

BioBlitz with Us

The University of Connecticut's Center for Conservation and Biodiversity will be partnering with the Connecticut State Museum of Natural History, and Two Rivers Magnet Middle School in East Hartford to host the **2005 Connecticut BioBlitz**.

A BioBlitz is part contest, part festival, part educational event, and part scientific endeavor. This year's event will bring together scientists from the University of Connecticut and other natural history experts from across the region in a race against time to see how many species of animals and plants can be discovered in 24 hours. We will involve students from a number of Connecticut schools, many as participants and far more as observers. The public too will be invited to observe the event, interact with the scientists, and participate in the many scheduled activities.

BioBlitz is designed to increase the public's awareness of the variety of life in their immediate neighborhood and the biological services these various species provide to improve the quality of their lives. The BioBlitz is an excellent tool for exciting children and students about science. This event always generates energy and enthusiasm among scientists and lay people alike. It is rare for biologists from so many disciplines to have the opportunity to get together, share their passions with each other and the public, and work toward a single common goal. This event is designed to capitalize on that and to encourage interaction with scientists at "BioBlitz Central." This is where sorting and identification takes place, species are recorded, discoveries shared, and the tally of species presented.



The past five Connecticut BioBlitzes have yielded a number of worthy scientific discoveries: new state records and several state-rare species. BioBlitzes have proved useful in the early detection of several invasive species. In addition, they yielded hundreds of specimens for both teaching and research collections in the region.

BioBlitz is a celebration of the diversity of life in our backyards. Far from an Amazonian rainforest or an African jungle we will discover splendid life forms: water bears, ant lions, bee wolves, and tiger beetles. It's the Serengeti, but on a smaller scale. Organizers expect to record between 1,000 and 2,000 different species. The BioBlitz helps to showcase the rich biodiversity found here in Connecticut and underscore the positive impact that city parks and open spaces have on our lives. Join us at "BioBlitz Central" in the Great Hall at Two Rivers Magnet School, June 3-4, 2005. For maps and additional details visit www.mnh.uconn.edu/BioBlitz/. While all members of the public are urged to attend as observers, counters, vendors, organizations, and those wanting to actively participate in the BioBlitz should contact Dr. David L. Wagner david.wagner@uconn.edu.



View outside the Great Hall
Two Rivers Magnet Middle School