



GLASGOW NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

April 2011

David Palmar
(Newsletter Editor)

Next Newsletter Deadline
22 July 2011

GNHS is a Registered Scottish
Charity Web-site:
<http://www.gnhs.org.uk/>

Forthcoming Meetings

David Palmar

April

Tuesday 12th - Tutorial: North Lanarkshire's Industrial Heritage

- the challenges and opportunities for biodiversity

Vicky Abernethy & Laura Whyte (prelude to a summer excursion) 6:30pm

Lecture: Evolution of plant reproductive systems in changing environments

Barbara Mable. 7.30 pm

May

Tuesday 10th - Tutorial: Intertidal Scottish crabs - Jon Barnes. 6.30 pm

Lecture: Autotomy and other animal detachment mechanisms in the home, garden and beyond. Iain Wilkie. 7.30pm

June

Tuesday 14th - Summer Social - details and booking form at end of Newsletter.

Speakers for Next Year

Barbara Mable and Roger Downie

We will soon be putting together the Winter Programme for 2011-12. If you know of any good speakers you would like to see at GNHS, please let us know as soon as possible, including contact details. Thanks.

Excursion Programme 2011

Anne Orchardson

We have a very full Excursion Programme this year, thanks to all those who have agreed to lead trips. Some of the leaders will write of their own excursions, but there is some information for which there was not room on the card. Please read this in conjunction with the card.

GENERAL: Pre-booking

In a couple of instances we need to know numbers. If you have to cancel nearer the time, please notify the relevant Contact person so that someone else can take the place - there may be a waiting list. If you have paid in advance (see Arran), you will be refunded once a replacement is found.

Links with winter programme

Some of the excursions link with talks in the Winter Programme:

- the shore walk on Cumbrae in April will hopefully give sightings of intertidal crabs, linking nicely with a tutorial in May by John Barnes;

- Keith Watson's visit to Wall's Hill 15 June follows his talk on his Flora of Renfrewshire;
- a May visit to two sites in North Lanarkshire links following a tutorial by Laura Whyte from the Ranger Service in April.

Travel

So that we can share transport as much as possible, please indicate when confirming your attendance if you can offer, or require, any car places.

FURTHER DETAIL ABOUT SPECIFIC EXCURSIONS

Sat 16th Apr Shore Walk

Meet at 13.00 for lunch at Nardini's. After lunch we will take ferry to Cumbrae to make the most of a good low tide in the afternoon, lowest at 5pm.

Wellingtons/boots essential; bucket for collecting useful.

Thurs 28th Apr - Night lamping for newts

This is the best way to see active adults in the water during the breeding season. Meet at Asda Car park, 1 Monument Drive, Glasgow, G33 1AD NS 633687 - beside recycling bins, near McDonald's. (off M80 Junction 2). Be prepared for wet rough walking off paths. Waterproofs, warm clothes, wellingtons/boots; small torch for moving round site. If you have a high powered torch, bring it, though some will be provided. You will need a small torch for walking round the site. Numbers are limited as there will be Froglife Volunteers there as well.

Sat 14th May - Joint with Edinburgh Natural History Society

After spending some time at Lochwood Oaks NY083971, we will visit nearby Kinnel Water (shingle beds) and Dyke Farm Nature Reserve.

Meet at Station car park, Moffat NT083049. See Google Street View or <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/INFD-6UEHPF> Car sharing advisable - cars will probably be left at the station car park and members will join Edinburgh's bus as parking is limited at sites.

Sun 15th May - Photography & Birds

An ideal opportunity to enter the new Photographic Competition. Bring any/all of the following: waterproof clothing, boots, midge net, packed lunch, binoculars, bird book, camera, or even a telescope. The SCENE post code is G63 0AW.

Sat 11th June Keith Watson is leading an educational BSBI field meeting. Booking essential. For details see <http://www.bsbi.org.uk/meetings.html>

Sat 18th June Cleddans Burn - Froglife

This is than under-recorded site, so there is the opportunity for general recording. There will also be an option to walk to Garscadden Woods afterwards. The reserve entrance is beside the Goals 5-a-side pitches - 2650 Great Western Rd, G81 2XT.

