



Otty Lake BioBlitz

May 15-16, 2010



Otty Lake BioBlitz

May 15th and 16th, 2010 marked the Otty Lake Association's first community BioBlitz event. The 24-hour event was held on the properties of two lake residents and encompassed approximately 14 acres of forest, creek, and wetland. The purpose of the BioBlitz was to provide the Otty Lake community with an opportunity to get together and learn about the natural heritage features of their lake, interact with knowledgeable biologists and naturalists, and participate in expert-guided nature walks. Secondary to the public participation component was the collection of a biological inventory of the two properties conducted by the expert volunteers. The resulting list of flora and fauna species will be a valuable addition to the Otty Lake Management Plan and existing species list for the lake community. This list will also provide a baseline inventory for future monitoring of biodiversity on the lake.

The event focused around a number of expert-guided hikes throughout the properties with themes such as "plants that like wet feet", "dragonflies and damselflies", "small mammal trapping", "sounds of the night" and others. Approximately 60 volunteers, experts, lake residents and enthusiasts came out to participate. The event was truly an example of the beneficial nature of partnerships as each partner group was able to contribute in a unique and valuable way. Contributions to the event were provided by the following groups:

Otty Lake Association
 Community Stewardship Council of Lanark County
 Rideau Valley Field Naturalists
 Rideau Valley Conservation Authority
 Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources

Scouts Canada
 Township of Drummond-North Elmsley
 Lanark County
 Oliver's Treeworks
 Lanark County Camera Club

The event would not have been such a success without the contributions of the volunteer team who helped with everything including setting up, manning the registration table, providing food and refreshments and entering the collected data into the specially designed database.

Special thanks are given to the leaders of the guided hikes:

Mike Yee (RVCA)
 Susan Samila
 Edith Lepine
 Heather Lunn

Simon Lunn
 James Page (MNR)
 Jim Ronson
 Jay Fitzsimmons

Fred Lepine
 Jim Agar
 Adrienne Lewis (RVCA)
 Sarah McLeod (RVCA)
 Stephanie Popiel

A very special thanks to Roger and Diana Nuttall, Rosemarie Hoppe-Wilhelm and George Ticehurst for graciously allowing the use of heir beautiful properties for the event, and to Karen Hunt who brought it all together.

- Meaghan McDonald

Report prepared by Meaghan McDonald. Pictures by Meaghan McDonald and Jeff Ward, Community Stewardship Council of Lanark County. Aerial map by Susan Sentesy, Community Stewardship Council of Lanark County.

Location

The BioBlitz took place on the private properties of lake residents Roger and Diana Nuttall and Rosemarie Hoppe-Wilhelm and her husband George Ticehurst. These neighbouring properties are located south of Perth, Ontario and just east of Otty Lake along Jebb's Creek. Consisting mainly of forest and wetland habitats, the area offered a significant and sometimes surprising diversity of species in comparison to its size (approximately 14 acres). A beautiful view of open water off of Rosemarie's new dock was a popular bird watching location and a boardwalk leading from the mainland to a small island referred to as "Roger's Island" provided the perfect opportunity to observe the variety of wetland plants, frogs, and insects. Sunny, open areas along the roadside and around the houses also provided an excellent location for catching insects such as dragonflies, damselflies, and butterflies as well as an area for participants to gather at the basecamp. The privilege of being able to spend the weekend exploring these beautiful properties was a major highlight of the event.

Basecamp

The BioBlitz basecamp was set up in an open area on the Nuttall's property where access to water and electricity was generously provided. Covered by a large tent on loan from Scouts Canada, the basecamp housed the registration table, refreshments table, database entry table, and a variety of resources including field guides, displays, and interactive learning activities. The daily schedule, a large aerial map of the properties, and a final tally count were also on display and as the blitz ended Sunday afternoon, a complimentary barbeque of hamburgers and veggie burgers was provided for the volunteers and participants.



