



Red-spotted Toad. Copyright Will Lattea.

www.aza.org/frogwatch-newsletters

November 2013

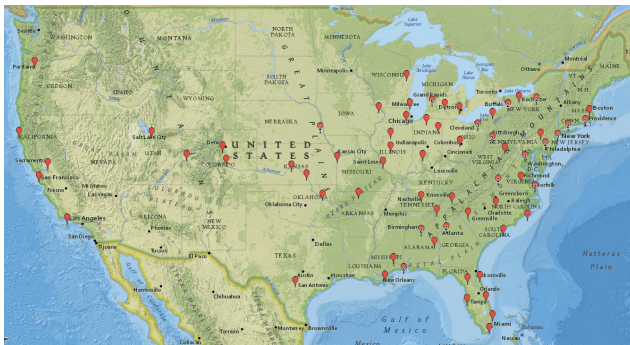
Greetings FrogWatch USA™ Volunteers

The change of seasons and the approach of holidays are signaling the end of 2013. The 2013 FrogWatch USA season ended on 31 August and we have been busy entering and reviewing data in preparation for the upcoming launch of online data entry. Beginning in 2014, FrogWatch USA volunteers will not only be able to input the important data they collect, but also visualize those data in real-time across space and time through mapping and graphing. Your sneak peak of FrogWatch-FieldScope (FW-FS) is found in this very newsletter – so keep reading! You can also stay on top of the latest FrogWatch USA happenings on Facebook, YouTube, and Flickr.

Thank you for your participation in the 2013 FrogWatch USA season. We look forward to another exciting season in 2014.

2013 Season Recap and Reminders

2013 marked another year of growth for FrogWatch USA. The FrogWatch USA online chapter coordinator training module and 14 regional in-person trainings from September 2012 through October 2013 promoted expansion of our chapter network, and we are rapidly approaching 100 FrogWatch USA chapters.



Over 150 volunteer trainings were held by local chapters in 2013, yielding participants in 32 states and the District of Columbia. Our online community has also grown, and there are more than 1,500 followers of FrogWatch USA on Facebook.

US states with 2013 FrogWatch USA data collection	
Alabama	Nebraska
Arkansas	New Jersey
California	New York
Colorado	North Carolina
Connecticut	Ohio
Florida	Oklahoma
Georgia	Oregon
Illinois	Pennsylvania
Indiana	Rhode Island
Kansas	South Carolina
Louisiana	Tennessee
Maryland	Texas
Massachusetts	Utah
Michigan	Virginia
Missouri	West Virginia
Mississippi	Wisconsin



Green Frog. Copyright Kyle Loucks.

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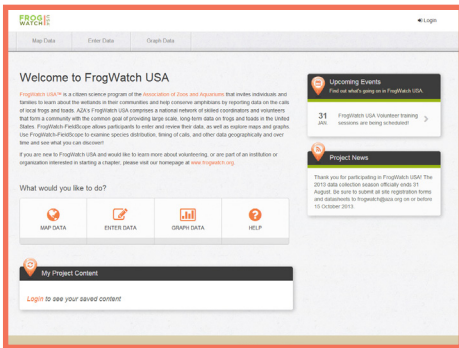
Share Your Stories

A Few End of Year Reminders:

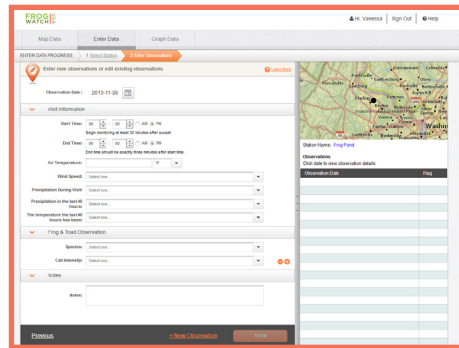
- All observations should be submitted as soon as possible after each monitoring visit, but it is not too late to turn in any that may have been missed or accumulated. Please submit your site registration forms and observation datasheets to frogwatch@aza.org or via U.S. Mail to: FrogWatch USA National Coordinator, Association of Zoos and Aquariums, 8403 Colesville Road, Suite 710, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910. Starting in 2014, site registration and monitoring observations may be entered directly online.
- Review the protocol and prepare for 2014 by visiting www.aza.org/current-frogwatch-volunteers/.
- Practice makes perfect -- keep your frog calls and choruses just as familiar as seasonal carols. Several resources are available on the FrogWatch USA website, or you can add *The Frogs and Toads of North America: A Comprehensive Guide to Their Identification, Behavior, and Calls* by Lang Elliott et al. to your holiday wish list.

