



THE DUBLIN NATURALISTS' FIELD CLUB

PROGRAMME of EVENTS

July to September 2024

Day	Date	Month	Title	Leader	Location
Saturday	6th	July	Plant Identification Workshop	Various	National Botanic Gardens, Dublin
Wednesday	10th	July	Recording the Flora of Howth	Declan Doogue & David Nash	Howth, Dublin
Saturday	13th	July	Flora & Hydrology of Pollardstown Fen	Charles Shier	The Curragh, Co. Kildare
Saturday	27th	July	Flora at Booterstown Salt Marsh & Dunes	Katharine Duff	Booterstown, Dublin
Saturday	3rd	Aug.	Plant Identification Workshop	Various	National Botanic Gardens, Dublin
Wednesday	7th	Aug.	Flora at the Miners' Village & Upland Flushes	Melinda Lyons & Rosaleen Fitzgerald	Glendalough, Co. Wicklow
Saturday	17th	Aug.	Flora at Slieve Foye / Carlingford Mountains	Melinda Lyons & Ciaran Flynn	Cooley, Co. Louth
Wednesday	21st	Aug.	Recording the Flora of Howth	Declan Doogue & David Nash	Howth, Dublin
Saturday	31st	Aug.	Upland flora on St. Kevin's Way & The Miners' Way	Sunniva Hanley	Camderry, Co. Wicklow
Saturday	7th	Sept.	Plant Identification Workshop	Various	National Botanic Gardens
Wednesday	11th	Sept.	Recording the Flora of Howth	Declan Doogue & David Nash	Howth, Dublin

DNFC Plant Identification Workshops

The DNFC workshop sessions are held in the National Botanic Gardens, usually on the first Saturday of each month in room behind the Curvilinear Conservatory ("Praeger Room").

Saturday 6th July 2024

**Plant Identification Workshop
National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin**

Morning Session

An Introduction to *Carex* - Margaret Norton

An introduction to the identification of *Carex* species (Sedges). Hand lens essential. Please bring *An Irish Flora* (Webb, Parnell & Doogue 1996) and *BSBI Handbook on Sedges of the British Isles* (Jermy, Simpson, Foley & Porter 2007) if available.

Willowherbs (*Epilobium*) - the species. Declan Doogue.

At this time of year, most of the Irish Willowherb (*Epilobium*) species are in flower and suitable for identification. Hybrids become evident in later months and this aspect will be revisited in August. Members are welcome to bring fresh material for examination.

Susanna Grubb - Rosaleen Fitzgerald

Susanna Grubb (1820-1911), a Quaker botanist from Clonmel, contributed records mainly from Tipperary and Waterford to the first edition of "***Contributions towards a Cybele Hibernica***" (Moore and More, 1866), which was a list of the wild plants of Ireland based on the existing floras and papers relating to the flora of Ireland and the increased level of knowledge of it. She was also an accomplished painter of wild flowers and her paintings, comprising 119 watercolours bound in two volumes, were presented to the herbarium, Glasnevin, where they are available to view.

Afternoon Session

***Rubus* - Alexis FitzGerald**

Collecting, preserving and studying Brambles (*Rubus*) in Ireland.

Book Reviews

Bramble Literature.

Recording the Flora of Howth.

As part of our continuing survey of the species and habitats of the Howth peninsula, we have arranged three visits on this programme.

Wednesday 10th July 2024

Recording the Flora of Howth Risk Level 1/2

Kilrock: We will walk from our starting point at the DART station, to finish at the start of the cliff path near Kilrock. On the way we will inspect other sites including the former bathing place where a number of unusual geological and topographical features are visible. The flora of a number of base-rich flushes will also be examined.

