



## ***Why Biodiversity Days?***

Is your favorite natural area under threat from development or invasive species? Need a reminder of why you do environmental work? Looking for an excuse to get outside? Frustrated at the lack of environmental knowledge among the general public? Here's your chance to introduce your community to the weird and wonderful "wild things" that we coexist with, and be part of a statewide exploration of biodiversity – **Become an Organizer or Trip Leader for Biodiversity Days!**

A few comments from past Biodiversity Days organizers and trip leaders:

*"It was a great gathering of people. Our walk was relaxed friendly and very informative. It was long enough that people could share a bit about themselves and how they got started being fascinated about biodiversity. The group we were in had many areas of interest in it – it was diverse in itself. Usually we have concentrated on birds but this opportunity allowed us to be among many people with vast areas of interest. We had a mixed age group which was enriching. The location was wonderful. It was a very special time for myself and my two sons. We still talk about it."*

*"On a number of occasions we have been able to use specific knowledge of flora and fauna to help in the review of proposed construction projects. In one case, it actually prevented the construction of a large road between two vernal pools."*

*"Along with shoreline surveys conducted with Mass Riverways assistance, BioDays has successfully inspired us, gathered more volunteers into monitoring habitats, and assisted in prioritizing parcels for protection."*

*"During Biodiversity Days, my students combed our schoolyard for plants and animals. The highlight of the week was coming across a fawn huddled under a bush. We will plan to participate next year as well. Thank you for letting us be a part of Massachusetts Biodiversity Days. My students were very excited to conduct field work outside and they consider the biodiversity of Massachusetts very important."*

**Biodiversity Days** offers a unique collaborative opportunity for individuals and organizations to work together to benefit their community. Participants experience nature in a way they may never have before, learn something new, and discover how interconnected life is:

*"We learned what a chestnut tree looks like!"*

*"I had never seen bobolinks, and did not know Ipswich had eels."*

*"Poison Ivy grows right next to Jewel Weed (which can be used to cure Poison Ivy). Isn't nature fun?"*

MACC's website ([http://www.maccweb.org/biodiversity\\_days.html](http://www.maccweb.org/biodiversity_days.html)) provides a wide variety of planning tools and guidance to help you coordinate events, including: lists of previous organizers; leads for finding naturalists; ideas for field trips; sample press releases and flyers; and instructions for registering your trips, entering species observations, and accessing existing data from your city or town.

### **What Organizers Do:**

- Schedule and plan free naturalist-led nature walks (with or without data gathering) for the public.
- Rally citizen participation by publicizing these walks and related events in the local press.
- Involve a local school, classroom or youth organization.
- Ensure that species data (if collected) is entered into the state Biodiversity Database.
- (Optional) Host a kick-off and/or wrap-up gathering to share experiences and information on the species that were sighted.

### **What Trip Leaders Do:**

- Plan one or more field trips within the city/town (with assistance and coordination from your City/Town Organizer).
- Register your field trips so people can find events to attend.
- Help participants discover the wonders of local biodiversity and record what species they see.
- Enter species observations into the MassGIS Biodiversity Database.

**Interested? Please visit the MACC Biodiversity Days website at [www.maccweb.org](http://www.maccweb.org)**

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