

Sandy Hook BioBlitz 2011!  
Fort Hancock and Surrounding Areas  
Highlands, NJ  
September 16<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>

Thank you for volunteering your time to participate in the Sandy Hook BioBlitz. We are very excited about this event and are happy that you will be able to join us. The goals of the BioBlitz are to add to species lists for as many taxonomic groups present at Sandy Hook as possible, and to increase public awareness of what biodiversity is and the fact that it can exist within our suburban landscape.

***BioBlitz Base Camp:***

The base camp for the Sandy Hook BioBlitz will be setup at the American Littoral Society headquarters in historic Fort Hancock. The base camp will provide you with an area to review your data, take a closer look at your specimens, or just take a break.

***Overview of how it will work:***

Upon check-in at the base camp, you will receive a set of maps for Sandy Hook. You will also receive tally sheets for the taxonomic group that you signed up for. After check-in, volunteers will meet with the scientists who will lead their groups. The groups will then move out into the preserve and inventory as many species as they can. After completing their field work, the groups will return to the base camp to report their findings.

***Guidelines and Procedures:***

The following guidelines and procedures have been established for all the volunteers partaking in the BioBlitz:

- 1. Check-in will begin on Friday, September 16th, at 1:00 p.m. at the BioBlitz base camp located at 18 Harshorne Drive (American Littoral Society Headquarters), but the event does not officially start until 3pm. Everyone participating MUST check-in and fill out volunteer forms and photo waivers!** Please record your arrival time, the approximate location of where you will be going, and your departure time. Please remember to sign-in!
- 2. The scientists' goal is to find and identify as many species as possible within the 24 hour time frame. You do not need to count species, only mark if they are present or absent.** Any organism that does not need to be collected for identification purposes should be observed undisturbed and noted on the BioBlitz data sheet. Certain kinds of organisms may be captured or collected for identification in conformity with the following rules:
  - *Mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and fishes*--If a vertebrate organism needs to be caught to be identified, it should be handled or collected by researchers who hold current NPS and NYSDEC permits. The animal then must be promptly released unharmed after identification. Removal of vertebrate animals from their place of capture is not allowed during this BioBlitz.
  - *Macro-invertebrates (insects, spiders, mollusks, worms, crabs, sea jellies, sea squirts, shrimps, etc.), plants, fungi, and microorganisms*--These organisms should

be handled as minimally as possible, and collecting should be limited to what is needed for identification purposes. Live indigenous (native) organisms, taken to the base camp for the purpose of verifying identifications, should be returned and released promptly and unharmed to their place of origin. Live alien (exotic) organisms once removed from their habitat must not be returned to the wild, but instead must be euthanized and destroyed. Any live organisms removed from the national park must not be returned unless the researcher is authorized by permit to do so. Dead organisms should be destroyed and discarded after analysis.

NPS regulations require that specimens collected within the national park, and later preserved, may be held for further study at another institution only if the following four conditions are met: (1) the investigator must sign Appendix A of the BioBlitz permit, (2) proper museum labels must be prepared, (3) a list of species and quantities must be sent to the Gateway NRA permit coordinator, and (4) the collection must be identified and managed as federal property on loan to the collaborating institution.

*All scientists and volunteers should emphasize non-destructive sampling techniques, and minimize habitat damage associated with their particular sampling methods. Vouchering of specimens is not required at the BioBlitz though photo documentation is appreciated.*

- 3. Sampling Equipment** – You may set up your sampling equipment ANYTIME on Friday, September 16<sup>th</sup> prior to 3:00 p.m., but you may NOT collect or identify anything prior to the scheduled 24-hour BioBlitz period. All equipment must be removed by 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup>. Please note that the BioBlitz site is open to public-use therefore any equipment or traps set up in the field are possible targets for vandalism or theft. Please use discretion when deciding what equipment to use in the preserve.

