



Wild Trout Trust

News Summer 2009

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

Wild Trout Trust Annual Raffle 2009

We have some fantastic prizes this year – a Sage rod & reel, an Orvis rod, a day's fishing, a day's bug hunting and a limited edition canvas print.

Full details and an order form are enclosed with this newsletter – please do buy a ticket or two or more... and persuade your friends and colleagues to do likewise.

Tickets cost £1 each and the draw will take place in December this year.

To purchase tickets, please use the order form or go to the shop on our website, www.wildtrout.org

NEW DIRECTOR FOR THE WILD TROUT TRUST

Members attending our AGM were introduced to Shaun Leonard, the new director of the WTT. Here is an abridged account of his background – in his own words.

“I have been involved professionally in fisheries’ work for 25 years. I think that I was born with a love of fishing and that was fostered by an early childhood beside the Indian Ocean and a family home on the Atlantic coast of West Cork.

I studied Marine Biology and then Pollution at university and worked for a short time with the water authorities and the (then) Salmon Research Trust of Ireland. Then I moved to Sparsholt College as a fishery technician, maintaining their stocks of trout, salmon and warm-water fish species.

I have been Head of Fishery Studies at Sparsholt since 1992, running an acclaimed Department that aims to teach students aged between 14 and 60, studying anything from a weekend introductory course through to a three-year Honours Degree in aquaculture and fishery management. Outside the College, to maintain close contact with the fisheries’ world, I provide a private advisory service to fisheries, fishing clubs and some fish farms, especially in fish health and disease control so that fish movements do not lead to the transportation of parasites between healthy stocks.

My own areas of special interest are freshwater ecology and recreational fishery management. It is this that has drawn me to the Wild Trout Trust – I can apply my passion and knowledge to the conservation of an iconic and valuable fish–species and to the broader ecological benefits that are inextricably enmeshed with that work. To take the Trust on from the outstanding work of former Director, Simon Johnson, will be a massive task, but one that I relish and will tackle with vim and vigour. The enthusiasm of all involved in the Trust is truly inspirational and a very infectious bug. I so look forward to working with the President, the VPs, the Trustees, Executive Committee, staff and all the members. From the middle of July, you can find me on director@wildtrout.org or we can meet on the WTT stand at the CLA Game Fair at Belvoir Castle near Grantham on 24, 25 & 26 July 2009 (see www.gamefair.co.uk).”



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THE WTT'S WILD TROUT DIRECTORY - A REQUEST

The WTT continues to try to inform members of the locations of fishing, for wild trout and/or grayling, that is available by day-ticket or by application for membership of a club.

Members are asked to contact the office if they are able to recommend any such fishing for insertion into our Wild Trout Directory.

Please contact Christina Bryant by calling 023 9257 0985, or emailing office@wildtrout.org.

BARRIE WELHAM TO JOIN THE WTT TEAM

We are delighted to have the support of Barrie Welham. As our Special Ambassador he will be promoting the work of the WTT as the host of a number of events. Barrie founded the highly innovative British Fly Reels Ltd., is a former chairman of Orvis and an International Flycasting champion. He has a wealth of experience of fish and fishing, business acumen and a tremendous network of friends!



SIMON JOHNSON. GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN...



Simon has departed to the Eden Rivers Trust, but remains a great supporter of the WTT.

Simon, Richard Handley and Mark Warren will be putting themselves through 5 days of cycling hell by riding 220 miles, 'Coast to Coast' over mountains and moors, to raise £2500 to support

three education initiatives: Trout in the Classroom; Mayfly in the Classroom; and Eden Rivers Trust's 'Rivers in the Classroom'.

All three projects focus on primary and secondary school children who will:

- Study in-stream habitat and ecology
- Learn the value of healthy rivers and streams.
- Foster a conservation-ethic.
- Grow to understand ecosystems.

The projects are interdisciplinary and have applications in science, social studies, mathematics, language, the arts and physical education. They are also a lot of fun and it is a great opportunity for children to discover the natural world in an outdoor classroom.

Outdoor education provides a whole range of benefits to young people; they can learn about nature and the interaction of nature with human society, they can become involved with others, develop new skills, undertake practical conservation and perhaps, adjust their values within the community.

Simon, Richard and Mark can be sponsored through Justgiving, using this website: www.justgiving.com/c2cmtb.

Donating through Justgiving is quick, easy and totally secure. It is the most efficient way to sponsor them, as the Wild Trout Trust gets your money faster and if you are a UK taxpayer, Justgiving makes sure that 25% in Gift Aid, plus a 3% supplement, will be added to your donation.

Also see the article on page 3...

