

Enterprise

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Olga Calderon looks for insects in a hillside meadow off of Cyrus Field Road in Irvington.

Saw Mill blitz catalogs life in all its forms

By Dina Sciortino

REGION — More than 50 scientists scoured the banks of the Saw Mill River last weekend for that habitat's first-ever BioBlitz — an inventory of its plant and animal species. The investigators conducted their research in eight locations that included the Dobbs Ferry wetlands off the Saw Mill River Parkway, Woodlands Lake at V.E. Macy Park in Irvington/Ardsley, Cyrus Field Road in Irvington, and Farragut Avenue along the South County Trailway in Hastings.

Groundwork Hudson Valley, a nonprofit environmental advocacy group in Yonkers, hosted the BioBlitz, which was also funded in part through grants by the Westchester Community Foundation and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The two-day event kicked off at 4:30 p.m. last Friday at the Science Barge at the mouth

of the Saw Mill River in Yonkers. In addition to the BioBlitz, Saturday's events also included a series of children's activities and discussions at Pace University in Pleasantville.

Groundwork Hudson Valley held the event "to prove that this is a river worth restoring and celebrating and that there are significant pockets of biodiversity that rely on the river and need protection" and "to help watershed residents understand the river's value to biodiversity," a Sept. 18 press release said. "The more we get people involved in protecting what they have in their own back yard, the more they'll understand, and be able to protect not just their own back yard, but more global things," Ann-Marie Mitroff, director of River Programs for Groundwork Hudson Valley told the Enterprise.

The Saw Mill River — originally called

the "Nepperhan," a Native American word for rapid little stream — starts in Chappaqua and runs for about 20 miles, reaching 8 to 12 feet wide. It goes through the towns of New Castle, Mount Pleasant, and Greenburgh, and the villages of Pleasantville, Sleep Hollow, Tarrytown, Elmsford, Irvington, Ardsley, Dobbs Ferry, and Hastings ending up in Yonkers where it empties into the Hudson River. The river is a watershed basin that stretches 26.5 miles, and has about 110,000 people living within the watershed.

After the opening ceremonies at the Science Barge, Jason Munshi-South, an assistant professor at Baruch College, brought his "mammal team," which included four Baruch students, to the Dobbs Ferry marsh just above the New

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Report reaffirms focus of police services study

By Colleen Michele Jones

number of different configurations.

The study will be completed by the end of

Greenburgh lawmakers were in agreement on this point.