



# Wild Trout Trust

## News Summer 2010

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 2010

*We have some fantastic prizes this year – a day's fishing - dinner - B&B, a Sage rod, an Orvis rod, WTT Life Membership and 6 bottles of malt whisky.*

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

*Tickets cost £1 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](http://www.wildtrout.org)*

## ANNUAL GET-TOGETHER 2010

The 2010 AGM was held in the splendid surroundings of Hungerford Town Hall on the 10th April.

Edward Twiddy, Chairman of the WTT Trustees, welcomed the assembled company of about seventy five members and introduced two local dignitaries: Barbara Barr, the Constable of the Town and Manor of Hungerford and Robert James, Trustee of the Town and Manor of Hungerford. These ancient titles derive from the time when John of Gaunt held lands and other properties in the area and he (and the king) granted them to the townspeople. John of Gaunt was a man of many achievements but the one of most interest to our members was that he granted the townsfolk the right to fish on the River Kennet; John's descendants challenged this right but lost their court-case when Queen Elizabeth intervened.

Shaun Leonard, Paul Gaskell, Tim Jacklin and Andy Thomas then summarised their activities and plans. You will find reports from each of them in the following pages.

Dylan Roberts of the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust gave a most interesting address about research into the question "Does more fencing mean more Trout". The results of the research, done in various situations over some years, were inconclusive. It appears that fencing is desirable for a number of reasons but it can not be said that it has a positive effect on trout populations.

Graham Scholey of the Environment Agency impressed us all with his extensive knowledge of habitat improvement in the Kennett catchment. The work has been widespread, varied and spread over a long period of time. So much successful improvement has been implemented that it is worthy of more publicity than it has received.

After lunch (ably overseen by Christina, assisted by Kris Kent) we were taken on guided walks on the Town & Manor water of the Dun and Kennett. Both are beautiful rivers, in prime condition for the new season.

Tea in the Town Hall was followed by the light-hearted part of the proceedings: Jon Beer was as entertaining as ever and demonstrated his wonderful fly-selection machine – anyone can make one if they have enough junk in their garage and an unusually inventive mind. Edward Twiddy spoke of his allied passions, fishing and steam trains, to round off the afternoon's formalities.

A Drinks Reception hosted by Cain Bioengineering and the Town & Manor of Hungerford brought the event to a happy conclusion.

On Sunday the 11th April a party inspected the EA/NE funded work of Cain Bioengineering Ltd. on the River Lambourn at Hunt's Green, courtesy of the Bagnor Estate.



Kris Kent - our man of all parts

# *In this issue...*

<b>NEWS</b>	<b>PAGES 1-6</b>
<b>CONSERVATION NEWS</b>	<b>PAGES 6-14</b>
<b>MERCHANDISE</b>	<b>PAGE 15</b>

## **Wild Trout Trust Grayling Weekend 2010**

**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 the WTT.**

**This year's dates are the 30th and 31st October.**

**Tickets, available to WTT members only, are £30 per day.**

**This is a rare opportunity to enjoy some wonderful wild fishing that normally is not available on either a day ticket or a syndicate basis.**

**Head River Keeper at Haddon, Warren Slaney, is a very strong supporter of the WTT and we would like to thank him for all his hard work in making these days run so smoothly.**

**Thanks Warren!**

## **ANNUAL AUCTION RAISES £49,000!**

The annual eBay / postal auction set another record this year with £49,000 raised from 203 lots. This is a tremendous contribution to our funding and will enable us to continue the good work on practical habitat improvement. Our thanks go to the very generous donors of lots, and to the purchasers, for making the auction such a success.

The auction's primary purpose is to raise funds, but it also helps to raise the profile of the WTT and raises awareness of the enormous range of trout fishing that is available in the UK. As well as trout fishing, we are gradually expanding our eclectic mix of fishing for other species, including bass, roach, pike and barbel. Already we have some exciting new lots lined up for next year, but we would like to continue to expand the range of lots, especially at the lower price end of the spectrum so that we keep the auction affordable for everyone. If you are a member of a club that has not yet donated a lot, please consider doing so and contact Denise Ashton ([dashton@wildtrout.org](mailto:dashton@wildtrout.org)). And take a look along those bookshelves and see if there is a book you can donate too!

## **CLA GAME FAIR 2010**

**"The world's greatest Game Fair" will be held at Ragley Hall, Alcester, Warwickshire from Friday the 23rd to Sunday the 25th July 2010.**

**The Wild Trout Trust will be there in Fishermen's Village as usual.**

**Do call in to see us – for a chat, for some advice, for a little education on habitat and identification of the bugs and grubs on display, or bring the children to enter our fishy colouring competition. You will have the opportunity to win a superlative rod or other fine prizes. You could even bring a non-member friend to join us!**

**The Director, members of the executive committee and trustees will be present to listen to your ideas and comments on our performance. Come and have your say!**

**\*\*and our new WTT promotional items, fleeces, mugs and other lovely stuff will be on sale !**

## **NOTICES**

A WTT Life Member's badge has been found on Wetherby Golf Course. Would the owner please contact the office.



The raffle for the rod, generously donated by Sage, raised £300. The winner was Jon Pepper - lucky man! Four other members won copies of Struck2Soon's instructional video of fishing in New Zealand.

DIRECTOR'S PRESENTATION TO THE ANNUAL GET-TOGETHER, HUNGERFORD 2010

## “THE WILD TROUT TRUST: WHAT’S DUN & WHAT’S TO COME?”

My presentation to the Annual Get-Together in Hungerford celebrated the Trust’s successes in this past year (2009/10) and looked to the year ahead – this is an abridged version of my thoughts.

Our conservation work, the very core of what we are about, delivered 40+ Advisory Visits, 20+ Project Proposals and 15+ on-the-ground Practical Visits, well ahead of target. We made really good progress with Trout-in-the-Town, the Anglian and South Coast Sea Trout projects and Wild Fishing Wales. The production of the Upland Rivers Habitat Manual is a massive success; this Manual, available as a CD or downloadable from our website, adds to the outstanding stable of WTT publications, with more to come (see below). We have also distributed significant funds to promote conservation work through bursaries, in excess of £14K, to Scottish, Irish and English projects.

