

### Trivia Question & Answer

*Trivia Question (from 31 March 2009 newsletter):  
What physiological mechanism do wood frogs  
possess in order to survive north of the Arctic  
circle?*

The bodies of wood frogs can produce a type of antifreeze that allows them to survive repeated exposure to both freezing and warming temperatures throughout North America and even north of the Arctic Circle. When the frog's body begins to freeze, water is pulled out of the cells, leaving them in danger of collapsing. At the same time, glycogen (a type of starch) in the liver is converted to glucose (a simple sugar), which is then carried throughout the body and packed into cells to prop them up, leaving the body frozen and the cells full of sugar. The frog survives in this state until temperatures warm, the water thaws and flows back into the cells, and blood starts flowing again. Spring peepers and western chorus frogs also possess this mechanism.

### Roger Williams Park Zoo FrogWatch USA Chapter Awarded Conservation Honor

On 8 May 2009, the Roger Williams Park Zoo FrogWatch USA chapter in Providence, R.I., will be awarded the Senator John H. Chaffee Conservation Leadership Award. This is a prestigious honor awarded to organizations that have completed outstanding conservation projects in Rhode Island. Congratulations!

### LEARNING FROG CALLS

The best way to identify which frog you are hearing is to practice listening to recordings of the calls most likely heard in your area. A list of these species and recordings of their calls are available on the FrogWatch USA Web site ([www.frogwatch.org](http://www.frogwatch.org)), thanks to Lang Elliott. In March, Mr. Elliott's latest 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](http://www.Naturesound.com).

### Featured Species



#### Spring peeper (*Pseudacris crucifer*)

The spring peeper can be found as far north as Manitoba, east to the Maritime Provinces, south through Florida, and west to Texas. The spring peeper has large toe pads and a distinctive dark X on its back. This species is found in wooded forests near temporary or permanent bodies of water. Spring peepers breed November to March in the southern parts of its range and March to June in northern parts of its range. The mating call of the spring peeper is a high pitched whistle and is already being heard in many parts of the country.

### Attract Amphibians to Your Yard: Tip #3

#### Tip #3 Plant Native Vegetation

Planting native vegetation including grass, plants, trees, shrubs, and flowers in your yard will attract both native amphibians and other native wildlife. Learn which plants are appropriate by contacting your state's wildlife agency to see if they sponsor any local, native habitat programs or learn to garden for wildlife through the National Wildlife Federation's Certified Wildlife Habitat Program ([www.nwf.org/gardenforwildlife](http://www.nwf.org/gardenforwildlife)).

#### We want to hear from you!

Share your FrogWatching experiences with us and your fellow FrogWatch volunteers! Send questions, stories, and photos to Mandy Gaudreau at [mgaudreau@rwpzoo.org](mailto:mgaudreau@rwpzoo.org), and you may see yourself in an upcoming newsletter. The newsletter is published twice monthly during the FrogWatching season and is available at [www.aza.org/frogwatch](http://www.aza.org/frogwatch).

## News From Around the Country

### What FrogWatchers are Hearing

- Mandy from western Massachusetts heard spring peepers in full chorus when driving by the Quabbin Reservoir on 31 March 2009.
- Loree from West Boyalston, Massachusetts is hearing spring peepers and wood frogs.
- Kay in northern Virginia is hearing spring peepers and American toads but reports not hearing the upland chorus frog at this time which is unusual for this time of year.
- Rick in Media, Pennsylvania is hearing wood frogs, American toads, and spring peepers.
- Valerie from Starksboro, Vermont is hearing wood frogs.

### UPCOMING TRAINING SESSIONS

Learn more about FrogWatch USA or hone your FrogWatching skills at these upcoming training sessions. Contact the listed facilitator for training session start times and locations.

Edmonds Backyard  
Wildlife Habitat Project (Wash.) 4/14/09  
[www.reczone.org](http://www.reczone.org)

Oglebay's Good Zoo (W. Va.) 4/18/09  
[PMiller@oglebay-resort.com](mailto:PMiller@oglebay-resort.com)

Roger Williams Park Zoo (R.I.) 4/18/09  
[mgaudreau@rwpzoo.org](mailto:mgaudreau@rwpzoo.org)

Mystic Aquarium (Conn.) 4/19/09  
[MMateleska@mysticaquarium.org](mailto:MMateleska@mysticaquarium.org)

Edmonds Backyard Wildlife  
Habitat Project (Wash.) 4/21/09  
[www.reczone.org](http://www.reczone.org)

Edmonds Backyard Wildlife  
Habitat Project (Wash.) 4/28/09  
[www.reczone.org](http://www.reczone.org)

Send us your FrogWatch training dates and we'll add them to the list!

### [www.FrogWatch.org](http://www.FrogWatch.org)

The FrogWatch USA Web site will be hosted by the National Wildlife Federation through the 2009 FrogWatching season and is where you should enter your FrogWatching data. Log in with the same username and password used in the past; contact Shelly ([sgrow@aza.org](mailto:sgrow@aza.org)) if you have misplaced them.

### Croaking Frog Farm

L. Chapman Jones bought a farm in Kentucky 20 years ago and, due to the incredible amount of amphibians on the land and the adjoining farm, named it "Croaking Frog Farm." Croaking Frog Farm is registered with the state of Kentucky.

Some nights, so many frogs were on the road that L. Chapman would stop and shoo the frogs ahead of him; sometimes it could take half an hour to roll the car a hundred yards down the road.

Sadly, he reports that these days there are not nearly as many frogs on the farm as there used to be.

L. Chapman has also developed the Frog's Caffeye Outdoor Acoustic Venue and invites us to check out some of the recordings of him trying to out sing the frogs. You can watch these videos at;  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=gxXexlZmqoo](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gxXexlZmqoo)  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=LNnnaM5Ehz8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LNnnaM5Ehz8)

### Photos by FrogWatchers



Photos by Jessica Roth from Strasburg, Pa. Above, a Pickerel frog (*Rana palustris*); below a green frog (*Rana clamitans*)

