

New Species Documented in *Bio-Blitz*

For 24 hours starting at 5 p.m. on May 31, local scientists, naturalists, and biologists "blitzed" Kenilworth Park and Aquatic Gardens in northeastern Washington, D.C., and found approximately 1,000 species of plants and animals. The idea was to inventory, as far as possible, the species present (and identifiable) during one 24-hour period. The information will be used for a number of purposes, including the continued development of the park inventory and monitoring database and the development of plant and animal lists for the newly created District of Columbia Natural Heritage Program. The activity also demonstrated the concern scientists have for local biodiversity, and gave the National Park Service an opportunity to heighten media and public awareness of the many species that can be found even in a highly urbanized area such as Washington, D.C.

The event went extremely well with participation by at least 25 different agencies (federal, state, and local government), universities, and various conservation. To date, the results from the lab and field work have provided many new records for the park, which include new species of dragonflies (2), damselflies (5), butterflies (2), birds (2), bats (2), earthworms (6), copepods (16, 10 of which have never been recorded within the District of Columbia), fish (1), lichens (10), mushrooms (7), land plants—embryophytes (95), and arthropods (insect groups not already listed—approximately 650 new records). In addition to the new species records, the

event was a wonderful opportunity to meet and join efforts with local scientists, naturalists, and biologists. In the future, the park will know who to contact for additional assistance and staff expect some of these participants to return to parks that comprise the National Capital Parks-East for future projects.

Readers may review the Washington Post newspaper article, inventory lists, and additional details of the event through the Internet web site set up for the Bio-Blitz at <http://www.im.nbs.gov/blitz.html> or by contacting Dan Roddy of the National Park Service at daniel_rodny@nps.gov or Sam Droge of the National Biological Service at frog@nbs.gov.