

Reporting the Endangered Bog Turtle

A Federally and State-listed endangered species
A marker for high-quality wetland habitat!

Survey Guidelines: <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/nyfo/es/btsurvey.pdf>



If you see a bog turtle crossing the road, for its protection, carry it to the side of the road it's heading, and then release it.

If possible, first detain and **Report the Bog Turtle** as described on the right.

Reporting a bog turtle:

If you sight a bog turtle:

- 1) **Detain it for a short while.**
(Place in a bucket with some mud and place in a cool (not cold) location)
- 2) **Call: Charlie Strunk** 267-784-6142
(Certified with PA Fish and Game)

He, or another representative of the PA Fish and Game Department, can arrive in our area within an hour to document the find.

Bog turtles are commonly sighted by land owners when cutting grass on the border of a wetland (June – August).

Background: The **Bog Turtle** (*Clemmys muhlenbergii*) is an inhabitant of wet meadows and bogs that are mucky with organic soil kept saturated by groundwater discharge. These **palm-sized**, elusive turtles spend much of their lives hidden in the cool, soft muck, which provides them with cover and comfort when its hot and a safe, protected place to hibernate during the colder months.

If you find a bog turtle outdoors do not keep it as a pet – leave it be. Because of their small size, coloration and rarity, bog turtles are prized by collectors. However, *it is a violation of state and federal laws to catch, possess, sell, trade or import bog turtles.*

When driving you may happen upon a bog turtle crossing the road. Assist the turtle by picking it up and carrying it across the road in the direction that it was heading, placing it at a safe distance from the roadside. Road systems have fragmented the waterways and wetlands areas that are key habitat requirements for these turtles.

... Again, first notify
PA Fish and Game 717-783-6526
(or Charlie Skrunk, above)

