



Wild Trout Trust

News Autumn 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 & ORVIS CONSERVATION AWARDS 2009



Photos

Left: Adrian Fewings accepts the award for winner of the Professional category on behalf of the Environment Agency for the Botley Mills Fishpass Project – River Hamble, from WTT President Charles Rangeley-Wilson and Laurie Kanz (Director of Marketing Orvis UK).
Below: Steve Hawkins accepts the award for winner of the Amateur category on behalf of The River Mel Restoration Group for the River Mel Restoration Project, from WTT President Charles Rangeley-Wilson and Laurie Kanz (Director of Marketing Orvis UK).

**SEE PAGES 4 TO 8 FOR
FULL COVERAGE OF
THE CONSERVATION
AWARDS**

From the Director

Many of you received the last Newsletter electronically as we decided to try to save paper and some valuable pounds. However, the process was far from smooth, leaving some disgruntled members: to those people, I am sorry. So, everyone will receive this Newsletter as a paper copy whilst I try to make sense of other, worthwhile forms of distribution. I hope you find it an enjoyable and informative read.



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NEW TRUSTEE FOR WTT

I am delighted to announce that Chris Watson has agreed to join the Board of Trustees. Chris has been providing the trust with pro bono legal advice and a huge amount of support for the auction and events for many years. Securing and adding to all these benefits by getting his agreement to become a trustee is a real bonus for us.

Edward Twiddy
 Chairman of the Trustees

TROUT STREAM MANAGEMENT IN THE REAL WORLD

WTT, the Association of Rivers Trusts and the Eden Rivers Trust are arranging a workshop on 'Trout Stream Management in the Real World' in Appleby, Cumbria on the 23rd and 24th March 2010. The main theme will be the practical, sustainable management of fisheries using examples from projects throughout the British Isles. Further details will be published on our website.

HELPING THE TRUST

As a member you will be aware that we are a small charity with a big mission and that helping the charity is a great way of contributing to a most worthwhile cause. We concentrate our resources on delivering advice and practical habitat conservation work with the minimum amount of bureaucracy and the maximum amount of delivery.

You can help us either by volunteering, or by making a donation.

Volunteering for the Trust is very rewarding and a lot of fun. You do not need to be an expert in habitat improvement or know how to wield a chainsaw. We draw on a wide range of skills to keep the Trust running, so contact us and we will work out how you can best help us in a way that uses the skills and time you have available.

Making a financial donation is a very direct way of helping us to continue to deliver habitat conservation work. You can make a donation using a cheque, a credit card or via your Charities Aid Foundation account. Or you can run a fundraising event for us, such as a raffle, sponsored event or auction. We can supply the auction lots and prizes, including Sage rods and fishing days.

If you work for a company that has a Payroll Giving programme, you can make a regular donation from your salary. Some companies will match your donation to us, which is even better! This really helps us by giving us a stable base of income against which we can plan our work.

For more information please contact Denise Ashton at sponsorship@wildtrout.org



CONGRATULATIONS TO ALLAN FRAKE

One of our long-serving Trustees has been awarded the coveted 'Public Sector Award for Environmental Achievement' by the Association of Rivers Trusts, in recognition of excellence and achievement in river management.

Allan has worked on river habitat and fisheries management for over 37 years in the Wessex Area and is extremely knowledgeable about the functioning of southern chalk streams.

The picture shows Allan receiving the award from Ian Gregg, the ART Chairman and Arlin Rickard, the ART Director at the prize giving event at the London Wetlands Centre.

Well done Allan!

COAST TO COAST BIKE RIDE SUFFER IN AID OF THE WILD TROUT CAUSE

Simon Johnson, Richard Handley and Mark Warren have completed their Coast to Coast bike ride in aid of three education initiatives: 'Trout in the Classroom'; 'Mayfly in the Classroom'; and Eden Rivers Trust's 'Rivers in the Classroom'. One of the first beneficiaries will be a series of 'Mayfly in the Classroom' projects in the Eden valley, led by Paul Gaskell.

They knew that the ride was going to be tough, but the appalling weather in the Lake District made it harder than their worst expectations. Despite the weather, they completed the 200 miles in five days rather than the recommended seven days.

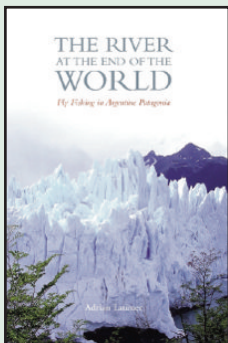
Simon said "...this has been one of the toughest physical and mental challenges I have ever taken on. Mother Nature threw everything she had at us and at times I had to dig very deep into my reserves to keep going. I'd really like to thank both Mark and Richard for agreeing to join me on this trip, and to Mike Clough of Japanese Knotweed Solutions Ltd who so kindly donated a fantastic bike for me to use on the ride."



Simon, Mark and Richard at journeys end – Hoods Bay on the North Yorkshire coast.

For a full account, read the Blog at <http://c2cmtb.blogspot.com/>
They have raised £2,000 so far and

sponsorship is still open. If you would like to make a donation, go to: www.justgiving.com/c2cmtb.



NEW BOOK

Adrian Latimer has written a new book – *The River at the end of the World: Flyfishing in Argentine Patagonia*. It is published, just in time for Christmas, by Medlar Press. All royalties will go to the NASF and the WTT. For details google Medlar Press.

GRUBS AND BUGS

The Wild Trout Trust's popular courses for the identification of the bugs and grubs to be found in and near rivers and lakes are under new management for 2010.



SEE PAGE 17 FOR DETAILS

LONGSTOCK WATER GARDEN OPEN DAY RAISES OVER £1300 FOR THE WTT

The Longstock Water Garden near Stockbridge on the River Test was opened in aid of the Wild Trout Trust on September 6th. The event raised over £1300. These beautiful, tranquil gardens are owned by the John Lewis Partnership and we thank them for giving us one of their charity open days. Particular thanks are due to Neil Mundy and his family for setting up and running the day for us.

5% DISCOUNT FOR WTT MEMBERS AT SPORTFISH AND FARLOWS

Sportfish are supporting the WTT by giving a 5% discount to WTT members in their shops (including Farlows) and for catalogue purchases. For every £1 they give to you as discount, they will give £1 to the Trust as a donation.

Simply quote promotion code 'WTT' if ordering online, or tell Sportfish that you are a WTT member when making purchases over the phone or in the stores. No need to quote your membership number.

CONSERVATION AWARDS 2009

AWARDS CEREMONY

*“Never forget the value
of a wet wellie”*

President Charles Rangeley-Wilson welcomed contestants, members and guests to the 2009 Conservation Awards at the Savile Club on 14 October 2009, attended by over 100 people. He said that there were two types of people in conservation, those who said what should be done and those who saw what should be done and did it. The Conservation Awards were to recognise the foresight, knowledge, determination and efforts of those that achieved great things – and got their wellies wet!

