

## **Recorders and Schemes Project – FBA News Article Spring 2007**

In the last issue of FBA news we reported on the launch of the Freshwater Recorders and Schemes Project (funded by the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation with help from the Environment Agency and the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency), this issue provides the opportunity for an update.

The refurbishment of the Dorset River Laboratory is almost complete, and with space filling up rapidly, it will soon be a hive of freshwater research and education. The first training course of the project was run at the East Stoke site, with the beauties of the Dorset countryside making up for the vagaries of the February weather!

The course was enthusiastically delivered by Garth Foster (Freshwater Coleoptera Recording Scheme), Ian Wallace (National Trichoptera Recording Scheme), Mike Furse (recently retired from CEH), and Anne Powell (FBA). It included a general benthic macroinvertebrate day and a specialist day of caddis and beetles. The mysteries of the latter two groups, notoriously difficult to identify, were skilfully untangled by Garth and Ian. The course was aimed at people with a range of skill levels, and everyone went away with new knowledge. Feedback from the course was very positive, many thanks must go to all who helped make it such an enjoyable event, and to all the participants for their enthusiasm.

Recent activities have been closer to home, with an emphasis on the engagement of local volunteers through events such as joint evening sessions with the Cumbria Wildlife Trust, and another two day invertebrate identification course to be held in the Pearsall Building at Windermere (14-15th April). In addition we will soon be launching a Freshwater Recorders and Schemes Project webpage.

**If you would like any further information about the project or upcoming events, please contact us. [spawley@freshwaterlife.org](mailto:spawley@freshwaterlife.org) and [mfletcher@fba.org.uk](mailto:mfletcher@fba.org.uk) The Ferry Landing, Far Sawrey, Ambleside, Cumbria, LA22 0LP, UK. Telephone +44 (15394) 42468 Fax: +44 (15394) 46914**

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