

2010

A Guide for Planning
Community BioBlitz Events
in Eastern Ontario



Community
Stewardship Council
of Lanark County
&
Watersheds Canada



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Introduction

In recent years, it has become apparent that community and volunteer involvement is a key component of monitoring the status and health of our natural environment. Passionate individuals and organizations have become an integral part of science-based conservation programs through the collection and documentation of data as well as contributing to public education and understanding. However, as these *Citizen Scientists* are typically volunteers and not-for-profit organizations, assistance and access to resources is helpful in making the most out of their invaluable contributions.

Programs such as Environment Canada's Naturewatch have been highly successful in encouraging and providing community volunteers with the knowledge and resources needed to monitor ecosystems. As a result, new initiatives such as the community based biological inventories known as BioBlitzes have become increasingly popular. These events are significant not only for producing species inventories, but also for providing environmental education to the public and promoting community involvement.

A number of very successful BioBlitzes have occurred in Eastern Ontario over the past few years. As a great deal of time and effort goes into planning and carrying out a BioBlitz event, the Community Stewardship Council of Lanark County in partnership with Watersheds Canada hope to simplify this process and encourage more events by providing a protocol and resources for planning a BioBlitz. The protocol and resources are based on the ideas, successes, and input from past local BioBlitz participants as well as input from a steering committee and various stakeholders including volunteers, scientists, government agencies, conservation groups, and community groups.

This package is not meant to dictate the "right way" to conduct a BioBlitz. Rather, it is meant to provide guidance and suggestions to best maximize the efficiency and value of these events through proper data collection and data sharing. The resources provided include species checklists, data entry forms, registration forms, information for landowners, and media and communications documents. Examples from past events and templates for various documents have also been included to assist with the planning process. As each BioBlitz is unique in its purpose, goals, challenges, and limitations, the advice and resources used during each event will be dependent on the organizers and participants.

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PART A: Planning an Event

1.0 An Introduction to BioBlitzes

1.1 What is a BioBlitz

A BioBlitz is a volunteer based biological inventory of a given area. Part community event and part inventory, local scientists, naturalists, and enthusiasts gather on a property with the goal of identifying as many species as possible. Typically, there is a fixed time limit such as 12 or 24 hours for the event, although this is not mandatory. Events can take place on a variety of land types of varying ownership and size including private properties, conservation lands, community forests, parks, and even across entire cities. More often than not, community members are invited to participate in the events by observing and interacting with the scientists, filling volunteer roles and participating in aspects of the inventory. Learning opportunities including guided walks, workshops, and other activities are also common components of the events as they provide community participants with valuable hands-on learning opportunities intended to expand their knowledge of species identification, biodiversity, and stewardship.

A BioBlitz does not provide a complete inventory of a given property. Instead, it provides a general “snap-shot” of the species and biodiversity found in the area. With nearly 2 million known species worldwide and approximately 140 000 found in Canada, it would be near to impossible to identify each and every species on a property within 24 hours. This would be particularly difficult for the larger taxa such as fungi or invertebrates as they are difficult to both locate and accurately identify. Furthermore, species experts are few and far between for certain species groups such as lichens, insects, molluscs etc. resulting in gaps in the BioBlitz Inventory. Finally, complete inventories cannot be gathered during these events as many species are only active or observable during certain parts of the years. For example, spring ephemeral wildflowers such as trilliums and hepatica can be observed only during spring months while asters and goldenrod do not appear until late summer.

1.2 Why have a BioBlitz?

Professional biological inventories can be extremely costly and time consuming. As a result current inventory information is lacking, particularly in Eastern Ontario where over 90% of the land is privately owned. Most private property has never been inventoried due to restricted access. Currently, organizations and amateur naturalists are doing an excellent job of documenting species in the area however, they are often limited by time, funding, and from obtaining inventories from unique habitat types due to their occurrences on privately owned land. BioBlitzes present a great opportunity to match willing landowners and experienced naturalists in order to document species diversity on private lands.

From a private landowner’s perspective, obtaining a detailed summary of the diversity on their property is the first step towards making responsible land management and stewardship decisions. Furthermore, in the event of finding a rare species or ecological features on their property, the landowner could become eligible for tax incentive programs or even consider conservation easements or a land donation that will protect their property into the future.

Private lands are not the only properties to benefit from having a BioBlitz. New conservation lands acquired by non-profit groups such as land trusts would benefit from the free inventories by the provision of guidance with land use management plans. Biological inventories can also be rare on accessible public lands such as parks, municipal forests, and conservation areas. While these properties are often examined and surveyed by naturalists, proper or publicly accessible documentation of these observations is often lacking.

When organized carefully, BioBlitz events provide the opportunity to document species inventories for inclusion in public databases such as the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR) Natural Heritage Information Centre (NHIC) database of Natural Resources and Values Information System (NRVIS). Once a species or natural feature is documented in these systems, the record becomes permanent and public. The information stored in these systems is used by a variety of regulatory agencies and policy makers for land use management decisions. Scientists, researchers, and individuals also frequently use the NHIC as a critical source of information.

Improved species documentation will also help with the protection and recovery of Species at Risk (SAR) in the area. As most species at risk are found on privately owned land, the responsibility lies with the landowner to document and report their occurrence. More often than not, private landowners do not have either the knowledge or resources to document or report SAR. Without proper documentation, including exact locations, description, habitat and sometimes even photographs, SAR protection cannot be provided. Furthermore, without documentation this valuable information is not made available to researchers, and scientists working towards species recovery plans.

Organizations choosing to host their own BioBlitz events have the opportunity to become actively engaged with the community. The events also provide an opportunity to establish and strengthen partnerships with other organizations and volunteers. Ultimately, these events are an ideal way for organizations to gain positive recognition, promotion, and even increased membership.

Finally, as mentioned previously, these types of events are a great way to get the community involved in fun, outdoors, educational activities. Members of the public can participate and expand their knowledge of species identification, the importance of biodiversity, and responsible land stewardship issues. It is hoped that their participation in such events will help foster an appreciation for nature, encourage community involvement, and even inspire the next generation of scientists, community volunteers, and naturalists.

1.3 Have there been other BioBlitzes in the Area?

There have been many successful BioBlitzes in Eastern Ontario over the past few years. These events have varied greatly in size, locations, purpose, goals and results. However, the common outcome for all events has been a general sense of success, enjoyment and increased knowledge. As each BioBlitz was unique, organizers and participants from each event are able to provide valuable advice and suggestions that have been included throughout this protocol. When planning your own BioBlitz, these individuals may provide a wealth of knowledge during your planning process.

1.4 Who can help?

Planning a BioBlitz can be a fairly comprehensive and lengthy process. Therefore, you will likely benefit from having the assistance of other organizations and partner groups. Luckily, there are a number of organizations in the area that can provide you with assistance, materials and resources, and most importantly, contact information for experts and participants. You may wish to contact one or more of the following organizations throughout your planning process (Note: Contact Information for the following organizations can be found in Appendix 1):

The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR)

The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR) is the provincial government agency responsible for managing and protecting Ontario's natural resources. Responsibilities include implementing the Endangered Species Act, promoting and protecting the natural heritage of southern Ontario, and maintaining databases of species of interest and areas of natural and scientific interest through the Natural History Information Centre (NHIC). The MNR and NHIC will be a major source for information on species in your area, as well as potential users of the information gathered during your event. District offices are spread across the province with the Kemptville District MNR responsible for the following counties in eastern Ontario: Lanark County, United Counties of Leeds & Grenville, United Counties of Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry, United Counties of Prescott & Russell, and Ottawa-Carleton.

Ontario Stewardship Councils

Ontario Stewardship is an environmental program supported by the MNR with the goal of bringing community members/groups together to advocate and implement sustainable stewardship practices on private lands. Directed by a group of dedicated volunteers, the councils can be a valuable contact for your event. Partnering with a Stewardship Council will provide you access to a variety of resources. Stewardship councils have been established across southern Ontario representing geographic regions and headed by the stewardship coordinator. The stewardship councils in Eastern Ontario (Kemptville District) are:

- Community Stewardship Council of Lanark County
- Grenville Land Stewardship Council
- Leeds County Stewardship Council
- Ottawa Stewardship Council
- Resource Stewardship Stormont Dundas & Glengarry
- Prescott-Russell Stewardship Council

Local Field Naturalist Groups

Field naturalist groups are an excellent place to garner support and promote participation in BioBlitz events. Many groups have either participated in BioBlitzes or hosted their own. Groups are spread throughout Eastern Ontario and consist of community members with a love for all things nature. Area field naturalists clubs in Eastern Ontario are:

- Kingston Field Naturalists
- Macnamara Field Naturalists (Arnprior)
- Mississippi Valley Field Naturalists
- Ottawa Field Naturalists Club

- Pembroke Area Field Naturalists
- Prince Edward County Field Naturalists
- Quinte Field Naturalists
- Rideau Valley Field Naturalists (Perth)

Land Trust Associations

Land Trusts are non-profit organizations that conserve land through land acquisitions or conservation easements with the property owners. If the landowner you are working with is concerned about the future conservation of their land, particularly on a property with significant features, then you may wish to work with a land trust group. These groups have a general interest in gathering biological data about current and potential conservation lands. The national land trust group, the Nature Conservancy of Canada has worked with both the Kingston Field Naturalists and Mississippi Valley Field Naturalists to conduct BioBlitzes on their properties. Land Trust Groups in the in the area include:

Local

- Land Conservancy for Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox and Addington
- Mississippi Madawaska Land Trust Alliance
- Rideau Waterway Land Trust
- Thousand Islands Watershed Land Trust

National

- Nature Conservancy of Canada

Conservation Authorities

Conservation Authorities (CAs) are waterway management agencies geographically based on watersheds. Conservation Authorities may be able to assist you with aquatic related aspects of your event such as fish and benthic invertebrate sampling. As CAs are also interested in protecting the land area feeding into their waterways, they may also be able to assist with terrestrial aspects of your inventory. There are several Conservation Authorities in Eastern Ontario including:

- Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority
- Mississippi Valley Conservation
- Raisin Region Conservation
- Rideau Valley Conservation Authority
- South Nation Conservation

Parks

Both National and Provincial Parks in your area can be a good source for recruiting help from scientists and nature interpreters.

Other Groups

Other environmentally focused groups in the area may wish to assist or participate in your BioBlitz event. Other area conservations groups include, but are not limited to:

- A2A- Algonquin to Adirondacks Conservation Association
- Ducks Unlimited Canada
- Eastern Ontario Model Forest (EOMF)
- Friends of Bon Echo
- Friends of Charleston Lake Park
- Friends of Frontenac Park
- Friends of Limerick Forest
- Friends of Murphy's Point Provincial Park
- Friends of Mac Johnson Wildlife Area
- High school environmental clubs
- Innis Point Bird Observatory
- Lake Association Groups
- Local Fish and Game Clubs
- Ottawa Duck Club Inc.
- Quinte Watershed Cleanup
- Scouting or Girl Guide Groups
- Upper Ottawa Valley Nature Club
- Vankleek Hill Nature Society
- Watersheds Canada

2.0 Where to Start

The first step of planning your BioBlitz will be to establish a planning committee to help you organize and make decisions. You will then need to decide on the overall purpose of your event, where and when to have the event, and who you should invite.

2.1 What is my Purpose?

The first question you should ask yourself is “what is the purpose of my BioBlitz”. Is it intended to provide a comprehensive inventory for your property or is it to be used as an educational event for the community. Some BioBlitzes, such as the ones held in Larose Forest are invitation only events where only the “experts” participate. The purpose of these BioBlitzes is to provide as much detail about the Larose Forest as possible, while community involvement is available during other events such as the Larose Forest day. The experts are left to collect data without having to teach or guide community participants. The benefit of this type of BioBlitz could be a higher quantity and sometimes quality of the data collected.

On the other hand, a BioBlitz provides an excellent opportunity to get community members involved in a fun, outdoor, educational event. Community members can be invited to help collect data, observe the experts as they work, and participate in any other activities that you may have planned. Providing the public with an opportunity to learn and participate may inspire the next generation of scientists and naturalists as well as raise awareness and membership for your association or group. While the community involvement may be a draw for some experts, this type of event may result in lower species counts as experts take time from the inventory to share their knowledge with participants.

BioBlitzes such as the one held in Mac Johnson Wildlife Park have blended the two types of BioBlitzes by inviting the public to participate in only a portion of the BioBlitz. At this event, the experts were able to collect data on their own during the first day and morning of the second day. In the afternoon, the event was opened up to all for public education, a barbecue and activities such as bird box building.

By discussing the purpose of your BioBlitz with the landowner, planning committee, and other partners, it will be obvious if your priorities are data collection or public participation, but with careful planning and enthusiastic participants, both goals can be easily met.

2.2 Where to have a BioBlitz

It is likely that if you are planning a BioBlitz, you already have a location in mind. If not, contacting community groups such as Stewardship Councils, Field Naturalists, or Land Trust Groups could assist you with locating potential properties or property owners. When scouting out potential locations, it is a good idea to consider the following:

Facilities

A “perfect” property would have public washrooms available, a source of electricity and drinking water, places for overnight camping and a building or pavilion to set up a basecamp. However, it is most likely that all of these amenities will not be available, and alternatives such as portable washrooms, power generators and tent shelters will have to be rented, borrowed, or purchased.

Accessibility

Accessibility and parking will be essential considerations for selecting a location. Property with difficult terrain such as steep hills or overly swampy conditions will prevent some individuals from participating and could create a dangerous work environment. Properties with hiking or access trails would be ideal as this would help orient participants and reduce the amount of vegetation trampling. Adequate parking space and drivable access roads will be critical.

Appeal to Experts

When choosing a location, you should keep in mind that certain types of habitat or properties will be more appealing to potential “expert” participants. Habitats that are naturally high in biodiversity or rare species such as significant wetlands and old growth forest will likely spark the interest of most experts. Access to private lands may also be appealing to some experts. And finally, properties that have conservation potential including possible land trust acquisitions could contribute to the experts “sense of purpose”.

Habitat Diversity

If having a high species count is a priority for you, habitat that is naturally high in biodiversity or rare species such as wetlands and old growth forest could contribute to higher species counts. However, simply having a variety of habitats (forest, lakes, streams, old field, wetland, etc.) could provide a higher species counts as well as a greater opportunity for learning.

Size of Property

BioBlitz property sizes can highly vary. If you are dealing with a smaller size of land, consider restricting the number of participants to prevent overcrowding and trampling of plants. The MVFN BioBlitz organizers found that 100 participants were the ideal number for their 30-40 ha BioBlitz property. Conversely, when dealing with a larger property size, you may wish to restrict the actual BioBlitz area to a certain area of the property.

Previous Inventories

To make the best of the time and resources put into a BioBlitz, it might be preferable that the BioBlitz property has not already undergone significant inventory. With such a vast amount of undocumented land, reaffirming species occurrences might be considered redundant by prospective experts, partners, and potential funding sources. On the other hand, if the event is

held during a different season or on a different portion of the property than the previous inventory work, then the BioBlitz could provide valuable input to the existing inventory.

