

# MY INTERNSHIP IN KILLARNEY NATIONAL PARK

from July 2019 to  
September 2019

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# MAIN INFORMATION ABOUT MY INTERNSHIP

- **Organisation:** KILLARNEY NATIONAL PARK
- **Website:** <https://www.killarneynationalpark.ie/>
- **Contact person:** Peter O'Toole, Conservation Ranger
- **Adress:** Ranger Base  
Killarney National Park  
Muckross  
Killarney  
Ireland





# INTRODUCTION

- County: Kerry
- First and the oldest national park in Ireland – 1932
- 103 km<sup>2</sup>
- includes: Lakes of Killarney, Mangerton Mountain, Torc Mountain, Shehy Mountain, Purple Mountain





# KILLARNEY'S LAKES & MOUNTAINS





# RHODODENDRON PONTICUM in KNP

- There are over 900 species of rhododendron but Rhododendron ponticum is the only invasive one
- was introduced to Killarney in the 19th century and began to spread quite quickly
- creates dense thickets, blocking light and preventing the regeneration of native oak forest plants. It is a classic example of what ecologists call “invasive alien species”.
- Growth is slow in the first 4 years and after 10 years the plant can start to become multi-stemmed and even earlier if the shoot is damaged. Within 25-30 years mature plants may start to extend laterally connecting with other plants.
- Flowering is usually concentrated in a two week period between May and June
- Rhododendron is best suited to acidic soils however it has been naturalized on soils with a pH range from







# MY WORK - main job

## CONTROLLING/TREATING THE RHODODENDRON PONTICUM IN NATIVE PRIORITY WOODLAND AND BOGLAND HABITATS BY USING STEM TREATMENT

- This method is carried out by making cuts with hatchet into the plants stem in the bottom of the stem and filling the cuts with a 14% solution of glyphosate immediately after cuts are made.
- A nontoxic food colorant dye is also added to the solution to indicate treated plants



1. Cut into the stem



2. Application of herbicide



3. Breaking top of the plant (for identification the plant was treated)





# Another tasks

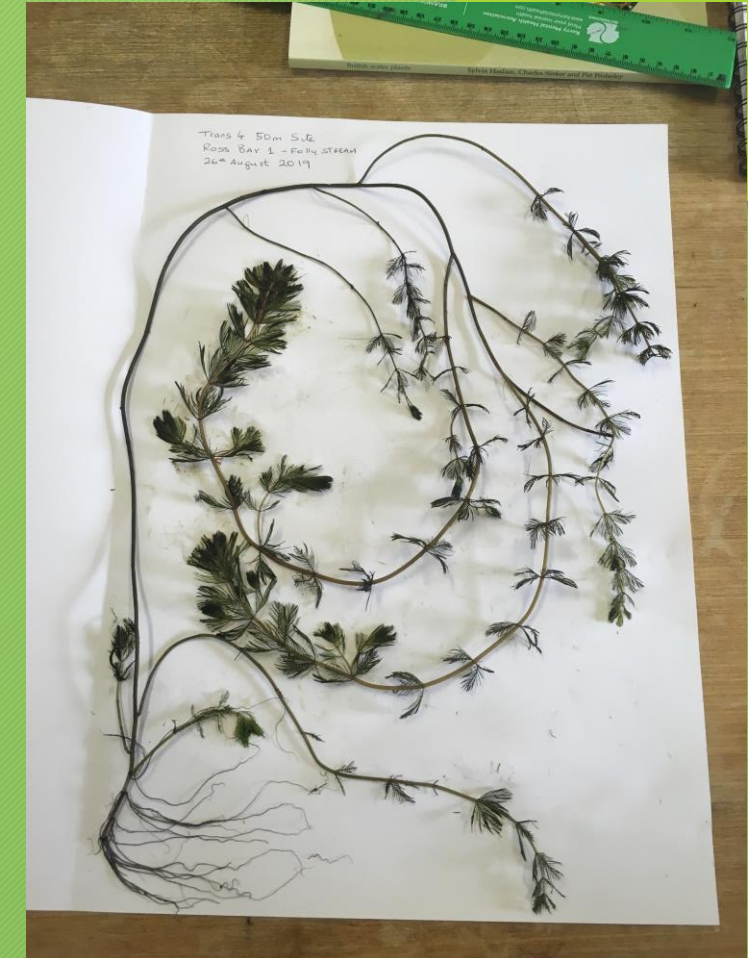
## REPAIRING TRAILS

- There is also trail for visually impaired which has to be maintained





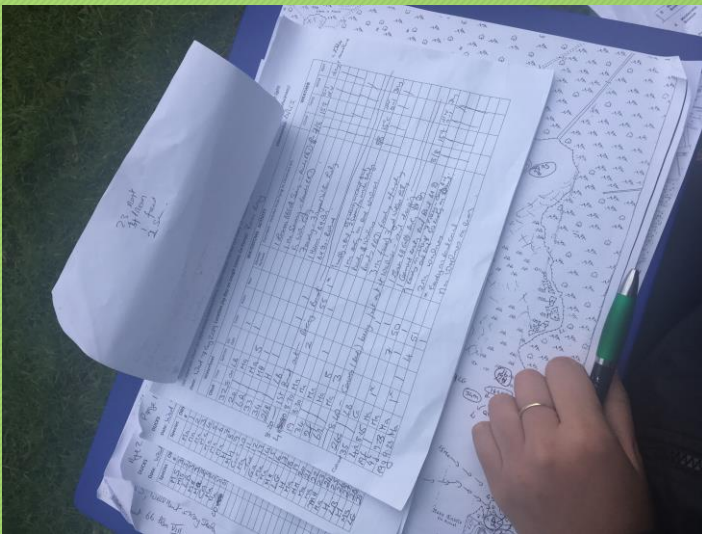
# IDENTIFICATION OF WATER PLANTS AND PRESSING THEM





# BIRD SURVEY

- Once per month near to Ross Castle we did bird watching in order to know how many bird species are in the park





## LOOKING FOR MARSH FRITILLARY (*EUPHYDRYAS AURINIA*) LARVAL WEBS ON BERE ISLAND

- The Marsh Fritillary Butterfly is one of Ireland's few legally protected Butterflies. It is protected under Annex II of the European Union Habitats and Species Directive.
- In collaboration with the [National Parks and Wildlife Service](#), the [Northern Ireland Environment Agency](#) and [Butterfly Conservation Northern Ireland](#), since 2015 the Data Centre trialled and established an All-island Marsh Fritillary Monitoring Scheme across 49 core sites for this species.
- these webs only occur in late August and September on the specific foodplant of the caterpillar Devil's-bit Scabious (*Succisa pratensis*).





# ACCOMMODATION

- Organisation provides free accommodation for long-term interns
- I lived in the lodge for 5 people but we were there only 4 that time





# FREE TIME

- We had weekends off and also if it was raining during the working day
- In free time i travelled a lot through Ireland
- With other student we did a lot of trips (one day or all weekend)
- In KNP is many places to visit too
- Often we went just for a walk or we did picnics in front our house
- We tried Irish dances in pubs, we went to the cinema







# EVALUATION OF INTERNSHIP

I really enjoyed my time in Killarney National Park, Ireland. I worked in biology field. I learned a lot of about fauna and flora in Ireland but also in general. After this internship i know information about invasive species. Rangers also told me methods how to treat them.

Another advantage of internship was improving my English. By being forced to speak to everyone in English, I improved my communication skills.

I worked in international team of students. I met a lot of fantastic people and we became really good friends. We were living, working, baking, cooking and enjoying every second together.

I don't regret my decision at all. It was one of my best summer.