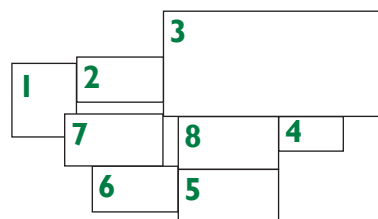
Allan Frake, chairman of the judging panel, said that the judges had found the standards of the entries to be higher than ever this year. The diversity of the projects and the extraordinary variety of problems that had to be faced and overcome made judging particularly difficult. The enthusiasm and skills displayed were exemplary. The judges' report is in the following pages.

ORVIS
SPORTING TRADITIONS
Since 1856



Shaun Leonard, our new director thanked Orvis for once again, generously sponsoring the event and Laurie Kunz, Director of Marketing UK, made the presentations. This event is a major recognition of the work done by professional and amateur groups in the UK for the benefit of wild trout and all life in rivers and lakes. The support given by Orvis is of great importance: it is a substantial contribution to the environment and to the social benefits of outdoor activities.





Photos

1. WTT President Charles Rangeley-Wilson introducing the 2009 Conservation Awards. 2. Charles Rangeley-Wilson with the award winners and runners-up. 3. More than 100 WTT members and guests pack the Savile Club to witness the Awards. 4. Winners and runners-up. 5. Charles Rangeley-Wilson and Laurie Kunz (Director of Marketing Orvis UK) presenting the Professional runners-up award to Paul St Pierre (Environment Agency,Thames Region). 6. WTT Award Judges Jenny Mant - centre (River Restoration Centre), John Shillcock - left (independent fisheries consultant),Allan Frake - right (WTT Trustee). 7. Allan Frake explains the judging procedure and challenges. 8. Charles Rangeley-Wilson and Laurie Kunz presenting the Amateur runners-up award to Justine Fulford and Allen Beechey (The Chilterns Chalk Stream Project).
Photographs courtesy of Paul Fievez and Field Sports magazine.

CONSERVATION AWARDS 2009

JUDGES REPORT

BACKGROUND TO THE 2009 AWARDS

This annual award has been running since 1998. It recognises and encourages excellence in the growing activities of wild trout habitat management and conservation. The award celebrates the efforts, ingenuity and imagination of those involved.

The competition is open to entry from individuals or organisations in two different categories: Amateur and Professional. Prizes and trophies are sponsored by Orvis (as is the Awards Reception).

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 Mel – working party at Melbourn

RIVER MEL RESTORATION PROJECT THE RIVER MEL RESTORATION GROUP

Site Background

The River Mel is a spring-fed chalk stream of approximately 5km length that rises in Melbourn and flows through Meldreth in South Cambridgeshire as a tributary of the River Cam. Milling, dredging and the installation of unsympathetic revetments have resulted in an over-wide channel and the build-up of deep layers of silt, much to the detriment of local fish and wildlife populations. Water voles that had inhabited the banks were in decline as were trout; according to older members of the village both were once plentiful.

Key Objectives

The reach to be restored was chosen because it borders a local nature reserve with public access via a footpath running along the riverbank and runs through the Parish Council's recreational field and the playing fields of Melbourn Village College. The college is keen to interest their students in the river-habitat as a teaching resource. The main objectives of the project were to maintain and enhance the characteristic habitats, plants and animals of the River Mel, to improve water-quality, flows and habitat diversity and to identify and implement cost effective means of restoring the damaged sections.

Work initiated and completed: During 2008, whilst still continuing work on the river in Meldreth. A major awareness-raising campaign was implemented. This increased the number of volunteers by 50% to 65%, thus enabling two village projects to run simultaneously by way of working-party activity every three weeks. Since the beginning of 2009 two hundred meters of 'soft' revetments have been installed in Melbourn; these are in addition to the 350 metres of river that the group has restored in Meldreth since starting work in September 2006. Willows have been pollarded to let light into the river corridor and an access point to the river has been constructed. The Group has provided ecologically-based activities to Melbourn Village College and engaged students in practical river-restoration.

Conclusion

The infectious enthusiasm, thought and effort that had been put into the project by a relatively small number of highly motivated individuals impressed the judges. Much has been achieved in habitat restoration, securing funding, raising awareness and an impressive feeling of community-ownership of the project. The judges also admired the emphasis on the educational aspects of the project by involving the local school.

AMATEUR CATEGORY RUNNER UP

RIVER CHESS – MEADES WATER GARDENS REGENERATION PROJECT THE CHILTERN CHALK STREAM PROJECT

Site Background

The River Chess is one of eight chalk streams that flow through the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The river rises from springs in and around Chesham in Buckinghamshire and flows south eastwards for 18km to join the River Colne at Rickmansworth. Meades Water Gardens have had a chequered history of human activity. They are on the site of a medieval millpond that was re-engineered substantially in the late 19th century to create watercress beds. After cress production ceased the Town Council re-landscaped the area to create formal water gardens and ornamental ponds held back by weirs: these ponds subsequently silted up. Restoration of the gardens was first mooted in the early 1990s but little progress was made until a local community partnership 'Impress the Chess' was set up in 2004.

Key Objectives

The objective of the project was to bring the site back into management and to create a more sustainable, natural river



River Chess – Meades Garden one year on.

channel, improving the gardens for both wildlife and people by regenerating a valuable urban green space. With extensive consultation and public backing, the restoration of a chalk stream channel in the gardens, with tree management, fencing and path improvements has been done during the last few years.

Work initiated and completed: In 2007, there was an extensive programme of tree-management to remove dead and diseased trees to let light into the river. A river restoration project followed in 2008 to remove the weirs, create a new channel through the silt and deposit and retain the excavated silt around the old pond using geotextile support. Unsorted gravel was then placed in the new channel and reconnected with the R.Chess upstream and downstream of the site. Following completion of the river restoration, a new path, footbridge fencing and an interpretation board have been installed. Colonization of the site by wildlife has been rapid. Re-energising the river has encouraged *Ranunculus* to colonise the new channel and marginal vegetation has become established on the new banks. The more open nature of the gardens and the refurbished paths resulted in an increase in visitors.

Conclusion

The project has improved a valuable urban green space for both people and wildlife. It serves as an example of how local community-partnerships can create improvement to rivers in urban areas. The judges were impressed particularly by the tenacious resolve of the Chilterns Chalk Stream Project officer and colleagues who were faced with formidable obstacles during the project-planning phase but were determined to see the project succeed.

PROFESSIONAL CATEGORY WINNER

BOTLEY MILLS FISHPASS PROJECT – RIVER HAMBLE THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY, SOUTHERN REGION

Site Background

This site is on the River Hamble approximately 12km upstream from its estuary at Southampton Water. Milling has taken place on the site for over 1000 years, The current building was established in 1757. The site retains a large head

of water, over 3 metres, to power the turbines of the mill that were used to mill flour until recently. The large fall of water has meant that sea trout that frequent the area are unable to enter the upper half of the river catchment except under very high flow and high tide conditions.

Key Objectives

The new natural bypass-channel connects the main river to a small side channel on the left bank so that fish can circumvent the large impoundment at the mill. The fishpass will open up

Continued on page 8

approximately 15km of chalk stream habitat to sea trout, coarse fish and eels.