Future Land Use

And finally, a major consideration for selecting a property for a BioBlitz is the future land use and expectations of the property owner. If a development project is planned for the property in the future, a BioBlitz is probably not a good idea as it is possible that protected species at risk, habitat, or areas of natural significance will be uncovered by participants (refer to Landowner information section for details). Also, there is little sense in dedicating expert and volunteer time to inventory wildlife that will soon be displaced.

2.3 When to have a BioBlitz

BioBlitzes can occur anytime throughout the year. However, the timing of your event can have a big affect on what and how much you find. Determining the type of species you hope to find might help you select a date. For example, early spring is good time to observe birds, amphibians, and spring ephemerals (early blooming plants), summertime is good for aquatic plants and fish, and late summer through fall is the peak time for mushrooms and late blooming wildflowers such as asters and goldenrods. In general, the highest diversity of species will be observable in late spring-early summer (May to early July). Table 1 provides examples of species types and their peak observance times.

Table 1: Examples of peak diversity for species in Ontario

Species Type	Optimal survey time
Wildflowers	
General	June-September
Spring Ephemerals	Late April-Early June
Asters & Goldenrods	August to October
Butterflies & Dragonflies	May-August
Reptiles & Amphibians	
Frogs	March to August
Turtles	June
Birds	May to early June
Fungi	September-October (weather dependent)

Typically, a BioBlitz runs for 24 hours. This allows experts to observe species that are active at all times of the day. For example, early morning is good for birds, midday for wildflowers, and evening/nighttime for bats, moths and other nocturnal species. However events can be as long or short as you choose.

If your goal is to generate a more complete inventory of species, you may want to follow-up your event with a “mini-Blitz” at a different time of year to capture a fuller picture of the biodiversity. For example, the 2006 Larose Forest BioBlitz was held in June and ran a mini-Blitz the following September in order to capture fungi diversity in their inventory. Your data could also be added to previously existing inventories. However, there is something exciting about having the 24 time

limit and it might start some friendly competition with other events as to who can find most species in the given time limit!

Most BioBlitzes run from Friday to Saturday or Saturday to Sunday. A Friday start will allow some professionals to participate in the Blitz as a “field day”. This may appeal to some professionals who are otherwise busy on the weekends. It will also mean that your event is not taking up an entire weekend for you and your volunteers. On the other hand, if your experts are mostly amateurs, they may be unavailable on Friday afternoons. Starting the Blitz on a Saturday is a good idea if you intend to have a high level of public participation throughout the entire event.

And finally, when choosing a date, it is important that other major community events, holidays or BioBlitzes are not occurring simultaneously to avoid competition for community involvement and participants. During the summer months (July and August), many people may be busy with family vacations and other commitments making it difficult to recruit experts, participants and volunteers. Avoiding holidays such as long weekends is also a good idea as more people are likely to be booked or on vacation. June is a popular time for BioBlitzes, so be sure to not to plan your event the same weekend as a nearby event.

2.4 Who Should I Invite?

Who and how many people you invite will likely depend on your purpose, project scope, and size of property. At the very least, you will need to invite the species experts/scientists and a group of volunteers to assist you with the event. As the scope of the project increase, so will the number of people you invite.

Experts

A BioBlitz cannot occur without the experts to accurately identify the assortment of species. In general, the more experts you invite, the higher your species count will be. You should attempt to invite the widest range of specialists to your event as possible. While bird, mammal, reptile, amphibian, and general plant experts are typically easier to track down due to a higher public interest, experts for more complex or specialized groups such as mushrooms, lichens, and insects may be harder to find. Typically, the groups with the fewest numbers of experts are also the most difficult to identify and have the highest species diversity.

How to track down and invite these experts is where having many partner organizations is useful. By contacting the groups listed in the “who can help” section, you will be able to increase your recruiting force. Past BioBlitz organizers might be willing to provide you with a list of names or even contact information for the experts involved with their events. Other than personal and partnership contacts, you may want to contact the environmental and biology department of your local colleges and universities. Doing simple internet searches may also provide you with some contact information.

Contacting experts should be done early on in your planning process as many will be busy, particularly during the summer months. Always keep in mind that these experts are volunteering their personal time to assist you with your event. Volunteer appreciation such as complimentary food and drinks should be provided, and should be a key priority for organizers on the actual event day.

If funding opportunities are available to you, you may wish to offer experts a cash honorarium for participating in your event. This would be intended to cover their travel costs for attending the event. It will be likely that your event is one of many that the expert has been invited to attend, and an extra incentive may be appreciated. The honorarium would be particularly appreciated if your expert has agreed to participate in the community activities by conducting guided hikes or giving a talk

Volunteers

You will need a team of dedicated volunteers to assist with both the planning and execution of your event. How many volunteers you need will be determined by the size and scope of your event. Some examples of volunteer positions you might need to fill include:

- Planning team- A small group of people to plan all aspects of the project including communications, logistics, food and beverages, budgetary concerns etc.
- Communications Lead- One individual should be selected as the main contact for the event. This person can act as the spokesperson and will have their contact information distributed to participants, invitations, press releases etc. This person needs to be very knowledgeable about the event and will likely be the project lead.
- Data Coordinator- Someone to manage/input data as it comes in. If you are using the BioBlitz database, it would help if this volunteer had experience with databases, particularly Microsoft Office Access.
- Science Coordinator- This person can help with the more scientific aspects of the event such as proper taxonomy/classification of species.
- Registration Coordinator- Someone to greet guests, register them, and provide directions and instructions
- Set-up/ Clean-up Crew
- Food and Beverage Coordinators
- Parking Coordinator (depending on the size of you event)
- Activities Leaders/Coordinators- If you choose to include them, activities (ie children's activities) will require a coordinator and possibly assistants.
- Hosts- to assist experts during guided walks, direct people where to go etc.
- Expert guided nature walks are frequently the highlight and drawing power for public participation in the BioBlitzes. Experts that volunteer their time for this activity can significantly contribute to the success of your event.

Community

When you are inviting members of the public to your event remember to keep in mind the size of your property and the amount of resources you are able to supply. Inviting an unlimited number of people to an event on a small property is probably not a good idea.

The first places you should start to invite community members is through the newsletters and websites of your partner groups, at general meetings, and by word of mouth. Depending on the scope of your event, you may wish to advertise your event through local newspapers and radio announcements or interviews to increase participation. Information flyers or posters could also be

displayed on public announcement boards. For larger events with big budgets, paid advertisements could be explored.

It may be a good idea to invite youth groups to your event as they are potential future environmentalists. Groups to invite may include Scouts, Guides, high school environmental clubs, and local youth groups in your community. Examples of local youth groups and centres in Lanark County include:

- Youth Action Kommittee (YAK) of Perth & and District
- Take Young People Seriously (TYPs) (Almonte),
- Carleton Place & and District CORE Youth Centre
- Lanark Highlands Youth Centre Inc.

Visit <http://typs.com/youthcentres/main.php?action=listcentres> to find groups in your area

Neighbours

Neighbouring property owners can provide many benefits to your event such as including their property in the survey, planning and event day assistance (water, electricity, parking), and moral support. The last thing you want during your event is angry neighbours. At the very least, they should be informed about your event as they may be disturbed. A template for informing neighbours of your event is provided in Appendix #.

Other

Inviting photography groups to your event is a great way to get professional documentation. Your publicity would also be improved by inviting members of the press or public figures.

3.0 What will I Find?

What you find during your BioBlitz will be completely dependent on the number and variety of experts that you find to participate, the time of year, effort put forward, and even the weather. BioBlitzes in the area have had results ranging from 200 to 810 species. However, larger events in the United States have had results of up to 2100 species.

Some species groups are much larger than others, for example, approximately 95% of all animal species are invertebrates. Therefore, the more invertebrate experts you have, the higher your count will be. Other groups such Fungi and Flowering Plants also have a high number of species and would benefit from as much expertise as possible. Table 2 displays the total number of known species in each group for Ontario as of 2008.

Table 2 Total number of known species in Ontario (source: Ontario Biodiversity Council Interim Report on Ontario's Biodiversity 2008)

Group	Total Known* Species
Vascular Plants	3, 055
Non-vascular Plants (bryophytes and lichens)	1, 373
Dragonflies and Damselflies	169
Butterflies	164
Fish	154
Amphibians	26
Reptiles	27
Birds	479
Mammals	81
Total Documented Species**	approx. 30, 000

* *Thousands* of unknown species have yet to be discovered.

** Remaining species unaccounted for include fungi and other invertebrates (insects, molluscs, spiders etc.).

4.0 Data Collection

The collection of data during your BioBlitz will be a main objective. There have been many techniques used during local BioBlitzes (traps, nets, etc) and how you go about organizing your participants will be up to you and your planning team. However, it is critical that the information is gathered in a manner that will allow you to tabulate the final species list for participants, and even better, allow you to properly submit observations to the Ministry of Natural Resources for inclusion in the NHIC database.

4.1 Surveyor Organization

You may want to make certain that all of habitat types on your property are looked at. This could be achieved by breaking the property up into sections or areas, and would be particularly useful if you are working with a large property size. Whether or not you divide the property based on logistics or habitat type is up to you. The 2009 Brockville BioBlitz split their property up into six geographic quadrants. This allowed organizers to better track where groups were and what areas had already been inventoried. You could also break your groups up into teams, such as an aquatic team, forest team, wetland team etc. This method was used during the O'Brien Lake BioBlitz and it allowed participants to experience the different aspects of the property.

At the very least, you should be able to provide your experts with a map of the property as well as specific areas of interest. For example, you could have wetland habitats highlighted for turtle experts or open meadows highlighted for butterfly experts. Overall, maps will help you keep participants organized, give the experts a sense of where to look, and prevent people from becoming lost. Having the landowner onsite is also a good way to provide experts with specific details about the property.

4.2 Surveying Techniques

Plant species are typically easier to observe as they are stationary. Animals on the other hand are constantly on the move and often avoid human activity making them difficult to observe during a BioBlitz. Furthermore, smaller animals such as the invertebrates are small and difficult to locate. Therefore, some animal species will require the use of bait, traps or artificial habitats to facilitate observation. The following list gives examples of how to attract and/or sample for certain animal species.

Fish

Seine Netting: At the O'Brien Lake BioBlitz, a large seine net was extended out into the lake to sample fish. This activity required a "Permit to collect Fish for Scientific Purpose" issued by the MNR. These permits will only be granted during certain periods to avoid disrupting spawning periods and require several weeks to be processed. (Permits available after July 1st, July 15th for the St. Lawrence). Only the individuals listed on the license are permitted to supervise operation of the seine net.

Electrofishing: Electrofishing is the use of electricity to temporarily stun fish in order to make them easier to catch. It can either be done using a backpack electrofishing unit (for shallow, hard bottomed waterways) or from a boat electrofishing unit (for deeper waters). A permit to collect fish for scientific purposes is also required for this technique as well as an individual certified for electrofishing by the MNR. As this activity requires training, certification, and expensive equipment, it can be carried out only by certain individuals. Contact your local CA if you feel this activity is something you would want to pursue. However, a level of danger is associated with activity, and may not be suitable for a community event.

Aquatic Invertebrates

Kick-net/Pond-Dipping: Aquatic (or Benthic) invertebrates are the insects and other invertebrate species found in aquatic habitats such as rivers and streams. As many species spend their larval stages in water (mosquitoes, dragonflies, mayflies etc.) sampling these species directly from the water can be easier than locating adult specimens on land. Other species found in the water include crayfish, leeches, mussels, snails, etc. A greater interest in these species has developed as they are good indicators of stream health.

To sample them, simply disturb the stream substrate with a shuffling/kicking motion and be ready with a large D-frame net to catch the invertebrates as they float down stream. While anyone can collect the samples (empty net contents into water-filled containers), an expert will be required to properly identify the species. Microscopes will likely be required.

Moths

Black lighting: Moths are drawn to light. An easy way to attract moths for a night time survey is to hang a standard white cotton sheet and shine a light source on it (a black light works best). It will help if at least one side of the sheet is facing an open area.

Moth traps: If you don't want your participants to work into the evening, you could set up moth traps instead. These traps will allow you to leave for the night, and return the next morning to sort through your catch. The basic set up for a trap will be a light source (again, black light

work best) fastened above a funnel that drains into a lidded bucket, tub, or pail. As the moths are attracted to the light, they will become disoriented, fall through the funnel, and become trapped in the holding tank. The moths will have to be sorted as early as possible the next morning and kept covered from rain or direct sunlight.

Sugaring: This method is meant to attract moths that are attracted to nectar or tree sap rather than light. Mixing a sweet smelling mixture and using a paint brush to apply it to trees will attract species. The mixture ingredients tend to vary but may include some of the following ingredients: overripe fruit such as banana, molasses, beer, rum, brown sugar, or yeast.

Mammals

Live-Capture Traps: These small mammal traps are baited (peanut butter and rolled oats mixture), set, and left in lines in known habitat such as fallen logs, near den entrances or near water's edge. The traps should be checked at least once a day to document and release captured specimens.

Pit-Traps: Pit traps are simply a small container sunken into the ground. Coffee tins, ice-cream tubs, or something similar can be used. These types of traps should also be checked frequently so that animals are not trapped inside for long periods of time. Also, some kind of shading cover should be placed over the trap so that specimens are not exposed to direct sun or rain.

Tracks: Tracks are an easy way to observe the presence of mammals without disturbing them. Muddy substrates, particularly near a water source are a good place to look for tracks. Track tunnels can also be used to sample for small mammals. These "traps" consist of a tunnel (i.e. tube or milk carton with the top and bottom cut off) with a piece of tracking paper attached inside smeared with a tracking agent (i.e. stove polish). The idea is that small mammals will enter the tunnel, pass through the tracking agent leaving their tracks for later identification. Track identification will likely require an experienced expert.

Trail Cameras: These rugged, waterproof remote cameras are motion triggered and can be set up throughout the BioBlitz property to capture images of passing mammals

Snakes and Salamanders

Artificial Cover Objects: Snakes and salamanders tend to seek shelter under rocks and fallen trees. By placing broad planks of wood throughout your BioBlitz property, you may be able to easily investigate these "artificial cover objects (ACOs)" during snake and salamander surveys. This technique has had limited success for past BioBlitzes.

Birds

Pishing: Pishing is a simple technique used by birders to attract specimens. Observers say the words "pish pish pish" in rapid succession followed by a chattering such as "chit chit chit chit". This technique mimics an "alarm" call that triggers a "mobbing" response in small birds. The success of this technique varies, and should not be used frequently as it disturbs the birds from their daily routine.

Listening: Listening for bird calls or songs are often the technique used by birders for locating and identifying bird species. As a result, many birders prefer to work alone or in small groups in order to keep their survey areas quiet.

