

# ONAPA NEWS

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### **INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

Trout lillies	1-3
Stewardship projects	3
Temperamental weather	4
Sandhill cranes	5
Early signs of spring	6-7
Membership Application	8

## **Trout lilies brighten Ohio woodlands**

### By Guy Denny

Among the most welcome sights in our Ohio woodlands during late April are extensive colonies of long-lived perennial trout lilies, also known as fawn lilies, adder'stongues, and dogtooth-violets along with other less widely recognized local names. There are around 27 species world-wide in the genus, the majority of which occur in North America. Of these, reportedly 23 species are native to the United States, mostly in our western states. Only three are native to Ohio. The three Ohio species are Yellow Trout Lily (*E. americanum* ssp. *americanum*), White Trout Lily (*E. albidum*) and the extremely rare Beaked Yellow Trout Lily or Star-lily (*E. rostratum*).

All of these species are members of the Lily Family (Liliaceae) in the genus *Erythronium*. The genus name comes from the Greek *erythros* meaning "red or reddish." This is somewhat curious since our species have either yellow or white-colored flowers, not red. The explanation lies in the fact that when the famous Swedish botanist Carl Linnaeus established the scientific



**European trout lily** 

name for these plants in the 1753 publication *Species Plantarum*, the generic name he applied was based on the only single species of this plant native to Europe. That species of trout lily has a very attractive pinkish to pale-purple flower with dark purple anthers. Its flower is situated at the



Photo by John Watts

White trout lilies carpet an Ohio woodland in April.

end of a long somewhat reddish stem. Linnaeus named the European species *Erythronium denscanis*. The Latin word *dens* means "tooth," while the word for "dog" is *canis*. Accordingly, the common name for this European species became the Dog's Tooth Violet. This common name is in reference to the oblong underground bulb-like corm from which the stem emerges. This hard white corm was thought to somewhat resemble the tooth of a dog.

The name "violet" is misapplied since this species is a member of the lily family and not even remotely related to a violet. Reportedly the name "violet" originated with early English writers who often referred to wildflowers in general as "violets". Therefore, the common name "Dog's Tooth Violet" has continued throughout the ages. Many colorful cultivars have been developed from this native European species which is also native to Asia. Such horticulture cultivars are sold in nurseries and are found growing in gardens across Europe and Asia and even in North America.

Trout lilies typically occur in large colonies growing in rich moist woodlands and wooded

(Continued on page 2)

Continued from page 1

### Ohio has three native trout lilies, one rare

bottomlands, often carpeting the forest floor. They are widespread and scattered throughout Ohio. Perhaps the best identifying characteristic of Ohio's trout lilies are their distinctive mottled leaves with their purplish-brownish splotches. Reproduction is from seeds and vegetatively from offsets splitting off by elongated slender threads from the bulblike "mother" corm. Small corms then develop at the tips of these stolen-like slender shoots. A corm is a solid, bulb-like thickened part of the underground stem in which the plant stores nourishment. It looks like a clove of garlic terminated at its base with a ring of roots. It takes about seven to eight years to get a blooming plant from seed or offset corms. During the first two or three years, only a single small leaf is produced.

three petals of the same color. They look so much alike that the flower appears to have 6 brightly-colored petals. Instead of referring to these structures separately as petals and sepals, botanists refer to them collectively as "tepals". Trout lily tepals are recurved and star-like in appearance. They open widely on sunny days but close back up at night and on cool overcast days. Like most spring ephemerals, Fawn-lilies bloom before the leaves emerge from overhead trees while ample sunlight is still able to reach the forest floor. Individual flowers last only a few days. By the time the woodland canopy has filled in with leaves blocking most direct sunshine, trout lilies have gone through their life cycle and withered. By late summer, not a trace of them remains to be seen. Native Americans utilized the

> leaves and corms of trout lilies for both food and medicine. Very young trout lily leaves are edible and can be eaten raw or as a pot herb. The roots are said to extract phosphorus from the soil and transfer it to the leaves enriching them with this important nutrient. The solid corm which can be up to 1 ½ inches in diameter is edible as well. However, the corm is deeply buried beneath the plant and connected to the surface by a long fragile leaf stalk. The corms of trout lilies work deeper into the ground each year making the corms on older plants

hard to retrieve. They may windup

seven inches or even up to twelve



Photo by John Watts



Photo by Guy Denny

### Mottled leaves typical of trout lilies, including the white trout lily.

Yellow trout lily's stamens and anther inspired the name 'adder's tongue.'

