



Wild Trout Trust

News Update Spring 2016

Diary Dates 2016

13/14 February – British Fly Fair, Stafford (www.bffi.co.uk)

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

4-13 March: WTT Annual Auction (www.wildtrout.org/event/wtt-auction)

Early April – Keep an eye out as the WTT annual journal, *Salmo trutta*, hits the streets.

18-21 May – Rivers Trust Conference, Hay-on-Wye (<http://www.theriverstrust.org>)

21 May – World Fish Migration Day (<http://www.worldfishmigrationday.com>)

11/12 June – WTT Annual Get-Together on the Wylde at Steeple Langford, Wilts.

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

11-13 October – Institute of Fisheries Management Conference, East Anglia (<http://www.ifm.org.uk>)

18 October – WTT Conservation Awards, supported by Thames Water at the Savile Club, London (www.wildtrout.org/content/conservation-awards)

eBay Auction, 4-13 March 2016

Your catalogue accompanies this newsletter detailing 298 fabulous lots, but here are some tales from last year's lot winners...

Afloat on Corrib: Nigel Wearden, recounts a memorable day in 2015 on Corrib with WTT Vice-President, Dennis Moss

My fishing buddy and I had the good fortune to win in the WTT 2015 auction, a day afloat with Dennis Moss on Lough Corrib on the west coast of Ireland. If you have never fished the Corrib, as we hadn't, you may, nevertheless be familiar with Dennis's book 'Irish Rise' where many of the pages are dedicated to this wonderful, wild beautiful lough, with its islands, rock outcrops, narrows and bays. I understand it is around 32 miles long!

It was a memorable experience dry fly fishing with Dennis's high floating Mayfly patterns, frequent rides upon the waves as he set up the next promising drift, fantastic locations, scenery and light.

The banter and frequent action kept us always on the edge of our seats. We all kept smiling.

Lunch on Inchagoil Island with Kelly Kettle and a nice packed lunch. Some young campers who were barbecuing when we came ashore, made us most welcome and donated baked potatoes and brownies.

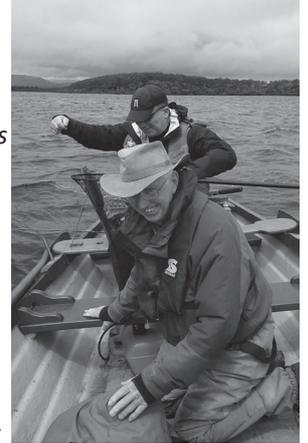
A quick visit to the monastery ruins on the island while Dennis set up a second brew of tea, not only stretched our legs but was also very pleasant and atmospheric.

Finally, the glass of Jamesons at Dennis's wonderful house by the lough while meeting his pair of dogs, capped a very happy and memorable day.

And the fishing? While we did not catch any of the lough's monsters we did raise 18 fish on the day, although hooking them was a different matter as only 5 came to the boat. I lost a decent one as my line was cut by a rock.

I would like to mention also the hospitality of Larry & Michelle McCarthy at our lodgings at Glencorrib and the friendly pubs we visited, who made us most welcome.

I would recommend bidding for many of the lots on offer in the annual WTT Auction, as they give you access and an introduction to places and people you may never encounter on your usual fishing journey. Thank you Dennis and the Wild Trout Trust.



A Smart Choice: Graham Coley finds treasure in the 2015 auction

I never knew I needed a 6ft 6in, 2-piece, 4-wt bamboo rod with a spare top! And then there it was, listed in the auction. The on-line reviews were very encouraging, but then every bamboo rod has its own personality, it's just the nature of the material and you never really know what you are going to get without trying it first. Nevertheless, I made a bid for a very acceptable price, and then there I was at last, releasing it from its packaging, with keen anticipation. I was impressed. James Smart had clearly produced an absolutely delightful piece of outstanding craftsmanship; a work of art no less; but how would it fish?

I have the good fortune to be able to fish on chalk streams that are managed for the benefit of wild fish. The challenge for me is to approach a feeding fish as closely as possible without detection and then present an acceptable fly on or in the surface, without drag and despite the inevitable downstream wind. I need all the help I can get, and have come to appreciate the benefits of modern silk lines, which are beautifully supple, basically stretch free, and of significantly reduced diameter, matched with a Garrison or a Leonard tapered light weight bamboo rod. With this combination I find I have the best chance of presenting a short line accurately and delicately.

James's rod has now accompanied me on a number of outings to the Wylde and the Lambourn presenting a range of mayfly duns, large and medium olives, iron blues and BWOs pretty well where they needed to go and where the six foot six length was particularly helpful for avoiding the natural hazards. Its action suits me perfectly, not too soft and very positive. Matched with a lightweight reel (Lamson Litespeed) the weight overall feels very little different from a graphite rod.

I am very grateful for the WTT Auction, very pleased that I took the risk, and the rod is now well on the way to becoming my new best friend on small streams.

