



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 6

June 2011

President's Message

Jim Horton

The annual *Hoosier Herpout* at Hardin Ridge Recreation Area was a great success! We found about 10 different species of herps in just under two hours. Rain dampened the day and cut our herping short but it we all had a good time. Extra *thank you* goes to Roger and Holly Carter for their efforts in the cookout!

Scaly and Slimy Day is June 26 at Holiday Park. HHS volunteers are needed to display live herps. Please contact me for more information. Stardali84@hotmail.com

The new Hoosier Herpetological Society poster featuring the native *snakes of Indianapolis* is now available. The poster is part of HHS efforts toward education and conservation. Some of the posters will be donated to local non-profit institutions. There is a small amount of these posters available. A small fee will be charged for them and all proceeds go directly to the HHS.

This month we will have arachnids on our overhead screens and possibly some live specimens. Dr. Barbara Reger, *The Tarantula Teacher*, will be our guest speaker. See you there.

Welcome New Members!

Renewals:

Ed Roemer
Angela Thomas
John Wright
The Stahl Family

New Members:

Terry Dunham

Friday Night Frogwatch Programs – Eagle Creek Park

Learn about frogs that call Eagle Creek Park home and then go out to visit a pond in search of frogs.

July 8 & 22 (9pm-10:30pm), August 5 (9pm-10:30pm)

\$5.00/person - Meet at the Earth Discovery Center (in park)

Pre-registration required – 317-327-7148 or www.indyparks.org

HHS Meeting: Wednesday, June 15th 7:30 p.m.
Guest Speaker: Dr. Barbara Reger, "Tarantula Teacher"
Topic: "From Indiana Spiders to Worldly Tarantulas"
Butler University, Pharmacy Building Room #150

The Hoosier Herpetological Society is proud to welcome Dr. Barbara Reger as this month's guest speaker. Dr. Reger is affectionately known by her students as the "Tarantula Teacher" because she keeps over two hundred tarantulas, along with scorpions, other arachnid relatives, and black widows and brown recluse spiders. She has studied spiders since she was in the 8th grade. She has worked with and researched tarantulas for the past 30 years. Dr. Reger co-founded the American tarantula Society in 1992 and has written one book and co-authored another book on tarantulas. She will discuss Indiana's common spiders, including black widows and brown recluse spiders, as well as her work with tarantulas. **This is a "can't miss presentation! See you there!**

Herp Lovers Come in All Shapes and Sizes
(or Why the Hoosier Herpetological Society Has Something for Everyone)

By William Brown

The Hoosier Herpetological Society (the "HHS") is composed of members with diverse interests, all of whom share a common bond: a love of herps. To understand not only the diversity of the HHS's membership, but how the HHS manages to serve its members notwithstanding the diversity of their individual interests, requires an understanding of some basic vocabulary.

A "herpetologist" is a zoologist (a type of biologist) who specializes in reptiles, amphibians, crocodylians and turtles (sometimes referred to generically as "herps"). As a scientist, a herpetologist is focused on learning more about the species in which he or she is interested, through research, which can take the form of reading and reviewing existing literature, and/or "field herping" – the gathering of new information through observation of herps in their natural habitats.

A "herpetoculturist" is someone who keeps herps in captivity (which may, but does not necessarily, include breeding). A herpetoculturist often is interested in creating the most naturalistic environment in which to display his or her herps.

Of course, herpetology and herpetoculture are not exclusive. Many herpetologists keep (and breed) specimens in captivity and most herpetoculturists avidly study the species they keep. Moreover (as well illustrated by the membership of the HHS) many persons are both herpetologists and herpetoculturists, enjoying both aspects of our hobby.

Further, both herpetologists and herpetoculturists share other common interests, including photography and the collection of herp art and memorabilia. Generally, both also share a strong interest in conservation and preserving the rights of herp owners and breeders.

Not everyone approaches herpetology or herpetoculture in the same way, or necessarily shares the same interests in the various aspects of either field. Nevertheless, the HHS manages to serve all of its members, regardless of their particular area(s) of interest.

