



THE MONITOR

NEWSLETTER OF THE HOOSIER HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY

A non-profit organization dedicated to the education of its membership and the conservation of all amphibians and reptiles

Volume 23 Number 2

February 2012

Welcome Back Members!

NEW MEMBERS

Noah Shields
Wally Carroll Jr.

RENEWALS

Dave and Laurie Mitchell
Jerry Zimmerman
Barbara Filtri
Vanessa Schwoegler
Jeff Wines

2012 HHS photo contest (Wednesday, Feb. 15)



Adult Categories: *Captive Herps* and *Herps in the Field*

Kid's category: Kids ages 5-17 are encouraged to participate in this special category.

We will also feature video clips of herps and herping after the contest.

Prizes:

Adult winners in each category:

1st place \$30, 2nd place \$20.00 3rd place free (year) membership

Kids:

1st place \$15.00 2nd place \$10.00 3rd place \$5.00

Entry fee is one dollar per print. Enter as many times as you like. Entries must pertain to herpetology. Judging will be from your peers (the audience). All HHS members encouraged to participate!

General Meeting (In Review)

Guest Speaker – Tim Cole

By Jim Horton

Tim is well known in the Austin area for his expertise on Texas snakes. He works with the Texas wildlife authorities and trains them on identifying the different native and non-native species. He has been on radio, TV and even on the set of movies with his animals.



He keeps a wide variety of snakes both venomous and non-venomous. Some of the species he keeps includes: cobras, rattlesnakes and Gila monsters.

The title of Tim's talk was "Snake Wrangling" but it consisted mostly of his facilities. His talk started out discussing the many snake rescues and snake ID's that he serves in the Austin area of Texas. He found that most of those "poisonous" snake calls usually end up being the *harmless* Texas Rat snake.

The rest of his talk centered on the planning and building of his facilities. They started out with an old garage and reconstructed it from the ground up. One of the strangest things they found in the garage was a complete horse skeleton – creepy.

His planning was geared to herp husbandry. They placed photocells in the herp rooms along with thermostats. Photocells will activate when the sun comes up by turning the lights and heat on and off again after sunset.

For security they installed motion lights and added bars to the window and doors.

In case of emergencies, a generator was hooked up along with emergency lighting. Remote temperature sensors allow for Tim to check his animal room from inside of his home.

Inside, misting systems were installed for humidity control. A drain was installed near a baseboard for the ease of water changing.

Snake hooks and tongs are scattered around the herp room for safety. A venom protocol book is at arm's reach for the inevitable possibility of a venomous snakebite. He doesn't normally keep anti-venom. It is very expensive and has a limited shelf life. He had however recently purchased some *used* cobra anti-venom.

Tim's wife keeps a wide variety of turtle and tortoises including an alibaba tortoise. The tortoises are kept in their own separate room. They also have setups for a wide range of dry, aquatic, and mid-aquatic chelonians.

Tim purchased cement mixing tubs from Home Depot Hardware for his turtles. He has found that these enclosures work best for the smaller to mid-size turtles and tortoises.

The first time I ...

By Pat Hammond.

The first time I bred California king snakes was very interesting. I knew Cal kings were cannibalistic so I was a little worried about my snakes. I had read that they would not be interested in eating once they were introduced to each other after their winter cycle. My male was as gentle of a snake as you could have ever asked to encounter. My female was super shy. I don't think her previous owners handled her much. When I first put them together the male immediately began his courtship procedure but the female tried to run & hide. After a few minutes the male grasped the female on the neck and began aligning his body alongside hers and twitching his whole body to initiate breeding. I watched this closely for several hours before giving up and returning to doing something else. I did check up on them every hour or so during the day but they were still hooked up and I was not about to disturb them. Finally I went to bed then when I got up in the morning the male was on one end of the cage and the female was on the other end of the cage. About two months later she laid several eggs which eventually hatched.

