

FROG | USA
WATCH



2012-2015 CHAPTER SUMMARY
AND ACHIEVEMENT REPORT

**ASSOCIATION
OF ZOOS &
AQUARIUMS**

Based on annual reports submitted by FrogWatch USA™ Chapter Coordinators

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INTRODUCTION



Between 2012 and 2015, FrogWatch USA experienced remarkable growth. During that time, 2,274 new wetland sites were registered, and at least one observation was recorded at 1,833 wetland sites (see map of where observations were taken). 1,189 volunteers in 40 states and Washington, D.C. recorded 23,601 individual species observations or reported “no species heard” during their monitoring visit. One hundred new chapters were founded, and the FrogWatch USA community is larger, more confident, and more efficient than ever before.

This document compiles the data, comments, and stories conveyed in chapter coordinators’ annual reports during this time period, while also describing some of the trends seen in these reports. Summaries of each year’s reports are provided, along with maps of the all of chapters at the end of each season, and some chapter highlights.

AZA thanks coordinators for sharing this information. Not all coordinators submitted reports in any given year, so, if anything, the impressive content presented here underrepresents the true activity level of the FrogWatch USA network. We hope that this information might help and inspire you for the FrogWatch USA seasons to come!

THANK YOU FOR SUBMITTING AN ANNUAL REPORT EACH YEAR (2012-2015)

Beardsley-Peabody FrogWatch (Conn.)	High Rock Park in the Greenbelt (N.Y.)
Brevard Zoo FrogWatch USA (Fla.)	Howard County Department of Recreation & Parks (Md.)
Buffalo Zoo FrogWatch (N.Y.)	Knoxville Zoo FrogWatch (Tenn.)
Buttonwood Park Zoo FrogWatch (Mass.)	Mystic Aquarium FrogWatch USA (Conn.)
Cheyenne Bottoms FrogWatch (Kan.)	Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium FrogWatch USA (Pa.)
Detroit Zoo's FrogWatch (Mich.)	Saint Louis Zoo FrogWatch USA (Mo.)
Erie Zoological Society (Pa.)	Santa Barbara Zoo FrogWatch USA (Calif.)
Fontenelle Forest FrogWatch (Neb.)	Virginia Tidewater Chapter (Va.)
Fort Wayne Children's Zoo FrogWatch USA Chapter (Ind.)	Wild Spirit Education FrogWatch (N.Y.)
FrogWatch Cosley Zoo (Ill.)	Wildlife Conservation Society Chapter (N.Y.)
FrogWatch Researchers of Greenville Zoo (FROGZ) (S.C.)	Zoo Miami FrogWatch (Fla.)

2012-2015 EDUCATION & OUTREACH HIGHLIGHTS



670
training sessions held



6,885
volunteers trained



3,247
volunteers certified

2012-2015 DATA SNAPSHOT

2,274 new wetland sites registered

1,833 sites with at least one observation

Observations in **40** states and Washington, DC

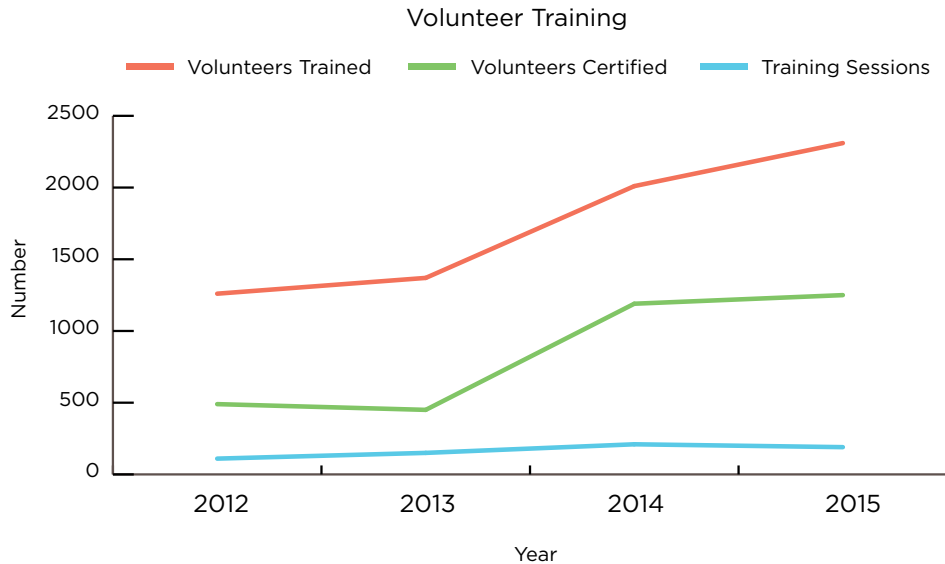
1,189 volunteers logged at least one observation at a registered site

23,601 species observations

81 species reported

2012-2015 OVERVIEW

Chapters are ensuring that FrogWatch USA is an impressive education program. Between 2012 and 2015, at least 670 training sessions were held throughout the country, training and educating more than 6,885 people and certifying at least 3,247 of them to confirm their understanding of the FrogWatch USA protocol and frog and toad call identification skills. The number of volunteers trained each year has steadily increased, indicating that the FrogWatch USA community continues to grow, learn, and improve.



