

Johnstown Castle

Wexford

Soil Quality = Environment Quality?

Teagasc - Johnstown Castle is Ireland's leading research institute on the rural environment and conducts both basic and applied research on a wide range of subjects, e.g. nutrient efficiency, water quality, gaseous emissions, soil quality and agro-ecology.

"Set against a fairy tale, 19th century turreted castle, and a delightful, man-made lake, the gardens of Johnstown boast a wide range of trees and shrubs, superbly presented to the visitor.

Pleasant pathways meander through the pleasure grounds. There are glimpses of the castle shimmering in the waters of the lake from extensive walks in tranquil, tree dotted, pleasure grounds.

In the 'old world' former farmyard is the extensive and well laid out Irish Agricultural Museum.

Source - Fáilte Ireland

The meeting will be held in the conference room of the award-winning Agricultural Museum

Wexford town (*Loch Garman*) is a delightful small coastal town that traces its origins to Norman times. Located in the South-East corner of Ireland, it is known for its sunny climate, fresh seafood, narrow pedestrianised streets and its many boutique shops. It is most famous for its annual Opera Festival in October when the town is taken over by sopranos from around the world.

County Wexford has the finest beaches in Ireland; the Blackstairs Mountains; and a rich cultural and natural heritage. This is most pronounced on the famous Hook Peninsula, which boasts Ireland's oldest lighthouse, a treasure trove of fossils, and a spectacular coastline.

Wexford town hosts six hotels, ranging from mid-range tourist hotels to top-range accommodation, plus many B&Bs. Support will be offered to find accommodation.

There are bus and rail connections to Dublin and a direct bus connection to Dublin Airport. Alternatively, Waterford Airport is just 43 miles away, with direct flights to the UK by AerArrann, flying to Manchester, Luton and Birmingham. Coach services will be provided from Waterford to Johnstown.

BSSS-SSSI
joint autumn meeting
9-11 September

2009

hosted by Teagasc
Johnstown Castle
Wexford, Ireland



Soil Science Society of Ireland





Soil Quality = Environmental Quality?

What can soils do for our environment: benefits and threats

Scope

Soil quality: does it equal environmental quality?

This will be the central theme of the 2009 joint meeting off the British Soil Science Society (BSSS) and the Soil Science Society Ireland (SSSI). What is the significance of soil quality, and specifically: what can soils do for the wider environment? What are the benefits to the biosphere, agriculture and humanity? What are the threats to soil quality and what is the extent of these threats in Britain and Ireland?

The programme includes a farm visit, a field trip to the Wicklow Mountains, a conference dinner and a social evening.

The autumn meeting will be preceded by the CréBeo (www.ucd.ie/crebeo/index.html) end-of-project workshop on Tuesday 8th on "Baseline data, response to pressures, functions and conservation of keystone micro- and macro-organisms in Irish soils". All BSSS-SSSI delegates are invited to attend this satellite workshop.

Programme

Wed 9: Ecology- benefits and threats:

- Habitat – role of biodiversity
- Carbon sequestration – role of organic matter
- Farm visit (Wexford)
- Conference dinner

Thurs 10: Agriculture – benefits and threats:

- Plant growth – effects of compaction/erosion
- Nutrient cycling – can we reduce losses?
- Field trip: Wicklow Mountains
- Social night

Fri 11: Society – benefits and threats:

- Water supply and purification – contamination
- Platform for infrastructure – sealing

Website for registration will be available via <http://www.soils.org.uk/> from Oct 2008 or contact Rachel Creamer.

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