



European Biodiversity Summer School

Nature in Music and Reality

June 4th – 7th 2010 Ireland Dublin and Wexford
music, fieldtrips, discussion, workshops and action for Nature -



What? International Biodiversity Summer School 2010

When? 4 - 7 June 2010 with range of separate events to join locally in that time..

Where? Ireland: Dublin (4th and 5th June) and county Wexford late 5th, 6th and 7th June

Who? Scientists, journalists and musicians from across Europe to mix with local Irish participants from all walks of life. Select parts are suitable for families with small children, students and farmers and fishermen.

Participate

- To learn more about our nature, protected sites, map reading, recording, submitting records to our national biological data centre, law and law enforcement
- In International exchange of information among scientists and local interests, land owners and students on old and novel ways of monitoring. See and share best practice of habitat management. Help deal with challenges of protection and restoration.
- To represent Nature in music and art, share folk memory, traditions and views of Nature of your country or area.

You can join all or just a selection of events and field trips which are spread over 4 days in Dublin and County Wexford, from urban parks and ancient buildings to sea shores and rivers.

Registration essential. Please complete registration form and send to the organisers

Acknowledgements Thank you to the Irish National Environment Fund NPWS for project grant, the Italian Cultural Institute for reception with Italian hospitality and Failte Ireland for sponsorship of travel and foreign journalist attendance. Further big thank you for event venues and support provided – the Custom house, TCD Science Gallery, TCD, Wexford Opera House and Coastwatcher homes. The environmental group organizers, the musicians, scientists, artist and Coastwatchers acting as volunteers and team leaders are all giving their expertise and time gratis. Acknowledgement list will be updated on the web.

This project is jointly coordinated by two national Irish Environmental groups with complimentary expertise - Coastwatch and Irish Wildlife Trust, with TCD Science Gallery as project partner.



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Irish Wildlife Trust: Joanne Pender 086 106 7402 enquiries@iwt.ie

Context

Biodiversity is the diversity and wealth of nature around us from tiny fly to largest whale, from peat bog to beach or reef habitat. We depend on biodiversity; we use it, compose songs for it and paint it. It is being lost rapidly as we damage, overexploit and hack it to habitat pieces too small to live in. Climate change and sea level rise are adding extra pressure.

A Biodiversity Monument

Almost a decade ago the EU promised optimistically to 'halt the loss of biodiversity by 2010'. This promise was engraved in an EU monument standing in Malahide castle grounds Dublin.

The Monument also carries etched animals and plants, each chosen to represent an EU member state. These species chosen by citizens are a mix of common and rare, edible or medical value, symbol of love, or climate change - check www.coastwatch.org .

2010 UN Biodiversity Year is here! Biodiversity loss has not been halted in most areas and the foundation we depend on is becoming shakier. The EU has now agreed a more focussed post 2010 policy where causes of biodiversity loss are more likely to be tackled. But addressing causes is a challenge when the average EU citizen sitting on the shore this summer knows more car makes than sea shells, Nature law enforcement is too weak and unwise financial incentives which damage nature still persist.

Vision

This international Biodiversity Summer School is a small pilot initiative, which we hope to expand upon with your help. Our vision of the future is one where EU citizens know which local areas or species are protected and why; where citizens grow up knowing their native plants and animals so well that almost all feel protective and empowered to act wisely. Those farmers who maintain habitats in top condition are acknowledged and asked to share their skill. Fishermen using sustainable low impact methods are recognised and can live off their catch, as marine life is adequately protected and stocks have recovered sufficiently. Law enforcement is transparent, even handed, swift and effective. Biodiversity is not just for ecologists or biology class, but it is integrated into all disciplines – from history to music, art and engineering.

Music and Science

On the occasion of this first summer school we are searching for old songs and new music about the monument species, review how the species are doing and any problems to be addressed and search out the nearest habitats typically occupied by these species, including some very special Natura 2000 sites. Visitors will join locals to discuss management of the areas, ask how we value them and what incentives we have towards wise use and protection, as well as laws and enforcement.

Registration: The programme is made up of 11 bites. Please register for the bites you like. Numbers are strictly limited due to bus, boat and room capacity.

Fee: Some 'bites' are free, otherwise costs are stated on the Registration form.

The organisers have tried to keep a low C foot print in choice of transport, accommodation and food. Your participation and feedback are needed so next year it can be even lower.

Biodiversity Summer School Outline Program June 4th –7th; Dublin & Wexford

Fri 4th June Lead organisation Coastwatch in cooperation with TCD and the Italian Institute

All Friday events are in strictly limited space. Please register and bring your confirmation.

11.30 am Custom House: Welcome reception with Minister John Gormley TD for EC, EP and Embassy representatives, delegates from EU countries, organizers and guests.

