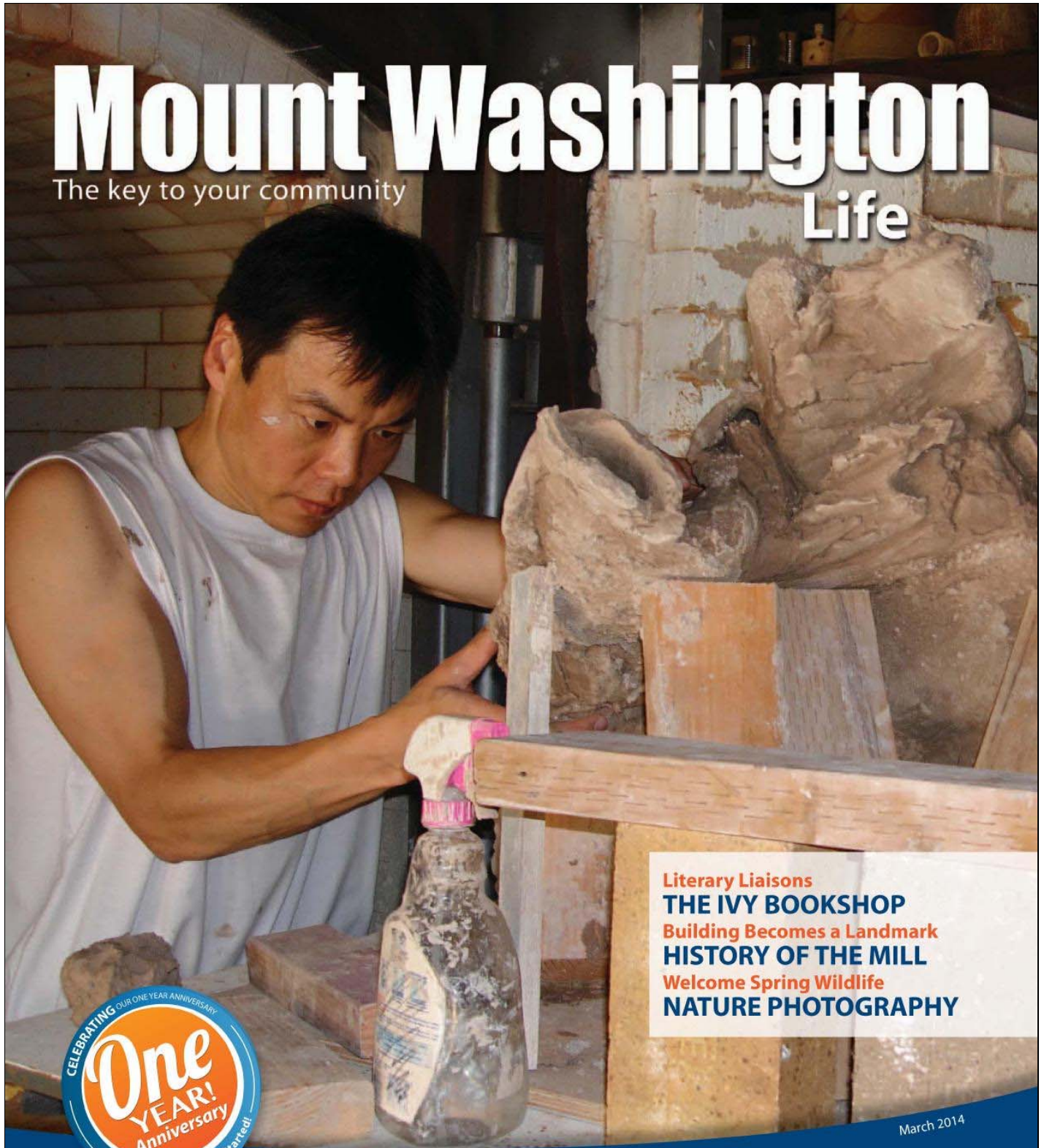


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March 2014

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# Animals

## Frogs Hop to Area Park

by Kelley King  
Publication assistant

Spring is on its way to Robert E. Lee Park, 1000 Lakeside Drive, and so are some friendly amphibians.

Beginning in late February, different species of frogs will emerge from hibernation throughout the park. Frogs that show up in the park include spring peepers, American toads, green frogs, American bull frogs and more. Many of the frogs hang out around Lake Roland, while some make their home in vernal pools along the park's red trail. Visit [roberteleepark.com](http://roberteleepark.com) for information on frog-themed programs in April, park hours and more.



A wood frog is one of the species that can be found at Robert E. Lee Park this spring. Photo courtesy of Bart Viguers

## Noisy Amphibians Return

It is evident that spring is approaching when visitors to Robert E. Lee park can hear the chorus of love songs from the male frogs out beyond the lawn and in the awaking woods. Beginning in February, wood frogs, spring peepers and American toads can be heard throughout the park. These native frogs are found mostly in freshwater wetlands and woodland vernal pools.

Wood frogs are often the first species heard calling in the spring. Wood frogs have a black marking over their eyes that look like a mask and two big ridges running down their back. A Wood frog's distinctive call, which sounds similar to a quacking duck, can be heard on rainy days or humid nights in March. Male and female wood frogs gather in ponds to breed early in the spring, even before the ice is gone.

After mating, each female lays a mass of 1,000 to 3,000 eggs. Egg masses are often laid communally and hatch within three weeks, depending on the temperature. Tadpoles take about six to nine weeks to turn into frogs. Visit Lake Roland at Robert E. Lee Park, 1000 Lakeside Drive, to learn more about the noisy amphibians.—*Bart Viguers*

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