The Trust has a panel of top experts willing to offer advice on a host of important wild trout issues such as population conservation priorities, climate change and wild broodstock schemes. 2009/10 also saw WTT staff very active in dissemination of our conservation message through our own Conservation Awards and involvement with the Atlantic Salmon Trust’s Salmonids & Flows Conference, the River Restoration Centre’s Conference, four IFM seminars on stocking, six EA Wales fishery seminars and a host of club events across the country.

Many aspects of our ongoing quest for funding have gone well in 09/10, surely a sign of the WTT’s reputation for making a real difference in and around the river. Membership is a little below the target for the year (2500 v 2600), but the auction produced a superb result, grossing over £49,000 – well played Denise Ashton, Sean Flanagan and the rest of that team.

*Salmo trutta* 2010 is an absolute belter – huge praise and thanks to Tim Jacklin in his editorial role. A revamp of the website is underway and we will stick to paper newsletters but spice-up our electronic communication through a pre-Xmas newsletter and various blogs and the like.

In management of the Trust, we have adhered to our mantra of minimum bureaucracy: maximum delivery – this must remain a pivotal philosophy for a delivery-focused organisation. A cornerstone of the success of the Trust lies with the outstanding dedication and commitment of its staff, so thanks again to Andy, Chrissy, Denise, Paul and Tim – a Premiership side. But, with them, stands an excellent group of largely unsung Trustees and Executive Committee, without whom we would be naught.

So, what is ahead? We must stick to that day job: practical delivery to make rivers (and lakes) better. If we can fund it, we can strengthen what we do across the British Isles, especially Scotland and Ireland. I am keen to add to our advisory publications with a habitat techniques video and to update the Survival Guide in 2010/11. Our communication systems to members will be more dynamic in this year and we have some funding challenges to stare down – we have had good success in securing Environment Agency funding for our 2010/11 work and need to maintain our responsive delivery focus to keep those successes coming in the uncertain times ahead. One thing is for sure: the Wild Trout Trust does what it says on its tin, it does it with passion and drive and it does it extremely well.



### TACKLE DONATION FROM THE LATE JOHN RIEGEN

John Riegen died in July 2008, just three days before his 90th birthday. John, a fishing friend of Pat O'Reilly for a quarter of a century, was a very kind and caring man and a life-long trout fisherman. He donated his fishing tackle to the Wild Trout Trust, and, with the help of Neil Freeman and Angling Auctions, the tackle has been sold and raised £1,156. This is a very welcome addition to our funding, and our thanks go to John's family, to Pat O'Reilly (WTT Vice President) and his partner Sue Parker for thinking of us.

### AN APOLOGY

The Wild Trout Trust apologises for the publication of an article about Challacombe Reservoir in the Summer 2009 Newsletter which was published without the full knowledge of the lessee of the fishery, Alex Frank James Whitchurch RPC, MIP, ESC.

## THE MORNING AFTER THE DAY BEFORE

A rather cool breeze early on the Sunday morning awakened the slightly jaded spirits, following previous night's refreshments for the hardy bunch of AGM attendees that were keen to see the practical river restoration work at Hunts Green on the delightful River Lambourn. Not that it was always had been delightful, as Bruce Wheeler, the River Keeper, graphically described with the help of restoration maestro Simon Cain and Paul St. Pierre from the Environment Agency.

Faced with typical symptoms of poor chalk stream habitat in the form of over-widening, and the consequent lack of suitable velocities for *Ranunculus* to thrive, a plethora of innovative restoration techniques were carried out including classical river-narrowing using causeways separating out still from flowing water sections, open and woody debris filled marginal mattresses, and flow deflectors. In addition to these structures, three lengths of river were re-aligned, four lengths of berms were created by bank-lowering and three gravel riffles were installed: most were constructed from materials won from site. And then there were the crayfish... which a combination of cunning in-river deterrent techniques of structure-design and some impressive trapping seems



Photo-above: Final gravel placement on the River Cam.

to have at least kept these critters in check.

The excellence of the project was clearly reflected by the enthusiasm of the group who kept the discussion going to well into Sunday lunchtime; we all came away impressed and much the wiser. Many thanks to Bruce, Simon and Paul for an excellent river tour.

## ALLAN FRAKE TO RETIRE FROM THE EA

Allan has been an exemplary freshwater biologist for the Environment Agency (and predecessors) for over 37 years. However, the magnitude and devotion to selfless voluntary work has distinguished him as a national ambassador in the ecology and management of rivers and lakes,



particularly river restoration. Outside his job, he galvanizes volunteers to take action for the environment. He is the longest standing trustee of the Wild Trout Trust, inspiring many others to give their time and energy freely for the conservation of the wild brown trout. A Fellow of the Institute of Fisheries Management, promoting fish welfare and professional training, he chaired the Southern branch for 23 years. He helped form (and chaired for 8 years) the Association of Ponds, Lakes and Fisheries, providing practical, independent advice. The Association of Rivers Trusts awarded him the 2009 environmental achievement award. He was an examiner for the Sparsholt College Fisheries, Conservation & Game Department for over 10 years.

Recently his work has demonstrated community benefits by encouraging hundreds, including young offenders, to become anglers, greatly reducing re-offending rates in Bournemouth. Taking the 'Jet Set Trout in the classroom

project' to children, including Yewstock School (for children with profound and multiple learning difficulties), has demonstrated the wider benefits of the environment and fisheries to new audiences.

He has engaged communities through the River Avon Strategic Restoration Project (STREAM) and Living River Project (over £2 million) increasing access and knowledge around the Hampshire Avon. STREAM was short-listed for the Australian International Riverprize award 2009.

His quiet, authoritative approach wins him great respect with riparian owners. His unselfish and sharing nature when explaining complex science shows him as a skilled facilitator. Not afraid of creative solutions, he challenged existing monitoring practices. Allan, with the Wilton Fishing Club, highlighted a trend in deteriorating fly life in rivers and established the UK River Fly partnership. This innovative approach brought the conflicting interests of conservation and fisheries together. Excellent diplomacy and negotiation skills, of which Allan is a superb role model, has enabled him to carry out over 123 river enhancement projects over the last 10 years.

Allan dedicates his life to increasing people's engagement, participation and access to the environment. He continues to be an ambassador for wildlife, angling and rivers for Britain and British society. He is an inspiration to his peers, colleagues and volunteers.

Well done, Allan - we at WTT hope that we can retain your unrivaled fisheries expertise for the future benefit of river conservation.

