
B.A.A. NEWS

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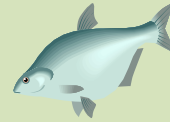
August 2011

Latest fisheries purchase – page 5

Snakes ; see our experts guide – Fishing tips page 14



Fishing news



Ninja mutant turtle



Hi,

As requested by your Bailiff, Please find attached a photo of a Turtle or Terrapin I spotted recently at Knowle Sands on the River Severn, near Bridgnorth, which he asked me to send for inclusion on your website.

Best Regards

James Lowe

A Severn skimmer



Hi All.

I did go back to Severn Stoke on Friday after our two day Fisheries working party and beat my PB Bream from last year which was a 6lb 3oz Avon Bream at Pensham.

This one was what Pete Jones calls a Severn Skimmer. It was so big I only just got it in my net. I did have one about 6½lb plus a few for a couple of lb but this bad boy weighted in at 8lb 8oz. I walked down stream to the peg just before the 2nd Gate the under the tree (**two down from the wasp nest**). I used Ground bait feeder with 2mm Halibut pellet sandwiched between brown crumb and a 8mm pellet hair rigged a size 10 Kamasan Animal hook.

Regards, Colin T.

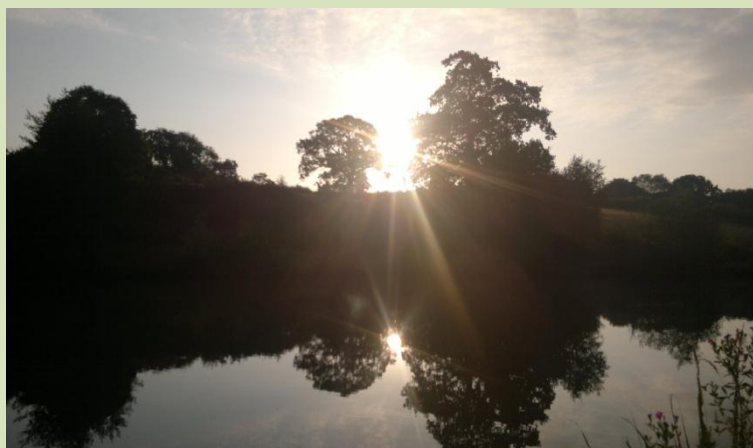
Here come the girls



My first season of river fishing and I caught what seemed to me to be a monster!! This one's for the girls.

Dawn Myatt

A good day at Nordley



Hi, just a line or two about my first trip to Nordley Lakes. Me and my mate's were fishing on pool 1, it was a very slow day but managed to pull out some fish. I (Kev) had two carp; one mirror 10lb and a common 10.5lb. My mate (Colin) had two commons; one 6.5lb and a 5lb. My other mate (Greeny) had a 9.5lb common. It's a lovely place I will be coming back to fish pools 2,3,4,5. Thanks BAA.

Thanks again Kev Smith of Birmingham

Email us details and pictures of your memorable fishing trips for inclusion in Fishing News. Can you also include the following information so we can build a record of what's being caught and where?

Fish species, weight, bait and method used, time, date and location of catch

Please let us know if you don't want your name included in the article.

DON'T FORGET TO TAKE YOUR CAMERA AND MEMBERSHIP CARD

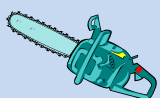
Spot that sign



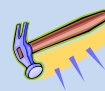
A slightly worse for wear BAA sign from Severn Stoke between meadows 5 and 7.



Ancient and modern at Arley LB meadow 6 with the old metal sign in much better shape than the new plastic one.



Fisheries report



Purchase of meadow at Fladbury

As initially reported in the April edition, the purchase of the second meadow downstream of the Jubilee Bridge at Fladbury alongside our existing fishery has been completed. This will allow anglers to take their cars close to the Avon bank in the meadow. Directions are shown in green on the map below.



Other acquisitions are in the pipeline.

Have you lost your spec's?



These glasses were found by the Fisheries work party in the car park at Eardiston on Monday 1st August. If they are yours please call Dave Webb on 07973 624419 and he will arrange their return.

