FUSARO

Guide to

Amphibians

A Pictorial Guide to the Amphibians Found on Kent Land Trust Property

By

Joshua Fusaro

(Editor & Illustrator)

The Marvelwood School

&

UCONN Natural Resource Conservation Academy

Species Found in Kent

There are 19 amphibian species in the NW corner of Connecticut.

- ❑ Bull Frog*
- ❑ Gray Tree Frog*
- ❑ Green Frog*
- ❑ Northern Leopard Frog (SC)
- ❑ Pickerel Frog*
- ❑ Spring Peeper*
- ❑ Wood Frog*
- ❑ American Toad*
- ❑ Fowler's Toad*
- ❑ Jefferson's Salamander Complex* (SC)
- ❑ Marbled Salamander*
- ❑ Spotted Salamander*
- ❑ Dusky Salamander*
- ❑ Four-toed Salamander*
- ❑ Eastern Red-backed Salamander*
- ❑ Spring Salamander (SC)
- ❑ Northern Slimy Salamander
- ❑ Northern Two-lined Salamander*
- ❑ Red-spotted Newt*

*Photographed in Kent and Pictured in Guide. Pictures taken of actual amphibians found on Kent Land Trust Property. As more amphibians are found and photographed they will be added to this guide.

Conservation Status in Connecticut

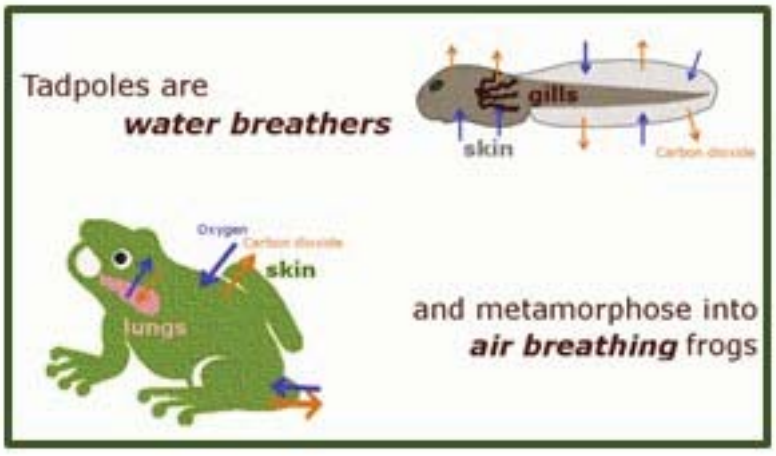
(SC) = Species of Conservation Concern

Introduction - Amphibians

What is an amphibian?

An amphibian is a frog, salamander, toad, or a newt. They are cold-blooded animals which have dual lifestyles; in other words they live part of their lives in the water and part on land. They are generally born and develop in or near water and as adults they live on the land.

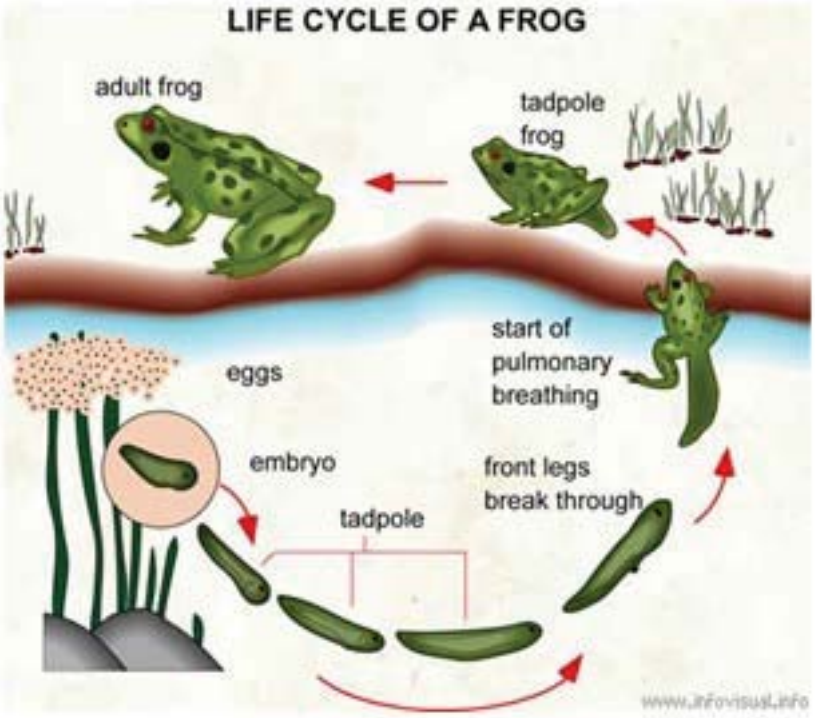
"Most amphibians breathe through lungs and their skin. Their skin has to stay wet in order for them to absorb oxygen so they secrete mucous to keep their skin moist (If they get too dry, they cannot breathe and will die). Oxygen absorbed through their skin will enter blood vessels right at the skin surface that will circulate the oxygen to the rest of the body. Sometimes more than a quarter of the oxygen they use is absorbed directly through their skin. Tadpoles and some aquatic amphibians have gills like fish that they use to breathe. There are a few amphibians that do not have lungs and only breathe through their skin (http://www.burkemuseum.org/herpetology/)