## 'EXTINCT' CADDISFLY FOUND IN SCOTLAND RIVERFLY RECORDING SCHEMES 3 MARCH 2010

A caddisfly last seen in Britain in 1881 has turned up in Scotland. The tiny insect was discovered by David Pryce, one of the co-ordinators of the Riverfly Recording Schemes. It was found beside a river in Assynt, in north west Scotland while David was undertaking field work for his PhD at the University of Stirling.

The Pincer-tailed caddisfly (*Hydroptila tigurina*) is a micro-caddisfly, measuring around 3mm, which lives in fast, stony rivers. The only other record of this species is from Ambleside, Cumbria in 1881 and it was thought that after nearly 130 years with no records, this species may be extinct in the UK.

This new record, over 350 miles north of the previous record, raises the possibility that this species may turn up in other areas.

"Many riverflies have suffered a dramatic decline in numbers in recent years. To find a species over a century after it was last recorded is fantastic news" said Buglife's Conservation Officer for Scotland, Craig Macadam. "*Hydroptila tigurina* is only found in a handful of countries in Europe. This new record represents the first record of this species in Scotland."

## WILD TROUT TRUST ON THE INTERNET

In addition to the Wild Trout Trust website - <http://www.wildtrout.org/> - the Trust now has a presence on the networking websites Facebook and LinkedIn. Both websites can be joined and used free of charge.

These sites allow members to access topical news items, to join in discussions, post photos, share useful information with or ask questions of other members. They provide a more dynamic environment for members to engage with the Trust and its members.

The Wild Trout Trust website will still carry the latest Trust news and

provide access to information about the Trust, the work it carries out and useful reference materials.

To join the groups on Facebook - <http://www.facebook.com/> - or LinkedIn - <http://www.linkedin.com/> - go to the websites, register (if you are not registered already), then search for the Wild Trout Trust and apply to join the groups. Once you have been accepted you can access all the information available, kick off a discussion or start to network.

And do not forget you can keep up to date with what our Director, Shaun Leonard, and Trout in the Town Programme Manager, Paul Gaskell, are up to by reading their blogs at <http://wtttdirector.blogspot.com> and <http://www.urbantrout.blogspot.com>

We would welcome your feedback on these new member services so either post your feedback on the websites or email [kriskent@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:kriskent@hotmail.co.uk).

## WILDLIFE-DESTROYING SHEEP DIP FINALLY WITHDRAWN

The Government and manufacturers of Cypermethrin sheep dip have announced the withdrawal of all relevant product permissions.

Synthetic pyrethroids (Cypermethrin) were 1000 times more toxic to wildlife than the pesticides that farmers were previously using to dip sheep. When it was in use it was estimated that about 1.5 billion animals in rivers, streams and ponds were being killed by Cypermethrin sheep dip every year. In addition 400 million litres of waste Cypermethrin was sprayed onto meadows and fields every year, causing untold destruction to butterflies and bees.

Following a campaign led by Buglife and fishing charities to ban sheep dipping with synthetic pyrethroids, the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) suspended the license to sell synthetic pyrethroid for sheep dipping on environmental grounds on 22nd February 2006. It has taken a further four years to make the ban permanent.

Studies coordinated by the Envi-

ronment Agency and Veterinary Medicines Directive then revealed that the chemical was even more deadly than had been feared. It was found that just a single sheep walking through water 9 cm deep two days after it had been dipped released so much Cypermethrin that it would cause a pollution event in a stream.

"This is a salutary tale that the medicines and pesticides we use can be very damaging to the environment; unless we are more careful we will undermine the bedrock of the living world upon which we rely" said Matt Shardlow, Chief Executive of Buglife.

For more information please contact Matt Shardlow, Chief Executive, Buglife - The Invertebrate Conservation Trust, 01733 201210 079 21 700151 [www.buglife.org.uk](http://www.buglife.org.uk)

## CAN YOU HELP

We have lost touch with some of our members. Do you know the whereabouts of any of the following people? If so then please let Christina know how to contact them or, if preferred, they could contact her.

- Thomas Goddard, Dorset
- Mark Hancox, London
- R J Smith, Surrey
- Martin Standing, W Sussex
- Kenneth Norcross, Cheshire
- Hugh Caslake, London
- Paul Ledger, Hampshire
- Brett O'Connor, Kent
- M C Lea, Surrey
- P A Stevens, Cornwall
- Graham Wilkinson, W Yorks
- Jamie Stewart, Northumberland
- Russell Mabon, Glos
- J Walton, Northumberland
- G S Bell, Dorset
- R H Addleshaw, Devon
- Simon Narbeth, Glos.
- R Tonge, Glos
- Michael Albon, Berks
- C Innes, Edinburgh
- Roger Dowsett, Kincardineshire
- Roger James, W Sussex
- Stephen Grove, Spain
- L Threadgold, Wilts
- Charles Bennett, Somerset
- James Moss, London

# VOLUNTEERS ADD FINAL TOUCHES TO RIVER CAM RESTORATION

An extensive project to improve instream habitats and access on the River Cam, Cambridgeshire has recently been completed. The Wild Trout Trust contributed £10,000 from the Cinderella chalkstreams fund towards the £118,000 partnership project. Wildlife and future residents will benefit from the work to restore and improve wildlife habitats to the River Cam at the planned 1,200 home Trumpington Meadows development.

The project was led by South Cambridgeshire District Council's Ecology Officer and WTT member Rob Mungovan. Following a year of careful planning the project was carried out during August and September 2009.

It was necessary to:

- lay 1,200 tonnes of gravel to form shoals and fish spawning habitat for a range of fish species including chub, minnow and brown trout,
- re-grade 200m of riverbank to create safe access to the water's edge,
- create 300m of sensitive riverbank protection to provide cover for fish,
- create flow deflectors to scour silt from the riverbed to leave clean, oxygenated gravel,
- replace sluices to hold water in ditches,
- manage ditches to increase the level of protection for kingfishers and otters,
- create backwaters to give fish refuges during flood periods,

- allow a wildflower meadow to revert to being a flood meadow to control floodwater and provide a habitat for wading birds such as snipe.

Trumpington Meadows also will include a 60-hectare Community Riverside Park, providing an important green space for residents. The Wildlife Trust is prepared to manage the park to maximise the area's wildlife potential. Volunteers from the Wildlife Trust already have helped to improve habitats on the site. In the spring Planting was undertaken along the restored ditches in the spring and a new bank was formed in the autumn to protect against scour and increase cover for fish.

