

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **MAYOR JOHN KENNEDY LAUNCHES NATIONAL TREE WEEK 2011 IN CABRAGH WETLANDS, THURLES**

#### **National Tree Week 2011**

**6 –12 March 2011**

#### **'The Year of the Forest'- Celebrating Forests for People**

- -

March 7th, 2011 To celebrate National Tree Week 2011 (March 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>), North Tipperary County Council will be distributing free trees to schools, Tidy Towns and Community groups throughout the county.

National Tree Week is an annual, week-long festival celebrating all positive aspects of trees in our lives and environment. "The aim of National Tree Week is to raise awareness about trees and encourage local communities to participate in events taking place around the country during the week" according to Deirdre Cox, Environmental Awareness Officer with North Tipperary County Council. "Trees are an essential part of our environment and by doing something as simple as planting a tree, everyone can play their part in helping the environment."

The theme is 'The Year of the Forest – Celebrating Forests for People, in keeping with the United Nations designation of 2011 as 'The International Year of Forests'. During National Tree Week, people are encouraged to celebrate trees and forests as an integral part of their lives and their communities. This year, as well as prompting people to plant more trees, the Tree Council of Ireland are seeking to strengthen awareness of the role of sustainably managed forests for the benefit of current and future generations.

North Tipperary County Council's celebration of National Tree Week 2011 was launched this week by Mayor John Kennedy, who planted a native sessile oak in Cabragh Wetlands, with the assistance of members of the Moycarkey National School (Pouldine) Green School's Committee, who recently received their second green flag. Two members of the Green School committee read an excerpt from 'In Praise of Trees'.

"I am delighted to launch National Tree Week in North Tipperary. I hope everybody will play their small part this week in celebrating the importance of trees in our environment", said Mayor John Kennedy. Mayor Kennedy praised the commitment of the Green Schools' committee towards their environment and explained that lessons learned in the Green School's programme will remain with them throughout their lives. He also congratulated the teachers, staff and parents of their school in support of Green Schools' programme. Mayor

Kennedy also commented on the dedication and commitment of Cabragh Wetlands group, highlighting the importance of this rich natural amenity. Following the tree planting, the Green School committee received a tour of Cabragh wetlands, where they observed many environmental activities including birdwatching and frog spawn.

One of the main projects of National Tree Week 2011 is the distribution of over 15,000 trees, sponsored by Coillte, and distributed by local authorities throughout the country to local community groups and schools for planting during and around National Tree Week. If your school or community group would like to receive some of these trees for planting during National Tree Week, contact Seamus O' Brien, Nenagh Town Council on 087 7562933 from March 7<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> only. All trees must be collected from Nenagh during working hours, 9.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m., Monday to Friday. Numbers of trees available are limited and will be distributed on a first come first served basis. Planting advice will be available on request when you are collecting your trees.

Remember, when selecting a tree for planting; always choose the right plant for the right place. Use native species to support wildlife, particularly in a village or rural setting.

This Tree Week, why not get involved in a local community tree planting, plant a tree yourself in your own garden or do some clearance and maintenance work on old trees that have been neglected.

Spreagann Comhairle Contae Thiobraid Árann Thuaidh an pobal le Laghdú, le hAthúsáid agus le hAthchúrsáil an oiread agus is féidir. Oibrímid Uimhir Shaorghlao i gcomhair Bruscair 1800 250 350 le cur ar chumas an phobail aon dumpáil neamhdhleathach nó bhruscar a chur in iúl don Chomhairle Contae.

Ends

Further information

Deirdre Cox

Environmental Awareness Officer

067 44784

