

## 2010 Bio Blitz

The 2010 Bio Blitz was held at the Heritage Garden at the Governors Residence and 2 adjacent properties in Bexley, OH on August 28, 2010. 9 am to 4 pm

Rick Gardner organized the event. Other participants were: Leslie Angel, Islay Cowie, Jim Davidson, Guy Denny, Rick Gardner, Kerr Gibson, Bob Klips, Debra Knapke, Tony Knapke, Julie Lapp, Dick Moseley, Greg Raterman, Jeff Rose, Molly Rudy. Fifteen young birders from the Black Swamp Young Birders Club of Ohio led by Kim and Ken Kaufman with parents and mentors joined them.

After a greeting from Governor Strickland, the experts got to work identifying the animal, plant and fungi species in the Heritage Garden [358 N. Parkview Ave.], while the young birders went to two close-by properties [385 N. Parkview and 367 N. Columbia] to see what they could find.

Those at the Heritage Garden found a grand total of 550 species of animals, plants and fungi. This compares to the 625 different species found in the first HG Bio blitz in June 2008.

The difference in the numbers might be due to the different month (June as opposed to August), but the main difference was in the composition of the surveying team of experts. We did not have the same person surveying for insects in 2010. A comparison of the various categories shows that the number of animals identified dropped by 158, from 247 in 2008 to 89 in 2010. Even though the number dropped overall, the number of bird species increased from 15 to 24 and butterflies increased from 9 to 13. The category of 'other insect' accounted most of the decline in total number. It went from 175 in 2008 to 10 in 2010. Besides not having a strong insect surveying team in 2010, we never received the results for caterpillars. If the numbers of insects had stayed the same, the total number from 2010 would have been 715 or nearly 100 more than the first bio blitz in 2008.

Even though the number of animals decreased, the number of plants and fungi increased from 378 in 2008 to 467 in 2010 for an addition of 89. Vascular plants showed a 100 plant species increase between the bio blitz dates. [322 in 2008 and 422 in 2010] Mosses and Lichen stayed the same at 30 and 15 respectively.

While not a scientific study of the difference infusing a yard with native plants can make on wildlife, the numbers at the Heritage Garden do indicate that a greater number of native plants will increase the number of varieties of animals, especially butterflies and birds. This conclusion was reinforced by a comparison of species found in neighboring yards. The Heritage Garden was been designed to represent the 5 major physiographic regions of the state plus many of the smaller eco-regions. It has been infused with native plants since 2000.

With permission, young birders and their expert supervisors examined two neighboring properties. The one facing Columbia Ave. was difficult to assess since the in-ground sprinkler system came on, as the count was about to begin. It is a standard city corner lot with landscape plantings that were about 3 years old. The other property proceeds from its face on Parkview Ave. down the back yard to Alum Creek and is a less manicured more mature landscape than the one facing Columbia.

If one looks only at birds, since the youth volunteers were more accustomed to identifying birds than other animals, plants or lichens, it is easy to see what a difference landscaping makes. The young birders reported seeing 8 varieties of birds at the Columbia address and 20 varieties at the Parkview address. This compares with 24 species in the Heritage Garden. Those 8 species found at the Columbia address were also found at the other two sites. Thirteen of the 20 species found at the Parkview address were also found in the Heritage Garden. While the Parkview address had seven varieties that were not found in the Heritage Garden, the Heritage Garden had 11 varieties found in neither of the other yards. The Parkview property is similar in size to the Heritage Garden with good number of native plant species to increase its bird numbers.

Many questions remain, and a more scientific study could answer many of them. The central question remains: Does using native plants in residential settings increase the biodiversity of the animals found in that area. These unscientific findings from looking at the same property in two different years in different months and looking at two properties that are across the street from the Heritage Garden, suggest that a large infusion of native plants does make a difference.

October 2010

**Summary Charts**  
**2008 and 2010 for the Heritage Garden, 358 N. Parkview Ave.**

2010 Results  
[August]- HG

<b>Animals</b>		
Odonata	6	
Moths	6	
Butterflies	13	
Other Insects	10	
Gastropods	2	
Arachnids	12	
Earthworms	1	
Other Invertebrates	1	
Fish	2	
Birds	24	
Reptiles	4	
Mammals	2	
	Sub- Total	83
<b>Plants &amp; Fungi</b>		
Mosses	30	
Vascular Plants	422	
Lichens	15	
Fungi	0	
	Sub- Total	467
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>550</b>	

2008 Results [June] - HG

<b>Animals</b>		
Odonata	6	
Moths	6	
Butterflies	9	
Other Insects	175	
Gastropods	2	
Arachnids	11	
Earthworms	1	
Other Invertebrates	15	
Fish	2	
Birds	15	
Reptiles	4	
Mammals	1	
	Sub-Total	247
<b>Plants &amp; Fungi</b>		
Mosses	30	
Vascular Plants	322	
Lichens	15	
Fungi	11	
	Sub-Total	378
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>625</b>	

2010 charts for the other two properties

2010 Results- 367 N. Columbia Road

<b>Animals</b>		
Odonata		
Moths	3	
Butterflies	4	
Other Insects	9	
Gastropods	0	
Arachnids	6	
Earthworms	0	
Other Invertebrates	1	
Fish	0	
Birds	8	
Reptiles	0	
Mammals	2	
	Subtotal	33
<b>Plants &amp; Fungi</b>		
Mosses	0	
Vascular Plants	24	Note: Most of the cultivars were not included.
Lichens	0	
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>57</b>	

2010 Results- 385 N. Parkview Ave.

<b>Animals</b>	
Odonata	2
Moths	0
Butterflies	4
Other Insects	10
Gastropods	0
Arachnids	0
Earthworms	0
Other Invertebrates	1
Fish	0
Birds	20
Herps	0
Mammals	4
Subtotal	41
<b>Plants &amp; Fungi</b>	
Mosses	0
Vascular Plants	23
Lichens	0
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>64</b>