Butterflies & Dragonflies

Nets: Butterfly, dragonfly and other insect surveyors may require small hand nets and hand lenses to capture species for closer inspection. The best place to find butterflies will be open sunny places, with plenty of wildflowers. Dragonflies will be more difficult to catch and are often found near water.

Other

Baiting: At some events, roadkill has been used to attract potential species (scavengers, insects, etc.).

4.3 Recording Data

The method for recording data will likely be decided upon by each individual expert. However, this can cause problems with illegible handwriting, not enough information, or the use of multiple species names for a single species (e.g. Ironwood and Hop Horn beam, aspens and poplars, tamaracks and larches are all examples of common tree species with multiple names). Therefore, a variety of data recording options have been provided.

Species Checklist

The species checklist provided with this protocol is a collection of species known to exist or likely to exist in Kemptville District. This is not to be considered a complete list, and thus a significant amount of space is provided for recording “additional species”. It is also important to keep in mind that species designations (SAR) frequently changed and updated.

The checklist highlights in yellow “Species of Interest”. Species of Interest include listed species at risk as well as NHIC “tracked species”. Tracked species are species that are of particular interest to the Natural Heritage Information Centre (NHIC) and include species that have fewer than 100 recent reported occurrences in Ontario (includes most species at risk) or are considered to be rare on a global scale. When these species are encountered, it is recommended that additional information, particularly GPS coordinates, are recorded in the forms attached to the back of the checklists (AKA “Tracked Species Report Card”). Photographs and as much detail as possible are also recommended so that the detailed occurrences can be used in other databases (NHIC and EOMF Herpetofauna Atlas).

This checklist can be used by experts in the field; however, sharing of lists should be encouraged to reduce the amount of paper and printing required. Another option would be to use one universal list posted at the base camp that could be used by all participants to transfer their sightings to. In this case, it is recommended that the list of tracked species and species at risk be provided to participants along with a “Tracked Species Reporting Card” (Appendix 3) so that the appropriate information can be recorded in the field.

Quite often, species have multiple common names or begin with seldom used descriptive words such as “eastern”, “common”, or “American”. To help with this problem and to quickly locate the desired species, tables have been included at the end of each plant category listing some common alternative names.

Alternatives

Alternatives to the checklist could include supplying participants with data recording sheets (Appendix 3). In this case, lists would preferably be submitted directly to the data coordinator during the event so that the coordinator and recorder can communicate to avoid confusion (i.e. difficult to read handwriting, alternate species names). This method is beneficial as it reduces printing costs and paper use associated with the checklists. However, scientific names should be recorded to avoid confusion over species with multiple common names.

Regardless of what you provide, many experts will prefer to use their own handwritten field notes. Again, when using these methods, experts should be equipped with the list of tracked species and the Tracked Species Report Card and be available to clarify and misinterpretations of their lists.

4.4 BioBlitz Database

A species database has been developed for the Kemptville District to facilitate the entry of data during a BioBlitz. Information about approximately 10,000 species is stored in the Microsoft Access database. Species can be searched and/or selected from drop-down menus in order to create a list of species for a specific event without having to type in full species names. These lists can then be exported to an excel spreadsheet for editing and analysis. Using the database will significantly reduce the time required for data entry and provide standardized reporting method for data sharing with the OMNR. Instructions for using the database can be found in Appendix 4.

4.5 Species Classification

Species classification can be a complicated and highly debatable topic for a BioBlitz. There are many different ways to organize and group the species you encounter, each with its own merits and limitations. To further complicate things, some species have multiple common names or variations while others have been reclassified due to scientific advances resulting in multiple scientific names. In cases such as this you will have to use your best judgment or seek advice from experts. More information about species classification has been included in Appendix 5.

The BioBlitz database and species checklist use the following species categories to organize data:

Fauna	Flora
Amphibians	Ferns and Fern Allies
Birds	Forbs and Herbs
Butterflies	Fungi
Dragonflies & Damselflies	Grasses, Sedges & Rushes
Mammals	Mosses, Liverworts, Hornworts & Lichens
Other Invertebrates and Insects	Trees and Shrubs
Reptiles	

4.6 Data Verification

In order for the collected data to be used by agencies such as the OMNR in the NHIC database, it must be verifiable. NHIC observance reports are assigned quality ranks based on a variety of components including the reliability of the observer. In order for the information to be reliable, rare species should be verified by the highest authority available at the event or a photograph should be taken and submitted. The more information that is provided to the NHIC, the more likely it will be included in the database.

4.7 Low Impact Survey Techniques

With so many participants descending upon a given property, it is likely that there will be some level of disturbance to the species and habitat. A list of low impact survey techniques has been provided in Appendix 6.

4.8 Partnerships

Other projects in the area may have the same goals as you or be able to benefit from partnering with your event. By blending two or more projects you may be able to reduce the workload/legwork needed for planning such as securing a property, securing additional funding, or expanding your contact list.

Habitat Suitability Models

Organizations such as the St. Lawrence Islands National Park and Eastern Ontario Model Forest are currently developing habitat suitability models that can be used to predict where certain species might be found based on their habitat requirements. By partnering with projects such as these they may be able to use your BioBlitz property to perform the necessary field work for “ground-truthing” their models.

Land Trust Groups

Local Land Trust Groups may be interested in completing inventories on already acquired lands or potential land trusts. As these groups are non-profit, they have limited funds to assess their lands and even fewer to scout out potential lands. Partnering with groups such as this could further contribute to the conservation value of your event while the partnership could in turn supply you with valuable contact information, potential event locations and funding assistance. The Nature Conservancy Canada has worked with nature groups in the past including the Kingston Field Naturalists and Mississippi Valley Field Naturalists to complete successful BioBlitzes on NCC properties.

Eastern Ontario Model Forest

The Eastern Ontario Model Forest (EOMF) is currently working on an atlas of amphibians and reptiles for Eastern Ontario. Throughout 2009 and 2010 the EOMF is requesting that citizens submit simple records of their sightings to assist with the project. To encourage participation, a photo contest has been initiated with monthly and grand prizes. As this project has similar goals as a BioBlitz, promotion of this project and contest during an event could be of assistance.

5.0 Project Funding

Depending on the scope of your project and availability of resources, the cost of running a BioBlitz can be highly variable. If your property has available washroom, power, and water sources, then your cost will remain relatively low. However, rental costs can quickly add up so borrowing of equipment is recommended whenever possible. Contact various community groups, CAs, Stewardship Councils, municipalities etc. for in-kind donations and equipment loans before looking into rentals. The following is a list of possible costs encountered during a BioBlitz:

- Portable Washroom Rental
- Tent Rental
- Power Generator Rental
- Table and Chair Rental
- Water (drinking and washing)
- Printing Costs (checklist, registration forms, posters, etc.)
- Food and Beverages for volunteers/participants
- Data Collection Materials (nets, traps, jars, etc.)
- Various Materials (extension cords, power bars, lights,
- Volunteer Honoraria, expenses, or gifts
- Promotional Materials (T-shirts, hats etc.)
- Website Hosting
- BBQ costs, propane etc.
- Advertising

Partner groups such as Stewardship Councils or naturalist groups may be able to provide you with some money to help your event. In some cases, a brief presentation for council members may be required. Fundraising before or during your event is another way to recover some costs. The Brockville BioBlitz had both a fundraising concert prior to their event and recovered some costs through a community BBQ during the event.

There are many funding opportunities available for community and volunteer based projects such as a BioBlitz. The MNR's Community Fish and Wildlife Incentive Fund (CFWIP) is an example of a possible funding source. Visit "the Green Source" for a list of potential funds. Past local BioBlitzes have operated on budgets of \$300-\$1200.

6.0 Promoting your Event

The level of event promotion you pursue will be commensurate with the number of participants you are willing to host. Promotion can be done through press releases, radio spots, posters, websites, newsletters, presentations, etc. Opportunities for free publicity are endless, but you may consider paid advertising for larger events.

6.1 Information Flyers

It is a good idea to have a general information flyer describing the details of your event. A single page flyer would be particularly useful for posting in public places, on partner group websites, and to send out as emails. Examples of key information that should be included in this flyer are:

- Who is hosting the event
- What the event is about and why you are having it
- Where it is
- When it is
- What participants need to bring
- Information about accommodation, food and parking
- Contact information
- Sponsors and partner groups
- *Cost* (*especially if free*)

The poster should be eye catching, brief, but include all necessary details and be no more than 1-2 pages in length. Examples of information flyers from past events along with an information flyer template are included in Appendix 7.

6.2 Media Kits

If you plan to have your event covered by the press, you may wish to assemble a media kit. While these can vary highly in detail and level of professionalism, a basic package should be suitable for your event. The package at the very least should include a “backgrounder” containing the background information about your organization and event, a press release to be published with announcements about your event and contact information.

Backgrounder

You may want to provide the publisher with some additional information about your organization. Some information to include could be the history of your organization, key statistics, recent activities, bios of key directors/board members etc. More information about BioBlitzes in general could also be included.

Press Release

The Press Release is the tool you will use to convey your message. Whether it is published in a newspaper, read over the radio, or posted on your own website, any publicity is good publicity and may be vital to getting out information to your participants. This brief document should be concise as possible yet still convey all pertinent information including who, what, where, why, and when. While press releases may vary greatly, the typical structure is as follows:

1. Letterhead or logo of organization

2. Date for release (e.g. For Immediate Release OR Release on June 14th, after 10 am) indented to the left.
3. Catchy Title/Headline centred and all in capitals
4. Date, Location- followed by a lead sentence to draw in readers
5. Body (5-7 paragraphs, each paragraph approximately 3 sentences long)
6. Contact Information
7. -30- or #### or *** or END to signify the end of the press release

The release should be no more than 1-2 pages. No indentations should be used. Be sure to mention any partner groups involved as the press release is advertisement for both the event and the organizations involved.

Examples of press releases from past BioBlitzes along with a press release template can be found in Appendix 8.

7.0 Event Day Planning

Having a well planned event day will increase both the enjoyment and productivity of your event. Organization and being prepared for all situations will go a long way.

7.1 Safety Issues

Most accidents are preventable. Making sure that participants are aware of the potential hazards (dangerous terrain, poisonous plants etc.) is advisable. A first aid kit, access to a phone, and directions to the nearest hospital should be on hand at all times in an advertised location (i.e. basecamp).

Insurance

A partner group (such as a stewardship council) should be able to provide your event with insurance coverage under their own policy. A complete list of participants should be kept on record. Although not a legally binding document, it may be a good idea to have participants sign a safety waiver while registering for the event.

Keeping Track of Participants

To avoid “lost participants” a sign in/sign-out policy should be implemented if your property is particularly large. Information such as recorded licence plate numbers would also be a valuable tool for keeping track of participants and has been requested on the provided registration forms. If possible, participants could leave indications as to where they are headed by either letting the sign-in crew know, or by placing a post-it note on a large area map (as was done at the Brockville BioBlitz). By doing this, you are also helping to make sure that no area of the property is overlooked. Simply providing participants with a map and a brief overview of the property will help prevent participants from losing their way. Clearly marked property boundaries will also be critical.

Toxic Plant Warning

Even the most experienced naturalist is sometimes fooled by a toxic plant such as poison ivy. Therefore a displayed warning sign for potential toxic plants or a list of “what to look out for” is

recommended, particularly if young children are in attendance. The sign can simply be displayed at the registration desk. If especially large colonies of poison ivy are known on your property, warning signs should be posted at each site. Other potential toxic plants include poison sumac, wild parsnip, and giant hogweed. A warning sign has been included in Appendix 9.

Other

Other safety issues to keep in mind include:

Bears- Depending on the property, participants may want to explore in groups or attach a small warning bell to their gear to prevent accidentally surprising a bear.

Ticks- Tick bites can cause Lyme disease. Light coloured clothing and long pants and sleeves, and tucking pant legs into socks will help prevent tick bites. Participants should be encouraged to conduct “tick checks” when they get home to ensure that they have not been bitten.

Dehydration, bug bites and sunburn can be a serious problem when spending extended time outside. Extra sunblock, mosquito repellent, and potable water should be on hand for anyone who needs it.

7.2 Schedules and Activities

If you plan to have a variety of activities (guided walks, etc.), you will need to produce a schedule of events. The schedule should be made available to participants prior to the event so that they can plan their visit around the activities they wish to attend. Schedules can either be mailed out to participants, posted on the event webpage, or on websites of partner groups. For larger events, it might be beneficial to have a large, visible schedule available at the basecamp or registration desk. Examples of schedules from past events are available in Appendix 10.

Activities such as guided walks are not necessary for a BioBlitz but have been quite popular during past events. If your event is expecting a large number of community members, you may want a registration system in place for guided walks to avoid overly large groups. This method was successfully used during the MVFN BioBlitz. If many walks are planned, it may be important that groups return to basecamp on schedule. Walkie-Talkies or cell phones may be convenient for organizing and tracking groups.

Other activities could include habitat construction such as bat or bird box building, art projects, and various children’s or educational activities. Children particularly enjoy catching insects such as butterflies and dragonflies. Having a few small nets on hand will provide hours of fun and allow small children to participate by collecting specimens for identification.

7.3 Basecamp and Registration

Most BioBlitzes make use of a “basecamp” during the event as a centre for activities. The basecamp should be in a centrally located, open, and easily accessible location. If a building or pavilion is available, this would be an ideal location for the basecamp. If not, some sort of shelter should be erected to provide participants a chance to get out of the sun or rain and protect any equipment. Tables, chairs, lighting and a coffee pot will also be needed. In most cases, these items can be borrowed from partner group organizations or participants. If not, they will need to

be rented or purchased at a cost to the organizers. If this is the case, pursuing project funding is recommended.

The basecamp is where species identification will take place for specimens requiring closer inspection. Adequate light, microscopes, hand lenses, and species ID books should be made available. Experts should bring their own microscopes if possible. A list of recommended field guides has been provided in Appendix 11. If available, internet access and a computer would be an asset. Water and electricity should also be available at the basecamp. If a direct source is unavailable, you may need to purchase/bring water jugs and borrow/rent a power generator. Having a large corkboard or equivalent at the basecamp would be highly useful for posting results, maps, schedules, and notices,

At or near the basecamp there should be a registration or sign-in table with registration forms, tally sheets and checklists, maps of the property, event schedules, instructions, name tags, and any safety warnings regarding the property (i.e., poison ivy, unsafe structures etc.). Registration forms will be required for insurance purposes, tracking of participants and to ensure that they have appropriate instructions. The registration form can also act as the safety release waiver. Participants should be reminded to sign-out as they leave the event. A registration form has been provided in Appendix 12.

Garbage and recycling facilities should be provided at the basecamp.

7.4 Accommodations

If possible, it is a good idea to provide camping to volunteers and species experts. Surveying for species such as birds or moths may require late nights or early mornings that would benefit from on site accommodations. If this is not possible, try to have a list of local campgrounds, hotels, motels, inns, or bed & breakfasts for participants who have travelled for the event.

