

Vernal Pools and Amphibian Migrations

WINTER WEBINAR SERIES

As part of our Amphibian Migrations and Road Crossings (AM&RC) Project, the DEC Hudson River Estuary Program and Cornell University are hosting a webinar series with researchers and practitioners from New York and New England to help us prevent amphibian road mortality and achieve more effective vernal pool conservation. Join us!

Tuesday, January 25, 2022 5:00-6:30pm – Register [here](#).

Introduction to Vernal Pools with **Dr. Mary Beth Kolozsvary**,

Associate Professor of Environmental Studies and Sciences, Siena College

Dr. Mary Beth Kolozsvary will provide an in-depth look at vernal pools and their importance for amphibians that live in the forest. How do these small, seemingly insignificant wetlands play such an important role in forest ecosystems? How have amphibians adapted to use the temporary abundance of water in vernal pools to breed? What are the threats to vernal pools that warrant our conservation attention? This first webinar will provide a good introduction for the rest of the series, and we'll also provide a brief update from the AM&RC project.



Tuesday, February 1, 2022 5:00-6:30pm – Register [here](#).

Amphibian Migrations: Case Studies in Reducing Mortality at Road Crossings

with **Brett Amy Thelen**, *Science Director, Harris Center for Conservation Education* and **Chris Slesar**, *Environmental Resources Coordinator, Vermont Agency of Transportation*

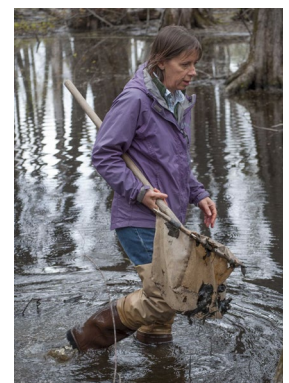


This webinar will feature two stories of communities taking action to reduce mortality of amphibians on roads where there is high migration crossing activity each Spring. We'll learn from Brett Amy Thelen how data collected by volunteers led a small New Hampshire city to close a local road to vehicle traffic on amphibian migration nights, in partnership with a local conservation organization. We'll also learn from Chris Slesar about the creation of an award-winning wildlife crossing culvert between two areas of critical amphibian habitat in Monkton, VT.

Tuesday, February 15, 2022 5:00-6:30pm – Register [here](#).

Vernal Pool Habitat Conservation with **Dr. Matt Schlesinger**, *Chief Zoologist, New York Natural Heritage Program* and **Dr. Aram Calhoun**, *Professor Emerita, University of Maine*

The final webinar in the series will consider conservation approaches needed to protect the critical habitat needed by pool-breeding amphibians. Dr. Matt Schlesinger will share key findings of a recent study that investigated vernal pools across New York State, including indicators of vernal pool significance for amphibian biodiversity at local and landscape scales. We'll learn from Dr. Aram Calhoun about a new, locally driven, voluntary vernal pool mitigation tool called the Maine Vernal Pool Special Area Management Plan (or SAMP) currently adopted by two Maine towns.



For more information, visit
hudson.dnr.cals.cornell.edu.



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