



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 8

August 2013

HHS August Meeting

Annual Show and Tell Meeting

Guest Speakers: HHS members

Bring your coolest, your prettiest, your nicest, and your favorite herp or herp-related items to share them with the audience.

(Please limit your time to 10 minutes or less)

Wednesday night, August 21 at 7:00 PM
Holliday Park Nature Center

Welcome Hoosier Herpetological Society members!

RENEWALS

Dave Stahl

Chris Young

Charles and Aiden King (sustaining membership)

NEW

Michael and Jennifer Stokes

Chris and Rebecca Wood

President's message

Jim Horton

Our canoe/kayak trip went quite well. We had a nice turnout and I think everyone had a good time. Read more about it inside this issue.

I'd like to thank Phil Goss and ZooMed for the donation of items to the HHS for our monthly raffle. Please keep ZooMed products on the list for your next herp supply purchase.

I've had good reports about our meeting venue (Holliday Park Nature Center). Your HHS board works hard to keep things running smoothly and we appreciate any input or suggestions, or even concerns that you may have.

Thanks to Andrew Hoffman for a great talk on the venomous snakes of Indiana. We had a good number of members attend this meeting.

Mark your calendars for the 2013 Midwest Herpetological Symposium – (August 31-Sept. 3) Several HHS members attend this annual event and will be traveling to Peoria for this one as well. Hope to see you there!

www.hoosierherpsoc.org

HHS July Meeting

Jim Horton

Mr. Andrew Hoffman was our guest speaker at the last meeting. He presented a talk titled – *Indiana's Changing Landscape and our Native Venomous Snakes*. Andrew first gave a short biology of venom and how our native pit vipers utilize it. He also talked about venom vs. poison – a good one we all know – “Venom is injected and poison is ingested.”

There was a short discussion regarding the *rest* of our venomous snakes that most folks may not have realized. Ringneck snakes, southeastern crown snakes, hognose snakes, and even garter snakes have small amounts of mild venom. None of these snakes harbor enough venom (or strong enough venom) to consider them dangerous to humans.

The ‘meat and potatoes’ of his talk centered around our four pit vipers, the copperhead, western cottonmouth, massasauga rattlesnake, and the timber rattlesnake.

He covered all the angles of each species and gave his personal thoughts on them as well.

Andrew showed historical and current ranges of our four venomous species. The current ranges which have receded significantly were alarming to say the least. The most important component for these snakes to continue to survive is habitat. The loss of suitable habitat continues to decline here in Indiana.

The copperhead is the only species not listed as State Endangered.

July 4th Surprise

Story and pictures by Roger Carter

The weather for the Independence Day weekend was beautiful so Holly and I decided to go for a hike in the woods on July 4th to enjoy the weather. Maybe one minute on the first trail we found a male Eastern box turtle [*Terrapene carolina carolina*]. The air temperature was a little cool and the sky was cloudy so I wasn't expecting to find any herps so the box turtle was a nice surprise. We also saw some neat mushrooms and other fungus over the next few hours (did you know that there is a fungus called "dead-man's fingers" [*Xylaria polymorpha*] and a dark mushroom called "old man of the woods"



"Old man of the woods" *Strobilomyces floccopus*



Dead-man's fingers *Xylaria polymorpha*

[*Strobilomyces floccopus*]?

We continued on the trail and checked the first clearing that we came to without finding anything. Back on the trail to the next clearing where there are a couple of wood piles. The grass and weeds were a little bit tall and on the other side of the first wood pile, coiled up on a log, was a very nice timber rattlesnake [*Crotalus horridus*] that looked like it might have been at least three and a half feet long. It's hard to guess their size when they are coiled up.



Timber rattlesnake [*Crotalus horridus*]

It might have been sitting there hoping that the sun would come out. Once we saw it, we didn't get any closer to it because we didn't want to spook it into leaving its perch. I set my camera and got several nice pictures of this snake. I was so focused (pun intended) on taking pictures that, later, Holly told me the snake only flicked its tongue a couple of times. After several good pictures I put my camera away and we continued on down the trail. In all of my years of field herping I think this was only the third timber rattlesnake that I have seen out in the open like that during the day.

