

In Conjunction with the JASON Project  
**"Protect the biodiversity  
of Massachusetts"**


# Animals of Vernal Pools and other Massachusetts Wetlands

Plymouth Community Intermediate School, Plymouth, Massachusetts

**The Red Team**  
7th Grade  
Mr. Phillips, Science Teacher  
Mrs. Gallivan, Computer Instructor

Visit our web page field guide at <http://plymouthschools.com/Science/fieldguides/Vernal/fieldguide.htm>

**Plymouth Redbelly Turtle**



*Pseudemys rubriventris bangsi*  
Chadler, M.

**Common Green Darner**



*Anax junius*  
Stella, F.


The Common Green darner is among the fastest and most common dragonflies. They can fly up to 35 m.p.h. This makes them exceptional hunters. The Common Green Darner's habitat is near still or slow-moving water. This includes small ponds, slow moving streams, and vernal pools. Common Green Darners need aquatic vegetation in order to reproduce. These dragonflies only prosper where there are not predatory fish. Vernal pools are a perfect place for them to live because fish cannot survive in temporary pools.

**Blue-spotted Salamander**



*Ambystoma laterale*  
Mike, C.


**Fairy Shrimp**



*Eubranchipus vernalis*  
Tara, E.

Fairy shrimp grow rapidly into adults. The fairy shrimp has eleven pairs of swimming legs. They can be up to 1 1/2 inches. The fairy shrimp's usual color is usually blue-green, but can also be other colors. During my research on the fairy shrimp the most interesting things I learned about it is that the fairy shrimp is an endangered species. I never even heard of the fairy shrimp, never mind know anything about it, but now I know plenty.

**Fowler's Toad**



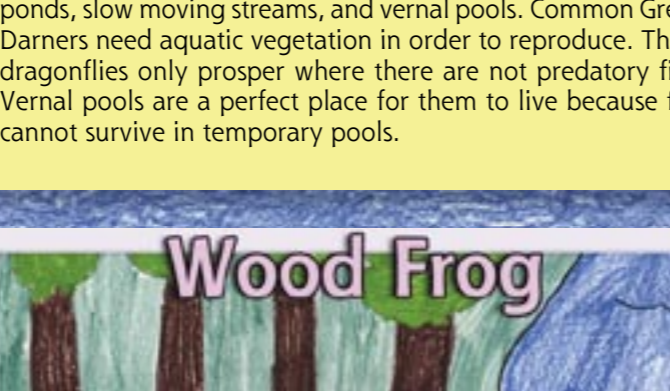
*Bufo fowleri*  
Cassi, C.

**Springtail**



*Hypogastrura speciosa*  
Myles, R.


**Wood Frog**



*Rana sylvatica*  
Saman, M.

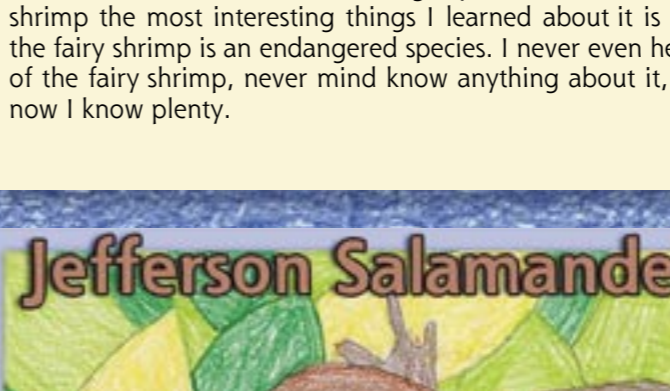
The scientific name for a wood frog is *Rana sylvatica* from the Latin language. Wood frogs can grow to 2 inches in body length. Females are larger than males. They are usually a brown color, like the color of the leaves. Females are a rusty red color. Wood frogs have a black mark from their eyes to the line of their jaw. They also are known to have a white spot on the upper-lip. Their toes are not completely webbed and their bellies are white with colored speckles.

**Dusky Salamander**



*Desmognathus fuscus*  
Dylan, D.

**Jefferson Salamander**



*Ambystoma jeffersonianum*  
Camelina, M.

The scientific name for the Jefferson salamander is *Ambystoma jeffersonianum*. It has especially long toes and a pointed snout, unlike other salamanders. They may have blue flecks on their stomach, head and tail. This is why some people get the Blue-Spotted and Jefferson Salamanders confused. When breeding season is not current, the salamanders turn different colors. The males are darker and less conspicuously marked. The females are darker as well.

**Redback Salamander**



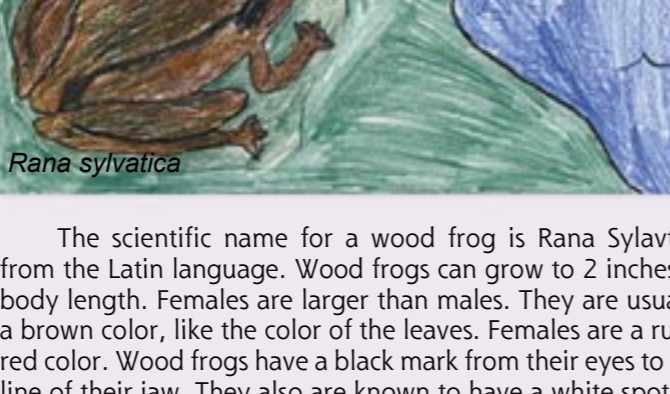
*Plethodon cinereus*  
Jeffrey, W.

**Eastern Box Turtle**



*Terrapene carolina*  
Brittney, S.


**Wood Frog**



*Rana sylvatica*  
Saman, M.

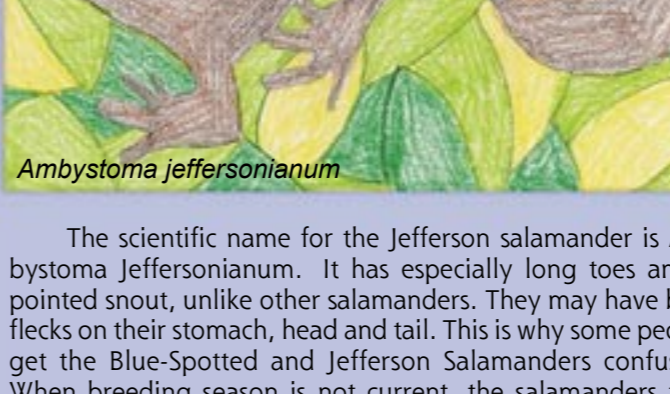
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**Spring Salamander**



*Gyrinophilus porphyriticus*  
Ryan, Z.

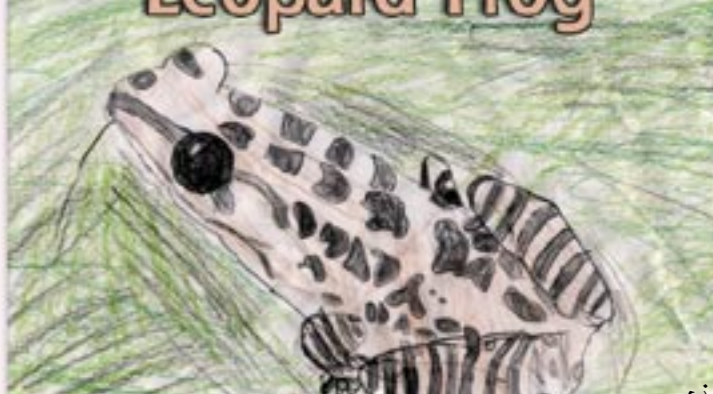
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**Leopard Frog**



*Rana pipiens*  
Dylan, C.


**Water Scavenger Beetle**



*Hydrophilidae berousus*  
Ryan, M.

The water scavenger beetle is a complex animal. Some are different colors like brown, gray, or shiny black. Their legs are reddish black, with hairs attached to them to help them swim better and faster. To breathe while underwater they store air pockets below them to once in a while take a breath of air. Females deposit 120-140 yellow eggs in a silken cocoon like egg case with a horn like "mast". They attach it to something under water where it stays until the eggs hatch.

**Diamondback Terrapin**



*Malaclemys terrapin*  
Antoniat, C.

**Blanding's Turtle**



*Emydoidea blandingii*  
Meghan, M.

**Spadefoot Toad**



*Scaphiopus holbrookii*  
T.J. R.

