On Saturday, October 10th at 11am, Smithgall Woods State Park will host an informative talk about a serious threat to reptiles & amphibians. Ranavirus is an emerging pathogen responsible for large numbers of deaths in reptile, fish, and amphibian communities around the world. It has been identified in Georgia but no one knows to what extent. Biologists from Truett-McConnell College, in conjunction with the Georgia DNR and Gordon State College, sampled Eastern spotted newts at Smithgall Woods for the presence of this virus. The community is invited to come for a presentation given by Truett-McConnell College faculty Dr. Bob Bowen and Professor Tom Hennigan, as they highlight what is known about this virus, how it affects certain cold-blooded animals, and the results of their findings on newt species that inhabit the vernal pools and ponds of Smithgall Woods. Cost is $5 pre-pay or $8 upon arrival, which covers the parking fee. For reservations or further information, call the visitor's center. (706) 878-3087