HHS Website Evolves

Look for changes soon in your HHS website. Barbara Filtri, our webmaster, is in the process of making changes to the front page and beyond. These changes will allow for more information and a more user friendly site. When you see Barbara at a future meeting, tell her thanks for doing a great job! We are proud to have one of the more interesting websites in the herp community.

KNIVES AND HERP ART (Part 14)

Photos & story by Roger Carter

I am going to describe both of these knives together because they are so similar. Both of these are folding knives and both have a thumb stud for one handed opening although the top knife has the stud on the top edge of the blade and the bottom knife has the stud on the side of the blade. Both studs are very effective. Both knives are stainless steel and made in China with belt/pocket clips on the reverse side, part of the edge is serrated and

the non-serrated edge is razor sharp and both have a plastic or vinyl inlay of a reptile skin pattern set into the handle. The first knife is seven and seven/eighths of an inch long with the blade three and one/quarter inches long and the serrated edge one and one/quarter inch long. The second knife is seven and one/quarter inches long with the blade three inches long and the serrated edge one and one/quarter inch long.



President's message

This hasn't been one of our normal winters so far. Due to the warmer temperatures, there have been reports of salamanders and other herps moving already. Keep your eyes and ears alert for amphibian activity.

If you are interested in displaying your animals for public education, there are many opportunities coming up. We are seeking volunteers for several HHS sponsored shows in the coming months. See the Events section for more information.

The Herpetological community is mourning the loss of another great icon. Joseph Thomas Collins passed away last month, January 19, at the age of 72. He was the director of The Center for North American Herpetology, and the author of many herp-related books and papers. He was perhaps best known as co-author for the Peterson Field Guide: "Reptiles and Amphibians of Eastern and Central North America." Snake enthusiasts consider it the bible of herpetology.

This month is our Annual Photo Contest. This year we will feature herp videos after the contest. If you have a short clip of herp-related activity, bring it along and we'll show the audience.

See you at the meeting, Jim

New Snake Discovery!



By the Associated Press, Wednesday, January 11 2012

NAIROBI, Kenya — The world's newest snake has menacing yellow and black scales, dull green eyes, two spiky horns and the name of a 7-year-old girl.

Matilda's Horned Viper was discovered in a small patch of southwest Tanzania about two years ago and was introduced last month as the world's newest known snake species in an issue of *Zootaxa*.

Tim Davenport, the director of the Wildlife Conservation Society in Tanzania, was on the three-person team that discovered the viper. Thanks to his daughter, the snake will always carry a family namesake.

"My daughter, who was 5 at the time, became fascinated by it and used to love spending time watching it and helping us look after it," Davenport told *The Associated Press* on Wednesday. "We called it Matilda's Viper at that stage ... and then the name stuck."

The Wildlife Conservation Society runs the Bronx Zoo and the Central Park Zoo in New York, and Davenport said it would be a "great option" to showcase the new horned viper at one of those locations, but that nothing has yet been decided.

Only three new vipers have been discovered across Africa in the last three decades, making the find rare and important. The Wildlife Conservation Society is not revealing exactly where the snake lives so that trophy hunters can't pursue it.

Davenport said he is not sure how many live in the wild because snake counts are difficult to do. Twelve live in captivity and a breeding plan is being carried out.

Davenport, a Briton who has lived in Tanzania for 12 years, said that while many people fear snakes, most are harmless and help keep rodent numbers down. Matilda's horned viper can grow to 2 feet or bigger, he said.

"This particular animal looks fierce and probably is venomous (though bush viper bites are not fatal)," Davenport told AP via an Internet chat. "However, it is actually very calm animal and not at all aggressive. I have handled one on a number of occasions."

Salazar Announces Ban on Importation and Interstate Transportation of Four Giant Snakes that Threaten Everglades

WASHINGTON, DC — The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has finalized a rule that would ban the importation and interstate transportation of four nonnative constrictor snakes that threaten the Everglades and other sensitive ecosystems across the United States, Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar announced.

The new rule lists the **Burmese python, the yellow anaconda, and the northern and southern African pythons** as injurious wildlife under the Lacey Act in order to restrict their spread in the wild in the United States.

Under the injurious wildlife provisions of the Lacey Act, the Department of the Interior is authorized to regulate the importation and interstate transport of wildlife species determined to be injurious to humans, the interests of agriculture, horticulture, forestry, or to wildlife or the wildlife resources of the United States.

HHS Editor's note: This is in issue in the state of Florida. Any legislation should have been resolved by that state – not the U.S. Government. USARK was instrumental in keeping all nine large species off of the ban. Please support them!

The Monitor is printed courtesy of:

The Harding Poorman Group



United States Association of Reptile Keepers



www.usark.org

The US Association of Reptile Keepers (USARK) is a science and education based advocacy for the responsible private ownership of, and trade in reptiles. We endorse caging standards, sound husbandry, escape prevention protocols, and an integrated approach to vital conservation issues. Our goal is to facilitate cooperation between government agencies, the scientific community, and the private sector in order to produce policy proposals that will effectively address important husbandry and conservation issues. The health of these animals, public safety, and maintaining ecological integrity are our primary concerns.

www.hoosierherpsoc.org

Herpetology Match Game

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| 1. Lacunal | A. An egg laying species. |
| 2. Parthenogenic | B. The eating of snakes. |
| 3. Viviparous | C. The order of reptiles containing the tortoises, turtles and terrapins. |
| 4. Mugger | D. Any organism that reproduces without a male element. |
| 5. Ophiophagy | E. Referring to the margin of the jaw where teeth, if present, are situated. |
| 6. Oviparous | F. Active at dusk and dawn. |
| 7. Endoglyph | G. A venomous snake possessing fangs which are located at the front of the mouth. |
| 8. Chelonia | H. A fresh water crocodile from the Middle-East and India. |
| 9. Alveolar | I. A species which gives live birth to young. |
| 10. Crepuscular | J. Any one of the enlarged and outward curving scales forming the inner and part of the outer borders of the pit in crotaline snakes. |

Answers on bottom of next page.

EVENTS

February 15, 2012 – HHS General Meeting, Topic - **February 15th: Annual photo contest and field herping videos.** Photo entries will consist of three classes: (1.) photos of herps in the field (2.) Photos of captive subjects (3.) kids photos. Cash prizes for the first three winners of each class.

February 26, 2012 - Midwest Reptile Show, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Southwest Pavilion, Indiana State Fairgrounds, Indianapolis. \$5.00 admission, reptiles, amphibians, books, cages, feeder animals, and other supplies. Sell your herps and dry goods free of charge at our H.H.S. information booth (HHS members only) www.midwestreptile.com Other shows, April 15

March 3, 2012 – HHS live herp display of *live herps* at Garfield Park Conservatory, Indpls. 10AM-3PM (HHS volunteers needed)

March 6, 2012 – Indiana Reptile Expo, Hamilton County Fairgrounds, 10am-4pm, \$6.00 admission
Other shows – March 6, April 3 www.indianareptileexpo.com

March 21, 2012 – HHS General Meeting – Guest Speaker: Mike Pingleton, University of Illinois, "*Herpetological Field Trip to Mexico*"

March 24, 2012 – *Day of the Salamander*, live herps and talks followed by a field trip, McCormick's Creek State Park, Spencer, IN

March 24, 2012 – HHS at McCormicks Creek State Park. An event featuring herps with a Powerpoint presentation, live herps and a herp walk in the park afterwards. More details to come...

