

To: Saw Mill River BioBlitz Scientists

From: Ann-Marie Mitroff, Director of River Programs, Groundwork Hudson Valley

Subject: BioBlitz Update, July 17, 2009

Just a quick post to all of you who have so graciously committed to working on the **Saw Mill River BioBlitz** this fall.



BioBlitz Website Launched!

We launched the official **Saw Mill River BioBlitz web page** on July 1, 2009! Go to <http://www.groundworkhv.org/bioblitz09> for up-to-date BioBlitz information.

Survey Form

Please click on the following link to download the **Survey Form** that we sent out earlier. ***IF YOU HAVE NOT SENT THIS BACK, WE NEED IT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE*** in order to arrange for ***shifts, meals, accommodations for those coming from out of town, etc.***

Additional Scientists Needed

We could use additional support in the following areas: Bats, Hemiptera/true bugs, Dipters/flyes, micro-organisms, ferns, Nematodes, slugs/snails, worms, and ticks/mites.

If you know people with expertise in these fields, please have them contact Ann-Marie Mitroff at annmarie@groundworkhv.org or emily@groundworkhv.org OR by phone (914) 375-2151. **THANKS!**

Scientist Bios

We are looking for a handful of scientists who would like to share their biographies and information about their studies on our website! This way website perusers can place some faces to the event. If you are interested and have a spare moment, please send a brief bio and a picture to emily@groundworkhv.org. Thanks! Your participation is much appreciated!

Wonderful Find in the Watershed

On April 19, during our "Rollin' On the River" restoration event, we found a dead snapping turtle. Anne Megaro pulled it out and contacted a taxidermist, who drove 5 1/2 hours from New Hampshire to look at it THAT DAY. He said it was between 85-100 years old, had probably been dead for less than an hour when it was found, and was one of the best specimens he's ever seen. We are planning to have it make a brief appearance at our closing ceremony if it is ready.

BioBlitz Events In Brief: What, Where & When (*Tentative Times Listed)

Opening Ceremonies:

- Friday, September 25, 4:30-5:30pm
- The Science Barge, 99 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 12:30 pm
- Pace University, Pleasantville Campus, Student Center, Pleasantville, NY
- Guided by naturalists, students K-8 are invited to conduct their own BioBlitz.

Nature Walks:

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

Public Presentations:

- Saturday, September 26, 1:00pm-4:00pm
- Pace University, Pleasantville Campus, Student Center, Pleasantville, NY
- Public presentations and roundtables on biodiversity and its importance.

Closing Ceremonies:

- Saturday, September 26, 4:00pm-5:30pm
- Pace University, Pleasantville Campus, Student Center, Pleasantville, NY
- 4:00pm- All Scientists report in with surveys for final data count
- 4:00pm- Keynote speaker begins
- 5:00pm- Final species count announced
- 5:30-6:30pm- Reception

Groundwork Hudson Valley's BioBlitz Team

In case you get calls or e-mails from various members of our BioBlitz team or if you would like to reach any of us, the following Groundwork Hudson Valley Staff are working on the BioBlitz:

Ann-Marie Mitroff, Director of River Programs, Saw Mill River Coalition, primary responsibility for BioBlitz, annmarie@groundworkhv.org, Cell: (914) 815-5872

Anne Megaro, Director of Land Programs, staff horticulturalist, anne@groundworkhv.org

Emily Eder, Volunteer & Outreach Coordinator, primary responsibility for Junior BioBlitz and organizing volunteers emily@groundworkhv.org

Rhea Pliakas, Director of Grants & Foundation Relations, fund-raising, rhea@groundworkhv.org

P. Lynn Oliva, River Program Associate, support for all river projects, lynn@groundworkhv.org

Rick Magder, Executive Director, rick@groundworkhv.org

Volunteers/interns who might be leaving messages/e-mails: Molly Greenburgh, Talia Steiger, Cindy Krumholtz

Steering Committee: Beth Herr, Westchester County Parks; Fred Koontz, Teatown Lake Reservation; Charlie Cutietta-Olson, citizen scientist; Anne Swaim, Saw Mill River Audobon; Laura Heady, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation.

Groundwork Office Number: (914) 375-2151, Fax: (914) 375-2153