

## Trust schools

The Trust is continuing with its salmon goes to school project and recently Trust Biologist, Richie Miller, took children from St Thomas' Primary School on a river outing. The children saw the juvenile salmon and trout which reside in their local river. The P7 class then surveyed the river for 'bugs & beasties' carrying out kick tests and identifying the aquatic insects found such as stonefly, mayfly and caddis larvae. Six other primary schools also took part in the 'salmon goes to school project'. The project is funded by Scottish Natural Heritage.



**Richie Miller at the 'Auld Brig' in Keith with children from St. Thomas' Primary School (Keith)**



**A young angler from Turriff Primary playing a rainbow trout at Delgatie**

## Children learning to fly

In June, the Trust organised the first of a new programme of 'Angling Adventures' for local children. The programme is designed to encourage a new generation of anglers into the sport. 32 children from Turriff primary attended Delgatie Fishery to learn how to fly fish. The outing was a great success with many fish being caught. Many of the girls proved to be very good at 'casting' within a few minutes of tuition – hopefully we will see our efforts bear fruit in the future with some of these participants continuing the sport when they are older. Our sincere thanks to Bob Ross, owner of Delgatie fishery and all volunteers who assisted on the day.

## Hatching progress

Trust staff recently completed a juvenile fish survey of the Towie burn where a percentage of the 80,000 salmon ova from the 2009/10 hatchery programme were planted into false redds. The results to date have been very encouraging with both survey sites containing good numbers of salmon fry.

Trust directors and personnel have been working continuously throughout the summer on reinstating the damaged hatchery facility at Drummuir. The new external structure is now in place and additional measures have been put in place to aid against future storm damage. It has been a very time consuming and laborious process but it is hoped that the end result will prove worthwhile. At present the hatchery facility is on track to be operational for this coming season.

Visit our updated website  
[www.deveron.org](http://www.deveron.org)

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# THE DEVERON FLYER

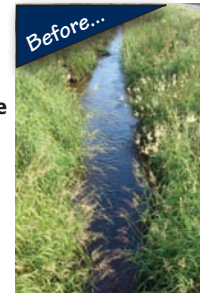
The Deveron, Bogie and Isla Rivers Charitable Trust

Newsletter 20 Autumn 2010

**Welcome to the twentieth newsletter of the Deveron, Bogie & Isla Rivers Charitable Trust.**

The Trust's objectives are to 'conserve, protect and rehabilitate salmon, sea trout and trout and other indigenous species of animal, bird, insect and plant life and more generally to promote the ecological cycle for the benefit of the inhabitants of the Deveron'.

**Restoration is at the forefront of the Trust's work. Funding from the SEPA restoration scheme and DBIT members has meant completion of a three-year parr restoration project on the Monquhitter and Fishrie Burns**



## Restoration rules

The SEPA Restoration scheme funded the placing of rocks and boulders into the upper section of the Monquhitter (Turriff Burn) near New Byth. The areas have been dredged in the past leaving straightened channels without essential stream habitat for parr. The new rocks will supply territories and cover for older fish and habitat for aquatic invertebrates such as caddis.

Also, work on the Fishrie burn (King Edward tributary) has taken place

to reinstate parr habitat. The Fishrie burn site was completed as the second part of a 3 year project. The first part of the project saw the removal of a redundant weir 2 years ago which had formed a barrier and a resulting stretch of slow deep water, unsuitable for migratory fish. Electro-fishing surveys upstream of the old weir, completed this year, demonstrated the weir removal has been a success with a high density of salmon fry being found.



**We are grateful to landowners, Colin Sievwright and Alan Twatt who supplied personnel and machinery to help place the rocks and also to Mr Mann for his assistance.**

## Trust us to spread the word...

Deveron, Bogie and Isla Rivers Trust biologist, Richie Miller, has spent a large amount of time over the past 6 months representing local fisheries' interests in many varied projects to ensure the free passage of fish, protection of stocks and their habitats. The Trust has also

made representations in connection with the Dorenell, Clashindarroch and Edintore windfarms and also the East Coast Connector Upgrade to ensure these developments do not adversely affect the districts fisheries - in particular with regard to alterations to the road bridge at Banff.