WTT at Holkham Country Fair
We will have a stand at
Holkham Country Fair
on the 18 and 19 July 2009
featuring our work on
The Anglian Sea Trout Project
Information from
www.countryfairoffice.co.uk,
or 01328 821 821

AFTER 5½ YEARS IN THE HOT SEAT SIMON JOHNSON MOVES ON

When Simon Johnson took the position of Director of the Wild Trout Trust, in November 2003, our organisation was about six years old: we had been a charitable trust for only a few of those years. Our operating arrangements were sound. Procedures such as Advisory Visits (AVs) were in place, we had a regular place at the CLA's Game Fair, we were supported by big names such as Orvis, Sage, Bernard Venables and a host of sponsors and media and trade organisations. For a fairly new and rather small establishment we were well-known, well respected and regarded as authorities in our field. We had a newsletter, an annual journal and - a part-time Director and a part-time office manager/general factotum, backed by an executive team of talented volunteers. Recruitment and funding were major problems if we were to achieve our stated objectives.



Simon joined as a part-time Director. He had been running his own consultancy. He had done some work for clubs that had had AVs and he had helped us with our display at The Game Fairs. So we knew him and he knew us before his appointment.

We knew that he would not be half-hearted in his approach to the job and it has been proven that that was correct: he has been vigorous and enthusiastic in dealing with every problem and opportunity that has arisen and he has sought new opportunities for progress. When it was necessary he could be found working in a river or producing an AV in person.

The WTT's membership has grown by about 1100 during his tenure and his own role changed from part-time to full-time Director. Now we have a full-time Projects Officer, two full-time Field Officers and a part-time Corporate Sponsorship representative: the office management remains a part-time appointment but under increased hours. Members should refer to page 4 of *Salmo Trutta* for the full (and impressive) list of Corporate Sponsors, Conservation Partners, Advisory Panel and numerous other supporters. Simon has not done all of that on his own, of course, but he was in charge when much of it came about.

We wish him well in his new job.

WTT GRAYLING WEEKEND 2009

Once again the event will take place on the Derbyshire Wye, by kind permission of Lord Edward Manners of the Haddon Estate. The Estate very kindly donates all the proceeds from these weekends to WTT. This year's dates are 24 & 25 October. Tickets, available to WTT members only, are £30 for each day. This is a rare opportunity to enjoy some wonderful wild fishing that is not normally available on either a day ticket or syndicate basis. Head River Keeper at Haddon, Warren Slaney is a very strong supporter of WTT and we would like to thank him for all his hard work in making these days run so smoothly...thanks Warren!



**CLA Game Fair 2009
Belvoir Castle Grantham
Lincolnshire.**

**Friday 24 to
Sunday 26 July.**

**We will be there on
Fishermen's Row, stand
number M1141,
do come to see us.
For advance tickets see
www.gamefair.co.uk.**

NIGEL ASH IS A FLY ON THE WALL AT THE WTT's AGM & ANNUAL GET-TOGETHER

The sun beat down on Youlgreave Village Hall in Derbyshire, where more than 100 people had arrived on Saturday 30 May for our annual get-together. Inside much light was thrown on the Trust's 11th year of operations and as well as on some of the science behind trout and their conservation and the monitoring of river health.

Dr Tim Jacklin was the first of our three conservation officers to give a report of where and what the WTT has been doing. We have completed 77 advisory and 15 practical visits during 2008 and this year to date: locations were spread from Dorset to Durham with Ireland and Iceland added for good measure. Over 90% of our AVs led to projects so the cumulative benefit to wild trout and the other inhabitants of the waterways is extensive.

Dr Paul Gaskell then went on to outline the highly encouraging progress made during the first 300 days of the Trout in Town project, funded by the Esmée Fairburn Foundation. Afterwards Andy Thomas set out the WTT's position on stocking, the key to which is that if rivers are healthy, stocking should not be necessary.

Andy's message was reinforced by Prof Andy Ferguson, formerly of Queen's University, Belfast, who, in addressing genetic variations in trout warned of the detrimental impact of stocking with farm-reared or non-native fish. Dr. Eric Verspoor of the Fisheries Research Services Freshwater Laboratory took the subject further, drawing on research into Atlantic salmon. He said that stocking was not a panacea but more of a Pandora's box, requiring



very careful preliminary consideration.

As guests digested a substantial buffet luncheon, Bridget Peacock and Cyril Bennett of the Riverfly Partnership explained how rivers can be cared for by assessing and monitoring the risks in their whole catchments. The regular checking of fly life was not an onerous process but could quickly flag up pollution or causes for concern.

