



BioBlitz 2009: Notices and Instructions to Participants

Your compliance with these notices and instructions are important to your own safety and that of other participants, and to the RI Natural History Survey's (RINHS'S) ability to organize BioBlitzes in the future. **By registering for BioBlitz, you agree to follow the BioBlitz rules laid out here**, Gloucester Land Trust (GLT) rules for preserve use, and relevant local, state, and federal laws. You will be in a wilderness area with known and unknown hazards. Neither the hazards nor your behavior are in the control of RINHS, GLT, or event sponsors. YOU are responsible for your own safety. If you have any questions about these rules, please ask. If you can't follow the rules, you don't have to participate.

GENERAL

► **Science Central** is the headquarters for the BioBlitz event. It is located in the Sprague Farm parking area off Pine Orchard Road in Gloucester. **All participants sign in at Science Central upon arrival** and receive notices and a map of the BioBlitz property.

► **All enquiries should be directed to Science Central.** RINHS and GLT representatives are on duty there at all times (or nearby during late overnight hours).

► **BioBlitz has a catch and release scientific permit** from RIDEM. If you intend to do anything other than catch and release, you must obey the relevant laws and are responsible for having appropriate permits.

► **Do not un-necessarily disturb animals, plants, or their habitats in the course of counting.** In particular, note that animals must be treated humanely at all times. Handle animals carefully. Animals should be put back exactly where you find them. Thanks to the Gloucester Land Trust, invertebrate animals and non-vascular plants may be collected (unless they are on the RI Natural Heritage List). You must inform RINHS of what you take and give us some idea where the specimens are to be deposited.

► Sprague Farm is open to the public during BioBlitz. Please do not disturb other users. Please respect the privacy of abutters and stay "In Bounds."

► **You are responsible for personal property you bring to BioBlitz.** Neither RINHS nor GLT can accept any responsibility for your personal property. Do not leave out microscopes, reference books, cameras, GPS's, or anything else valuable that you're not prepared to lose.

SAFETY

► If you have an emergency during BioBlitz and require help, **call for emergency services by dialing 911.** Tell the operator you are at Sprague Farm, off Pine Orchard Road, Gloucester, and if possible give your approximate location on the Farm so help can be staged from the best access point. You should also contact an RINHS or GLT representative on duty at Science Central.

Phone numbers:

| | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|------------|
| Emergency | | 911 |
| RNIHS Science Central | | 742-1176 |
| | or | 316-8905 |
| GLT On-Call | Roy Najecki | 499-3631 |
| | or Bruce Payton | 743-6460 |

► In case of emergency, phones and first aid kits are located at Science Central. **RINHS and GLT representatives are on duty at Science Central at all times** (except late overnight hours, when they will be nearby). In addition, an RINHS-designated "Safety Ranger" is on duty and available to go to a location, direct emergency services, or otherwise assist you. Science Central and the Safety Ranger can communicate with each other and GLT contacts by radio or phone.

► Hazards:

While this is not a remote expedition, the landscape of Sprague Farm and the activities of BioBlitz are likely to have inherent dangers that are beyond the powers of the organizers to warn you about or to control. Therefore, **a safe BioBlitz is your responsibility.** Be careful in what you do, and if you see someone doing something unsafe, say something to them and/or bring it to the attention of RINHS or GLT personnel.

- **Be careful around water. No swimming** is allowed. People wishing to wade are encouraged to be with a partner or in a group. BioBlitz participants may not

SAFETY—HAZARDS cont.

use boats without explicit permission of RINHS and GLT. Any participant using a boat should wear a **Personal Floatation Device** and is expected to follow applicable RI law regarding registration, equipment, and operation.

- Disease bearing **ticks** and **mosquitoes** occur at the Sprague Farm. Wear protective clothing, use repellants, conduct tick checks, and be vigilant for symptoms afterwards. For information on lyme disease see: <http://www.health.ri.gov/disease/communicable/lyme/index.php>
- Protect yourself from over-exposure to **the sun**--wear appropriate clothing and use sun block (available free at Science Central). **Drink water** if the weather is hot.
- Stay away from **poison ivy**. (Ask one of the botanists for a lesson if you don't know what it looks like).
- Use extreme caution around rock ledges, cellar holes, and wells as a fall from one of them could kill you. Stay off of **stone walls**. They are old and crumbling and climbing them could result in injury to you and/or the wall.
- Do not handle **wild animals** unless you are familiar with appropriate techniques and have appropriate equipment. Stay clear of animals acting unusually.

SCIENCE

► Observations only count if made between 3 P.M. Friday and 3 P.M. Saturday.

► Count any living organism you observe on (or above) the BioBlitz site during this period and can identify as taxonomically discrete. **You do not have to identify every organism you observe to species.** If you can't, your count should reflect the number of likely taxonomic subgroups within the lowest taxonomic level you CAN differentiate (e.g. "two different bees in the genus *Halictus*" or "three beetles of the Staphylinid Family"). To avoid counting duplication, however, any such "generalized" additions to the count will be discarded if someone else submits a count of the same group identified to a lower taxonomic level without examining your specimens.

► Please record your results on the official BioBlitz Reporting Forms and turn them in to Science Central, noting your name and the general taxonomic group, if that's not obvious, on the form. Please use green sheets for plants and salmon sheets for all other organisms.

SCIENCE cont.

► If you gather specimens, put them back where you found them. Do not knowingly collect listed species or game species unless you have a license to do so. Participants wishing to use special trapping techniques are responsible for doing so safely (UV B lights, electro-shocking, batteries, gas-powered equipment, etc.) and for having the necessary licenses (e.g. for mist nets).

► You can set up your own work area at Science Central. Be careful of expensive books and equipment (yours and others'). The organizers cannot be responsible for personal property that you bring to BioBlitz.

► We have many volunteers eager to assist you in the field. Don't hesitate to ask for help.

► All inventory results must be reported to Science Central by 3 P.M. Saturday. The final tally will be announced to the public as soon after 3 P.M. as possible, and at any rate by 4 P.M.

► The following teams are represented at this year's BioBlitz. You're not required to participate on a team but doing so helps get the widest coverage of Sprague Farm and helps avoid duplicate species reports.

- butterflies
- moths
- ants, bees, and wasps
- spiders and kin (incl. centi- & millipedes, and mites)
- flies
- bugs (hemiptera and homoptera)
- beetles
- crickets, grasshoppers, and katydids
- dragonflies and damselflies
- birds
- mammals
- reptiles and amphibians
- fish
- mollusks
- crustaceans and allies (isopods, amphipods)
- annelid worms
- misc. terrestrial arthropods (silverfish, earwigs, etc.)
- misc. aquatic invertebrates (mayflies, caddisflies, etc.)
- aquatic micros (rotifera, paramecia, amoeba, etc.)
- vascular plants
- mosses
- lichens
- fungi (mushrooms)
- algae