

Biodiversity Puppet Show touring Galway Schools

'**Your Mans Puppets**' are coming to the end of their *Biodiversity Puppet Show* tour, which has been visiting primary schools in Galway County over the last year. The show is aimed at introducing children to the nature of lakes and streams, to the web of life, and to invasive alien species such as the **Zebra mussel**. Two ducks, *Shoveller* and *Pochard*, are the stars of the show, flying in on winter migration to spend their holidays in Galway. They discuss the wildlife of the lakes, how their habitat has changed with Irelands development, and what can be done to stop the invading **Zebra Mussels**. The show is light-hearted, interactive and fun, and it has gone down a storm with the schoolkids!

Shows will be held in the following locations over the next few weeks

- **Headford**
- **Eyrecourt**
- **Oughterard**
- **Ballinasloe**
- **Newcastle, Galway City**
- **Athenry**

We all know that the west coast is one of the wettest places on earth, but for this reason Galway contains some of the cleanest and rarest freshwater habitats in Europe! However, many of our lakes are threatened by pollution, drainage and particularly invasive species. One such invader, the **Zebra mussel**, is a huge problem throughout the lakes and rivers of Europe and America, where it attaches to any hard surface and causes costly damage to boats, fish stocks and wildlife. Once it infests a lake it is impossible to remove, so it is vital that we all prevent its further spread by thoroughly cleaning boats and other materials that are transferred between lakes.

For more information, see <http://www.alienspecies.ie>

The show has been commissioned in co-operation between the '**Western Region Zebra Mussel Control Initiative**' and '**People and Nature Project**' of Galway County Council, with further funding from the **Galway County Heritage Forum**.

'Your Mans puppets' specialise in performances for schools and events, with a range of shows about the environment and Irish folklore, see <http://www.yourmanspuppets.com>

For more information on the show, invasive species or any other issues, please contact the project manager

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