



Sussex Branch Newsletter



AUGUST 2010

JACK JUPP

It is with great sorrow we have to report the death of Jack Jupp on 12th July. Jack was an outstanding and well-liked member of the Branch, having served on the committee and a staunch supporter of events until his recent illness. The Chairman and several members attended his funeral on 23rd July, when Eric Hunt gave a eulogy.

We extend our deepest sympathy to all his family and friends.



*Jack and his 10lb rainbow from Bewl
2008*

*I pray that I may fish until my dying day,
And, when it comes to my last cast;
I then most humbly pray,
When in the Lord's great landing net
And peacefully asleep;
That in His mercy I be judged
Big enough to keep.*

AUCTIONS

2nd and 18th November

With this newsletter you will have entry forms for your items to put into the auction. Please return these **as soon as possible** and in any event by in order that the catalogues can be completed and distributed in good time:

Friday 9th October for Tackle, etc and
Friday 22nd October for flies, fly-tying materials, tools and books

Continuation sheets for extra items are available from Roy Gurney. They are also available for download from our web-site:

www.sussexflydressers.org.uk

Tying Nights

With this newsletter, you will receive a copy of the tying programme for 2010-11. It is stressed that the Beginners and Intermediate courses follow a general theme covering the various tying techniques but it is not sacrosanct and if you want to sit in on any particular class (for instance you just want to brush up on hackles) feel free to do so.

Similarly the "Advanced" programme is flexible – not everyone wants to follow the programme and tie flies they will never use (unless once again it is the technique that you want to master) so don't be afraid to ask for help or instruction for whatever YOU want.

As a result of various suggestions and requests, we have introduced some new ideas such as workshops on pike flies, carp on the fly, furred leaders and several other topics. Let us know if there are other areas you would like covered.

Only with your input can we cater for your needs – Paul puts in a lot of work in formulating this programme and would welcome any suggestions from members as to how it can be improved for the more proficient tyers.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

With this newsletter you will receive renewal forms for both the branch and main guild, which for most are due on 1st September.

You will also have received notice from the Guild of changes to its subscription rates and method of collection.

If you renew through the Branch by September 24th you can renew both at the old rate and then change next year. This will specially benefit "retired" members.

Otherwise, or if you already pay the Guild direct, please let the Treasurer/Membership Secretary have your Branch subscription only to ensure we remain solvent - and don't forget to quote your membership number.

Meeting nights start again on **16th September** with a guest speaker.

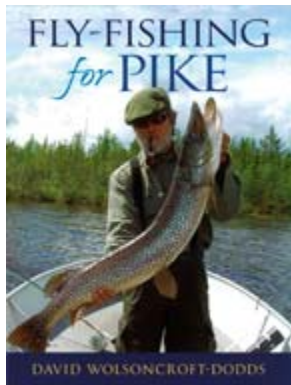
Tying nights recommence on 23rd September.

BRANCH TROPHY DAY

Don't forget – let Peter Winder have your entry **now** for:

Brick Farm Sunday 26th September

Trophies for best bag, best fish, best brown etc. The cost is £40 for a 4 fish ticket and includes a buffet lunch. Remember, this is THE branch day when all the trophies are up for grabs!



PIKE ON THE FLY

Fly-Fishing for Pike is a relatively new sport that is generating much enthusiasm and many converts from dedicated fly-fishers and anglers

looking for a new challenge. Published price £25, but available on Amazon at £17.50.

David Wolsoncroat-Dodds has enjoyed many years successfully fishing for pike and is keen to open fly-fishers' minds to the excitement of fishing for a large, wild, challenging quarry. Here in this authoritative and comprehensive guide, he shares his wealth of experience providing information on techniques, tackle, flies and tactics that are tried and tested by the author and his many pupils who have been converted to the challenge of catching pike on the fly. I hope that Paul Bond will invite him to speak at a meeting in the near future at Brighton.

David Wolsoncroat-Dodds is a professional pike fly-fishing guide and instructor. He writes on the subject, demonstrates at game fairs and gives talks at fly-fishing clubs. He has pursued his passion for the sport on the many types of water where pike live and in many different countries. He lives in Wiltshire with his wife and two children. I have met David and found him very enthusiastic and you should see the size of the hooks he uses!

