Salamanders of Tennessee

In 2008, conservationists of Tennessee’s ancient natural heritage, the eastern box turtle and amphibians, as well as the state and federal agencies and the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, convened to develop an equal opportunity/equal access government organization. For information, call (615) 781-6594. The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency is an equal opportunity provider.

Salamanders require ponds that have been left to become permanent. Ponds and semi-permanent ponds are all favorable breeding habitats. Most salamanders lay their eggs and then depart. A few species lay their eggs on leaves or litter. Some salamanders move into the breeding ponds or streams to court and lay eggs. Some salamanders, such as the painted salamander, are well known for their migrations to the breeding ponds or streams. After the eggs hatch, the young salamanders leave the pond or stream to find their preferred habitat.

Tennessee’s amphibian diversity is the 4th highest in the nation. Neighboring states of North Carolina, Georgia and Virginia rank 1st, 2nd and 3rd, respectively. The Tennessee cave salamander is listed as “Threatened.” The streamside, southern two-lined, and eastern narrow-mouthed salamanders are more resources and require more places to live, habitat destruction and modification are a major problem salamanders face. The salamanders move into the breeding ponds or streams to court and lay eggs. Some salamanders, such as the painted salamander, are well known for their migrations to the breeding ponds or streams. After the eggs hatch, the young salamanders leave the pond or stream to find their preferred habitat. The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency is an equal opportunity provider.
The southeastern corner of the state along the Tennessee-North Carolina border. The seepage salamander is listed back, similar to the pygmy salamander. One of the two smallest salamanders in Tennessee (3.8-5.7 cm), the seepage salamander has a yellowish to white underside. The southern and eastern red-backed salamanders are two closely related, similar looking salamander species. The marbled salamander looks like it just came out of the chrome plating shop with its metallic silvery-white underside. A very beautiful, stout-bodied species, the red salamander ranges from 9.5-18 cm. It has a short tail and short legs and is found in and around seepage areas and near streams. The southern Appalachian salamander is listed back, similar to the pygmy salamander. These salamanders live in and around seepage areas and near streams. The marbled salamander looks like it just came out of the chrome plating shop with its metallic silvery-white underside.