

MBSS Vernal Pool Sampling

Maryland Department of Natural Resources,
MANTA

February 25, 2015

Definition

- Seasonal Pools, Ephemeral Ponds/Wetlands, Temporary Ponds, Woodland Pools
 1. Small size and shallow depth
 - 1 to 4,000 sq. meters (1 acre)
 2. No permanent surface water connections
 3. Seasonal drying
 4. Support a distinctive biological community

Examples of Vernal Pools



Woodland



Open-canopy emergent



Man-made



Floodplain *Part of a larger wetland complex or riverine system*



Riparian pool which fills with the annual high water of the river.



Vernal pool in a vegetated wetland.



Vernal pool in a red maple swamp.

Upland

Islands of aquatic habitat within a terrestrial landscape



Small pool in a shallow depression of a wooded area.



Vernal pool in an old quarry site.



Pool formed by a flooded meadow.



Large, deep pool among hills of an upland forest.

MBSS VERNAL POOL DATA SHEET

Page of

Watershed Code Segment Type Year
 SITE 2008

First Second

Reviewer: _____

Within transect? (Y/N): Lat Long

Vernal Pool ID: VP
 Dimensions: m X m
 Max Depth: cm
 Landscape Setting: Upland or Floodplain
 Predominant Surrounding Landuse:

Fish Observed (Y/N): Dist. From Pool
 Anostraca Observed (Y/N):

