

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Jim Horton

This month we will vote for 2006 HHS officers. We also welcome Special Guest Speaker, Will Bird from the Louisville Zoo. Will has been one of our more popular guest speakers in the past. His talks will capture an audience of every age and interest level.

We have found a host for our Christmas Party! Janet and Chris Panoch have graciously agreed to let us into their home for our party. No date has been set in stone but it has been narrowed down to either December 3rd, 4th, or the 18th. As many of you know, the Panoch's held the party last year and we all had a great time!

This may be the last newsletter of the year. In the past, we've tried to give everyone on the board and newsletter staff a break for the holidays. We will definitely send a flier to our members for the party.

It has been a great year and I hope for many more prosperous years to come for the HHS!

WELCOME NEW AND RETURNING MEMBERS!!!

NEW

David Summers, Indpls.

Jeff Hern, Fishers

Andrew Hoffman, Richmond

RENEWALS

Anita Carter (sustaining), Indpls.

Roger and Holly Carter, Zionsville

Bob Elmore, Waynetown

Janice Kucera, Berwyn, IL

TIP OF THE MONTH

By Jim Horton

Young snakes need a constant supply of fresh water. Unfortunately, many new-born reptilians are too small to reach or locate some of the taller waterbowls. I have found that using the lids of fruit juice bottles and or milk jug tops fills this need. I place a few small stones in the "recycled" juice lids with the water to insure stability and they work great!

2005 Midwest Herpetological Symposium, A Blast!

by Ed Ferrer

The last Midwest Herpetological Symposium held in Minnesota was in 1997. I didn't attend that symposium because I didn't join the Hoosier Herpetological Society until the following year. Since then I have attended each of the Midwest Herpetological Symposiums (my yearly fall pilgrimage) and have found each one to be highly informative and entertaining. I had heard some great things about the last Minnesota symposium and I was eager to participate in 2006 event. Six of us rented a mini van and headed North about 5:45 a.m. on Friday and arrived in Bloomington, Minnesota about 6:45 p.m. Although the trip was long, the beautiful fall scenery (limestone bluffs and trees fall colors) though Wisconsin and Minnesota was breathtaking. As we drove within sight of the Great America Mall, we saw two bald eagles flying and landing in the trees around a marsh that was within about 100 yards from the highway!

After we checked in we enjoyed the ice breaker which featured snacks, free beverages, a balloon artist, three very friendly Macklot's pythons and local belly dancers. We also heard a talk from Bob Duerr, a retired naturalist from the Science Museum of Minnesota and former keeper at the Como Zoo in St. Paul. He spoke of his many bizarre experiences as a zoo keeper that was both funny and enlightening. We then went to the hospitality room enjoying sub sandwiches, drinks, renewing past acquaintances and making new friends from other herp societies. I think the conversations between like-minded individuals who are interested nature, especially herps, and discussions of conservation issues is always enlightening and inspiring to me.

On Saturday morning we were treated to a variety of herp related topics. Dr. Aaron Bauer, from Villanova University in Pennsylvania, shared with us his new field work involving herps of India and Sri Lanka. Bert Langerwerf discussed the breeding of Argentine tegus and keeping his herps outside on his ranch in Alabama. Professor L.Lee Grismer of La Sierra University in California presented a talk on his new field work in the islands of Southeast Asia and Bill Love provided us examples of how to improve our photography of reptiles and amphibians. I then went to lunch in the Totem Pole Room which I purchased as part of my symposium packet.