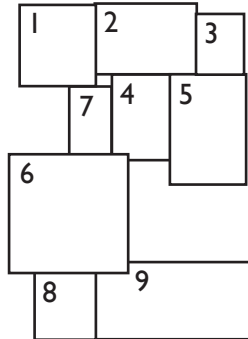
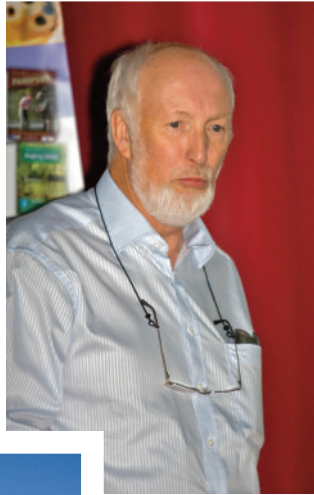
At the start of the day our chairman Edward Twiddy had introduced our new Director Shaun Leonard, who was very warmly welcomed.

As his last job after 5½ years as Director, Simon Johnson gave the day's final presentation on the Fishing Passport Schemes and their benefit not just to fishing clubs but to local farmers.

Edward then presented Simon

with a 5'6" cane rod made by Mick Bell of Bloke Rods and a bottle of wine from Chris Watson's vineyard. Simon took his time to make his thanks and reflect on the continuing growth of the WTT since he took over from Fred Scourse. Despite his determination to the contrary, he discovered that saying goodbye after so many rewarding years was a highly emotional exercise. As befitted his achievements for WTT, he was roundly applauded and wished well in his new job as director of the Eden Rivers Trust.

Guests then broke up for a guided walk along the Lathkill and Bradford Valley, some bug spotting, a rummage through a fly material stand and some rod testing with Orvis, who as usual were highly supportive of the WTT.



Photos

Opposite page – Edward Twiddy (WTT Chairman);
 1 – Paul Gaskell (Trout in the Town Project
 Manager); 2 – Simon Johnson receiving thanks and
 a parting gift from the Chairman; 3 – Shaun
 Leonard (WTT Director designate); 4 – Prof Andy
 Ferguson (Guest speaker); 5 – Dr. Eric Verspoor
 (Guest speaker); 6 – Guided walk on the Rivers
 Bradford and Lathkill; 7 – Bridget Peacock (Riverfly
 Partnership); 8 – Dr Cyril Bennett (Riverfly
 Partnership); 9 – David Marriott presenting the
 cheque from his Fishathon to Sheffield Partnership
 for Rivers in Town Environments (SPRITE).



MARRIOTT LANDS IMPRESSIVE FUNDS

WTT Finance Officer and recently appointed Trustee, David Marriott, has raised over £1,100 for Sprite, the Sheffield based section of the Trout in the Town project. He undertook a one day “Fishathon”, fishing the whole of the Cressbrook and Litton Flyfishers’ water on the Derbyshire Wye. The fishery extends from Ashford Marble Works to the hamlet of Blackwell, just south of Buxton, some nine miles of superb wild trout fishing. He was accompanied by WTT Life Member, Chris Pryor, who acted as photographer and personal trainer. They accomplished the feat in 13 hours 50 minutes. The first fish was caught at 6.05 a. m.

David said “We both wanted to see if we could fish the whole length in a day and by making a pledge to raise funds for Trout in the Town we ensured that there would be no backsliding. We had a great time, caught lots of fish and having got it out of our systems, agreed that we would not be doing it again!”

A cheque was presented to Paul Gaskell and the representatives of Sprite, John Blewitt and Cheryl Gibson, at the recent Annual Get Together.

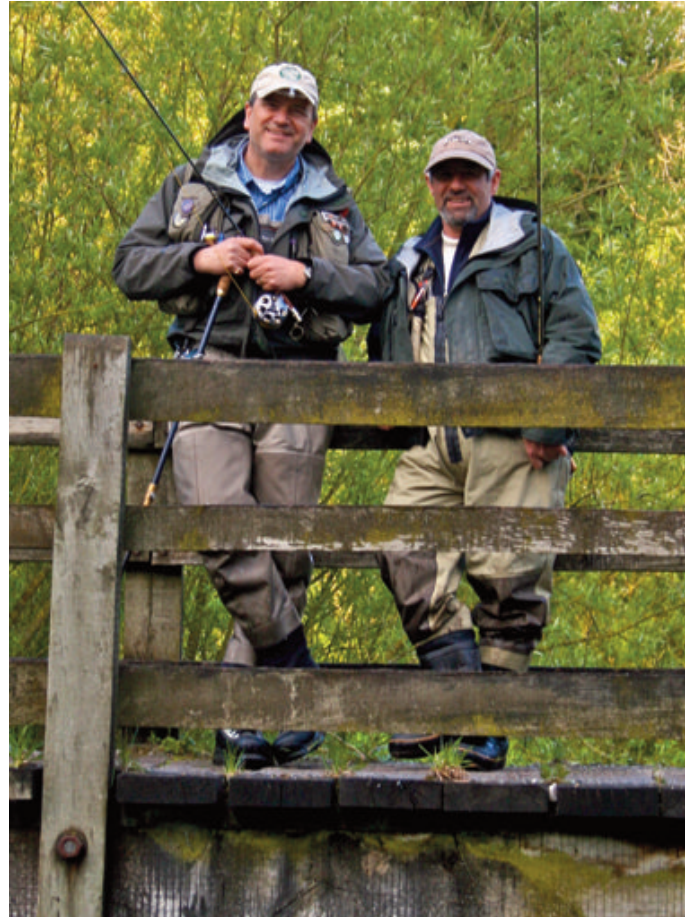


Photo (above):The Fishathon fundraisers



Photo (left):A beautiful brown trout about to be released on one of the WTT's auction days