Devastating news in Canada

The HHS sends our deepest condolences to the family of these two young boys. This accident was unfortunate and rare in the herpetological field. Many in the herpetological community find it incredibly difficult to comprehend what may have happened.

Our hearts go out to the family and please keep your thoughts with them.

2013 HHS canoe trip

Jim Horton

Our canoe/kayak trip along Wildcat creek was a nice success! We had about 17 members attend this outing. After arriving at exactly 9:30 A.M., I was ridiculed by a few members about my constant tardiness. I gave them a friendly reminder that I was on time for once.



Our group of floaters

After launching, we started to see wildlife. Softshell, map, and painted turtles were spotted by our team. A few northern watersnakes were also located along some log snags but we were surprised that there weren't more.



HHS members take to the water.

At a stop on a rock/sand drydock, we found tadpoles, cricket frogs, leopard frogs, and toads of all sizes. The flying insects were a beautiful sight as well. Jewel wing damselflies

and swallowtail and Fritillary butterflies were numerous.



Queen snake *Regina septemvittata*

Another stop allowed us to refresh and snack a bit. This creek was beautiful and it had a few decent rapids.

Near the end of the day Zach Truelock, Paul Gessener and I searched the shorelines for watersnakes. We were soon treated with a small queen snake that evaded capture. A short while later we were able to secure a nice gravid female for photos.



Photo - Amy Baird

Thanks to our members who took a beautiful day away from it all and spent some time together, as a Club.

KNIVES AND HERP ART (part 29)

Photos and text - Roger Carter

This is one of my coolest knives. It shows a snake wrapped around a lizard or dragon. It looks like the snake has, maybe, constricted the lizard and the lizard managed to bite the snake. The snake is a light green and the lizard is a pale orange or peach color. I have seen these without paint on them and didn't care for the unpainted ones, they are pure white. This is the only painted one I have seen. Everyone reading this should go to the web site, under herp art, to see the color pictures of this. The entire image is fifteen inches long and the segment with the blade is thirteen and a half inches long with the blade six inches long. Etched into the blade is "CHINA STAINLESS STEEL". The blade is not sharp.



The Central Illinois Herpetological Society is hosting the 2013 Midwest Herpetological Symposium. (Four-day event). The speakers are among the best herpetologists in the country. Saturday night will be hosting an auction followed by a dinner. On Sunday check out the animal sale, and then join CIHS in car pooling to Southern, Illinois for an evening and then spend the next day at Snake Road, photographing herps. The Midwest Herpetological Symposium is the longest running herpetological symposium in the U.S. and we hope to see you there!

This weekend-long event brings together herpetologists, herptoculturists and field herpers from all over the United States. This year's theme is conservation.

Weekend Activities:

Friday, August 30th

- All-Night Socializing, Food and Drink

Saturday, August 31st:

- Educational Speakers
- Dinner Banquet
- Keynote Speaker: Dr. Robert Sprackland
- Live Auction
- All-Night Socializing, Food and Drinks

Sunday, September 1st

- Animal Sale
- Car pool to Southern Illinois
- Tent Camping

Monday

- Photograph Herps on Snake Road in Southern Illinois

For more information – www.centralillinoisherp.com

2013 EVENTS

August 21, 2013 – HHS meeting. Annual *Show and Tell* meeting. This is one of our most popular meetings. Members share their favorite herp or herp-related item(s).

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/>.

September 1, 2013 - Indiana Reptile Expo, Hamilton County Fairgrounds, 10am-4pm, \$6.00 admission www.indianareptileexpo.com HHS has a booth at this event!

September 14, 2013 – Live herp program. Bradford Woods, Mooresville, IN. 9:00am-4:00pm. All HHS members are encouraged to participate in this educational program.

October 12/13, 2013 - North American Reptile Breeders Conference - **Tinley Park** Oct. 12th & 13th, **2013** Sat 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM Sun 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM

October 19, 2013 – HHS live herp display at Garfield Park Conservatory. 10am – 1pm. Volunteers needed. All HHS members are welcome to participate at this event.

Mostly Reptiles


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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. **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



Map turtle on Wildcat creek.
(Photo – Amy Baird)

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!