

AMPHIBIANS

of OUR ESTUARY



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Barataria-Terrebonne
NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM

LEAP INTO OUR ESTUARY...

The Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary contains rich and diverse ecosystems along with a unique and deeply rooted culture that connects us to the land and water. From our winding bayous, majestic swamps, and stately bottomland hardwood forests to our expansive marshes, the habitats and biodiversity found within our estuary are astounding. This year's tidal graph calendar celebrates a class of animals connected to both the land and the water: amphibians!

The word amphibian originates from the Greek word "amphibios" and comes from combining the words "amphi-," which means "dual," and "-bios," which means "life." This nod to a dual life refers to the two distinct and defining life stages of most amphibians – one spent under water and one spent on land. Because most of them spend their lives in both aquatic and terrestrial environments, amphibians like frogs, toads, and salamanders are considered important biological indicators of the health of an ecosystem. They are sensitive to even minor environmental changes and pollutants and also serve as important components in many food webs, as both predator and prey. This year's calendar highlights 12 amphibians that call the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary home.

The BTNEP staff thanks Brad "Bones" Glorioso, an Ecologist at the U.S. Geological Survey Wetland and Aquatic Research Center, for providing the information and photos for this year's tidal graph calendar, which were gathered as part of a BTNEP-funded project through an Environmental Protection Agency grant. Thank you, Bones, for your expertise and enthusiasm!



THE BARATARIA-TERREBONNE NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM

The Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program (BTNEP) is a partnership of businesses, scientists, conservation organizations, agricultural interests, government, and individuals working together for the preservation, protection, and restoration of the 4.2 million acre-area between the Mississippi and Atchafalaya Rivers. BTNEP works to protect and nurture the land, water, habitats, people, and unique culture that is so productive and valuable to the United States.

Our estuary produces valuable resources for the nation, including oysters, shrimp, fish, and other wildlife, energy, and hosts ports through which goods are shipped across the globe. Our estuary offers one-of-a-kind cultural and ecotourism opportunities. Most importantly, our estuary is home to extraordinary people and their unique cultures, rich resources, and the diverse plants and animals that live here or depend on the estuary for some part of their lives.

Since 1990, BTNEP and its stakeholders have made a concerted effort to improve the estuary, protect its resources, and tackle tough environmental problems. This public-private partnership allows diverse interest groups to work together to promote, and in some cases, reestablish the physical, chemical, and biological balance critical for a healthy estuary.



Map of the BTNEP Area

BTNEP practices a science-based, consensus-driven stewardship approach to protecting the land, water, and resources of the estuary focusing on:



- Pollution abatement to protect the health of plants, animals, and people
- Environmentally just and responsible economic activity
- Environmentally compatible infrastructure (such as roads, bridges, levees, and railroads)
- Comprehensive, integrated watershed planning
- Harmonious use of the resources by many interests
- Public education and informed citizen participation



WESTERN DWARF SALAMANDER

Eurycea paludicola

Western Dwarf Salamanders belong to the family Plethodontidae, the lungless salamanders. All plethodontids are lungless, taking up oxygen through their skin and mucous membranes in their mouth and throat. Western Dwarf Salamanders occur within the estuary and nearly statewide, but are uncommon in the Mississippi River floodplain in northern Louisiana, and absent from marsh-dominated areas of the coastal zone. They are found in a wide variety of upland and lowland forests where they are often found close to ponds, seeps, and streams. However, they may also be found relatively far from these habitats if there is adequate moisture available under ground cover.

Dwarf Salamanders are active at night, spending the day concealed under cover objects like logs, fallen leaves, and vegetation, but retreating further underground in dry and cold extremes. They prey upon a wide variety of invertebrates, like beetles, millipedes, and ants. In late fall and early winter, females deposit up to 60 eggs or more in or near shallow water, often attaching them to woody debris or vegetation but sometimes depositing them within sphagnum moss or in shallow depressions beneath ground cover.

January 2025

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

FUNfact

Based on fossil evidence, amphibians evolved from a lobe-finned fish ancestor about 365 million years ago.

1

2

3

4

9:11 am -0.7
10:35 pm 1.0
New Year's Day

9:48 am -0.6
11:17 pm 0.9

10:19 am -0.5
11:57 pm 0.7

10:35 am -0.3

5

6



7

8

9

10

11

12:28 am 0.4
10:15 am -0.1
6:38 pm 0.2
National Bird Day

7:13 am 0.1
4:32 pm 0.4

2:54 am -0.2
4:20 pm 0.6

3:33 am -0.5
4:49 pm 0.8

4:23 am -0.7
5:36 pm 0.9

5:16 am -0.8
6:33 pm 1.0

6:12 am -0.9
7:32 pm 1.1

12

13



14

15

16

17

18

7:08 am -0.9
8:31 pm 1.1

8:00 am -0.8
9:24 pm 1.0

8:47 am -0.7
10:10 pm 0.9

9:26 am -0.6
10:48 pm 0.8

9:53 am -0.5
11:20 pm 0.6

10:04 am -0.3
11:42 pm 0.4
Louisiana Arbor Day

9:45 am -0.1
11:31 pm 0.2

19

20

21



22

23

24

25

8:27 am 0.0
4:34 pm 0.2

5:14 am 0.0
3:31 pm 0.3
Martin Luther King Day

3:05 am -0.2
3:32 pm 0.5

3:17 am -0.3
3:59 pm 0.6

3:50 am -0.5
4:41 pm 0.7

4:32 am -0.6
5:33 pm 0.8

5:17 am -0.6
6:29 pm 0.9

26

27

28

29



30

31

6:03 am -0.7
7:24 pm 0.9

6:49 am -0.8
8:17 pm 1.0

7:31 am -0.8
9:06 pm 1.0

8:11 am -0.7
9:56 pm 0.9

8:47 am -0.6
10:46 pm 0.7

9:15 am -0.4
11:43 pm 0.5



DECEMBER 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

FEBRUARY 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

High Tide:
January 11
7:32 p.m. • 1.1 ft.

Low Tide:
January 11
6:12 a.m. • -0.9 ft.



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SPRING PEEPER

Pseudacris crucifer

Spring Peepers are known for their deafening winter choruses heard at night in forested wetlands. They typically perch on vegetation or woody debris near the ground to make their call, which is a whistle or “peep” that rises slightly in pitch and is repeated about once per second. Spring Peepers belong in the treefrog family Hylidae. They are small frogs with variable coloration, usually some degree of tan, but can be pale gray or reddish. They commonly have a dark X-shaped mark across their back, but it can be irregular or broken.

This species is found within the estuary and nearly statewide in forested habitats but is absent from the chenier plain of southwest Louisiana and coastal marshlands. Spring Peepers are often active during the day where they may be found on the forest floor. Outside of the breeding season, when they are not actively calling, they are notoriously difficult to find. They breed from mid-November to April in a wide variety of wetlands with varied flooding patterns, but temporary or semi-permanent open canopy wetlands are preferred.



