



FALL / WINTER 2000

A NEWSLETTER

from the

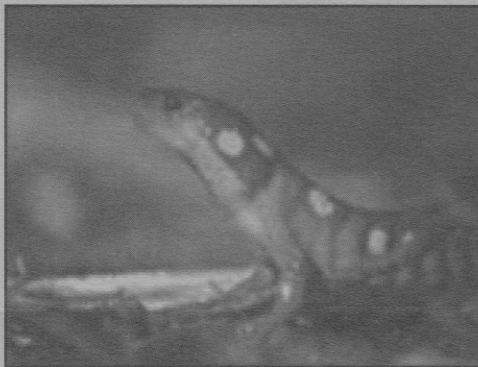
CAPE ANN VERNAL POND TEAM

THE CAVPT IS A NON-PROFIT, VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO VERNAL POND CONSERVATION AND EDUCATION, SINCE 1990.

MEMBERS

Rick Roth, Director
978 281-3480
Andrew Brindamour
Barbara Buls
Alex Eisenzopf
Margaret Flowers
Ileen Graham
Cora Hawks
Kathy Heinze
Cathy Kelley
Ruth Kuydendall
H.A. Lind
Nathan Mineo
Maire Murphy
Elizabeth Rehill
Curtis Sarkin
Nick Taormina
Peter Willett
Chris Wood

The Cape Ann Vernal Pond Team video is complete. "**VERNAL PONDS**", a 15 minute documentary shot entirely on Cape Ann, demonstrates the importance of these wetlands and their value as wildlife habitat.



spotted salamander video jacket still by Alex Eisenzopf

VIDEO CREDITS

Produced & Directed - Rick Roth, founder of the CAVPT, brought this project from conception to completion.

Videography & Post Production - Alex Eisenzopf worked on the script, did the lion's share of the editing, virtually all of the camera work and got some really amazing footage of Cape Ann wildlife.

Associate Producer - Peter Willett, a television professional, lent his experience to this worthwhile project and improved the quality of the finished production.

Music - Charlie Farren, a veteran of the Joe Perry Project and Farrenheit, is Rick's all time - all star Rock'n Roll guitar hero. He wrote and performed the neatest music for acoustic guitar specifically for this project.

Narration - Karen Saltus
Peter put us in contact with this professional narrator who did a beautiful job with the script.

And countless contributions by the rest of the Team Members.

"**VERNAL PONDS**" received three Merit Awards at the 23rd International Wildlife Film Festival in Missoula, Montana for:

- * Educational Value
- * Conservation Message
- * Excellence in Hi-8 photography

The first viewing of the video on Cape Ann was held at the Rockport Library in May and was very well received by a capacity crowd. Additional airings were held at Halibut Point State Park, Sawyer Free Library, Art Space, Wompatuck State Park (for a meeting of the Herpetological Society) and The Waterline Center at the Essex Shipbuilding Museum.

The VERNAL PONDS video can also be seen on Adelphia Cable Television (check your local listings for dates and times).

THANK YOU to the grantmakers who funded this project:

Toad Hall Bookstore
Gloucester Cultural Council
Sweetwater Trust
New England Herpetological Society
The Teddy Bear Artist Invitational
The EnTrust Fund

We would also like to thank all the generous individuals for their donations.

You can buy this video at
Toad Hall Bookstore, Rockport, MA
and Artspace, Gloucester, MA