Leaders: Declan Doogue and David Nash

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

Saturday 13th July 2024

Fen Habitats

**Pollardstown Fen, Co. Kildare
Risk Level 1**

Pollardstown Fen covers 220 ha and is the largest spring-fed fen in Ireland. It has been designated as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and it is managed by the NPWS. It has a large stand of *Cladium mariscus* (Great Fen Sedge or Saw Sedge) and it is also the source of water for the Grand Canal, via the Milltown Feeder. We will examine the flora and hydrology of the fen from the boardwalk and, if time permits, we will also look at the canal-side vegetation at Milltown.

Leader: Charles Shier

Meet: Orby's Café at the back of the Curragh racecourse for tea/coffee, before driving out to the fen.

Bring: Identification books and hand lens, lunch, walking boots and raingear if the weather forecast suggests rain.

Directions: Take the N7/M7 from Dublin and exit at Junction 12 for The Curragh, cross over the motorway and follow the signs for the Racecourse/Rathangan. At the top of the hill go straight through the roundabout and park in the Blue Car Park beside Orby's.

Saturday 27th July 2024

Coastal Habitats

**The New Booterstown Salt
Marsh & Dunes - Risk Level 1**

A new area of sand dune formation and associated salt marsh have been developing in South Dublin Bay for the past 20 years or so, near the Merrion Gates, which can be clearly seen from a passing DART. Many of the plant species that are associated with these habitats have arrived. We will look at the zonation from fore-dune facing the incoming tide to the saltmarsh in the sheltered backwater at the rear of the young dunes. We will look out for any birds that probe in the soft, muddy substrate and any signs of water quality issues.

Leader: Katharine Duff

Meet: At Booterstown DART Station. We will walk across the footbridge along the strand to the site (c. 600 m). Finishing at lunchtime.

Bring: Identification books and hand lens, snack and wellingtons and raingear if weather forecast suggests rain.

Saturday 3rd August 2024

**Plant Identification Workshop
National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin**

Morning Session

Killarney Fern in Cooley, Co. Louth. Ciarán Flynn

The implications of the recent discovery of the 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.

Willowherb Species and Hybrids - Declan Doogue.

By now, the identity some of the hybrid willowherbs will have become apparent. Their hybrid character is usually evidenced by the failure to set good seed, by excessive branching and by the presence of petals with two shades of pink. Members are welcome to collect material for consideration.

Grass Genera with few Species, including *Vulpia*, *Glyceria* and *Elytrigia*. Various DNFC presenters.

Afternoon Session

Studying the “Critical” Flora

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

Book Introductions

This will include presentations of some of the seminal works of the critical flora which have led to the present state of taxonomy as presented in works such as the 4th edition of ‘*New Flora of the British Isles*’ (Stace, 2019).

Wednesday 7th August 2024

**Glendalough, Co. Wicklow
Risk Level 3**

Flora at Miners' Village and in upland flushes

We'll walk from the Upper Car Park to the Miners' Village (c. 2.5 km), on a fairly flat gravel track and examine the habitats in that area during the morning. For those who are interested in going further, we'll climb up the track alongside the Glenealo River in the afternoon (a further 1.5 km, with a climb of over 200 m) to see upland flushes with *Carex dioica*, *Eleocharis multicaulis* and *Pinguicula lusitanica*. Please note that the route for the afternoon hike ascends over steep, rocky ground and a moderate level of fitness is required.

Leaders: Melinda Lyons and Rosaleen Fitzgerald

Meet: In the Upper Car Park (OSI Discovery Series sheet 56, T 111 963; Google Maps 53°00'25.3"N 6°20'40.0"W); €5 charge for parking, payable by coins or card.

Bring: hiking boots, floras, hand lens, lunch.

Please note that this outing is **Risk Level 3**, and involves a steep, uneven, rocky hill climb during afternoon hike.

Saturday 17th August 2024

Slieve Foye/Carlingford Mountains Risk Level 3

Vascular plants and bryophytes

We'll climb the western side of Slieve Foye to The White Bog (c. 200 m altitude above car park) and The Eagle's Rock (a further 120 m alt.). Please note that we will need to walk along the road south of the car park for a distance of 750 m. There is no footpath but reasonably good visibility; please walk on the right hand side, in single file. Once off-road, we'll pass through a conifer plantation and then begin ascending the mountain, examining habitats of interest along the way. These include boulders with *Braunia imberbis* (an FPO moss species), lime-rich flushes with brown mosses, and rocky outcrops on the summit of Eagle's Rock with Cowberry *Vaccinium vitis-idaea*.

