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Department of Parks and Community Renewal
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A SERVICE OF THE
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Union County
We're Connected to You!

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH KEAN UNIVERSITY & KEAN
UNIVERSITY'S INSTITUTE OF URBAN ECOSYSTEM STUDIES

BIO-BLITZ 2009

PUBLIC PROGRAM SCHEDULE

FRIDAY JUNE 12, 5PM-11:45 PM &
SATURDAY JUNE 13, 9AM-5PM

**BRIANT PARK, HIDDEN VALLEY &
HOUDAILLE QUARRY
Summit & Springfield, N.J.**

A 24-hour intensive effort to measure biodiversity by
surveying plant and animal life in the 173+ acre, trio
of County parkland
Exploring nature in our own "backyard"

Sponsored by :



PSEG

We make things work for your career.



Special THANKS to all of our volunteers and participants!

BIO-BLITZ 2009 COMMITTEE

- Amphibians and Reptiles:** Cathy Eser (Staten Island Zoo)
Aquatic Invertebrates: Susan Marie Terra (NJDEP/NJWAP)
Birds: Ed Zboyan
Environmental Monitoring: John Dobosiewicz, PhD
(Kean University, Elizabeth River/Arthur Kill Watershed Association)
Fish: Shawn Crouse (NJDEP/DFW)
Fungi: *Macro:* Dorothy Smullen & Marc Grobman
(NJ Mycological Association)
Micro: Eric Boehm, PhD (Kean University)
Insects: Sylvio Codella, PhD (Kean University)
IUES: Janet Tuohy (Kean University)
Mammals: Holly Jantz (Auburn University, AL)
Plants: Daniela Shebitz, PhD (Kean University)
Water Quality Monitoring: John Dobosiewicz, PhD (Kean U.)
Publicity: Tom Plante, UC Office of Public Information

In partnership with:

*Auburn University, Alabama * Briant Park Olmsted Conservancy
Brooklyn Botanic Garden
Colonia High School Fishing Club
Elizabeth River/Arthur Kill Watershed Association
Friends of Lenape Park * Girl Scouts Hearts of NJ
Friends of the Great Swamp Watershed
National Biodiversity Parks, Inc.
NJDEP Fish & Wildlife * NJ Mycological Association
NJ Conservation Foundation
NJDEP Americorps Watershed Ambassador Program
Rahway River Association * Reeves-Reed Arboretum
Springfield Environmental Commission * Summit Environmental
Commission * Summit Green * The Staten Island Zoo
Torrey Botanical Society * Trailside Nature & Science Center
Union County Model Airplane Club
Union County Parks Advisory Board * Summit Garden Club
WildMetro*

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

● ages 4-6yrs ▲ 7-10yrs ■ 11yrs-adult

**Check our sign board for updates on species counts
throughout the day!**

FRIDAY 6/12 PM

6:30-7:30 PM



FROG SLOGGIN': Join Cathy Eser of Staten Island Zoo and Karen Inzillo, Assistant Director of Trailside Nature & Science Center in a search of frogs and toads in and around Briant Pond. Live specimens will be on view at the Bio-Blitz Central Tent also. ▲ ■

7:45-8:45 PM

NIGHT-TIME AWARENESS: If you've ever wondered how naturalists and scientists notice all those cool, natural wonders—this is the program for you! Join the staff from the *Children of the Earth Foundation* and study nature's concentric circles. Test your night-time awareness skills and powers of observation as you do the "snake walk" and the "night-time sit". ▲ ■

9:00-10:30 PM

BATS AND OWL PROWL: Take a guided walk led by Hazel England of the Friends of the Great Swamp Watershed Association & Emile DeVito of NJ Conservation Foundation, to find nocturnal birds and mammals. Learn what calls can be made to bring in certain species of owls—such as the screech owl or great horned owl. "Whoooo" knows what we'll find! ▲ ■



10:45 PM –11:30 PM

COYOTE HOWL: Listen for a response from local coyotes when we call or play coyote recordings in the quarry. Learn what coyotes are saying by the type of noise they make and see how wildlife biologists, Holly Jantz and Michah Moore estimate the number of coyotes living in the area.