Includes Minister's welcome, a note on the EU Biodiversity Monument, a Bee Folk Song - St Kilian's German School choir conducted by Anne Tiedemanns, brief note on the Bumble bee species representing Germany in the EU Monument and new EC 2020 biodiversity policy.

1.30 pm Trinity College Dublin. Science Gallery: University contributions to Biodiversity Year – with TCD CREC. Welcome, Beth Gormley Science Gallery, Short presentations and discussion to stir the imagination for own initiatives. Includes Dr Anthony Grehan, Cold water coral expert, NUIG and Dr. Gustavo De Filippo, City of Venice. Also visit the special Gallery coral reef exhibition.

3.00 Nature in TCD David Hackett Head of Grounds and **Guided Nature Walk** of TCD Grounds

3.30 pm TCD Library: Guided tour of The Book of Kells with Anne-Marie Diffley, Manager TCD Library 'Biodiversity needed to create the book and biodiversity depicted'. Coffee offered by TCD CREC.

6.00 pm Reception with music offered by the Italian Institute of Culture, 11 Fitzwilliam Sq East -D2.

Sat 5th June World Environment Day **Organization lead: Irish Wildlife Trust** [see detailed page](#)

Saturday lunch and fieldtrips in Phoenix Park with guides require prior registration. Any queries contact Joanne Pender IWT.

Celebrate in Phoenix Park, its 'Bloom in the Park' festival. Meet at the Irish Wildlife Trust stand. Participate in field trips to explore park habitats lead by experienced IWT ecologists, join an instrument or an EU flag making workshop. Outdoor &/or marquees presentation of songs about **Nature on land** – trees, birds, butterflies and in fresh water, supported by the instruments just made. How are these species doing today? Species assessment and action sought. Light lunch provided for first 20 summer school delegates registered.

Last train to Wexford from Pearse Station with some worthwhile mystery tasks on the train. Stay in Wexford Town Green Award Hotel.

Sun 6th June **Organization lead: Coastwatch** [see detailed page](#)

Sunday events are open to both local participants just joining in a given location and those who have come down by train. Registration required.

Morning Divide up into 8 groups to explore a range of coastal and river habitats lead by scientists and local experts or just watch how nature ticks, sketch or paint with an artist. Discover rare species and learn about site designation. Information exchange out on site with local farmers and fishermen, looking at causes of biodiversity loss and how to address them from practical measures to planning, nature law and law enforcement.

Lunchtime onwards: Groups come together for information exchange, games, food and songs. Select food prepared as collected earlier from the wild or local and organic Wexford foods from land and sea - eat out doors weather permitting. Return to Wexford in the afternoon.

During the day and evening Songs about coastal and marine nature which the groups are searching for as linked to the biodiversity monument. On site discussion how the species are doing here and in the country they are representing in the EU monument, any action sought. **Evening:** Dinner 7 – 9 pm followed by Cultural evening 9pm – 1 am in the new **Wexford Opera House** for foreign guests and core participants, with limited extra tickets available.

Mon 7th June **Organization lead: Coastwatch** [see detailed page](#)

Bird dawn chorus for those who have not gone to bed yet, or need to catch bus to ferry and planes. Coastwatch coordinators and coastal scientists stay on for dune management session and day of international survey and planning 21st anniversary. Sites up the Wexford coast, ending in Ballymoney. **4.30 – 7 pm Orphan girl** Fisheries meeting with OCEAN2012, 'End of the Line' film, short presentations with Mike Walker, PEW group Brussels and local speakers followed by discussion and light refreshment **Everyone welcome.**

Invitation and Registration - Please complete registration form

A - Core group:

Sponsorship covers costs in Ireland for up to 8 EU country representatives. We are looking for 1 **journalist**, 1 **scientist or qualified person** who knows the species representing his/her country in the EU monument and 1 **musician** to perform a song or music for the species. Registration is open on a first come bases. A very limited travel grant is also available where a delegate makes a special contribution and cannot find national sponsor.

B – Local expertise, the interested public and foreign nationals living here who might join their ‘team from home’ especially if ecologists, journalists or musicians.

Free events.

We welcome everyone who wants to learn more about nature or share information how to better protect, manage or restore habitats. Register for all or a select event of the summer school such as a field trip, music session or presentation. While offered free of charge, prior **registration is essential** as space is very limited on some. If Sat June 5th you are already at ‘Bloom in the Park’ - just come over to the Irish Wildlife Trust stand.

Charge events.

Charges apply to meals, buses, kayaks and the June 6th Summer school dinner and party. Some sponsorship may become available. Please ask. **Registration is essential** and confirmation slip needed on entry.



Summer School venues in the sunny SE. between Dublin and the Waterford estuary.

Further Information on www.coastwatch.org, or follow us on Twitter [coastwatchirl](https://twitter.com/coastwatchirl)

Organisers:

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