

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 37 Number 10

October 2026

HHS Monthly Meeting

Guest Speaker – Pat Hammond/Neill Jones

Topic: *Herping Arizona*

Pat has traveled to Arizona in search of reptiles and amphibians for more than 10 years. Neill has accompanied him on some of these trips. Join us to see the variety of species that they encountered.

Wednesday, October 21st, 7:00PM

Holliday Park Nature Center

Welcome new and returning members!

New

Karisa Ecker
Christopher Floreancig
Hannah McKay

RENEWALS

Iris Borries
Nancy Kloslowski
Leo Mendenhall
Shawn & Rory Wood
Kimberly Scott

www.hoosierherpsociety.org

President's message

Jim Horton

Last month, our members gathered at Holliday Park for our annual *Show and Tell* meeting and showcased some of their favorites. I was happy to see some of our younger members up front as well. Look for pics and a short review in this issue. Great job everyone!

This month, HHS members Pat Hammond and Neill Jones will present - *Herping Arizona*. They have some great photos and stories to share with you. Hope you can make it. We will also be taking nominations for new officer positions in 2027.

The 47th Midwest Herpetological Symposium is next month! This is a great weekend of fun, education, and entertainment. We will have live and silent auctions at the conference. We now have **Mike Krick Books** as our premier vendor. He'll be selling a huge variety of herpetology-related books at the event.

Some great items are showing up for our live and silent auctions! Our guest speakers are locked in and ready for an exciting day of herpetology, education, and camaraderie. This will be a weekend not to miss!



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Look for the HHS
on social media



Scientists discover a mysterious new frog hiding in the Amazon

A newly discovered frog hiding in the Amazon's flooded forests reveals just how much biodiversity scientists may still be missing.

September 17, 2026 Source – sciencedaily.com



Scientists discovered a new frog species in the flooded forests of the western Amazon, distinguishing it from nearly identical relatives through DNA and its unique call. *Adenomera varcena* highlights how much Amazonian biodiversity remains hidden even as habitat loss and climate change threaten these poorly understood species.

In addition to expanding scientific knowledge about Neotropical amphibians, identifying new species has a direct impact on conservation strategies.

47th Midwest Herpetological Symposium

Indianapolis Indiana, November 13/14, 2026

La Quinta Inn & Suites, 5120 Victory Dr, Indianapolis
Hosted by the Hoosier Herpetological Society



Featured guest speakers:

Dr. Thomas Pauley - Marshall University (Keynote):

"Stories of a Herpetologist's Adventures in the Central Appalachians."

Nate Engbrecht - State Herpetologist, Indiana:

"An Update on Indiana Amphibians and Reptiles."

Jason Holzworth - Wildlife Photographer:

"Incidental Herping: When You Are the Only One That Knows This is a Herping Trip."

Terry Vandeventer – Herpetologist, Mississippi:

"There Ought to be a Book. The Trials and Tribulations of Writing a Regional Herp Book."

Bethannie Perrine – Indiana State University:

"The Status and Ecology of Watersnakes in Southwestern Indiana."

Twan Leenders – Researcher/Conservationist:

"In Search of Lost Frogs – 35 Years of Change in Costa Rica's Herpetofauna."

Steve Thompson – DVM – Purdue University:

"Update on Analgesia and Anesthesia in Snakes. Continuing Evolution of our Understanding of Pain Receptors and Anesthesia Protocols."

Rusty Reed – Blackwater Turtle Refuge:

"Apex Predators: Creating Hearts for Conservation."

Join herpetologists, conservationists, photographers, educators, students, and reptile & amphibian enthusiasts from across the Midwest for a weekend of presentations, live animals, networking, book signings vendors, auctions, and herpetological education.

[47th Annual Midwest Herpetological Symposium | Hoosier Herp Society](#)

A SYMPOSIUM SYNOPSIS

This event starts with an ice-breaker social on Friday evening with a guest speaker to start things off. We'll have adult beverages, snacks, and book vendor, Mike Krick Books. Mike will be available with a great variety of titles and artwork for sale.

Saturday morning features a host of excellent guest speakers throughout the day. You'll have chances to bid on the silent auction during the breaks and lunch. We hope to have a live native herp display. Mike Krick Books will also be on hand for herpetological book sales.

Book signing by guest speakers/authors will be on hand for autographing your new purchases.

Saturday evening will feature a banquet followed by our Keynote speaker, Dr. Thomas Pauley. After the presentation, our silent auction will end and the live auction will start.

Refreshments and adult beverages will be available at this time.

We hope to have a hospitality room for social gathering after the auction.

Sunday features a behind the scenes tour of the deserts building at the Indianapolis Zoo.

Show and Tell meeting

Holly Carter and Jim Horton

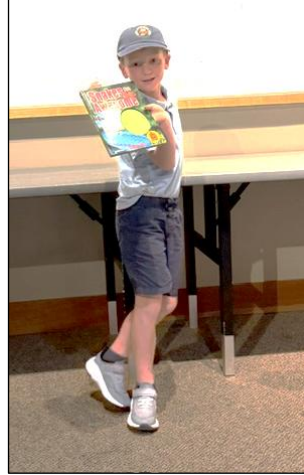
The annual show and tell meeting last month brought a nice mix of presenters. Our youngest members displayed some of their favorite books, herps, and even a personal favorite net for catching amphibians and reptiles. Adults also showcased some interesting species. Katie Kolcun brought 3 different "homeless herps" that are up for adoption.

