

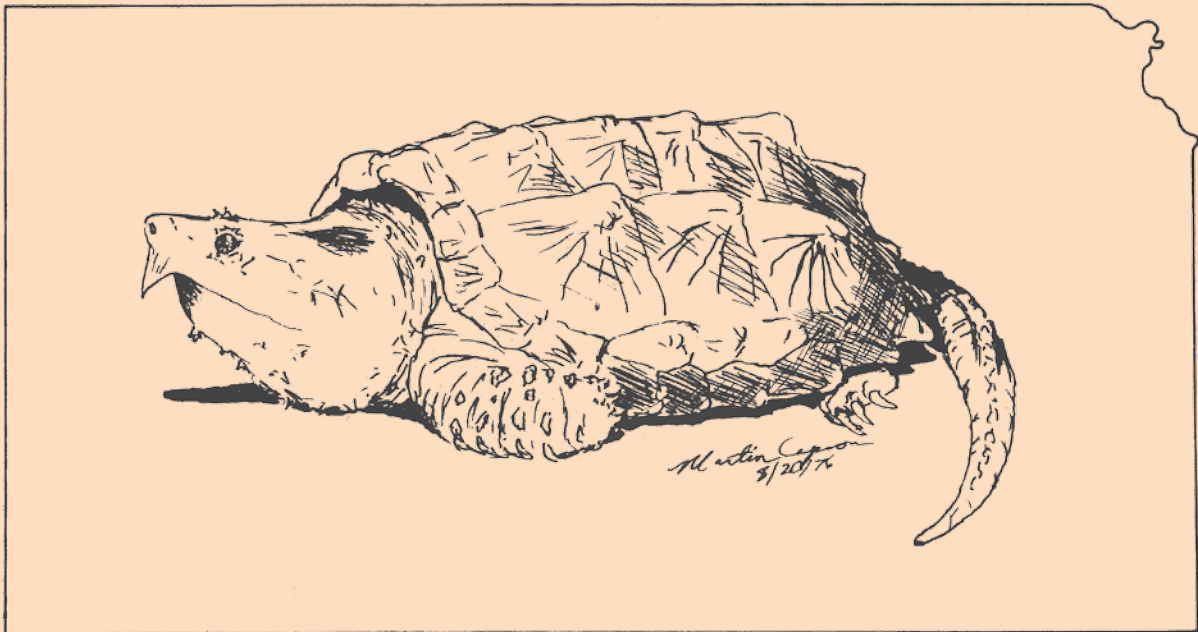
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Front Cover: Alligator Snapping Turtle
(*Macrochelys temminckii*) by Marty Capron.

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KHS 2015 Fall Field Trip

*Washington County State Fishing Lake,
Washington County, Kansas*

2-4 October 2015

KHS 42nd Annual Meeting

*Fort Hays State University and
Sternberg Museum of Natural History*

6-8 November 2015

NOTES

Unusual Diurnal Activity of a Northern Slimy Salamander (*Plethodon glutinosus*, Green, 1818) in Pennsylvania

THE NORTHERN SLIMY SALAMANDER, *Plethodon glutinosus* (Green, 1818), is a medium-sized terrestrial salamander occurring throughout most of the eastern United States (Petranka, 1998). Diurnally, *P. glutinosus* occupy cover such as the underside of rocks or logs, burrows, caves, crevices in trees and rocky outcrops (Cliburn and Porter, 1986; Petranka, 1998; Smith et al., 2011). Hulse et al. (2001) describe *P. glutinosus* as “decidedly nocturnal.” Nocturnal activity in this species appears to be especially common during rainy or moist weather conditions when individuals forage for small invertebrates (Cliburn and Porter, 1986; Petranka, 1998).

On 4 July 2014, at 13:45 h, I observed an adult *P. glutinosus* (SLV ~60mm) climbing a hay-scented fern (*Dennstaedtia punctilobula*) at Jakey Hollow Natural Area, Columbia County, Pennsylvania (41.064360N, 76.4904120W, datum: WGS84; elevation ~300m, air temperature ~25oC). The salamander appeared to have ascended approximately 20cm from the base of the fern frond and was located in a conspicuous position within direct sunlight. I monitored the *P. glutinosus* for approximately 3 minutes, during which the salamander primarily remained immobile. Upon returning to the area 30 minutes later, the salamander could not be located. Heavy rains had occurred approximately 2 hours before the observation reported herein, and the forest understory was substantially moist.

