



• **Obstacle courses**

The Trust continues clearing **Inside**

• **Read all about it...** **Inside pages**

# THE DEVERON FLYER

The Deveron, Bogie and Isla Rivers Charitable Trust

Newsletter 21 Spring 2011

**Welcome to the twenty-first 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'.

## Trust launches Trophy

**Introducing the Morison Trophy  
- to be awarded for the  
largest fly-caught salmon  
on the river Deveron**



In 2008, the Deveron, Bogie & Isla Trust and the Morison family designed a memorial trophy to be awarded annually for the largest fly-caught salmon from the Deveron and to mark the 10th anniversary of the Trust.

The trophy celebrates the record-breaking catch by Mrs 'Tiny' Morison on the 21st October 1924 on the Deveron. Her 61lb fly-caught salmon is the largest on record in the UK.

George Tarratt Ltd, of Leicester, were commissioned to make the trophy, which resulted in this

outstanding chased silver model of a leaping salmon upon a black Belgium limestone plinth. Silver plates have been added to the plinth which have been engraved with details of the original event. The solid silver cast model stands 9 -10ins high and depicts a finely detailed salmon leaping from a dark pool, which is set upon a worked silver 'wave' of disturbed water. The idea of the famous dark pool is suggested by the black limestone plinth upon which the Salmon is mounted.

*...continued on back page*

## Aly Bain MBE at Trust official ceremony

The official launch ceremony for the new Morison Trophy will



take place at the opening of the new fishing season. Aly Bain MBE, one of Scotland's finest fiddlers, will unveil the trophy on Friday 11th February. The 'toast' to the season will also take place with Pam Ingleby from Aswanley fishings and her brother Victor Beamish at Turriff Angling Associations Lodge at 10am. The new trophy, donated by the Morison family, will be on display with a high-end bottle of Chivas Brothers Royal Salute. The ceremony is kindly being sponsored by Chivas Brothers who will be providing hospitality. Coffee and refreshments will be available. So please come along and help us celebrate a successful season!

  
**Chivas Brothers**  
Pernod Ricard



**The DBI Trust is holding a unique festival in May. Anglers from throughout Britain and Europe are being invited to visit and fish on Deveronside**

**WILLIAM LAWSON'S**

# The Deveron Fishing Festival

**16-22 May 2011**

*IT TAKES SOME BEATING!*

Fourteen of the district's most famous beats have been donated – free of charge – to kick off our first exciting festival in May. Hosting the beats will be leading tackle manufacturers and prominent angling organisations, whose instructors will coach anglers and visitors on a one-to-one basis and also provide hospitality.

In addition to the excellent salmon and brown trout fishing, other highlights include the opportunity to try state-of-the-art tackle, meet some of the sport's best known names, watch expert fly-dressing demonstrations, buy art and antiques and enjoy a special whisky tasting evening with Mr Charles Maclean (Whisky's Finest Guru – Sunday Times). Tickets will also be sold to attend a gala meal and auction to celebrate the Trust's 10th anniversary on Friday the 20th. It will be a memorable gathering! Thanks must go to Alastair Fenn, DBIT events' committee and especially Mr Burgess who has helped tremendously with this exciting new project.

*This project is being part-financed by the Scottish Government and the European Community Rural Aberdeenshire Leader 2007-2013 Programme.*



**Applications for beats and rods are invited via [www.deveronfishingfestival.co.uk](http://www.deveronfishingfestival.co.uk) or you can request a form by post. Ballot drawn 1st April 2011**



## **DATES TO WATCH OUT FOR...**

**16-18 May** Beat 'rods' will be open to members of the public who have applied in advance to fish. Applications will be balloted for places. Those who are successful will be notified of their beat to fish for the 3 days. They will be able to take a friend and rod share the chosen beat.

**16-21 May** Members of the public wishing to take part in the festival who are not successful in the fishing ballot can also meet the various angling personalities and try the famous tackle names. Visitors must visit Festival HQ at Turriff Tackle and Trophies ([www.fishingthedeveon.co.uk](http://www.fishingthedeveon.co.uk)) to be directed to the various tackle names.

**16-18 May** festival trade tenants will invite their own guests, who are associated with fishery promotion throughout the UK, to sample fishing the Deveron.

