

2015 Fall Newsletter



Spring Peeper © J. Meissen

OCTOBER 2015

[ENTER AND EXPLORE DATA
ONLINE](#)

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Greetings!

Another FrogWatch USA monitoring season has ended, and it was a fantastic 17th year of the program! Based on data submitted to date, nearly **12,600** species observations were recorded at over **850** wetland sites in 2015 - go [online](#) and see where. Thank you to each and every volunteer for your contributions to this robust and important collection of data. We look forward to your continued participation in 2016!



American Toad © Briski

Enter and Explore Data Online

FrogWatch USA observations are collected from February 1st through August 31st each year. Be sure that all your data from the 2015 season are entered into [FrogWatch-FieldScope](#), and continue to practice frog & toad call identification during the off-season. Although we encourage you to submit data directly online, you may also email datasheet copies to frogwatch@aza.org or mail in hard copies if needed.

FrogWatch USA data have been collected since 1998 and wetland monitoring sites have been registered in every state, along with Washington DC, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands. This entire dataset is available online. Use the mapping and graphing tools to explore the data on your own. Customize maps or graphs based on your own interests, and share them with your family, friends, and other FrogWatch USA volunteers. Maps and graphs are a great way to visualize data, examine frog and toad patterns over the years, and see how species are distributed across states.

Consult the [many available resources](#) related to online data entry and exploration, including a free, interactive [online course](#). Your chapter coordinator is also a great resource! There are

currently [132 chapters](#) in 39 states and DC; 10 were established just this year. General questions about the program, as always, can be directed to frogwatch@aza.org.

Thank You, Volunteers!

FrogWatch USA has an incredibly dedicated volunteer base. We wanted to recognize the following volunteers for their hard work and consistent monitoring for (at least!) the past five years:

Barbara F. (SC)	Bonnie B. (MD)	Cathy M. (IN)	Chris H. (TN)
Dave & Kate L. (VA)	Denise W. (MD)	Dolores R. (VA)	Don & Barb L. (MD)
Karen G. (IN)	Ken P. (MD)	Lorri G. (CA)	Lynn F. (WA)
Marggie F. (IN)	Meo C. (MD)	Pam F. (MD)	Rene I. (MD)
Ron D. (MD)	Sabrina F. (MD)	Scott N. (IN)	Sue M. (MD)
Susan W. (MA)	Terri G. (IN)	Tracy L. (OH)	Woody M. (MD)

We also wanted to give a special thank you to all who completed the recent FrogWatch-FieldScope evaluation, which was administered over the summer. Your feedback is greatly appreciated and will be used to improve the FrogWatch USA experience moving forward.

What Did Volunteers Hear?

In 2015, **92** unique frog and toad species were reported by FrogWatch USA volunteers. The most frequently reported species were the:

- [Spring Peeper](#)
- [Green Frog](#)
- [Gray Treefrog](#)
- [Green Treefrog](#)
- [American Bullfrog](#)
- [American Toad](#)



Green Frog © A. Russell

Do you have any fun images or recordings of these species from your monitoring visits? Share images and videos on our [Facebook](#) page!



Woodhouse's Toad © W. Flaxington

Where Do Frogs Go in the Winter?

Although summer is full of nighttime noises - chirps, croaks, clicks, and more - winter is fairly quiet. Ever wondered what the frogs are up to?

Many actually hibernate! Aquatic species like the Leopard Frog and American Bullfrog tend to hibernate in streambeds or pond bottoms, partially buried in the mud near oxygenated water. In contrast, terrestrial species like Woodhouse's Toads and Spring Peepers

burrow in the soil or hide out in rock crevices and logs. During hibernation, frogs become partially frozen on the outside, but never become fully frozen on the inside due to their body's biochemistry. Their hearts even stop beating - but these amazing creatures thaw and

reawaken in the spring every year!

The Larger World of Crowdsourcing and Citizen Science



The White House's Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) and Domestic Policy Council (DPC) recently hosted a [recorded webcast](#) on citizen science titled "[Open Science and Innovation: Of the People, by the People, for the People](#)". The forum brought together stakeholders from the government, citizen scientists, students, researchers, and more to engage in a discussion on how to design citizen science projects to solve real-world problems. In addition, the OSTP released the [Federal Crowdsourcing and Citizen Science Toolkit](#), which includes fantastic resources and case studies. If you are interested in learning more about citizen science initiatives like FrogWatch USA, we encourage you to explore the toolkit!

We are pleased to announce that the Association of Zoos & Aquariums is one of several organizations that has partnered with the [Citizen Science Association](#) (CSA) to coordinate a nationwide [Citizen Science Day](#) on April 16th, 2016. Look for or help plan activities that celebrate citizen science, explore other programs out there, and be sure to monitor your FrogWatch



USA site that day to honor your own engagement in citizen science.



Finally, we are thrilled to share that, in June, the Association of Zoos & Aquariums joined the National Pollinator Garden Network and is supporting the [Million Pollinator Garden Challenge](#). This nationwide crowdsourcing effort will create and support habitat for bees, butterflies, birds, bats and other pollinators across the country. Help us all reach a million gardens by visiting

<http://millionpollinatorgardens.org/> and putting your pollinator garden on the map!

Stay Connected



We hope you had a lovely summer - see you next year!

Sincerely,



Green Treefrog © Eumeldingens

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