OR BY MAIL

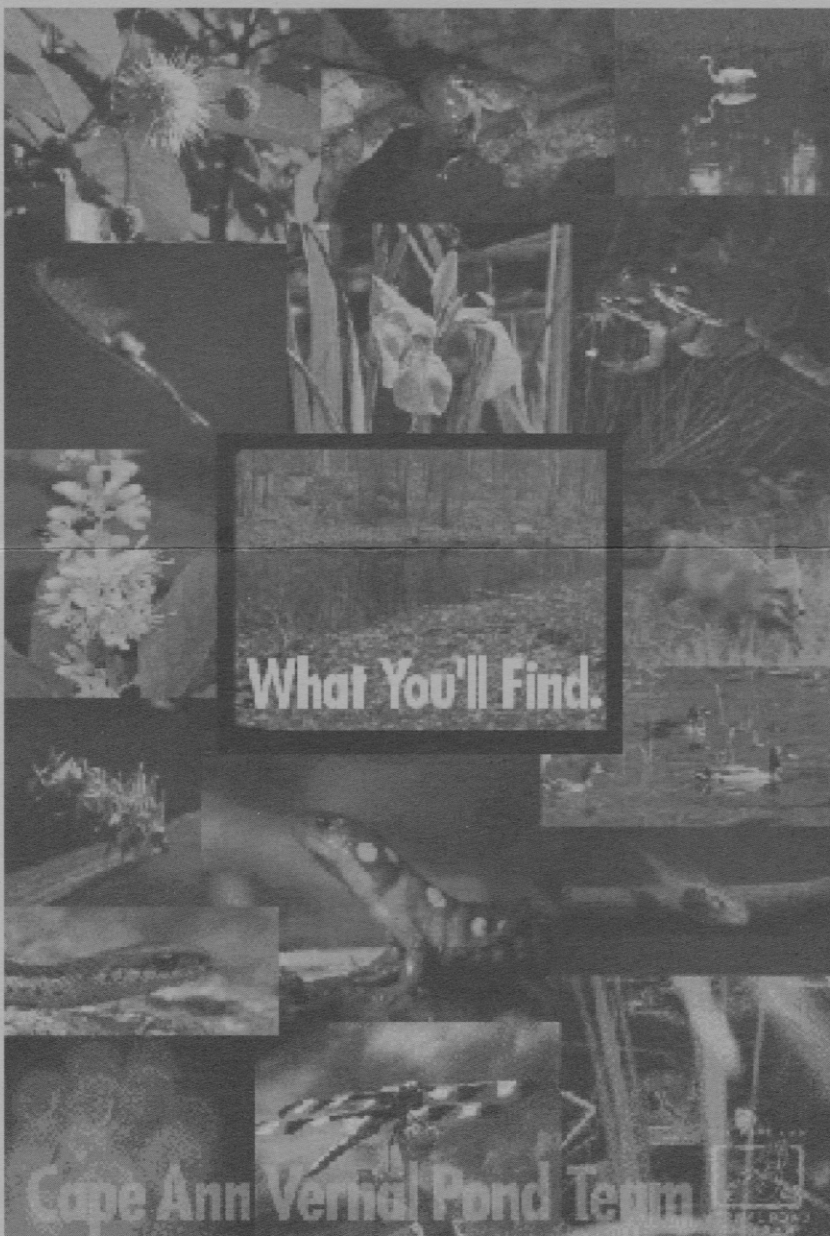
Send us a check for \$20.00 made payable to CAVPT and mail your order to Rick Roth,
P.O. Box 12, Rockport, MA 01966

Check out our website at:
<http://www.shore.net/~nya/CAVernalPond.html>
watch for us at: www.capeannvernalpond.com
Email: CAVPT@yahoo.com
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 12, Rockport, MA 01966

Halibut Point Poster - photographed by Margaret Flowers and designed by H.A. Lind, this poster calls attention to vernal ponds at Halibut Point State Park in Rockport, MA. The poster is seasonally on display at the HPSP Visitor's Center. We would like to thank The Friends of Halibut State Park for funding this entire site-specific exhibit.

Alex's Poster - Alex Eisenzopf used video stills to create a really cool poster, for sale at Toad Hall Bookstore or by sending \$5.00 to Cape Ann Vernal Pond Team, PO Box 12, Rockport, MA 01966.

Funding by the Gloucester Cultural Council & N.E. Herpetological Society



FIELD TRIPS

Rainy nights and flashlights - every spring CAVPT members lead night time field trips to the ponds to see the amphibian breeding activity. We limit the number of participants to avoid habitat destruction and critter disturbance.

TEACHERS

If you are a science teacher or know a science teacher you should know about "**Diving Into Wicked Big Puddles**", an educator's resource kit for the study and teaching of vernal pools. Produced by Leo Kenney and his students at Reading High, this guide is jammed with information, activities, resources & references. The kit includes eighty superlative slides with notes for each.

For additional information on obtaining this material, please contact Vernal Pool Association, Reading Memorial High School, 62 Oakland Road, Reading, MA 01867. For additional information about Vernal Pools check out their website at www.vernalpools.org.

CERTIFICATION

The team has now certified 21 ponds on Cape Ann. We will be sponsoring one or more workshops in the coming year where you can learn the certification process. Look for additional information in the next newsletter or at: <http://www.shore.net/~nya/CAVernalPond.html>
watch for us at: www.capeannvernalpond.com

BOOK REVIEW

People keep asking us for some sort of guide to vernal pools... well, now there is one. By Leo Kenney from the Vernal Pool Association at Reading High School and Matt Burne from Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program, *A Field Guide to the Animals of Vernal Pools*, came out this summer.

- * great color photos of critters and pools
- * life cycles
- * clear and concise text...

so clear that even we can understand it.

