



With News & Classifieds From: **The Post-Standard**



NEWSPAPER SEARCH

FIND A BUSINESS

- Home
- News+Biz
- Local
- Sports
- Forums+Chat
- Cams+Radio
- Living
- Entertainment

CLASSIFIEDS

Search

Back To Your Search Results | Search Again

The Post-Standard

» More From The Post-Standard

[Click here to subscribe!](#)

Bioblitz Uncovers Unusual

Saturday, May 15, 2004

By **Mark Weiner**
Staff writer

Kneeling on the edge of a bog, Steve Coghlan grasped his tweezers and pulled something from the muck.

"Oh, here we go," Coghlan said, his voice filled with excitement. "Here's a predaceous diving beetle larvae."

▼ From Our Advertiser

[CONTINUE STORY](#)

[SEND THIS PAGE](#)

[PRINT THIS PAGE](#)

ST. JOSEPH'S HOME CARE

REGISTERED NURSES!

Be your **OWN boss** in the field you love.

BECOME A ST. JOSEPH'S HOME CARE NURSE.

Apply today!

- \$3,000 sign-on bonus
- Family friendly schedule
- Great benefits and pay
- More one-on-one patient care

315.458.2800



MORE SEARCHES

Classifieds

- » [Jobs](#)
- » [Autos](#)
- » [Real Estate](#)
- » [All Classifieds](#)

Obituaries

- » [Obituaries & Guest Books](#)

Local Businesses

- » [Find A Business](#)

Entertainment

- » [Movies](#)
- » [Music](#)
- » [Arts & Events](#)
- » [Dining & Bars](#)

Get The Best Local...
[Jobs](#) | [Autos](#) | [Real Estate](#)
[All Classifieds](#) | [Place An Ad](#)

» WIN FREE STUFF



Click here to get qualified.

>> [Get Qualified for a Mortgage from M & T Bank](#)
 >> [For a great place to live, work and play](#)

» [Advertise With Us](#)

WAER jazz 88

He held up what looked like a tiny fish, smaller than a dime, and marveled at

his discovery.

"That was a decent find," said Coghlan, a graduate student in aquatic biology at the State University College of Environmental Science and Forestry. "They're not in high abundance. You have to go looking for them."

Similar scenes were repeated all afternoon Friday at Beaver Lake Nature Center in Lysander, where scientists and students are conducting a bioblitz - a 24-hour effort to count every living species they can find.

The idea is to measure the biological diversity of the 650-acre preserve by counting every animal, plant, tree, fish, insect, worm or fungus that can be found on land, in water or, in the case of Coghlan, under the mud.

About 50 students and faculty from ESF were joined by community volunteers, biology students from Baker High School in Baldwinsville and pupils from the New School in Syracuse.

The effort began at noon Friday and will end at noon today. By 6 p.m. Friday, more than 500 species had been counted during the first six hours of the bioblitz. In the region's first bioblitz led by ESF last year, 661 species were found in 24 hours at Elmwood Park in Syracuse.

Neil Ringler, chair of ESF's faculty of environmental and forest biology and one of the bioblitz organizers, said it's possible that up to 1,100 species will be identified by the time the event ends.

Ringler said the results reflect well on Beaver Lake Nature Center, which is operated by the Onondaga County Parks Department.

"It's a highly diverse area," Ringler said. "We're really pleased and happy with the diversity. I'm going to bring my aquatic-insect class back in the fall."

Within the first two hours of the blitz, scientists had already counted nine species of fish in Beaver Lake, 61 bird species and more than 50 species of moss.

Among the more unusual species was a bowfish, a fish species with teeth that dates back at least 70 million years, Ringler said.

"It's really a relic," he said, holding up the 2-foot-long fish that weighed about 5 pounds. Ringler said the live catch was about 7 years old and would be released back to the lake. The fish is common in the St. Lawrence River, and it is sometimes found in Onondaga Lake and the Seneca River.

Back at the bog, Coghlan worked with Mike Connerton, a fellow graduate student in aquatic biology. Connerton used a net bag to scoop up some mud from the bottom of the bog. Then he searched for life. He found a mud minnow.

© 2004 The Post-Standard. Used with permission.

[The Best Local Classifieds: Jobs](#) | [Autos](#) | [Real Estate](#) | [Place An Ad](#)



Subscribe to The Post-Standard today and get incredible savings off home delivery! [Subscribe Now!](#)

[About Us](#) | [Help/Feedback](#) | [Advertise With Us](#)

Use of this site constitutes acceptance of our [User Agreement](#). Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).
©2004 [Syracuse.com](#). All Rights Reserved.

