



Wild Trout Trust

News Update Spring 2013

Diary Dates 2013

- 5-14 March: eBay Auction
- 30 Apr/1 May: River Restoration Annual Conference
Nr Towcester, Northamptonshire
- 8/9 June: WTT Annual Get Together, Dartmoor, Devon
- 11/12 May: Sportfish Open Day, Reading, Berks
- 22 June: Three Fly Challenge
Meon Springs, West Meon, Hampshire
- 22/23 June: British Fly Fair International
Staffordshire County Showground
- 7 July: WTT Bugs & Grubs Day
Langford Lakes, near Salisbury
- 19-21 July: CLA Game Fair, Ragley Hall, Warwickshire
- 31 July: Conservation Awards closing date for entries
- 16 October: Thames Water Wild Trout Trust Conservation
Awards Reception, London.

eBay Auction 2013

Visit the WTT website for an illustrated online catalogue with links to a google map for the fishing lots. There will be a link from each auction lot direct to the relevant eBay page once the auction is live on 5 March.

Annual Get-Together 2013

The Annual Get Together will take place on 8 & 9 June at the Dartmoor Training Centre (DTC), Princetown, Devon.

We have great plans laid for this year's annual gathering, to be held on the banks of the Dart. Saturday will see a morning of talks to include a round-up of WTT's year and plans for the future, local news from West Country Rivers Trust and the Dart Angling Association and results to date from research at Stirling University on triploid brown trout.

Saturday afternoon will comprise a walk along Dartmoor river reaches, guided by West Country Rivers Trust, to see examples of their work. We'll eat informally in the evening at the DTC and share a drink to chat fish and fishing. For those staying on into Sunday there will be a chance to fish the glorious Dart (dependent, of course, on river conditions).

Full details and booking forms will soon be available on the website, www.wildtrout.org. Please do book well in advance so we know to expect and welcome you. Non-WTT members are welcome too although we hope that having seen what the Trust is doing, they'll be bound to join us!

Low cost accommodation is available at the Centre (see www.dartmoorcentres.co.uk/centres), sleeping in either small bedrooms or larger dormitories and members wishing to book this option should contact Christina in the WTT office (office@wildtrout.org / 023 9257 0985). There are also a number of hotels in the immediate vicinity and details will be on the WTT website.

Three-Fly Challenge 2013

The Three-Fly Challenge will take place at Meon Springs near West Meon in Hampshire on 22 June. The competition is designed to test your skills at fishing for rainbow trout in this beautiful still-water fishery. Only three patterns of flies are

permitted and points are awarded based on the weight of the fish and the fly used. The prize is a top-of-the-range Sage rod.

It is a very sociable day in a lovely chalk-downland setting, with plenty of opportunity for relaxing and eating as well as competing (bacon butty breakfast and barbecue lunch are provided).

All monies raised will be added to the Pasco James Memorial Fund and be spent on habitat improvement.

Tickets cost £90 including breakfast, cooked lunch, a 4-fish ticket and flies. Applications with a cheque for £90 made payable to The Wild Trout Trust should be sent to: Neil Mundy, Pine View, Forest Road, Denmead, Hants PO7 6UA. Closing date for entries is Saturday 15 June 2012.

For further information: email: ncmundy@hotmail.co.uk or tel: 023 9225 4886 / 07964 379988.

Bugs & Grubs 2013

This year's Bugs & Grubs day will run from 9am to 4pm on 7 July at Langford Lakes and the adjacent River Wylfe at Hanging Langford near Salisbury. Classes are limited to 20 students, booked on a first-come-first-served basis. Bring your own picnic lunch but coffee & tea will be provided.

The one-day course costs £25. Applications, accompanied by full payment, should be sent to Christina Bryant at The Wild Trout Trust, PO Box 120, Waterloo, PO8 0WZ.

WTT Annual Draw 2012

The Wild Trout Trust would like to thank The Peacock at Rowsley, Sage, Orvis and Rother Valley Organics for kindly donating the prizes and all those who supported the draw by purchasing tickets – enabling us to raise £2702.

The lucky winners were

1. David Andrews, Doncaster
2. Edward Wakeham, Minehead
3. Red Spinner Angling Club, Ware
4. Ian Thompson, Shrewsbury
5. Chris Payne, Liss Forest

WTT Website

The 'new' WTT website is a year old and in recent months we have added lots of fresh content. The library continues to grow, for example there is now a page dedicated to ferox trout. The list of trout facts has been extended to 100 and the list of case studies is constantly being increased.

We now have a Video Hub which provides a quick and easy way to find the videos, including the 'how to' and case study videos filmed during 2012 WTT Practical Visits and Projects. The videos demonstrate the tools and techniques used to carry out a range of habitat improvements, including pinning woody debris, managing bankside trees, working safely and applying for permissions to do habitat work.