**20 May** 10th Anniversary dinner and auction at Aswanley. Tickets cost £55 and are available from the Trust office on **01466 711388**



# Obstacle courses

During late summer, the DBIT & RDevDSFB continued its ongoing programme of obstruction removal. This 'log-jam' was one of a number of obstacles to migratory fish caused by summer floods. We are indebted to Mr Murphy, owner of Douglasbrae, for the assistance of 3 personnel and

a JCB teleporter in removing this obstruction. A large fallen willow tree was also successfully removed from the upper Isla. The tree had begun trapping a large quantity of material, which had resulted in increased bank erosion downstream. As the pictures above show, woody debris was left

*in situ* for aquatic invertebrates and juvenile fish cover. Many thanks to the staff from Drummur Estate who assisted with the removal by tractor and winch. Robin, Colin and Jimmy also tackled many other obstruction's successfully throughout the catchment during 2010.



## Spring stocks laid down

**Loch Park hatchery has been substantially strengthened and modernised after the 2010 storm damage. 281,000 ova (236,000 salmon and 44,000 sea trout) were successfully laid down during September and December 2010. These will be stocked to target areas. Many people helped in the broodstock capture programme (pictured above) which was carried out in the Deveron's headwaters. Our thanks must go to J Mann, K Barron, J Smith and J Lorimer all of whom worked on a voluntary basis. Thanks must also go to beats such as Lower Netherdale, Forglen, Muiesk, Boat of Turtry and Laiters who donated broodstock.**

## Catching up in 2010

Last season over 4,028 salmon and grilse were caught, which was a significant increase on 2009 (2843). Spring salmon catches decreased slightly from 115 in '09 to 91, due to high water and limited angler access from the high snow volume. Late August brought very fruitful angling conditions and catches increased steadily. September and October produced tremendous salmon catches, up to the season end, with some very large fish landed to 30lb. The sea trout catch increased again for the second consecutive year, from 759 to 1354, ranging from 3 to 15lb of which over 70% were returned. Well done to all anglers.



# 100 mink - not out!

Biosecurity Project Update

**Alastair Fenn** *Biosecurity and Fisheries Development Officer*

There have been 69 mink survey rafts deployed throughout our fishery district. The first American mink was captured on the 16th December last year and throughout the last 12 months, an incredible 114 mink have been dispatched, with Mr Jim Ross catching the largest to date – three times bigger than average! (see right). The mink have all been taken to Aberdeen University for diet examination. Of these 38 were female. Given the average number of offspring produced by a female is 6, we can estimate that the project has prevented a further 228 entering the population.

The project has also highlighted other serious biosecurity issues threatening our local biodiversity. The Gyrodactylus salaris (Gs) virus which has plagued the angling industry of Norway for many years. As of 2011 the project will implement two official Gs disinfection points. Anglers and watersport enthusiasts will be able to safely guard the district from infection by assuring any equipment is free from this potentially deadly virus. This small measure should also prevent a new INNS that has been detected in English rivers, Dikerogammarus villosus (profoundly nicknamed 'The Killer Shrimp' for its ability to attack and kill just about any pond or river



invertebrate essential for the health of local fish stocks).

Having gained STEM Ambassadorship (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM)) I am able to work with local school children, raising their awareness of the local environment. The schools' project was trialed with P4 pupils of Gordon Primary School in Huntly which was a huge success. I will be paying visits to the 'Junior Officers' and hope to expand the project.

I would like to thank everyone that has helped with our project from American mink raft monitors, hogweed sprayers, teachers, event committee members and all associated with the fishery industry of the Deveron district.

**...continued from page 1**

The original model of the salmon was created by Wakely & Wheeler of London, who modelled it in wax before casting. Detailed chasing was applied to ensure accuracy. The final result was achieved after collaboration between Mr Robert Shields DL for the Deveron, Bogie & Isla Rivers Trust and Mr Christopher Tarratt of George Tarratt Ltd. A combination of ideas of the sportsman and the silversmith! This outstanding trophy is a fitting memorial to a very special day in the history of fly fishing.

All salmon entered for the trophy caught before May 31st must be released. Thereafter, as an incentive to release your entry salmon, G-Loomis will be awarding a Versa Spey 13' 6" (rrp £700) to the winning captor, if his or her salmon was released. Only salmon over 12lb can be entered.

**Prize details and entry forms are available from [www.deveron.org](http://www.deveron.org) or please contact the Trust office on 01466 711388.**

## **IN BRIEF...**

### **Changes to the RDevDSFB Conservation Code**

**The Board recommends that all salmon are returned from 11 Feb to 31 May 2011 to help conserve fragile spring stocks and that all sea trout under 6" and over 3lb to be returned with no sea trout retained after 31 July.**

**The Trust continues its reward scheme for returning salmon in 2011 - supported by Sutherlands of Portsoy.**

**For further information please contact The Senior Biologist at The Offices, Avochie, Rothiemay, Huntly, Aberdeenshire AB54 7YY Telephone/fax: 01466 711388; 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**