



Members of the Wild Trout Trust

Website: <http://wwffg.t15.org/>

OCTOBER 2013 NEWSLETTER

Nov.13th- Wednesday - Guild Business Meeting at the Shaw Hotel at 7:30pm. - (Speaker to be announced)

Formal contact has been made with Bristol Avon Rivers Trust (BART) and Jon has invited Ian Mock their Chairman to the November meeting. He will give us 5 minutes background on BART during our business section.

The way forward for any future investment on the River Frome will be via BART and therefore this is an opportunity for us to raise our concerns and establish a relationship with them.

October Guild Meeting - Wiltshire Wildlife Trust - *Invasive Plant Species* - 'Source To Sea' project - One Year On.....

Last year Sam Stork told us about Wiltshire Wildlife Trust's involvement in the 'Source To Sea' (STS) project to eradicate non-native plant species from the River Avon and its tributaries around Pewsey, Warminster and Tidworth, through Salisbury right down to Christchurch and the sea - a total of 950km of waterway, in Partnership with other Trusts in Dorset, Hampshire and The Isle of Wight.

Funded by the Environment Agency, this is one of the biggest projects nationally to tackle invasive species on a catchment scale, with the long term aim of replicating it in other parts of the country.

We are familiar with Himalayan Balsam on the Frome and the Mole but last year Sam introduced us to Parrot's Feather, Floating Pennywort and Creeping Water Primrose among other pleasant sounding but troublesome plants. At our October Meeting Sam explained how, by using employees and volunteers, the STS project has surveyed over 400km of rivers in three counties and used every means available to eradicate invasive plants inc. scything, uprooting, herbicides and introducing plant hungry predators.

In Wiltshire Sam and her team have removed over 95% of Giant Hogweed, 98% of American Skunk Cabbage and 90% of Japanese Knotweed. Himalayan Balsam is the most prolific and accounts for nearly 40% of the total of non-native invaders, but there is still a long way to go. Large areas of HB are scythed but individual plants such as those we have on the Frome/Mole should be pulled in June/July and mashed-up to prevent re-growth. The seeds are viable for two years.

Each invader seems to have its own survival Ace card but thankfully an Achilles Heel also. Water Fern for example can be successfully removed by releasing bugs to eat it; and Japanese Knotweed can be injected with herbicide. Some however like Giant Hogweed are closely related to our native plants so other solutions must be found.

Sam is always looking for volunteers to help. If you would like to get involved either Tel: 01380 725670 or email sourcetosea@wiltshirewildlife.org .

To simply follow the progress of the project go to www.wiltshirewildlife.org

Sam's presentation was outstanding and very well received by our Members. It is very much in the interest of all river users that the project succeeds - so the Guild will keep in touch and we hope Sam will return in 2014 for a further update.

RH

September 11th Meeting - Open Forum - Tips for fishing Chew Reservoir

Colin and Robert (our Chew regulars) led the Forum to encourage members to take advantage of the excellent fishing to be had at present. This was a fascinating session and the info/tips on offer included the following:

The fishing is lively because the fish are in the top 1' to 2' of water taking nymphs and emergers.

As a general rule most fish are taking emergers not dry flies, Cul de Canard patterns have proved very successful but they must be fished in the surface film.

It is a mistake to Gink-up too thoroughly - flies must sink into the surface film. Live Daddies (prolific at present) are ignored whereas sinking/submerged Daddies ARE being taken.

A good setup for all the above is a floating line and washing line leader rig with the following flies:

6" droppers with Red Holographic Diawl Bachs #14 (slim tying) + Foam Daddy or Booby on the Point.

Leaders - copolymer for dries and fluorocarbon for nymphs.

Martin Cottis recommends (for boat fishing) a 9' leader with no more than two droppers and either very little or no gink applied. Casts of just two rods lengths are sufficient.

For leaders use 8lb - 10lb fluorocarbon. Fulling Mill was commended because it is very tough and although relatively thick is invisible under water and can withstand two or three outings, whereas finer brands might need to be renewed more frequently. For those preferring finer fluoros, Orvis Superstrong was given a mention.

Fish can be found all through the day but best fishing is before 10.00am and during the evenings.

Hiring a motor-boat for the afternoon & evening (12pm till sunset) @ £31:00 for 6 fish represents good value for money.

Of other flies discussed - the Silver Invicta was considered a very successful pattern. Dry sedge tyings generally do not do well on Chew but hatching sedge are taken.

On the subject of knots for tying on flies - the Double Turtle Knot was recommended but some members are firm advocates of the 'Davey Knot' or 'No Name Knot' (see Youtube for instructions).

Thanks to Colin, Robert and all the members who contributed to a very lively Forum.

LOOKING AHEAD.....**NOVEMBER to JANUARY**

Nov.7th - Thursday - Important Rivers Meeting - at the Shaw Hotel, All River Members are requested to attend - 7:30pm start.

Nov.10th - Sunday - Winter Grayling Fishing on the River Wylie.



