

NATIONAL ZOOLOGICAL PARK MEETING -

This is your personal invitation to a meeting of the VHS with its growing Maryland Section at the Reptile House of the National Zoological Park, in Rock Creek Park, Washington, D.C. The date is:

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1962 at 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Our hosts will be Dr. Theodore H. Reed, Director of the National Zoo, Associate Director J. Lear Grimmer, a trained herpetologist and VHS member, Mr. M. (Jack) DePrato, senior keeper of the Reptile Division and his able staff. Several of these staff members are active VHS members. Introduce yourself to them. The emphasis this year will be on the exhibits within the reptile house. The feature presentation will be:

How a Reptile House Works ---- Problems of a Large Collection
(Reptile House Staff)

We hope to introduce to those members and their friends present any Honorary Members, society officers and advisory members who may be on hand. Since the meeting is to be held during the holidays, it is our hope to have a number of the college and graduate student members of VHS present. The timing of the statewide meeting, regrettably, precluded this. An interesting program is in store for all comers!

We must vacate the Reptile House by 6:00 p.m. and the Zoo Park property before 7:00 p.m. (The NZP gates will be locked at 7:00 p.m.)

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A REPRESENTATIVE GROUP OF MEMBERS AND FRIENDS ATTENDED THE VHS STATEWIDE MEETING on October 21-22 , 1962, near Richmond, Virginia.

The program went along as planned (see Bulletin No. 30). The number of exhibits was not as great as in earlier years. We missed a few of our older "regulars". Next year we'll try to build up this part of the meeting by announcing date, time and place of the statewide as early as possible. Apparently more time is needed in the preparation of this feature of the meetings.

At the annual statewide meeting of the Virginia Herpetological Society the following were nominated to the offices indicated:

- Nominated for VHS President: Dr. James L. Chamberlain, Lynchburg
Leslie Earl Southall, Petersburg
Roger Henry Rageot, Norfolk
- Unanimously, for Chairman: O. King Goodwin, Newport News
- " for Co-chairman: William L. Witt, Arlington, Va.
- " for Treasurer: Dr. P.H. Knipling, Arlington, Va.
- " for Secretary: Franklin J. Tobey, Rockville, Md.

A postal-card ballot will accompany members' copies of VHS Bulletin No. 32. Information on each of the nominees will be circulated.

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The VHS BULLETIN is a newsletter appearing at least six times a year. It has a circulation of about 300. Special editions are addressed to 200 to 300 additional individuals -- science and biology instructors in the secondary schools throughout Va. VHS is a non-profit, voluntary association of persons who have a more-than-casual interest in the reptiles and amphibians of Virginia and adjacent states. DUES: One dollar a year. Members receive bulletin, membership card and free notices.

STATEWIDE MEETING (cont'd)

The following appointive offices were filled at the same time:

Faculty advisers: Dr. Harry G.M. Jopson, Bridgewater College
W. Leslie Burger, Franklin College of Ind.
(VHS President, 1960-1962) Franklin, Indiana

Medical advisers: John Thornton Wood, MD, (VHS President from
1958 to 1960) Ann Arbor, Michigan

Robert L. Guillaudeu, MD, McLean, Va.

If officers, nominees, and advisers have not yet sent in their brief biographical sketch and comments on interest in herpetology please do so at your earliest convenience. Sketches will be used in the new VHS roster of members and friends. Let's hear from you by mid-December!

VHS WENT ON RECORD WITH A STANDING OVATION AND VOTE OF THANKS FOR AID

A standing ovation was accorded Camp Ranger A. des Champ of Camp Shawondasee, BSA, near Chesterfield Court House, Virginia, for his aid in connection with the statewide meeting. Mr. des Champ was honored while in the Dining Hall listening to the recordings of frog and toad voices while the slides were flashed on the screen.

The vote of thanks, given earlier in the day during the business part of the meeting, was accorded ROBERT E. LEE COUNCIL, BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA, for permission to use the Camp Shawondasee facilities. We wish to express these thanks once again and offer any aid we may be in a position to render. Several adult Scouters and a few younger scouts were present at the meeting. All participated in the program.

