

# Dragonfly & Wildlife Pool



Create an **oasis** for frogs, salamanders, dragonflies, box turtles, native bees and butterflies, but not necessarily **fish**  
- a *fishless* pond supports *more* wildlife diversity -  
(Remember, Koi **don't need** our help – frogs, salamanders, dragonflies & bees **do**)

**Goal** = shallow **marshy pool**, not a pond

\* **Shallow** (Approx. depths: 50% 6", 25% 1"-5", 25% 7"-18")

\* **Gradual Slope** (imagine a turtle able to climb in/out)

\* **Vegetation** (emergent and shoreline)

\* **Structure**, in and out (branches/stones)

\* **Bare Banks** (sand and mud)

\* **Windbreaks** (dense shrubs, evergreens)

\* **Attach to other Habitats**  
(brush shelters, pollinator gardens, meadows, wood-edges, etc.)



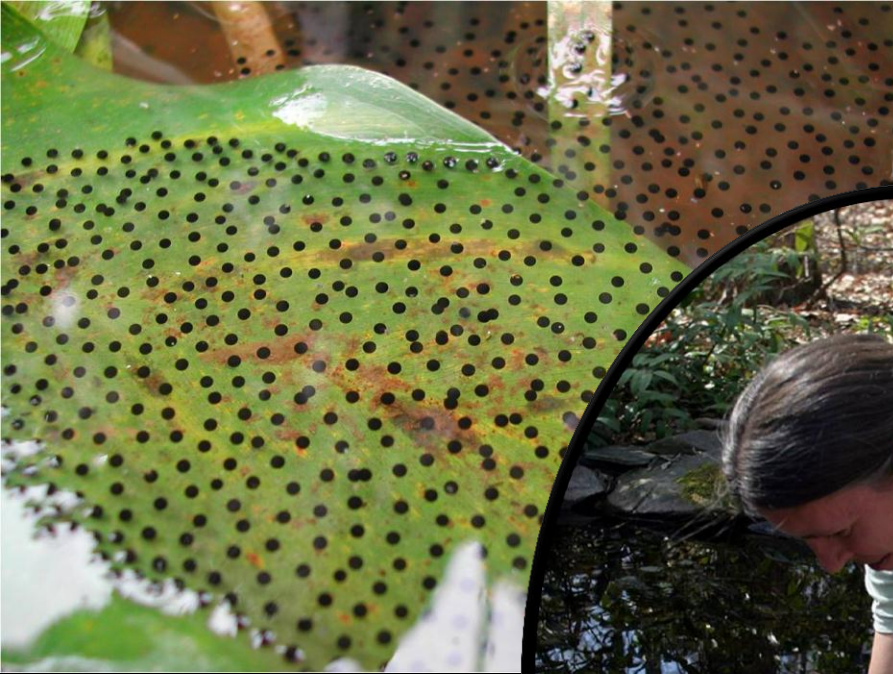
## Why Fishless?

Fishless pools =  
Breeding nurseries for  
frogs, toads, salamanders  
and dragonflies, **because** fish  
often feed on the eggs and larvae  
of amphibians and aquatic insects.

This **doesn't** mean fish are “bad” –  
just that a few fishless pools  
add to your neighborhood's  
**biodiversity.**







Some salamanders & frogs only breed in shallow, **fishless** pools called Vernal Pools





Several dragonfly species **only** breed  
in **fishless** water – about a dozen species in N. VA – and  
most dragonflies at least prefer wetlands with low fish populations





Structure & vegetation



Shallow & gradual slope





Gradually sloped banks = Accessible water for box turtles,  
songbirds and other small wildlife





Wildlife need  
structure...



... and vegetation,  
for shelter and perching.







Some of the  
many uses of  
structure  
and  
vegetation.







Areas of sunny bare ground  
(sand, gravel or mud)  
along the shoreline  
attract butterflies looking  
for salts and other minerals

Also good for mason bees,  
tiger beetles  
and certain species of  
ground-perching dragonflies  
(next page)







Ashy Clubtails, like this female, prefer to perch low, usually on the ground. Other [ground-perching dragonflies](#) in N. VA: Unicorn Clubtail, Black-shouldered Spinyleg, Lancet Clubtail, Blue Corporal, Common Whitetail, Eastern Pondhawk.

Several species of dragonflies and tiger beetles (below) seek out [bare ground](#), often along the banks of streams, ponds and marshy pools. You can attract these [colorful hunters](#) to your wildlife pool by leaving several feet of [bare, sandy, sun-drenched shoreline](#).

