

Native Plants Protect Frogs



TRUE BLUE News

Do You Know?

Amphibians-frogs, toads, salamanders, newts and wormlike creatures called caecilians-live on every continent except Antarctica.

Frogs and toads eat pests like beetles, cutworms and slugs making them great guests for your yard.

Pollution along with habitat destruction and disease make amphibians the MOST endangered group of wildlife on Earth.



Photo: Torch Conservation Center

Key Facts:

Spring Peepers aren't the only frog in our Chain of Lakes.

Northwestern Michigan is home to 8 of the 13 frogs and toads found in Michigan.

Habitat Destruction

Frogs and toads do NOT like wide open sunny habitat like lawns or pavement.

Instead, frogs and toads prefer native plants taller than turf grass, so they can hide from the hot sun and a variety of hungry raptors, fox and mink.

Native plants thrive in the local soil, temperatures and precipitation conditions.

Native plants DO NOT need fertilizer, because they are

well suited to the area's mineral and nutrient conditions.

Native plants attract insects that will not harm your garden,
so pesticides are NOT necessary.

Native plants are the base of the food web.

They attract insects that feed not only native frogs and toads
but also songbirds, whose populations are also declining.

Pollution

Fertilizers and pesticides contain chemicals that harm frogs and toads.

Unlike our skin, which has barrier-like qualities,
frogs and toads have extremely permeable skin.

Toxic liquids and gases pass readily through frog and toad skin making
frogs and toads very sensitive to chemical pollution.



Photo: Torch Conservation Center



Show You Care!

Step 1. Reduce your lawn.

It should be more like an area rug not wall to wall carpeting.

Step 2. Replace your lawn with native plants, especially along any creek or lake shore.

Click for list of [Torch Lake Watershed Native Plants](#).

Step 3. Stop using chemical fertilizers and pesticides which are toxic to our frogs and toads.

Our choices matter.

You can help care for frogs, toads and other amphibians by using safe alternatives to synthetic fertilizers and toxic pesticides.

Click for [safe alternative lawn fertilizer](#).

Click for [safe alternative pesticides](#).

Stop by the TRUE BLUE Gallery in Alden and pick up free information cards for non-toxic pesticides.



Quiet Spring Sunset

Photo: Lisa Lirones, one of 50 artists featured in the TRUE BLUE Gallery in Alden.

Northern Michigan's 8 Frog and Toad Species

American Toad

West Chorus Frog

Spring Peeper

Gray Tree Frog

Bull Frog

Green Frog

Wood Frog

Northern Leopard Frog

Click to hear the [Sound of our Torch Lake Watershed frogs and toads.](#)

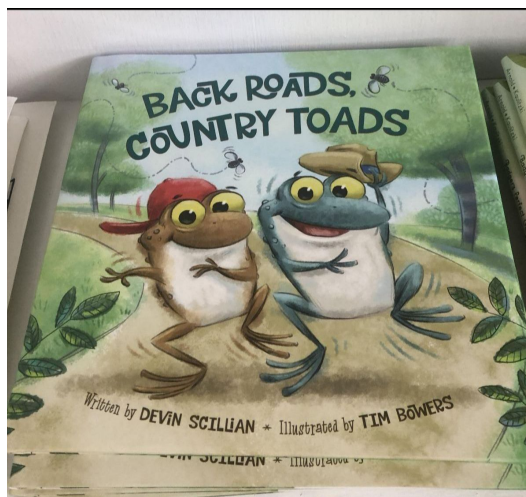
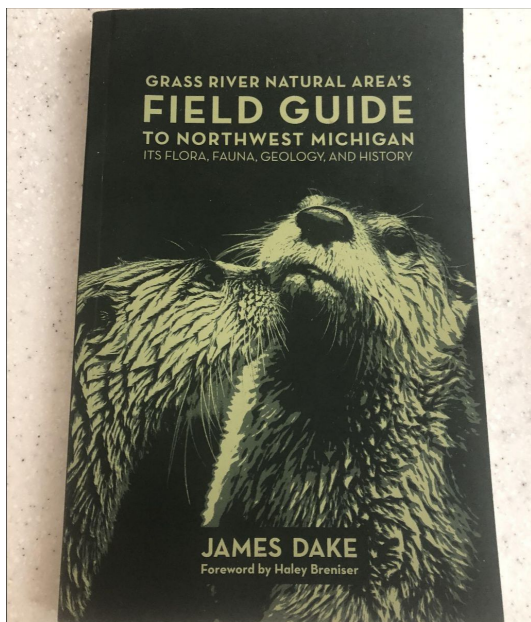
Torch Conservation Center's TRUE BLUE Gallery in Alden will OPEN for a 7th season on Friday, May 26, 2023. Summer Hours are Tuesday-Saturday 10am-5pm.

Come in and pick up

James Dake's Grass River Natural Area's Field Guide to Northwest Michigan.

You can also find the children's book Back Roads Country Toads by Devin Scillian.

We look forward to your visit to the TRUE BLUE Gallery.



Sources:

Dake, J. 2016 Grass River Natural Area's Field Guide to Northwest Michigan It's Flora, Fauna, Geology. And History

Earth.com

MSU Extension, 2021 Smart Gardening Keep it clean to protect frogs and toads

Rupert, J. 2023 A role for Native Plants Traverse Bay LIfestyles.com

US Fish and Wildlife Service 2000, Homeowner's Guide to Protecting Frogs Lawn and Garden Care

At Torch Conservation Center, we **BELIEVE**
an informed Torch Lake Watershed community cares for Torch Lake
and keeps toxins, nutrients, sediments and invasive species out of the water.

Join us.

[Donate now.](#)

Helping Torch Lake is just a click away.

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