



Michigan
Vernal Pools
Partnership

THE POOL REPORT

May 12, 2023 | Issue 8

eNews & Updates

Brought to you by [the Michigan Vernal Pools Partnership](#)



Vernal pool season is underway across the state!

This issue of the Pool Report comes to you with the latest partnership news, a mid-season Pool Patrol update, and more. Check out upcoming partner events and ways to get involved!

[Read full issue](#)

The Michigan Vernal Pools Partnership

**Friends
of the ROUGE**



Welcome New Partners!

This past winter, the MVPP welcomed two organizations as partners, Friends of the Rouge and May Woods Nature Trail.

Organizational partner, Friends of the Rouge, helped organize and participated in a Pool Patrol field training this year in Detroit. If you are in the Rouge River watershed, contact Sally [at spetrella@therouge.org](mailto:spetrella@therouge.org) to check out a monitoring kit to explore vernal pools

around you! Word is that Rouge Park has very big fairy shrimp.

May Woods Nature Trail, an MVPP mission partner, has over six pools that they are monitoring and is Pool Patrol program coordinator for Cheboygan county. Join them June 12th for a presentation on vernal pools at the Mackinaw Area Public Library, and connect with Larry at.ardentpartners1@yahoo.com for monitoring opportunities in the Mackinaw area.

[For more information on partnership, visit our website!](#)

Does your local government have a wetland ordinance?

Many vernal pools do not meet requirements for regulation by the state, but local governments are well-suited to protect the wetlands in their jurisdiction!

Consider checking out if your city or town has a local wetland ordinance, or visit our website to learn more about how your community can protect your small critical wetlands.

[Learn More](#)



Here's what you said about participating in the Pool Patrol

This past fall, we asked our Pool Patrollers to evaluate the Pool Patrol program. We wanted to know what you enjoyed about the program, your challenges, what resources you

needed, and how we could improve. Thank you to everyone who participated! Your feedback helps us improve the program and make community science accessible to everyone.

Here are the results and the updates to the program based off of your feedback!

If you are considering participating in the Patrol, this report is a great way to hear first-hand experiences about what it is like to participate.

[View Report](#)

The Vernal Pool Patrol

Mid-Season Monitoring Update

Thank you to all of the awesome Pool Patrollers who have gone out and monitored pools so far this season!

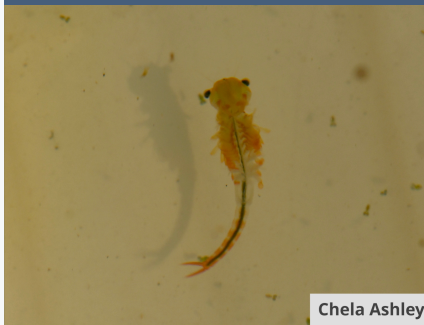
We are excited to share some mid-season stats on 2023's monitoring effort so far.

- 89 newly mapped pools
- 340 monitoring visits completed so far this season
- 104 verified vernal pools visited
- 110 volunteers contributed to and/or submitted data to the Michigan Vernal Pool Database!

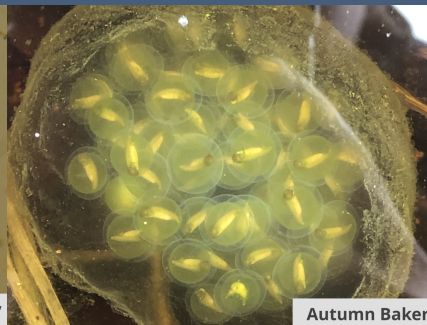
Additionally, there has been a record number of outreach events hosted by partnering organizations this year! Across the state there has been 12 outreach events and 6 field trainings so far. THANK YOU to all of our community partners and program coordinators!

It's not too late, especially the further up north you are, to go out and monitor vernal pools this season. This time of year is when we find that biodiversity is the highest. You might see wood frog tadpoles, salamander egg masses or nymphs, potentially fairy shrimp, as well as a handful of rare species that use vernal pools! All of the virtual training sessions that occurred in March are accessible on the [Pool Patrol website](#) for information on how to explore pools near you.