While the chapter network and the dedicated chapter coordinators promoted the program, recruited volunteers, and prepared volunteers to participate in FrogWatch USA, the launch of an online data entry, analysis, and visualization system in 2014 made program participation easier and offered access to data in real-time. This online system, FrogWatch-FieldScope, is a culmination of AZA's efforts to offer a premier web-based interface that supports online data submission, provides real-time feedback in order to minimize data errors, presents data visualizations, and allows people to access and explore the data on their own. In addition to graphs and maps, FrogWatch-FieldScope also permits users to review data submitted by others and share any data quality concerns. This system was built by the National Geographic Society and customized specifically for FrogWatch USA with support from the National Science Foundation (2010-2015).

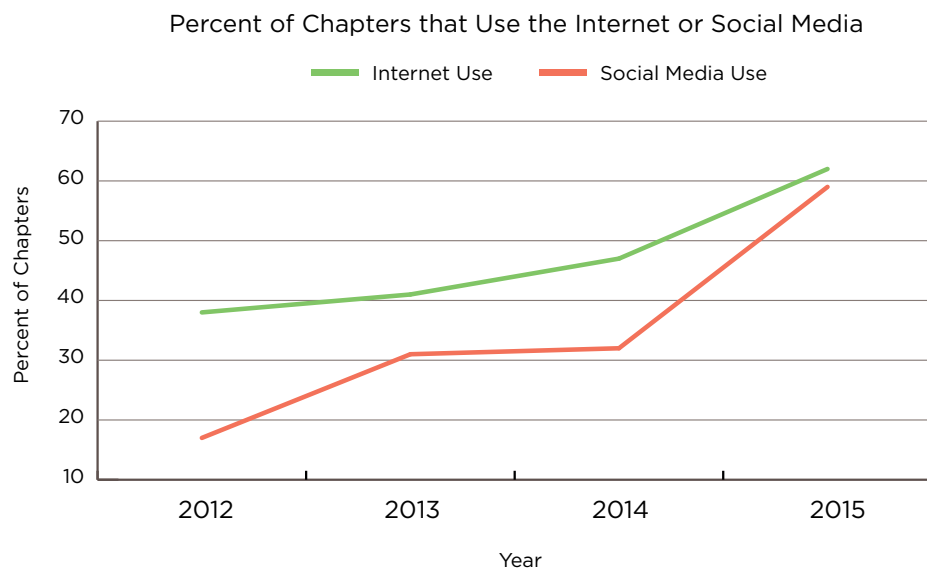
FrogWatch-FieldScope has improved access to and the utility of FrogWatch USA's scientific data, and chapter coordinators and their volunteers quickly began to use this resource. Chapter coordinators reported frequently using maps and graphs during in-person volunteer training sessions to feature local species records, wetlands monitored or in need of monitoring, and how an individual volunteer is an integral part of a nationwide effort. Chapter coordinators also reported using FrogWatch-FieldScope to track their chapter's activity, review their chapters' site locations and observations for protocol adherence, and see if rare species



may have been detected by one of their volunteers. Both coordinators and volunteers created and shared maps and graphs, which were featured on the FrogWatch-FieldScope homepage. FrogWatch-FieldScope visualizations were used to review data for quality control and assurance, illustrate data gaps that needed to be addressed, demonstrate the influence chapters have on local volunteer participation, and highlight underrepresented areas that needed monitoring.

INTERNET AND SOCIAL MEDIA

The use of the internet and social media to market, recruit, inform, and organize the public about FrogWatch USA activities grew each year. These media are great for bringing people together and sharing ideas, experiences, and data. The possibilities to network, learn from one another, and inspire new volunteers through the internet and social media are boundless!



The most commonly used platforms are the websites or Facebook pages of a chapter's host institution, although an increasing number of chapters have created their own websites or Facebook pages specific for their activities. Facebook is the most commonly reported social media platform used and public Facebook pages are great resources because anyone can see and find them, and visitors do not have to be "friends" on Facebook to like a page and receive updates. Chapters also reported using Twitter, Instagram, and Google+. People use social media and websites differently and the following Facebook pages and website demonstrate unique and creative approaches:

1. **The Virginia Tidewater Chapter's Facebook page** (<https://www.facebook.com/VATidewaterFrogwatchUSA/>) includes links to articles and "Frog Friday" blog posts by the Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries. They also post updates, photos, videos, and stories from their monitoring sessions. This page keeps trained volunteers involved and excited about the program. This chapter, based at the Virginia Zoo, has been quite successful with creating a solid base of volunteers; they have consistently had a high level of volunteer retention from year to year, and they host quite a few group events throughout the season. A high level of activity and updates on a chapter's Facebook page during the off season might help keep volunteers engaged and motivated for the next season.

