

Commonwealth of Massachusetts



A Proclamation

His Excellency Governor Deval L. Patrick

Whereas Frogs and other amphibians play a critical role in the ecosystem by performing pest control and decreasing the spread of mosquito born illnesses such as West Nile Virus and malaria. Their skin also has substances that offer promising medical cures for humans; and

Whereas After surviving for 360 million years, one-third of the world's 6,000 amphibian species are threatened with extinction and over 12 million have already disappeared in recent years, potentially the single largest mass extinction since the dinosaurs; and

Whereas While frogs and amphibians are severely affected by habitat loss, climate change, pollution pesticides and over-collection for food and pets, the rapid dispersal of amphibians chytrid fungus is a major and urgent concern facing the species; and

Whereas Since frogs breathe and drink through their skin, they are extremely susceptible to amphibian chytrid fungus which infects the skin, causing the frog to suffocate; and

Whereas In Massachusetts, the chytrid fungus has already been reported and is a threat to the ten species of frogs that call the Bay State home. The fungus cannot be stopped in the wild, and it persists for an unknown period of time even after the amphibians disappear; and

Whereas Efforts are underway to capture and establish safety populations of as many species as possible in zoos and other holding facilities. Once the original threats have been controlled, the rescued frogs will be released back into the wild; and

Whereas Zoo New England has taken an active role in saving the frogs by building public awareness through the exhibits and school programs, training citizen scientists to conduct censuses to establish baseline data for use in detecting incoming threats to our frog population and by sending staff to help with an amphibian rescue center in Panama,

Now, Therefore, I, Deval L. Patrick, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim February 29th, 2008, to be

MASSACHUSETTS DAY OF THE FROG

And urge all the citizens of the Commonwealth to take cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.

Given at the Executive Chamber in Boston, this twenty-first day of February, in the year two thousand and eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and thirty-first.

By His Excellency

DEVAL L. PATRICK
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH

God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts