



Members of the Wild Trout Trust

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

FEBRUARY 2014 NEWSLETTER

Annual General Meeting - 12th February '14

Considering the appalling weather that night, we had a very good attendance and Trophies Presentation.

There were three Committee Members standing down:- John de Cesare, (Chairman) Colin Burbedge and Robert Eadie.

Mike Harris has been voted in as the new Chairman but will keep the position as Treasurer until a new Volunteer is found.

Maurice Dyer and Gerald Tinson will take over the organisation of Fishing Events and Competitions

N.B. There are vacancies on the Committee for the Treasurer's Role and also for a Member to organise 'Speakers and Activities' for the Year.

John de Cesare has been made a Vice President of the Guild which reflects the all hard work he has put in over the years for the Guild..

Secretary Roger Henderson and Membership Secretary Andy Moore were voted back onto the Committee.

Tribute and Thanks to Committee Members standing down

This AGM marked the end of John DeCesare's Chairmanship of The Guild as he stepped down after 14 years of service. During his years of stewardship John has used his considerable skills and talents to ensure that the Guild has thrived, that it continues in a sound financial position

with a strong membership at a time when other fishing clubs are struggling to maintain membership numbers.

Unfortunately for The Guild, John's decision coincides with the stepping down of two other stalwarts of the Committee - Robert Eadie & Colin Burbedge. John has been greatly assisted by a strong Committee to support him and he made a particular point in his Chairman's report to thank them "for their tremendous work over many years". Indeed the expression "to give without counting the cost" could hardly be more aptly applied because without Colin and Robert's constant 'behind the scenes' efforts, year after year, our social programme of speakers and fishing events would have been greatly impoverished and a lot less polished. We pride ourselves on being a social group of anglers and it is Robert and Colin who should be thanked for making that a reality by providing the cement which bonds members together. Our strong membership is in no small measure attributable to their dedication. Happily for The Guild, Robert will continue with the two key elements of communication between members - the monthly newsletter and the website, both of which Robert has developed into an art-form, keeping them up-to-date, lively and informative with his sense of humour running through making them unique among fishing club communications. John, Robert and Colin will now have more days when they can go fishing without feeling they need to get back early for another meeting. On behalf of all members - thank you John, Robert and Colin.

OoOoOoOoOoOo

Please note that two Trophies had been omitted from the list in last months Newsletter. These are -

The D&J Rideout Shield.....Roger Henderson.....14lbs.

The Blagdon Cup.....Maurice Dyer.....2lbs.12ozs.

These two Trophies were of course presented after the AGM.

Congratulations to both!

LOOKING AHEAD.....

Wednesday MARCH 12th Guild Meeting. Speaker Chris Muscat from Wessex Water will present us with a 'Whistle Stop Tour of Water Supply in Wessex Water'.



March Brown

Saturday 29th March - Fishing Competition at Bushyleaze Lake, Lechlade for the 'D&J Rideout Shield'.

Fishing starts at 9:30am to a 4:30pm weigh-in.

Wednesday 9th April - Guild Meeting. Guest speaker at our April meeting - David Wolsoncroft-Dodds - 'Fly-fishing for Pike'

David is a full-time professional pike fishing guide with wide experience of fishing for pike in Canada and Scandinavia as well as the UK. He has a national reputation and as well as being an Author, has contributed articles to a number of publications including Flyfishing & Flytying and 'Ultimate Fly-Fishing Destinations'. David is a regular on the Game Fair circuit and last September was demonstrating casting techniques at Bowood. At our April Guild meeting David will start by demonstrating how to tie a pike fly, he will explain the fishing techniques used to catch monster pike and then describe some of his adventures including trips to 9million acre Lake Nueltin in Northern Manitoba with Cree guides and where the lake trout record is 52lb.



Friday 11th April - Skittles and Buffet Evening at the White Hart, Atworth. Booking has been confirmed. Please inform Malcolm if your Family, and Friends are interested in joining this fun evening. Places are limited.

More details soon.

Sunday 27th April - Inter-Guild Fishing Competition to win the Spinnaker Cup. This will be held at Sutton Bingham Lake.

Fish from 9:30am to 4:30pm.

More details soon.

Looking further afield - November to December (to finish before Christmas) - Build your own rod under the guidance of **Roger McCourtney** (Peregrine Rods). **Roger** is willing to run a course for us if enough Members enrol. There would be 6 rod-building sessions. **More details soon** for this 'once in a lifetime' opportunity to build your own rod with top quality blanks, rod rings and reel seatings. To be confirmed.

Fishing In Winter Weather on Lakes & Reservoirs

Time to get your winter thermals out and be aware that there is lots of fun to be had fishing this time of year. Don't underestimate the pleasure of fishing in winter on lakes and reservoirs. Working your catch as it dives deep, even under ice, is a great sport.

Bearing in mind, Rainbow Trout are after all a coldwater fish. Even if the lake is iced over don't worry - you can have a great days sport. The techniques to be used are to fish slow and deep. Effective natural patterns are the Blue Tinsel and Green Damsel Nymph which are always fishable flies, however, small patterns are deadly at this time of year particularly Bloodworms and Buzzers as the midge is the only fly that hatches 365 days per year.

It is only cold rain and fish down in the water. Changes in weather stimulate fish into of changes in. Light rain or a warm can trigger hatches of feeding. Sun can also



hail which can push and stop feeding. conditions can often feeding, often because atmospheric pressure. shower on a cold day insects and get fish trigger feeding on a

cold or dull day. When there are no clouds and bright sunshine, fish go

deeper because they have no eyelids, so get blinded by the lightness. 'Washing line' rigs can be extremely productive at this time of year. Fish deep on a sinking or intermediate line with the Blob. For example the 3D Blob on the point lifting the leader in the water, a buzzer on the middle dropper and bloodworm on the top dropper so it fishes lowest in the water close to the bottom where the natural bloodworm is found.

True Tales of Poachers from T&S 1972

Number 3 - 'If it looks like an otter'.

A lad I had taken on as underkeeper told me how poachers sometimes raided a pool back at home.

About sunset, a party of five would go to a selected pool, taking a dead rabbit with its ears cut off. Using a long length of line, they tied one end to the rabbit's neck while the other end was taken to the far end of the pool. Two men would enter the water on one side and two men on the opposite side all having gaffs.

The fifth man would drop the rabbit into the lower end of the pool, then run to the upper end and pull the rabbit through the whole length of the water.

Any salmon, thinking the rabbit to be an otter, dashed madly around the fringes. Then the men with the gaffs hooked the fish out on to the bank.(!)



'The Life of a Royal Flytyer - Megan Boyd.....1915-2001

'Kiss the Water' - This is a film which was released this January and has received very good reviews. The film is about the life of celebrated Fly-Tyer Megan Boyd, she became a renowned tyer of 'fully dressed' salmon flies which have become highly collectable, famous lures such as the Jock Scott and the Silver Doctor salmon flies among many.

The Prince of Wales and actress Valerie Hobson were among her many admirers who would visit Megan at her tiny cottage at Kintradwell, near Brora. Scotland. They would stock up on her fly creations which were known as the 'Faberges of the Fishing World'

If the film comes your way, it may be worth a visit!



The Jock Scott



The Silver Doctor

High Sticking

In our sport of fly fishing, there are a number of effective methods for presenting a nymph fly pattern to a holding or feeding fish. One common strategy employed by anglers is known as "high stick nymphing." With this method, the nymph flies, in the faster, deeper pockets of water and short pools, is an extremely effective way to fly fish, especially when you observe little or no dry fly activity or rising trout.

The high stick is a technique similar to short line nymphing. Often you don't use a strike indicator, but it can be effective for practiced anglers. High sticking is designed to deliver a subsurface fly pattern on a dead drift to trout which are holding in moderate to fast pocket water and short, deep pools. Line control is the key to this technique. And when it comes to using it on your favourite stretch of river, the rule is: practice, practice and then practice some more.