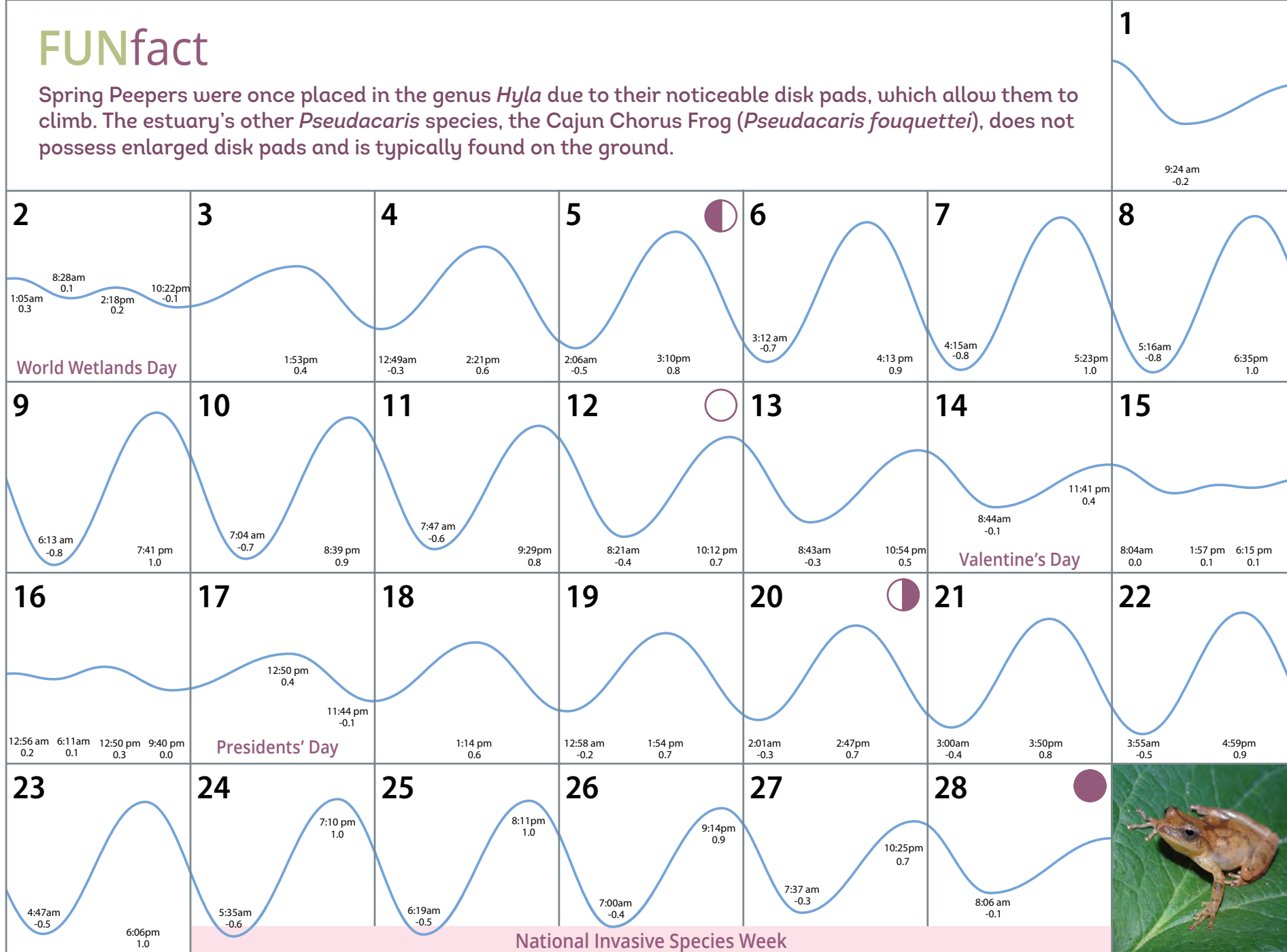
February 2025

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY



FUNfact

Spring Peepers were once placed in the genus *Hyla* due to their noticeable disk pads, which allow them to climb. The estuary's other *Pseudacaris* species, the Cajun Chorus Frog (*Pseudacaris fouquettei*), does not possess enlarged disk pads and is typically found on the ground.



JANUARY 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

MARCH 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

High Tide:
February 8
6:35 p.m. • 1.0 ft.

Low Tide:
February 8
5:16 a.m. • -0.8 ft.



For daily, monthly, and yearly predictions for other locations throughout the estuary, please visit: https://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/tide_predictions.html?gid=1400

FOWLER'S TOAD

Anaxyrus fowleri

Fowler's Toads are a member of the true toad family, Bufonidae. Unlike many frogs that have moist, smooth skin and long hind legs made for leaping, toads have dry, warty skin and short legs made for walking and hopping. They have horizontal pupils, distinct warts, conspicuous poison glands, and most have prominent cranial crests, which are raised ridges between and behind the eyes. The position and shape of these cranial crests are often helpful in distinguishing similar toad species.

This species is found statewide, in nearly any habitat outside of large swamp and marsh areas, unless on coastal cheniers. They are particularly common in areas near water with sandy soils. They have become rare or absent in many urban areas in southern Louisiana, where Gulf Coast Toads now predominate. Fowler's Toads are ambush predators and indiscriminate feeders, taking any moving prey, usually arthropods like insects, spiders, and even crawfish, they can fit into their mouths. Despite their poison glands, some birds, snakes, and mammals readily prey upon juveniles and adults. Listen for their calls, a short nasal "waaaaaaa" lasting up to four seconds, in spring just after dusk in their breeding habitats.



March 2025

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

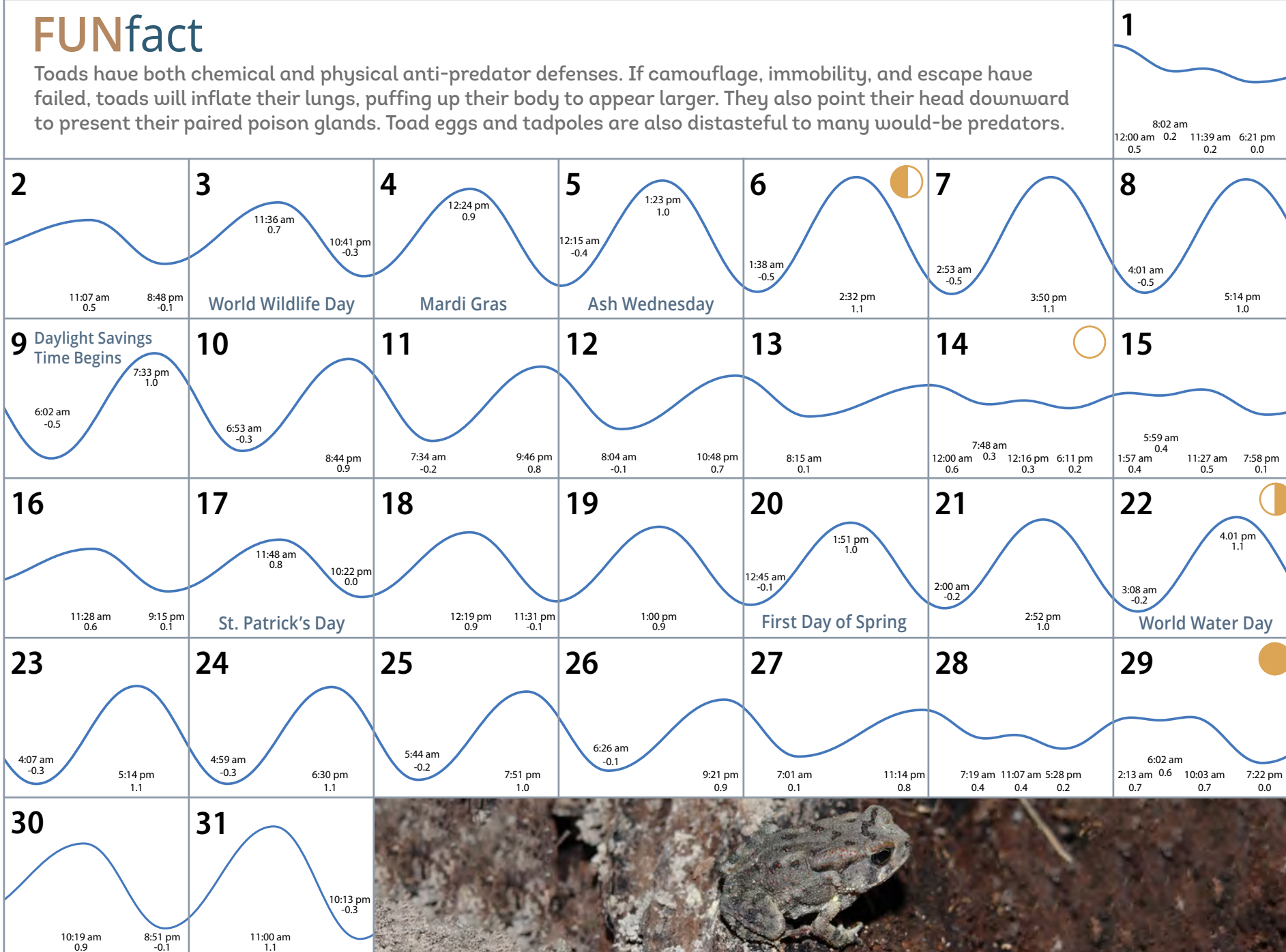
FRIDAY

SATURDAY



FUNfact

Toads have both chemical and physical anti-predator defenses. If camouflage, immobility, and escape have failed, toads will inflate their lungs, puffing up their body to appear larger. They also point their head downward to present their paired poison glands. Toad eggs and tadpoles are also distasteful to many would-be predators.



FEBRUARY 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

APRIL 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

High Tide:
March 31
11:00 a.m. • 1.1 ft.

Low Tide:
March 7
2:53 a.m. • -0.5 ft.



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COPE'S GRAY TREEFROG

Hyla chrysoscelis

Cope's Gray Treefrogs are medium-sized stout-bodied treefrogs with variable coloration of pale to medium gray or brownish gray, but sometimes greenish (particularly in juveniles). They have a prominent white or light green patch below each eye. Their skin is bumpy compared to Bird-voiced Treefrogs, which look similar. They are found statewide in forested areas, especially in deciduous hardwoods.

Cope's Gray Treefrogs spend most of their time in shrubs and trees when not breeding. They are nocturnal in warm weather, using their camouflage during the day to blend in with tree limbs, trunks, or cavities. They eat a wide variety of insects, particularly beetles and ants. Breeding occurs from late March to early September in temporary and semi-permanent pools and ponds, but permanent streams and lakes may also be used. Females lay as many as 4,800 eggs, but usually much less, in packets of up to 45 eggs in a film on the water's surface. Listen for their distinctive vocalizations at night, a harsh rattling trill that is faster and higher pitched than those of Gray Treefrogs, in the spring and summer.



April 2025

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY



National Native Plant Month



MARCH 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

MAY 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

High Tide:
April 30
11:38 a.m. • 1.6 ft.

Low Tide:
April 29
10:19 p.m. • -0.4 ft.

FUNfact

Gray Treefrogs and Cope's Gray Treefrogs cannot be distinguished by appearance; however, their mating calls are distinct. In addition, Gray Treefrogs have twice the number of chromosomes as Cope's Gray Treefrogs.



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SOUTHERN LEOPARD FROG

Lithobates sphenocephalus

Southern Leopard Frogs are medium-sized frogs of variable coloration in shades of brown, gray, or green. They have smooth skin with a prominent raised area of pale to golden skin on each side of the back, extending from behind the eye to the groin. They have dark round or oval spots of varying sizes scattered randomly on the back and sides. They are found statewide in nearly any habitat except salt marshes, from brackish marshes to bottomland hardwood forests to upland pine-hardwood forests, particularly those with a variety of wetlands and grassy areas.

Southern Leopard Frogs are primarily nocturnal, especially in warmer months, and may hide in grassy vegetation near the water during the day. They often sense perceived danger before being seen and escape quickly by making several massive leaps. Their call is a series of up to 10 or sometimes more guttural chuckles often followed by two to three grunting or scraping sounds, likened to the sound of rubbing an inflated balloon, repeated several times. Though their breeding choruses can be impressively loud, they are quick to silence when approached, making them difficult to observe when calling.

May 2025

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

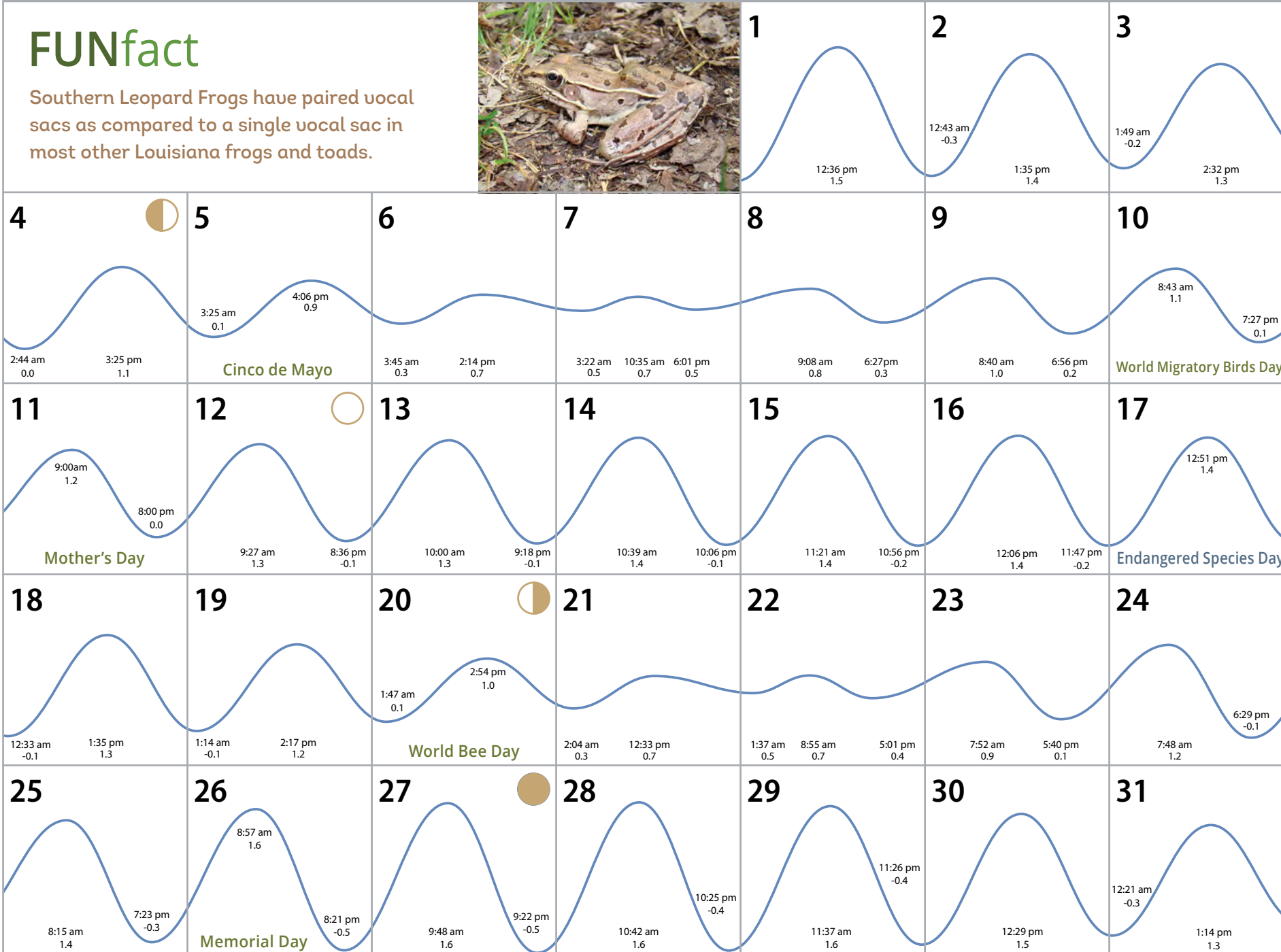
FRIDAY

SATURDAY



FUNfact

Southern Leopard Frogs have paired vocal sacs as compared to a single vocal sac in most other Louisiana frogs and toads.



APRIL 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

JUNE 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

High Tide:
May 28

10:42 a.m. • 1.6 ft.

Low Tide:
May 27

9:22 p.m. • -0.5 ft.



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EASTERN NARROW- MOUTHED TOAD

Gastrophryne carolinensis

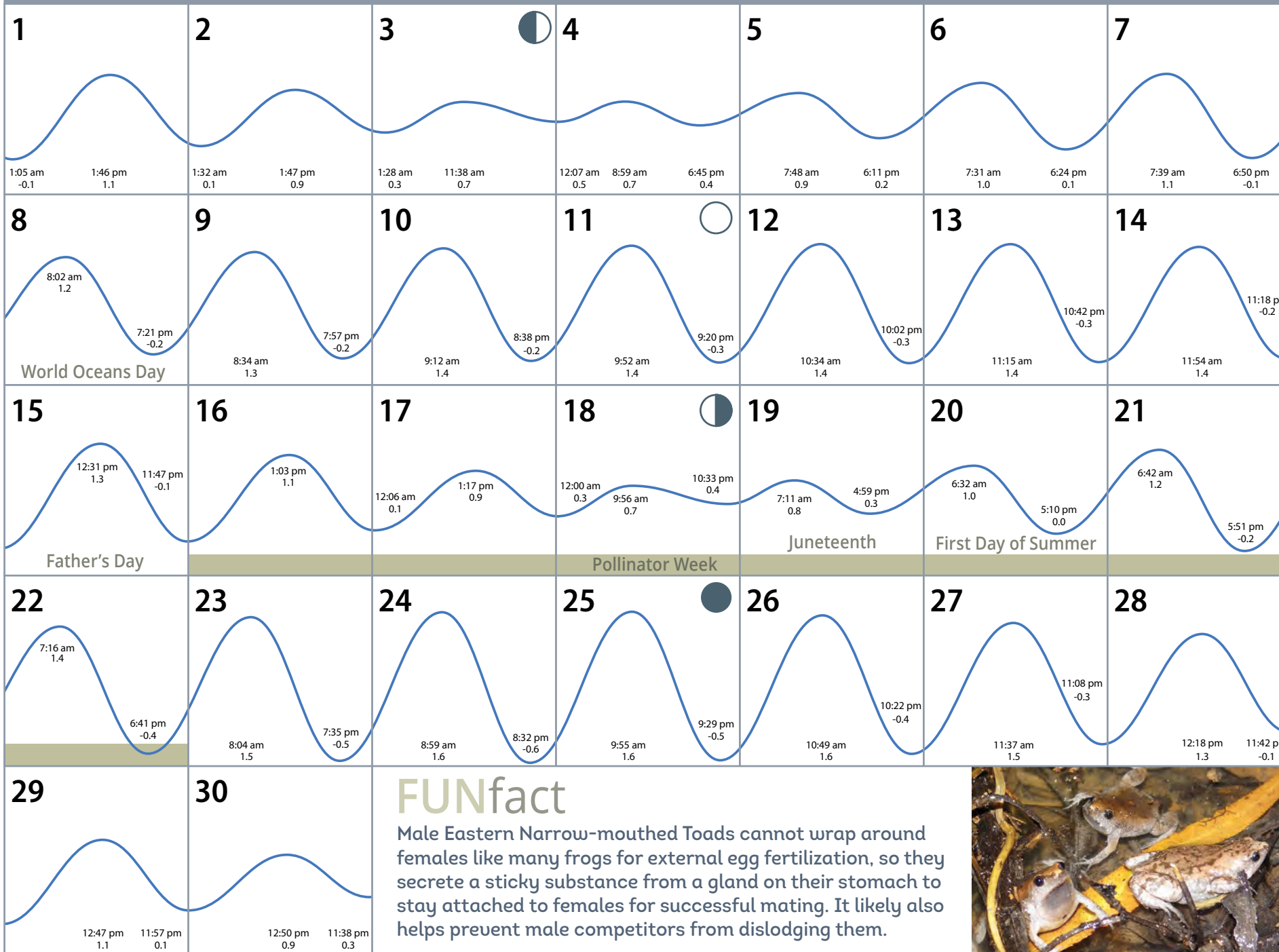
Eastern Narrow-mouthed Toads are in a different family (Microhylidae) than true toads (Bufonidae) and do not possess typical true toad characteristics like bumpy, dry skin and poison glands. They are small, rotund, smooth-skinned frogs with variable coloration, generally some shade of brown, but some may be gray. They have a pointed snout, a fold of skin behind the eyes, and a tiny mouth. This species is found statewide in nearly any habitat from brackish marshes to upland pine-hardwoods and suburban areas.

Eastern Narrow-mouthed Toads are ground dwellers – most often active between dusk and dawn, particularly during warm weather, but will call day or night after heavy rains. They eat a wide variety of invertebrates, with ants, termites, and small beetles being favorites. Skin secretions protect them from many predators and from ant attacks, but there have been a few reports of snake, bird, and mammal predators. They are primarily terrestrial and secretive, typically living in leaf litter and ground cover. Listen for their nasal, buzzy “waaaaa” lasting two to four seconds, likened to the bleating of a lamb.



June 2025

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY



MAY 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

JULY 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

High Tide:
June 25
9:55 a.m. • 1.6 ft.

Low Tide:
June 24
8:32 p.m. • -0.6 ft.



GULF COAST TOAD

Incilius nebulifer

Gulf Coast Toads are medium to large-sized warty toads, sometimes with dark patches and/or yellow flecks, and a thin, pale line down the middle of the back and thicker pale lateral stripes. They are abundant in the estuary and all of the southern half of Louisiana in urban and suburban areas, but can also be found in natural areas including hardwood forests, swamps, and marshes, even brackish ones.

Gulf Coast Toads may be active during the day in cooler weather but are most often active between dusk and dawn in warm weather. They are thought to be opportunistic predators that eat almost any invertebrate or other small animal they can fit in their mouths. Their call is a low-pitched flat trill lasting two to six seconds. These toads are commonly found on warm summer nights as they feed on invertebrates under artificial lights around homes and other structures in southern Louisiana. Gulf Coast Toads thrive in human-modified environments and can rapidly colonize disturbed areas. In southeastern Louisiana, Gulf Coast Toads are now the only true toads found in many areas where Fowler's Toads were once common. This is because of their competitive advantage in larval growth, speed of maturity, and survival rates. In addition, because of increased contact over the last several decades, hybridization occurs more often between the two species, further reducing the survival of Fowler's Toads in these areas.

July 2025

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

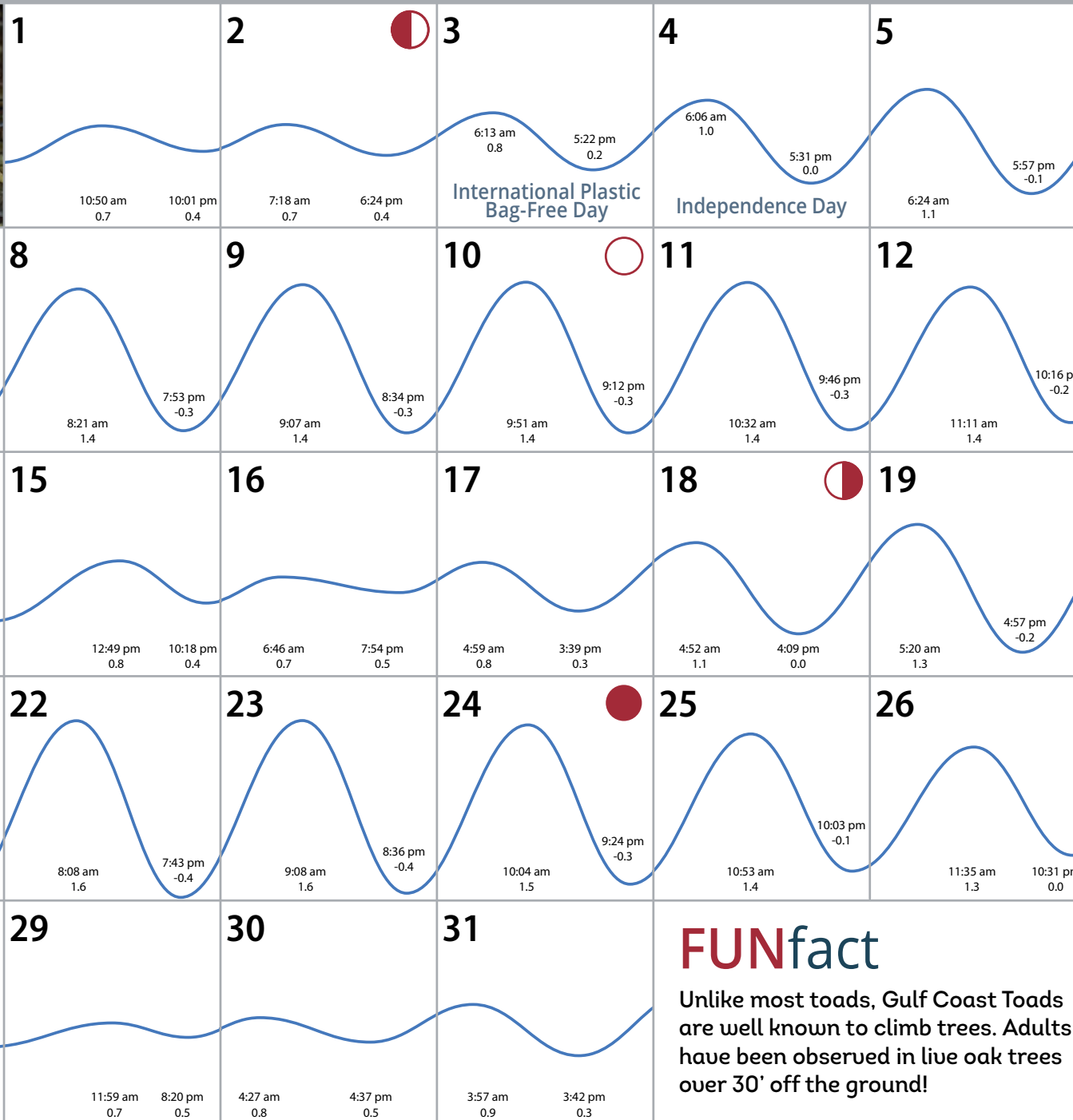
THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY



Photo by Mike Glaspell



JUNE 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

AUGUST 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

High Tide:

July 22
8:08 a.m. • 1.6 ft.