2. **Palm Beach Zoo FrogWatch's Facebook page** (<https://www.facebook.com/frogwatchpbz/>) focuses mostly on chapter activities, but also includes information about amphibian happenings at their host institution, the Palm Beach Zoo. The frequent event postings about trainings are what stand out on their page. Facebook events provide a great opportunity to inform the public about trainings, field trips, or other FrogWatch USA happenings. These posts are easily shareable, so volunteers can readily share training information with friends they think might be interested.
3. **FrogWatch Researchers of Greenville Zoo (FROGZ)** is a chapter that has historically had a strong sense of community with a few dedicated volunteers that have returned for years. That community spirit is reflected on their Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/FROGZ-232693370112049/>) through events, pictures, and videos. This page includes many videos of frog calls recorded in the field. This is a great way to encourage volunteers to keep learning and improving and to go out and listen to the calls themselves. People are always looking for more resources that can help volunteers practice their identifications, and videos like these are perfect for practice, while Facebook makes it easy to share these videos and resources broadly.
4. One website is particularly robust; **Arkansas Frogs and Toads** (<http://arkansasfrogsandtoads.org/>) includes four different chapters' activities. Arkansas FrogWatch, North Central Arkansas FrogWatch, Northark FrogWatch USA, and Northwest Arkansas FrogWatch all have their trainings and other resources posted on this site. The site is a testament to the time and energy these coordinators put into FrogWatch USA. All coordinators may want to explore this site and see the information provided, as you are likely to get ideas for your own sites or training courses.

VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT

For many chapters, recruiting volunteers that continue on to monitor can be a challenge. It can be discouraging to host an event and have only a handful of people attend or to train a lot of people but have few of them monitor. If you host a chapter that has had a situation like this, you are not alone. Throughout the 2012-2015 annual reports, the most common challenges people reported were problems with recruitment and retention.

Annual reports reflected some common themes for successful recruitment. Most chapters target two demographic groups separately; typically a chapter will choose to target either adults or families with children. There are pros and cons to targeting each of these groups as FrogWatch USA volunteers.

Some successful chapters have targeted adult volunteers. These volunteers might be involved in Master Naturalist programs, or other local nature-related clubs or groups. A couple of chapters mentioned particular success in recruiting from local birdwatching groups; these volunteers are typically already great at listening to



auditory calls from birds, and are quick to learn frog calls. Some chapters mentioned successful recruitment from the adult volunteers or staff already at the chapter's host institution. Volunteers from these sources may already be familiar with many of the messages you share with them.

Adult volunteers can make for very successful volunteers, especially for monitoring and collecting high quality data. FrogWatch Researchers of Greenville Zoo (FROGZ) (S.C.) has a fantastic core group of adult volunteers that monitor frequently. The Lynchburg Virginia Nature Zone (Va.) coordinator mentioned in 2012 that they had several "hardcore" senior naturalists join the effort that year and she wrote, "I was surprised how much fun they had, and how they kept telling me they really enjoyed participating. I didn't know there were such limited opportunities for them to participate in citizen scientist programs with a local coordinator or chapter." Targeting adults can add a fun, new dimension to the diversity of volunteers in a chapter, and they may become very engaged in helping FrogWatch USA meet its scientific goals.



Many FrogWatch USA chapters are hosted by AZA-accredited zoos or aquariums whose target demographic includes family groups. Education is an important goal of FrogWatch USA, and working with children and family groups may help reach that goal by raising awareness about amphibians and their wetland habitats among people who may not have heard some of these messages previously. However, training families or school groups might not bring in the high quality data observations needed to reach FrogWatch USA's scientific goals. Some chapters have presented training at local schools and trained over 100 children, but many times these kids might never monitor. Families with children might come to trainings, but they, too, might not monitor. The protocol itself, with monitoring not to occur until at least 30 minutes after sunset, may be prohibitive for engaging younger children in FrogWatch USA's scientific data collection. That being said, a few chapters have reported success with individual families that monitor together and have become very dedicated volunteer groups.



A mixture of these two strategies appears to be fulfilling for some chapters and chapter coordinators. Some more established chapters have recently begun to report satisfaction with their volunteer mixture. High Rock Park in the Greenbelt (N.Y.) reported in 2015 that, "The continued participation of members of the Metropolitan Herpetological Society, local scout troops, and Greenbelt Summer Day Camp participants led to a more robust average session attendance in 2015." A more diverse marketing of trainings might bring more success and balance to chapters that are struggling to maintain strong volunteer groups. While annual reports do not identify a single, successful approach, targeting an array of audiences may help coordinators identify who in their community may be most likely to commit to the program.

