



Photo: Common Frog by C. Connolly

**Bogs are Amazing -  
help us keep them that way**

# Have Your Say in the New Management Plan for Lodge Bog

IPCC are preparing a new comprehensive Conservation Management Plan for Lodge Bog. There are four objectives which the management plan will hope to achieve:

1. To completely review the effectiveness of the previous plan, assessing where new focus where previous practices must continue.
2. To enhance and maintain Lodge Bog so that it is fully functioning, self regulating raised bog ecosystem.
3. To maintain the traditional use of Lodge Bog as an educational facility, ensuring that there is no detrimental effect on the ecology of the bog.
4. To continue to protect the bog from harmful human effects such as fire, dumping and theft.

IPCC are hoping to reach a large audience in conducting this project so input at all stages will be warmly welcomed. If you would like to make a submission on the new Lodge Bog Conservation Management Plan contact the IPCC on 045-860133 or alternatively visit the home page of the IPCC website [www.ipcc.ie](http://www.ipcc.ie) and follow the link for Public Consultation for Lodge Bog Management Plan 2011-2016.



Photo: IPCC staff and volunteers assist Emily Kerr an Environmental Science student from Trinity College Dublin to profile the peat depth on Lodge Bog

## Upcoming Open Days

It is not too late to visit the Bog of Allen Nature Centre during 2011 and we have two upcoming open days at weekends. The first will be on the 28th August to celebrate National Heritage Week Tadhg Ó Corcora will be presenting a talk on the new Conservation Management Plan for Lodge Bog. On the 25th September Michael Kenny will be reviewing the *Sphagnum* Moss trails on Lodge Bog. Both events start at 2pm and include children's activities, guided peatland walk and free admission to the Bog of Allen Nature Centre museum & wildlife gardens. All Welcome.

# Bog Woodland Survey on Lodge Bog



Photo: Air photograph from Google Earth of Lodge Bog, Co. Kildare showing the two areas of bog woodland being surveyed in 2011. The IPCC own property outlined in red. The raised bog habitats are shown in brown.



To celebrate International Year of Forests 2011 the Irish Peatland Conservation Council are conducting a bog woodland survey on Lodge Bog. The aims of the survey are to:

- \* Describe and map the plant communities present including their structural complexity.
- \* Determine the species composition of the bog woodlands including higher plants, bryophytes and lichens
- \* Record the depth of peat beneath the woodlands
- \* Record the history of the woodlands by examining the peat cores for the presence of wood macrofossils
- \* Determine the hydrological conditions present in the woodlands.
- \* Undertake an invasive species survey of the woodlands.

## Why Not Visit the Peatland Education & Interpretive Centre

The Bog of Allen Nature Centre in Co. Kildare is the headquarters of the Irish Peatland Conservation Council. It is a centre of excellence in peatland education, conservation and research. At the Bog of Allen Nature Centre visitors to explore Ireland's peatland heritage and to gain a better understanding of the work of the IPCC. Exhibitions on display include traditional Irish living, the Army Construction Corps, raised bog formation, Dutch & Irish Bog Story and the archaeology of Irish bogs.

The gardens of the centre are managed with wildlife in mind and include the largest public display of insect eating plants in Ireland and the U.K.

IPCC has an extensive peatland education programme in place at the Bog of Allen Nature Centre. This is designed to both raise awareness of the need for the conservation of a representative sample of Irish peatlands but also to give individuals the skills required to manage, monitor and measure Irish peatland habitats. The education programme offers activities for both primary and secondary schools linked to the National Curriculum. The Bog of Allen Nature Centre has also made links with a variety of groups including Discover Primary Science and Maths, Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland and the Heritage in Schools Scheme of the Irish National Teachers Organisation and the Heritage Council.

IPCC's adult field study workshops include how to develop a management plan, how to manage a habitat and a variety of flora and fauna identification workshops.

Still to come in 2011 are two workshops. The first delivered by Yanny Petters entitled 'Drawing from Nature'. This workshop will explore botanical drawing including a brief history of illustrative techniques used by old masters. This workshop will be held on Wednesday 14th September from 10.30am-1pm at the Bog of Allen Nature Centre.

The second by Beth Murphy of Willow Wonder during Culture Night on the 23rd September from 5-8pm. There will be a demonstration of willow basket making followed by a practical weaving session. Booking essential for both events. Contact 045-860133 or email [bogs@ipcc.ie](mailto:bogs@ipcc.ie).



## Cessation of Turf Cutting

In 2011 the IPCC were invited to be members of the Peatlands Council, a committee set up by the Irish Government to bring all interested peatland groups together to ensure the cessation of turf cutting on protected peatland sites is enacted and to develop a national strategy for the future management of Irish Peatlands. The Irish Peatland Conservation Council have campaigned on this issue for many years. In 2011 we set up an online petition so members of the public could show their support for this issue. The campaign has been a huge success with over 1000 signatures received from all over the world. The signatures received to date have been sent to both the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government Phil Hogan and Minister Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht Jimmy Denihan. But it is not too late to show your support for the conservation of a representative sample of Irish peatlands. The petition is still live and you can sign it by following the link from the homepage of IPCC's website [www.ipcc.ie](http://www.ipcc.ie).