Work initiated and completed: Initially a number of options were considered but rejected on the grounds of high costs, access difficulties for conventional construction plant and materials and the need for the pass to benefit coarse fish and eel migration as well as sea trout. The final design was similar to fish pass designs developed in Germany but not used previously in the UK. The unusual feature of the design is the use of a regular pattern of upstanding rocks nearly 1 metre high embedded in the pass. This arrangement ensures that the velocities in the pass are not too high and it allows for fish in the pass to be able to retreat downstream without becoming stranded if the water levels upstream should fall. The pass is 28m long with a 1:22 slope. It will operate with flows down to 50 l/sec: operational conditions are present for more than 75% of the year. Video monitoring is being installed to gauge efficiency of the pass.

Conclusion

The channel depths and water velocities have been selected carefully to provide passage for sea trout but will facilitate migration of other species such as roach, dace, lamprey and eel. Small fish such as elvers and bullhead are able to use the micro hydraulics afforded by the irregular and heterogeneous surfaces within the pass. Particularly impressive was the considerable effort expended in solving a plethora of logistical problems of access and ownership with the innovative design and construction methods employed. The judges recognised that a major benefit of this pass is that it is more in keeping with the local environment and landscape and is far more aesthetically acceptable than pre-fabricated fishpass alternatives.



River Hamble – fish pass in operation

PROFESSIONAL CATEGORY RUNNER UP

RESTORATION OF RIVER LAMBOURN SSSI HUNTSGREEN TO WOODSPEEN ENVIRONMENT AGENCY, THAMES REGION

Site Background

The River Lambourn is an SSSI due to its characteristic chalk stream features such as diverse in-stream flora, abundant aquatic invertebrates and a varied and mixed fishery. However, it is classified by Natural England as in 'unfavourable condition',

largely because of the presence of large impounding structures that have reduced flows and created substantial siltation and over-wide and over-deep conditions. The river also has suffered from over-enthusiastic land drainage and flood-defence engineering operations that have led to low-quality habitat, loss of characteristic macrophytes and poor populations of wild fish.

Key Objectives

As a part of the Government's PSA targets, all structures causing significant impact on the river and actions necessary to remove them were identified. This ranged from significant changes in operation to removal or bypassing. The project involved lowering the weirs to increase the gradient and velocities upstream and to facilitate fish passage. The river was narrowed and the banks were re-profiled to take advantage of the lower levels and to create faster flows: locally-sourced gravels were used to raise the bed and restore typical chalk-stream features. It is hoped that it will be possible to stop stocking fish and ultimately become a 100% wild trout fishery.

Work initiated and completed: the major impoundment at Woodspeen has been removed and the channel narrowed using a combination of techniques. These included the use of coir matting attached to posts that defined the new bank-edge and backfilling with material from bank re-profiling. Silt from the riverbed also was used in the backfill. Submerged woody-mattresses were used and the reach rapidly became vegetated. Substantial amounts of gravel were won from the adjacent floodplain meadows and used to raise the river bed and provide a natural substrate.

Conclusion

Removal of the major impounding structure at Woodspeen had a beneficial impact evident for almost 1 km upstream. Changes in level, velocities and stream-habitat diversity have been remarkable. *Ranunculus* growth has been substantial in places where growth has never been recorded in recent history. Counts of spawning redds were encouraging and improved fish-numbers in the reach probably will result in a reduced stocking regime next season. The river has been re-connected to its floodplain with associated benefits for a variety of wetland species: the borrow pits that were left following the removal of gravel are being re-shaped as part of the wetland creation scheme. The judges admired the large size of the project: the planning and installation of specific features at particular points all were working well together to produce a superb mosaic of habitats for fish and other flora and fauna to resolve the sensitivities of blending with and incorporating modern garden-design in properties adjacent to the river. However, the judges felt that, given the extent of the restoration project, a unique monitoring and project assessment opportunity had been lost.



River Lambourn – removal of impoundment reduces depth & increases flow

TIM JACKLIN REPORTS ON TROUT UNLIMITED – 50 YEARS OF CONSERVATION SUCCESS IN THE USA

In August this year, Trout Unlimited celebrated its 50th anniversary in Michigan, the state where it all began.

2009 marks the 50th anniversary of Trout Unlimited's founding on the banks of the Au Sable River near Grayling, Michigan. The 16 fishermen who gathered at the home of George Griffith were united by their love of trout fishing and their growing discontent with the state's practice of stocking its waters with "cookie cutter trout" – catchable-sized hatchery fish. Convinced that Michigan's trout streams could produce far superior fish if left to their own devices, the anglers formed a new organization: Trout, Unlimited (the comma was dropped a few years later) dedicated to ensuring that wild and native trout populations were allowed to thrive as nature intended.

From the beginning, Trout Unlimited (TU) was guided by the principle that if we "take care of the fish, then the fishing will take care of itself." That principle was grounded in science. "One of our most important objectives is to develop programs and recommendations based on the very best information and thinking available," said TU's first president, Dr. Casey E. Westell Jr. "In all matters of trout management, we want to know that we are substantially correct, both morally and biologically."

In 1962–63, TU prepared its first policy statement on wild trout, and persuaded the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to curtail "put-and-take" trout stocking and start to manage for wild trout and healthy habitat. Following that success, anglers quickly founded TU chapters in Illinois, Wisconsin, New York, and Pennsylvania.

With its hundreds of local stream-restoration projects, helping to lead the way to removing the Edwards Dam on the Kennebec River in Maine and compelling Congress to strengthen the Clean Water Act, TU has a strong 50-year record of conservation achievements. Perhaps TU's greatest strength is that it works at many levels of society and government to achieve its mission. The TU is active on every front from the landowner on the stream bank to the state fisheries agencies and the Halls of Congress.

Since 1959, TU has helped to restore over 10,000 miles of rivers and streams. It is dedicated to conserving, protecting and restoring North America's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds. TU has over 140,000 members and more than 400 chapters.

Trout Unlimited was the inspiration for the founding of the Wild Trout Trust. The very first issue of WTT's magazine, *Salmo Trutta* in 1998, began with a letter from Charles F. Gauvin, President and CEO of Trout Unlimited. In that letter, Charles wished our new organisation well and quoted the simple but enduring philosophy of Art Neumann, Trout Unlimited's first director: "if we take care of the fish, the fishing will take care of itself". In 2009 it is the Wild Trout Trust's pleasure to congratulate Trout Unlimited on 50 years of doing just that and wish them continued success in the coming years.

For more information on Trout Unlimited's 50th anniversary, see their website at www.tu50.org.

Photos

Top-left: Art Neumann, first director and former president of TU at the birthplace of the organisation on the banks of Michigan's Au Sable river. Top-right: Art Neumann, evangelised TU's message across the USA, doubling the size of the organisation and signing up 30 chapters between 1962 – 65. Below: Art Neumann, one of TU's founders and Charles Gauvin, TU CEO at the 50th anniversary celebration in Michigan, August 2009.



COUNTRY LANDOWNERS ASSOCIATION

GAME FAIR 2009

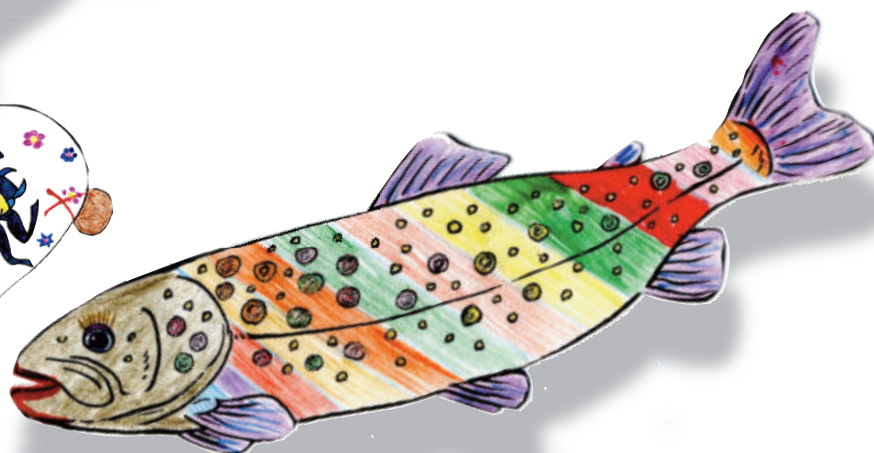
Attendance at the fair was 136,000 this year, a reduction of about 10% on 2008. Possibly this was due to the recession, or possibly the result of weather forecasts that advised prospective attendees that the elements would be against them. Probably it was a combination of the two. In the event the weather was fair and hot – most of the time. When the showers came they were heavy: the weather-men had something right, but it did not affect the lively atmosphere that prevailed on our well-staffed stand throughout the proceedings.

Understandably, results were not as exciting as in previous years but we attracted 43 new members (including one life member) and 10 existing members renewed the subscriptions that had slipped from their memories. Our raffle-ticket sellers were a constant source of entertainment and raised the very creditable sum of £1332 despite the fact that our star performer, Nigel Ash, was *hors de combat* most of the time. Get well soon Nigel! Sales of merchandise realised £260.

We had a constant flow of visitors. The living stream was as popular as ever and there was much speculation as to the species of fish therein (it was a Rapala Special doing a very lifelike performance of something). The innovative model of a stream with and without large woody debris was appreciated by all of the serious river-restorers and the bug-identification table had people of all ages queuing to peer at the mini-beasts that our team had found in the adjacent waters that morning.

The children's art competition produced the usual splendidly colourful and imaginative fish, flies and bugs, and some wonderful creations were made from playdough, cocktail sticks and beads. Winners of the competition were Chloe Sproston from Newcastle under Lyme, Rachel Eaton from Buckinghamshire and Jade Coupland from Grantham. Congratulations to them and a hearty "well done" to all who entered. There is a lot of talent out there!

So many people helped in such diverse ways that we can not list all of their names and particular contributions: everyone did splendidly well. BUT the contributions from Freeminer beer and Chris Watson's vineyard do deserve a special mention as does the heroic effort by Andy Thomas in building, running and dismantling the stand – it was one of the best ever.



Photos

Top & middle: the WTT stand – 'one of the best ever'.
Bottom: art competition entrants busy at work.

Artwork

Left: Chloe Sproston
Middle: Rachel Eaton
Bottom: Jade Coupland

BERNARD VENABLES AWARD 2009

In presenting of the Bernard Venables Award 2009, WTT Director, Shaun Leonard said: "I am delighted to be able to present this year's prestigious Bernard Venables Award to such a deserving recipient.

I met this person for the first time three days ago although my WTT colleagues already had done a serious promotional job on his behalf. They had not exaggerated. After spending an hour with him on Thursday evening I was absolutely enthralled by this person's extraordinary depth of knowledge and boundless, incredibly infectious enthusiasm.

This person has become an expert of international repute in the study of aquatic invertebrates, especially in addressing and conquering the extremely complex order of the sedge flies; he has been totally self-taught in this field, yet is now a highly respected scientist and naturalist. It is a truly extraordinary person who abandons a Game Fair party and creeps out in the dark with his net to sample the adult caddis flies on the Belvoir estate! To watch our winner engaging and enthralling kids with his bugs and grubs on the WTT stand is a sight to behold.

This person is also a skilled and successful angler; he has represented England in flyfishing competitions.

Our winner is a passionate conservationist, especially so for

his beloved Upper Don in South Yorkshire. There, with the South Yorkshire S&TA, he led a vigorous campaign to clean up the grossly polluted river. He used his meticulous records of field data in lobbying MPs, councillors, water authorities and industry to treat ochreous mine wastes before they discharged to the river and killed its inhabitants. His efforts have been rewarded with a clean, bio-diverse river that holds wild brown trout and grayling of the highest quality.

Ladies and gentlemen, I am most honoured to present the 2009 Bernard Venables Award to Stuart Crofts."



Photo

Shaun Leonard, WTT Director, presenting the 2009 Bernard Venables Award to Stuart Crofts.

RECEIVING THE AWARD STUART'S REACTION WAS...

"There I was busily talking about woody debris and bugs while working on the WTT stand at the CLA Gamefair this year when Shaun, our director, stood on a pile of straw bales and called for everyone's attention. It was time to announce the winner of the 2009 Bernard Venables Award. As Shaun started to describe the person who would receive the award it started to dawn on me that I knew the chap he was talking about; it was me.....at about the same moment as the penny dropped, Shaun called me forward. An avalanche of feelings came over me; total surprise, humility, honour, pride and fear all rolled into one. Bernard Venables was my fishing hero when I was growing up: the adventures of Mr Crabtree and Peter even helped me with reading!

The River Don always has been in my life; as a youngster my mother would give me strict orders not to go near the river, not that I might fall in and drown but just to touch it would poison me for sure. As I got older I wanted to see life come back to this once beautiful river and many have said that if you cut me in two you will see "River Don" the entire way through me.

Mankind has treated the rivers running through our industrial heartlands very badly. In the pursuit of great innovations and enormous wealth, many rivers in our island were destroyed: clean water was taken out to keep the wheels of industry turning and totally contaminated water was returned to carry our filth to the sea. Combined with this was extensive modification to enslave the rivers completely to our requirements. It was not long before most forms of life living in them were annihilated. When I first started to take an interest in trying to turn the clock back and breathe life back into the River Don I was looked upon as some type of loony with a crazy dream of fish once again living in this dead river. Then along came Gerald Stocks, the organiser of our local South Yorkshire Branch of the Salmon & Trout Association. He had come to look at the upper part of the River Don as it was threatened by a large water abstraction licence

proposal. He fought the proposal and won. That was the start of the turn-around – in the mid to late 1970s, Gerald inspired me, and many others, to start to fight for the river. And that is what we did. One of the biggest problems was a mine that had been discharging water to the detriment of the river since the mid 1800s. The mine closed in the 1960s but the polluting discharge was going to be there forever – that is a long time! As an orphaned mine no one wanted or had to take responsibility for the discharge.

I joined another local seasoned campaigner called John Wade and we took every opportunity possible to push the case for a treatment plant for this minewater. I appeared on Countryfile, the Radio 4 Today programme and local TV, John had jars full of the orange water put on display in the House of Lords (Lord Mason of Barnsley also helped greatly behind the scenes). Anyhow, to cut a long story short we got our treatment plant and many more improvements. The river is in very fine health from its source high in the hills above Penistone right through Sheffield and beyond. It is alive with wild trout and grayling and many people enjoy its gifts. The river is loved once again.