VOLUNTEER RETENTION AND DEVELOPING A COMMUNITY

FrogWatch USA may help a chapter develop a community of citizen scientists and frog fans. The percentage of chapters hosting events for FrogWatch volunteers declined from 2013 to 2015, and some coordinators reported being disheartened by low attendance. However, chapters that maintained those events reported success at building community over time.

Developing community doesn't happen overnight. Suggestions that emerged from annual reports included playing games or using icebreakers during trainings to get volunteers comfortable and talking to one another. Social media, email newsletters or check-ins, and blog posts can also help maintain interest and involvement. However, hosting community events may be one of the most important tools for creating a FrogWatch USA community within the chapter. These events may be small, like monthly group monitoring sessions, or they may be larger, like a potluck. Some host organizations reported treating their volunteers to a behind-the-scenes visit to the amphibians at their zoo or aquarium.

Many chapters have become creative with their community events. Quite a few chapters reported hosting amphibian experts for talks or attending talks given by amphibian experts. A couple of chapters have screened "frog-umentaries" and hosted movie nights. FrogWatch Researchers of Greenville Zoo (FROGZ) (S.C.) hosts a yearly end of season awards ceremony to recognize the efforts of their outstanding volunteers. End of season gatherings can be a fun way to celebrate all of the hard work of FrogWatch USA volunteers. At the end of season event hosted by John Ball Zoo FrogWatch (Mich.) in 2015, the coordinator shared and discussed chapter data entered that season.



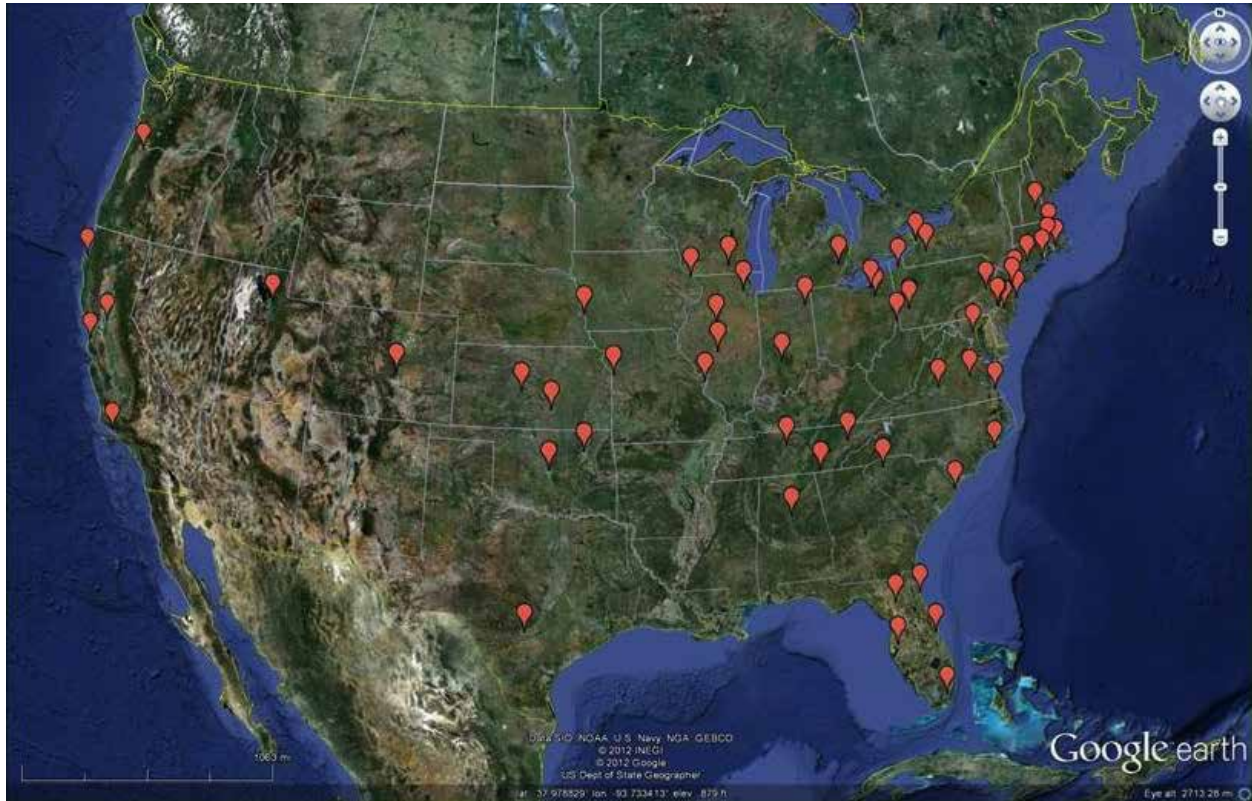
This approach reminds volunteer citizen scientists that they are involved in a larger effort that is making an impact.