Martin Baker, Wildlife Trust Conservation Manager, said, "This new green space will provide an exciting site with a range of habitats for volunteers to become involved with once the park is open."

Cllr Nick Wright, SCDC planning portfolio holder said, "This project will open up the river for people to enjoy when the site is open to the public. We're committed to making South Cambridgeshire a place where residents are proud to live and this work on the River Cam will be something that local people and wildlife will really benefit from. I'd like to thank all of our funding partners for their support for this scheme."

Funding for the project came from the Department of Communities and Local Government/Cambridgeshire Horizons Housing Growth Fund; Trumpington Meadows Land Company; Environment Agency; Wild Trout Trust; Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Biodiversity Partnership and the Cam Valley Forum.



Photo-above: Final gravel placement on the River Cam.

## MESSAGE FROM THE HARROGATE FLY FISHERS CLUB

Harrogate Fly Fishers Club currently has vacancies for new members. The Club which has fishing rights on 4 miles of the River Nidd (approximately 5 miles to the north west of Harrogate) can offer some of the finest fly fishing in Yorkshire, with a good head of wild trout and grayling. For more details, go to; [www.harrogateflyfishersclub.co.uk](http://www.harrogateflyfishersclub.co.uk)

# NEW RIVER PETTERIL CONSERVATION PROJECT

The Wild Trout Trust is working in partnership with Eden Rivers Trust and Penrith Angling Association on a new project to improve the River Petteril, a major tributary of the River Eden in Cumbria, which runs north from Penrith to join the Eden at Carlisle.

The River Petterill once was termed the 'Jewel of the Eden'. Research by Eden Rivers Trust shows that it is now be one of the Eden's worst tributaries for fisheries and wildlife. The river has been heavily modified, sections have been straightened, banks have been reinforced and many tributaries have been forced into pipes and culverts. The river suffers from dirty water running off the M6 motorway, and has high levels of nitrates and phosphates that probably emanate from fertilisers and manures on farms.

Along the banks there are few trees : invasive non-native plants such as Himalayan balsam and Japanese knotweed are becoming commonplace. Heavy grazing of the river banks is leading to trampling and erosion; large amounts of fine sediment are entering the river, smothering the stones and gravels on the river bed that insects and fish need for survival and reproduction. The urban expansion of Carlisle has an adverse effect on river-wildlife in the city stretches.

Under the leadership of Alison Reed, the Eden Rivers Trust is working on the River Petterill to reverse the effects of these conditions and improve habitat for fish and wildlife. The work includes riverside fencing, tree planting, advising farmers on fertiliser use and tackling alien invasive plants. To complement this, WTT Conservation Officer Tim Jacklin is providing advice and practical demonstrations of in-stream habitat improvement techniques such as the introduction of large woody debris and erosion control with the aim of improving conditions for trout, grayling and salmon.

Simon Johnson, Director of Eden Rivers Trust, said, "For too many years the Petteril has been the Cinderella river of the Eden catchment. The funding we have received from DEFRA is allowing us to get on with the job of improving this very special and historic stream."

The project started in December 2009 and will run initially for one year, with the hope of extending it in future years should funding be forthcoming. It is a partnership project with the Association of Rivers Trusts and is funded by DEFRA through the European Water Framework Directive. For more information contact Alison Reed on 01768 866788.

## WTT MERCHANDISE

The Trust is expanding its range of badged merchandise, starting with fleeces, bespoke Wheatley fly boxes and fine bone china mugs that will allow members to acquire high quality products (great gifts!) and donate to the cause. Keep an eye on the website for details. Many thanks to Trust volunteer, Andrew Moir, for this excellent initiative.

## WTT BLOGSPOT

Director, Shaun Leonard, has picked up the gauntlet of a blog: keep in touch with day-to-day news of the Trust, including what is happening where and when, at <http://wttdirector.blogspot.com>

## OUT AND ABOUT – JUST A SAMPLE OF THE EVENTS WTT STAFF HAVE BEEN INVOLVED WITH...

- July 09 – CLA Game Fair, Belvoir Castle
- August 09 – Trout in the Town Conclave, Sheffield
- September 09 – Greenstreams Launch, Huddersfield
- October 09 – Vitacress Conservation Trust Chalkstream Forum, Winchester
- October 09 – Conservation Awards, London
- October 09 - EA Kent & Sussex Fisheries Seminar, Kent
- October 09 - IFM Stocking Workshop, Leeds
- November 09 – British Fly Fair, Stoke-on-Trent
- November 09 – IFM Stocking Workshops, Preston and Sparsholt
- November 09 – EA Wales Fisheries Seminars x 6
- December 09 – IFM Stocking Workshop, Cardiff
- January 10 – Salmonids & Flows Conference, York
- January 10 - Fisheries Habitat Workshop, Southampton
- March 10 – Association of Ponds, Lakes & Fisheries, Dorset
- March 10 – Trout Stream Workshop, Appleby
- March 10 – EAW/Afonydd Cymru Fisheries Seminar, Tregaron
- April 10 – IFM London Branch Seminar, London
- April 10 – WTT Annual Get-Together, Hungerford
- April 10 – River Restoration Centre Conference, York
- April 10 – Loughs Agency Fair, Newtown Stewart
- April 10 – EAW Fisheries Conference, Bala
- April 10 - EAW/Afonydd Cymru Fisheries Seminar, Bala
- April 10 – WWF Rivers on the Edge Event, Welwyn Garden City.

# TIM JACKLIN GIVES THE NORTHERN ROUND-UP

## PROJECT PROPOSALS PUT IMPROVEMENTS IN THE PIPELINE

The WTT's primary reason for existence is to get habitat improvements done 'on the ground'. One of my roles is to help clubs and landowners to translate the advice they receive during my advisory visits into action. This involves preparing plans, consulting with regulatory bodies, estimating costs and ultimately coming up with what we term a project proposal. This means getting to a position where, if the funding is available, the 'on the ground' works can start. Often the work in the river is the easy bit, and the planning and preparation are the most time-consuming elements of a project. Here is a few recent examples...

