

Virginia Vernal Pools – a Wetlands & Wildlife Conservation Mission

Virginia Vernal Pools founder, Mike Hayslett, has had a mission to conserve vernal pool wetlands and their wildlife for over three decades. This handout provides recommended sources of information to further understand this subject and to help promote conservation of these special ecosystems.

1. Virginia's Vernal Pools

<http://www.lynchburgbiz.com/virginiavernalpools/educate.htm>
www.virginiavernalpools.org (under repair)

2. *Secret Pond: A Fairy Shrimp Documentary* (2012) by Brian LaFountain
<https://vimeo.com/46371816> (filmed in Virginia, with help from VA Vernal Pools)

Several essential books on the subject, available on Amazon:

<https://www.amazon.com/Vernal-Pools-Natural-History-Conservation/dp/0939923912>

3. *Vernal Pools: Natural History and Conservation* (2004) by Elizabeth Colburn

4. *Science and Conservation of Vernal Pools in Northeastern North America: Ecology and Conservation of Seasonal Wetlands in Northeastern North America* (2008) by Aram Calhoun and Phillip DeMaynadier

5. *Field Guide To the Animals of Vernal Pools* (2001) by Leo Kenney and Matt Burne

6. **Vernal Pool Association** (*the original* – begun in Reading, Massachusetts under Leo Kenney)
<https://www.vernalpool.org/> (great T-shirts and educator's resources)

7. *Forestry Habitat Management Guidelines for Vernal Pool Wildlife* (2004) by Aram Calhoun and Phillip deMaynadier

<https://www.maineaudubon.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Forestry-Habitat-Management-Guidelines-for-Vernal-Pool-Wildl.pdf>

8. *Best Development Practices: Conserving Pool-Breeding Amphibians in Residential and Commercial Developments in the Northeastern United States* (2002) by Aram Calhoun and Michael Klemens

<https://www.maineaudubon.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Best-Development-Practices-Conserving-Pool-breeding-Amph.pdf>

9. *THE NORTH ATLANTIC VERNAL POOL DATA COOPERATIVE* (2016 Revision) by Steven Faccio et al (see pp 16-17 for VA Vernal Pools, LLC contribution to this publication)

https://vtcostudies.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/NALCC_VPDC_Final-Report.V2.July2016_HiRez.pdf

10. *Vernal Pools VA* (Facebook forum for *Virginia Master Naturalist* monitors and others):

<https://www.facebook.com/VernalPoolsVA/>

11. *Vernal Pools for Salamanders* – VA Department of Wildlife Resources (former VDGIF):
<https://www.dgif.virginia.gov/blog/vernal-pools-for-salamanders/>

12. *A Guide to Creating Vernal Ponds* (2002) by Tom Biebighauser
<https://www.nyfoa.org/application/files/3514/7948/6007/GuidetoCreateVernPonds.pdf>

13. *Construct a Healthy Wetland — Destroy Mosquitoes* (2006) by Emily Biebighauser
<https://www.townofcary.org/home/showdocument?id=21793>

14. Tom Biebighauser's other publications, including:
Wetland Restoration and Construction—A Technical Guide (2011)
http://www.wetlandrestorationandtraining.com/?page_id=14

15. *Swamp School* (Wetland Delineation Training) <https://swampschool.org/>

16. *Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy* (2018, “Vernal Pools: 20 Years of Conservation in Loudoun”):
<https://loudounwildlife.org/2018/05/vernal-pools-20-years-of-conservation-in-loudoun/>

17. U.S. EPA “Wetlands Factsheet Series” <https://www.epa.gov/wetlands>

18. *Vernal Pools – documenting life in temporary ponds* by Steven David Johnson
<http://www.nanpa.org/learning/publications/handbooks/> (Free Download)

More of Steve's fantastic vernal pool photography: <https://www.stevendavidjohnson.com/>

Mike Hayslett pioneered vernal pool awareness and the Master Naturalist program in Virginia. With over 30 years of traveling the state educating, studying pools, and advising on the subject, he became known as *Virginia's leading vernal pools expert*. He continues this mission to promote conservation of these unique wildlife habitats and is always open for opportunities to help communities to better understand, appreciate and manage their vernal pool wetlands and related wildlife.



VIRGINIA VERNAL POOLS, LLC
Environmental Consultants

Michael S. Hayslett, M.S.

Specializing in FW wetlands ecology and conservation:

- bio-inventory/assessment
- education & training
- design/build oversight
- habitat restoration
- management plans

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