BioBlitz / Festival of the Bluffs (May, 2011)
Final Report

1. **Grant Agreements:** Illinois Wildlife Preservation Fund Grant #11-L02W ($4000)
Volunteer Stewardship Network, 27 Aug 10 ($2000)

2. **Grantee:** Clifftop
P.O. Box 131
Maeystown, IL 62256
618-458-4674

3. **Time-frame of Report:** 13 & 14 May, 2011

4. **Grantee Representative:** Carl DauBach
Clifftop, Executive Director
clifftop@htc.net

5. **Project Objective:** Conduct a 24-hour (BioBlitz) biological diversity survey of the Salt Lick Point Land & Water Reserve; host a festival during the BioBlitz to foster public engagement on the importance of biological diversity and conservation of important natural areas.

6. **Completed Project Description:**

A. Fifty-two scientists, amateur naturalists, and graduate and undergraduate students conducted a biological diversity survey at the Salt Lick Point Land & Water Reserve from noon on 13 May to noon on 14 May, 2011. The surveyors were assigned to one, or more, of six sectors in the reserve. The surveyors included:

Keith McMullen, birder, Illinois Ornithological Society (IOS)
Tim Dever, birder, Illinois Audubon Society (IAS)
Mark Seifert, birder, IOS
Debbie Newman, birder, Illinois Nature Preserves Commission (INPC) and IAS
Dan Kassebaum, birder, IOS
Wally George, birder, Missouri Audubon Society
Jim Malone, birder, Missouri Audubon Society
John & Martha Schwegmann, botanists, IL Department Natural Resources (IDNR), Ret.
Bill McClain, botanist, IDNR Ret.
John Ebinger, botanist, Eastern Illinois University (EIU), Ret.
Henry Eilers, botanist, Shoal Creek Barrens Manager

Martin Kemper, botanist, IDNR
Mark Brown, forester, IDNR
Paul Marcum, botanist, Illinois Natural History Survey (INHS)
Josh Weibenmeyer, botanist, Applied Ecological Services
Hannah Kalk, botanist, IDNR
Nels Holmberg, bryophytes, Webster Groves Nature Study Society (WGNSS)
Ron Oesch, snails, WGNSS
Steve Taylor, entomologist, INHS
Diane Wood, entomologist, Southeast Missouri State University, plus 5 undergraduates
Chris Dietrich, entomologist, INHS
Dmitry Dmitriev, entomologist, INHS
Felipe Soto-Adames, entomologist, INHS
Jim Wiker, entomologist, Illinois State Museum
Aron Katz, entomologist, INHS (grad student)
Sam Heads, entomologist, INHS
Lesley Deem, entomologist, INHS
Scott Ballard, herpetologist, IDNR
Hugh Gilbert, herpetologist, St. Louis Herpetological Society
Bob Weck, herpetologist, Southwestern Illinois College (SWIC)
Mike Marlen, herpetologist, SWIC
Dirk Stevenson, herpetologist, Orianne Society
Andrew Durso, herpetologist, EIU (grad student), plus 3 additional undergrads
Stephen Mullin, herpetologist, EIU, plus 2 additional undergrads
Joyce Hoffmann, mammalogist, INHS
Jean Mengelkoch, mammalogist, INHS
Joe Merritt, mammalogist, INHS
Ed Heske, mammalogist, INHS
Andy Miller, mycologist, INHS
Andy Methven, mycologist, EIU
Gerald Presley, mycologist, EIU (grad student)

B. Preliminary results of the BioBlitz survey report nearly 1000 species observed: 11-mammals, 29-herps, 21-mosses, 98-birds, 365-invertebrates, 428-plants, and 78-fungi.

These include three state-threatened/endangered reptile species (Flathead Snake, Eastern Timber Rattlesnake, Great Plains Rat Snake), three state-threatened/endangered plant species (Missouri Coneflower, Woolly Buckthorn, Dwarf Bedstraw), a skipper and butterfly species previously unreported in southwestern Illinois (Red Banded Hairstreak, Dusted Skipper), and a moss (*Campylophyllum calcareum*) believed never to have been recorded in Illinois before.

Data basing the survey results will require several more months of work. Several invertebrate, plant and fungi specialists have not completed their analyses. Clifftop will oversee completion of the data basing; will insure that appropriate "Element of Occurrence" reports are tendered, and will provide IDNR, INPC, and the Salt Lick Point Stewardship Committee site managers with final copies of the survey data base.

