

Wayne R. Wauligman
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November 15, 1996

John Klein
Hamilton County Park District
10245 Winton Road
Cincinnati, Ohio 45231

Dear John:

This September and October Jerry Lippert, Whitney and I attempted to find marbled salamanders at the Howard Creek oxbow pond and at the oak/hickory woodlot pond. We found none. Enclosed are our field notes, including those sent with the May 22 letter.

We also found no marbled salamanders at the Paddy's Run site. Shallow water was present, but there were no eggs, larvae or adults. Perhaps the very wet conditions this year caused them *not* to breed.

On September 23 when Whitney and I went at dusk, we discovered the "beetle larvae" that ate the marbled salamander eggs in the past were actually glow-worms. The entire pond site came to light with them!

A search for marbled salamander larvae, as well as spotted, Jefferson and streamside salamanders, will be made next Spring. Spotted salamanders should return for the first time after releasing eggs and larvae there four years ago.

Sincerely,

Wayne

cc: Jerome Lippert

**1996 MIAMI WHITEWATER WETLANDS AMBYSTOMID
REINTRODUCTION**

JEROME D. LIPPERT

**VOLUNTEER HOURS NOT INCLUDED IN 1996 HERPETOLOGICAL
SURVEY: 7.5 HRS**

**04-14-96
10-07-96**

**3-8 PM
6:30-9 PM**

**5 HRS
2.5**

**1996 MIAMI WHITEWATER WETLANDS AMBYSTOMID
REINTRODUCTION**

WAYNE R. WAULIGMAN

**VOLUNTEER HOURS NOT INCLUDED IN 1996 HERPETOLOGICAL
SURVEY: 15.25 HRS**

03-24-96	1:15-5:30 PM	4.25 HRS
04-14-96	3-8 PM	5
10-07-96	6:30-9 PM	2.5

MIAMI WHITEWATER PARK WETLANDS AMBYSTOMID REINTRODUCTION, 1996

GENUS SPECIES DATE ST COUNTY FIELD ID #

Ambystoma 03-16-96 OH Hamilton WRW96001
 Miami Whitewater Park
 44°F, cloudy 3:30-6:00PM; 2.5 hr
 Howard Creek oxbow pond
 0

Lippert, Whitney, WRW
 A long search was made of this pond for marbled salamander larvae, Jefferson salamander or spotted salamander eggs. None were found. The area is vast and vegetation and dead grasses obscure our view. Fairy shrimp are numerous. One 11" snapper was found and spring peepers were calling.

Ambystoma Jeffersonianum 03-17-96 OH Hamilton WRW96002
 Miami Whitewater Park
 38-43°F, partly sunny 7:30-10:30AM 3.0 hr
 Phase 1 wetland along dirt road
 70

eggs
 WRW
 Fifteen feet out from the old farm road between Phases 1 and 3, two Jefferson salamander egg masses were found, each having about 35 eggs. Only one was moldy, indicating a high fertilization rate. A photo was taken to indicate the degree of development. I would guess it was deposited two weeks ago. If this is the triploid female hybrid, then it would need a male spotted or streamside salamander to stimulate egg development. Both of these were also released here. Although no other species' eggs were found, and no spermatophores were seen, they may be present. The area is vast and filled with cattails. The water is murky, with the bottom not visible. Many ducks were seen, and their feathers were everywhere. A search of the flooded, wooded portion of Phase 3 turned up no ambystomid presence.

Ambystoma opacum 03-17-96 OH Hamilton WRW96003
 Miami Whitewater Park
 38-43°F, partly sunny 7:30-10:30AM 3.0 hr
 Small created pond in oak/hickory woodlot
 0

WRW
 This pond, created in March 1993, held water that Spring, but not thereafter. In Fall, 1995 it was hand dug deeper and broader, lined with clay, and pond bottom from the Paddy's Run site was introduced. It filled with water this Winter and is currently about 2.5 feet deep. It is clear, with some algae and fairy shrimp present. No ambystomid larvae, eggs or spermatophores were present, as would be expected. Further introduction of *A. opacum* and *maculatum* is recommended, especially if the Paddy's Run site is over crowded to the point of cannibalism.

Ambystoma opacum
Miami Whitewater Park
68°F, sunny
Howard Creek oxbow pond
2

03-24-96 OH Hamilton

WRW96004

1:15-5:30PM; 4.25 h

Larvae
WRW, Whitney

At the Howard Creek oxbow pond where marbled salamander larvae were released three years ago, Whitney and I were searching for any larvae that might be present from returning adults last Fall. Searching the shallow western edge I found none. Whitney was searching the area that was bulldozed about two years ago. She said "Dad, I found one!" As I prepared to photograph it, she said "I found another one". Thus marbled salamanders successfully returned last Fall to lay eggs. This places this rare species for our region under the protection of the Park District. This site is large and it remains to be seen if they continue to thrive here, returning in larger numbers in future years.