Low Tide:

July 22
7:43 p.m. • -0.4 ft.

FUNfact

Unlike most toads, Gulf Coast Toads are well known to climb trees. Adults have been observed in live oak trees over 30' off the ground!



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PIG FROG

Lithobates grylio

Pig Frogs are large, robust frogs with variable olive to dark brown coloration. Their skin is relatively smooth with no raised areas of skin on the sides of the back, unlike Green Frogs, but they do have conspicuous raised skin around the eardrum. Their thighs are striped, unlike American Bullfrogs, and they have a more pointed snout. They are present throughout the estuary and the southern third of the state, including the Florida Parishes.

Pig Frogs are found in large permanent bodies of freshwater, often with emergent and floating vegetation, such as cypress lakes, flatwood ponds, swamps, and marshes. They breed from March to August, when females lay 8,000–15,000 eggs in a surface film. This species can be active day or night but is most active between dusk and dawn during warm, humid weather. They are indiscriminate and voracious feeders, taking any moving prey they can fit into their mouths, which includes various invertebrates, especially crawfish. They have also been documented to eat vertebrates such as fish, salamanders, frogs, lizards, and snakes. Listen for their low-pitched guttural grunt, likened to a pig grunt, usually repeated two to three times, but sometimes as many as seven or more times, in warm weather.

August 2025

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

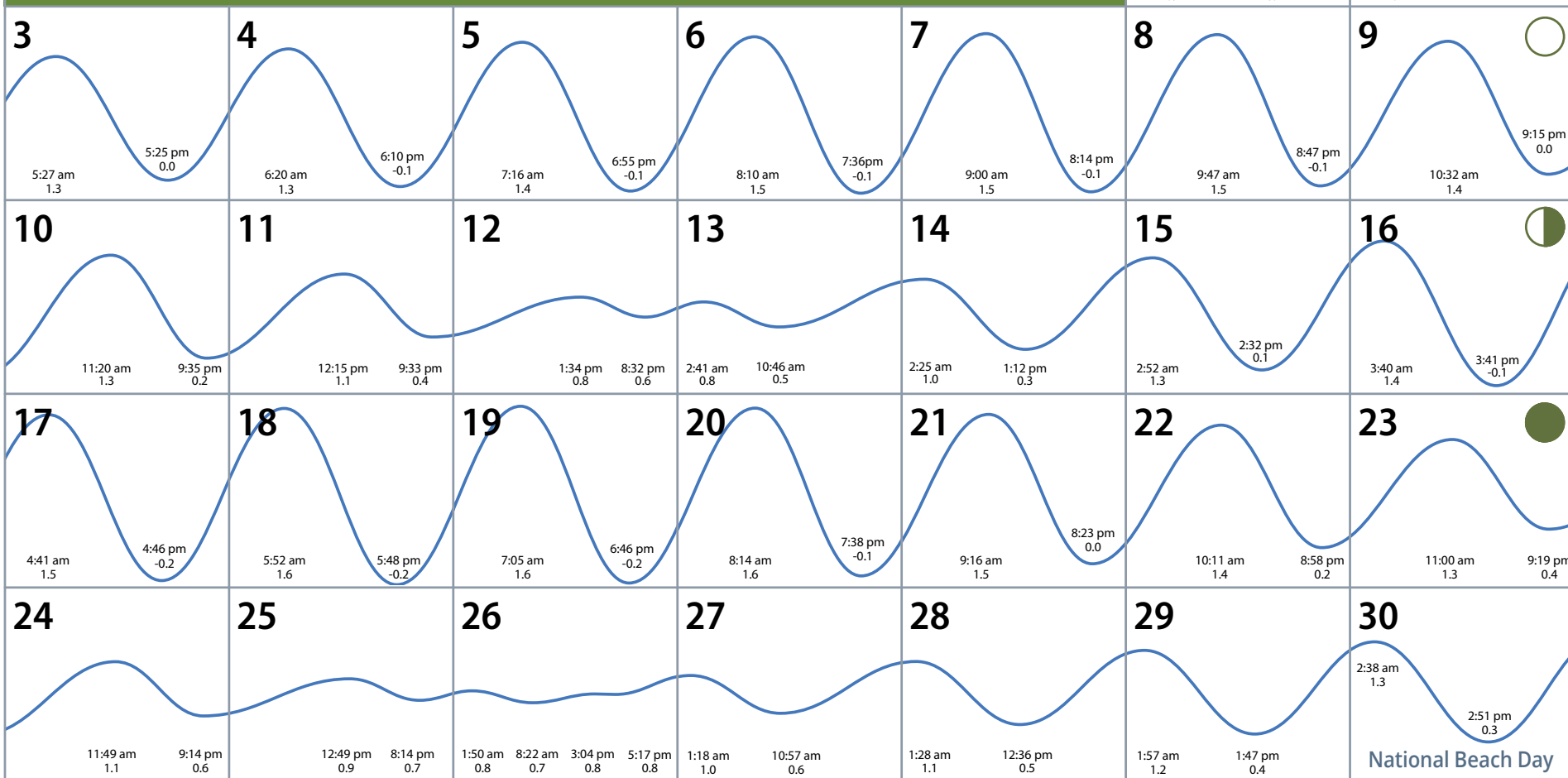
THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY



AUGUST IS NATIONAL WATER QUALITY MONTH



JULY 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

SEPTEMBER 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

High Tide:
August 19
7:05 a.m. • 1.6 ft.

Low Tide:
August 18
5:48 p.m. • -0.2 ft.

FUNfact

All toads are frogs, but not all frogs are toads.



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BLANCHARD'S CRICKET FROG

Acris blanchardi

Blanchard's Cricket Frogs are small frogs with highly variable coloration. They may be primarily brown, gray, or green and possess a reddish, tan, or green stripe down the middle of the back. A consistent characteristic of cricket frogs is a rear-facing triangle on their back between their eyes, which can be pale in some individuals. They are found statewide except in brackish and salt marshes.

Blanchard's Cricket Frogs are preyed upon by some large invertebrates, particularly spiders, and by a whole host of vertebrate predators, including fish, other frogs, snakes, turtles, birds, and mammals. They are well known for their long jumps, relative to their size, combined with quick changes of direction which may disorient potential predators. This abundant frog can be easily found near margins of freshwater ponds where they often characteristically hop into the water from the water's edge only to swim straight back to the water's edge. Males can often be found during warmer months at night calling on floating vegetation in ponds and swamps, sometimes far from shore. Their call is an increasingly paced, rapid, high-pitched, repetitious click likened to the sound of striking together two pebbles or marbles.