Many community events include activities that are not directly related to FrogWatch USA. High Rock Park in the Greenbelt (N.Y.) reported in 2015 that, "It was great to end the season on a high note on 8/12 with participants, including a lot of Greenbelt Summer Day Campers and their families, looking for Green Frogs and learning constellations in preparation for stargazing later in the evening." Santa Barbara Zoo FrogWatch USA (Calif.) reported that a family of volunteers took a camping trip in 2015 to monitor for FrogWatch USA, and they are looking into hosting a chapter-wide camping trip for FrogWatch USA in future seasons. Wildlife Conservation Society Chapter (N.Y.) attended "Night of the Salamander", presented by a FrogWatch USA partner and including a night walk to see salamanders and breeding Wood Frogs.

Be creative with events, and have fun! Focus on making this program enjoyable for your volunteers, so they are ready to continue participating the following spring.

2012

With the chapter model having launched just two years prior, many chapters were still discovering which volunteer recruitment, training, and retention processes worked best for them in 2012.




2012 AT A GLANCE

 **55 chapters** in **29 states**

48 chapters from **25 states** submitted an annual report 

120 training sessions held

29% chapters provided field training

 **1,265 people** trained
39% people certified

14 community events held

656 active volunteers / **82** volunteers retained from previous years 

 **7 educational events** held

18 chapters featured in the media 

 **18 chapters** had a web presence

6 requests for data 

CHAPTER STANDOUTS

Roger Williams Park Zoo FrogWatch USA (R.I.) trained the most volunteers (115)

Roger Williams Park Zoo FrogWatch USA (R.I.) certified the most volunteers (90)

Howard County Department of Recreation & Parks (Md.) retained the most volunteers from previous years (29)

FrogWatch Researchers of Greenville Zoo (FROGZ) (S.C.) supported Governor Nikki R. Haley's declaration of April 28, 2012 as Frog Awareness Day in the State of South Carolina

MEMORABLE MOMENTS

"One of the most memorable events was when the Green Frogs, Green Treefrogs, and American Bullfrogs were all in chorus for the first time at the Virginia Zoo one early April night. That is when collecting data became really exciting."

—VIRGINIA TIDEWATER CHAPTER (VA.)

"I was given a small copy of personal frog and toad sightings from around the Saint Louis region (journal entries that spanned 16 years) by a participant during one of the training sessions." —SAINT LOUIS ZOO FROGWATCH USA (MO.)

"The Spadefoot Toads were a great surprise because we had not had water for 1 1/2 months when the one-inch rain came and prompted calling from the toads." —CHEYENNE BOTTOMS FROGWATCH (KAN.)

SPECIAL SIGHTINGS

"One volunteer identified two species of amphibians that had not been recorded in the Salt Lake Valley through the FrogWatch USA program, which was very exciting data for both the Zoo and the Department of Natural Resources."

—UTAH'S HOGLE ZOO FROGWATCH USA (UTAH)

"The Carpenter Frog at First Landing State Park was a big surprise to local park officials. The frog was once common at the park, and it had recently been considered "missing" from that area." —VIRGINIA TIDEWATER CHAPTER (VA.)

2013

2013 resulted in the greatest number of new chapters created in a single year, as well as the most requests for data.




2013 AT A GLANCE

 **85 chapters** in **33 states**
and the **District of Columbia**

49 chapters from **25 states**
submitted an annual report 

146 training sessions held

37% chapters provided field training

 **1,382 people** trained
32% people certified

47 community events held

514 active volunteers / 150
volunteers retained from previous years 

 **10 educational events** held

21 chapters featured in the media 

 **20 chapters** had a web presence

15 requests for data 

CHAPTER STANDOUTS

High Rock Park in the Greenbelt (N.Y) trained the most volunteers (110)

FrogWatch Researchers of Greenville Zoo (FROGZ) (S.C.) certified the most volunteers (89)

Howard County Department of Recreation & Parks (Md.) retained the most volunteers from previous years (32)

CONGRATULATIONS IN ORDER

“Our FrogWatch team won the “Volunteer Team of the Year” award at the annual Buffalo Zoo Volunteer Recognition Awards Dinner. Subsequent to this, our Volunteer Coordinator wrote a great article about volunteering that included mention of the FrogWatch team for the Zoo’s quarterly member publication called the ‘Zoolog!’”

—BUFFALO ZOO FROGWATCH (N.Y.)

“Our chapter was nominated for a Colorado Open Space Alliance (COSA) Blue Grama Award for Ecological Management.” —JEFFERSON COUNTY OPEN SPACE FROGWATCH (COLO.)