Leaders: Melinda Lyons and Ciarán Flynn

Meet: 10:30 am in the Long Woman's Grave car park at The Windy Gap (OSI Discovery Series sheet 36, J 130 138; Google Maps 54°03'39.9"N 6°16'28.3"W). There is an excellent map of Cooley available from East West Mapping (scale 1:25,000).

Bring: hiking boots, floras, hand lens, lunch.

Please note that this outing is **Risk Level 3** and involves a steep, uneven hill climb.

Wednesday 21st August 2024

Recording the Flora of Howth Risk Level 1/2

Drumleck: The group will examine parts of the low cliffs on the south side of the peninsula. We will meet as usual at the DART Station and drive to the venue. Habitats to be examined include acid grassland, scrub, a small stream, rocks in the spray zone (*Inula crithmoides*, *Artemisia maritima*) and trapped salt marsh.

Leaders: Declan Doogue and David Nash

Meet : Howth Railway Station

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

Saturday 31st August 2024

Walk on part of St. Kevin's Way & The Miners' Way near Camderry, Co. Wicklow Risk Level 2

We will examine the upland vegetation in this area: heathers, sedges, and look out for club mosses- *Huperzia selago* and *Lycopodiella inundata*.

Leader: Sunniva Hanley

Meet: At the Glendalough Green cafe in Laragh.

Bring: Field lens, walking boots (some places will be wet, uneven and boggy), rain jacket and lunch.

Directions:

Take the N11 south to Kilmacanogue. Keep left and exit at Junction 8, Kilmacanogue. Follow the signs for Roundwood, Laragh and Glendalough. Drive on R755 through Roundwood and on to Laragh.

The Glendalough Green Cafe is on the right hand side as you come into Laragh. We will meet on the Green in front of the cafe. I will be at the cafe from 10.30 if you'd like to join me for coffee beforehand. We will drive from Laragh towards the Wicklow Gap on R756 to our parking space.

Saturday 7th September 2024

**Plant Identification Workshop
National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin**

Morning Session

The Cyperaceae (other than *Carex*). Various DNFC Presenters.

The Cyperaceae include genera such as *Eleocharis*, *Isolepis*, *Blysmus* and *Scirpus*, which appear, at first glance, to be difficult to identify. However, most are less daunting, especially when material can be assembled to enable comparison. Bring a hand lens and millimetre scale/ruler. The BSBI Handbook (2nd edition) is excellent, as is the '*Colour Identification Guide to the Grasses, Sedges, Rushes and Ferns of the British Isles and North-western Europe*' by Francis Rose.

Plants from Bulgaria - Alexis FitzGerald

Many plant species, now rare or very rare in Ireland, occur frequently in other parts of Europe. Alexis will discuss and exhibit material collected on his recent expeditions to Bulgaria which relate to the Irish flora.

Afternoon Session

Dog Roses - Declan Doogue

Recent taxonomic revisions and clarifications have required closer consideration of the species-complex formerly known as *Rosa canina*.

Book Review - Charles Shier

A review of books that describe how man has impacted on the Irish landscape, including early structures, the great houses and demesnes, agriculture, woodlands and gardens.

Wednesday 11th September 2024

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

Sutton – St. Fintan’s: We will record on the Sutton shore opposite St. Fintan’s Church, examining the strand-line vegetation there, and then to the area adjoining Bottle Quay with a brief stop at the old graveyard. We will assemble at the DART Station and drive to St. Fintan’s Church.

Leaders: Declan Doogue and David Nash

Meet : Howth Railway Station..

Bring: Identification books and hand lens, lunch and raingear.