage costs.



Baseball Cap

The classic Orvis cap, embroidered with the WTT logo. Beefy cotton twill caps with adjustable band to fit all sizes. Washable. Perfect for walking the dog or fly fishing.

Price: £15 plus £1.50 p&p for UK - please ask for Overseas postage costs.

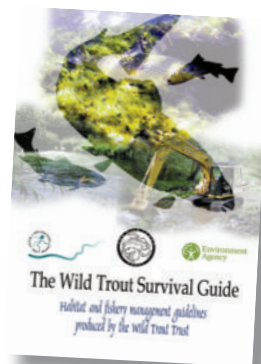


The Wild Trout Survival Guide

This guide has been produced by the WTT in partnership with the Environment Agency and the River Restoration Centre. It is a practical and inspirational manual on how to create ideal conditions for wild brown trout to flourish. 72 full-colour pages, illustrated with specially commissioned drawings, designs and case studies.

Aimed at those wishing to start their own wild trout conservation projects, it takes the reader from assessing their stretch of water all the way to project-design, planning, funding and dealing with red-tape. The emphasis is on sustainable restoration and management that will not only benefit wild trout populations but also deliver gains to local biodiversity.

Price: £10 plus £1 p&p for UK - please ask for Overseas postage costs.



Fishing shirt

Orvis's best-selling pure cotton fishing shirt (washable). More breathable, quicker drying, and softer than the original, the Marquesas II

sports a cleaner, trimmer cut for a better fit. Extended cuffs give you added sun protection on the back of your hands, to prevent burning. A bi-swing back lends ease of movement while casting. A concealed button-down collar stays put in the stiffest wind.

The shirt comes embroidered with the WTT logo.

Colour: Grass.

Sizes: S(34-36), M(38-40), L(42-44), XL(46-48), XXL(50-52).

Price: £39 plus £2 p&p for UK - please ask for Overseas postage costs.

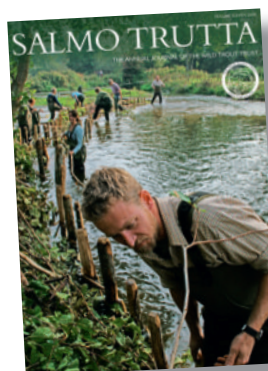


Salmo Trutta – WTT annual journal

Our acclaimed annual journal, Salmo Trutta. 1998 to 2008.

Price per issue: £3 plus £1 p&p for UK - please ask for Overseas postage costs.

Discount available when ordering more than one issue. Just a few complete sets still available at £35 including UK delivery - please ask for Overseas postage costs.



Badges

Car Sticker displaying the Wild Trout Trust logo - **Price:** £1 (free p&p).

Sew-on embroidered cloth badge displaying the Wild Trout Trust logo - **Price:** £4 (free p&p)

An enamel pin badge displaying the Wild Trout Trust logo - **Price:** £3.50 (free p&p)



Wild Trout Trust presented with the Dreamstore conservation award



Photo: Mark Tailwright (left) presenting the award to Trout in the Town Programme Manager Paul Gaskell (center) and WTT Chairman Edward Twiddy.



Wild Trout Trust was both surprised and delighted to be presented with the Dreamstore 2008 Conservation Award. The award was presented by CEO of Dreamstore, Mark Tailwright and is in recognition WTT's ground breaking urban conservation project, Trout in the Town.

WILD TROUT TRUST

Reg Charity No 1077041
www.wildtrout.org

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