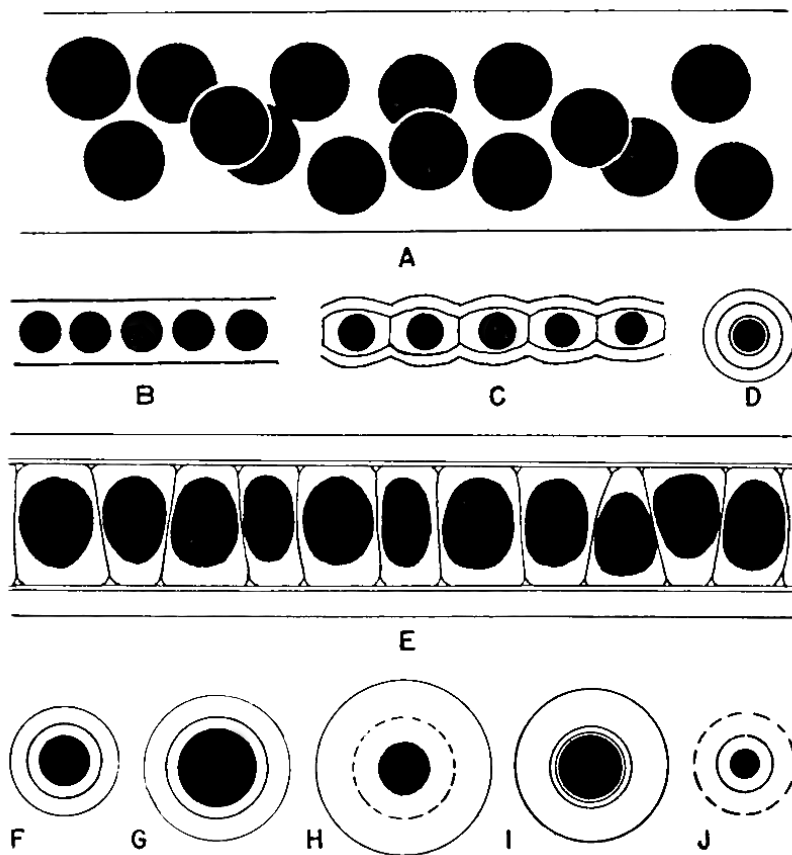


Collinsorum

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Front Cover: Eggs of various Kansas anurans. A. *Anaxyrus woodhousii*, B. *Anaxyrus speciosus*, C. *Anaxyrus cognatus*, D. *Pseudacris maculata*, E. *Anaxyrus americanus*, F. *Lithobates palustris*, G. *Lithobates areolatus*, H. *Lithobates sylvaticus*, I. *Lithobates blairi/sphenocephalus*, J. *Pseudacris clarkii*. From Smith, Hobart M., 1950.

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KHS Annual Meeting & Presentation Registration

Available On-line
cnah.org/khs

Registrations being accepted now!

You can now pay your 2018 dues On-line...

Visit the KHS Website
cnah.org/khs

...now, and never miss out!

KHS BUSINESS

KHS Annual Meeting Call for Papers, Posters, and Auction Items

The **45th Annual Meeting** of the **Kansas Herpetological Society** will be held 3-4 November 2018 at the Avaste Inn and Conference Center (soon to become the Clarion), Address: 2700 W 18th Ave, Emporia, KS 66801 Phone: (620) 341-9287. Scientific paper sessions and general meeting activities will occur in the ballroom at the Avaste. Effective immediately, the Society is accepting titles for talks or posters to be presented at the meeting. The deadline for submission is October, 19 2018. Please submit a title and abstract on-line. This year abstracts will be published in *Collinsorum*.

The **KHS** annual meeting provides an opportunity for herpetologists and other like-minded individuals interested in amphibians and reptiles to come together for scientific lectures and friendly intellectual discussion. There is opportunity for socializing in a collegial and supportive atmosphere. Meeting registration is only \$15.00.

This year's keynote speaker is **Dr. Jesus Rivas** of the biology department at New Mexico Highlands University. Jesus is a herpetologist, tropical ecologist, and television correspondent. His research interests include natural history, ethology, and conservation. Jesus is best known for his work on anacondas.

Herpetologists at all levels of expertise are encouraged and urged to give scientific paper presentations. An award and stipend of \$200 (**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. The \$100 **Meshaka Award** for best poster will also be awarded. Additionally, the **Suzanne L. & Joseph T. Collins Award for Excellence in Kansas Herpetology** will be awarded, a

\$1,000 prize.

During the **KHS Business Meeting** (Saturday Afternoon) and KHS Auction (Saturday evening).... the following awards will be presented:

- **The Suzanne L. and Joseph T. Collins Award for excellence in Kansas Herpetology.**

In even-numbered years, The Collins Award shall be bestowed upon that member of the KHS who, in the preceding two calendar years, accom-

plished the following: Had published a paper of academic excellence on the systematics, ecology, or conservation of a native species of Kansas amphibian, turtle, and/or reptile in the *Transactions of the Kansas Academy of Science*, *Herpetological Review*, or *Collinsorum*, and/or presented a lecture of excellence on the systematics, ecology, or conservation of a native species of Kansas amphibian(s) and/or reptile(s). To qualify for The Collins Award, a portion of the field work or observations must have occurred in Kansas, or the systematic



Green Anaconda expert Jesus Rivas catches a massive snake in the wetlands of Venezuela.

data must have been based in part on Kansas specimens. Individuals eligible for The Collins Award must be KHS members when they do the research, when the paper is published, or when the talk is given. Further, the KHS requires individuals who present papers to signify they are eligible for The Collins Award when they submit the title of the talk to the KHS Meeting Chairperson or just prior to giving the talk at the annual meeting; those individuals that publish a paper that meets the criteria must submit three copies of the published version to the Chair of the KHS Awards Committee in order to be considered for The Collins Award.

