



# 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 24 Number 2

February 2013

## **New meeting time and venue for 2013**

Starting in January of 2013, the HHS meetings will be held at the  
*Holliday park nature center* at a new time – 7:00-9:00 PM

**General Meeting: Wednesday February 20th, 7:00 p.m.**  
**Guest Speaker: Stacey Summitt-Mann, University H.S.**  
**Topic: "Biomimicry the Herpin' Way"**  
**Holliday Park, Auditorium**

The Hoosier Herpetological Society welcomes Stacey Summitt-Mann as our guest speaker for February. Stacey is in her fourth year of teaching at University High School in Carmel. She has taught a variety of courses including biology, zoology, and animal behavior as well as being the girl's varsity basketball coach. Stacey graduated from Butler University in 2009. She has worked with herps' since she was a child and in college did research on the small mouth salamander (Eagle Creek) and the red-eyed tree frog in Panama.

Stacey will be presenting Biomimicry as a design method that invents new, sustainable products based on nature's champion organisms. In this interactive discussion, Stacey will present new ideas and products that have been inspired by amphibians and reptiles. She will also describe the process of this innovation method and explain how little characteristics we notice in herps could be the next big answer to some of the world's problem

## ***Special Guest Speaker – Bill Love***

***March HHS General Meeting***

***Wednesday March 20th 7:00 p.m.***

**Guest Speaker: Bill Love, Blue Chameleon Ventures**

**Topic: "Herping the Arid Zone - Arizona"**

**Holliday Park Auditorium**

# 2013 HHS Photography Contest Results

## Winners Captive Category



2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Jacob Ray,  
1<sup>st</sup> Place - Nikki Shonk,  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place - Angela Thomas

## Winners Wild Category



1<sup>st</sup> Place - Angela  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Angela Thomas  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place - Roger Carter

***Congratulations to our category winners and thanks for all of our participants!  
There were many great shots to choose from this year.***

## TAX TIME



Please make contributions to the Indiana non-game portion of your taxes. Herps and other non-game animals don't get the funds that others do.

Remember when field herping, be sure to have your Indiana fishing/hunting license for the current year – It's the law.

## President's message

Jim Horton

Our last meeting at Holliday Park Nature Center went quite well. I think our new home is going to work out just fine. We will have a few date and or meeting room changes at the center. I'll keep you informed as to when and where.

Your website coordinator, Barbara Filtri, is asking for ideas to enhance our website. If you would like to contribute by submit ideas, or even to critique it, please contact her at [webmaster@hoosierherpsoc.org](mailto:webmaster@hoosierherpsoc.org) or contact me [stardali84@hotmail.com](mailto:stardali84@hotmail.com) Your input is welcome!

Next month we have a very special guest speaker. Mr. Bill Love is well known in herpetology. Keep your evening open for March 20!

This month our guest speaker isn't new to the HHS. She has been a past member and a past guest speaker. Stacey Summit-Mann will present a great talk on herps and biomimicry. Don't miss it!

# Herp of the month

## "Purple Python"

by Ed Ferrer

Whenever I do my educational snake programs, one of the questions that is often asked is "What is the largest snake in the world?"

I say that the question has two answers depending on the way largest is meant. If weight is the deciding factor then the answer would be the green anaconda, *Eunectes murinus*, of South America because this specie is known to reach a length of close to 30 feet but since it is an aquatic species supported by water its weight reaches up to an estimated 450-500 pounds. But if length is the deciding factor then the reticulated python, *python reticulatus*, from Southeast Asia with a record length of 32 feet 9 inches found in 1915 takes the title. In my opinion this serpent is one of the most beautiful snakes in the world. The normal appearance is an intricate pattern of black lines surrounding blotches of olive green and white circles on a grey background. "Reticulated" comes from the Latin word meaning net-like as the black lines form a pattern similar to a net or chain-link fence. The scales give off a fiery iridescence when reflected off sunlight which adds to its beauty. When I first started into my hobby these large, beautiful snakes had a bad

reputation for being very aggressive because most of the animals were nervous wild caught specimens and were probably disease ridden. But after many generations of captive breeding, particularly when a "tiger retic" emerged with a more docile temperament they became more common in the pet trade. Bob Clark, a world famous breeder from Oklahoma, after many attempts was finally successful in producing albino

reticulated pythons! These animals were basically yellow and white snakes coming in three forms out of the same clutch of eggs. One form has lavender highlights, one form has purple highlights and the third form is just yellow and white. I have seen all forms at the reptile shows in Tinley Park, Illinois and they are all strikingly beautiful! Of all three, I think the form with purple highlights is the most beautiful.

