

# BioBlitz



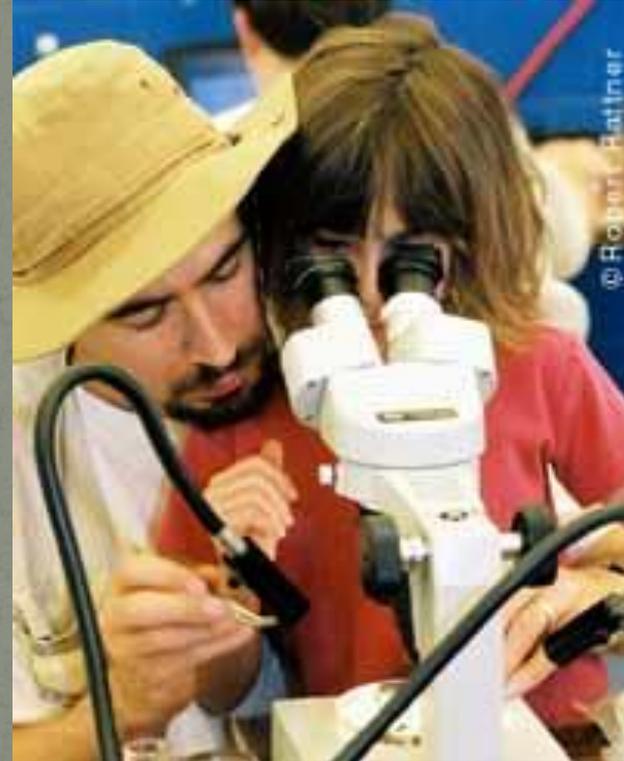
# What is a BioBlitz

- A race against time to see how many species can be counted in a 24-hour biological survey
- Part contest
- Part festival
- Part educational event
- Part scientific endeavor



# What can a BioBlitz do for your park or region...

- Educates the public about the rich biodiversity in our own backyard.
- Brings out the specialists.
- Identifies rare and unique species/groups.
- Documents species occurrence.
- Brings media attention.
- Spreads excitement about the natural world.



# What a BioBlitz won't do for you



- Provide a complete inventory of the area
- Basis for monitoring
- Make your car payments.

# The very first one...



- USGS organized
- Kennelworth Park and Gardens, Washington DC
- May 31 – June 1, 1996

# The Idea...

Organize the natural history talents of the top scientists and naturalists living within urban centers to document the biodiversity present at their backdoor.



# The Reason...



The distribution, occurrence, and patterns of plants and animals on this planet is nowhere completely documented.

# What to name it...

The name and concept of the BioBlitz is not registered, not copyrighted, not trademarked, and not a government thing. Its just an idea that can be used, adapted, and modified by any group, who should freely use the name BioBlitz for their own purposes.