After lunch we heard Jeff LeClere describe his yearly activities as he studied the herptofauna of Minnesota. John Moriarity talked about turtle watching in the North Central states. Mark Bee presented his research into the communication of various frogs, such as mating calls and claiming territory. After a short break Ron Tremper took us on a tour of the Galapagos Islands and the fascinating reptiles that inhabit them. Pieter Johnson, a graduate student at the University of Wisconsin, revealed his studies of limb deformities in frogs. The last speaker of the day was Philippe de Vosjoli, a well-known author and herpetoculturist. (I have several of his books and I wish I had thought to bring them to get them signed). His talk shared his views on the future herpetoculture. The talks had something for everyone. That night I enjoyed the banquet and then for the keynote address Bill Love shared some of his favorite photographs of many of the herps and we took a quiz to test our knowledge. He also showed many photos of famous or near famous herpetologists for us to try to identify. Afterward he went back through the photos, identifying them and sharing some insights regarding them. Then we participated in the always popular auction.

On Sunday we shopped the captive born herptile and dry goods sale. Although I didn't bring home any new herps for my collection, I did purchase Marc O'Shea's book on venomous snakes and a new herp hat. We all had a great time and want to thank the members of the Minnesota Herpetological Society for all their hard work and organization that made this event a success. I look forward to the next Midwest Symposium hosted by the Hoosier Herpetological Society in Indianapolis, November 17-19, 2006. I hope that all of the herpers from this past symposium return and bring new members to join the fun and camaraderie!. We already have a great slate of speakers and plan some other activities that will make this a can't miss event. Everyone mark your calendars! See you next year!

General Meeting: Wednesday November 16th 7:30 p.m.

Guest Speakers: Will Bird & Phil Peak

Topic: "Herps of Kentucky"

Butler University, room#108 Gallahue Center

The Hoosier Herpetological Society is proud to announce that our guest speakers for November are Will Bird and Phil Peak of the Kentucky Herpetological Society. Will Bird is the president of the Kentucky Herp Society, a zoo keeper at the Louisville Zoo and operates *Extraordinary Ectotherms*, a private reptile breeder. Phil Peak is the vice-president and founding member of the Kentucky Herp Society. Will and Phil are equal partners in their field endeavors and have observed over 2000 live snakes in the field. If you remember Will's presentation last year you will recall the excellent photos and great observations. Now with Will and Phil together, we can expect an even a greater program! Do not miss this one! Also, we will have elections during this meeting! See you there!

Fort Harrison Herp Display Show

Saturday, September 10, Rick Marrs, Dave and Elliot Stahl, and Laurie and Dave Mitchell had exhibited and answered questions for an eager audience. The Interpretative Center at the park had invited our members for the display. Other members had their animals at another herp show on the other side of town. Thanks to Rick Marrs for heading this event for the HHS. Another "thank you" to the Fort Harrison Nature Center for their donation to the H.H.S.

Laurie Mitchell with an eastern box turtle. (photo by Dave Mitchell)

Rick Marrs showing "Nova" the burm. (photo by Dave Mitchell)

HHS Photo Contest – 2005

The Winners

First Place winner in prints - Amy Payne

Second Place winner in prints - Elliot Stahl

Third Place winner in prints - Mike Payne

First place winner in slides - Angela Thomas

Second Place winner in slides - Roger Carter

Third Place winner in slides - Angela Thomas

Other Participants (and photos)

David Summers – Map turtle, two-lined salamander, bull frog, duckweed turtles, fowler's toad.

Angela Thomas – White's treefrog, crested gecko, crested gecko(close-up), European green toad.

David Mitchell – bullfrog tadpoles, adult bullfrog, child and bearded dragon.

Laurie Mitchell – Redfoot tortoise, box turtles, wood turtles.

Mike Payne – African house snake.

Ed Ferrer – fence lizard, diamondback rattlesnake, green tree python.

Amy Payne – leopard gecko, hog island boa, ball python, spotted python, ball python(head), scale pattern(ball python).

Steve Nard – sea turtle, albino Burmese, anoles (as earrings), alligator(basking).

Jim Horton – Indian sand boa, grey treefrog, copperhead.

Elliot Stahl – box turtle, tokay gecko, baby timber rattlesnake, “biting skink”, baby rattler(coiled), “hidden copperhead”, massasauga rattlesnake.