**4. Data Recording Procedures:**

- Species should be identified to genus and species if it is known. Common names should also be specified if available. Please also record an approximate location (according to the map provided at the base camp) for each individual species that you tally.
- If the group of organisms that you are working with cannot feasibly be identified during the BioBlitz, such as with many of the invertebrate groups, then please try to identify as best you can and note on the tally sheets. This will allow us to get an approximate total number of species for your group at the end of the BioBlitz. You can send us the final identity after the event (see below).
- Any data collected will need to be provided to us ***before the end of the BioBlitz.*** Therefore, please be sure to submit your completed data sheets at the base camp. ***Please be sure to write neatly on the tally sheets!***
- Any further identification that is completed after the end of the BioBlitz should then be sent to: Stevie Thorsen, American Littoral Society, 18 Hartshorne Dr, Highlands, NJ 07732. *Please be aware that you are not required to ID any*

*unidentified specimens beyond the scheduled BioBlitz date, but it would be helpful to the NPS and our final numbers. We hope you will wish to identify any remaining specimens and add them to the lists of species, however, that is your choice.*

5. Since this is an event located in a public park, it is likely that you may need to interact with the public in the field. Please try to be polite and answer their questions as best as you can. Feel free to also bring handouts or other materials that you would think might be helpful to give to people. We will have a table set up for literature that you would like to make available to the public.
6. **Everyone participating in the BioBlitz MUST also checkout!** Please submit all tally sheets when you checkout.

***Additional Information:***

- FREE PARKING will be available at American Littoral Society headquarters.
- Indoor restroom facilities will be available at American Littoral Society headquarters throughout the full 24 hours. At other locations a combination of portable facilities and daytime access indoor facilities is available.
- There will be electricity available at the base camp.
- Refreshments will be available at base camp.
- Please be advised that Sandy Hook is technically closed between the hours of 10:00 pm and 5:00 am. Special passes will be given to those that have to enter the park between those hours, but most people should plan to arrive before 10:00 pm or after 5:00 am for their scheduled shifts. Leaving the park between 10:00 pm and 5:00 am should not be a problem.
- T-shirts, wrist bands, food, and plenty of coffee will be provided for all BioBlitz volunteers. Please be sure to wear your BioBlitz t-shirt and wrist band while out in the field and while getting food (food is only for volunteers).

***Things to Bring:***

- Depending on where you are going, waterproof boots are recommended.
- Field equipment and supplies (nets, scopes, binoculars, waders, field guides, etc.). We will also have some supplies available at the base camp including a limited number of seine nets, collection jars, waders, and dip nets. We will also have a few dissecting scopes at the base camp. If you don't have something that you need, let us know and we will try to get it for you.
- Rain gear (let's hope we don't need it).
- Flashlight – if working at night.
- Insect Repellent.
- Reusable water bottle, we will have access to water at base camp.
- Sun block, sunglasses, hat, and individual needs you may have.

***Contact Information***

If you have any questions please contact Stevie Thorsen, 732-291-0055, [Stevie@littoralsociety.org](mailto:Stevie@littoralsociety.org)

## **SANDY HOOK BIOBLITZ 2011 SCHEDULE**

### **Friday, September 16th**

1:00 p.m.	BioBlitz registration, check-in begins
2:30 p.m.	Opening Ceremonies
3:00 p.m.	Check-in for Shift 1 (3:00-7:00 p.m.)
6:30 p.m.	Check-in for Shift 2 (7:00-11:00 p.m.)
7:00 p.m.	Shift 1 ends, Shift 2 begins
10:30 p.m.	Check-in for Shift 3 (11:00-3:00 a.m.)
11:00 p.m.	Shift 2 ends, Shift 3 begins

### **Saturday, September 17th**

2:30 a.m.	Check-in for Shift 4 (3:00- 7:00 a.m.)
3:00 a.m.	Shift 3 ends, Shift 4 begins
6:30 a.m.	Check-in for Shift 5 (7:00-11:00 a.m.)
7:00 a.m.	Shift 4 ends, Shift 5 begins
10:30 a.m.	Check-in for Shift 6 (11:00- 3:00 p.m.)
11:00 a.m.	Shift 5 ends, Shift 6 begins
3:00 p.m.	Shift 6 ends
4:00 p.m.	Closing Ceremonies

### **Food Schedule Friday, September 16th**

6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	Dinner
6:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Breakfast
11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Lunch

There will be snacks provided in between meals.