

"Your Pond or Mine?" is the light-hearted title of a piece by Carol Ezzell in **Science News** (Vol. 140, p. 12), describing the mating habits of *Hyla chrysoscelis*, the gray tree frog, as they are detailed in a much-praised study by two Duke University population ecologists. The new research shows that males and females of this nonterritorial species have somewhat different criteria for what constitutes the ultimate love puddle, according to Ezzell.

William J. Resetarits Jr. and Henry M. Wilbur, the researchers, explained: "We're really interested not only in the behavior of individual species, but what effect their behavior may have on the community."

The research, published in the June **Ecology**, reports on the results of 52 "long, sweaty summer nights" in the woods of North Carolina, monitoring the frogs' mating quirks at 45 "pseudo-ponds" (blue plastic wading pools painstakingly equipped to represent known types of breeding pools and laced with a wide variety of the varying life forms that make up different pond communities). Males proved interested only in finding mates; females were far more eager to finding the right pond conditions ... a fact that makes it appear the sexes are often "out of synch."

David McCauley, an ecologist at Vanderbilt University, commented: "I was quite surprised. The males were rarely at the right place at the right time, regardless of what was in the pond."