

# NATURE NOTES

April 2024

1 Garter snakes, which are more cold tolerant than other snakes, become active after hibernating in large groups for the winter.



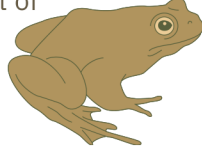
3 Spotted salamanders await spring rains to migrate from their terrestrial habitats to ponds where they will breed and lay their eggs. They may travel several hundred yards and will return to the same breeding area each year.

6 Fiddleheads, named for their shape, are emerging. They are the new, unfurled leaves of ferns, and when they unroll, they will become the fronds of the plant.



7 The native white shadbush shrub, also called serviceberry, begins to blossom in wetlands and woodlands. There several in the native rain gardens in the Coogan Farm parking lot.

10 Listen for the chorus of peepers in the evening. These small tree frogs come out of hibernation once night time temperatures exceed 40°F.



12 Painted turtles can be seen basking on warmer sunny days. They warm up, absorb vital UV rays from the sun and rid their shell of parasites.

14 Piping Plovers have returned from southern wintering grounds and are nesting on sandy beaches. Plovers nest on open ground and lay cream-colored eggs with dark flecks.



19 Wood ducks nest this month in cavities near a tree or a nesting box close to water.



22 Black & white warblers hunt for insects on tree trunks. They have a long hind claw and stronger legs than many warblers to help them hold onto the bark while probing for insects.

23 The full Pink Moon reaches peak illumination at 7:49 pm today (**join our hike at the Peace Sanctuary!**) April's full moon sometimes corresponds with the springtime blooms of "moss pink" a pink wildflower native to eastern North America.



25 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds are returning, and sometimes feed from sap wells in trees made by Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers.



26 The name "April" comes from the Latin word "aperire," which translates as "to open." The general belief is that it refers to trees and flowers "opening" or blooming.

28 April is known for its meteor showers. Two of the most famous ones are the Lyrids meteor shower and Eta Aquariids meteor shower, both happening in the second half of April.

30 Look on woodland trails for spring wildflowers, including trout lily, trillium and bloodroot.

