



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 3

March 2013

March HHS General Meeting
Wednesday March 20th 7:00 p.m.
Guest Speaker: Bill Love, Blue Chameleon Ventures
Topic: "*Herping the Arid Zone - Arizona*"
Holiday Park Auditorium

The Hoosier Herpetological Society is proud to announce that our guest speaker for March is **Bill Love!** Bill is one of the true pioneers in the Herp community! Bill has been fascinated by herps since his childhood in New Jersey and then for 40 years living in Florida. His special passion continues to be seeking and photographing herps in the wild. He gives educational presentations, leads eco-tours to Madagascar via *Blue Chameleon Ventures*, writes freelance articles on various herp subjects, and authors the monthly *Herpetological Queries* column in *Reptiles Magazine* for the past 20 years. He and his wife Kathy selectively bred numerous species in captivity, creating many prominent color morphs, propagated snakes on a commercial scale, importing and exporting them worldwide as co-owner of **Glades Herp, Inc.** He has traveled globally observing and recording the natural histories on film and pixels in nature. Two years ago Bill moved to Phoenix, Arizona and began exploring the Southern half of the state His presentation: "**Herping the Arid Zone-Arizona**" is a one hour, image-filled PowerPoint program that is the culmination of ten field herping trips throughout Arizona. Be sure to join author/photographer Bill Love as he takes us into unique places in search of diverse herptofauna. Hundreds of great images will show the terrain and its inhabitants as Bill shows what it is like to track down both common and rare species of this special state.

Bill Love is certainly a giant in the world of herpetology! **Make sure you plan to attend this special event!**



New meeting time and venue for 2013

All of our meetings for 2013 are now held at the *Holliday park nature center* at-7:00-9:00 PM

Welcome back members!

RENEWAL

Kasey and Josh May

NEW MEMBERS

Jessica Jensen

"Geckos" (a review)

Jim Horton

I've recently had a chance to visit the Geckos exhibit at the Indianapolis Children's Museum. This is a nice interactive display of about 15 species of geckos. The graphics are really eye-catching and colorful. Each glass enclosure is created with a natural effect. Some caging had been designed with water features and live plants. This was a really nice natural touch.

Desert aquaria included tunnels opened up to the glass front for viewing. Other nocturnal geckos were displayed with the 'lights off' to minimize stress. The most impressive live gecko (my personal favorite) was the leaf-tailed gecko (*Uroplatus*) display. This temporary exhibit has plenty of "hands-on" activities for extending the knowledge of visitors attending it. Kids can slip on Velcro pads to their hands and knees to imitate how a gecko might stick to surfaces. Another interactive display offered buttons to push to match the correct sound of a particular audible gecko.

A giant graphic showcased a huge backlit close-up of gecko eyes while another showed photos of geckos utilizing camouflage – you have to find the hidden gecko.

A signboard offered specific times throughout the day to see and learn more about these creatures up close. But these 'family programs' were not without an extra fee.

In all, from a hobbyist's point of view, I thought it was a really nice display. The massive advertising campaign was a bit overkill for the size of this exhibit (in my opinion). Huge banners and other graphics (inside and out) making sure that you don't overlook 'Geckos'. This event was supported by several sizeable sponsors. I'm guessing that is why this exhibit is well advertised all over town.



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

Spring is here!! Well, maybe not officially just yet. To field herpers, it is definitely here. Salamanders are moving and frogs are calling! This is the time to get out in the great outdoors and see these fascinating creatures in the wild. Some of us have already visited the vernal ponds and they are filled with amphibians.

As always, visit our website message board if you are interested in going out. HHS members are always happy to share this experience with others.

If you would like a more structured outing, try the **Amphibian Outing** at McCormick's Creek State Park. This event is Saturday, March 23 at the Park Inn. It involves live herps on display, trips to the woods for amphibians, a Powerpoint presentation, and even an amphibian triathlon for kids. Sponsored by the HHS and the *Friends of McCormick's Creek State Park*. Join other HHS members in this great spring event!

Our guest speaker for this month is none other than Mr. Bill Love. Bill Love is a well known (nationally known) herper, author, and photographer. This will be standing room only! Please arrive early for the best seating arrangements.

Thanks to Stacey Summit-Mann for a really great and interactive talk last month! Her presentation on Biomimicry really got everyone involved and had them interested. I learned a lot and I'm sure everyone did as well.

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.

Feb. 20th Meeting Review

by Ed Ferrer

February's meeting started out with Chris Young of Black Magic Reptiles, aided by his father, supplying a live "herp of the month" presentation by showing a purple phase albino reticulated python. Everyone was impressed by the beauty of this very active 15 ft. snake. Chris originally obtained this serpent as a malnourished rescue measuring only about four feet. They did a great job of nursing it back to health and now plan to breed it in the near future.

