

# HERP Project Public Educational Materials

## Time Unplugged Event at Elon University



ELON COLLEGE, THE COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES PRESENTS  
**TIME, UN-PLUGGED**  
A Family Friendly Celebration of the Arts & Sciences  
SATURDAY, MAY 3rd, 2:00-5:30 PM

This project is supported in part by the National Science Foundation, Grant No. DRL-1114558

Photo Credit: Robin Moore

**TIME, UN-PLUGGED**  
A Family Friendly Celebration of the Arts & Sciences  
ELON UNIVERSITY CAMPUS, SATURDAY, MAY 3rd  
Performances & Interactive Activities  
Featuring

Robin Moore, International Amphibian Researcher & World Renowned Environmental Photographer Elon University Faculty & Students The HERP Project Recycled art projects & Archeology digs President's Music Concert, 7:30-9:00 pm	Studio One Alamance Artisans Guild Burlington Writers Club Alamance Choral & Gallery Players North State Chamber Orchestra Birds, birds, & more birds
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Gallery 406 & Greenhouse Gallery will open at 1:00 pm

Parking: Arts West, 406 West Haggard Avenue or McCoy Commons/The Oaks, 416 North Williamson  
Free Admission: Suggested Donation of a Non-perishable Food Item to support Allied Churches



# Salamander Cards



**Marbled Salamander**  
North Carolina State Salamander

## Marbled Salamanders *Ambystoma opacum*

Marbled Salamanders are amphibians found throughout most of the eastern United States in damp woodlands. As adults they can reach up to 3-5 inches in size and are easily identified by their smooth, wet, skin and black bodies accented with a whitish-grey marbled design running along their back and tail.

### The Secret Life of Salamanders

As amphibians, marbled salamanders live a “double life”, half in water and half on land. In the fall, salamanders travel to seasonal wetlands, or vernal pools, to mate and lay eggs in burrows dug in the soft ground (a). The female will generally stay with her eggs, keeping them moist, until autumn rains fill the pool. Once the eggs are submerged, they will hatch as gilled larvae (b) who will spend the next 2 to 3 months in the water developing lungs and legs, enabling them to make their first steps onto land and into their new woodland habitat (c).



Photography by  
Jeff Beane &  
Alayna Ward



This material is based upon work supported by the National Science Foundation under Grant No. 11164558. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Science Foundation.

## A Habitat in Trouble

Seasonal wetlands are formed by depressions in the landscape filled by rainfall, stream overflow, or underground springs, creating pools that can hold water anywhere from a few weeks to a few years before drying up.

Salamanders depend heavily on these pools for breeding purposes. They not only provide their young with the aquatic environment necessary for development, but the temporary nature of the habitat also prevents the establishment of predator fish populations, which are a threat to both salamander adults and their young, making these pools an ideal breeding spot.

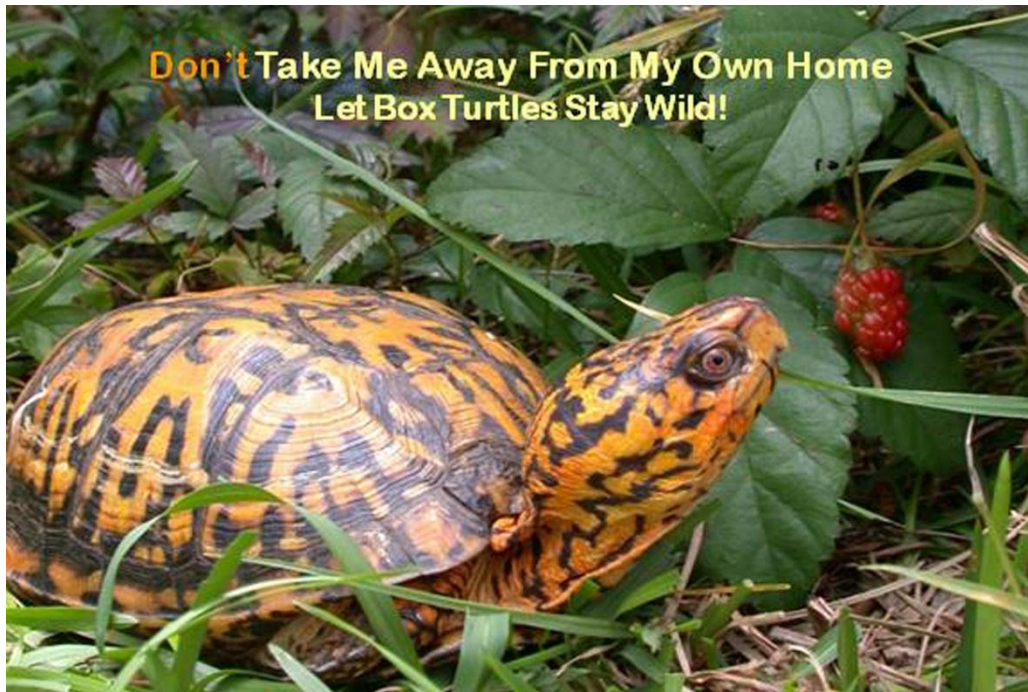
Unfortunately due to increased development, ditching, and deforestation, many of these wetlands have been filled in or destroyed and the surrounding woodland degraded, reducing both the adult and juvenile salamander populations.

### What Can You Do?

If you have a seasonal wetland on your property:

- ❖ Maintain the wetland and surrounding woodland by eliminating invasive species.
- ❖ Put out tin or wooden boards for additional covering for salamanders.
- ❖ Share any amphibian findings with neighbors, especially children, and teach friends and family about the importance of these habitats.
- ❖ Report salamander findings on the Carolina Herp Atlas. <http://www.carolinaherpatlas.org/>

# Box Turtle Cards



## Box Turtles Are in Trouble

The Eastern Box Turtle (*Terrapene carolina carolina*) is North Carolina's state reptile. Their numbers are dwindling in part because people move them to a new place or take them home as pets. It may be just one here or there, but the result is thousands of box turtles disappearing from their forest and field homes, forever.

## They Need to Stay Wild

As far as nature is concerned, a turtle taken from the wild is "dead." It can no longer help maintain the population. "Saving" or "helping" a turtle by bringing it home or moving it to a new location in fact hurts fragile turtle populations. Moved from its home in the wild, a box turtle may sicken and die and pose a health threat to recipient populations. Turtles released into unfamiliar surroundings (relocated) are often killed by predators or crushed by cars as they attempt to return to their original wild homes.



[theherproject.uncg.edu](http://theherproject.uncg.edu)



[boxturtle.uncg.edu](http://boxturtle.uncg.edu)

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## Turtles on the Road

If you see a turtle crossing the road, move it to the side that it is headed towards. Resist the urge to drive it to a "safer" place. Remember - that turtle may have been living there for decades, already knows where to find food and mates, and has a special place to hibernate or lay eggs. Watch out for vehicles when helping turtles. Don't take risks with your own life!

## Help Wild Box Turtles

Adults and children can help wild box turtles. Report your turtle observations and other reptiles and amphibians to the Carolina Herp Atlas:

[www.carolinaherpatlas.org](http://www.carolinaherpatlas.org)



Above: Female Eastern Box Turtle by J.C. Beane

Cover Photo: Male Eastern Box Turtle by J.D. Wilson