



Wild Trout Trust

News Update Spring 2017

Diary Dates 2017

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

3-12 March: WTT Annual Auction
(www.wildtrout.org/content/auction-0)

Early April – WTT annual journal, *Salmo trutta*, hits the streets.

25/26 April – Renewable Energy & Fisheries Conference, Newport (www.ifm.org.uk)

13/14 May – WTT Annual Get-Together on the Wye and Derwent near Bakewell, Derbyshire.

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

10-12 October – Institute of Fisheries Management Conference, Belfast (www.ifm.org.uk)

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

eBay Auction, 3-12 March 2017

See the accompanying catalogue for details of 300 fabulous lots.

Kris Kent shares some of his experiences of donating and winning lots

I won my first auction lot back in 2010. It was a day on the Lathkill in Derbyshire fishing with Club member Simon Brough and later on, local legend Peter Arfield. It was an idyllic fishing day with light winds, a warm sun and fish rising to upwinged flies. We spent the day sneaking up on wily wild brown trout in gin clear waters and even managed to catch a few on dry fly. The fishing was fabulous and the company highly entertaining.



I went a bit mad that year and ended up winning six lots but I had a fabulous year with trips to the Derbyshire Wye, Yorkshire Wharfe, the urban streams of Sheffield and Manchester plus a bit of stillwater pike fishing in Gloucestershire.

What I realised that year was that the WTT Auction is a wonderful opportunity to access some special fishing, often in places you wouldn't otherwise be able to fish, and to go fishing with some very special people, people you would otherwise never meet. Over the years, I've fished with Paul Proctor on the hallowed waters of the Derbyshire Wye, courtesy of The Cressbrook & Litton Fly Fishers, who also provided a wonderful riverside breakfast and a little too much sloe gin. Mike Weaver took me out on the Teign in Devon where I caught my first sea-trout smolt. I've trotted for big roach on the Avon with Dr Mark Everard and chucked big pike flies on Bowood Lake with David Wolsoncroft-Dodds. I learnt how to short-line nymph with John Tyzack and nearly wet myself when he slipped over and smashed his scoop net, sorry John. Some of the people I've met through the auction have become good friends. I thank them all for donating lots and making these experiences possible.

In 2011, I decided that I ought to donate a lot to the Auction. It was such a positive, if nerve racking, experience that I now donate three lots. Introducing people to new rivers and new experiences is so satisfying – I thoroughly recommend it. This year I've donated a new lot, fishing the wild streams of Dorset and I'm really looking forward to welcoming the winner to a very special hidden corner of England.

As I sit and read my preview copy of the 2017 catalogue, so many happy memories come flooding back to me – I'm back by the river casting a fly. What's not to like.

WTT Annual Get-Together June 2017 Wye, oh Wye!

We are delighted that the Get-Together is returning to the Haddon Estate in Derbyshire for the weekend of 13 & 14 May. A few of us will gather informally on the Friday night in Bakewell (please feel free to join us if you can) before a Saturday full of varied and interesting stuff...

- Sat a.m. – speakers will include (provisionally) Dr Nick Everall, Jack Perks, Glen Pointon and updates from WTT chaps.
- Sat p.m. – a guided walk, with Haddon keepers Warren Slaney and Jan Hobot, to discuss fish habitat impacts and rehabilitation work on the Rivers Wye and Derwent.



Get Together 2016: a walk on the Nadder

Saturday daytime costs £10, payable at time of booking. For those able to stay on, we'll regather in Bakewell in the evening before sampling wild trout fishing on Derbyshire's peerless streams on the Sunday. Further details and a booking form, will appear on the WTT website, but to book immediately, please contact Christina in the WTT office, expressing an interest in fishing on the Sunday if appropriate so we can gauge numbers.

Three-Fly Challenge, 17 June Meon Springs Fishery, Hampshire

The Three-Fly Challenge will test your skills and catching ability as you can only use three flies (one at a time) and these will be provided on the day: Kites Imperial dry (3 points per fish); Black buzzer (2 points per fish); GRHE nymph (1 point per fish). Points will be awarded according to the fly used and the weight of the fish, e.g. a 3lb fish caught with dry Kites Imperial would score 9 points (3 points x 3lb = 9). The angler with the highest number of points wins a new Sage One 9ft, 5-wt rod and there are many other runners-up prizes. And a raffle will be held at lunchtime.



Tickets cost £90 including breakfast, cooked lunch, a 4-fish ticket and flies with all monies raised going into WTT's Pasco James Project. Applications with a cheque for £90 made payable to The Wild Trout Trust should be sent to: Neil Mundy, Pine View, Forest Road, Denmead, Hants PO7 6UA. For further information, email: ncmundy@hotmail.co.uk or tel: 023 9225 4886 / 07964 379988. Closing date for entries is Saturday 3 June 2017.

WTT Conservation Awards 2017

Our door is open for applications for the 2017 WTT 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 28 July 2017 with further information and application form on the WTT website (www.wildtrout.org/content/conservation-awards).

Kit Courtesy of Butt's Brewery and WTT member, Tim Springham

We've been blessed before with donations of money to buy kit and donations of hardware. Again, we are so grateful to Butt's Brewery for yet another significant donation. Butt's is a craft brewery in Berkshire, producing staggeringly good beers, such as Barbus, with 5p per bottle coming to WTT (www.buttsbrewery.com). Also, many thanks to WTT member, Tim Springham, for a donation of a super-useful trailer.

River specialists join forces to boost fish numbers in the Twizell Burn

Catchment partnership working has resulted in an excellent year of trout spawning along a previously inaccessible, industrial tributary of the River Wear. The Twizell Burn flows into the Cong Burn which is known to have good fish populations; however, fish numbers in Twizell Burn have struggled due to the presence of two major barriers to migratory fish. At the confluence, a bridge apron made passage difficult as the channel was overwidened and shallow whilst 200m upstream, a 2m-high concrete step was considered to be a complete barrier.



These structures were brought to the Wear Rivers Trust's (WRT) attention by Dave Lockey and Lloyd Atkinson representing Chester-Le-Street DAC, as these tributaries act as nurseries for juvenile fish. By restoring connectivity throughout these burns, fish populations both in the tributaries and main river can be increased considerably. After receiving expert guidance from the WTT, WRT joined forces with Durham County Council and Northumbrian Water to deliver two fish passage improvements which have opened access to approximately 5km of good quality spawning and juvenile habitat. The project was funded by the Environment Agency's Catchment Partnership Action Fund.

WTT Annual Raffle 2016 Results

The Wild Trout Trust would like to thank Sage, William Daniel & Famous Fishing, The Peacock at Rowsley & Haddon Fisheries, Paul Kenyon 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 £3,600. The draw took place on 13 December and the lucky winners were:

- 1st Prize, ticket no. 294, Mr K Freshwater (Dundee)
- 2nd Prize, ticket no. 4095, Mrs S Twiddy (Warminster)
- 3rd Prize, ticket no. 16, Mr M Smith (Maidenhead)
- 4th Prize, ticket no. 1013, Mr C Knight (Ringwood)
- 5th Prize, ticket no. 315, Mr P Shortt (New Malden)