Paul Jennings wrote of his days won in the 2015 auction

I have just got back from two days of auction lots on the Dove and Upper Derwent. Both were magnificent days and fantastic weather. This is the joy of the auction: you get to see and fish wonderful rivers with devoted fisher people and conservationists.



Foston Beck trout

On the Dove I fished with John Machin and the Derwent with Dave Southall. Both devoted to their rivers and excellent guides. We managed to catch fish on both rivers despite low flows.

I also got to fish Foston Beck in East Yorkshire; a great end to the season.

Already looking forward to next year's auction.

WTT Annual Get-Together June 2016

WTT will host its Annual Get-Together in the stunning setting of Wiltshire Wildlife Trust's reserve at Steeple Langford on the banks of the River Wylde, near Salisbury over the weekend of 11 and 12 June.

A few of us will gather informally on Friday night (please feel free to join us if you can, probably at the Swan at Stoford) before a Saturday full of varied and interesting stuff...

- Saturday a.m. – talks (provisionally) on: swans, abstraction, crayfish, a club's migration to the wild side, what's happening in the Avon catchment, S&TCUK's 12 rivers project and what WTT's been up to in the past year;
- Saturday p.m. – a guided walk on the Rivers Wylde and Nadder to see the fabulous habitat rehabilitation work of the Wessex Chalk Streams Project and its many partners;
- Saturday evening – a bbq (or maybe a hastily made chilli if the weather is terrible) at the lodge overlooking the lakes at Langford, washed down with some excellent local beer.

For those able to stay on for the Sunday, we hope to be able to broker some delightful trout fishing on the beautiful southern chalk streams. There will be a fee (fair, but amount tbc), either as contribution to the donor club or to WTT, payable at the AGT.

Cost for attendance Saturday daytime is £10 and a further £10 for the evening bbq, both payable at time of booking.

WTT Annual Get-Together on the Ribble in 2015



The Wild Trout Trust, PO Box 120, Waterlooville PO8 0WZ

Further details, including a booking form, will appear on the WTT website (www.wildtrout.org), but if you would like to book yourself in immediately, please contact Christina in the Office on 023 9257 0985 or via office@wildtrout.org. Please express an interest in fishing on the Sunday if appropriate to allow us to gauge numbers.

Kit Courtesy of Kris Kent

We've been blessed before with donations of money to buy kit (e.g. Butts Brewery cash donations to buy chainsaws and PPE) and donations of hardware such as Richard Hardy's brushcutter and strimmer. Well, the latest donation is a beast of a Husqvarna chainsaw from WTT stalwart and all-round gigantic good egg, Kris Kent, which will likely find a new home in North Yorkshire, residing with our Research & Conservation Officer, Jon Grey. Many thanks, Kris.

Go Fishing for Wild Trout

If you're not lucky enough this year to win some top-notch wild trout fishing in the WTT auction, we now have a list of clubs on the website with vacancies or which may be able to offer day or guest tickets. Go through the 'Wild Trout Fishing' pages of the WTT website or see www.wildtrout.org/sites/default/files/news/Wild Trout Trust Clubs list Jan 2016 V3.pdf

WTT Conservation Awards 2016

Our door is open for applications for the 2016 Wild Trout Trust Conservation Awards, supported by Thames Water. We seek to recognise and encourage excellence in wild trout habitat management and conservation and celebrate the efforts, ingenuity and imagination of all those involved. We want to hear about successful, small-scale efforts to improve a stream at the end of the garden just as much as catchment-wide work funded by government agencies. There are three prize categories:

- *Large-Scale Habitat Enhancement Scheme:* A trophy for projects delivered by government agencies, contractors and larger rivers or wildlife trusts;
- *Medium-Scale Habitat Enhancement Scheme:* A £1,000 prize and trophy for projects delivered by small to medium-sized NGOs e.g. rivers or wildlife trusts;
- *Contribution to Wild Trout Conservation:* A £1000 prize and trophy aimed at amateur community groups (e.g. fishing clubs or other conservation groups) whose voluntary efforts, either through delivery of a specific habitat enhancement project and/or general ethos of management, have furthered the cause for wild trout conservation.

Applications are open until 29 July 2016 with further information and application form on the WTT website: <http://www.wildtrout.org/content/conservation-awards>

WTT Annual Raffle 2015 Results

The Wild Trout Trust would like to thank Sage, The Peacock at Rowsley & Haddon Fisheries, Orvis, Snowbee and Phoenix Lines for kindly donating the prizes and all those who supported the raffle by purchasing tickets, enabling us to raise a total of £5791.

The draw took place on 10 December and the lucky winners were:

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| 1st prize | Mr C Mason, Nottinghamshire |
| 2nd prize | Mr J Paxman, Oxfordshire |
| 3rd prize | Mr E Kramer, Hertfordshire |
| 4th prize | Mr C Mason, Nottinghamshire |
| 5th prize | Mr N Mills, Oxfordshire |

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