

# Vernal Pools



**WETLAND SCIENCE CONFERENCE**

**March 7, 8 & 9, 2024**

**Camp Oty'Okwa**  
24799 Purcell Rd  
South Bloomingville, OH 43152



# Vernal Poolooza 2024 Conference- Camp Oty'Okwa

THURSDAY, MARCH 7

8:30-9:30 am	<b>Registration Check-in and Sponsor Table Set-up</b> Rahal Activity Center Library	
9-9:30	<b>Continental Breakfast</b> Dining Hall	
9:30-9:45	<b>Welcome- Mallory Sickle, Camp Oty'Okwa Director</b> Dining Hall	
	<b>Rahal Activity Center</b>	<b>Rotary Activity Barn</b>
10-11	<b>FrogWatch USA: Who, What, When, Where, Why?</b> Carrie Bassett and Michael Phillips, FrogWatch USA and Akron Zoo	<b>Biotic Takeaways: Findings from Vernal Pool Amphibian Relocation</b> Jenna Roller-Knapp, MAD Scientist Associates
11-12	<b>Our Ohio Wildlife</b> Jim Lane, Redbank Advisors	<b>ODOT's Quest to Design and Develop a Better Ecopassage for Herpetofauna</b> Matt Raymond, Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT)
12-1:30pm	<b>Lunch and Round table Discussions</b> Dining Hall	
1:30-2	<b>Sponsor and Vendor Tables, Poster Sessions, Book Sales and Signing</b> Dining Hall	
	<b>Rahal Activity Center</b>	<b>Activity Barn</b>
2-3	<b>Education Outreach at Camp Oty'Okwa</b> Brooke Heid and Marcus Moan, Clune Consulting Services	<b>Vernal Pool Functions and Values</b> Mark Dilley, MAD Scientist Associates and Ohio Wetlands Association (OWA)
3-4	<b>Environmental Education as a Tool for Learning</b> Paul and Cathy Knoop, Camp Oty'Okwa	<b>Vernal Pools, Oak-dominated Forests, and Ohio's Forest Action Plan</b> Tom Macy, Ohio DNR Division of Forestry
4-5	<b>Sponsor and Vendor Tables, Poster Sessions, Book Sales and Signing &amp; Networking</b> Dining Hall	
5-6:30	<b>Dinner and Keynote:</b> <b>A Camera's Eye View of Vernal Pools-</b> Jim McCormac Dining Hall	
6:30-7:30	<b>"Hoppy" Hour: Social Hour and Networking</b>	
7:30-9:00 pm	<b>Pool Party:</b> <b>Evening Site Exploration: Quintessential Vernal Pool</b> Rick Perkins, Hocking College Meet outside Welcome Cabin (green roof with rocking chairs) for carpooling and shuttle service	



# Vernal Poolooza 2024 Conference- Camp Oty'Okwa (Continued)

FRIDAY, MARCH 8

8:30-9 am	<b>Registration Check-in and Sponsor Table Set-up</b> <i>Rahal Activity Center Library</i>	
9-9:30	<b>Continental Breakfast</b> <i>Dining Hall</i>	
9:30-9:45	<b>Welcome – Mark Dilley</b> <i>Dining Hall</i>	
	<b>Rahal Activity Center</b>	<b>Rotary Activity Barn</b>
10-11	<b>Vernal Pool Amphibians, their evolution, and current status</b> Mick Micacchion, Ohio Wetlands Association	<b>Ohio's Vernal Pool Flora</b> Jenny Adkins, MAD Scientist Associates
11-12	<b>Amphibians on the Map: Merging Tech &amp; Nature to Uncover Hidden Breeding Sites</b> Aaron Laver, GEOACE	<b>The Relationship Between Vernal Pools and Lepidoptera</b> Christopher Kline, Butterfly Ridge Conservation Center
12-1:30pm	<b>Lunch and Round table Discussions</b> <i>Dining Hall</i>	
1:30-2	<b>Sponsor and Vendor Tables, Poster Sessions, Book Sales and Signing</b> <i>Dining Hall</i>	
	<b>Rahal Activity Center</b>	<b>Activity Barn</b>
2-3	<b>Vernal Pool Program Station Rotation</b> Liz Neroni, Preservation Parks of Delaware County	<b>Developing PCR Testing Techniques to Identify Unisexual Salamander Populations</b> Logan Griffin, Hiram College
3-4	<b>Moss Identification and Ecology</b> Robert Klips, OSU Museum of Biological Diversity	<b>The Story of the Salamander</b> Hannah "Dusty" Kopp, Rural Action
4-5	<b>Sponsor and Vendor Tables, Poster Sessions, Book Sales and Signing &amp; Networking</b> <i>Dining Hall</i>	
5-6:30	<b>Dinner and Keynote: Geological and Landscape History of the Hocking Hills and Crane Hollow Preserve</b> Joe Moosbrugger, Crane Hollow Preserve <i>Dining Hall</i>	
6:30-7:30	<b>"Hoppy" Hour and Networking</b>	
7:30-9:00 pm	<b>Pool Party:</b> <b>Evening Site Exploration: Big Pine Road Vernal Pool</b> Homer Elliot, Hocking College Meet outside Welcome Cabin (green roof with rocking chairs) for carpooling and shuttle service	

## Vernal Pool Exploration



**Anytime: Camp Oty'Okwa Rock Pool vernal pooling** (Site 1: 39.440619°, -82.573905°)

Feel free to borrow a net and sample this man-made pool onsite near the dining hall, where salamander larva, tadpoles and eastern newts have been observed. This pool is often used for Camp's educational events and a vernal pool expansion will take place just down the hill on Saturday morning!