On the Willow Brook in Northamptonshire I have been working with Willow Brook Fly Fishers to put together a plan to improve spawning habitat by introducing gravel to this previously dredged watercourse. The club previously had received a WTT advisory visit and practical visit and has put these to good use by carrying out annual gravel cleaning and installing flow deflectors to scour the river bed. The next phase is to introduce some imported gravels to selected areas and add some more flow deflectors. In order to do this, Land Drainage Act consent is required from the Environment Agency and in this case modelling the impact upon flows of the introduced materials is required to assess flood risk.

Building on last year's training received from Karen Fisher of the River Restoration Centre, I measured various channel dimensions and used an EA-approved computer model (Conveyance Estimation System) to assess the potential impact of the proposed structures and complete the consent application on behalf of the club. All being well, this will lead to two new gravel spawning areas and several flow deflectors being installed this summer – watch this space!



Photo: Taking levels on the Willow Brook, Northants.

## THE RIVER SENCE

The River Sence in Leicestershire is one of the county's very few wild trout streams. It has been the subject of two or three advisory visits and Gopsall Fishing Club took the advice to heart by undertaking extensive (and ongoing) habitat improvements which clinched the WTT and Orvis Conservation Award in 2007. More recently I have been working upstream of Gopsall's waters on a section of river alongside Tuckers Holt fishery near Ibstock. The river there has been extensively modified by past land drainage and opencast mining but has benefited from benign neglect for many years. The idea is to work with the natural processes of recovery and give the river a helping hand to restore some good in-stream habitat.

This project is a partnership with the local Environment Agency in the form of Chris Grzesiok. Chris is an experienced fisheries professional from Canada who took my role at the Environment Agency when I left to join WTT. It is very useful to be able to compare notes and techniques, learn different methods and push the boundaries a little. Our plan for this section of river is to put the LARGE into large woody debris by introducing some root wads obtained from a local Forestry Commission site (photo on opposite page). These will encourage scour of the river bed and banks to create depth variation and encourage the development of a more sinuous channel. Channel dimensions have been recorded at various places along the river in order to monitor the effects of the root wad introduction. This section of river is available to fish under the recently launched Peak Passport voucher scheme (see [www.peakpassport.co.uk](http://www.peakpassport.co.uk) or call 01623 754537).

## THE RIVER DOVE

The River Dove in Dovedale is a well-known trout stream and a popular lot each year in the WTT auction (kindly donated by Leek & District Fly Fishing Association). Following an advisory visit an opportunity arose to work with LDFFA and the National Trust (the landowner) to do some in-stream habitat work including the introduction of large woody debris and the removal of a weir. The River Dove runs through one of the most highly protected sites for nature conservation in the UK at this point, but with Alex Swann of LDFFA committee leading the consultation, permission was secured from Natural England to undertake the work.

In spring this year I undertook a practical visit with colleague Paul Gaskell and Andrew Heath of Trent Rivers Trust and several trees were felled and secured in the river, either parallel to the bank or to create an 'engineered log jam'. These will provide essential cover for young-of-the-year trout, promoting increased survival over that critical first winter.





Photo: LARGE woody debris – rootwads waiting to be installed in the River Sence.

## RIVER STIFFKEY SPAWNING IMPROVEMENTS - DO WHAT THEY SAY ON THE TIN

In the last edition of this newsletter, improvements to spawning habitat in the River Stiffkey, Norfolk were reported. This small chalkstream has a history of land drainage works and has an artificially straight and wide channel which is prone to the accumulation of fine sediment and encroachment with reeds and rushes. The improvement works involved the creation of ten new spawning areas using over 650 tonnes of gravel. During the winter, Mark Watson, a keeper on the Holkham Estate where the works took place, carefully monitored spawning activity along the reach. He recorded a total of nineteen redds on the newly introduced gravel, compared with none on control areas of similar length. Further monitoring work is being carried out this summer by PhD students from Hull University and University College London; this will involve surveys of the fish and invertebrate populations.

Further downstream, the Stiffkey enters its estuary on the North Norfolk coastal marshes through a tidal flap gate. Work has recently been completed to fit a 'cat flap' type fish pass to this gate to improve the opportunity for fish to pass between fresh and salt water. The works were carried out under the Anglian Sea Trout Project and will also benefit other migratory species including eels. The fish pass was designed and fitted by Sandy Cowie of the local Environment Agency Operations De-

livery team following modelling of the effects on water flows and quality. Sandy tested the operation of the pass in a flume at the University of Southampton with PhD student Gill Wright. Gill will monitor the effectiveness of the pass and the effects on water quality (saline intrusion) as part of her studies.

Better access and improved spawning habitat should be a winning combination for sea trout on this section of the East Anglian coast. Both of the above projects will attract matched funding from the European Living North Sea INTERREG project, allowing further improvement works to be carried out.



Photo: Tidal flap gate on the River Stiffkey – site of the new fish pass

# PEAK DISTRICT RIVERS PROJECT

WTT Conservation Officer Tim Jacklin has been working closely with Trent Rivers Trust on the Peak District Rivers Project over the last couple of years. The River Dove and its tributaries the Manifold and Hamps have a long history of fishing for trout and grayling, and there are some well-known and well-loved spots on these rivers. However it is clear that the headwaters of these rivers have suffered declines in the quality of water and habitat when compared with historical reports. Unsurprisingly in this rural catchment, the majority of the problems affecting the rivers are of agricultural origin. They include:

- sheep dip pesticide pollution (much improved since the ban on synthetic pyrethroids),
- nutrient enrichment from slurry and fertiliser spreading associated with intensive dairy units,
- severe habitat degradation through river modifications to improve drainage and reduce bank erosion,
- fine sediment inputs from excessive bank erosion.

It was clear from the start that the only way to make progress to improve these rivers was to engage with farmers and work with them. Andrew Heath of the Trent Rivers Trust has been instrumental in this, and living in the area and focussing on practical works to benefit both the river environment and the farm have been a great help. Key areas of Andrew's work are:

- Assisting farms to take advantage of the capital grants available through the Catchment Sensitive Farming initiative. These allow improved slurry storage facilities, covering of feeding yards and separating clean from dirty water sources.
- Working on rivers to demonstrate more effective and sustainable methods of bank protection using soft revetment techniques. These are an alternative to common methods employed by farmers such as bank 'protection' with building rubble, realignment of the channel, and armouring of banks with bed material.
- Obtaining grants for riverside fencing to prevent stock damage to banks
- Setting up and managing the Peak Passport fishing scheme which improves access for visiting anglers and generates an income for the farmer, engendering better stewardship of the river. For more information see [www.peakpassport.co.uk](http://www.peakpassport.co.uk) or call 01623 754537.