- **Howard Kay Gloyd/Edward Harrison Taylor Scholarship.** The KHS annually grants a scholarship (\$300.00) named for Howard K. Gloyd and Edward H. Taylor, two distinguished

Kansas herpetologists.

- **Alan H. Kamb Grant for research on Kansas snakes.** The KHS annually awards a grant (\$300.00) in honor and memory of Alan H. Kamb, longtime supporter and member of the Kansas Herpetological Society.

- **George Toland Award for Ecological Research** on North American Herpetofauna. CNAH and the KHS annually makes an award (\$200.00) in honor and memory of George Toland, a longtime supporter and member of the Kansas Herpetological Society.

- **Henry S. Fitch-Dwight R. Platt Award for Excellence in Field Herpetology.** The KHS annually makes an award (\$200.00) to a KHS member that, in the recent past, made a significant herpetological discovery in the field or conducted significant herpetological field work that contributed to our knowledge of these creatures.

SATURDAY NIGHT SOCIAL, POSTER SESSION, AND AUCTION

The annual Saturday night social, poster session, and fund-raising auction will be held at the Avaste Inn and Conference Center (soon to become the Clarion), Address: 2700 W 18th Ave, Emporia, KS 66801 Phone: (620) 341-9287 starting at 6:30pm. KHS will provide **FREE BEER, SOFT DRINKS, and SNACKS**. The auction will be preceded by the 4th annual poster session. The poster session will run from 6:30 to 7:30 pm. All presenters may set up posters before this time in the atrium. At 7:30 the auction will be held in the ballroom of the Avaste.

The **Walter E. Meshaka, Jr. Award for Excellence in Ecology** will be awarded following the poster session. The Meshaka Award may be awarded to any poster presented that pertains to North American herpetology, and comes with a Commemorative Certificate, and a check for

\$100.

The auction will start immediately after the presentation of the Meshaka Award. Please bring herpetological items for the auction. Deliver them to the auction site Saturday evening. We rely on you to bring items about amphibians, or reptiles and other stuff oriented to herpetology. PLEASE DO NOT BRING LIVING OR DEAD ANIMALS (OR PARTS). No specimens or body parts of herpetofauna will be sold at auction. Auctioneer Dan Fogell, will provide the entertainment and the KHS will supply snacks and beverages. Bring herpetological items to donate (the more scandalous the better) and join us for a relaxing and fun-filled evening.

KHS 2018 ANNUAL MEETING LODGING OPTIONS

Avaste Inn and Conference Center (soon to become the Clarion), Address: 2700 W 18th Ave, Emporia, KS 66801 Phone: (620) 341-9287.

KHS reserved a block of rooms for \$90 per night and will hold all events at the Avaste. The rooms were renovated this fall and include a microwave, coffee pot, and refrigerator in each room. The rooms blocked for the meeting surround the spacious atrium, which has a heated pool and hot tub at one end and a breakfast area for continental breakfast at the other end. Down the hall from the atrium is a ballroom, which will house the scientific meeting sessions and the auction.

For those of you who don't want to drive during the meeting there is a Spangles across the parking lot from Avaste and a Burger King across the street. Bruff's Bar and Grill is behind the Avaste (voted numerous times as having the best steaks in Emporia by a newspaper poll). When you register please tell the Avaste staff that you are with the Kansas Herpetological Society. To get the discounted rate you must reserve a room at least 2 weeks before the KHS meeting.



Happenings of the 44th Annual Meeting of the Kansas Herpetological Society

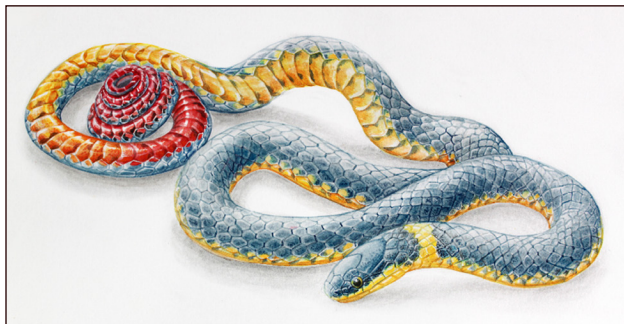
For many herpetologists who fill the warm months of the year with incessant outings to flip rocks, wade through ponds with nets, listen to frog calls, and road cruise, October often signals the start of a long, dreary winter. For members of the **Kansas Herpetological Society**, October signals that it is time to make plans to attend the KHS Annual Meeting, which is traditionally held over the first full weekend of November. 2017 was no different, with approximately 135 herpetologists from across the nation converging on Wichita to present papers and posters, learn, network professionally, and consume remarkable amounts of caffeine and carbohydrates.

The **44th Annual Meeting of the Kansas Herpetological Society** was hosted at Friends University and the Sedgwick County Zoo over 3-5 November. Folks from Kansas, Nebraska, Missouri, Iowa, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Wyoming, Massachusetts, Florida, Minnesota and Colorado thronged into the Sedgwick County Zoo's Cargill Learning Center for the annual Friday night mixer. Once there, the throngs were subjected to awkward hugs, untoward jokes, vivacious laughs, snacks sponsored by SCZ, and beer sponsored by Pabst Blue Ribbon. SCZ's Executive Director, **Dr. Jeff Ettling**, kicked off the weekend's activities with a special presentation, Armenia in Retrospect: A Decade of Conservation Efforts for the Armenian Viper. Approximately 75 herpers attended Dr. Ettling's enthralling presentation and left with wistful dreams of scouring the mountains of eastern Europe for vipers. Refilled with cookies and PBR, attendees

were led across the zoo via a lighted path to the Amphibian and Reptile Building to continue mixing. **Nate Nelson**, Curator of Ectotherms at SCZ, and his staff did a tremendous job hosting KHS members in the old Herpetarium. Upon entering the building Nelson advised folks to examine the diversity thoroughly, as there would be tickets sold at Saturday night's auction for an opportunity to spelunk behind-the-scenes and fondle anything that was non-venomous.