8.0 After the BioBlitz

Follow-up

After you have had some time to clean up and recuperate from the event you should start thinking about sending out thank you notes, posting results on your website (if you have one), and possibly sending out a follow-up press release for the event.

Submitting Data

Ensure that all groups, organizations and individuals who requested a copy of the final tally receive the information. Be careful not to give away any sensitive information (i.e. location of ginseng).

Report

Following your event, you may wish to write a report presenting your results, highlights, pictures, lessons learned, etc. At the very least, you will want to provide volunteers and participants with a complete number or list of species found during the event. The time and effort put into this step is entirely up to you, and can be as simple as exporting your species list from the database.

9.0 Organization Checklist

An additional planning guide has been provided in Appendix 13.

Step 1- Preliminary

- Establish a planning team.
- Determine the purpose/goal of your event.
- Select a location and have the landowner sign a contract.

Step 2- Planning (9-6 months prior for large events, 2-3 months for smaller events)

- Select the date and time for your event.
- Determine if you will apply for funding and apply. (deadlines often apply and occur early in the year)
- Determine if a permit is required and apply (i.e. permit for collecting fish for scientific purposes).
- Assess your property for the following
 - Size (will determine how many people can attend)
 - Parking space
 - Water source
 - Electricity source
 - Area for basecamp (pre-existing structure or clearing for tent?)
 - Washrooms available or space for portable washrooms
 - Will camping be available?
 - Are trails available to reduce trampling
 - What habitat variety is present?
 - Are there any unique features or species
 - Are there any safety concerns on the property (i.e. abundant poison ivy, cliffs, unsound structures etc?)
- Compose an invitation letter and begin contacting experts (be sure to highlight any unique features of the property and the goal of the event)
- Promote you event to various conservation groups (through presentations, newsletters, website, emails etc)
- Decide on which community groups you want to participate and draft a communications/advertising strategy.

Step 3- Planning (1 month prior to event)

- Begin to secure resources:
 - Rentals (if needed): Tents/shelters for basecamp and sign in, portable washrooms, power generators, tables and chairs.

- Determine exact property boundaries and request maps from the stewardship council if applicable.
 - Extension cords, power bars, lighting etc.
 - Microscopes and ID materials.
 - Sampling equipment (canoe, seine net, traps, etc.)
- Make sure you are working with an up to date Species at Risk List for your area (Contact MNR if possible). Update information in database and checklists, list of tracked species if changes have been made.
- Reconfirm your species experts and provide them with appropriate details.
- Plan your activities and establish an event schedule.
- Send out invitations to potential community participants and/or media sources.
- Establish parking coordination plan if needed.
- Arrange site-visits with volunteer and experts if required.

Step 5- Day of Event

- Coordinate Volunteers
- Post signage/directions
- Set up catch-release trap and wildlife lures if applicable
- Set up basecamp. Components of the basecamp may include:
- Tent/Shelter/Tarp
 - Tables and chairs
 - Power source, extension cords
 - Lighting
 - ID materials: Microscopes, ID books, ID keys, hand lenses, etc.
 - Receptacle for garbage and recycling
 - First aid kit, directions to the nearest hospital
 - Announcement board with: Map, species list, schedule, etc.
 - Any nature displays
 - Miscellaneous: Duct tape, napkins, cups, pens/pencils, spare tarps
 - Snacks and water
 - Coffee pot
- (If required) Have parking coordinators ready for arrival of volunteers and participants

- Have registration table manned and stocked. Potential registration table needs:
 - Table and chairs
 - Shelter (if raining)
 - Registration and Waiver forms
 - Species Tally Sheets and/or Species Checklists
 - Lists of Tracked Species and Tracked Species Report Cards
 - Maps
 - Schedules
 - Clipboards, pens, pencils

Step 6- After the Event

- Make sure you have received and entered all collected data (you may want to have a final expert verification of the tally).
- Send out press release for the BioBlitz results.
- Get feedback from the event (exit questionnaires useful).
- Send thank you emails to participants and sponsors.
- Prepare a final report for participants, landowners, sponsors, etc.
- Ensure that information is submitted to key agencies (MNR) if necessary.

PART B: Species at Risk

10.0 Species at Risk

Finding a Species at Risk can be one of the most exciting aspects of a BioBlitz. However, these species are rare by definition and with the exception of a few species, are unlikely to be observed during a BioBlitz event. If these species are found, special care should be taken with their documentation due to a higher interest by regulatory agencies, conservationists, and researchers. The publication and announcement of the presence of these species should also be treated with care due to potential legal implications for landowners and the risk of further over-exploitation.

10.1 What are Species at Risk

Species at Risk (SAR) in Ontario are any naturally-occurring plant or animal in danger of extinction or of disappearing from the province. When species are identified as “at risk” by the Committee on the Status of Species at Risk in Ontario (COSSARO), they are categorized as extinct, extirpated, endangered, threatened, or special concern and placed on the Species at Risk in Ontario (SARO) List.

Table 3 is a list of Species at Risk in Kemptville District as of August 2009. However, the Species at Risk List is updated several times a year. Up-to-date lists can be obtained by contacting your local MNR district office. When SAR are located in the field, conformation by the leading expert and extra data should be collected to ensure adequate documentation of this species. *Refer to the section on data collection.*

Table 3: Species at Risk in Kemptville District as of August 2009

Endangered	Threatened	Special Concern
• Rapids Clubtail	• Grey Fox	• Monarch
• Cougar	• Fooded Jellyskin	• West Virginia White
• Pale-bellied Frost Lichen	• Deerberry	• Eastern Canadian Wolf
• Butternut	• American Water Willow	• Broad Beech-Fern
• American Ginseng	• Peregrine Falcon	• Common Nighthawk
• Eastern Prairie Fringed-Orchid	• Least Bittern	• Yellow Rail
• Ogden’s Pondweed	• Chimney Swift	• Louisiana Waterthrush
• Blunt-lobed Woodsia	• Whip-poor-will	• Cerulean Warbler
• King Rail	• Gray Ratsnake	• Golden-winged Warbler
• Henslow’s Sparrow	• Blanding’s Turtle	• Canada Warbler
• Piping Plover	• Eastern Musk Turtle	• Short-eared Owl
• Loggerhead Shrike	• Spiny Softshell	• Red-headed Woodpecker
• Eastern Pond Mussel	• Channel Darter	• Black Tern
• Wood Turtle	• Lake Sturgeon	• Bald Eagle
• Spotted Turtle	• Cutlip Minnow	• Olive-sided Flycatcher
• American Eel		• Map Turtle
• Pugnose Shiner		• Eastern Ribbonsnake
		• Milksnake
		• Five-lined Skink
		• Snapping Turtle
		• Bridle Shiner
		• Grass Pickerel
		• Northern Brook Lamprey
		• River Redhorse

10.2 SAR Protection

Species at risk are legally protected in Ontario under the Endangered Species Act, 2007 (ESA). Under the ESA (clause 9 (1)) it is illegal to kill, harm, harass, capture, take, possess, collect, buy, sell, lease, trade, or offer to buy, sell, lease or trade any species listed as **endangered, threatened, or extirpated** on the Species at Risk in Ontario (SARO) List. It is also illegal to damage or destroy the habitat of species listed as **endangered or threatened**. Currently, the definition of species habitat is incredibly vague with the general definition stating protection for:

“areas that a species currently depends on. These areas may include dens and nests, wetlands, forests and other areas essential for breeding, rearing, feeding, hibernation and migration”.

Eventually, under the ESA exact definitions of habitat for all species will be clarified through species-specific habitat regulations in the Ontario Regulation 242/08.

10.3 Habitat Regulations

Currently, there are nine species in Ontario with specific habitat regulations: American Badger, Barn Owl, Eastern Prairie Fringed-orchid, Engelmann's Quillwort, Few-flowered Club-rush, Jefferson Salamander, Peregrine Falcon, Western Silvery Aster and Wood Turtle. Of these nine species, only two are likely to be found in the Kemptville District; Eastern Prairie Fringed-orchid and the Peregrine Falcon. The habitat protection for these species is as follows:

Eastern Prairie Fringed-orchid

The Eastern Prairie Fringed-orchid is an endangered, rare orchid that grows in fen wetlands, tallgrass prairie and moist old fields. The new regulations protects these types of habitat where the species occur or have been known to occur in the Kemptville district municipalities of Lanark, Leeds, Grenville, Stormont, Dundas, Glengarry and the City of Ottawa.

(O. Reg. 242/08, s. 25 & O. Reg. 436/09, s. 1.)

Peregrine Falcon

The Peregrine Falcon is a threatened species that nests on high, steep cliff ledges close to large bodies of water as well as on high man-made structures such as tall buildings and bridges. The new regulation protects any natural cliff face greater than 15 metres high that is currently being used or has been used for nesting by a peregrine falcon within the past 15 years. A 1 kilometre area surrounding the cliff face is also protected. If the cliff face is artificial such as a rock cut or open pit mine, then the habitat is also protected if a nesting site is currently being used. Nesting sites on building or bridge structures that are currently in use or have been used in the past 2 years including outside surfaces within 10 metres of the nesting site and areas within 200 metres used for roosting, plucking, perching, etc. are also protected.

(O. Reg. 242/08, s. 29 & O. Reg. 436/09, s. 1.)

Wood Turtle

Although historic records exist for the wood turtle in Kemptville District, a lack of recent records may have resulted in this region from being left out of the habitat definition. However, current species accounts have been documented in areas as close as Renfrew County, just north of Lanark County. The habitat regulation for this species is as follows:

Wood Turtle (endangered), a mid-sized turtle, is typically found in and around clear rivers, streams or creeks that have moderate current and sandy or gravelly bottoms. The regulated habitat for Wood Turtle protects the parts of rivers, streams and other water bodies used by Wood Turtles or on which a Wood Turtle directly depends to carry out its life processes. Specifically, protection is provided in the specific areas as follows:

For the regional municipalities of Halton, Niagara and Waterloo and the counties of Huron and Simcoe:

- the part of the river, stream or other water body that is within 2000 metres of the areas used by Wood Turtles and that provides suitable conditions for a Wood Turtle to carry out its life processes are protected along with the adjacent land that is 200 metres back from the protected parts of the river, stream or other water body.

(O. Reg. 242/08, s. 31 (1) & O. Reg. 437/09, s. 2.)

For the territorial districts of Algoma, Nipissing and Parry Sound, the City of Greater Sudbury, and the County of Refrew:

- the part of the river, stream or other water body that is within 6000 metres of the areas used by Wood Turtles and that provides suitable conditions for a Wood Turtle to carry out its life processes are protected along with the adjacent land that is 500 metres back from the protected parts of the river, stream or other water body. Areas within 300 metres of a nesting site located outside of the protected upland area are also protected.

(O. Reg. 242/08, s. 31 (2) & O. Reg. 437/09, s. 2.)

NOTE: These regulations are as of February 2010. New regulations are currently in the planning process. Updated information is available at the Ministry of Natural Resources Species at Risk website.

10.4 Regulation Exemptions

In addition to the species-specific habitat definitions, Ontario Regulation 242/08 also provides details on exemptions to the ESA. Species found in Kemptville District with relevant exemptions under the regulation are American Ginseng and Butternut. The exemptions are as follows:

American Ginseng

It is not illegal to kill, transport, sell etc. ginseng if it has been cultivated by a member of the Ontario Ginseng Growers' Association, was cultivated without the use of wild ginseng parent material, or was cultivated using artificial shade.

(O. Reg. 242/08, s. 2 (1)).

Butternut

It is not illegal to kill a butternut if the tree has been designated "unretainable" by a designated MNR Butternut Health Assessor or if the tree was cultivated. The cultivated tree must not have been planted as part of a Permit 17 requirement and must be ordered by the owner of the land on which the tree occupies.

(O. Reg. 242/08, s. 5 (1))

10.5 Public Concern over Species at Risk

Following the passing of the new endangered species legislation (ESA, 2007), there has been some controversy over government intrusion on the rights of private landowners as well as placing habitat protection above economic growth. Habitat regulations such as the up to 6 km habitat

protection for the wood turtle have some landowners worried that they will not have control over their own property if one of the species is found on theirs, or on neighbouring properties. Therefore it is critical that private landowners considering having a BioBlitz on their property are aware of these restrictions and implications for both themselves, and possibly their neighbours.

There are both positive and negative consequences for discovering a species at risk on private land. The benefits are that the landowner may become eligible for a variety of tax incentive or stewardship programs for protecting the species and its habitat. The landowner may also have a sense of pride in knowing that they are maintaining property with such high ecological integrity. On the other hand, as these species and their habitat are legally protected, the landowner may face limitations or require permits if they chose to change the management practices of their property. In general, only changes to land use should cause problems, as the presence of SAR on private property is a good indication that the landowner's current management is beneficial to the species, as indicated by its presence. (*Refer to the landowner section for more information*).

10.6 Data Sensitivity

Some information that is collected during a BioBlitz may be classified as sensitive data and should therefore be treated delicately. Certain species or populations may be flagged as sensitive because they are particularly susceptible to disturbance. For example, nesting sites, breeding sites, and snake hibernacula are highly sensitive to disturbances. Drawing attention to their locations may increase disturbances from well-meaning individuals eager to catch a glimpse of their favourite species.

Some species are at risk due to purposeful overexploitation by collectors or harvesters. Many species of reptiles are captured for the illegal pet trade including the spotted turtle, Blanding's turtle, and wood turtle. Some plant species, such as American ginseng, are primarily designated as SAR due to over-harvesting for their perceived medicinal value. These actions are illegal in the wild and can be highly devastating to populations and the recovery of these species.

The exact locations of such species occurrences should not be published in BioBlitz reports, media reports, or announced during the event. Care should also be taken not to inadvertently give away the location by offering a description of the habitat where it was found. By keeping this information confidential, these species are protected from further disturbance by BioBlitz participants, future visitors to the property, and potential trespassers. Good judgement should be used while dealing with this type of information and when in doubt, the MNR can be contacted for further advice. Spotted turtles, wood turtles, and American ginseng should be treated with particular sensitivity.

Although extremely rare, there have been instances in the past where people use events such as a BioBlitz to gain access to sensitive data such as the locations of rare turtle populations. Although this is unlikely to happen, you should be on the lookout for suspicious behaviour from participants such as persistent or specific questions about sensitive species and no apparent affiliation with participating groups or interest in other topics.

PART C: Landowner Information

11.0 Information for Landowners

Before the planning process begins, you should ensure that your landowner is aware of the potential outcomes, benefits, and consequences of hosting a BioBlitz. An information pamphlet has been included in the Appendix along with a contract (Appendix 2) that the landowner may wish to sign prior to committing the property to the BioBlitz. The contract is intended to specify the extent and limitations of data sharing and documentation following the completion of the event and to make sure that the owner is aware of what is expected. Each point listed in the contract should be discussed in detail with the landowner, then checked or initialed. The contract can be altered to address the conditions and goals of each individual event, but should always be completed prior to event planning.