Ambystoma opacum
Miami Whitewater Park
68°F, sunny
Howard Creek oxbow pond
101

03-24-96 OH Hamilton

WRW96005

1:15-5:30PM; 4.25 h

Larvae
WRW, Whitney

At the Paddy's Rund Road site, east of the RR bed, marbled salamander larvae were once again numerous. This indicates there was little disturbance of their eggs last Fall. I estimate at least 2000 present in this ditch. One hundred one were caught by Whitney and I, each being 1 1/4 to 1 3/4 inches long, some with tail tips cannibalized. These larvae were transferred to the Howard Creek Oxbow pond.

Ambystoma maculatum
Miami Whitewater Park
68°F, sunny
Howard Creek oxbow pond
0

03-24-96 OH Hamilton

WRW96006

1:15-5:30PM; 4.25 h

WRW, Whitney.

At the Paddy's Run Road site, east of the RR bed, one mass of spotted salamander eggs was found. Although these will perish in this ditch due to predation by the marbled salamander larvae and by the premature drying of this pond, I left them there. As of this date, no spotted salamander larvae have been found in the Howard Creek oxbow pond, Phase 1 original wetlands by the bat house, Phase 3 by the bat house, or the small created pond in the oak/hickory woodlot. I suspect it will take a fourth year for the slower growing and larger spotted salamanders to return.

Ambystoma opacum 04-14-96 OH Hamilton WRW96007
Miami Whitewater Park
55°F, cloudy 3:00-8:00PM; 5 hr
Paddy's Run site to Phase 4 south of Baughman Rd.
144
larvae

Lippert, Whitney, WRW
Both sides of the RR bed at Paddy's Run have numerous larvae. They are more developed on the eastern side of the bed and are ready to transform in one to three weeks. All were released in the trench area 60 yards south of Baughman Road. The water is about 1.5 feet deep at this point and will be present longer than other areas.

Ambystoma barbouri 04-14-96 OH Hamilton WRW96008
Miami Whitewater Park
55°F, cloudy 3:00-8:00PM; 5 hr
Paddy's Run site to Phase 4 south of Baughman Rd.
224
eggs

Lippert, Whitney, WRW
These eggs with hatching larvae were taken from the east side of the RR bed. Most would end up as food for the marbled salamander larvae or perish if the pond dried too early. All these streamside salamander eggs were released in the trench 75 yards south of Baughman Road in Phase 4.

Ambystoma maculatum 04-14-96 OH Hamilton WRW96009
Miami Whitewater Park
55°F, cloudy 3:00-8:00PM; 5 hr
Paddy's Run site to Phase 4 south of Baughman Rd.
980
eggs

Lippert, Whitney, WRW
These spotted salamander eggs were obtained from the pond east of the RR bed at Paddy's Run. They all would have perished as the pond dries before they would mature. They were placed on the east and west sides of the Phase 2 pond north of Baughman Road. None were placed anywhere in Phase 4 as this dried up too fast last year to allow them to reach metamorphosis.

Ambystoma opacum 09-23-96 OH Hamilton WRW96010
Miami Whitewater Park
65°F, cloudy 7:30-9:00PM; 1.5 hr
Howard Creek oxbow pond
0

Whitney, WRW
The pond bottom was ideal, soft, loamy soil in some areas. In another area it was mucky, and elsewhere were extensive weedy growths. Searching under debris in and around the pond for marbled salamanders was fruitless. A large population of glowing firefly larva was present. These, I suspect, would be carnivorous to marbled salamander eggs unless the mother is always there to guard them. Fortunately, it is their habit to do such guarding. A search of the area where larvae were found revealed a weed bed but with rich soil around the roots.

Ambystoma opacum 10-03-96 OH Hamilton WRW96011
Miami Whitewater Park wetlands
55°F, sunny 10AM
oak/hickory woodlot
0

Jerome Lippert
After searching through the bottom of the small created pond in the oak/hickory woodlot, no marbled salamanders or eggs were found.

Ambystoma opacum 10-07-96 OH Hamilton WRW96012
Paddy's Run Road site
55°F, sunny 6:30-9PM
West and East of RR bed
0

Jerome Lippert, WRW
We found both sites, previously dry in the past four years, to have up to six inches of water. No larvae were present and no adults were found in or along the edges. Much debris such as RR ties were turned over, but to no avail! If the eggs have already been laid as they should have been, then they are developing and getting ready to hatch due to the presence of the water. The females that guard their eggs are supposed to leave when the water comes. Our fear is that the shallow water will dry and the larvae, if present, will perish. Much food was present in the form of mosquito larvae.

Ambystoma opacum 10-27-96 OH Hamilton WRW96013
Miami Whitewater Park
73°F, cloudy 3-5PM
Howard Creek Oxbow Pond
0

WRW, Whitney
Several inches of water were at this site. A thorough search under debris in and around the site revealed no marbled salamanders nor eggs. Also not found were any of the glow-worms noticed by Whitney and I on September 23. I've now determined that these were the larvae that ate the marbled salamander eggs placed there previously.