



THE DUBLIN NATURALISTS' FIELD CLUB
PROGRAMME of EVENTS
April to June 2024

MEMBERSHIP FEES

All membership fees for 2024 are due on 1st January 2024

Please note change in subscription rate

€35.00 for individuals, and €40.00 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).

| Day | Date | Month | Title | Leader/Presenter | Location |
|----------------|-----------|-------|--|--|----------------------------------|
| Saturday | 6th | April | Praeger Day | Various | National Botanic Gardens, Dublin |
| Wednesday | 17th | April | Recording Flora of Howth | Declan Doogue & David Nash | Howth, Dublin |
| Saturday | 20th | April | Visit Arboretum, Kilmacurragh | Rosaleen Fitzgerald | Wicklow |
| Saturday | 27th | April | St. Catherines Park, Leixlip | Rosaleen Fitzgerald | Kildare |
| Saturday | 4th | May | Praeger Day | Various | National Botanic Gardens, Dublin |
| Wednesday | 8th | May | Recording Flora of Howth | Declan Doogue, David Nash & Sunniva Hanley | Howth, Dublin |
| Saturday | 18th | May | Flora of banks of Grand Canal & urban area | Anangi Sumaldi & Declan Doogue | Dublin |
| Thursday | 23rd | May | AGM | DNFC Board | Online |
| Saturday | 25th | May | Geology | Dr.Patrick Roycraft | Glendalough, Wicklow |
| Saturday | 1st | June | Praeger Day | Various | National Botanic Gardens |
| Tuesday-Friday | 11th-14th | June | Joint DNFC /Belfast outing | Various | Antrim |
| Wednesday | 12th | June | Recording Flora of Howth | Declan Doogue & David Nash | Howth, Dublin |
| Saturday | 15th | June | Geology | Professor David Chew | Loughshinny, Dublin |
| Saturday | 22nd | June | Farm visit | Anthony Mooney | Kildare |

Saturday 6th April 2024

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

Plant Identification Workshops

DNFC Workshops

The DNFC workshop sessions are held in the National Botanic Gardens, usually on the first Saturday of each month. The club is very fortunate in having access to this facility through the support and permission of the Director, Matthew Jebb. Some members meet for coffee beforehand. Bring lunch.

Morning Session

Salix (Willows)

Some common willows and their hybrids Part 2: a continuation of the presentation by **Margaret Norton** in June 2023. Please bring, if available, Willows and Poplars of Great Britain and Ireland, BSBI Handbook No. 4 by R.D. Meikle (1984).

Erophila

The Whitlow-grasses are in full flower and fruit at this time of year. We will review the main taxonomic distinguishing features in relation to habitat type and biogeography. Members are encouraged to collect material (especially with well-developed fruits) for examination. **David Nash**

Flora of Howth

A richly annotated copy of The Flora of Howth (H. C. Hart) owned and annotated by George Maconchy will be exhibited and discussed. Maconchy botanised in Howth and had a particular interest in the rare clover species occurring on the peninsula. **Tom Minter and Declan Doogue**

Afternoon Session

***Taraxacum*. Collecting, preserving and studying Dandelions in Ireland.**

Book Introductions.

RECORDING OF THE FLORA OF HOWTH

We will resume our series of field recording sessions this month, primarily based on the Howth peninsula (and also including a Dublin City event). New members and students are particularly welcome. Some time will be spent in plant recognition and identification, but we will also examine the composition of the semi-natural vegetation in some of the less developed parts of Howth. Some members meet earlier in a nearby coffee shop.

Wednesday 17th April 2024.

**Recording the Flora of Howth
Risk level 1**

Howth Demesne and Redrock: We will examine the woodland flora of parts of Howth Demesne and later the flora and vegetation of some shallow-soil communities at Redrock.

Leaders: Declan Doogue and David Nash

Bring: Identification books and hand lens, Suitable outdoor clothing is advised and members should bring lunch.