Other Fisheries news

The annual spring/summer cut back of vegetation continues, latest fisheries to be done are;

River Avon

Charlton, Sidings Lane
Crophorne 11 & 12
Nafford
Pensham 3

River Salwarpe

Claines

River Teme

Eardiston below Mill
Lindridge
Stanford Bridge

River Severn

Grimley 4 - 5
Knowle Sands 3 & 4
Quatford 1, 2 & 3
Severn Stoke 1, 4, 5 & 7

Pools

Coppice Lake
Nordley 1-6

Fisheries are planning to visit Stubbs Pool in August or September to clear the weed.

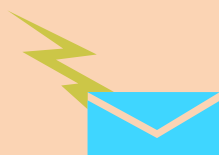
Executive update

Due to the loss of a number of members in recent months, there are vacancies on the Executive Committee. Any members who would like to get involved in the running of the Association are welcome to volunteer to be co-opted onto the Committee. All you need to do is contact John Williams at the BAA office on 01562 882116 and he will gladly fill you in with what's required.

When checking night fishing at Coppice Lake recently. The bailiff found; anglers using 3 rods (maximum of 2), using a fire on the bank and a non member using a night permit. The anglers involved were requested to attend a review meeting, which they declined and since we have had not been able to contact them.

As a result the Executive has agreed the following action for the members concerned; membership suspended for 2011, no further issue of night permits and if the individuals concerned do not make contact with the BAA by the end of 2011, they will be banned completely from membership.

After a recent match on the lower Avon, the club concerned left 16 paper peg markers on the bank that the bailiff had to clear. The club admitted their error and accepted the consequences. The club was fined a nominal amount for each of the 16 peg markers as each is considered a separate littering offence. Please be aware that after a match it is the responsibility of the club, not the individual angler to remove all the peg markers.



Readers' letters



If you have any items, thoughts, issues you want to air in the BAA news, please email it to baajnw@btinternet.com titled for attn of BAA News Editor.

When sending in a comment can you please let us know if you don't want your name included?

The Editor will act as moderator for items to be included.

Theft of Fishing Tackle not protectively marked

Hello,

I am a Local Police Officer for the Martley District within Worcestershire.

I'd like you to be aware (and include in your website/news letters, etc) a warning to anglers of the potential for thefts from their vehicles.

We recently had a theft of £3,000 worth of tackle from a roof rack following a local angling competition. The angler had loaded the roof rack and gone back to bank-side to collect the last few items. When he returned his tackle had gone. We are currently investigating this theft but recovery of the tackle is unlikely. The witness did not get the registration number of the suspect vehicle.

It is suspected the thieves posed as anglers even signing into the competition using false names and telephone numbers.

With the season in full flow and many competitions planned I'm expecting this type of theft to be on the increase.

Please make your members aware of the risk and ask them to notify their Local Policing teams of any suspicious behaviour or vehicles parked in angler's car parks.

Within the Teme Valley and adjacent fisheries (Larford and Cobb House to name just 2) your members can contact me on either this email address, my work mobile (*only on when I'm on duty*) or the Worcester Area Police number below. Only urgent calls, including crime 'in-action' should be treated as an emergency and the '999' system should be used.

Best Regards,
Paul Lambon (Pc 1275)
Local Police Officer.
Martley Local Policing Team
Tenbury Police Station
Berrington Road, Tenbury Wells
WR15 8EL
Tel: 0300 333 3000 X 3581
Mobile: 07890 598 356
Fax: 01584 811902
Email: paul.lambon@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

Dear Editor.

I feel that I must respond to the letter printed in the July news letter from C Smith regarding the Eckington waters.

If Mr Smith has time to, as he say's. "*Drive around checking a couple of rivers ready for the 16th*", I am sure the BAA can supply him with a Strimmer and Spade to help clear a few pegs on his travels. If Physical work does not appeal then he could have been available at **Eckington** this year, to assist me and stand guard over my petrol can at the top of the bank to stop it from being stolen as happened last year, whilst I was head high in Stinger nettles trying to reverse nature. This year I took my Sons Dog "Molly." Better company I am sure.