C. A nature festival was conducted from 9 AM to 4 PM on Saturday, 14 May at Valmeyer's Borsch Park, located a short distance from the Salt Lick Point Land & Water reserve. The festival's purpose was to highlight the importance of the BioBlitz and bio-diversity, and to underscore and demonstrate best land and wildlife conservation practices. In addition to nature-related art and craft vendor sales, bluegrass music, and food sales, the festival featured the following conservation-related informational and educational exhibits:

Illinois Conservation Police Wildlife Van
INHS' Traveling Science Center
Treehouse Wildlife Rehabilitation Center Raptor Display (owls)
St. Louis World Bird Sanctuary Raptor Display (hawks & eagles)
Invasive Plants Information (manned by IDNR and University of Illinois Extension)
Kaskaskia Valley Audubon Society
Archaeology of Monroe County
Southwestern Illinois Resource Conservation & Development (conservation easements)
Humane Society of Monroe County (cat control)
Monroe County University of I Extension Service (master gardener/naturalist programs)
Monroe County Natural Resources Conservation Service (conservation programs)
Monroe County Health Department (water quality / karst education)
US Army Corps of Engineers (conservation projects)
IDNR & INPC (general information)
Salt Lick Point Stewardship Committee
Clifftop

Several scheduled, formal presentations were made throughout the day at a covered, bleacher-seat area at the park. These included:

- Two World Bird Sanctuary programs on raptors with live-flight demonstrations
- "Wildlife Habitat in the Hill Prairie Corridor" (Deb Newman, INPC)
- "Aliens:Coming to a Woods Near You" (Mary Grapperhaus, IDNR)
- "Preliminary Results of the BioBlitz" (Bob Weck, SWIC & Steve Taylor, INHS)
- WBS release of a rehabilitated Turkey Vulture

D. Public Engagement: Special, by pre-registration only, public tours were conducted the night of Friday the 13th, from 8-10 PM, to watch BioBlitz scientists at work. Master Naturalists and other volunteer docents lead small public groups to four observation stations. INHS mammalogists mist-netted bats and talked to bat conservation at one station (and Big Browns were captured). SEMO entomologists black-lighted for insects and explained the crucial role of invertebrates in the ecosystem at a second station. SWIC herpetologists dip netted for amphibians and interpreted frog and toad calls at a third station. And IOS birders, listening for owl and night-bird calls, were able to show the public Great Horned and Eastern Screech Owls at a final station. Ninety-six people participated in the special evening tour.

On Saturday the 14th, during the festival, the public was bussed from the park to a Salt Lick Point Trailhead, and were able to view BioBlitz scientists at work. IDNR personnel provided interpretation and explanations at various stations along the trail.

Poor weather conditions on Saturday, May 14th, curtailed festival attendance. The all-day rain, gusty winds, and high temperature of 52 also hampered BioBlitz efforts. An estimated 300-350 people attended the festival.

7. Total Project Expenditures:

A. General: Expenses included motel accommodations for BioBlitz participants who traveled longer distances and participated on both days, food for the BioBlitz participants, advertizing signage and posters, buss rental, print materials, stipends, music, and administrative costs. A detailed cost spreadsheet is below.

B. Expenditure Spreadsheet:

Festival of the Bluffs 2011 & BioBlitz.Funding by Wildlife Preservation Fund ($4,000) & VSN ($2000).						
Expense Category						
	Item	Vendor (s)	Cost	Invoice paid/date		
oversight; mileage;RTV use for BB; logistics & admin.		Clifftop & Salt Lick Point Stewardship Committee	$600	recording of funds/disbursement post grant reimbursement.		
Advertising & Promotion						
	Roadway Signs	Highway Technologies	$580.23	Chk. # 1072, 2 Apr.		
	Posters	MAR Graphics	$375.00	Chk. # 1074, 8 Apr.		
	Handouts	MAR Graphics	$159.75	Chk. # 1094, 24 May		
Festival Services						
	Bus transport	Durham Bus	$358.50	Cred. Card ref. # 900284, 20 May		
	music	Cumberland Gap	$750.00	Chk. # 1083, 14 May		
	stipend	TreeHouse	$300.00	Chk. # 1089, 18 May		
	stipend	World Bird S.	$300.00	Chk. # 1090, 18 May		
	MIPN brochure shpmnt	Purdue Univ.	$28.64	Chk. # 1085, 17 May		
BioBlitz participant costs						
	motel	Super 8	$1,543.37	Cred. Card ref. # 113123, 13 May		
	dinner	Valmeyer BSA Troop 345	$500.00	Chk. # 1084, 14 May		

