“Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds.” This doesn’t just apply to the U.S. Postal Service. Our Environmental Heroes brave the elements each week through every season to answer their all important research question: What factors impact the abundance and distribution of amphibians and reptiles in the Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation?

The cold winds and rains of October made it difficult to hang on to equipment and notebooks. Although difficult to write in the rain, the team manages to get the job done!
Snow arrived in November, along with the deep freeze. We actually had to break the ice on Blue Heron Pond to get our water sample.
Come January, our sites settle into the winter freeze. We are already missing Summer and all our amphibian and reptilian friends.

This group is headed out to the Firepit Pond to place trip cameras.
We received our acceptance to present at the annual EECO conference! This is very exciting but we have a lot of work ahead. We begin the laborious job of gathering and analyzing our data to determine what to cover at the conference.

We had a furry friend outside grabbing some lunch as we worked.
Still in our January deep freeze, we bundle up and head out to Blue Heron Pond, Frog Pond and Bench Pond for water samples and site observations.
Brrrr......it’ the Blue Heron Pond freeze. One thing is for sure, Zach.....you would not have been walking out to check the depth meter stick in August! By the way.....what was the reading?

Don’t you hate when the photographer gets photographed back? 😊
March 10.....more field observations. We trek across the Blue Heron boardwalk. Yes, it is there under the snow. You notice, we let Kathy lead. We figure if she falls through, we know where NOT to walk. Price you pay when you are the leader, Kathy. :-) 

Uhhh.....Tyler, Zach and Jason, it is STILL winter! Where are your coats?
Putting out the frog logger. Come on over Hannah......it’s only about a three foot jump over the brook. Next Olivia and Adele. Swazi, Hannah, Olivia, and Adele make the jump to put out the frog logger.

Success! On our way back across the brook. Nice job!

This was just a cool shot of a plant I thought I would throw in.
March 17, 2015. Checked out our solar tins today in hopes of spotting some reptilian life. No luck, but we did find a few spiders.....food source!
March 17, 2015. After the solar tins we hit the mountain bike trail to check out the vernal pond for possible salamander activity. Again, no luck. :-(

Then....back to Blue Heron Pond for field observations and to replace the batteries in the frog logger.

Very busy session.
March 24, 2015. Another busy session. We hit Bench Pond, Blue Heron Pond, and Frog Pond for field observations.
Finally!! No ice on the canal.
March 24, 2015. Finally, back to the mountain bike trail vernal pond for more observations. Hmmm...Matt, what are you looking so pensive about? Guys...I am new here, but I don't think there are salamanders in trees. 😊