



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 25 Number 7

July 2014

Welcome new and returning members!

Renewing memberships

Carl McDougall (sustaining membership)

Ed Ferrer (sustaining membership)

Angela Thomas

Carl Schwartz, DVM

Garrett Kasmierski

New members

Henry Westphol

July HHS meeting July 16, 7:00 p.m.

Holliday Park Auditorium

Guest Speaker: Carolyn Swagerle

Topic: "The Legacy of Annie Rose" Tarantula

Carolyn Swagerle always had a love of animals, particularly the normal pets like dogs and cats. But she had a great fear of spiders. One day as she prepared to swat a spider in her home her friend stopped her. When Carolyn confessed to her friend about her fear of spiders, her friend issued her a challenge to overcome her "arachnophobia". She challenged her to purchase a tarantula and that would help her get over her fear of spiders. She bought a Chilean rose tarantula along with a book on tarantulas at the next Midwest Reptile Show at the Indiana State Fairgrounds. That led to a wonderful adventure that includes her experience with the tarantula that she named "Annie Rose". She then documented her experience by writing a book entitled "The Legacy of Annie Rose".

Many of our members are also interested in tarantulas and our past two programs on tarantulas have been well attended. Be sure to come and listen to Carolyn's tale that includes the surprise hatching of spiderlings, etc. Her experience has increased her respect and love for all animals. There will be a few live tarantula species on display as well after her presentation.

HOT WEATHER GOT YOU DOWN?

TRY A DAY ON THE WATER WITH FELLOW HHS MEMBERS

The Annual HHS canoe/kayak trip is August 2nd



HHS Canoe trip – Saturday, August 2nd
(10:00 A.M. at Blues Canoes in Edinburgh)

Join fellow HHS members for a canoe/kayak trip down the beautiful Driftwood River. There are many turtles and water snakes along the Driftwood. We will be counting turtle and snake species while on the river.

What to bring – drinks, lunch, waterproof baggies, camera (not your best one), binoculars, sunscreen, bug spray, swimsuit, sunglasses, *old* shoes.

For more information - www.bluescanoelivery.com 812.526.9851

Look for any updates or cancellations on the HHS website or Facebook page

www.hoosierherpsoc.org

HOOSIER HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Celebrating 25 years!

ADOPTIONS

Several tortoises, snakes and lizards are in need of re-homing.

Contact Jim Horton for information relating to these animals.

For Adoption: 0.1 Central American Wood turtle. 12 years old and beautiful. Eats low protein dog food and night crawlers. Needs sufficient room to live that I can't provide. It's sad I have to give her up but it's the best for her. Contact Dave Mitchell at turtlelovin@att.net or 317-570-9643

WANTED: HHS members to participate in EcoBlitz at MMSF

HHS members are encouraged to help survey sections of Morgan Monroe State Forest for herps. An EcoBlitz is an all flora/fauna survey assembled to record species the Morgan Monroe back country forest. The survey will take place later this month (date to be determined). HHS members with strong field herping experience are needed for this survey. Please see Jim Horton if you are interested.

Last month's speaker - YOU

Photos - Jim Horton

Last month was our annual *Show and Tell* meeting. HHS members Holly Carter, Roger Carter, Angela Thomas, Pat Hammond, Rick Marris, Jim Horton, Erin Wagner, Chris Young, and Ed Ferrer presented some of their favorite herps!



President's message

Jim Horton

Registration is now live for the **Midwest Herpetological Symposium** (October 17-19). You can save money by registering early. Save ten bucks until **September 1st**. Also by registering early, you'll get the discount on the T-shirt.

Our canoe trip is coming up fast. This year it is Saturday, **August 2nd** at Blues Canoes in Edinburg, IN. I hope to see many of you who enjoy the great outdoors. We'll be seeing several species of turtles and a few snakes up close. There are many birds, fish, wildflowers, and other forms of nature along the route.

Another event is the **National Amphibian Expo** at Butler University. The HHS will have a booth to promote our organization and the **Midwest Herpetological Symposium**.

Last month I was invited to speak at the Kentucky Herpetological Society monthly meeting. I presented "Herping the Southwest". Ed Ferrer had driven us south to Louisville. We met some nice folks at the meeting and informed them of our big event in October. We thank the Kentucky Herpetological Society for a great time!

Heavy rains occurred the day of (and during) our last two meetings. Our attendance was a bit low and I'm guessing it was weather related. I hope to see more of you this month (hope it doesn't rain).

I'll be out of town next month so Ed Ferrer will take the helm. I'll see you at this (July) meeting and at the canoe trip!



Invasive watersnakes introduced to California may pose risk to native species

Watersnakes, commonly seen in the lakes, rivers and streams of the eastern United States, are invading California waterways and may pose a threat to native and endangered species in the state, according to a University of California, Davis, study.



Photo – Jim Horton

While scientists do not know exactly how many watersnakes are in California, roughly 300 individuals of two different species -the common watersnake and the southern watersnake -- have been found in the Sacramento area (Roseville and Folsom), and at least 150 were seen in Long Beach. Researchers suspect the nonvenomous snakes most likely were introduced by people "setting free" their pet snakes.