**For further information please contact The Senior Biologist at  
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email: [richiemiller@deveron.org](mailto:richiemiller@deveron.org) or visit the Trust's website [www.deveron.org](http://www.deveron.org)  
The Deveron, Bogie and Isla Rivers Charitable Trust is a registered charity. No. SC 032131**



## Migration obstacles removed

Several obstructions to migratory fish have been identified and cleared in a joint Trust and Board operation. Many impenetrable blockages built up after the 2009 autumn spates. The Cairnie burn was specifically targeted for obstruction removal as it provides good spawning

material and juvenile habitat in the upper reaches for both salmonid species. Removal of obstacles is important to allow access for this coming autumn. Similar obstructions were removed on the Kirkney Water (Clashindarroch Forest) and the river Isla with help from Colin Grant.



## Minky business

The Bio-security Project, headed by Alistair Fenn has made great progress with help from his team of "river champions". Monitoring of mink activity and subsequent placing of traps has helped remove 72 American mink from the catchment so far. Mink has been caught throughout the district from the Deveron's headwaters to as far away as Fraserburgh which will be hugely beneficial in the protection of native fish stocks and water voles.

Colin Grant has continued the important work of controlling Giant Hogweed on the Bogie & Deveron (funded through the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation) whilst Robin Vasey has continued Giant Hogweed control on the Isla. Japanese Knotweed and Himalayan Balsam are also present on these systems and will be treated during the autumn.



The Trust would like to thank all "river champions" and especially Shaun and Kevin Barron for their great work this year. They have not only successfully caught mink on the Isla but have assisted in treating Giant Hogweed voluntarily across the catchment. The Hogweed control programme has been expanded to many tributaries such as the Turriff Water/Idoch, Cunning burn, Rosy burn plus various other infestations along the main river. The Trust and RDevDSFB would like to thank all those along the river who have been contributing to the control of these species. Please contact Alastair Fenn if you would like to help on **01466 711388**.

## Deveron selected by SEPA as 'high priority'

The river Deveron has been selected by SEPA as a Diffuse Pollution Priority Catchment. SEPA will propose measures that should be taken by land managers to protect and improve water quality. SEPA staff are walking sections of rivers and burns to identify where land management practices are impacting on water quality. Farm inspections will be carried out to discuss diffuse pollution issues. Many issues can be

solved by changes in management practice, with little or no cost to the land manager. In some areas, funding from the Scottish Rural Development Programme (SRDP) may be available. Work carried out in priority catchments has highlighted many benefits. This will encourage all sectors to tackle the issues together, which should in turn see an improvement in the water environment across the district.

### Sea Trout Day

A day of presentations and discussion on all things sea trout

10am-4pm  
Thursday 16 September 2010  
Waterside Hotel Inverness

**Talks on:**

Sea trout biology  
Sea trout angling  
River restoration

(Including a talk by Ally Gowans on his experiences fishing for sea trout in Scotland)

Free refreshments and lunch  
Displays by local Trusts & Angling shops

**Space is limited. Please contact the MFSTP to guarantee your place:**

Marcus Walters  
walters.mfstp@googlemail.com  
Mob: 07 500602216  
www.mfstp.co.uk



On Friday 17 September the Wild Trout Trust will give a demonstration of river restoration techniques on the River Pefferly. Contact as above for details.

## Clearing the Kirkney Water

The Trust has been celebrating the good work of Forest Enterprise around the Kirkney Water. Work has included clear felling and the removal of several blockages caused by fallen trees along a 2km stretch. In 2009, the electro-fishing survey found zero salmon in our core sites upstream.



However, in 2010 we counted 24 in one site and 101 fry in the Ealachie which is an adjoining tributary. This exercise demonstrates the importance of monitoring inaccessible areas and how working with Forest Enterprise can make a real difference. Thanks to the Trust's work we look forward to seeing parr here in 2011.