Climbing objects during rainy or moist nights appears to be common aspect of foraging behavior within several Plethodontid salamanders, including *P. glutinosus* (Jaeger, 1978; Cliburn and Porter, 1986; LeGros, 2013). However, this observation of diurnal climbing behavior in a *P. glutinosus* appears to be unique. The salamander appeared in good condition and no obvious signs of predation were apparent. Most likely, the immobility noted in the *P. glutinosus* during the course of this observation was a predator avoidance response triggered by my presence (Dodd, 1989). Foraging behavior in plethodontid salamanders may be limited by the frequency of rainfall and otherwise moist conditions (Jaeger, 1978; 1980). In this case, this individual may have been exploiting moist conditions following diurnal rainfall as an opportunity to forage, despite the stringent nocturnal nature of this species. However, no direct foraging (consumption of prey) was observed. Alternatively, it might have been expelled from its diurnal cover by heavy rains or other factors. Subsequent surveys at Jakey Hollow Natural Area have not revealed any other observations of diurnal activity in *P. glutinosus*.

I thank Brittney R. Dieter for providing literature references and Sean P. Graham for comments on a previous

draft of this note. Observations reported herein complied with all Pennsylvania regulations.

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The Scavenging of Snake Carcasses by the Spotted Snake Millipede, *Blaniulus guttulatus*

MILLIPEDES (DIPLOPODA) are relatively common inhabitants of moist biotypes in the upper horizons of litter in broadleaf mesic forests (Hoffman 1990) and may also be found with snakes beneath damp cover (e.g., boards, logs, and rocks) in more open areas such as fields (personal observation). While millipedes are primarily detritivores, a few species feed on animal carrion, and some are known to be preferential carnivores (Hoffman and Payne 1969; Barker 2004). Herein I report observations of Spotted Snake Millipedes (*Blaniulus guttulatus*) scavenging the carcasses of Milksnake (*Lampropeltis triangulum*) and Dekay's Brownsnake (*Storeria dekayi*) at a site in Erie, Pennsylvania, USA (Gray 2014a).

On 6 October 2012, remains of a *S. dekayi* were found beneath debris at the Erie, Pennsylvania site. The remains consisted of disarticulated skeleton with some muscle tissue and skin attached. There were at least 12 *B. guttulatus* aggregated on the remains (Fig. 1). On 9 March 2013, two juvenile *S. dekayi* were found dead, likely as a result of prolonged exposure to sub-freezing temperatures (Gray 2014b); each contained at least 6-14 *B. guttulatus*. On 19 May 2015, an adult *L. triangulum* was found dead beneath laminated particle board. There were at least 18 *B. guttulatus* in and around the mouth of the snake (Fig. 2). Millipedes are subject to desiccation and may aggregate on and around animal carcasses for use as a moist shelter (Barker 2004. op. cit.). However, millipedes have also been reported to feed on vertebrate carcasses (Cloudsley-Thompson 1968; Hoffman and Payne 1969. op. cit.). Williams and Hefner (1928) observed a small snake carcass that was picked clean to the bone by a colony of the millipede *Cambala annulata*. Furthermore, Payne et al (1968) reported *C. annulata* feeding on the remains of buried pigs. The Spotted Snake Millipede, *B. guttulatus* is known to consume animal carrion (Hoffman and Payne 1969. op. cit.) and will feed on the shed skins of snakes (personal observation), making it likely that the millipedes I observed were scavenging the snake carcasses.

I wish to thank Jeff Beane for reviewing the manuscript.



Figure 1. Millipedes, including Spotted Snake Millipedes (*Blaniulus guttulatus*) on *Storeria dekayi* carrion.

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Figure 2. Spotted Snake Millipedes, *Blaniulus guttulatus* found in and around the mouth of a dead *Lampropeltis triangulum*.

Make plans to attend KHS 42nd Annual Meeting November 7 and 8, 2015

WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE that The Kansas Herpetological Society will be hosting its 42nd Annual Meeting 7-8 November 2015 at Fort Hays State University and the Sternberg Museum of Natural History in Hays, Kansas. Scientific paper and poster sessions and general meeting activities will be held at FHSU (Albertson Hall) while the annual KHS Auction and associated festivities will be held at The Sternberg Museum of Natural History (3000 Sternberg Drive).

Herpetologists at all levels of expertise are encouraged and urged to give scientific paper presentations. An award and stipend (The George Toland Award for Ecological Research on North American Herpetofauna) will be presented for an outstanding student presentation at the end of the meeting, so students are strongly encouraged to participate. Additionally, all presentations concerning Kansas herpetofauna are eligible for the The Suzanne L. & Joseph T. Collins Award for Excellence in Kansas Herpetology. The Meshaka Award will be for best poster (36 X 48") relating to North American herpetology.