A Visit to the Indiana Turtle Care Facility

By Dave Mitchell

On Saturday September 17, Laurie and I attended Indiana Turtle Care’s Open House, hosted by Marty LaPree and family. I had been to the facility before their septic system failed, and the entire turtle area was torn up and redone. It was a massive project for them to do. Grass was just starting to sprout in most areas.

As I entered behind their house, on the left were eight habitats. 2 housed Eastern box turtles. One had a Florida box turtle. One had a hinge back. One had redfoots. One had Indian star tortoises and a Greek tortoise. Another had three-toed box turtles. The last housed Russian tortoises (I counted 8, but more could have been hiding).

On the right, there were four habitats with a stream running through them forming pools in three of them. One area with a stream housed North American wood turtles. Three enclosures with pools had box turtles, red-eared sliders and yellow bellies. The fifth habitat housed a lone sulcata. All the turtle areas were well planted with native and decorative plants. Not only were the habitats functional, but they were attractive as well.

Small boxes were scattered around both areas to house smaller critters. Most had juveniles, smaller species and hatchlings. The deck off the back had plastic water tubs containing small aquatic species including Blanding’s softshell turtles and a side neck turtle.

Next, I entered the LaPree’s garage. This is used to house rehabs, nine quarantines and all the chelonians for the winter. I counted 16 Eastern box turtles in rehab for various injuries (cars, mowers, etc...). There were two Blanding’s in quarantine. The biggest heart breaker was a painted turtle that had been physically abused by its owner. Both eyes had been destroyed and it was blind. This just made me sick that anyone could do this to a poor animal. This garage is Marty’s lab, vet room and storage area.

The LaPree family is a very dedicated group who works tirelessly for these animals. They work forty hours per week at part-time jobs and full-time on Indiana Turtle Care. They give these creatures all of their spare time. I’m envious of their facility and of their devotion to the welfare of their charges. Not only do they care for dozens and dozens of chelonians, they also have a bearded dragon, a grey parrot, 5 cats and 3 big dogs. George Orwell had nothing on the LaPrees!

Indiana Turtle Care is a nonprofit organization. It takes a few bucks to feed and care for these animals. If any members can find it in their heart to donate, a tax deductible contribution can be made to:

Indiana Turtle Care
P.O. Box 732
New Palestine, IN 46163
www.pogospals.com
email: zooperior@insightbb.com

If You Like Frogs, Check This Out!

Submitted by Dave Mitchell

www.amnh.org/exhibitions/frog/

It contains a lot of info, nice pictures, and an audio of calls.

Surviving the Storm: Reptile Rescue Efforts After Hurricane Katrina

By Angela Thomas

Hurricanes have been the biggest news this year, and none bigger than Katrina, which destroyed much of New Orleans. The efforts to rescue people and animals from the flooded city were all over the news, but few, if any, reptiles appeared in all that coverage. Despite the lack of news coverage, it turns out that there were many pet reptiles who survived the hurricane to be rescued and reunited with their owners.

Over a month after the hurricane, rescuers were still searching homes in New Orleans for animals that had survived the storm. Rescuers had to break into many homes with axes, and once inside, conditions were terrible. Miraculously, many reptiles were still alive to be rescued, though most were in very bad shape after days or weeks exposed to incredible heat and high humidity, in homes contaminated with oil and toxic chemicals from the floodwaters and covered with mold. The rescued animals were all dehydrated and emaciated, and many had other medical problems as well. Like the other rescued animals, after they were found, the reptiles were taken to the Lamar-Dixon Expo Center to be cared for at first. Then they were placed in the care of reptile organizations that could continue to care for them.

One of the organizations providing care for rescued reptiles now is TortoiseAid International. They have taken a number of animals to their facility in California to be cared for until their owners can be found. In many cases, owners cannot reclaim their reptiles until they themselves are back on their feet. TortoiseAid will provide care for the animals until the owners are ready to have them back, then ship the animals to the owners wherever they've settled down. In the meantime, the animals (mainly snakes) are being cared for and given any medical care they need to recover from their ordeal.

Even amid the best efforts of volunteers to save reptiles and reunite them with their owners, the bad side of human nature cropped up again (as though we didn't see enough of that already in New Orleans). As hurricane Rita was approaching, a 'reptile rescue organization' from Texas arrived at the Lamar Dixon Expo Center and removed a number of reptiles, including tortoises, turtles, albino pacman frogs, dumpy frogs, and numerous snakes, including large boids and amelanistic/albino animals. Common animals, such as iguanas and normal ball pythons, were left behind. The 'rescue organization' has not yet been located. TortoiseAid has been contacted by a number of the owners of the missing animals and is trying to find them, but thus far has not been successful.

For more information on TortoiseAid and the hurricane reptiles, check out their website at <http://tortoise-aid.org/hurricaneherps.html> for photos of the rescue effort and stories of animals that have been rescued.

HERP HAPPENINGS

November 27, 2005 – 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. info. table. For info: (317) 861-5550, www.midwestreptile.com

November 16, 2005 – General Meeting. Special Guest Speaker: Will Bird (Louisville Zoo). Topic – *The Herps of Kentucky*. We will also hold elections.

CLASSIFIEDS

Classified ads are free to all members. The ads placed in this publication are printed as a service to the H.H.S. members. The Hoosier Herpetological Society and *The Monitor* are in no way to be held responsible for the agreements and the results of said agreements between the advertisers and respondents of these ads. Code for ads: 1.0 = male, 0.1 = female, 0.0.1 = unknown sex, CB = captive born, CH = captive hatched. The Hoosier Herpetological Society discourages the sale of wild caught animals.

WANTED: female Herman's tortoise, male and female Russian tortoise, (*Testudo horsfieldi*). Call Barry Hammer (317) 786-9577 Please leave message.

FOR SALE: Northern pine snake (albino), five-feet long, retired breeder, female, call Pat @ (317) 241-2793

FOR SALE: Baby boa constrictors, born May 18, feeding very well, \$50 each. baby ball pythons, \$20 each. Call Roger or Holly Carter (317)873-6561.

WANTED: Good home for Savanna Monitor. Healthy but not tame. Under two feet long. Must have experience with monitors or large lizards. Call Jim @ 865-0464.

FOR SALE: Green HHS T shirts, our logo on breast pocket and collage of herps on back side. \$15.00 each. Available at meetings or may be shipped. Call (812) 865-0063

FOR SALE: 7/05 Indian sand boas \$130.00, 05' Rough scale sand boas 55.00, Kenyan sand boas 30.00, all healthy and feeding well, Call Jim Horton (317) 865-0464.

FOR SALE: Green tree pythons, Arus \$300.00 Sorongs 350.00 Biaks 400.00 / 500.00each, all babies are captive born 05, feeding, and guaranteed healthy.
Mike Wood 574-269-3441 E-mail 2bears@myvine.com

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, Gallahue Hall, Room 105 or 108. Membership is open to all interested individuals. **No venomous animals are allowed at the General Meetings.**

2005 OFFICERS

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turtlelovin@comcast.net			
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copperhead210@aol.com			
MEMBERS AT LARGE	Ralph and Blake McBee	(317) 714-5367	
MEMBER AT LARGE	Roger Carter	(317) 873-6561	
MEMBER AT LARGE	Rick Marrs	(317) 549-3673	
MEMBER AT LARGE	Mike Wood	2bears@myvine.com	

Suggestions and articles for *The Monitor* are welcome. Submit your typed or legibly hand written articles by the first Wednesday of each month to: PO. Box 40544, Indianapolis, IN 46240-0544 or 7712 Miracle road, Indianapolis, IN, 46237. Articles on IBM or compatible, formatted, 5¼ or 3½ disks are accepted. To have your disk returned, you must provide a self addressed, stamped envelope within your mailing to us. Back issues of *The Monitor* are available. Send requests to our PO. Box, or contact Holly Carter. Quarterly Advertisement Rates for publishing your ad in *The Monitor* are: ¼ Page - \$10.00; ½ Page - \$15.00; and Full Page - \$25.00. Classified Ads are free to all paid H.H.S. members and will be printed for two months. All ads must be submitted in writing to the Editor by the first Wednesday of each month. All artwork is copyrighted and cannot be reproduced without written permission from the artist.