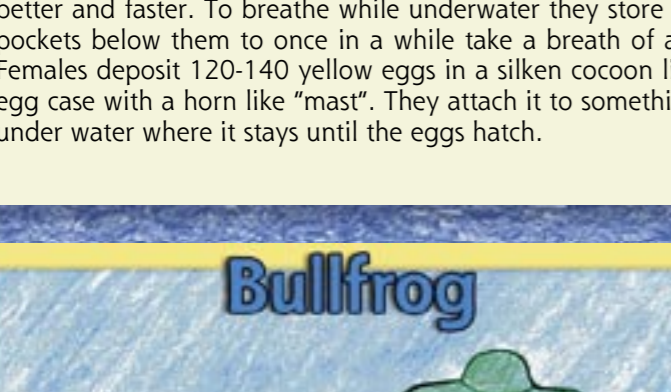
**Planaria**



*Dugeria sp.*  
Ashley, P.

Planaria are freshwater invertebrates found in or near the sediments of ponds and streams. Planaria's dwell under rocks, submerged leaves, and other debris, and feed on aquatic insects, microcrustaceans and proteinaceous detritus as scavengers. Planaria find dead and decaying animals not only a tasty meal but also a good place to hide. It doesn't need gills or lungs to breathe, it gets its oxygen right through its skin. If you cut a planaria in half down the middle from head to tail both halves will live and grow new complete bodies.

**Bullfrog**



*Rana catesbeiana*  
Saman, F.

The bullfrog is the largest frog in eastern North America. They will usually reach up to 15 cm in length and they never stop growing throughout their life. Males and females are quite different in looks. A male bullfrog has a yellow throat and large eardrums. Female bullfrogs have a white throat and small eardrums. All bullfrogs have olive brownish skin with brown spots. Their eyes and nostrils are located on the top of their head. They are located here so when the frog is underwater it can still breathe.

**Two-lined Salamander**



*Eurycea bislineata*  
J. Ryan, B.

**Musk Turtle**



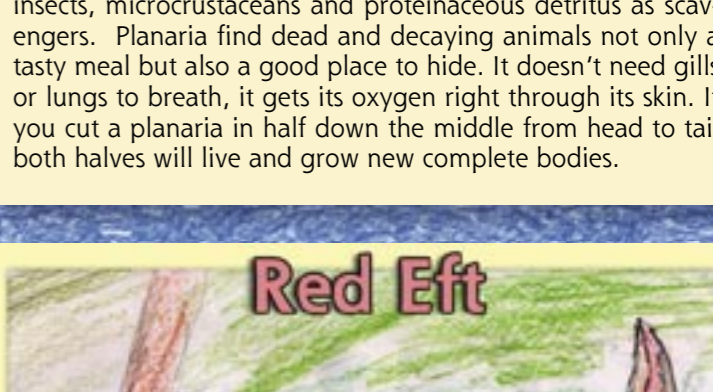
*Sternotherus odoratus*  
Conor, D.

**Green Frog**



*Rana clamitans*  
Ashley, S.


**Red Eft**



*Notophthalmus viridescens*  
Clay, C.

The Red Eft is a newt. It grows to be about 3-5 inches long. When it is young it has bright red skin with black spots on its back. It has a yellow or orange stomach. The Red Eft can not walk or run very fast but, in the water it uses its fin-like tail to propel itself and can move very quickly in water. This is why they mostly hunt in water. The red eft hunts by swimming slowly at its prey then quickly grabs it with its mouth. It eats worms, insects, spiders, snails and slugs.

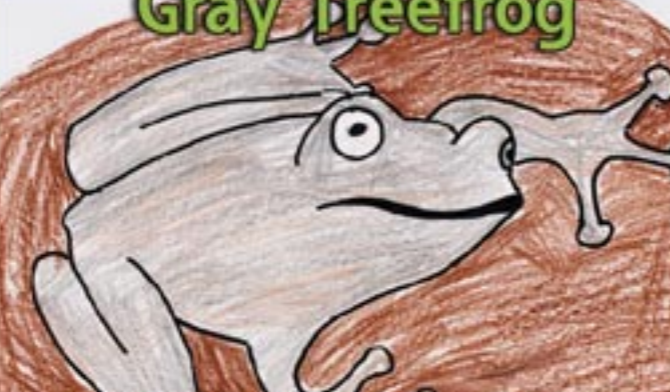
**Gray Treefrog**



*Hyla versicolor*  
Ryan, M.

My animal was the tree frog. My picture shows a tree frog and how it can cling onto trees and other vertical objects. The tree frog on the left is clinging onto a tree. The tree frog on the right is jumping from a vertical tree to a more tilted tree. These tree frogs are found in vernal pools. My picture also shows what tree frogs look like when they jump. Their legs extend while in the air and come closer to each other when they land. The tree frog is an awesome animal.

**Gray Treefrog**



*Hyla versicolor*  
Saman, F.


