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Park's biodiversity goes under 24-hour microscope

May 24, 2003

The bioblitz to catalog every species of plant and animal scientists can find in Syracuse's Elmwood Park ends at noon today.

For 24 hours, scientists, graduate students and alumni from the State University College of Environmental Science and Forestry will scour the 68-acre park looking for every species of plant, tree, animal, fish, insect, worm, even fungus they can locate. The event began at noon Friday.

The bioblitz will highlight the park's biological diversity and will allow SUNY ESF scientists to showcase their skills. It's part of a weekend celebration of the 25th anniversary of the college's Faculty of Environmental and Forestry Biology, the college's largest academic department.

As part of the project, the college is raising money through pledges of contributions for each species counted. The money will be used for scholarships and educational outreach programs in Central New York schools. College alumni and friends are being asked to pledge Dollars for Diversity by making a pledge ranging from 1 cent to \$10. The blitz teams expect to inventory up to 1,500 species in the park.

By 1 p.m. Saturday, every group taking part in the blitz must hand in a list with the number of species it found. The results will be posted on a

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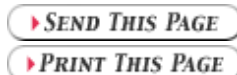
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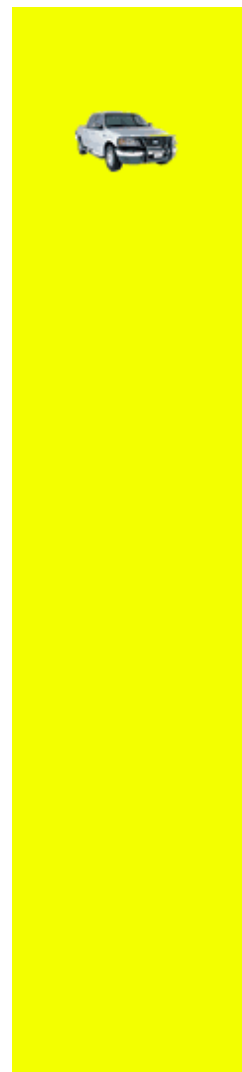
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