H.H.S. WEBSITE

<http://hoosierherpsociety.org>

Indiana Poison Control Center

Methodist Hospital

Emergency Phone – 800-382-9097

(317) 929-2323

Web Site – <http://www.clarian.com/communityservices/poison/>

E-mail – mshowalt@clarian.com

Individual opinions expressed in The Monitor do not directly reflect the views of The Hoosier Herpetological Society. The HHS stands unbiased on these issues and remains an organization dedicated to herpetological education and conservation.

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MEMBERSHIP FORM

_____ New Member _____ Renewal

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____ Email Address _____

_____ Corresponding Member \$12.00

_____ Individual Member \$15.00

_____ Sustaining Member \$25.00 or more

Herpetological Interest (s)

HOOISER HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 40544

Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-0544

Dated Material Enclosed

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

If this box is checked, your membership has expired.

What would you choose for Indiana's State Amphibian/Reptile

Reptile _____

Why _____

Amphibian _____

Why _____

Reptile _____

Why _____

Amphibian _____

Why _____

Reptile _____

Why _____

Amphibian _____

Why _____

Reptile _____

Why _____

Amphibian _____

Why _____

Hoosier Herpetological Society

2005

Rough scaled sand boa

Eryx conicus

Small boas that prefer arid conditions. Most of their time is spent burrowing beneath the surface. They feed on lizards and small rodents.

Indian Sand Boa

Eryx johni

The largest of the sand boa species. Blunt tail mimics the head for escaping predators. Occurs in India, Asia and the Middle East.

Madagascar Speckled Hognose

Leioheterodon geayi

As with North American hognose snakes, it is rear-fanged and slightly venomous. It feeds on rodents and lizards. It prefers the dry southwest areas of Madagascar.

Western Ribbon Snake

Thamnophis p. proximus

This northwestern Indiana species is closely related to the garter snake. These slim snakes are semi-aquatic and will feed on fish, worms, and amphibians.

Brizillian Rainbow Boa

Epicrates cenchria

A beautiful South American species that reaches lengths of 80 inches. It is semi-arboreal and feeds on rodents and birds.

Bull Snake

Pituophis melanoleucus sayi

Indiana's largest snake. It lives in the sand prairies of the northwest section of the state. These powerful snakes will defend themselves in the wild with loud hisses, vibrating tail, coils and strikes. They feed on rodents.

Argentine Boa

Boa constrictor occidentalis

Closely related to the common boa constrictor, this snake is patterned Beautifully. It reaches lengths of eight feet. It feeds on rodents.

Midland Watersnake

Nerodia sipedon pleuralis

Large harmless watersnakes that occur in the southern half of the state. They may be seen basking on log jams and trees along waterways. They feed mainly on fish but will take amphibians.

Amazon Tree boa

Corallus enhydris

A long, slim snake equipped with long teeth for snatching birds from the air. They also feed on rodents and lizards.

Green Basilisks

Basiliscus plumifrons

Native to Central American rainforests, these beautiful arboreal lizards are at home in the trees. These insectivores are known as the “Jesus Lizard” for its ability to run on the surface of water. The males adorn large crests on the back, head and tail.

***Always wash your hands after
handling any animal!***

Blue-tail newt

Rough-scaled sandboa

Soloman Island Skink

Northern watersnake

Grey banded kingsnake

Honduran milksnake

Sinaloan milksnake

Western hognose