## New Exhibitions to Explore at the Bog of Allen Nature Centre

With capacity building funding from the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government distributed through the Irish Environmental Network, the Irish Peatland Conservation Council have been busy throughout 2011 updating exhibitions at the Bog of Allen Nature Centre. The first exhibition to get a new look was our Army Exhibition. This photographic exhibition has always been very popular with visitors but lacked written information on who was in the photographs and what the Construction Corps had to do with turf cutting during the Emergency of World War II. This problem has now been resolved and some new additions such as a wooden tent peg and wooden mallet used to build the camp sites for workers during this time have been included in the exhibition.

Our Pollardstown Fen Exhibition has been updated. It has been transformed into a more visually pleasing exhibition for visitors. Also as part of IPCC's capacity building for the first time we have a temporary exhibition from Philip Strickland a moth expert. The IPCC are holding an open day on Sunday 28th August and this is an ideal time for you to enjoy our new displays.



Photo: Common Frog by J. O'Neill

## Hop To It Irish Frog Survey

The Hop to It Irish Frog survey is now in its fifteenth year and still going strong. We have collected over 4,150 frog records since the beginning of the survey in 1997 and so far this year we have received over 240 frog records from every province in Ireland. There are still some counties that we have not received frog sightings from this year including Donegal, Mayo, Antrim and Sligo. We would greatly appreciate records from these counties so that we have a better representation of the distribution of the common frog in Ireland. The first record we received this year was from Schull, Co. Cork where an adult frog was seen. Thanks to everyone who has contributed to this survey.

Submit your records at [www.ipcc.ie](http://www.ipcc.ie).



**YOUR VOTES ARE NEEDED - The Irish Peatland Conservation Council have been shortlisted for a Future Friendly Environmental Award. This award programme is run by Proctor & Gamble and aims to recognise projects that support sustainable living. IPCC's peat free campaign promoting home composting as an alternative to the use of peat moss compost is one of the projects that is now open to the public to vote on for the award. If you would like to support the IPCC's peat free campaign please vote for Irish Peatlands by following the link from the homepage of the IPCC website [www.ipcc.ie](http://www.ipcc.ie).**

**Your  
Votes Are  
Needed!**

## Still Time to Join IPCC'S Butterfly Recorders for 2011

There is still time to join the IPCC's team of volunteers who are recording butterflies on IPCC's butterfly nature reserve, Lullymore West Bog. The butterfly transect is surveyed weekly each year for 26 weeks as part of the National Biodiversity Data Centres Butterfly Monitoring Scheme. The project is ongoing until the end of September so there is plenty of time to get involved. IPCC have set up a second butterfly transect on Lodge Bog which we hope will join the National Biodiversity Data Centres Butterfly Monitoring Scheme in 2012. So we need your help more than ever. The butterfly recorders meet at the Bog of Allen Nature Centre at 11am. As butterflies are affected by factors such as wind, temperature and sun light, the best time to record them is from 11am-4pm when the weather is sunny and calm.

Michael Kenny one of IPCC's Conservation Officers says 'the butterfly survey is a great way to meet people with similar interests and over time learn the variety of butterflies in Ireland. The survey takes about an hour to complete and full training will be given to new volunteers'. If you would like to get involved why not contact Michael Kenny at the Bog of Allen Nature Centre on 045-860133 or e-mail [bogs@ipcc.ie](mailto:bogs@ipcc.ie)



Photo: Green Veined White Butterfly by Richella Duggan

# How You Can Help Save Bogs

**WANTED**

**VOLUNTEERS**

**FOR IRISH PEATLAND CONSERVATION COUNCIL**

**CONSIDERED DEDICATED AND READY TO WORK!**

**REWARD**

**PERSONAL SATISFACTION, GAIN VALUABLE SKILLS, HELP PEOPLE AND THE ENVIRONMENT, MEET NEW PEOPLE, ENJOY MAKING A DIFFERENCE**

**FOR INFORMATION ON VOLUNTEERING: VISIT THE BOG OF ALLEN NATURE CENTRE, LULLYMORE, RATHANGAN, CO. KILDARE TELEPHONE 045-860133 VISIT WWW.IPCC.IE**

+ Please Donate to IPCC



+ We collect coins, badges, stamps, post cards, bus refund tickets .....

IPCC can turn your unwanted collectables into money for the save the bogs campaign. Please send your collectables to IPCC, Lullymore, Rathangan, Co. Kildare. Thank You.



## We all need to do more - now is the time to take action

The peatland conservation work of the IPCC continues today thanks to the national support the organisation receives from Friends of the Bog. Friends of the Bog contribute to peatland conservation in numerous ways including donating money to nature conservation projects of the IPCC, collecting stamps for the organisation, volunteering on IPCC's Nature Reserves and in the Wildlife Gardens of the Bog of Allen Nature Centre, purchasing gifts from IPCC's gift catalogue and by talking to friends and family about Irish peatlands. If you would like to get involved and help IPCC conserve a representative portion of peatlands for future generations to enjoy why not do it today.

- I would like to help IPCC's ongoing work for Irish bog conservation, to raise awareness and take action:
- by purchasing a gift from IPCC's gift catalogue please send me a gift catalogue
  - by volunteering at the Bog of Allen Nature Centre please send me a volunteering leaflet
  - by sending IPCC my used stamps
  - by signing up as a Friend of the Bog for €45
  - by donating  €..... to IPCC's conservation & education projects

Name .....

Address .....

I enclose cheque/postal order **or**  please debit my Laser/Mastercard/Visa

Card No ..... Expiry Date ..... / .....

Security Code ..... Signature .....

Please return to: IPCC, Lullymore, Rathangan, Co. Kildare  
Charity No. CHY6829



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Keep in Touch

