

We ran into a few issues last Spring and discovered that the pond had a small leak. We had to drain it and repair it but, in that process, we discovered that our local frogs and toads were already using it as a breeding site so that was very encouraging! We even found a male American Toad near the pond later this past Fall and we are hopeful that this Species of Concern (in Nebraska) will use the pond to breed as well.

After we mucked about in the mud A LOT, fixed the pond and determined that it held water, we released about 20 tiger salamander larva that a University of Nebraska-Lincoln professor and student collected for us. Unfortunately we have not yet been able to determine if they survived and stayed in or near the pond but we will be working with a new student this year and we plan on releasing more larval tiger salamanders and monitoring them for at least a few years before we remove the drift fence.

Unfortunately, with all the construction at the Zoo, we haven't been able to build additional ponds. One of our locations may become a solar panel field and service roads are getting shifted around from original locations. Most of this work should finish sometime this year and we plan to build more ponds as soon as we can. However, with all this new construction we are taking advantage of every opportunity to build water mitigation ponds/pools as natural wetlands to hopefully benefit the local amphibians and other wildlife. We may just have to make/relocate more Tiger Salamanders rather build a bunch of ponds first. With the upcoming Advanced Amphibian Course that we'll be hosting later this year, we are considering using both Tigers and American Toads as study subjects and we will release all the offspring our course participants create into these new locations.



