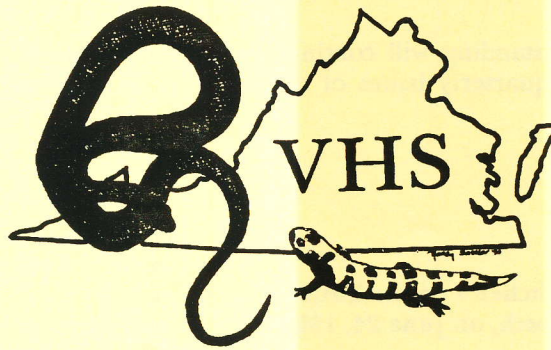


Virginia Herpetological Society



Newsletter

THE VHS NEWSLETTER

Volume I, No. 1

July 1990

Virginia Herpetological Society
5608 Parkland Court
Virginia Beach, Virginia 23464

OFFICERS

President: Joseph C. Mitchell
Vice-President: Kurt A. Buhlmann
Sec./Tres.: Ron Southwick

Catesbeiana Editor: Paul Sattler
Newsletter Editor: Douglas W. Eggleston

PRESIDENT ENDORSES NEWSLETTER

The VHS is entering a new era. This newsletter signals our increased commitment to the education of students and other amateurs interested in herpetology. Education of VHS members and the public about herpetology in general, and Virginia herpetology in particular, is one of the original goals of our society.

The idea of a newsletter was generated by an increased realization that the VHS was not providing secondary school students and other amateurs with activities and information that stimulated their interest. *Catesbeiana*, published twice a year, adequately serves the more professional members by being an outlet for communications on the natural history of Virginia's amphibians and reptiles. We originally had hoped that it would be adequate for everyone. It wasn't. The new VHS newsletter will allow nonprofessional members to find out what is going on in herpetology and read a variety of things which we hope will be entertaining.

Our newsletter has several purposes. The most important is a frequent communication about herpetological activities in and around Virginia. Thus, herp news of any kind will be found here. These include forthcoming meetings and events of interest, summaries of newspaper articles, listings of supplies and equipment, and notices and reviews of new books. We will include stories about field trip adventures and other items relating herp and human interactions and just plain herp behavior. We will not leave out conservation

stories and notices of herp declines and population losses due to human activities. Herp humor and cartoons are also welcomed.

We will devote most of the space to the species found in and around Virginia but we will not leave out the non-native species. Numerous people keep these animals in captivity and they may also find information of interest.

The most important thing for you, the reader and VHS member, to realize is that this newsletter will reflect only the information that you send in. If you want to see information on captive husbandry, send it to Doug Eggleston. If you want a place to relate your herp adventure, send it in. If you have an important or humorous news item you would like to share, send it in. The VHS newsletter will serve all of us only if you contribute something to it.

We are working out the details on accepting paid advertising, so watch this publication for appropriate information. At the present time we will not publish want ads for the buying and selling of live animals. This is a traditional VHS policy.

Doug Eggleston serves as compiler of the information for each newsletter and Dr. Paul Sattler helps with layout and printing of a master. Their addresses are elsewhere in this newsletter. Please provide all the support that you can, especially by sending in anything you would like to share with us.

VHS members in good standing will continue to receive *Catesbeiana* plus all quarterly issues of the newsletter.

Joseph C. Mitchell
President, VHS
June 10, 1990

CONGRATULATIONS to the Mitchell's on the birth of their new daughter, Wendy Elizabeth, on June 24, 1990.

VHS SPRING MEETING NEWS

Appomattox - On April 7, 1990 the members attending the Spring meeting of the Virginia Herpetological Society voted to begin some new projects. One of those projects has begun in the form of this newsletter. The attendees voted to publish this newsletter at least quarterly as a supplement to *Catesbeiana* and offer space for members to share information about Virginia's herpetofauna. All members are encouraged to submit articles of interest, herp art, reports of field trips, observation notes and projects, local herp news, legislation, humorous stories, cartoons and book reviews. We would like to have something of interest to all VA herpers in each issue. All contributions to the newsletter will receive serious consideration for publication.

Please submit all Newsletter materials to: Douglas Eggleston, P.O. Box 727, Brookneal, VA 24528. We would prefer materials to be typed, (double-spaced). Here's your opportunity to see your name in print and share with your fellow VA herpers.

Other news from our Spring meeting includes information on the laws in VA about collecting herps. You **MUST** have a VA SCIENTIFIC COLLECTION/SALVAGE PERMIT to legally collect Amphibians or Reptiles in the state. Applications for a permit can be obtained by writing: Commonwealth of VA, Dept. of Game & Inland Fisheries, 4010 West Broad St., Box 11104, Richmond, VA 23230 or the VHS Newsletter Editor.

We encourage all VA herpers to apply for his permit and to make their reports on ALL collecting activities. The laws have been on the books for a number of years, but will now be enforced. Without a valid permit, you are in violation of VA law if you are caught collecting/salvaging any VA herps. With a permit, you will be required to submit a report on all collecting/salvage activities during the term of the permit. These reports will assist EVERYONE interested in VA herps with information about the status of individual species in the state. Obey the law, apply for your permit, and submit your reports!

Fall VHS Meeting, Oct. 20, 1990, Maymont

Park, Richmond. More information in the next newsletter and in *Catesbeiana*.

EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS

The VHS is looking for assistance for ALL members with one of our educational projects. We want to have a poster printed to use for educational purposes and as a promotion of the VHS. The posters would go to VA schools and other interested groups to help recruit new members and to let the public know that the VHS exists. We will need around \$3000.00 to produce the poster. So far, we have received a donation of a beautiful photograph to use for the poster, a \$300.00 grant from the Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles, and a \$100.00 anonymous donation toward producing the poster. Please, send any contributions for this educational project to our Treasurer, and specify that it will be for the poster. Corporate sponsorship is requested. If your company would be willing to help underwrite the costs of producing that poster, please have someone contact our President or Treasurer.

STUDENT HANDBOOK

During the Spring 1989 meeting, the members and board voted to develop a handbook of science activities for students in grades K - 12. It was hoped that such a handbook could be produced and sent to Science teachers around the state for the '89/90 school year. Response to a request for activities from our members has been poor and no such handbook could be produced for this year. Please give some thought to activities you might feel are suitable and contact: Dale Brittle, P.O. Box 681, Bowling Green, VA 22427 for more information about submitting materials.

SPEAKERS BUREAU

In 1989 our President also requested that any VHS members that felt qualified to represent our society as speakers on herp related subjects, contact: Mike Clifford, P.O. Box 81, Nottoway, VA 23955. Only four members responded. Come on folks, share that wealth of information you have with schools, scouts and civic groups! Write to Mike TODAY and let him know you're willing to do presentations for our Speakers Bureau.

BROTHER SOCIETIES

The VHS isn't the only herp society in our state. Regional societies are popping up all over. If you are a member of a regional society or know of one, please let us know. We'd love to hear from them and

place information about these groups in each issue of our newsletter. Have the President or Secretary of these groups contact this editor and share the news of their society. Write Doug or call (804)376-5229.

On March 31, 1990 eight people met and formed the nucleus for a Central/Southwestern VA herp society. Three meetings later this group has become the Blue Ridge Herpetological Society. Like the VHS, the BRHS has Education, Conservation, and Research as the focal point of the group. Besides VA herps, the BRHS also is addressing some exotic species, captive husbandry, and information for handlers and keepers of herps. A field trip to the "wilds" of Charlotte Co. attracted seven members during the Memorial Day weekend and the members spent a day in the field observing and collecting herps. As with any field trip, many other creatures were observed and enjoyed. For more information on the BRHS contact them by writing: P.O. Box 727, Brookneal, VA 24528.

OTHER REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Scott Kenny
No. Shenandoah Valley Herp. Society
1302 Whittier Ave.
Winchester, VA 22601

Tom Padgett
Tidewater Naturalist Club
P.O. Box 6643
Chesapeake, VA 23323

Angie Krug
VA Living Museum
524 J. Clyde Morris Blvd.
Newport News, VA 23601

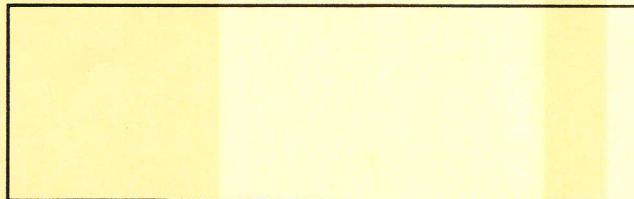
Shenandoah Natural History Assn.
Rt. 4, Box 348
Luray, VA 22835

Tom Pitchford
VA Marine Science Museum
717 General Booth Blvd.
Virginia Beach, VA 23451

ATTENTION STUDENT MEMBERS

We sure would like to hear from you and include a special section of the VHS Newsletter each issue with your herping news, stories, or any special comments you may have about herping in VA from the student's viewpoint. Send your materials to the newsletter editor and look for your piece in any upcoming issue.

We need newspaper articles, collecting trip stories, tips on captive husbandry, book reviews, and comics.



This blank space is courtesy of all those members that have not contacted us with any information to print. PLEASE send in your materials soon! This is YOUR society and YOUR newsletter, Get involved and stay in touch.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Listed here are the names and addresses of various herp related organizations and publications.

Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles, c/o Douglas H. Taylor, Dept. of Zoology, Miami University, Oxford, OH 45056. Publishes: Journal of Herpetology, Herpetological Review (4 issues each), and Newsletters. Dues: \$35.00 Annually.

American Federation of Herpetoculturists, P.O. Box 1137, Lakeside, CA 92040. Publishes: The Vivarium magazine (4 issues), and Newsletters. Dues: \$26.00 Annually.

American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, c/o Florida State Museum, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611. Publishes: Copeia (4 issues annually). Dues: \$35.00 Annually.

The Herpetologists' League, c/o Dr. Andrew H. Price, Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept., 4200 Smith School Rd., Austin, TX 78744. Publishes: Herpetologica and Herpetological Monographs. Dues: \$30.00 Annually.

Reptile and Amphibian Magazine, Subscription Dept., Rt. 3, Box 3709, Pottsville, PA 17901. Subscription: \$12.00 year, (6 issues), or \$22.00 2 years (12 issues). Cover price \$2.95 per issue.

The New York Turtle and Tortoise Society, c/o Suzanne Dohm, President, 365 Pacific St., Brooklyn, NY 11217. Publishes: Plastron Papers, Cane Sheets, and various info. sheets. Dues: \$15.00 annually.