The KHS annual meeting provides an opportunity for herpetologists and other like-minded individuals interested in amphibians, reptiles and turtles to come together for scientific lectures and friendly intellectual discussion. There is ample opportunity for socializing in a collegial and supportive atmosphere. Meeting registration is only \$10.00 and covers refreshments throughout the meeting,

and snacks and refreshments at the Saturday evening KHS Auction.

Keynote speaker will be Dr. Eli Greenbaum of University of Texas-El Paso. Title of his talk will be: "Mambas, malaria and militias: 21st century herpetology in the jungles of Democratic Republic of Congo".

Members of the Crawfish Frog Working Group will join the KHS meeting and festivities after they meet on 6 November at the Sternberg Museum of Natural History.

Tours of the Sternberg Museum of Natural History herpetological collections and the Joseph T. Collins Memorial Library will be available.

Reserve oral presentations and poster titles with Walter Meshaka, Jr. at toadwally@gmail.com, with subject heading 'KHS talk title' or 'KHS poster title'.

Local committee members are: Walter Meshaka, Curtis Schmidt, Travis Taggart, Bill Stark, Jeff Seim, and Kasandra Brown.

Attendees are encouraged to patronize the Fort Hays Inn, 2524 Vine St., (785-625-2511). They have graciously agreed to provide a discounted rate to KHS attendees. Please make reservations ASAP, as all Hays hotels/motels are filling up fast because of local wind energy development and opening weekend of pheasant season.

Visit the KHS website regularly at <http://www.cnah.org/khs/meetings.aspx> for up-to-date meeting and lodging details.

Notices of Resignation/Treasurer's Report by David Oldham

FIRST, AN ANNOUNCEMENT:

This marks the fifth year of my time as treasurer and, as first announced at last year's annual meeting, this will be my last year to serve in this capacity.

Our secretary, Dr. Eva Horne, who is likewise serving her fifth year, is also stepping down in her capacity. We are actively seeking KHS member volunteers to take our places.

Our plan is to have our replacements shadow us at this year's annual meeting in November to learn the ropes in an apprentice-like situation. We both learned this way and it seems like a good way to go about this.

Interested volunteers are encouraged to contact me or Eva as soon as possible in order to make plans for November's transition. We are taking names and starting the process immediately, subject to approval by the Nominating Committee. It has been a pleasure serving. It is not difficult work but it's time to let others help with KHS business functions.

- David Oldham

For details and to volunteer, please contact:
David Oldham, doldham@pittstate.edu, 620-235-6140
Dr. Eva Horne, ehorne@ksu.edu, 785-532-5929

KHS finances and balance sheet:

Current, latest information as of this publication, July 2015

JULY 2015

Account type	Previous Balance (6/15)	Ending Balance (7/15)
Checking	\$6,764.71	\$6,616.60
Savings	\$4,296.61	\$4,296.61
Fitch-Platt 30 month cert.	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
Dividend rate: 0.900%, APY: 0.903%, Maturity date: 03/18/16		
Gloyd-Taylor 30 month cert.	\$7,468.65	\$7,468.65
Dividend rate: 0.900%, APY: 0.903%, Maturity date: 03/18/16		
Kamb-Grant 30 month cert.	\$7,980.56	\$7,480.56
Dividend rate: 0.900%, APY: 0.903%, Maturity date: 03/18/16		
Year to date dividends: \$87.14		
		<u>TOTAL ASSETS:</u>
		\$27,862.42

LAST YEAR AT THIS TIME, JULY 2014

Account type	Previous Balance (6/14)	Ending balance (7/14)
Checking	\$4,615.03	\$4,663.53
Savings	\$4,131.19	\$4,131.19
Fitch-Platt 30 month cert.	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
Gloyd-Taylor 30 month cert.	\$7,468.65	\$7,468.65
Kamb-Grant 30 month cert.	\$7,980.56	\$7,480.56
Year to date dividends: \$85.33		
		<u>TOTAL ASSETS:</u>
		\$25,746.93

ABREVIATED FROM EARLIER YEARS FOR COMPARISON

JULY 2013, Year to date dividends: \$61.18, TOTAL ASSETS: \$24,465.76

JULY 2012, Year to date dividends: \$97.71, TOTAL ASSETS: \$20,250.38

JULY 2011, Year to date dividends: \$91.18, TOTAL ASSETS: \$21,704.55

TOTAL ASSETS INCREASE FROM JULY 2011 TO JULY 2015: \$6,157.87

KHS funds are currently invested and protected at the Kansas Teachers Community Credit Union, Pittsburg, Kansas.

