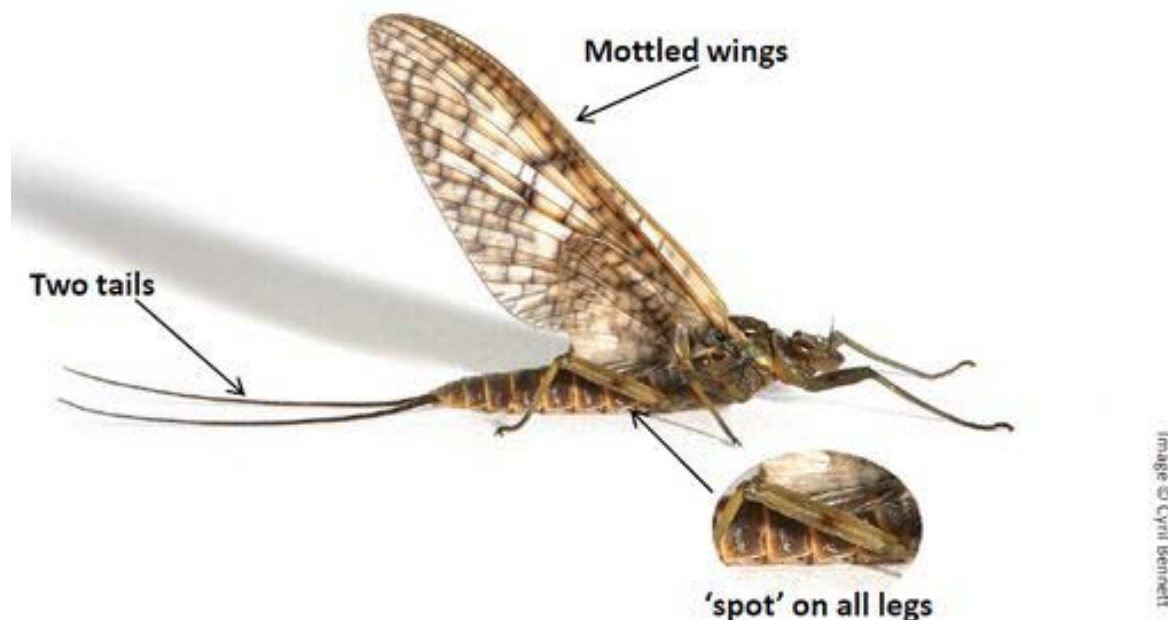


# Week Thirty nine

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## *Invertebrate recording*

Well the weather has finally started to change, it's getting milder and the river is beginning to rise. At the start of the week there were some lovely days where I had a chance to get out and enjoy the sunshine. I spent a few lunch times looking around the Monymusk, Cluny and Castle Forbes estates for the iconic Ephemeroptera the March Brown. These freshwater invertebrates are found on a number of rivers across Scotland with the Don holding one of the larger populations. I've been assured by reliable sources such as the Don Bailiffs, Paul Procter, Richard Tong and Ben Dixon that they can be found across the catchment from Parkhill to Strathdon. They can also be found from early in the year from Feb onwards with the main hatches in the early spring months around lunchtime. See image courtesy of Cyril Bennett



The Trust is looking to establish a programme for identifying and recording freshwater invertebrates across the catchment with the Riverfly Partnership [www.riverflies.org](http://www.riverflies.org)

We are currently in discussion with our umbrella organisation RAFTS with regards to delivering the Riverfly Project to all member trusts. If anyone is interested in this topic in particular or who has already collated some records and would be willing to pass them or offer any expertise to the Trust I would be very interested in hearing from you. [biologist@riverdon.org.uk](mailto:biologist@riverdon.org.uk)

In order to help a current initiative focussing on March Browns please have a look at this website and download the recording form.

<http://www.ephemeroptera.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk/1828/>

Your recordings may provide vital information on this species and Craig Macadam of Buglife Scotland would be very pleased to receive your records.

## RAFTS: AGM & Conference 2010

During the middle of the week I was in Perth at the Rivers and Fisheries Trusts for Scotland (RAFTS) AGM and Conference with trustee Bob Dey and Board member Alec Patterson. The AGM and the general committee meeting were nothing out of the ordinary. The only really interesting piece of news was that the Ythan Trust has been conditionally accepted as a RAFTS member. This is great news and The Don Trust shall work closely with the Ythan over the coming months to ensure they are up on their feet ASAP.

The conference on the following day entitled Agreeing to Disagree: Dealing with thorny issues, was attended by over 140 people from a variety of organisations. The event was well received and proved very useful once again for meeting with and discussing various topics with others. The first session of the morning focused on hatcheries and Tay and Tweed representatives explained their stances on the hatchery process and why it is or isn't implemented in their district. This was a really interesting subject and one which we will visit further when several trustees and I attend a RAFTS hatchery symposium at the end of the month (More on this subject later). The second session focused on Aquaculture with presentations by Marine Scotland, there were several probing questions put to the panel afterwards and it was decided that a separate discussion on this subject alone would be required. The third and final session looked at a variety of subjects from farming and fisheries to river restorations and management, each topic as interesting as the next. View the RAFTS site at [www.rafts.org](http://www.rafts.org) for further information on the conference and other RAFTs activities.

