

BIOBLITZ PROFILES

Ocmulgee National Monument Butterfly Bioblitz

National park

Ocmulgee National Monument, Georgia

Dates

23–24 October 2013

Activity name/type

Butterfly Bioblitz

Methods

Five teams of scientists led groups of community volunteers in the field of this 702-acre (284 ha) park to observe and identify as many species of butterflies as possible over the course of the two-day event. Participants were encouraged to photodocument the butterflies they encountered—no collections were made—and used cameras, binoculars, field guides, and checklists to help make identifications and to record their observations. Students from middle school participated on the first day (see photo), while the general public took part on day two. Participants received a T-shirt, water bottle, and backpack for helping with the event.

Key partners

NPS staff of the Southeast Coast I&M Network, Congaree National Park, and Cumberland Island National Seashore and entomologist Marc Minno, author of *Butterflies Through Binoculars* and *Butterflies of North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia*

Participation

480 community volunteers, scientists, and staff

Number of species

40 butterflies and 5 dragonflies



NPS PHOTO

Middle school students pause to photograph a butterfly on the first day of the 2013 Butterfly Bioblitz at Ocmulgee National Monument.

Highlights

Hundreds of photographs of butterflies were submitted to park staff, resulting in identification of 28 species; an additional 12 species were identified by other means. The park set up a children's education area so that the youngest participants could learn about the life cycle of butterflies and get involved in a hands-on crafts program. The event helped raise awareness in the community of the important role butterflies play in park and area ecosystems. The park considered the event a success and has received funding to repeat the activity in August 2014, with hopes of expanding the list of species documented in 2013.

Park contact

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