

A BioBlitz is an event that focuses on finding and identifying as many local species as possible in a specific area over a short period of time. A BioBlitz is also known as a biological inventory or biological census. The primary goal of a BioBlitz is to get an overall count of the plants, animals, fungi, and other organisms that live in a place. The end result of a BioBlitz is a tally of species found in each of these groups, helping scientists learn if biodiversity is increasing or decreasing within a given area.

A BioBlitz has different opportunities and benefits than a traditional, scientific field study. Some of these potential benefits include:

- **Enjoyment** - Instead of a highly structured and measured field survey, this sort of event has the atmosphere of a festival. The short time frame makes the searching more exciting.
- **Local** - A BioBlitz offers the chance for people to visit a nearby setting and see that local areas have biodiversity and are important to conserve.
- **Science** - These one-day events gather basic information on some groups of species.
- **Meet the Scientists** - A BioBlitz encourages people to meet working scientists and local knowledgeable amateurs and ask them questions.
- **Identifying rare and unique species/groups** - When volunteers and scientists work together, they are able to identify uncommon or special habitats for protection and management and, in some cases, rare species may be uncovered.
- **Documenting species occurrence** - BioBlitzes do not provide a complete species inventory for a site, but they provide a species list which makes a basis for a more complete inventory and will often show what area or what species would benefit from a further study.

In the process, we will gain skills and knowledge, and develop a stronger connection to our home environment. A BioBlitz aims to promote and improve local natural spaces by empowering us to better understand and protect the biodiversity in the Otty Lake Watershed.



## THE OTTY LAKE ASSOCIATION INVITES YOU TO PARTICIPATE IN THE 2ND OTTY LAKE BIOBLITZ



The Otty Lake Association in partnership with the Community Stewardship Council of Lanark County, Centre for Sustainable Watersheds, The Rideau Valley Conservation Authority and Scouts Canada is looking for participants for the second Otty Lake BioBlitz. Learn and have fun doing it! Come join the "experts"!

**JOIN US:** Come participate and learn about the amazing biodiversity right in our own backyard! Guided hikes and workshops will be offered with details for each day outlined within this brochure.

**LOCATION:** The southwest corner of Otty Lake in Tay Valley Township south of Perth, site of Scouts Canada's Camp Whispering Pines and the adjacent Mica Mines Conservation Area. This approximately 150 acre property offers a unique range of habitat including aquatic habitat on Otty Lake, open field, wetland, lowland and upland forest.

**ACCOMMODATIONS:** Overnight camping is available on site for those interested.

**DIRECTIONS:** (from Perth) Take Rideau Ferry Rd South. Turn right on Elm Grove Rd. right on Long Lake Road and right into Whispering Pines Scout Camp. Parking is available on site. N44 48.1966'W76 13.9448'

**ADMISSION IS FREE! RAIN OR SHINE!!**

**PLEASE BRING:** Hiking boots, long pants (black-legged ticks have been found in this area), sunscreen, hat, bug spray, snacks, binoculars, GPS and ID books if you have them.



## Otty Lake BioBlitz –Tuesday, July 17, 2012.

Time	Activity
12 -1 p.m	Basecamp and registration opens <b>Looking for Dragonflies</b> - Jim Ronson, Field Naturalist <b>and Butterflies</b> – Diane Lepage, Habitat Manager for the butterfly meadow at Fletcher Wildlife Garden
1 – 2 p.m.	<b>Black - Legged ticks update</b> <b>What is a BioBlitz?</b> Why is it important? <b>Orientation Talk and Walk</b> – led by Mike Yee, Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA)
2 – 5 p.m.	<b>Cont'd Looking for Dragonflies</b> –Jim Ronson <b>And Butterflies</b> –Diane Lepage <b>Insects all around us</b> – Jeff Skevington, Research Scientist, Carleton Univ. and Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada, and Joel Byrne, Mississippi Valley Field Naturalists <b>Nature Photography</b> – Simon Lunn, Field Naturalist, Nature Photographer <b>Seeking Reptiles &amp; small mammals</b> – Dr. Fred Schueler, Bishops Mills Nature Centre <b>Plants: 1) What grows here?</b> – James Page, Canadian Wildlife Federation and Edith Lepine, Field Naturalist <b>2) Mosses &amp; Lichens</b> – Susan Samila, Field Naturalist <b>3) Edible plants</b> - (small local group activity - not a hike) -Roger Nuttall, Field Naturalist
5 – 6 p.m.	Supper break – participants are asked to bring a brown bag supper but snacks, coffee, tea, juice will be available Inventory on your own.
6 – 7:30 p.m.	<b>Birding</b> – Rosemarie Hoppe-Wilhelm, Field Naturalist, and others
7:30 – 9:30 p.m.	<b>Nature's Symphony: Sounds and Creatures of the Night</b> - Simon Lunn and Joel Byrne
9:30 p.m.	Basecamp closes for the night <b>Moth Lure Set-up</b> – Mike Yee <b>Overnight campers – What did you hear and see?</b> Those camping overnight should bring their own breakfast but coffee will be available.

For more information or to pre-register contact Karen  
(613) 264-9273 [mkhunt@ripnet.com](mailto:mkhunt@ripnet.com)

## Otty Lake BioBlitz –Wednesday, July 18, 2012

Time	Activity
7 a.m.	Basecamp opens
7 – 8:30 a.m.	<b>Early morning birding</b> – Sam Kingdon, Rosemarie Hoppe-Wilhelm, Cathy Kari, Field Naturalists
8:30-10 a.m.	<b>What kinds of trees grow here?</b> – Walk with Jeff Ward, Stewardship Coordinator, Community Stewardship Council of Lanark County and Fred Lepine, Field Naturalist
8:30-10a.m.	<b>Reptile and Amphibians – Keeping an eye out for species at risk</b> – James Pagé, Canadian Wildlife Federation, and Emily Verhoek, Community Stewardship Council of Lanark County <b>Looking for Otty Lake molluscs</b> – Dr. Fred Schueler, Bishop's Mills Nature Centre
10 – 11:30 a.m.	<b>Are you a nature detective? Children's program</b> – Ages 4 – 12. Parent accompaniment required. Rebecca Whitman and Leila Stafford, RVCA, Foley Mountain Conservation Area
10 – 12 noon	<b>Benthic monitoring</b> - Counting and classifying the aquatic bugs and shellfish to help understand lake water quality - Adrienne Lewis, RVCA <b>Identifying the fish who make Otty their home</b> - Adrienne Lewis, RVCA <b>Monitoring the health of the Lake</b> - Sarah MacLeod, RVCA <b>Nature photography</b> – Simon Lunn (if 2nd time frame is needed) <b>Rock Talk</b> – Derek Smith and Fred Lepine (Otty Lake geologists) – what rocks are in our watershed – a visit to a Mica trench
12 – 1 p.m.	Have we missed anything?
1 p.m.	Closing Species tally Celebration BBQ
2 p.m.	Tear down

This BioBlitz provides an opportunity for experts to explore the diverse BioBlitz area on their own to gather species information to add to the current database of information about the Otty Lake watershed. It also provides opportunities for members of the local community to come together with experts and knowledgeable local amateurs to learn more about the flora and fauna of the Otty Lake watershed through this series of planned guided hikes and activities.