



Stop the spread of non native invasive species, What's this caddisfly? Final call for your March Brown records, RP Conference report, diary of events and more..

Stop the Spread

The Government campaign Stop the Spread, launched in March, emphasizes three simple steps to prevent the spread of invasive non native species in our freshwaters: check, clean and dry all equipment when you leave the water. Organisations including the British Rowing Association, Canoe England, Royal Yachting Association, The Angling Trust, Riverfly Partnership and Salmon & Trout Association amongst others are represented on the DEFRA stakeholder and communications groups in support of the campaign.

Preventing the spread of the killer shrimp

The Riverfly Partnership (RP) calls for your action to raise awareness and be vigilant.

- Display the [Stop the Spread poster](#), [RP notice on the killer shrimp](#) and [Freshwater Biological Association identification sheet](#) in fishing huts and circulate information in your newsletters and on websites. Robust A4 copies of the FBA identification sheet are available from RP – send your contact details and the number of copies required to Riverfly Officer Louis Kitchen by email to louis@riverflies.org.
- Look out for shrimp on your equipment and when sampling for the Anglers' Monitoring Initiative (AMI). If you find the Killer shrimp, send a photo and details of location, together with your contact details, immediately to alert_nonnative@ceh.ac.uk.

Third Sector GB Invasive Non Native Species & Biosecurity Planning Conference - Tuesday 7th June 2011, Fishmongers' Hall, London

The conference led by Rivers & Fisheries Trusts of Scotland and the Association of Rivers Trusts will raise awareness of the third sector's role in addressing invasive non native species. The conference will work towards a strategy across the sectors to provide seamless catchment based biosecurity planning and accompanying action across the UK. Findings on case studies and the current programme of biosecurity planning in Scotland (with pilots now running in England) will be presented. The conference, and the united action proposed, is being supported by the major angling and fisheries groups including The Angling Trust, Salmon & Trout Association, Riverfly Partnership (Anglers Monitoring Initiative), Wild Trout Trust and the Atlantic Salmon Trust. Delegate fee £40. See [here](#) for further information and booking details.

RP is offering a fully funded places to an AMI Volunteer Coordinator, who demonstrates a strong interest and activity in catchment biosecurity, from each Water Framework Directive catchment to attend (according to availability of places). Those interested to attend should send details of their interest and activity to Louis at louis@riverflies.org

What's this caddisfly?

Send your caddisfly images - larvae, larval cases or adults - for identification to Dr Ian Wallace via email at: ian.wallace@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk, noting the site name, grid reference where the specimen was collected and date that the image was taken. Note that each image should not exceed 2 MB and each email should not exceed 6 MB. Ian will identify the taxa as far as the image allows – this will generally be to a group of species or species level and Ian will provide information about their biology, helping you develop a knowledge of your particular waterbody and its inhabitants. Ian is author of key texts on the group, Coordinator of the Trichoptera Recording Scheme and a founder member of the RP and AMI. Thank you to Ian for offering this great opportunity.

Celebrating the mayfly 16-20 May

A special week of articles on the ecological, angling, cultural and artistic importance of mayflies 16th-20th May is led by [Biofresh](#) (Biodiversity of Freshwater Ecosystems) Oxford University Centre for the Environment with contributions from RP partners and representatives. See here for [press release](#). Suggestions for collaborative features and interviews welcomed. Enquiries, hi-res photo, interview and feature requests to Rob St. John, BioFresh email rob.stjohn@ouce.ox.ac.uk or tel: 07851092064.

Anglers' Monitoring Initiative (AMI)

The Riverfly Partnership Anglers' Monitoring Initiative (AMI) enables an informed dialogue between trained volunteer groups and the statutory bodies to help protect the water quality of UK Rivers. With the arrival of the field season new groups are springing into action including on the Little River Avon (Gloucestershire), the River Almond (West Lothian), the River Wensum (Norfolk) and the Cotswold Rivers Trust amongst others. There are now AMI Groups operating in all EA areas – a milestone for the initiative. Congratulations to those groups who have recently secured funding to set up AMI activity in their area and good luck to those seeking the same. Note all AMI Groups can arrange a free Support Day with an RP Tutor, according to availability, this field season.