Drawn by the free bagels, coffee, and donuts, dozens of herpetologists found their way seemingly by accident (or actually by accident for the ones who were thoroughly mixed the previous night) to William Penn Hall at Friends University on Saturday morning. KHS President **Dexter R. Mardis** opened the meeting with brief remarks, and introductions to **Drs. Patrick Mathews** and **Alan Maccarone** (Friends University) for welcoming statements. Dr. David Allen Penning (Missouri Southern State University) charged boldly where no herper had gone before (that day) with the first presentation of the day- *When Noodles Wrestle, Things Get Weird: Whole-body and Muscle-level Performance in King-snakes and Ratsnakes*. Following Dr. Penning, **Erin E. Stiede** (West Texas A&M University) presented *Influence of Canopy Cover on Herpetofauna in an Eastern Texas Woodland*. From the University of Arkansas, **Chelsea S. Kross** gave the informative paper *Effects of Non-native Vegetation on Amphibian Development*. **Logan D. Ediger** (West Texas A&M University) finished the first paper session with *Habitat Associations in a Coastal Texas Aquatic Snake Community*.

George Pisani (Kansas Biological Survey) and **Dr. Daren Riedle** (Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism) teamed up to give a thrilling accounting of their project to digitize and analyze the late, great **Henry S. Fitch's** 50+ year dataset. Respectively, they presented *Old Data Sets in the Digital Age: What's Mined Could Be Yours*, and *Comparative Demography within a Kansas Snake Assemblage: Revisiting Old Data Sets*. The Fitchian presentations were followed by **Mark W. Herr** (University of Kansas) presenting



Logo for the meeting, and adornment of the annual t-shirts. A stunning rendition of a Ring-necked Snake by aspiring scientific illustrator Tiffany Jehle, Wichita. Done in watercolor, and digitally finished.

Molecular Phylogeography of the Chihuahuan Green Toad (Anaxyrus debilis) with Implications for the Kansas Population. **Dexter R. Mardis** (KHS President, Wichita State University) talked about *Herpetofaunal Diversity Across Four Properties in the Flint Hills: A Glance at Latitudinal Gradation*. With his stomach grumbling for lunch, **Zackary Cordes** (Kansas Dept. of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism) updated the audience on the Distribution of the *Strecker's Chorus Frog in Kansas*. Before recessing the meeting, **Dexter Mardis** directed the KHS members to the eastern steps of historic Davis Hall where **Larry L. Miller** (Kansas Heritage Photography) awaited them. As one of Wichita's most iconic buildings, Davis Hall provided an excellent venue for the annual group photo. Though it took Larry a while to get the 130+ attendees shoehorned and herded into place, a stunning photo was captured and ravenous subjects were released to forage independently for lunch.

Appetites thoroughly sated, the herpers reconvened for a diverse set of talks that promised to be at least as engaging as the morning's had been. All the way from Florida Atlantic University in sunny Boca Raton, FL, **Carolyn Hanish** dumped her knowledge of the mechanisms and impacts of *Gopher Tortoise Seed Dispersal* on the audience. Given that the tortoises disperse the seeds via their digestive tract, the timing of her presentation (right after lunch) was nothing less than ironic. **Allison R. Hullinger** (Fort Hays State University) presented part of her Master's Thesis research: *Herpetofaunal Community Analysis of Eastern Kansas with an Emphasis of the Broad-headed Skink*. In a convenient geographical bookend counter to Carolyn, **Tony Bridger** (Bureau of Land Management) journeyed from Rawlins, Wyoming to give *An Inventory of the Herpetofauna of Ferris Mountain Wilderness Study Area*.

Following a quick break, past KHS President and Chair of the KHS Awards Committee **Daniel D. Fogell** issued a tremendously welcoming introduction to the meeting's Keynote Speaker: **Dr. Anne Stengle** (Holyoke Community College). Dr. Stengle has studied endangered Eastern Ratsnakes and Copperheads in Massachusetts since 2007, and Timber Rattlesnakes across the state since 2009. Her Bachelor's degree and PhD are from University of Massachusetts, Amherst in Organismic and Evolutionary Biology. She also has

an Associate's Degree in Veterinary Technology from Holyoke Community College. Anne's recent work has focused on radiotelemetry of the largest timber population in MA, looking at effects of Snake Fungal Disease on movement patterns and habitat selection, in addition to population genetics of the entire New England region. Currently she is the New England Rattlesnake Geneticist, employed by the Orianne Society, and the Coordinator for the USFW SWG grant "Conserving SGCN snakes threatened by an emerging fungal skin disease." Dr. Stengle's address to the KHS was titled *Shake, Rattle and Roll: From Snake Fungal Disease to the Quabbin Rattlesnake Introduction*. Audience members were captivated by stories of maiming but ultimate survival of Timber Rattlesnakes by Snake Fungal Disease, and anecdotes of public relations when trying to introduce a colony of rattlesnakes on an uncivilized island.

After yet another break that allowed attendees to continue digesting their lunch, and Dr. Stengle's presentation, the annual KHS Business Meeting and Award Ceremony took place.

Minutes from the KHS Business Meeting held at the 44th annual meeting of the Kansas Herpetological Society on Saturday, 4 November 2017 at Friends University were approved.

