



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Counting Heads, Wings, Roots and More at a Cedarburg Bog BioBlitz**

(Madison, WI) Every once in a while, nature needs to stop and take a head count. On July 17<sup>th</sup>, the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin, with help from Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee, the Milwaukee Public Museum and volunteers from throughout the state, will hold a day-long biological survey of Cedarburg Bog State Natural Area in Ozaukee County. The event, called a BioBlitz, is one of three being held in Wisconsin this summer.

“BioBlitzes are kind of like a head count in nature,” noted Jeffrey Potter, coordinator of the events for the Foundation, “you’ve got just twelve hours to count as many species as you can.” Designed as part educational event, part scientific endeavor and part festival, BioBlitzes bring together scientists and the public to explore local biodiversity and the science used to measure and protect it. “We’re going to see how many different species we can find at Cedarburg Bog in just twelve hours; it’s a lot of work, but it’s also a lot of fun” he said.

According to Thomas Meyer of the DNR’s State Natural Area program, the events are a great opportunity to learn about the day-to-day fieldwork conducted by conservation scientists around the state. “This is a great opportunity to work side-by-side with some of the state’s top field ecologists and have some fun learning about Wisconsin’s Great Lakes biodiversity,” Meyer said. Meyer is just one of more than 75 scientists volunteering for the events this summer.

While a few BioBlitzes have been held in Wisconsin before, none have been held at any of Wisconsin’s 600+ State Natural Areas. These specially designated areas are considered “the best of the best” remnants of original Wisconsin landscapes. “They represent a window into our past and a road map for how and why Wisconsin’s Great Lakes coastal habitat should be protected and restored now and in the future,” noted Meyer. “Cedarburg Bog is one of our oldest and most valuable State Natural Areas, so it’s a great place to explore the past and present state of our environment,” he added.

Ecologists and scientists from the Department of Natural Resources, the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee, and the Milwaukee Public Museum, as well as non-profit

conservationists from Friends of Cedarburg Bog, Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, Urban Ecology Center, and Milwaukee Riverkeeper will be on-hand to lead citizen-scientist teams all day.

“This event is open to any one for any amount of time - come for a few hours or stay for the whole day” Potter said. The BioBlitz will run approximately twelve hours, from 6am to 6pm and is free and open to the public. Short, guided data collection trips throughout the day will include plants, insects, birds, mammals, trees, fish, amphibians and more. “If it lives in Cedarburg Bog, we’ll be looking for it,” Potter said.

If you’re interested in participating in the BioBlitz, meet at the event “base camp” at the UW Field Station at 3095 Blue Goose Road in Saukville, WI. The station will serve as the BioBlitz headquarters with a field lab for scientists, a special activity area for kids and families, and a small theater where guest speakers will offer short presentations on a host of topics throughout the day.

Guest speakers include Jean Lord from Pine View Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, who will bring live raptors and talk about her work nursing wildlife back to health; Dr. Jim Reinartz from the UW - Milwaukee, who will talk about the history of the bog and offer bog walks; and Loren Ayers, from the DNR, who will give a Wisconsin mammal talk with live animals on display throughout the day.

Registration is recommended and free, but not required. Visit [www.wisconservation.org](http://www.wisconservation.org) and follow the “BioBlitz” link on the home page for details and more information.

**EDITOR’S NOTE:** Royalty-free images are available for this story, just visit <http://wisconservation.org/index.php?page=media-images> to select and download images with photo credits and captions.

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*The Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization based in Madison, Wisconsin. For more than twenty years, the Foundation has worked with citizens, businesses, non-profits and the government to promote the protection and enjoyment of Wisconsin’s public lands, waters and wildlife. Learn more and donate online at [www.wisconservation.org](http://www.wisconservation.org).*

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