# Kennelworth Park results

- 90 scientists
- 974 species
- No public involvement



# What came next...



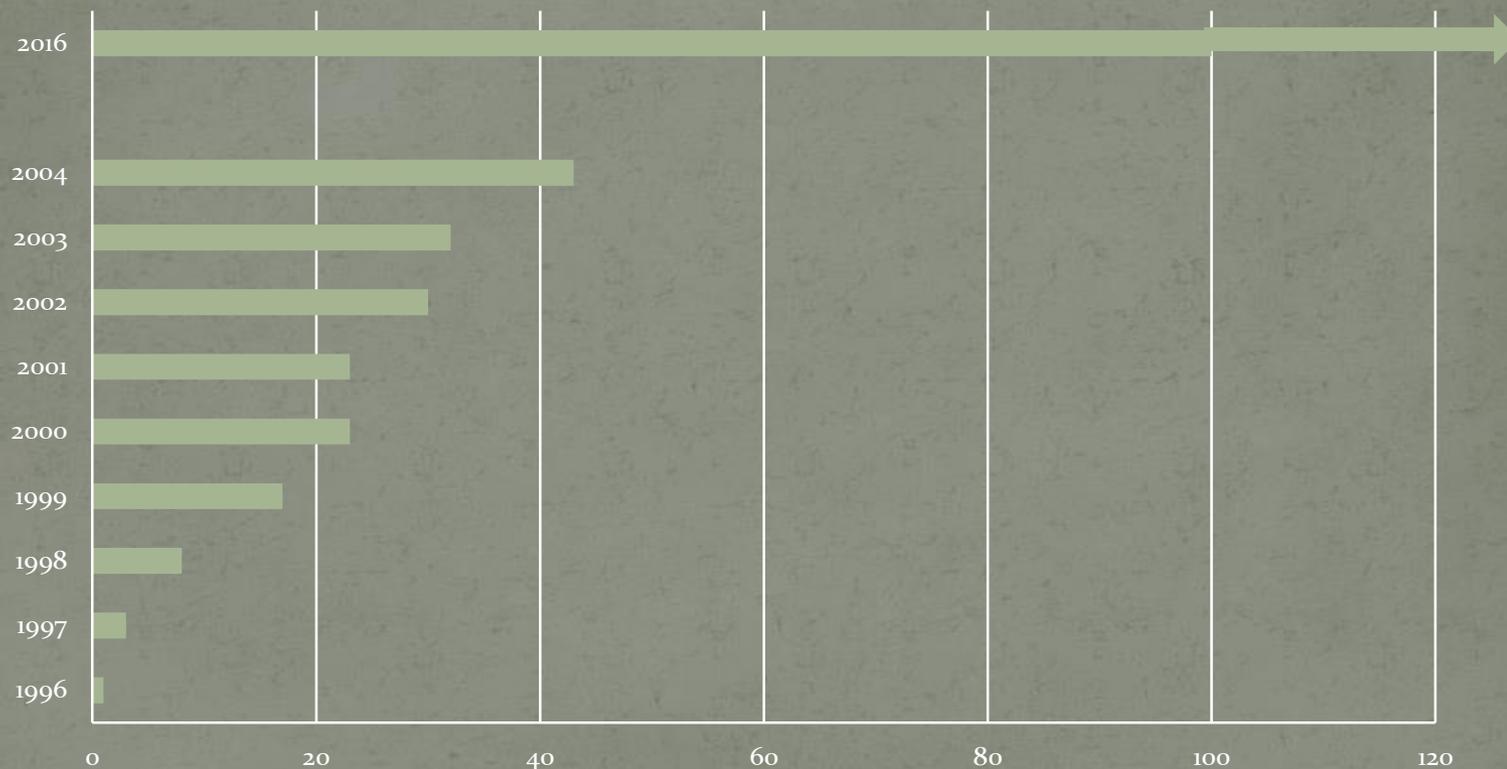
- USGS held two in 1997 and...
- Carnegie Museum of Natural History in Pittsburgh held one

