

Editor's Page

Spider, spider on the

I couldn't resist including this photograph of a spider peering out of its funnel web, captured by my brother Robbie. Generally known by its scientific name *Agelena labyrinthica*, it is sometimes called the Labyrinth Spider.



Image courtesy of Robbie Murphy

This species of spider spins a large sheet web, with a tubular retreat. It waits inside this funnel for its prey to land on the web and become tangled in it. When the spider pounces, it drags its victim back to the funnel to consume it. At the end of the summer, the spider creates a labyrinth of passages in which it lays numerous eggs. This is where the spider gets the "labyrinthica" part of its name.

Agelena labyrinthica is commonly found in short grassland and in low-growing gorse and heather. We have plenty of gorse on Sherkin and sometimes, when there is a heavy morning dew, you can see blankets of spider's webs covering it. I wonder how many have been created by *Agelena labyrinthica*?

AS GAELIGE! We are delighted to have teamed up with An Gúm, who are translating Nature's Web into Irish. Issues are now available, as gaeilge, at:
<http://www.gaeilge.ie/maidir-le-foras-na-gaeilge/an-gum/lion-dulra/>

Smoked Mackerel Pâté



Photo courtesy of www.bordbia.ie

What you need:

- 450g smoked mackerel fillets
- 75g cream cheese
- 75g crème fraîche
- 1-2 tablesp. creamed horseradish
- Dash of Tabasco sauce
- Juice of ½ a lemon
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper

What to do:

1. Remove the skin from the mackerel fillets and discard any bones, then break up the flesh into a bowl.
2. Add the cream cheese, crème fraîche, one tablespoon of the horseradish, the Tabasco and lemon juice.
3. Mix thoroughly until well combined, then taste and add the remaining horseradish, if liked.
4. Season and transfer to a serving bowl.

Serves 4

Brought to you by Bord Bia www.bordbia.ie

Welcome to the Autumn Edition of Nature's Web!



Dear Reader,

Welcome everyone to the Autumn 2019 issue of Nature's Web. In this issue, on the 100-year anniversary of Baltimore Lifeboat, we find out all about it and the lives it has saved throughout its service. We show you how to make a cool pop-up "rescue" card of a lifeboat going to the rescue of a yacht. Black John tells us about the large bony fish in the world—the Sunfish and we look at the Sanderling, a small wading bird that can be seen in Ireland on its migratory passage further south, where it overwinters. This issue is also about the A to Z of Trees, including the parts of a tree. It also features a familiar, but non-native, tree in Ireland - the Sycamore tree. Check out nature news from around the world on page 12 and enjoy a giggle with jokes on page 13.

We would love to hear your views and comments and suggestions for future articles. Have a good read!

Susan

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