



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 21 Number 11

November 2010

President's Message

Jim Horton

Good news! The Midwest Herpetological Symposium will continue next year in Minnesota. This month we will vote for HHS Board of Directors for the year 2011. Voting will take place after the presentation from our guest speaker.

I would like to thank Mark and Sue Henderson at Hoosier Mouse Supply for donating rodents to our monthly raffle.

There will be no meeting in December. Our annual holiday party will take the place of the general meeting. We will send out a flier for the holiday party in December. This is also the last newsletter of the year 2010. With that announcement, I'd like to thank a few people for without them this club would not be what it is today.

Mr. Ed Ferrer has worked hard all year to provide top-notch speakers for us. He has also brought in several new members! Angela Thomas continues to work the raffle every month and attends most exhibits! Roger and Holly Carter attend most HHS events, work the HHS table at the Midwest Reptile Show, and keep track of our membership roster. Dave Mitchell participates in HHS exhibits and has our finances in order every year! He continues to do a superb job! Thanks to Rick Marrs, Mike Wood, Amy Baird, Brittany Daniels, Will Brown, and anyone else I may have forgotten to mention.

I'd also like to thank our dedicated members who renew their membership annually. Thanks to those members that attend the monthly meetings and all of you who cannot make it due to other circumstances.

We (HHS) are the only herpetological organization in the state of Indiana that I'm aware of. I'm proud that we are still going strong despite the internet and other forms of communication. There is nothing like the camaraderie of a group of individuals sharing the same interest. An organized group can also be a force in fighting for the rights of herpetile enthusiasts and their animals.

During the HHS Board meeting, the subject of the starting time for our monthly meeting was brought up. We usually get started late and then after our club business, even later. We realize that there are folks and kids in the audience that need to be home at a reasonable time. Therefore, we have decided to start the meetings on time (7:30pm) and take care of other business after the Guest Speaker's presentation. Please make a note of our start time.

Don't forget, our annual photo contest is in January of 2011. Get your best photos ready for the *wild* and *captive* categories! Prizes to be announced.

Don't forget our new address!

www.hoosierherpsoc.org

Welcome New Members!

Renewals

Mike McNeely

Bob and Ellie Hammond

Leonard Gray (Sustaining membership)

New Members

Jason Gaspar (Sustaining Membership)

November HHS Meeting

Wednesday, November 17th, 7:30 p.m.

Guest Speaker: Dr. Robert Brodman, St. Joseph's College

Topic: *Conservation of Unique Herps of New Zealand and the Galapagos Islands*

Butler University, Room#150, new wing of Pharmacy Building

The Hoosier Herpetological Society is proud to announce that Robert Brodman is November's guest speaker. "Dr. Bob", as his students affectionately refer to him, is a professor of biology and environmental science at St. Joseph's College. He will be speaking about the "Conservation of Unique Herps of New Zealand and Galapagos Islands". He received his PhD. at Kent State University in Ecology and his field research is mostly on the ecology and conservation of amphibians. He is also on the advisory board for the Midwest Partners for Amphibians and Reptiles and the Indiana DNR. His talks are always very interesting, informative and entertaining. Be sure to attend!

Reptile shows

By Mike Wood

At most reptile shows we see a wide variety of animals that represent our hobby. Like any other hobby there is a wide variety of vendors and some import wild caught animals. Some breed the animals themselves and some buy their animals from other breeders for resale.

If you're considering a new animal ask the vendor if he/she produced it, if not who did? Does it appear in good health? Is the cage clean? What impression does the vendor give you? Does the vendor give solid care information? BEWARE of a vendor who is selling something that he or she does not know how the proper care of the animal. Most likely the animal has not received the care it needs up to this point. Ask the vendor what guarantee comes with the animal. There is nothing worse than poor customer service after the sale.

If you don't know anything about the vendor The Hoosier Herp Society provides a free service of vender/breeder information.

Contact me at this e-mail address and I will have/or will find out the vendors reputation for you. My hope is buy purchasing from honest vendors/breeders we're sending our hard-earned money to people that deserve it and in the long term putting the "flesh peddlers" out of business. Always buy captive born when possible.

Got Rodents?

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

Meeting Review

October 2010

Our guest for the evening was Mr. Daryl Karns, professor of Biology at Hanover College. Mr. Karn's presentation was a two part program. The first section covered his field work from past to present. His work in the country of Thailand included the Homalopsidae species of snakes. His research with these species included Cambodia in Vietnam – home of the world's largest snake harvest – mostly Homalopsines. The captured snakes from his studies were sent to the Chicago Field Museum where diet, reproduction, and evolutionary relationship studies were performed.



Daryl is largely involved in BioBlitz's that have occurred in Indiana. The Bio Blitz is a short-term assessment of all species in a particular area. He mentioned the rolls of *citizen scientists* who have and are able to contribute to these studies. Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, Theodore Roosevelt, John Muir and Charles Darwin were citizen scientists with no professional backgrounds. All of these gentlemen played a large part in natural history.

Other citizen scientist activities include the Christmas bird count, Earth Watch Institute, Muscatatuck River Watershed, and the NAAMP (Frogwatch USA).

