

Excursion to Lenzie Moss LNR, Saturday 9th May 2015
George Paterson

Over 10 members attended the excursion to this fine example of a lowland raised bog. Although dry and sunny later on, the time of year and lowish temperatures meant that flying insects were scarce.

As we passed through some unimproved grassland towards the main area of bog we saw one of the many dams put in place by SNH in an attempt to keep the bog from drying out. There was also evidence of birch removal carried out by the Friends of Lenzie Moss and Mugdock Ranger volunteers for the same reason. Large red damselfly *Pyrrosoma nymphula* were seen zipping in amongst the bog cotton *Eriophorum angustifolium* as we headed towards the centre of the bog via a raised bank separating many of the sections where peat had been extracted commercially in the past. This was done via a narrow gauge railway, remains of which are still present.



Dam to keep water level high



Dr Richard Tipping pointing out layers in the peat core

Dr. Richard Tipping from Stirling University, with the help of his peat core borer and some burly GNHS members, extracted samples of peat from the past 2000 years or so. Light and dark bandings highlighting wet and dry periods in the bog's history. Richard also talked about the influence man may have had through farming practices. There was some discussion as to the extent of the effect the Romans may have had – Lenzie being close to the Antonine Wall.



Bog Rosemary

Swifts and swallows flew overhead and meadow pipits and skylarks were also heard and seen. Pond dipping in some of the bog pools revealed a number of dragonflies (probably *Libellula quadrimaculata*) and damselfly larvae as well as pond skaters and diving beetles. On the path a drinker moth *Euthrix potatoria* was spotted and next to the wooden walkway a patch of the nationally rare bog-rosemary *Andromeda polifolia* could be seen within a fenced off area to protect it from trampling.



Five WaLRaGs (Water-level Rain-gauges) have been placed around the site to monitor changes in the water table level. It is hoped in a few years time results will show the ongoing work maintaining the bog through birch removal and dam building has had a positive effect on the habitat.

The day ended, for some, with a coffee and cake at the award winning deli, Bellingtons, next to Lenzie railway station.

GNHS members examining a WaLRaG

Photos by David Palmar www.photoscot.co.uk

To see David's photos of some of the mosses of E Dunbartonshire, visit www.photoscot.co.uk/Gallery/Search.aspx?storyId=184

Insect species list below supplied by Richard Weddle:

Family	Species	Common Name
Cantharidae	<i>Cantharis decipiens</i>	a soldier beetle
Cantharidae	<i>Cantharis nigricans</i>	a soldier beetle
Cerambycidae	<i>Grammoptera ruficornis</i>	a small longhorn beetle
Chrysomelidae	<i>Crepidodera fulvicornis</i>	a flea beetle
Chrysomelidae	<i>Hydrothassa marginella</i>	a leaf beetle
Chrysomelidae	<i>Phratora vulgatissima</i>	Blue Willow Beetle
Chrysomelidae	<i>Plateumaris sericea</i>	a leaf beetle
Coccinellidae	<i>Adalia bipunctata</i>	2-spot Ladybird
Coccinellidae	<i>Coccinella septempunctata</i>	7-spot Ladybird
Curculionidae	<i>Phyllobius</i>	a weevil
Kateretidae	<i>Brachypterus urticae</i>	Nettle Pollen Beetle
Oedemeridae	<i>Oedemera virescens</i>	a swollen-thigh beetle
Staphylinidae	<i>Tachyporus pallidus</i>	a small rove-beetle
Pieridae	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>	Orange-tip
Pieridae	<i>Pieris napi</i>	Green-veined White
Coenagrionidae	<i>Pyrrhosoma nymphula</i>	Large Red Damselfly
Apidae	<i>Bombus terrestris</i>	Buff-Tailed Bumble Bee
Choreutidae	<i>Anthophila fabriciana</i>	Common Nettle-tap
Geometridae	<i>Epirrita</i>	November Moth agg.
Geometridae	<i>Erannis defoliaria</i>	Mottled Umber
Glyphipterigidae	<i>Glyphipterix simpliciella</i>	Cocksfoot Moth
Micropterigidae	<i>Micropterix aureatella</i>	Yellow-barred Gold
Acanthosomatidae	<i>Elasmotethus interstinctus</i>	Birch Shieldbug
Bibionidae	<i>Biblio leucopterus</i>	White-winged Bibio
Palloppteridae	<i>Palloptera trimacula</i>	a 'flutter-wing' fly
Syrphidae	<i>Cheilosia albitarsis</i>	a hoverfly