During the next two to three years the single leaf grows larger. Thereafter, two long, fleshy basal leaves emerge. Then, and only then, is the plant ready to produce a single flower at the end of a long leafless flower stalk or scape which arises from between the paired leaves. The fleshy leaves appear to be at the Trout Lilies tend to be more common in the western and more base of the plant, but upon closer inspection, the leaves are borne near the middle of the stem, about half of which is underground. Large colonies of trout lilies typically consists of relatively few flowering plants among a multitude of immature single-leaved plants.

It is from the somewhat spotted mottled leaves that the name "fawn-lily" is derived since some think these spots resemble the spots on a fawn. To others, this mottling resembles the mottling on the sides of a brook trout, hence the name "trout lily." It has also been suggested that this name refers to the notion that when trout lilies are in bloom, that is the best time when hungry trout will most readily take a fly or bait. The vernacular name "adder's-tongue" comes from the supposed resemblance of the raised strongly reflexed sepals and petals at the end of a long "neck" with an extended cluster of stamens and a protruding anther thought by some to resemble the flicking tongue and set fangs of a snake poised to strike.

inches underground. The extra effort needed to dig up corms makes their value as a food source questionable. Much better to not disturb these delicate spring wildflowers and simply enjoy their beauty.

Of our two most common species of trout lilies, White southern part of their overall home range. In Ohio, they tend to be more frequently encountered in the limestone/dolomite regions of the western half of the state. As there name implies, they have white tepals. Their specific epithet *albidum* is Latin for "white". Yellow Trout Lilies, with their bright yellow tepals, tend to be more common in the eastern part of their overall home range. Within Ohio, they tend to be more common on the sandstone/shale regions in the eastern half of our state. However, both of these species are found throughout Ohio in suitable habitat. Rarely, they may even be encountered growing in close proximity to one another.

The Beaked Yellow Trout Lily or Golden-star Lily (E. rostratum) was first discovered growing in Ohio April 30, 1963, by famed Ohio botanist and ecologist Dr. E. Lucy Braun of the University of Cincinnati. She discovered it on the slopes adjacent to Rocky Fork Creek in Brush Creek Township, Scioto County. This is a disjunct population of a more southern ranging species of trout lily that occurs from this isolated Ohio Trout lily flowers are lily-like flowers with three sepals and population west to Kansas, then south to Texas and Alabama.

Continued on page 3





Photos by Guy Denny

Golden-star lily features unique characteristics: flower has star-like open petals and sports an upright seed capsule.

The name "beaked" is in reference to the mature ellipsoid seed capsule with its very distinctive long tapering beak and persistent style. The Latin name for "beaked" is *rostratus*. Unlike our other trout lilies, this beaked seed capsule is held erect because of a distinctively upward curve of the tip of the otherwise downward arching flower stem. The name "star lily" is in reference to the showy yellow, wide-open star-like flower held in a distinctive somewhat upturned vertical plane rather than in a recurved or drooping position like our other Ohio trout lilies. Unlike the Yellow Trout Lily with its typically dark colored anthers, the anthers of the Golden-star Lily are characteristically bright yellow.

Other than the population found in the Edge of Appalachian Preserve in Adams County, the lower Rocky Fork watershed in Adams County is the only known site in Ohio for the occurrence of this state endangered species. The Arc of Appalachia Preserve System has preserved one of the best populations know in Ohio. The Beaked Yellow Fawn or Trout Lily is a rare species throughout most of its range. The Rocky Fork Watershed populations appear to be the most northern populations in North America. In Ohio, this disjunct population of a mostly southern ranging species is considered to be a remnant of a time prior to the Ice Age when many now southern species of plants had a range expansion much farther northward than today.

Clearly, Ohio's species of trout lilies brighten our ephemeral green, early spring woodlands, a fitting and most welcome end to long, cold winter days. Take the time to visit natural areas throughout our state to welcome their return each spring. It is great therapy for both body and mind.

### Winter stewardship projects point to productive year

### By Jennifer Windus

The ONAPA Board decided to keep two stewardship assistants on through March, so Maddie and Landon are still with us. As a result, we scheduled a few projects in December before beginning our winter schedule January 7.

