



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

### **SITE RECON AND ACCESS:**

1) **Snow School + Long Hill Estate.** Just out the back door of the school and gymnasium there is an expansive wooded landscape of intermediate to high quality along with a nearby pond and a few trails. There is very little open or early successional habitat. Be mindful and respectful of the activities taking place at the Long Hill Estate. The estate enjoys nearly continual use for receptions and/or weddings in June--steer clear of the mansion, guests, and their festivities.

**Access:** Both properties can be accessed quickly on foot. There will be limited parking in the overflow parking area on Long Hill estate. The entrance to the mansion and estate is just a bit west of Snow School and Wadsworth Avenue.

2) **North end peninsula (wetland floodplain along Coginchaug River).** This expansive and unexplored wetland is located west of Saint John's Cemetery.

Driving Directions (From Snow School parking lot)

1. Turn right to head to Long Lane (1/4 mile).
2. Turn left onto Long Lane, which bends right and becomes Cross St.
3. Go past Wesleyan Freeman Athletic Center on right; go through the light, through the next stop sign, and to the bottom of hill, which is High Street.
4. Turn left onto High St.
5. Go through 2 lights to Washington St. Cross Washington and go several more blocks to Spring Street.
6. Turn left onto Spring St.
7. Go up Spring Street to the top of the hill and turn right on Johnson St.
8. The entrance to St. John's Cemetery is on your left.

**Access:** We have permission to access the Coginchaug floodplain via the cemetery. Please park in the far back left (southwest) corner and access the property through the gate (it will be located to your right). This is an expansive area with a perched or bluff forest, a dry field, acres of marsh, etc. (great vistas for blacklighting).

### **3) Higby Mountain and Middletown Reservoir lands.**

There are two access points: (1) The roadside pullout along Route 66 past Guida's (approx. 1/2 mile), before summit on 66, and (2) Middletown Reservoir access, off of Route 66 approximately 1/3 mile west of junction of Route 66 and Higby Roads (and Red Dog Saloon).

Access Point 1: The trail leaving north from the roadside pull-off will take you to Higby Mountain, the state's premier trap rock summit. Here you will find beautiful views of Connecticut's central valley and many unique plants and animals.

Access Point 2: Counters will also be allowed to access watershed lands. This is fabulous land and an exceptional opportunity to gain access to and sample the Middletown Reservoir lands -- some 1700 acres with a variety of community types. *Anyone wishing to access the water district lands must be wearing a BioBlitz t-shirt.* Counters will be asked to register upon entry and sign out upon leaving--likely Middletown will post police at the entry gate. There is an extensive system of dirt roads and trails inside the watershed lands. If you have four-wheel drive you will be able to drive nearly up to summit of the trap rock ridge. The road system will be available to those with lots of sampling equipment: batteries, traps, generators, etc.

**IMPORTANT:** No one is to have direct skin contact with town waters: obviously no swimming and wading unless you are wearing waders. Waders need to be cleaned prior to entry and dipped into or sprayed with >1% Chlorox solution. We will have spray bottles available along with a dipping tank near the lower reservoir. If you are a wader, plan to sample here first before you contaminate your footgear, etc. in other waters.

Maps to the Middletown Reservoirs lands and instructions for conduct inside the lands will be available as separate documents at the BioBlitz registration desk.