



Michigan
Vernal Pools
Partnership

THE POOL REPORT

November 28

eNews & Updates

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Save the Date!

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Annual Meeting
Join us via Zoom on **December 7th, 2022**
12:30-4:30

Thank you to everyone who has already registered for the Annual Meeting! We are looking forward to sharing and highlighting the work that the MVPP has accomplished this year.

In this newsletter, we are featuring the the guest speakers who will be joining us to share their vernal pool expertise on **December 7th!**

The full agenda will be sent out to registrants this week.

[Register Here!](#)

Conservation Biologist

Michela Coury

Michela will be presenting her research on spotted turtles (*Clemmys guttata*), a threatened Michigan species.

Michela's research fills the knowledge gap on the understudied population of spotted turtles in Michigan. She will discuss findings in relation to their habitat preferences, movement patterns, and home range sizes within their unique habitats, such as prairie fens and vernal pools.



Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies, University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh

Katy Hofmeister

Dr. Hofmeister's presentation will describe the state of the science on how vernal pools are detected and delineated. She will also be discussing forest management effects on vernal pool ecosystem functions. Dr. Hofmeister studies topics and teaches courses related to physical geography, hydrology and soils, as well as environmental sciences and sustainability.



Science Director, Harris Center for Conservation Education

Brett Amy Thelen

In the Monadnock Region of southwestern New Hampshire, hundreds of humans take to the roads on rainy spring nights – with the express goal of moving migrating amphibians to safety.



Since 2007, the Harris Center for Conservation Education has trained nearly 2,000 Salamander Crossing Brigade volunteers, who have provided safe passage for more than 70,000 individual amphibians. In 2018, we also began working with the City of Keene to close an amphibian road crossing site to

vehicle traffic on “Big Nights,” ensuring the safety of migrating amphibians as well as the many families who come out to witness the spectacle. This talk will provide an introduction to the Salamander Crossing Brigade and Big Night Detour projects, including considerations for launching similar efforts in your own community.

Master's student at Michigan Tech

Sam Kurkowski

Sam is earning her masters degree in Applied Ecology studying vernal pools at Michigan Tech. Her research aims to use newly developed remote sensing techniques to map and describe vernal pool characteristics in the Great Lakes region and how those characteristics influence pool use by vernal pool indicator species.



Program Manager at the Superior Watershed Partnership

Tyler Penrod

Protecting the migration route of blue-spotted salamanders is a story of collaboration between the Superior Watershed Partnership, City of Marquette, and Northern Michigan University's Biology Department. With the threat from vehicle traffic eliminated, Tyler will discuss options to mitigate the potential impacts of skyrocketing media attention and migration visitorship while maintaining education and community engagement opportunities.

MVPP

Pool Patrol

MNFI

MNA

The mission of the Michigan Vernal Pools Partnership is to increase awareness, understanding and protection of vernal pools through conservation, research & mapping, education & outreach and collaboration.

The Vernal Pool Patrol is a place-based education program consisting of classroom instruction and data collection in the field. Members learn how to follow a standard protocol to help identify and map locations of vernal pools within their local communities.



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