He mentioned that the first BioBlitz in the U.S. was in 1996 at a Washington D.C. public park. The first Indiana BioBlitz was in 2002 and there have been 18 ever since the start.

During a B.B. at Hanover College, 571 total species was calculated. They included fish surveys and fossil teams. Large numbers of lungless salamanders were found as well.

Mr. Karns headed a B.B. at Wesselman Woods Nature Preserve where 264 total species were recorded. Marbled, spotted, and slimy salamanders were found.

In 2009, Loblolly Marsh was the site of another BioBlitz directed by Mr. Karns. A total of 545 species was found in one day.

This past summer, a B.B. was held at Goose Pond. 896 total species was recorded in 3 days.

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore was a public B.B. where the media was invited. National Geographic was filming there for this event.

The BioBlitz has and will continue to have a positive impact with public education. The discoveries of invasive species are another tool for these important events.

For more information regarding total species counts, go to the Indiana Academy of Sciences www.indianaacademyofscience.org

It's getting cold outside – are you prepared?

Jim Horton

Once again, the winter season is fast approaching. An ice or heavy snow storm could erupt very quickly. Bitter cold followed by an outage of electricity could spell trouble for our herps.

If the power goes out during freezing conditions, what will happen to those ectotherms we love so much? Some of us will be ready with an alternative heat source.

Fortunately, there are many forms of heat that don't directly require your local electric company. There are many alternative heat sources - fireplace inserts, potbelly stoves, pellet stoves, solar heating, propane heating, kerosene heat, soapstone stoves, and using an electric (gas powered generators).

Alternative heat sources can be dangerous. Many require good ventilation and (or) constant monitoring.

Our pets are helpless without us and they require our greatest attention during the cooler months. Please keep them in mind for the winter season.

The Monitor is printed courtesy
The Harding Poorman Group

Your nominees for 2011 HHS Executive Board Officers

President - Jim Horton, Rick Marrs

vice - president Ed Ferrer, Pat Hammond, Angela Thomas

secretary - Holly Carter

Treasurer - Dave Mitchell

Sgt At Arms - Will Brown, Roger Carter

Pat Hammond

I was first introduced to the HHS around 1994. I officially joined in '95.

I have been heavily involved in the HHS since I joined. I have helped out with many educational programs offered by the society.

I helped with the symposium we hosted back in 1998. I plan on helping with our next symposium whenever we do it again.

I collect books on herps from field guides to the classics from Ditmars, Kauffeld, Pope and others. My main passion is field herping. I love to travel to exotic destinations to photograph herps in the field.

Ed Ferrer

Ed Ferrer is a retired science teacher who now presents educational programs with his snakes. He has been an active HHS member since 1997. In the past, he has served as HHS president and vice-president. For the past few years he has been the program director, responsible for getting speakers for HHS meetings. He frequently writes articles for the Monitor newsletter. He has coordinated HHS exhibits at the Indiana State Museum and organized HHS involvement in recent regional Science Olympiads at Butler.

Jim Horton

I've been an HHS member since 1989 shortly after the club formed. I've been active in the society for most of that time. I'm the current President and have been past-President for several years. I'm also the editor of the Monitor, the HHS newsletter. I've also contributed by writing articles for the newsletter throughout my tenor as an HHS member. I have been involved with the formation and currently contribute to the HHS website. I've been involved in most of the events that the HHS presents, including the Midwest Symposiums, live exhibits and presentations, the Science Olympiad and more. I've coordinated club sponsored events such as the Hoosier Herpout, club zoo trips, canoe trips, and field herping trips.

I hope to be involved in the HHS for many years to come. I look forward to serving again as President of this great organization!

Will Brown

A recent transplant to Indiana, I was introduced to HHS by Ed Ferrer, a little over a year ago. Because of my passion for herps, I'm interested in becoming more involved in the organization. I've been keeping reptiles -- including snakes, chameleons, iguanas and tortoises -- for more than two decades. Currently, my focus is on snakes: kings, milks, pythons and boas. As a practicing attorney for over 20 years, I would like to see HHS continue its involvement in the fight to preserve our right to keep reptiles and amphibians; a right that has never been more under attack than it is today. I'd like to see HHS undertake on its own and in partnership with organizations such as USARK to monitor proposed legislation, educate and engage the public, and lobby on the state and national levels to prevent any further assaults against our collective rights as hobbyists and breeders. As a father of two young children, I also would like to see HHS continue to expand its outreach to families. Educating and getting children excited about herps is the best way to ensure the future of herpetoculture in general, and the HHS in particular.

Roger Carter

I was active in the Chicago Herpetological Society from 1975 to 1989 when Holly and I moved to Indiana and we right away became active in the Hoosier Herpetological Society. I was Program Chairman for several years, President for three years, and sergeant at arms for several years. I worked the raffle for several years, and worked in almost all of the educational shows that the HHS has hosted.

Rick Marrs

I joined the HHS in 1991 and have been an active member ever since. I specialize in native Indiana herps. I've been active in the HHS activities such as, field trips, exhibits, Science Olympiad, Midwest Symposiums, and other hands on educational presentations. I'm a regular contributor to the HHS newsletter, the Monitor.

