



Vernal Pools in Ohio

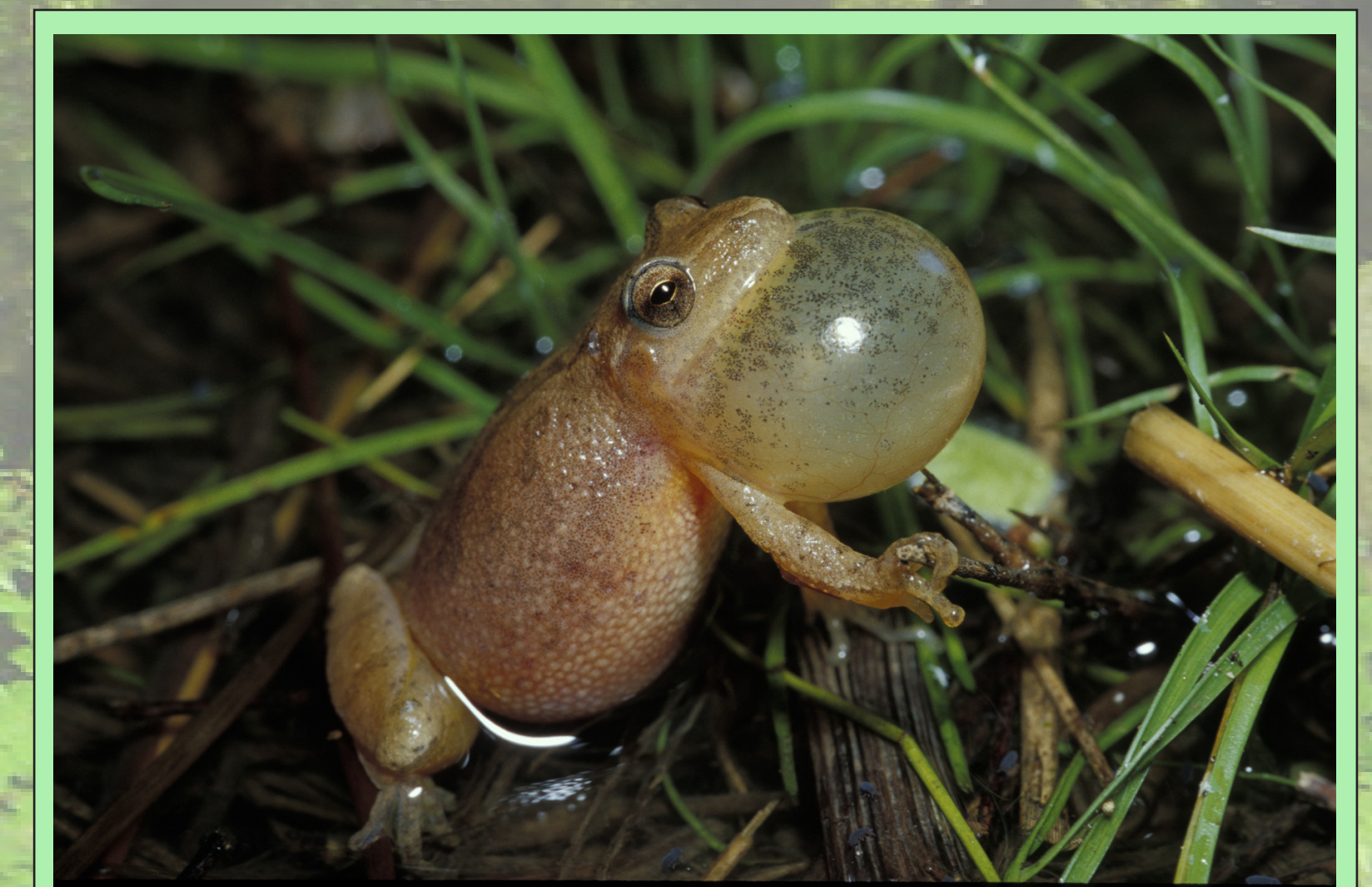
Vernal pools derive their name from the Latin “*vernus*”, meaning “belonging to spring”. The vernal pool is composed of either bedrock or a hard clay layer in the soil that helps keep water in the pool. These seasonal wetlands periodically dry up and do not contain fish. This creates a safe habitat for frogs, toads and salamanders to mate and lay eggs.



Spotted Salamander

What is the concern?

- Vernal pools provide an essential habitat for breeding populations of many amphibians.
- Nearly 1/3 of amphibian species are threatened with extinction globally, with habitat destruction, alteration and fragmentation representing a large portion of the problem.
- Ohio has lost over 90% of its original wetlands and vernal pools over the past centuries due to extensive ditching, draining and tiling of the land for agriculture and development.



Spring Peeper calling



Wood Frogs

How can you help?

To encourage stewardship of the nation’s water resources, the Environmental Protection Agency is leading an “Adopt Your Watershed” campaign. Go to <http://www.epa.gov/adopt/> for more information