In December, we had four projects at Fowler Woods, Jackson Bog, Brinkhaven Oak Barrens, and Gorman Nature Center. For all of these, we were cutting and treating woody species. At Fowler Woods, we cleared woody species around the observation deck to improve visual opportunities for visitors from the new boardwalk. At Jackson Bog and Brinkhaven Oak Barrens, we continued clearing the fen meadows and oak barrens, respectively. At Gorman Nature Center, we removed woody invasives in the woods and the prairie, helping our partners at Richland County Park District.

In January, we worked at Erie Sand Barrens (January 7), Zimmerman Prairie (January 13), Kiser Lake Wetlands (January 14), Springville Marsh (January 19), and Halls Creek Woods (January 28). Again, we cut and treated woody species at all these preserves. At Erie Sand Barrens, we worked in a high-quality moist sandy area with many rare plants to remove invading woodies. At Zimmerman Prairie and Kiser Lake Wetlands, we removed invading woody species in the prairie and fen meadow. We partnered with Beaver Creek Wetlands Association at Zimmerman Prairie as they now manage the



Photo by Jennifer Windus

### Volunteers target woody species at Kiser Lake SNP.

preserve in cooperation with the Ohio Division of Natural Areas and Preserves. At Springville Marsh, we cut and invading dogwoods, red maples, and willows in two sedge meadows along the boardwalk. Finally, our project at Halls Creek Woods, a first-time project for ONAPA, was to remove Amur bush honeysuckle in the understory of the woods to improve habitat for spring wildflowers.

Ten more projects were scheduled in February and March, with spring projects not far behind. Volunteers are always welcome. Please visit <a href="https://www.ONAPA.org/VOLUNTEER">www.ONAPA.org/VOLUNTEER</a> for opportunities to make a difference in Ohio's natural areas.

## Spring is temperamental in our temperate zone

### Photos and article by Tim Snyder

Spring is a fickle season with moods that vacillate between winter's chill and summer's heat. At times it seems the extremes of weather are battling each other for dominance, and so they are. There truly is a battle going on, and both combatants are made of air.

During the arctic winter, the North Pole is pointed away from the sun and night lasts for almost six months. In the darkness, heat radiates from the earth into space and there is little or no sunlight to replace it. As the ground grows colder and colder, it chills the air above it. By mid-winter, a huge mass of cold air covers the polar regions like a stocking cap. Cold air is heavy air and the massive arctic air-cap tends to flow outward toward the south. These outbreaks of cold arctic air moving down across the Midwest are what bring us our most bitter winter weather. Temperatures plummet and winds howl.

By mid-summer, the situation has changed dramatically. Now the North Pole is tilted toward the sun, resulting in a long polar day with its flood of warmth and light. As the arctic ground heats up, it heats the air above it. Warm air is light air which tends to rise. The southward flow is weakened. At the same time, the warm air mass surrounding the earth above the tropics is strengthened by the heat being added to the temperate regions between the extremes. In the realm of weather, heat is power. Warm tropical air surges north, pushing back the cool polar air and the sultry days of summer arrive.

The leading edge of one of these moving air masses is called a "front." Fronts mark the line where one air mass meets another, usually—but not always—by moving into it. If the invading air mass is cooler than the one it is advancing upon, its leading edge is called a "cold front." If it is warmer, the edge is a "warm front."

Fronts are regions of turbulent air and unsettled weather. Warm air, being lighter, rides up and over colder air. As the



Leading edge of a front moving in often represented by a shelf cloud, as dramatic in energy as in appearance.



Promise of bright sun is often overshadowed by ominous clouds of an impending spring storm.

warm air reaches the cold upper levels of the atmosphere, it loses heat and the water vapor it contains precipitates, resulting in a lid of clouds and an extended gentle rainfall. Cold air masses, on the other hand, act like bullies, shoving themselves beneath warmer air and forcing it to rise rapidly, resulting in thunderstorms and heavy rains of short duration. These violent storms can also produce high winds, hail and tornadoes.

The band circling the Earth where arctic and tropic air masses meet and struggle for supremacy is the battle ground of the atmosphere. It is a region of unstable air where fronts succeed one another in rapid succession, resulting in constantly changing weather conditions. During winter, the battle is pushed south of Ohio by the strength of the polar air mass and we shiver beneath it. During the summer, the battle line is held north of us by the stronger tropical air mass. In spring, the two contestants are equally matched and the battle wavers back and forth right over our heads. One day a surge of strong tropical air may push over us and we enjoy temperatures in the seventies. The next day a tongue of cold arctic air can lash down leaving late frost and unseasonable cold in its wake.