.....SO HOW DO YOU DO IT?

Approach a pocket or pool carefully. Make a short cast upstream at roughly 45 degrees from your position. Immediately the fly sinks to the river or stream bottom, raise the rod tip high and follow the line downstream through the drift. As the fly starts its drift, lift your rod tip high. Don't allow slack line to gather and drag in the surface film. Let the drift continue across your position and lower the rod tip as it continues the downstream movement.

At this point in the drift, if you employ a "Leisenring Lift" as the fly passes your position, you can greatly reduce the drag that may be created by mismanaged or under-managed slack fly line. Fly fishing with this little technique will definitely improve your skills.

HAPPY FISHING...BOB

PS. The Queen and David Cameron are on the same stage at the Diamond Jubilee celebrations in front of a huge crowd.

The Queen leans towards Mr Cameron and says, "Do you know, that with one little wave of my hand I can make every person in this crowd go wild with joy?"

This joy will not be a momentary display, but will go deep into their hearts, and they will forever speak of this great day and rejoice!"

Cameron arrogantly replies, "I seriously doubt that Ma'am , with one little wave of your hand you could do all that? Show me!"

So the Queen, with one swift wave, smacked him in the mouth!!!!





WEST WILTS FLYFISHERS GUILD
Programme of Club Events
2014

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>CLUB EVENINGS</u> <u>2nd Weds of Month</u>	<u>FISHING & SOCIAL</u>
		Please inform Gerry T. if you intend to fish in our Competitions.
<u>MARCH</u>	12th - Guild Meeting - Speaker: Chris Muscat of Wessex Water 'Sourcing of Water'	Sat 29th - Fishing at Bushyleaze Lake, Lechlade. D&J Rideout Shield - 9:30am to 4:30pm. (NB: Sun 30 th is Mothers Day)
<u>APRIL</u>	9th - Guild Meeting - Speaker: David Wolsoncroft-Dodds 'Fly-Fishing for Pike'	Fri. 11th - Skittles and Buffet.- Contact Malcolm. Sun. 27th - Spinnaker Cup - Sutton Bingham. Fish 9:30am to 4:30pm. (Easter Break Friday 18 th - Monday 21 st April)
<u>MAY</u>	14th - Guild Meeting - 'Bugs & Grubs' part 1 at Shaw Hotel	Sun 18th - Chew Boat Cup (Tam Pearce Trophy) Fish 10:00 to 6:15pm Check with Gerry to book a place
<u>JUNE</u>	11th - Guild Meeting - Speaker 'Bugs & Grubs' part 2 - 'hands-on' in The River Frome - location details TBA	Sun 22nd - J.Turk Shield - Avon Springs - Fish 10:00am to 2:00pm. (NB: Fathers Day 15 th) Sunday 29th Coarse fishing on the Frome - Andy M.
<u>JULY</u>	No Meetings	Wed 9th Fullingbridge Lake Visit. Fishing from 3:00pm to dusk. Free BBQ. if fine.
<u>AUGUST</u>	No Meetings	
<u>SEPTEMBER</u>	10th - Guild Meeting - Speaker: TBA	Sun 14th - Archery & BBQ at Brian's Farm. Sun. 21st - Blagdon Bank Fishing Day - Social Day fishing for the Henderson Cup.
<u>OCTOBER</u>	8th - Guild Meeting - Guild Tackle Auction (c)	Sun 19th - Christmas Hamper Comp. - fishing location yet to be decided. Fish 9:00 to 3:00pm. 3 Fish ticket. (BST ends 26 th)
<u>NOVEMBER</u>	12th - Guild Meeting - Speaker: TBA	Rivers Meeting - Thursday 6 th . Sun 9th - Grayling fishing - R. Wylfe (TBC) Friday 21st - Guild 'Ladies Night' Dinner
<u>DECEMBER</u>	No Meetings	

TBA = To be announced. TBC = To be confirmed. C = Confirmed.