Also if petrol fumes are a problem it would have been of help if he had made himself available, Monday and Wednesday this week at Severn Stoke when he could have been standing by with "Antihistamine cream" to treat the Wasp stings that I received on both days after hitting Wasp nests with my well worn strimmer. I may be a little late for the working party next week at Cropthorn as I can not wear my watch as both arms are still swollen due to the reaction from the stings.

Maybe the Club that booked the first contest on the Eckington waters this year might like to comment on Mr Smiths Observations and if they were *fuming that a wasted journey took place, and if they could not get anywhere near the bank.*

If other Association members agree with Mr Smith and are also disappointed with the Work that the Volunteer working party does. I am sure I can arrange to reimburse him for the wasted money he feels he has paid for his card.

Yours

Colin Townsend.

Ed: To commemorate the Battle of the Balsam (2011)

This story shall the good man teach his son;
And the Balsam season shall ne'er go by,
From this day to the ending of the world,
But we in it shall be remembered-
We few, we happy few, we band of brothers (and sisters);
For he to-day that sheds his sweat with me
Shall be my brother; be he ne'er so vile,
This day shall gentle his condition;
And members of BAA now-a-bed
Shall think themselves accurs'd they were not here,
And hold their manhoods cheap whiles any speaks
That strimmed with us upon Saint Balsam's days.

(Apologies to W Shakespeare – Henry V)

Hi,

we Northfield Priory A.C had a contest at Bredon on the 18th of June 2011 I would just like to thank you for all the hard work that was done there, the pegs were all cleared and strimmed.

It was a pleasure to fish to there.

Thank you once again Brian Wain club sec.

Ed: Thank you for your feedback, I will pass your comment to the Fisheries teams.

I was thinking if you could ask Members to email you the weights of the fish they catch so you could build a list of records for the BAA pools, rivers.

In the list of information from Member can you ask for?

1. Weights of the fish.
2. What the fish is.
3. What baits they used.

4. And date, time and place

I hope this is not too much work for you but it would be good for BAA and the members to know this information when they are fishing your waters. Let me know if we (members) can do this thanks look forward to hearing from you.

Kevin Smith

Ed: Good idea, have added your items 1-4 to the note at the end of the Fishing News section. Some people may not want to disclose the location of their favourite swims but a general location will suffice. I can then build a record of fish catches which I can update and published monthly.

The 34lb carp from Coppice featured in your latest newsletter is not 34lb, I have been lucky enough to catch carp to 36lb and have had a 30lb common, I could send you this picture so u can compare, at a guess I would say the common from Coppice is around the 20lb mark, not 34 not in a million years.

Thomas Clarke

Hi BAA,

Regarding the snake in the July issue. If that's an adder it's enormous! Females can grow to 1m but the snake in the pic looks longer than that.

One thing is clear, going by the colouration, is that it's a viper, which means it's venomous. It's possible that it's an escaped 'pet'.

I suggest the owners of the pic post it on this website: www.ispot.org

This is a website run by volunteers who are experts in identification.

In fact, you might want to mention that website to all your readers because I'm sure many anglers see things when they are out on the bank which they can't identify.

All the best, Roger O'Malley

Ed: Thanks for your email, its great the interest something out of the ordinary can generate. See Nigel Hand's article in Fishing Tips for an experts view and great guidance on identifying our local snakes. What do you know about turtles and terrapins?

Dear Sir

I write to inform you on how discussed I was after going to fish the Apperley pools. I have fish many of your waters and I am very happy with the conditions of them, but when I turned up at Apperley pools I was so discussed in what I saw I thought I would write and let you know.

This is your description of the pools as laid down in your book:-

DESCRIPTION

Two pools (formerly clay pits) close to the river Severn below Tewkesbury. The larger (No.2) pool holds 28 pegs and has depths of up to 12'. Carp, Tench, Bream and Perch plus large Eels, resident in both pools.

When I arrived at the pools or where the pools were you could not see them and I had to push my way through under growth to get to a pool which I believed to be no. 2 pool and in my opinion there is no way 28 pegs I found three or I could only get to three.

