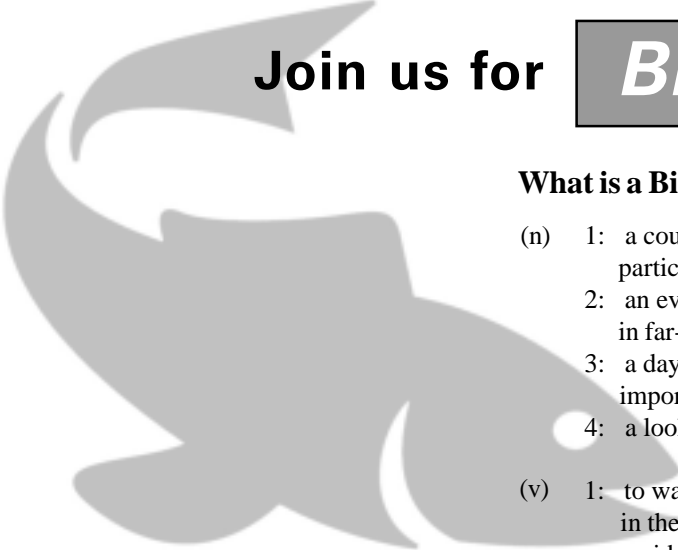


**Open Immediately!
Registration Deadline
June 2, 2006!**

Join us for

BioBlitz 2006

What is a BioBlitz?

- 
- (n)
 - 1: a count by volunteer naturalists of as many species of life as possible on a particular parcel of land in 24 hours;
 - 2: an event to demonstrate that biodiversity is important in Rhode Island, not just in far-off jungles;
 - 3: a day of public events to learn about what field scientists do and why it's important;
 - 4: a look at how the Cumberland Monastery shaped today's landscape.
 - (v)
 - 1: to walk in woods, fields, and beaches, wade through ponds and streams, dig in the dirt, and swim along the shore carrying binoculars, buckets, nets, field guides and other apparatus;
 - 2: to share the companionship of others curious about the natural world.

WHERE:

The Cumberland Monastery, 1464 Diamond Hill Road, Cumberland, RI. Covering more than 500 acres, the property includes large hay fields, abandoned fields, farm ponds, wetlands, a small tributary of the Blackstone River, and a variety of forests. There are areas with high levels of human disturbance, areas where invasive plants pervade, and areas of comparative natural stability. The upland forest and characteristic northern RI soils should yield a different suite of species than found in previous Rhode Island BioBlitzes. There promises to be something for everyone, no matter what you bioblitz!

WHEN:

The count begins at 3:00 p.m. Friday, June 9, and runs for 24 hours. Results announced 4:00 p.m. Saturday, June 10.
Friday, June 9 from 3:00 p.m. on - you must be a registered member of the BioBlitz Expedition to participate on Friday.
Saturday, June 10 Public events, including children's activities, begin with a bird walk at 9:00 a.m. and continue all day until the final count is announced at 4:00 p.m. Scientists and naturalists will work throughout the day. No registration is required on Saturday. For the latest schedule visit www.rinhs.org.

WHO:

Scientists and Naturalists with taxonomic expertise form the core of a BioBlitz. However, volunteers of all sorts are needed to assist in the field, do data entry, greet the public and lend a hand on a myriad of tasks - especially during set-up and break-down. How better to spend time in one of Rhode Island's beautiful, historic places, than helping to identify and document the state's amazing biological diversity? To sign up, complete and return the attached form.

Mark your calendar now and join us for one hour or all 24!

R H O D E I S L A N D
N A T U R A L H I S T O R Y S U R V E Y

Providing Ecosystem Science and Information

April 17, 2006

Dear Colleagues,

Can one count the organisms living on 500 acres of forest, field, and stream in Cumberland, Rhode Island, in 24 hours? Sounds like Mission: Impossible? Maybe for Tom Cruise, but not for the Rhode Island Natural History Survey and a doughty band of naturalists at the seventh Rhode Island BioBlitz. BioBlitz 2006 will be at the Cumberland Monastery, off Diamond Hill Road in Cumberland, from 3 p.m. Friday, June 9, to 3 p.m. Saturday, June 10, and we're looking for scientists and naturalists to join the expedition and complete a roster of taxonomic expertise ranging from algae to zebras (well, perhaps not zebras).

Can you come? Whether for just one hour or all twenty-four, we need your help. If you can't come, please pass on this notice to someone whom you think might be able to. We especially need help with arthropods. This event is a fun excursion from the lab or library, a good networking opportunity, and a chance to help develop our knowledge of Rhode Island's biota.

PROGRAM

Friday 3 p.m.: Scientists and naturalists start counting. No public events Friday.

6-8 p.m.: Cookout & dessert potluck sponsored by Blackstone River Watershed Council and the Cumberland Conservation Commission, pre-registration required.

Overnight: Camping and counting, pre-registration required.

Saturday counting continues and public programs run all day.

6:30-8 a.m.: Continental breakfast, pre-registration required.

9 a.m.-3 p.m.: Science, walks, talks, displays for all comers.

3 p.m.: End of the count.

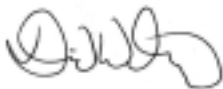
4 p.m.: Press briefing to announce the results.