Going Beyond Frogs in the Field: Welcome to FrogWatch-FieldScope

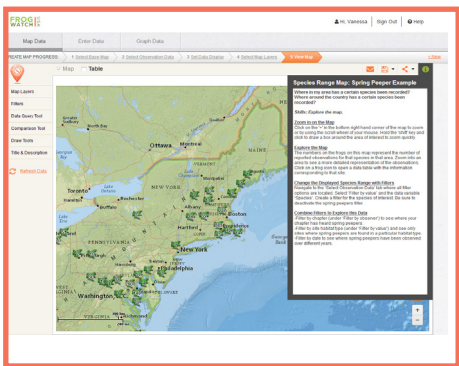
FrogWatch USA's online data entry system is powered by FieldScope, a data entry, mapping, and analysis platform developed by National Geographic Society specifically for citizen science programs like FrogWatch USA. A National Science Foundation Informal Science Education grant supported the development of this platform, encouraging people to input the important data they collect and to visualize those data across space and time. See below for sneak peeks at what you'll be able to do:



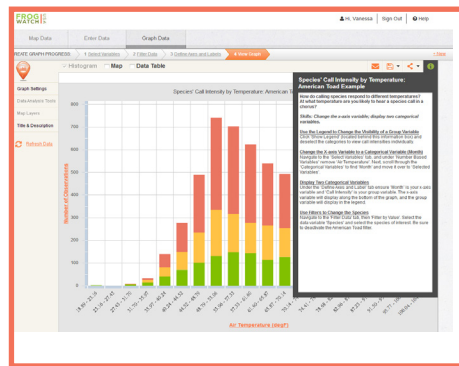
The FrogWatch-FieldScope home screen will be your starting point for entering data, exploring maps, and creating graphs. Upcoming Events, Project News and a Help Guide will also be available on the home screen for assistance and updates.



FrogWatch-FieldScope will be used to register new monitoring sites, input observation data, update previously submitted data, and track personal participation in FrogWatch USA.



Anyone with an interest in frogs and toads will be invited to explore the FrogWatch USA data and create a map. Users will be able to use pre-existing program maps or build their own to answer questions about species' ranges, habitat preferences, or to compare their observations to those of other volunteers.



What time of year do Spring Peepers call? At what temperature are Fowler's Toads heard calling? The FrogWatch-FieldScope graphing feature will help users create their own graph or use a pre-existing program graph to answer questions like these and discover trends in the FrogWatch USA data.

Online tutorials will also be available to help users maximize their FrogWatch-FieldScope experience. Chapter coordinators are already being introduced to and exploring this innovative platform. Look for the announcement of the program-wide launch of FrogWatch-FieldScope in our next seasonal newsletter and on Facebook.

Share Your Stories and Stay in Touch During the Off-Season

We want to hear from you! Share your FrogWatch USA experiences, questions and photos with AZA, and your fellow FrogWatch USA volunteers:

- Email the National Coordinator:
- "Like" us on Facebook:
- Subscribe to the YouTube Channel:
- View the Flickr Photostream:
- Upload photos to the Flickr Group:

- frogwatch@aza.org
- www.facebook.com/FrogWatchUSA
- www.youtube.com/frogwatchusa
- www.flickr.com/frogwatchusa
- www.flickr.com/groups/frogwatchusa

Creature Feature: Canyon Treefrog



Copyright Tracy Baron.

The canyon treefrog (*Hyla arenicolor*) is a charismatic, but easily overlooked species. As the name suggests, the species is found in canyons and arroyos from Colorado and Utah south through Arizona, New Mexico, western Texas, and into Mexico. Although canyon treefrogs can be found in forested areas, they more frequently occur in rocky habitats tucked among the crevices. Coloration of the species is highly variable and will often match the surrounding soils and geology.

In addition to being well-camouflaged, canyon treefrogs are primarily nocturnal. But on warm, wet spring and summer evenings, males and females will climb from their daytime refuges to the water's edge. During that time, they become much more conspicuous, as males make a raucous, metallic pulsing call that is reminiscent of a toy gun.

And that is just what Tracy of the Grand Valley Zoological Quest (GVZQ) chapter observed in late May and early June in Colorado National Monument on the western slope of Colorado. Beautiful, inflated male canyon treefrogs chorusing among red-spotted toads (*Anaxyrus (Bufo) punctatus*). Both species were previously under-represented in the FrogWatch USA dataset and Tracy's observations were the first for canyon treefrog in Colorado. We look forward to more exciting and valuable observations in 2014!