Phillip Ellis



Jim White receives his prize

Chairman's Chat

Now that August is here fly fishing for trout is at its most difficult unless you can find some very deep water or some spring fed pools. It is the trout that are the problem so why not change your target fish? I know of several of our members that now fish for carp with a fly and /or try the sea for bass and mackerel.

August also means that most of our summer agricultural shows and game fairs are now over with just the autumn show at Ardingly to come. July saw the Guild represented at the Ardingly schools' day called "Connect with the Countryside" and at the Michelham Priory Game Fair. My thanks go to all members who have helped me in any way to ensure our presence at these shows is successful.

Finally, I must add my own sadness at the death of Jack Jupp. He was a fine fly dresser, an accomplished angler and a gentleman. The Guild is the worse for his absence.

Tight Lines

John Plowman

Stillwater Challenge 2010

Chalk Springs – 25th July 2010

Once again Chris Croucher provided us with a super day and, of course, a barbecue lunch to remember. Thanks Chris, and your merry band of helpers, Ian and Jim. Twenty two members enjoyed a mixed day's fishing with most taking fish, with the usual couple of miscreants blanking!



Chris Croucher in action

Chris regained the **Best bag** this year with a total of 17 lb for three fish – all browns!- the best being 6 lb 9 oz.

Jim White had the next best bag of three fish for 10 lb 4 oz, including a brown of 5 lb 4 oz, and **Ray Love** had a four fish bag of 10 lb.

Roy Gurney had the consolation for his blank by taking the award for the strangest catch of the day – a dragonfly! Whether it was trying to mate with his dry daddy, or just got entangled, it gave much delight to the after-lunch watchers by flying around on the end of the leader for some time with the daddy draped over it, rather like a helicopter carrying a load, until it eventually shed its burden.

See further photographs on the web-site gallery

Pike on the fly

With the availability of Weir Wood (see next article), under the aegis of Mark Carr-Brown, and possibly other venues, this is now a very good time to consider this alternative to trout.

You will see from our programme that we have two nights when there will be a workshop on tying flies for pike, run by Brian Hendry, and we will also try to fit in another on the techniques before the autumn/winter "season" for pike starts.

If anyone is interested in a Branch outing for pike fishing on the fly, please contact Paul Davis on 01306 621157 or e-mail flytyer@inbox.com.

PIKE FISHING AT WEIR WOOD

By Mark Carr-Brown

Weir Wood has always been well known for the huge Pike that lurk in the shallow, accessible, clean water flowing from the upper reaches of the Medway. For the past 10 years or so they have thrived on the abundance of Skimmers and Roach that live in the lake and now have the added bonus of trout casualties as well!

We will be holding a series of open days for the Pike starting on October 1st which will include some specific fly only days to encourage our trout anglers to give fly fishing for Pike a go. Pike fishing will be from boats only.

Each day will start at 8.00 with breakfast (included in your permit) at the fishing lodge followed by a briefing and then boats out at 8.30am. The day will finish at 4pm when there will be a prize given for the biggest Pike caught and verified each day.

Permit prices £50 per boat (one or two anglers per boat maximum 2 rods per angler) method restrictions will apply.

October 1st Pike opening day - Fly-fishing only.

October 14th Pike day all methods.

October 26th Pike day all methods.

November 12th Pike day - Fly-fishing only.

November 13th Pike day - all methods.

November 20th Pike day - all methods.

To book go to:

www.weirwoodreservoir.co.uk/activities/angling/ and go to "Book online" and select the date you require, or telephone the Lodge on **01342 820650**

GAME FAIR 2011

Blenheim Palace - 23rd July 2011

For the first time for three years the CLA Game Fair will be within travelling distance for a coach from Brighton.

Paul Bond will be organising a coach to visit (subject to sufficient takers), cost to be advised. If you are interested let him know as soon as possible so that he can get some idea of potential uptake and confirm details.

MICHELHAM PRIORY

Steve Steer reports on the Game Fair:

The day started slowly bearing in mind that it was extremely hot. Unfortunately I was a mere bystander as had sprained my wrist two days before; I did have a go at tying but it was too painful on the wrist even with it strapped up. The other members of the motley crew did a fantastic job of holding the fort. We had a bit of interest on the Saturday, yet I think with the heat and other events around the area the overall turnout could have been a lot better. All these things are sent to try us but we are persistent and will keep trying. Look forward to seeing you and all the others in September when tying resumes.

