

Toni Seger
Lovell
LD 1882

My husband and I have lived on the edge of the national forest, in western Maine, for almost half a century and though where we live is still very beautiful, I want to be clear that my husband and I have witnessed environmental decline in our time here.

When we arrived, in 1977, natural life was literally bursting out everywhere you looked and listened. Now, it feels and sounds somewhat muted. We've lived through almost 50 winters and the spring initially, always arrived with the NOISE of life reasserting itself in every form! It's different now, there are even less bugs... which is frankly a little easier on us, but carrying with it a warning that this pristine environment is absorbing a significant impact. (At the same time, ticks are quite plentiful...)

During the ice storm, we were struck by the silence of the woods as life was literally suspended in ice. Most of the time, we're accustomed to hearing a multitude of sounds around us, especially when spring arrives and that's clearly changed...

Our concern is the loss of vernal pools. It's easy not to spot them or realize their significance if you haven't viewed them when life is being introduced. It's easy to fill them in and never realize their role... unless you've heard them, especially at night when they roar with life!

The loss of vernal pools may be subtle to perceive, but it's of great significance for the future health of an ecosystem and they must be protected because their role is irreplaceable.