After walking over a meadow then having to struggle to get to the pool which I believe was pool 2 I decided it was a wasted journey as we could not sit comfortable enough to fish, and as I had my disabled father with me and knew he would not be able to get to the pool we decided to try somewhere else. After travelling from Redditch to Apperley which took just under an hour to find what we found we was a bit disheartened with the BAA.

I do understand with so many waters you can't get round to them all but I do expect to be able to get to your waters and fish.

I hope in the future the BAA looks after there waters a bit better than they have even if its only basic maintenance and people can get to waters to fish with out having to struggle to get to the waters.

Sincerely

Mark Green

Ed: I'm sorry that you had such a bad experience at Apperley Pools, especially as you had your disable father with you. As you correctly say in your email, with the number of volunteers we have in the Fishery teams we cannot get all the waters cleared of the spring/summer plant growth at the start of the season.

What we want to do for next year is not only publish a list of all the waters the Fisheries teams have worked on, but also a schedule of work planned which will be updated monthly. This will enable members to know if a fishery has been cleared and therefore make an informed decision on whether to visit or not.

In the July news letter river levels were mentioned and the EA web site was recommended as a source of info for the current state of the rivers. I use www.farsondigitalwatercams.com they have cameras on the Severn, Avon, Teme and Wye, give live pictures, and you can look back through the day, and previous day, on an hourly basis. Hope this may be of use to other members through your next news letter.

Graham Beck.

Ed: Thanks for the information.

Cormorants-Biodiversity in Danger

Dear Sir/Madam,

You may remember that we wrote to you recently concerning the above and the forthcoming Defra review into the cormorant licensing law, announced in January this year. To those who have already responded to our appeal, by informing your members through web sites and various publications, we give our sincere thanks, and to those who haven't we ask that you read on.

We understand that this is an emotive subject and that in supporting our stance, you fear entering into direct opposition with bird groups and nature trusts. However, we are in no way pushing for the wholesale slaughter of carbo sinensis, just a change in the law to allow fishery owners and managers to protect their assets and in doing so defend all of the flora and fauna, not just our native fish stocks, which contribute to the biodiversity of our riverine environments.

Judging by some of the views expressed in our petition, unless we act now, while we have this opportunity, it appears inevitable that without exception, every river in the UK will be united by this common denominator. Have no reservations, unless we take this positive step now, there will come a time when native species like herons, Kingfishers, great crested grebes, bitterns, Osprey and even otters will have little to eat and then and only then will the bird groups and nature trusts wish they'd done something to help.

Please, if you're Club/Association even remotely values the ecology that encompasses our waterways, give your members this chance to have their say. You can do this by either posting this link <http://www.gopetition.com/petitions/cormorants-biodiversity-in-danger.html> with a short introduction on the home page of your web sites, as have the

Angling Trust and other supporting organisations, putting a poster in your local tackle shops, giving it a mention in your newsletters or membership books or better still, all four.

Further details and background information can also be found, along with the link to the petition at www.avonroachproject.co.uk where you will also find the full story of our Avon Roach Project.

Attached is a copy of our cormorant document, please read it, and a copy of the poster for your pubs, clubs and tackle shop's. Please act now, by informing your members, and give them the option to have their say.

Thank you.

Budgie Price & Trevor Harrop

Match Reports

If you want to report the results of a contest you have organised on BAA waters, please email details.

Blue Ball A.C. Sunday 5th June Uckinghall Pool pegs 1-25

1 st	Brian Marsh	4lb	9oz	
2 nd	Steve Morris	3lb	10 oz	
3 rd	John Dalaway		15oz	8dr

Companions A.C. Sunday 17th July Danery, River Severn

1 st	J Smith	5lbs		
2 nd	D Webb	1lb	12oz	8dr
3 rd	P Vickery	1lb	3oz	

Dear Ed,

Just a note to tell you the club has been going over 30 years and our match record of 55lb was caught at Walcott Lakes! So there are plenty of fish in there!

Regards Dave Gumbley

Blue Ball A.C. Sunday 24th July Bidford LB, River Avon

1 st	Dave Lloyd	1lb	12oz
2 nd	Edwin Southall	1lb	4oz
3 rd	Brian Marsh		14oz

Fishing tips - Please send in any tips/guides on successful ways to fish our waters. We will publish them here and also build up a library to supplement the *Where to Fish Guide*.