Problems and setbacks remain; they always will do so. Living on such a small, overcrowded island, all of our urban rivers are just the mere turn of a valve away from disaster. Humans destroyed many rivers in this land. Mother Nature will bounce back and breathe fresh life into them but it is up to us to give her the chance. We must not become complacent or relax our guard for a moment. If a problem occurs it must be tackled; we can never expect others to do it; too often they will do nothing.

Finally never take no for an answer or settle for second best. We owe it to the likes of Gerald Stocks and the very many others that have gone unnamed to keep up this vital work.

Thank you to all who put me forward for this wonderful award and thank you to everyone who has helped me along the way."

TROUT IN THE TOWN

DELEGATES' CONFERENCE

SHEFFIELD, AUGUST 2009

As a result of generous sponsorship from the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation and the Environment Agency we were able to arrange a conference at Sheffield University for the personnel directly involved in Trout in the Town projects. Delegates and presenters gathered from across the UK in order to:

- Share innovative approaches between practitioners
- Receive and provide expert technical and practical guidance
- Foster support and communication between projects
- Identify and share the best practices for work in urban river conservation

The programme began on the Saturday morning with Stuart Crofts's inspirational account of the battle for South Yorkshire's River Don, which he and other key figures such as Chris Firth and Gerald Stocks have fought since the 1970s. The fight for the urban sections of the Don continues under the banner of John Blewitt's new Sheffield Trout in the Town Project: SPRITE.

Delegates representing Lancashire's River Colne (Andy Pritchard), London's River Wandle (Theo Pike), London's River Cray (Ashe Hurst), Nottinghamshire's River Erewash (Mick Martin) and Glasgow/Lennoxton's Glazert Water (Danny Connor) each gave stirring accounts of their adopted urban watercourses. Their presentations described a multitude of little-known river-corridor wildlife-havens and revealed the passion that each delegate felt for his river. The recurring message was that we have rivers that are worth fighting for in our towns and cities and that the Esmée Fairbairn funding for Trout in the Town is leading to environmental work of great value.

The morning continued with a virtuoso performance by Japanese Knotweed Solutions Ltd's Managing Director Mike Clough. Mike highlighted the threats to our river-corridor flora and fauna (and to human skin) posed by invasive plant species and he showed how the biology of these plants brought about such threats. He offered to answer all queries

about delegates' own rivers at any time after the conference.

Gideon Reeve of the Wandle Trust came next, showing us the dedication and organisational skills that he has brought to their Trout in the Classroom programme. Everything that we needed to know about how these programmes are run and how local schoolchildren have benefited under Gideon's stewardship was included in a clear presentation.

Adam Brown and Paul Stolk of SUBSTANCE illustrated the importance of recording what our educational and participatory activities within projects have achieved. Adam and Paul also outlined their larger investigation into the overall social/community benefits of participating in angling and they described a number of generous (and hopefully mutually beneficial) services that they can offer to Trout in the Town projects.

After lunch the Agency's Gary Cliff gave an insight and guide to the workings of the EA's "Land Drainage Consent" process. This is the principal process by which any potential flooding-risk associated with habitat works in and around river channels is assessed in England and Wales.

The WTT's Denise Ashton then gave a masterclass on producing successful funding bids to support and sustain conservation projects. This advice, honed during Denise's successful career in industry, was of a very high professional standard.

Finally, Theo Pike returned to the stand to pass on some of his extensive expertise in securing and carrying out volunteer-led river habitat working parties. Volunteer-activities are a lynch pin in all of our Urban River Conservation efforts and Theo's tutorial was of great value.

My thanks to all of the presenters who gave such excellent talks and who all donated their time and effort. Many thanks also to our new Director Shaun Leonard for attending the morning session before rushing away to take care of other important proceedings in nearby Derbyshire.

Much discussion ensued about the key points raised during



Photos

Left: Mike Clough from Japanese Knotweed Solutions Ltd, giving his presentation on invasive plant species.

Above: Urban trout caught (and released) during the activities on the second day.

Facing page: Gideon Reeve.



Thinking of a fly-fishing trip to New Zealand? Then this is the DVD for you !

We have aimed to provide the visiting angler with enough information to ensure that 'forewarned is forearmed'. To that end, fishing tackle, licences, river types, guides, health and safety, accommodation and weather are just some of the topics covered in the first chapter. This information has been gleaned from first-hand experience, and is highly recommended viewing for the visiting angler.

However, most of the film consists of wonderful wilderness fly-fishing action.

We visit three distinctly different waterways : a rugged mountain river, a small challenging spring creek and finally a wide, open braided shingle river.

Surrounded by the beautiful scenery of the wilderness, this will give a tempting taste of what is on offer to the angler seeking adventure in New Zealand. Get that suitcase packed !

Running time : 1 hour 30 minutes

Price £18.99

Mention the Wild Trout Trust when ordering from www.struck2soon.com and a donation of £4.00 will be made to them.

the day. Questions and answers within the whole group helped to address a number of project-specific and generic problems. Strong cooperative bonds and friendships were forged!

On the second day John Blewitt introduced delegates to his beloved urban River Don. Despite the theme of the conference, I think it is fair to say that this fine river, so often neglected and abused, made a lasting impact on all of our visitors. The sightings of dippers and kingfishers acted as a beautiful counterpoint to the worrying abundance of invasive plant species, tyres and odd patches of litter.

All too soon it was time for people to begin making their way home – many thanks to all who had difficult or long

journeys. I look forward to continuing my work and learning alongside all of you.

It was left to Stuart Crofts and myself to continue the exploration of our own local urban gem. Once more, the river that spawned and nurtured the Steel City gave us an unforgettable and absorbing series of wildlife encounters. It seems that, despite man's abuse and neglect, the river is still willing and able to forgive those injuries in return for the simplest of apologetic gestures – just us taking a little bit of care and interest in her once more.

PAUL GASKELL



ANGLIAN SEATROUT PROJECT

As I write these words, the first on-the-ground habitat improvement under the Anglian Sea Trout Project is well underway! The £50K project on the River Stiffkey in North Norfolk is the culmination of many hours of planning, consent applications and local liaison carried out by the WTT. The works involve the creation of eleven trout spawning riffles utilising about 650 tonnes of gravel and the reprofiling of the river banks to create low shelves (berms) alongside the river; the latter will improve bankside habitats for water voles and retain the flood-conveyance capacity of the river channel.

The Stiffkey is a chalkstream with a history of land drainage works. The channel has been straightened and dredged, resulting in accumulations of fine sediment and colonisation by reeds and rushes. WTT has led the current restoration efforts working in partnership with the landowners, Holkham Estate, and the Environment Agency who provided funding for the works. Norfolk Wildlife Trust has provided invaluable assistance with water vole surveys and ensuring that this protected species and its habitat is not damaged during the works. Cranfield University and the River Restoration Centre have designed a monitoring protocol to assess the effectiveness of the project in improving trout numbers. Truly a partnership project.

Other progress with the Anglian Sea Trout Project includes the completion of an extensive survey of barriers to fish migration throughout the Norfolk rivers (Nar, Burn, Stiffkey and Glaven). Fish-pass consultant Mike Beach did this work: his report is being used to prioritise and develop fish-pass projects on these rivers. One of the first to be tackled will be the tidal gates on the River Stiffkey to improve access for sea trout, allowing them to benefit from the

improved spawning opportunities described above. Further works to take place this winter are planned for a site on the Nar and an extension of survey works to include the River Welland in Lincolnshire.

The River Glaven is likely to be the next river to benefit from habitat improvements under the Anglian Sea Trout project. The project has generated interest from local landowners and good links have been forged that could lead to a major improvement-project. Discussions have centred on removing some mill sluices, restoring an upstream millpond to a river channel, bypassing a large estate-lake currently impounding the river and works to reconnect the river to its floodplain so as to create acres of wetland habitat. We are preparing a feasibility study and looking at potential funding sources – watch this space!

TIM JACKLIN



Work on the River Stiffkey riffles.

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE SOUTH

With the fishing season at an end this is the time to focus on in-channel enhancement works.

We have a busy autumn programme in the South. Practical

Visits have been arranged for the River Coln in Gloucestershire, the Misbourne, the Ebble and the Stor (a small tributary of the Arun).

We will be delivering habitat projects on the Kennet in partnership with Action for the River Kennet (ARK) and a project to restore a section of damaged channel on Hampshire's River Meon.

The project on the Meon was identified following an Advisory Visit; it will be designed and supervised by WTT. Part of the funding will be by the Hampshire Wildlife Trust, the South Downs Joint Committee and the Environment Agency as part of the River Meon Partnership initiative.

Plans are also afoot to Train the Professionals. Environment Agency Fisheries and Biodiversity staff will be taken to some river sites in Southern Region and given practical instruction and direction by the WTT Conservation Officer into the art of enhancing trout spawning-habitat.

ANDY THOMAS



This overwide section of the River Meon is due for restoration work this autumn

ANDY THOMAS CONSIDERS HABITAT MANAGEMENT FOR TROUT FOOD



A mayfly finds refuge in the margins. Photo courtesy of Cyril Bennet.

There has been a debate in the angling press recently about the management of marginal vegetation, particularly on chalkstreams. Some people say that water-flow is the key to improved insect-hatches and that marginal vegetation makes no significant contribution towards fly life. Undoubtedly, flow is an important factor but some of these views will be taken as an excuse to continue the damaging practice of manicuring the banks and margins of rivers. The desire to have unimpeded access for anglers must be balanced against providing habitats for fish and the food of fish.

In my role as Conservation Officer for the Trust, I spend much of my time talking to angling clubs, river keepers and fishery owners about the importance of retaining thick fringes of marginal vegetation, including plenty of low tree cover. The wet margin of any river may well have the greatest biological wealth. Well-tended tresses of mid-channel crowfoot are valuable but so are the marginal zones that can provide critically important habitat for a variety of insects and for trout. The width of vegetated fringes has a critical role in regulating habitats in the centre of the channel.

Marginal vegetation protects riverbanks from excessive erosion. This is particularly important on many of the artificial chalkstream channels that have been raised to provide a head of water for old mills or water meadow systems. I remember the carnage on many sections of the Test and Itchen following



Ephemera danica – female.

the big flows generated in 2000 and 2001. A thick fringe of marginal sedge, reed or scrubby willow would have saved many people from extremely expensive bank repairs.

Flow is important, particularly for certain invertebrate species. But flow is not necessarily the same thing as water velocity. It is possible to increase water velocities and boost populations of upwing insects by careful management of the channel dimensions and allowing the channel to become narrow in places. Lowering weirs or drawing hatches can increase local water-velocities. These are actions that are often within the gift of keepers and fishery owners but sometimes they are rejected on the grounds that some fishable water will be lost.

Whilst water crowfoot is widely appreciated for the hatches of olives (*Baetidae*) and blue winged olives (*Ephemerellidae*) that it generates, the comparable powers of emergent and bankside vegetation are greatly undervalued. Vegetated margins produce falls of terrestrial invertebrates and generate dry-fly fishing at times of the year when other hatches may be sparse. Also they improve the capacity of streams to support caddis and true mayfly (*Ephemera* spp.) hatches. Both mayflies and many caddis species rely on emergent and bankside vegetation in order to complete their lifecycle. Forcing such species to fly further from the stream in search of suitable shelter substantially increases the proportion of adult flies lost to predation. A structurally diverse, marginal plant-community therefore is conducive to maintaining good densities of surface-fly activity throughout the season.

When undertaking maintenance in the marginal fringe, work should be restricted to one bank at a time. Heavy maintenance work ideally should be undertaken on a maximum of 25% of any given bank area in one year. Woody debris play a critical role in providing habitat for aquatic invertebrates in addition to the more widely understood benefits of providing cover for fish and sorting or riverbed gravels.

Our Conservation Team is talking to invertebrate experts from Bug Life and the Riverfly Partnership so as to ensure that the WTT is giving the best advice for the benefit of flylife in our wild trout fisheries – watch this space.

SOUTH COAST SEA TROUT PROJECT MAKING A START

The problems affecting rivers and trout populations in the south are numerous (sometimes daunting) but on the whole the issues are well understood. Similar problems often affect both brown trout and sea trout: helping to identify and resolve them is the core work of the Wild Trout Trust. The migratory nature of sea trout means that they can have to overcome many more physical barriers than resident browns. Tidal gates, flap valves, weirs, hatches, milling structures, hydro power turbines, fish farms, ornamental falls and even weirs constructed to “improve” the fishing are just some of the obstacles facing migratory trout.

Some of these barriers are passable by sea trout under high flow conditions, particularly if the structures are managed carefully, with an awareness that fish need to get past them. It can be forgotten that, in addition to providing access for adults migrating upstream, it is essential that smolts migrating downstream can find the way to the sea. This can be neglected. Apart from the obvious threats of being minced in turbines or sucked into an abstraction pump, smolts can be lost in water-meadow irrigation schemes or in feeder streams providing water for lakes and reservoirs. The Environment Agency has identified many such fish-traps. Where there is a formal abstraction licence it is a legal requirement to fit screens to

stop migrating salmonids from entering a situation from which there is no hope of escape. Raising awareness about these and other issues affecting sea trout is just one element of the South Coast Sea Trout Project.

The South Coast Sea Trout Project is beginning to attain some momentum. The WTT is working in partnership with the Environment Agency as it is recognised that, with our experience of identifying and resolving trout habitat-problems, we can provide an important service in doing likewise for sea trout.

Two project-proposals have been written. The first presents some ideas for resolving trout migration issues on the Plumpton Mill Stream, an important tributary of the Sussex Ouse. The second has been produced for the River Len, a tributary of the River Medway.

A Practical Visit has been arranged to improve the quality of spawning habitats for sea trout on a tributary of the tidal Arun. Many people are not aware of the presence of sea trout in small and apparently insignificant side streams and tributaries. These small streams often are favoured spawning sites so improving them may be the key to sustaining viable populations in many of our better-known main-river fisheries.