The HHS accomplishes this daunting task by offering a wide array of activities and opportunities to its members throughout the year. These include:

- Sponsoring monthly lectures by some of the Nation's leading experts in their respective fields;
- Monthly "herp of the month" presentations, which offer members not only species-specific information, but a "hands on" opportunity to interact with a variety of herps;
- Maintaining a state-of-the-art website that includes wide-ranging information on topics running the gamut from individual species and herp husbandry to videos and fun features on herp art and collectibles;
- Publishing a monthly newsletter, filled with information and features on a diverse range of herp-related topics;
- Field herping opportunities, like the annual Herpout and Herpetology Weekend, as well as canoe trips and organized if somewhat informal field trips to Snake Road in Illinois and other locations both inside and outside Indiana;
- Classified ads (in both the monthly newsletter and on the website), which members can use to buy, sell or adopt herps or herp supplies;
- A yearly photography contest with cash prizes and separate categories for both photographs of captive animals and those taken in the wild (recently expanded to include a category for videos taken by our members);
- Field trips to non-herp related locations, of common interest to our members, such as a recent trip to the Exotic Feline Rescue Center;
- Opportunities to be involved in conservation efforts, through lobbying, education and direct involvement in habitat and other areas of environmental concern;
- Maintaining a booth at local reptile shows, at which members can offer items for sale (at no cost to the member) and which serve an important educational function with respect to both the HHS and herps in general;
- Participation at local community events and public herp-related presentations; and
- Tracking and lobbying with respect to proposed legislation on both a state and national level affecting herps, herp ownership, or the sale of herps.

And this is only a sampling of the activities of the HHS, most of which are available to members at little or no cost beyond the very reasonable annual membership fee. Family memberships are available and the HHS encourages the participation of families (particularly children, who represent the next generation of herpetologists and herpetoculturists – absolutely necessary if the HHS is to perpetuate itself and its mission).

Perhaps most importantly, the HHS provides the opportunity to gather and socialize with persons who share a passion for herps, to share knowledge and experiences and to collaborate towards common goals. If you're already an HHS member, I encourage you to get more involved – attend club events and monthly meetings, and consider volunteering with respect to club functions. If you're not an HHS member, but you love herps, my question is: why are you not a member? Join today and get involved in the state's only organization open to the general public dedicated to the study and enjoyment of herps.

Editor's note: Very well said Will!

I have one more thing to add. If you look at what you pay **every month** for cell phone, cable, and, or other bills and the small amount of only \$15.00 a year for an HHS membership, then I must ask, Why not join?

Jim

Hoosier Herpout 2011

By Amy Baird
(Photos by Jim Horton and Amy Baird)

The annual HHS “Herpout” took place Saturday, May 14th. Although there were fewer in attendance than in previous years, this outing proved to be very successful with a wide variety of herps discovered. As in years past, we met Saturday morning at the picnic area of Hardin Ridge. It was nice to have a couple new faces this year, Mary and Andrea. The weather was perfect that morning (the rain waited until after lunch to arrive) and we set out to the first site. We found a box turtle before we even left the picnic area which set an optimistic mood among the group. We would find several more box turtles including a mating pair.



Roger Carter with a pair of Eastern milk snakes

Before reaching our first stop, we had an impromptu search around some construction debris. Several toads were found lurking under pieces of plywood. We moved on to our usual sites where we found many milk snakes (7 or 8!), several ring necks, a garter snake, a very well spotted rough green snake (nice one, Jim!), a five-lined skink, a ground skink, a copperhead, and one of my favorites, an eastern fence lizard. A

fantastic list of herps!



Northern fence lizard

After several hours of herping we returned to the picnic area for a cookout. As usual, the food was delicious. Thank you to everyone who brought yummys, and a special thanks to Roger and Holly for preparing food and cooking it! Those of us who braved the weather and camped were treated to Jim’s presentation on Reptiles and Amphibians of Indiana, which was held in the amphitheater at 8pm Saturday night. The event, which was well attended by the Boy Scouts, was well done with interesting dialog (I just love to hear Jim do his frog calls) and excellent photos. Peter and I had great fun this Herpout weekend and look forward to next year.



