



THE DUBLIN NATURALISTS' FIELD CLUB
PROGRAMME of EVENTS
July 2023 to September 2023

MEMBERSHIP FEES

All membership fees for 2023 were due on 1st January 2023

€25.00 for individuals, and €30.00 for a family. €5 for Students

To arrange payment contact: Fridolin Kerr, 31 Cherrywood Park, Clondalkin, Dublin 22
(Membership.Secretary@dnfc.net).

You may pay, via www.dnfc.net, by PayPal (including credit card).

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D.N.F.C Workshops

The DNFC workshops are held in the National Botanic Gardens in the small room at the near end of the curvilinear range, by permission of the Director. They are normally scheduled to take place on the first Saturday of each month – though there may be some additional events, connected to the availability of visiting experts.

SATURDAY 24th June 2023

Mooney Farm, Maynooth

We will take a broad look at the natural history to be found on a Working Farm.
(Risk: level 1)

Leader: Anthony Mooney.

Bring: Identification books, hand lens and lunch.

WEDNESDAY 28th June

**Recording for the *Supplement to the
Flora of the County Wicklow* at Kippure Bridge**

The flora in the vicinity of Kippure Bridge will be recorded before heading off to explore further afield. Plant records will be contributed to the DNFC *Supplement to the Flora of Wicklow* project. **(Risk level 2).**

Leaders: Clíona Ní Bhréartúin and Margaret Norton.

Bring: Identification books, field lens, walking boots, raingear and lunch.

Saturday 1st July 2023

**Praeger Centre, National Botanic Gardens,
Glasnevin, Dublin**

Plant Identification Workshops

Morning Session

Epilobium: Declan Doogue.

On this occasion we will concentrate on the identification of the pure species. The hybrids, of which there are many, will be addressed in the August session.

Asteraceae: Ciaran Flynn.

Many members of the Asteraceae (formerly Compositae) are still identifiable in early July. You may wish to bring in fresh material for consideration.

Umbelliferae (Part 1): Various contributors.

New members may find the identification of the large number of Umbellifer species daunting. However, many common species are easily identified and it is these that we will examine in detail. Fruiting material is particularly helpful and welcome. Particularly useful is the **BSBI Handbook No. 2 *Umbellifers of the British Isles* by T.G. Tutin**

Afternoon Session

Understanding ***Species Plantarum*** (1753) by Carl Linnaeus: Declan Doogue

Book reviews and introductions

Saturday 8th July 2023

Raven Wood, Curracloe, Wexford

The plan would be to visit the Raven Wood near Curracloe. If time permits we will visit Ballyteigue Burrow, near Kilmore Quay. The focus will be on flowers, and also butterflies and dragonflies, weather permitting. **(Risk level: 1)**.

Leader: Jim Fitzharris

Bring: Identification books, hand lenses, warm clothes and lunch.

Saturday 15th July 2023

Abbeyleix Bog, Abbeyleix Laois

Abbeyleix Bog lies just south of the town, and was traversed by the Portlaoise-Kilkenny railway, which operated until 1962. The bog was acquired by Bord na Móna, but development did not proceed beyond initial drainage. In an effort to restore the central area to an 'active raised bog', some 3,500 peat dams were inserted in 2009 to raise the water level in the internal drains.

We will examine a number of different habitats, including minerotrophic and ombrotrophic wet woodland; the former railway bed with imported calcareous materials; hand-cutover peatland areas that have been recolonised; and degraded raised bog under regeneration. The central bog area has a wooden walkway, but some of the marginal cutover areas could be wet. **(Risk Level: 2)**

Leader: Charles Shier

Contact: 086-8108325

Bring: Floras, lunch, wellingtons or waterproof hiking boots.

Directions:By Car: From Dublin take the N7/M7, exit the motorway at Junction 17 and take the N77 for Abbeyleix. Go through the town and the hotel is on the south side.

Tuesday 18th July 2023

Howth Village, Dublin

We will examine the flora of a number of habitats close to the village including incipient salt marsh, sand dunes and seepage lines. **(Risk Level:1)**

Leaders: Anangi Sumalde, Declan Doogue

The event will conclude at 2.30 p.m.

Saturday 22nd July 2023

Kilpeddar, Wicklow

Kitty Heslin and Jerry Crowley will host an outing to their farm in Kilpeddar. On this visit we will see traditional hay meadows, permanent pasture, some planted oak woodland. At this time the meadows will still in flower and if we are lucky we will see the rare forester moth which will be on wing at this time. **(Risk level: 1)**

Bring: Identification books, a hand lens & lunch.
Tea and Coffee will be supplied by our hosts.

Directions: Eircode as above. Otherwise take the M50 going south and at Kilmacanogue take the exit for Roundwood. At the top of the hill immediately after the deserted garage on your left take the turn left L1031. Then after you pass the Sugarloaf carpark on the left take the first turn right. Follow this road for approx 5.5 km. On your right you will see the entrance to the farm at Carrigower Lodge.

Saturday 29th July 2023

Booterstown, Dublin

We will examine the newly-formed dune system outside the Booterstown sea wall, which is still developing and will also explore the consolidating salt marsh to the north. **(Risk level: 1)**

Leaders: Anangi Sumalde, Ciaran Flynn, Declan Doogue

N.B.: There is a charge for car parking at the station.

Saturday 5th August 2023

**Praeger Centre, National Botanic Gardens,
Glasnevin, Dublin**

Plant Identification Workshops

Morning

Fern identification – an introduction to *Dryopteris* ferns by Margret Norton

This session is intended as an introduction to the *Dryopteris affinis* group (Golden-scaled Male-ferns) in advance of the visit to DNFC by experts of the British Pteridological Society later in August.

We will explore how to distinguish other *Dryopteris* ferns (Buckler-ferns) from those in the *Dryopteris affinis* group (Golden-scaled Male-ferns), including what to record in the field and how to preserve specimens for critical determination. Please bring hand lens and all available fern identification books. The standard work on this group is ***Some taxa within the *Dryopteris affinis* complex: A field guide by Trewren, K., Pigott, A.C. and Evans, A.J. (2014).*** It is available to download free of charge at several sites

including: <https://ebps.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/SP13-E1.pdf>

Cruciferae (exhibit) by **Rosaleen Fitzgerald**.

Epilobium including some of the hybrids by **Declan Doogue**.

Epilobium hybrids become more evident later in the season. They often have a more branching habit; their pink petals are often two-toned and many plants fail to set good seed.

Afternoon Session

Umbelliferae Part 2 by Various members. You are welcome to bring material of common species for exhibition and identification.

Book Reviews and Introductions

Sunday 13th August 2023

Rathmines, Dublin

The built environment of the apparent waterless suburb of Rathmines was in fact fundamentally influenced by its watercourses, which are still flowing underground. These and other natural determining factors will be examined in a walk around the area. The most recent publication of Dr Séamas Ó Maitiú is the Rathmines volume of the *Irish Historic Towns Atlas* for the Royal Irish Academy. **(Risk level: 1)**.

Leader: Dr. Séamas Ó Maitiú

Bring: Outdoor clothing and comfortable footwear.

Saturday 19th August 2023

Corballis / Donabate, Co. Dublin

Flora and vegetation of the north Dublin Coast: we will look at coastal plants and patterns of species combinations in relation to ecological gradients in the salt marsh and outer sand dunes at Corballis (south of The Island Golf Club). In particular, we hope to see *Limbarda crithmoides* (syn. *Inula crithmoides*) and *Limonium binervosum* agg. **(Risk Level: 1)**

Leader: Melinda Lyons

Bring: Lunch, hand lens, floras. We aim to finish around 3 p.m.

27/28 August 2023

**Praeger Centre, National Botanic Gardens,
Glasnevin, Dublin**

Sunday & Monday DNFC Fern Workshops.

Sunday 27th August 2023

Praeger Centre, National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin

Fern workshop on the *Dryopteris affinis* group (Golden-scaled Male-ferns) and its hybrids with *D. filix-mas* (Male-fern) by Alison Evans and Roger Golding.

Please bring hand lenses and all available works of identification for this group.

This is a unique opportunity to learn from visiting experts of the British Pteridological Society.