John Dixon will meet and direct WWFFG Members on the day if Richard is not available.

Suggest that members meet at 9.45 for 10.00am at the entrance to Eastleigh Lane BA12 7BE

Richard will organise maps for the fishery from Mrs Walker (Sutton Veny Fishing owner)

Cost £30 each, £25 if 10 or more in party

Suggest 4/5 weight outfits, 3lb tippets and classic PTN and weighted nymph patterns along with small emerger dries.

For safety of anglers and spawning fish **No wading please** but wellingtons/thigh waders advised.

If anyone needs to contact Richard, please e-mail:
(helencripps@sky.com)

Nov.22nd Friday - ANNUAL 'LADIES NIGHT' DINNER -

7:30pm at the SHAW Country House HOTEL, SHAW. Nr. Melksham.

This evening will include the 'Grand Rod Raffle Draw'.....

1st Prize... A day out Fishing with Professional Guide Jim Williams.

2nd Prize ..An Orvis Reel.

3rd Prize ..a Landing Net.

If you want to check the Dinner Menu please go to WWFFG Website. Click on 'Activities' Page and scroll down. Wine is included. Any small present for the Table Raffle would be appreciated. Many Thanks.

Guild Meeting - January 8th 2014, Quiz Evening with John and Richard.

FLY TYING IN JANUARY 2014.....Please make a note of these dates...

Thursdays - **January 16th, 23rd and 30th**. Beginners and clever clogs all very welcome! We are booked in at the Hotel.

There are few delights to compare with the thrill of catching trout with flies tied by yourself. There is enough interest to run another course in January, and to help with the planning could you please email jfjonik@gmail.com if you would like to attend. Please specify which course you would like to do.

If you are a beginner this is for you, but we also cater for the more experienced fly tiers and Andy Greatwood will be able to provide help and



advice with any problems.

Could Members help to find Speakers for our Guild Meetings in 2014. Any thoughts, ideas or names would be most welcome. Please speak to Colin or any of the Committee Team. Thanks.

CALLING ALL CUPS

Would all the Cups and Trophies presented to winning Members at the AGM earlier this year be returned to Robert at the NOVEMBER Meeting please. They need to be re-inscribed, polished and ready for presentation to 2013 winners.



Guild Members 'enjoying' a wet days fishing for the Christmas Hamper at Mill Farm

CHRISTMAS HAMPER COMPETITION.....Sunday 20th October'13

Oh! How it poured! Well at least it stayed dry for the tackling up!
Twelve brave souls turned out for the fishing, it rained for 6 hours till weigh-in. Barbara warned us that the fishing was going to be difficult; that was an understatement, it was really hard work, but most enjoyable to us hardy (and Orvis) fishermen!

The lake water temperature was to blame, 14 °C ie. 2 ° above the satisfactory temperature for fish.

Our Members caught a total of ten fish despite the awful conditions. It must be mentioned that quarter of an hour before the finish I came into contact with a big fish which took me into the bulrushes. Roger H. who was fishing next to me jumped into the reeds, to see if he could free the fish. Sadly the fish was lost and Roger was left with two full wellies! What an illustration of the spirit and camaraderie of WWFFG Members
Long Live the Guild!

The Results:

1st ...Robert Eadie....2 fish....9lbs.5ozs.....Best Rainbow....5lbs.15ozs.

2nd ..Jon Jonik.....2 fish....9lbs.2ozs.....Best Rainbow....5lbs.4ozs.

3rd ...Maurice Dyer....2 fish....8lbs.5ozs.....Best Rainbow...5lbs.13½ozs.

Robert (onlyjust) won the extra special fishing plonk for the heaviest fish.

Recent E-mail from John DC re Fishing the Tweed.....

The Tweed is experiencing the lowest water levels recorded in about 40 years! The 10's of thousands of fish reported to be at sea near the Tweed estuary will not venture in until river levels are up - so we knew they were near but not in the river!! Catch returns through the system over the three days were sparse to virtually non existent.

Needless to say the fishing was extremely difficult and remarkably, I was the only one in the party to land two silver (really fresh with sea lice still attached) specimens though I might add, this was much to the irritation of my hosts who invited me (last minute) to take up a spare rod. Anyway, though my expectation of 6 per day was blown out of the water - I did feel privileged and somewhat pleased with myself for being the only one in our party to actually have hooked 3 in the three days - though only landed 2.

That's Salmon Fishing!

The Guild's Rivers Meeting is scheduled for Thursday 7th November'13

at the Shaw Hotel commencing at 7:30pm. Roger, Jim and hopefully Malcolm will give us their reports on the Frome and Devon Rivers. Would all River Members please attend. Jim Wheel wheeljk@aol.com requests your Catch Returns from the Frome by 5th November please. Returns from the Devon Rivers to Malcolm malbond1@btinternet.com before the meeting to enable the returns to be collated and presented.