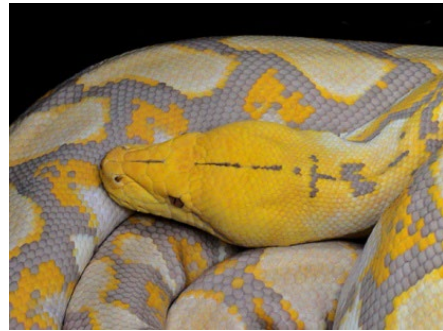


Photo - Snakesense.web.com

**Chris Young** of Black Magic Reptiles is going to bring his purple albino reticulated python to display for our February 20th meeting at Holliday Park at 7:00 p.m. Be sure to plan on attending this meeting to see this rare, beautiful animal!

### Sources

Reptiles Magazine, June 2001, "The Man Behind the Morphs: Bob Clark talks Pythons" pages. 10-21  
Boas and Pythons of the World, Mark O'Shea, 2007

*Welcome back members!*

### **RENEWALS**

*Zach Truelock (Sustaining membership)*

*Bill Hodapp*

*Janice Kucera*

*Barbara Filtri (Sustaining membership)*

*Jeff Wines*

*Eugene and Ramona Holmes*

### **NEW MEMBERS**

*Janet Panoch*

[www.hoosierherpsoc.org](http://www.hoosierherpsoc.org)

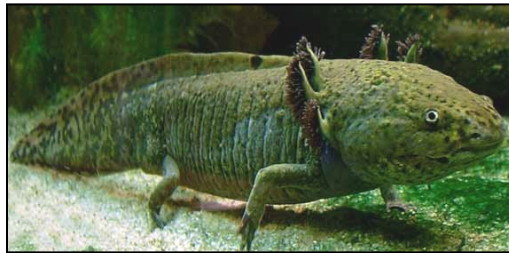
# Adoptions

## *Bearded dragons*

We currently have two beautiful girls ready for a good, experienced caregiver. For rehoming are Serena - an orange female, age 3-4 years, unknown breeder status and Alia - an orange female, 3 years old, proven breeder. They come with a 125 gallon tank with stand, lights and all supplies. These beardies are friendly and used to being handled regularly. Contact Jim Horton email - [stardali84@hotmail.com](mailto:stardali84@hotmail.com) phone – 317.865.0464



## *Axolotls*



The HHS will be acquiring adult Axolotls from a research institution locally. These interesting amphibians will soon need homes. Very easy to keep, similar to a gold fish but they have a much broader appetite.

For a **\$10** donation to the club anyone that is interested may contact Dale at [eyelashviper@hotmail.com](mailto:eyelashviper@hotmail.com) or 317-371-3615. They will also be available at each of the herp swaps in Indy at the herp society's table.

## ***Herp Tip***

Heat and humidity is easily lost this time of year due to the warm dry conditions in our homes. Your herps depend on these two conditions to survive. A good way to keep heat and humidity inside your cages is to cover the top of the tank with a rigid plastic or foam. Heat rises and therefore, it is being lost almost as soon as it is created. It would be advised to leave room for air exchange. Misting or spraying enclosures twice a day is also a good way to aid in humidity.

## Parking at Holliday Park

**7:00pm to 9:00pm** is our new meeting time at **Holliday Park**.

Holiday Park entrance gates close automatically when it gets dark. It will be getting dark around 6:45 so we need to remind our members that if they drive their car up to the gates they **will** open. Also, we need to remind our members that we need to park behind the hill or knoll. Parking is allowed closer to the center on the other side of the knoll only if the vehicle has a handicap sticker. Park rangers do patrol the lot and will tow vehicles that are parked in the wrong lot.





The **United States Association of Reptile Keepers** has announced they have hired long time herper **Phil Goss** as the new President to lead the organization. The HHS would like to congratulate Mr. Goss and wish him well in his new position.