SATISFIED WINNER OF AUCTION LOT

Paul Gaskell took his winning bidder out on the Don and the Rivelin. Paul reports, ‘The anticipated mayfly hatch on the Rivelin did not really get going but we still rose fish to mayfly patterns. The lot winner was very happy and went home after catching and releasing more than a dozen wild fish. I even restrained myself and limited my own fishing to a total of maybe 5 minutes (by way of demonstration of course!).’

CORRECTION:

Unfortunately the website address for the Grayling Society was printed incorrectly in the last issue of *Salmo Trutta* magazine. Please note that the correct address is www.graylingsociety.net.

The WTT is pleased once again to be working in partnership with the Grayling Society which has co-sponsored five Advisory Visits to be delivered on waters with both wild trout and grayling.

LOSS OF A FOUNDING FATHER

ROGER MILLS, 1956-2009

Roger Mills was born in Edinburgh on 2 May 1956. He moved to Norfolk in 1960 and started fishing. Fly tying and catching trout commenced shortly after that and continued until he became ill in September last year with cancer of the sinuses. In January he was still planning a trip to his beloved New Zealand next spring.

I had met Roger in 1986 and when Charles Rangeley–Wilson rang me in 1997 to ask if I wanted to participate in a new conservation organisation I was keen and jumped at the chance. Someone was needed to take care of membership and also a Secretary, book-keeper and website builder. I took membership and suggested Roger as a worthy candidate for the rest. I knew Roger would rise to that fly as soon as it arrived in his field of vision so putting him forward for it was an easy cast! So it was, I told him he had a new job and Roger continued with the accounts, website support and general good guidance on all matters until 2004 when we both handed over our respective rolls to the new guard.

Roger was a man of few words and when he did something, or said something you took notice. Like catching a 5lb+ wild trout on a dry fly on the Wylye, or a 10lb+ one by the same method in New Zealand. I knew him from 1986 where we were both members at the Wilton Club, but he was also a member of the gang of



three who struck terror into the swim bladder of all large trout in the river. Mackie, Mills and Lee would meet every year in late May to mark down the big fish for punishment. Roger was not someone who cared for catching a lot of fish but what he did catch was usually significant. He was a meticulous angler and took great interest in working out the tactics. He would regularly revisit a particular fish on several carefully selected days, according to the weather, waiting for it to come onto the feed reliably before making one cast. If you were that trout you needed to be scared. A typical and telling entry in the Wilton record book that I recall with a wry smile is “6th June 1992 Beat 13 - 1 Dace 4oz!” You can just imagine his thoughts when it turned out to be a Dace! Nothing exaggerated, just plain facts. Not for Roger was size 20 and 2lb tippet. He liked 4lb Maxima and a size 14! Joy was meeting back at the clubroom at 6.30pm for the weigh in, yes all takeable fish were killed, weighed, filled into the book and eaten then, and on to the Royal Oak for banter and possibly a spinner fall at 8.00pm.

Losing was not a trait that sat happily with him. He was good at virtually everything that he did from being an active member of the Tory reform group as a young student, holding a senior investment broker's position with Chase, managing his long term relationship with Lucille to playing poker, and of course fishing. He did it all very well. He taught a gang of us Texas Hold'em in Iceland a couple of years ago and was winning blind-folded until I started to stop doing what he had taught me and started betting on nonsense. A few whiskeys on, by 4.00am, he started to loose a few hands, and his fury at not being able to read what was going on was a sight to behold. To his chagrin I recovered about half of my matchsticks by this tactic and promptly retired to bed at 5.00am leaving Roger perplexed. At breakfast he demanded a rematch the following night!

That was Roger Mills, a greatly private man, great angler, great friend and a great asset to everything he touched. He died on the 9th March this year and left me, as all the good guys do, wishing that I had got to know him better.

RONNIE BUTLER

To mark Roger's contribution to the WTT, an annual bursary of £500 has been established and will be available for a project or projects in Wiltshire or Dorset. Applications to the office at the usual address.

PAUL GASKELL REPORTS ON TROUT IN THE TOWN

There are lots of exciting developments in the Trout in the Town project. Not least of them has been the launch of the educational initiative “Mayfly in the Classroom” (MIC). The first set of downloadable resources (as well as an overview of the concept) is now available on the WTT website: <http://www.wildtrout.org> (search for ‘mayfly’).

