

INFF

THE IRISH NATURAL FORESTRY FOUNDATION



SUMMER 2008

PROJECT UPDATE

SITE IMPROVEMENTS

BIODIVERSITY EVENTS

PATRONS INCLUDE
JEREMY IRONS
WILLIAM & JUDITH BOLLINGER
RICHARD & JULIENNE RAMSAUER
LORD & LADY PUTT-NAM
LEONARD & SARAH DONNELLY
JAMES O'DRISCOLL SC
DARINA ALLEN
SINEAD CUSACK

MANCH PROJECT UPDATE AND THE SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY EDUCATION CENTRE

The Sustainable Forestry Education Centre is going from strength to strength.

During the 2007/08 academic year, 2339 students visited the Centre. These included 1369 primary students and 970 secondary students (including Gaelscoil groups at both levels). Bookings are now being taken for the next academic year.

Adult Education courses have included a visit from REHAB Care, Bantry.

Last summer we were pleased to host a visit from a group of 40 Austrian Foresters. The group visited a Coillte site and the INFF site at Manch, comparing the management of both sites.

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

Riparian Walk—Looking at Biodiversity near the river



demonstration.

We ran another hedge-laying course in October and hope to run another in the autumn.

As part of Seachtain na Gaeilge, we ran a Nature Walk in Irish. It proved a fun day out and a chance for people to use their cúpla focail.

IMPROVEMENTS TO THE SITE

We have made new oak gates for the entrance to the yard and for the gateway at the north end of the Sluice Gate Walk. Each of these gates was made by local craftspeople using sustainably harvested Manch Estate oak.

We have built a bird hide in the walled garden. This was also built using sustainably harvested timber from the Manch Estate. We have set up a bird feeding station near the bird hide and this has proved a great resource for Mike Brown's wildlife photography courses, which are very popular and a great success.

Over the October half term we insulated and then clad the office and classroom with timber that was grown here at Manch. This insulation and cladding has greatly reduced heat loss from the office and class-



room.

New toilet facilities were added in January, included disabled access facilities.

The first of the picnic tables was built in Manch Oak and placed outside the classroom for pupils and staff to enjoy lunch al-fresco!!

Teacher's Comment

"The course was well organized and resourced. The activities were child centred and great fun with learning objectives achieved in a fun way" - Comment from a teacher who visited June 2008

BIODIVERSITY EVENTS AT THE INFF—PRESS RELEASES



Slow Food® Ireland

PLEASE GET IN CONTACT!

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

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INFF is a registered charity

Biodiversity Event—Sunday 18th May 2008:

In association with a series of events nationwide to celebrate Biodiversity Day, INFF hosted a day of walks, talks, workshops and more at Manch on Sunday May 18th, 2008.

The day started at 4.30am with a dawn chorus walk through the grounds of Manch Estate. The walk was led by Noel Linehan (Birdwatch Ireland) and was very well attended. The rest of the events continued from 9.30am and included talks and walks by Mike Brown (Wildlife Photographer), Dave Perry (Hedge-laying Association of Ireland), Ian Wright (INFF), Conor Kelleher (Irish Wildlife Trust, Cork Bat Group). Other talks took place in the barn throughout the day and it was here that the message of the importance of biodiversity was conveyed by various speakers. Tim Rowe had a capacity audience captivated when he discussed bees and biodiversity. Later Peter Wolstenholme from Birdwatch Ireland and Mike Fox had over a hundred people fascinated with their talk on birds and the live appearance of 'Shimmer' the barn owl stole the show.

Many craftspeople were on hand to show their skills or exhibit their wares: Graham Strouts of the Kinsale College Permaculture Course illustrated the complex process of charcoal-making over the course of the afternoon. While Tom Nixon of Trojan Heavy Horses spent the whole day demonstrating how timber can be extracted from the woods with his large work horse. Other craft demonstrations included lobsterpot-making, making wooden furniture, and basketweaving, as well as the art of the Coppersmith.

In the classroom, the winning photographs from the children's competition were on display, kindly framed by the Gate Gallery, Skibbereen, and members of the Cork Green Map project showed the public how to use their online map – the guide to sustainable living in Cork City.



There was much delicious food on offer supplied by the West Cork Grill, the Baking Emporium among others and the farmers market boasted a selection of locally sourced vegetables and plants. The music session that was started by the Friday Nighters from Ballydehob, seemed to increase in size and enthusiasm with every tune played, adding greatly to the festive atmosphere.

Although rain persisted on and off throughout the day, the large polytunnel provided ample shelter and seating for all to recoup and dry off before heading out again to interact and learn about the biodiversity of West Cork.

An estimated 700 people attended the many guided walks and talks scheduled throughout the day; finishing with the Bat walk by Conor Kelleher around 10 pm

Overall an informative and entertaining day was had by all and thanks to everyone for making Biodiversity Day 2008 such a resounding success.



Sunday 25th May – 'The Munch at Manch'

Over 400 people gathered at Manch to celebrate International Biodiversity Day, and enjoy a Slow Food Forest Feast.

In the yard in the centre of the Manch Ted Berner and Fingal Ferguson of Wildside Catering had been up since 4 o'clock in the morning getting the fires going to cook the wild Venison and Gubbeen Pig that was the centre of the Menu.

Later in the morning they were joined by chefs Ivan Whelan and Mark Murphy who managed the long boards of recently cut Manch Oak that were covered with the Salads and wonderful arrangements of vegetables and foods of the forest that had been designed to bring the Slow Foods of a Natural Woodland to the hungry visitors.

After the feast Ian Wright gave the visitors a brief insight into the history and future plans of the INFF. He then encouraged everyone to go on walks designed to open their eyes to the wealth of biodiversity within West Cork. Bridget Meagher

showed how to identify medicinal herbs; Dave McCormick talked about the life cycle of the salmon and his work at Manch; Mark Donnelly and Philip Ward explored the wealth of biodiversity in the old woodland; and Nikki Keeling helped children to discover the bugs and critters living in the pond and the woods.

Slow Food is a global organisation that is dedicated to biodiversity, so when celebrating Biodiversity week the INFF and Slow Food were obvious partners to show case the relevance and importance of the protecting Ireland's biodiversity.



THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & FOOD
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Forest Service