Focus on Snakes on BAA waters

Nigel Hand

Central Ecology (Herpetologist) reptile and amphibian ecologist.

Reptile and Amphibian Recorder for Herefordshire

Also very keen river angler.

I would like to applaud the positive actions in the July edition of BAA news by Andrew Keen. He is obviously an all round nature lover (as his list of observed wildlife indicates) and I applaud his actions of moving the unidentified snake off the road which had he not intervened could have been squashed or intentionally killed by a less considerate human being. It is actually an offence to kill any of our native snakes.

Father and son appear perplexed as to which species the snake was. Well I can confirm it was indeed a grass snake.



Grass snake with barring along flanks

The fact it was held close to the camera makes it look larger than it truly was. (Remember that little tip for impressing friends with a fish catch picture!) It does, however, appear to be a quite sizeable snake and the fact it is broad indicates female as they grow larger than the males. Grass snakes are the longest UK snake species with the British record breaker in at a whopping 1.8 metres. Finding one that size today would be a real rarity and to reach that length the snake would need to be a veteran of 15 - 20 years old, not so easy in our over developed and busy landscapes.

In the Central Midlands area we have only two native snake species - the harmless grass snake (*Natrix natrix*) and the much rarer adder (*Vipera berus*). We also have the common lizard (*Zootoca vivipara*) and the slow-worm (*Anguis fragilis*), a legless lizard.



Female adder in the grass



Male adder



Slow-worms legless lizards

Typically, grass snakes grow to around 75-90 cm for an adult female and 60cm for a male. The body colour of this species can vary between olive green, grey, and brown variants often with bold black barring along the flanks. The grass snake in Andrew's picture has the just about discernable barring on its flanks and the black and white chequered belly is clearly visible. The best and most obvious indicator of a grass snake is the yellow or orange and black collar behind the head. (Please see the identification pictures I have sent.)



Grass snake showing yellow collar

The grass snake is the only UK snake to lay eggs and it will seek out warm composting vegetation for the eggs to incubate in.

Grass snakes are more commonly seen species compared to adders within the Central Midlands area. Adders are localised to specific habitats - primarily sandy heathlands and woodland edge habitat and you are unlikely to come across an adder on BAA waters. Smaller than grass snakes, the adder rarely grows over 65cm and is best known for its spectacular and distinctive zigzag down the length of its back. They are venomous but nobody has died from an adder bite since 1975 and the majority of bites are sustained by people trying to catch or restrain an adder.

Grass snakes by their nature are found next to waterbodies, as this is where their prey of amphibians and occasionally small fish is located, frogs and toads being a favourite. They appear extremely graceful when seen swimming with their head above the water. I have seen grass snakes on many Midlands waterbodies and particularly those managed by the BAA including the various canals, rivers, Severn, both middle and Lower, Teme, Avon, Mythe pool and Uckinghall, but also on the Wye and Lugg.

So do not be alarmed if you encounter a snake on BAA waters as you can be certain it is the beautiful, but sadly declining grass snake. This is just as important as any other aquatic wildlife species and you are privileged to see one.

If you do spot a snake please do not attempt to pick it up or pin it down as you can easily damage them. Most anglers carry a camera or phone so try to get a picture and either post it on the BAA web site or send it to me and I can ID it for you. The record of any wildlife sighting is important to the local county biological records centres as they build up pictures of the distributions of native wildlife. A grid reference or postcode for the nearest house where you saw the sighting is also valuable with the sighting record. Do look on the ARGuk website www.arguk.org/local-groups for a list of county amphibian and reptile groups to pass your records on to.

I also applaud the BAA for taking wildlife such as snakes seriously and perhaps a regular update in BAA news on interesting wildlife observations by keen members would be inspiring and useful. It would prove to the general public that anglers aren't all going to leave discarded rubbish and monofilament on sites but are actively keen on spotting and noting their wildlife observations and care deeply for their fishing environment.

For more information including pictures on local native reptiles and amphibians please see www.herefordhart.org

Regards

Nigel Hand

<http://www.centralecology.co.uk/>

All pictures taken and provided by Nigel Hand