Basecamp volunteers/ Registration table (J. Ward)



*Diversity of resource materials
(M. McDonald)*



*Fantastic Fungi Display
(M. McDonald)*

Data Collection

Species observations were recorded by the experts throughout the 24 hour event. Species checklists for eastern Ontario were provided along with forms for recording additional data in the event of finding at risk or uncommon species. Additional tally sheets were also provided for species not found on the checklists. The experts were asked to periodically turn in their lists to the tally masters back at the basecamp, David Reesor and Rick Stojack. The information was then entered into the Access database designed by David Crossman of the Kemptville MNR specifically for BioBlitz events. This was the first time the database was used, and after a few kinks were worked out, the program was a success, significantly reducing the time needed for data entry and providing a constant running tally of species throughout the event.



*David and Rick diligently entering all
species records (J. Ward)*

Species Count

FAUNA

Reptiles & Amphibians

Northern Leopard Frogs, Green Frogs and American Bullfrogs were found in abundance along the boardwalk to Roger's Island. During the amphibian and reptile walk lead by the RVCA's Mike Yee, one Eastern Red-backed Salamander was found. Participants were encouraged to look under rocks and fallen logs, a favourite hiding spot for these abundant but elusive amphibians. Two common snakes were observed during the event, the Eastern Gartersnake and the Common Watersnake. While the provincially threatened Gray Ratsnake (formerly the Black Ratsnake) has been observed on the south-west shore of Otty Lake (near Murphy's Point Provincial Park), there are no known sightings of the large snake in the area surrounding the BioBlitz location.

Reptile & Amphibian Count:

Amphibians

American Bullfrog (Rana catesbeiana)

Eastern Red-backed Salamander (Plethodon cinereus)

Gray Treefrog (Hyla versicolor)

Green Frog (Rana clamitans)

Northern Leopard Frog (Rana pipiens)

Spring Peeper (Pseudacris crucifer)

Reptiles

Common Watersnake (Nerodia sipedon sipedon)

Eastern Gartersnake (Thamnophis sirtalis sirtalis)

Midland Painted Turtle (Chrysemys picta marginata)

Snapping Turtle (Chelydra serpentina)

Total: 10



Leopard Frog (M. McDonald)



Green Frog (M. McDonald)

Mammals

Several small mammal traps were set by James Page, Natural Heritage Biologist from the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. These capture-and-release traps are intended to catch small mammals such as mice, shrews, voles, chipmunks, small squirrels, etc. The traps were strategically placed along transects, baited with a peanut butter-seed mixture and set. No mammals were captured during day one, but after being left overnight without disturbances from BioBlitzers, a deer mouse was found captured in one of the traps the following morning. Towards the end of the day on Sunday, a rambunctious chipmunk was also released from one of traps. No mammals were harmed during this exercise and were well rewarded with the peanut-butter bait while awaiting release.

Mammal Count:

Deer Mouse (Peromyscus maniculatus)
Eastern Chipmunk (Tamias striatus)

Red Squirrel (Tamiasciurus hudsonicus)
White-tailed Deer (Odocoileus virginianus)

Total: 4



James setting a small mammal trap (J. Ward)



Identifying our first catch: Deer Mouse (J. Ward)

Birds

An exceptional bird count was possible due to the diverse habitat and high level of expertise provided by the participants. The early bird truly does catch the worm, as the early morning canoe trip by birder-extraordinaire Stew Hamill yielded the highest (and most diverse bird) count. A particularly interesting discovery was that of a nest of newly hatched robins just outside the front door of one of the property owners. Following this discovery, caution was taken to avoid disturbing the nest and its occupants

Bird Count:

<i>American Crow (Corvus brachyrhynchos)</i>	<i>Northern Rough-winged Swallow</i>
<i>American Goldfinch (Carduelis tristis)</i>	<i>(Stelgidopteryx serripennis)</i>
<i>American Robin (Turdus migratorius)</i>	<i>Northern Waterthrush (Seiurus</i>
<i>Baltimore Oriole (Icterus galbula)</i>	<i>noveboracensis)</i>
<i>Belted Kingfisher (Megaceryle alcyon)</i>	<i>Osprey (Pandion haliaetus)</i>
<i>Black-capped Chickadee (Poecile atricapillus)</i>	<i>Ovenbird (Seiurus aurocapilla)</i>
<i>Blue Jay (Cyanocitta cristata)</i>	<i>Pine Warbler (Dendroica pinus)</i>
<i>Broad-winged Hawk (Buteo platypterus)</i>	<i>Red-breasted Nuthatch (Sitta canadensis)</i>
<i>Brown-headed Cowbird (Molothrus ater)</i>	<i>Red-eyed Vireo (Vireo olivaceus)</i>
<i>Canada Goose (Branta canadensis)</i>	<i>Red-winged Blackbird (Agelaius phoeniceus)</i>
<i>Chipping Sparrow (Spizella passerina)</i>	<i>Rose-breasted Grosbeak (Pheucticus</i>
<i>Common Grackle (Quiscalus quiscula)</i>	<i>ludovicianus)</i>
<i>Common Loon (Gavia immer)</i>	<i>Ruffed Grouse (Bonasa umbellus)</i>
<i>Common Yellowthroat (Geothlypis trichas)</i>	<i>Scarlet Tanager (Piranga olivacea)</i>
<i>Downy Woodpecker (Picoides pubescens)</i>	<i>Song Sparrow (Melospiza melodia)</i>
<i>Eastern Kingbird (Tyrannus tyrannus)</i>	<i>Spotted Sandpiper (Actitis macularius)</i>
<i>Eastern Phoebe (Sayornis phoebe)</i>	<i>Swamp Sparrow (Melospiza georgiana)</i>
<i>European Starling (Sturnus vulgaris)</i>	<i>Tree Swallow (Tachycineta bicolor)</i>
<i>Gray Catbird (Dumetella carolinensis)</i>	<i>Turkey Vulture (Cathartes aura)</i>
<i>Great Blue Heron (Ardea herodias)</i>	<i>Veery (Catharus fuscescens)</i>
<i>Great Crested Flycatcher (Myiarchus crinitus)</i>	<i>Warbling Vireo (Vireo gilvus)</i>
<i>Hairy Woodpecker (Picoides villosus)</i>	<i>White-breasted Nuthatch (Sitta carolinensis)</i>
<i>Hooded Merganser (Lophodytes cucullatus)</i>	<i>White-throated Sparrow (Zonotrichia albicollis)</i>
<i>Magnolia Warbler (Dendroica magnolia)</i>	<i>Wilson's Snipe (Gallinago delicata)</i>
<i>Mallard (Anas platyrhynchos)</i>	<i>Wood Duck (Aix sponsa)</i>
<i>Mourning Dove (Zenaida macroura)</i>	<i>Yellow Warbler (Dendroica petechia)</i>
<i>Northern Cardinal (Cardinalis cardinalis)</i>	<i>Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (Sphyrapicus varius)</i>
<i>Northern Flicker (Colaptes auratus)</i>	

Total: 52

Fish

Two species of fish were identified during the event; one washed ashore and the other captured while netting invertebrates. A more in-depth look at the fish diversity in Otty Lake will take place later on in the year (July) when a *permit to collect fish for scientific purpose* can be obtained for seine net sampling.

Fish Count:

Bluegill (Lepomis macrochirus)

Pumpkinseed (Lepomis gibbosus)

Total: 2

Invertebrates

To everyone's relief black flies and mosquitoes were in relatively low quantities during both BioBlitz days. Dragonflies and damselflies however seemed to be in high abundance and were actively captured and identified by enthusiast Jim Ronson (RVFN) with assistance from Jay Fitzsimmons (Ottawa University). Adrienne Lewis and Sarah McLeod from the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority were also on hand to demonstrate how benthic invertebrates are sampled, processed and identified in order to monitor creek health. Microscopes were available for closer inspection of the tiny worms, molluscs and arthropods and participants were encouraged to sort through the muddy catch for specimens.

