

INFF

THE IRISH NATURAL FORESTRY FOUNDATION



Summer 2009

Manch Project and Education Update



Manch Project and Education Update 1

Biodiversity Event 2009 1

Upcoming Events 2

Trials and Volunteer work 2

The Manch Project in a Nutshell 2

Over the 2008/09 school year over 2300 students visited the Sustainable Forestry Education Centre. These students came from Primary and Secondary schools across Cork and Kerry (including Gaelscoil groups at both levels). Even in this time of credit crunch, bookings are now in for the next academic year. New courses were added for Leaving Cert Agricultural Science and Transition Year Geography.

Adult Education courses have included a visit from St. John's Central College, who examined the Manch Project as a case study for

their Tourism and Environment course.

Kinsale Permaculture course made three more visits to Manch, learning about woodland surveying techniques, tree planting and coppicing. They also ran a charcoal making demonstration.

The hedge-laying course in October was also a great success.

To celebrate Seachtain na Gaeilge, we ran a Pond Dip in Irish. This was a fun day out and a chance for people to use their cúpla focal.



Bluebells in wonderful spring sunshine

This year has seen us get started on the "Friends of INFF". Just one of the benefits of being a 'Friend of INFF' is access to Manch on Sundays from March to November. See www.inff.ie for details.

"Well done for another great Biodiversity day. Shame about the weather...but it was brilliant, so much information, choice was hard " Remark made by one of our visitors on Biodiversity Day

Biodiversity Event 2009

Sunday 17th May 2009:

In association with a series of events nationwide to celebrate Biodiversity Day, INFF hosted a day of walks, talks, workshops and more. This took place within the beautiful Manch Estate.

The event started with the dawn chorus and ended with the Bat talk at Dusk. Popular new events this year included a talk on whales and dolphins by Padraig Whooley, a guided

walk on Edible Hedgerows by Theo Hardwick, and a children's art project run by Carol James.

If you missed this event, watch out for our enhanced open days—details overleaf.



Upcoming Events

INFF are delighted to announce enhanced open days from September to November 2009. Thanks to funding from West Cork Development Partnership, we now have an extra guided walk and demonstration on each open day, as well as the Family Activity and regular Guided Walk.



Sunday 6th September

11am Bird Box Building and Placement — Mike Fox

11.30am Family Activity: Pond Dip—Dave McCormick

2pm Edible Hedgerows walk—Theo Hardwick

All day demonstration: Making Gates—Mark Donnelly

Sunday 4th October

11am Wood and Water: A river's interaction with its banks—Dave McCormick

2pm Fungi in the woods—Damien Enright

All day Family Activity: Autumn Tree Trail and Seed Planting

All day demonstration: Hazel Weaving and Roof Construction—Rossa Gibbons

Sunday 1st November

11am Growing native trees from seeds—Woodkerne Nurseries

2pm Life in broadleaf woodlands—Mark Donnelly

All day Family Activity: Autumn Tree Trail and Seed Planting

All day demonstration: use of small scale timber—Andy Ra



Trials and Volunteer Work

We are collecting data for the Irish Butterfly Monitoring Scheme in 2 areas of Manch Estate. This is the second year that INFF has been contributing to this important survey.

Dave McCormick (UCC) is conducting ongoing research on the Salmon population in the river Blackwater.

Derek Felton (COFORD) planted over 10,000 trees on

the new area of West Farm. These Oak, Beech and Ash were planted as part of a national provenance trial.

Margot Régolini from EN-GREF (a French forestry college) collected data on the roundup trial. This trial examines the use of this weed-killer against other plants to promote tree growth.

A big thank you to our volunteers, led by Theo

Hardwick who planted almost a 1000 oak trees in the open areas in the old woodland.

Thanks also to the people who give up their spare time to cut back paths, clear laurel and help with wildlife surveys. If you would like to become an INFF volunteer please contact us — tea and biscuits provided!!



The Manch Project in a Nutshell

The INFF project at Manch aims to demonstrate that it is possible to establish and manage woodlands in such a way that the functions of amenity, biodiversity and commercial gain can be present in a mutually supportive and truly

sustainable fashion and that in particular there is a significant role for broadleaves in Irish Forestry. This is in response to the overwhelming evidence that in Ireland, large monoculture plantations have a detrimental effect on biodiversity, soil condition

and water quality. In many cases they also have little amenity value, are not popular with the general public and produce a poor quality product with low commercial value.

For more information on the work of the INFF, to offer financial donations or to get involved as a volunteer, please contact us:

Telephone
023—8822823

E-mail
enquiries@inff.ie

Website
www.inff.ie
INFF is a registered
charity (CHY 15746)