



Members of the Wild Trout Trust

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

The Ice of MARCH 2013 NEWSLETTER

Guild Meeting - Wednesday 13th March

It was good to welcome back our regular Speaker, Jim Williams .

Jim is a professional fisherman and guide, an expert in all areas of flyfishing.

Although he was to speak on the latest techniques of river fishing, Members were seeking advice particularly on leaders and tippets and how to achieve good presentation of line on the water. Jim thus tailored the main part of his talk to dealing with his preferred methods for tying leaders, droppers and knots.

Jim suggested forgetting the expensive fluorocarbons and co-polymers that a many of us use, recommending instead a visit to a local angling shop to purchase a reel of line that carp anglers use, such as 'Guru tippet' or a floating tippet material called 'Corda Cruiser Control' which he found ideal for river flyfishing.

Had it not been so cold and dark outside, you could tell that Jim would have liked to have given a demo on the front lawn - to show how his braided leaders and tippets would turn over to present a perfect cast!

Our Speaker described and showed us how to tie the ideal knot for tying a fly to tippet. This knot is known as the 'Grog Knot' or the 'No-name Knot'. These are not pressure knots.

As always, Jim's talks are informative and slightly intriguing, with his own thoughts and ideas of fishing a fly on a river with a 10ft minimum rod length. He is so inspirational and his enthusiasm is infectious. We are hoping Jim may drop in on our Fullingbridge Day in July, to demonstrate his line set up and the show the ease of casting a fly.

The WWFFG would like to welcome
Roger Tranter and **Rod Humphries** to the Guild as New Members
We look forward to meeting up with them.

OoOoOoOoO

Next month's Meeting will be on **Wednesday 10th April** at The Shaw Hotel.
Member **Derek Jones** will give us an update on the Devon Rivers.

LOOKING AHEAD - Dates for the Diary

- ❖ **Coarse fishing on the River Frome - Sunday 30th June**
- ❖ **Skittles Evening and Buffet** will be held on Friday 19th April at the **White Hart, Atworth.** Contact Malcolm Bond.
- ❖ **Guild Competition at Sutton Bingham** - for the Spinnaker Cup
SUNDAY 28th APRIL fishing - 9:30am to weigh-in 4:30pm.
- ❖ Brian Thornton has once again, most generously invited Guild Members to his farm for an **Archery Day and Barbeque** on **Sunday, September 8th.** Archers Tony and Maureen will be present to give us tuition on how to 'draw the bow'. A great day out as those present last year would agree.
- ❖ **Grayling Meet on the Wylie, Sunday 10th November** - Richard Cripps has kindly booked us in with Roz Walker. Fishing on the Sutton Veny beat.



Weather Lore - do any of the following pieces of wisdom fit with your experiences?

Wind from the North - fish come forth,
Wind from the South - bait into the fishes mouth,
Wind from the East - fishing the least,
Wind from the West - fishing the best.

- ✚ A westerly wind usually drops to a breeze by dusk so expect a buzzer hatch.
- ✚ If the wind is sharp enough for you to need a scarf, fish will not be feeding.
- ✚ A Full moon and a clear night followed by a cloudy morning brings perfect fishing.
- ✚ If the wind is colder than the water - fish with the wind behind you.

- ✚ Storm brewing so air pressure changing - fish will stop feeding but they can be tempted with a lure.
- ✚ Steady air pressure for two to three days - sign of good fishing. Then, even if it is hot fish will continue to feed.
- ✚ A night frost in September will send the fish down.
- ✚ The ideal air temp for a buzzer hatch is 45F to 60F. 70F+ is too warm.
- ✚ The colder the weather - the darker the fly. (Bob Church).

Birds from the Anglers point of view -
from *'The Angler's Weekend Book' circa 1940*

"The angler is the mildest of men, and a great lover of birds, yet swans and ducks outweigh all these considerations".....

Swans "they sail stately into the orbit of the anglers cast, they are proud and lordly and uncaring, threats will not move them, and a well-aimed stone merely causes them to flap their wings with a sound like that of rifle-fire. They are the aristocracy among birds; and they possess all the vices and none of the virtues of a leisured class. They make no better use of their leisure than that of looking as stupidly beautiful as certain debutantes. They are lazy, voluptuous and ill-mannered; they are high-handed and intolerably conceited; and they are protected by the Law. Thus they have all the provocative characteristics of an idle aristocracy, and the very sight of them stirs in the hearts of fishermen that little flame of sleeping revolutionary that lies within every man."

Ducks "the silly ducks go swimming gobble-gobble down the anglers favourite stretch of river, how they invariably race him to that likely corner where a fish was rising yesterday, how they puddle at the water's edge and stir up mud, and by their preposterous behaviour ruin the fishing for at least half an hour"

Hérons "who stands on one leg so stony-still as he watches the shallows for troutlets; yet the heron catches many eels, and that shall be accounted as a virtue, and again, when he wings his splendid way at evening across the primrose-coloured sky, he provides one of the most heartening sights in the whole countryside".

