

Montpelier BioBlitz Update No. 1 – June 12, 2008

Dear BioBlitzer:

Thanks for joining what will be the greatest gathering of biologists and naturalists ever assembled in Vermont – the Montpelier BioBlitz. With nearly 70 BioBlitzers registered so far, we're expecting well over 100 of you and many more drop-in members of the public. You are a diverse group of scientists and other curious folks. We'll be discovering, among other things, birds, bats, butterflies, bryophytes and bees; ferns, frogs, fish, fungi and flowering plants. And in case you were worried, yep, we've covered on centipedes and tardigrades.

This is your first BioBlitz email update. We've added an evolving BioBlitz schedule at our web site: <http://www.northbranchnaturecenter.org/bioblitz>. And we'll be emailing additional information soon. **But please note that we'll need to hear back from you right away on a few items below:**

1. CAMPING and LODGING

If you'll be staying overnight, we've posted lodging and camping information at: <http://www.northbranchnaturecenter.org/bioblitz/accommodations.html>.

2. TAXON LEADERS WANTED

We need "taxon leaders" who will coordinate survey work for their particular group. The job is fairly simple: We provide each leader with an e-mail list of the people who have signed up to survey for their particular taxon. The taxon leader contacts those folks in order to coordinate where and when you all will survey. (We'll soon provide taxon leaders with maps and suggestions on good survey locations.)

We already have leaders for the following taxa: Aquatic Insect Orders, Bryophytes, Butterflies, Fish, Flowering Plants, Herps, Hymenoptera, Mammals, Odonata, Protozoans and Algae. We need them for many other groups. **If your taxon is not among these, please contact Bryan Pfeiffer (bryan@northbranchnaturecenter.org) if you are willing to become a taxon leader; we need you.** (Some of you may be the only BioBlitzer for your particular taxon.) **We will send out taxon leader designations and a BioBlitzer email list to everyone no later than Monday.**

3. LECTURERS AND NATURE WALK LEADERS WANTED

Sharing wisdom is a critical component of all BioBlitzes. Some folks have registered because they'd like to join and learn from biologists in the field. We'll be asking you to accommodate novices for part of the BioBlitz. We're also running guided nature walks and 30-minute mini-lectures for the general public. **If you'd like to offer a lecture or guided walk, please contact Chip Darmstadt (chip@northbranchnaturecenter.org or 802-229-6206).**

4. FOOD

We intend to feed all BioBlitzers: snacks and fruit throughout the event; a simple breakfast for early-risers on Saturday; and a grand finale barbecue supper after the close of surveying on Saturday afternoon. **Please contact Bryan Pfeiffer (bryan@northbranchnaturecenter.org) if you intend to stay for the barbecue.**

5. FIELD SUPPLIES

Most of us will be identifying organisms visually for the purposes of the BioBlitz. But those who need to collect specimens will have lab space and dissecting scopes available at "BioBlitz Central" at North Branch Nature Center. Please note, however, that you'll want to bring your own field supplies in order to do your work. We also will not have the ability to store and curate specimens collected during the BioBlitz; they will remain your responsibility.

That's it for now. Thanks again for joining the BioBlitz. We're looking forward to 24-hours of non-stop biology in one month.

Best regards,
Bryan Pfeiffer and Chip Darmstadt
BioBlitz Coordinators

The Montpelier BioBlitz
A Project of the North Branch Nature Center
www.NorthBranchNatureCenter.org/bioblitz