

**THE EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE
KANSAS HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

**2-3 NOVEMBER 1991
PRATT COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

PROGRAM

Saturday, 2 November

8:30am COFFEE & REGISTRATION outside of Science Lecture Hall (Room 23) of Pratt Comm College. \$2.00 Regist fee. Bring a reusable mug-avoid styrofoam

9:30am WELCOME, INTRODUCTION OF KHS OFFICERS, and ANNOUNCEMENTS by KHS President Larry Zuckerman.

9:45am Robert L. Ball (Brewster USD 314) - Snakes of the Cimarron National Grassland: A Long Term Study.

10:05am GROUP PHOTOGRAPH

10:15am BREAK - save atmosphere & amphibians, reuse your cup

10:40am Jerry Horak (KS Dept Wildl & Parks) - Updated Species Listing: KS Threatened, Endangered & SINC.

11:05am Ken Brunson (KS Dept Wildl & Parks) - Survey of Kansans' Attitudes Regarding Threatened and Endangered Wildlife - With Special Emphasis on Herps

11:25am Larry Miller (Topeka) - Stupidity + Firearms = Dead Reptiles.

11:45am LUNCH!! Fast Food to Haute Cuisine (including steam tables) available in Pratt - see local host members for directions and suggestions.

1:00pm KHS BUSINESS MEETING & ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 1992, KHS President Larry Zuckerman presiding.

1:30pm Ken Koon (Pittsburg State Univ) - A Preliminary Survey of the Environmental Health of Riverine Vertebrates in Southeast Kansas.

2:00pm *****KEYNOTE SPEAKER*****
Victor Hutchison (University of Oklahoma) - The Conservation Biology of the African Goliath Frog (*Conraua goliath*). A videotape will follow.

2:45pm Joseph T. Collins (University of Kansas) - The Revolution in Herpetology.

3:00pm BREAK -- reuse your cups, avoid waste

3:20pm David Edds (Emporia St Univ) - Ecology of Aquatic Turtles in Southeast Kansas.

3:40pm Paul Shipman & David Edds (Emporia St Univ) - Behavior and Ecology of an Alligator Snapping Turtle in Kansas.

4:20pm FREE-FOR-ALL HERP SLIDE SHOW!!! Bring your best 10 color slides and try to explain them.

5:30pm DINNER -- on your own

7:00pm SOCIAL AND AUCTION -- Bring us your poor, tired, huddled masses of green backs and be prepared to spend an evening of fun and fund-raising at the Pratt Elks Lodge (1103 West 5th) -- see host members or map for directions. We have secured the serendipitous services and sharp-tongue (is it forked?) of Joe Collins, author, raconteur nonpareil, and just a nice guy to auction off the stuff you have so graciously donated. The KS Herp Society keeps membership fees so low based on the proceeds of this yearly event. When you get to the Elks, knock twice and tell 'em, "Joe sent me."

Sunday, 3 November

8:30am COFFEE and REGISTRATION - Outside of Science Lecture Hall (Room 23) Pratt Community College-Recycle cups.

9:15am Larry Zuckerman (KS Dept of Wildl & Parks) - New regulations and their impacts on herps in Kansas.

9:30am Eric Rundquist (Sedgwick County Zoo) - Reevaluation of the Status of the Western Cottonmouth (*Agkistrodon piscivorus leucostoma*) in Kansas.

10:10am Karen Toepfer (Hays) - The 1991 KHS Fall Field Trip.

11:00am ADJOURNMENT (Have a safe trip home and thanks)
Special Attractions:

*** Live alligator snapping turtle available for view ***

*** The KS Dept Wildlife & Parks Museum will be open Saturday and Sunday from 8am-5pm. Photos of live herps may be arranged - see host members for information***

Bear Creek Canon herp trip - Sunday afternoon - see Eric Rundquist or the sign-up sheet at the registration desk.

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**1991 KANSAS HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING
ABSTRACTS OF PAPERS
2-3 NOVEMBER 1991
PRATT, KANSAS**

SNAKES OF THE CIMARRON NATIONAL GRASSLAND: A LONG TERM STUDY

by

Robert L. Ball
Brewster USD #314
Brewster, Kansas 67732

During the past six years, data were collected on the serpents of the Cimarron National Grassland. These data were compared with similar data gathered on the snakes of Texas County, Oklahoma. The two faunas were similar. However, there were many more prairie rattlesnakes and bullsnakes observed in the panhandle of Oklahoma. Three species, the Texas longnose snake, the Kansas glossy snake, and the western hognose snake, were observed frequently. A total of five observations, including two voucher specimens, of the common kingsnake were made in the Grasslands. A 3-inch specimen of the western hognose snake was discovered DOR and appears to be the largest observed to date. Fossil fuel development, grazing, and recreation were all observed to have negative impacts on the serpents and other faunal components of the grasslands.

**SURVEY OF KANSANS' ATTITUDES REGARDING THREATENED AND ENDANGERED WILDLIFE,
WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON HERPS**

by

Ken Brunson
Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks
Route 1
Pratt, Kansas

During 1990, threatened and endangered species issues in Kansas gained prominent debate. Largely due to concerns over protecting reptiles, controversy over watershed lake development in southeast Kansas fueled debates and legislation. Partially because of these disputes, the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks sponsored a survey of Kansas adults in the spring of 1991. The survey indicated overwhelming support for threatened and endangered species in Kansas and efforts to manage and protect them.