Steve



Brian Hendry, Bill Smith and Andy Steer manning our stand



Interested visitors

**Coltsford Mill
24th October 2010**

Oops! In last month's issue I referred to the match against "Surrey" at Coltsford Mill – it should of course be against **East Sussex SATA**. Will all those who have paid a deposit let Roy have the balance of £35 as soon as possible (payable to "FDG Sussex Branch" post dated 8th October).

John Watt 2010

Sad to report that we will only enter one team this year instead of our usual two. Seems the reversion to the Bank Holiday weekend has reduced availability – or is it that there is a lack of interest in this great get-together? Full report on the day will be in the next edition.

A Fly Catcher Spotted

By Mike Guest

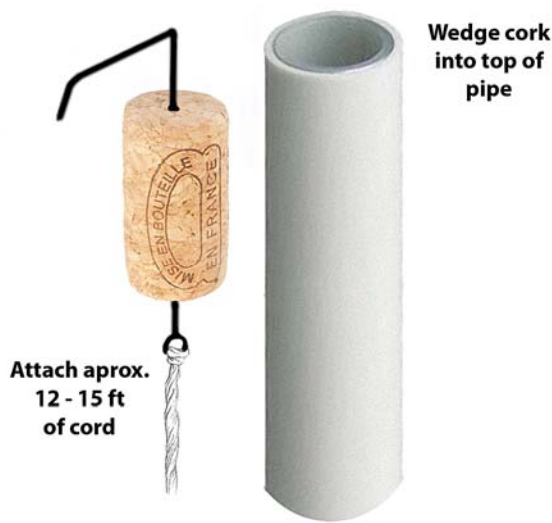
No, not a Spotted Fly Catcher, instead a very clever little device for catching, or rather retrieving, those elusive flies that for some inexplicable reason seem to end up in the lower branches of the surrounding trees rather than on the nose of a trout as intended!

I came upon this clever invention whilst reading my Meon Springs newsletter and am indebted to Brian J Wilkins for generously allowing us to publish part of his article here:

1. You will need about eight inches of plastic tubing, some light cord, a wine cork and approximately 8 to 10 inches of wire such as that from a bicycle wheel spoke.
2. Force the wire through the cork and fashion the bottom into an eye, to which you will attach 12 to 15 feet of light cord.
3. Bend the part of the wire protruding through the top of the cork into a hooked shape.
4. Push the cork into the top of the plastic pipe (needless to say the internal bore of the pipe should be the right fit to receive the cork).
5. Thread the pipe onto the tip of your rod, raise the rod and hoist the tip of the hook over the offending branch.
6. Remove the rod from the tube leaving the hook over the branch and pull gently on the cord, bringing the branch down towards you till the fly is within reach and can be retrieved.

This is an easy tool to make and carry in your game bag and one which other members may wish to copy.

See diagram below:



Fly Fishing for Pike - Branch Outings

In conjunction with Mark Carr-Brown I intend to organise two Fly Fishing for Pike outings for the branch at Weir Wood Reservoir. These dates coincide with Weir Wood's special Pike only days (see separate article in this newsletter). The two dates for your diary are Friday 1st October (the 'gala' opening day of Pike fishing at Weir Wood – and it is a Pike only day, and furthermore only fly fishing is allowed) and the second date is Saturday 13th November (which is also a Pike only day, but any method (i.e. spinning and bait is allowed). Both days are boat fishing only, and the cost is £50 per boat (2 anglers). If you haven't got a boat partner already then please still register your interest as I can match single anglers to fill a boat. The cost also includes breakfast and a prize for the largest pike caught on the day (it needs to be verified – so remember to take your scales and a digital camera!). Also Brian Hendry is holding two 'Pike flies' classes on Thursday 23rd and Thursday 30th September during our normal Thursday tying evenings at Patcham therefore giving you ample opportunity to fill your fly box with appropriate patterns to try out on these days at Weir Wood.

If you would like more information please contact me on **01306 621157** or flytyer@inbox.com for more details. If you would definitely like to come then please send a cheque for £25 for each day you are interested in (payable to Sussex FDG and dated for the 23rd September) and the date(s) that you wish to fish, plus your name, contact phone number and e-mail address, to **Paul Davis, 2 Park Cottages, Mill Lane, Forest Green, Surrey, RH5 5SJ**.

*Paul Davis, Competitions & Outings
Secretary*

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