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Welcome

to the second edition of Leave No Trace Ireland's Newsletter...

Within the last six months Leave No Trace Ireland has:

- Developed a new logo and created a fresh new brand
- Created a new partnership and membership structure
- Agreed Master Educator and Trainer fees for conducting training courses and awareness sessions
- Produced 'Trainer Packs' for those who have participated in training courses
- Redesigned the website - www.leavenotraceireland.org
- Redesigned and printed the Leave No Trace Information Booklet
- Reworded the Leave No Trace General Skills and Ethics Booklet
- Created and organised a Training Calendar for 2008
- Continued to encourage new organisations to join the network and support it financially



In the immediate future, Leave No Trace Ireland will focus on rolling out the different training levels of Leave No Trace, encourage more organisations to become involved with the programme and produce Irish versions of the education and publicity materials.

Coillte welcomes all visitors and promotes Leave No Trace

Woodland restoration project incorporating the principles of Leave No Trace launched.

Mary Wallace TD, Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food with special responsibility for forestry, launched Ireland's largest woodland restoration project in December co-funded by Coillte and EU DG-Environment under the LIFE-Nature Programme.

The project targets nine priority woodland sites in counties Cavan, Clare, Galway, Mayo, Laois, Limerick, Offaly, Sligo and Tipperary covering over 550 hectares. During the lifetime of the project, a significant improvement in woodland habitat quality is expected. These woodlands are critically rare and have an extremely high nature conservation value. The woodlands provide habitat, shelter and food to many native plant and animal species. In some cases, these species are now, themselves, extremely rare and rely on priority woodland habitats to survive.

Members of the public are welcome to visit the LIFE woodlands and encouraged to follow the principles of Leave No Trace. Leave No Trace is promoted extensively throughout the project and is included on the woodland entrance signage, the project's website and Coillte's LIFE05 project brochures which are available through the website.

For detailed information on this project and a map of the project sites, visit: www.woodlandrestoration.ie

From left to right, Tim Crowley (Managing Director, Coillte Forestry Division), Mary Wallace (TD, Minister of State, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food with special responsibility for forestry), David Gunning (Chief Executive, Coillte) and Sean Quealy (Project Manager).



Redesign of www.leavenotraceireland.org

The Leave No Trace Ireland website has been redesigned to incorporate the new logo and new fresh brand design, and to make it easier to navigate for its visitors. The website provides a range of information on the different training levels, the programme's background and the seven principles on which the programme is based. Organisations and individuals can also find out about how they can support or promote Leave No Trace through the 'support and promote' sections of the website.

The new website can be visited at the same website address as before - www.leavenotraceireland.org



New look for Information Booklet

To help create a strong more recognisable brand for Leave No Trace in Ireland, the Information Booklet detailing Leave No Trace seven key principles has also been redesigned.

You can download copies of the new booklet from the website www.leavenotraceireland.org or request copies free of charge by emailing info@leavenotraceireland.org.



Training

Training Course Reports



also be breeding/nesting areas and in small confined areas we can really have an impact in terms of disturbance.

Leave No Trace training teaches us to look at the principles not only in the environment in which we are teaching but also to think about other ecosystems. It is very rewarding for an Instructor like me to be plucked from a mountain environment and transferred to a water-based environment.

Leave No Trace welcomes 17 new Trainers from these 2 courses: Louise Devlin, Marcus Mundy, Michelle O'Hare, Eilidh Kenyon, Elaine Alexander, Anthony McDonald, Andy Ireland, Damien Smith, Jarlath Rice, Colin Lively, Aodhnait Carroll, Philip Connolly, Michelle Forester, Mark McQuaid, Grace Branyan, Andrew McCaul and John Tibby.

Report 2

Course Facilitator: Katy Egan, Master Educator of Leave No Trace Ireland
Venue: Knocksink Woods, Enniskerry, Co. Wicklow
Date: 12th & 13th March 2008
Course Participants: National Parks and Wildlife Service – education staff at the Wicklow Mountains National Park.

This course was carried out in Knocksink Woods, Enniskerry, a great place to carry out day sessions, but it is illegal to camp here as the area is a nature reserve. The group abandoned their original plan of camping elsewhere because of the bad weather.

The group was very familiar with the material, from the programmes taught at the education centre and they produced some fantastic ideas for games. It was all well received by the participants and thoroughly enjoyable. Due to the background of the participants the skills most used by them were the soft skills and Leave No Trace helped them consolidate the information into a reusable form.

Leave No Trace welcomes 5 new Trainers from this course: Maxime Flamand, Sarah O'Malley, Eleanor Sutherland, John Kinsella and Karolina Norgrove.

interesting as an Instructor to teach and adapt the message to be relevant to different environments.

