



Ever wondered what plants and animals inhabit one of Western New York’s last wilderness areas? Enjoy taking pictures? Want to easily contribute species data to the only up-to-date biodiversity inventory of Zoar Valley? Then the **Zoar Valley Coalition’s BioBlitz 2025** is perfect for you! We’re even hosting an **iNaturalist training webinar** to help you get started.

## WHAT IS A BIOBLITZ?

A BioBlitz is when citizen-scientists, naturalists, and volunteers get outdoors and document as many species of flora and fauna as possible in a natural environment over a set period of time.

BioBlitzing is a way for us all to contribute to a better ecological understanding of a place. It also helps establish species baselines which, over time, help in monitoring changes, something especially important in these times of climate crisis and accelerated species extinction.

A BioBlitz can also help build a vital knowledge base of the rare and protected species present.

## WHEN IS THE ZOAR VALLEY BIOBLITZ?

- April 1 - June 30, 2025
- Webinar - March 24, 2025, 6:30 - 7:15 p.m. EST - “Introduction to iNaturalist”
- The big goal is to gather as comprehensive a biodiversity inventory of Zoar Valley as we all can, so keep on iNat-ing throughout Spring 2025 – Spring 2027!

**There will be PRIZES!** The person with the most observations and the person with the most species uploaded between 5/1/25-6/30/25 will receive a Save Zoar Valley t-shirt or mug (your choice) from the Zoar Valley Coalition merch shop! The person with the most observations uploaded for the less explored Otto side of Zoar Valley will receive a Save Zoar Valley lawn sign!

## WHO CAN JOIN IN?

Everyone! Citizen scientists, naturalists, professional scientists, volunteers, and community members of all ages can participate! No special skills are necessary. All you need is:

- A smartphone or camera (with a fully charged battery)
- The iNaturalist app downloaded to your phone (it's free!)
- Weather- and terrain-appropriate clothing and gear
- Water and snacks

## HOW TO GET STARTED

If you haven't used the iNaturalist app before, please join host Joshua Klostermann, an entomologist currently conducting biodiversity research in Zoar Valley, for:

**Introduction to iNaturalist – Zoom Webinar**  
**Monday, March 24, 2025**  
**6:30-7:15 p.m. EST**

Register for the webinar on [www.zoarvalley.org](http://www.zoarvalley.org) or click here: <https://bit.ly/3Rd9Gam>  
The webinar will be recorded and posted to YouTube here: [Zoar Valley Coalition - YouTube](#)

Once you're familiar with iNaturalist and have downloaded the iNaturalist app, head out to beautiful Zoar Valley on your own schedule to become a citizen scientist:

- **OBSERVE!** Take photos of plants, flowers, trees, mammals, birds, insects, flowers, fungi, and other organisms.
- **IDENTIFY!** Identification can be as simple as “fern” or “bee” or as precise as “*Linnaea borealis* (Twin flower).” It's okay if you don't know what kind of specimen it is; there are many experts on iNaturalist who are happy to help identify what you photographed.
- **SHARE!** Upload your photos to [Zoar Valley BioBlitz! · iNaturalist](#)
- **SHARE AGAIN!** Please post your photos to social media using [#ZoarValleyBioBlitz](#)

## RESPONSIBLE CITIZEN SCIENCE:

Please stay on trails whenever possible and be mindful of not trampling flora or fauna. Please stay within the Zoar Valley Multiple Use Area/Unique Area boundaries and avoid trespassing or parking on private property. No collecting or disturbing flora and fauna and no feeding or handling wildlife. Please practice leave no trace principles.

**The Zoar Valley Coalition thanks you for joining in!**