Such extremes are to be expected in the temperate zone, which is temperate only because when its extremes are averaged, the result falls into the moderate range. If you are having trouble with Spring's mood swings, take heart. Even as we speak, the warm tropical air mass is strengthening and will soon gain the upper hand.

Summer is coming.

## Save the date: ONAPA Annual Meeting

Saturday, August 21, 2021

West Woods Nature Center 9465 Kinsman Road Novelty, Ohio (Geauga County)

## Sandhill cranes a conservation success story

### By Guy Denny

On one of those wonderful early spring days in April about five years ago, the sun was warm and puffy white clouds drifted across a deeply intense blue sky. I was sitting on my front porch, savoring the renewal of life after a long, cold winter in central Ohio. Woodlands were just greening up with newly emerging leaves. Below, early spring wildflowers blanketed a fresh warm forest floor and the fragrance of moist, fresh, earth hung in the air. Migrating songbirds were finally making a return to their nesting grounds after spending the long winter months in warm southern latitudes, some as distant as Central and South America.

Suddenly came the very loud, distintive resonant, rattling call of a large bird I had previously heard only in the wilds of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, not in Ohio. I couldn't believe my

ears! Could it be? Oh, my gosh, yes: the call of a Sandhill Crane and it sounded fairly close. Soon, in unison, the call of another Sandhill Crane joined in. Wow! I was listening to a pair of Sandhill Cranes from my front porch in Knox County. At first, I dismissed this as a pair of sandhills merely passing through from their wintering home in Florida to their traditional nesting grounds in northern Michigan or Ontario, Canada. I searched the sky without any luck of seeing these symbols of northern wilderness, but just hearing them was pretty exciting. What I didn't realize, the best was yet to come.

Sandhill Cranes have been on this earth for a very long time. They are one of the oldest living species of birds on earth. Fossils more than 2.6 million years old were discovered in Nebraska.

According to the International Crane Foundation, Sandhill Cranes are divided into five recognized subspecies in North America. Although similar in plumage, they differ in size and occupy distinct geographical areas of the continent. These subspecies can be further divided into migratory and non-migrating populations. Only two migrate: "Lesser" and "Greater" Sandhill Cranes. The Mississippi, Florida and Cuban sandhills are nonmigratory.

The breeding range of the Greater Sandhill Crane in the eastern region of our country extends from south central Canada southward into Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and northern Iowa, with a few scattered nesting pairs in northeast Illinois, northern Ohio and northern Indiana.

The Large Sandhill Crane stands 3 ½-to-4-feet tall with a wingspan of 6-to-7-feet. All Sandhill Cranes are bulky, overallgray colored birds. Their short tail feathers are covered by a distinctive cluster of feathers forming what appears to be a "bustle." But the most distinctive feature is the red cap (bare skin) that covers the forehead and crown, with a white patch below on the chin and upper throat. Prior to their annual molt, sandhills can have rusty brown staining on their feathers due to a curious habit of preening iron oxide reddish water and mud into their feathers. People unfamiliar with cranes often mistakenly refer to Great Blue Herons as cranes. Herons and cranes are both big wading birds with long legs and long necks. Great Blue Herons are

slightly smaller, slender, blue-gray birds. In flight, cranes fly with their necks outstretched. Herons, in contrast, fly with their necks folded back so their heads appear to be tucked against their body. Also, unlike Great Blue Herons, sandhills in flight, usually continually call, and can be heard for miles.

The scientific name for Sandhill Cranes has traditionally been Grus canadensis. However, in 2010, taxonomists changed the generic name based on molecular studies from Grus to Antigone, the genus name assigned to cranes by German naturalist Ludwig Reichenbach in 1853. Therefore, the scientific name for our Greater Sandhill Cranes occuring in the Great Lakes Region is now recognized as the subspecies Antigon canadensis tabida.

Early in Ohio's history, small numbers of Greater Sandhill Cranes were known to nest in the wetlands of northern Ohio. Up

until 1880, a large colony of sandhills nested in and around the extensive wet sedge meadows of what is now Irwin Prairie State Nature Preserve in the Oak Openings Region of northwestern Ohio. However, after the 1880s, their numbers plummeted. The last known successful nesting in Ohio was in 1926, within what was formally known as the Huron Bog in Huron County. Since 1926, Sandhill Cranes continued to be regular migrants through Ohio. But resident nesting cranes had disappeared. Until, that is, the spring of 1989, when John Clem, a pilot for the Ohio Divi-

sion of Wildlife, located from his plane and verified an active nest of



Photo by John Watts

Sandhill Crane pair in flight, necks outstretched

Sandhill Cranes on a Wildlife Area in Wayne County. After decades of habitat destruction, human encroachment and unregulated hunting, eastern populations of the Greater Sandhill Cranes began a remarkable comeback. Breeding populations in southeastern Michigan, on the increase since the 1970s, caused nesting populations to spread into Ohio. Small numbers of breeding pairs of cranes may have been present but undetected in Ohio since 1985.

