

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Jim Horton

It looks like March has come in like a lion. Below freezing temperatures and snow are only stalling our spring fever and early herping activities. However, Wendell Zetterberg (hhs member), has put together a field trip to Stillwater Marsh at Lake Monroe in Monroe County, IN. The trip will be late this month; see the accompanying article inside.

The date for Hoosier Herpout is May 21-22. The Herpout involves a cook out and mini-field trips throughout the day on Saturday. Some members will camp on Fri. and or Sat. night. It will be at Hardin Ridge Recreation area on Monroe Reservoir, Bloomington, IN. More info. will follow in coming issues of the Monitor.

I would like to thank Elliot Stahl for stepping up and taking care of our hat orders. He has informed me that our new hats should be here in time for the March Meeting! They come in forest green and stone colors. They will feature the H.H.S. logo.

The H.H.S. gives a special thanks to Steve Perrill for presenting "Indiana's Frogs and Toads" at our February General Meeting. Steve gave us an overview of the Indiana anurans complete with an audio portion. He also showed a short movie and filled us in on some of his research on frogs at Eagle Creek Park.

Mike Wood is taking a break from his Tip of the Month column. This will leave an opening for anyone who would like to share their own tips or perhaps even come up with another column. Please feel free! We are always in need of original work for the Monitor.

Help Declining Amphibian Populations
Volunteer at www.frogwatch.org

WELCOME BACK MEMBERS!!!

Renewals

Dave and Elliot Stahl

Dawn Vandeman – sustaining

Eugene Holmes – Peoria, IL

Janice Kucera

MaryAnn Watson – Mount Vernon, IN

Alex Fyffe – Indpls. IN

New

Jason Lee

H.H.S. AMPHIBIAN FIELD TRIP

LAKE MONROE'S STILLWATER MARSH

This is the third year for an amphibian study at Stillwater Marsh at Lake Monroe. Jeff Riegel, the DNR naturalist for Lake Monroe, heads it up. It consists of six surveys rolled into one. They are the Funnel Trap Survey, Visual Transect Survey, Visual Survey, Cover Object Survey, Road Kill Survey, and Breeding Site Survey. This is also a Frogwatch site, but beyond just recording what they hear, they are keeping record of where they hear the calls to plot a migration pattern. The project runs from March 20th until May 15th.

He has agreed to let us come out, see, and help with this project. Jeff suggests bringing rubber boots or waders for the egg mass survey and a camera. If you have a digital camera with at least 3.0 mega pixels, he is also doing a study where you photograph amphibians and use this to recognize the same animal at a later date. This is an alternative to PIT tags, branding and toe clipping. The date will be either Saturday March 26th or Sunday March 27th. From whom I have already talked to, it looks like Sunday has it. After the survey is over at Stillwater Marsh, I plan to go to the tin sites and pick up trash. If you plan to do this as well, work gloves would be a good idea. If you would like to go on the trip or have any questions about it, please email me at: wzetterberg@hotmail.com. Also, please let me know your preference as to Saturday or Sunday so I can get it finalized. I told him I'd know after the meeting.

Wendell Zetterberg

TIP OF THE MONTH

By Pat Hammond

If you must transport your scaly creatures in the cold of winter, they must be kept warm. I discovered a simple, inexpensive way of doing this which I would like to share with you.

All you need to do is have a cooler and an empty plastic soda bottle. Simply fill the bottle with hot water and place it along with your herps in a cooler. Your herps will now be protected from the cold. Just don't leave them in a sealed cooler too long.

Once my vehicle warms up, I crack the lid open just enough to allow a little air circulation. When I arrive at my destination, I put the lid back on to protect my precious cargo from the elements.

Zack Walker, Indiana Wildlife Diversity Program –February, 2005

During February, surveys were initiated for mole salamanders in Posey County. Gibson and Knox counties will be subsequently surveyed for this species. Three mole salamanders were seen on February 7th in Posey County at known populations. Other species observed at these locations included bullfrogs, newts, southern leopard frogs, smallmouth salamanders, spotted salamanders, and marbled salamanders. Ambystomid salamanders (excluding marbled salamanders) appeared to be in breeding condition. Mole salamander surveys were also performed February 23rd and 24th, but no new locations of mole salamander were observed. At this time, salamander egg masses were present in most of the small pools throughout the survey area. A mud turtle was observed on February 24th buried in leaf litter. On the previous evening the county received an inch of snow, which melted by 12:00pm on the 24th.

General herp surveys were also initiated on Crane Naval Weapons Base. These surveys are being conducted in conjunction with the Division of Nature Preserves to help inventory vertebrate species on Crane. This survey will continue until the end of the field season. Breeding amphibians found in Martin county during February include woodfrogs, Jefferson's salamanders, spotted salamanders,

smallmouth salamanders, eastern newts, chorus frogs, and spring peepers.

Three presentations were given throughout the month of February. A general herp talk was performed at the annual meeting of the Division of Nature Preserves and for Eagle Watch Weekend. A presentation concerning Indiana's new herp regulations was given to the Hoosier Outdoor Writers.

I have also begun Co-chairing the Indiana Frog Monitoring Program with Kacie Ehrenberger. Training sessions for NAAMP and Frogwatch were performed throughout February by Kacie. Kacie and myself will be attending the national NAAMP coordinators meeting in March.

SNAKES, RATTLES AND HOLES

By Wendell Zetterberg

On Taylor's Birthday I took my family to visit the Imagination Station in Lafayette. They have an Exhibit called SNAKES RATTLES and HOLES. In this exhibit there is a 68ft. replica of a rattle snake skeleton that you can walk through. There is also a display of a rattle snake over a borough with eggs. Another display has a snake skeleton and the skull with a magnifier to get a better look. Many signs tell about different aspects of the snakes life and adaptations. Upstairs there is a huge snake shed on display. There are only two main rooms here but they are jam packed with all sorts of things kids love. The upstairs has many computers with all sorts of educational games, a beehive, lots of shells and fossils as well as a few live animals. Down where the snake exhibit is there is also an old flight simulator(T-38) that no longer works but the kids can climb in and play with the dials. There is also an old fire truck, and many other things that my kids really enjoyed.

Imagination Station, the premier science and technology museum in the Greater Lafayette area, educates children and their families in the community, surrounding counties, and throughout the country. The museum's mission is to provide hands-on science, space, and technology experiences that stimulate young minds, says museum director Lisa Huenink. "With strong working relationships with NASA, Purdue and Ivy Tech State College, Imagination Station is leading the way to help foster the development of future scientists, doctors and community leaders." Imagination Station was founded in 1992 as The Association for Space, Science, Engineering, and Technology, Inc. For more information about the exhibit or the museum, call (765) 420-7780 or visit www.imagination-station.org.

Snakes, Rattles and Holes is provided by the Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service, the Department of Agricultural Communication and the Department of Forestry and Natural Resources.

There are also many herp related items in the gift shop including the book Snakes of Indiana and the CD ROM Snakes of the Midwest. The hours are Friday and Saturday 9-5, and the first Thursday of every month 4-8. SNAKES RATTLES and HOLES runs through the end of March.

CHINESE PUZZLE

The Chinese are renowned for their technology, manufacturing abilities, and strong marketing prowess. However, crocodile farming has them stymied. They had imported thousands of farmed crocs from Thailand a decade ago and instituted an extensive program to produce crocodile meat and leather. But the crocs would have none of this. The cooler climate of China, the crocs refusal to eat anything but expensive chicken breasts and a susception to infections have depleted the populations. The females have suffered severe fertility problems. { They must take the Chinese edict of 1 child per family very seriously] Not to be left in the "cold", the males crocs have been lacking libido.[A new market for export of viagra] Now I know why

Wal-Mart doesn't crocodile products.

Dave Mitchell Source: N.Y. Times News Service; The Hindu 10/24/2004

HERP NAMES

What's behind the nomenclature (scientific names)

By Jim Horton

Musk turtle, *Sternotherus odoratus* – *sternon* is greek (Gr) for the breast, chest; *therus* is derived from *thairos* (Gr) the hinge of a door; the plastron is hinged; *odor* is Latin (L) for a smell; *atus* (L) a suffix meaning provided with; it has a strong musky smell.

Spotted turtle, *Clemmys guttata* – *klemmus* comes from the greek word meaning, a tortoise: *guttata* is latin for a drop, a spot; *atus* (L) provided with; a reference to the yellow and orange spots on the shell.

Green anole, *Anolis carolinensis* – *anoli* (West Indian) a lizard; *ensis* (L) suffix meaning belonging to; it is not confined to Carolina and inhabits other southeastern states of the USA.

Broad-headed skink, *Eumeces laticeps* – *eu*-(Gr) a prefix meaning well, nicely; sometimes used to mean the typical or most advanced animals in a group; *mekos* (Gr) length, stature. *Latus* (L) broad, wide; *ceps* (L) the head.

Garter snake, *Thamnophis sirtalis* – *thamnos* (Gr) a bush, shrub; *ophis* (Gr) a serpent

Reference: Gotch, A. F., *Reptiles – Their Latin Names Explained*, 1986 Blanford Press

March HHS Meeting: Wed. Mar. 16th, 7:30 p.m.

