



BIO-BLITZ 2016

IN PARTNERSHIP

WITH KEAN

UNIVERSITY

& RAHWAY RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
**Kawameeh & Black Brook Parks &
Galloping Hill Golf Course**

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

FRIDAY JUNE 10, 5PM-11:45 PM

SATURDAY JUNE 11, 7AM-5PM

A 24-hour intensive effort to measure biodiversity by
surveying plant and animal life living in Union County
parks.

Exploring nature in your "backyard."

Sponsored by :



Natalie & Tony



Welcome to Bio-Blitz 2016

At Kawameeh Park, Black Brook Park & Galloping Hill Golf Course!

Meet our scientists and field experts! Our Bio-Blitz will begin with free, fun and educational programs on Friday night and continue throughout Saturday. We'll keep track of what we find and add the data to our list of species.

Discover your "inner scientist/naturalist" during our 12th annual Bio-Blitz. Sign up at the **Info Tent** is required. All programs leave from the **Info Tent @ Kawameeh Park on Kawameeh Dr. in Union** and run 45-60 minutes unless otherwise noted. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Free shuttle bus service will be provided for most programs.

PLEASE NOTE!

To ensure a safe and enjoyable Bio-Blitz experience be sure to...

- Stay with the program leader when participating in all programs.
- Dress to get wet, muddy, or dirty.
- Avoid contact with poison ivy. Pick up poison ivy and tick informational handouts at Bio-Blitz Central. Tuck pants into socks, wear long sleeves, a hat, and apply bug spray to deter ticks.

ONGOING

BIO-BLITZ BINGO: Pick up your bingo card at the Info or Jr. Scientist Tent! Find and identify species of plants and animals throughout the park and mark them off on your card. The first 100 entries **win a bird poster. Additional prize drawings offered at our exhibitor's tables!**

BIO-BLITZ CENTRAL: Visit our headquarters under the big tent to view ongoing exhibits, identify specimens, learn about new findings as they occur, and watch/assist our scientists with their work. Check out live fish and aquatic insects sampled from nearby brooks & ponds, invasive and native plant displays, insect lab, demonstrations; and exciting hands-on tree table; amphibians & reptiles, mammals, bird info and more. Buy **native plants from** Toadshade Wildflower Farm. Visit the Rahway River Watershed Association table and enter to **win a South Mountain Reservation Bio-Hike led by Dr. Emile DeVito!** See a geocaching display & demo.

JUNIOR NATURALIST TENT: Young naturalists can decorate their very own "focus scope" (binoculars), borrow an insect net to catch some insects, get a nature "tattoo", and learn more about nature by examining natural artifacts!



TRAILSIDE VAN: Visit with Park Naturalists from Trailside Nature and Science Center and have fun learning about the natural world. See bird nests, feel animal furs and meet live snakes and turtles from Trailside's reptile collection.



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

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

FRIDAY 5:00 PM-11:30 PM

5:00-6:00 PM

WILD EDIBLE WALK: Discover the wonderful world of wild edible plants and learn how to forage ethically. Walk the trails with Naturalist Debbie Naha and explore the wild edibles of our area. (Debbie Naha is a naturalist as well as a licensed dietitian/nutritionist. Her specialty and passion is wild edible plants; she has been foraging the woods and fields of New Jersey for decades.) ■

7:00-8:00 PM

PHOTOBLITZ:

Grab your camera and join nature photographer Jacki Dickert on a photo expedition. Learn the techniques used to photograph the wonders of our natural world. A collection of Jacki's landscape and nature photos is on exhibit at Trailside Nature & Science Center in the Atrium Gallery, or visit her web site at www.lightdance.org. This program is geared towards beginner and intermediate photographers. ■

7:30-8:30 PM:

FROG SLOG:

Learn to identify some common frogs (and toads) by their calls. Visit nearby wetlands in search of frogs, toads, tadpoles and more. Use special nets to catch, identify and release amphibians, fish, insect larvae and other aquatic life. ▲ ■