11.1 Sharing Data

Prior to planning your event, there should be a discussion as to who will have access to the data collected during the event. For the data to have the highest use, it could be submitted to the MNR for inclusion in the NHIC database. This will ensure that the data is accessible to all user groups, that the recorded species will be considered in future landuse operations, and that the landowner is eligible for any tax incentive or stewardship programs. However, reporting all of the data during a BioBlitz is NOT NECESSARY and is completely up to the landowner's discretion. **A landowner is NOT legally responsible to report SAR, although as with anyone else they can still be held legally responsible if they are found to be in breach of the Endangered Species Act in the future.**

Benefits of Data Sharing

By reporting the species (including SAR) to the MNR you will:

- ensure that SAR on your property are protected in the future
- provide researchers, recovery teams and the general public with a better understanding of species ranges and population sizes
- be eligible for tax incentive programs such as the Conservation Land Tax Incentive Program
- be eligible for Conservation Easement and Land Donations
- possibly attract more experts to your event
- An increase in species reports may reveal that the species is abundant and no longer endangered, threatened, or at risk

Risks of Data Sharing

- Reported species that are not currently protected under the ESA could be added in the future
- Certain changes to your landuses in the future could be restricted (i.e. building in protected species habitat).
- You are acknowledging to the authorities that you are aware of the species presence, and can therefore be held responsible if your actions conflict with the ESA

- An increase in species reports may reveal that the species is abundant and therefore no longer protected under the ESA

There are benefits of having a BioBlitz regardless of if the results are reported to the MNR (i.e. the public education value, contribution to lake management plans, etc.), however, if presented with a choice of properties, a landowner willing to share all data will likely result in a BioBlitz event that provides a greater return to society and be a more attractive draw for potential expert participants. Regardless of the landowner's decision to share data, it should be discussed and clearly stated in the landowner contract prior to planning the event.

11.2 Species at Risk

As previously mentioned, if a species that is listed as endangered, threatened, or extirpated is located, legal responsibilities ensue. Property owners would be legally obligated to limit changes to their land uses that would damage or destroy the habitat of threatened or endangered species. In most cases, if a SAR is found on a property, than it is likely due to the excellent land use management already in practice by the landowner. However, concerns may arise if the landowner decides to alter land use by building and development or implementation of forestry or farming operations. If you are working with a private landowner, you should ensure that future plans for land use do not conflict with the conservation ethics imposed by reporting the results of a BioBlitz.

Depending on the location and habitats within the property, the most likely protected SAR that will be found during a BioBlitz are butternut, American ginseng, and the reptiles. The remaining species in Kemptonville District listed as endangered or threatened have very few species records, many with historic observations only, or are restricted to single population sites. Furthermore, a large proportion of the remaining species prefer wetland habitats that are already protected from, or unsuitable for development.

11.3 Permits

If a protected species is found on private land, the property owner can still carryout practices that might conflict with the ESA by obtaining a Section 17 permit through the Ministry of Natural Resources. A permit can be issued for the following purposes:

- 1) The activity is necessary for human health and safety.
- 2) The purpose of the activity is to help protect or recover the species at risk
- 3) The activity will result in an overall benefit to the species
- 4) Permits may also be granted for activities that result in significant social or economic benefit to Ontario. Even in these cases, the activity must not jeopardize the survival or recovery of a species at risk.

In the case of private landowners, permit justifications 1 & 3 are most applicable. Purpose #3 can be used if the landowner has no option but remove the protected species and agrees to supplement the loss of the species in some other way. In this case, the landowner will be financially responsible for creating a net benefit for the affected species as stipulated by the MNR. For example, removal of American ginseng might be allowed if the landowner plants several specimens elsewhere.

Applying for a section 17 permit has no associated costs to file and can take between 3 to 12 months depending on the circumstances.

11.4 Data Sensitivity

Landowners in particular should be made aware of the issues surrounding data sensitivity of species at risk as advertisement of these sensitive species may encourage trespassing. (*Refer to “Data Sensitivity” in the section B- Species at Risk for more information*).

11.5 Tax Incentives

If a landowner reports an endangered species, he or she may qualify for the MNR’s Conservation Land Tax Incentive Program (CLTIP). The CLTIP is a 100% property tax exemption for private landowners willing to protect significant features on their property. Significant features must be assessed by the MNR and include provincially significant wetland, provincially significant areas of natural or scientific interest (ANSI), or endangered species habitat. Property owners retain full rights to their land, but must maintain it as conservation land. The following restrictions apply:

- The protected land must be a minimum of 0.2 hectares (0.5 acres)
- Only the protected portion of land is eligible for the tax exemption
- The landowner must permit periodic inspection of the property by MNR personnel to ensure that the land is being maintained as conservation land.
- Applications for the tax exemption must be submitted **annually** no later than **July 31** for the following tax year.

11.6 Other Stewardship, Funding, and Tax Incentive Programs

Once landowners are aware of species at risk on their properties, they may wish to participate in the variety of programs available to help them as listed below:

Species at Risk Farm Incentive Program

Another conservation tax incentive program is the Species at Risk Farm Incentive Program. This program is a partnership between federal and provincial agencies that provides farmers with up to 100 % of the cost to implement Beneficial Management Practices. These practices can range from riparian area management to SAR habitat enhancement (i.e. installing bird boxes or snake hibernacula). To be eligible the location must be a legal farm entity with a unique Farm Business Registration Number (FBRN), have a Third Edition Environmental Plan deemed appropriate through peer review and have selected a Beneficial Management Practice (BMP) from the SARFIP eligible list.

Community Fish and Wildlife Involvement Program (CFWIP)

The Community Fisheries and Wildlife Involvement Program (CFWIP) is an OMNR fund that provides the opportunity for the public to participate in hands-on fish and wildlife management and biodiversity conservation activities. The OMNR will provide approved projects with financial help, expertise, equipment and materials. To be eligible, projects must involve and benefit the general public and biodiversity.

Additional Help

Your local stewardship council can provide a variety of information and assistance with private land stewardship projects and is also a good source for OMNR developed documents such as “A Guide to Stewardship Planning for Natural Areas”. Conservation Authorities also provide stewardship guidance for local landowners including tree planting programs and projects that help protect drinking water sources. Municipalities will be able to provide information on any by-laws or zoning rules that are applicable. And finally, there are a number of private consultants with varying specialties (wildlife, forestry, etc.) that can provide professional advice at a cost to the landowner.

MNR- Kemptville District

Responsible for the following counties/cities: Lanark County United Counties of Leeds & Grenville United Counties of Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry United Counties of Prescott & Russell Ottawa-Carlton	10 Campus Drive Postal Bag 2002 Concession Rd Kemptonville, Ontario K0G 1J0 T: (613) 258-8204
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Ontario Stewardship Councils (MNR Kemptonville District)

Community Stewardship Council of Lanark 99 Christie Lake Rd P.O. Box 37 Perth, Ontario K7H 3E2 T: (613) 267-4200 Stewardship Coordinator: Jeff Ward	Ottawa Stewardship Council 3889 Rideau Valley Drive Box 599 Manotick, Ontario K4M 1A5 T: (613) 692-0014 Stewardship Coordinator: Joffre Cote
Grenville Land Stewardship Council Box 605 Oxford Avenue Brockville, Ontario T: (613) 342- 8582 Stewardship Coordinator: Jack Henry	Resource Stewardship Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry 18045 Cty. Rd. 2 Box 429 Cornwall, Ontario KH 5T2 T: (613) 933- 7671 Stewardship Coordinator: Jim Hendry
Leeds County Stewardship Council Box 605 Oxford Avenue Brockville, Ontario K6V 5Y8 T: (613) 342- 8526 Stewardship Coordinator: Martin Streit	Prescott-Russell Stewardship Council 31 St. Paul Box 430 Alfred, Ontario K0B 1A0 T: (613) 679-0936 Stewardship Coordinator: Suzanne LaFrance

Conservation Authorities (Eastern Ontario)

Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority P.O. Box 160 Glenburnie, Ontario K0H 1S0 T: (613) 546-4228 Email: crca@cataraquiregion.on.ca	Rideau Valley Conservation Authority P.O. Box 599 3889 Rideau Valley Drive Manotick, Ontario K4M 1A5 T: (613) 692-3571 Email: postmaster@rvca.ca
Mississippi Valley Conservation 4175 Hwy 511 RR#2 Lanark, Ontario K0G 1K0 T: (613) 259-2421 Email: info@mvc.on.ca	South Nation Conservation 38 Victoria Street P.O. Box 29 Finch, Ontario K0C 1K0 T: (613) 984-2948 Email: info@nation.on.ca
Raisin Region Conservation 18045 County Rd #2 Box 429 Cornwall, Ontario K6H 5T2 T: (613) 938-3611 Email: info@rrca.on.ca	

Field Naturalist Clubs (Eastern Ontario)

<p>Kingston Field Naturalists www.kingstonfieldnaturalists.org</p>	<p>Pembroke Area Field Naturalists www.pafn.on.ca/ P.O. Box 1242 Pembroke, Ontario K8A 6Y6</p>
<p>Macnamara Field Naturalists www.mfvc.ca P.O. Box 391 Arnprior, Ontario K7S 3L9 Email: info@mfvc.ca</p>	<p>Prince Edward County Field Naturalists 23 Sprague Rd. R.R. #1 Demorestville, Ontario K0K 1W0</p>
<p>Mississippi Valley Field Naturalists http://mvfn.ca/ P.O. Box 1617 Almonte, Ontario K0A 1A0</p>	<p>Quinte Field Naturalists c/o Quinte Field Naturalists c/o Wendy Turner 330 Dundas St E, #815 Belleville, ON K8N 5L2</p>
<p>Ottawa Field Naturalists Club www.ofnc.ca P.O. Box 35069 Westgate PO Ottawa Ontario K1Z 1A2 Email: ofnc@ofnc.ca</p>	<p>Rideau Valley Field naturalists www.rvfn.ca/</p>

Ontario Land Trust Associations (Eastern Ontario)

<p>Rideau Waterway Land Trust 1 Jasper Ave., Smith Falls, ON K7A 4B5 613-284-2010 Email: sharonw@rwlt.org Website: www.rwlt.org</p>	<p>Land Conservancy for Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox & Addington P.O. Box 825, Main Post Office, Kingston ON K7L 4X6 Phone: Vicki Schmolka, president (613) 549-1707 E-mail: schmolka@kingston.net Website: http://www.landconservancykfla.org</p>
<p>Mississippi Madawaska Land Trust Conservancy P.O. Box 279, Lanark, ON K0G 1K0 Phone: 613-267-4899 E-mail: mosquin@xplornet.com Website: http://www.mmltc.ca/</p>	<p>Thousand Islands Watershed Land Trust Dann M. Michols (President) 19 Reynolds Road, Lansdowne, ON K0E 1L0 Phone: 613-359-9972 E-mail: dannmichols@ripnet.com Website: http://www.tiwlts.ca</p>

National Land Trust Groups

<p>Nature Conservancy of Canada, NCC P.O. Box 520 Port Rowan, ON N0E 1M0 Tel: 1-800-249-9598 ext. 203 Phone: (519) 586-7773 ext. 203 Toll-free: 1-800-249-9598 ext. 203 Fax: (519) 586-9777 ontario@natureconservancy.ca</p>	
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Insert
logo here



< Insert Event Name > BIOblitz Landowner Contract

Landowner Information

Last Name:	First Name:
Address:	
Phone Number:	Email:
Property Boundaries:	

Event Information

Date:	Start Time:
Anticipated Number of Guests:	End Time:
Area to be surveyed:	

I agree to allow the < *insert group name* > host a BioBlitz event at the above mentioned property and acknowledge and/or agree to the following in regards to this event (please check or initial):

- I permit the < *insert group name* > to submit all data collected on my property to regulatory agencies such as the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR).
- Legally protected Species at Risk or habitats may be found on my property and reported to the MNR. This may cause limitations on future changes to my land use management.
- Permits, stewardship programs, and tax incentives may be required and/or become available to me if these protected species are found. However qualifications for incentives are not guaranteed.
- Reporting of Species at Risk could affect the land uses of surrounding properties.
- Some protected species such as the spotted turtle, wood turtle, and American ginseng are threatened by over-exploitation and their locations should therefore be treated with sensitivity and/or confidentiality.
- I will allow access to my property for event volunteers leading up to the event (i.e. logistics coordinator, experts requiring tour of property etc.).
- I will not hold the < *insert group name* > responsible for any damage caused to my property during this event.

Signature of
Landowner: _____

Date: _____

Signature of
Witness: _____

Date: _____

<Insert Logo
Here>

Tracked Species Report Card



Last Name:	First Name:
Phone Number:	Email:

