



#### **Six Mile Water Guardians' Training Events 2008**

##### **Woodland Management (Conservation Volunteers NI), Sat 12 January, 11am-3pm**

Do you know your Ash from your Oak or your Alder from your Willow? This is your opportunity to get to know more about native trees and woodland management and have a go at building habitat piles to help encourage invertebrates and fungi to the area. Lunch will be provided.

##### **Bird Box Building, Sat 16 February, 10am-12noon**

A Valentine's Special – help build some bird boxes which will create a safe haven for nesting birds in the spring. We will then go in search of suitable sites to put them up.

##### **Meadow Management (Conservation Volunteers NI), Sat 29 March, 11am-3pm**

Did you know a meadow can provide a rich habitat for insects and butterflies? Find out how to identify some of our wildflowers such as Common Knapweed and Yellow Rattle and why we need to manage meadow areas to encourage such plants. Finally, try your hand at helping us recreate a small stretch of meadow along the Six Mile Water. Lunch will be provided.

##### **Bat Waterways Survey (NI Bat Group), Wed 16 April, 7-9pm**

Learn about the bats that live in our area, including the Daubenton's bat, which can be found foraging over open water, taking insects on or near the surface of the Six Mile Water. Discover how to identify their calls, which is only possible with the use of specialised equipment.

##### **Wetland Bird Survey, Sat 26 April, 10am-12noon**

Do you know your Grey Wagtail from your Dipper? Come along and learn how to identify the water bird species that make the Six Mile Water their home and find out how you can help monitor them for the future.

##### **River Monitoring Training (Ballinderry Fish Hatchery Ltd), Sat 17 May, 10am-12noon**

Freshwater Bug Sampling will provide equipment, training and support for those who wish to help monitor the health of the Six Mile Water. The session will include surveying for aquatic insects, such as mayflies, which are excellent indicators of environmental change and a river's health. No previous experience necessary.

##### **Invasive Species Day (EHS), Sat 7 June, 11am-3pm**

Alien invaders on the river bank!! Find out who they are, how they affect our local biodiversity and what we can do to help. Then, lend a hand to map, monitor and control some of the invasive plant species in the area.. Lunch will be provided.

***A great opportunity to learn about wildlife recording and practical conservation skills, whilst enjoying the outdoors along the Six Mile Water. Training is free of charge and suitable for all abilities – no previous experience or equipment is necessary. It may also be suitable for children over 8 years, who must be accompanied by an adult at all times. Please bring boots and a waterproof coat.***

To book your place or for further information, please contact Elaine Upton or Ruth Wilson, Antrim Borough Council T. 9446 3113.