

Welcome Guest - Please Login

| [Subscribe](#) | [FAQ's](#) | [Why Register](#) | [Privacy Statement](#) |

BEST AND LARGEST SELECTION EVER
 CLICK HERE to see our inventory
 780 Main St., Lewiston, ME
 Our cost is less, so YOU PAY LESS!

THRIFTY CAR MART

Subscribe Today!

| [Classifieds](#) | [Jobs](#) | [Cars](#) | [Real Estate](#) | [Directories](#) | [Yellow Pages+](#) | [My Clips](#) |



Today is April 16, 2009

Current Temperature: 39° in Lewiston, Maine

TOUGH PEOPLE SMART MONEY

Login

SEARCH

Tough People, Smart Money

News

- bSection
- Lewiston/Auburn
- River Valley
- Oxford Hills
- Franklin
- State
- New England
- National
- Obits and Funerals
- Matter of Record
- Health & Nutrition
- Photo Gallery
- Projects
- Live Blogs

Sports

[Printer Friendly Version](#) [Email Story](#) [Increase Text](#) [Decrease Text](#)

[iPod Friendly](#) [Comments](#)

Driven to mate, frogs on the move to orgy pools

By **Terry Karkos** , *Staff Writer*
 Wednesday, April 15, 2009

RUMFORD - After emerging from their cryogenic-like hibernation, wood frogs have one thing on their minds: sex.

And it doesn't matter with who or what, because they can't eat until they've mated.

This spring, the 2- to 2½-inch frogs that quack like black ducks have a serious dilemma.

"Club Amphibian," their favorite vernal orgy pools, are still iced over in western, central and northern Maine, said Aram Calhoun.

Advertisement

Dempsey Challenge website launches


The registration website for The Dempsey Challenge, a regional bicycle and run/walk event set for October 4 in central and western Maine, has launched, according to a spokesperson at Central Maine Medical Center.

[read more >>](#)

Hospitalists named fellows

Two Central Maine Medical Center physicians have been named fellows of a national

Local
H S Basketball Tourn
Football Frenzy
Scoreboard
Community
National
Community
Fall Foliage Photos
Connections
Nuptials
Trophy Room
Academic Advocate
Weather
Business
Stocks
Entertainment
Encore
Opinion
Editorial Page
Advice
Sunday Perspective
Search and Back Issues
Blogs
- Sun Spots
- Our View
- Hot Corner
- Huddle Up
- The Q Factor
- Bliss Thru Shopping



Calhoun is a University of Maine associate professor of wetland ecology and a wetland scientist for Maine Audubon in Orono.

"There's a little, little bit of open water around the edges, so the animals usually hang out around the edges, waiting to get in," Calhoun said.

"Isn't that something? That must be depressing for a cold-blooded animal. You get to the edge of the pool, and the whole bloody thing is frozen and they're probably saying, 'I told you it was too early to go.' There will be a lot of salamander divorces this time of year," she said.

To reproduce, wood frogs and salamanders must breed in water.

The annual mating ritual comes during that first warm spring rain that researchers call the "Big Night."

That's when frogs and salamanders move in massive numbers through the woods to participate in breeding frenzies.

Big Night's already happened in southern Maine and is expected to happen on Wednesday in the Orono area where Calhoun monitors amphibians.

In western Maine, Big Night should arrive during the fourth week in April or with the first warm rain, Calhoun said.

Several squished frogs on a road at night is a Big Night indicator, Calhoun said.

Salamanders prefer to move when it's wet, but wood frogs will move even if it's dry. That's because salamanders have many years to be successful with breeding; wood frogs, which are found as far north as

physicians organization.

[read more >>](#)

Nurse earns national certification

Crystal Buchanan, clinical coordinator with Central Maine Bariatric Surgery, has earned national certification in her nursing specialty.

[read more >>](#)

CMHVI Wellness van visits

April locations announced.

[read more >>](#)

Fan us on Facebook

**Follow us on
Twitter for
breaking news
updates!**

the Arctic Circle, don't.

"Wood frogs are explosive breeders, yet they only live 3 to 5 years, so they only have a couple of times, if that, to breed," Calhoun said. "So, they're very anxious. Much more than the salamanders, which live 15 to 20 years."

Salamanders gather congress-style - they all get in the pool together - and do a little courtship dance, and no one gets hurt.

With wood frogs, it's not good to be a female.

"It's not uncommon for the females to drown, because she has three or four males on top of her," Calhoun said.

Wood frogs are the only frogs she knows of that attempt to mate with non-frog species.

To illustrate just how crazy wood frog sex can be, Calhoun's graduate student, Kevin J. Ryan, who is working on his study site in Canterbury, Conn., photographed a wood frog trying to mate with a salamander.

"We've had wood frogs mating with our data loggers," Calhoun said. "The data loggers, they're in little plastic containers and they're mating with the containers. They don't care. It's just something to put your arms around. It's been a long winter, you know?"



Gendrons Auto Repair
Complete Car Care
68 Adams Street, Lewiston
783-0581

 [CLICK HERE To Show/Hide Discussion Thread - \(15 Comments\)](#)

[| Forgot Password](#) | [Blog Policy](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Feedback](#) | [Advertise With Us](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [About Us](#) | [Faq's](#) | [Help](#) |