



# 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 22    Number 10

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## *Welcome Back Members!*

### ***NEW MEMBERS***

Nelson Bricker

### ***RENEWALS***

Janice Kucera

Robert Hanson

Bob and Ellie Hammond (sustaining membership)

Donald Nuetzman

Mike McNeely

Cameron Freeman

**H.H.S. Meeting: Wednesday November 16th 7:30 p.m.  
Guest Speaker: Stanley Schultz, Michigan St. University  
Topic: "Tarantulas, Different Species & Captive Care"  
Butler University, Pharmacy Building, Room #150**

The Hoosier Herpetological Society is proud to welcome Stanley Schultz as our guest speaker. Stanley graduated from Michigan State University. He and his wife Marguerite had careers in medical research in Calgary Canada. They also opened Noah's Ark Pet Store specializing in exotic species in Lansing Michigan. They started a collection of tarantulas and were frustrated by the lack of information about tarantulas, especially little information about their care in captivity. After selling Noah's Ark in 1976, Stan began collecting information on tarantulas and writing a "how to book, "*The Tarantula Keeper's Guide*". "*The Tarantula Keeper's Guide*" is now in its third edition is recognized as the bible for tarantula keepers everywhere. It not only includes a complete listing of tarantula species and their habits in the wild but describes the best information about their captive husbandry. Some copies of the book will be able to be purchased at the meeting at a discounted price and Stan will sign any copies that are brought to the meeting. This is a once in a life time event for enthusiasts to have all their questions answered. Be sure to attend this special meeting!

**Editor's note:** we (the HHS) are sad to inform you of the recent passing of Mrs. Marguerite Shultz. Our thoughts are with Mr. Shultz and his family.

Despite this unfortunate news, Mr. Shultz will still be our Guest Speaker for the November meeting.

## **VOTE for your HHS Officers for the year 2012**

### ***Here are your nominees:***

**President** – Rick Marrs, Jim Horton

**Vice-President** – Roger Carter, Barbara Filtri, Pat Hammond, Ed Ferrer

**Secretary** – Holly Carter (unopposed)

**Treasurer** – Dave Mitchell (unopposed)

**Sergeant At Arms** – Will Brown, Dave Stahl, Brian Bernadine

## **2011 Midwest Herpetological Symposium in review**

By Pat Hammond

The weekend of Oct 21-23, 2011 I headed to Minnesota for the 27th annual Midwest herpetological symposium. I stopped in Champaign Illinois to pick up Mike Pingleton who would make the pilgrimage with me. We hit the road early to make it to Plymouth MN at a decent time. The drive was long but beautiful. On the road we saw several hawks, at least four bald eagles a black bear several Canada geese and sand hill cranes. Once we checked into the hotel we stopped by the registration table to pick up our packets. We were given nice snake bags with the symposium logo printed on front. The bag was folded neatly around our packets which contained a color poster of the turtles of Minnesota, a field guide of snakes and lizards of Minnesota, a paper authored by Jeff LeClere titled "A History of MHS Field Surveys" full of color pictures and results of several years of data and other goodies.

Friday night we were treated to a power point presentation by Dav Kaufman featuring his journey in making his films "Herpers and Herpers II". His presentation was entertaining as well as educational. Later Mike Pingleton showed the group a laptop slide show of his recent trip to Peru in search of amphibians and reptiles. Both presentations were wonderful. The MHS provided premium microbrews and a variety of snacks. Everyone present seemed to have a great time.

Saturdays schedule was full of interesting topics covering a variety of herps. Jeff LeClere opened the day with a talk on the herps of Minnesota. You might not think a state as far north as Minnesota would have much to offer as far as herps are concerned but they have a nice variety of amazing animals including my favorite pit viper the timber rattler.

Jeff Ettlign gave us a presentation titled "The spatial exology and habitat usage of Armenian vipers, *Montivipers raddei*, in two different landscapes"

Jeff led us on a photographic tour to Armenia to show us the land where Armenian vipers call home and the troubles they face by habitat fragmentation due to agricultural. Jeff showed us how the vipers are still holding strong even with the advancement of humans into their environment.