MEMORABLE MOMENTS

“We discovered that one site that was registered this year is monitored by the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency); Bells Mill Park was an old landfill converted to a city park, and the EPA and the City of Chesapeake were thrilled that there was a conservation effort from the FrogWatch USA Virginia Tidewater Chapter to monitor the site for frogs. This would help determine how habitable Bells Mill Park has become. It was successfully shown that Squirrel Treefrogs (*Hyla squirrella*), Green Treefrogs (*Hyla cinerea*), Eastern Narrow-mouthed Toads (*Gastrophryne carolinensis*), Southern Toads (*Anaxyrus terrestris*), Little Grass Frogs (*Pseudacris ocularis*), and even Southern Leopard Frogs (*Lithobates sphenoccephalus*) thrive there.” —VIRGINIA TIDEWATER CHAPTER (VA.)

“We brought frogs and toads into the trainings this year, and they would start calling during the training.”

—SANTA BARBARA ZOO FROGWATCH USA (CALIF.)

“The return of rain!! The sound of 7 to 8 species of frogs and toads calling was deafening and so exciting after two very quiet years.” —CHEYENNE BOTTOMS FROGWATCH (KAN.)

“During one of our training sessions there was a seven-year-old who shared his expertise in mimicking frog sounds and helped to encourage the other potential volunteers to participate. It was super cute!” —BUTTONWOOD PARK ZOO FROGWATCH (MASS.)

“I had originally volunteered for Frogwatch USA as a means of promoting the citizen science piece for our chapter. I was a part of both training sessions, actively sought participation from other groups, and monitored one of the sites myself. But nothing could have prepared me for what I observed at my first monitoring situation! I chose to monitor the canyon pools of No Thoroughfare Canyon in the Colorado National Monument. It was a warm, full moon

evening in May. Because of the location, we hiked to the pools before sunset, waiting for the appointed time to do our documentation. As the sun set, the calls of the Canyon Treefrog and the Red-Spotted Toad became almost deafening – echoing off the walls of the canyon... We were able to do our documentation, then moved closer to peer into the pools... Frogs and toads were EVERYWHERE! We had to stand very still as they moved all around us (jumping on our feet even) on their way to mate! To say it was an enchanted evening is an understatement! I was hooked!”

—GRAND VALLEY ZOOLOGICAL QUESTFROGWATCH USA (COLO.)

“A memorable event was an evening where the path to one of our sites was littered with juvenile Fowler’s Toads. One of the coordinators literally had to proceed in front of our van in order to clear the path.” —MAYMONT FROGWATCH (VA.)

SPECIAL SIGHTINGS

“We heard a Chorus Frog that sounded like a Pacific Chorus Frog at one of our revisited sites. This site was monitored in 2012 without this Chorus Frog being heard. We heard at least two of them calling behind a Lowe’s store, and we have about a medium/high confidence in our identification that these frogs are of the Pacific Chorus Frog complex. It was too hard to pinpoint the exact species. We spoke to an employee at Lowe’s, and they recalled frogs coming in on plants but could not tell us where the plants came from. It was exciting to hear the Pacific Chorus Frog “complex.” We always tell students that they may hear a strange frog one day, which could be an invasive species or new species to the area. If there were Pacific Chorus Frogs in Michigan, it would be a good example to use in teaching. It will also be interesting to see if they are still in the wetland next year and if there will be more.” —DETROIT ZOO’S FROGWATCH (MICH.)

“The discovery of the Cricket Frogs further north stirred great excitement, especially for our Curator!” —FORT WAYNE CHILDREN’S ZOO FROGWATCH USA CHAPTER (IND.)

“The Carpenter Frog (*Lithobates virgatipes*) is a species of conservation concern. We heard the first one at First Landing State Park in fifteen years last season and another one was heard during one session this year.”

—VIRGINIA TIDEWATER CHAPTER (VA.)

“According to what we were told by a very excited volunteer, Foothill Yellow-Legged Frogs and Western Spadefoot Toads were heard quite a bit. Both of these species have not been commonly heard here for quite some time.”

—SACRAMENTO VALLEY FROGWATCH (CALIF.)

“We were surprised to see what we believe to have been a Mink Frog during our field trip at Baltimore Woods this summer. We have come to understand that it is possible that the Mink Frog calls outside the expected time frame experienced with other species. We will have to pay particular attention to the possibility of an audible observation over the course of next season.” —ROSAMOND GIFFORD ZOO FROGWATCH USA CHAPTER (N.Y.)

2014

In 2014, online data entry returned with the launch of FrogWatch-FieldScope, over 50% of all volunteers trained became certified, and the most community events were held of any year.