Here is a list of presenters by Holly Carter

Katie Kolcun
Holly Carter
Roger Carter
Christopher Floreancig
Rory Wood
Pat Hammond
Leo Mendenhall
Bailey Russell
Marguelle Chitwood
Jim Horton

Boa Constrictor Snake, Hermann's Tortoise, Green Iguana.
Mexican Burrowing Python, Russian Legless Lizard.
Iranian Carpet Python (large Adult)
Snake Book "KING COBRA"
Hermann's Tortoise (youngster named Flash)
Tree Frog Wood Carving
Bearded Dragon
Spotted Python, African House Snake
Demonstrated uses of his fish net in catching amphibians and snakes
Large Red Tegu Lizard





Indiana Amphibian/Reptile (TAC) Technical Advisory Committee meeting report

Jim Horton

The committee voted to place the Diamondback water snake as a Species of Special Concern due to its limited range and low numbers found during surveys.

Nate Engbrech (Indiana state herpetologist) reported that the multi-year DNR Kirtland's snake survey ends this year. He also gave an update on green treefrogs. This species is now found from Posey County and as far east as Floyd County.

Mediterranean geckos have been found in many localities in the state. During nocturnal surveys, most were found in towns/cities on buildings. They pose no danger to our native lizard species.

Ongoing turtle survey in Southwest Indiana – Kevin Green and Dr. Drew Davis found 17 false map turtles, 4 river cooters, 4 smooth softshells, and 5 eastern mud turtles.

Dr. Noah Gordon reported that Indiana has two species of cricket frogs in the southwest section of the state - *Acris blanchardi* and *Acris crepitans*.

Nate mentioned that funds are in place to start work on a new Indiana Amphibian/Reptile field guide.

HHS Board of Directors – 2026

PRESIDENT	Jim Horton	(317) 443-4845	president@hoosierherpsoc.org
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	Dale Schoentrup		eyelashviper@hotmail.com

2026 HERPETOLOGICAL EVENTS

October 21, 2026 – HHS monthly meeting. Guest speakers: Neill Jones and Pat Hammond. Topic – “Herping Arizona”

November 8, 2026 - Midwest Reptile Show – Indiana State Fairgrounds, Agriculture/Horticulture Bldg. 10:00AM-5:00PM Indiana State Fairgrounds, Indianapolis. \$9.00 admission, reptiles, amphibians, books, cages, feeder animals, and other supplies. www.midwestreptile.com

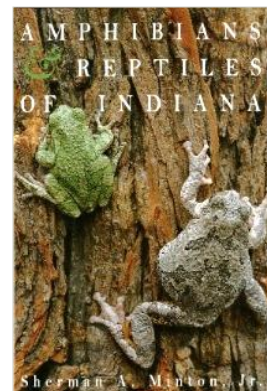
November 13/14, 2026 - Midwest Herpetological Symposium, Hosted by the HHS. Guest speakers (Fri/Sat) Ice-breaker, Live and silent auctions, banquet and more.

November 18, 2026 – HHS monthly meeting. Speaker TBA.

Now you can have your personal Indiana field guide!
Amphibians & Reptiles of Indiana, Revised Second Edition
The HHS is selling copies of this comprehensive
Indiana field guide for \$40 each.

Minton, Sherman A.Jr.

ISBN 10: 1883362105 / ISBN 13: 9781883362102
Published by Indiana Academy of Science, 2001



Arizona Rattlesnakes

Photos and text by Jim Horton

Arizona is one of the best places in North America to observe rattlesnake diversity. Its deserts, grasslands, rocky canyons, and mountain forests provide habitat for numerous species, each adapted to its own ecological niche.



Ridge-nosed rattlesnake

Depending on the classification used, Arizona is home to approximately 13 rattlesnake species. The most of any state. These include the Western diamond-backed rattlesnake, Mojave rattlesnake, sidewinder, black-tailed rattlesnake, tiger rattlesnake, speckled rattlesnake, Arizona black rattlesnake, prairie rattlesnake, western and twin-spotted rattlesnakes, rock rattlesnakes, and several ridge-nosed rattlesnakes.



Black-tailed rattlesnake

The exact count varies with taxonomy and the treatment of closely related forms. Each species has distinctive characteristics. The sidewinder moves across loose desert sand using a distinctive sideways motion, while the Western diamond-backed rattlesnake is a large, powerful snake commonly associated with desert scrub and rocky terrain.



Western diamondback rattlesnake

The tiger rattlesnake has narrow head markings and

strongly patterned scales, while Arizona's montane rattlesnakes inhabit cooler, higher-elevation environments.



Rock rattlesnake

Rattlesnakes are important predators that help control rodent populations and maintain ecological balance. Their camouflage allows them to remain hidden from both prey and potential threats. Most are most active during warmer weather, often becoming nocturnal during extreme summer heat.



Arizona black rattlesnake

Membership Form

☐ new member

☐ renewal

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____ Email Address _____

Individual/Family Membership \$25.00

Herpetological Interests

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

Dated Material Enclosed

Address Correction Requested

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