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**Phantom Midge**



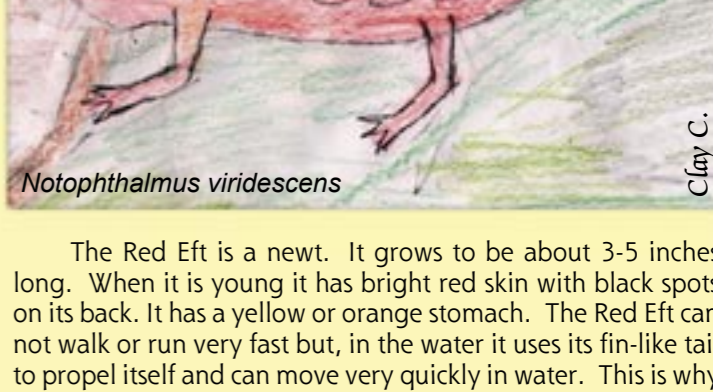
*Chironomus utahensis*  
Nick, O.

**Marbled Salamander**



*Ambystoma opacum*  
Joseph, D.

**Red Eft**



*Notophthalmus viridescens*  
Clay, C.


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**Spotted Salamander**



*Ambystoma maculatum*  
Tom, M.C.

**Gray Treefrog**



*Hyla versicolor*  
Saman, F.


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**Bog Turtle**



*Clemmys muhlenbergii*  
Mariana, W.

**Snapping Turtle**



*Chelydra serpentina*  
Chris, C.

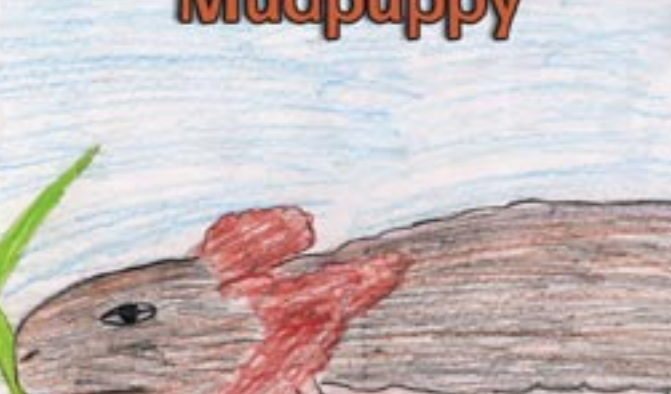
This is a picture of the snapping turtle up close in its habitat. The snapping turtle lives in a vernal pool. It likes to live in lakes with muddy bottoms consisting of fresh and black water. The snapping turtle buries its eggs underground near water. The snapping turtle can weigh up to 150 pounds. The large tail on the snapping turtle makes the turtle look even larger than the normal size of it. Snapping turtles eat many types of animals like fish, birds, frogs, and small mammals.

**Clam Shrimp**



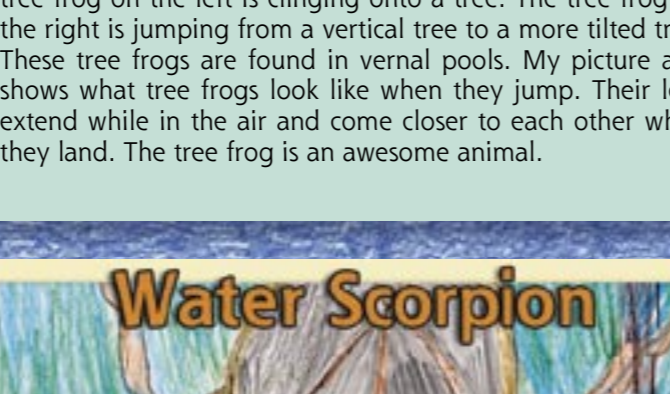
*Lycenus brachyuru*  
Caitlyn, C.

**Mudpuppy**



*Necturus maculosus*  
Kaplan, A.

**Water Scorpion**



*Nepa apiculata*  
Theodor, H.