April 18, 2012 – HHS General Meeting – Guest Speaker: Jim Harrison & Kristen Wiley, "*Sri Lanka Herping Adventure*"

April 22, 2012 – *Z-GreenFest*, Earth/green festival of Zionsville, HHS exhibit of live Indiana native amphibians/reptiles, 2pm-5pm (volunteers with Indiana herps needed)

June 2, 2012 = 12th Annual Hoosier Herpout, HHS members enjoy a weekend of field herping, a cookout, and camping. Hardin Ridge Recreations Area, Monroe Reservoir, Bloomington.

Match game answers - 1. J, 2.D, 3.I, 4.H, 5.B, 6.A, 7G, 8.C, 9.E, 10.F

Got Rodents?

Hoosier Mouse Supply can take your orders for rodents and they will deliver to the monthly meetings. (317) 831-1219

HHS Selling Books

The Hoosier Herpetological Society has a wide variety of brand new herp-related books for sale to our membership. Sales from these items will fund the HHS. See the selection at the Midwest Reptile Shows, the Indiana Reptile Expo, and (or) General Meetings at Butler University. *Books are sold below retail pricing.*

Classifieds

For Adoption: 1.0 African side neck turtle 1.0 Eastern painted turtle 1.0 Red eared slider All were surrenders from other people and seem to be healthy. Each come with ten-gallon aquariums. Contact Dave Mitchell at 317-570-9643 or turtlelovin@Att.net

For Sale: c.b. October 2011 Kenyan sand boas - \$25.00 (\$20.00 HHS members). C.b. 2.0 2010 Indian sand boas \$70.00 each. C.b. 1.0 Argentine Boa, approx. 2-foot, \$140.00 Contact Jim Horton (317) 865-0464 or stardali84@hotmail.com

For sale: Tarantulas. 2- female Indian ornamentals (P. Regalis) 4- inches 40.00 each, 2- female fringed ornamentals (P. Ornata) 5- inches 50.00 each, 3- female Brazilian white knees (A. Geniciata) 4- inch 50.00 each.

Snakes: Baby Biak Green tree pythons 350.00 each born 08/08/11, 1 pair of checker board black and white cal kings 100.00 for the pair born 08/20/2010

All animals are captive born by me, snakes feeding on frozen thawed, tarantulas feeding on live crickets. All are healthy, correctly sexed, come with a guarantee and all records. Will deliver to the Midwest Reptile show.

Mike Wood - 574-269-3441 twobears@embarqmail.com



www.yearofthelizard.org



The Hoosier Herpetological Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to the education of its membership and the conservation of all reptiles and amphibians. General monthly meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at Butler University, Pharmacy Building, Room #150. Membership is open to all interested individuals. **No venomous animals are allowed at the General Meetings.**

Your HHS Board of Directors for 2012

PRESIDENT	Jim Horton	(317) 865-0464	Cell 443-4845 stardali84@hotmail.com
VICE-PRESIDENT	Ed Ferrer	(317) 787-7448	Cell - 727-7553 pythonpals1@msn.com
SECRETARY	Holly Carter	(317) 873-6561	drymarchonzz@hotmail.com
TREASURER/MEMBERSHIP	Dave Mitchell	(317) 570-9643	turtlelovin@att.net
SERGEANT AT ARMS	Will Brown		wrbrown15@aol.com

Appointees for 2012

EDITOR	Jim Horton	(317) 865-0464	Stardali84@hotmail.com
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WAYS AND MEANS	Angela Thomas	(317) 882-5266	necali@comcast.net
WEBSITE COORDINATOR	Barbara Filtri		barbara.filtri@hughes.net

Hoosier Herpetological Society

MEMBERSHIP FORM

☐ New Member

☐ Renewal

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Address _____

☐ Corresponding Membership \$12.00

☐ Individual/Family Membership \$15.00

☐ Sustaining Membership \$25.00 or more

Herpetological Interest(s)

Hoosier Herpetological Society
P.O. Box 40544
Indianapolis, Indiana, 46240-0544

Dated Material Enclosed

Address Correction Requested

☐ If this area is checked, it's time to renew your membership!