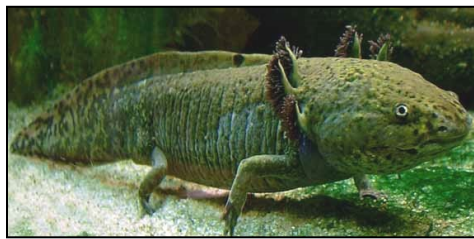
The guest speaker for the evening was Stacey Summitt-Mann, a 2009 Butler University grad, now in her fourth year of teaching biology, ecology and zoology at the University High School in Carmel. Her topic was "Bio-Mimicry the Herping Way". She started out by discussing how animals in nature typically utilize the environment in a way that the biomass is basically sustainable. She contrasted that with how humans typically interact with the environment in basically the opposite way, using up resources and leaving very little behind. She then had the audience divide up in partners for the next activity. One partner after closing their eyes was given an object while the other partner used adjectives to describe the object. Using the verbal clues and their senses of touch and smell the blinded partner was to identify the object. She then described how scientists were trying to study how amphibians and reptiles have evolved features that allowed them certain advantages that aided in their survival. Could humans learn from nature and apply some of these adaptations to make our lives more productive? She cited several situations in which humans have copied animal traits that could be used to

improve our technology. One example was the study of the design of lizard's feet that provided them great traction allowing them to climb vertically up walls. Similar designs are now being incorporated to construct athletic shoes that supply better traction for running and stopping. Sand boas are able to burrow through sand easily because their scales are constructed to reduce friction allowing them a more efficient way to maneuver through the sand. Now scientists are looking into incorporating the design of the scales to make tires that reduce the friction of the road thus allowing the tires to last much longer. She described other examples and showed that there may be many ways that humans can learn from nature to make our lives more efficient and productive. Stacey certainly got us to think "outside the box" in her unique presentation.

www.hoosierherpsoc.org

Herp of the month

Adoptions *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 or 317-371-3615. They will also be available at each of the herp swaps in Indy at the herp society's table.

Source: www.yearofthesnake.org



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

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.

KNIVES AND HERP ART (*INTERMISSION*)

by Roger Carter

This is a break in my regular articles to report on a knife that I do not have, mostly because it is \$200.00 (actually \$199.95). I found this knife on the web site of the **National Rifle Association** (www.nra.org). From their home page click on NRA store and then click on knives to see this knife. The following is the description of the knife from their web site:



A carved Diamondback Rattler's body gracefully adorns the front of its cocobolo handle, and the back panel features realistic, textured scales – the result of state-of-the-art laser technology. When opened, the blade reveals a complete snake, alongside the classic patriot's warning: "Don't Tread On Me." The NRAstore teamed with American manufacturer Bear Ops® to produce this exclusive collectible knife. It features a satin finished, Sandvik 14C28N steel blade with incredible edge stability that's also corrosion resistant and easy to sharpen. "NRA" is prominently featured on the front of the handle. Each knife is individually numbered for collectability. Includes black microfiber pouch and manufacturer's lifetime warranty. Made in USA.

Specifications:

- Sandvik 14C28N knife steel
- Rockwell hardness range: 57-60 HRC
- Laser carved cocobolo wood handle
- Liner lock handle system
- Custom rattlesnake design on handle and blade
- Individually numbered
- Dual thumb studs
- Includes black microfiber storage pouch
- 7¾" long (opened)
- 4½" long (closed)
- Thickness: 5/8"
- 100% Made in USA
- Includes manufacturer's lifetime warranty

North American Amphibian Monitoring Program

Amphibians are disappearing rapidly and they need our help. Citizen science has come a long way. 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/>

2013 EVENTS

March 16, 17, 2013 - North American Reptile Breeders Conference. Tinley Park, Illinois www.narbc.com

March 23, 2013 – "Amphibian Outing" McCormick's Creek State Park, Spencer, IN. Sponsored by the HHS and Friends of McCormick's Creek State Park. Powerpoint, Exhibit of live amphibians, and field herping. 2-8pm

April 7, 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 Other dates: June 2, August 25

April 7, 2013 - Indiana Reptile Expo, Hamilton County Fairgrounds, 10am-4pm, \$6.00 admission
www.indianareptileexpo.com HHS has a booth at this event!

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

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

August 31-September 3 – Midwest Herpetological Symposium, Peoria, Illinois.

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 Meeting**

The Monitor is printed courtesy of:

The Harding Poorman Group



Spring is in the air!

HHS member Zach Truelock recently visited woodland amphibian breeding ponds. Below is some of what he saw. You can find the rest on the HHS message board.

Spotted and Jefferson's Salamanders



Photos – Zach Truelock

Spring Peeper



Photo – Zach Truelock

Mostly Reptiles

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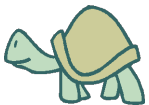
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“Snakehead Ed” Ferrer



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Individual/Family Membership \$15.00

Sustaining Membership \$25.00 or more

Herpetological Interest(s)

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Dated Material Enclosed

Address Correction Requested

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