

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/22/2024 5:00:00 AM

First name: Bonnie

Last name: Blessing

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Some special wildlife occur in older forests in some areas. A salamander is a symbol of perseverance. As a forest technician years ago, I found nests of Van Dyke Salamander, *Plethodon vandykei* in big old logs in the Olympic National Forest. I found it amazing and beautiful to see this golden salamander (see image). It opened its mouth and it almost looked like it was roaring at me to defend its eggs. *Plethodon* means 'manytoothed' but this 4" long salamander was quite harmless. We found this species in large logs. It also occurs in moist rocky talus slopes in portions of the Gifford Pinchot national forest.

There's an old movie called 'The Golden Salamander' which features an old statue of a salamander with a saying about rising to challenges or facing hard times.

The movie addresses: 'What is man's responsibility in the face of evil'

Attachment:plva.jpg - Image of Van Dyke's salamander.