

## UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

**Bruce H. Bergen, Chairman**

**Sergio Granados, Vice Chairman**

Linda Carter      Angel G. Estrada  
Christopher Hudak      Mohamed S. Jalloh  
Bette Jane Kowalski      Alexander Mirabella  
Vernell Wright

**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>



[www.ucnj.org](http://www.ucnj.org)



A Service of the Union County  
Board of Chosen Freeholders



**UNION COUNTY**  
*We're Connected to You!*



# BIO-BLITZ 2017

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH KEAN UNIVERSITY  
& RAHWAY RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

## WARINANCO PARK

*Roselle & Elizabeth, NJ*

*Access via Park Ave. & St. George's Ave.,  
Roselle*

## PROGRAM SCHEDULE

FRIDAY JUNE 16, 5:00 PM-11:30 AM

SATURDAY JUNE 17, 6:30 AM-5:00 PM

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 :*



A Service of the Union County  
Board of Chosen Freeholders



**UNION COUNTY**  
*We're Connected to You!*




*At Warinanco Park in Roselle & Elizabeth*

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 13th annual Bio-Blitz. Sign up at the **Info Table** is required. All programs leave from the **Bio-Blitz Central located inside the Warinanco Sports Center** 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 but many are just a short walk away or can be accessed by car easily.

**PLEASE NOTE!**

**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 PASSPORT:** Pick up a Bio-Blitz Passport at the Info or Jr. Scientist table! Get your passport stamped at specific exhibitor's and Team tables or programs and be eligible for a prize! The first 100 entries *win a bird poster*.

*Additional prize drawings may also be offered throughout the event.*

**BIO-BLITZ CENTRAL:** Visit our headquarters in the brand new Warinanco Sports Center 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 an exciting hands-on tree table; amphibians & reptiles, mammals, bird info and more. Stop by Toadshade Wildflower Farm and purchase a **native plant** or two. Visit the Rahway River Watershed Association table and enter to **win a prize!** See a geocaching display & demo.

**JUNIOR NATURALIST AREA:** 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!



**VISIT: THE NATIVE SHORELINE AND MEADOW AREA AROUND THE LAKE UPDATED CHATFIELD GARDEN & STREAM DAYLIGHTING PROJECT**

NOTES:

This image shows a full page of blank handwriting practice paper. It features approximately 20 evenly spaced, horizontal blue lines across the entire width of the page. The background is plain white, providing a clear guide for letter height and placement. There are no margins, text, or other markings present.

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

**BIO-BLITZ 2017 COMMITTEE**

**Amphibians and Reptiles:** Cathy Eser (Staten Island Zoo)  
**Aquatic Invertebrates:** Ismail Sukkar (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:** Chip Codella, PhD (Kean University)  
**Mammals:** Amanda Hasler, John Horsfield & Jared Myers (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*  
*Conserve Wildlife Foundation*  
*Elizabeth River/Arthur Kill Watershed Association*  
*Friends of Lenape Park*  
*Groundwork Elizabeth*  
*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 Nature & Science Center*  
*USDA APHIS, Wildlife Services & USDA PPQ*

**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

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

**FRIDAY 5:00 PM-11:30 PM**

**5:30-6:30 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.) ▲ ■

**7:00-8:30 PM**

**MOTHS: THE SILENT MAJORITY & NIGHTTIME INSECT TRAPPING:** Naturalist Blaine Rothauser will introduce this often overlooked but important and beautiful insect that can indicate a 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, up-close and personal! ▲ ■

**8:00-9:00 PM**

**GOING BATTY OVER BATS!:** Nine species of bats call New Jersey home, and many can be seen flying around your neighborhood at dusk. As the light fades, watch with staff from Rutgers Wildlife Conservation and Management, as bats hunt insects using echolocation, and learn about their unique ecology! Discover how to use an acoustic monitor that can detect what bat species are flying nearby. ● ▲ ■



**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. ▲ ■



● ages 4-6yrs ▲ 7-10yrs ■ 11yrs-adult

SATURDAY 6:30 AM—5:00 PM



**6:30–8:30 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. ▲ ■



**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). ● ▲ ■

**9:00-10:00 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. ● ▲ ■

**9:30-9:45 AM**

**CHATFIELD GARDEN:**

Visit this historic garden, named after Park Commissioner Henry S. Chatfield, and learn about the recent change from a bulb to a perennial garden from landscape Designer Cindy Coppa.

**10:15-11:15 AM**

**WET & WILD AT THE POND:**

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

**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 WARINANCO LAKE:**

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 this water body 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:** 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. ▲ ■



**2:00-3:00 PM**

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



**2:45-3:45 PM**

**WILD EDIBLE WALK:** See Friday 5:30 program description. ■



**3:00-3:45 PM**

**INTRO TO MUSHROOMS:** See what’s been collected so far by the Fungi Team, learn about the NJ Mycological Association and what can be made from mushrooms. ▲ ■

**3:00-4:00 PM**

**THOSE DARN GEESE!**

An over-abundance of Canada geese can create a frustrating situation for many homeowners. 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 caused by too many geese. These techniques have been successfully utilized in Union County Parks to minimize goose damages within the park system. ▲ ■

**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!