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cLeepRYGP80>.

The genesis and first trash clean-up of the new Sheffield-based Trout in the Town project (SPRITE or Sheffield Partnership: Rivers In Town Environments) can also be seen on a different Youtube link: <http://www.youtube.com> (search for ‘Rivers In Town Environments’).



Photo: *Baetis rhodani* dun (sub-imago); one of the many native species of upwinged flies that can be hatched in classrooms using simple and cheap apparatus.

In addition to the printed resources, wildlife filmmaker and angler Hugh Miles very generously re-edited and donated footage that was used in his recent “Catching the Impossible” series for use as a MIC resource. This short and beautiful piece will give participants an immediate insight into the lifecycle of these iconic invertebrates and their special link to the trout. Through this programme, pupils will learn about healthy ecology in river corridors and streams, and improve their understanding of the threats to these ecosystems. Combining the care and cultivation of mayfly nymphs in homemade classroom aquaria with a visit to their local stream will foster a protective instinct within participants. Structured activity sheets that are formulated according to pupil age (and linked directly to National Curriculum Key Stages) are in preparation.

Sheffield Brantwood School has become the first in the country to adopt MIC and, at the time of writing, is only days away from its inaugural release-day having successfully hatched a number of *Ecdyonurus torrentis* (Brook Dun) adults from a nearby stream.

Trout in the Town project members have been hard at work on activities such as trash clean-ups, duck races and publicity drives. A video of the River Colne’s heroic gathering of raw materials for their future habitat works can be viewed on Youtube:

For the WTT’s input side of things, there has been a number of technical summaries compiled for the River Cray project (urban chalkstream tributary of the River Thames). The aim of these reports was to judge the feasibility and appropriateness of attempting to re-establish a self-sustaining population of wild brown trout in this urban stream. The key issues were the question marks over water quality and the fragmented nature of the habitat (due to a multitude of weirs). This project is now moving ahead

with good evidence to suggest that wild trout populations are an appropriate long-term goal for this river.

Further technical summaries and recommendations have been produced and submitted to the great folk at the Wandle Trust in Carshalton, where they have a long-term objective of introducing wild, self-sustaining trout populations into their urban chalk stream.

In concert with the production of guidelines on how projects can carry out self-assessment of their progress and efficacy, (<http://www.wildtrout.org>, search for ‘monitoring’) an assessment of the goals and progress towards each was prepared for the River Goyt project (<http://urbantrout.blogspot.com>, search for ‘Goyt’). Following the innovative installation of Large Woody Debris in this urban spate river, a second stage of habitat works is now in the planning stages. It is hoped that we can build on the lessons learned from the initial trial installations and follow up with even more successful habitat remediation.

As ever, information, answers and assistance on any matters relating to Trout in the Town can be obtained via pgaskell@wildtrout.org or on 07919 157 267.

ANDY THOMAS GIVES AN UPDATE FROM THE SOUTH AND WEST

A year into the job and I have been looking back on what has been achieved in the south and west as the Trustees have asked for an update on progress against our conservation objectives.

There does not seem to be any reduction in demand for our advice and assistance: with 33 advisory visits and 5 practical visits under my belt it was good for me to get some advice about how we can be more efficient.

Arriving for an advisory visit and walking a river with a fishing club committee member or a fishery owner is always a fascinating experience and is often a learning experience for me as well as the recipient of the AV. Subsequently the report is written, buttoned up and sent off. We all know however, that no amount of paper or wise words ever produced a single wild trout and it is imperative that our conservation effort is turned into better habitat for trout. It was these messages that I took away with me from the Trustees meeting and I will be redoubling my efforts to make sure that more of the recommendations put forward in AV reports are turned into productive actions. That said, we cannot deliver the volume of ideas currently generated into tangible projects without some self-help on the part of clubs and fishery managers. Collectively we have to think of better ways to give support and confidence to fishing clubs and land owners so that they feel able to tackle blockages in habitats on their rivers, streams and lakes - with a little help from the WTT when necessary.

So where have the highlights been? For me there were many, but watching several pairs of big sea trout spawning on gravels on the Meon that the fishing club had cleaned during a previous practical visit was a particular thrill. And being approached by one of the more commercial fishery operators on a Hampshire chalk stream and working to create better habitats for wild fish after a long regime of giving priority to habitats for anglers also was very rewarding. One of my favourite memories was in undertaking an AV for a small club of 30 members, half of whom turned up to walk the river with me! I particularly enjoyed the fact that their annual membership subscriptions were less than the price of pint and a pastie and that they paid for their rent to their landlords in jars of honey! There cannot be too many fishing clubs like that left but thank God there are still a few!



