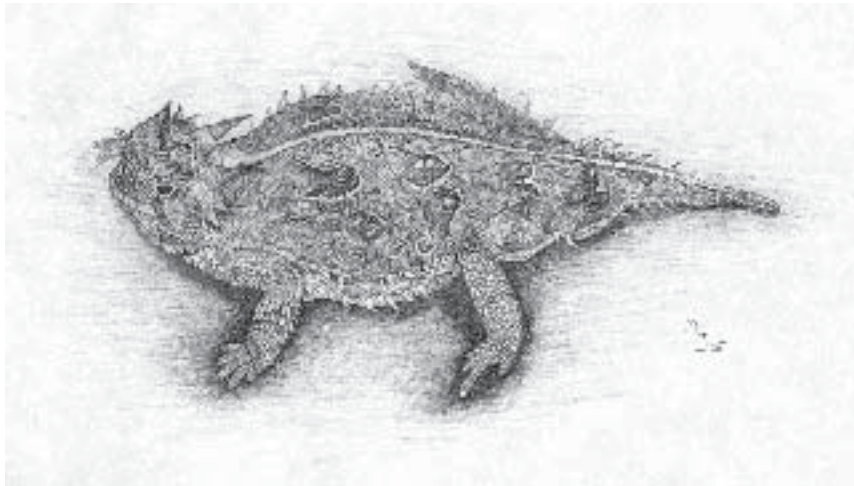


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Front Cover: An pencil illustration of a Texas Horned Lizard (*Phrynosoma cornutum*) by Melissa Johann, Sternberg Museum of Natural History, Hays, Kansas.

Journal of Kansas Herpetology

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KHS BUSINESS

REPORT ON THE KANSAS HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY 34th ANNUAL MEETING

The *Kansas Herpetological Society* held its 34th Annual Meeting at the Gary K. Clarke Education Center in the Topeka Zoo, Topeka, Kansas, on 3–4 November 2007. Approximately 150 participants attended scientific paper sessions to listen to 30 talks on amphibians, reptiles, and turtles by scientists and students from across the nation.

During its business meeting, the KHS elected a new slate of officers. Dan Johnson (Overland Park, Kansas) was voted president-elect for 2008, Eric Kessler (Blue Valley North High School) as treasurer, and Mary Kate Baldwin (Topeka Collegiate School) as secretary. Dan Carpenter (Friends University, Wichita) currently is president-elect and takes office as president on 1 January 2008. Ginny Weatherman (University of Kansas) served as president during 2007, hosted the meeting this year, and will serve on the Council in 2008 as past-president.

At the start of the Saturday night KHS auction, Ginny Weatherman (KHS President) announced that Melissa Boetig of Washburn University was this year's recipient of the *Howard K. Gloyd-Edward H. Taylor Scholarship*. The scholarship of \$100.00 honors the memory of two great herpetologists (and KHS Distinguished Life Members) with strong ties to Kansas. Gloyd was born in Ottawa, Kansas, and attended both Kansas State University and the University of Kansas, and Taylor graduated from Garnett (Kansas) High School and

was a faculty member for decades at the University of Kansas. Next, Weatherman awarded the *Alan H. Kamb Grant for Research on Kansas Snakes* to Page Klug of Kansas State University. The \$150.00 grant honors the memory of longtime KHS member Al Kamb of Lawrence.

A new feature of the KHS Awards Ceremony for 2007 was the recognition of a KHS first runnerup, a KHS second runnerup, and two KHS Honorable-Mentions in the photography competition for *The Collins Award*. Determined by a ballot of KHS members present, Aubrey Heupel and Judy Low were judged as Honorable-Mentions and received gift certificates from meeting sponsor *Image Works* of Lawrence, Ian M. Nall was voted as second runnerup and given a check for \$50.00 and a commemorative certificate, and Tim Burkhart was recognized in the balloting as the first runnerup and given a check for \$100.00 and a commemorative certificate.