Many of our inland rivers and lakes are vulnerable and may be Special Protection Areas (SPA) for birds or Special Conservation Areas (SAC). Water poses a challenge in Ireland, as there is so much of it. We know that all life-forms depend on water, not just us, the two legged variety, therefore how we protect our water sources as outdoor users can have a significant impact. It really forces us to think about human waste disposal and the importance of good water quality for all life.

Working around the Lakeland area also brings home the importance of the principle "Leave What You Find" and its message to avoid introducing non-native species. Some of our inland waters are already clogged up with the introduced Zebra Mussel at the peril of the native Swan and Pearl Mussels. As water users we have a responsibility to check and properly wash our equipment especially before transferring between different watercourses. Many inland waters have small islands and these are worthy of a mention as many people will camp over or pull up on them to explore. As we know, impacts tend to be cumulative and quite often these islands show the scars of our recreational impact examples include charred campfire rings, eroded tracks and banks. These islands may

Report 1

Course Facilitator: Ann Fitzpatrick, Master Educator of Leave No Trace Ireland
Venue: Share Holiday Village, Co. Fermanagh and Tanagh Outdoor Education Centre, Co. Monaghan
Date: 5th & 6th March & 31st March & 1st April
Course Participants: Share Holiday Village Outdoor Instructors and Tanagh Outdoor Education Instructors

Winter is not an ideal season for Leave No Trace training, the weather and lack of daylight combine to make teaching skills in the outdoors a challenge. But now that the days are lengthening and the weather (...well it is Ireland!), Leave No Trace Ireland is getting into full swing with its training programme.

In March and April two courses were run in the midlands and north region. One for the Share Holiday Village in Co. Fermanagh and another for Tanagh Outdoor Education Centre in Co. Monaghan. Both of these centres sit on our beautiful inland waterways and though they offer a wide range of activities – canoeing and other water-based activities feature strongly. I mention this as most of our Leave No Trace training tends to be focused around mountaineering/hill walking and it is

Greenbox... get involved

The Greenbox is a cross border organisation in the North West of Ireland that has been set up to stimulate the development of ecotourism in this region. The area of the Greenbox includes Counties Fermanagh, Leitrim, West Cavan, North Sligo, South Donegal and North West Monaghan. Core to ecotourism and to the Greenbox philosophy is the concept of environmental sustainability. In September 2007, The Greenbox facilitated a Leave No Trace Training Course, creating a batch of qualified Leave No Trace trainers in this

region who can now pass on the message to others about the careful use of the countryside. The training was held at the Share Holiday Village, Lisnaskea, Co. Fermanagh. The testimonials from those who received the training have all been very positive:

"The weekend went really well. Great trainers and good company. It was loads of fun and I learnt a lot" (Kristin Sani, Share Holiday Village).

"I thoroughly enjoyed the course at the Share Holiday Village, Fermanagh in April and found it very beneficial as I take groups camping on Islands on Lough Erne on a regular basis. I found the focus on correct fire building methods particularly useful and was fascinated by the time it takes for rubbish to disintegrate. The course was well pitched and enjoyable and it has definitely made me realise how we as group leaders and instructors can minimise impact on our environment."

(Louise Devlin, Outdoor Instructor at Share Holiday Village).

Leave No Trace welcomes 13 new Trainers from this course: Peter Hughes, Theresa Burns, Pauline Gilmartin, Aggie Pugsley, Patrick Jones, Kristin Sani, Lucy Hunt, Kevin Currid, Shane Brunner, Gordon Fallis, Jerome O'Loughlin, Noeleen Tyrell and Martina Magee.



Training at the Top - Second Course in Ireland

In June 2008, Leave No Trace Ireland will deliver its second Master Educator/ Instructor Course, the highest level of Leave No Trace training. This will be the third course to be delivered in Europe, the first was in Scotland 2005 and then Ireland in 2006. It is intended to train 12 Instructors in Leave No Trace, who can then pass the message on through their own work within organisations/ training schemes. These aspirant Instructors will then be expected to offer Leave No Trace courses and train up others in the Leave No Trace education programme. Ben Lawhon, Education Director for the Leave No Trace Centre for Outdoor Ethics in Boulder, Colorado, will be delivering

this course in conjunction with Leave No Trace Ireland. Ben will be ably assisted by a number of our own Master Educators.

Master Educator/Instructor Courses are typically five-days (mostly taught in the field with overnight camps as an integral element of the course) in length and designed for people who are actively teaching others outdoor skills, providing leadership or recreation information to the public. The course will run from Monday 16th – Friday 20th June, accommodation on the Sunday evening will be provided. The cost will be approx. €500 pp (costings to be finalised) this is inclusive of accommodation, food and

educational resources. The course will be based out of the Catholic Youth Council hostels in the Glendasan Valley, Glendalough, Co. Wicklow and will use the adjoining Wicklow Mountains National Park as its outdoor classroom.