Invertebrate Count:

Invertebrates (Insects)

American Dog Tick (Dermacentor variabilis)

Ant sp. (Formicidae sp.)

Beetle sp. (Coleoptera sp.)

Black Fly sp. (Simuliidae sp.)

Bumble Bee sp. (Bombus sp.)

Caddisfly sp. (Trichoptera sp.)

Dragonfly Larvae sp. (Anisoptera sp.)

Field Cricket sp. (Gryllus sp.) (Spring Field

Cricket (Gryllus veletis))

Mayfly sp. (Ephemeroptera sp.)

Midge sp. (Chironomidae)

Milkweed Leaf Beetle (Labidomera trimaculata)

Stink Bug sp. (Pentatomidae sp.)

Water Strider sp. (Gerridae sp.)

Yellow Jacket sp. (Vespula sp./ Dolichovespula sp.)

Butterflies, Skippers & Moths

Eastern Tent Caterpillar Moth (Malacosoma americanum)

Eastern Tiger Swallowtail (Papilio glaucus)

Dragonflies & Damselflies

Canada Whiteface (Leucorrhinia patricia)

Eastern Forktail (Ischnura verticalis)

Four-spotted Skimmer (Libellula quadrimaculata)

Spiny Baskettail (Epiptera spinigera)

Invertebrates (Non-Insects)

Bivalve sp. (Bivalvia sp.) (Unionidae Family)

Crab Spider sp. (Xysticus)

Earthworm sp. (Oligochaeta sp.)

Scud sp (Amphipoda sp.)

Snail sp. (Gastropoda sp. (Snail))

Sow Bug sp. (Isopoda sp.)

Spider sp. (Arachnida sp.)

Zebra Mussel (Dreissena polymorpha)

Total: 28



Examining Adrienne and Sarah's catch (J. Ward)



Taking a closer look (J. Ward)

FLORA

Trees, Shrubs & Forbs

Plant counts were lead by naturalists Susan Samila and Edith Lepine. Throughout the weekend, the duo lead several guided walks and managed to identify the highest number of species including wetland and upland plants, trees and shrubs, mosses and ferns. The large diversity of trees on the properties was explored during a guided walk led by Fred Lepine and Jim Agar on Sunday morning. The Northern Pitcher Plants along the boardwalk to Roger's Island were the highlight of the plant count. These carnivorous plants survive in nitrogen-poor conditions such as wetlands by trapping and digesting insects in their "pitcher-like" leaves. (Note: Forbs is a technical term for herbaceous (non-woody) flowering plants, not including grasses, sedges and rushes)

Tree, Shrub & Forb Count:

Trees

American Basswood (Tilia americana)
American Beech (Fagus grandifolia)
American Elm (Ulmus americana)
American Larch (Larix laricina)
Balsam Fir (Abies balsamea)
Bitter-nut Hickory (Carya cordiformis)
Black Ash (Fraxinus nigra)

Black Maple (Acer nigrum)
Black Mustard (Brassica nigra)
Black Walnut (Juglans nigra)
Black Willow (Salix nigra)
Box Elder (AKA Manitoba Maple) (Acer negundo)
Buckthorn (Rhamnus cathartica)
Eastern Hemlock (Tsuga canadensis)

Eastern Hop-hornbeam (AKA Ironwood)
(Ostrya virginiana)
Eastern White Cedar (Thuja occidentalis)
Eastern White Pine (Pinus strobus)
Hybrid Maple (AKA Freeman's Maple) (Acer x
freemanii)
Large-tooth Aspen (Populus grandidentata)
Mossy-cup Oak (AKA Bur Oak) (Quercus
macrocarpa)
Northern Red Oak (Quercus rubra)
Paper Birch (AKA White Birch) (Betula
papyrifera)
Red Maple (Acer rubrum)
Red Spruce (Picea rubens)
Sugar Maple (Acer saccharum var. saccharum)
Swamp White Oak (Quercus bicolor)
White Ash (Fraxinus americana)
White Oak (Quercus alba)
White Spruce (Picea glauca)
Wild Black Cherry (Prunus serotina)
Yellow Birch (Betula alleghaniensis)