Ben Tyser and Paul Gaskell have been reviewing the research on topics such as predation, climate change, beavers, endocrine disruptors, barriers, flood control, the effectiveness of habitat restoration and the impact of trout stocking. Some papers are already available in the Library along with articles from a variety of sources. More papers will be added including the impact of climate change, barriers and flood management. The library format is evolving as new material is added, so keep an eye on the News section for updates on the latest additions.

Chalk Stream Summit

A Chalk Stream Summit was held in Stockbridge, Hampshire in December, attended by over 100 interested parties (including the WTT) from chalk streams all over the UK - not only Wessex, but the 'Cinderella' chalk streams of Lincolnshire, Norfolk and the Chilterns. The meeting was organised by Martin Salter of the Angling Trust and Paul Knight of the Salmon & Trout Association for Richard Benyon, Environment Minister, with the intention of raising the profile of this unique and threatened habitat to DEFRA, the EA, the responsible minister and to the All Party Angling Group, led by George Hollingbery MP. The result was a commitment by George Hollingbery to create a 'Chalk Stream Charter', which is almost complete as we go to press.

Whilst the WTT's focus is on practical habitat advice and projects, we will be involved in the Chalk Stream Charter process and will use our knowledge and experience to influence the lobbying organisations including the S&TA and AT, and to support them in addressing the issues.

More details about the meeting can be found on the WTT website as can our President, Charles Rangeley-Wilson's response to the meeting. Charles has also made a film about the threats to our chalk streams with WWF, which is available to view via the Video Hub on the website.

Communications Strategy

We are reviewing our communications strategy: what do we communicate, how and to whom. We want to make the best use of the good material that we have, and use all the various media to get across the message that wild trout, and wild trout habitat, are important and can be conserved and improved. Comments and suggestions are always welcome, please contact Denise Ashton: dashton@wildtrout.org / 07802 454157.

Trout in the Town News

In recent times, site visits have been undertaken to places between Bradford Beck in the North of England and the upper Itchen in the South and cheap, low-tech fish passage easements have been installed on a Derbyshire stillwater system that supports breeding populations of wild brown trout alongside their introduced rainbow trout. In addition to the filming work done with Fish On productions (WTT's 'how to' video series), Paul Gaskell has also been busy with his own camera gathering footage for a range of video projects that includes "non migratory"(!) trout attempting to leap up vertical weirs, spawning trout, bankside wildlife associated with healthy rivers and underwater footage of both wild and stocked fish. Some intense documenting of the early life-stages of trout through this winter (with equipment generously donated by Sheffield Aquatics) has captured a range of both stills and video footage that will help us better illustrate the wonders of the wild trout lifecycle and to engage more people in the care of our native trout.

Forward Look

In the South, WTT will be enhancing spawning habitat on the River Rother and its tributaries, working with Arun Rother Rivers Trust and delivering work identified through previous WTT Project Proposals and Advisory Visits. The Great Stour in Kent will see further work at Godinton Park, in partnership with local interests, EA and a grant from the Landfill Communities Fund (SITA Trust) and elsewhere through a Practical Visit with the progressive Stour Fisheries Association. Work under the South Coast Sea Trout Action Plan will continue with a focus on the Sussex Cuckmere.

WTT is using the opportunities presented by funding available for improvements under the Water Framework Directive and is working with local EA teams and conservation groups on the rivers Blackwater, Bucks Wye, Dun, Coln, Colne, Glocs Frome, Glyme, Hart, Nant Cwm Philip, Thaw, Ver and Wallington. Some of this work will entail practical, in-river habitat workshops involving large numbers of local people in their river.

Further north, WTT will be completing a fish pass installation on the River Glaven, a fish easement project at a culverted bridge on the Reepham Stream (a Wensum tributary) and assisting the Lincs Chalk Streams Project with creating a new, naturalised river channel around a mill on the River Bain. WTT is also technically supporting the Welland Rivers Trust on plans to remove a weir and reconnect two former meanders on the River Gwash near Stamford. We also have advisory visits to carry out from North Wales into Cheshire, Cumbria, Yorkshire and on east to the upper Witham.

Mayfly in the Classroom is spreading northwards through training events with fisheries trusts in north-east Scotland in collaboration with the Moray Firth Trout Initiative and plans afoot for work with Tyne and Wear Rivers Trusts and the Lincs Chalk Streams Project.

We are currently striving to secure funding to run some significant demonstration events on the west coast of Scotland with the Argyll Fisheries Trust and in Northern Ireland in partnership with the Loughs Agency and local angling clubs.