



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 27 Number 11

November 2016

www.hoosierherpsoc.org

HHS Monthly Meeting

November 16th at 7:00 PM

Holliday Park Nature Center

Guest Speaker: Will Bird (Louisville Zoo)

Topic: "Herping" Kentucky

The Hoosier Herpetological Society is delighted to welcome back Will Bird as this month's guest speaker. Will has worked at the Louisville Zoo for the past 20 years. He also operates his own reptile business, Extraordinary Ectotherms, and co-founded the Kentucky Herp Society (serving as their president for many years.) He has worked with the KY Department of Fish and Wildlife and Will is going to update us on the field work he has been involved with over the past few years since his last presentation. Every time I visit Kentucky I am amazed at the states "herptofauna" (more than what we have in Indiana). This will be a great presentation so be sure to attend.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

NEW MEMBERS

Michael c. Potempa

Grant Mason

Ian & Quinn Slabach

RENEWALS

Caroline
Anderson

Roger & Holly Carter

Mark & Sue
Henderson

Wanda Horner

Martha Horton

John & Linda Jett

Janice I. Kucera

Mike McNeely

Donald Nuetzman

Michael & Tami Raymond

Stacey Roesch

David Stahl

Stokes Family

Robert S. Tyler

President's message

Jim Horton

This month we hold elections for 2017 officer positions. We will open the floor for nominations. Please be thinking of someone in the club who might be a good fit for your HHS board. If you would like to nominate yourself, please feel free to do so.

I'd like to welcome our newest members and give a big THANK YOU to our re-subscribing members!
Your continued interest and support is greatly appreciated!

We had a great turnout for the Holliday Park live herp show. The place was very busy from what I've been told. I thank our dedicated members who came out for the day to educate attendees! Look for a review article from Mary Hylton in this issue.

As in the past, there will be no newsletter or meeting for the month of December. We will however, hold our annual holiday gathering. This will take place December 10 at MCL south.

Many of you might be familiar with Will Bird, our guest speaker for this month. Will (and his herping partner, Phil) have recorded some extraordinary finds in the Bluegrass State. They have written two books on snakes and snake hunting. This should be a great presentation!

See you at the next meeting!

Herps Galore at Holliday Park!

November 6, 2016, Holliday Park Nature Center

Children of all ages visited the Holliday Park Nature Center on Sunday, November 6th to join in the park's annual Fall Festival celebration. The HHS live animal exhibit has quickly become an important tradition at this event. The faces on the youngest attendees best captured the delight and excitement experienced by all who passed by the many tables containing a wide variety of herps (and even some non-herps – i.e., Chinese Praying Mantis). Several folks experienced the delicious “danger” of holding their first snake! Approximately 350 individuals visited the exhibit from 1:30-4:30 p.m. Thanks to those HHS members who contributed their time, shared their passion for herping and their herps to make this another successful event!

Members included:

Holly Carter

Braydon Koranjawala (sincere apology if this is misspelled)

Thomas Raymond

Roger Carter

Rex Morell

Dale Schoentrup

Ed Ferrer

Audrey Quigley

Kimberly Scott

Pat Hammond

Robert Quigley

Angela Thomas

Mary Hylton

Sophia Quigley

Abbie Watson

Neill Jones

Tami Raymond

Heather White



Many thanks, too, to the Holliday Park Nature Center staff for their assistance especially with program setup. Such a fun event! If you weren't able to attend this year I highly encourage you to visit next year and experience the excitement for yourself!

Mary Hylton

October Meeting Program Review

Ed Ferrer

On October 26th Jim Horton presented a program of the herping field trip he and Pat Hammond took through northwest Florida this past May. Dan Dourson invited them to stay at his research site in the Cedar Keys. They stayed one night in an off grid cabin (featuring a lot of what Floridians call "water bugs" (actually roaches). That night they saw the red eyes of an alligator shining in the darkness in the pond so they cancelled their plans of exploring the pond the next day. They found several dead snakes on the roads, Gulf Hammock rat snakes, water snakes, a corn snakes and a dusky pigmy rattlesnake. Jim apologized to the scouts for the somewhat gruesome shots but he explained when out herping any dead species should be counted as finds. Among the live "herps" found during their two day stay were several anoles, green tree frogs, a scarlet snake, corn snakes, a southern ringneck snake, and a mud snake. They also found a few Florida cottonmouths or water moccasins which have a much more attractive banded pattern than the Western cottonmouths found in our area. Other species found were a Florida mud turtle, scarlet king snake, blue phase garter snake, Gulf Hammock rat snakes, and a black racer. One morning they investigated some turtle traps and found three turtle species, yellow bellies, stink pots and mud turtle. Once they were documented they were released.

They also went kayaking in the Key Island area. Traveling in the Apalachicola National Forest they found Gulf coast box turtles, an Eastern ribbon snake and tree frogs. At St. Vincent Island they found a large alligator on the beach in the surf. They also found another Florida cottonmouth, a broad head skink and some sundew plants.

Besides the herps, since Jim is also interested in plants. He included some photos of many beautiful flowers and other plant life that added to the presentation. They ended their trip searching the Apalachicola National Forest by finding Jim's favorite carnivorous plants, sundews and pitcher plants, and several species of orchids. During the trip Jim was pleased to be able to find some species for the very first time which he called "Lifers".

