

Calling All Frogs

A play by Deb Scala

for Friends of Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge

Fall Festival 2011

PLAYERS

Ranger Rita - wears Ranger badge

Woodie, the Wood Frog - puppet holding duck

Peeper, the Spring Peeper - puppet holding chick

Moody, the Fowler's Toad - puppet holding baby

Kelly the Green Frog - puppet holding the banjo

Bully the Bullfrog - puppet holding jug with pirate picture

Ranger Rita: Winter's thaw brings the coming of Spring, And Spring here at the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge in Millington, New Jersey means FROGS and a noisier bunch I have never heard. The very first to make their appearance are the Spring Peepers and Wood Frogs in mid-March. And look who's coming. It's Peeper and Woodie.

Peeper & Woodie: Hello there Ranger Rita. Are these the great kids you were telling us about?

Ranger Rita: Yes! Say "Hi" to Peeper and Woodie, kids.

(Kids in audience); Hi, Peeper and Woodie!

Ranger Rita: Seeing you two frogs is a sure sign that Spring is coming. What have you two brought with you?

Peeper: This is my buddy, Chickie. He provides a clue to the sound I make. Kids, can you guess what it is?

(Kids in audience): (make guesses)

Peeper: Chickie is a baby chick. He has a short, LOUD, high-pitched peep, peep, peep, peep. Okay kids, *repeep* after me. Ha-ha. Get it? Repeep after me. "Spring Peepers sound like peep, peep, peep, peep."

(Kids in audience): Spring Peepers sound like peep, peep, peep, peep.

Ranger Rita: And, Woodie, it's always good to see and hear from you. Who do you have with you?

Woodie: This is my new pal, Quack-Quack, the duck. He helps others learn the call I make.

Ranger Rita: Good idea! Your call sure does sound like a duck quacking. Let's hear it.

Woodie: Quack-quack-quack-quack-quack

Ranger Rita: When all your family and friends get to calling, often at night, it is pretty impressive,

Woodie: That's right. Kids, can you make my call?

(Kids in audience): **Yes!**

Woodie: Okay repeat after me. "A Wood Frog calls Quack-quack-quack-quack-quack"

(Kids in audience): A Wood Frog calls Quack-quack-quack-quack-quack.

Peeper: And Spring Peepers?

(Kids in audience): Spring Peepers sound like peep, peep, peep, peep.

(Behind the scenes, Fowler's Toad makes his cry.)

Moody: W-a-a-a-h! W-a-a-a-h! W-a-a-a-h!

Ranger Rita: Here comes Moody. He's a Fowler's Toad.

Moody: W-a-a-a-h! W-a-a-a-h! W-a-a-a-h!

Ranger Rita: It sounds like you are in your regular fowl mood.

Moody: No. Actually, I'm quite happy. But when the end of April arrives I just can't stop crying, W-a-a-a-h! W-a-a-a-h! W-a-a-a-h! I feel just dandy. I can't help it if I sound this way.

Peeper: Are you baby-sitting today, Moody?

Moody: No, silly. This baby is to help remind everyone that I say "W-a-a-a-h! W-a-a-a-h! W-a-a-a-h!" Kids? Repeat after me "Fowler's Toad cries W-a -a-a-h! W-a-a-a-h! W-a-a-a-h!"

(Kids in audience): Fowler's Toad cries W- a-a-a-h! W-a a-a-h! W-a-a-a-h!

Ranger Rita: "Toadily" awesome!

Peeper: Okay kids *Repeep* after me. "Spring Peepers sound like peep, peep, peep, peep."

(Kids in audience): Spring Peepers sound like peep, peep, peep, peep.

Woodie: And what do Wood Frogs call?

(Kids in audience): "A Wood Frog calls Quack-quack-quack-quack-quack."

Ranger Rita: Look who's coming... our May standouts; Kelly the Green Frog and Bully the Bullfrog. Hi, guys.

Kelly & Bully: Howdy Doo!

Woodie: What is that contraption you are carrying there, Kelly?

Kelly: This here is a musical instrument and it is called a B-A-N-J-O. Banjo! While playing this here thing I found that it sounds just like me.

Moody: No kidding!

Kelly: When I pluck this banjo string it make a throaty "boink" just like

me. Listen as I play.., "boink" .. "boink". ,,. "boink".., "boink".

Peeper: Cool!

Kelly: All right kids you try plucking and remember.,. A Green Frog belts out "boink"... "boink"... "boink"... "boink".

(Kids in audience): A Green Frog belts out "boink"... "boink"... "boink"... "boink".

Ranger Rita: Want to hear something interesting? I just noticed, Peeper arrived here first and he is the smallest of all you frogs. And now arriving, last but definitely not least, is our largest frog in the Swamp, the Bullfrog.

Bully: (in a deep voice) That's me the Mean Green Eating Machine!

Kelly: What is that in your hand, Bully?

Bully: (in a deep voice) Now, don't get me wrong. I only drink the good stuff... H 2 O... agua... water. However, I needed something to help people recall my unique croak. So in my hand I carry a jug of rum. You know..like the pirates like to drink.

Moody: Oh, I get it. "Jug-o-rum". It sounds just like you.

Bully: (in a deep voice) Okay, kids. Do you want to sound just like me?

(Kids in audience): YES!

Bully: RR-uum...Jug-o-rum! Let's say it together. A Bull Frog croaks, "RRuum...Jug-o-rum. RRuum...Jug-o-rum."

Ranger Rita: Kids, now that you have met five of the frogs that live here in Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, I have a challenge for you. Can you remember the sound each frog makes? We'll help you.

(Kids in audience): YES!

Ranger Rita: Okay, Here we go.

Peeper: I am a Spring Peeper and I sound like...

(Kids in audience): Peep, peep, peep, peep

Woodie: I am a Wood Frog and I sound like...

(Kids in audience): Quack- quack-quack-quack

Moody: I am a Fowler's Toad and I cry...

(Kids in audience): W-a-a-ah! W-a-a-ah! W-a-a-ah!

Kelly: I am a Green Frog and I say...

(Kids in audience): Boink.. Boink.. Boink.. Boink..

Bully: (in a deep voice) I am a Bullfrog and I croak...

(Kids in audience): "RR-uum".. ."Jug-o-rum". "RR-uum".. ."Jug-o-rum".

Bully: (in a deep voice) Deeper

(Kids in audience say in a deeper voice): "RR-uum. Jug-o-rum. RR-uum.. Jug-o-rum".

Ranger Rita: We have to go back to Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge now, but be sure to come visit us next spring and join us in our calls.

THE END