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Join SYRCL's Community Earth Day Backyard BioBlitz

Help collect information about our watershed from your own backyard.

KNOW & GO:

What: SYRCL's Earth Day Backyard BioBlitz

When: Wednesday April 22, 2020

Where: Online & in your backyard

How: Visit yubariver.org/bioblitz/ for more information

Nevada City, CA – Yearning for some outdoor science while safely sheltering at home? Never fear, nature is all around us! Join the South Yuba River Citizens League (SYRCL) for our Earth Day Backyard BioBlitz on April 22nd.

This year for Earth Day, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, SYRCL is encouraging community members in the Yuba, Bear, and American River watersheds to get outside to observe and record the plants, fungi, and wildlife in your own backyard.

What is a BioBlitz? A BioBlitz is an event where people come together to catalog as many species as possible in a given area and time frame. However, since we can't be together right now, we're encourage participants to look in their individual backyards to identify all the plants and animals they see. Next, participants upload their finds to the iNaturalist app any time on April 22, and they will be automatically logged into the Earth Day Backyard BioBlitz Project.

Why do a Blitz? Community BioBlitz observations contribute to programs like iNaturalist, which allow anyone to upload information to one of the largest citizen science databases around. From this database, scientists can use the observations for research on things such as tracking species populations or detecting areas that have a high amount of invasive species. This research contributes to making better decisions when protecting our rivers and wildlife.

All you need to join in is a smartphone and the free iNaturalist app. You can either download the app directly to your phone, using your cell phone camera for making observations, or upload photos to the iNaturalist website. If you're new to a BioBlitz and apps like iNaturalist, visit yubariver.org/bioblitz/ for resources, training videos, and more. While iNaturalist will only let you make an account if you are older than 13 years of age, you can always create a family account and go out and identify species together.

No green space nearby? That's okay; you can still help ID observations made during the Earth Day event. Just hop over to the project page and provide identification for plants and wildlife that have been submitted on the Earth Day Backyard BioBlitz project page.

About the South Yuba River Citizens League (SYRCL): Based in Nevada City, CA, SYRCL (pronounced "circle") is the leading voice for the protection and restoration of the Yuba River watershed. Founded in 1983 through a rural, grassroots campaign to defend the South Yuba River from proposed hydropower dams, SYRCL has developed into a vibrant community organization with more than 3,500 members and volunteers. See: www.yubariver.org

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