September 2025

SUNDAY

MONDAY

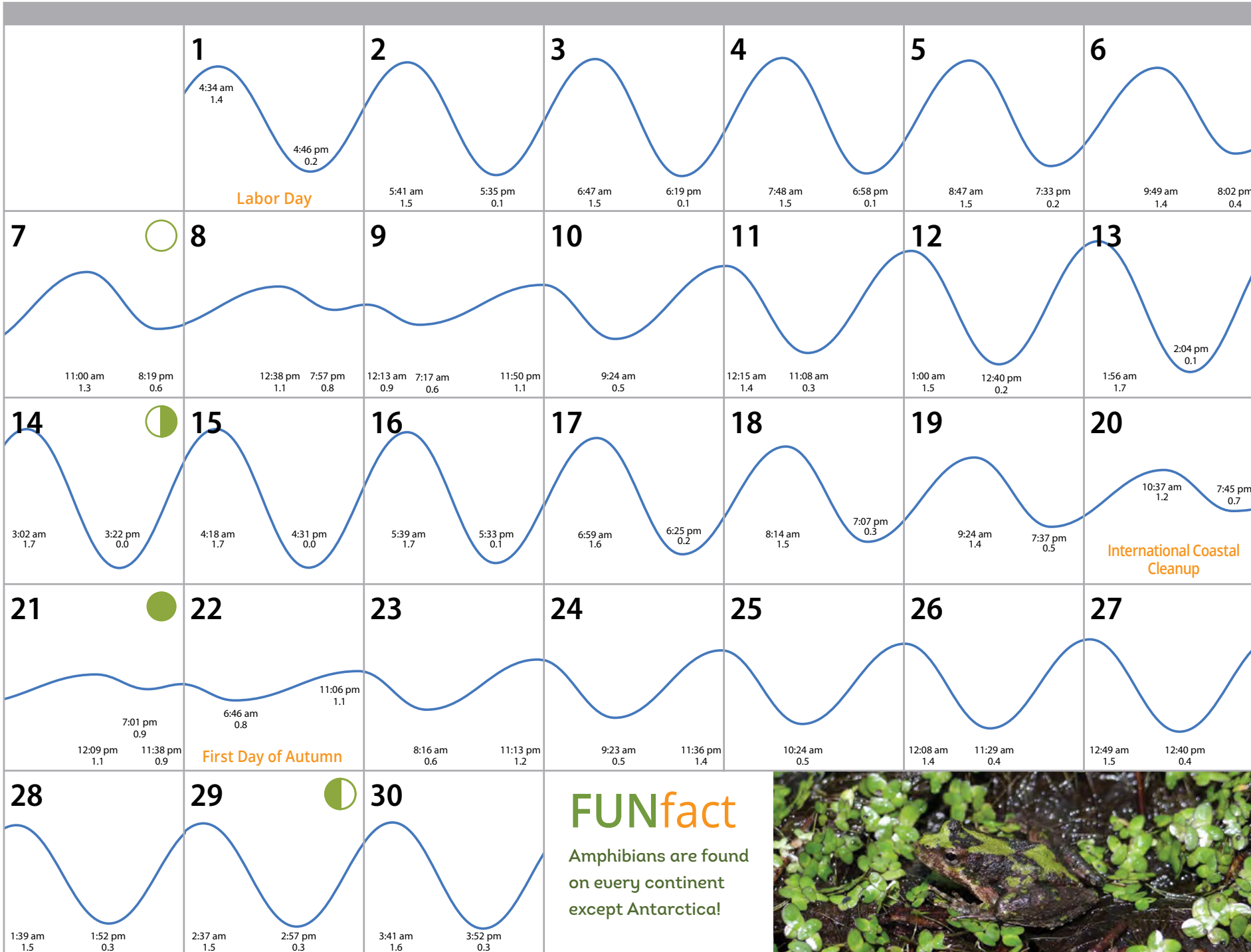
TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY



AUGUST 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

OCTOBER 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

High Tide:
September 14
3:02 a.m. • 1.7 ft.

Low Tide:
September 14
3:22 p.m. • 0.0 ft.

FUNfact

Amphibians are found on every continent except Antarctica!



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EASTERN NEWT

Notophthalmus viridescens

Newts belong to the diverse salamander family Salamandridae. In Louisiana, this family is represented by one species, the Eastern Newt. This species has three distinct life stages: aquatic larvae, terrestrial juvenile (or eft), and aquatic adult. The rough-skinned eft may live for years before becoming an adult. They are found statewide, except in brackish and salt marshes.

Aquatic adults occur in a variety of temporary and permanent wetlands, including ponds, marshes, sloughs, swamps, and lakes, especially those with abundant submerged and floating vegetation. In wetlands and waterbodies, they can be active throughout the day, but terrestrial juveniles and adults are primarily nocturnal.

They prey upon a wide variety of invertebrates like mayflies, snails, small fishes, and tadpoles. The skin of Eastern Newts contains neurotoxins that make them distasteful to many would-be predators. Many potential predators learn to avoid them altogether or at least try to avoid their toxic skin, especially on their backs, where the toxins are most concentrated. Eastern Newts breed in winter, and females may take weeks to lay 200 to 400 eggs, which they attach singly to submerged vegetation.



October 2025

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY



FUNfact

Eastern Newts are known to exhibit the unken posture, an anti-predator defense where the head and tail are arched, exposing the brightly colored belly as a warning to potential predators.

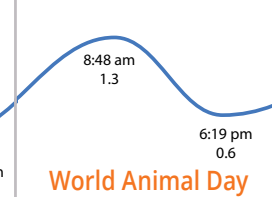
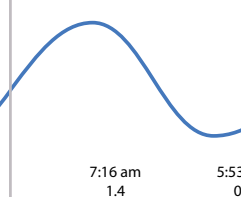
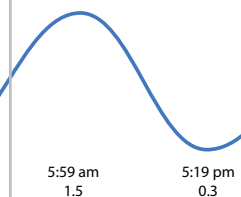
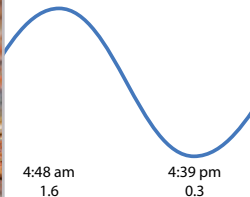


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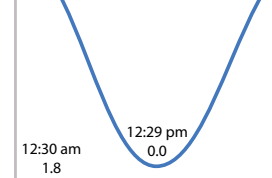
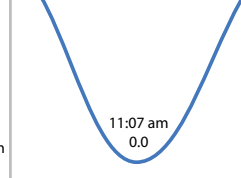
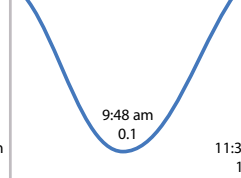
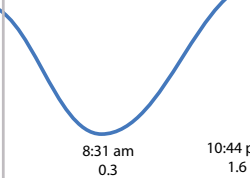
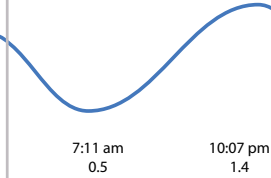
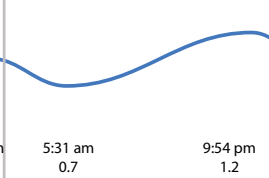
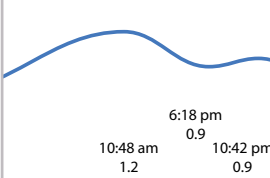
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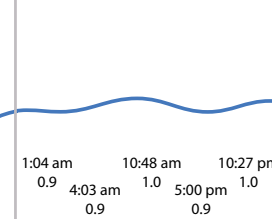
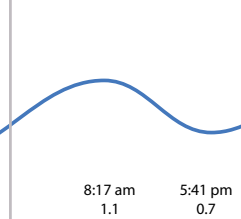
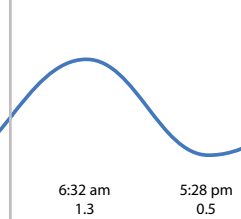
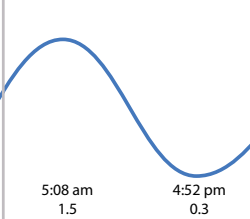
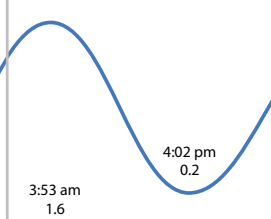
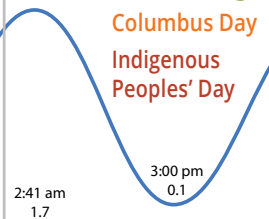
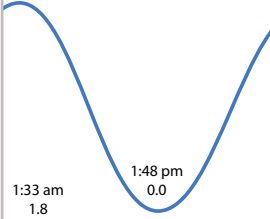
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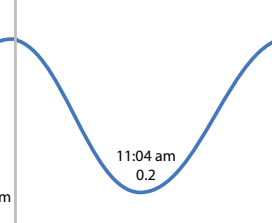
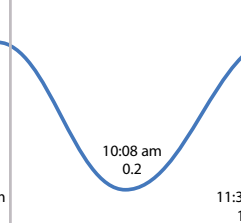
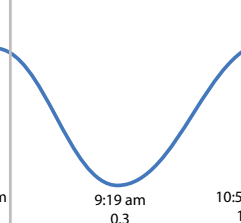
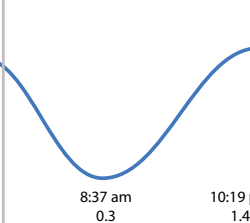
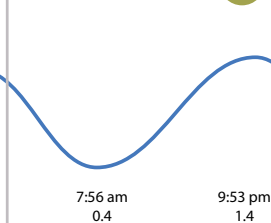
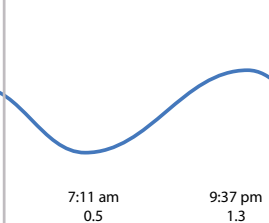
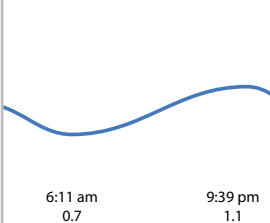
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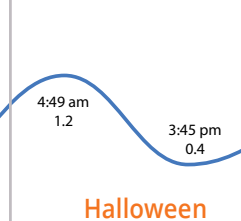
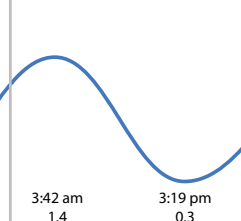
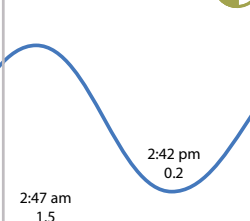
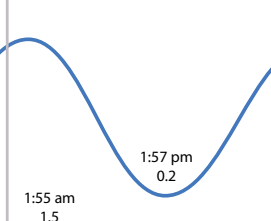
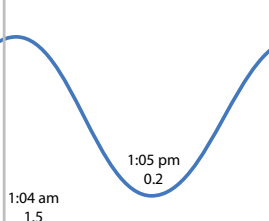
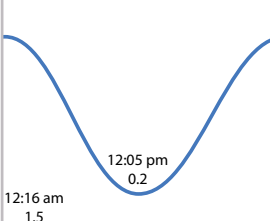
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SEPTEMBER 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

