

How I Am Getting The (Vernal Pool) Shot

Vernal Poolooza 2026

When last we saw our hero...

1. Attention

- a) Allow it to roam
- b) Hold it on a subject
- c) Expand it to take in the landscape
- d) Narrow it to the microscopic
- e) Return to a subject repeatedly

2. Make space in your yard

3. Go to the spot

4. Photograph whatever shows up

5. Watch Longer

6. Find the story

7. Look closer

8. Keep a bounty list

9. Keep their schedule

10. Keep their temperature

11. Put up with it

12. Return to the spot

13. Get lucky

14. Get it right in the camera

15. Don't mess with it in post

16. Be ever ready

The Vernal Pool Fantasy Land

Dragons



Fairies



Monsters



A vernal pool is a seasonal wetland, as small as a puddle or as large as a shallow lake, holding water for variable periods from winter to spring and typically completely dry for part of the year



The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of green, ranging from light lime to dark forest green. These shapes are primarily located on the right side of the frame, creating a dynamic, layered effect. The rest of the background is plain white.

Create Your Studio





















Light Your Studio - Diffussion











Get Parallel











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Clean the Pans





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Prepare for Rain









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Prepare for Sun



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Select Your Camera Equipment









Know your camera (equipment)

- ▶ Best f-stop for sharpness
- ▶ Proper flash setting for diffused light
- ▶ Working distance
- ▶ Max acceptable ISO
- ▶ Practice under non-critical circumstances so you aren't frustrated by missing the shot
- ▶ Practice shooting and different scenes and lighting conditions... shoot more to shoot better, but practice in real life situations

Ancillary, but critical biology equipment

- ▶ Nets
- ▶ Jars
- ▶ Petri dishes
- ▶ Lights - battery operated flood lights

Ethical Considerations

- ▶ Sterilization
- ▶ First do no harm
- ▶ Befriend a biologist

What's Next?

The Boat

On the horizon

- ▶ Blind driving underwater camera
- ▶ POV underwater camera