



SUMMER 2010

MANCH PROJECT AND EDUCATION UPDATE

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The Sustainable Forestry Education Centre is going from strength to strength, however in these hard financial times we need all the help we can get to raise enough money to keep the Manch Project going.

Mike Brown ran a number of wildlife photography courses at Manch which proved to be very popular.

Other adult education courses over the last year included a charcoal making course run by Muintir na Coille in October and a butterfly garden workshop run by Mike Collard in March.

Over the next twelve months we hope to introduce a wide range of new courses for adults – keep an eye on the website for further information.

PROJECT UPDATE

During the 2009/10 school year, over 2250 students visited the Sustainable Forestry Education Centre. These included students from primary and secondary schools from Cork and Kerry (including Gaelscoil groups at both levels). Bookings are now being taken for the Autumn and Winter terms.

SITE IMPROVEMENTS

Students from the Kinsale Permaculture course visited Manch to learn about woodland ecology and practical woodland management.

OPEN DAYS AND EVENTS

TRIALS, MONITORING & VOLUNTEER WORK



Above: 4 spotted chaser dragonfly near the pond in the Back Graphs Field.

Left:: Small Tortoiseshell butterfly on a woodland path at Manch.

IMPROVEMENTS TO THE SITE

Comments on Biodiversity Day

“Biodiversity day was brilliant. I enjoyed it so much. I was fascinated by the bats, moths and riparian walk; it’s such a good day for learning about these things.”

In August 2009 we began work on the butterfly garden project. This project was part-funded by WCDP and illustrates the imagination and work of Mike Collard to demonstrate how a functional vegetable and flower garden can also act as a habitat for butterflies, moths and other insects. Other aspects of this project included rejuvenation of the original fruit trees in the garden, construction of a small pond and the building of a living willow caterpillar, a giant cocoon and a butterfly-shaped flowerbed to illustrate the life cycle of the butterfly. The willow caterpillar and giant cocoon have been immensely popular with children visiting the site.

During the work in the walled garden, the original paths were discovered (as they appear on an 1840s map of the area) and were incorporated into the plan for the garden.

Other site improvement projects part-funded by WCDP included the building and installation of three new bird hides. These hides were built using sustainably source timber from Manch and have been strate-

gically placed through the estate to maximize the opportunities for watching wildlife including birds, red squirrels and otters. These hides are a great asset and have already been used during a Wildlife Photography course run by Mike Brown.

The funding also helped us to build 100 bird and bat boxes using Manch timber. These boxes have been placed throughout the old woodland and many have already been occupied.



Some of the flowerbeds in the butterfly garden—July 2010



## SUMMER 2010 – INFF



### EVENTS

Open Days on the first Sunday of every month from March to November are continuing to be a great success. Funding from WCDP in the second half of 2009 allowed us to enhance the open days by adding extra guided walks and craft demonstrations from a wide range of experts.

The Forest Service officially launched their campaign for "Today's Woodlands—Tomorrow's Resources" on the October open day 2009. This event included walks, talks and craft demonstrations involving INFF, the Forest Service, Teagasc and Muintir na Cille.

In March we ran an event for Seachtain na Gaeilge called 'Beatha sa Choill' (Life in Woods). This day gave people an opportunity to learn about

animals and plants in the woods and to use their cúpla focail.

In association with a series of events nationwide to celebrate Biodiversity Day, INFF hosted a day of walks, talks, workshops and more. This all took place within the beautiful Manch Estate on Sunday 23rd May 2010. The weather was wonderful which helped to make the event a huge success. This year we had more craft demonstrations including willow weaving, paper making and thatching. Walks were very popular, starting with the dawn chorus and ending with a bat walk at dusk.

Biodiversity Day also included the official opening of the Butterfly Garden. This is proving to be hugely popular for schools and open days—come and see for yourself!

2010 is the International Year of Biodiversity and exciting walks and workshops have been added to the Open Day programme. See [www.inff.ie](http://www.inff.ie) for a full programme.



Solomon with his chainsaw creations

### TRIALS, MONITORING & VOLUNTEERING

Alex van Gastel, a student from Hogeschool HAS Den Bosch in the Netherlands had a work placement with the INFF in autumn 2009. His project involved collating INFF wildlife records & designing wildlife information boards for strategic placement throughout the Manch Estate (all we need now is the funding to install them!).

JB Richard was on work placement from ENGREF (a French forestry college) from March to July 2010. JB collected baseline data to begin a study examining the effect of ivy on the growth of trees.

INFF continue to collect data for the Irish Butterfly Monitoring Scheme. This scheme collates data from areas throughout Ireland and this information provides important indications regarding climate change and biodiversity.

Derek Felton (COFORD) continued to collect data to monitor the progress of the original oak trials at Manch as well as the new oak, beech and ash trials that were established in 2009.

2010 has seen the beginning of regular volunteer events on the day before each open day. This is a great opportunity to meet new people, learn new skills and have a fun day out. Volunteer tasks range from carrying out wildlife surveys to marking naturally regenerated trees in the old woodland and practical woodland management. If your interested in becoming a volunteer please get in touch or see our website for further details.



Volunteers carrying out a wildlife survey in the River Blackwater on the May volunteer day.

How you can help:

Become a Friend of INFF

Volunteer some time to help the organisation

Make a donation: INFF

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INFF is a registered charity (CHY15746)

### 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.

INFF would like to acknowledge the support that it has received from private donations and charitable trusts including the Harold Barry Trust and the tremendous support from Green Belt, Ireland's largest private forestry company. In particular INFF welcomes the support of the Forest Service whilst recognising that INFF seeks to challenge current forestry practice and policy.



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