About the Kansas Herpetological Society

The KHS is a non-profit organization established in 1974 and designed to encourage education and dissemination of scientific information through the facilities of the Society; to encourage conservation of wildlife in general and of the herpetofauna of Kansas in particular; and to achieve closer cooperation and understanding between herpetologists, so that they may work together in common cause. All interested persons are invited to become members of the Society. Membership dues per calendar year are \$15.00 (U.S., Regular), \$20.00 (outside North America, Regular), and \$20.00 (Contributing) payable to the KHS. Send all dues to: KHS Secretary, (address inside the front cover)

KHS Meetings

The KHS holds an annual meeting in the fall of each year. The meeting is, minimally, a two day event with lectures and presentations by herpetologists. All interested individuals are invited to make presentations. The annual meeting is also the time of the Saturday night social and fund-raising auction.

Field Trips

The KHS hosts three field trips each year, one each in the spring, summer, and fall. Field trips are an enjoyable educational experience for everyone, and also serve to broaden our collective understanding of the distribution and abundance of the amphibians, reptiles, and turtles in Kansas. All interested persons are invited to attend.

Editorial Policy

Collinsorum, currently issued quarterly (March, June, September, and December), publishes all society business.

Submission of Manuscripts

As space allows, *Collinsorum* publishes all manner of news, notes, and articles. Priority of publishing is given to submissions of Kansas herpetological subjects and by KHS members; however all submissions are welcome. The ultimate decision concerning the publication of a manuscript is at the discretion of the Editor. Manuscripts should be submitted to the Editor in an electronic format whenever possible. Those manuscripts submitted in hard copy may be delayed in date of publication. Manuscripts should be submitted to the Editor no later than the 1st of the month prior to the month of issuance. All manuscripts become the sole possession of the Society, and will not be returned unless arrangements are made with the Editor.

Reprints & Artwork

Collinsorum publishes original peer-reviewed submissions under the Articles and Notes sections. Upon review, acceptance, and publication, Portable Document File (PDF) copies are provided gratis to the author on request. Figures and photographs submitted with manuscripts are welcome, but must be sized appropriately by authors for this journal's column sizes (i.e., 19.5 or 39 picas wide). Particular attention should be paid to reduction of text on the figures.

Societal Awards, Grants, and Recognitions

Distinguished Life Members

Individuals selected as Distinguished Life Members are chosen by the KHS Executive Council based on their distinguished published research papers on Kansas herpetology.

Bronze Salamander Award

Established in 1987, this Award is presented to those individuals whose efforts and dedication to the Kansas Herpetological Society go far beyond the normal bounds. The recipients of this Award have given exemplary service to the KHS, and are presented with an elegant bronze sculpture of a Barred Tiger Salamander.

The Howard K. Gloyd - Edward H. Taylor Scholarship

Established in 1993, The Gloyd-Taylor Scholarship is presented annually by the Kansas Herpetological Society to an outstanding herpetology student. The scholarship is a minimum of \$300.00 and is awarded on the basis of potential for contributing to the science of herpetology. Students from grade school through university are eligible.

The Alan H. Kamb Grant for Research on Kansas Snakes

KHS members only are eligible to apply for The Alan H. Kamb Grant for Research on Kansas Snakes, which was established in 2001. The recipient of the grant will be selected by the KHS Awards Committee. A minimum award of \$300 is given annually.

The Henry S. Fitch - Dwight R. Platt Award for Excellence in Field Herpetology

KHS members only are eligible to apply for The Henry S. Fitch - Dwight R. Platt Award for Excellence in Field Herpetology, which was established in 2010. The recipient of the grant will be selected by the KHS Awards Committee. The award will be given annually when sufficient funds have been raised to establish a trust.

The George Toland Award for Ecological Research on North American Herpetofauna

This CNAH Award was established in 2008 in recognition of the scientific career of George Fredrick Toland, whose life-long interest in herpetology was passed on to so many of his students. The recipient of this award will be selected by the KHS Awards Committee. A minimum award of \$200 is given annually at the end of the KHS meeting.

The Suzanne L. & Joseph T. Collins Award for Excellence in Kansas Herpetology

This CNAH Award was established by Westar Energy in 1998 in recognition of the achievements of Suzanne L. Collins and Joseph T. Collins. In even years, the Award is bestowed upon an individual who, in the preceding two calendar years, had published a paper of academic excellence on native species of Kansas amphibians, reptiles, and/or turtles, and in odd years, the Award is given to an individual who, in a juried competition, took the best photograph of a Kansas amphibian, reptile, or turtle. The Collins Award is minimally \$1,000.00, and is neither a grant nor a scholarship. No nominations or applications can be made for it.