

**GRANDKIDS AND FROGS**  
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Taken at Big Rapids, Michigan

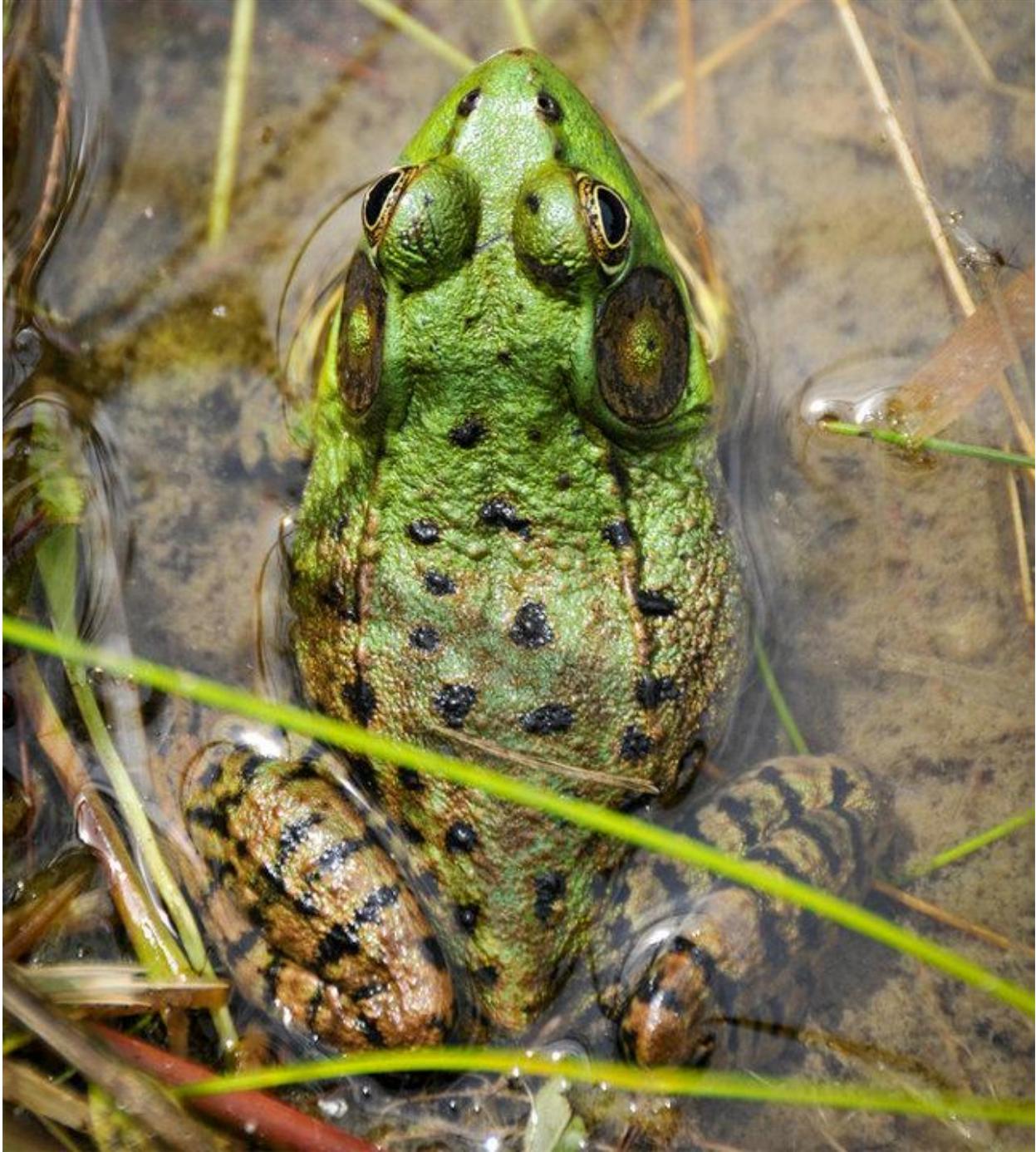
I was asked in another post to show how one is supposed to hold a frog, since I taught my grandkids how to do it. First some background.

When I was younger I became an expert on frogs and salamanders, which would take too long to explain here, but briefly I specialized in salamanders and helped to develop methods of determining age in salamanders by examining the thin bones of the skull, all while working with herpetologists at the University of Michigan. I might have been sixteen at the time.

When I got grandkids, I taught them about nature and in particular how to catch and hold frogs, so much so that I am called "Froggy Papa" to distinguish me from "Regular Grandpa." I love it!

However, my wife Margaret is not so crazy about being called "Froggy Grandma." She keeps explaining to them that it is OK to call me "Froggy Papa," but she would like to be called just "Grandma." But the kids think she is joking and say, "No, no, no... you are Froggy Grandma!"

Here are some photos taken by my daughter Lotis (who is a good photographer) of my grandkids and I with a very willing frog. Hope you enjoy it.



The volunteer was this nice-sized Green Frog (*Rana clamitans*) who allowed himself to be caught at the pond at my brother Philip's home.



Here is my grandson Max demonstrating the correct method for holding a willing frog.



Here is Froggy Grandpa demonstrating the primary technique.



Above and beyond the call of duty, Max plants a little kiss on the frog when saying goodbye.



Grandpa showing the kids how to hold the frog.



My granddaughter Molly making the initial contact. On this day she elected not to hold the frog, but preferred a small daisy instead.



Froggy Grandpa and an alternate view of the main frog-holding technique.



My granddaughter Molly demonstrating her own special way of holding a daisy. Note a second daisy above her ear!