The Wild Trout Trust's input to the project has included advisory visits (in conjunction with Derbyshire Wildlife Trust), practical demonstrations of in-stream habitat works including soft bank revetment, and putting together a successful funding bid to Severn Trent Water Ltd which provided £35,000 towards the project this year. This money has been used to fund river improvement and protection projects, monitoring the success of these and a programme of educational visits to local schools.

Three primary schools in the Staffordshire Peak District area have been visited by Tim Jacklin and Paul

Gaskell of WTT and Hanna Sandstrom, Severn Trent's Education Officer. The visits have involved various activities to demonstrate the water cycle and emphasise the importance of reducing water use and protecting the river environment. The Mayfly in the Classroom activity developed by Paul as part of the Trout in the Town project has proved equally useful in this rural setting, with the children becoming thoroughly absorbed in collecting the nymphs from their local rivers and setting up the equipment in their classroom. Many of these children live on local farms so hopefully the seeds are being sown for good stewardship of the local watercourses in the future.



Photo-above: Eager bug hunters.



Photo-above: Tim with a fascinated audience.



Photo-above: A biologist in the making.

## ANDY THOMAS REPORTS ON CONSERVATION UPDATE FROM THE SOUTH AND WEST FROM ANDY THOMAS

There has been flurry of activity in South Wales following a series of talks that Tim Jacklin and I gave at six venues in the Principality. The Environment Agency Wales was touring the country to raise awareness of their project “Wild Fishing Wales”<sup>\*\*</sup> and we were invited to represent the WTT. It is great to know that we are recognised as being a reliable project- delivery partner. Our role was to promote the WTT as a potential partner, capable of providing angling clubs and land owners with sound advice and ideas for habitat project -work. I think it was a revelation to a few

people in Wales to find out that sewin have similar habitat requirements to brownies and that they are not a separate species. The idea that self-help can boost sea trout stocks through improved habitat-management is gathering momentum in Wales.

It was not many days after the road-shows that the enquiries and requests for advisory visits started arriving. Since then, I have carried out site visits to the Cynon and Taf Bargoed (both Taff tributaries), the Afan (Afan Valley AC) and to several Towy tributaries on behalf of the Carmarthen Amateur Angling Association. It is most helpful that we are now armed with our new Upland Habitat Manual (copies available from the office) because I think for some mountain folk, habitat management may have been viewed as an activity purely for lowlanders on chalkstreams.

Other activities during the winter/ spring period have been AV visits to two sites on the Stour in Kent, the Wey North, the Piddle, the Darenth, two sites on the Sussex Ouse, two more Meon fisheries, and a trip to the far east (well Suffolk actually!) to inspect the River Fynn. There was no reduction in demand for practical visits and trout habitat was improved on the Len (Medway)



Photo: Volunteer Neil Munday gets to work packing a marginal shelf with brushwood.

and a spawning tributary of the Dart with our good friends from the Dart AA. Also we had a couple of enjoyable and productive days on the River Kennet with the Action for the River Kennet (ARK) group, where a hundred metres of chalkstream was improved with brushwood islands, berms and large woody debris flow deflectors. Special thanks go to our good friend Vaughan Lewis who did most of the work on this project. If all goes to plan I hope to report some exciting projects in Sussex as part of our plans to improve habitats for south coast sea trout. The Sussex Ouse Conservation Society and the River Adur Conservation Society have joined forces and bid successfully for DEFRA funding via the Association of Rivers Trusts to carry a range of habitat improvements. The WTT has been asked to help with some project-design: delivery and plans are underway to build two “easements” to help sea trout migrate up and over obstacles on the Woodsmill Stream (Adur) and Batts Brook (Ouse).

\* For more information about the Wild Fishing Wales Project go to: <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/homeandleisure/news/109756.aspx>

## ANDY THOMAS ON THE OLD ONE TWO COMBO

While driving home recently from a very wet Practical Visit (fell in again!), it occurred to me that perhaps we do not always think about combinations of different habitats that make a particular spot in the river just right for trout. A classic example is optimum spawning habitat. Do we really know what it looks like and what we are trying to achieve when introducing gravels or

cleaning existing sites that are silt laden or compacted? We constantly bang on about the importance of large woody debris in river channels and how it helps to scour, loosen and sort river bed material into perfect ramps for trout sex. This is great, but are we missing a trick or two by not thinking a little more about what

...continued on page 12

else might be needed to make this love nest even more attractive to trout, and more importantly, to ensure that the site is as productive as it possibly can be.

The reason I was mulling this question over was because during the PV, where the sole purpose of the visit was to provide improved spawning conditions for sea trout by installing LWD flow deflectors, one of the volunteers innocently took a saw to a very innocuous tree branch that was trailing into the water. The reason for this action was simple. The low branch was overhanging the area that we had selected to install the deflector and it was, quite frankly getting in the way of important work! Fortunately only one small branch from the offending tree had been cut before a debate ensued about the obstacle and a decision was taken to leave the rest of the branches as an absolutely vital component of the potential spawning site.

If you really want to know what sort of sites trout select for spawning then there really is only one way to find out, and that is not by reading this article! Go and look for yourself. It always surprises me when I ask about spawning sites that many club officials say that they rarely visit the water during spawning time. This is not the time for crashing around the margins or wading up and down the stream. But you can certainly learn a lot from observing the locations that trout choose for spawning. I am not suggesting that trout have such huge powers of reasoning so as to always cut redds on sites that are guaranteed to convert most of the eggs into fry and give the offspring the best possible chance of survival. But I guess that the natural selection process equips them with a much better strategy for spawning than we sometimes give them credit for. Why on earth do we think that we sometimes know better!

So what have I learned from watching trout spawn? Well from my own observations, trout seem to prefer sites with a combination of habitat components. The classic sites are pool tails where a shallow glide forms just before a long riffle. They do not tend to spawn on sites where the water is too turbulent. This is not surprising when you think about it because it must be hard enough to squirt eggs into a shallow depression in gravel without the added problem of upwelling water blowing the eggs in all directions! And they tend not to select the necks of pools, even though the gravel quality, depth and flow velocities can be very similar to the favoured tail. Again the reason is probably a combination of factors. If fry pop out of the gravel and immediately drop into a pool then there is a better than even chance that something is going to swallow them! Also at the neck of pools the gradient is often either flat, or slightly inclined downstream leading into the pool. If the redd is cut on an upward facing ramp then more water flows through the redd, keeping eggs well aerated with oxygen rich water. Again the forces of natural selection probably have weeded out most of those fish that think spawning at the neck of a pool is a good idea.