Special Guest Speaker: Zach Walker

Topic: Survey of Indiana's Reptiles and Amphibians

The Hoosier Herpetological Society is proud to announce this month's guest speaker is Zach Walker. Zack is currently the state herpetologist for the D.N.R. Zack was born and raised in Bloomington, Indiana. He received a BS in wildlife science at Purdue University. He then received a MS in biology at I.U.P.U. at Ft. Wayne under Dr. Bruce Kingsbury. His thesis was a study of the special ecology of the timber rattlesnakes in South-Central Indiana. He worked for the Indiana D.N.R. as a deer research biologist for three years. He was then appointed as the state herpetologist.

During this past year he initiated studies on the timber rattlesnake, *Crotalus horridus*, the Eastern hellbender, *Cryptobranchus alleganienis*, (the state's largest amphibian), the Eastern spadefoot toad, *Scaphiopus holbrookii*, the hieroglyphic river cooter, *Pseudemys concinna hieroglyphica*, and the box turtles, both Eastern, *Terrapene carolina carolina*, and ornate, *Terrapene ornata ornata*. He will present his findings in a power point program and will also discuss the plans for this years studies. This is your chance to find out the latest status on some of the key wildlife species of Indiana. See you there!

Road Kill Candy

by Ed Ferrer

A week ago I read in the Indianapolis Star newspaper an article about a new candy that was going to appear on the market. They will be the similar texture to "gummy bears" but they will be shaped as animals that have been run over by cars complete with flattened portions of the animals with tire tread marks! Of course, the sample they had pictured was of a road kill snake! It was enough to turn any "herper's" stomach. I don't know how many times we have run across unfortunate snakes, turtles and frogs that have met their end on the road (sometimes drivers deliberately try to hit them) during our herp outings. I don't think we need to be reminded of these events when we go to

the store. There are some animal rights groups who are trying to get these items banned from being distributed. Hopefully they will be successful. It is bad enough that the video games are becoming increasingly violent. (I am against them also.) Must we also be subjected to animal cruelty as well? What kind of message are these candies sending to young kids? Hopefully we won't see these disgusting images on the shelves of our stores. If we do see these items I would encourage us to have enough sense and energy to demand that they be removed by bringing public pressure against them.

HERP HAPPENINGS

March 16, 2005 – General Meeting, Special Guest Speaker – Zack Walker, (Indiana's State Herpetologist) topic – “Survey of Amphibians and Reptiles in Indiana”.

Gallahue Hall, room # 108, 7:30 p.m.

March 20, 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

April 22-23, 2005 – Herpetology Weekend, Natural Bridge State Park, Slade, KY. Weekend event filled with talks, hikes and other herpetological activities

May 21, 2005 – Hoosier Herpout. Cookout and herp field-trips to photograph and identify herps. Hardin Ridge Recreation Area, Bloomington, IN

A TRYOUT TRIP TO THE PONDS

Jim Horton

On the last Sunday of February, Angela Thomas, Richard Reams, and I had visited some of the amphibian breeding ponds in Brown County. The day was in the 40's and rainy but quickly warmed up to the 50's. It was questionable if any activity was happening but we took the chance anyway at the very last minute.

As we arrived after dusk, we found calling and breeding wood frogs in the ice-cold water. Spotted and Jefferson's salamanders were common but not abundant. Spring peepers were calling but not at full range.

After photographing and dip-netting, we were forced to head back because of heavy rainfall. On our way back down the trail, Richard's keen eye spotted numerous salamanders crossing our paths. The falling rain had triggered their homing instincts to head toward the water sources.

I personally don't believe that there was any one strong evening for breeding activity (especially with the spotted salamanders). We have had a strange weather pattern lately with short spurts of warm, followed by very cool days.

We still may try another trip to include those members who were unable to accompany us on this one. If only Mother Nature would cooperate.

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: A good home for a 2-foot savanna monitor, healthy and eating well, (experienced with large lizards preferred) call Jim at (317) 865-0464

FOR SALE: 20 GALLON LONG AQUARIUM WITH SCREEN TOP. USED FOR BREEDING RATS.

\$20. 55 GALLON AQUARIUM, SCREEN TOP AND STAND. **\$40.00.** CALL ROGER OR HOLLY (317)873-6561

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: 04' Rough scale sand boas, healthy and feeding well, 55.00. Call Jim Horton (317) 865-0464.

FOR SALE: 0.0.5 Madagascar giant day geckos (*phelsuma madagascariensis grandis*), \$30.00 each. These babies are 2-5 mo.old, \$30.00 each. Mexican rosy boas (*Charina Lichanura trivargata*), proven breeders, \$160.00 pr. Leopard Geckos (*Eublepharis macularius*), 1 month old, 0.0.2, \$25.00, please contact Amy Baird (317) 756-7269.

FOR SALE

Mike Wood 574/269/3441 e-mail at 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.**

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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.

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<http://hoosierherpsociety.org>

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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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