A Collection of the Living Things in Patton's Pond Ecosystems

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Hamilton, Massachusetts

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Source: Burne, Kenney: A Field Guide to the animals of Vernal Pools

AMPHIPOD

Key Features for this Organism:	
	amphipods are also considered “sideswimmers' ' because of their ability to move sideways through the water.
	They sometimes appear to be trailing their thread-like limbs behind them during the process of swimming.
	Amphipods are what scientists call Omnivore- Detitivores, and are often found on decaying leaves and vegetarian on the bottom of a vernal pool.

What we observed about this organism:
Amphipods are to be recognized for how they dart through the water.
An Amphipod's scientific name is Malacostraca, but more commonly referred to as a Amphipod.

Illustrated and Researched by:
Alyssa + Raven

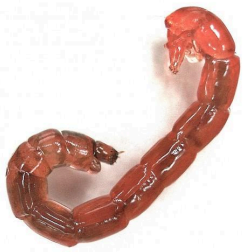
isopod

Key Features for this Organism:	
	An Isopod is segmented. Meaning they are very flexible and able to curl up into a ball.
	An isopod also has 8 legs total. They have 4 legs on each side.
	The scientific name for an Isopod is an Aquatic sow bug, but best referred to as an Isopod.

What we observed about this organism:
An Isopods habitat is a vernal pool, or somewhere near a body of water. Sometimes found in mud, by or next to a body of water.
The Isopod is not known for being the fastest crustacean in the vernal pool. There known for being rather slow and poor swimmers.
The isopod looks like a potato bug but is in the water. It doesn't curl up as much

Illustrated by: Ginger
Researched by: Ginger + Raven

Midge Larvae



Key Features for this Organism:	
long	Almost like a worm, but less pointed ends
skinny	Very thin and short
Bright red	They are easy to see because of this

What we observed about this organism:
Midge was found in Vernal Pool
Very ridgely and active
Bright red as blood
Worm shaped

Illustrated and Researched by: Asa

Leopard Frog

Key Features for this Organism:	
	It has brown spots
	Mostly found in grasses coles to a body of water
	It has pale yellow inner thys
	Each spots are outlined with lime green

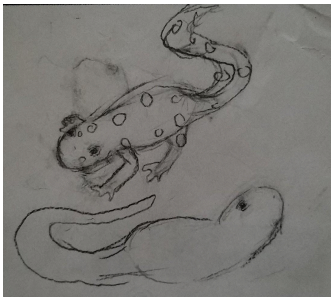
What we observed about this organism:
Hops 2 to 3 times in a row
It is pretty fast
Disappears into vegetation near the frog pond

Illustrated by: Lily + Asa
Researched by: Asa

Spotted Salamander Larva

Key Features for this Organism:	
	Larvas have bushy extended gills.
	Larvas grow faster as the Vernal Pool dries.
	As they get bigger they develop appendages which will eventually become legs

What we observed about this organism:
Found in Vernal Pool mud.
Can grow legs but ours doesn't have any yet.
Used sieve to find the larva.
Also found in leaf debri.



Illustrated by: Lily + Asa
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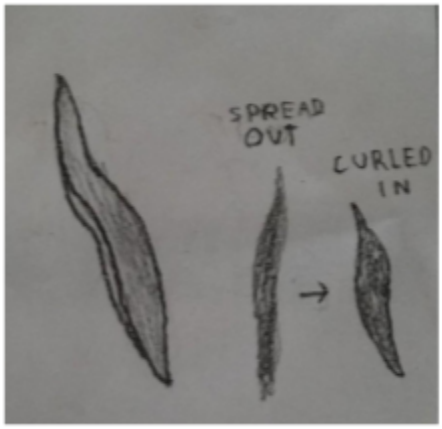
Leech

