



Wild Trout Trust

News Update Spring 2015

Exciting Staff News

Two New Conservation Officers For WTT!

We are delighted to announce the appointment of two new Conservation Officers, both based in the north of England.

Gareth Pedley joined us full-time in November, having been with us previously in a part-time capacity, in partnership with Eden Rivers Trust. Gareth, a fisheries degree graduate from Sparsholt in Hampshire, comes to us with great experience from his riverkeeping days with Warren Slaney at Haddon Hall in Derbyshire, five years with the EA in the north-east and three years with ERT/WTT. Gareth is based in Penrith, Cumbria. Wild trout swim in his blood; he's also very, very good at catching them.



Our Conservation Officer team has been strengthened still further with the appointment of Dr. Jon Grey as our Research & Conservation Officer, from April 2015. Jon is an academic heavyweight, most recently a Senior Reader in Aquatic Ecology at Queen Mary London, but he's keen to get muddy and practical; no better place to do that than with WTT. Jon's focus will be to continue our translation of science into an understandable and applicable format (through information papers and the like), to link together universities and their students and to do the day-to-day stuff of a WTT Conservation Officer, working with clubs and landowners to make life better for wild trout. Jon will complement his role with WTT by retaining a part-time teaching post with the University of Lancaster.



The new WTT Conservation Officer team sheet:

North:

Gareth Pedley (gpedley@wildtrout.org, 07500 870583).
Jon Grey (details tbc).

Midlands:

Tim Jacklin (tjacklin@wildtrout.org, 07876 525457).

South:

Mike Blackmore (mblackmore@wildtrout.org, 07881 248789).
Andy Thomas (athomas@wildtrout.org, 07876 525499).

Trout in the Town:

Paul Gaskell (pgaskell@wildtrout.org, 07919 157267)

eBay Auction, 3-12 March

A fabulous collection of 262 lots including fishing, shooting, books, tackle and more with all the proceeds supporting the work of the WTT. Watch the WTT website for details or request a catalogue from the office.

If you would like to donate a lot for the 2016 auction next March, please contact Denise Ashton: dashton@wildtrout.org, tel 07802 454157.

Diary Dates 2015

7/8 February – British Fly Fair, Stafford (www.bffi.co.uk).

28 February – South West Fly Fair, Roadford (www.swlakestrust.org.uk/events).

3-12 March – WTT Annual Auction (www.wildtrout.org/event/wtt-auction).

Early April – WTT annual journal, *Salmo trutta*, hits your doormat.

6 & 7 June – WTT Annual Get-Together on the Ribble at Waddow Hall, Clitheroe.

20 June 2015 – WTT Three-Fly Challenge fundraiser at Meon Springs Trout Fishery – please contact Neil Mundy (ncmundy@hotmail.co.uk) for details and an entry form.

WTT Annual Get-Together

This year, we will be holding our annual gathering on the Ribble near Clitheroe on Saturday 6 and Sunday 7



Chris Mungovan in action at the 2014 WTT Annual Get Together

June, together with the Ribble Rivers Trust. Saturday will be a morning of talks followed by an afternoon river walk and an informal supper; Sunday gives us a chance to sample the fishing of the Ribble and its tributaries. We have a perfect venue for our gathering, right on the banks of the Ribble at Waddow Hall (www.waddow.org.uk/home.aspx). This is a great chance to enjoy some fun time with other WTT members; please

keep an eye on the WTT website (www.wildtrout.org) for more details or register your interest with Christina in the Office (office@wildtrout.org, 023 9257 0985).

WTT Annual Draw Results 2014

The Wild Trout Trust would like to thank Sage, The Peacock at Rowsley, Orvis and Phoenix Lines for kindly donating prizes and all those who supported the draw by purchasing tickets, enabling us to raise a total of £5676.