SATURDAY 6/13 AM

7:00 –8 :00AM

BIRD WALK: Take a walk with a Bird Team member and look and listen for characteristics and songs that help to identify birds. Birds we'll look for include small songbirds, larger wading birds, and birds of prey. *For:* ages 10 & up accompanied by adult. *Bring:* binoculars if you have them (we have a limited supply to share). Also offered at 4:00 PM. ▲ ■



9:00-10:00 AM

JUNIOR BIRDERS/BUGGERS: You're never too young to learn how to "bird" or "bug hunt". Young naturalists can join the Girl Scouts and decorate their very own "focus scope". Once complete, take a walk and look for birds or insects. Also offered at 1:00 PM. ●



ON THE RIGHT TRACK: Visit mammal scent stations with Holly Jantz, a graduate student from Auburn University, Alabama, and learn how to identify animals by their tracks and about the stories tracks can tell us. ▲ ■

9:00-9:45 AM

ANIMAL HOMES & HIDEOUTS: Looking for animals can sometimes be difficult. Explore the Elizabeth River Parkway with the Trailside Nature & Science Center’s staff in search of bird nests, animal tracks and dens. Examples of what to look for will be provided. Also offered at 2:00 PM. ▲ ■



10:00-11:30 AM

CRYPTOGAM WALK: Join members of the Plant Team, Marian Glen, Dorothy Smullen and Norberto Mapoy for a walk to look at mosses, lichens and mushrooms. ■



NATURE AWARENESS: Children of the Earth Foundation, a non-profit organization founded by Tom and Debbie Brown, will lead this hands-on presentation and walk. Learn more about wildlife by beginning to “read” the landscape, studying nature’s concentric rings, and mimicking animals. Do the “Fox walk”, try out your wide angle vision and do some animal form stretching. The philosophy of living as “one with the land” will be interwoven into all skills taught. Also offered at 2:00 PM. ● ▲ ■



10:45 AM - 11:45 AM

HOUDAILLE QUARRY HIKE:

Join the Springfield Environmental Commission for this moderately strenuous 1 1/2-mile round trip walk from the high ridge of the quarry down to the pond in the pit below. The once barren gouged landscape has since sprouted grasses, wildflowers, shrubs, and trees. Coyotes, wild turkeys, song birds, and other wildlife have been spotted in previous walks. Sturdy shoes, long pants, and long sleeved shirts are advised. ■ *Shorter walk offered at 2:00 pm*

INSECT MANIA: Learn how to properly use a butterfly net and other equipment to capture butterflies, dragonflies and other insects. We will explore the meadows and lawn areas at Briant Park. ▲ ■



SATURDAY 6/14 PM

11:45 AM—12:45 PM (Bio-Blitz Central Area)

PUBLIC OFFICIALS WELCOME PARTICIPANTS/SCIENTISTS

UNION COUNTY/KEAN/NJDEP OFFICIALS WELCOME

INTRO TO BIODIVERSITY

HISTORY OF BRIANT PARK

1:00 PM—2:30 PM

FISH & OTHER AQUATIC LIFE BRIANT POND:

Observe NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife staff as they use electro-fishing and seining techniques to sample the aquatic life of Briant Pond. Afterwards, try your hand at using a dip net and discover other aquatic species like scuds, beetle larvae, and other bottom-dwelling creatures that may be indicators of good or poor water quality with the Trailside staff and NJDEP AmeriCorps Watershed Ambassador staff.



1:00-2:00 PM

JUNIOR BIRDERS/BUGGERS: See 9:00 AM description. ●

2:00-2:30 PM

HOUDAILLE QUARRY HIKE:

Join the Springfield Environmental Commission for a guided tour of the quarry. This will be a shorter walk (about 1/2 hour) than the 10:45 a.m. program, to the scenic overlook and back. ■

2:00-2:45 PM

ANIMAL HOMES & HIDEOUTS: See 9:00 AM description. ▲ ■

2:00-3:00 PM

NATURE AWARENESS: See 10:00 AM description. ● ▲ ■



2:45 -3:45 PM

WILD EDIBLE WALK:

Discover the wonderful world of wild edible plants. Walk the trails with Naturalist Debbie Naha and explore the wild edibles of our area. ■ (Debbie Naha is a Naturalist for Morris County Park Commission; her specialty and her passion is wild edible plants; she has been foraging the woods and fields of New Jersey for decades.)

4:00-5:00 PM

BEGINNER BIRD WALK: See 9:00 AM description. ▲ ■