Chris Tabaka, DMV was next in line with his presentation titled "The role of the veterinarian in field conservation research" Mr. Tabaka's talk centered on his involvement with the large oil spill in Michigan last summer. Along with birds and mammals, a substantial number of herps were caught up in the oil, and Chris described the evolving set of protocols that he and his team used to rescue, rehabilitate and release many hundreds of turtles, snakes and other herps. Chris used a data-intensive cataloging and tagging system for the rescued herps, which can serve in the future as the foundation for population studies. Chris plans to develop a playbook so that can be used by other rescue teams in the event of another oil catastrophe.

Tony Gamble, PhD was up after lunch with the presentation titled "Describing south America's lizard diversity: from the fields to the lab bench" Tony spoke about his work with South American lizards. Along with describing new species, Tony is interested in describing the relationships between lizard species and subspecies. Most of this work now centers on genetics, and these days, genetic typing can be done with just

a few drops of blood, and the lizard can be released with no further harm done. The lab work can't proceed until the field work gets done, and Tony spoke about the challenges and rewards of searching for lizards. Many people assume that most of the vertebrates have been described, but this is not the case - there are still plenty of lizards and other herps in South America that are still unknown to science.

Salvatore Santelli educated and entertained us with his talk titled "The north American wood turtle: personal experiences with them in the wild and captivity"

Sal took us on a virtual tour to a not so remote creek near his home in Pennsylvania to look for wood turtles. His presentation was refreshing in that he is finding young as well as older wood turtles in the wild which gives us hope that this species will continue to thrive in this part of the country.

Paul Moler was up next with his talk titled "Herpetological surveys in southern Vietnam"

Paul has visited Vietnam eight times since 2001 to study the herps there and he shared with us some of his interesting finds and their distribution in that part of the world.

After the banquet we were ready for the key note speaker Barney Oldfield's slide show titled "Crotaphytid Odyssey." Barney has covered most if not all the homes and habitats of the collared lizard. His talk took us from the plain states of the US deep into Mexico to show us the home of the collard lizard and what some of these species look like. I was absolutely amazed to see how colorful some subspecies can be. I had never seen a blue collard lizard - Quiet impressive. Barney also wrote a book on these fascinating creatures titled "Crotaphytids Rule A Unique Family of North American Lizards" I would suggest you check out this book to see some of Barneys fabulous photos of this amazing lizard.

Following the key note speaker was the auction which offered several herp related items in both a live and silent auction to raise funds for the hosting herp society. Afterwards several of us headed back to the hospitality room for more snacks and beer. Mike showed us pictures of his trip to Mexico this past summer on his laptop. His photos are absolutely amazing. We hung out in the hospitality suite talking herps until early Sunday morning.

Sunday was the reptile sale where the MHS also had a live display of several of their native species.

Nebraska is hosting the Midwest herp symposium for 2012 followed by Central Illinois in 2013, The Hoosier Herp Society 2014, and Chicago in 2016. I hope to see you there.

## **Review HHS October Meeting 10/19/11**

Ed Ferrer

Our speakers for October's meeting were HHS members Jim Horton and Pat Hammond. Their topic was their herping adventures of Southwest United States, concentrating on Arizona. They emphasized the importance of doing thorough research on what species they were going to target and what type of habitat to explore for each species. It was important to acquire the correct fishing or hunting licenses in case they encountered any wildlife officers during their field herping. Their maps to show us where explored. They also connected with a local teacher who was doing research on rattlesnakes (Arizona is the rattlesnake capital of the world.) and found several beautiful species of rattlers.

They also found several lizards, frogs, toads, tortoises, turtles and other snakes. The most impressive lizards that I remember from their talk was a large chuckwalla nestled in a rock crevice and two Gila monsters found in an abandoned mine shaft. (Since Gila monsters typically spend 98 % of their time underground, this was a great find!) They also showed photos of beautiful flowers and cacti and scenic views of mountains and rock formations.

They had also found arachnids. Black widows were seen under rocks and large tarantulas were found while road cruising.

I was very impressed at how beautiful the Southwest could be. WE were all impressed by their fine presentation.

## President's Message

Jim Horton

This month we will vote in new Board members for the year 2012. Good luck to all nominees!