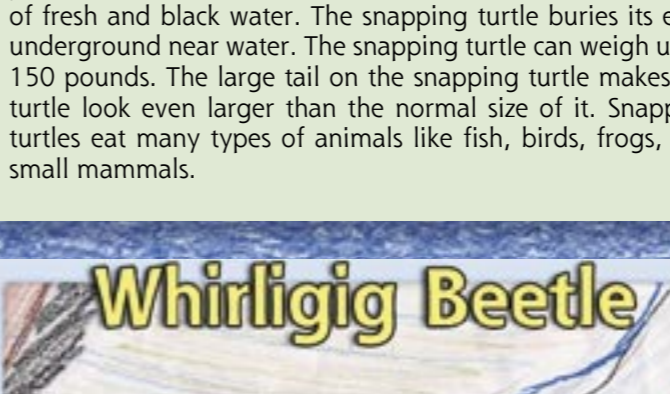
The water scorpion is not a scorpion but an insect with three pairs of legs and 2 pairs of wings. Instead of a stinger it has a long tail that acts like a snorkel so it can breathe underwater. The water scorpion can fly but you rarely see it. It only flies at night to get to short distances. The water scorpion is an invertebrate, which means it has no backbone. The water scorpion has excellent camouflage and disguises like a brown leaf to wait for its prey. The water scorpion can hang for hours while waiting for its prey.

**Daphnia**



*Daphnia magna*  
Ryan, B.


**Whirligig Beetle**



*Dineutus nigror*  
Jyle, P.

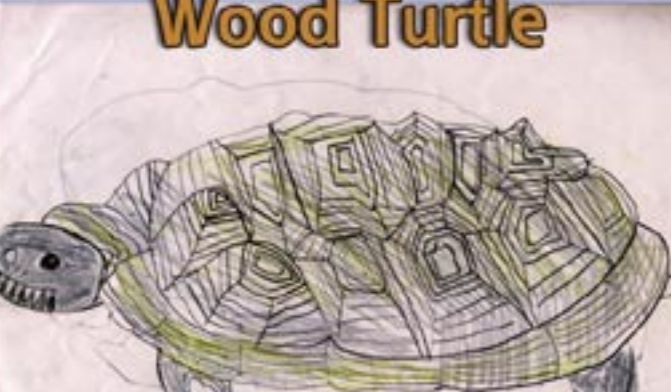
The whirligig beetle actually earned its name. The "whirl" part came from its little legs in the back of its body which makes it possible for the beetle to actually whirl over the water. The "gig" part of its name is when they form a group and dance or known as a gig. Whirligigs can breathe under water. They store an air bubble in their abdomen. Their hind legs beat 60 times per second as they whirl over the water. The whirligig beetle is born out of a cocoon.

**Pickerel Frog**



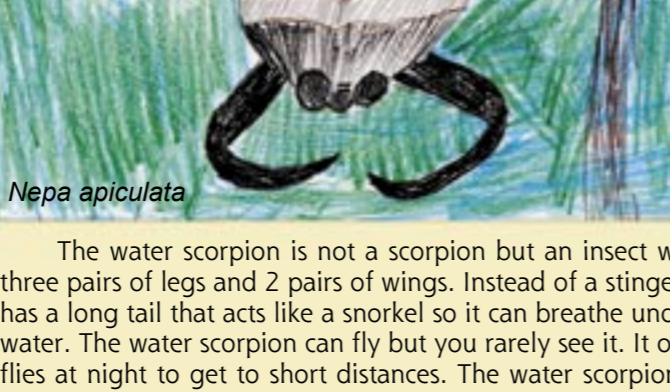
*Rana palustris*  
David, T.

**Wood Turtle**



*Clemmys insculpta*  
Colin, M.C.

**Water Scorpion**



*Nepa apiculata*  
Theodor, H.


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**Spring Peeper**



*Pseudacris crucifer*  
C.J., S.

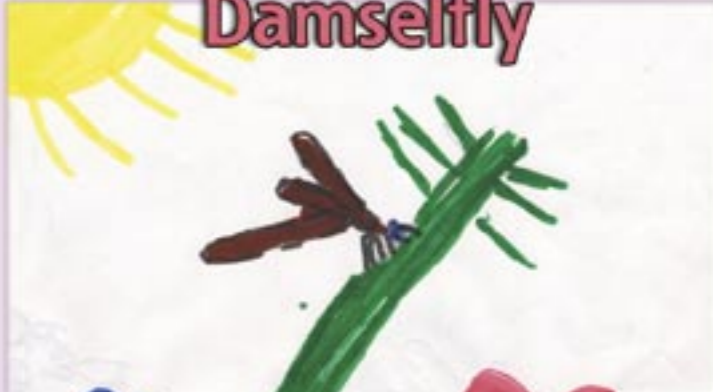
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**Damselfly**



*Megalagrion microthamptum*  
Jasmyne, S.