

# 2018 Dalhousie Agricultural Campus BioBlitz

## Information for Experts

### Why a BioBlitz at Dalhousie University?

On September 21<sup>st</sup> 2018, we are hosting our inaugural BioBlitz on the Dalhousie Agricultural Campus. A *Bioblitz* is a term used to describe a rapid survey of the biological diversity within a fixed area and time. We will be using the platform iNaturalist to record, inventory and manage observations of the biodiversity found on campus.

We were introduced to this idea via a friendly challenge issued by Dr. Lara Gibson, an Instructor with the Faculty of Science. She and her colleague, Dr. Susan Gass, successfully organized a BioBlitz on the Studley campus in 2016. Their efforts resulted in 739 observations of 286 species. This autumn we are participating in a friendly challenge to see which campus can generate the most records (i.e. number of observations), and the more comprehensive species inventory (i.e. the most unique species). With our large campus, extensive horticultural collections, and array of habitats (e.g. rivers, forest fragments, agricultural fields, pollinator habitat, aquaculture facilities, campus barns) we are optimistic that we will find all sorts of interesting things that call our campus home.

### What you need to know:

**Date and time:** Friday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, 8:30 am to 5:30 pm (but observations can be made before and after these times)

**Location:** Dalhousie Agricultural Campus

**Headquarters:** Student Learning Commons (upper floor of MacRae Library)

### If possible, please arrive 10-15 minutes before your shift to:

- Sign in at the BioBlitz information table
- Receive your nametag and lunch ticket
- Familiarize yourself with the area

### What to bring:

- Water
- Sun protection
- Rain protection
- Close-toed and supportive shoes
- Any equipment you would normally use for sampling and collecting species for identification

**Lunch** will be provided to volunteers in Jenkins Hall from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm by way of a lunch ticket.

If you are running late or cannot make your shift, please contact Colette Wyllie at (902) 305-5885.

### **Your role as an expert:**

As an expert, you will be assigned to a particular zone on campus. Your role will include:

- Interacting with participants to help them identify species (primarily your assigned taxa, but if you are able to help with other taxa, please do!)
- If applicable, showing participants how to work with equipment to collect species
- Providing information to participants about the overall objective of the BioBlitz
- Providing help and directions to participants (this will mainly involve directing participants to the BioBlitz headquarters in the Student Learning Commons)

### **Installing iNaturalist:**

We're using the iNaturalist app to report all sightings during Dal's BioBlitz. The free app can be downloaded from Apple's App Store or through Google Play. Create an account with iNaturalist and then whenever you notice a new species, take a photo using the app. If you're in the BioBlitz zone (Agricultural Campus) on September 21<sup>st</sup>, your photos will automatically upload to Dalhousie University's BioBlitz project. Feel free to become a member of the Dalhousie University Agricultural Campus BioBlitz 2018 Project by searching for Dalhousie Agricultural Campus under "Projects" on the iNaturalist app. To learn more about getting started on iNaturalist, read their guide at <https://www.inaturalist.org/pages/getting+started>.

If you are unable to use iNaturalist on your mobile phone or tablet, please contact Colette Wyllie at [colette.wyllie@dal.ca](mailto:colette.wyllie@dal.ca) and we will arrange to provide you with a tablet or a volunteer to help with uploads to iNaturalist.

### **Emergency procedures:**

In case of a life-threatening emergency, please call **Dalhousie Security at (902) 893-4190**. For any minor incident, please contact Colette Wyllie at 902-305-5885.

### **More information:**

If you have questions about your role as a volunteer, please contact Lauren Ballantyne at [lauren.ballantyne@dal.ca](mailto:lauren.ballantyne@dal.ca). We will also host a volunteer orientation on Tuesday, September 18<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm that will cover iNaturalist use and provide an opportunity to ask further questions.

### **Volunteer orientation session:**

**Date and time:** Tuesday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 pm

**Location:** BioBlitz Headquarters (Student Learning Commons boardroom, upper floor of MacRae Library)

**Thank you for volunteering for the 2018 Dalhousie University BioBlitz!**