The day will be presented by Alison Evans (co-editor of *Some taxa within the Dryopteris affinis complex: A field guide*. Available at <https://ebps.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/SP13-E1.pdf> and Roger Golding (author of *Ferns in Britain and Ireland: A guide to ferns, horsetails, clubmosses and quillworts*. Available

at <http://www.rogergolding.co.uk/ferns/> Participants are encouraged to view these publications in advance of the workshop. The full day session will include presentations and a workshop on practical determination. There are several taxa within the *Dryopteris affinis* group (Golden-scaled Male-ferns). These, in addition to *D. filix-mas* (Male-fern) and its hybrids with *D. affinis*, will be examined.

Monday 28th August 2023

**Praeger Centre, National Botanic Gardens,
Glasnevin, Dublin**

Determination of fern specimens within the *Dryopteris affinis* group (Golden-scaled Male-ferns) and its hybrids with *D. filix-mas* (Male-fern) by Alison Evans and Roger Golding.

Please bring specimens, hand lenses and all available works of identification for this group.

This event is set aside for the critical determination by Alison Evans and Roger Golding of materials collected by DNFC members. Both pressed and fresh material of the *Dryopteris affinis* group is welcome, ideally from a range of vice counties and habitats. Please bring your specimens labelled with date, location, grid reference, habitat information and collector name.

Sunday 10th September 2023

Grand Canal, Dublin

On this occasion we will work westward from Baggot Street Bridge, examining the aquatic and emergent species of the canal and of its banks. **(Risk level: 1)**

Leaders: Anangi Sumalde, Ciaran Flynn, Declan Doogue

Saturday 16th September 2023 Clara Woods, Clara Vale, Co. Wicklow

Clara Woods are a fine example of old sessile oak woodland along the Avonmore River valley where there is a long history of woodland cover. It is designated a Special Area for Conservation and is a Nature Reserve. We will look at the plants that characterise this type of oak woodland as well as other species present, and note the on-going management for the conservation of this woodland.

Leader: Katharine Duff

Bring: Dress for weather, sturdy footwear, identification books, a hand lens if you have one, and lunch.

| Day | Date | Month | Title | Leader/Presenter | Location |
|-----------------|------|-----------|--|---|----------------------------------|
| Saturday | 24th | June | Visit to Working Farm | Anthony Mooney | Maynooth |
| Wednesday | 28th | June | Flora of County Wicklow | Cliona Ní Bhréartúin & Margaret Norton | Wicklow |
| Saturday | 1st | July | Praeger Day | Various | National Botanic Gardens, Dublin |
| Saturday | 8th | July | Plants, Butterflies and Damselflies | Jim Fitzharris | Curracloe Wexford |
| Saturday | 15th | July | Examining wet woodland; the former railway bed with imported calcareous materials; hand-cutover peatland areas that have recolonised and degraded raised bog under regeneration. | Charles Shier | Abbeyleix Laois |
| Tuesday | 18th | July | Heathland & Saltmarsh | Anangi Sumalde, Declan Doogue | Howth, Dublin |
| Saturday | 22nd | July | Visit to Farm | Kitty Heslin & Jerry Crowley | Kilpeddar, Wicklow |
| Saturday | 29th | July | New Dunes & Saltmarsh | Anangi Sumalde, Ciaran Flynn, Declan Doogue | Boosterstown, Dublin |
| Saturday | 5th | August | Praeger Day | Various | National Botanic Gardens, Dublin |
| Sunday | 13th | August | How the natural environment has shaped the development of the area | Dr Séamas Ó Maitiú | Rathmines, Dublin |
| Saturday | 19th | August | Flora and vegetation of the north Dublin Coast | Melinda Lyons | Corballis / Donabate, Co. Dublin |
| Sunday | 27th | August | Fern workshop on the <i>Dryopteris affinis</i> group (Golden-scaled Male ferns) and its hybrids with <i>D. filix-mas</i> (Male-fern) | Alison Evans | National Botanic Gardens, Dublin |
| Monday | 28th | August | Determination of fern specimens within the <i>Dryopteris affinis</i> group (Golden-scaled Male ferns) and its hybrids with <i>D. filix-mas</i> (Male-fern) | Alison Evans and Roger Golding | National Botanic Gardens, Dublin |
| Sunday | 10th | September | Aquatics and emergents | Anangi Sumalde, Ciaran Flynn, Declan Doogue | Grand Canal, Dublin |
| Saturday | 16th | September | Old sessile oak woodland | Katy Duff | Clara Wood, Wicklow |
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