Curtis J. Schmidt was proxy for KHS Secretary, **Kelley Tuel** and prepared the minutes accordingly. The meeting was officially called to order at 16:15 by KHS President **Dexter R. Mardis**. Other members of the KHS Executive Council present were **Lynnette Sievert** (President-Elect), **J. Daren Riedle** (Treasurer), and **Suzanne L. Collins** (Historian). Standing Committee Chairpersons present were **Daniel D. Fogell** (Awards) and **Brent Schulze** (Nominating).

After brief introductions by **Dexter Mardis**, **Daren Riedle** gave the Treasurer's Report. He reported that there were approximately 90 on-line registrants and approximately 40 in-person registrants for the annual meeting. The society's balance as of February 2017 was approximately \$10,700 and that meeting registrations had accumulated approximately \$2,400 in pre-registrations and \$1,300 from registrations at the meeting. Daren also reported that KHS has approximately \$22,000 in savings for endowments. Daren's final report was that KHS members had partnered with KDWP for preparation of the herpetology section of the annual EcoMeet held throughout

the state.

Dexter Mardis was proxy for **Travis W. Taggart** to give the Editor's Report. Dexter's only report was that more submissions were needed for *Collinsorum* and that the June and September journals were combined for this reason.

Suzanne Collins then gave the Historian's report. Suzanne reported that she is still collecting articles and photographs as she gets them and will scan slides if people wish to send them for the archives.

President-Elect, **Lynnette Sievert**, reported that plans are underway for the 2018 meeting in Emporia, Kansas.

The chair of the Nominating Committee, **Brent Schulze**, presented two candidates for President-Elect in 2018: **Curtis Schmidt** (Hays, KS) and **Christopher Visser** (Lincoln, NE). Brent presented ballots for all the attending KHS members to vote. By a slim margin, **Curtis Schmidt** was elected President-Elect for 2018 and will assume presidential responsibilities in 2019. The 2019 annual meeting will be held in Hays, Kansas.

Kelley Tuel and **Daren Riedle** were reelected for a third term as Secretary and Treasurer, respectively.

Awards Committee chairman, **Dan Fogell**, expressed a need for someone on the Awards Committee.

Treasurer **Daren Riedle** brought up the proposed legislation in Washington D.C. that will greatly increase the amount of funding for non-game research given to each state from mineral royalties. The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies is calling for a grassroots effort for marketing and support of this legislation from the wildlife agencies and societies within each state. A motion was given (Dr. Bill Stark, Fort Hays State University) and seconded (George Pisani, Kansas Biological Survey) for Daren to draft a letter of support on behalf of the KHS. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Daren also mentioned that the KHS would be a sponsor for the next printing of the Snakes of Kansas pocket guide.

The meeting was officially called to an end by Dexter Mardis at 4:38 pm.

Immediately following the KHS Business Meeting, KHS Awards Committee Chair **Daniel D. Fogell** conducted the 2018 KHS Awards Ceremony.

The **Henry S. Fitch-Dwight R. Platt Award**

for **Excellence in Field Herpetology** was awarded to **Larry L. Miller** for his lifetime dedication to advancing and promoting field herpetology, and in acknowledgement of the decades he dedicated to fleshing out our understanding on herpetofauna in south central Kansas. The **Howard K. Gloyd-Edward H. Taylor Scholarship** was awarded to **Allison R. Hullinger** (Fort Hays State University) for her excellent research on Broad-headed Skinks in Kansas. **Ashley Burns'** stellar investigation into the strike behavior of Western Ratsnakes earned her the **Alan H. Kamb Grant for Research on Kansas Snakes**.

The last award of the ceremony was the 20th Annual **Suzanne L & Joseph T. Collins Award for Excellence in Kansas Herpetology**. The criteria of this award alternates annually, with odd-numbered years being for the best photo of an amphibian or reptile species native to Kansas, and even-numbered years is presented to the KHS member who has published a paper of academic excellence on the systematics, ecology, or conservation of a native species of Kansas herpetofauna within the prior 2 years. The 2017 Collins Award winner was **Jacob Basler**. Jacob presented judges with several photographs, but ultimately his stunning photograph of a Plain-bellied Watersnake set before a Flint Hills waterfall captivated all onlookers.

Meeting participants disbanded shortly after the conclusion of the Award Ceremony, to yet again forage and ultimately travel back to the Sedgwick County Zoo for the annual Saturday Night Auction and Poster Session. Attendees once again stuffed themselves with copious amounts of carbohydrates (solid and liquid)



The beautifully composed recipient photo of the 20th Annual Collins Award, taken by the uncannily talented **Jacob Basler** of St. Marys, KS.

while perusing the posters and auction items. A dozen researchers presented posters, hailing from Missouri, Kansas, and Arkansas. The unofficial artist-in-residence of the KHS, **John F. Lokke** once again reprised his role as live contributor to the auction. Throughout the evening, John produced several quality watercolor paintings that sold while the paint was still wet. Despite problems with the beer tap, auction-goers thoroughly enjoyed the evening and ultimately rewarded the hard work of master auctioneers **Dan Fogell** and **Eric Thiss** by spending \$3,339 during the auction! This could not have been possible without the help and enthusiasm of the Sedgwick County Zoo's Ectotherm Department, who auctioned off tickets for behind-the-scenes tours of the Herpetarium. Additionally, a special "thank you!" is due to **Lindy Gates** and **Brent Schulze** for their masterful handling of the keg problem, and to **Hannah Hoetmer** and **Scott Fowler** for last-minute foraging to replenish dwindling stocks of orange juice.

