

FAIRBANKS MUSEUM & planetarium

At Home Science

Wood Frogs

Teacher: Leila Nordmann

April 13, 2020

The following websites and instructions represent additional resources for continued study of the topics covered in our "At Home Science" online class. All materials on each website are the property of each individual website owner and have been reviewed by a Fairbanks Museum & Planetarium educator.

April is a great time to hunt for a vernal pool near you. The best way to find one is to follow your ears and listen for the "quack, quack" of the wood frog. It will lead you to an area where there is water and egg masses have been laid. This is all evidence that a wood frog has been there. Remember, if you are quiet and move slowly, you may even see an adult frog swim by you.

What you need:

- Rubber boots
- Bucket or large bowl
- Thermometer (if you want to test the temperature of the water)
- Some gloves, the water is cold and it could be a long walk back to the house while carrying it.

Another way to watch the growth of the wood frog eggs into tadpoles is to bring a camera and photograph one egg mass every few days. That way you do not remove the eggs and you can watch them in the vernal pool environment. It is a chance to see all of the interactions happening in that vernal pool, like if an eastern newt is feasting on those wood frog eggs.

Other animals to look for:

- Caddisfly and their "mobile" homes of sticks or pebbles
- Spotter Salamander eggs
- Fairy shrimp

Other frogs you may soon hear calling between April and May:

- Northern Leopard Frog
- Spring Peepers

Wood Frog Information:

<https://vtecostudies.org/wildlife/amphibians/wood-frog/>

For help with identification:

http://www.vernalpools.me/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/6_Eggmassidentification.pdf