Many years ago I remember discussing optimum spawning sites for sea trout with a colleague of mine

who spent every winter hiding in bushes waiting for poachers to turn up and attempt to take spawning salmon. This gave him a pretty good feel for what else was going on and he was convinced that low overhead cover was even more important than gravel quality and flow conditions for spawning sea trout. I am sure that many of us have witnessed trout spawning on sites with absolutely no cover but this is usually by necessity, not by choice. A smooth shallow glide ideal for spawning is also a good spot for the trout to be seen by a predator. Sites with a smooth, rising ramp, lined with loose gravel of mixed sizes and with a convenient predator-deterrent roof overhead is the one that will be preferred to one without cover.

So what do we do if our potential spawning sites have no cover? Well obviously plant some trees such as willow or thorns that are likely to provide low cover. But if you are in a hurry you can always take a leaf out of the book by Adrian Simmons (keeper for the Wilton Club) - bash in some bundles of brushings and wire them to a stake or two.

So when thinking about landing a knockout blow for trout spawning think about the old one-two combo!

As regular Wandle-watchers will know, South London's very own urban chalkstream is no stranger to the ups and downs of ecological fortune.

## THEO PIKE REPORTS THAT TROUT ARE BREEDING AGAIN IN THE WANDLE!

March 2010 marked one of the river's highest points yet, with proof that the partnership work between the Wandle Trust, the Wandle Piscators, the WTT, the Riverfly Partnership and the Environment Agency really is producing results – and trout are breeding successfully again in the Wandle!

For the past few winters, observers including the WTT's President have watched redds being cut but never knew for certain whether trout reintroduced to the river via the Wandle Trust's annual Trout in the Classroom programme were actually producing eggs and fry



Photo: One of the first truly wild Wandle trout for 80 years.

capable of surviving the triple threat of urban runoff, siltation and predation.

On 14 March, however, amongst the shrimp, olives and caddis, my own Riverfly monitoring net came up with proof of life: one tiny brown trout fry that could only have hatched here on the Hackbridge stretch of the river (see "Hackbridge Rising", *Salmo Trutta* 2008) within the past few months.

For most rivers, even others in the Trout in the Town programme with self-sustaining populations of wild brown trout, this might not sound like a major event. But for the Wandle this is the first record of successful spawning in more than 80 years – a truly historic moment, and a very welcome boost to our calendar of river restoration plans for summer 2010.

These include regular monthly cleanups, clearance of invasive non-native species (Himalayan balsam in particular) and maximising headwater habitat for all stages of the wild trout life cycle on the basis of plans drawn up with Paul Gaskell, Andy Thomas and our active local EA team.

If you would like to get involved in any aspect of restoring the Wandle, please visit [www.wandletrust.org](http://www.wandletrust.org) and [www.wandlepiscators.net](http://www.wandlepiscators.net) for contact details and all the latest news.

## THE MONNOWTHON 2 MEN. 40 MILES. A FISH TOO FAR?

You may ask what on earth possessed two supposedly rational gentlemen to undertake this rather unusual (and some suggest impossible) fishing adventure up one of the most little known, yet incredibly beautiful rivers in the British Isles - the River Monnow

As is often the case with these things, what started as a chat in pub has become a fascinating logistical challenge: to fish every stretch from the confluence with the Wye at Monmouth through the whole 40 miles upstream - Rockfield, Skenfrith, Kentchurch, Walterstone and Longtown to the Monnow's source in the headwaters on Cefn Hill at Craswall below Hay Bluff.

Now this may hardly seem like some Boy's Own adventure to the headwaters of some uncharted secret African river but make no mistake, this is no easy challenge. The river twists, turns and crashes through some extremely rugged terrain in the Monnow Valley, much of which is overgrown and inaccessible.

Foolhardy? Perhaps, but if you have the good fortune to meet either Patrick Lloyd or Robert Denny on the river (as you are quite likely to do) then you will realise this river is their passion: this is not a frivolous bet, it is a serious fund-raising project.

Both Patrick and Robert have been responsible for some extraordinarily successful ongoing river restoration projects. They have raised substantial sums to protect and improve and restore the riparian habitat

of the Monnow. The Field Magazine, which wrote that it was 'one of the best trout streams in south Britain', was a challenge to them to help to raise funds for the Monnow Fisheries Association to continue to improve the river and its tributaries within the Monnow catchment. Their work benefits the indigenous population of wild brown trout and helps to raise awareness of this glorious part of the country and to generate much-needed trade for local businesses.

So please dig deep and donate something now to encourage them as they navigate their way from Monmouth to Craswall, hopefully catching a fish or two along the way.

Your donations can be made easily via the Internet on [www.justgiving.co.uk/monnow](http://www.justgiving.co.uk/monnow) where your generosity can be maximized by reclaiming gift aid, thereby adding a further 25% to the pledged sum.

THANK YOU

## IAN REES DEPARTS FOR DORSET

Ian Rees, Project Officer for the Lincolnshire Chalk Streams Project, is part of the extended family that is the Wild Trout Trust. We have a formal Partnership Agreement with Lincolnshire County Council, for whom Ian worked, and we have worked closely with him over the last four years to help fund and deliver a range of projects on these neglected streams. He has worked closely with landowners and supported them through the complexities of agri-environment schemes, flood risk management and land drainage consents, developing into a master juggler of multiple projects. He has gone beyond the call of duty and dressed up as Ratty to show more than 200 people that these streams are a beautiful and valuable part of the Lincolnshire countryside. Now he moves to a new area of chalk, working for the Dorset AONB as a Countryside Officer. We would like to thank him for his tremendous contribution to the health of Lincolnshire's chalk streams and wish him well in his new role. We look forward to continuing to work with him both in a professional and WTT volunteer capacity.



Photo: Ian Rees A.K.A. Ratty.

## PAUL GASKELL REPORTS ON TROUT IN THE TOWN

As usual, there is lots of activity to report on over recent months from the Trout in the Town (TinTT) camp.

