



**BioBlitz 2007** HOSTED BY  
**MIDDLETOWN, CT**  
**JUNE 8-9**

Counters should be registered with Dave Wagner or their respective TWIG leaders. We have exceeded capacity: 180+ counters from 10 states....tapped out on T-shirts, food, drinks, electrical service, tables, etc. Read and bring copy of this document.

**TIME:** Try to set up by 2:00 p.m. Friday, June 8, 2007; official start at 3:00 p.m.

**WEBSITE:** <http://web.uconn.edu/mnh/bioblitz//BioBlitz2007.html> FOR PROGRAM, DIRECTIONS, AND GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Directions in brief: Exit Route 66 onto Route 157 (West Street) and follow south for one mile to end (Wadsworth Street). Turn right onto Wadsworth. Wilbert Snow School is at 299 Wadsworth, on your left. Enter at west end of school grounds, pull up to right hand side of building (gymnasium) – drive around to the back of the building to unload gear and set up. Volunteers will be there to help you unload and park.

**PARKING:** Arrive one hour early! Pull up to the right hand side of the building (gymnasium) and drive around to back of the building to unload. There will be NO VEHICULAR ACCESS at Snow School between 3:00-3:45 p.m. when kids are boarding buses. After 3:45 p.m. and until 9:00 a.m. Saturday, counters/scientists can park wherever at Snow School. **You must move your cars before the public arrives** (after 9:00 a.m. Saturday). Scientists' cars should be moved to the nearby off-site parking areas. Volunteers will be there to help get you unloaded (again behind gymnasium), and direct you to parking areas. There will be a shuttle to get you to and fro.

**COUNT AREA:** The 2007 Connecticut State BioBlitz area is not bounded; any natural community in Middletown is eligible. However, we encourage all TWIGs/counters to focus their efforts on three primary areas:

- \* Wilbert Snow School (BioBlitz Headquarters), plus the two adjacent properties to the west, Long Hill Estate and Wadsworth State Park.
- \* Trap rock ridge system from Higby Mountain northward to town line and eastward through Middletown Reservoir lands, approximately 1700 acres.
- \* Connecticut River and adjacent floodplain, but especially the “North End Peninsula” along the Coginchaug River.

**SITE MAPS:** There will be four maps provided to counters: Snow School + Long hill Estate, Wadsworth State Park, Higby Mountain, and the "north end" peninsula area. Maps will include major roads and some trails. A limited number (about 75 of each) of black and white hard copies will be available at the check-in desk. Color versions will be

posted on the BioBlitz Website for scientists, but you will need to print these out prior to BioBlitz.

**ROAD MAPS:** The sites are spread around town, separated by as much as 20 minutes (without traffic). Bring your favorite road maps to navigate—we will have another 50 or so town maps at the check-in desk, but they are no substitute for a road map with which you are familiar. Middletown also has wonderful restaurants for those in search of a good meal during your 24-hour tour of duty...road maps will help.

**DATA/SPECIES LISTS:** Scientists are asked to make a species list for each separate locality visited. We are only interested in *definitively* identified plants and animals (vertebrates, butterflies, dragonflies, etc.)—guesses and tentative IDs should be clearly indicated with question marks. Keep and submit a species list per locality with exact locality or better GPS coordinates. Trip lists can be turned into the reception desk at any point during BioBlitz. Please bring GPS units and notebook for recording species and pencils or pens (again, plan on rain).

*State-listed species:* Counters should submit exact occurrence data for rare species. Nancy Murray from the DEP will be present to fill out data submissions forms.

**REGISTRATION:** Counters/scientists will need to check in at the school to obtain a BioBlitz T-shirt, registration packet, meal card, parking document for dashboard, Middletown maps, program, etc. Please record your cell phone number.

**FOOD, LODGING, AND T-SHIRT:** We will provide food and beverages for all registered counters and volunteers wearing a BioBlitz T-shirt or with other proof of registration. We will be sleeping on the floor in classrooms, especially if the weather is iffy. Bring a ground pad and sleeping bag. Some tent camping is possible, but all tents must be taken down and stowed by 9:00 a.m. on Saturday the 9<sup>th</sup>.

**THINGS TO BRING:** Always plan on rain.

Collecting bag, hand lens, vials, hat, insect (and tick) repellent, etc.

Notebook for recording species and pencils or pens (again plan on rain)

GPS unit

Sleeping bag and ground pad

Change of clothes and towel

Couple plastic bags

Flashlight and extra batteries

Any special collecting equipment

**SAFETY ISSUES:** Middletown is a very safe city but nevertheless:

\* counters should collect in groups of 2 or more

\* arrange to have or borrow a cell phone

\* leave your cell phone number at the check-in table.

**SITE RECON AND ACCESS:** separate document