Sat 2nd July Robroyston LNR - Invertebrates

An opportunity to assist with recording at this site. Meet at main park entrance near junction of Quarrywood Road and Robroyston Road NS 629678. Some nets and collecting boxes provided but bring your own if possible. Binoculars useful. Shelter and toilets available nearby in local community hall.

Sat 9th July Knockshinnoch Lagoons SWT Reserve, New Cumnock

The reserve is approx 400m on B741 to south (Afton Bridge) end of New Cumnock. (From A76 turn right in New Cumnock for Dalmellington. Depending on weather etc., there will also be the opportunity for a walk to the ancient woodland in Glen Afton.

Fri-Sun 15-17th July Arran weekend

The rough plan for this weekend is as follows:

- Friday 15th travel to Arran
- Saturday 16th day long "safari" run by Arran Rangers. There will be space on a minibus for 12 at a cost of £10 pp; if we are more than 12, others can follow in cars.
- Sunday 17th options still being explored, but may include looking at moth trap set overnight, plant walk, visit to the Arran whitebeams, etc. Travel home.

Accommodation: provisional bookings are being made for 12 people in B&Bs in Brodick. If you prefer to make your own arrangements, please indicate this on the booking form. Also if you are willing to share with someone, which reduces cost, please show that as well.

Travel: It will be useful to have some cars on the island and we can co-ordinate this once we know who is coming. Hopefully we can reduce the number of cars, maximise the passengers and share the ferry cost. As it's a busy time of year, it is advisable to book car places in advance.

Ardrossan Ferry cost: Cars £62 or £79 depending on time of travel; driver & passengers £10.10 each. Foot passengers £10.10. (all return fares)

Please use the form attached to book your place. £10 per person is payable with your booking to cover the cost of the minibus. If more than 12 people are coming the £10 will be refunded to those travelling separately from the minibus.

Sat 23rd July Joint with Hamilton Natural History Society

Two sites to be visited at East Kilbride: a small quarry near Calderglen Country Park, good for butterflies and damsel flies and Langlands Moss LNR, a raised bog. Good for plants and invertebrates. Sturdy footwear required for both sites. The afternoon will probably end with tea at Calderglen Country Park, but will depend on how much time is spent on the excursion!

Wed 17th Aug Flanders Moss

A great opportunity to see much of this reserve on a full day's excursion. Bring wellingtons/boots - rough walking. Meet at the Reserve's main car-park - Ten miles west of Stirling. Turn right off the A811 at the Kippen roundabout towards Thornhill on the B822. After two miles, a signposted track on the left leads to the car park. SNH's risk assessment cards need to be completed prior to the event.

September/October Fungal Forays

As last year we are linking with the Clyde and Argyll Fungus Group. Details of the two in September and the one at Linn Park will be notified nearer the time.

Sat 1 Oct - Strathblane

Strathblane Primary School is just west of inn at A81/A891 junction, on the left going west on A81.

I hope you enjoy this year's Programme. If you have any comments (good or otherwise!) please let me know. Also, any ideas for the future are always welcome - I have started a list for 2012 already!

PhotoSCENE - A Natural History Photographic Competition

David Palmar and Dan Haydon

Sponsored by Glasgow Natural History Society and Glasgow University Institute of Biodiversity, Animal Health and Comparative Medicine - £800 of prizes

This competition is being organised in conjunction with SCENE (the Scottish Centre for Ecology and the Natural Environment, formerly the University's field station at Rowardennan).

The aims of the competition are to promote an interest in natural history and the work of SCENE, to promote a greater linkage between Glasgow Natural History Society (GNHS) and the Institute, and to provide photographs useful for publicity. Photographs should have a natural history/biodiversity content, i.e. featuring animals or plants, and/or the work of SCENE in science - e.g. students on field courses. They must be taken at SCENE or in the general area of east Loch Lomondside and should be submitted by 31st October 2011, and have been taken since October 2010. Entries will be limited to 5 per entrant.

Entry is open to members of GNHS, and students (including undergraduates registered for Zoology, or Marine and Freshwater Biology degrees, and postgraduates) and staff (including affiliates and associates) of the Institute. Winning entries will be published in *The Glasgow Naturalist*, and permission must be given to the organisers to use submitted images for non-commercial purposes for 5 years. The copyright holder may continue to use the images for his/her own purposes.