Meeting attendees were lured back to Friends University for more thrilling presentations by the promise of gallons of caffeine, and several dozen carbohydrate delivery units. Bravely starting off the morning, **Levi Parker** (Missouri Southern State University) presented *The Forest for the Trees: Comparisons of Arboreal and Terrestrial Strike Performance in Green Tree Pythons*. **Diedre L. Kramer** (Fort Hays State University) followed Levi's ignition of the morning by telling the audience of *A Preliminary Look at the Home Range Size and Population Dynamics of the Ornate Box Turtle at Quivira National Wildlife Refuge*. Two first-time KHS'ers presented next, both undergraduate students of **Dr. David A. Penning**. **Ashley Burns** captivated audiences with *When Predators Become Prey: Testing for Differences in the Striking Behavior of Western Ratsnakes*. Her Missouri Southern State University cohort **Christian Neff** followed with his talk titled *Don't Let It Go to Your Head: Understanding the Mechanisms of Constriction*. To punctuate the first paper session of the morning, the dynamic duo of **Joseph Ehrenberger** (Adaptation Environmental Services) and **Brent Schulze** (GetHooked.com) told the group about *PARC: What It Means to Be a Partner in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation*.

After a brief respite in which many in the crowd refilled their coffee (and bellies) and

stretched their legs, the last paper session of the 2017 KHS Annual Meeting got underway. **Dr. Andrew George** (Pittsburg State University) presented his research into *Resource Selection in Western Ratsnakes: Implications for Bird Nest Predation*. **Joshua J. Mead** (Fort Hays State University) delighted in informing the gathered herpers about the *Home Range Size of the Western Massasauga in Cheyenne Bottoms*. Also from Fort Hays State University **Sean C. Rogers** discussed his cutting edge research titled *An Aerial Perspective: Using Unmanned Aerial Systems to Identify Lizard Microhabitat*. Following the pair of graduate students from FHSU, the dynamic duo from Denver of **Joseph Ehrenberger** and **Brent Schulze** returned to present *Rattled in the Rockies: Public Education and Outreach through Rattlesnake Telemetry*. Last, but certainly not least, **J. Aaron Zenor** (West Texas A&M University) presented *Factors Influencing Capture Success of Yellow Mud Turtles*.

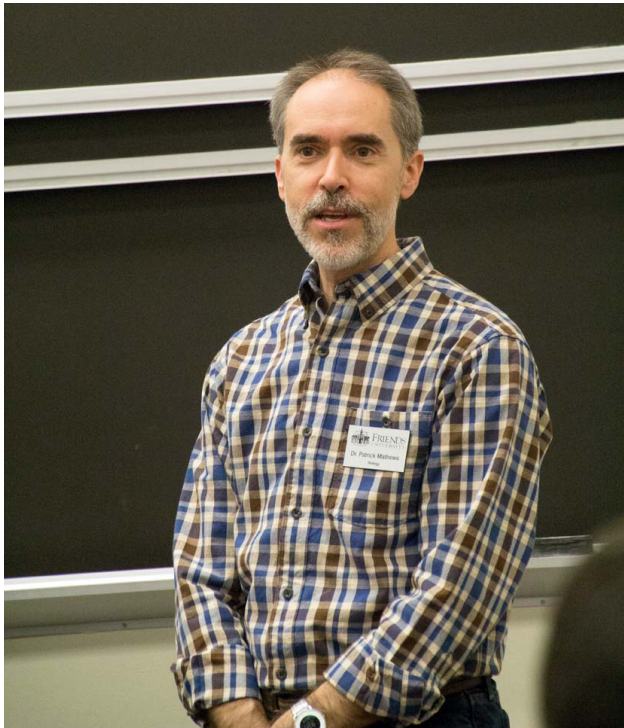
Before meeting participants could adjourn to their paths home, **Dan Fogell** (KHS Awards Committee Chair) presented two more awards. The **George Toland Award for Ecological Research on North American Herpetofauna** was awarded to **Allison Hullinger** (FHSU) for their work on Broad-headed Skinks in Kansas. The **Walter Meshaka Award for Excellence in Ecology** was deservedly won by Larry Kamees.

KHS President **Dexter R. Mardis** heartfully thanked attendees, everyone who helped him keep things running smoothly, and the sponsors, then adjourned the meeting promptly at noon, wishing everyone a safe drive home.

Dexter Mardis, KHS Past-President



Melanie Falcon (Smoky Valley Middle School) tries to understand what Curtis Schmidt (Sternberg Museum of Natural History) is telling her.



Dr. Patrick Mathews (Friends University) welcomes the KHS to Wichita, and (most importantly) tells everyone how to access the WiFi.



Allison Hullinger (Fort Hays State University) poses with her Gloyd-Taylor Scholarship.



L-R: Dr. Andrew George and David Oldham (Pittsburg State University), Mark Ellis (Wakarusa), Al Volkman (Wichita), Oscar Repreza (Friends University), and Dr. Jeff Ettling (Sedgwick County Zoo) hurry through the mist to the annual group photo.



Ashley Burns (Missouri Southwestern State University) proudly accepts the Kamb Grant for Research on Kansas Snakes from Dan Fogell (KHS Awards Chair).



Paxon Hutto (far left) explains the intricacies of judging the photo contest to Grandma and Grandpa (Lee Ann and Ken Brunson), Eli McCoy, and Mom (Katelin Hutto).



Dr. Anne Stengle (Keynote speaker, Holyoke Community College) molds the minds of students from Emporia State University.



Daren Reidle (KHS Treasurer, KDWPT) is shocked by a slide in his presentation.



Dennis Ferraro (UNL) and John F. Lokke walk to the group photo location.



Dan Fogell (Right, SE Community College) lectures KHS President Dexter Mardis on the true responsibilities of being KHS President.



John Lokke (Brownsville, NE) paints as he watches presentations on Saturday morning.



