



THE DUBLIN NATURALISTS' FIELD CLUB
PROGRAMME of EVENTS
April to June 2025

Annual General Meeting 2025

The 2025 Annual General Meeting of the Dublin Naturalists' Field Club will take place online on Thursday 26th June. A separate notice, that includes the agenda and details of any motions proposed, will be sent to members in advance.

Day	Date	Month	Title	Leader	Location
Wednesday	2nd	April	Dandelions of Urban Areas	Declan Doogue	NBG / Griffith Park, Dublin
Saturday	5th	April	BSBI Spring Conference	-	National Botanic Gardens, Dublin
Saturday	12th	April	Spring Sand Dune Flora	Melinda Lyons	North Bull Island, Dublin
Saturday	19th	April.	Sessile Oak Woodland	Katharine Duff	Clara Woods, Co. Wicklow
Saturday	3rd	May	Plant Identification Workshop	Various	National Botanic Gardens, Dublin
Saturday	17th	May	Recording the Flora of Co. Wicklow	Alexis FitzGerald	Glencree River, Co. Wicklow
Saturday	31st	May	Joint outing with BNFC – Lakeland & Estate Habitats	Alexis FitzGerald	Castle Leslie, Co. Monaghan
Saturday	7th	June	Plant Identification Workshop	Various	National Botanic Gardens, Dublin
Saturday	21st	June	Blanket Bog & Montane Flora	Rosaleen Fitzgerald	Lough Ouler, Co. Wicklow
Thursday	26th	June	Annual General Meeting	-	Online Meeting
Saturday	28th	June	Recording the Flora of County Wicklow	Margaret Norton	Hollywood, Co. Wicklow

DNFC Plant Identification Workshops

The DNFC workshop (“Praeger”) sessions are held in the National Botanic Gardens, usually on the first Saturday of each month. The Field Club is very fortunate in having access to this facility through the active support and permission of the Director, Matthew Jebb and staff members. Some members meet for coffee beforehand. Please bring a lunch.

Wednesday 2nd April 2025

Dandelions of Urban Areas Risk Level 1

This field session is intended to introduce members to some of the more familiar and largely adventive dandelions of urban areas – mainly those of sections **Hamata** and **Taraxacum**. Microspecies of these two sections are frequent in urban waste ground and parkland. A small selection of examples from some of the predominantly native species of sections **Celtica** and **Erythrosperma** will also be demonstrated.

Leader: Declan Doogue

Bring: Copies of the BSBI Handbook No. 23 '*Field Handbook to British and Irish Dandelions*' by A.J. Richards, and also hand lenses and a millimetre scale.

Saturday 5th April 2025

BSBI Spring Conference, NBG

The Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland (BSBI) will hold its Irish Spring Conference 2025 at the National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, commencing at 10.00 a.m.. The theme this year is 'Recording' and will include some sessions on using BSBI's new Recording App and the Distribution Database – led by James Drever, BSBI's Data Support Officer.

All members of the Field Club are welcome to attend the conference, which is free, but booking is essential at: <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/botanicalsocietyofbritainireland/1616047>

Saturday 12th April 2025

Spring Sand Dune Flora – Bull Island Risk Level 1

Many small flowering plants in sand dunes complete their life cycle early in the year before the dunes become too hot and dry. We hope to see Early Forget-me-not *Myosotis ramosissima*, the dune variety of Common Cornsalad *Valerianella locusta* var. *dunensis*, Spring Vetch *Vicia lathyroides*, and some coastal Mouse-ears (*Cerastium semidecandrum* and *C. diffusum*). We may also get to see Early Sand-grass, *Mibora minima*, towards the end of its flowering season.

Leader: Melinda Lyons

Bring: Floras and hand lenses.

Saturday 19th April 2025

Sessile Oak Woodland – Clara, Co. Wicklow - Risk Level 2

Clara Woods is a Nature Reserve and includes fine examples of old sessile oak woodland along the Avonmore River valley where there is a long history of woodland cover. Spring is a good time to look at the woodland ground flora before the leaves come out on the trees. We will look at the on-going management for the conservation of this woodland. If there is time, we can look at a nearby oak woodland which is being managed under the Forest Service Native Woodland Conservation Scheme.

Leader: Katharine Duff

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

Saturday 3rd May 2025

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

Morning Session

An Arboricultural Excursion to Ireland in 1897 - Charles Shier

The Royal Scottish Arboricultural Society travelled over to Ireland in August 1897, and members visited some of the gardens and great estates in Dublin and in the surrounding counties. They then went south to examine others around Killarney, Co. Kerry. The report of the excursion contains details on the height, girth and crown spread for notable specimen trees on the estates – which may be the first printed record of tree sizes in Ireland.

Studying Dandelions - Declan Doogue and other DNFC members.

