



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 26 Number 2

February 2015

February HHS Meeting
Wednesday Feb. 18th 7:00 p.m.
Holliday Park Auditorium
Speakers: Jim Horton & Pat Hammond
Topic: "Herping the Monsoon Season"

Arizona has been a "Mecca" for "herpers" for a long time. This state offers many different species of reptiles and amphibians. In fact, it is known as the "Rattlesnake Capitol of the World", having more species of rattlesnakes than any other state or area! HHS members Jim Horton and Pat Hammond spent a week herping this state and encountered a wide variety of different fauna and flora. Both are excellent field photographers and if their entries in last month's photo contest is any indication we are in for a great presentation!

Be sure to attend this terrific program!

WELCOME NEW AND RETURNING MEMBERS!

Renewals

Jackson, Christina & Nicholas Rhoad
Connor Davis Karen & William Davis

Jeff Wines

Anndrea Hatcher

Bob & Ellie Hammond (sustaining membership)

New Members

D. Shane Delan

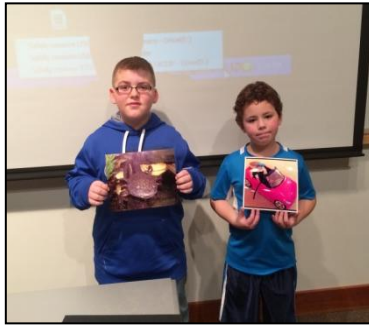
Josh Lanning

Maxwell McLeod

Hoosier Herpetological Society Annual Photography Contest winners!



Roger Carter and Angela Thomas



Connor Davis and Jackson Rhodes



Jim Horton, Roger Carter, Angela Thomas

Thanks to all of our participants and their entries. There were many fantastic shots!

Our winners include:

Jackson Rhode (1st Place), Connor Davis (2nd Place) - "Kids" category.

Angela Thomas (1st & 2nd place), Roger Carter (3rd Place) - "Captive" Category

Jim Horton (1st place), Angela Thomas (2nd Place), and Roger Carter (3rd Place) - "Wild" category

Other entries include:

Captive Category:

Karen Davis (prehensile tailed skink, 'Conner with rat snake', bearded dragon), Angela Thomas (sulcata tortoise eating, yellow spotted toad, rhino viper, peach throat monitor, chameleon, juvenile yellow spotted toad), Roger Carter (Green tree python, Mexican musk turtle)

Wild Category

Pat Hammond (Mojave rattlesnake, timber rattlesnake, timber in log, great plains toad), Jim Horton (Eastern box turtle, short horned lizard, banded rock rattler, timber head, sidewinder, Roger Carter (box turtle, marbled salamander, Shane Delon (western diamondback rattlesnake, Texas rat snake, western diamondback rattlesnake head), Karen Davis (Fawn in grass), Angela Thomas (rough green snake, box turtle)

Poison Dart Frogs: Bright Colors Lead To Loud Calls

Posted by [Sara Viernum](http://www.wanderingherpetologist.com) on January 28, 2015 www.wanderingherpetologist.com

After analyzing over 16,000 calls from 172 species in the poison dart frog family, Dendrobatidae, researchers determined the brighter the coloration the louder the frog. The bright colors of the frogs are used as warning signals to announce to would-be predators that the frogs are toxic. Since these colors protect the frogs from predators they are able to have louder calls to attract mates than their dark-hued and in turn quieter relatives. Lady frogs really like louder male frogs. They also discovered that brightly colored non-toxic mimics call loudly too. Since the nonpoisonous mimics slide by with their fake warning colors they can also get away with being louder because predators already avoid them. However, louder calls require more energy expenditure. But their bright colors keep away predators and their loud calls attract more females so in the end the higher energy use is worth it.

Three Blind Mice!

by Ed Ferrer

When I was starting my snake collection in my middle school classroom, I had a boa constrictor, two Burmese pythons, (one albino and one regular color), a green tree python and few corn snakes and milk snakes. I would travel to Joe Street's warehouse on Capital St. in downtown Indianapolis on every Tuesday evening (the only night he was open to the public) to pick up my feeder mice and rats. I would put the live mice in a shoe box and then go back to school and feed my snakes. One night after a hard day at school I was running later than normal. I was tired and decided to come to school early the next morning and feed my collection. When I entered my class room and turned on the light I was surprised to see two white mice running across the floor. When I checked my shoe box I found that nine mice had escaped through the gnawed a hole in the box and I had only three mice left inside. I had 9 mice in various parts of my science room! I quickly put the three mice in a steel container and frantically went searching to find the other escaped rodents. Like any science classroom, there were many hiding places around cabinets, shelving and other areas. I luckily finally found the remaining fugitive mice and put them in a sturdy container after about 25 minutes. Needless to say I was now behind schedule as I had to get things ready for the opening of the school day. I ended up feeding my snakes during my prep period later in the day. I was just lucky that none of the mice escaped to other areas of the school. I can only imagine what kind of chaos that would have caused!