2014 AT A GLANCE

 **120 chapters** in **38 states** and the **District of Columbia**

74 chapters from **34 states** submitted an annual report 

218 training sessions held

53% chapters provided field training

 **2,014 people** trained
53% people certified

66 chapter community events held

1,282 active volunteers / **275** volunteers retained from previous years 

 **8 educational events** held

31 chapters featured in the media 

 **35 chapters** had a web presence

9 requests for data 

CHAPTER STANDOUTS

Beardsley-Peabody FrogWatch (Conn.) trained the most volunteers (138)

Arkansas FrogWatch (Ark.) certified the most volunteers (95)

Hoosier Upland Frogwatchers (Ind.) retained the most volunteers from previous years (52)

CONGRATULATIONS IN ORDER

"We are editing an Arkansas Frogs and Toads Pocket Guide to be published by Arkansas Game and Fish Commission in 2015." —NORTH CENTRAL ARKANSAS FROGWATCH (ARK.) (*Editor's note: These guides are now available at: <http://arkansasfrogsandtoads.org/frog-card-deck-pocket-guide/>*)

MEMORABLE MOMENTS

"I was surprised to receive a mother and son team of volunteers who volunteered throughout the entire season consistently every week. I was also extremely happy to see a total of 13 native species identified at the site we chose and no non-native species." - Anastasia State Park FrogWatch (Fla.)

"What I enjoyed most this year were the small things. I especially like when workshop participants realize that it has been a frog that they have been hearing for years at night." —AUBURN UNIVERSITY MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY FROGWATCH (ALA.)

"We trained someone who traveled over 120 miles from NJ and is monitoring on a site threatened with developmental changes." —BEARDSLEY-PEABODY FROGWATCH (CONN.)

"Probably the most memorable experience from this year happened during one of our walks out to some local wetlands in the park during the training sessions. We heard and saw a few Green Frogs, which was super exciting for everyone. The best part was that while we were out, we all noticed a lot of trash in the area and we all just started picking it up to help the frogs!" —BUTTONWOOD PARK ZOO FROGWATCH (MASS.)

"I had a volunteer drive over three hours to attend all of our training sessions from Iowa. Her daughter has dreams of becoming a herpetologist. What a committed family to follow the dreams of their daughter!" —FONTENELLE FOREST FROGWATCH (NEB.)

"I loved hearing about people's experiences of hearing frogs their whole lives and never understanding why they were calling or being able to name them. They were so excited to get home and find out who had been living in their backyard all this time!" —LOWER PENOBSCOT FROGWATCH (MAINE)

"Hearing returning youth volunteers coaching new volunteers on the sounds and the process was very endearing." —OREGON ZOO FROGWATCH USA (ORE.)

“This spring took forever to really warm up. On our field trip with the amphibian expert, we weren’t seeing much. At the end, we finally saw a Wood Frog, and everyone got extremely excited.” –UP YONDA FARM FROGWATCH (N.Y.)

“People were amazed at the numerous amount of amphibians we have here at Shaw Nature Reserve. Each training session was able to hear a deafening chorus from the amphibians.” –SAINT LOUIS ZOO FROGWATCH USA (MO.)

“We saw and heard an incredible variety of frogs and toads at the Dismal Swamp this year. The noise that they made was deafening. I couldn’t have asked for a better experience for our new volunteers. Also, interestingly enough we found out that a ditch that runs by a grocery store parking lot had more frogs calling in it later in the year than a nearby park did.” –VIRGINIA LIVING MUSEUM FROGWATCH CHAPTER (VA.)

SPECIAL SIGHTINGS

“It was neat to document a Green Treefrog outside of its expected range.” –MONTGOMERY COUNTY FROGWATCH (MD.)

“We confirmed a Narrow-mouthed Toad species and its expansion into the main marsh of Cheyenne Bottoms.”
–CHEYENNE BOTTOMS FROGWATCH (KAN.)

“An Eastern Narrow-mouthed Toad was photographed and documented at First Landing State Park; this species had not been previously documented at this location.” –VIRGINIA TIDEWATER CHAPTER (VA.)

2015

The use of social media took off amongst chapters in 2015!



2015 AT A GLANCE

 **132 chapters** in **40 states** and the **District of Columbia**

77 chapters from **35 states** submitted an annual report 

186 training sessions held

43% chapters provided field training

 **2,224 people** trained
56% people certified

43 chapter community events held

1,717 active volunteers / 284  volunteers retained from previous years

 **3 educational events** held

26 chapters featured in the media 

 **49 chapters** had a web presence

9 requests for data 

CHAPTER STANDOUTS

Beardsley-Peabody FrogWatch (Conn.) trained the most volunteers (230)

Beardsley-Peabody FrogWatch (Conn.) certified the most volunteers (220)

Roger Williams Park Zoo FrogWatch USA (R.I.) retained the most volunteers from previous years (31)

CONGRATULATIONS IN ORDER

Beta testing a frog call identification app ('WhatFrog') with Florida Institute of Technology
—BREVARD ZOO FROGWATCH USA (FLA.)