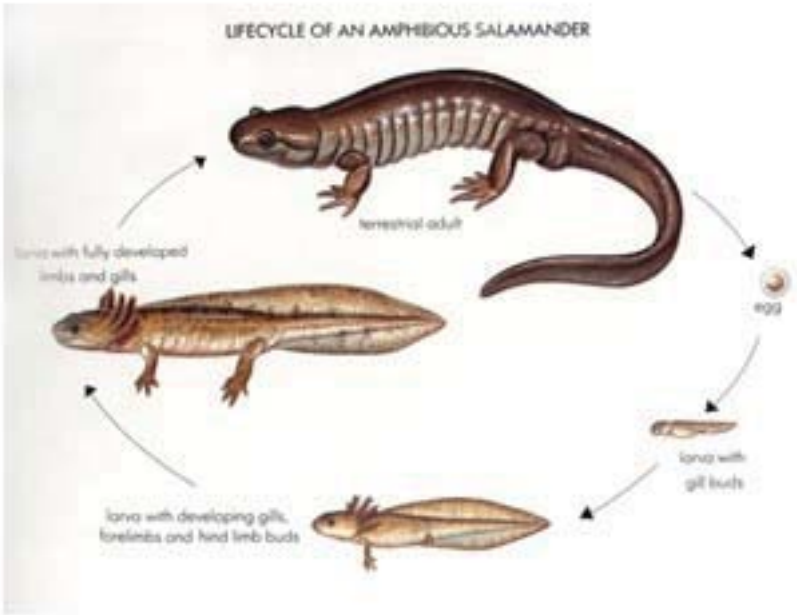


Source:
https://breatheornot.files.wordpress.com/2012/04/tadpole-to-frog1.gif?w=640&h=364

LIFE CYCLE

The term Life Cycle refers to changes that occur to an organism throughout its lifetime.





Sources:

http://www.infovisual.info/02/029_en.html

http://www.animalspot.net/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/Salamander-Life-Cycle.jpg

Key Characteristics

Habitats

- Streams
- Vernal Pools
- Ponds
- Meadows
- Bogs
- Swamps
- Forests

Source:
http://www.sheppardsoftware.com/content/animals/kidscorner/classification

Safety & Handling

WHILE IT IS BEST TO JUST TAKE PICTURES OF AMPHIBIANS IN THE FIELD, SOMETIMES, FOR SCIENTIFIC REASONS, IT IS IMPORTANT TO HANDLE THESE ORGANISMS. TO DO SO SAFELY PLEASE FOLLOW THE U.S. GEOLOGICAL's (USGS) METHODS OF PHYSICAL RESTRAINT:

- Make sure hands you do have lotion or insect repellent on them. Wash hand if they do or wear disposable gloves.
- Medium and large size frogs and toads should be grasped around the waist with the hindlimbs fully extended.
- Do not allow the frog or toad to bend(flex) it hip and knee joints, since this would allow it to kick, risking injury to the animal and/or handler.
- All larvae (including tadpoles) should be handled with nets or scoops.
- For examinations, the larvae should be placed in a clear container or plastic bag halfway filled with water.
- Larvae should not be grasped with bare hands or examined out of the water.
- Nets and boots should be dipped in a 10% bleach solution before moving to new areas to prevent the spread of possible diseases.