NOVEMBER 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

High Tide:
October 11
12:30 a.m. • 1.8 ft.

Low Tide:
October 11
12:29 p.m. • 0.0 ft.



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MARBLED SALAMANDER

Ambystoma opacum

Marbled Salamanders are a member of the mole salamander family, Ambystomatidae. Members of this family have folds of skin along the sides of the body called costal grooves and possess well-developed lungs. Most species spend much of their lives underground, waiting for the appropriate rainy nights when they migrate to their aquatic breeding habitat. Marbled Salamanders are only found in the uppermost reaches of the estuary and the northern two-thirds of the State in moist forested habitats, from deciduous bottomlands and swamps to mixed pine-hardwood forests or upland forests, provided suitable breeding wetlands are nearby.

Unique among the mole salamanders in Louisiana, the Marbled Salamander breeds in the fall. Females deposit clutches of up to 200 eggs in damp depressions they often excavate under woody debris, vegetation, or leaf litter that will be filled by winter rains, which triggers the eggs to hatch. They are also unique among the genus *Ambystoma* in exhibiting maternal care by guarding the nest and keeping the eggs moist, though unguarded nests are often found.

November 2025

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

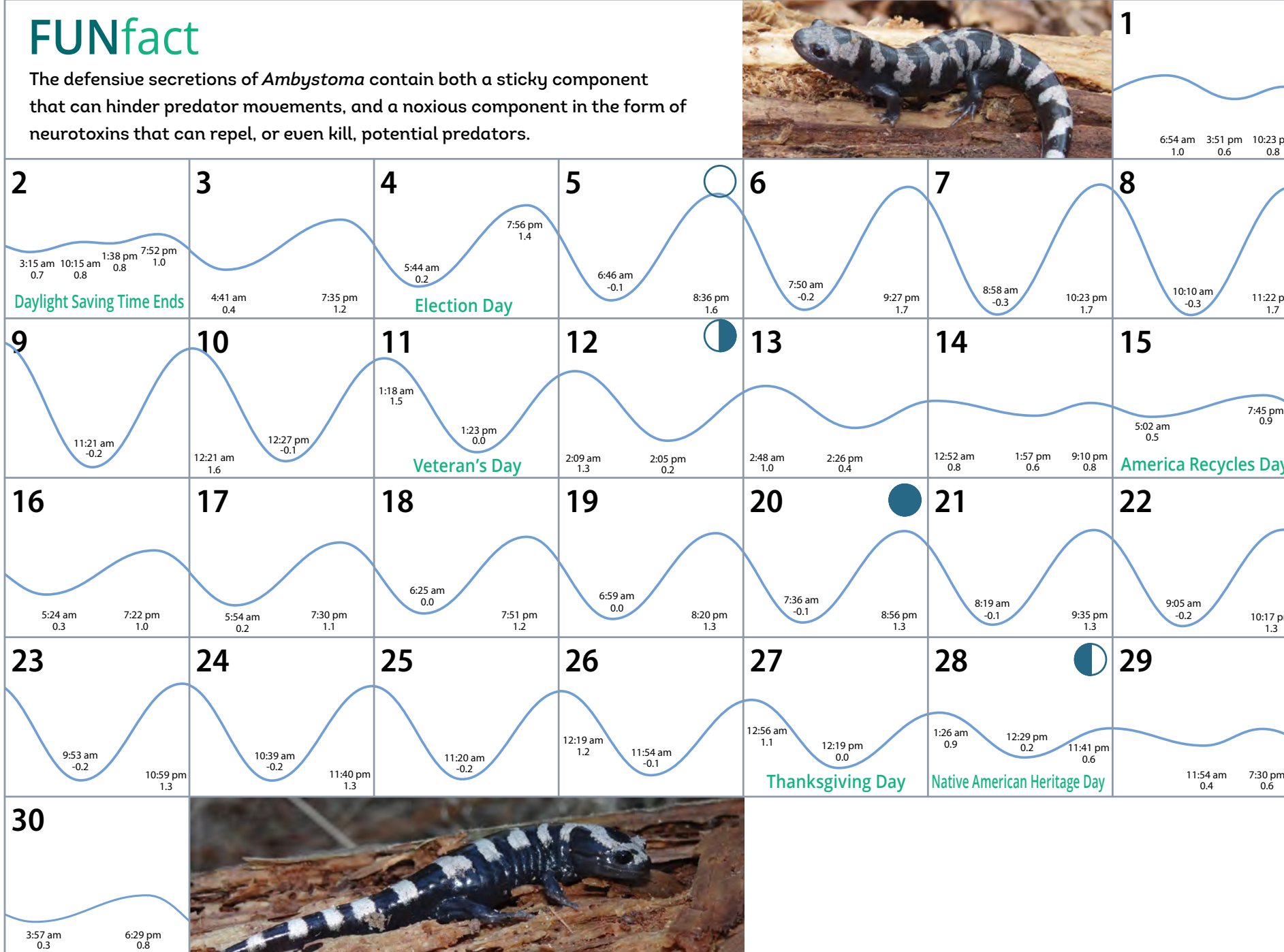
FRIDAY

SATURDAY



FUNfact

The defensive secretions of *Ambystoma* contain both a sticky component that can hinder predator movements, and a noxious component in the form of neurotoxins that can repel, or even kill, potential predators.



OCTOBER 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

DECEMBER 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

High Tide:
November 7
10:23 p.m. • 1.7 ft.

Low Tide:
November 8
10:10 a.m. • -0.3 ft.



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A close-up photograph of a small-mouthed salamander (Ambystoma texanum) resting on a bed of vibrant green moss. The salamander has a dark, almost black body with a prominent, lighter-colored dorsal stripe running down its back. Its head is small and rounded, and its eyes are dark. The moss is dense and textured, providing a natural habitat for the creature. The background is slightly blurred, showing some dry leaves and twigs.

SMALL-MOUTHED SALAMANDER

Ambystoma texanum

Small-mouthed Salamanders are large, robust salamanders with a small head and mouth. They typically live in forested habitats, usually bottomland hardwoods where the water table is high and often with a palmetto understory.

They can also be found in isolated upland swamps and large gum ponds. Small-mouthed Salamanders are active at night and spend most of their lives underground. They prey upon a wide variety of invertebrates like leeches, earthworms, woodlice, and centipedes. Poison glands on the tail may help deter predators such as various watersnakes and the Common Gartersnake.

From late fall to mid-winter, they migrate overland on relatively warm rainy nights to temporary wetlands to breed. This migration is often a short distance as their non-breeding habitat is often closer to their breeding habitat than other *Ambystoma* salamanders. Females deposit up to 800 eggs in water, sometimes laid singly or in groups of two to three, usually by attaching them to small twigs and branches or other vegetation. This species can be found under logs or other cover, especially during their breeding season and near their breeding wetlands. Often under these logs are water-filled crawfish burrows into which they may quickly retreat when uncovered as a defense mechanism.