The next week I was sure to purchase some plastic containers with small air holes that could be securely closed for my live mice. I call this episode "Three Blind Mice" in honor of the original three mice that had not found their way out of the shoe box. I always remind other beginning "herp" hobbyists that mice and rats will always gnaw so to be sure they are in a sturdy, escape proof container. I also warn them never to leave live rodents with their snake unattended because I have seen awful incidents where the snake wasn't in a hunting mode and the intended prey would leave terrible sometimes fatal wounds on their snake! That is also why I always feed my snakes dead prey items. Captive snakes are not always the successful hunters that are portrayed on television programs. They may strike and miss the rodents and hit the side or other solid parts of the cage potentially injuring their jaws. Or they may strike the prey and then have the rodent bite them in the process. All rodents have chisel shaped teeth that leave puncture wounds that could easily be infected. I learned that lesson the hard way when my young boa constrictor was bitten by a mouse and I had to apply ointment on the wound daily until it shed its skin. Hopefully people can learn from my early mistakes so they they can avoid these situations.

NEW HHS WEBSITE

www.hoosierherpsoc.org

Help Indiana's nongame fish and wildlife



There are over 750 endangered and nongame animals in Indiana that need your help. The [Wildlife Diversity Program \(WDP\)](#) oversees the management of these species to prevent the loss of wildlife diversity in Indiana. All of the funding comes from Hoosiers like you that donate to the Indiana Nongame Fund. **No state tax dollars are used.**

You can donate on your state tax form by looking for the eagle logo and the line provided on your Indiana state tax form to donate all or part of your refund.



The HHS now has online subscription!
You can now join or renew your membership at the click of a mouse.
www.hoosierherpsoc.org

The Monitor is printed courtesy of: **Harding Poorman**



KNIVES AND HERP ART (Part 37)

Photos & text by Roger Carter

As you can see by the box, this knife is called the "SNAKE CHARMER". On the side of the box it says "15" OVERALL LENGTH CUSTOM DESIGNED FIGHTING KNIFE STAINLESS STEEL BLADE AND RUBBER

HANDLE ANTIQUE BRASSTONE GUARD AND POMMEL COMES WITH A NYLON SHEATH". Part of the snake's image is wrapped around the handle and comes up as the pommel. The rubber handle has a wood grain appearance. The rubber feels weird! Most knives have a metal handle or wood and some of those might have leather wrapped around that. This is the first knife that I have seen that has rubber. The box says 15 inches but I measured it at fourteen and three-quarters with the blade nine and seven-eighths long from the point to the back of the top edge. This is made in China and the blade is sharp.



Amphibian Outing at McCormick's Creek State Park

10:30 -11:30 A.M. - kids triathlon (Canyon Inn front lawn)

1:00-2:00PM – HHS presentation (Nature Center program room)

2:30-4:00PM –from Canyon Inn lodge hike to creek to search for amphibians.

4:30-5:30PM – Beady Salamander Craft. Making kids key chains. (Canyon Inn lobby)

5:00-8:00PM – Dinner available at Hickory Dining Room at Canyon Inn

After dinner (8:00PM) drive to vernal pool for more amphibians.

North American Amphibian Monitoring Program

Patuxent Wildlife Research Center



Do you have an interest in Citizen Science? Do you want to help our frog populations?

Then the North American Amphibian Monitoring Program (NAAMP) might just be your calling. Our amphibian populations are declining and they need your help! The NAAMP is part of a global effort to study and conserve amphibians. As HHS members, we should do our part to aid in the conservation of Indiana frogs and toads.

This survey is only 3 times a season. You must volunteer for a route, pass the frog/toad call quiz, and monitor frogs/toad calls when suitable conditions are right.

Why not go to their website and take a look? www.pwrc.usgs.gov/naamp/

2015 HERPETOLOGICAL EVENTS

February 18 – HHS meeting, Holliday Park Auditorium. Guest Speakers: Jim Horton and Pat Hammond (HHS). Topic – *Arizona, Herping the Monsoons*

March 1, 2015 - 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 dates: May 3rd, June 28, August 30, October 18

March 1, 2015 - Indiana Reptile Expo in Noblesville, IN on the first Sunday of each month from 10 AM to 4 PM at the Hamilton County Exhibition Center & 4-H Grounds.

March 7, 2015 – HHS exhibit at Eagle Library. Live herp displays by HHS members. All current members are encouraged to help exhibit their herps. Contact Mary Hylton for more information.

March 18, 2015 – HHS Meeting, Holliday Park Nature Center, Guest Speaker – Sarabeth Klueh-Mundy (Indiana State Herpetologist), Topic - TBD

March 21, 2015 – *Amphibian Outing*, McCormick's Creek State Park, free with park admission. Herpetological presentations, field trips. Sponsored by the HHS and Friends of McCormick's Creek State Park

April 17-18, 2015 – Herpetology Weekend, (Red River Gorge), Slade, KY. Herpetology presentations (fri/sat day/nights), field trips all day Saturday.

Your HHS Board of Directors for 2015

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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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MEMBERSHIP FORM

New Member

Renewal

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City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____ Phone _____

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Individual/Family Membership \$15.00

Sustaining Membership \$25.00 or more

Herpetological Interests

____ If this area is checked, it is time to renew your membership

Address Correction Requested

Dated Material Enclosed

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