Shrubs & Forbs

Allegheny Blackberry (Rubus allegheniensis)
Allegheny Service-berry (Amelanchier laevis)
American Bog Violet (Viola conspersa)
American Fly-honeysuckle (Lonicera
canadensis)
American Ginseng (Panax quinquefolius)
American Hazelnut (Corylus americana)
American Spikenard (Aralia racemosa)
Barren Strawberry (Waldsteinia fragarioides)
Beaked Hazelnut (Corylus cornuta)
Bicknell Northern Crane's-bill (Geranium
bicknellii)
Black Holly (Ilex verticillata)
Bloodroot (Sanguinaria canadensis)
Blue Bead-lily (Clintonia borealis)
Blue Cohosh (Caulophyllum
giganteum)
Blueflag (Iris versicolor)
Bluestem Goldenrod (Solidago caesia)
Bristly Sarsaparilla (Aralia hispida)
Brown-seed Dandelion (Taraxacum officinale)
Bulbous Bitter-cress (Cardamine bulbosa)

Bull Thistle (Cirsium vulgare)
Canada Anemone (Anemone canadensis)
Canada Lettuce (Lactuca canadensis)
Carolina Horse-nettle (Solanum carolinense)
Catnip (Nepeta cataria)
Choke Cherry (Prunus virginiana)
Colt's Foot (Tussilago farfara)
Common Apple (Malus pumila)
Common Boneset (Eupatorium perfoliatum)
Common Burdock (Arctium minus ssp. minus)
Common Buttonbush (Cephalanthus
occidentalis)
Common Elderberry (Sambucus nigra ssp.
canadensis)
Common Hawthorn (Crataegus macrosperma)
Common Red Raspberry (Rubus idaeus ssp.
idaeus)
Common Starwort (Stellaria media)
Common Yarrow (Achillea millefolium var.
millefolium)
Cypress Spurge (Euphorbia cyparissias)
Daisy Fleabane (Erigeron hyssopifolius)
Downy Solomon's-seal (Polygonatum
pubescens)
Downy Yellow Violet (Viola pubescens var.
pubescens)
Early Meadowrue (Thalictrum dioicum)
Eastern Leatherwood (Dirca palustris)
Eastern Ninebark (Physocarpus opulifolius)
English Plantain (Plantago lanceolata)
European Frogbit (Hydrocharis morsus-ranae)
European Red Elder (Sambucus racemosa)
False Solomon's Seal (Maianthemum
racemosum)
Field Bindweed (Convolvulus arvensis)
Fleabane (AKA Horseweed) (Conyza
canadensis)
Floating Pondweed (Potamogeton natans)
Glossy Buckthorn (Frangula alnus)
Great Mullein (Verbascum thapsus)
Great-spurred Violet (Viola selkirkii)
Ground Juniper (Juniperus communis)
Gypsy-weed (AKA Common Speedwell)
(Veronica officinalis)
Hairy Sweet-cicely (Osmorhiza claytonii)

