

[The Trinity College Dublin Botany Department Newsletter](#)

Accomplishments



A new Spring for Trinity College Botanic Garden

Last week Trinity College Botanic Garden proudly unveiled its brand new website! Full of beautiful photographs of the garden and its living collections, the website presents a much-needed visual connection to the garden for the Trinity community, wider public and global botanic garden network. The website is an important element in the ten-year strategic plan to expand the use of the garden for teaching, research and outreach - the Mission Statement and an overview of the Strategic Plan are presented in the 'Our Mission' pages.



The Botanic Garden is an important and unique facility for the teaching and research programmes of the Botany Department and School of Natural Sciences. Over many years it has played a significant role in conservation with a strong international reputation, adding greatly to the scientific and cultural heritage of the college, Dublin and Ireland; we are now at the start of a very exciting new chapter in its history. Website content is still being finalised and any suggestions for improvement will be welcome as the site continues to be developed over the coming months.

Thank you to all who have contributed, with special thanks to [Steve Waldren](#) for the stunning images and to Photic Design for a perfect interpretation of the spirit of the garden. Details of the website's official launch will be published soon and you can keep an eye out for all these and other updates on the website: <https://trinitybotanicgarden.ie/>, and on Twitter [@TCBotanicGarden](#). Enjoy 😊



Publications

Journal of Applied Ecology: **Jane Stout** and co-authors published a paper in *Journal of Applied Ecology* on Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) Ecological Focus Areas (EFAs) and their potential to provide forage and nesting resources for pollinator across the EU.

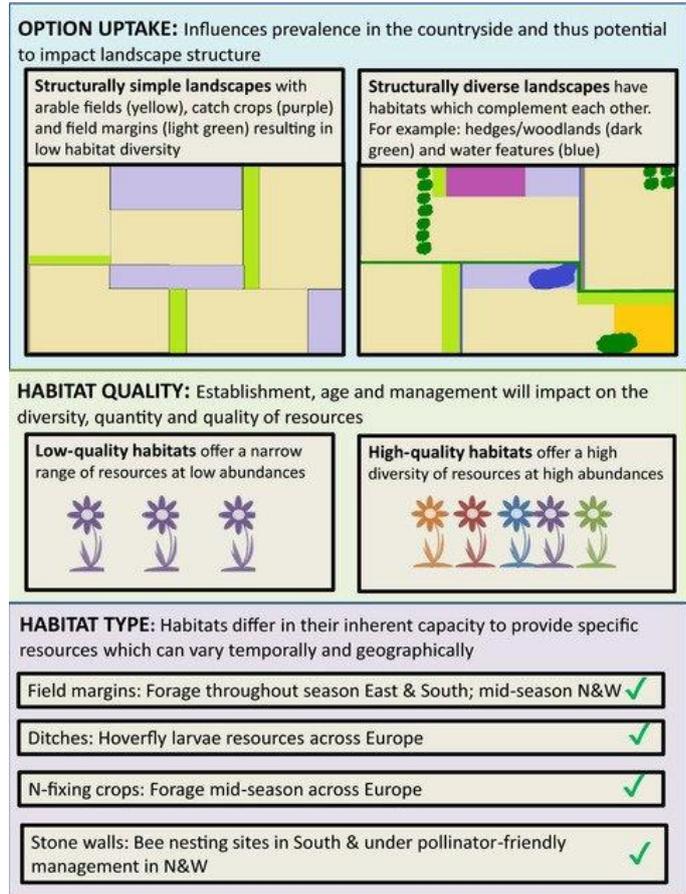
See the article [here](#), the Trinity News piece [‘Scientists make fresh call for policy makers to protect pollinators’](#) and the visual abstract on the left.

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Jane Stout was also interviewed by Henry McKean for a piece on *Newstalk* with Ivan Yates on bumblebee decline (you can listen to it [here](#)) following the publication of Soroye et al. [‘Climate change contributes to widespread declines among bumble bees across continents’](#) in *Science*.

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PNAS: **Annabel Smith, Trevor Hodkinson, Yvonne Buckley** and others published a paper in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America* entitled [‘Global GeneFlow Releases invasive Plants From Environmental Constraints on Genetic Diversity’](#).



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Flora of Thailand: The most recently published part of the *Flora of Thailand Volume 14 part 3* of which **John Parnell** is an editor – contains two family accounts which he co-authored along with three former TCD Ph.D. research students – **Caroline Byrne, Sarawood Sangkaew** and **Atchara Teerawatananon**.

The families just published are the *Calophyllaceae* [Sungkaew, S., Byrne, C., Parnell, J.A.N. & Teerawatananon, A. Pp. 432-474 in *Flora of Thailand 14(3)*] and *Hypericaceae* [Byrne, C., Parnell, J.A.N. & Chayamarit, C. Pp. 481-494 in *Flora of Thailand 14(3)*].

Events and Activities



Cian White attended the 6th edition of The **Winter Workshop on Complex Systems** (WWCS), held in Switzerland on January 27th to January 31st. [WWCS](#) is a one-week workshop where young researchers from all over the world gather together for discussing about complex systems. The primary focus of the workshop is for participants to engage in novel research projects. Cian is now leading an international collaboration attempting to use network measures to predict the stability of ecosystem services!