Registered members of the BioBlitz Expedition — scientists, naturalists — and volunteers, are invited to bring tents and camp overnight at Science Central. A cookout dinner will kick off Friday evening collecting activities and a continental breakfast will be available for overnight campers and early morning participants. You **MUST** pre-register to participate Friday, for meals, and for overnight camping. The public is invited to join BioBlitz on Saturday from 9:00 a.m – 4:00 p.m. There will be naturalist-led walks, workshops, children's activities and the final count! Activities Saturday are open to all on a drop in, space available basis.

This year's organizational partners include Blackstone River Watershed Council, Blackstone Valley Tourism Council, Friends of the Blackstone, Largess Forestry, Lincoln Land Trust, Cumberland Conservation Commission, and the Town of Cumberland.

We look forward to having you join us for BioBlitz 2006. Please return the attached form. The registration deadline is **June 2** for those planning to participate Friday, stay overnight, or eat meals. If you have any questions contact Kira Stillwell, (401)874-5800; kstillwell@rinhs.org.

Yours sincerely,



David Gregg, Executive Director, RINHS



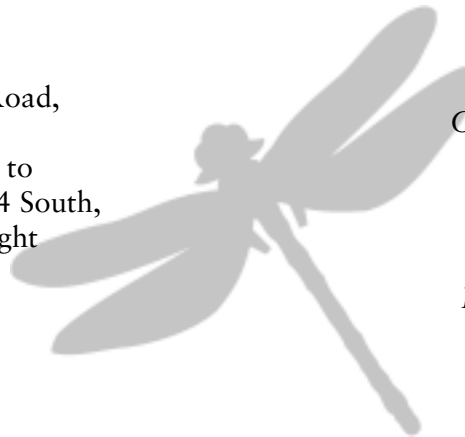
BioBlitz 2006

Join us!

Cumberland Monastery, 3 p.m. Friday, June 9 to 3 p.m. Saturday, June 10

Directions:

1464 Diamond Hill Road,
Cumberland, RI
Exit 11 off Rt. 295 to
Diamond Hill Road / 114 South,
1.3 miles on your right



Sponsored by:

*Blackstone River Watershed Council
Cumberland Conservation Commission
Cumberland Parks & Recreation
Friends of the Blackstone
Largess Forestry
Lincoln Land Trust
Rhode Island Natural History Survey
Town of Cumberland*

Public Info:

Friday, June 9 from 3:00 p.m. on - you must be a registered member of the BioBlitz Expedition to participate on Friday. There are no public events on Friday.

Saturday, June 10 Public events, including children's activities, begin with a bird walk at 9:00 a.m. and continue all day until the final count is announced at 4:00 p.m. Scientists and naturalists will work throughout the day. No registration is required.

Expedition Member Registration:

(You must register as a member of the science team or as a volunteer to participate Friday)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

I WOULD LIKE TO (please check those that apply):

I plan to be at the BioBlitz: _____
(provide dates & times)

Be part of the **SCIENTIFIC TEAM**

Area of expertise: _____

Equipment needs: _____

I need _____ (#) of assistants to help in the field.

VOLUNTEER as needed to help with the event.
Interested? Contact Kira at kstillwell@rinhs.org or
(401)874-5800.

STAY OVERNIGHT:

Tenting is available free of charge. You must provide your own tent, bedding, etc. Continental breakfast available for overnight participants.

Join in MEALS:

You **MUST PRE-REGISTER** for meals. SEND PAYMENT with registration information to be received by June 2nd.

Friday night Cookout (compliments of the Blackstone River Watershed Council & Cumberland Conservation Commission) & Dessert Potluck (you bring a dessert!)

Saturday morning continental breakfast: \$6.00 per person.

Make checks payable to RINHS, pay by credit card using the form on the reverse side or by calling the RINHS office, or via PayPal using our website.

Return registration form and any payment by June 2, 2006 to:

Rhode Island Natural History Survey

P.O. Box 1858, Kingston, RI 02881-1815

Phone (401)874.5800 Fax (401)874.5868 programadmin@rinhs.org www.rinhs.org

Join RINHS!

Not sure if you are a member?
Call our office at (401)874-5800
and talk to Kira. If you would
like to join, just complete the
form below and return it.

YES! I'd like to Join the RI Natural History Survey

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Fax: _____

E-mail: _____



ANNUAL Membership DUES, check one:

- Individual (\$25)
- Family (\$40)
- Student/Senior (\$15)
- Organizational (\$100)

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- Rhode Island Naturalist, our newsletter
- 10% discount on the publications we sell
- Inclusion in the RINHS e-mail listserve
- Discount on annual conference fee
(Organizational members receive a free
conference registration)

PAYMENT: Donation to RINHS: _____

BioBlitz meals (\$6 each): _____

Membership Fee: _____

Total Due: _____

Pay by credit card, make checks payable to RINHS,
or join & register for BioBlitz 2006 online at www.rinhs.org

Card # _____ MC / Visa

Expiration date: _____ 3 digit code# _____

Name on card: _____

Card billing address: _____

RINHS, P.O. Box 1858, Kingston, RI, 02881