Hardhack Spiraea (Spiraea tomentosa)
Heart-leaf Aster (Symphyotrichum cordifolium)
Herb-robert (Geranium robertianum)
Hollyhock (Alcea rosea)
Jack-in-the-pulpit (Arisaema triphyllum)
Kansas Milkweed (AKA Common Milkweed)(Asclepias syriaca)
Kidney-leaf White Violet (Viola renifolia)
Kidney-leaved Buttercup (Ranunculus abortivus)
Large Yellow Pond-lily (Nuphar advena)
Late Lowbush Blueberry (Vaccinium angustifolium)
Liverleaf (AKA Sharp Lobe Hepatica) (Hepatica nobilis var. acuta)
Maple-leaf Viburnum (Viburnum acerifolium)
Meadow Goat's-beard (Tragopogon dubius)
Nannyberry (Viburnum lentago)
Narrow-leaved Meadow-sweet (Spiraea alba)
Northern Pitcher-plant (Sarracenia purpurea)
Northern Starflower (Trientalis borealis)
Orange Daylily (Hemerocallis fulva)
Orange Hawkweed (Hieracium aurantiacum)
Oxeye Daisy (Leucanthemum vulgare)
Partridge-berry (Mitchella repens)
Philadelphia Fleabane (Erigeron philadelphicus)
Pin Cherry (Prunus pensylvanica)
Poison Ivy (Toxicodendron radicans ssp. negundo)
Prickly Gooseberry (Ribes cynosbati)
Prickly Rose (Rosa acicularis)
Purple Flowering Raspberry (Rubus odoratus)
Purple Loosestrife (Lythrum salicaria)
Pussy Willow (Salix discolor)
Pussy-toes (Antennaria howellii ssp. canadensis)
Red Baneberry (Actaea rubra)
Red Clover (Trifolium pratense)
Red Trillium (Trillium erectum)
Red-osier Dogwood (Cornus sericea)
Riverbank Grape (Vitis riparia)

Rose Twisted-stalk (Streptopus lanceolatus)
Rough Bedstraw (Galium asprellum)
Round Lobe Hepatica (Hepatica nobilis var. obtusa)
Silvery Cinquefoil (Potentilla argentea)
Small Cranberry (Vaccinium oxycoccos)
Southern Broadleaf Enchanter's Nightshade (Circaea lutetiana)
Speckled Alder (Alnus incana)
Spotted Jewel-weed (Impatiens capensis)
Starflower False Solomon's-seal (Maianthemum stellatum)
Swamp Milkweed (Asclepias incarnata)
Swamp Red Currant (Ribes triste)
Sweet Bayberry (AKA Sweet Gale) (Myrica gale)
Sweet-scent Bedstraw (Galium triflorum)
Tall Hairy Groovebur (Agrimonia gryposepala)
Tufted Vetch (Vicia cracca)
Velvetleaf Blueberry (Vaccinium myrtilloides)
Virginia Strawberry (Fragaria virginiana)
Virginia Virgin-bower (Clematis virginiana)
Water Loosestrife (Lysimachia thyrsoflora)
White Baneberry (Actaea pachypoda)
White Clover (Trifolium repens)
White Trillium (Trillium grandiflorum)
White Water-lily (Nymphaea odorata ssp. odorata)
Wild Calla (Calla palustris)
Wild Carrot (Daucus carota)
Wild Columbine (Aquilegia canadensis)
Wild Licorice (Galium circaezans)
Wild Parsnip (Berula erecta)
Wild Sarsaparilla (Aralia nudicaulis)
Wild-lily-of-the-valley (AKA Canada Mayflower) (Maianthemum canadense)
Wood Anemone (Anemone quinquefolia)
Woodland Strawberry (Fragaria vesca)
Woolly Blue Violet (Viola sororia)
Yellow Evening Primrose (Calylophus serrulatus)
Yellow Trout-lily (Erythronium americanum)

Total: 153



Northern Pitcher Plants (M. McDonald)



Example of plant diversity. Note: Wild Sarsaparilla, Solomon's Seal, Northern Starflower, Canada Mayflower, etc. etc. (M. McDonald)

Non-Vascular Plants

Non-vascular plants include the bryophytes (mosses, liverworts and hornworts) and algae. Mosses prefer damp, shaded areas such as forests and creek sides, two habitats well represented throughout the BioBlitz properties. Several mosses were identified during the “plants that like wet feet” walk.