Leader: Self-led

**Thursday March 7th @ 7:30pm: Quintessential Vernal Pool** (Site 2: 40.085916°, -81.484418°)

This is a small but quintessential vernal pool on Purcell Road near Camp Oty'Okwa off of Purcell Road supports redback salamander, Eastern newt, and tadpoles. If feasible, we'll retrieve traps that are set out overnight.

Leader: Rick Perkins (Hocking College)

**Friday March 8th @ 7:30pm: Big Pine Rd. and Crane Hollow Preserve** (Site 3: 39.456215°, -82.565290°)

Visit Big Pine Road and Crane Hollow Preserve at night to observe amphibian migration and listen for frog calls. Please use shuttle or carpool to rappelling parking lot.

Leader: Homer Elliott, Hocking College

### SATURDAY MARCH 9 (9am- 12pm) Field Trip Options: Please carpool if able

*Note: Continental Breakfast Available at 8:00 - 9:00 am at the Dining Hall*



**Big Pine Rd. Long Hike to Vernal Pools** (Site 3: 39.456215°, -82.565290°)

Hike to see outstanding vernal pools along Big Pine Road and Crane Hollow Preserve. If feasible, the group will retrieve funnel traps that were set out overnight. Wood frogs, spring peepers, Eastern newts, spotted salamanders, marbled salamanders, Jefferson salamanders and macroinvertebrates such as fairy shrimp are routinely documented in these pools. This hike is a 1.5 miles roundtrip. The main path of the trail is mucky from horse usage and is about a ½ mile hike to the first vernal pool complex. This hike will go off trail with stream crossings and uneven terrain. Please use shuttle or carpool to rappelling parking lot. Hike will start from trailhead at 9am.

Leader: Joe Moosbrugger (Crane Hollow Preserve) + Mick Miccachion (Ohio Wetlands Association [OWA])

**Vernal Pool Design and Construction** (Site 4: 39.440552°, -82.574073°)

Visit a current forested, non-vernal pool site on Camp Oty'Okwa Property near the dining hall, just a few meters downhill of the established constructed pond/rain garden. This is an easily accessible spot for creating habitat for vernal pool activity, which can be used for future educational programs at Camp Oty'Okwa. Assist with hand digging to create a vernal pool. Please wear gloves in case of poison ivy roots in soil.

Leader: Mark Dilley (MAD Scientist Associates and OWA President)

**Vernal Pool Design and Construction** (Site 5: TBD)

Help create a vernal pool on Forestry Land! Join ODNR to learn about the important considerations that go into site selection, design, development, and construction to restore one! Participants will be able to assist with hands-on construction of a vernal pool while larger machinery is used.

Leader: Will McCormick and/or Dan Balsler (Ohio Department of Natural Resources), Lindsay Hanna (MAD Scientist Associates)

**Camp Oty'Okwa Identification Lab** (Site 6: Rahal Activity Center Lab Classroom: 39.441873°,-82.573534° )

Learn identification techniques of your Vernal Pool Biota! Get an up-close view and learn identification techniques of vernal pool amphibians, macroinvertebrates and mosses/lichens from biotic samples collected prior to this lab session. Using hand lenses, microscopes and identification keys, participants will examine specimens, gaining the ability to recognize common species and acquiring the skills necessary to independently continue the study of mosses, amphibians and macroinvertebrates.

Leaders: Jenna Roller-Knapp (MAD Scientist Associates), Marty Knapp (Midwest Biodiversity Institute), and Robert Klips, (Museum of Biological Diversity)

**Butterfly Ridge Conservation Center Tour** (Site 7: 39.476782°,-82.583952°)

Participants will meet at Butterfly Ridge Butterfly Conservation Center, located at 17864 OH-374, Rockbridge, OH 43149, to hike the trail and learn tips and tricks to identify and interpret key indicators of hydrology, soils, and plant communities to aid in successful site selection for vernal pool restoration and creation projects.

Leader: Mr. Chris and Mrs. Kris Kline, (Butterfly Ridge Butterfly Conservation Center)

**ODOT Nelsonville Bypass Wetland Mitigation Site** (Site 8: 39.448194°, -82.201785°)

This site was established in 2010 and has constructed wetlands, existing forested wetlands, an acid mine drainage treatment component, and an "ecopassage" (amphibian crossing) that ODOT researched, designed, and constructed to reduce migrating amphibian mortality. Funnel traps may be set the day before the field trip to allow for the group to look at some of the creatures using the wetlands, such as red spotted newts, various tadpoles, and possibly larval ambystomids. There is ample safe parking at the site, 40 minutes away from Camp Oty'okwa, so please meet at the parking location here: 39.450616°, -82.199011°.

Leader: Matt Raymond (Ohio Department of Transportation [ODOT])

**Knoop Pool** (Site 9: 39.451796° and -82.607999°)

Visit the Knoop vernal pool located at 19772 Keifel Rd, Laurelville, OH 43135, just 10 minutes from Camp Oty'Okwa. A variety of fauna in this pool typically awakens earlier in the spring than others in the Hocking Hills area.

Leader: Paul and Cathy Knoop (Camp Oty'Okwa)