Saturday 20th April 2024

**National Botanic Gardens
Kilmacurragh, Wicklow
Risk level 1**

Visit to The National Botanic Gardens, Kilmacurragh for tour of Arboretum when the Rhododendron should be in flower. The National Botanic Gardens, Kilmacurragh lie within an estate developed extensively during the 19th Century by Thomas Acton in conjunction with David Moore and his son Sir Frederick Moore, Curators of the National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin at that time. Numerous plant species from around the world were introduced to Ireland for the first time in this period. The different soil and climatic conditions at Kilmacurragh resulted in many of these specimens succeeding there while struggling or failing at Glasnevin. Kilmacurragh is particularly famous for its conifer and rhododendron collections.

Bring: Warm clothing, raingear, Lunch and a hot drink, field lens, ID books

Directions

Take M11 to Junction 18 going south. At this junction take turn for Sth Wicklow/S Redcross, R772. At the roundabout take 3rd exit, and at the next roundabout take 1st exit onto L1113. After 5.7 km turn right onto L1152. Kilmacurragh, Tullylusk is 1 km. from here

Saturday 27th April 2024

**St. Catherines Park, Leixlip
Risk Level 1**

This is a gentle walk through woodland in which we are likely to see typical woodland plants such as, Goldilocks (*Ranunculus auricomus*), Ramsoms (*Allium ursinum*), Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*), Toothwort (*Lathraea squamaria*), Woodruff (*Galium odoratum*), Wood Melick (*Melica uniflora*), Wood Sanicle (*Sanicula europaea*), Early Dog violet (*Viola reichenbachiana*).

Leader: Rosaleen Fitzgerald

Bring: Lunch, identification books and lens

Directions: if you have access to a smart phone the eircode is K78 X527.

Otherwise, the most direct route is to take N4 to Leixlip. In the village at the traffic lights turn right up Captain's Hill. Going straight ahead over railway bridge you will come to a T junction, turn right here and continue to next T junction. Turn right again and continue towards Lucan, after a short while the entrance will be on your right.

Saturday 4th May 2024

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

Plant Identification Workshops

Morning Session

Studying the Flora of Mayo. **Sinead Garry.** Sinead has been working with the BSBI Recorder for West Mayo and will bring us up-to-date with her progress in investigating this interesting area.

Orchids

Some visual material, mainly created by Raymond Piper will be exhibited,

supplemented by images from DNFC members.

Afternoon Session

Ireland's 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan.

We will examine and discuss the recently-published 4th N.B.A.P.

Book Introductions

Wednesday 8th May 2024

Recording the Flora of Howth Risk level 1

Claremont Strand: We will first visit the small pockets of sand dune vegetation near Howth railway station and later examine related habitats in the vicinity of Sutton railway station. Sunniva, our current DNFC President, will demonstrate mapping software suitable for use of mobile phones.

Leaders: Declan Doogue, David Nash and Sunniva Hanley

Bring: Identification books and hand lens, Lunch and Raingear

Saturday 18th May 2024

Flora of banks of Grand Canal Dublin City Risk level 1

We will examine the flora of the banks of the Grand Canal, and that of the nearby urban areas where it enters the River Liffey close to the mouth of the River Dodder.

Leaders: Anangi Sumaldi and Declan Doogue

Bring: Identification books and hand lens, lunch and raingear

Thursday 23rd May 2024

AGM online

A link to the AGM will be sent to members in the week leading up to the AGM

Saturday 25th May 2024

Geology, Glendalough Risk level 2

Dr. Patrick Roycroft is Curator of Geology at the National Museum of Ireland. You may like to visit his presentation on utube entitled "*Bringing life to the Dead Zoo*" He will take us on a walk along the lake shore to the mine village, then up to the waterfall to some rocks looking at the geomorphology, the schists, coticule, granite, pegmatites, mineralization. He will conclude the trip in the car park with a few words and photos of some spectacular zoned muscovites. He will also discuss the ongoing debate on the origin of granite

Leader: Dr. Patrick Roycroft

Bring: It is advisable to wear strong boots, and warm clothing, also bring lunch. This will be a full day and a strong walk. A reasonable level of fitness is required for this outing.