Moorhens " the jolly moorhen half angers us at times when we mistake his

splashing for the rise of a fish, but the waterside would be unfamiliar without his air of a rather entertaining gigolo and the highly improper way in which he bobs his behind as he swims".

Coots " a more serious bird than the moorhen and with the appearance of having prematurely aged. Another friend of the fisherman".

Cormorants and Shags "who can eat their own weight of fish in a day. Also they are unpleasing creatures, having the appearance of rather ragged char-women, and being dressed entirely in the colours of the night".

Kingfisher "loveliest of all, of course, the rainbow's son and heir, who appears and disappears so swiftly as he darts down the river, that one has the feeling that all the beauty in the world has been suddenly revealed to one and as suddenly withdrawn".

From The Angler's Weekend Book

FOR A MATTER OF INTEREST.....Shown below are a couple of photos of fish caught by the Police Angling Club competition, fishing on the opposite bank to our stretch of the Frome in February.

(1) A winning bag of coarse fish caught on the Flume Pool - 5 chub, 2 perch and a 4.5lb black bream - total weight about 21lb - all on lobworm if anyone is interested. (2) A very nice Brown Trout - looks slim because of angle of photo but wasn't. It was very strong and he just couldn't keep it still.

Thanks Roger for report and pics.



1.



2.

Your current rod licence expires on the 31st March 2013. Prices remain the same as last year.



BANK CLEARING ON THE RIVER FROME - **SUNDAY 24TH FEBRUARY '13**

Despite temperatures hovering around zero, thirteen members turned-out and we were able to make significant progress restoring the banks after last year's spates.

Loppers and bow saws coped with removing brambles across paths and coppicing sycamore saplings to let the light in to the river, but Brian's chainsaw was needed for the big stuff. This included boughs blocking beat access, small elms which had succumbed to Dutch Elm disease and a large sycamore in the river at Pomeroy bend, which was making one of the best pools unfishable.

Earlier in the week, Richard had also identified the work needed for habitat improvement - such as planting willow cuttings which will root and reinforce the bank against further erosion. We managed this on three of the most damaged sections. Although we removed some obstacles to fishing, we also left tree debris which will provide wildlife havens, making the river a better fish habitat and supporting the whole eco-system. The end result will improve our fishing experience in the longer term.

Sign of our times - the floods had deposited a mass of plastic debris - bottles, balls, trainers (no matching pairs unfortunately), even a toilet seat (looked as if it had one careless owner). Several large sacks were filled, which helps the wildlife as well as making it more pleasant for us. Every little helps so if members pick up any litter they come across, it would make a big difference over the season.

We achieved almost everything we had planned as far as the flume, but there is some work needed on the beat further downstream; so we'll be asking for help again when it warms-up and the bankside vegetation starts to take-over.

If you aren't familiar with The Frome, the bank working sessions are a great opportunity to find out where the best pools are - and how to fish them.

Thanks again to all the Members who attended.

Jim & Roger

Next page - some photos from the day.....



BANK CLEARING ON THE RIVER FROME - SUNDAY 24TH FEBRUARY '13

Jim reaching for that willow

Colin and his loppers



Andy and Mike haul the tree up the bank (and Colin).

3RD DECADE BOOKLET

We have agreed on the size, print quality and we have produced the guidelines for software compatibility purposes, and are now at the stage where we can start writing the various sections. Some collation of information is already underway (big task) and some members have already agreed to produce nearly all of the sections as listed below.

This is going to take some time but could be considerably shortened with more help. Would any of you like to help with the organisation and co-ordination of this project? If you are curious and want to know more please contact me. For your information the first decade booklet was A5 black and white only with no photos, the second was A4 with one colour photo and our aim is produce a good quality colour A4 booklet.

Jon

CONTENT	OWNER
1. Editorial introduction combined with the forward	J DeCesare
2. Constitution & Rules - highlight any changes	J Jonik
3. Members list including roll of honour	M Harris
4. Officers & Committee members by year	J Jonik
5. Meeting venues	J Jonik
6. Guild Associations & Charities	M Harris
7. Financial highlights	M Harris & JDC
8. Competition highlights & Trophy winners	R Eadie
9. Big fish, memorable catches and club records	R Eadie & C Burbedge
10. Overseas exploits/Fishing Trips	J Jonik
11. Rod Building, Guild Library & Videos	?
12. Calendar highlights	C Burbedge
13. River Frome	R Henderson/J Wheel
14. Rivers Mole & Yeo	M Bond
15. The next 10 years	R Henderson



Dunkeld

A great attractor wet fly pattern originating as a salmon pattern, but it is also useful as a stillwater and river fly.

A great sea trout fly!

