

THE CAPE ANN



SPRING/SUMMER 2001

A NEWSLETTER

from the

CAPE ANN VERNAL POND TEAM

THE CAVPT IS A NON-PROFIT, VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO VERNAL POND CONSERVATION AND EDUCATION, SINCE 1990.

MEMBERS

Rick Roth, Director
978 281-3480
Margo Ashdon
Tony Ashdon
Andrew Brindamour
Barbara Buls
Alex Eisenzopf
Margaret Flowers
Ileen Graham
Cora Hawks
Kathy Heinze
Cathy Kelley
Ruth Kuydendall
H.A. Lind
Nathan Mineo
Maire Murphy
Elizabeth Rehill
Curtis Sarkin
Nick Taormina
Peter Willett
Chris Wood

WINTER

AS VITAL AS SPRING FOR VERNAL PONDS by Barbara Buls

On a cold, windy day in February, Cape Ann Vernal Pond team members Rick Roth, Margaret Flowers and I took a stroll up to "Long and Narrow", one of the vernal ponds in Ravenswood Park. Though most of the pond was covered with ice, there were a few small holes of open water where we crouched low and looked into the water to see what activity we could find. Amazingly, in water that couldn't have been more than a few degrees above freezing, the pond was burgeoning with winter residents. Water boatmen, isopods, and caddisfly larvae could be seen zooming around just below the surface. Even in this frigid water, they were moving just as quickly as they do in summer water around 70 degrees. Many people know that spring is the most important season in the vernal pond for the salamanders and frogs, as this is their breeding period, and necessary for the continuation of the species. However, the cold period preceding this time is equally important in the life cycles of vernal pond creatures.

Toward the end of March, when winter has finally released its grip, obligate amphibian species (those species totally dependent upon the pond) emerge from their winter homes and travel to the ponds, drawn by their age-old instinct to breed. Thousands of spotted salamanders, wood frogs and spring peepers can be seen at this time acting out their mating ritual. Most of these events occur in the relative safety of darkness, which is why many humans are not aware of it. After a few short days of breeding activity, these creatures lay their eggs and exit the pond, not returning until the following spring.

The eggs hatch, the young feed constantly until they metamorphose into their adult stages, at which point, they, too, exit before the vernal pond dries, leaving little evidence of the flurry of recent activity.

Each year, more and more residents appreciate the spring breeding season on Cape Ann Vernal Pond Team field trips. However, if you have the chance to take a stroll out into the woods on a chilly winter day, stop by one of these ponds to view its resilient winter residents.



Woodfrogs In Love - pen & ink
by Margaret Flowers

FIELD TRIPS

Rainy nights and flashlights - every spring CAVPT members lead night time field trips to the ponds to see the amphibian breeding activity. We limit the number of participants to avoid habitat destruction and critter disturbance.

Check out our website at:

www.capeannvernalpond.com

Email: CAVPT@yahoo.com
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 12, Rockport, MA 01966

A BOOK SO NICE THEY DID IT TWICE

Leo Kenney and Matt Burne's book, ***A Field Guide to the Animals of Vernal Pools***, which came out last summer, has been so well received it has already gone into its' second printing.

- * great color photos of critters and pools
- * life cycles
- * clear and concise text... so clear that even we can understand it.

If you have any interest at all in vernal ponds you need this book! Get it before they run out again.

A Field Guide to the Animals of Vernal Pools

is available at Toad Hall Bookstore, 51 Main Street, Rockport or by contacting the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife's Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program, Route 135, Westborough, MA 01581 or call 508-792-7270 ext. 200.

YARD SALE

A CAVPT yard sale fundraiser is tentatively scheduled to be held on Saturday May 26th. Please look for information in the Gloucester Daily Times Goings On section for the place, date and time. Anyone wishing to donate items may call Cora at 281-5326. Pick up of items is available. Please have items in clean, good working order and no tv's.

Video Gets SG-17 Rating

Due to graphic content and adult situations depicted in CAVPT video "Vernal Ponds", salamanders under the age of 17 will not be admitted without parent or legal guardian.

REPORT FROM THE TREASURER'S OFFICE

Actually, we don't have a formal treasurer's office, but we do have an annual Operating Budget. It's less than \$3000, and most of it is allocated toward our numerous outreach activities and the expenses they incur. These expenses include everything from the craft materials we use to create the artwork you see on the display panels (*check out the new ones!*) to the blank videotapes and empty cases we purchase to replenish our supply of movies. The list goes on and on. Fortunately, the tireless efforts of our volunteers keep our labor costs at nil, but at the end of every year we still cross our collective fingers and hope to break even, which we never do. In all likelihood things will always be this way - after all we're not here to generate profits, we're here to generate awareness.

That said, things are changing. Each year the active membership of the CAVPT increases. As a result of this growing headcount our goals and objectives become more ambitious, as we attempt to capitalize on the worthwhile ideas for activities that our members bring forward. This year in particular we are hoping to step-up our pond certification efforts and begin a GPS mapping project of vernal ponds here on Cape Ann - worthwhile endeavors that will require us to spend money, as do most of the activities we undertake.