Saturday 1st June 2024

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

Plant Identification Workshops

Morning Session

The past vegetation of the Cooley Mountains: Pollen investigations and the discovery of Killarney Fern gametophyte.

The fossil pollen record provides us with a fascinating opportunity to reveal past vegetation communities. The methods and results of a study of 4,000 year old pollen preserved in peat in Cooley will be discussed.

The implications of the recent discovery of Killarney Fern (*Trichomanes speciosum*) gametophyte on Slieve Foy will also be addressed. The implications of its rarity on the east coast as well as its relictual distribution will be explored. **Ciarán Flynn**

Maps and Mapping

Old maps can often provide insights into the whereabouts of rare species and habitats. Examples of early maps will be exhibited and related to the current Ordnance Survey website. **Declan Doogue**

Plant Names.

An introduction to plant names and the basis for plant nomenclature and why names change (or revert). **Declan Doogue**

Afternoon Session

Studying the "Critical" Flora

In recent years we have developed new insights into the diversity and biogeographical significance of many taxonomically difficult groups (*Taraxcum*, *Rubus*, *Hieracium*, *Dryopteris* and many other genera. We will discuss progress to date and review future options. Group Discussion.

Book Introductions

Tuesday 11th-14th June 2024

**Joint Field Club trip with
Belfast Naturalists' Field Club**

The Belfast Naturalists' Field Club, in consultation with the DNFC, has organised an outing to the North Antrim Coast from Tuesday 11th until Friday 14th June. The programme includes visits to sites of historical interest; a day-trip to Rathlin Island; and botany, geology and industrial heritage on the Causeway Coast.

Unfortunately, owing to limits on both boats and coaches, the outing is FULLY SUBSCRIBED at this stage and we regret that it is not possible to add any further DNFC members to the list of participants. As per programme previously announced, see last programme for details.

Wednesday 12th June 2024

Recording the Flora of Howth

Risk level 1

East Mountain: We will record the flora of parts of the heathland on Howth and later examine the calcifuge vegetation of nearby habitats.

Leaders: Declan Doogue and David Nash

Bring: Identification books and hand lens, Lunch and Raingear

Saturday 15th June 2024

**Geology, Loughshinny
Risk level 1**

Professor Chew is a Professor in Geology at Trinity College Dublin. He teaches in the fields of structural geology and tectonics. Much of his research is in the fields of geochronology and geochemistry, with diverse applications such as determining the evolution of ancient sediment routing systems, constraining the timing and evolution of ore systems, and constraining the growth and exhumation of mountain belts using a wide variety of modern analytical techniques. Professor Chew led a wonderful outing last year and this time he will be looking at the folds and sedimentary structures in the Carboniferous rocks.

Leader: Prof. David Chew

Bring: Bring warm waterproof clothes, sturdy footwear, identification books, a hand lens if you have one, and lunch.

Directions: Bus No 33 serves this area, from L. Abbey St. should get you there on time. Your bus stop is at Loughshinny Cross to be followed by a walk down Loughshinny Park to the harbour.

Driving: Take M1 motorway following signs for Belfast. At junction 4 take R132 exit to Skerries/Rush/Donabate. Stay on this road till you get a sign for Dublin Rd, R127. At Dublin Road roundabout take 2nd exit onto Dublin Rd. Turn left at Station Rd. At the roundabout, continue straight onto **Skerries Rd/R127**. Turn **right** onto **L1285**. Continue straight onto **L1320 Loughshinny Park**. **Arrive:** Loughshinny Harbour, Loughshinny, County Dublin

Saturday 22nd June 2024

**Farm visit, Maynooth
Risk level 1**

We will take a broad look at the natural history to be found on a working farm.

Leader: Anthony Mooney.

Bring: Identification books, hand lens and lunch.