

16 February 2010

Welcome to the 2010 FrogWatch USA Season!

AZA is pleased to welcome all returning FrogWatch USA volunteers to a new season. For those of you anticipating the frog and toad calling season, as well as for those of you who live in regions where the season has already begun, we encourage you to brush up on your frog and toad call identification skills and to review the FrogWatch USA monitoring protocol at: www.aza.org/current-frogwatch-volunteers/.

A list of the frog and toad species found in each state and recordings of their calls can be accessed through the FrogWatch USA Web site (www.aza.org/frogwatch), thanks to Lang Elliott. In March 2009, Mr. Elliott's 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.

New Data Submission Process

The process for submitting FrogWatch USA data has changed. Record data from each monitoring visit on a FrogWatch USA datasheet and submit it to the FrogWatch USA office; online data submission processes are not currently available. Datasheets are available for download at: www.aza.org/current-frogwatch-volunteers/.

Datasheets should be submitted as soon as possible after each monitoring visit to: frogwatch@aza.org

Or via U.S. mail to:
FrogWatch USA Coordinator
Association of Zoos and Aquariums
8403 Colesville Road, Suite 710
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Thanks to all volunteers who submitted their 2009 End-of-Season data via these methods last fall!

When completing your datasheets, be sure to report *all* data, including monitoring visits when zero frog or toad calls were heard. Information about the absence of calls is just as valuable as information about their presence.

We Want to Hear From You!

Some of us are still in the midst of winter storms. For those of you already hearing frogs and toads, please give us a dose of spring by sending your FrogWatch USA experiences, questions, and photos for inclusion in the FrogWatch USA newsletter to Mandy at mgaudreau@rwpzoo.org. The FrogWatch USA newsletter will be published regularly throughout the FrogWatch USA season. Previous newsletters are available online at: www.aza.org/frogwatch/.

Start a FrogWatch USA Chapter at Your AZA-Accredited Zoo or Aquarium

AZA now has materials that allow AZA-accredited zoos and aquariums to open their own Chapter of FrogWatch USA that can be branded by the facility and be tailored to meet the community's needs.

Citizen Science programs offer strong educational opportunities for connecting people to nature through local experiences and opening your own FrogWatch USA Chapter can represent an opportunity to further connect the community to your institution.

Learn more about FrogWatch USA and how you can host a Chapter branded with your institution's name at: www.aza.org/frogwatch/.

Important Notice:

AZA is offering a full-day training program for becoming a FrogWatch USA Chapter Coordinator on 1 March 2010 at the AZA Mid-Year Meeting in Virginia Beach, Va. Registration information can be found at: www.aza.org/midyearemeeting/. Your institution and education/outreach staff can benefit from this training opportunity.

Current Chapters—Have a Volunteer Training Session Scheduled?

Let us know when your organization is hosting FrogWatch USA volunteer training sessions. Send your training session dates and the contact information for the session coordinator to: mgaudreau@rwpzoo.org.

Featured Species—Wood Frog (*Rana sylvatica*)

The wood frog is widespread throughout northern North America and is the only frog species found north of the Arctic circle. This species can be found in a variety of habitats from woodland forests in the east, grasslands in the west, and tundra in the far north. Wood frogs are a terrestrial species but migrate to vernal pools from before the ice has fully melted to breed. The mating call of the wood frog is similar to a quacking duck and you'll be hearing this frog soon. Keep your ears open for early migrants.



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