TIM JACKLIN REPORTS ON **PRACTICAL VISITS**

Since starting with the WTT in May 2008, Andy Thomas and I have focused on getting the recommendations in our advisory visits translated into on-the-ground actions. This involves a lot of legwork in drawing-up proposals and completing consent forms, but after that comes the most rewarding aspect – pulling on the waders and getting in the river to carry out a Practical Visit (PV). PVs help angling clubs and landowners to get to grips with the techniques that improve their in-river habitat for wild trout and a range of other wildlife.

Over the past winter and spring WTT has carried out a number of PVs, all with careful regard to where trout may have spawned. On the River Wharfe in Yorkshire we worked with Huby AC to introduce some large woody debris (LWD) in the form of a tree, felled and secured to its stump with strong steel cable. This will provide valuable cover for trout and help to sort the river bed gravels and create variations in depths. In addition to the whole tree, logs were secured to a shallow riffle area to add variety to flow patterns and depths. Club members got to grips with a range of techniques and Oliver Edwards's impromptu supervision of events made it something of a habitat masterclass!



Leek and District Fly Fishing Club (www.ladffa.com) has a number of waters in and around the Peak District. One of them is the River Hamps, a small river running off the Staffordshire moorlands. Following an AV in 2008, the club wasted no time in taking forward the recommendations under the dynamic leadership of



Spawning brook lampreys, river Ecclestone

committee member Alex Swann. During March this year the club's working parties focused on placing brushwood bundles and LWD in the river to provide channel-narrowing, erosion-protection and vital cover for juvenile trout (to protect them from goosander predation). The local Environment Agency fisheries-team has done some electric fishing in the areas where improvements have been completed so that their success can judged in the future.

Continues overleaf...



Practical Visits continued.

Sutton Coldfield Angling Society (SCAS – www.suttoncoldfieldangling.co.uk) has benefited from a WTT AV and PV in recent months. The club has two stretches of the River Blithe in Staffordshire. That is the river where Alfred Ronalds made his observations for his book *The Fly–Fisher’s Entomology* (1849) (by the way, available to download free at Google books – <http://books.google.co.uk/books>). Like many rivers the Blithe has suffered various ills from land drainage and modern farming practices since Ronalds’s time, but has great potential for restoration. Steve Russell of SCAS has taken the lead and with WTT assistance has begun to introduce some LWD to provide cover and some pool habitat, work with adjacent landowners to reduce their impacts, and expand the game–angling section of the club.

Other PVs have been completed on the River Manifold in Staffordshire with Swainsley Angling Club, introducing LWD to provide cover for trout and grayling from goosander predation. Further work has been carried out with Derbyshire County Angling Club (DCAC – www.derbyshirecountyac.org.uk), on the Manifold; this was featured in the May issue of *Fly Fishing and Fly Tying* magazine and has been ably carried on by the club and Andy Heath of Trent Rivers Trust. The focus has been on reducing rampant bank erosion with brushwood revetments to create a narrower, deeper channel, and the results so far have been extremely encouraging. Also with DCAC further improvements were done on the River Ecclesbourne in Derbyshire, coppicing some alder trees and introducing flow deflectors to the channel. It was encouraging to hear reports of spawning brook lampreys in this river this spring (photo on previous page) – another valuable species benefiting from the practical improvements.

ANDY THOMAS REPORTS ON THE SOUTH COAST SEA TROUT PROJECT

Many of you will have heard about the Anglian Sea Trout Project. The good news for those of you with a passion for sea trout conservation is that we have secured the funding to carry out a South Coast Sea Trout Project in partnership with the Environment Agency.

It is early days in the project’s inception but it is believed that there is scope to improve and develop sea trout stocks throughout river catchments in the South by focusing on improving numerous small, apparently insignificant tributaries and side streams. Almost all Southern Region rivers with some open access to the sea are visited by migratory trout. Many of these rivers do not meet their full potential for sea trout due to a number of issues such as poor access opportunities and neglect of critically important side–streams and tributaries. Many potentially good spawning and nursery streams flow through the heavily developed coastal strip and many do not enjoy the basic levels of protection afforded to main rivers in the region.

The project started with a workshop that the WTT organised to liaise with the staff of the Southern Region’s fisheries section. The objective was to look closely at the potential opportunities for sea trout across the region and seek support for a partnership project that will enable the WTT to introduce its expertise in trout habitat–enhancement. That work remains current.

Environment Agency and WTT fisheries and conservation staff inspect a new fish pass especially designed to allow passage for migrating sea trout on Hampshire’s River Hamble.



ANDY THOMAS LOOKS AT WILD TROUT IN LAKES

and finds more opportunities than expected.

