

A photograph of a beaver swimming in a pond. The water is calm, reflecting the surrounding trees and sky. The beaver is in the lower center of the frame, moving towards the right. Its head and back are visible above the water. The background shows several tree trunks and branches extending into the water, their reflections clearly visible on the surface.

## VISTAS

Beaver in beaver Pond, Beartown State Forest,  
Massachusetts.

BY RON BOISVERT  
[WWW.RONBOISVERT.COM](http://WWW.RONBOISVERT.COM)

Beaver kits are born in early spring, as the water around their lodge thaws. Beaver ponds provide habitat for waterfowl and other aquatic animals; and their dams help reduce soil erosion and can help reduce flooding. As the weather continues to warm, beavers' diets consist of grasses, cattails, water lilies and other aquatic plants.

Seal Salamander,  
Black Mountain, Georgia

BY PHILLIP JORDAN

Seal salamanders are never far from water but can occasionally be observed perching on wet rocks. By day they hide under rocks or in burrows, dining on passing ants, and beetles.



Water Lily, New Hampshire

BY ZYLA NUITTE

The fragrant water lily opens in the morning and closes in the afternoon. Submerged portions provide habitats for many micro and macro invertebrates.



Skunk Cabbage, Pine Grove Furnace State Park, Pennsylvania

BY VALERIE LONG

Skunk cabbage flowers in the early spring, when only the flowers are visible above the mud. It is notable for its ability to melt its way through frozen ground in a process called cellular respiration.

