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**Black Rock Forest Consortium Announces New Summer Science Class Program**

[Cornwall, NY, February 27, 2013] Black Rock Forest Consortium announces the launch of a **Summer Science Class** program for middle and high school students, featuring field work at Black Rock Forest with scientists from Black Rock Forest Consortium's member institutions, including faculty and graduate students of the American Museum of Natural History, Barnard College, City University of New York, Columbia University, New York University, and The Browning School. Registration begins on Friday, March 8<sup>th</sup>.

"Learning in the sciences is the most fun when it's authentic," said Dr. Jeff Kidder, a zoologist and the Director of Education at Black Rock Forest Consortium. "We're delighted to offer this program to families in our region, because it connects kids with great instructors who are subject experts in a wide variety of fields, from comparative biology and entomology to mammalogy and behavioral neuroscience." The program is open to any middle or high school student interested in the environment, conservation or the natural sciences.

"We pack a lot of fun in, too," Kidder said. "Depending on the classes they choose, kids can kayak in Constitution Marsh, go owl-calling at night, collect and bake with wild berries, or climb the High Peaks of the Adirondacks."

Weekly classes run most of the summer:

- Jun. 23 - 29 Conservation Biology on Seahorse Key, Gulf Coast, FL
- Jul. 15 - 19 Day Classes for grades 7-12
- Jul. 22 - 26 Camp and Day Classes for 10-12<sup>th</sup> grades
- Jul. 29 - Aug. 2 Camp and Day Classes for 7-9<sup>th</sup> grades
- Aug. 5 - 9 Camp and Day Classes for 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades
- Aug. 11 - 17 Adirondacks Eco-Adventure for 10-12<sup>th</sup> grades

Eighteen courses cover a wide variety of topics. "Crime Scene Ecosystem" students pursue the case of a (fictional) park ranger who has found "green and yellow amorphous substances" in the forest and is trying to assess their impact on the ecosystem, while "Visualizing Entomology" students will collect, preserve and draw insect specimens to learn the art of biographical illustration.

“High school students arrive at the Forest with a fierce enthusiasm to get out into the field and see, touch and investigate just about everything that crawls, swims or flies by our path,” said Dr. Terryanne Maenza-Gmelch, a Barnard College paleoecologist who has taught student groups at Black Rock Forest for more than a decade. Maenza-Gmelch is offering a course called “Biodiversity Blitz: From Blueberries to Bluebirds” at the Forest this summer.

Black Rock Forest Consortium is delighted to announce a new partnership with Storm King Art Center, one of the world’s leading sculpture parks, as part of the Summer Science Class program in 2013.

“Storm King Art Center is thrilled to collaborate with Black Rock Forest Consortium on a summer class combining science and art. Taking place at Storm King, ‘The Art of Scientific Observation: From Microecology to Monumental Sculpture’ addresses the need for fostering creativity and critical thinking skills in middle and high school students,” said Victoria Lichtendorf, the Director of Education and Public Programs at Storm King Art Center.

#### **ABOUT BLACK ROCK FOREST CONSORTIUM**

Black Rock Forest Consortium is a nonprofit organization founded in 1989 to advance scientific understanding of the natural world through research, education and conservation programs. The Consortium maintains a 3,850-acre private forest preserve and a biological field station in Cornwall, New York, in the Hudson Highlands.

#### **TO REGISTER FOR SUMMER SCIENCES CLASSES**

Interested families can download the Summer Science Class brochure for complete course listings, and the phone number for registration, at [www.blackrockforest.org](http://www.blackrockforest.org). Registration begins at 9 AM on Friday, March 8<sup>th</sup>. Classes will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis.