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Bio Blitz Concept

Bio Blitz is a short, intense team effort to discover as many different life forms as possible in one location.

I am putting all of my efforts these days on working on Bio Blitzes across the country as a conservation photographer my purpose is to shoot the species in a way that people can see the species, very close so they can see all of the beautiful detail and color that they possess. When this happens their perceptions changes and these species take on a new life in their minds. They are now seen as an asset and so a apart of their world! To date I have shot over 135 Bio Blitzes from Maine to California. "Bio Blitz is much more than just a concerted effort to identify the species that live in chosen location: It is a celebration of nature and the many

wonderful forms that exist in any given place. When people of all ages and professions gather together to take a closer look at their local wildlife, a tangible excitement builds in the air. Bio Blitzes are very powerful tools for environmental education, conservation, and community engagement. They represent experiential learning at its best. Images from Bio Blitzes highlight the species diversity found in an area, but they also show people having a positive experience with their local ecosystems. Conservation is confronted with the need to integrate art and science, merging different but valid ways of perceiving and experiencing the world. Indeed, merging these different ways through direct participation in activities such as bioblitzes challenge or blur the artificial boundaries marked by our training. But what biologist doesn't feel the stirring of the profound, and what artist doesn't sense the geometry in the mystery? At our core we are humans, and the head and the heart are inseparable. What any of us are really trying to do is tell that compelling story about conservation; that is, provide an interpretation of the intersection of human history, the emergence of an ecological conscience, and biological integrity. A Bio Blitz is an opportunity to experience that intersection directly. I have worked with the ATBI (All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory) in the Smokies since it started almost 21 years ago where we have found over 1000 new species to science during the last years. ATBI projects are now starting up all across the country. The wonderful thing about Bio Blitzes is that they are all inclusive. Anyone gets to go and play a part. Kids, parents, and grandparents you name it! I have worked with scientists for years and know how most people think of them. The Bio Blitzes allows people to work hand and hand with scientists in the field where they are in your element! They see how engaging, passionate and usually very funny they are to be with. Also, many of the younger scientists are very interested in seeing the general public get in involved in science.

As my Bio Blitz Concept evolves, I see more ways to challenge the way people approach science so that I can present my case for having the Bio Blitz Concept become a part of their vocabulary. I hear so many people complain because they want to help combat climate change and endangered species, but they don't know how or where to begin! By photographing the species and learning about their habitats we can protect critically imperiled species from extinction and to see how climate affects these species so we can adjust our approach to their plight. It is imperative that we help our young people in this effort. I want them to know that they can be involved by using to Bio Blitz Concept in their own back yard, town park, or favorite refuge in their area

because Bio Blitzes are very powerful tools for environmental education, conservation, and community engagement.

I have worked with National Geographic on their Bio Blitzes including Saguaro National Park, Rocky Mountain National Park, Jean Lafitte National Historical & Preserve, Golden Gate National Park, The Mall in Washington, DC. The public was totally engaged and over 1000 kids were at each one! I have worked in New England with number of organizations that were working on their own ATBI Project. These included the Boston Harbor Islands where I worked on a project developed by E.O. Wilson, Acadia National Park and the Adirondack All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory.

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