## KNIVES AND HERP ART (Part 25)

Photos & text by Roger Carter

This knife is pretty cool. It has a snake "breathing fire" in the shape of the blade. It is twenty-one and one/quarter inches long from the tip of the blade to the tip of the tail. The blade is ten and three/quarter inches long from the tip to the back of the snake's mouth. The blade and the end of the tail, which is three and five/eighths long, is red with a black border. The snake's body is a black plastic with the head and part of the tail a silver color with the fangs black. On one side of the blade just inside the mouth is etched "XL 1350 STAINLESS STEEL HANDCRAFTED IN CHINA" and, on the other side of the blade is etched "TOMAHAWK" which I assume may be the name of the manufacturer. This is a fantasy knife that does not have a cutting edge.



## North American Amphibian Monitoring Program

Amphibians are disappearing rapidly and they need our help. Doing our part in citizen science is a great way to help with this issue. Here's a way to help frogs and toads in Indiana and around the country. Check out their website and see if a route is open in your area.

<http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/naamp/>

## REPTILES AND OTHER PET MAGAZINE TITLES HAS BEEN SOLD BY BOW TIE

The business world is buzzing over the sale of Bow Tie, Inc., publishers of *Reptiles* and a number of other pet-related magazines and books. Bow Tie had recently closed several of its publications, and one, *Thoroughbred Times*, declared bankruptcy last fall.

A newly formed joint venture between Mark Harris, co-founder and co-owner of National Publisher Services (NPS), and David Fry, chairman of NPI Ventures LLC and CTO of Fry Communications, called I-5 Publishing LLC has acquired the books, magazines and websites of special interest publisher BowTie Inc.

Terms of the deal were not released, but Harris and Fry ballparked it at \$10 million-plus. Included in the sale are *Cat Fancy*, *Dog Fancy*, *Pet Product News International*, *Horse Illustrated*, *Urban Farm*, *AnimalNetwork.com*, *DogChannel.com* and books like *Dog Heroes of September 11th* and *The Original Dog Bible*.

What does this mean for the future of *Reptiles* and other former Bow Tie properties?

In a media release quoted in *Folio*, Harris, who is serving as interim CEO of I-5, said:

We seek to expand content and make it available on all platforms. We believe in further investing and bringing in more expertise to the company to help raise the bar for us....

We'll be looking at growing topline revenue with brand extensions and the introduction of new products... We're open

minded to partnerships, which will be a big priority, as well as further developing the existing digital strategy. We think there is a very large opportunity there.

## 2013 EVENTS

**February 24, 2013** - 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](http://www.midwestreptile.com) Other dates: April 7, June 2

**March 3, 2013** - Indiana Reptile Expo, Hamilton County Fairgrounds, 10am-4pm, \$6.00 admission [www.indianareptileexpo.com](http://www.indianareptileexpo.com)

**March 23, 2013** – “Day of the Salamander” McCormick’s Creek State Park, Spencer, IN

**April 24, 2013** – Z Green Fest, Green festival in Zionsville, IN (HHS will have a live herp display).

**May 10-12, 2013** – Herpetology Weekend, Natural Bridge State Resort Park, Slade, KY. A weekend filled with field trips, presentations, and free admission to the Kentucky Reptile Zoo

**June 1, 2013** – Hoosier Herpout, Hardin Ridge Recreation Area, Monroe Reservoir, Bloomington, IN. Field herping/herp identification, camping, cookout. An annual HHS event.

**July 31-August 3** - International Herpetological Symposium will be held in New Orleans, LA



**15 species of live geckos on display at the Indianapolis Children’s Museum**

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 7:00 p.m. at Holliday Park Nature Center. Membership is open to all interested individuals. **No venomous animals are allowed at the General Meetings.**

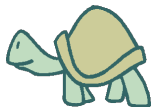
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***A few Year of the Snake Facts:***

Source: [www.yearofthesnake.org](http://www.yearofthesnake.org)



[Indianaturtlecare.com](http://Indianaturtlecare.com)



### GOING PAPERLESS?

HHS members have now the option of receiving *The Monitor* newsletter directly on their own computer. In this case we will send you the link to a PDF file by e-mail, instead of the printed copy. Besides saving paper and postage, this will allow you to enjoy great pictures in color and high definition. To select the *paperless* option please send an e-mail to the [Webmaster](#), with "HHS PAPERLESS" in the subject line.



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**Individual/Family Membership \$15.00**

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**Herpetological Interest(s)**

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\_\_\_\_\_  
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Dated Material Enclosed

Address Correction Requested

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