It has to be said that where I come from on the Hampshire, Sussex, Surrey borders there are few opportunities for wild trout in lakes. That said I do know of a handfull of small local still waters that have, for as long as I can remember, supported small but viable trout populations, including the odd leviathan that turns up amongst populations of coarse fish and stocked rainbows. I have been a little surprised to have received so few requests from fishing clubs in the upland regions of the westcountry and Wales where there are numerous lakes and reservoirs ripe for wild-trout habitat-development. I was

pleased therefore to receive a request from one of our members to look at a small stream feeding directly into his reservoir fishery in Devon.

Challacombe Reservoir is a small, redundant water-supply reservoir that is fed by the headwaters of the River Bray. Alec Whitchurch and a band of friends have been working hard to protect and develop the fishery. They were aware of the fact that wild browns were present and occasionally turned up during sessions of fishing the lakes for stocked trout. Alec wanted some advice on how to improve habitats for wild trout on the feeder stream as well as the main reservoir.

During the advisory visit, undertaken on a misty morning last summer, it was soon apparent that there was a real opportunity to give trout populations a boost at this site. It was obvious that water quality in the little feeder stream was excellent: it flows straight off Exmoor. Spawning and nursery habitat was assessed to be superb with an abundance of clean, loose gravels and shallow, roughly-fringed margins that were ideal for juvenile trout. It was only when walking up from the confluence of the stream with the reservoir that it became apparent that there was only a very short section of spawning habitat available for the trout that normally reside within the reservoir. The lake almost certainly benefits from small trout dropping back but the presence of a substantial weir one hundred yards upstream from the inlet potentially restricts larger, wild lake-residents from making upstream migrations to the abundance of good quality habitat found further upstream. It is thought that the weir might be negotiable by large trout



during full spate conditions but easing passage for adult trout through this structure could guarantee that fish could move upstream freely to spawn – even during a low-flow autumn.

Several options for dealing with the structure are being evaluated. These range from complete removal to the installation of a simple timber pre-barrage to create a little pool-and-traverse fish-pass. It is hoped to solve this problem before next winter's spawning season.

The question is – How many more lakes have the potential for better quality wild trout stocks through some simple work in the feeder streams?

THE WTT AND SPORTFISH

A partnership arrangement has been made between the WTT and Sportfish.

In addition to its price promise guarantee, Sportfish will allow a 5% discount on all purchases by WTT members and will donate a similar amount to the WTT. It is not necessary to quote your membership number to receive the discount, just quote "WTT member" on the telephone or in a shop. If ordering on the web "THE WTT" goes in the 'promotional code' box.

Sportfish can be found on <http://www.sportfish.co.uk/stores>.

SPORTFISH™
Catch More

ADVISORY VISITS – CALENDAR YEARS 2008 AND 2009.

The WTT is working hard behind the scenes. Here is an update of the Avs completed during the last 2 years

Year	River	County	Country
2008	Cuckmere	East Sussex	England
2008	Bain	Lincolnshire	England
2008	Sence	Leicestershire	England
2008	Dane	Cheshire	England
2008	Cray	Kent	England
2008	Mole & Yeo	Devon	England
2008	Uck	East Sussex	England
2008	Frome	Dorset	England
2008	Coln	Gloucester	England
2008	Blithe	Staffordshire	England
2008	Dove	Staffordshire	England
2008	Anton	Hampshire	England
2008	Elwy	Denbighshire	Wales
2008	Allen	Dorset	England
2008	Great Stour	Kent	England
2008	Frome	Dorset	England
2008	Allen	Dorset	England
2008	By Brook	Wiltshire	England
2008	Meon	Hampshire	England
2008	Manifold	Staffordshire	England
2008	Hamps	Staffordshire	England
2008	Swift	Warwickshire	England
2008	Wear	Durham	England
2008	Itchen	Hampshire	England
2008	Dane	Cheshire	England
2008	Erewash	Derbyshire	England
2008	Ogmore	Bridgend UA	Wales
2008	Western Rother	Sussex	England
2008	Sherbourne Brook (Windrush)	Gloucestershire	England
2008	Allen	Dorset	England
2008	Windrush	Oxfordshire	England
2008	Avon	Wiltshire	England
2008	Seven	Yorkshire	England
2008	Clun	Shropshire	England
2008	Bunnadobber	Mayo	Ireland
2008	Anton	Hampshire	England
2008	Lymington River	Hampshire	England
2008	Misbourne	Buckinghamshire	England
2008	Don	Yorkshire	England

