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# Virginia Herpetological Society Newsletter

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<http://fwie.fw.vt.edu/VHS/>

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## ***PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE***

### Spring Meeting & Survey

We had a very productive survey and spring business meeting in Richmond County, June 3-5. Thanks to Sandy Spencer of the Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge and to VHS vice president Kory Steele for their work in planning, scouting, and coordinating the survey on the refuge. Nearly three dozen members participated in the meeting and survey.

During the survey, we found thirty-five (19 reptile; 16 amphibian) of the sixty-one species (34 reptile; 27 amphibian) expected in the area. Twenty-four (12 reptile; 12 amphibian) of these are believed to be new county records, species for which no specimen nor photographic voucher previously existed for Richmond County. That is quite an accomplishment for one weekend! Kory will provide complete details in an upcoming issue of *Catesbeiana*.



### A Final Note

As outgoing president, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank our officers for their outstanding and dedicated work on behalf of the Society during the past two years:

Vice-President Kory Steele (on right in photo with Mike Clifford), Secretary-Treasurer Paul Sattler, Past-President Jason Gibson, Catesbeiana editor Steve Roble, VHS webmaster John White, and VHS Newsletter editor Shelly Miller (along with her temporary substitute Susan Watson), and Education Committee chairman Mike Hayslett. Great job!

*Mike Clifford [frogholler@tds.net]*



The 2005 VHS Fall Meeting will be held on Saturday, October 29, at Liberty University in Lynchburg. Paul Sattler is our host. The meeting will include a herpetology workshop for teachers, a GPS workshop for VHS members, the business meeting and elections, papers session, silent auction, and photo contest. Please bring any books, posters, or other items related to herpetology that you would like to donate to the silent auction. Also bring your best herp-related photo.

***Tentative Schedule***

***Location: Liberty University, Lynchburg***

***Saturday, October 29, 2005***

**Time**

**8:00 am - 1:00 pm**

**9:00 am - 11:00 am**

**11:00 am**

**12:00 noon**

**1:00 - 3:00 pm (approx.)**

**Event**

***Educational workshop for teachers (w/ working lunch)***

*GPS workshop for VHS members*

*Set-up displays of silent auction, herp photo contest items.*

*VHS Business meeting*

*Lunch (sandwiches, etc.) for VHS members & teachers*

*Herpetological research and related presentations.*

*Silent auction results*

*Photo contest winners*

Additional details and updates about the meeting will be included in the fall issue of *Catesbeiana* and on the VHS website at <http://fwie.fw.vt.edu/VHS/>.

**Call for Presentations**

The afternoon session at the fall meeting is devoted to herpetological research papers and related presentations of interest to the membership. If you would like to present, contact Mike Clifford by email at [frogholler@tds.net](mailto:frogholler@tds.net), or phone at 804/561-5411, or US mail at 11131 Amelia Springs Road, Jetersville, VA 23083.

Teacher Workshop. Education committee chairman Mike Hayslett is organizing the herpetology workshop for teachers. If you would like to help with one of the presentations or assist in other ways, contact him at: Mike Hayslett <[mhayslet@vt.edu](mailto:mhayslet@vt.edu)>

GPS Workshop. In a separate location, we'll have a workshop for VHS members on using the Global Positioning System in herpetological surveys and other environmental fieldwork. This will be a hands-on, indoor-outdoor session. Bring your own GPS receiver or learn with one of our units (eTrex Legends, Rino's, and others). We've used GPS during our last two spring surveys. It is a valuable tool for anyone who spends time in the great outdoors. For more information, contact Mike Clifford at [frogholler@tds.net](mailto:frogholler@tds.net)

## Elections and Leadership

Our biennial elections will be held at the upcoming fall meeting. According to the VHS Constitution and Bylaws (available for viewing on our website), we have two types of officers, elected and appointed. Together, they form our governing body, the Executive Council. The elected officers of the society are the President, the Vice-President, and the Secretary-Treasurer. The outgoing president automatically fills a fourth office, Past-President. (I'm looking forward to assuming that office!). The appointed officers are the Editor of *Catesbeiana*, the Editor of the Society newsletter, and the chairpersons of the standing committees (Website Committee, Education Committee). These are appointed by the President in consultation with the other elected officers.

If you would like to become more involved in leadership within the society, now is a good time to express your interest. Please contact Mike Clifford (Email: [frogholler@tds.net](mailto:frogholler@tds.net) ; phone: 804/561-5411) if you are interested in running for elected office or involved in some other leadership role.

## Business Meeting Agenda Items

Please send me any agenda items you may in mind for discussion at the business meeting.

One topic will be the **location and timing for the 2006 Spring Meeting and Survey**. There has been some exciting discussion about the Nature Conservancy's Allegheny Highlands site ("Warm Springs Mountain") but we need to look at all options before the decision is made, at the fall meeting or shortly thereafter.

If you have any ideas for the **spring survey**, please do a little homework before the fall meeting. Selection considerations include: 1) Is the county/region in need of herp survey? 2) What are the "featured species" 3) when is the best seasonal time to do the survey? 4) Are accessible and desirable survey location(s) available? 5) Is there an adequate meeting and HQ site? 6) Are lodging/camping facilities available nearby?

We would encourage you to discuss these considerations in a brief presentation during the business meeting.

### *Photos from the Spring Meeting at Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge*



Cricket frog



Vincent "tubes" a large copperhead while the crowd looks on

### Once in a lifetime experience?

Earlier this summer, for the first time in recorded history, a green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) came ashore near Virginia Beach, dug a nest, and laid 124 eggs. The eggs were moved to a protected portion of Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge. The occurrence has experts shocked. In the U.S., most green turtles nest in southeastern

Florida. Experts are debating whether the hatchlings should be moved to Florida.

This year there were also six recorded loggerhead sea turtle nests in Virginia.

For more information about green sea turtles, try this and other websites:  
<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/species/turtles/green.html>

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VHS members—I have enjoyed my time as a member and newsletter editor for VHS. However, I am resigning my post as of this issue. My family and I are moving to Eugene, Oregon around the first of October. I wish you all the best and happy herping!

*Shelly*