



Great Swamp Watershed Association

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Explore the Wonders of Spring in New Jersey's Great Swamp

Great Swamp Watershed Association offers late-March wildlife hike.

Morristown, NJ—The Great Swamp Watershed Association (GSWA) will hold its annual **Vernal Pool Exploration** hike on **Friday, March 28**, from **6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

Eight days past the equinox, spring will be in full swing throughout New Jersey's Great Swamp. And, that means it is time for a Spring Peeper Party in the wetlands at GSWA's 53-acre Conservation Management Area in Harding Township.

As temperatures rise, the forest floor will be positively hopping with new life as frogs and other amphibians crowd into shallow puddles of water to breed and lay their eggs. These puddles—better known as vernal pools—provide a perfect opportunity to learn more about Mother Nature here in New Jersey. But hurry! They dry up and disappear quickly.

Led by a professional naturalist, GSWA's annual **Vernal Pool Exploration** provides a fun, outdoor learning experience for kids and adults alike. Discover the differences between a spring peeper, a chorus frog, and a wood frog. Find out how far an endangered spotted salamander will walk to find a mating pool. And, learn how much everything people have come to appreciate about the springtime depends on a few unassuming puddles of water on the forest floor.

GSWA's Conservation Management Area (CMA) is located at **1 Tiger Lily Lane**, Harding Township, NJ. Waterproof footwear is essential for this hike.

Participation is capped at 25 people, so advanced registration is strongly recommended. Register online at **GreatSwamp.org** or call **(973) 538-3500 x22**.

Donations to the Great Swamp Watershed Association are sincerely appreciated. If you are not a GSWA member, please consider making a donation of \$10/adult, \$5/child (6 to 17 yrs.), or \$35/family of four or more at the time of your registration. (No suggested donation for children 5 and under.)

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About the Great Swamp Watershed Association. Founded in 1981, the Great Swamp Watershed Association (GSWA) is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving and protecting the water and land of New Jersey's 36,000-acre Great Swamp Watershed region. GSWA works with stakeholders in Morris County and Somerset County municipalities to maintain the health and beauty of open spaces; to educate the public about regional environmental issues; and to monitor and safeguard the five headwater streams—Loantaka Brook, Great Brook, Primrose Brook, Black Brook, and the Upper Passaic—that feed the Great Swamp and the Passaic River.