



Our Commitment to Biodiversity

In addition to carrying electricity to homes and businesses across the region, our power line corridors are also essential to animal movement, providing areas of low growth habitat and serving as travel pathways. Hundreds of species of plants, insects, amphibians, reptiles, fungi, birds and mammals make their home within this critical low growth environment, and we're committed to being a good neighbor through environmental stewardship as we deliver reliable power to our customers.

P.O. Box 270
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EVERSOURCE



On the Move ➔

A Guide to Herptiles in Our Power Line Corridors

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herptile *(n.)*
an amphibian or reptile

Power Line Corridors Create and Sustain Habitats

Did you know that native plants, pollinators, and hundreds of wildlife species—including the 20 **herptiles** featured in this guide—thrive in the diverse habitat we create by maintaining our power line corridors? While trees are a treasured part of the landscape here in New England, they're also the number one cause of power outages for our customers during storms. Balancing our customers' need for safe and reliable power with the benefits trees provide, our vegetation management programs create critical low growth habitat that many creatures who call our power line corridors home depend on.

Our Approach to Vegetation Management

Our Vegetation Management team maintains more than 3,500 miles of power line corridors throughout Connecticut, Massachusetts and New Hampshire. Using varied approaches depending on the unique conditions of the landscape, our arborists create and maintain low-growing plant communities that support a range of species. Our team works at specific times of the year and uses specialized equipment and best practices to protect environmental habitats from the critical work we must complete to ensure safe and reliable power for our customers and communities. With our focus on establishing and maintaining low-growing grass and shrub habitat, our vegetation management practices help to establish new and enhanced biodiversity.