For more information on the South Coast Sea Trout Project contact Andy Thomas at: athomas@wildtrout.org.

TIM JACKLIN REPORTS ON THE

ORKNEY PRACTICAL VISIT THAT SETS THE SCENE FOR SEA TROUT IMPROVEMENTS

In September WTT's Tim Jacklin headed north to the Orkney Islands to carry out a practical visit with Malcolm Thomson of Orkney Trout Fishing Association (OTFA – www.orkneytroutfishing.co.uk).

The Orkney Islands support many sea trout populations in their numerous burn and loch systems. Collectively, they sustain a productive recreational fishery, with much angling carried out in saltwater. However, the unique open access nature of trout fishing in Orkney, with no catch records and the absence of a fisheries board or trust in Orkney means that little is known about the status of local sea trout populations.

With a combination of volunteer effort and financial support from the Atlantic Salmon Trust and the Wild Trout Trust, Malcolm and OTFA have carried out baseline juvenile trout surveys and run a fish trap to monitor adult and smolt migrations between the sea and freshwater. This work has established that there are twenty-one known sea



The Bu burn, Orkney, before...

trout systems in the Orkney Islands, ranging from small burns of less than 2km in length that drain directly into the sea, to larger systems that include lochs in their catchments.

The work has disclosed poor habitat and low numbers of juvenile trout in many of the small burns. Straightening and dredging for agricultural drainage has resulted in uniform shallow channels with little capacity for trout to grow beyond the fry stage. In response, Malcolm and OTFA have established a sea trout burn-restoration project that has been successful in securing Heritage Lottery

Funding via the Scapa Flow Landscape Partnership Scheme (led by Orkney Islands Council, Scottish Natural Heritage, and Royal Society for the Protection of Birds).

The WTT Practical Visit was carried out over three days on the Bu burn; it concentrated on creating pool-habitat for larger juvenile trout and gravel spawning areas. Over-widened sections of the burn were narrowed to create a low-flow channel whilst maintaining flood-flow capacity. On straightened sections, pools were excavated and

Continued at top of page 17

channel constrictors were installed to create and maintain depth variation. About 20 tonnes of boulders and 20 tonnes of gravel were used during the works, with much help from local plant hire contractor V.S. Flett and landowner Jimmy Stevenson.

The aim of the Practical Visit was to demonstrate techniques that can be replicated on many other burns and provide a site that can be used by OFTA to show Orkney farmers the habitat improvements that could be carried out on watercourses crossing their land. There was much local interest in the works: BBC Radio Orkney and local newspapers carried out bankside interviews with Malcolm and Tim. The WTT's contributions towards the visit will allow the sea trout burn-restoration project access to matched funding from the Scapa Flow Landscape Partnership Scheme to continue the good works.



...and after works carried out during a Wild Trout Trust Practical Visit.

BUGS AND GRUBS

The Wild Trout Trust's popular courses for the identification of the bugs and grubs to be found in and near rivers and lakes are under new management for 2010.

The Wild Trout Trust and the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust have agreed to run the courses jointly. Both organisations have conservation and restoration, supplemented by education, as their objectives and this co-operation will bring benefits to both organisations. The Wild Trout Trust is species-specific but, as the trout is close to the top of the food-chain, work done to improve conditions for the trout must improve conditions for almost every other living thing in and near the water: this

is embraced by the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust's fundamental policies.

Course-leaders will be Richard Cripps (left) and Shaun Leonard. Richard has led all of the WTT's courses in previous years and leads other courses for the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust. Shaun Leonard is the director of the Wild Trout Trust and a qualified and experienced educationalist.



Richard Cripps

Both Richard and Shaun have been studying freshwater ecology for more than 25 years.

The courses will be in a format that is similar to that followed previously but the content has been expanded to include external factors such as use of land adjacent to rivers and lakes and the flora and fauna therein.

The proposed dates for 2010 are 26 and 27 June, and 3 and 4 July. Please give your first and second choices of date as we will be limiting the classes to twenty students.

The basic agenda for the one-day courses is:

- 9-00 am Meet for coffee
- 9-30am Welcome by Richard Cripps for the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust and Shaun Leonard for the Wild Trout Trust.
- 9-45am Introduction to the factors that affect life in rivers and lakes, recognition of harmful and beneficial influences, means of collecting specimens, methods of identification.
- 10-45 am Fieldwork on the nearby river Wylve (bring your own waders or gum boots).
- 12-45 pm Lunch (bring your own picnic; coffee and tea provided).
- 2-00pm Fieldwork on the nearby Langford Lakes.
- 4-00pm Closing discussions (all times will be flexible).

The cost of a one-day course is £25. Applications, accompanied by full payment, should be sent to Christina Bryant, The Wild Trout Trust, PO Box 120, Waterlooville, PO8 OWZ. Telephone/fax 023 9257 0985, email: office@wildtrout.org.



Trout food

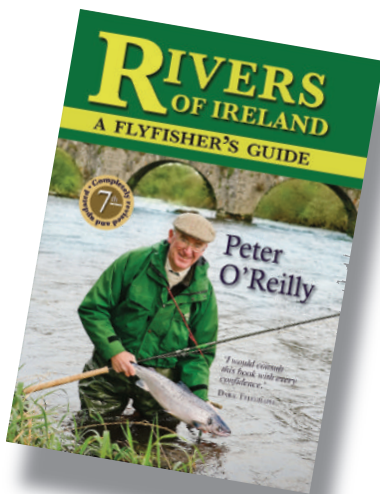
RIVERS OF IRELAND

BOOK by Peter O'Reilly. Hardback, 404 pages, ISBN 978-1-906122-10-2 (7th edition). Merlin Unwin Books, Ludlow, SY8 1DB, tel: 01 1584 877456, www.merlinunwin.co.uk

To call this book a mine of information would be an injustice. Mining implies the removal of much superfluous material in order to find that which one seeks. Open this volume where you will: every page is full of well-researched, clearly-presented, comprehensive detail. No words are wasted and no relevant information is omitted. Peter O'Reilly praises where praise is due but does not hesitate to give an adverse report when necessary.

Maps of all areas are included. They are presented in a most useful format that gives prominence to the rivers so that they can be found easily on the fully detailed official maps of the regions. The index is a pleasure to use.

The quality of binding, paper, print and presentation is to Merlin Unwin's usual high standard.



My only (minor) criticism is that reproduction of some black-and-white photographs is poor. They are few and they add nothing to the value of the text so the criticism can be discounted.

Everyone intending to fish rivers in Ireland should have this book. It is an invaluable tool for planning and a reliable guide to fishing when in the country.

This is the seventh edition of *Rivers of Ireland*. It has been completely revised and updated.

JOHN WILLIAMS

WILDERNESS FLYFISHING. THE ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO NEW ZEALAND

DVD from Struck2soon productions: website www.struck2soon.com or post 4 Drumrauch Hall, Belbrough Lane, Hutton, Rudby, TS15 0JA. Price £18.99. (A generous donation to the WTT will be made for every copy sold via orders in which WTT is mentioned.)