Year	River	County	Country
2008	Honey Bridge Stream	West Sussex	England
2008	Penk (tributary)	Staffordshire	England
2008	Blackwater	Co. Meath	Ireland
2008	Bray/Challacombe	Cornwall	England
2008	Slate	Kildare	Eire
2008	Dove	Derbyshire	England
2008	Don	Aberdeenshire	Scotland
2008	Chess	Buckinghamshire	England
2008	Laxa		Iceland
2008	Ceiriog	Clwyd	Wales
2008	Heacham River	Norfolk	England
2008	Cerne	Dorset	England
2008	St. Mary's Burn	Orkney Isles	Scotland
2009	Kennet	Wiltshire	England
2009	Avon	Devon	England
2009	Test	Hampshire	England
2009	Coln	Gloucestershire	England
2009	Kennet	Wiltshire	England
2009	Avon	Devon	England
2009	Test	Hampshire	England
2009	Coln	Gloucestershire	England
2009	Meon	Hampshire	England
2009	Avon	Devon	England
2009	Blackwater	Hampshire	England
2009	Ebble	Wiltshire	England
2009	Wey	Surrey	England
2009	Stor Stream	Sussex	England
2009	Menalhyl	Cornwall	England
2009	Avon	Wiltshire	England
2009	Dove	Derbyshire	England
2009	Bollin	Cheshire	England
2009	Meon	Hampshire	England
2009	Perry	Shropshire	England
2009	Erewash	Derbyshire	England
2009	Wye	Derbyshire	England
2009	Teme	Hereford & Worcester	England
2009	Bradwell Brook	Derbyshire	England
2009	Maine	Antrim	N. Ireland
2009	Tapster Brook	Warwickshire	England

PRACTICAL VISITS DELIVERED SINCE MAY 2008

River	Region	Decription
Wharfe	North East	England Large Woody Debris (LWD) introduction
Ecclesbourne	Midlands	LWD introduction; gravel cleaning
Goyt	North West	LWD introduction
Stiffkey	Anglian	Gravel cleaning
Swarbourne	Midlands	Gravel cleaning
Blithe	Midlands	LWD introduction; gravel cleaning
Hamps	Midlands	LWD; channel narrowing
Test	Southern	LWD introduction; gravel cleaning
Nar	Anglian	LWD introduction; sky-lighting; channel narrowing
Manifold	Midlands	Erosion control; juvenile cover
Test	Southern	LWD introduction; gravel cleaning
Meon	Southern	LWD introduction; gravel cleaning
Wylfe	Southern	Gravel cleaning; brash laying
Anton	Southern	Channel narrowing
Coln	Thames	LWD introduction



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The quiet ripples of a rise on a remote mountain loch Subtle wakes slipping over gravel shallows Marbled currents moving over weedbeds

To anglers, since the earliest times, seemingly insignificant surface disturbances carry deep meaning. Today, however, we find our waters disturbed by forces of much deeper consequence. From large spate rivers to chalk streams to loughs lakes and tarns, the fish we seek face unprecedented challenges to survival. It's now clear that if we are to protect them, there's really only one choice:

GET INVOLVED

Make a gift of £1,250 to
the Wild Trout Trust
and receive a
SAGE Z AXIS ROD
WORTH £570

Your extraordinary donation will help the Wild Trout Trust to deliver a long-term and strategic programme of conservation work .

Sage, supported by Sportfish are demonstrating their commitment to conservation and the Wild Trout Trust by providing a 9ft, 5 weight Z axis rod to the first 25 donors of £1250 to the Gift and Legacy Fund.

The Z-Axis offers an entirely new level of fishability with unprecedented line feel, response and performance.

By taking advantage of this very special offer you will gain the special satisfaction that comes with knowing you're doing your part to protect great fishing.

This offer is valid until 31/12/2009 and applies to the first 25 donors of £1250.

Donations may be made by cheque or credit card.

Please make cheques payable to the Wild Trout Trust and send to PO Box 120, Waterloo, PO8 0WZ

Credit card donations can be made online using the website www.wildtrout.org or by calling the office on 023 9257 0985

If you have any questions, please contact the WTT office at office@wildtrout.org or 023 9257 0985.

For info on style, Sage dealer website: www.sageflyfish.com/dealers.php

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.

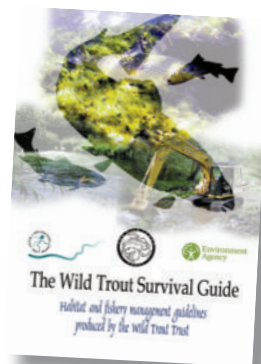


The Wild Trout Survival Guide

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.

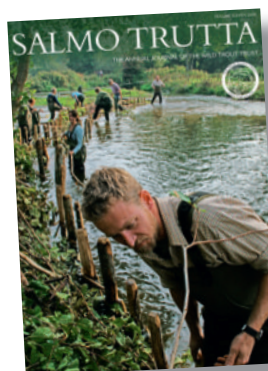


Salmo Trutta – WTT annual journal

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)



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In aid of the Wild Trout Trust (registered charity no. 1077041)

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TEL: 023 9225 4886

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Viticella); TEL: 01264 810904

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STOCKBRIDGE
HANTS
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OPEN FROM 2.00PM-5.00PM
COST £5.00 FOR ADULTS
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WILD TROUT TRUST

Reg Charity No 1077041

www.wildtrout.org

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