	lunch	Clifftop cash dispursmnt	$220.00	Chk. # 1082, 12 May			
	snacks, water & soda for BB participants	Clifftop purchases	$144.30	Cred. Card ref. # 412190, 12 May			
	compostable/recyclable dinner utensils	Reimbur. To Debbie Newman for purchases on credit card.	$113.44	Cred. Card ref #s 544 & 01020 B; Chk. # 1093, 24 May			
Total			$5,973.23				

C. Expenditure Details:

1. $600 Administrative and logistical costs to Clifftop and the Salt Lick Point Stewardship Committee, festival and BioBlitz co-hosts and organizers. These include personal mileage, phone bills, administrative supplies, RTV/UTV fuel, and volunteer staff time. The reimbursement will be evenly split between the two organizations.

2. $580.23 Roadway advertising/promotion signage for the festival. Vendor: Highway Technologies, 9441 Lebanon Road, East St. Louis, IL 62203. Paid invoice is attached.

3. $375 Advertising posters. Vendor: MAR Graphics, 523 South Meyer Ave., Valmeyer, IL 62295, 800-851-4460 Vendor: MAR Graphics, 523 South Meyer Ave., Valmeyer, IL 62295. Paid invoice attached.

4. $159.75 Informational handouts(1000) for festivalgoers detailing events schedules, bus schedule, listing of demonstrators and listing of sales vendors. Print Vendor: MAR Graphics, 523 South Meyer Ave., Valmeyer IL 62295, 800-851-4460. Invoice and copy of payment check are attached.

5. $358.50 Bus rental. Vendor: Durham School Services, 4300 Weaver Pkwy, Warrenville, IL 6055539190. Copy of invoice and credit card transaction are attached.

6. $750 Music at festival. Vendor: Cumberland Gap Band, cumberlandgapband.com. Performance Agreement is attached. Payment check # 1083, after performance on 14 May; copy of check is attached.

7. $300 Stipend to TreeHouse Wildlife Center for festival participation. TreeHouse is a nonprofit wildlife rehabilitation center. Copy of payment check is attached.

8. $300 Stipend to World Bird Sanctuary (WBS) for festival participation. WBS is a nonprofit organization. Copy of payment check is attached.

9. $28.64 Postage reimbursement payment to Midwest Invasive Plant Network, Purdue University for mailing brochures (*Landscape Alternatives for Invasive Plants of the Midwest*) to Clifftop which were used as festival handout. Copy of invoice and payment check are attached.

10. $1543.37 Motel for BioBlitz participants. Vendor: Waterloo Super 8, 112 Warren Dr., Waterloo IL 62298, 618-939-2020. Copy of invoice and credit card payment are attached.

11. $500 Dinner for BioBlitz participants, evening Friday, 13 May. Vendor: Valmeyer BSA Troop 345. Invoice & copy of check #1084, payment, are attached.

12. $220 Saturday, 14 May lunch for BioBlitz participants. 22 BioBlitz participants remained at the festival at the conclusion of the BioBlitz at noon on Saturday. Clifftop gave each $10 so that they could purchase lunch from one of the festival food sales vendors.

13. $144.30 Water, soda and snacks for BioBlitz participants. Copy of receipt & credit card payment slip are attached.

14. $113.44 Compostable / recyclable dinner plates and utensils for Friday evening dinner for BioBlitz participants. Receipt & copy of reimbursement check is attached.

Clifftop

Conserving Lands in Farm, Forest, Talus, or Prairie

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Illinois Department of Natural Resources
4521 Alton Commerce Parkway
Alton, IL 62002

11 June 2011

Ref: IWPF Grant Agreement #11-L02W

Dear Diane,

I am enclosing final reporting materials for Clifftop's IWPF Grant Agreement #11-L02W, including the final report, project expenditure details, payment request certification, copies of news reports, and photographs (in digital format) from both the BioBlitz and Festival of the Bluffs 2011.

Thank you for working with Clifftop to make this event a success.

Sincerely,

Carl DauBach

Carl DauBach
Executive Director