'LISTEN-IN' TO THE ARCHERS - Sunday 8th September

I saw not hide nor hair of Walter Gabriel, Dan, Phil or Ruth but there was no doubt that **'we, shades of Max Boyce, were there!'** Deep amongst the Archers, almost part of the cast; participants all. Had we had any dialogue to contribute, we could have commanded a fee? But truth will out, and it was us who owed a fee, an indebted contribution to Brian and Ruth, our kind hosts, for the wonderful invite to their most beautiful 17th Century farmhouse, byre and out-buildings. Not forgetting the company of their wonderful dogs.

Archery lessons had been arranged for anyone who wanted to 'pull an arrow', on the outer mown lawn in the meadow outside the byre.



Jon and Sarah being coached by the experts

Difficult to say, that. And difficult indeed the mastery of the archery, though several guests proved otherwise under the expert and affable tuition of the two instructors. A lady and gent; a lovely, patient couple who still compete at a very high level. As for us: don't expect us to fire off 26 arrows a minute quite yet! With accuracy, to boot; the standard required in a 'real thing' battle scene. We're still all a quiver with the excitement and drama of merely trying to hit the target! Arrows went missing. Birds in the distant hedgerow are still, to this day, traumatised by past sight of strange 'feathery missile-midges' travelling past their noses, correction beaks, at 150 mph.

The weather held good for us. Glorious early Autumn sunshine burnt out the infrequent light shower that tried to show its face. Then 'the burn' from the heavens and the conjuring of an all-healing and spectacular rainbow across the wide farmland skies. And from the outset, Brian and Ruth had prepared two

huge barbecues, and a neighbouring flame-grill to finish off the sizzling steaks and sausages to absolute culinary perfection.



Everything had been thought of and set out for our enjoyment. Ruth had prepared bread, rolls, salads, garnishes, and to cap it all a delicious country Summer Fruit Pudding. To say we enjoyed it all would be a crass and gross understatement. **It was fantastic**, from beginning to end. Dear Ruth and Brian please accept our sincere and heartfelt thanks for all your hospitality so graciously given, and of course for the sheer hard work that must have been involved in setting up (and clearing up!) the whole wonderful day. You did us proud. Thank you both. *Courteney Fish*

Also with thanks to Gerry T. for great photos.

BLAGDON BANK SOCIAL DAY The weather on Sunday September 22nd was almost perfect, gentle breeze, overcast and a slight ripple. That being said the fish were very hard to come by from the bank. All the boats were out and they had the best of the fishing, drifting down the centre of the lake picking off the stock fish. From the bank it was difficult as there was a lot of weed still present and the fish were, as usual, 30 meters out just the other side of it, so where you could, you had to either wade through the weed or, cast over and fish high in the water. The flies were the old faithful, black flash-back buzzers and red flash- back buzzers fished high over the weed bank with a quick figure of eight retrieve - nothing too special, a two fly setup, I lost two fish by smash takes which Maurice believes to be the fish swimming away from me. Next time

I shall either hold the rod higher or to one side, if I ever get that lucky again. We had our usual lunch break and it was as always, a very pleasant WWFFG days fishing.

Results

Gerry Tinson.....4 fish.....2lb 2ozs....2lb....2lb...2lb 3ozs total...8lb 5ozs

Roger Henderson....2 fish.....2lb 8ozs....2lb 5ozs...total...4lb 13ozs

Maurice Dyer.....1 fish.....2lb 12ozs. This is registered as the biggest fish caught from Blagdon this season and is in line for winning 'The Blagdon Mug'

Fishing Report from Gerry Tinson.

Roger with an excellent brace of Rainbows. The lake level at Blagdon is now 50% and seems to be dropping quickly.



HAPPY FISHING.....BOB.

PS. A touching story!!!

Time is like a river. You cannot touch the water twice, because the flow that has passed will never pass again. Enjoy every moment of life.

As a bagpiper, I play many gigs. Recently I was asked by a funeral director to play at a graveside service for a homeless man. He had no family or friends, so the service was to be at a pauper's cemetery in the Nova Scotia back country.

As I was not familiar with the backwoods, I got lost and, being a typical man, I didn't stop for directions. I finally arrived an hour late and saw

the funeral guy had evidently gone and the hearse was nowhere in sight. There were only the diggers and crew left and they were eating lunch. I felt badly and apologised to the men for being late. I went to the side of the grave and looked down and the vault lid was already in place. I didn't know what else to do, so I started to play.

The workers put down their lunches and began to gather around. I played out my heart and soul for this man with no family and friends. I played my bagpipes like I've never played before for this homeless man. And as I played "Amazing Grace", the workers began to weep. They wept, I wept, we all wept together. When I finished, I packed up my pipes and started for my car. Though my head was hung low, my heart was full.

As I opened the car door, I heard one of the workers say.....

"I never seen nothing like that before and I've been putting in septic tanks for twenty years."

Apparently I'm still lost....it's a man thing.



This is a great dry fly for the Grayling if they are feeding on the surface!

