

Meetings

Northeast PARC Annual Meeting

The Northeast chapter of Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation held its 10th annual meeting at the Powder Mill Nature Reserve in Rector, Penn. on August 13-15 2008. About 75 people from the 13 states comprising U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Region 5 attended, most representing state agencies and universities, although federal agencies, Smithsonian's National Zoo, Philadelphia Zoo, AZA, other non-profits, and consultants also attended.

Scientific studies, a review of an elaborate and expensive snake translocation, glimpses of what data from the North American Amphibian Monitoring Program (NAAMP) might suggest, and an amphibian malformations keynote presentation were mixed with working group discussions. Over the past year, working groups have developed a bibliography of roads, road salts, and amphibians; identified species of concern that were included in multiple State Wildlife Action Plans; conducted training sessions to accompany the published Habitat Management Guidelines; and more. To learn more about working group priorities for the coming year, to get involved, or to review some of the products developed by NE PARC, visit: <http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/neparc/>.

Halting the Global Decline in Amphibians: Research and Practice - Symposium

Sponsored by Amphibian Ark, the Zoological Society of London (ZSL), and the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), this symposium will bring together researchers and conservation practitioners to discuss current threats and present potential solutions to this biodiversity crisis on November 20-21, 2008 at ZSL.

Speakers will assess the current knowledge of amphibian declines worldwide and detail the methodology employed both *in situ* and *ex situ* to combat losses. The 2008 'Year of the Frog', a global campaign catalyzing required funding and stimulating government and public action, will also be described. Learn more and register at www.zsl.org/zsl-london-zoo/whats-on/amphibian-declines-symposium,293,EV.html.

2008 | YEAR OF THE FROG Amphibians at AZA's Annual Conference

Monday (2:00-3:00, Rm 201D): The Amphibian TAG will share their latest conservation and husbandry resources, discuss the upcoming RCP, share highlights from the mid-year meeting, and introduce the new taxon champion program.

Tuesday (10:30-12:00, Rm 203C): *Toadally Terrific Educational Activities for 2008 and Beyond* will highlight the spectrum of ways AZA educators are engaging the public regarding amphibians.

Tuesday (1:30-3:00, Rm 201A): Focused on the conservation impacts the Year of the Frog campaign is already having, *Aiding Amphibians* will inspire you to develop new programs.

Thursday (~9:00-12:00, Exhibit Hall): Stop by TAG Mart and support the Amphibian TAG!

Amphibian Fund Awardees to Be Announced
Stop by AZA's booth in the Exhibit Hall to see which projects were funded this year.



Amphibian Ark issued Newsletter #4 in August (www.amphibianark.org/Newsletters/Newsletter4/amphibian_ark_news_4.htm). Highlights include updates on husbandry training and species prioritization, the Amphibian Ark Amphibian Cryobanking Advisory Committee, and reports from our regional partners. An essay by the Program Director calls for unity in the *ex situ* conservation community. Amphibian Ark is not the staff or Steering Committee; it is every person who cares about amphibians. Amphibian Ark is all of us, and we are all Amphibian Ark. We erected the Amphibian Ark umbrella over all of the wonderful work already underway, giving it a single name and a face. Now we must all carry our Amphibian Ark umbrellas with pride, working together to grow our collective capacity for rescuing amphibians. Jump in!

Submitted by: Kevin Zippel, Amphibian Ark Program Director

From the Field

Headstarting the Oregon Spotted Frog

Dina Roberts, Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife

Listed as an endangered species in Washington state, the Oregon spotted frog (*Rana pretiosa*) is getting a chance to recover its population through a project spearheaded by the Wash. Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW).

The effort, which began in 2007, is aimed at establishing a captive breeding and reintroduction program for the Oregon spotted frog. WDFW has enlisted a number of partners in



© Michael Durham, Oregon Zoo

a collaborative effort to help guide and participate in the program. In early spring of 2008, WDFW biologists and volunteers collected frog egg masses from

known populations in Washington. Currently, several hundred tadpoles are being head-started at Northwest Trek Wildlife Park, Wash., and at Oregon Zoo, Ore., with plans for a September release of juvenile frogs at Fort Lewis.

The head-starting and reintroduction efforts will continue for the next five years with the goal of successfully establishing a new, self-sustaining population of Oregon spotted frogs in Washington. The project receives funding from the two zoos head-starting animals, Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium (Wash.) and the Northwest Zoo & Aquarium Alliance.



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PSA Launched to Help Amphibians

Press Release, September 3, 2008

Disney, Amphibian Ark, Conservation International (CI) and the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) have launched a Public Service Announcement (PSA) starring Kermit the Frog and

Selena Gomez from Disney Channel's "The Wizards of Waverly Place" calling attention to the plight of the world's amphibians.

The PSA began airing on Disney Channel this week and asks people to visit www.yearofthefrog.org to get involved in amphibian conservation. Broadcast quality copies of the PSA are available for download at http://newsinfusion.com/video_details.php?videoid=210.

A CALL TO ACTION

Donate to AZA's Amphibian Fund

In the first year of AZA's CEF Amphibian Fund, \$200,000 was awarded to support important, cutting-edge, priority amphibian conservation research and action projects.

The Fund will continue awarding grants in 2009 and work to build and access long-term, sustainable funding sources for the future. Consider supporting this active fund by donating at: www.aza.org/YearoftheFrog.

Registration is Open for April 2009 ABCM

Register now for AZA's Board of Regents Amphibian Biology, Conservation, and Management course, to be held at the Toledo Zoo April 18-23, 2009. This will be the 8th time that the Toledo Zoo has hosted this popular course; the November 2008 course is full.

Multiple scholarships are available for both domestic and international students with applications due October 17, 2008. For a course schedule, information about scholarship opportunities, and to register, visit: www.aza.org/prodev/Amphibians/index.html.

Help Celebrate National Public Lands Day

National Public Lands Day is the nation's largest hands-on volunteer effort to improve and enhance the public lands Americans enjoy. In 2007, 110,000 volunteers built trails and bridges, planted trees and plants, and removed trash and invasive plants.

This year, the 15th annual National Public Lands Day will be held on September 27, 2008. Find a site near you at: www.publiclandsday.org/.



Monthly Report Submission Information

Send Monthly Report submissions regarding amphibian conservation activities and opportunities to Shelly Grow (sgrow@aza.org, 301-562-0777 x263).