## Malloch trophy

Image © Trout and Salmon Magazine

# And the winner is...

THE SAVILLS MALLOCH TROPHY IS AWARDED FOR THE HEAVIEST SALMON OF THE SEASON, CAUGHT ON THE FLY ON ANY SCOTTISH RIVER, AND RELEASED.

### How to Enter

**CATCH IT** Catch your wild Atlantic Salmon on a fly. Those over 20lbs are contenders.  
**MEASURE IT** Both length and girth (take a photo if possible)  
**VERIFY IT** Independent witness required  
**RECORD IT** Detail fishing tackle used, date, time

**RELEASE IT** and place of capture  
**ENTER IT** Entry forms are available from [tdsfb.org](http://tdsfb.org) or your local river office

### Prizes

**WINNER'S PRIZES** Silver Sculpture by Patrick Mavros  
£250 House of Blair voucher  
invitation to the River Tay Annual Awards Dinner

**GRILLIE'S PRIZE** Savills Malloch Medal and cash prize

**MEMORIAL PRIZE** Awarded to the winning river

View it! The Savills Malloch Trophy is on display at House of Blair

For further details [tdsfb.org](http://tdsfb.org) 01738 583 733

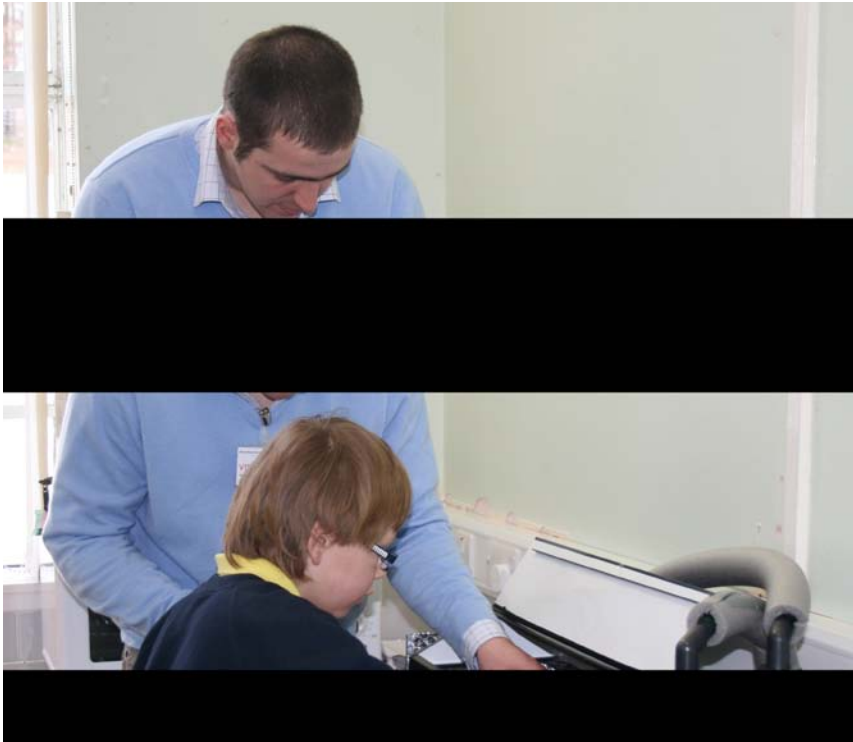
Robert Rattray (Malloch Secretary) [robert.rattray@tdsfb.org.uk](mailto:robert.rattray@tdsfb.org.uk) 01738 451 600

Rochs wellss 01356

At the RAFTS conference members of the Tay DFSB provided us with information and posters on the Malloch Trophy. The Trophy is awarded to any angler on a Scottish river who catches the heaviest salmon on the fly and releases it. For more details on the Trophy and the rules please visit the Tay DSFB website at [www.tdsfb.org](http://www.tdsfb.org)

*SITC*

The last of the eggs went into the classroom this week, Midmar and Towie schools both received their eggs on Thursday morning. Once again the kids were delighted and were keen to find out how long it would be before they hatched. I'll be checking in on each school over the next few weeks to see how things are getting on so I'll keep you informed of their progress.



One of the Midmar School pupils placing the salmon eggs in the tank under my guidance.

Next week I'll be replying to consultation documents on SEPA's latest Hydro Power Development guidance and the Forestry Commissions latest Forest and Water Guidelines Document. Along with that I'll be preparing for the Trust meeting on Wednesday evening and hopefully having a look around the catchment for March Browns.

Cheers Jamie