We greatly appreciate the financial contributions of our volunteers and other concerned individuals, along with the funds we've received from several generous grantmakers, but the fact is we need more money to achieve our ambitious goals and to continue delivering the message of vernal pond conservation. Your financial contribution will go a long way to assist us in our efforts, and will be deeply appreciated by every member of the Cape Ann Vernal Pond Team. Thank you for your support.



Contributions to CAVPT
can be made by check and sent to us at:
Cape Ann Vernal Pond Team
Post Office Box 12
Rockport, MA 01966

MASSACHUSETTS CONSERVATION COMMISSION CONVENTION



Rick just stands there

On Saturday, March 3rd, CAVPT members Rick Roth and Margaret Flowers attended the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissioners 2001 Annual Meeting in Worcester, along with Gloucester Conservation Commissioner Kathy Heinze.

Rick and Margaret set up and attended a display booth which included a continuous showing of the movie "Vernal Ponds". This savvy marketing strategy seems to have paid off - the team sold twenty-five videos and received immeasurable positive feedback from attendees at this all day event!



and the crowd goes wild

In addition to our display, the Cape Ann Vernal Pond Team shared the floor with over three dozen other exhibitors, and Margaret attended Leo Kenney's vernal pond workshop. We hope to mark it as an annual event.

Gloucester School Connection Grant

On behalf of the CAVPT, Gloucester school teacher Candy Marshall applied for a grant from the Gloucester School Connection. This parent's group raises money to create funding for supplies or activities that the school might not otherwise get.

CAVPT received \$225 to distribute 15 "Vernal Ponds" videos into the school system thanks to Candy and the Gloucester School Connection.

CAPE ANN VERNAL POND TEAM STORE

Item	Price	Qty.
"Vernal Ponds" Video	\$20.00	_____
"What You'll Find" Poster	\$ 5.00	_____
CAVPT Logo Poster	\$ 7.00	_____
A Field Guide to the Animals of Vernal Ponds by Leo Kenney & Matt Burne	\$ 9.00	_____

TOTAL _____

Send check or money order to:

Cape Ann Vernal Pond Team
PO Box 12
Rockport, MA 01966

**Prices include shipping and handling*

SHIP TO:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

Cultural Council Grant

CAVPT received a grant from the The Gloucester Cultural Council to cover most of the cost of duplicating 100 more videos.

We would like to thank the members of the Cultural Council for this grant, two previous grants and their enthusiasm for our projects.

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 7, Saturday 3:00 pm

Sawyer Free Library - Friend's Room. Video, critters and graphics. A Children's Library program.

April 8, Sunday 2:00 -5:00 pm

Manchester/Essex Conservation Trust at the Manchester Community House (by the train station). Video, critters and graphics.

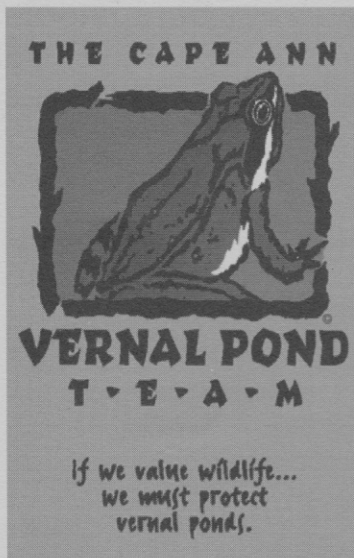
April 21, Saturday 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Earth Day at Halibut Point State Park, at the Visitor's Center. Rain or Shine. Come see our video, critters and graphics. There will be no parking fee or admission fee for this event.

Cape Ann Vernal Pond Team
P.O. Box 12
Rockport, MA 01966



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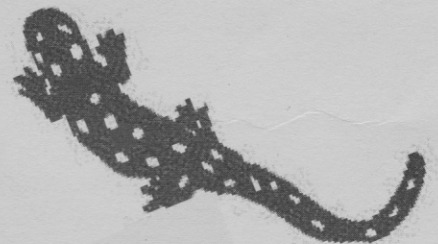
Calling All Volunteers

We need help in the following areas:

Computer Graphics	Marketing
Fundraising	Grant Writing
Secretarial	Bookkeeping
Mapping	Photography
Web Design	Taxonomy

Call Rick at 281-3480

If you have no useful skills, you are probably already a team member and need not call.



logo poster by H.A. Lind

THANK YOU

Greg Smith of Saving Cape Ann
Dan Tremblay of Creating a Healthy Environment
and Sinika Nogelo of Adelphia
for airing our video

Candy Marshall for the grant
City of Gloucester for the exhibit space at City Hall
Cathy Kelley for the Business Cards
Carol Gray for the exhibit areas at Sawyer Free Library

Cheryl Briscoe for the bumper sticker design
Toad Hall Bookstore for airing our video and selling our stuff
New England Herpetological Society for their continuing support
Margo & Tony Ashdon for storing yard sale stuff