Venerable KHS'er John Tollefson (Tonganoxie High School) watches the auctioneers with feigned amusement.



Sedgwick County Zoo's Jim Marlett (retired Deputy Director) and Dr. Jeff Ettling (Executive Director) appreciate the enthusiasm of the bidding crowd at the auction.



Larry L. Miller (KS Heritage Photography) receives the Fitch-Platt Award from KHS Awards Chair Dan Fogell.



20th Annual Collins Award winner Jacob Basler (St. Marys, KS) is thrilled to have received the honor.



KHS President Dexter Mardis (Wichita State University), Brooke Welsh (JEO Consulting), and John Tollefson (Tonganoxie High School) patiently wait until Dexter suddenly starts bidding on seemingly random items, again.



Curtis Schmidt entertains Lindy Gates (Katie Adamson Conservation Fund) and Brooke Welsh (JEO Consulting) while Brent Schulze (Natural Wonders Studios) dutifully manages a bad tap on the keg of Dubbel from Aeroplains Brewing (Wichita).



Long-time KHS member Eddie Stegal (Wichita) relaxes while watching an update on Strecker Chorus Frog ranges.



Evan Thiss shows off John Lokke's freshly painted Northern Leopard Frog that was auctioned off moments later.



KHS Member Mark Ellis tickles past-treasurer David Oldham with an unbelievable tale.



John Lokke and Chris Visser share their favorite stories of timber rattlesnakes while John waits for his paint to dry.



A dejected Dan Fogell shows off the stunning cross-stitch of Mantellas by past KHS Secretary Eva Horne that he must auction off. He'd rather take it home.



Robin Oldham marvels at the Mud Salamanders on display at SCZ.



Jim Marlett, Harry Gregory (Kansas Citizens for Science), and Al Volkman (Wichita) compare notes on who heard the last Plains Spadefoot Toad within Wichita City Limits.



Robin Oldham, Mark Ellis, David Oldham, Allison Hullinger, Dr. Andrew George, Sean Rogers, and Diedre Krammer admire the Aldabra Tortoises in the Herpetarium at SCZ.



David Kelley, Shelby Smith (Sedgwick County Zoo), and Hannah Hoetmer (Wichita State University) love posing in front of Venezuelan Lanceheads.



Brayden and Brian Kilmer (Wichita) discuss the finer things of Madagascan Day Geckos and Tomato Frogs.



George Pisani and Dan Fogel compare boo boots.



Dexter Mardis brags about a photograph on his phone to Dan Fogell.



Auctioneer Dan Fogell threatens to throw the book at the next person who interrupts auction-helper Evan Thiss while he demonstrates the shirt for sale.



Jacob Alexander, Curtis Schmidt, Dr. Bill Stark (Fort Hays State University), Daren Reidle, and Brian Bartels compare tall tales from the field.



Dr. Jeff Ettling (SCZ Executive Director) begins his special presentation at the Friday Night Social on his field work with Armenian Vipers.



KHS 44th Annual Meeting group photograph.

Kansas Herpetological Society Treasurers Report for 2018 Executive Committee Meetings

Beginning Checking Account - Balance 02/20/17: \$10,756.70

Total Expenses: \$8658.92

Expenses

USPS	\$ 225.00
ProPrint:	\$ 1,590.48
Kansas Eco Meet:	\$ 300.00
U.S. Logo (t-shirts and hoodies)	\$2,213.43
Annual Awards	\$ 1,000.00
Keynote Speaker (Flight)	\$ 500.00
Misc. Meeting Expenses	\$ 1,644.76
Snake Pocket Guide Reprint	\$ 500.00
Amphibian and Reptile Pocket Guide	\$ 500.00
Misc. Operating Expenses	\$ 185.25

Expenses include contributions for printing costs for two pocket guides; a reprint of the Snakes of Kansas, and first printing of the Amphibians, Lizards and Turtles of Kansas.

Total Income: \$9,608.21

Income

Auction Proceeds	\$ 3,339.00
Meeting Registration	\$ 2,025.00
T-shirts and Hoodies	\$ 2,625.00
Memberships	\$ 1,619.00

Ending Checking Account - Balance 02/21/18: \$11,705.99

Savings and Investment Balance 02/20/2017: \$21,876.89

Savings and Investment Balance 02/21/2018: \$21,898.45

Awards Investments

Fitch-Platt:	\$ 2,500.00
Gloyd-Taylor:	\$ 8,000.00
Kamb-Grant	\$ 8,000.00

Total Account - Balances 11/02/2017: \$33,604.44

Introduction of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act and its implications for Kansas Herpetology

The Recovering America's Wildlife Act, H.R. 4647, is a bipartisan bill introduced by Representatives Jeff Fortenberry (R-NE) and Debbie Dingell (D-MI) to the House on 14 December 2017. H.R. 4647 would redirect \$1.3 billion in existing royalties annually from energy and mineral development on federal lands and waters, money not currently earmarked for any specific fund or purpose. This approach would not require taxpayers or businesses to pay more but would redirect funds to invest in fish and wildlife conservation. State Wildlife Grant allocations for Kansas are approximately \$680,00. If H.R. 4647 passes, annual funding for Kansas would increase to \$21 million. Combined with the required non-federal match of 25 percent, Kansas would have almost \$28 million per year for research, habitat management and protection, land acquisition, education, law enforcement, and outdoor recreation focused on Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) listed in the Kansas State Wildlife Action Plan (<http://ksoutdoors.com/Services/Kansas-SWAP>).