The KHS Saturday night award ceremony continued with J. Daren Riedle, West Texas A&M University at Canyon, becoming the tenth recipient of *The Suzanne L. and Joseph T. Collins Award for Excellence in Kansas Herpetology*. Daren was selected for this honor by the KHS Awards Committee, which judged his image of a Common Map Turtle to be the best of a Kansas amphibian, turtle, or reptile displayed during the KHS photography competition. For his excellent



Some of the 150 participants attending the 34th annual meeting of the Kansas Herpetological Society at the Topeka Zoo, Topeka, Kansas, on 3–4 November 2007. It was the largest KHS meeting ever held. Courtesy ksheritage.com.

photographic skill, Daren was given a commemorative certificate and a check for \$1,000.00 by KHS President Ginny Weatherman. *The Collins Award* is the largest biological award given annually in the state of Kansas, and the largest annual presentation made nationally for research (even-numbered years) or photography (odd-numbered years) of amphibians, turtles, and reptiles. The KHS Awards Committee for *The Collins Award* during 2007 consisted of Daniel D. Fogell (University of Nebraska, Omaha), Travis W. Taggart (Sternberg Museum of Natural History, Fort Hays State University, Hays), and Walter E. Meshaka, Jr. (State Museum of Pennsylvania, Harrisburg).

The KHS award ceremony culminated with George R. Pisani being installed as the ninth *Distinguished Life Member* of the Kansas Herpetological Society. This honor recognized George's published research contributions on herpetofauna over his long career in this field.

After welcomes by Ginny Weatherman (KHS President), Mike Coker (Topeka Zoo Director), and Gary K. Clarke (Topeka Zoo Director Emeritus), Joe Collins introduced the Society's first keynote speaker at the two-day event, Dr. Emily M. Lemmon (*University of Texas, Austin*). Emily spoke about *Speciation in*



J. Daren Riedle was the tenth recipient of *The Suzanne L. & Joseph T. Collins Award for Excellence in Kansas Herpetology* for his image of a Common Map Turtle, judged the best of over 80 entries displayed in the KHS photography competition. Here, Daren receives a commemorative certificate and a check for \$1000.00 from KHS president Ginny Weatherman. Photograph by Suzanne L. Collins.

Chorus frogs (Pseudacris) and her talk was very well received and generated much interest about these creatures, three species of which are found in Kansas.

Other speakers for the scientific paper sessions on Saturday morning included (in order of presentation): Day B. Ligon, Brian Fillmore, Kerry Graves and J. Daren Riedle on *Ex Situ Wildlife Management: The Role of Captive Propagation in the Conservation of the Alligator Snapping Turtle (Macrochelys temminckii)*; J. Daren Riedle, Day B. Ligon and Kerry Graves on *Distribution and Management of Alligator Snapping Turtles, Macrochelys temminckii, in Kansas and Oklahoma*; George R. Pisani on *Snakes in the Grass: Habitat Utilization by Virginia valeriae in Kansas*; William Reid on *The Other Pollution: Wireless Technology and Its Impact on Wildlife in General and Herpetofauna in Particular*; Aubrey M. Heupel on *Current Research and Recent Herpetological Observations at the Jones Ecological Research Center in Southwestern Georgia*; Mark J. Lange and Richard T. Kazmaier on *Variation in Aquatic Turtle Communities in the Texas Panhandle*;

The scientific paper sessions on Saturday afternoon led off with the second keynote speaker, Dr. Jonathan A. Campbell (University of Texas, Arlington). Jon spoke about *Venomous Snakes of the New World*, and the audience hung on every word.

Other speakers for the scientific paper sessions on Saturday morning included Rebecca Benjamin, Sean Kimbrell, Phillip Stevenson and Mindy Walker



Melissa Boetig from Washburn University was the 2007 recipient of the KHS *Gloyd-Taylor Scholarship*. Here she receives a commemorative certificate and a check for \$100.00 from KHS president Ginny Weatherman. Courtesy ksheritage.com.



At the Society Business Meeting on Saturday, Page Klug received the 2007 Alan H. Kamb Grant for Research on Kansas Snakes for her research at Kansas State University, Manhattan. She is shown here accepting the award from KHS president Ginny Weatherman. Photograph by Suzanne L. Collins.

