



## WORKING IN TANDEM WITH THE SEASONS

With

Paddy Madden



Coláiste Mhuire, Marino Institute of Education presents a series of workshops by renowned environmentalist Paddy Madden. These workshops will explore how we interact with nature both indoors and outdoors in tandem with the changing months and seasons. Workshops will take place on Monday afternoons at Marino institute of Education at 4pm on the following dates:

February 8<sup>th</sup> 2010  
 February 22<sup>nd</sup> 2010  
 March 8<sup>th</sup> 2010  
 April 19<sup>th</sup> 2010  
 May 10<sup>th</sup> 2010  
 June 14<sup>th</sup> 2010

Course Fee: Individual workshops €15

Gach eolas ó  
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Details of individual sessions are as follows:

<p><b>Monday February 8<sup>th</sup></b></p>		<p><b>OUTDOOR:</b> Make bark rubbings. Draw outlines of winter trees. Measure height using isosceles triangle. Study mammal tracks. Continue feeding and observing birds.</p> <p><b>INDOOR:</b> Do a project on native birds. Study food chains and webs. Study over-wintering birds.</p>
<p><b>Monday February 22<sup>nd</sup></b></p>		<p><b>OUTDOOR:</b> Sprout new potatoes indoors using egg cartons in shadiest part of classroom. Sow seeds of bedding plants and tomatoes- see <a href="http://www.raringtogrow.com">www.raringtogrow.com</a> Make a solitary bee habitat from gouged-out elder twigs or bamboo canes c. 15cm long. Hang in warm place. Hang on a tree a small mesh bag with nesting material for birds e.g. wool, moss, feathers, dried leaves, cotton. Study catkins and wind pollination. Observe buds on trees. Take part in <a href="http://www.greenwave.ie">www.greenwave.ie</a></p> <p><b>INDOOR:</b> Start bud race indoors. Place twigs in jars of water and label with names of trees and date experiment started.</p>

Monday  
March 8<sup>th</sup>



**OUTDOOR:** Finish planting bare-rooted trees and shrubs. Plant new potatoes after St. Patrick's Day. Use fair testing to determine which type of compost produces best yield. Use farmyard dung, school compost, bought compost. Observe daffodils and lesser celandine. Take part in [www.greenwave.ie](http://www.greenwave.ie)

**INDOOR:** Observe bud race. Observe tadpoles growing in ecology tank-see [www.blackrockec.ie](http://www.blackrockec.ie) Sow sunflowers in yoghurt cartons. Make woodland bottle garden and wormery-see [www.blackrockec.ie](http://www.blackrockec.ie) Sow peas in pots and carrots in gutter pipes

Monday  
April 19<sup>th</sup>



**OUTDOOR:** Sow vegetables and salads in raised beds. Establish a nectar patch to attract butterflies and bees. Study field layer of wood i.e. bluebells, primroses, violets. Transplant wildflower seedlings. Harden off indoor sown peas and sunflowers and sow outside towards end of month. Sow hardy annuals to attract bees and butterflies. Start 6 week project on observing trees. Observe dandelions and cowslips. Sow wildflower meadow. Take part in [www.greenwave.ie](http://www.greenwave.ie)

**INDOOR:** Propagate plants such as honeysuckle, box, hebe and pelargonium from softwood cuttings to raise funds for school garden. Press common wild flowers. Make a tropical bottle garden-see [www.blackrockec.ie](http://www.blackrockec.ie) Make snailery. Set up "hedge" in classroom with 4 layers and study same.



Monday  
May 10<sup>th</sup>



**OUTDOOR:** Water and feed vegetables. Place insect traps in ground and on trees. Use sheet or umbrella to catch insects in trees. Create a nectar patch in a sunny area, Continue with "Adopt a Tree Project". Observe hawthorn in blossom.

**INDOOR:** Sow pumpkin seeds inside in empty yoghurt cartons.



Monday  
June 14<sup>th</sup>



**OUTDOOR:** Plant out pumpkins. Harvest vegetables and have a salad party. Harvest potatoes and have a potato party with different potato dishes like concannon and boxty. Have an Open Day and sell school-raised plants to raise funds for the garden. Do tree and flower identification using sticky labels to attach the specimens to A4 sheets. Press leaves and flowers. Go on an insect hunt. Sow hardy annuals in vacant vegetable beds. Study wild grasses and foxgloves.

**INDOOR:** Make a ladybird viewer and insect pooters-see [www.blackrockec.ie](http://www.blackrockec.ie)