BULLETIN No. 29 WELL RECEIVED -- DISTRIBUTION OF POISONOUS SNAKES

Sixty-one Virginian daily newspapers received the first four pages of VHS Bulletin No. 29 and a prepared public announcement on the range of poisonous snakes within the state. It was urged that this information be kept on file for use as background information in connection with snakebite stories or other related items.

An explanation of VHS and its objectives was included (page 7 of VHS Bulletin No. 23). If you see mention of the VHS in your local newspaper please clip the item and send it to the Secretary so that the results of this effort may be properly evaluated. Such items may appear during the spring or summer of 1963.

Medical Advisers, others, are asked to submit comments on Bulletin coverage of first aid for snakebite, other timely observations, to the secretary for use in a near-future bulletin. See VHSB No. 29.

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SEND ANY INFORMATION ON WHEREABOUTS OF FOLLOWING LOCALITIES ---

War Eagle, _____ County	SEND ANY CLUES TO:
Mathias Pt. King George "	
Somerset Beach " "	
Twiggs Ferry _____ County	W.L. WITT, APT. 121
Grickton's Store, _____ "	1412 Patrick Henry Dr.
Dulinsville, Madison ? County	Arlington 5, Virginia
Griffith, Alleghany County	
Elk Spur, Allen's Knob, Carroll County	
Folly Mills Creek, _____ County	---Roger Conant of Phila.
Clinton, _____ County	(VHS Honorary Member)
Belcher Pond _____ "	is interested in this
Ellisville, _____ "	location near (? ? ?)
	Winchester, Virginia.

REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS OBSERVED DURING STATEWIDE MEETING

Specimen brought to meeting -- now in the U.S. National Museum coll.

HELLBENDER (Cryptobranchus a. alleghaniensis)

Known Virginia records are: Radford Dam, Radford, MONTGOMERY County, Va.; Abingdon, WASHINGTON County, Va. and this specimen captured at Cleveland, RUSSELL County, Va. (A 4th is recorded from "Aria" FLOYD County, Va., but this location cannot be fixed.)

- *EASTERN GRAY TREEFROG (Hyla v. versicolor) CHESTERFIELD County
- *BRIMLEY'S CHORUS FROG (Pseudacris brimleyi) CHARLES CITY "
- *NORTHERN BROWN SNAKE (Storeria d. dekayi) " " "
- *SPRING PEEPER (Hyla c. crucifer) CHESTERFIELD "
- *THREE-LINED SALAMANDER (Eurycea longicauda guttolineata) " "
- EASTERN MUD SALAMANDER (Pseudotriton m. montanus) CHESTERFIELD CO.
- *NORTHERN RINGNECK SNAKE (Diadophis p. edwardsi) CHARLES CITY CO.
- FOUR-TOED SALAMANDER (Hemidactylum scutatum) CHARLES CITY CO.
- EASTERN KINGSLAKE (Lampropeltis g. getulus) CHARLES CITY County
- *NORTHERN TWO-LINED SALAMANDER (Eurycea b. bislineata) CHESTERFLD
- MARBLED SALAMANDER (Ambystoma opacum) CHARLES CITY County

The Gray Treefrog, a county record (*), was found on a tree trunk at Camp Shawondasee, BSA, Chesterfield CH, CHESTERFIELD County by OKG.

Brimley's Chorus Frog had been taken twice by Neil Richmond in NEW KENT County. This new record (*), the third for Va., adds another county -- CHARLES CITY County -- to the range of brimleyi north of the James River. The specimen was noticed as it hopped across a dry roadside ditch by Dr. R.L. Guillaudeu and was collected by W.L. Witt.