The bill is being called the most important American wildlife conservation proposal since passage of two landmark federal laws: Pittman-Robertson in 1937 and Dingell-Johnson in 1950, which provided breakthrough funding for game fish. This critical effort is supported by the Alliance for America's Fish & Wildlife (<http://ournatureusa.com/>), whose purpose is to create a 21st-century funding model for critically needed conservation of our nation's most precious natural resources, our fish and wildlife. This alliance was built upon the strong partnership created by the Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish & Wildlife Resources, consisting of members representing the outdoor recreation, retail and manufacturing sector, the energy and automotive industries, private landowners, educational institutions, conservation organizations, sportsmen's groups

and state and federal fish and wildlife agencies. It currently costs the American public hundreds of millions of dollars each year to restore threatened and endangered species, costs that could be avoided or greatly reduced if proactive conservation measures were implemented first. Proactive conservation is good for wildlife, good for taxpayers, good for business and good for our communities. The Recovering America's Wildlife Act would provide the needed resources for proactive conservation nationwide.

Passage of H.R. 4647 would galvanize state efforts to conserve and restore more than 285 fish and wildlife Species of Greatest Conservation Need in Kansas. This includes 13 species of amphibians and 22 species of reptiles. By focusing on these species and their habitats, we could keep common species common and avoid the need for endangered species listings. Recovering America's Wildlife Act, H.R. 4647 would mean millions in new grants to nonprofits, universities, landowners, local communities and would also increase nature-based recreation and education opportunities.

If the Recovering America's Wildlife Act passes, we will be very reliant on our partners to implement on-the-ground conservation efforts. Funds from the act would require a 25% non-federal match, and assistance from groups such as the Kansas Herpetological Society in implementing conservation actions would help meet that match. We encourage you to contact your U.S. Representative to support passage of Recovering America's Wildlife Act, H.R. 4647 so that future generations of Kansans may enjoy the same fish, wildlife, and recreation opportunities that we have today. Additional information can be found at OurNatureUSA.com. You can also contact with questions at daren.riedle@ks.gov or (620) 672-0746.

J. DAREN RIEDLE
Kansas Herpetological Society Treasurer

KHS HERP COUNTS

The survey was conducted on 10 May 2018 on the Fort Riley Military Installation in Geary and Riley counties, Kansas. Number of Participants: 37. Average survey hours = ~6.25 hrs/individual; ~231 total survey hours. Weather conditions: 89° F, south winds @ 10 mph with mostly clear skies. Total Species 28. Total Individuals 633.

Areas surveyed: Training Areas 3, 4, 5, 5A, 6, 7, 7A, 9, 11, 13, 14, 18, 19, 20, 22, 23, 103; Maneuver Areas C, F, G, I, J, N, Cameron Springs, Moon Lake. (Geary and Riley County).

<i>Species</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Training Area #'s or Maneuver Area Letter</i>
Pond Slider	14	Moon Lake, Cameron, 7A, 18, 23
Painted Turtle	13	Cameron, 6, 7A
Snapping Turtle	2	23, C
Smooth Softshell Turtle	2	7A
Eastern Collared Lizard	34	3, 14, 64, 79, 81, 82, 85, F, I
Great Plains Skink	23	3, 5, 6, 11, 14, 20, 22, 23, 82, F, I
Six-lined Racerunner	63	3, 7, 7A, 9, 14, 18, 19, 23, C, F, I, J, N
Common Five-lined Skink	1	20
Little Brown Skink	1	4
Slender Glass Lizard	1	4
Texas Horned Lizard	1	103
Ring-necked Snake	166	5, 6, 9, 11, 13, 14, 20, 23, C, F, G, I, J, N
North American Racer	4	6, 9, 23, I
Great Plains Ratsnake	12	4, 6, 14, 20, 22, F, I, N
Western Ratsnake	1	5A
Western Milksnake	18	6, 9, F, G, I, J, N
Gophersnake	2	23, 79
Common Gartersnake	1	F
Speckled Kingsnake	2	11
Eastern Copperhead	16	3, 5, 6, 11, 22, F, I
Lined Snake	1	11
Common Watersnake	6	Moon Lake, Cameron, 5A, 7A
Blanchard's Cricket Frog	141	7A, 18, 23, C, I, N
Boreal Chorus Frog	4	Cameron, 82, 85
American Bullfrog	40	Moon Lake, Cameron, 5A, 7A, 23, C, N
Western Narrow-mouthed Toad	39	3, 11, 22, G, I, N
Plains Leopard Frog	20	Moon Lake, Cameron, 5A, 7A, 23, N
Gray Treefrog Complex	5	7, 9, 22, 81, I

Summary of All Annual Fort Riley Herpetofauna Counts 2002-2018

Year	Species	Individuals	Participants	Year	Species	Individuals	Participants
2002	25	479	24	2011	24	1194	43
2003	27	251	15	2012	31	661	55
2004	27	741	25	2013	24	1508	43
2005	24	714	18	2014	31	1010	52
2006	20	723	20	2015	25	1391	44
2007	28	757	22	2016	30	3206	48
2008	27	1038	28	2017	27	1365	39
2009	29	1259	35	2018	28	633	37
2010	25	927	42				

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Second Sighting of Cope's Gray Treefrog (*Hyla chrysoscelis*) in Buffalo County, Nebraska

Cope's Gray Treefrog (*Hyla chrysoscelis*) is known mainly from southeastern Nebraska (Lynch, 1985; Ballinger et al., 2010; Fogell, 2010). Recently, observations have been observed from scattered localities in central and northern parts of the state, including Buffalo, Hall, Knox, Lincoln, and Loup counties (Fogell, 2010; McLean et al., 2015; Tye et al., 2017; Wentz and Geluso, 2017). It is unclear at this time whether such records in central and northern Nebraska represent previously undocumented populations, natural expansion events in its distribution, or records that represent human-mediated dispersals (Tye et al., 2017). In the upper Midwest and western parts of its distribution, the species is commonly associated with prairie and oak savanna habitats (Dodd, 2013). In Nebraska and Kansas, habitats for this species include riparian areas, oak savannas, and woodland edges near both permanent and temporary bodies of water (Collins et al., 2010; Fogell, 2010). This anuran and other amphibians are known to use residential gardens and houses as well as urban wetlands, especially open space ponds for breeding (Lynch, 1985; Simon et al. 2009).