It is with great regret that I must announce the ending of a great regional organization. I've recently learned that The Northern Ohio Association of Herpetologists (NOAH) is folding due to lack of funds and interest. This fine organization has been around since 1974 and it was very surprising to hear of this news. Noah was my first local or regional guide to herpetology. I remember receiving my first issue of *Notes from NOAH* back around 1987. I was excited to find that there were others out there who shared my particular interest. The HHS had exchanged newsletters with NOAH in years past until they went totally electronic. The herpetological community will miss this great organization.

I'd like to thank Dave Mitchell for his help in displaying his animals at a recent event. The Brookview Elementary Science Fair was Thursday, October 27 and Dave agreed to help me with this exhibit by displaying several tortoises and turtles. Another THANK YOU goes to Roger and Holly Carter for their part in the annual HHS display at the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation Walk.

I would also like to thank our current members for renewing their membership every year! It is our members who keep us going strong. I'd also like to welcome our newest members as well!

We will have our holiday party December 10. We are currently seeking a venue and more information will be announced.

We have a special guest speaker for November. *Tarantula extraordinaire*, Mr. Stan Shultz will be stopping by on his trip across the country promoting his latest book, "*The Tarantula Keeper's Guide*".

If you keep tarantulas or just would like to know more about them, this is the place to be. This HHS will have copies of *The Tarantula Keeper's Guide* available for sale and you can have the signed by the author at the meeting.

Look for our Annual Photo Contest at our meeting in January of 2012

## KNIVES AND HERP ART (Part 12)

Photos & text by Roger Carter

This folding knife is eight and three-eighths inches long and the blade is three and one-half inches long. On both sides of the plastic handle is an image of a cobra reared up with its hood spread and mouth open as if it is going to attack. I think the image was etched into the plastic handle and the colors somehow applied later. The image of the cobra is mostly a gold color with the tongue being red, the lining of the mouth is red, and the eye has a red border. Engraved on the blade is "CHINA" and "STAINLESS STEEL". The edge of the blade is not sharp but it could be sharpened. I think Holly found this in a flea market somewhere in Indianapolis.



## **U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE LISTS THE OZARK HELLBENDER AS ENDANGERED AND MOVES TO INCLUDE HELLBENDERS IN APPENDIX III OF CITES**

The Center for North American Herpetology

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has designated the Ozark Hellbender as endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) and also finalized its decision to list the Ozark and Eastern Hellbender in Appendix III of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). In combination, these listings will provide significant protection to hellbenders, both domestically and internationally.

Currently, two [allopatric] subspecies of Hellbenders are recognized, the Ozark Hellbender and the Eastern Hellbender. The Ozark Hellbender only occurs in Missouri and Arkansas, whereas the Eastern Hellbender range includes portions of the following 16 states: Alabama, Georgia, Illinois, **Indiana**, Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia.

## **Notes from the Indiana amphibian/reptile Technical Advisory Committee 2011 Annual Meeting**

By Jim Horton

A three year project involving the Hellbender in southern Indiana is still underway. This survey is headed by Mr. Rod Williams, Purdue University. Studies have turned up only older adults and very few eggs (no juveniles). They report that the Indiana population is critically low. Pit tags have been utilized in about 20 specimens. Three of their study specimens have died due to unknown causes. A small number of juveniles from West Virginia may be released in 3 to 4 years to help strengthen the population.

Purdue University and the Indiana DNR are working with an outreach program near the study area to increase awareness of hellbenders in Indiana. This will involve a traveling exhibit, pamphlets, a poster, local resident surveys, a website, and more.

The Indiana DNR has reported findings of 3 new locations for the Green Salamander in Indiana. This is a total of 5 locations.

Ornate Box Turtles were surveyed by DNR over the summer utilizing "turtle sniffing dogs". Only 8

specimens were found. This is another species in deep decline.

With the new Highway 69 extension soon to be underway, the DNR collected 52 Eastern Box Turtles. These turtles were taken near the section 4 construction site. The turtles are currently being temporally held in an undisclosed location. The "sniffing dog" technique was also used in these captures.

One report from Mr. Mike Ladato noted that four-toed salamanders have been found near McCormick's Creek State Park. Three new county records have been logged for the Green Treefrog near Vandenberg County. Mike found a 56-inch Diamondback Water Snake near Gibson County. This is a new Indiana state record. He searched historic sites for Red Salamanders but none were found nor was any suitable habitat located.