Source:
http://www.nwhc.usgs.gov/publications/amphibian_research_procedures/handling_and_restraint.jsp

Safety Tips

- Contact with amphibians (such as frogs and toads) and reptiles (such as turtles, snakes, and lizards) can be a source of human Salmonella infections.

- Salmonella germs can cause a diarrheal illness in people that can be mild, severe, or even life threatening. Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water right after touching these creatures and/or anything in the area where they live and roam,

•Adults should supervise hand washing for young children. If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer right away and then wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water as soon as you can.

Please Don't:

•Please do not let children younger than 5 years of age, older adults, or people with weak immune systems handle or touch amphibians and/or reptiles.

•Please do not let children handle amphibians and/or reptiles unless under adult supervision.

Source:
cdc.gov/healthypets/resources/amphibian-reptile-poster.pdf

Frogs

Pickerel Frog

Scientific Name: *Lithobates palustris*
Size: 1.25-3 inches (4.4-7.5 cm) in length
Status: Locally Common

Bull Frog

Scientific Name: *Lithobates catesbeianus*
Size: 3.5-8 inches (5.7-11.4) in length
Status: Common

Spring Peeper

Scientific Name: *Pseudacris crucifer*
Size: 0.75-1.25 inches (1.9-3.2 cm) in length
Status: Common to Abundant

Green Frog

Scientific Name: *Lithobates clamitans*
Size: 2-4 inches (5-10 cm) in length
Status: Common

Frogs (Continued) & Toads

Wood Frog

Scientific Name: *Lithobates sylvaticus*
Size: 2-3 inches (5-7.6 cm) in length
Status: Common near Vernal Pools

Eastern Gray Treefrog

Scientific Name: *Hyla versicolor*
Size: 1.6-2 inches (4-5 cm) in length
Status: Common

Eastern American Toad

Scientific Name: *Anaxyrus americanus*
Size: 2-3.5 inches (5-8.9 cm) in length
Status: Common

Fowler's Toad

Scientific Name: *Anaxyrus fowleri*
Size: 2-3.7 inches (5-9.5 cm) in length
Status: Locally Common

Stream Salamanders

Northern Dusky Salamander

Scientific Name: *Desmognathus fuscus fuscus*
Size: 2.5-5 inches (6.5-13 cm) in length
Status: Common

Northern Two-lined Salamander

(amelanistic, old male)

Scientific Name: *Eurycea bislineata*
Size: 2.5-4.75 inches (6.4-12.1 cm) in length
Status: Difficult to find this phase

Northern Two-lined Salamander

Scientific Name: *Eurycea bislineata*
Size: 2.5-4.75 inches (6.4-12.1 cm) in length
Status: Common to Abundant

Vernal Pool Salamanders

Jefferson "Complex" Salamander

Scientific Name: *Ambystoma jeffersonianum*
Size: 4.75-8.25 inches (12.1-21 cm) in length
Status: Species of Special Concern

Marbled Salamander

Scientific Name: *Ambystoma opacum*
Size: 4-5 inches (10-12.7 cm) in length
Status: Uncommon

Spotted Salamander

Scientific Name: *Ambystoma maculatum*
Size: 4.5-9.5 inches (11-24 cm) in length
Status: Common

Forest Salamanders

Eastern Red-backed Salamander
(Traditional Phase)

Scientific Name: *Plethodon cinereus*
Size: 2.2 to 5.0 inches (5.7-12.7 cm) in length
Status: Abundant

Eastern Red-backed Salamander
(Lead Phase)

Scientific Name: *Plethodon cinereus*
Size: 2.2 to 5.0 inches (5.7-12.7 cm) in length
Status: Abundant

Four-Toed Salamander

Scientific Name: *Hemidactylium scutatum*
Size: 2-3.5 inches (5-10 cm) in length
Status: Uncommon to Rare

Pond & Forest Salamanders

Red-spotted Newt
(Adult Aquatic Stage)

Scientific Name: *Notophthalmus v. viridescens*
Size: 2-4.5 inches (5.5-12 cm) in length
Status: Common

Red-spotted Newt Red Eft
(Terrestrial Sub-adult)

Scientific Name: *Notophthalmus v. viridescens*
Size: 2-4.5 inches (5.5-12 cm) in length
Status: Common

SCAN HERE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT KENT'S AMPHIBIANS

YALE PEABODY MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY*

CONNECTICUT AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES*

***Note: Scientific names sometimes change and some websites may not yet reflect this change.**