Protecting Habitat and Wildlife

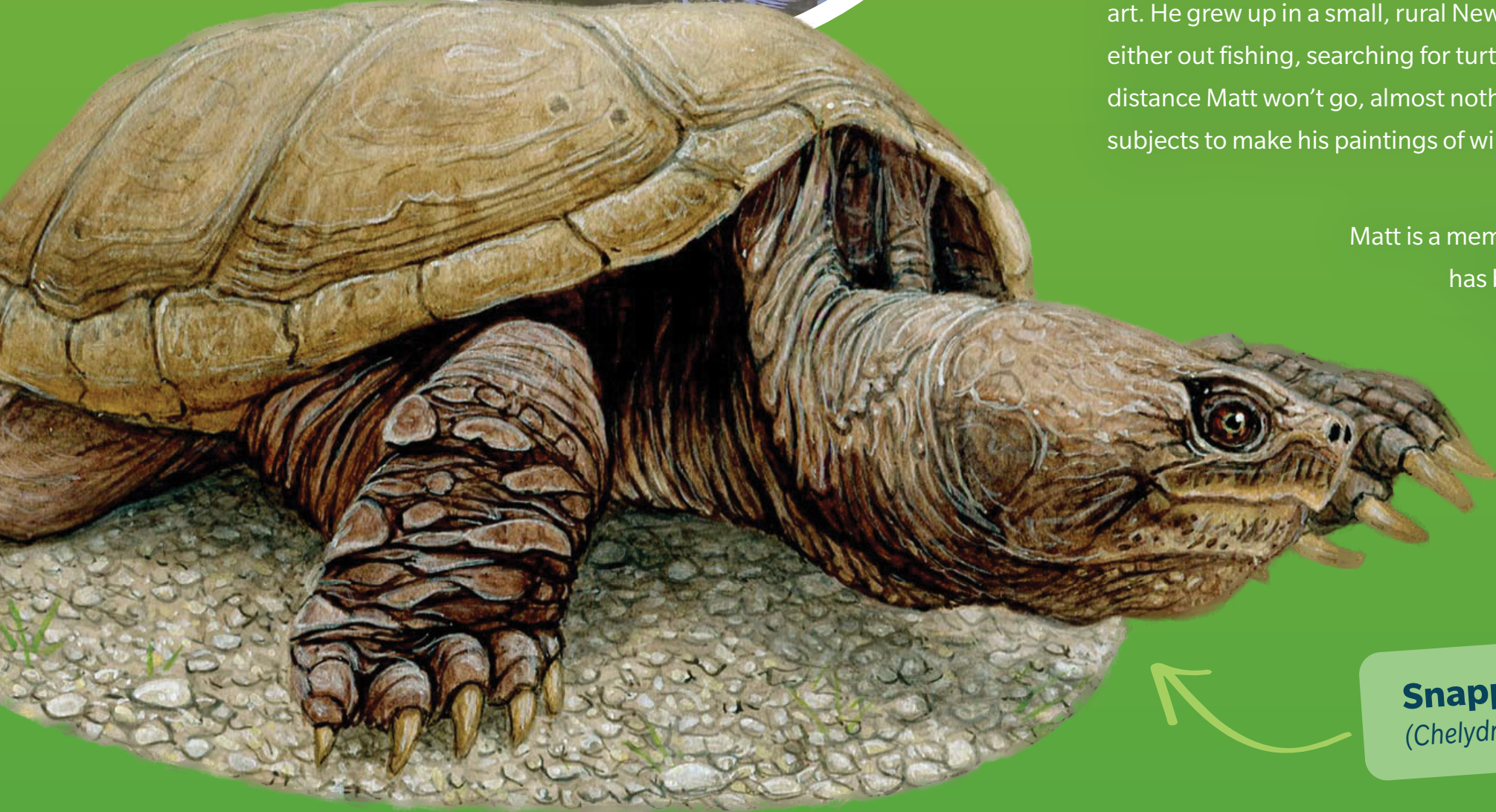


Artist Bio
Matt Patterson



From as far back as he remembers, **Matt Patterson** has loved both wildlife and art. He grew up in a small, rural New Hampshire town. In his free time, he was either out fishing, searching for turtles and snakes, or painting. There's almost no distance Matt won't go, almost nothing he won't do, to learn all he can about his subjects to make his paintings of wildlife as accurate and lifelike as possible.

Matt is a member of Artists for Conservation and is a Fellow in The Explorers Club. His work has been featured in Yankee Magazine, Fine Art Connoisseur and has won numerous awards, including twice winning the Roger Tory Peterson Wild American Art award. Matt has illustrated several books, including two written by bestselling author Sy Montgomery: The New York Times national bestseller *Of Time and Turtles* and *The Book of Turtles*, which won seven national awards. Matt received a degree in Illustration from the Art Institute of Boston.



Snapping Turtle
(*Chelydra serpentina*)

20 Herptiles in Eversource’s Power Line Corridors

American Toad (*Anaxyrus americanus*)
Amphibian, 2–4.5 inches in length



This toad can often be found on the forest floor eating insects, spiders, earthworms, slugs and other invertebrates. Heard in spring and summer, its high-pitched musical trill can last up to 30 seconds.

Black Racer (*Coluber constrictor*)
Reptile, 33–65 inches in length



This swift, non-venomous snake moves at a top speed of about eight to 10 miles per hour. It prefers lightly wooded, open habitats, such as meadows, fields and areas between forests and fields.

Blandings Turtle (*Emydoidea blandingii*)
Reptile, 6–9 inches in length



Living in a variety of habitats, this turtle eats while on land and in water. As an omnivore, it eats both plants (such as duckweed, bulrush and sedge) and animals (such as snails, crayfish and earthworms).

Blue-Spotted Salamander (*Ambystoma laterale*)
Amphibian, 3–5 inches in length



With its variable pattern of sky-blue spots, blotches and flecks, this mole salamander inhabits forests and woodlands with sandy to loamy soils. Its diet includes insects, slugs, earthworms, spiders, snails and centipedes.

Bog Turtle (*Glyptemys muhlenbergii*)
Reptile, 3–4 inches in length



As its name implies, this turtle lives in bogs and other wetlands and eats seeds, berries, insects, worms, crayfish, snails and frogs. It likes sunny, open areas where it can rest and raise its body temperature.

Diamond-Backed Terrapin (*Malaclemys terrapin*)
Reptile, 4–9 inches in length



With a lifespan of 25–40 years, this coastal species inhabits salt marshes, estuaries and tidal creeks. It eats snails, small crustaceans, worms and some aquatic plants, and excretes excess salt from its diet through special eye glands.

Eastern Box Turtle (*Terrapene carolina*)
Reptile, 4.5–6.6 inches in length



This turtle is named for its ability to enclose its head, legs and tail within a hinged plastron—a shell underneath its carapace (top shell). It builds a domelike structure in the afternoon where it spends the night.