Species: _____ Quantity: 1's/ 10's/ 100's

Date (YYYY/MM/DD): ____/____/____ Zone: 18

Easting: _____ Northing: _____

Lat: _____ Long: _____

Accuracy: _____ Photo Taken?: No Yes Photo Number: _____

Habitat/ Site Description: _____

Additional Notes: _____

Species: _____ Quantity: 1's/ 10's/ 100's

Date (YYYY/MM/DD): ____/____/____

Zone: 18 Easting: _____ Northing: _____

Lat: _____ Long: _____

Accuracy: _____ Photo Taken?: No Yes Photo Number: _____

Habitat/ Site Description: _____

Additional Notes: _____

Species: _____ Quantity: 1's/ 10's/ 100's

Date (YYYY/MM/DD): ____/____/____

Zone: 18 Easting: _____ Northing: _____




Lat: _____ Long: _____

Accuracy: _____ Photo Taken?: No Yes Photo Number: _____

Habitat/ Site Description: _____

Additional Notes: _____

  	
FLORA	<p>Woodland Pinedrops (Pterospora andromedea)</p> <p>Grasses, Sedges & Rushes</p> <p>Atlantic Sedge (Carex atlantica) Cattail Sedge (Carex typhina) Field Sedge (Carex concidea) Forked Panic Grass (Dichanthellium dichotomum) Greene's Rush (Juncus greenii) Houghton's Flatsedge (Cyperus houghtonii) Long's Sedge (Carex longii) Long-styled Rush (Juncus longistylis) Nerveless Muhlenberg's Sedge (Carex muhlenbergii var. enervis) Northern Dropseed (Sporobolus heterolepis) Northern Long Sedge (Carex folliculate) One-sided Rush (Juncus secundus) Prairie Dropseed (Sporobolus heterolepis) Slender Bulrush (Schoenoplectus heterochaetus) Slender Vulpia (Vulpia octiflora) Slim-flowered Muhly (Muhlenbergia tenuiflora) Smith's Bulrush (Schoenoplectus tenuiflorus) Toothed Flatsedge (Cyperus dentatus) Torrey's Mann Grass (Torreyochloa pallida) Vasey's Rush (Juncus vaseyi) White-tinged Sedge (Carex albicans var. albicans)</p> <p>Fern & Fern Allies</p> <p>Blunt-lobed Woodsia (Woodsia obtuse) (END) Bog Fern (Thelypteris simulata) Broad Beech Fern (Phegopteris hexagonoptera) (SC) Eastern Mosquito-fern (Azolla caroliniana) Limestone Oak Fern (Gymnocarpium robertianum) Purple-stemmed Cliff-brake (Pellaea atropurpurea) Rugulose Grapefern (Botrychium rugosum) Triangle Moonwort (Botrychium lanceolatum)</p> <p>Mosses, Liverworts, Hornworts & Lichens</p> <p>Flooded Jellyskin (Leptogium rivulare) (THR)</p>
	<p>Trees, Shrubs, Forbs & Herbs</p> <p>American Ginseng (Panax quinquefolius) (END) Autumn Coral-root (Corallorhiza odontorhiza) Bowman's-root (Pteranthus trifoliatus) Brewer's Hawthorn (Crataegus brennerii) Branching Burreed (Sparganium angustifolium) Butternut (Juglans cinerea) (END) Buttonbush Dodder (Cuscuta cephalanthi) Coughswallow Hawthorn (Crataegus suborbiculata) Cooper's Milk-vetch (Astragalus neglectus) Deerberry (Vaccinium stamineum) (THR) Downy Goldenrod (Solidago puberula) Eastern Prairie Fringed-orchid (Platanthera leucophaea) (END) Foggy's Goosefoot (Chenopodium foggii) Green Arrow-aram (Felandria virginica) Hairy Bedstraw (Galium pilosum) Halberd-leaved Tearthumb (Persicaria arifolia) Heart-leaved Alexanders (Zizia aurea) Honey-locust (Gleditsia triacanthos) Horn-leaved Riverweed (Podostemum ceratophyllum) Lakereed (Rorippa aquatica) Large Purple Fringed-orchid (Platanthera grandiflora) Nuttall's Waterweed (Elodea nuttallii) Ogden's Pondweed (Potamogeton ogdenii) (END) Pale Dock (Rumex altissimus) Panicled Hawkweed (Hieracium paniculatum) Pitch Pine (Pinus rigida) Prostrate Tick-trefoil (Desmodium rotundifolium) Puttyroot (Aplectrum hymale) Ram's-head Lady's-slipper (Cypripedium arietinum) Rhodora (Rhododendron canadense) Round-leaved Yellow Violet (Viola rotundifolia) Rue-arenome (Thalictrum thalictroides) Scarlet Beebalm (Monarda didyma) Southern Niala (Najas guadalupensis) Southern Twayblade (Listera australis) Stiff Gentian (Gentiana quinquefolia) Twin-stemmed Bladderwort (Utricularia geminiscapa) White Wood Aster (Eurybia divaricata)</p>
	<p>Tracked Species in Kemptville District (tracked by NHC)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Species at Risk in Bold</p>

  	
Tracked Species in Kemptville District	<p><i>If the following species are found, please fill out a Tracked Species Report Card. Tracked species are species documented by the NHC because they are at risk or globally rare. Details are required for adequate documentation.</i></p> <p>FAUNA</p> <p>Mammals</p> <p>Cougar (END) Common Gray Fox (THR) Eastern Canadian Wolf (SC) Eastern Pipistrelle Northern Long-eared Bat Small-footed Bat</p> <p>Reptiles /Amphibians</p> <p>American Bullfrog American Toad Blanding's Turtle (THR) Blue-spotted Salamander DeKay's Brown Snake Eastern Garter Snake Eastern Musk Turtle (Stinkpot) (THR) Eastern Newt Eastern Red-backed Salamander Eastern Ribbon Snake (SC) Five-lined Skink (SC) Four-toed Salamander Gray Ratsnake (Black Ratsnake) (THR) Gray Treefrog Green Frog Midland Painted Turtle Mink Frog Milksnake (SC) Northern Leopard Frog Northern Map Turtle (SC) Northern Red-Bellied Snake Northern Watersnake Pickering Frog Red-eared Slider (Introduced) Ring-necked Snake</p> <p>Birds</p> <p>Alkali Blueth Arrow Clubtail Arrowhead Spiketail Azure Blueth Canada Whiteface Cobra Clubtail Cyrano Darter Ebony Boghaunter Elusive Clubtail Forcipate Emerald Green-striped Darter Harlequin Darter Harpoon Clubtail Horned Clubtail Lilypad Clubtail Mottled Darter Rapid Clubtail (END)</p> <p>Butterflies/Moths</p> <p>Bog Eflin Early Hairstreak Gorgone Crescent-spot Juniper Hairstreak Monarch Butterfly (SC) Mottled Duskywing West Virginia White (SC)</p> <p>Dragonflies/Damselflies</p> <p>Alkali Blueth Arrow Clubtail Arrowhead Spiketail Azure Blueth Canada Whiteface Cobra Clubtail Cyrano Darter Ebony Boghaunter Elusive Clubtail Forcipate Emerald Green-striped Darter Harlequin Darter Harpoon Clubtail Horned Clubtail Lilypad Clubtail Mottled Darter Rapid Clubtail (END)</p> <p>Fishes</p> <p>American Eel (END) Channel Darter (THR) Cutlip Minnow (THR) Grass Pickerel (SC) Greater Redhorse (SC) Lake Sturgeon (THR) Margined Madtom Northern Brook Lamprey (SC) Pugnose Shiner (END) River Redhorse (SC)</p> <p>Snapping Turtle (SC) Prairie Warbler Red-headed Woodpecker (SC) Short-eared Owl (THR) Whip-poor-will (THR) Yellow Palm Warbler Yellow Rail (SC)</p> <p>Piping Plover (END) Prairie Warbler Red-headed Woodpecker (SC) Short-eared Owl (THR) Whip-poor-will (THR) Yellow Palm Warbler Yellow Rail (SC)</p>
	<p>Tracked Species in Kemptville District (tracked by NHC)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Species at Risk in Bold</p>

BioBlitz Species Checklist

NAME: _____ DATE: _____



- Berries
- Birch Tree
- Maple Tree
- Mushroom/ Fungi
- Oak Tree or Acorn
- Pine Tree
- Wildflower- Pink or Purple
- Wildflower- White
- Wildflower- Yellow



- Frog or Toad
- Lizard/ Fine-lined Skink
- Tadpole
- Turtle
- Salamander
- Snake



- Blue Jay
- Canada Goose
- Cardinal
- Crow or Raven
- Duck
- Hawk or Bird of Prey
- Owl
- Robin
- Woodpecker



- Bat
- Chipmunk
- Groundhog/ Woodchuck
- Human
- Rabbit or Hare
- Squirrel

	Insects & Friends	
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- Ant
- Bumble Bee
- Butterfly or Moth
- Caterpillar
- Dragonfly or Damselfly
- Earwig
- Fly
- Grasshopper or Cricket
- Lady Bug
- Mosquito
- Slug or Snail
- Spider
- Worm

	Wildlife Signs	
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- Animal Tracks
- Beaver Dam or Lodge
- Bird Nest
- Den or Burrow
- Eggs or Egg Shells
- Frog or Bird Call
- Fur or Feathers
- Insect Damage
- Scat (Animal poop)
- Snake Skin
- Stumps Left Over From Beavers
- Woodpecker Holes

	What Else Did You See?	
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-

BioBlitz Database Instructions

(contact Meaghan McDonald for additional help)

1.0 Getting Started

- **Unzip/Extract and save all database files to your computer. Make sure the components are stored in a file together.**
- Open database in Microsoft's Office Access (2003 or later). (If a security warning appears, you must "enable the content" or add the database to your list of "trusted locations".)
- Password is **"blitzed"** (then click on "EDITING")
- Select the username from the drop-down box (*If your name is NOT in the drop-down box, see section on "1.4 Adding or Editing Person Names"*). If information is correct, click Enter.
(*Note: Whichever name you select will be the "recorder" associated with the records entered from this point forward*)
- You are now in the **Main User Page** (details pg. 5)
- Select the name of your BioBlitz Event from the BioBlitz Event or Location Drop-down Box in the top left corner (If your BioBlitz Event or Location is not in the drop-down box, see the section on "**1.3 Adding or Editing BioBlitz Events**")
- You are now ready to start **Entering Species Records**


1.1 Entering Species Records


- In the **Main User Page** select your event then start typing the COMMON species name in the species search drop-down box. If the species you wanted appears, hit enter and all of the associated information will automatically be entered (scientific name, S Rank etc.)
- If you don't see the species you want in the drop-down list, there could be 2 reasons:
 - a) The common name you used is slightly different than the way it has been entered in the database bank (ie. White Pine vs. *Eastern White Pine*)
 - b) The common name you used is completely different than the way it has been entered in the database bank (ie. American Larch vs. Tamarack)
 - c) The species has not yet been entered into the database bank.
- **Alternate Methods:**
 - a) Type any portion of the common name or latin name into the Species Search box located next to the drop-down box and hit Enter. Any record with that combination of words can now be selected from the drop-down box.

- b) If you still cannot find the correct species, click on the search button below the drop-down box. You can then search the database directly by scientific or common name.

- c) If you are certain that species is not in the database bank, see the section on "Adding New Species"


- When you have selected the correct species, review the associated information. If the species is checked as "NHIC tracked". Then follow the instructions in the "1.6 NHIC Tracked Species" section.
- **Note:** If you want every species record to have a specific observer, then you must go to the Location/Contact Tab and enter in the observer

- When finished, click  to enter the species record to your list

(To delete a species record, click:  at the top of the page)


1.3 Adding or Editing BioBlitz Events

The BioBlitz Event details should be entered into the database prior to the event

- From the Main User Page, click the BioBlitz button at the top of the page 
- In the Add or Edit BioBlitz Event Page, click on "New BioBlitz" to enter a new event OR


select the name of the event you wish to edit from the drop-down box


- For a new BioBlitz, enter event name and click OK
- Enter as much event details as possible and click OK (the database will generate a unique BioBlitz code based on the geographic municipality and year)
- Details pg.6

(To delete an event, click: )

1.4 Adding or Editing Person Names

All of the expert names and details should be added to the database prior to the event


- From the Main User Page, click the Observer button at the top of the page  (the associated event must be selected first from the event drop-down box)
- In the Add or Edit Person Page, click on "New User" to enter a new user OR select the name of the participant you wish to edit from the drop-down box
- For a new participant/user, enter name and click OK
- Enter as much user details as possible and click OK
- Details pg. 7

(To delete a user, click: )

1.5 Adding or Editing New Species


NOTE: Before adding new species, ensure that the species does not already exist in the database as multiple species names will complicate the system

Adding Species Information

- From the Main User Page, click the Species button at the top of the page 
- Click the New Species button from the Add or Edit BioBlitz Species Menu
- Add the Scientific and Common Name of the species and click OK
- Fill out the taxonomic information to the best of your ability and click OK
- Details pg. 8

Editing Species Information

If you notice that any of the information about a species is incorrect, it can be edited as follows:

- From the Main User Page, click the Species button at the top of the page 
- Select the species you want to change from the drop down menu in the Add or Edit BioBlitz Species Menu

- Make the appropriate changes and click OK
- **Note: Species are often subject to re-classification resulting in new scientific names. Also, a species may have multiple common names. Currently, the names used in the database bank correspond with the Natural Heritage Information centre (NHIC) database**

1.6 NHIC Tracked Species

If the species is tracked by the NHIC, providing additional information about the sighting will facilitate the process for entering the record in the MNR database.

NHIC Tracked

- Click on the Location/ Contact tab near the top of the page
- Select the expert's name that verified the sighting (the contact information should automatically be filled in. (If the expert's name is not in the drop down box, see the section on "Adding User Names").
- Enter in as much information as possible, especially GPS Coordinates. Additional Comments and Photos can be entered under the corresponding tabs.

Final Tally

As you enter in species, a running tally will be displayed near the top left corner of the Main User Page:



When the BioBlitz is finished, you will want to export your data to Microsoft Office Excel:

- From the main user page, click the Record Search button at the bottom of the page
- Record Search**
- Select the BioBlitz location or type of data you want to export.
 - The database will ask if you want to export results to excel. Select Yes, and save the spreadsheet to your computer.

All of the associated data will be saved in an excel spreadsheet (scroll over for species list- Common names in Column A1). You can then edit the spreadsheet, sort species categories, etc. to suit your needs. Using excel's Sort function, you can group species together and cut and paste them into a Word document.

Ideally, future versions of the Access database will complete this stage for you by exporting a report.

Main User Page

BioBlitz Event Drop-down Box

Click here to access "Add or Edit BioBlitz" page

Click here to access "Add or Edit Person" page

Click here to add or Edit BioBlitz Species" box

Click here to delete a species record

Click here to add new species record

Identifies if the species is tracked by the NHIC. If checked, additional info is required

Space for details about sensitive species status (optional)

Click here to Select Records and Export final species list to Excel OR to locate a specific database entry

Main Page Tabs (for entering additional tracked species data)

Species Search Box

Species Search Drop-down Box

Information about a selected species will be displayed here

Scroll through species records here

bioBlitz Data

Associated Species

Species INFORMATION LOCATION / CONTACT COMMENTS PHOTO

IDENTIFICATION

BioBlitz Date (optional)

Observation Date (optional)

Species Search (Enter Species Keyword to Search)

Scientific Name

Common Name

Scientific Name

Family

Kingdom

Order

Class

PHYLUM

DOMAIN

COGNOME

GENUS

SPECIES

Subspecies

PartnerShip

NHIC Tracked

Invasive

Category

Group

Sensitive

Yes

No

Reason

bioBlitz Follower

bioBlitz PICs

bioBlitz Code

bioBlitz

Observer

Species

Category

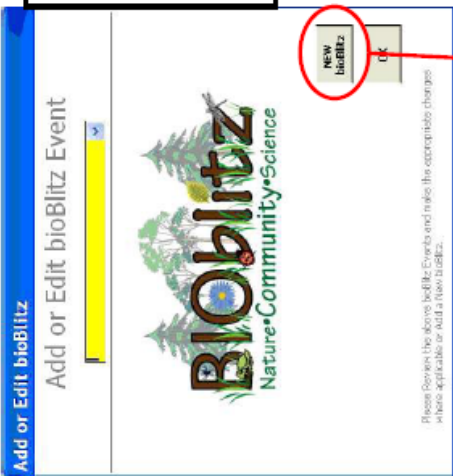
Records: 14 of 1

Records

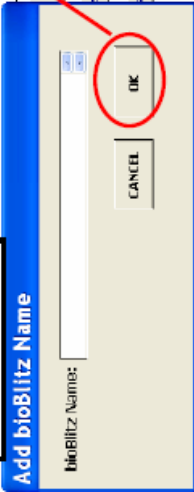
Export

Add or Edit BioBlitz Event Pages

1) Select the BioBlitz Event name that you wish to edit, or click **NEW BioBlitz** for a new event



2) Enter the name of the **NEW BioBlitz** Event



Add or Edit bioBlitz

Add or Edit bioBlitz Event

fest2

bioBlitz Name: fest2

BioBlitz Path: Browse

BioBlitz Pics: Browse

BioBlitz Date: *(double-click to change)*

County:

Municipality:

Geo-Munic.:

BioBlitz Code:

NEW bioBlitz OK

Please Review the above bioBlitz Events and make the appropriate changes where applicable or Add a New bioBlitz.

3) Enter as much event details as possible. Select OK to return to the Main User Page.

Necessary information

Optional: Enter links to additional BioBlitz information if applicable

Add or Edit Person Pages

1) Select the participant name that you wish to edit, or select NEW USER to enter a new participant

2) Enter the name of the NEW USER

Use this button to delete a participant

3) Enter as much participant details as possible. Select OK to return to the Main User Page, or NEW USER to add another participant

Add or Edit Species Pages

1) Select the species name that you wish to edit, or select NEW Species for a new entry

2) Enter the COMMON name of the new Species

3) Enter as much details about the species as possible. Select OK to return to the Main User Page, or New Species to enter another new species.

Fill out as much as possible. Consult the NHIC database for information

Necessary information

Species Classification for Database and Checklist

Fauna

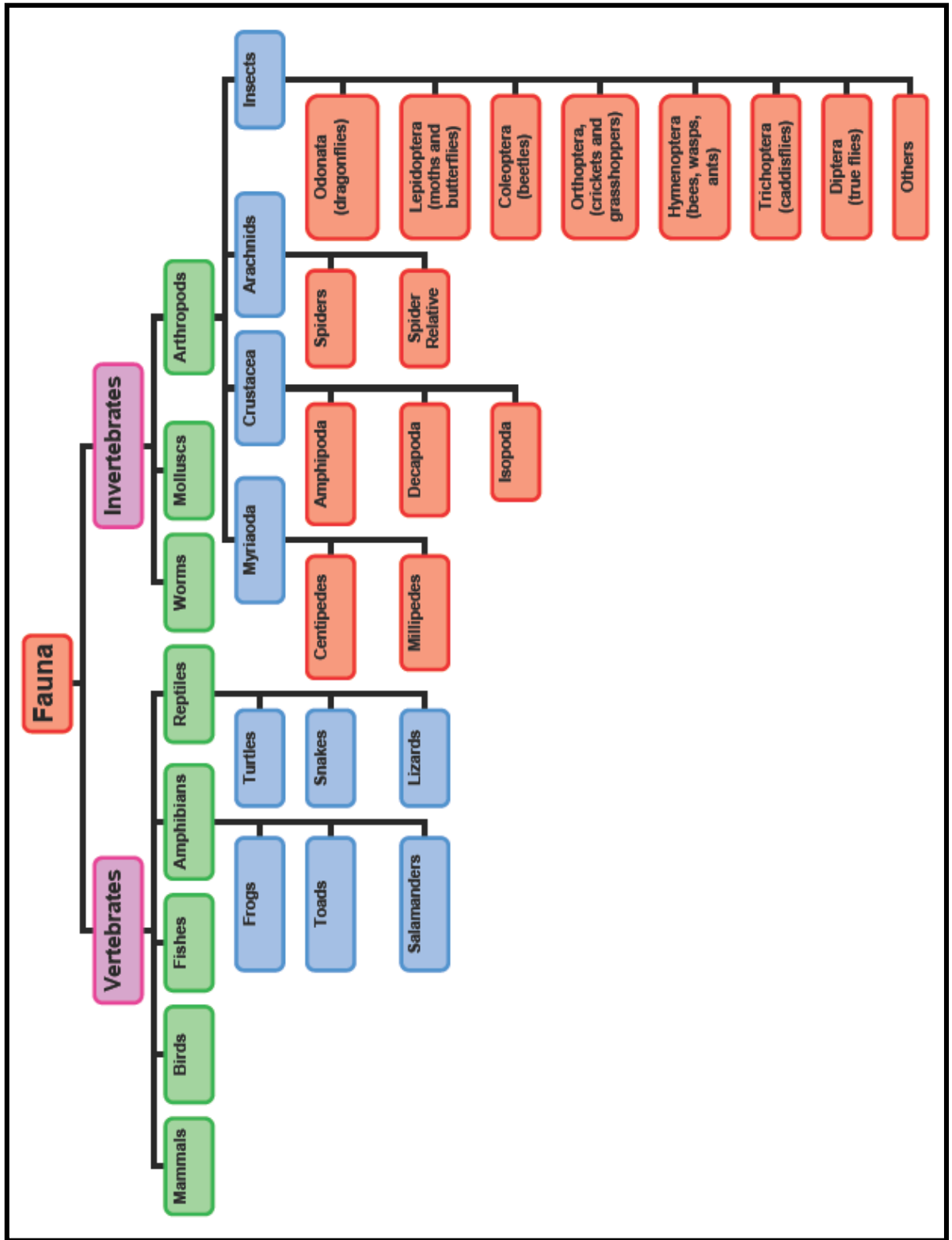
- **Amphibians**
 - **Frogs & Toads**
 - **Salamanders**
- **Birds**
- **Butterflies***
- **Dragonflies & Damselflies***
- **Mammals**
- **Other Invertebrates and Insects**
 - **Any invertebrate that is not a butterfly, dragonfly, or damselfly.**
- **Reptiles**
 - **Turtles**
 - **Lizards**
 - **Snakes**

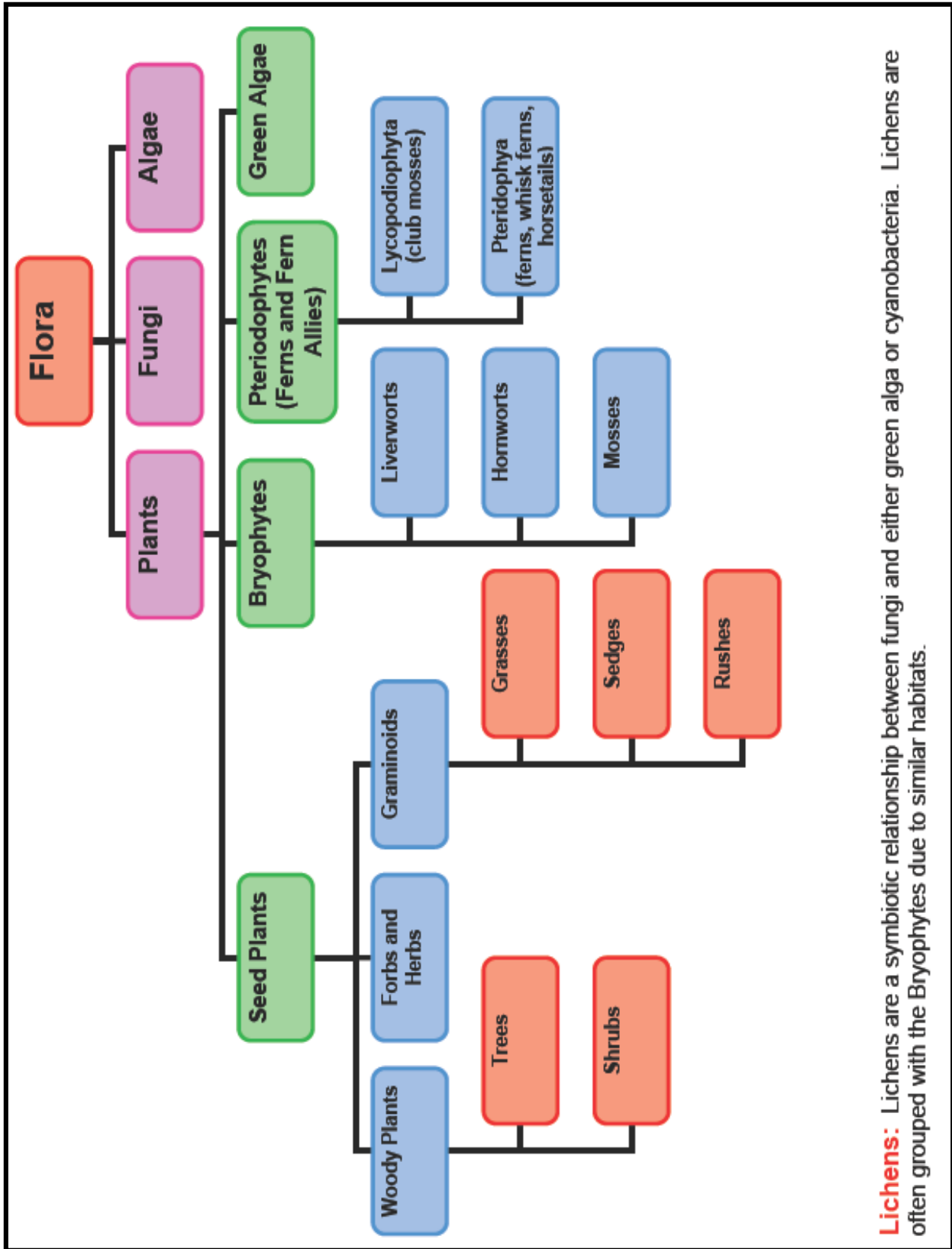
* All invertebrates have been grouped together with the exception of butterflies, dragonflies, and damselflies. This is due to a high interest and specialization in these particular groups.

Flora

- **Ferns and Fern Allies**
 - **Ferns**
 - **Horsetails**
 - **Club Mosses**
- **Forbs and Herbs**
 - **Vascular Plants with non-woody, aboveground stems (i.e. Wildflowers)**
- **Fungi**
- **Grasses, Sedges & Rushes**
- **Mosses, Liverworts, Hornworts & Lichens**
- **Trees and Shrubs**
 - **Vascular Plants with woody stems**

For further explanation of species classifications and definitions refer to the following charts:





Responsible Surveying Techniques

1) *Keep Groups Small*

When surveying in groups or conducting guided nature walks, try to keep group numbers low in order to reduce disturbances to wildlife and habitats.

2) *Stay on Trails*

Whenever possible, try to stay on trails or paths to reduce trampling of vegetation. When venturing off trail, be cautious of where you step.

3) *Avoid Wet Conditions*

If conditions are wet, try to avoid muddy areas that could be disturbed by soil compaction or erosion.

4) *Avoid Sensitive Habitat*

If sensitive features such as nests, dens, or hibernacula are discovered, breeding grounds, feeding grounds, etc. minimize activity and disturbances in surrounding areas.

5) *Restrict Pets*

Off-leash dogs may cause damage to vegetation or wildlife. Consider restricting pets at the BioBlitz or establish an on-leash only rule.

6) *Don't Take Samples*

Avoid taking plant samples by identifying in-field. There are some exceptions to this rule as certain species (i.e. mushrooms) require closer inspection.

7) *Check Traps Frequently*

If wildlife traps have been set, check traps frequently and make sure the trapped specimens are not exposed to rain or direct sunlight.

8) *Minimize Interaction with Wildlife*

Any interaction or disturbances to wildlife should be kept to a minimum (i.e. pishing for birds).



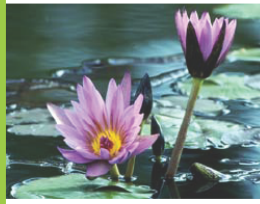
<Insert
logo
here>

<Insert Organization Name>
Invites you to participate in the <#> Annual
<Insert Detail>BIOblitz
At <Insert Location>
<Insert Date>



The <enter host organization> in partnership with the Community Stewardship Council of Lanark County is looking for volunteers and participants for their <#> annual BioBlitz. Come join dozens of expert biologists in a race against the clock to identify as many species of plants and animals as possible!

LOCATION: <insert location (you may wish to include details about the property)>



WHEN: <insert date and time>

ACCOMODATION: <any details about accommodation (is camping available?)>



JOIN US: <insert details about event (guided hikes, barbeque, childrens activities, etc.)>

DIRECTIONS: <insert directions>



PLEASE BRING: Hiking boots, long pants, sunscreen, hats, bug spray, and snacks; binoculars, GPS and ID books if you have them.

Admission is FREE!

This event is rain or shine, so be sure to dress appropriately!

For More Information Contact
<insert contact name> at
###-###-####,
<email address>
Or visit the website at:
<website>





The Friends of Mac Johnson Wildlife Area

Invite you to be part of the CRCA

Brockville Bioblitz

At Mac Johnson Wildlife Area in Elizabethtown-Kitley Township

June 5th and 6th, 2009

Part of The Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve





Our Bioblitz: plans to be a 24 hour period of time when specialists and enthusiasts come together at Mac Johnson Wildlife Area in Elizabethtown-Kitley Township, (just north of Brockville, ON) to identify and record as many different species of plants and animals as possible. The MJWA is owned and operated by the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority. www.cataraqueiregion.on.ca

Bioblitz Date:
3:00 pm, Friday, June 5th to 3:00 pm, Saturday, June 6th

Purpose: In 2007, the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority worked with community organizations to develop a master plan to help guide the use and care of MJWA for the next 20 years. One important project was identified as updating the 1982 species inventory. It will provide the foundation to move forward with trail rationalization, a marketing and feasibility study, and developing a new nature centre on the property.

The Friends of Mac Johnson Wildlife Area: are a group of local volunteers who assist the CRCA to plan and implement a variety of conservation and education projects. This will be our first BIOBLITZ and the success of the event depends upon the involvement of the entire community – and beyond. <http://www.cybertap.com/~macjohnson>

Learn More & Spread the Word: Whether you are an expert or novice, come join us. Are you interested in wildlife? Do you want to put your knowledge of plants toward a worthy project? Maybe you have a friend or colleague who specializes in a certain species or has BIOBLITZ experience. Please call us for more information or to share your knowledge. The greater the input, the greater the event! <http://perso.b2b2c.ca/brockvillebioblitz> will be up and running soon.



Visitors Welcome:

- Saturday, June 6th from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm
- Pond dipping, birdhouse building, lectures, hikes, more

Volunteers Welcome:

- species counting, photographers, GPSers, welcome ambassadors, food crew, registration, set-up and more

Contact:
Claire Lefrancois
phone: 613-342-9364 e-mail: bioblitz@b2b2c.ca

**EXPERTS
NEEDED!!**

Singleton Lake BioBlitz

August 27th -28th

**EXPERTS
NEEDED!!**

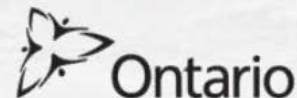
The Centre for Sustainable Watersheds in partnership with the Leeds County Stewardship Council and Community Stewardship Council of Lanark County and would like to invite you to participate in a 2 day BioBlitz of the Chadwick Property on August 27-28th. Throughout the two days, experts will work towards developing a biological inventory of the property including everything from birds and insects to mosses and fungi. Come explore this beautiful waterfront property and help identify as many species as possible!

