

31 March 2010

FrogWatch USA Chapters

AZA wants to thank all those FrogWatch USA Chapters with established programs, while welcoming the opening of several new FrogWatch USA Chapters.

Long-term Chapters

Howard County Department of Recreation & Parks, Md.
Roger Williams Park Zoo FrogWatch USA, RI
San Antonio Zoo, Texas

New Chapters

Miami Metrozoo FrogWatch, Fla.
FrogWatch USA—St. Augustine, Fla.
Jenkinson's Aquarium Hoppers, Pt. Pleasant Beach, NJ
Chattanooga Zoo FrogWatch USA—Tenn.
Good Zoo Master Naturalist Frogwatchers, Wheeling, W.Va.

More Chapters are being planned; please contact frogwatch@aza.org if you would like to see a Chapter

Start a Chapter at Your Accredited Zoo or Aquarium!

AZA has materials that allow AZA-accredited zoos and aquariums to open their own Chapter of FrogWatch USA that can be branded by the facility and tailored to meet each community's needs.

AZA will offer additional Chapter Coordinator training sessions, including one at the AZA Annual Conference in Houston, Texas, 11-16 September 2010.

Learn more about FrogWatch USA and how to open a local Chapter at: www.aza.org/frogwatch/.

Volunteer Training Sessions

Let us know when your organization is hosting FrogWatch USA volunteer training sessions. Send the session dates and the contact information for the session coordinator to Mandy Gaudreau at: magaudreau@rwpzoo.org.

Mandy is also the session coordinator for the next training session to be held by Roger Williams Park Zoo on 17 April 2010. Contact her for additional information.

We Want To Hear From You!

Share your FrogWatch USA experiences, questions, and photos with us and your fellow FrogWatch USA Volunteers, by contacting Mandy at mgaudreau@rwpzoo.org. The newsletter is published regularly throughout the FrogWatch USA season. Previous newsletters are also available for download.

Featured Species—Foothill Yellow-Legged Frog (*Rana boylei*)

The foothill yellow-legged frog can be found in aquatic habitats from southern Oregon to southern California. It prefers sandy or gravelly streams with sunny banks and open woodlands nearby. Foothill yellow-legged frogs are gray to brown to olive in coloring with a light colored band across the top of its head. Its lower abdomen and the underside of its legs are yellow. This frog breeds from March to May and its call is a rasping, unmusical note given 4 to 5 times in a rapid series. This species is rarely heard.



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Brush Up On Your Identification Skills

Brush up on your frog and toad call identification skills and review the FrogWatch USA monitoring protocol at: www.aza.org/current-frogwatch-volunteers/.

A list of the frog and toad species found in each state and recordings of their calls can be accessed through the FrogWatch USA Web site, thanks to Lang Elliott. In March 2009, Mr. Elliott's book, *The Frogs And Toads of North America*, was published and includes nearly 400 photographs, natural history information, range maps, an audio CD, and more. Learn more at: www.naturesound.com.

Test your identification skills by using the U.S. Geological Survey's public Frog Call Quiz at: <http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/frogquiz/>.

What are Fellow Volunteers Hearing?

Curious as to what frogs and toads are calling around the United States? In mid-March, eastern states were reporting:

Wood frogs and spring peepers in Maryland, Ohio, and Rhode Island, plus western chorus frogs in Indiana

American toads in North Carolina

Pacific treefrogs in Washington

Remember to submit your datasheets as soon as possible after each monitoring session!

Data Submission Process

The process for submitting FrogWatch USA data has changed from years past. Record data from each monitoring visit on a FrogWatch USA datasheet and submit it to the FrogWatch USA office; online data submission processes are not currently available.

Datasheets are available for download at: www.aza.org/current-frogwatch-volunteers/. Datasheets should be submitted as soon as possible after each monitoring visit to: frogwatch@aza.org

Or via U.S. mail to:
FrogWatch USA Coordinator
Association of Zoos and Aquariums
8403 Colesville Road, Suite 710
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Thanks to all volunteers who submitted their 2009 end-of-season data via these methods last fall!

When completing your datasheets, be sure to report all data, including monitoring visits when zero frog or toad calls were heard. Information about the absence of calls is just as valuable as information about their presence.

Monitoring Reminders

Consistent implementation of the FrogWatch USA protocols is essential to ensure scientific validity. If you have questions regarding the monitoring protocol, contact your local Chapter Coordinator or email frogwatch@aza.org.

Review the FrogWatch USA monitoring protocol at: www.aza.org/frogwatch-monitoring-protocols/

Reminder: While you may want to enjoy the calls of frogs and toads for awhile, remember that the data submitted should only reflect that heard within your three minute monitoring period.

Reminder: All monitoring should take place at least 30 minutes after sunset.



Above is a photo of the FrogWatch USA volunteers trained at the February 28th training session held at the Roger Williams Park Zoo in Providence, RI



Photos above and below were taken by Lou Perrotti at a vernal pool in Hope Valley, RI. The photos are of several male wood frogs trying to mate with a single female.