Images must be accompanied by a note detailing when the image was taken, with what equipment, and any digital enhancement used. Simple digital enhancements are allowed, but must be declared, e.g. cropping, boosting contrast or sharpness, but whole scale alteration of pictures, such as superimposition of one picture on another, is not allowed. Panoramas consisting of more than one picture are acceptable.

Entries should be submitted digitally (at high resolution, >6 megapixels) as high quality jpegs (or other widely used digital formats) suitable for printing.

Prizes will be awarded on the combined basis of photographic, artistic, and biological interest. The total prize fund will be £800 per year. First prize will attract £400, second £200 and third and fourth £100 each. The judging committee will be drawn from GNHS and the Institute. The judges will be looking for images that have impact. Judges and their immediate family members will be ineligible to enter the competition. Full arrangements and rules will be published by email and on the GNHS and Institute websites. Questions can be addressed to David Palmar or Dan Haydon.

'TEK' Equipment

Richard Weddle

As the field-recording season is now upon us, it seems a good time to remind everyone that the Society possesses a number of items of equipment for the use of members. Many of these were purchased with the aid of a recent generous bequest from Thomas E Kinsey.

The list indicates that some items are 'in use'; this does not necessarily mean that they would not be available to others for a short time. However, there are also some items that have been purchased for particular research projects, and will not be available until the end of those projects. Items such as nets and sorting trays are sometimes needed for GNHS field excursions and other such events. GNHS Council do stipulate that requests to use items for any significant length of time should be supported by an outline of the project for which they are required, and that the results should be submitted for publication in *The Glasgow Naturalist*.

I should also point out that though the bat-detector is quite easy to use, it requires some training and experience to interpret what it picks up, and the Longworth traps can only legally be used by a trained and licensed operator.

Description	Availability	In care of
6 compound microscopes	occasional use	Hunterian Museum - Geoff Hancock
10 Longworth mammal traps	in use	Countryside Ranger Service
Batbox Duet bat detector	occasional use	R Weddle
2 Garmin GPS (basic)	occasional use	Anne Orchardson, Ian McCallum
2 Garmin eTrex GPS	1 in use	R Weddle
Skinner moth trap (mains operated)	In use	Anne Orchardson
Heath moth trap (battery operated)	occasional use	R Weddle
2 pond nets: large / small	occasional use	R Weddle
2 sweep nets: large / small	occasional use	R Weddle
Butterfly net	occasional use	R Weddle
Beating tray	occasional use	R Weddle
3 sorting trays	occasional use	R Weddle
4 remote video cameras	available	R Weddle
Data loggers and cages	not available	Anna Muir

If you'd like to borrow any item, contact me or I can put you in touch with the current holder of the equipment.

Changing Flora of Glasgow on NBN Gateway

Richard Weddle

The Changing Flora of Glasgow (JH Dickson, P Macpherson & K Watson et al.) was published in the year 2000 and covers a rectangle 20 km x 18 km comprising the whole of Glasgow and some adjacent areas. After some considerable work by Keith Watson and myself (particularly Keith), the 85,516 records have recently been added to the Glasgow Museums database and forwarded to the Botanical Society of the British Isles (BSBI) for uploading to the NBN Gateway.

To view a distribution map, go to <http://data.nbn.org.uk> and enter the name of the species (the English name can be used – but beware of hyphens!), select 'Interactive Map' and, when it appears, zoom in on Glasgow area using the Zoom and Move tools on the left. The map will probably include records from other sources (which may, in some cases, be unverified) - you can choose to see ONLY the CFOG records by clicking the 'Deselect Datasets' button (below the list of datasets), then ticking Changing Flora of Glasgow (in the BSBI section) and finally clicking 'Refresh the Map'.

The surveys on which the book is based took place mainly in the 1970s and 1980s and were done by the authors, members of GNHS, and others. Since then, new species have appeared in the area, and some have disappeared from where they were found during the CFOG project, eg through development of the site, so the book is merely a milestone, the work of recording continues!

