

10 September 2009

Featured Species



© Mandy Gaudreau

Pickerel frog (*Lithobates (Rana) palustris*)

The pickerel frog has dark, rectangular spots arranged in two parallel lines on a lighter brown to greenish back. There is a light line along the upper jaw. The inner thighs of the pickerel frog are orange to yellow; this is one way to distinguish it from the northern leopard frog which looks similar but has white inner thighs. The pickerel frog is common in the northeastern and Mid-Atlantic states, but range as far north as the Canadian Maritime Provinces, south to the Carolinas, and west to southeast Minnesota and eastern Texas. The pickerel frog can be found in meadow streams and sphagnum bogs in the north and coastal plain and floodplain swamps in the south. This species breeds March to May. The mating call of the pickerel frog is a steady, low-pitched snore of 1-2 seconds. The pickerel frog has poisonous skin secretions strong enough to make a human sick, so be sure to wash your hands after handling this frog and particularly before handling any other frogs.



© Paul Crump, Houston Zoo

Official End of 2009 FrogWatch USA Season

The end of summer brings us to the end of the 2009 FrogWatch USA season. AZA would like to take this time to thank all of the dedicated volunteers who contributed time and energy to provide valuable data this year. Your hard work is greatly appreciated. Our AmeriCorps volunteer, Mandy Gaudreau, would like to extend an extra thank you to all who contributed photos and stories to the newsletters. Without these, the newsletter could not have been possible. We look forward to your photos and stories next FrogWatch USA season.

As many of you already know, the FrogWatch USA Web site is under construction as the FrogWatch USA database and Web site moves to AZA from the National Wildlife Federation. AZA extends its thanks to the National Wildlife Federation for hosting this database throughout the 2009 season. During site construction and until the database is re-launched, please send completed datasheets via email (preferred) to: frogwatch@aza.org or via regular mail to:

Shelly Grow
FrogWatch USA Coordinator
Association of Zoos & Aquariums
8403 Colesville Road, Suite 710
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Please also send thoughts and suggestions about training materials to: frogwatch@aza.org.

All 2009 FrogWatch USA newsletters are available at: <http://www.aza.org/frogwatch/>.

A summary of the 2009 season data will be available in early winter. Thanks again to all volunteers. We look forward to hearing from you soon and to your continued participation in 2010!

Thank you Roger Williams Park Zoo and AmeriCorps!

AZA would like to thank Roger Williams Park Zoo (RWPZ) for enlisting two AmeriCorps volunteers to work with FrogWatch USA during the 2009 season. Nicole Mann worked with the program February-June and we wish her well in her new endeavors in Africa. Mandy Gaudreau (February-August) produced each of the newsletters and responded to many of your questions. Congratulations to Mandy for receiving a RWPZ Sophie Danforth Conservation Biology Fund Grant to support her master's degree work on mapping the distribution of *Bd*, the fungus fatal to amphibians, in Rhode Island.