This presentation is intended to review preserved specimens of the different *Taraxacum* sections, many of which have been expertly determined by A.J. Richards. A number of DNFC members have been actively involved in the development of *Taraxacum* studies in Ireland and have made significant contributions to our knowledge of the occurrence and distribution of the various taxa within the genus. It will also serve as a review opportunity to re-consider material collected in our early April event and to encourage future taraxacologists in Ireland. Participants should bring copies of the BSBI Handbook No. 23 '**Field Handbook to British and Irish Dandelions**' by A.J. Richards as well as a hand lens and a millimetre scale.

Afternoon Session

Bramble Identification - Alexis FitzGerald

The formation of a substantial body of reliably identified herbarium material of *Rubus fruticosus* agg, mainly determined by the late David Allen, has enabled DNFC members to examine the more salient elements of Bramble identification. The standard and essential work of identification is '**Brambles of the British Isles**', by E.S. Eedes and A. Newton, published by the Ray Society (1988). A digital version is available to purchase. The group will concentrate on the identification of further material of taxa belonging to series *Sylvatici* and possibly series *Rhamnifolii*.

Saturday 17th May 2025

**Recording the Flora of Co. Wicklow
Glencree River - Risk Level 2**

The flora in the Glencree River valley around Ballyreagh Bridge will be recorded, including perhaps species of the *Taraxacum* agg. Plant records will be contributed to the DNFC Wicklow project.

Leader: Alexis FitzGerald

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

Saturday 31st May 2025

Joint Outing with Belfast Naturalists' Field Club Castle Leslie / Emy Lough - Risk Level 1

This will be a joint outing with the Belfast Naturalists' Field Club to Co. Monaghan. Glaslough (Castle Leslie) Estate has been in existence since 1608, and is thus one of the oldest existing estates in Co. Monaghan. The estate is centred around the grand façade of Castle Leslie, which overlooks the serene Glaslough, after which the estate was named. Aside from its interest as a popular wedding and horse-riding venue, this beautiful, idyllic estate is also of immense botanical interest, and has been visited by botanists since at least the mid-1800's. The vegetation on the shores of Glaslough is rich, varied and in many places fenny in nature, due to the base-rich quality of the water. *Thalictrum flavum* (Common Meadow-rue), *Carex strigosa* (Thin-spiked Wood-sedge) and other notable plant species are characteristic of the estate and we expect to see a good variety of species on the day. Emy Lough is a similarly base-rich lough near Emyvale, north Co. Monaghan, which we will enjoy in the afternoon. The lough has a well-developed aquatic and wetland flora.

Leader: Alexis FitzGerald

Bring: Floras and hand lens, walking boots or wellies and raingear if the forecast suggests rain.

After lunch we will drive from Glaslough to Emy Lough to explore the aquatic and wetland vegetation there.

Saturday 7th June 2025

Plant Identification Workshop National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin

Morning Session

Sedges – Declan Doogue and other DNFC members

The morning session will include an introduction to *Carex* identification and taxonomy. In addition, particular attention will be devoted to some of the more difficult groups – e.g. the *Carex divulsa/muricata/spicata* complex and the *Carex flava* aggregate. Members should bring copies of BSBI Handbook No. 1 (the third, 2007 edition) '**Sedges of the British Isles**' by Jeremy, Simpson, Foley and Porter.

Afternoon Session

Writing & publishing the '*Flora of County Monaghan*' – Alexis FitzGerald

Alexis will provide his personal insights and the benefit of his experience in producing his recently published and much-acclaimed **Flora of County Monaghan**. The presentation will be followed by a discussion which will be of interest to other flora writers.

Identifying Brambles – Alexis FitzGerald

Alexis will continue to lead us through preserved examples belonging to the various series of *Rubus fruticosus* agg. On our March session we were able to sort a large body of material into the various series groupings. Examples from the various groups will be presented and discussed.

Saturday 21st June 2025

Lough Ouler, Co. Wicklow

Risk Level 2

Blanket Bog and Montane Flora

This outing will be to Lough Ouler, starting from Glenmacnass Car Park. We will see the usual range of mountain plants and, if we are lucky, we will see two Wicklow specialities: *Alchemilla alpina* and *Saussurea alpina* recorded from the cliffs above Lough Ouler in Brunker's 'Flora of County Wicklow', the only sites in Wicklow for these very rare plants.

Leader: Rosaleen Fitzgerald

Bring: Warm clothes, food and a hot drink. This is a mountain walk so strong boots/shoes are advisable and a reasonable level of fitness.

Thursday 26th June 2025

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of The Dublin Naturalists' Field Club will be held online at **7.30 p.m.** on Thursday 26th June 2025. A separate notice, that includes the agenda and details of Directors retiring and seeking re-election, will be circulated to members in advance.

Saturday 28th June 2025

**Recording the Flora of Co. Wicklow
Hollywood - Risk Level 2**

The flora in the vicinity of Hollywood village will be recorded, possibly followed by a preliminary visit to Hollywood Glen. Plant records will be contributed to the DNFC Wicklow project.

Leader: Margaret Norton

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