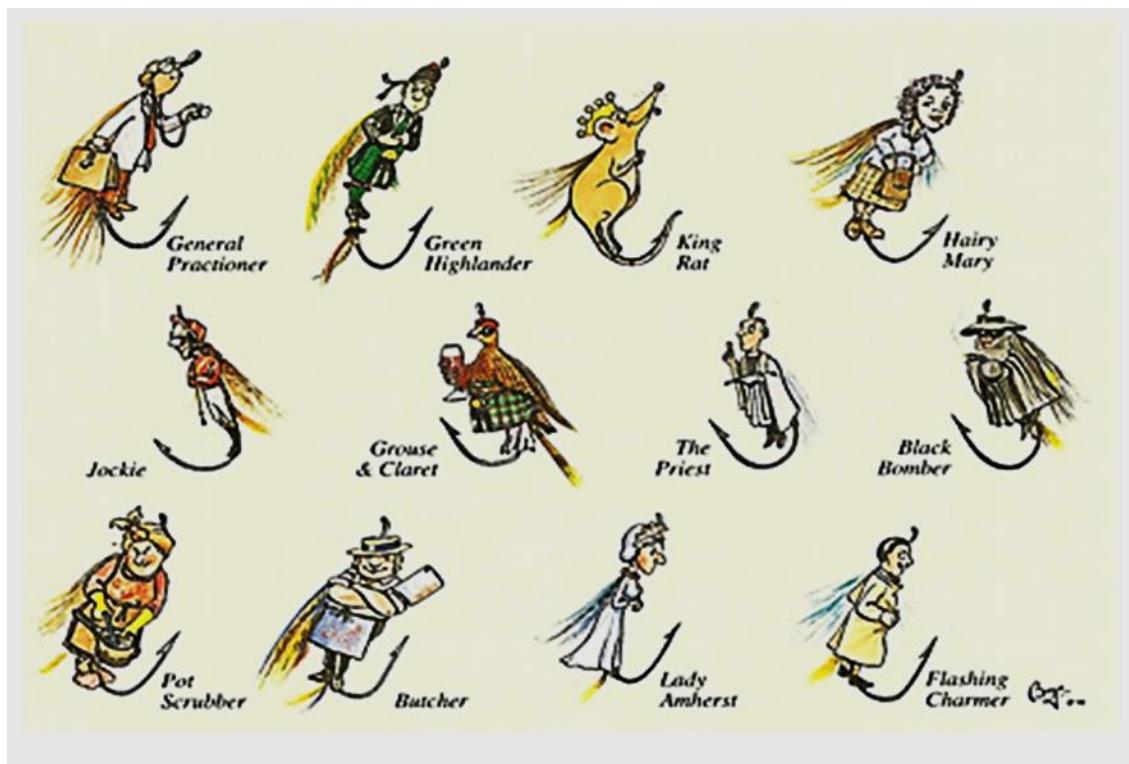
WWFFG Website

All 'activities' for the current month and for the year are to be found on our up-to-date Website. If during the year you have any ~~fishy~~ fishing photos or reports for our Website or Newsletter please send them to me.

HAPPY FISHING.....BOB

PS. Two parrots sitting on a perch.
One turns to the other and says "Can you smell fish?"

Shown below, a selection of flies for the discerning salmon fisherman



LATE NEWS

THE BUSHYLEAZE COMPETITION -- 23rd March 2013

Email from Roger H.....

I thought you'd be more than curious to hear how things went today...

Four of us made it - Jon J, Gerry B, Andy G. and myself.

It was snowing heavily and settling by the time we reached the lodge to get our tickets, and snow was sweeping across the water as we started to fish. I'm told it's the first Guild fishing event in a blizzard!

The far bank was unfishable in the morning because it was a North Easterly driving the snow and gusting. The bonus was we had the lake to ourselves all day and it didn't seem to put the fish off. In fact - Jon, Andy and I caught our four and Gerry three by 1.00pm. Plus between us several good fish came off. And they were good fish - those landed averaged over 3lb. By 2pm the fish were actively moving on the surface just out from the landing stage by the fishing hut.

No photos I'm afraid because when it was snowing all you could see was white and by the time we'd weighed-up we were cold and the wind chill had increased considerably. By then we could just manage a grimace and barely hold pens to complete the catch returns. There were parallels with Shackleton as Jon kept up moral.

It was a very enjoyable and unusual day's fishing and the result of the weigh-in -

Four fish total - Andy 13.25 lb, Gerry 10lb, Jon 12.5lb, Roger 14lb

Best fish - Andy 3lb 10oz, Jon 3lb 7oz, Roger 4lb 2oz

*Brrrrr - makes you shiver just reading it. Many Congratulations, not only to Roger for winning, but to **all** for getting there in such difficult conditions and actually enjoying themselves!*

Colin reports that the start of the season on Chew Lake was extremely difficult and bitterly cold with that easterly breeze.

Surely Spring can't be that far away?!