Two adult SPRING PEEPERS were routed out of a spring with a GREEN FROG (Rana clamitans melanota). These may have been trying to hibernate. We were searching for either or both species of Pseudotriton & their eggs found in the same spring during an earlier statewide meeting. CHESTERFIELD County, Va. This is a county record (*). WLW NORTHERN BROWN SNAKE, another county record (*), found two miles So. of Cherry Hall, CHARLES CITY County. Found under wood at sawmill. WLW

Two specimens of the FOUR-TOED SALAMANDER taken from the same sawmill are of interest though not county record. (John T. Wood has taken it at Charles City C.H.) A large adult was taken by WLW, a subadult still showing the gray ground color was taken by Robert Edwards.

A young RINGNECK SNAKE taken north of Cherry Hall, CHARLES CITY County appears to be edwardsi having both a clean venter and complete neck ring. Intergrades are known less than ten miles to the east in JAMES CITY County. This specimen is a county record (*) taken by Bill Witt.

The EASTERN MUD SALAMANDER was collected below the dam at Shawondasee. This species and P. ruber have been collected before but are in a private collection. This specimen went to Hal Harrison for use in a film on Pennsylvania amphibians and reptiles. Should it make it back to the U.S. National Museum, it too will become a county record. Collected by OKG. (continued next page)

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THREE-RING BINDER RECOMMENDED FOR VHS BULLETINS

Members have asked the editors to go over to a normal 8" X 10" typewriter sheet for convenience in filing the VHS Bulletin.

The material on the last quarter of these legal-size pages is always detachable. Cut off the bottoms of all of these bulletin pages; use a three-hole punch at the side, store in a 3-ring binder.

VHS editors will use the bottoms of these pages to provide detachable membership application blanks, ads, collection data slips, and for notification of local meetings.

(See other side)

SOME OBSERVATIONS DURING STATEWIDE MEETING
(continued)

The Eastern King Snake was found beneath a log north of Cherry Hall CHARLES CITY County. While the snake is not a county record it is a large specimen and now lives in the collection of Dr. Guillaudeu. The NORTHERN TWO-LINED SALAMANDER is a surprising county record from Camp Shawondasee, BSA, collected by OKG and WLW, Dr. Guillaudeu and others. The THREE-LINED SALAMANDERS were collected at the camp by OKG, WLW and Rex Drummond.

Notes on observations during the statewide meeting include those taken during a side trip to Charles City County made by W. L. Witt, Dr. Guillaudeu, John Bradshaw and Robert Edwards.

At a sawmill a few miles northeast of Cherry Hall, CHARLES CITY County, Robert Edwards picked up a young Marble-less Salamander (Ambystoma). The animal is without a back pattern. The only pattern present was noted in the tail rings, hence "Marble-less." This is the only opacum known to me with a reduced pattern. A few Spotted Salamanders (Ambystoma maculatum) from Shenandoah National Park are almost "spot-less."

WLW

ANOTHER VIRGINIA RECORD FOR THE EGGS OF Pseudotriton r. ruber.

by James A. Fowler
Director of Education
Henry Ford Museum
Dearborn, Michigan

This note was prompted by a statement which appeared on page 4 of VHS Bulletin No. 30 concerning the first record of eggs for a salamander of the genus Pseudotriton in Virginia.

I was reminded that I had collected hatching eggs of P. r. ruber almost twenty years ago in FAIRFAX County. The circumstances under which these eggs were found, as taken from my field notes dated November 11, 1942, are given below:

Belle Haven Branch, Belle Haven, Fairfax County, Va.

Two adult P. r. ruber were found in close association with recently-hatched larvae and hatching eggs on a hillside along the valley of this small stream. These specimens were taken from a deep crevice several feet long and from six inches to a foot high roofed over by a layer of compact sand and clay. Ground water seepage had washed out the softer sand underlying the indurated layer, the partial collapse of which had formed the crevice. Eggs, larvae and adults were found under slabs of hardened sand lying in soft saturated sand on the floor of the crevice. Pickerel Frogs (Rana palustris) were also collected.

J.A.F.

