

SPARCnet Ninth Annual Meeting

April 17th, 2026

The Salamander Population and Adaptation Research Collaboration Network (SPARCnet) is a collaborative research network whose members all study the population ecology of the eastern red-backed salamander (*Plethodon cinereus*) using standardized coverboard plots and capture-mark-recapture methods. Our Annual Meeting will consist of broad network updates and lightning research talks in the morning and a workshop and working group breakouts in the afternoon. The SPARCnet Annual Meeting is free, and open to all current members of SPARCnet as well as any curious NENHC attendees who would like to know more or become involved in SPARCnet. A virtual option will be available for those who are unable to attend in person. Light refreshments will be available, however attendees will be responsible for supplying their own lunch and dinner. Please contact Caitlin Fisher-Reid (mfisherreid@bridgew.edu) with any questions or to sign up for virtual attendance.

Purpose: A meeting to bring together SPARCnet participants, as well as others interested in learning more about the group, to discuss research, education, and community science initiatives.

Where: Doubletree by Hilton Hotel, Burlington, VT. in conjunction with the [Northeast Natural History Conference](#) (NENHC) [or on Zoom].

DRAFT Agenda

Thursday, April 3rd

6:00-8:00pm

Informal dinner and socializing for arrivals. (Location TBD)

Friday, April 4th

9:00 – 9:30 AM

Attendee Introductions and SPARCnet network update

9:30 – 10:30 AM

SPARCnet Steering Committee update on progress and plans

10:30 – 10:45 AM

Coffee Break

10:45 AM – 12:00 PM

5-10 Minute SPARCnet Member Lightning Talks

12:00 – 1:30 PM

Lunch (on own) in Springfield (suggested locations TBD)

1:30 – 3:00 PM

Data Analysis Workshop (tentative)

3:00 – 3:30 PM

Coffee Break

3:30-4:45 PM

Break-out into working groups

- *SPARCnet Governance Handbook*
- *SPARCnet Research Handbook*
- *Brainstorming funding sources, budgets, long-term plan for SPARCnet*

4:45 – 5:15 PM

Working Group report out, concluding remarks from Steering Committee

5:15 – 6:30 PM

Break / Happy Hour

6:30 PM

Dinner (on own) in Springfield (suggested locations TBD)

Saturday, April 18th (as part of NENHC)

Double Talk Session: *The Salamander Population and Adaptation Research Collaboration (SPARCnet) Postbaccalaureate Research Showcase*

- SPARCnet RaMP Introduction (Caitlin)
- Postbacc talk 1
- Postbacc talk 2
- Postbacc talk 3
- Postbacc talk 4

NENHC COFFEE BREAK

- Postbacc talk 5
- Postbacc talk 6
- Postbacc talk 7
- Postbacc talk 8
- Postbacc talk 9