If you have any interest at all in vernal ponds you need this book. It's the best!

A Field Guide to the Animals of Vernal Pools is available at Toad Hall Bookstore, 51 Main Street, Rockport or by contacting the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife's Natural and Endangered Species Program, Route 135, Westborough, MA 01581 or call 508-792-7270 ext. 200.

VERNAL POOLS OF THE NORTHEAST

a conference

This past spring team members Rick and Margo attended the Vernal Pools of the Northeast Conference at the University of Rhode Island in Kingston.

The program covered vernal pool ecology, conservation and education. There was an exceptional line-up of approximately 30 speakers including:

Betsy Colburn, MA Audubon Society
Jim MacDougall, Essex County Greenbelt Association
Tom Tynning, Berkshire Community College
Matt Burne, MA Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program
Leo Kenney, Vernal Pool Association

We expected about 50 to 100 people and were thrilled to see more than 500 attendees!



CAVPT at Stage Fort Park at the Earth Day celebration.
Team members just stand there.

VERNAL POND ECOLOGY AT HAROLD PARKER STATE FOREST

Barbara Buls, Interpreter for Harold Parker State Forest, has incorporated the knowledge she has gained from being a Cape Ann Vernal Pond Team member into her educational programs at Harold Parker. Harold Parker State Forest, in Andover, North Andover, North Reading and Middleton, comprises 3500 acres of forest and wetlands, with numerous vernal ponds. During the breeding season, she set up a vernal pond aquarium that housed wood frog tadpoles and fairy shrimp. Much of the summer, it served as a display in the Nature Center. Using the tank, she explained to many groups from area schools, YMCAs, summer camps, home-schoolers and drop-in visitors the importance of preserving vernal ponds in their natural state. This is particularly important in an area like Andover, where developers are clearing land and building new homes at an ever-increasing rate on property abutting the State Forest.

These visiting groups often request a nature walk in the forest, and on these occasions, Barbara takes them to some of the more easily accessible ponds along roadsides, where the children can find hundreds of tiny, first year wood frogs in the vicinity of the ponds. Upon viewing the ponds during their dry season, one can understand how development can take place with no thought to the ephemeral wetlands. Through these means, Barbara is spreading vernal pond ecology and preservation to the area around Harold Parker State Forest.

CAPE ANN VERNAL POND TEAM STORE

<u>Item</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>Qty.</u>
"Vernal Ponds" Video	\$20.00	___
"What You'll Find" Poster	\$ 5.00	___
CAVPT Logo Poster	\$ 7.00	___
A Field Guide to the Animals of Vernal Ponds by Leo Kenney & Matt Burne	\$ 9.00	___

TOTAL _____

Send check or money order to:

Cape Ann Vernal Pond Team
c/o Rick Roth
PO Box 12
Rockport, MA 01966

**Prices include shipping and handling*

SHIP TO:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

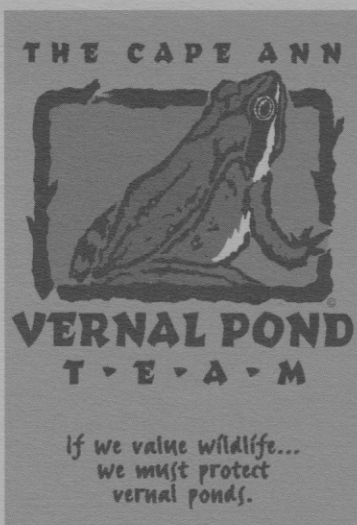
Cape Ann Vernal Pond Team
P.O. Box 12
Rockport, MA 01966



Certification Workshop

On October 10th, Bob Speare of Mass. Audubon (Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary) led a Vernal Pond Certification Workshop at Halibut Point State Park. Space was limited to 25 people, the response was so good that we are already planning the next program. Each attendee received "Certified", a step-by-step guide to protecting vernal pools, (a Mass. Audubon publication) by Betsy Colburn.

Thank you Bob for such an informative presentation and for answering all of our questions. And thanks to John Nove of Halibut Point State Park for helping us out again.



logo poster by H.A. Lind



Cookiecutter congress
by John Nove

THANK YOU

Katie Blenk for donating our neat hats
Judi Jordan and Eleanor Hoy at Toad Hall
Martha Hoar
Dave Brown at The Waterline Center, ESM

Matt Burne for the Field Guides
Carol Gray at the Sawyer Free Library
Sinika Nogelo of Adelphia
New England Herpetological Society
Joe Martinez

Frog for the TV
Shep at Artspace
John Nove at HPSP
The Greenery