Eastern Hognose Snake (*Heterodon platirhinos*)
Reptile, 20–40 inches in length



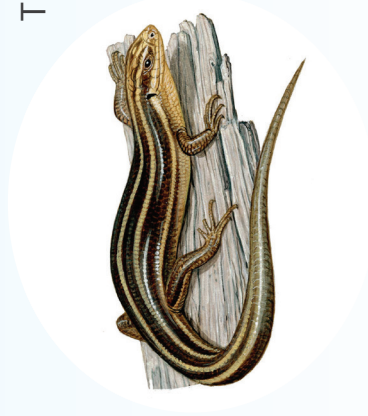
This snake gets its name from its turned-up nose and is sometimes called a puff adder. When threatened, it raises its head, flattens its neck, inflates its body (looking like a cobra) and hisses loudly before playing dead. Its favorite food is toads.

Eastern Milk Snake (*Lampropeltis triangulum*)
Reptile, 19–40 inches in length



The frequent appearance of this non-venomous snake in barns led to the inaccurate belief that it sucks milk from cows, leading to the name Milk Snake. It spends most of its time hidden and is active mostly at night.

Five-Lined Skink (*Plestiodon fasciatus*)
Reptile, 5–8.5 inches in length



The yellowish stripes on the Five-Lined Skink’s body become less noticeable as it ages. New England’s only lizard, it likes steep, rocky areas with open ledge and forages for insects (crickets, flies, grasshoppers, grubs, beetles, ants) and spiders.

Fowler’s Toad (*Anaxyrus fowleri*)
Amphibian, 2.5–3.75 inches in length



Named for S.P. Fowler, a Massachusetts naturalist who identified it in 1858, this mostly nocturnal toad stays undercover in daylight hours and prefers sandy areas near wetlands. Its “wahhh” call resembles a bleating sheep.

Jefferson Salamander (*Ambystoma jeffersonianum*)
Amphibian, 4–7 inches in length



Named after Jefferson College in Pennsylvania, this long-toed, mole salamander lives underground or hidden under rocks, logs or leaf litter for most of its life. It emerges in spring, migrating to its breeding pool.

Marbled Salamander (*Ambystoma opacum*)
Amphibian, 3–5 inches in length



This mole salamander has a marbled pattern that extends from head to tail. It prefers dry, sandy-soiled habitats in forests and woodlands with water close by and breeds in varied wetlands.

Red Eft (*Notophthalmus viridescens viridescens*)
Amphibian, about 3 inches in length



Beginning life as an egg then an aquatic creature, the Red-Spotted Newt transitions to land and enters the juvenile “Red Eft” bright orange stage before returning to water as a yellow and green adult.

Snapping Turtle (*Chelydra serpentina*)
Reptile, 10–18 inches in length



With a neck that can stretch the length of its shell, this turtle can be found in water bodies, including rivers, lakes and marshes. Its diet includes different plants and animals, but it becomes more vegetarian as it ages.

Spadefoot Toad (*Scaphiopus holbrookii*)
Amphibian, 1.75–2.25 inches in length



Named for the hard-digging structures on its hind feet, the Spadefoot spends most of its time underground and hunts for small prey at night. Its breeding call of “caw...caw” resembles a young crow.

Spotted Salamander (*Ambystoma maculatum*)
Amphibian, 6–9 inches in length



Although it has large yellow spots, this mole salamander can be hard to find. It likes hidden environments in forested areas close to vernal pools, wetlands or ponds and can live for more than 20 years.

Spotted Turtle (*Clemmys guttata*)
Reptile, about 4.5 inches in length



Feeding only under water, this turtle mostly eats animals, such as small fish, snails, worms and tadpoles—and also feeds on aquatic plants. Predation is high for hatchlings, yet Spotted Turtles can live 25–50 years.

Timber Rattlesnake (*Crotalus horridus*)
Reptile, 36–60 inches in length



This venomous snake prefers rocky, forested hillsides and feeds mostly on mice, other small mammals, and sometimes birds. While some snake species lay eggs, others, like the Timber Rattlesnake, hatch eggs internally, resulting in a live birth.

Wood Turtle (*Glyptemys insculpta*)
Reptile, 5.5–8 inches in length



The scientific name for this turtle is for the sculptured pattern on its carapace (top shell). With a habitat varying from water to land, it feeds on animals like insects and earthworms, and plant foods like algae and grass.