

Berkshire Bioblitz Report 2016

Berkshire Bioblitz 2016 took place at Mt. Greylock Reservation State Park on Saturday June 18 to Sunday June 19, 2016. The 2016 event was sponsored by the Massachusetts Geographic Alliance under a grant from National Geographic Education Foundation and Elms College and co-sponsored by Dr. Augie's Science Education Programs and Berkshire Environmental Action Team (BEAT). A special thanks goes out to Scott LaGreca for working with the folks at Elm's college and Jane Winn for being the go to person for everything the day of the event.



Mt. Greylock Reservation

Mt. Greylock is the highest natural point in Massachusetts at 3,489 feet (1,063m). With its peak located in the northwest corner of the state in the western part of the town of Adams in Berkshire County. This bioblitz was held at the base in the town of Lanesborough. The area around the visitor's center and the area called Jone's Nose were the survey areas.



The evening programs were the “Fire Fly” count with the seasoned fire fly counter Scott LaGreca and the beautiful moth collecting set up by iNaturalist, Berkshire Naturalist: Jason Crockwell.

Participants

A total of 31 experts and 80 community members participated in the 2016 Berkshire Bioblitz.

Experts:

John Wheeler (fungi)

Julia Blyth (leaf miners)

Charlie Eiseman (leaf miners)

Alex Lak (vascular plants)

Tom Phillips (moss)

Bob Wernerehl (botany)

Ann Ramminger (botany)

Scott LaGreca (lichens)

Bill Morrhead (lepidopera/herps)

Kate Storms

Nancy Slack (lichens)

Jason Crockwell (entomology, mollusks, herps)

Kirsten Martin (odonates)

Lisa Provencher (entomology)

Barbara Bys

Arlene Kowal (organizer)

Hillary Filios (organize

Elia DeMolino (mammals)

Jane Winn (invasive species)

Nikki Hall (birds)

Audrey Werner (birds)

Hal March (birds)

Chuck Jonson (birds)

Charlie Dutelle (birds)

Gael Hurley (birds, entomology)

Diane Ciaburri (birds)

Ivy Ciaburn (birds)

Hannah Provencher (fishes)

Jude Stall (generalist)

Tally and Counts

The tally at the end of the 24 hours was 563 species.

Tally Breakdown:	centipedes: 174
Vascular plants: 120	Mollusks: 3
Fungi: 42	Amphibians: 4
Lichens: 46	Reptiles: 1
Bryophytes (mosses etc.): 34	Birds: 36
Arthropods including spiders and	Mammals: 5

With regards to “big finds”, MA State Botanist, Bob Wernerehl, who attended and led our plant survey, found at least one plant new to Massachusetts: a variety of a grass (genus: *Poa*). It is known from the northern New England states, but this was the first record for Massachusetts.

With regards to lichens: One “big find” is that there were far less “reindeer lichens” (*Cladonia* species) in the Rounds Rock area than there were 20 years ago.



The tallies were added to iNaturalist project: Berkshire BioBlitz 2016.

Here is the link to the observations:

<http://www.inaturalist.org/projects/berkshire-bioblitz>

Thank you to all the experts and organizers that volunteered their time to collect and count and educate!

Lisa Provencher
Co-Coordinator
Berkshire Bioblitz