



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 6

June 2013

Welcome back members!

RENEWALS

NEW MEMBERS

**May HHS General Meeting
Wednesday May 15th, 7:00 p.m.
Guest Speaker: Dr. Bob Brodman, Saint Joseph's College
Topic: "Impact of Climate Change on Amphibians"
Holliday Park Auditorium**

President's message

Jim Horton

Our annual *Hoosier Herpout* is Saturday, June 1st at Hardin Ridge Recreation Area in Bloomington. If you are into field herping and camping, this is the weekend for you! See the website message board for up-to-date information. Hope to see you there!

I'd like to welcome our new members to the HHS.

The HHS will be involved in a BioBlitz at Connor Prairie June 8th and 9. Volunteers are needed to herp at our information booth on both days. If you would like to help, contact Ed Ferrer.

This month we have Mr. Bob Brodman from St. Joseph College as our guest speaker. He is always one of our favorite speakers. Hope to see you at the meeting,

Jim

www.hoosierherpsoc.org

Makeshift meeting place. Your HHS board members at work .



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 (Part 28)

Photos & text by Roger Carter

2013 EVENTS

June 2nd, 2013 - Indiana Reptile Expo, Hamilton County Fairgrounds, 10am-4pm, \$6.00 admission
www.indianareptileexpo.com HHS has a booth at this event!

July 31-August 3 - International Herpetological Symposium will be held in New Orleans, LA
<http://www.internationalherpetologicalsymposium.com>

August 25, 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: October 20, December 8

August 31-September 3 – Midwest Herpetological Symposium, Peoria, Illinois. A four day event featuring guest speakers, field trips, dinner, auction, and live animal sale. Register now at - <http://centralillinoisherp.com/>.

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Parking at Holliday Park

7:00pm to 9:00pm is our new meeting time at **Holliday Park**.

Holliday Park entrance gates close automatically when it gets dark. **After darkness hours, drive your car up to the gates and they will open.** Also, 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.

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:

Harding Poorman



Herp of the Month Grey Treefrog (*Hyla versicolor*)

Text and photos by Jim Horton

Late April and May rains bring out Indiana's treefrogs. Gray and Cope's Gray Treefrogs are active at this time.

Gray treefrogs call alongside Fowler's toads in fields, roadsides, and other temporary water sources. Both species look identical but calls are slightly different. The only other way to tell the two apart is by analyzing DNA of this species. Male gray treefrogs produce a low musical trill while the Cope's calls in a higher pitch trill.

These treefrogs aren't always gray as the name refers. Sometimes they will have a green or brown color to them. Others may appear almost white. I've had countless conversations from local folks about green treefrogs found around their homes here in central Indiana. When told that the true green treefrog (*Hyla cinerea*) doesn't occur this far north, they are surprised. Some still won't believe that the frogs sticking to their windows are gray treefrogs.

Gray treefrogs have a dark mottled pattern on the legs and backside which is quite beautiful. A yellow or orange flashing occurs on the undersides of the back and front limbs. This acts as a warning for its toxicity.

Young grays will take on a green coloration and most will turn a uniform gray as adults.

Their skin has a warty texture unlike most treefrogs. Another field marking is a light patch under each eye. *Hyla versicolor* is a well camouflaged species. Without good eyesight and hearing, you might just miss them calling from a low lying branch.

Large suction-like discs on the end of each digit enable this arboreal anuran to take to the trees and other higher ground. *Hyla v.* prefers to be high in the trees and rarely come to ground unless to breed. During the warm rainy or humid nights of late spring, gray's can be found at ground level. A simple drive into the countryside or near a woodland area will produce positive results for calling treefrogs.

These handsome frogs are found in the upper Midwest and into the Northeast. Indiana range consists of most of the central and upper sections of the state. Cope's gray's are more of a southern species occurring mostly in the southern portions of Indiana and typically throughout much of the East and Southeast.

Both Cope's and Gray treefrogs are active throughout the summer months in search of insects



MEMBERSHIP FORM

New Member

Renewal

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____ Phone _____

Email Address _____

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

****Special meeting date – April 24****

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