None Observed	HERPETOFAUNA							
	Lifestage				Seen (Y/N)	Heard (Y/N)	Num. Ret.	Num. Photos Taken
	Adult	Juv.	Larval	Egg				
_____	<input type="checkbox"/>							
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Number	Title	Voucher (Y/N)
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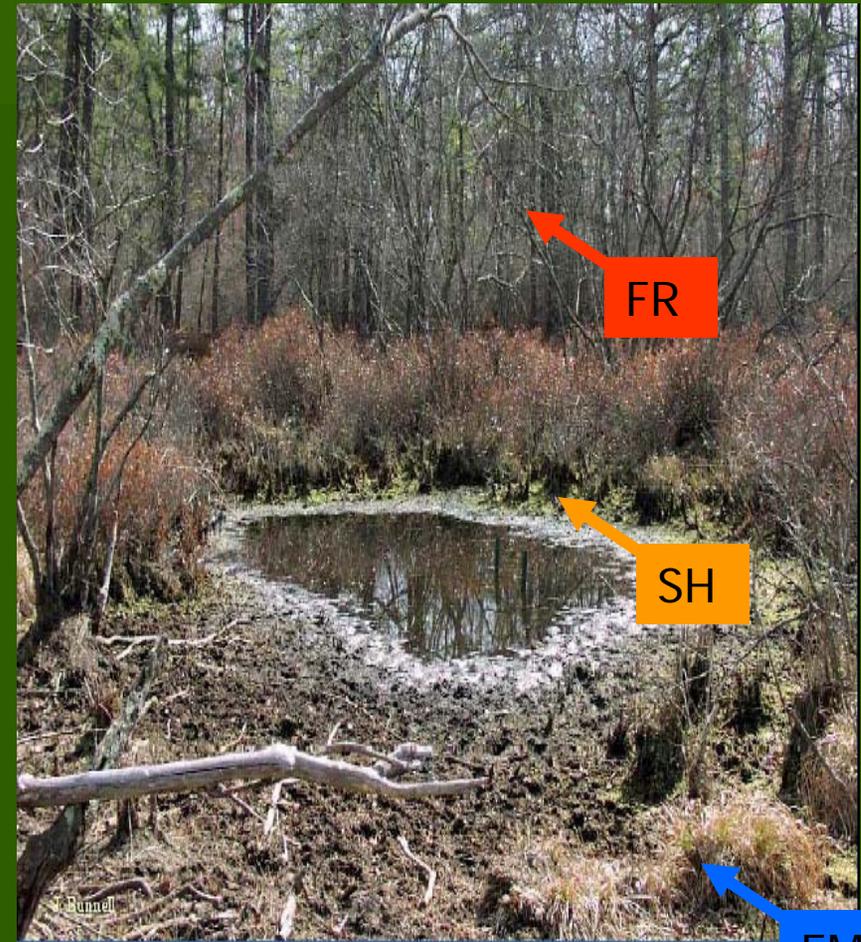
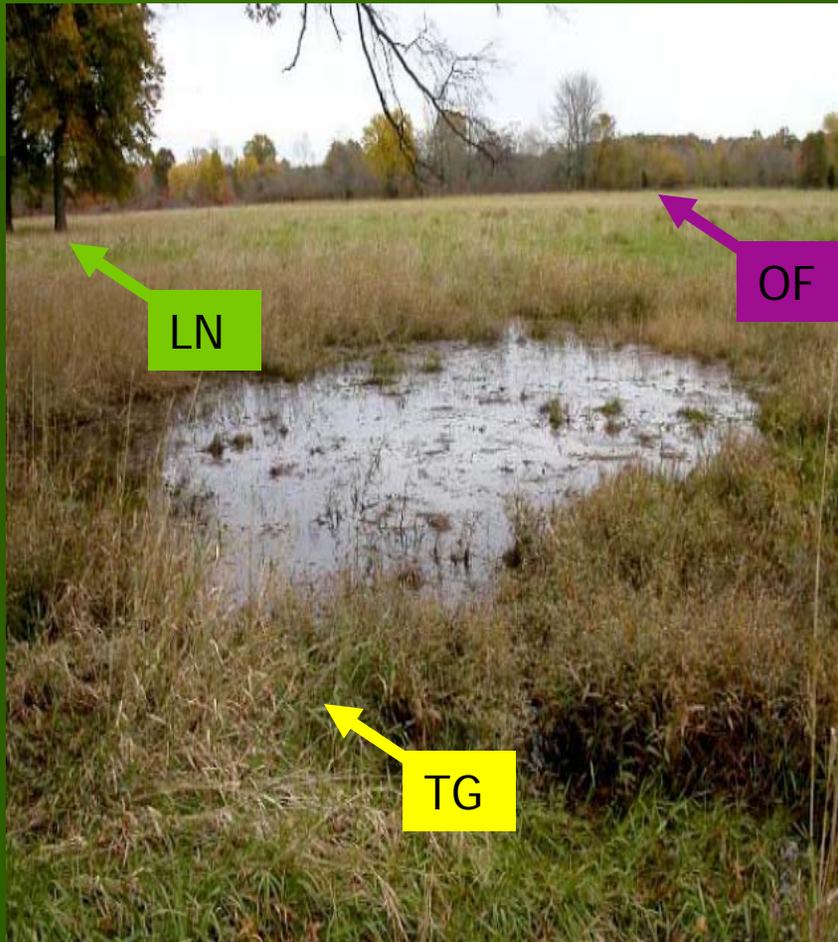
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COMMENTS: _____

Identifying surrounding land-use



Predominant Surrounding Landuse:

TG **LN** **OF**

Dist. From Pool →

Fish Observed (Y/N):

Anostraca Observed (Y/N):

Predominant Surrounding Landuse:

SH **EM** **FR**

Dist. From Pool →

Fish Observed (Y/N):

Anostraca Observed (Y/N):



PHOTODOCUMENTATION

Time

Number

Title

Voucher
(Y/N)

_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____



Fairy Shrimp (Order: **Anostraca**)

- ½ to 1 ½ inch
- Stalked, compound eyes;
two sets of antennae;
11 pairs of leaf-like swimming legs
- Range of coloration: red-orange;
translucent whitish to gray,
blue or green
- 3 states of mobility:
 - Resting @ bottom
 - Darting rapidly
 - Drifting slowly
- Swim ventral side up (upside down)