"The issue is not yet out of control," said lead author Jonathan Rose, a doctoral candidate in the UC Davis Graduate Group in Ecology. "However, we recommend that action be taken now to control emergent populations of these non-native snakes while they remain somewhat restricted in California. Waiting until they become entrenched could cost more ecologically and economically."

The study, published in the journal *PLOS ONE*, identified areas that would be climatically suitable for the watersnakes should their populations continue to increase. It found that potential distributions of watersnakes overlap with the giant gartersnake and the California tiger salamander -- both on the federal list of threatened species -- as well as the foothill yellow-legged frog, an amphibian of conservation concern. These native species can become prey or a competing species for the invasive watersnakes.

The common watersnake not only has the potential to spread through Central California, but also farther north to Oregon's Willamette Valley and to central Washington. The southern watersnake has a more restricted climatic niche but may spread through the Central Valley, where native fish and amphibians have already suffered significant declines. The two watersnake species also frequently interbreed, which could increase their invasiveness by producing hybrid genotypes able to tolerate a broader range of climates.

"Watersnakes are not picky eaters," said co-author Brian Todd, a conservation biologist in the UC Davis Department of Wildlife, Fish and Conservation Biology. "With their predatory nature and generalist diets, our already imperiled native fish, amphibians and reptiles have much to lose should introduced watersnakes become more widespread."

Nearly half of California's amphibians are considered Species of Special Concern or are listed under the state or federal Endangered Species Act, and more than 80 percent of the state's inland fishes are of conservation concern.

Source: <http://www.sciencedaily.com>
University of California - Davis

KNIVES AND HERP ART (Part 33)

Photos & text by Roger Carter

This is a very pretty knife on a wooden stand. The image of the cobra is gold with blue eyes and the blade is stainless steel made in China. The entire unit stands sixteen and one-quarter inches tall and, when separated from the base, the knife is seventeen and one-eighth inches long with the blade ten and three-quarter inches long from the point along the top edge to the guard and two inches at its widest spot. The blade is not sharp. The cobra's image used to have a red plastic tongue sticking out of its mouth. I don't remember what happened to it.



Jump to it! A frog's leaping style depends on the environment

Source: sciencedaily.com / Society for Experimental Biology

A frog's jump is not as simple as it seems....Australian scientists have discovered that different species adopt different jumping styles depending on their environment.

Lead researcher, Miss Marta Vidal-Garcia (PhD candidate, Australian National University), found that tree dwelling frogs reached great heights but didn't cover much distance with their jumps. Aquatic frogs, meanwhile, jumped very long distances but remained close to the ground. On the other hand, the jumps of burrowing frogs were low both in height and distance. The scientists used high speed video cameras to film the jumps of approximately 230 wild frogs, from 30 different species.

'We searched actively for the frogs at night after heavy rains during their breeding season, as they are more likely to be active', Miss Vidal-Garcia said. The frogs were caught by hand and filmed in the field with two high-speed filming cameras in order to get a Three-Dimensional view of their jumps. The videos were then analysed frame by frame by computer software and variables including height, distance and speed were measured. The results showed that frogs from different habitats adopt distinct jumping styles.

Frogs from different habitats also had distinct shapes. 'Burrowing frogs have very squat bodies and short limbs' explained Miss Vidal-Garcia. 'This is because they tend to occupy arid environments so this helps to minimise water loss through their permeable skin. The aquatic frogs, however, have more streamlined bodies with longer limbs to improve swimming ability'.

Miss Vidal-Garcia added 'In the future, I am hoping to do more fieldwork so that I can collect data from fifty species and cover all the Australian frog clades. I also want to investigate how the shape of the pelvis influences jumping style'.

2014 HERPETOLOGICAL EVENTS

July 16, 2014 – HHS meeting, Guest speaker: Carolyn Swagerle, Topic – “The Legacy of Annie Rose” 7:00PM
Holliday Park Nature Center, Auditorium.

August 2, 2014 – HHS Canoe Trip, Blues Canoes in Edinburg, IN

August 9, 2014 - National Amphibian Expo, Indianapolis, IN on Saturday, August 9th at Butler University -
Atherton Student Union. Doors will at 9:00 a.m. EST and the event runs until 4:00 p.m. EST. \$8.00 adults,
\$6.00 students/seniors, and children under 14 - \$5.00, kids under 3-free.

August 31, 2014 - 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 (next show - October 19)

September 13, 2014 – HHS live animal exhibit for the Handi-Capable Camp at Bradford Woods, Martinsville,
IN. Volunteers needed.

October 17-19, 2014 – Midwest Herpetological Symposium, Indianapolis, IN. Hosted by the HHS.

November 1, 2014 – HHS live animal exhibit at Garfield Park Conservatory, 10am-1pm. Volunteers needed
for this event. Please contact Jim Horton for more information.

Mostly Reptiles

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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**

HHS Show and Tell meeting in June



Chris Young shows his two Burmese pythons.



Pat Hammond displays a red-eye treefrog wood carving.

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



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

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