KNIVES AND HERP ART (Part 2)

By Roger Carter

This is a heavy knife; you could almost use it as a club. It is seventeen inches long and the blade by itself is ten and one-quarter inches long and is razor sharp. As you can see there is an image of a cobra with its hood spread at the end of the knife's handle. On the blade is engraved:

I don't know what metal the snake is made from. It looks to be bronze or brass with small phony jewels in the eyes to reflect light and make the snake seem more menacing. At the top edge of the knife is a metal bar that is a stiffening bar. I have that feature on one other long knife that could almost be considered a machete.

I don't remember where I found this knife.

"Fatal Attraction"
1992 S. A. T. Taiwan



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Herp of the Month

Savu Python (*Liasia M. Savuensis*)

By Mike Wood
(Photos by Google Images)

The Savu Python (*Liasia M. Savuensis*) is an interesting species to keep and work with. Often being often overlooked in the reptile hobby I think due to future legislation regarding large constrictors. The Savu might have the opportunity to become more mainstream and popular due to its size.

The Savu Python was first discovered in 1993 on the Sawu Island off the coast of New Guinea. This species is not found anywhere else in the world.

The Sawu Island is approximately 160 square miles making this species the smallest geographical range of any python species.



As Adults they are brown and black with stunning white eyes and a white belly. Adults are mostly laid back and calm with their surroundings unless threatened...(note the key word here is "most"). I have seen some adults that can be nippy but in my

experiences with them this has been the exception, not the rule. Adult females are around 4 ft and males in the 3 foot range. Hatchings are born patternless and a light orange color. The young can be nippy for the first few months as they think everything is food.

Compared to some other python species I have never had a hatching refuse a meal.

I keep my adults on paper substrate with a hide box. The warm end is 84-86 degrees (F) and cool end around 72, hatchings seem to do well with the same conditions.



There is a breeder in the USA offering silver morph hatchings at 500.00 each. A normal Savu usually ranges between 75.00 - 100.00.

This month marks my 45th year keeping snakes, like many of you it started in childhood and we are fortunate to enjoy these interesting creatures as adults. They may not be the exciting new radical morph out there but when I look into their cages and see those striking white eyes I'm reminded of my early years as a kid. I like them...because I do, and that's enough for me.

EVENTS

November 13, 2010 – 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

November 7, 2010 – Indiana Reptile Expo, Hamilton County Fairgrounds, 10am-4pm, Admission \$6.00 www.indianareptileexpo.com

November 17, 2010 – HHS Meeting, Guest Speaker – Robert Brodman, St. Joseph College. Topic – *Conservation of Unique Herps of New Zealand and the Galapagos Islands.*

Classifieds

For sale: Tarantulas for sale. P. Ornata 1-inch babies- 30.00 each. A. Versicolor 1 inch babies 25.00 each. Captive born and well established. Mike Wood 574-269-3441

twobears@embarqmail.com

For Sale: c.b. Brazilian rainbow boas (*Epicrates c. cenchria*) \$100.00 (HHS members \$90.00), c.b. Argentine Boa Constrictors (*Boa constrictor occidentalis*), \$100.00 (HHS members 90.00) Jim Horton (317)865-0464 email - stardali84@hotmail.com

Wanted: Veterinary Technology student looking for internship, volunteer, or part-time employment opportunity that will provide additional hands-on experience with pets (reptiles, exotic pets, large and/or small animals) while earning my degree. Please contact Amanda Weigand at 317-250-8532 or by email at: riflegiraffe3@yahoo.com if interested or to recommend possible leads. Thank you!

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

Your HHS Board of Directors for 2010

PRESIDENT	Jim Horton	(317) 865-0464	stardali84@hotmail.com
VICE-PRESIDENT	Pat Hammond	(317) 241-2793	gnawbone92@yahoo.com
SECRETARY	Holly Carter	(317) 873-6561	drymarchonzz@hotmail.com
TREASURER/MEMBERSHIP	Dave Mitchell	(317) 570-9643	turtlelovin@att.net
SERGEANT AT ARMS	Ed Ferrer	(317) 787-7448	pythonpals1@msn.com

Appointees for 2010

EDITOR	Jim Horton	(317) 865-0464	Stardali84@hotmail.com
PROGRAM DIRECTOR	Ed Ferrer	(317) 787-7448 Cell - 727-7553	pythonpals1@msn.com
WAYS AND MEANS	Angela Thomas	(317) 882-5266	necali@comcast.net
WEBSITE COORDINATOR	Barbara Filtri		barbara.filtri@hughes.net

United States Association of Reptile Keepers - www.usark.org

Going paperless?

You now have the option to go paperless with your membership. The monitor will be sent via pdf/email to your inbox. This will help save money, paper, and time with folding, stapling, labeling, stamping, and sending the "hardcopy" newsletter. It's as easy as visiting the HHS website clicking the "paperless" button

Hoosier Herpetological Society

MEMBERSHIP FORM

New Member

Renewal

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Address _____

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Phone _____ Email Address _____

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Herpetological Interest(s)

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