Rough green snake and eastern garter snake

KNIVES AND HERP ART (Part 8)

Photos & story by Roger Carter



This small knife has a picture of a cobra on the blade. The image is not engraved into the blade but is “painted” on, although the word “Pakistan” is on the back side of the blade and appears to have been engraved into the blade. As you see it in the picture the knife is seven and one-quarter inches long and the blade is three and one-half inches to the leading corner of the handle. The handle is wood and looks like different colors of wood were laminated together. I don’t know what this knife could be used for and I assume that the big hole in the blade allows the user to put his finger through it to help hold on to it. The edge is not sharp but might have been. I have not bothered to sharpen it.



Our Guest Speaker from last month – Todd Pierson

Todd Pierson delivered a colorful presentation at the last meeting titled -*Tropical Salamanders: Diversity and Declines...But Not all Doom and Gloom*

He brought the audience around the world in his search for salamanders. He is currently studying at the University of Georgia and working with one of the latest species to be discovered in the United States – the patch-nosed salamander *Urspelerpes brucei*. This salamander is found in only a few isolated spots near the Appalachian Mountains.

Some of the regions that Todd has recently explored are Europe and Central America.

In 2010-11, Todd and his fellow herpers had set out to find some of the rare salamanders of the Guatemalan forests.

Then he told us of *Taliban Ted*, a salamander expert who shared a few of his secrets with Todd. This gentleman has done fieldwork in 92 countries!

In 1976, Paul Elias was just another kid on vacation with his parents in Central America. Paul went out into the forests and found 3 new species of salamander. He named one the Fiesta salamander which is found only in one fragmented location. Another species, *Bradytriton*, was last seen by Paul in the 70’s but was re-discovered again in 2009. The critically endangered *Bilitoglossa jacksoni* was last seen in 1976 and is now gone.

They found some species but were unable to find and of the presumed extinct species.

EVENTS

June 15, 2011 – HHS meeting, Guest Speaker: Dr. Barbara Reger, Topic – *From Indiana Spiders to Worldly Tarantulas*.

June 26, 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. Other dates: 11/13, 12/18 For info: (317) 861-550, www.midwestreptile.com

June 26, 2011 – *Scaly and Slimy Day* at Holiday Park, Indianapolis. Live herp exhibit by HHS members. All current members are welcome to display their amphibians and (or) reptiles. 2:00-3:30PM

August 7, 2011 – Indiana Reptile Expo, Hamilton County Fairgrounds, 10am-4pm
www.indianareptileexpo.com

August 2011 - 34th International Herpetological Symposium, Fort Worth, Texas

October 21-23, 2011 – 27th Annual Midwest Herpetological Symposium, Minnesota. Banquet, speakers, auction, photography, vendors, videos, more! www.mnherpsoc.org

Classifieds

For adoption: 0.1 Redfoot tortoise about 10 years old. In excellent health. Needs room to roam. Contact Dave Mitchell at 317-570-9643 or turtlelovin@att.net

For sale: Decorative Quality Amish built sweater box rack system. Has 28 Clear sweater boxes, heat tape, Helix temperature controller, has rollers, storage space top and bottom, ready to plug in and use - 825.00 (with out Helix heat controller 700.00). Can send pictures or welcome to come and see in person. Mike Wood 574 269 3441 twobears@embarqmail.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.**

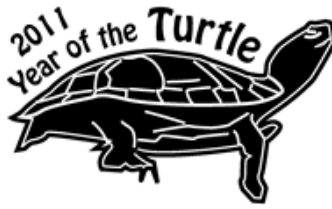
*******Note: Meetings are currently held at the Pharmacy building, room # 150*******

Don't forget our web address!

www.hoosierherpsoc.org

www.Petfinder.com

Petfinder is an online, searchable database of animals that need homes. It is also a directory of more than 13,000 animal shelters and adoption organizations across the U.S., Canada and Mexico. Organizations maintain their own home pages and available-pet databases.



Your HHS Board of

Directors for 2011

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The Monitor is printed courtesy
The Harding Poorman Group

Got Rodents?

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

EARPS, Exotic Animal Rescue and Pet Sanctuary (EARPS, Inc.) is a 501(c)3 non-profit rescue group made up of volunteers working together to improve the quality of life for pocket pets, exotic pets, and non-traditional pets through fostering, adopting, and educating, as well as helping control the pet population through spaying and neutering.

The North American Field Herping Association (NAFHA) www.naherp.com

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)

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!