December 2025



SUNDAY

MONDAY

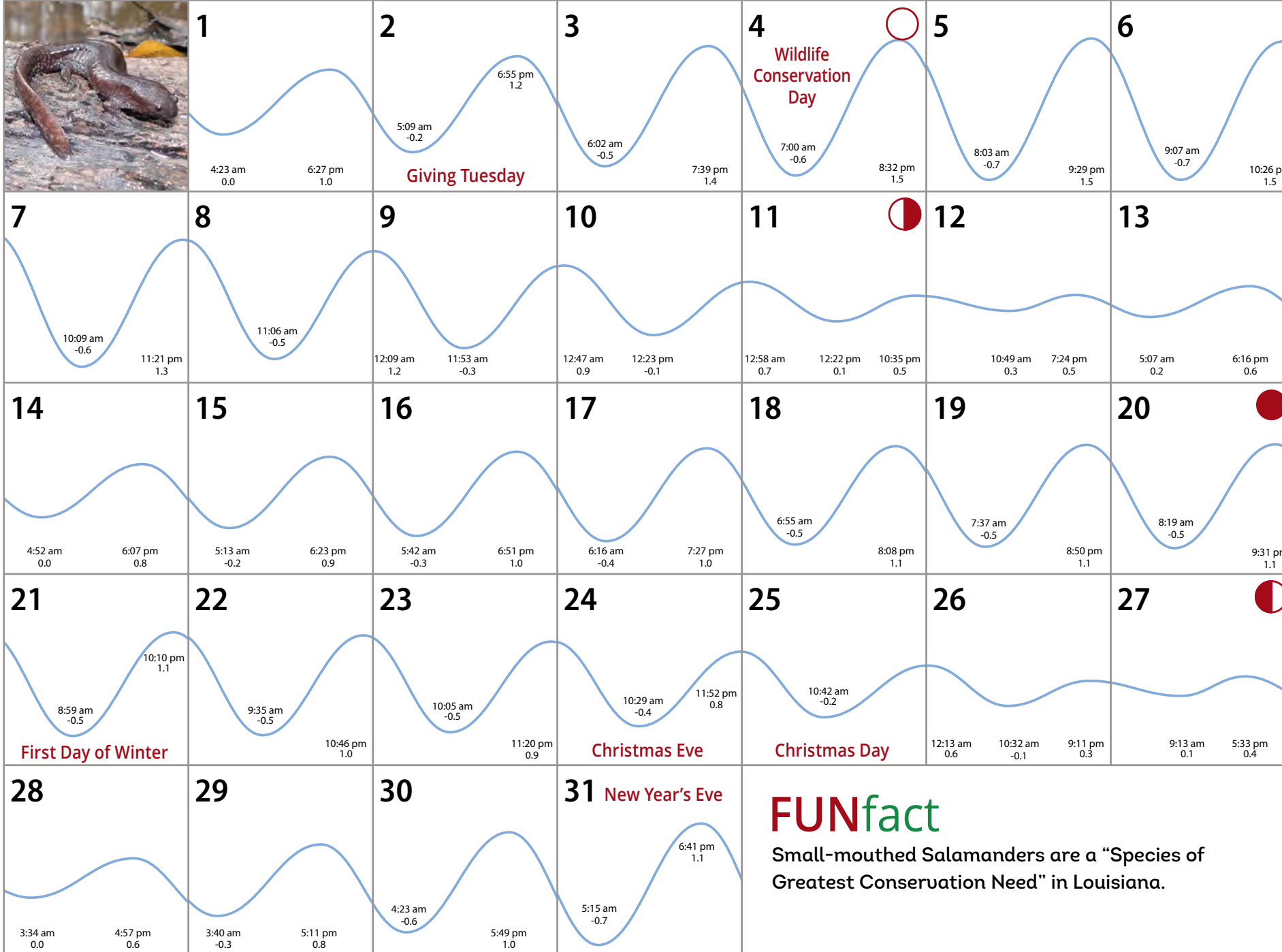
TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY



NOVEMBER 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
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JANUARY 2026

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4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

High Tide:
December 5
9:29 p.m. • 1.5 ft.

Low Tide:
December 31
5:15 a.m. • -0.7 ft.

FUNfact

Small-mouthed Salamanders are a "Species of Greatest Conservation Need" in Louisiana.



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FISHING REGULATIONS

This is not a comprehensive or official copy of the laws in effect and should not be utilized as such. Size and creel limit regulations are presented for selected species only. These species as well as other species may be managed by seasons, quotas and permits. Different regulations for bass, catfish, crappie, and red snapper may apply within specific areas and times. Contact the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) for specific information.

TIDES





For daily, monthly, and yearly predictions for other locations throughout the estuary, please visit: https://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/tide_predictions.html?gid=1400

FRESHWATER SPECIES

SPECIES	SIZE LIMIT	DAILY LIMIT
Largemouth and Spotted Bass*	None	10
Crappie (Sac-a-lait)*	None	50
Striped or Hybrid Striped Bass	None: 2 over 30" (TL)	5 (Any combination)
White Bass**	None	50
Yellow Bass**	None	50
Channel Catfish**	11" Minimum (TL)	100
Blue Catfish**	12" Minimum (TL)	100
Flathead Catfish (Spotted, Yellow or Opelousas) **	14" Minimum (TL)	100
Freshwater Drum (Gaspergou)	12" Minimum (TL)	25

100 per day in aggregate. A fisherman may possess up to 25 undersized catfish of the three species combined

2025 Moon Phase Calendar Icons

-  New Moon
-  Full Moon
-  First Quarter
-  Third Quarter

BTNEP THANKS...



Brad "Bones" Glorioso, Ecologist, U.S. Geological Survey Wetland and Aquatic Research Center

SALTWATER SPECIES

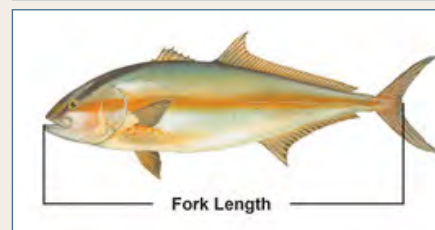
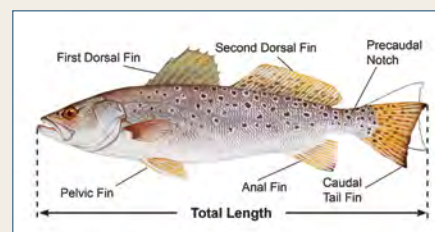
SPECIES	SIZE LIMIT	DAILY LIMIT
Spotted Seatrout (Speckled Trout)	13" Minimum (TL) / 20" Maximum (TL), 2 over 20"	15
Red Drum (Redfish)	18" Minimum (TL) / 27" Maximum (TL)	4
Black Drum	16" Minimum (TL) / 27" Maximum (TL), 1 over 27"	5
Southern Flounder***	None	10
Greater Amberjack	State & Federal Reg. 34" Minimum (FL)	1
Cobia (Ling or Lemon Fish)	State & Federal Reg. 36" Minimum (FL)	1 (2 per vessel)
King Mackerel	State & Federal Reg. 24" Minimum (FL)	3
Spanish Mackerel	State & Federal Reg. 12" Minimum (FL)	15
Red Snapper*	State & Federal Reg. 16" Minimum (TL)	*

*There are site specific and/or season regulations for Largemouth Bass, Spotted Bass, Crappie, and Red Snapper. Check LDWF regulations for more information.

**There are site specific regulations for White Bass, Yellow Bass, Channel Catfish, Blue Catfish, and Flathead Catfish for Caddo Lake, Sabine River, and Toledo Bend Reservoir. Check LDWF regulations for more information.

***Southern Flounder: Season closed October 15 - November 30.

FORK LENGTH (FL): Tip of snout to fork of tail. TOTAL Length (TL): Tip of snout to tip of tail.



LA. Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

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2025 Tidal Graph Calendar

Design and layout: deGravelles & Associates

Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 2663
Thibodaux, LA 70310

Physical Address:
Nicholls State University
320 Audubon Ave.
N. Babington Hall, Rm 105
Thibodaux, LA 70301
985.447.0868 • www.BTNEP.org

Cover Photo: Gulf Coast Toad by Mike Glaspell