

Upcoming Events

Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park BioBlitz, May 13, 2016

Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park is hosting an aquatic and terrestrial invertebrate BioBlitz on May 13 to engage the public in science discovery and data collection. Anyone is welcome to participate in this fun, hands on event. For more information, contact Jami Belt at jami_belt@nps.gov.

Goals Contribute to science of biodiversity, inform KLGO about a group of organisms that is little-known, provide baseline indexes of organisms for long-term monitoring, and engage the community in science discovery.

Focus taxon aquatic and terrestrial invertebrates. Scope: 1-day sampling event on May 13. Pre-visit classroom sessions are available for participating schools.

Sites Dyea, Skagway, Chilkoot Trail, possibly also White Pass if it can be accessed safely.

Target participation and audience Approx 60–100 total including approximately 40–60 Middle and High-school students from Skagway and Klukwan.



Figure 1: Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park.

Anaktuvuk Bioblitz, May 20–22, 2016

As part of the National Park Services (NPS) centennial celebration during 2016, Gates of the Arctic National Park will

be participating in a National Geographic and NPS sponsored BioBlitz effort this summer.

Over 110 National Parks across the country are participating in the centennial BioBlitz, including four parks in Alaska (Gates of the Arctic, Bering Land Bridge, Denali, and Klondike Gold Rush). The Gates of the Arctic event, which will take place in the village of Anaktuvuk Pass during May 20-22, has the distinction of serving as the Arctic Regional Showcase Bioblitz, and will receive special attention in Washington, D.C. for contributing its unique collection of Arctic faunal diversity to the national species inventory.



Figure 2: Graphic from Anaktuvuk Bioblitz postcard.

Scientists from the NPS and the University of Alaska Fairbanks are coordinating with the Simon Paneak Memorial Museum to lead Nunamiut School students as they identify and learn about a wide range of taxa in the Anaktuvuk Pass area within Gates of the Arctic National Park. Investigations will include camera trap, track and scat surveys to detect large mammals such as ungulates and carnivores, a live-trapping effort to capture small mammals such as rodents and shrews, point counts to detect birds, lake and stream surveys in search of fish and frogs, sampling to detect both aquatic and terrestrial invertebrates, and DNA barcoding to identify soil microbes. Participants will also learn traditional Inupiaq names, trapping techniques, and uses for many taxa from local subsistence experts.

Photos, locations and identities of taxa detected during this three-day event will be uploaded via the iNaturalist smartphone app and automatically added to the National BioBlitz species list. These georeferenced records will then be archived in the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) where they will contribute to a growing interna-

tional database of faunal records that are freely available for download and use in subsequent research. Additionally, all activities will be documented by professional photographers and student videographers as part of the larger national BioBlitz celebration.

Anyone interested in volunteering or participating is encouraged to contact Andy Baltensperger at 907-455-0623 or andrew_baltensperger@nps.gov.

Serpentine Hot Springs Bioblitz, July 7, 2016

As part of the National Park Services (NPS) centennial celebration in 2016, Bering Land Bridge National Preserve will participate in a National Geographic and NPS sponsored BioBlitz effort this summer. The Bering Land Bridge BioBlitz event will take place from July 7–10 at Serpentine Hot Springs. NPS scientists and staff will lead students from the surrounding communities on a multiday science fieldtrip to inventory, sample, and observe a wide range of taxa surrounding Serpentine Hot Springs. Investigations include samples of aquatic and terrestrial invertebrates, including butterflies and dragonflies, observation of beaver ecology and its influence on passerines, waterfowl, water quality, and fish. All inventoried species will be documented on the iNaturalist application which will add to a growing international database of plant and animal species. Additionally, this event will be part of the nationwide Dragonfly Mercury Project (DMP), a community-driven endeavor that measures mercury levels in dragonfly larva as an indicator of overall ecosystem health.

This much anticipated event will allow parks to grow their natural resource knowledge base while making science fun for youth in the surrounding villages. If you are interested in learning more about the Bering Land Bridge Bioblitz please contact Guadalupe Zaragoza at Guadalupe_Zaragoza@nps.gov / 907-443-6120 or Kathleen Cullen at Kathleen_Cullen@nps.gov / 907-443-6127.



Figure 3: Serpentine Hot Springs.

Tenth Annual Meeting, January 2017

The tenth annual meeting of the Alaska Entomological Society will take place in Fairbanks in January 2017. Check for updates on our events page as the meeting date approaches.