Legionellosis

Junella Mackay

We are all aware of Legionnaires Disease, *Legionella pneumophila*, which periodically hits the headlines during a spell of warm weather. But until last year many of us were not aware that there are in fact two types of *Legionellosis*. Both are caused by the *Legionella* bacteria which can be caught by anyone, but the RHS tells us that elderly gardeners and those with a suppressed immune system are the more vulnerable.

The most common form, *L. pneumophila*, can be contracted from contact with warm standing water, something that we as gardeners have perhaps not fully appreciated. On the other hand, *Legionella longbeachae*, which occurs in soil and compost, was brought forcibly to our attention locally last year.

For instance, last September a 67-year-old Scot was struck down with *L. longbeachae* two days after suffering a gash while opening a bag of fertiliser. He ended up in intensive care and was successfully treated for the lung disease with an antibiotic at the Royal Alexandra Hospital, Paisley.

Earlier in the year a 59 year old gardener spent seven weeks in intensive care on a ventilator after contracting the disease while opening fertiliser in his garden in Bothwell. This case followed three others in Scotland in 2008 and 2009 where victims caught this form of the life-threatening condition by inhaling droplets of water in the compost.

In both types of the disease, high temperature is the key, and the RHS lists 25 ways of minimising the risk of infection. These are mainly common sense, such as the wearing of gloves. But it is worth remembering not to store compost in a warm cupboard or greenhouse and not to open the bag with your head right over it, or work with it in a confined space. Additionally always moisten dry potting media before handling, and compost heaps before turning. Water should always be emptied out of garden hoses, particularly when it is sunny, and care should be taken to avoid splashing liquid around when watering or washing pots. Storage tanks and butts, which should be thoroughly cleaned annually, are vulnerable to high temperatures, and their water should not be used for mist irrigation or sprinklers if it is over 20°C.

Lastly, always wash your hands after gardening, especially before eating, and keep a hand sterilising gel in the potting shed if clean water isn't available.

Booking Form For GNHS Weekend On Arran 2011

Friday to Sunday, 15-17th July

Saturday's minibus excursion with the Arran Rangers will start at 9.30am or 10.00am, so we are suggesting travelling to Arran on Friday afternoon/evening. Return time on Sunday flexible - partly dependent on what we do. Ferries from Brodick at 13.50, 16.40, 19.20 the 16.40 ferry being more expensive.

I would like to go to Arran and enclose a cheque for £10 (payable to GNHS) for the cost of the minibus. *If the minibus is oversubscribed, we will take additional cars and the £10 will be refunded to those travelling separately.*

NAME

ADDRESS

TELEPHONE:

MOBILE

email

DATE:

PLEASE TICK / CIRCLE AS APPROPRIATE:

Accommodation:

I/we would like accommodation

I would be willing to share a twin room

I would like to share with _____

I do not want to share

I/we do not need accommodation

Transport:

I/we have a car and am willing to take it on the ferry and can offer lifts

Number of places available _____

I/we would like transport to Ardrossan and on Arran

I/we will travel independently and meet others on Arran

**Please send booking form, with payment as soon as possible to:
Anne Orchardson**

Wildlife Counts

David Palmar

If you are passionate about wildlife, the "Wildlife Counts" Programme can help you engage with your community in Glasgow, Inverclyde or North Ayrshire and help them record their local flora and fauna. Its aim is to develop a network of sustainable recording communities. You could be trained to be a Biodiversity Mentor for your area. To find out more, contact Paul McDonald.

The rest of this page has been left blank, to allow the Arran Weekend form to be kept or sent without destroying much information on the back of it.

Summer Social 2011

Margaret Stead

A dinner will be held on Tuesday June 14th at 6.30 for 7 pm. In

THE HUNGRY MONK HOTEL in LOCHWINNOCH

It will be a two course meal offering five choices of main and dessert followed by coffee and mints. Table wine and soft drinks are included.

Charge per person will be £24

Some of you may wish to explore the RSPB reserve before the dinner. The actual RSPB building closes at 5 pm but the walkways are open. The hotel is open all day and is happy to have you use their facilities should you wish to drop in for a cup of tea or a drink after your walk.

.....

I/We wish to attend the summer social on Tuesday 14th June

Name/s.....

Address.....

.....

Phone number.....email address.....

I can offer transport.....

I need transport.....

Please complete this form and send it, along with a cheque (£24 each) made out to Glasgow Natural History Society.