9:00-10:00 PM & 10:15-11:15 PM

OWL PROWL: Take a guided walk led by *Dr. Emile DeVito* of the NJ Conservation Foundation & Rahway River Association to find these nocturnal birds of prey. Learn what calls can be made to bring in certain species of owls—such as the screech or great horned owl. “Whoooo” knows what we’ll find. ▲ ■

10:00-11:30 PM

STAR WATCH: Join Marc Rogoff of the NJ Department of Environmental Protection and the NJ Earth Science Teachers Association, to look for planets, the moon and other deep sky objects. Telescopes will be available to view the night sky up close and personal. You may wish to bring a reclining chair and binoculars too. ▲ ■



11:00-12:00 PM

MOTHS: THE SILENT MAJORITY & NIGHTTIME INSECT TRAPPING:

Naturalist, Blaine Rothausen will introduce this often overlooked but important and beautiful insect that can indicate healthy or unhealthy ecosystem. A power point presentation will be followed by a visit to his moth station. Watch as he traps moths and other insects using a sodium vapor light trap. See them like never before, close and personal! ▲ ■



● ages 4-6yrs ▲ 7-10yrs ■ 11yrs-adult

Special THANKS to all of our presenters, exhibitors,
Many thanks to all of our
team members, staff and volunteers!



SATURDAY 7:00 AM—5:00 PM



7:00–9:00 AM

BIRD WALK: Be an “early bird”—take a walk with a Bird Team member and look and listen for characteristics and songs that help to identify birds. We’ll look for small songbirds, larger wading birds, and birds of prey.

Bring: binoculars if you have them (we have a limited supply to share). Beginner walk offered at 4:00 PM. ▲ ■

7:30-9:00 AM

MAMMAL SURVEY: Join Mammal Team leaders, USDA Wildlife Services Biologists, Amanda Hasler and Adam Randall, on a short hike to investigate what mammals are living in the Bio-Blitz study area. Help them check their trail cameras, track stations and live traps to see who was walking through the woods the night before! ▲ ■

9:00AM-5:00 PM

WHAT’S THE BUZZ?:



Check out Bio-Blitz Central to find out what scientists have brought back from the field, get your nature questions answered, see live animals (turtles, frogs and fish to name a few), and cool plants (and some not-so-cool plants). ● ▲ ■

9:00-10:30 AM

STREAM PLAY: Streams, ponds, and wetlands often serve as nurseries for fish, insects and other animals. Observe the Aquatic Invertebrate Team, NJ Watershed Ambassadors and Trailside Nature & Science Center naturalists as they sample a nearby brook. Their findings may tell us about the stream’s water quality. ● ▲ ■

10:00-11:00 AM

SEARCHING FOR SPORE BEARERS:

"What are they?" you might ask. These organisms are plants and fungi that never produce seeds or flowers. They are everywhere around us and we may not notice them. They include mosses, ferns and their relatives, and the fungi kingdom which includes lichens. Join Dorothy Smullen, Fungi Team Leader on this walk to find some of these spore-bearers. ▲ ■

10:00-11:00 AM

MINI-BLITZING: Immerse yourself in nature study as you discover the natural wonders in your own “backyard.” Trailside naturalists will lead this walk in search of plants, insects, reptiles, amphibians, mammals, birds and more! Do a diversity “study”, record your findings and help scientists with their species tally. Also offered at 1:00 PM ▲ ■

10:00-11:00 AM

GEOCACHING DEMO: Discover the world of geocaching —a new way of connecting with the out-of-doors- and get started on a new and fun hobby with help from members of the Northern NJ Geocachers. ▲ ■



11:00 AM– 12:00 PM

HAWKS & OWLS: Join Giselle Smisko, Director of the Avian Wildlife Center and her raptor friends. Learn how these birds of prey get around, what they eat and how they capture their prey. Featuring *live* hawks and owls. Also offered at 1pm.