on *Relative Success of Timber Rattlesnake Relocation Efforts in Eastern Kansas*; Rachel A. Spruance and Richard T. Kazmaier on *Habitat Associations of Snakes at Matador Wildlife Management Area*; Johanna Peterson and Bruce A. Young on *Frictional Forces, Environmental Surface Features, and Locomotor Mechanics in Constrictors*; Matthew D. Broxson and Richard T. Kazmaier on *Habitat Selection of a Snake Community in East-central Texas*; Mark M. Peyton on *Size, Structure and Habitat of a Population of Ornate Box turtles in Fragmented Grasslands in Nebraska*; Trey Barron and Richard T. Kazmaier on *Ecology of an Inland Population of Alligators in Eastern Texas*; Daniel D. Fogell on *Management Effects on Seasonal Activity in Massasaugas*; Dan P. Walker and Richard T. Kazmaier *Comparison of Diet Between Two Sympatric Species of Phrynosoma*; and Bruce Young, Melissa Boetig, Guido Westhoff and Arne Reuter on *Evoked Auditory Potentials in the Yellow Anaconda (Eunectes notaeus)*.

Speakers for the scientific paper sessions on Sunday included Ian M. Nall and R. Brent Thomas

on *Linkage Between Foreclaw Growth Rate and Stage of Melanism in Male Sliders (Trachemys scripta): Comparisons Within and Among Populations*; Walter E. Meshaka, Jr. on *Ecology of the Allegheny Dusky Salamander (Desmognathus ochrophaeus) at the Powdermill Nature Reserve in Western Pennsylvania*; William J. House, Ian M. Nall and R. Brent Thomas on *Effectiveness of Selected Baits for Trapping Pond-dwelling Turtles in East-central Kansas*; Michael Rochford on *Pythons in Paradise: A Floridian Saga*; Page Klug on *Evaluation of Habitat Overlap by Nesting Grassland Birds and Their Snakes Predators*; Kirk Setser on *Reproductive Traits of Female Crotalus polystictus*; Michael F. Westphal on *Comparison of Color Variation in Thamnophis sirtalis between Kansas and Manitoba*; David Bender and William J. Stark on *Variation in the Diet of the Massasauga (Sistrurus catenatus) in Grasslands and Wetlands of Kansas*; Matthew D. Stone, Bahram Arjmandi and Matt Lovern on *The Use of Dual-Energy X-Ray Absorptiometry (DXA) to Determine Density and Body Composition of Turtles*; Matthew W. Nordgren on *The Herpetofauna of a Unique Park in the Coastal Plain of South Carolina*; Paul Rodriguez and James Fawcett on *Translocation of the Copperhead in Nebraska*; Eli García Padilla on *Rattlesnakes of Northeast Mexico: Tamaulipas, Nuevo Leon and Coahuila*; and Robert Powell on *Lesser Antillean Snakes*.

The Saturday evening KHS auction garnered \$1,385.00 for the Society treasury, spurred once again in part by the extraordinary offering of original artwork by Eva Horne, excellent donations of herpetological books by Suzanne L. Collins (CNAH) and Eric Thiss (Zoo Book Sales), and herpetological color photographs by



Dan Johnson was voted to the position of KHS president-elect for 2008. After watching the antics at the Saturday night KHS auction, Dan, shown here with his lovely wife, Penny, is now having serious thoughts about crowd control. Courtesy ksheritage.com.



Current and newly-elected officers of the Kansas Herpetological Society. Front row (L–R): Curtis J. Schmidt (past-president), Joe Collins (nominating committee chairperson), Ginny Weatherman (president), Walter E. Meshaka, Jr. (awards committee), Mary Kate Baldwin (secretary), Eric Kessler (treasurer), Suzanne L. Collins (historian) & Dan Johnson (president-elect for 2008). Back row (L–R): Daniel G. Murrow (field trip chairperson), Dan Carpenter (president-elect), Travis W. Taggart (editor & awards committee), Eva Horne (nominating committee), & Daniel D. Fogell (awards committee chairperson). Courtesy ksheritage.com.

Larry L. Miller (Kansas Heritage Photography), and also by the hard work of auction assistants Laura Acuff, Graceanne Johnson, and Erica Peterson, who so ably assisted KHS auctioneer Joe Collins.

Meeting Chairperson and KHS President Ginny Weatherman deserves the generous thanks and appreciation of the KHS membership for putting together a memorable meeting. Ginny was aided in her task by a local committee consisting of herself, Suzanne L. Collins, Joseph T. Collins, Chad Whitney, S. Ross McNearney, and Jordan Johnson. To them all we owe our enthusiastic cheers. And, of course, we must recognize the stalwart and sterling efforts of Mary Kate Baldwin (KHS Secretary) and Eric Kessler (KHS Treasurer); both kept us financially frugal and fulfilled through their fiscal work. Finally, our thanks to Eric Thiss of Zoo Book Sales for his contributions to the KHS auction.

