

Dear Landowner,

This letter is to inform you that the South Jersey Land and Water Trust and students from Rowan University's BioClub and from Gloucester County College will be surveying spring ponds (called "vernal pools") in Gloucester and upper Salem counties this year. The purpose of the survey is to document what species of salamanders and frogs are to be found in our region. There is very little known about the current populations of these animals in our area. The survey will attempt to fill that information gap.

A vernal pond appears to be located on your property (based on looking at aerial photos) and I would greatly appreciate the opportunity to check it more closely. May I have your permission to access the pond through your land?

I will try to speak with you in person, but if that does not work out, would you kindly notify me by sending back the stamped, addressed postcard enclosed here. If you wish to meet with me first, please let me know on the postcard how I can reach you to set up a time. You can also call or email me, if you prefer.

My survey will consist of visual examination of the pond and photographing it, plus identification of species in it. I will rely on seeing or hearing adults, and checking for egg masses or young. I may need to try coming to the pond at night. I will probably make two or more visits this spring and one in the fall.

I assure you that no disruption of your property will occur in any way through this project, or by permitting access. Also, the New Jersey Liability Law specifically exempts landowners from liability for any volunteer on the property.

If you would like additional information about the Vernal Pool project or any other matter, please contact Christine Nolan at the South Jersey Land and Water Trust at 856-881-2269 or email her at sjwatersheds@verizon.net..

Please feel free to contact me at ___[give a phone number and/or an email address]_____

Sincerely,

Signature

Printed Name

Vernal Pool Volunteer
and _____ University/College student [if appropriate]