THE REVOLUTION IN HERPETOLOGY

by

Joseph T. Collins
Museum of Natural History
University of Kansas
Lawrence, Kansas 66045

The application of principles of cladistics to systematic herpetology has had and will have a dramatic impact the understanding of herp species. The author will present an overview on the possible ramifications of this "revolution" and how it will affect understanding of current relationships of amphibians and reptiles in the United States.

ECOLOGY OF AQUATIC TURTLES IN SOUTHEAST KANSAS

by

David Edds
Division of Biological Sciences
Emporia State University
Emporia, Kansas 66801

We sampled aquatic turtle communities with 186 collections in 41 counties in southeast and south-central Kansas from April 1990 to September 1991 to investigate environmental correlates of turtle community structure, and incidence of turtle deformities. We captured 11 species, 33 county records for eight species, and new Kansas maximum size records for three species. We measured 32 environmental variables at each collection site. Amount of shade, total acidity, availability of basking areas, depth, current speed, and permanence of the water course were among the environmental factors most highly correlated with turtle community composition. Incidence of deformities was 10-14% in the Walnut and lower Arkansas compared to 6-7% in the Verdigris, Marais des Cygnes, and Neosho River drainages.

UPDATED SPECIES LISTING ON THE KANSAS THREATENED, ENDANGERED, AND SPECIES IN NEED OF CONSERVATION LIST

by

Jerry Horak
Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks
P. O. Box 1525
Emporia, Kansas 66801

The Kansas Nongame, Threatened, and Endangered species Act is 16 years old and, for the third time, the lists of endangered, threatened, and species-in-need-of-conservation (SINC) are being evaluated and updated. The evaluation process started in February of 1991 with selection of a seven-person task force. The task force established procedures for petitioning the addition or removal of a species, or the change of status of an existing species within the lists. The petition application was sent to approximately 180 groups or individuals. From these applications, six herps, six fish, 26 mussels, five insects, and six birds were petitioned. These species were then objectively evaluated with a numerical rating system. The evaluated herps were the Alligator Snapping Turtle, Common Map Turtle, Eastern Hognose Snake, Kansas Glossy Snake, Timber Rattlesnake, and Northern Crawfish Frog. All the information for each species was then subjectively evaluated by the task force.

THE CONSERVATION BIOLOGY OF THE AFRICAN GOLIATH FROG (*CONRAUA GOLIATHO*)

by

Dr. Victor H. Hutchinson
Department of Biology
University of Oklahoma
Norman, Oklahoma

The speaker will present aspects of his research into the reproductive biology and conservation status of *Conraua goliath* in West Africa. A videotape of the frog in its native habitat will also be presented.

**A PRELIMINARY SURVEY OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH OF RIVERINE VERTEBRATES IN
SOUTHEAST KANSAS**

by

Ken Koon
Department of Biology
Pittsburg State University
Pittsburg, Kansas 66762

The purpose of this project is to evaluate the incidence of anatomical abnormalities in riverine vertebrates and to attempt to establish a relationship between that incidence and the sources of environmental contamination. Potential sources of pollution occur in Labette Creek, Neosho River, and other streams in southeast Kansas. Criteria that made sites usable for the survey were: access, ability to seine, habitat for amphibians, and good turtle habitat. Reference sites were picked far enough away to avoid overlap of individuals. At each site, sampling consisted of seining fish and capturing and tagging frogs, turtles, and snakes. Data analysis includes species type and richness, abundance, and percent anomalies. We expect that the contaminated sites will have a higher abundance of anomalies and reduced species composition and abundance compared to reference sites.

STUPIDITY + FIREARMS = DEAD REPTILES

Larry Miller
920 Southwest 33rd Street
Topeka, Kansas 66611

On a trip to the Chikaskia River near Drury, Kansas during mid-August 1991, numerous dead reptiles were observed. All appeared to have been shot. Photographic documentation of these events was made and Personal observations will be given and comments made.

REEVALUATION OF THE STATUS OF THE WESTERN COTTONMOUTH (*AGKISTRODON PISCIVORUS LEUCOSTOMA*) IN KANSAS

By

Eric M Rundquist
Department of Herpetology
Sedgwick County Zoo
5555 Zoo Boulevard
Wichita, Kansas 67212

The collection of two specimens of *A. p. leucostoma* in northeastern Cherokee County, Kansas during the late summer of 1991 forces a reevaluation of the taxon's status in the state. An historical overview of the species in Kansas and comments on the two new specimens will be given.

BEHAVIOR AND ECOLOGY OF AN ALLIGATOR SNAPPING TURTLE IN KANSAS

by

Paul Shipman and David Edds
Division of Biological Sciences
Emporia State University
Emporia, Kansas 66801

We documented the behavior and ecology of an adult female Alligator Snapping Turtle, *Macrolemys temmincki*, captured in southeast Kansas. A biotelemetry study was initiated in June 1991 to study the turtle's habits and movement throughout the year. Prior to release, the specimen was weighed (24.7 kg), measured (50.8 cm carapace, straight-line maximum), aged (45 years), and radiographed (not gravid). A fecal sample contained remnants of muskrat and crayfish. The turtle was fitted with ultrasonic transmitters, released at the site of capture, then monitored by using a digital receiver. Microhabitat characteristics measured at each location site included cover, vegetation, amount of shade, depth, current speed, and substrate type. This specimen had also been captured, measured, tagged, and released in 1986. Its seven river-kilometer upstream movement in five years provides support for the upstream migration hypothesis for this species. Preliminary data from our study also indicate an upstream progression by this animal.

THE 1991 KHS FALL FIELD TRIP

by

Karen Toepfer
303 West 39th Street
Hays, Kansas 67601

Slides and a light-hearted, tongue-in-cheek presentation of 1991 Fall Field Trip to Linn County State lake will given.