

PENNSYLVANIA VERNAL POOL REGISTRY FORM

STEP 1. VERNAL POOL OBSERVER(S) INFORMATION			
Observer name	Phone (home, office or cell)	Email	
Address	City	State	Zip Code
Additional observer name *	Phone (home, office or cell)	Email	
Address	City	State	Zip Code
Signature(s):		Date:	* Attach separate sheet to add other observers
STEP 2. LANDOWNER INFORMATION (Data collected on private land without the landowner's permission cannot be included in the registry.)			
Landowner name	Phone (home, office or cell)	Email	
Address	City	State	Zip Code
Landowner permission? Circle one YES: verbal or written or NO	Landowner comments:		
STEP 3A. DIRECTIONS AND MAPS. Give detailed written directions to the vernal pool from two locations. Example: Frog Pond is 1.6 miles SSE of the intersection of Rt. 30 and Black Gap Road, and 0.9 miles W of the town of Black Gap. Attach an additional sheet if needed (see 'Register a Pool – Instructions' for more mapping information).			
STEP 3B. ATTACH A MAP with the location of the vernal pool clearly indicated with a point. The preferred map for this study is a USGS topographic map. See our mapping guide for assistance.			
STEP 3C. (OPTIONAL) Record latitude and longitude. If using a GPS unit, record projection and datum. Preferred settings are decimal degrees (ex: 40.73266, 78.13714). Latitude: _____ Longitude: _____			
ROAD OBSERVATIONS (OPTIONAL). This will not register a pool but it is valuable information. If you see or hear any of our indicator amphibians on or near the road, record your observation in the indicator species box (4A). Provide directions and/or coordinates for the location along the road. If reporting a wood frog chorus heard from the road, indicate the direction of the singing.			
STEP 4. EVIDENCE OF A VERNAL POOL. Choose one of the following three options: A, B, or C. (Adapted from A field Guide to the animals of Vernal Pools, Kenney and Burne, 2000.)			
OPTION A. INDICATOR SPECIES METHOD: two required items			
1 Submit a photograph of the vernal pool holding water.			
AND			
2 Submit evidence (photo, video, or audiotape) of breeding activities for at least one of the amphibian species listed below. This includes the presence of spermatophores, egg masses, larvae, or adult activities such as singing, courting and amplexus. Or, document the presence of fairy shrimp.			
SPECIES	DATE OBSERVED	TYPE OF EVIDENCE	
WOOD FROG			
EASTERN SPADEFOOT			
SPOTTED SALAMANDER			
JEFFERSON SALAMANDER			
MARBLED SALAMANDER			
FAIRY SHRIMP			
OPTION B. FACULTATIVE SPECIES METHOD: four required items			

1 & 2 Submit two photographs or video images of the pool.

Photo 1: A photo or video of the pool filled with water.

Photo 2: A photo or video of the pool dried up.

AND

3 & 4 Provide evidence (photo, video, or audio tape) of any TWO vernal pool facultative species.

These two can be from the same column or one from Column A and one from Column B.

Column A. Document evidence of breeding for animals in this column, such as presence of spermatophores, egg masses, larvae or adult activities such as singing, courting or amplexus.

Column B. Only the presence of the animal needs to be documented.

COLUMN A			COLUMN B		
SPECIES	DATE	BREEDING ACTIVITY	SPECIES	DATE	PRESENT
SPRING PEEPER			RED-SPOTTED NEWT (ADULT)		
CHORUS FROG			SPOTTED TURTLE		
GRAY TREEFROG			WOOD TURTLE		
GREEN FROG			PAINTED TURTLE		
LEOPARD FROG			SNAPPING TURTLE		
PICKEREL FROG			PREDACEOUS DIVING BEETLE (LARVA)		
AMERICAN TOAD			WATER SCORPION		
FOWLER'S TOAD			DRAGONFLY (NYMPH)		
FOUR-TOED SALAMANDER			DAMSELFLY (NYMPH)		
			DOBSONFLY (LARVA)		
			WHIRLIGIG BEETLE (LARVA)		
			LEECH		
			FINGERNAIL CLAM		

OPTION C. DRY POOL METHOD: two required items

1 SUBMIT A PHOTOGRAPH OF A DRY VERNAL POOL

AND

2 SUBMIT EVIDENCE (PHOTOGRAPH / SPECIMENS) FROM THE DRIED POOL BED OF ANY ONE OF THE FOLLOWING.

SPECIES	EVIDENCE	DATE	PRESENT
FINGERNAIL CLAMS	SHELLS		
AMPHIBIOUS AIR-BREATHING SNAILS	SHELLS		
CADDISFLY LARVAE	CASES		
DRAGONFLIES	EXUVIAE (SHED EXOSKELETON)		
DAMSELFLIES	EXUVIAE (SHED EXOSKELETON)		

STEP 5. DESCRIBE OTHER OBSERVATIONS AND SUBMIT YOUR DATA: Attach a sheet with additional observations and descriptions of the vernal pool habitat (pool size, amount of vegetation, proximity to road, etc); this is appreciated but not required to register a pool. Label, date and sign photographs and recordings, then send your documentation via mail or email using the contact information listed below.

STEP 6. TIME SPENT ON SURVEY AND COMPLETION OF FORM: _____ HOURS

SIGNATURE _____

Contact us:

Vernal Pool Coordinator
 Western PA Conservancy
 PA Natural Heritage Program
 PO Box 8552 | Harrisburg, PA 17105-8552
 Fax: 717-787-9067
 Email: spcoordinator@paconserve.org