

NORTHEAST PARTNERS IN AMPHIBIAN AND REPTILE CONSERVATION



2018 Annual Meeting
Hampshire College
Amherst, MA
July 31- August 2, 2018



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Monday, July 30

Informal Meeting of Massachusetts Area Partners (Red Barn)

In conjunction with the NEPARC meeting for a full day of Massachusetts project updates, featured presentations, networking, and breakout discussions hosted by MassWildlife and ATO. People actively involved in Massachusetts reptile or amphibian conservation who are interested in participating should contact Mike Jones by email at michael.t.jones@state.ma.us

5:00pm – 8:00pm – Informal Social (Meet at Red Barn)

Tuesday, July 31st

Pre-meeting activities:

1:00 pm – 9:00pm *REGISTRATION* (poster set-up)

10:00pm – 3:00pm Local Field Trips

- Sandplain sites in the Connecticut River Valley (led by Derek Yorks, Maine Inland Fisheries and Wildlife)
- Dinosaur Tracks of the Connecticut River Valley (led by Mike Jones, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife)
- Holyoke Range Traverse (led by TBD) (return by 4 PM)
- Connecticut Valley Reptile & Amphibians (Tom Tynning, Berkshire Community College)
- Bear Swamp to search for erythristic red-backed salamanders (Dr. Steve Tilley, emeritus professor at Smith College)

4:00pm – 5:30pm **State Biologists meeting** – Roundtable Discussion
Topics TBD

6:00pm – 8:30pm *BARBEQUE SOCIAL* (provided with registration) – (cash bar)

Wednesday, August 1st

7:30am – 8:30am *BREAKFAST* (provided with registration)

8:00am – 8:30am *REGISTRATION* (Set up Posters)

8:30am – 8:45am **Welcome/Logistics** – Tom French, MassWildlife Assistant Director

8:45am – 9:15am What is NEPARC/PARC? –TBD

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- 9:15am – 9:45am Introduction of Steering Committee – NEPARC co-chairs: Lindsay Rohrbaugh (DC Department of Energy and Environment) and Noelle Rayman-Metcalf (USFWS Endangered Species Biologist, NY office) and introductions around the room, Mentors introduce for mentees
- 9:45am – 10:00am **National PARC Update**
- 10:00am – 10:30am **Update on On-going NEPARC Projects/IEDTT presentation** (David Muñoz)
- 10:30am – 10:45am **Regulatory Update** – Al Breisch (Roosevelt Wildlife Station)
- 10:45am – 11:15am Al Richmond – *300 Years of Herpetology in Massachusetts* – University of Massachusetts

Oral Presentations

- 11:15am – 11:50am **Presentations (2) Turtles**
- Mary Beth Kolozsvary – *Urbanization Effects on Freshwater Turtle Populations: An Ecological Research as Education Network (EREN) Study* – Siena College
 - Mikes Jones – *Conservation Planning for Wood Turtles in the Northeastern United States* – Northeast Wood Turtle Working Group
- 11:50am – 12:00pm *Silent Auction begins*
- 12:00pm – 1:00pm LUNCH (provided with registration)
Steering Committee Meeting
- 1:00pm – 2:00pm **Presentations (3) (Snake Related)**
- Anne Stengle – *Headstarting of the Timber Rattlesnake in Massachusetts* – Holyoke Community College
 - Michael Akresh – *Fuels Management and Habitat Restoration Activities Benefit Eastern Hognose Snake (*Heterodon platirhinos*) and other Snake Species in a Pine Barron* – University of Massachusetts
 - Michael Lathroum – *Operation Kingsnake – the successful coast to coast pursuit and apprehension of reptile poacher's in the United States* – Maryland Natural Resources Police
- 2:00pm – 2:15pm **BREAK**
- 2:15pm – 4:15pm Working Group Breakout Sessions – I (Turtles, Emerging Diseases, IEDTT)
- 4:30pm – 6:00pm Poster Session/Cocktail Hour (cash bar)
- 6:00pm – 7:00pm DINNER (provided with registration)
- 7:30pm – 8:30pm *Evening Keynote Speaker*
- Tom Tynning** – *Secret Lives of New England Herps* – Berkshire Community College

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Thursday, August 2nd

7:30am – 8:30am BREAKFAST (provided with registration)

Oral Presentations

8:30am – 9:30am **Presentations (3) Disease**

- Julie Ellis – *The Northeast Wildlife Disease Cooperative: Working With Biologists to Conserve Reptiles and Amphibians In the Region* – Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University
- Ariel Kruger– *Monitoring with Microbes: Predicting Amphibian Disease Susceptibility Using Lab-based Microbial Challenge Assays* – Rutgers University
- James Julian – *Evaluating Volunteer-Collected Environmental DNA Samples to Detect the Amphibian Pathogen *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* and Ranavirus*– Penn State University – Altoona College

9:30am – 9:45am *BREAK*

9:45am – 11:45am Working Group Breakout Sessions – II (Timber Rattlesnake, Roads)

12:00pm – 1:00pm *LUNCH (provided with registration)* – Silent Auction ends

1:00pm – 2:00pm **Presentations (3) Salamanders**

- Jasper Leavitt – *Impacts of Cannibalism on an All-Female Lineage of Salamanders*– Trent University
- Annette Evans – *Do Land Use Changes Buffer The Evolutionary Responses of a Terrestrial Salamander to Climate Change?*– University of Connecticut
- Neha Savant – *Genomic Methods Reveal Distinct Structure and Connectivity of the Threatened Long-tail Salamander (*Eurycea longicauda*) Across Pond and Stream Landscapes* – The Nature Conservancy

2:00pm – 2:15pm *BREAK*

2:15pm – 3:15pm **Presentations (2) Amphibians**

- Brett Amy Thelen – *Amphibian Road Closures: Lessons Learned from a Pilot Season of “Big Night Detours” in Keene, NH* - Harris Center for Conservation Education
- Kristine Hoffman – *Urban Wood Frog Movement and Habitat Selection in Maine, USA* – University of Maine
- Jill Fleming - *Salamanders in Space: An Experimental Manipulation of Artificial Cover Objects* – University of Massachusetts

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- 3:15pm – 3:45pm **Breakout Sessions Wrap-up:** facilitator (TBA)
- 3:45pm – 4:15pm **NEPARC Business:** facilitator (TBA)
- Election of new Co-Chair
 - Steering Committee changes (if any)
 - Likes/Dislikes of current meeting
 - 2019 NEPARC meeting location and topic suggestions
- 4:15pm – 4:30pm Distribute Silent Auction Items
- 4:30pm **Annual Meeting Ends**