From 2-5 October 2017, we observed and photographed a solitary *H. chrysoscelis* at a residential home at 1507 16th Ave., Kearney, Buffalo County, Nebraska (40.6900°N, 99.1018°W; WGS84). The snout-vent length of the individual measured 33 mm, which represents the small end for the range of adults (Collins et al., 2010). We observed the individual on a window by the front door after two days with significant rainfall events (19 mm on 1 October and 13 mm on 2 October; wunderground.com). Many houses in the neighborhood were built 20-25 years ago, with many deciduous trees of about the same age. Larger trees in the yard consisted of ornamental pears (*Pyrus*) and Siberian elms (*Ulmus pumila*). A small canal runs through the neighborhood about 0.3 km to the west of the house. This canal runs into Turkey Creek about 1.4 km to the south, a small tributary of the Platte River. The canal currently has some shrubs along its margin, but many large deciduous trees were removed in the last few years.

Our observation represents the second record for this frog species in the county, with the first

record from 14 April 2017, also in the city of Kearney (Wentz and Geluso, 2017). It is still unclear whether individuals are part of naturally expanding populations.

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The Westernmost Occurrence of the Alligator Snapping Turtle and its Implications for Conservation

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The Alligator Snapping Turtle, *Macrochelys temminckii*, is known to occur as far west as the eastern edge of Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas (Powell et al., 2016). The westernmost records for the species supported by museum specimens are a 25.3 kg male from the Cottonwood River in Lyon County, Kansas (ESU 2237; Clarke, 1981), and a specimen from the Arkansas River in Cowley County, Kansas (KU 46902; Collins, 1974). Hall and Smith (1947) reported specimens from the Cottonwood drainage in Chase County, Kansas, as well as the Arkansas drainage in Butler and Sedgwick counties. Unfortunately, these specimens have been lost. Capron (1975) reportedly observed specimens on the Arkansas River in Sumner County, KS, but again these observations could not be verified as no specimens or photographs were taken.

Webb (1970) reported that the westernmost specimen in Oklahoma was an individual collected in 1935 on North Eagle Chief Creek, a tributary to the Cimarron River in Woods County. The specimen was supposedly represented by a skull, carapace, and plastron, although the final disposition of the specimen was not included in Webb (1970). The specimen was thought to be lost, or at least its location was unknown. In his overview of the status and biology of *M. temminckii*, Pritchard (1989) just repeated the information provided in Webb (1970). The Woods County specimen was not included in Sievert and Sievert (2011).

One of us (AJP) noted a large carapace and plastron in the collection at the Museum of Natural History, Northwestern Oklahoma State University (NWOSU) in Alva, Oklahoma. He contacted JDR to look at the carapace and verify the species. The shell was identified as *M. temminckii* (Fig. 1a,b). Morphometric measurements include

a mid-line carapace length of 308 mm and a midline plastron length of 224 mm. The pleural bones were not completely ossified, suggesting the turtle was a younger individual. Accession for this specimen (NWOSU 699) states the specimen was collected in North Eagle Chief Creek, south of Alva in 1935. It was accessioned into the collection at NWOSU in 1968. Based on the limited information provided, this specimen matches the information provided in Webb (1970), although no skull was present.

CONSERVATION IMPLICATIONS

Macrochelys temminckii is a Species in Need of Conservation (SINC) in Kansas and a recent 90-day finding by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) found that listing under the federal Endangered Species Act may be warranted (USFWS, 2015). An impediment to conservation for this species on the western edge of its distribution is fragmentation of populations due to impoundments (Riedle et al., 2005). Historically populations of *M. temminckii* in Kansas



Figure 1. Carapace (top) and plastron (bottom) photos of *Macrochelys temminckii* (NWOSU 699) collected on North Eagle Chief Creek, Woods County.

and Oklahoma were connected via the Neosho, Verdigris, and possibly Arkansas rivers. Current conservation efforts are focused on leapfrogging impoundments using head-started individuals to restore populations in these drainages (Riedle et al., 2008).

One question that arises during conservation planning is, what is the movement potential for the species? While primarily sedentary, the species is capable of long-distance movements. Shipman et al. (1991) reported on a 24.7-kg female moved 7 km in 5 years. Another individual in Oklahoma moved 30 km in 3 years (Wickham, 1922). Riedle et al. (2006) conducted mark-recapture work on a series of tributaries of the Arkansas River. They reported recapturing a marked individual 16 km away from its original point of capture on a separate tributary, 2 months after its original capture.

Verification of this record changes how we think about suitable habitat and movements for *M. temminckii*. Movement and persistence of aquatic organisms in the Great Plains have been greatly curtailed by placement of impoundments and dewatering through agriculture and urbanization (Tiemann et al., 2004; Eberle, 2007). The importance of these records at the extreme edge of the species distribution suggest they did move farther west prior to anthropogenic impacts on these systems. Head-start individuals should be more than capable of populating habitat along long river segments, as well as potentially colonizing up- and downstream of impoundments with the implementation of aquatic organism passages.

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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 as submissions warrant, 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.

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. Research results (in whole or in part) must be submitted for publication in *Collinsorum*.

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. Research results (in whole or in part) must be submitted for publication in *Collinsorum*.

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.

KANSAS HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY
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