If you are interested in setting up, or joining an AMI Group, seeking opportunities for funding or would like to arrange a Support Day contact:

Louis Kitchen - England and Scotland. Email: louis@riverflies.org Tel: 07969832671

Dai Roberts – Wales. Email: dai.theduff@btinternet.com Tel: 07890188835

AMI Coordinators Forum

A vibrant forum of over 40 individuals - including AMI Group, Environment Agency (EA) and Scottish Natural Protection Agency (SEPA) representatives and RP tutors took place at Angela Marmont Centre, The Natural History Museum, London on 9 March. The event brought together AMI Coordinators for the first time, helped steer the development of the AMI infrastructure and explored key issues including maintaining AMI Groups and improving resource provision. Following the forums success, this will be an annual event held at varying locations. Acknowledgement to the EA, SEPA, Natural History Museum and Salmon & Trout Association for their support of the event.

Promoting riverflies

Many partners and AMI Groups are participating in community and specialists events promoting riverflies and freshwater habitats. RP note useful [resources](#). AMI Coordinators can apply to RP for free resources including - A1 laminated posters of mayfly life cycle, caddis life cycle and British Mayflies; riverfly leaflets; identification sheet on the killer shrimp etc. Send your request with details of your event to Louis louis@riverflies.org

Final call for the March brown

The March brown, one of the most iconic mayflies for anglers, has been emerging recently. The species is in decline and under threat across Europe. The RP calls for your records to help inform action. Responses have included the first record of the species from Cornwall.

The adult, distinguishable from all other similar mayflies by its early flight, mottled wings and dark spot on each leg, hatch in large numbers between late March and the end of April. This hatch occurs often around mid-day and typically lasts for a very short period. We need to find out where this species occurs in the UK so that we can help protect it. Sightings should be reported [online](#) or on the attached postcard. Hard copies are available on request from louis@riverflies.org reply with your address and the number of copies that you would like to receive.

Report from the National Riverfly Conference *Your Rivers – Their Future*

The 3rd Riverfly Conference, Your Rivers – Their Future, brought together by the RP was held on 10 March at the Natural History Museum. A “full house” of 200 delegates united angling and community groups, regulators, regulated organisations and academic interests on an equal platform. The Rt. Hon Lord Smith of Finsbury, Chairman of the Environment Agency, opened the conference, declaring that “It is impossible for a statutory body to replicate the work of River Trusts, the valuable work of the Riverfly Partnership and the

Anglers' Monitoring Initiative". The conference celebrated the progress of the AMI (launched at the 2nd Conference in 2007) – with more than 50 volunteer groups regularly monitoring the health of their rivers at more than 380 river sites across the UK.

- Professor Alan Hildrew, Queen Mary, University of London, looked beyond high biodiversity to the surprising science of chalk streams'
- Will Tall, Wandle Piscators AMI Group, described the devastating pollution incident on the Wandle in 2007 and the how the AMI has charted the rivers recovery
- Dai Roberts, AMI Coordinator, and Frances Atwood, EA, described how their powerful partnership has led to three successful EA prosecutions of polluters in the industrial Welsh valleys
- Laverne Bell (AMI volunteer) and Eileen Mallon (Northern Ireland EA) introduced the challenges and rewards of the AMI pilot in Northern Ireland on the Ballinderry River
- Stuart Crofts, AMI Tutor & former c England Fly Fishing Team Captain, described how volunteers led by the late Gerald Stocks brought the River Don back from the dead
- Richard Aylard, Thames Water, demystified water company regulation and described the challenges faced by the Thames Water, it's anti-pollution work and recognition of the AMI in helping protect the quality of our rivers
- Professor Ormerod, Cardiff University, noted the recognition of RP as an example of best practice in citizen science for the AMI, however challenged RP to think bigger in Big Society and emulate British Trust for Ornithology in engaging all sections of society through education and tailored projects
- Dr Geoff Bateman, EA Head of Fisheries and Biodiversity, described the critical role of the Water Framework Directive, the challenge of meeting its requirements and the instrumental role that RP is playing and can play in helping secure the future of our rivers and stated 'UK Society *needs* to think of the water environment'
- Craig Macadam, Buglife Conservation Officer, highlighted riverfly species, RP's surveys on priority species, promoting conservation and the vision of the Species and Habitat Group
- Dr Judy England, representing the River Restoration Centre, noted how restoration projects must be monitored for success to inform best practice – and the role AMI can play
- Dr Mark Diamond, EA, detailed research and advice on biosecurity measures to avoid the spread of the recently recorded and highly invasive shrimp *Dikerogammarus villosus* in the UK
- Dr Cyril Bennett, John Spedan Lewis Trust, provided an update on his case study (endorsed by regional EA) to restore the River Wey's blue-winged olive population to its former glory

See here for [conference presentations and press release](#). Following a lively debate chaired by Tom Fort, Paul Knight, Chairman of the Riverfly Partnership & CEO of the Salmon & Trout Association, concluded 'the conference demonstrates what a power for good the collective energy of these organisations creates, particularly the volunteer network, and it must be the prime object of everyone attending to ensure that this is developed even further to safeguard our waterways for future generations'

The conference was rated 'very good' or 'excellent' by all delegates. Acknowledgement to the speakers, chairs, delegates and sponsors - The Natural History Museum, Thames Water, Fishmongers' Company, Salmon & Trout Association, Wild Trout Trust, Freshwater Biological Association, Natural England, Scottish Environment Protection Agency and The Environment Agency.