Volunteer Photos from the Field



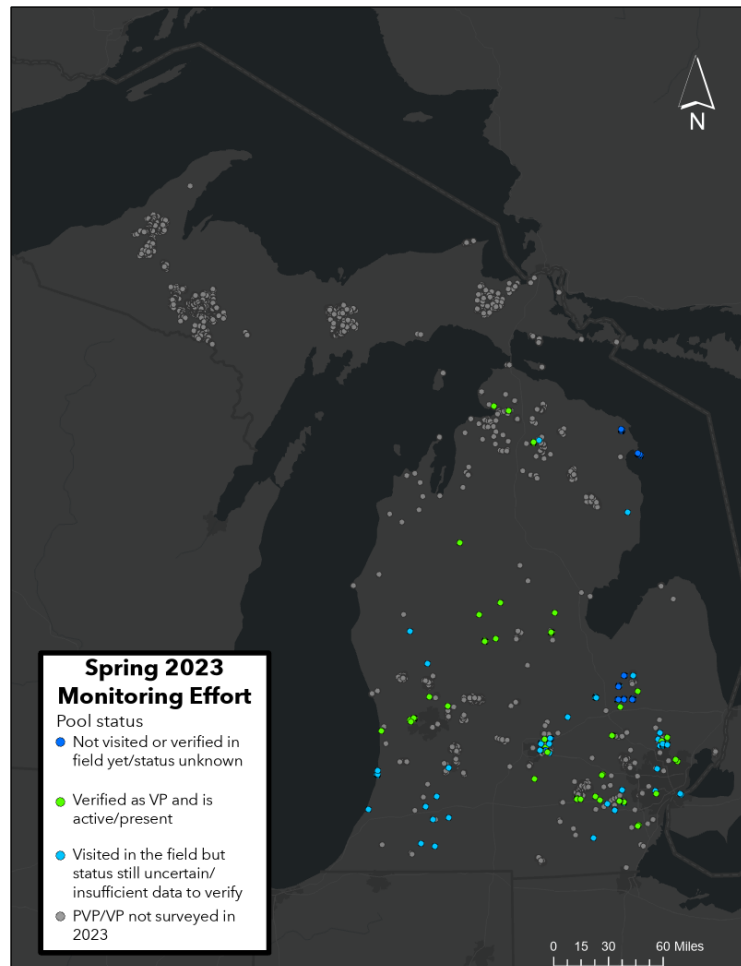
Chela Ashley



Autumn Baker



Bertha Bullen & James Kruse



"Pool Patrollers" Facebook Group

[Join Now](#)

To help connect patrollers across the state and increase communication, new this year is the "Pool Patrollers" Facebook group. Intended for those who are monitoring, this private group is a great place to ask for species ID questions, share findings, and connect with those in your region. Please make sure to answer all three membership questions to join!



Photos by Robin Coon

Upcoming Events

May 13: Vernal Pool Hike New Buffalo Township, Mi

10:30 - 12:00

Join Pat Fisher of the Harbor Country Hikers for this fascinating presentation for families and the curious minded. Pat will discuss the amazing world of our local vernal pools and the importance they hold for local wildlife, followed by a hike.

June 1: Vernal Pool Hike New Buffalo Township, Mi

6:30 - 8:00 pm

For their final vernal pool hike of the season, join Pat Fisher and Harbor County Hikers to learn about the amazing world of vernal pools and their local importance for wildlife!

May 21st: Vernal Pool Stewardship Hike

Atlas County Park, 9139 Hegel Rd,
Goodrich, MI

2:00 - 3:30 pm

Join For-Mar educators to explore the ponds and pools of the Genesee County Parks! Dress for mud and wet, we will be getting down and dirty investigating the ecological importance of these special wetlands.

June 12th: Vernal Pool Presentation Mackinaw Area Public Library

7:00 pm

Pool Patrol coordinator, Larry Flynn, will be speaking on vernal pools as part of Mackinaw Area Historical Society's 2023 lecture series at the Mackinaw Area Public Library.

News and Notes

- Get Involved!
 - [Fill out an interest form](#) to receive more information about the partnership & patrol
 - View fellow [patrollers photos on the partnership website!](#)
 - Join the [Pool Patrollers Facebook Group](#)

- Resources
 - MVPP outreach materials (brochures & posters) [available by request](#)
 - New Pool Patrol Resources
 - [Invasive Species ID](#)
 - [Egg Mass ID](#)
 - [Survey 123 Training Videos](#)
 - [2023 Amphibian Week: May 7th - 13th is PARC's Amphibian Week!](#)
 - MVPP Partners, Herpetological Resource Management and the MI Department of Energy, Great Lakes, and Energy, recently published the second edition of the "Michigan Amphibian & Reptile Best Management Practices" manual. Available free of charge, [view it here!](#)
- Vernal Pools in the Media
 - ["Frogs, Salamanders, and Fairy Shrimp are Appearing in a Pool Near You" by Lester Graham, Michigan Radio](#)
 - [Look Inside the "Coral Reefs" of Michigan's Forests, by Emily Bingham, MLive](#)
 - [Vernal Pool Patrol at Legacy Land Conservancy, Michigan Radio](#)
 - ["You Should Build a Frog Pond" by Emma Marris, The Atlantic](#)
 - ["Why Tiny Ponds and Singing Frogs Matter So Much", New York Times](#)

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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