And that brings us back to that delightful spring day five years ago as I listened to nearby calling sandhills from my porch. These birds remained calling into the next day and beyond. I tracked their calls back to a shallow wetland along the Kokosing River just inside the Morrow County line, about a mile from my front porch. To my surprise, a nesting pair raised two colts (young sandhills) that year, and every year since, part of the ongoing return of nesting sandhills to Ohio. Today, there appears to be more than 50 breeding pairs of Sandhill Cranes in Ohio; the number slowly continues to increase.

Sandhill Cranes typically restrict nesting to large, shallow, undisturbed wetlands, keeping their distance from humans. Historically intolerant to human intrusions, sandhills may be growing more tolerant, allowing them to now nest in smaller wetlands closer to civilization. The Florida subspecies (A. canadensis pratensis) that does not migrate is unusually tolerant of humans, often found foraging on lawns within suburban communities.

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Continued on page 7

## Early signs of Spring are welcome and personal

"There is a precise moment each year when the tick of a watch separates spring and winter. It is the moment - usually on the 21<sup>st</sup> of March - when the sun reaches the celestial equator, that imaginary line through the heavens above the Earth's equator. As the sun's center crosses this line, the season officially changes. This is the vernal equinox of the ancient astronomers".

(Excerpt from *North with the Spring* by Edwin Way Teale).

### Photos and article by John Watts

Winter is a necessary "season of rest" for our plants and some wildlife species in preparation for the growing season ahead. In Ohio, after four to five months of overcast, gray skies and temperatures in the low to mid 30's, any sign of spring is welcome. Most naturalists and hikers begin to look for their own personal early signs of spring. It may be an early season bulb or wildflower or the sighting of a butterfly. It might be a sound such as the first wood frogs clucking in Ohio's hill country, the first Red-winged Blackbird or the evening "peent" of an American Woodcock. Whatever your personal favorite may be when you find it, probably in the same location annually, it always brings a smile and hope that spring is on its way. Here are a few species to search for as you hike throughout Ohio's nature preserve system or your favorite hiking area.



### Harbinger-of-Spring (Erigenia bulbosa)

As the name implies, the flowering of this early blooming native wildflower signals the arrival of spring. One of Ohio's earliest spring wildflowers, it is often found peeking above the leaf litter as early as late February in southernmost Ohio and can be found widely throughout the state by mid-March. Also known as Saltand-Pepper for the appearance of the dark anthers and white petals, it is widely distributed throughout most of Ohio in floodplains and rich woodlands. This member of the Carrot Family is only a few inches tall in full bloom and takes an observant eye to locate when if first blooms. *Erigenia* is from the Greek meaning "Bornin-the-Spring", one of its other common names.

### Louisiana Waterthrush (Parkesia motacilla)

The melodious, loud, complex song of the Louisiana Waterthrush begins to fill the forested woodland ravines and stream corridors of southern Ohio during the last week of March. By early April it has returned to most of its Ohio breeding range, which is concentrated in unglaciated Ohio and becoming more sparsely found throughout central and southwest Ohio. It is only rarely found in northwest Ohio. While Pine Warblers are known to return earlier, often late February in southern Ohio, their return is much less vocal and musical when compared to the Louisiana Waterthrush. The Louisiana Waterthrushes forage along small streams where they continually walk and dance with their familiar tail-pumping action.





### Scarlet Cup Fungus (Sarcoscypha coccinea)

One of the few bright red items of early spring woodlands, this fungus is found on hardwood branches in fairly moist areas such as rich ravines, moist woodlands and small stream bottoms. Found singly or in a loose group, they are typically found in very late March and early April. They vary in size from  $\frac{3}{4}$  to  $2^{\frac{3}{8}}$  inches long and  $\frac{3}{4}$  to  $1^{\frac{1}{4}}$  inches wide.