If you are planning a fishing expedition to the South Island of New Zealand, or if you are thinking of doing so, or if you are an armchair traveller wishing that you could do so – this is the DVD for you.

This is not a description of a package expedition where a helicopter collects you from a four-star hotel and whisks you to a river where you are attended by a guide who assembles a rod, ties on a fly, tells you exactly where and when to cast and then

releases the fish before you have had time to see it. This is the grown-up version of the adventures you had with a few friends during the summer holidays.

As with all expeditions the first task is planning. Going to a country on the other side of the world does have more problems than camping beside a river on Dartmoor.

The first part of the DVD covers such matters very satisfactorily. The paperwork is not onerous but it is important to know what has to be done: we are told what to do and we are shown the forms that have to be completed. The NZ authorities have regulations that are enforced rigorously: they are listed and explained – for example, it would be very tiresome to take your felt-soled waders to the antipodes only to discover that you could not use them and could suffer confiscation. Tackle is discussed in sufficient detail; it does not have to be extensive or complex but it is useful to know what is essential and the list of the local tackle-shops could prove to be of great value, especially for the procurement of native fly-patterns.

Follow the DVD and you will find yourself in South Island, ready to fish, having encountered few difficulties.

The second part of the DVD shows what you are likely to encounter when you try to catch the fish. These are all wild, native brown trout. They are similar to our native wild brown trout but they tend to have a larger average size, probably a greater average age and a very well developed sense of survival. In short, they are big and spooky.

Fly fishing on three types of water is shown: 1) west coast back-country river 2) spring creek 3) high-country braided shingle river.

All are recognisable types from our own waters but the locations and the particular topography are such as to make one wish to be there.

Those fishing are not paragons: they lose fish, they put fish down, they miss fish, they get stuck up trees and – they do catch fish. Their efforts are discussed sensibly and tactics for the country and the conditions are analysed and amended so that the viewer would be able to start fishing with some knowledge of the more common differences between our home waters and those in South Island NZ.

Camera work is competent and (mercifully) free of the gimmicks that seem to be so prevalent in current TV programs. Three innovations have been introduced that I found most useful. The positions of fish spotted in their lies is indicated on-screen (I would not have seen them otherwise): instant, slow-motion, replays of fish taking flies show details of takes that could not be appreciated otherwise, and there is a short sequence of film from a head camera that takes the viewer right to the source of the action.

This is a publication to be recommended.

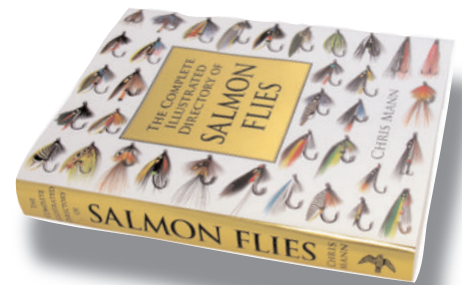
JOHN WILLIAMS

THE COMPLETE ILLUSTRATED DIRECTORY OF SALMON FLIES

BOOK by Chris Mann. Hardback 480 pages, ISBN 978-1-906122-01-0. Merlin Unwin Books, 7 Corve Street, Ludlow, SY8 1DB. tel: 01 1584 877456, www.merlinunwin.co.uk. Price £35.

This book is simply stunning. Beautifully produced on high quality paper that enhances the illustrations, it covers 1800

salmon and steelhead flies. The layout is a model of clarity with four full-sized flies on each page. Variations of the same fly are grouped together. There are brief



descriptions of all of the flies' antecedents. The colours are brilliant and defined so clearly that errors in tying would be almost impossible. Several indices are included under different headings.

This book should be on the shelves of every fly-fisherman, flydresser, fishing-hotel and library. It must be the definitive book of reference on the subject.

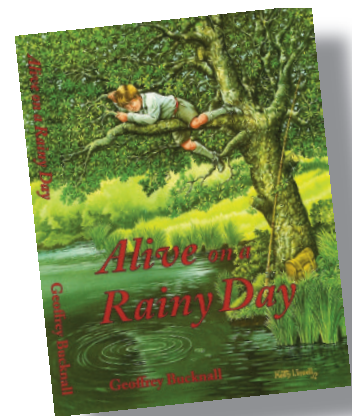
JOHN WILLIAMS

ALIVE ON A RAINY DAY

BOOK by Geoffrey Bucknall, illustrated by Keith Linsell. Hardback 184 pages, ISBN 978-0-9562552-0-4. Limited edition of 300 copies, each with a bookplate signed by both author and illustrator, from The Brightwater Press, Postgate Cottage, Lartington, Barnard Castle, DL12 9DA. Price £22.70 (including p&p)

This is a sequel to the author's first autobiography, *Fishing Days*.

There is no single reason for owning this book. It is a limited edition by an author who has been in the forefront of angling literature for more than fifty years but, when times are hard, that alone would not be sufficient. It is a book of reminiscences: there are many



such covering the same period. It is beautifully illustrated..... ah, well...

What distinguishes and sets this book apart from others is that the author looks at life as a whole. Fish and fishing are never far away but they are a part of the full and varied experiences of a life lived with perspicacity, detailed observation and a somewhat sardonic sense of humour. Politics and poachers appear side by side, foreigners and philosophers share the pages with a lady of the night. Failure and success are treated as false friends. Poets are quoted at the start of each chapter to bring stimulation and delight to the reader's mind – and to give a little insight into the thoughts of the writer.

The quality of the writing is excellent (of course) and the quality of the production will do justice to the shelves of any man's library.

JOHN WILLIAMS

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

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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.

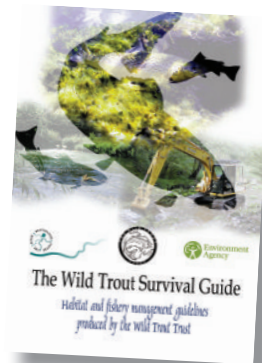


The Wild Trout Survival Guide

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)

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).

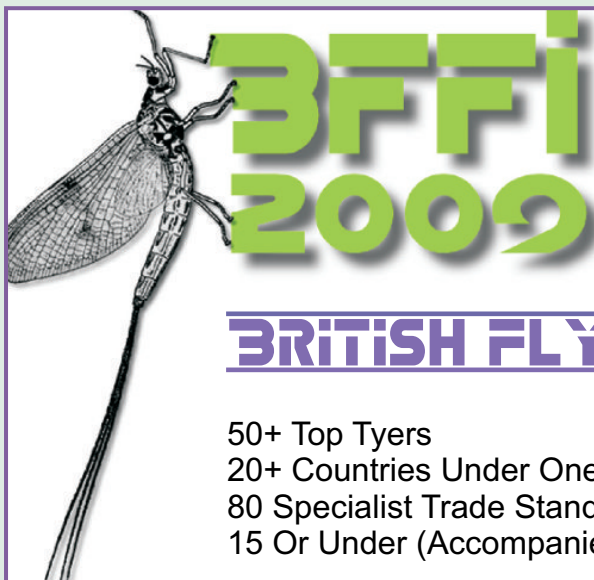
Sew-on embroidered cloth badge displaying the Wild Trout Trust logo - **Price:** £4 (free p&p)

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



JUST IN

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