Conserving our rarest riverflies - Natural England Countdown project completes

RP Natural England Countdown project has furthered our understanding, and the conservation, of our 8 most threatened riverflies (those with Biodiversity Action Plan status):

- Field work has led to the: discovery of a breeding population of *Potamanthus luteus* on the River Wye, confirmation of *Brachyptera putata* as a UK endemic species, and the protection of fragile *Hagenella clathrata* habitats
- New images have been captured for identification resources and management sheets and species dossiers made available
- Revised edition of the riverflies leaflet has been published and is available free – order copies from louis@riverflies.org
- Surveys, supported by [identification postcards](#), have been launched for three BAP species *Hagenella clathrata*, *Potamanthus luteus* and *Baetis niger*; plus *Heptagenia sulphurea* and *Rhithrogena germanica*. Join the surveys – your records count.

Acknowledgement and congratulations to Vicky Kindemba (Buglife), Riverfly Recording Scheme Coordinators and all involved in the project.

Our Rivers 2011 campaign

This summer the Government will publish its White Paper on Water. [Our Rivers](#), a coalition of RSPB, WWF-UK, The Angling Trust and Salmon & Trout Association, are calling supporters to contact Minister for Water Richard Benyon, regarding abstraction and diffuse pollution to safeguard the health of our rivers and protect freshwater wildlife for the future.

World Water Day

The United Nations General Assembly declared March 22 as [World Water Day](#) following the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. This has become an important and successful event globally raising the issue of clean water provision. There is scope for discussion of the importance of freshwater biodiversity. Let's help this happen in 2012.

Riverfly question? Send your questions to Craig Macadam

craig.macadam@buglife.org.uk

Diary dates

7 May AMI one-day workshop on the River Lambourn as part of the RENEWAL Community Project. Funded by Heritage Lottery Fund

7 May AMI one-day workshop – Local Hub, Eden Catchment, Cumbria

9 May AMI workshop with Severn Rivers Trust on the Warwick Avon

13 (eve)-16 May Identifying stoneflies, mayflies and caddisflies. Field Studies Council course at Preston Montford Field Centre, Shropshire. Tutor Craig Macadam

14 & 15th May AMI one-day workshops run by the John Spedan Lewis Trust for the Advancement of the Natural Sciences (JSLTANS), Hampshire

14 May AMI one-day workshop with South Cumbria Rivers Trust – Local Hub, The Freshwater Biological Association, Cumbria

16-20 May Celebrating the mayfly Biofresh, Oxford University Centre for the Environment

20 & 21 May AMI one-day workshops run by JSLTANS, Hampshire

21 May Entomology for Anglers. Course run by Stuart Crofts and Andrew Dixon at Freshwater Biological Association (FBA) course at FBA River Laboratory, Dorset

28 May Entomology for Anglers. Course run by Stuart Crofts and Andrew Dixon at FBA Windemere, Cumbria

28 & 29 May AMI one-day workshops run by the JSLTANS, Hampshire

7 June 3rd Sector GB Invasive Non Native Species and Biosecurity Planning Conference led by Rivers and Fisheries Trusts of Scotland and Association of Rivers Trust. Fishmongers' Hall, London.

7-8 June Identifying caddis. FBA course at FBA Windemere, Cumbria

18 June Identifying freshwater invertebrates - an introduction. FBA course at FBA Windemere, Cumbria

24 June AMI workshop on River Wharfe, Yorkshire

27 June AMI workshop with the Cotswolds Rivers Trust on the River Dikler. AMI Coordinator Tony Bostock

25 & 26 June One-day Riverfly identification courses run by the JSLTANS

3 July 2011 Visit Riverfly Partnership stand, with fly fisherman, caddis specialist and AMI Tutor Stuart Crofts at the [Royal Entomological Society Insect Festival](#), York Museum Gardens. SC

Your news

Please submit your news items and events to info@riverflies.org. Please submit news items accompanied by an image.

For further information visit www.riverflies.org

Note that the newsletter includes highlights only from the last quarter. The ongoing work of all involved in each AMI Group and the various activities of partner organisations is acknowledged.

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