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FROGWATCH USA COMES TO NEWTOWN

The Catherine Violet Hubbard Animal Sanctuary invites residents to become Citizen-Scientists and join FrogWatch USA conservation efforts.

NEWTOWN, CT – January 23, 2024 – As nature lovers wait patiently for spring weather to emerge in Connecticut, January and February are perfect months to become a Citizen-Scientist volunteer and participate in a "FrogWatch" census in area wetlands. This year, the Catherine Violet Hubbard Animal Sanctuary in Newtown invites residents to celebrate the season by taking action and engaging in conservation in their own communities.

FrogWatch USA is a nationwide effort dedicated to collecting information about frog and toad populations, raising awareness about amphibians and wetlands, and involving the public in science. For over two decades, FrogWatch USA volunteers have collected data on the frogs and toads heard calling in their local wetlands every spring.

Why frogs? Frogs, toads, and other amphibians play an important role in the health of wetland ecosystems, but more than a third of the world's amphibian species are currently facing the largest mass extinction event since the dinosaurs. Even in the United States, previously abundant amphibian populations have experienced dramatic declines. In fact, recent studies have found that 41% of amphibian species across the globe are threatened. Now more than ever conservation efforts are needed to protect these species, and participating in FrogWatch USA is a great opportunity to be part of that work. The data collected by FrogWatch USA volunteers can be used to help understand how amphibian populations are changing over time and can inform

conservation and management efforts. Furthermore, learning to recognize and identify the frogs and toads calling at night is rewarding in itself and lets one appreciate their community and local wetlands in a whole new way.

Bridget Cervero, Associate Director of Education at The Maritime Aquarium at Norwalk is excited to help share all FrogWatch has to offer. "FrogWatch is a really fun program. Frogs and toads have unique calls, and volunteers are trained to identify species by listening for these different calls. Once trained, volunteers are asked to visit a wetland of their choosing through the spring and summer and report what species they hear."

Volunteers participating in FrogWatch USA do not have to be frog or toad experts to make important contributions. However, for those in Connecticut looking for hybrid or in-person training, sessions are available through the Peabody-Beardsley-Maritime FrogWatch Chapter starting on February 7. It's fun, FREE and helps make a difference!

FrogWatch Virtual Training Feb. 7, 2024: 7-8:30 P.M.

FrogWatch Hybrid Training in Person or at the Zoo March 4, 2024: 7-8:30 P.M.

FrogWatch Comes to Newtown

Whether an official Citizen-Scientist or simply a nature and frog enthusiast, the Catherine Violet Hubbard Animal Sanctuary invites ages 10 and up to a FREE FrogWatch field study at Dickinson Park on April 12 from 7:30-9pm. In partnership with the Peabody-Beardsley-Maritime FrogWatch Chapter, the event is the perfect opportunity to listen, monitor and identify native frogs who call Newtown home. A great chance to get outdoors while collecting important data that will help protect wetlands and local frog & toad populations. Space is limited and all guests must register at: https://www.cvhfoundation.org/event/frogwatch-usa-at-the-sanctuary/

Free FrogWatch Training

For those looking to expand their knowledge on amphibians, free FrogWatch training is available through the Peabody-Beardsley-Maritime FrogWatch chapter. Participants will learn about citizen science, the important role amphibians play in the ecosystem, and how to identify ten species of frogs heard in Connecticut. After the training, participants will be sent a virtual assessment they need to complete in order to become a certified FrogWatch Volunteer. Interested

parties can register at: https://e.givesmart.com/events/Az0/?isOrderFormActive=true

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About the Catherine Violet Hubbard Animal Sanctuary:

The Catherine Violet Hubbard Foundation is a Connecticut-based nonprofit organization working to promote compassion and healing through human-animal connection. The foundation was started in 2013 to commemorate and honor the life of Catherine Violet Hubbard, a six-year-old victim of the Sandy Hook Elementary School tragedy and passionate animal lover.
In 2014, the CVH Foundation was awarded more than 34 acres of CT state farmland by a unanimous legislative decision, which would become home to the Catherine Violet Hubbard Animal Sanctuary. Since its inception, the organization has raised more than $8 million in funding, supporting its breadth of programming that by honoring the human-animal connection, is providing tools and skills that translate into compassionate and accepting human-human interactions. Specifically, the sanctuary focuses on environmental stewardship, provides no cost humane education curriculum and community workshops, aid for seniors to keep and care for their pets, and property revitalization efforts. Through caring, educating and protecting animals, the sanctuary's programs have become a catalyst in cultivating human empathy.

The sanctuary property is located at 8 Commerce Road and is open to the public from dawn until dusk.

Catherine Violet Hubbard Animal Sanctuary
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