The lucky winners were

- 1st prize Mr N Gooderham, Surrey
- 2nd prize Mr K Nicklin, Spain
- 3rd prize Rev S Maxfield, Wiltshire
- 4th prize Mr D Naisby, Surrey
- 5th prize Mr R Brawn, Oxfordshire

Got Any Storage?

We are always trying to find ways to drive down our overheads to put more of our money into river work. Currently, we hire storage facilities near Waterlooville in Hampshire and near Burton-on-Trent in Derbyshire for trailers and equipment. If you happen to have storage available that we might use long term, please contact Christina in the WTT Office (office@wildtrout.org, 023 9257 0985).

LWD Demo Day In Cumbria

WTT, working with EA's Mike Farrell, Keswick AA, the Derwent Owners Association and the Lake District National Park Apprentices, ran a practical workshop on Large Woody Debris in November on Cumbria's River Derwent.



The demonstration involved hinging trees and felling and cabling to form 'tree kickers'. The demonstration was a great success involving active participation in discussion around the techniques used, their benefits to wildlife and the permissions required before work can be undertaken. In all, over 60 attendees turned up from a huge range of organisations. It is hoped that other similar events will also be possible across the North of England. More information on the techniques demonstrated can be found via the WTT website (www.wildtrout.org/content/wtt-publications).

My First Day

Here's something to warm the pre-season cockles – a summary from Scott Hansford of his first day of the 2014 season on Hutton Rudby FFC's water on the River Leven:

"A cold start to the day; slightly overcast but still. As usual I kit up at the church bridge parking area, walk down to the lower bridge on the middle stretch, slowly slide down the bank and into the water, being careful not to make too much wake as I cross the bottom pool.

I sit on the concrete block under the private bridge and watch. Within 2 minutes it's decided: I'll try the deadly duo... why? Well, there's a small trout rising up ahead but only the one...and a little colour in the water, it rained yesterday... Not seeing much flying about so a nymph might tempt one or two fish but the dry may trick that little brownie. So, after tying on a size 18 GHE and two foot above that a large (well, size 14) CDC & elk, we're off.

Slowly, slowly move out into the flow. First cast up into the bubble line ... nice cast. Start to retrieve the slack line as the flies settle and start to fish back to me ... one, two, three, four, five, six, seven - oop - the dry fly dips under the surface. Strike! Thump, thump. I can feel this fish shaking its head; funny it feels like a grayling. Then it settles and just swims, then thump, thump, head shaking again but what's this?

I'm gob smacked: a cheeky little spotty has taken the dry fly as I'm playing the grayling. I've never seen that one before. So now the next challenge to net 2 fish with one scoop!

Made it though. Great result.

Anyway back to this day. All I can say is it was a great start to a brilliant day's fishing. 26 to the net – and a good start to my best season on our beautiful River Leven."



Photo by Gwilym Hughes

Want To Compare Notes On Catch Returns?

Hutton Rudby FFC on the River Leven have made extraordinary strides with their river since they stopped stocking after the 2010 season. There's more of their story on the trout stocking page of the WTT website: <http://www.wildtrout.org/content/trout-stocking>

The Club is keen to develop how it gathers catch returns and a website. If any other clubs would like to compare notes and share experiences, contact John Gifford on gifford929@btinternet.com.

Scales For Anyone?

WTT member, Richard Wright, has written a great piece demystifying the world of scale reading; there's not space to publish it in full here, so that will have to wait until WTT's summer newsletter. Richard offers some really practical tips on buying a cheap microscope and how to mount, view, photograph and read scales.



He also suggests an "I'll look at yours if you'll look at mine" swap system between WTT members. Anyone interested to get things going early into the new season can contact Richard on richard@familywright.eclipse.co.uk.

Need New Fishing In 2015?

Rods are available for the 2015 season with Avon & Trib's AA, on the Hampshire Avon at Chisenbury, Eastridge Estate on the Kennet and Hunts Green on the Lambourn. Please contact Denise Ashton at WTT for details: dashton@wildtrout.org