We have created Girl Scout / Brownie badge requirements and need to implement this with FrogWatch USA and the National Girl Scout Association. —HIRAM COLLEGE FROGWATCH USA (OHIO)

MEMORABLE MOMENTS

"We lost a regular volunteer and employee this year to cancer who I could consistently depend on for data. Linda Nester will be missed within our Chapter and our Zoo." —COLUMBUS ZOO AND AQUARIUM FROGWATCHERS (OHIO)

"We were able to take frogs from our ambassador animal collection on local TV stations to promote FrogWatch training sessions." —JOHN BALL ZOO FROGWATCH (MICH.)

"We took a field trip to the Herpetology section of the Sedgwick County Zoo, with a one and a half hour presentation by the herpetology director. He did a wonderful job giving great information on several different species of toads, frogs, salamanders, and caecilians. The highlight of the tour was actually holding caecilians; they are something very few people get to see, let alone touch. Nine volunteers attended. Not sure how we're going to top that!" —CHEYENNE BOTTOMS FROGWATCH (KAN.)

"During a group listening event at Bradley Woods, our small group was surprised to hear Catfish making noise among the Green Frog and toad activity. A volunteer actually brought night vision, infrared goggles for our listening." —CLEVELAND METROPARKS ZOO FROGWATCH (OHIO)

"During our first training session, we brought all of the volunteers to a vernal pool. The traffic was very loud, and as we were telling them that the conditions were not ideal for hearing frogs, Southern Leopard Frogs started calling like crazy. We all had a good laugh about it." —GAINESVILLE FROGWATCH USA AT SANTA FE COLLEGE (FLA.)

"The recent naming of the Atlantic Coast Leopard Frog (*Lithobates kauffeldi*) added momentum to this FrogWatch season." —HIGH ROCK PARK IN THE GREENBELT (N.Y.)

“During our very first monitoring session ever, I drove with my small team of volunteers to our first monitoring site. As the grounds of the wildlife sanctuary have always been off-limits after hours, no one knew quite what to expect. We stepped out next to one of the many ponds and were caught completely off-guard and overwhelmed by the sheer volume and diversity of frog calls that surrounded us. We all just looked at each other and we were like giddy children grinning from ear to ear! We were all hooked from that point on! It’s been a great year!” –MITCHELL LAKE FROGWATCH (TEXAS)

“One of our active youth FrogWatchers became involved in global conservation by testifying to the state legislature considering an ivory ban as part of the Zoo’s efforts with 96 Elephants.” –ROGER WILLIAMS PARK ZOO FROGWATCH USA (R.I.)

“During the last scheduled volunteer training in June, the group and I went to the wetlands area of the preserve to practice field monitoring. After the field monitoring portion was over, we went around with flashlights to find all of the frogs and toads that we heard calling. There was so much excitement in the group when they saw their first Spring Peeper and Green Treefrog calling, that we ended up staying later than the class time.” –RUFFNER MOUNTAIN NATURE PRESERVE FROGWATCH (ALA.)

“During the field visit, we demonstrated how to use a smart phone to record calls and then upload them to SoundCloud. We had 5-10 participants take recordings with their phones during the field visit.” –SAINT LOUIS ZOO FROGWATCH USA (MO.)

“One of our volunteers accidentally took a slow-motion video of a Green Treefrog calling, and we shared it with the other volunteers. We all thought it was quite hilarious.” –VIRGINIA LIVING MUSEUM FROGWATCH CHAPTER (VA.)

SPECIAL SIGHTINGS

“Coordinators Jackie and Penny visited a site and may have identified a Fowler’s Toad (or Fowler’s/American Toad hybrid) outside of its reported range.” –BUFFALO ZOO FROGWATCH (N.Y.)

“More Cricket Frogs are being heard farther north in our territory than in previous years. They appear to be making a comeback!” –FORT WAYNE CHILDREN’S ZOO FROGWATCH USA CHAPTER (IND.)

“Rusty W., in his fourth year of volunteering, heard Barking Treefrogs (*Hyla gratiosa*) near his site and home for the first time, although it is not recorded in FieldScope because it was not at his registered site. Also not at a registered site, I visited Clemson Forest with a fellow herpetologist, and encountered Wood Frogs (*Lithobates sylvatica*), a species of concern in South Carolina.” –FROGWATCH RESEARCHERS OF GREENVILLE ZOO (FROGZ) (S.C.)

Forest changes its tone after dark
Revealing hidden treasures and truths
Opening hearts and minds
Going deeper, further in the journey
Wondering what the night will reveal
Awakening our senses

Truths apparent in these moments of listening and contemplation

Communal citizen science experience
Honing skills and a sense of stewardship

– HIGH ROCK PARK IN THE GREENBELT (N.Y.) CHAPTER
CO-COORDINATOR JESSICA KRATZ, JULY 2015

**ASSOCIATION
OF ZOOS &
AQUARIUMS**