Come for a couple of hours or stay for two days. Any contribution helps!

- Bring your canoe and explore the beautiful shoreline.
- Property maps, species checklists, instructions to be provided.
- Overnight Camping Available & Food/Meals Provided for Volunteers.
- For those unable to attend the BioBlitz, guided day trips may be arranged for alternate days to ensure a complete inventory.
- ****Please let us know if you may be interested in leading a guided walk.***

Property Features Include: Mixed Forest, Provincially Significant Wetlands, Rocky Shores and Outcrops, Access to Singleton Lake, Swamp, Old Field and Orchard Habitat, Extensive Butterfly & Dragonfly Habitat with Maintained Trails, Black Rat Snakes, Cerulean Warblers, Numerous Bird Species, Beautiful Scenery, & More!

To register for the event please contact:
Meaghan McDonald, BioBlitz Intern
 T: (613) 267-4200 ext. 3194
 Email: BioBlitzintern@gmail.com



Insert Logo

Press Release
For Immediate Release
(Enter Current Date)

CATCHY HEADLINE

Date, location- Interesting lead sentence. Follow up sentence (s) clarifying what the article is about.

The first and second paragraph should include who, what, where and when. Try to keep sentences and paragraphs brief.

Include any additional information such as planned activities, where people can stay, directions, and what they should bring. Do not indent your paragraphs.

Highlight free admission and link to webpage if you have one.

Be sure to mention partner groups at some point within the release.

If this release is for after the event, mention key information such as the number of participants, how many species were found, examples of interesting species etc. Including quotes from participants can also be a good idea.

For information, please contact: name, phone number

-30-



Friends of Mac Johnson Wildlife Area
4671 Debruge Road
Elizabethtown, ON
K6T 1A5
Phone: 613-342-3062

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release
Contact: Claire Lefrançois
Phone: 613-342-9364
E-mail: bioblitz@b2b2c.ca

Brockville Bioblitz Making Friends

Brockville, Ontario April 8, 2009-04-08
It's all about getting together to find out what is in our own backyard. The Friends of Mac Johnson Wildlife Area (MJWA) are partnering with area organizations, businesses and individuals to host a science festival like no other. Specialists and visitors from around the province will come to MJWA June 5 and 6 for 24 hours of scientific sleuthing to uncover as many different species of plants and animals as possible. MJWA is located in Elizabethtown-Kitley Township and the City of Brockville, Ontario.

The bioblitz concept is a way of incorporating carefully monitored scientific data collection into an educational and fun event for the whole community. The data collection is important to MJWA for ongoing habitat protection and sustainable project planning. The data is also helpful to other organizations which require species information.

There are two ways the whole community is invited to take part. First, some specialists will be looking for volunteers to help identify species throughout the 24 hours. Secondly, for the last four hours of the event, MJWA will host a festival where visitors can learn from the specialists, observe their work, and participate in other educational displays and activities for all ages.

"Passion cannot be duplicated," said Claire Lefrançois, bioblitz coordinator. "As a teacher, I have seen the powerful impact a specialist's enthusiasm can have on another person. This is the opportunity of a lifetime."

The Mac Johnson Wildlife Area is owned and operated by the Cataract Region Conservation Authority (CRCA). In 2007, the CRCA completed a Master Plan for the area to help guide its use and development over the next 20 years.

"The Brockville Bioblitz is part of that plan and the foundation for a number of other projects" said Steve Knechtel, CRCA general manager. "We want to provide the local community and visitors a venue for outdoor activities, focusing on environmental learning experiences, healthy living and caring for the environment."

The MJWA is part of the Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve, the most biologically diverse area in all of Canada. A perfect spot for species identification, MJWA is also a great place to get involved in creating a more sustainable community.

The Friends of Mac Johnson Wildlife Area would like to invite the public to help make the Brockville Bioblitz a success. Volunteers are needed in the areas of site set-up, parking, food service, providing on-site information and support, poster/media distribution, registration, closing ceremonies and general help.

A Bioblitz fundraiser has also been planned. Join us May 2, for our **House Concert Fundraiser at Lamb's Pond**. Katie Baker and Jeff MacMillan will entertain in a magnificent setting. Tickets are \$20.

Call Claire Lefrançois at 613-342-9364 or e-mail bioblitz@b2b2c.ca for more information.

Media Contact

Claire Lefrançois, Bioblitz Coordinator 613-342-9364

WARNING: POISON IVY IN AREA

The many faces of poison ivy



Poison ivy can appear quite red in fall

Poison ivy can grow as a shrub, vine or low plant



Poison Ivy

All parts of the plant are poisonous, including the stem

Look for small white berries



Leaves may be toothed, smooth, or lobed

“Leaves of three, let it be”

2009 MVFN Bioblitz Tentative Schedule

Please note that this schedule is subject to change.

Participants should pre-register for events at the Bioblitz Base site. Inventory activity takes place from 3 pm Saturday to 3 pm Sunday. Registration will be open between 2 pm and 9 pm Saturday, September 19 and between 6:30 am and 2 pm Sunday, September 20.

Saturday, September 19

Time	Event			
2:00 pm	Bioblitz Base opens. Registration begins			
3:00 – 3:15 pm	Bioblitz opening ceremony			
3:15 – 4:00 pm	Bell property ecological orientation - west side			
4:15 – 5:00 pm	Bell property ecological orientation - east side			
5:00 – 6:00 pm	Fungus collection for spore prints	Moth trap set-up	Spotting geological features	Inspect small mammal traps
6:00 – 7:30 pm	Inventory on your own			
7:30 – 8:30 pm	Calling seasonal creatures of the night			
8:30 - 9:30 pm	Moth mania			
10:00 pm	Registration closes 9 pm, Bioblitz Base closes 10 pm			

Sunday, September 20

Time	Event		
6:30 am	BioBlitz Base Registration begins		
7:00 – 8:00 am	Bird watching		
8:00 – 9:00 am	Catch anything? check small mammal & pit traps	Bird watching	
9:00 – 9:55 am	Memorable mosses	Reptiles & amphibians: are you here?	Woodland discovery for children
10:00 – 10:55 am	Fantastic fungi	Plants with wet feet	
11:00 - 11:55 am	Plants liking it drier	Loveable lichens	
12:00 – 12:55pm	Insects at large	Fungi frenzy	
1:00 – 1:55 pm	Invertebrates without 6 legs	Flying pictures: butterflies and dragonflies	
2:00 – 2:55 pm	Mammals and anything missed: a walk on the wild side with detective Jim	Lanark rocks!	
2:00 - 3:00 pm	Registration closes 2 pm, Last call for tally sheets 3:00 pm		
4:00 pm	BioBlitz closing ceremony – results, quiz. Post-BioBlitz BBQ		

MVFN BioBlitz 2009 is presented by the Mississippi Valley Field Naturalists in partnership with the Nature Conservancy of Canada and The Community Stewardship Council of Lanark County. The event takes place at the Nature Conservancy of Canada's Bell property near Almonte at the intersection of Clayton Road and Ramsay Conc. 3B. Follow signs for parking.

For further information, or if you plan to participate, please contact Mike McPhail at 613-256-7211 or mcphail@hotmail.com or visit www.mvfn.ca.

~ Schedule ~

Here is a tentative timetable for the 24-hour Brockville 2009 Bioblitz:

Friday, June 5th

2:30pm	Registration desk at base site opens
3:00pm	Bioblitz send-off
6:00pm	Supper (bring your own or pick up from Tincap restaurant 3 km away)
7:00pm	Evening activities (i.e., small mammal trap setting, evening birds, amphibians, moth baiting, bats, moths, owl calling)
10:00pm	Base site closes

Saturday, June 6th

5:00am	Birding
8:00am	Morning Activities (i.e., mammal trap check, trees, shrubs, flowering plants, ferns and spore-bearing plants, grasses and sedges)
11:00am to 3:00pm	Visitors welcome (Wildlife Festival \$5/car), environmental education activities, guided hikes/talks from specialists
11:30am to 12:30pm	BBQ Lunch at Base site(donations accepted from volunteers, fee for visitors)
12:00pm	Informal remarks from taxon teams
2:30pm	Tally sheets due; check out and hand in survey
3:00pm	Bioblitz ends; closing ceremonies and preliminary results

OTTY LAKE BIOBLITZ- TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Saturday, May 15th, 2010

2:30-3:30 pm	Welcome to Otty Lake! Basecamp & Registration Opens	
3:30-4:30 pm	Orientation Walk lead by Mike Yee (RVCA)	
4:30- 6:00 pm	"Plants that Like Wet Feet" Walk with Susan Samilla & Edith Lepine	
6:00 - 7:30 pm	Inventory on Your Own	
7:30 – 9:30 pm	"Sounds & Creatures of the Night" Walk with Heather Lunn & Simon Lunn	Moth Lure Set-up?
9: 30 pm	Basecamp & Registration Close	

Sunday, May 16th, 2010

6:30- 8:00 am	Registration Opens	Birding & Inventorying on your own
8:00- 9:30 am	Birding Walk with Sam Kingdon	
9:30- 10:45 am	"What Kind of Trees Grow Here" Walk with Fred Lepine & Jim Agar	"Plants that Like it Drier" Walk with Susan Samilla & Edith Lepine
10:45- 12:00	Reptiles & Amphibian Walk with Dave Seburn	Damselflies & Dragonflies Walk with Jim Ronson
12: 00- 1:00 pm		Insects at Large with Jim Ronson, Jay Fitzimmons & Friends
1:00- 2:00 pm	"What can we find?" Walk with Mike Yee	Aquatic Plants, Aquatic Invertebrates & Water Quality with Adrienne Lewis, Sarah McLeod (RVCA) & Stephanie Popiel
2:00- 3: 00 pm	Anything We've Missed?	
3: 00 pm	Closing, Species Tally, Celebration	

Small Mammal Trapping (James Page, Kemptville MNR):

Saturday	
Set-up	Checks

Sunday	
Set-up	Checks

Field Guide Suggestions

Birds

Birds (Advanced Birders) Sibley Field Guide to Birds of Eastern North America

Birds (Beginner to Intermediate) Peterson's Field Guide to the Birds of Eastern and Central North America

Birds (Signs) Bird Tracks and Signs

Birds (Phishing) The Art of Phishing: How to Attract Birds by Mimicking Their Calls

Birds (Nests) Peterson's Field Guides: Eastern Birds' Nest

Bugs

Bugs (Local) Bugs of Ontario

Bugs (Local) Insects of Algonquin Provincial Park

Bugs (In general) Peterson's A Field Guide to Insects

Bugs (In general) Kaufman Field Guide to Insects of North America

Butterflies Kaufman's Field Guide to Butterflies of North America

Butterflies (Caterpillars) Caterpillars in the Field and Garden: A Field Guide to the Butterfly Caterpillars of North America

Moths Moths & Caterpillars of the North Woods

Moths Peterson's A Field Guide to Moths of Eastern North America

Moths (Caterpillars) Caterpillars of Eastern North America

Dragonflies & Damselflies Field Guide to The Dragonflies and Damselflies of Algonquin Provincial Park and the Surrounding Area

Dragonflies Dragonflies of the North Woods, 2nd Edition

Damselflies Damselflies of the Northeast

Beetles Peterson's A Field Guide to the Beetles

Spiders Spiders of the North Woods

Animals

Mammals (Tracks) Mammal Track and Signs

Mammals Mammals of North America, a Kaufman Focus Guide

Mammals Mammals of Ontario

Bats Photo Field Guide to Bats of Ontario

Tracks Animal Tracks (A Pocket Naturalist Guide)

Herpetofauna ROM Field Guide to Amphibians and Reptiles of Ontario

Fishes The ROM Field Guide to Freshwater Fishes of Ontario

Plants

Trees Trees In Canada

Shrubs Shrubs of Ontario

Wildflowers Newcomb's Wildflower Guide

Wildflowers Peterson's A Field Guide to Wildflowers

Wildflowers (Simple) Ontario Wildflowers: 101 Wayside Flowers

Ferns Peterson Field Guide to Ferns, Second edition

Grasses Grasses: An Identification Guide

Grasses How to Identify Grasses and Grass-like Plants

Mosses A Graphic Guide to Ontario Mosses

Liverworts An Enthusiasts Guide to the Liverworts and Hornworts of Ontario

Other Life

Mushrooms Mushrooms of Ontario and Eastern Canada

Lichens Lichens of the North Woods

Invertebrates Common Freshwater Invertebrates of North America



Mollusks The Freshwater Mollusks of Canada

Mussels Photo Field Guide to the Freshwater Mussels of Ontario

Earthworms Earthworms of the Great Lakes



www.ontariofieldnaturalists.org

<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>-Insert Event Name- BIOblitz Registration and Waiver Form -insert date-</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p style="font-size: small;">Insert logo here</p> </div> </div> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; padding: 2px;">Last Name:</td> <td style="width: 50%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">First Name(s):</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">City:</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">License Plate:</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Telephone:</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Email:</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>Terms of Participation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I will not knowingly destroy or cause damage to the landowners property or any wildlife (flora & fauna), or habitat encountered. I agree to share all species information gathered during this event with the organizers and landowner. I agree to keep the locations of sensitive species confidential (American ginseng, spotted turtle, wood turtle). </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>Waiver</p> <p>I will not hold the landowner, (-insert landowner if applicable-) or (-insert lead organizer group-) responsible for injury, loss of property or damage to property resulting from my participation in this event. I understand the risks and agree to the terms of participation.</p> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <p>Signature: _____</p> <p>Date: _____</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p>Sign Out</p> <p>Signature: _____ Date: _____</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><input type="checkbox"/> Checklist Submitted</p> </div>	Last Name:		First Name(s):		City:		License Plate:		Telephone:		Email:		<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>-Insert Event Name- BIOblitz Registration and Waiver Form -insert date-</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p style="font-size: small;">Insert logo here</p> </div> </div> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; padding: 2px;">Last Name:</td> <td style="width: 50%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">First Name(s):</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">City:</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">License Plate:</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Telephone:</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Email:</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>Terms of Participation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I will not knowingly destroy or cause damage to the landowners property or any wildlife (flora & fauna), or habitat encountered. I agree to share all species information gathered during this event with the organizers and landowner. I agree to keep the locations of sensitive species confidential (American ginseng, spotted turtle, wood turtle). </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>Waiver</p> <p>I will not hold the landowner, (-insert landowner if applicable-) or (-insert lead organizer group-) responsible for injury, loss of property or damage to property resulting from my participation in this event. I understand the risks and agree to the terms of participation.</p> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <p>Signature: _____</p> <p>Date: _____</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p>Sign Out</p> <p>Signature: _____ Date: _____</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><input type="checkbox"/> Checklist Submitted</p> </div>	Last Name:		First Name(s):		City:		License Plate:		Telephone:		Email:	
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