HHS NOMINEES FOR 2017 OFFICER POSITIONS

President – Jim Horton

Vice-President – Mary Hylton, Pat Hammond, Heather White

Secretary – Holly Carter

Treasurer – Roger Carter

Sergeant at Arms – Neill Jones, Robert Tyler

The following is a list of the elected offices with a brief description of responsibilities of each officer.

President: presides at meetings of the society, is the nominal head of the society, and appoints committees as they are needed for the business of the society.

Vice-president: fulfills the duties of the President if the President is absent and assumes the office of President if that position becomes vacant.

Secretary: maintains the records of the society, such as the minutes of society meetings.

Treasurer: maintains the funds of the society, such as paying the society's bills and depositing funds collected from membership dues, donations, etc.

Sergeant-at-Arms: keeps order at society meetings and other functions sponsored by the Society.

HHS EDUCATES AT DANVILLE PARKS

Several members of the HHS were on hand at Twin Bridges Park in Danville November 2nd for an Indiana Master Naturalist program.

The program runs several weeks and covers a wide variety of Indiana's natural heritage. The amphibian and reptile class was run by the HHS. Ed Ferrer, Roger Carter, Holly Carter, and Jim Horton donated their time from 6:00 to 9:00PM for the event. They provided live herps, signage, and HHS literature material for the attendees. Jim presented Amphibians and Reptiles of Indiana via PowerPoint. This is our 3rd year to instruct the IMN classes at the Danville location. Once again, Danville Parks and IMN donated to the HHS for our efforts.



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



MARK YOUR CALANDERS!
THE HHS HOLIDAY PARTY IS DECEMBER 10

MCL (south) 3630 South East St. Indianapolis, IN 46227 from 5:30 to 8:30 PM.
Dinner and White elephant gift exchange.

HHS SURVEYS CROWN HILL WOODLANDS

HHS members Dale Schoentrup and Jim Horton met with Don Miller, Land Steward for Indianapolis Parks and Recreation to inventory a local woodland.

The Indiana Forest Alliance is fighting to save an old growth forest in Indianapolis. The particular site is now owned by the Department of Veteran Affairs and is planned to be cleared for a memorial for Indiana veterans. The Forest Alliance argues that this particular site is a treasure and that there are trees over 300 years old within it.

The Forest Alliance has been surveying the area for rare plants and wildlife. The HHS helped survey the area in late October. The season for amphibians and reptiles is coming to an end, so the results were scarce. One smallmouth salamander (*Ambystoma texanum*) was the only herp found.

With the possibility of more regulation and setbacks, the site could remain intact for some time. If so, another survey could yield more species in spring.



Jim Horton observes a large red oak



Smallmouth salamander – photos Dale Schoentrup

2016 HERPETOLOGICAL EVENTS

November 16, 2016 – HHS meeting, Guest speaker: Will Bird (Louisville Zoo), Topic: *Herping Kentucky*

December 10, 2016 – HHS Holiday Party, Location – MCL (south) 3630 South East St. Indianapolis, IN 46227 from 5:30 to 8:30 PM. Dinner and White elephant gift exchange.

January 15, 2017 - 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

H.H.S. T-Shirts for purchase

The new t-shirts are here! The shirts are in two vibrant colors and feature a beautiful photo of an Eastern Box Turtle. They will be available at both the Midwest Reptile Show and the Noblesville Reptile Expo.

Anyone wanting to purchase a new t-shirt should call or text me the size and color of the shirt they want. I will bring them to the meeting. (I will bring a few extras in common sizes for those who forgot and want to decide in the last minute.) My cell phone is (317) 727-7553 (Text that one) or my home phone is (317) 787-7448.

Be sure to plan on getting yours while we have all the sizes available! - Ed

Your HHS Board of Directors for 2016

PRESIDENT	Jim Horton	(317) 443-4845	stardali84@hotmail.com
VICE-PRESIDENT	Mary Hylton	(317) 966-4591	liblady81@hotmail.com
SECRETARY	Holly Carter	(317) 873-6561	drymarchonzz@hotmail.com
TREASURER/MEMBERSHIP	Roger Carter	(317) 873-6561	drymarchonzz@hotmail.com
SERGEANT AT ARMS	Will Brown	(765) 278-1480	wrbrown15@aol.com
EDITOR	Jim Horton	(317) 443.4845	Stardali84@hotmail.com
PROGRAM DIRECTOR	Ed Ferrer	(317) 787-7448	pythonpals1@msn.com
WAYS AND MEANS CHAIR	Angela Thomas	(317) 882-5266	necali@comcast.net
WEBSITE COORDINATOR	Barbara Filtri		webmaster@hoosierherpsoc.org
MEMBERS AT LARGE	Pat Hammond	(317) 656-9496	gnawbone92@yahoo.com
	Rick Marrs		rickmarrs@ymail.com
	Dale Schoentrup		eyelashviper@hotmail.com
	Heather White		dogcatrvt@yahoo.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 7:00 p.m. at Holliday Park Nature Center. Membership is open to all interested individuals. **No venomous animals are allowed at the General Meetings.**

Need Rodents?

As a service to our members, HHS member Barbara Filtri is offering to pickup and deliver your order from Hoosier Mouse Supply.

Barbara will deliver frozen rodents to our general meetings. Call Hoosier Mouse Supply (317.831.1219) one to two days before the meeting to make your order. Please give your name and tell them that you are a member and Barbara will pick up your order. Have check or cash ready.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

New Member

Renewal

Name _____

Date _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip Code _____

Phone _____

Email Address _____

Individual/Family Membership \$20.00

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!