### **Spring Azure** (*Celastrina ladon*)

Some species of butterflies over-winter as adults, such as Mourning Cloaks. They may appear flying through the woods during a warm spell in February or early March and are certainly a welcomed sight. The Spring Azure, however, in its spring form, is a true spring butterfly. Often appearing in the southern part of the state in late March, this small woodland butterfly is often observed nectaring on early spring wildflowers such as Spring Beauty. The species has a slow and erratic flight pattern as it moves from flower to flower. This butterfly has several broods or generations throughout the growing season referred to as multivoltine. Later summer broods are often called Summer Azures. This is a very complex group of butterflies with many variations and forms. Adults are blue above with a pale ground color underwing with various dark markings and always lacking orange spot and tails.

Continued on page 7







Photo by Chip Gross

Three sandhills strolling through a Florida neighborhood.

This pair of sandhills, with their colts, nest along the Kokosing River in Morrow County.

Sandhill **Cranes** appear to be growing more tolerant of people and are nesting in smaller wetlands closer to civilization.

#### Continued from page 5 More Sandhill Cranes seen in Ohio

closer to civilization. The Florida subspecies (A. canadensis pratensis) that does not migrate is unusually tolerant of humans, often found foraging on lawns within suburban communities.

Sandhill Cranes mate for life and are known for their elaborate courtship dances. They usually build their nests in shallow water wetlands (from a few inches to 2-to-3-feet deep) dominated by emergent vegetation. Nests are constructed from wetland plants mounded up above surrounding water levels. Cranes tend to be very vocal prior to egg hatching, vigorously defending their nesting territory. Normally, two eggs are laid and hatch after 28-31 days of incubation. Immediately after hatching, the flightless young leave the nest and forage for food on foot with their parents who, at that point, are very silent, secretive, and protective.

Sandhills are omnivores feeding on insects, shoots and tubers, seeds, amphibi-

ans, reptiles, waist grain from harvested fields, and even small mammals. The colts aren't able to fly until they fledge at about 3 months old. They remain with their parents as a family unit through their first winter. The young do not breed until they are three to five years of age. In the wild, sandhills have a lifespan of up to 19-20 years. They are a state protected species in Ohio but a game species in many other states such as Kentucky and Tennessee.

Most Greater Sandhill Cranes migrate south in large flocks during early autumn and early winter, usually at high altitudes and often by the hundreds. They return in spring. There are always some who will overwinter. During migration, there are traditional congregation areas along the way known as "staging areas." One of the most significant such staging areas in North America is along the Platte River on the edge of the Sandhill Region of Nebraska, the origin of the common name, "sandhill cranes."

Closer to home, perhaps the largest staging area is Jasper-Pulaski Fish & Wildlife Area in Medaryville, located in extreme northwestern Indiana. During the fall, 10,000-30,000 can be seen feeding in nearby agriculture fields during the day, returning to a special observation field late in the day, and then flying up all at once just before sunset to spend the night roosting in shallow water of the marshes in the refuge, safe from predators.

I feel extremely fortunate to routinely hear the loud melodious calls of Sandhill Cranes throughout the year as they frequently fly over my house at tree-top level. I still run out every time I hear them to get a glimpse of these majestic large birds.

As their numbers continue to increase in Ohio, I hope many of you will be just as fortunate to hear and see sandhills with some frequency, as it is quite a treat.

### Continued from page 6 Early signs of spring are welcome

Eastern American Toad (Anaxyrus americanus americanus)

Searching spring or vernal pools for breeding amphibians has gained popularity. Some towns even have festivals to celebrate the annual migration of salamanders to their early season breeding pools. Most of our smaller frogs and toads breed in the spring with the earliest being Wood Frogs whose "clucking calls" can even be heard in February some years. Many of these species are very small such as the Western Chorus Frog which is just over an inch in length at maturity. The Eastern American Toads begin singing their loud "whistle-trill" by mid-April in most years. When approaching these breeding pools, singing will completely stop. If one sits and remains fairly still eventually they will carry on with the spring breeding ritual and it is possible to observe the behavior of many species.



As naturalists we learn to enjoy and appreciate each season that our natural world offers in this latitude. Even winter offers views of the landscape, the winter bird visitors, and the opportunity to view animal tracks in the snow from their daily movements. But it is hard to find anyone that does not look forward to the Spring season with the rebirth and regrowth it brings. As Edwin Way Teale said, "The world's favorite season is the spring. All things seem possible in May".



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