Anyone interested in attending should contact beverley@leavenotraceireland.org immediately for an application form. All candidates must have completed a Trainer course, ideally have some experience teaching Leave No Trace and also must be in the position to actively be involved in teaching Leave No Trace through their work or personal commitment.

WITHIN LEAVE NO TRACE IRELAND:

- From June 2008, there will be an extra **12 people trained as Master Educators.**
- To date there has been **16 Trainer Courses** delivered, with another 4 planned for 2008. The most recent courses have been held for Outdoor Education Centre staff and outdoor activity provider staff.
- There are currently **132 people qualified** as Trainers of Leave No Trace across Ireland.
- Approximately **45 'Awareness Sessions'** have been carried out to date, with another 6 planned for 2008. The most recent sessions were carried out on behalf of Failte Ireland for Irish Riding Establishments and outdoor organisations, Duke of Edinburgh and the Activity Tourism Forum for Northern Ireland.

Details of all Training Courses and Awareness Sessions can be found on www.leavenotraceireland.org

A Perspective from Leave No Trace America

The Leave No Trace Centre for Outdoor Ethics in Boulder, Colorado has received enquiries from over 65 countries in recent years for education, training and tools to provide Leave No Trace programmes. Requests have ranged from developing Leave No Trace organisations in New Zealand, Israel and India to programme work in places such as the Ukraine, Philippines, China, Tanzania and Bolivia.

The Centre has provided educational tools and offered partnerships to these international groups. Basically, Leave No Trace information has been translated into over a dozen languages, and organisations are using the programme all over the world. As a component of this international response, three countries have worked with the Centre to establish organisations, Ireland being the latest.

According to the Centre, selecting countries to actually implement Leave No Trace organisations has not been easy. Susy Alkaitis (Deputy Director for the Leave No

Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics in Boulder, Colorado) commented that "a couple of years ago a Canadian representative joked at the inaugural event for Leave No Trace Canada saying, we are Canadianizing the Leave No Trace Seven Principles. In the United States they say 'Plan Ahead and Prepare, Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces...' In Canada we have to adjust the principles. We say 'PLEASE Plan Ahead and Prepare, PLEASE Travel And Camp on Durable Surfaces...'"

Many relevant considerations have come into play as the Centre has worked with countries to establish their own Leave No Trace programmes. Most importantly, they recognise that as a programme steeped in "ethics", it needs to remain flexible and responsive to different cultures.

Susy Alkaitis, (Deputy Director for the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics in Boulder, Colorado) stated "From conversations with the many dedicated people involved with

establishing Leave No Trace Ireland, the issues seemed slight, though the Leave No Trace programme is delivered with an Irish cast...

To date, we have watched Leave No Trace Ireland's accomplishments over a very short time. Many components of the programme have transferred easily, and then a few, such as our complex training structure, have made it difficult to effectively teach people to 'leave no trace'. Though we are awed that Ireland already has more Leave No Trace Master Educators per capita than the United States, our staff is heading back over this summer to provide high-level training that will make Leave No Trace Ireland's training structure easier to navigate through. Working through these issues with Leave No Trace Ireland has been an important learning experience for our staff and has helped us refine the way we offer the programme to the international community. Watching the Leave No Trace programme transform and actually work around the world is thrilling!

First Council to sign up

Limavady Borough Council in Northern Ireland is pleased to become a supporting partner of Leave No Trace Ireland.

The ethics employed by Leave No Trace allow the Council to consider the sustainable delivery of its services. This is particularly relevant in terms of tourism, outdoor recreation and beach management. The areas of Limavady and Roe Valley have beautiful and diverse landscapes, and are very much an outdoor playground. By actively encouraging people to explore this landscape the Council places a duty on itself to encourage responsible outdoor recreation.

Having signed up to be a partner in early 2008, the Council is in the initial stages of applying and promoting the principles of Leave No Trace. By taking on board the principles, the Council aims to promote

sustainability in its own operations and those who make use of the outdoors.

Leave No Trace will be promoted in the area of Limavady through the following:

- **Blue Flag Award & Beach Management** - Inspired by the introduction of 'Pack It In Pack It Out' campaign on beaches in Co. Cork, the Council is introducing Leave No Trace as a vital tool in raising awareness amongst beach users all year round.
- **North Sperrins Waymarked Way** - the Leave No Trace brand will be incorporated into trail literature.
- **Visitor Information** - Incorporating the Leave No Trace logo and principles into the Council's visitor information & websites, particularly with respect to outdoor recreation.
- **Binevenagh Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty** - the Council is actively

involved in the management of this protected landscape. The Leave No Trace ethic sits well with the sustainable promotion of this area and also that of the Sperrins AONB which is currently under review.

