

SEPT. 25-26, 2009
SAW MILL
RIVER

BioBlitz

A PROGRAM OF GROUNDWORK HUDSON VALLEY

Hello all Saw Mill River watershed residents, supporters, municipal decision-makers, amateur and professional naturalists, and general appreciators!

Please **SAVE THE DATES**—**September 25 and 26**—for our very own
Saw Mill River BioBlitz!

What is a BioBlitz?

A BioBlitz is a unique event which brings together **over 65 scientists and experts** to work around the clock during a 24-hour period to catalogue as many species of plants, animals, insects, fungi, bacteria, etc. that they find in an area. The public is also invited to discover the biodiversity that exists in their own back yard.

Who, What, Where and When?

Opening Ceremonies:

- Friday, September 25, 4:30 - 5:30 pm- The Science Barge, end of Dock St., Yonkers, NY
- Join us when Yonkers' municipal officials "release" the scientists into the watershed. River seining at the mouth of the River will be conducted.

Junior BioBlitz:

- Saturday, September 26, 10:30am and 12:30pm, Pace University Pleasantville Campus, Pleasantville, NY
- Students, K-8 will participate in a Junior BioBlitz. They will survey sections of the campus and identify species with Nature Center docents.

Shadow a Scientist:

- Saturday, September 26, Various times and locations
- There will be a limited number of "shadowing" positions for high school students to accompany scientists during their field work.

Nature Walks:

- Saturday, September 26, 11:00am and 1:00pm, Pace University Campus, Pleasantville, NY
- Docents will lead nature walks of the campus to identify birds, trees, plants, and other "critters."

Lecture Series:

- Saturday, September 26, 1:00 - 4:00 pm- Pace University Campus, Student Center, Pleasantville, NY

- Lectures on biodiversity and its importance will be held. Time for roundtable discussions will be included for people to give input about what is important to them and ask questions.

Roundtable Discussions:

- Saturday, September 26, 1:00 - 5:00 pm- Pace University Campus, Student Center, Pleasantville, NY
- Throughout the lecture series, municipal officials will participate in targeted sessions that focus on the ways municipalities can incorporate resource protection into village and town land use decisions.

Closing Ceremonies:

- Saturday, September 26, 4:00-5:30pm
- Total number of species identified will be announced and participating scientists will be honored. Key note speaker to be announced.
- Thank you reception 5:30-6:30pm

Why?

Many local residents believe that the Saw Mill River watershed is "lost" to species-that it is too compromised by its urbanization and suburbanization. The purpose of this BioBlitz is to learn more about the abundance of wildlife that does still exist so that we can move forward to protect it.

The land around the Parkway is state land so it remains relatively undeveloped. It is therefore one of the few green corridors in Westchester County. The very elements that signify urbanization-power lines and parkways-are actually havens for critters such as raccoons, skunks, birds, and bugs. With the results from the BioBlitz we will work with our village and town trustees, planning boards, and conservation advisory boards to incorporate biodiversity protections in local zoning codes.

Finally, we hope the BioBlitz enhances our connections to local schools and colleges paving the way for students to do meaningful field work. While the participating scientists and experts are discovering specific species, we hope the public will discover that the Saw Mill is a living river, not just a parkway.

Who's Behind This?

The Saw Mill River BioBlitz is a project of **Groundwork Hudson Valley's Saw Mill River Coalition**

Funded by grants from **Westchester Community Foundation** and **US EPA**

Major co-sponsors are: **Westchester County Parks, Recreation and Conservation; Teatown Lake Reservation;** and **Pace University's Academy for Applied Environmental Studies.**

Where to get more information?

Please visit our website page (up and running in early July):

<http://www.groundworkhv.org/bioblitz09/>

For press inquiries & business sponsorship opportunities: Ann-Marie Mitroff, Director of River Programs, annmarie@groundworkhv.org

For general information & volunteer opportunities: Emily Eder, Outreach & Volunteer Coordinator, emily@groundworkhv.org
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