# Basecamp

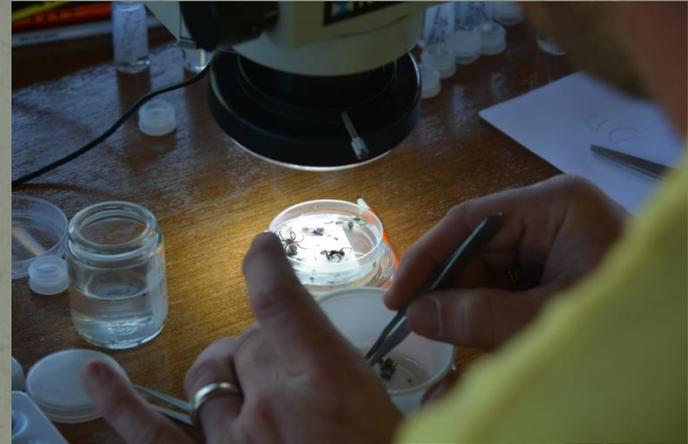


# How many have been done?

## BioBlitz



# Fox River Park, Waukesha (2017)



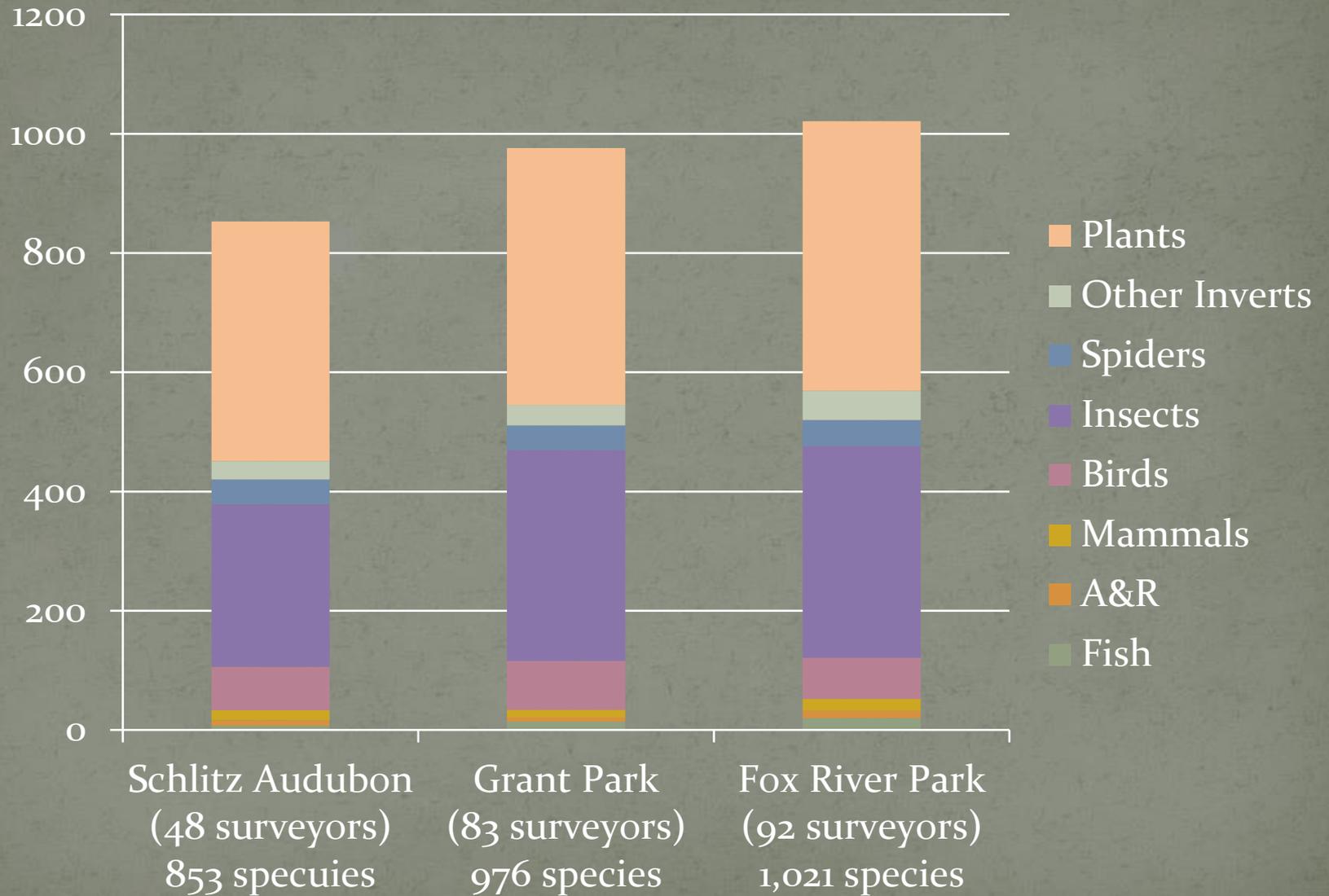
# BioBlitz stats

- 92 surveyors
  - Birds (14)
  - Mammals (4)
  - Amphibians and reptiles (21)
  - Fishes (3)
  - Plants (14)
  - Invertebrates (36)
- 12 universities and 9 organizations
- 10 educators from 3 organizations



## Stats cont.

- 1,023 species reported (1,022 actual)
  - 12 amphibians and reptile species
  - 19 mammal species
  - 69 bird species
  - 20 fish species
  - 355 insect species
  - 44 spider species
  - 51 other invertebrate species (+1)
  - 452 plant species (-2)



# Plants



# Aquatic and Wetland Plants

- 23 species



# Vertebrates - Mammals

- 19 species
  - 5 species of bats
    - State Threatened & new county records
      - Little Brown Bat
      - Big Brown Bat
    - Species of Special Concern
      - Silver Haired Bat
      - Eastern Red Bat
      - Hoary Bat



# Vertebrates – Amphibians/Reptiles/Birds

- Amphibians and Reptiles
  - 12 species
    - Gray Tree Frog – new county record
    - Unusual – only one species of snake (Garter)
- Birds
  - 69 species



# Vertebrates - Fish



- 20 species of fish
  - 906 individuals
    - Bluntnose Minnow, Common Shiner and Spotfin Shiner most common
  - Northern Sunfish
    - State Threatened
    - Nine specimens in breeding color
    - Species dependent on clean, sediment-free gravel to spawn

# Invertebrates

- Good - 5 unionid mussel species
- Not so good – Asian clam (*Corbicula*)
- Good – Ampheloria – native millipede species (1 of 3 records for Wi)
- Not so good – most other millipedes were non-native
- Not so good – Asian Jumping Worm



# Insects

- Heathy moth diversity – 119 moth species (far exceeds the recorded diversity for Waukesha County)
- 122 species of beetle, including *Harpalus rubripes* (Eurasian ground beetle)





# MPM BioBlitz 2018

Lake Farm County Park, Dane Co.

June 22-23, 2018

[www.mpm.edu/BioBlitz](http://www.mpm.edu/BioBlitz)