Future Mangroves Project Meeting



This February, the "Future Mangroves" team had a project meeting with TCD Adjunct Professor of Climate Justice Dr **Mary Robinson**. **John Devaney**, **Jenny McElwain**, and **Emma Bertipaglia**, **Jacqueline Mullen**, and **Will Penn** (MSc Development Practice students) met with Dr Robinson to discuss ongoing climate action projects in Senegal.

Last summer, John, Emma, Jackie and Will were hosted by the Senegalese Institute for Agricultural Research and conducted research on mangrove degradation and restoration in the Saloum Delta region.



An **exhibition of photographs** taken by Will during his time in the Saloum is being launched this **Wednesday 26th Feb at the Museum Building at 6.30 pm**.

All welcome!

Trinity Botany and Zoology Postgraduates Symposium 2020



The Keynote speakers Dr Pete Manning and Dr Lisa Norton, surrounded by the 2020 Organising Committee (from left to right : Marine Valmier, Sam Ross, Andrew Neill and James Orr)

The annual Botany and Zoology Postgraduate Symposium was held on the 19th and 20th of February in the Botany Lecture Theatre and the Global Room. This was a longer event than previous years to facilitate the growing number of PhD students and to make sure everyone has an opportunity to improve and receive feedback.

The topics discussed (just to name a few) span the speciation of birds in SouthEast Asia, sustainable management and restoration of Irish peatlands, the movement of sharks, and the effect of pesticides on Ireland's native pollinators.

Two high profile and inspiring academics in the field of environmental sciences, **Dr Lisa Norton** (Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, U.K.) and **Dr Peter Manning** (Senckenberg Biodiversity and Climate Research Centre, Germany) presented a showcase of their research as well as some career advice for early-stage researchers.



Congratulations again to our winners this year, from left to right: Fionn Ó Marcaigh (audience prize), Erika Soldi (2nd prize) James Orr (1st prize) and Katrin Schertenleib (3rd prize)

Climatic change and the Maya civilisation: Field work in Tabasco, Mexico

Henry Lamb (Adjunct Professor) is currently in Mexico with a team of Japanese, American and Mexican researchers to core the sediments of Lago San Claudio, in Tabasco State, close to the Mexico-Guatemala border. The lake is adjacent to a Maya archaeological site and has annually laminated sediments, so analysis of the core may provide a precise chronology of the Maya settlement and its abandonment.



The project aims to determine some of the causes of the collapse of the Maya civilisation, thought to have occurred by about 900 CE. As well as assisting the coring, Henry will record and sample the flora and vegetation near the site, using an app designed by colleagues at Aberystwyth University.

Meetings and Conferences

Jane Stout gave two lectures at the **Ulster Beekeepers Association annual meeting**: the first was a plenary on “*Wild Bees: Diversity, Importance and Conservation*”; the second was part of an All-Ireland Pollinator Plan workshop on “*Looking to 2021-2025; what can we learn from other pollinator initiatives around the world?*”. The All-Ireland pollinator Plan is hosting an [International Conference on Pollinator Conservation](#) on World Bee Day 2020 (20th of May) – register via [Eventmaster.ie](#).

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Cian White was invited to give a talk to second year TU Architecture students about biodiversity and how they can integrate biodiversity into architectural designs. He introduced what biodiversity is and gave an overview of why ecologists are interested in biodiversity, from a conservation perspective and from an ecosystem functioning and service provision perspective.

Given the biodiversity crisis, he encouraged architectural students to design in conservation measures into their projects. He also encouraged the students to use the benefits nature provides through ecosystem services to try and create Nature-based Solutions. He has been invited back as a guest lecturer to assist students with integrating biodiversity into designs.

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CITIZEN
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A joint initiative by



University of
Zurich UZH

ETH zürich



Kamila Kwasniewska was awarded funding by the Office of Dean of Research to attend the **Citizen Science Winter School** in Zurich, Switzerland this January. The training was organized by University of Zurich and ETH Zurich, Citizen Science Centre Zurich and Participatory Science Academy Zurich.

The week of talks, workshops and Swiss Citizen Science conference covered topics on the citizen science approaches, methods and tools, ranging from designing citizen science projects with transformative learning potential, through ethics, to science communication and rethinking science and public participation.



“Citizen science is one of the most dramatic developments in science communication in the last generation.”
Bruce V. Lewenstein, 2016



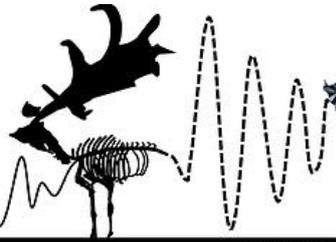
CIG 2020

May 21st – 23rd

Geographies of Responsibility: Rethinking
Boundaries and Borders in a Turbulent World

Trinity College Dublin

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52nd Annual Conference of Irish Geographers

Have you heard about the **Conference for Irish Geographers** happening from **21st – 23rd May 2020 in Trinity**? Submissions of abstracts are now open for several exciting sessions from lightning talks to nature-based solutions to climate change adaptation. You can look into this [here](#).

EcoEvo Blog Posts

Want to learn more? Check out the [EcoEvo Blog](#), where Trinity's Botany and Zoology departments discuss their work and reflections in research. The latest posts include ...



[Pedagogy in Portugal](#)
by Sam Ross



[New Year Plant Hunt](#)
by Maude Baudraz

PHYTOBYTES needs your input! Whether you are student or staff, please send any news you have, big or small, to Marine Valmier (valmierm@tcd.ie) with the subject heading "Phytobytes". Let's share the latest news and always be aware of what is happening at Botany!