

2016 Winter Newsletter



FEBRUARY 2016

New Jersey Chorus Frogs © W. Lattea

[CALLING SPECIES](#)

[FROG & TOAD PLUSHES](#)

[COMMUNITY UPDATES](#)

[CHAPTERS' STORIES](#)

[TRAINING](#)

[CITIZEN SCIENCE DAY](#)



Western Spadefoot Toad
© C. Brown

Greetings!

Welcome to the 19th year of FrogWatch USA! The 2016 monitoring season has now begun. Despite snow and ice in some parts of the nation, frogs and toads may already be calling elsewhere, and we hope you are excited to get outside and monitor. With a network of thousands of volunteers and close to [140 chapters](#), the FrogWatch USA community's reach continues to grow. The [online database](#) that you contribute to has the potential to be used by scientists, land managers, teachers, and anyone else interested in frogs and toads. Additionally, you and your fellow volunteers have connected with your own communities and natural surroundings in profound ways by participating in outdoor citizen science. We thank you for your dedication, and look forward to your continued participation.

Which Will You Hear First?

In the past, volunteers around the country have reported hearing the following species in February. Which will be the first that *you* hear?

[Cajun Chorus Frog](#)

[Spring Peeper](#)

[Northern Pacific Treefrog](#)

[Upland Chorus Frog](#)

[Sierran Treefrog](#)

[Southern Chorus Frog](#)

[Southern Leopard Frog](#)

[Western Chorus Frog](#)

[Western Spadefoot](#)

[Wood Frog](#)

Always remember to review [monitoring protocols](#) and brush up on your call identification skills to make sure you contribute the best quality data!



For Your Frog-Loving Valentine

AZA Commercial Member K & M International, home of the [Wild Republic®](#) brand and the exclusive AZA licensed toy line, is a supporter of AZA and FrogWatch USA, and creator of a line of frog and toad stuffed animals. These cuddly plush toys emit authentic calls when squeezed - they are great for any fan of frogs and toads, and are even useful for practicing frog and toad call identification. [Buy them here!](#)

FrogWatch USA in Your Community

We extend a warm welcome to our newest chapters:

- [Alaska FrogWatch USA](#) (AK)
- [Camp Loughridge's FrogWatch USA](#) (OK)
- [Charlotte FrogWatch USA](#) (NC)
- [Elmwood Park Zoo FrogWatch USA](#) (PA)
- [Greater Ozarks FrogWatch USA](#) (MO)
- [Hartshorn Arboretum FrogWatch USA](#) (NJ)



We thank all of our new chapter hosts and extend a particular welcome to Alaska FrogWatch USA, the first FrogWatch USA chapter to be established outside the 48 contiguous states. We look forward to learning more about the phenology of these very northern frog and toad species.



Stories From the Chapters

FrogWatch USA's [2012-2015 Chapter Summary and Achievement Report](#) illustrates the incredible extent to which coordinators are getting people excited about frogs and toads throughout the country.

Compiled from annual reports submitted by FrogWatch USA chapter coordinators, the report includes year-by-year snapshots with statistics and highlights, a look at trends in the community, and a variety of anecdotes and memorable moments.

Training and Support is Available

Need a refresher on the protocols? Want to meet other volunteers? Have a friend who wants to participate? Attend an in-person volunteer training session! Held by chapter coordinators at local chapters, many include field components and instruction in online data entry. Check the [Volunteer Training Session schedule](#) regularly to find a training session near you.



Want a refresher but don't live near a chapter? Thinking of starting a chapter in your community? Not to worry! FrogWatch USA offers online courses for current and new volunteers, as well as prospective chapter coordinators, hosted through the [Association of Zoos & Aquariums e-learning portal](#). These self-paced modules are offered at a discounted rate for AZA individual members, and include a wealth of resources that can be kept for future reference upon completion of the course.



Citizen Science Day 2016

Join AZA, the Citizen Science Association, and others in celebrating all things "citizen science" on Citizen Science Day. This event will launch on April 16, and some organizations will continue to host relevant events throughout the month and into May. Learn more by visiting the [Citizen Science Day FAQ page](#).

Stay Connected



Treefrog © Eumeldingens

We are looking forward to another fantastic monitoring season, and thank you for continuing to be a part of the FrogWatch USA community. Please remember that you can contact us at any time if you have any questions about the program.

Enjoy!

Shelly & Arslan
The AZA FrogWatch USA Team

Association of Zoos & Aquariums
8403 Colesville Road, Suite 710
Silver Spring, MD 20910
frogwatch@aza.org
www.frogwatch.org