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(detach) COLLECTION DATA SLIP (detach)

type or hand-letter in ink (spell out month)

Collector's name _____ Date _____ 19__

County where found _____

Nearest P.O. name: _____

Nearest road junction: US, Va, county# _____ and US, Va, county# _____

Direction from road junction to site: _____ Distance: _____

Time of day and weather: _____ A.M. P.M. _____

Description of collection site: _____

Activity of specimen at time of capture: _____
Specimen attached: _____ Fluid preservative used: _____
IDENTIFICATION: _____

NOTES FOR
MARYLAND-DISTRICT of COLUMBIA
and NORTHERN VIRGINIA MEMBERS

The U.S. Department of Interior, National Park Service, National Capital Region, has several programs which are not as well supported by VHS members as they might be. There is the OUTDOOR PROGRAM -- send for the 1963 edition. Many of the talks-and-walks are related to herpetology. Also, there is an "indoor" program for the fall and cold winter months. Speakers of interest appear in Washington, D.C. halls -- Department of Interior Auditorium, or Inter-departmental Auditorium -- and present highly illuminating slide talks for the public at large. WRITE to the National Park Service and ask to be put on their list to receive notices of such meetings and the OUTDOOR PROGRAM.

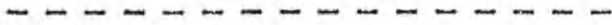
For instance, James A. Fowler, a herpetologist of considerable note appeared in Washington in November and gave a talk on "Adventures Underground". Insufficient time between the receipt of card notice from Interior and the date of talk prevented VHS from notifying its members. It is strongly recommended that members get on the NPS list to receive such notices. WRITE: NPS, USD/I, "OUTDOOR PROGRAM" Washington 25, D.C.

James A. Fowler, whose contribution appears on page four, lower half, was for many years a resident of the D.C. area and has done extensive field work in Virginia. He paid the VHS Bulletin a compliment -- a highly coveted one -- when he said in his note "it keeps me in contact with things herpetological in the state." His talk, with slides, at the Interior Department Auditorium was largely on limestone caves, speleology and "spelunking". He introduced it by observing that it was salamanders that took him underground. He literally followed them into the caves. His talk had wide natural history appeal. Your editorial board was on hand to greet the speaker.



TWO-HEADED TURTLE: Everyone was a bit concerned about the survival of the two-headed, six-legged turtle that Alfred Lyons, Jr. found in the Patapsco River near Linthicum, Maryland. Everyone, that is, but Alfred, 15, who magnanimously donated it to the Baltimore Zoo, where, sure enough, it is thriving. A recent report from reptile director Frank Grove assures us that the turtle seems quite content in his new surroundings, and that "both heads are eating." (from: SUBURBIA TODAY)

TURTLES OF MARYLAND: Dr. Frank J. Schwartz, Chesapeake Biological Laboratory, Solomons, Maryland, writes that copies of the attractive booklet "Turtles of Maryland" are available upon request to the lab. WRITE: Chesapeake Biological Laboratory, Solomons, Maryland..



REFERENCES OF HERPETOLOGICAL INTEREST:

James A. Organ (Univ. of Mich. Ann Arbor) Life History of the Pigmy Salamander (*Desmognathus wrighti*) in Virginia. American Midland Nat. 66(2): 384-390. October 1961, Wildlife Review 104: 66.
Robert G. Webb; No. Amer. Recent Soft-Shell'd Turtles (*Trionychidae*) Museum Nat. Hist., Univ. Kansas Publ. 13(10):429-611, Feb. 1962. Wildlife Review 106: 73.

(detach)

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE VIRGINIA HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY

(check one)

(name) _____
(address) _____
(city or p.o.) _____ (State) _____
(county, if Va.) _____
(occupation) _____
 introductory
 renewal

PLEASE TYPE OR HAND-LETTER

Dues: \$1.00 a year -- covers membership card, bulletins, postage. Send money order or check to: Dr. (Mrs.) Phoebe H. Knipling, Treasurer Note on check "for VHS dues" and mail with this detachable stub to: Dr. Knipling, 2623 Military Rd., Arlington, Virginia. Members' cards will be mailed with the next issue of the VHS Bulletin.