Non-Vascular Plant Count:

Abietinella Moss (Abietinella abietina)
Awned Hair Cap Moss (Polytrichum piliferum)
Broom Moss (Dicranum scoparium)
Common Fern Moss (Thuidium delicatulum)
Common Hair Cap Moss (Polytrichum commune var. commune)

Knight's Plume (Ptilium crista-castrensis)
Nodding Pohlia Moss (Pohlia nutans)
Pin Cushion Moss (Leucobryum glaucum)
Ribbed Bog Moss (Aulacomnium palustre)
Sphagnum (Sphagnum squarrosum)
Yellow Starry Fen Moss (Campylium stellatum)

Total: 11

Ferns & Fern Allies

Ferns and Fern allies consist of true ferns, horsetails, and clubmosses. These seedless plants are found in a variety of habitats, particularly in moist forests and wetlands. The diversity of ferns identified on the BioBlitz properties was quite high.

Fern Count:

Bracken Fern (Pteridium aquilinum)

Crested Shield-fern (Dryopteris cristata)

Fan Club-moss (Diphasiastrum digitatum)

Interrupted Fern (Osmunda claytoniana)

*Lady Fern (Athyrium filix-femina ssp.
angustum)*

Low Spike-moss (Selaginella selaginoides)

Marginal Wood-fern (Dryopteris marginalis)

Marsh Fern (Thelypteris palustris)

Meadow Horsetail (Equisetum pratense)

New York Fern (Thelypteris noveboracensis)

*Northern Bog Clubmoss (Lycopodiella
inundata)*

Northern Maidenhair-fern (Adiantum pedatum)

Oak Fern (Gymnocarpium dryopteris)

Ostrich Fern (Matteuccia struthiopteris)

Rattlesnake Fern (Botrychium virginianum)

Rock Polypody (Polypodium virginianum)

Royal Fern (Osmunda regalis)

Sensitive Fern (Onoclea sensibilis)

Silvery Spleenwort (Deparia acrostichoides)

Spinulose Shield Fern (Dryopteris carthusiana)

Stiff Clubmoss (Lycopodium annotinum)

Wood Fern (Dryopteris x neowherryi)

Total: 22



Grasses, Sedges & Rushes

This group (the graminoids) are monocotyledon plants with narrow leaves growing from their base and include the families Poaceae (true grasses), Cyperaceae (sedges) and Juncaceae (rushes). Although the BioBlitz event did not have a grass, sedge or rush expert, five sedge species were identified. Sedges can be differentiated from the grasses and rushes because the sedge stalk has “edges” due to their triangular cross-section. Like many of the plant species identified at the BioBlitz, sedges thrive in wetland habitats, resulting in a high abundance on the property.

Grasses, Sedges & Rushes Count:

Bladder Sedge (Carex intumescens)
Graceful Sedge (Carex gracillima)
Longstalk Sedge (Carex pedunculata)

Pennsylvania Sedge (Carex pensylvanica)
Tussock Sedge (Carex stricta)

Total: 5

Fungi & Lichens

Fungi, including mushrooms, moulds, and yeasts, are actually not considered a plant or animal, and instead have their own kingdom of classification. This kingdom is massive and it is estimated that more than 1 million species are in existence with only 5-10% currently identified. While many fungi species were likely present on the properties, only two easily identifiable species were recorded due to the lack of a fungi expert and the time of year.

Lichens are the fungi/moss-like organisms found growing on many surfaces such as rocks, bare ground and trees. Lichens are actually a symbiotic relationship (mutually beneficial) between algae and fungi, meaning they are part plant and part fungi. Like fungi, these organisms can be difficult to identify.

Fungi & Lichen Count:

Fungi

Artist's Conk (Ganoderma applanatum)
Turkey Tail (Trametes versicolor)

Lichens

British Soldiers (Cladonia cristatella)
Common Powderhorn (Cladonia coniocraea)
Mealy Pixie-cup (Cladonia chlorophaea)

Total: 5

TOTAL SPECIES COUNT

FAUNA		FLORA	
Reptiles & Amphibians	10	Trees, Shrubs & Forbs	153
Mammals	4	Non-Vascular Plants	11
Birds	52	Ferns & Fern Allies	22
Fish	2	Grasses, Sedges & Rushes	5
Invertebrates	28	Fungi & Lichens	5
Total Fauna	96	Total Flora	196

Grand Total: 292
