**DuPage County Centennial Bioblitz (30 minutes)**

Title: 2015 marks the 100th year for the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County. Our primary natural resources related centennial event is the Centennial Bioblitz and a connected public education event, Nature Discovery Day. A bioblitz is a 24-hour scientific survey, the goal of which is to count the species in a defined area. The major purpose of this presentation is to let you know about this and to recruit scientists, citizen scientists and other volunteers.

Check-in: There have been several bioblitzes conducted in the general Chicago region, and our bioblitz in many ways will be parallel to them. Here is check-in at the Kankakee Sands bioblitz, a few years ago. This one had no public education component.

People with clip boards: Scientists and citizen scientists work in teams, scattering over the survey area and making records of what they can find. We intend to have photographer reporters with each team, documenting the process, the species, and calling in updates to be posted at bioblitz HQ.

Amy and robber fly: sometimes your subjects find you. This, incidentally, is not a bumblebee.

Light stand: The survey continues into the night, to include nocturnal species. Here is a light set up to draw insects from nearby woodlands and other habitats, at the Eagle Marsh bioblitz last year near Fort Wayne.

Light from a distance: As you can see, the light is bright from a distance.

People on sheet: Here, people gather specimens from a sheet beneath the light.

Insects on sheet: As you can see, this is an efficient way to survey some of the local biodiversity.

Insects in specimen box: Most groups are surveyed without being collected, but with many groups of invertebrates, collection is necessary and the identification process continues well after the event concludes.

Scientist with microscope and public: An important part of some bioblitzes, including ours, is the opportunity for members of the public to see the scientists in action, preparing and identifying specimens. This was at the Indiana Dunes bioblitz a few years ago.

Jeff Holland and student: People are interested and impressed by the specimens on display.

Scientists resting at table: The social component of a bioblitz is very important, scientists getting to meet and interact with their peers.

Tally sheet: One public education component that we intend to include is an ongoing tally of species. This board was at the dunes event, but we are planning to have digital displays that include photographs of some of the species being found.

Lunch time: Meals are the primary social time.

Box lunches: Amenities provided to scientists and other volunteers include meals and snacks, and we will offer overnight accommodations to those coming from out of town.

Food line: These mealtime images are from the Eagle Marsh bioblitz.

Child given butterfly net: Public education was well done at the Connor Prairie bioblitz a couple years ago, and we have a variety of hands-on activities for families and the interested public that will get them into the prairies, woodlands and wetlands.

Hoosier Herpetological Society: We have already lined up a number of exhibitors, and are looking to add more.

Geology presentation: There will be presentation space, and scientists are invited to share their expertise in informal public presentations.

Summary presentation: Bioblitzes have summaries presented by team leaders at the end of the event.

Blackwell North: Our area includes four of our preserves. This map shows how we have divided the north part of Blackwell Forest Preserve into ecosystem units.

McKee Marsh: North Blackwell includes McKee Marsh, a popular birding location.

South Blackwell: South Blackwell has lakes, and our Urban Stream Research Center.

Shock boat: Electroshocking is one method for surveying fish communities.

St. James Farm map: St. James Farm Forest Preserve will be the location of bioblitz HQ and the Nature Discovery Day event.

Several photos of SJF, concluding with students doing restoration.

Herrick Lake map: Herrick Lake is the third forest preserve in the survey area.

Herrick scene: That preserve has various wetlands, woodlands and meadows.

Danada map: The final preserve is Danada.

Parson’s Grove: Parson’s Grove is a high quality woodland in Danada.

Rice Lake: The preserve also includes prairies, meadows and wetlands.

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