- **Sustainable Development Policy** - becoming a supporting partner of Leave No Trace is a key action for the Council under this policy.

"Landscape is this Borough's finest resource. By becoming a supporting partner of Leave No Trace, Limavady Borough Council hopes to set a responsible example which anyone involved in outdoor recreation can follow." (Richard Gillen, Countryside Officer, Limavady Borough Council).

For more information on Limavady Borough Council, please visit www.limavady.gov.uk.

Irish Girl Guides

take nothing but pictures, leave nothing but footprints

Stella Walsh is an Irish Girl Guide Leader, Outdoor Advisor and Trainer and has been involved with the message of Leave No Trace since 1989. She delivered an awareness session to the Irish Girl Guide Leaders in February 2008.

What does the Leave No Trace message mean to you?

A conscious effort when out in our pristine areas to remove all trace that I have been there - to remove my own rubbish and to leave behind natural objects.

What got you interested in promoting the message?

When on holidays in 2000 I saw first hand evidence of how man had 'taught' the animals that human food is easy to get and very sweet. The end result was that the park service had to put down the animal the day after I took my photos of this adorable creature, as it was the second time she had stolen a backpack. It really upset me how we as humans were impacting the wilderness. I keep one of those photos with my 'Leave No Trace' notes.

What are the greatest challenges Leaders may have promoting 'Leave No Trace' with their Units?

The basic concepts are simple and easily incorporated into our programme. Many of the concepts tie hand in hand with our Laws and can be incorporated into games that get the girls matching 'Leave No Trace' concepts into Irish Girl Guides (IGG) Laws. The basic concepts should be taught to the girls as to how they impact our natural world, and how the removal of parts of the natural world impacts other parts. The greatest challenge is not to ignore 'Leave No Trace' because you do not like or agree with one of the principles. At the IGG training on 'Leave No Trace' in February 2008, I wanted to get Leaders to really think about what we had signed up for, so as an organisation IGG could embrace the concept and then put the IGG stamp on it to fit within our ethos. 'Leave No Trace' should sit outside or above IGG ethos.

How would you suggest Leaders go about integrating the 'Leave No Trace' message into their programming?

It should be taught as part of our programme- within the Laws and as an integral part of our ethos. We need to do some more work and think through the impact 'Leave No Trace' has on Guide and Lightweight camps.

If we are going to make a difference, 'Leave No Trace' needs to be appreciated for what it really is- a dynamic and life changing concept.

Stella Walsh
Irish Girl Guide Leader, Outdoor Advisor and Trainer.





Ireland Eco Tours Boosts 'Green' Credentials

Ireland Eco Tours is a small Eco Tour Company that offers a range of day tours and multi-day trips in the North West of Ireland. Since having embraced the Leave No Trace ethos into its business this has proved very successful, and therefore it intends to continue to use the principles of Leave No Trace as an important part of everything it does in the daily running of the business.

The Founder and Guide of Ireland Eco Tours – Jerome O'Loughlin, has always practised the seven principles of Leave No Trace but wanted to incorporate them more formally into his business, therefore he became qualified as a Leave No Trace Trainer in September 2007 and has delivered several awareness sessions through his business

and on behalf of Leave No Trace Ireland. In April 2008, he delivered a Leave No Trace awareness session to people on the Greenbox Ecotourism Label Training (GELT) programme on behalf of Greenbox. The GELT programme teaches businesses how to get their products officially recognised as ecotourism products. Part of the programme involves participating in a Leave No Trace awareness session.

He also hopes to complete the Master Educator/ Instructor Course in June 2008 which will give him a more in-depth look at Leave No Trace and the seven principles, which he hopes to pass onto the local schools and the local communities in the North West of Ireland.

Leave No Trace Principles of Outdoor Ethics:

- Plan Ahead and Prepare
- Be Considerate of Others
- Respect Farm Animals and Wildlife
- Travel and Camp on Durable Ground
- Leave What You Find
- Dispose of Waste Properly
- Minimise the Effects of Fire

Contact Details

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At present Leave No Trace Ireland is funded and supported by the organisations listed below. Leave No Trace relies heavily on the support it receives from its partnerships with other organisations. This ensures the project is kept sustainable and continues to carry out its important activities including its training and spreading the message. Without this help, Leave No Trace would struggle to exist in Ireland. If you would like more information on how to become a partner of Leave No Trace Ireland and the range of benefits that different levels of partnership bring, please visit the support section on www.leavenotraceireland.org

Main Financial Partners of Leave No Trace Ireland



Other Financial Partners of Leave No Trace Ireland

An Taisce • CAAN • Catholic Guides of Ireland • Ireland EcoTours • Irish Girl Guides • Limavady Borough Council • MCI Mountain Meitheal • Sport Northern Ireland • Wicklows Upland Council • X-treme North West

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