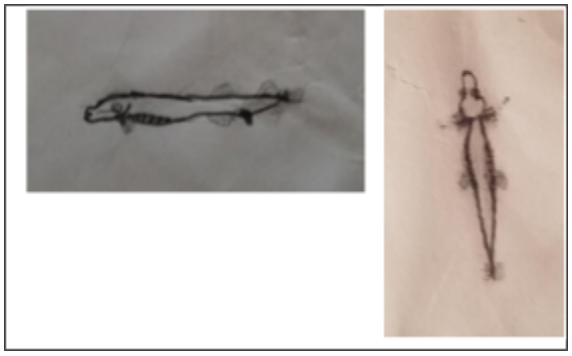


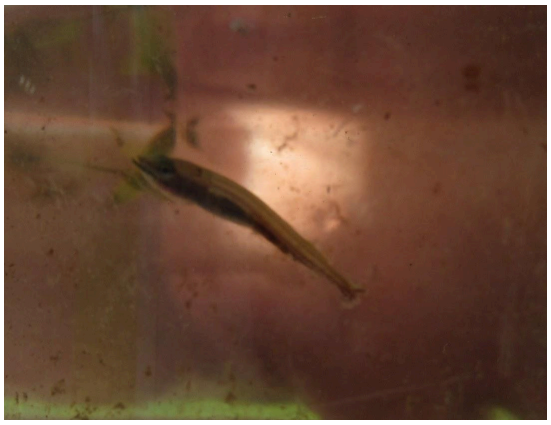
Key Features for this Organism:	
	Black and orange
	Squiggly and squishy
	Expands from fat to skinny

What we observed about this organism:
Lives mostly in a vernal pool
Curls in a spiral
Moves slowly, but sticks to what it is attached to

Illustrated and Researched by:
Asa, Alyssa and Raven

(predicted) Swamp Darter fish



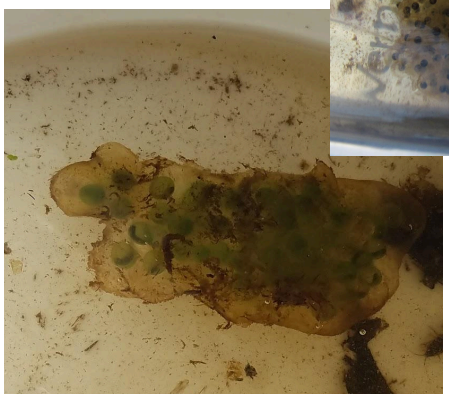


Key Features for this Organism:	
Big head	Long as a pinkie finger.
Very small	Swims very fast when close to physical contact.
Long tail	Eyes on the side of its head.
Very big mouth	The fish has a triangular head.

What we observed about this organism:
Has been found in a Vernal Pool
The “fish” swims very weirdly-
Tail and fins swim so fast you can barely see them.

Illustrated by: Jacob
Researched by:Jacob + Aiden R.

Wood frog and spotted salamander egg masses



Key Features for this Organism:	
	This kind of egg mass was found in the vernal pool,
	They appeared to be some sort of developing egg masses.
	They become more specific as embryos develop

What we observed about this organism:
The first time they were clear and black, but after that they appear to be green and glowing.
This egg mass was medium size, about the size of a soft ball.
The eggs contained dark, long and skinny organisms

Illustrated and Researched by: Ginger

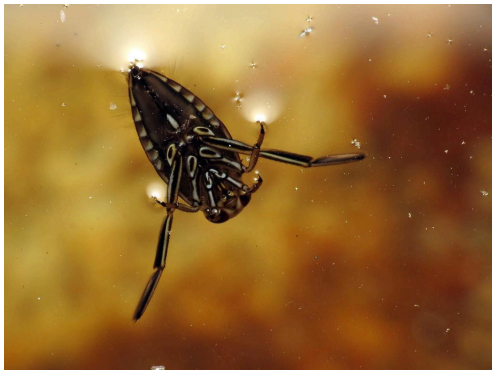
Eastern Painted Turtle

Key Features for this Organism:	
	Useshaly backing above water
	It has a red under neck
	It has long claws
	It has a long tale

What we observed about this organism:
It has a dark shell
It has orange/yellow lines
It live in ponds, lakes, rivers,vernal pools
We saw them in the grass field and in the woods along the trail, near but not in the water

Illustrated and Researched by: Raven

Backswimmer

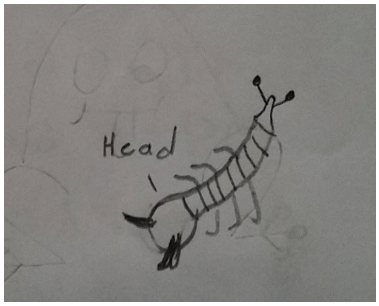


Key Features for this Organism:	
	Two long arms that it uses to move itself
	It actually has many legs that are smaller than the long arms
	Fast moving

What we observed about this organism:
It tries to blend in with small leaves
It swims around quickly
It stays in the middle or surface of the water, not the bottom

Illustrated and Researched by: Asa

Predaceous Diving Beetle Larva



Key Features for this Organism:	
	Looks to have 2 heads
	It has a brownish color
	It has a flexible neck
	It has six leg on the front of the body

What we observed about this organism:
Extremely squirmy
Wiggle legs a lot
Swims in circles with its whole body

Illustrated and Researched by: Ginger