

ALEX WELLS - VERNAL POOL MONITORING PROJECT COORDINATOR



In only the second year of the Vermont Center for Ecostudies program, the Vernal Pool Monitoring (VPMon) Project has another ECO AmeriCorps member! Alex Wells has been busy this fall with visits to un-confirmed vernal pools and with volunteers. Alex's goal for VPMon is to monitor and collect full data for 15 vernal pools in the spring. He has the volunteers for that monitoring scope, but he is still confirming the pools. A lot of Alex's field work this fall has been visiting the thus far both confirmed and unconfirmed pools with the volunteers to put out equipment for the spring monitoring season. The volunteers will be trained in mid to late spring, just before they will need to start collecting data. There are some volunteers from last year that have stayed on, but several volunteers still require training. Alex's winter time duties for the program include designing the training for the volunteers, as well as redesigning the methodology handbook for the program, and to act as a resource for volunteers. Another big project he has for the program is to design a database for the data that each volunteer collects. This database will be accessible for data entry as well as viewing of data for other pools. Related to this, Alex is helping to develop an algorithm to discern frog calls from other forest noises, since some data comes in the form of sound. Outside of the VPMon Project, Alex was able to participate in a wood turtle survey with fellow ECO member Nathaniel Sharp and Kiley Briggs of the Orianna Society. Looking forward to keeping up with the successes of VPMon, Alex!