In a separate survey of four-toed salamanders, eight new locations were found for total of twenty-nine counties.

## ***HHS Selling Books and supplies***

The Hoosier Herpetological Society has a wide variety of brand new herp-related books and ZooMed supplies for sale to our membership. Sales from these items will fund the HHS.

See the selection at the Midwest Reptile Shows and (or) General Meetings at Butler University. Books and supplies are sold below retail pricing.

## EVENTS

**December 4, 2011** – Indiana Reptile Expo, Hamilton County Fairgrounds, 10am-4pm  
[www.indianareptileexpo.com](http://www.indianareptileexpo.com)

**November 13, 2011** – 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. (317) 899-99, [www.midwestreptile.com](http://www.midwestreptile.com)

**November 16, 2011** – HHS General Meeting, Guest Speaker: Mr. Stan Shultz. Topic – *Tarantulas*.

**December 4, 2011** – Indiana Reptile Expo, Hamilton County Fairgrounds, 10am-4pm  
[www.indianareptileexpo.com](http://www.indianareptileexpo.com)

**December 10** – HHS Holiday Party, details to be announced.

## *New Books!*

### **Invasive Pythons in the United States- Ecology of an Introduced Predator**

Michael E. Dorcas and John D. Willson, Foreword by Whit Gibbons

The first detailed, comprehensive study of this invasive predator

Page count: 176, 188 color photos, 8 maps, 1 table, 7 figures Paperback, c2011,

For just \$25.0 add \$6.00 for shipping and handling. Getting low on signed copies so order now to make sure you get one. Otherwise non-autographed copies will be sent out.

### **Diamondback Terrapins: Gems of the Turtle World**

(\$24.95 plus \$6 S&H) Complete Owner's Guide to Keeping and Breeding Diamondback Terrapins. Chapters include Natural History, The Genus *Malaclemys*, Terrapins in Captivity, Health Care, Breeding, and Conservation. \* The first book written on all 7 diamondback terrapin subspecies. \* The only book with over 150 color photos of diamondback terrapins. \* Book includes picture of the one and only albino diamondback terrapin. \* Information and pictures on a possible 8th subspecies. 85 pages. by James Lee and Samuel Chew.

To order these books, email [asalzberg@herpdigest.org](mailto:asalzberg@herpdigest.org) (for the signed copies) otherwise, visit Amazon.com

## Classifieds

**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](mailto:stardali84@hotmail.com)

## Got Rodents?

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





The Monitor is printed courtesy of:

The Harding Poorman Group



**For Sale: HHS shirts featuring herps of Indiana - \$15.00 (Larger sizes \$18.00)**

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.**

**\*\*\*\*\*Note: Meetings are currently held at the Pharmacy building, room # 150\*\*\*\*\***

## **Your HHS Board of Directors for 2011**

PRESIDENT	Jim Horton	(317) 865-0464	Cell 443-4845 <a href="mailto:stardali84@hotmail.com">stardali84@hotmail.com</a>
VICE-PRESIDENT	Ed Ferrer	(317) 787-7448	Cell - 727-7553 <a href="mailto:pythonpals1@msn.com">pythonpals1@msn.com</a>
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TREASURER/MEMBERSHIP	Dave Mitchell	(317) 570-9643	<a href="mailto:turtlelovin@att.net">turtlelovin@att.net</a>
SERGEANT AT ARMS	Will Brown		<a href="mailto:wrbrown15@aol.com">wrbrown15@aol.com</a>

## **Appointees for 2011**

EDITOR	Jim Horton	(317) 865-0464	<a href="mailto:Stardali84@hotmail.com">Stardali84@hotmail.com</a>
PROGRAM DIRECTOR	Ed Ferrer	(317) 787-7448	<a href="mailto:pythonpals1@msn.com">pythonpals1@msn.com</a>
WAYS AND MEANS	Angela Thomas	(317) 882-5266	<a href="mailto:necali@comcast.net">necali@comcast.net</a>
WEBSITE COORDINATOR	Barbara Filtri		<a href="mailto:barbara.filtri@hughes.net">barbara.filtri@hughes.net</a>

# 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)

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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!