● ▲ ■

● ages 4-6yrs ▲ 7-10yrs ■ 11yrs-adult

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

OFFICIAL WELCOME TO PARTICIPANTS/SCIENTISTS

1:15 - 2:15 PM

FISH LIFE AT SHALLCROSS POND:

Watch as the Fish Team, led by Shawn Crouse, *NJDEP, Fish & Wildlife Biologist*, use electro-fishing and seining techniques to sample fish life. Find out who lives in our water bodies and how fish protect themselves and are adapted to their environment. ● ▲ ■



1:00-2:00 PM

HAWKS & OWLS: See 11am program description. ● ▲ ■

1:00-2:00 PM

MINI-BLITZING: See 10am program description. ▲ ■



2:15-3:15 PM

THOSE DARN GEESE!

Canada geese are one of the most abundant and successful wildlife species in New Jersey. An over-abundance of geese can create a frustrating situation for many homeowners. Goose feces accumulates on lawns, walkways at homes, schools, hospitals, corporate campuses, and public parks. Feces damage property, compromise overall quality of life, and have the potential to pose serious health threats due to the presence of disease-causing organisms. This USDA WS led program will demonstrate a variety of methods, which can be used by homeowners to reduce problems associated with too many Canada geese. These techniques have been successfully utilized in Union County Parks to minimize goose damages within the park system. ▲ ■

2:45-3:45 PM

TAKE A WALK ON THE WILD SIDE-FORAGING FOR EDIBLE PLANTS

Discover the wonderful world of wild edible plants and learn how to forage ethically. Walk the trails with Naturalist Debbie Naha and explore the wild edibles of our area. (Debbie Naha is a naturalist as well as a licensed dietitian/nutritionist. Her specialty and passion is wild edible plants; she has been foraging the woods and fields of New Jersey for decades.) ■

4:00-5:00 PM

BIRD WALK (FOR BEGINNERS With Bird Team Members): Walk with a Bird Team member and learn to identify several species of birds. If we see something the team didn't, we can add it to our species tally! Bring binoculars, (some provided.) ▲ ■



BB WRAP-UP: Check our species tote board for an almost final count!



ages 4-6yrs ▲ 7-10yrs ■ 11yrs-adult

BIO-BLITZ 2016 COMMITTEE

Amphibians and Reptiles: Cathy Eser (Staten Island Zoo)
Aquatic Invertebrates: Cynthia Romero (NJDEP/NJWAP)
Birds: Ed Zboyan (Friends of Lenape Park)
Educational Outreach: Karen Inzillo (Trailside Nature & Sci. Center)
Fish: Shawn Crouse (NJDEP/DFW)
Fungi: Dorothy Smullen & Marc Grobman (NJ Mycological Association)
Insects: Hadel Go (American Museum of Natural History)
Mammals: Amanda Hasler & Adam Randall (USDA-APHIS/WS)
Photography: Carol & Jim Duffy, Hadel Go, Natalie Gregorio, & Gary Szelc
Plants: Daniela Shebitz, PhD (Kean University)
Tree Education: Sylvia Weisbrot

In Partnership With:

BR Environmental, LLC
Elizabeth River/Arthur Kill Watershed Association
Friends of Lenape Park
Kawameeh Middle School Environmental Club
Marc Rogoff, NJDEP
Native Plant Society of NJ
NJ Invasive Species Strike Team
NJDEP Fish & Wildlife
NJDEP Office of Communications
NJDEP Watershed Ambassador Program /AmeriCorps
*NJ Mycological Association * Northern New Jersey Cachers*
Rahway River Watershed Association
Staten Island Zoo
Trailside Museum Association
Trailside Nature & Science Center
USDA APHIS, Wildlife Services & USDA PPQ

[illegible]

UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

Bruce H. Bergen, *Chairman*

Sergio Granados, *Vice Chairman*

Christopher Hudak

Bette Jane Kowalski

Linda Carter

Vernell Wright

Mohamed S. Jalloh

Alexander Mirabella

Angel Estrada

Alfred J. Faella
County Manager



James E. Pellettiere
Clerk of the Board

Ron Zuber, *Director*
Department of Parks & Recreation

Check our website for more
Union County Parks
Programs and Special Events:



<http://ucnj.org/parks> or
<http://ucnj.org/bio-blitz>



A Service of the Union County
Board of Chosen Freeholders



UNION COUNTY
We're Connected to You!