For example, continued involvement with the Sheffield local chapter of TinTT as well as the South Yorkshire Salmon & Trout association and Sheffield Kayak club (!) to fight for sensible and “ecologically more sensitive” flood alleviation scheme works on the river Don system. The process of consultation has been greatly improved and some of the most damaging practices have at least been modified as a result of WTT advice.

On the wider theme of education, as Tim Jacklin has mentioned with the initiatives in Staffordshire, the educational programme “Mayfly in the Classroom” continues to grow. The use of this tool in Staffordshire (3 schools), Sheffield (up to 22 schools via Notre Dame school’s environmental education centre) and the Eden catchment (6 schools) is proving that both rural and urban communities get a huge amount from this incredibly cheap resource. Further training is scheduled for Greenstreams project in partnership with the Calder/Colne Rivers Trust (Huddersfield) and, just prior to the time of writing, the Monnow Fisheries Association has just secured its first school, receiving training in late April. Sticking with the theme of spreading the word, I have given a number of slide shows and presentations in the last 3 months – including a full evening conducting a grand tour of the Sheffield project that was given as a public lecture at Sheffield’s Hallam University city campus.

A slightly different focus was adopted for my presentation at this year’s inaugural “Trout stream management in the real world” conference hosted by Eden Rivers Trust. For this event, another tool developed during TinTT was extolled to the captive audience; the

“Monitoring for all” approach to measuring progress and success of environmental projects regardless of budget and resources. Some promising leads for further development and adoption of this approach were forged at the conference – including the River Restoration Centre and Tyne Rivers Trust.

An important innovation for the way that the WTT monitors works in urban areas has taken a significant step forward with the finalisation of the web-based questionnaire for TinTT volunteers that has been developed in partnership with SUBSTANCE (a not-for-profit social research institute; <http://www.substance.coop/>). This approach, coupled with other innovations such as friendly fishing competitions used for fish population monitoring as well as drawing out particular groups of Riverflies (using the Riverfly Partnership’s Anglers’ Monitoring Initiative) means that a host of biological and sociological responses can be measured as a result of TinTT project efforts.

Also – the next manual in the WTT’s canon of guidance publications has been drafted and is scheduled for final revisions in July. This will be the Urban River Restoration Guidelines manual and will complement (and cross reference) the Wild Trout Survival guide and The Chalkstream habitat and Uplands River habitat manuals.

On the practical level, there are project proposals that have been submitted for the River Goyt (Derbyshire), River Wandle (upper Carshalton arm) and the Glasgow Clyde system’s Glazert Water. All of these works are ambitiously designed to provide top notch “des res” accommodation for any wild trout or grayling in the area.

## BOOK REVIEW BY JOHN WILLIAMS POCKET GUIDE TO MATCHING THE HATCH.

PETER LAPSLEY & CYRIL BENNETT - 96 PAGES - £7.99 - MERLIN UNWIN BOOKS LTD, 7 CORVE STREET, LUDLOW, SHROPSHIRE SY8 1DB. ISBN: 978 1 906 122 20 1

The inspiring combination of wordsmith and photographer Peter Lapsley and supreme entomologist Cyril Bennett has produced a book that will answer the questions of any flyfisher in the United Kingdom and many of those from elsewhere.

It is described as a pocket guide and indeed it will slip comfortably into the pocket. But the amount of information contained therein could fill a much larger volume. The design is a clever wipe-clean cover containing spiral binding that will lie open at the chosen page. The layout of the information is landscape-orientation so that pictures of the natural flies are close to the relevant artificials and they are supplemented by silhouettes of actual sizes and keys to the months and locations of incidence:

all of that can be assimilated at a glance. That is followed by concise descriptions of life-cycles, matching the hatch and alternative artificials. Aquatics, terrestrials, spiders, snails and lures are covered. No words are wasted. The reader is taken straight to the essential information. Peter photographed the artificials and Cyril took the naturals.

Part 2 of the book contains illustrated life-cycles of aquatic insects, the interpretation of rise-forms and hatch charts for both rivers and still waters. There is a comprehensive index.

This book is a masterpiece of condensed detail set out in a most attractive and reader-friendly way. At £7.99 it must be the best value of information per £ available.

# WILD TROUT TRUST SHOP

All WTT merchandise can be ordered via the Shop on our website at [www.wildtrout.org](http://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.

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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

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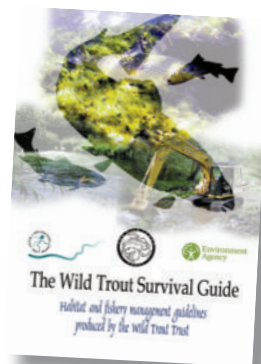


## The Wild Trout Survival Guide

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

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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).

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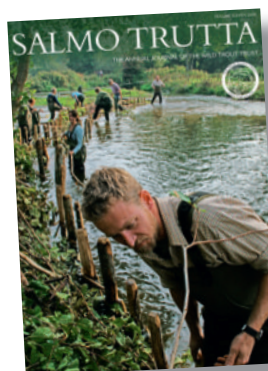


## Salmo Trutta – WTT annual journal

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)



# THE WHITE-CLAWED CRAYFISH

## CLEAN YOUR TACKLE TO AVOID THE SPREAD OF DISEASE

The white-clawed crayfish is the only species of crayfish native to the UK. Once widespread and locally common, this key indicator to the good health of many UK rivers has suffered a dramatic decline since the late 1980s.

Why is it vitally important to this species that, where practicable, you clean, disinfect and allow your equipment to dry when moving between sites within or between rivers?

The principal cause of this decline has been the introduction of non-native crayfish species, in particular the North American signal crayfish. The greatest damage has not been done directly by the signal crayfish themselves, though they will predate and outcompete our native species, but by the transmission of the deadly fungal-like disease 'crayfish plague' that they carry but appear to be immune to.

The spores of this disease can survive without a host for over two weeks and can be transferred within and between rivers in mud on boots or waders and on wet nets and tackle.

Cleaning, disinfecting and drying your equipment between trips will minimise the risk that you will move the disease around.

For information on reducing the risk download the Crayfish and Rivers Users booklet here or visit [www.hwt.org.uk](http://www.hwt.org.uk).

Further information can be found at: <http://trust.edenriverstrust.org.uk/downloads.html> and <http://www.orvis.com/invasivespecies>.



Photo: Spreader of disease - signal crayfish

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