And, of course, thanks to our sponsors, The McPherson Family Trust, Topeka Holidome, Topeka

Zoo, Image Works, Zoo Book Sales, Touchstone Energy, and CNAH. Without their support, financial and otherwise, the meeting would have been less.

In 2008, the Society will meet in Wichita (talks, donuts, and coffee, free beer and auction) under the auspices of Dan Carpenter, who will serve as KHS President during that year. For more precise information on the 35th Annual Meeting of the KHS in November 2008, bookmark and regularly check the KHS meeting web site (updated constantly as new information becomes available) at

<http://www.cnah.org/khs/AnnualMeetingInfo.html>



Images of the *Kansas Herpetological Society*
34th Annual Meeting
Topeka Zoo, Topeka, Kansas, 2–4 November 2007



Dr. Emily M. Lemmon (University of Texas, Austin) was the Society's keynote speaker to open the morning scientific sessions. She spoke on speciation in Chorus Frogs of the genus *Pseudacris*, explaining in a thorough and enlightening way the diversity of these amphibians in North America. Courtesy ksheritage.com.



Dr. Jonathan A. Campbell (University of Texas, Arlington) was the Society's keynote speaker to open the afternoon scientific sessions. He spoke on venomous snakes of the New World and his every word held the rapt attention of the audience. Courtesy ksheritage.com.



S. Ross McNearney, representing meeting sponsor *The McPherson Family Trust*, presents KHS Photo Competition First Runner-up Tim Burkhart with a certificate and a check for \$100.00. Courtesy ksheritage.com.



Joseph T. Collins presents KHS Photo Competition Second Runner-up Ian M. Nall from Emporia State University with a certificate and a check for \$50.00. Photograph by Suzanne L. Collins.



George Pisani (Kansas Biological Survey) became the ninth *KHS Distinguished Life Member* at the meeting. Here he is presented a commemorative plaque by KHS president Ginny Weatherman in recognition of his exemplary career as a herpetologist. Photograph by Suzanne L. Collins.



Aubrey Heupel (left) and Judy Low (center) were each presented by KHS president Ginny Weatherman with a commemorative certificate as well as a gift certificate from meeting sponsor *Image Works* of Lawrence. Both received honorable mention in the KHS photography competition held during the Society's annual meeting in Topeka, Kansas. Courtesy ksheritage.com.



Mary Kate Baldwin (center) and Eric Kessler, ably assisted by Erica Peterson, kept everyone sane and sober during the KHS meeting in the Gary K. Clarke Education Center at the Topeka Zoo. Without their dedicated service and commitment to the KHS, much would not go smoothly. Courtesy ksheritage.com.



Gary K. Clarke, director emeritus of the Topeka Zoo, welcomed the KHS members and guests. Gary is a legend in the zoo profession and was the honorary chairperson of this year's KHS meeting. Courtesy ksheritage.com.



Mike Coker, director of the Topeka Zoo, welcomed the KHS members and was such a gracious host. His organizational skills and diligent staff contributed much to the success of the meeting. Courtesy ksheritage.com.



Maria Covell from Francis Marion University in South Carolina attended the talks and enjoyed the meeting. She will graduate this spring with a minor in biology. Courtesy ksheritage.com.



Bill Reid gave an electric presentation at the meeting, with details about wireless technology and its shocking impact on our herpetofauna. Courtesy ksheritage.com.



KHS president Ginny Weatherman is shown here with her posse. L-R: Chad Whitney (he got the beer), Elí García Padilla (he came all the way from México and enthralled us with his rattlesnake images), Matt Ingrasci (caused chaos), Jeremiah Teller (he drank Chad's beer), and Dan Kroll (he worked the photo competition for us). Photograph by Suzanne L. Collins.



Mindy Walker (biology professor from Rockhurst University) brought many of her students to the meeting and is shown here enjoying the social gathering. Photograph by Suzanne L. Collins.



Lisa Schmidt and son Jacob got a tape with the calls of Kansas frogs and toads. Jacob can't wait for spring. Neither can Lisa and Derek. Courtesy ksheritage.com.



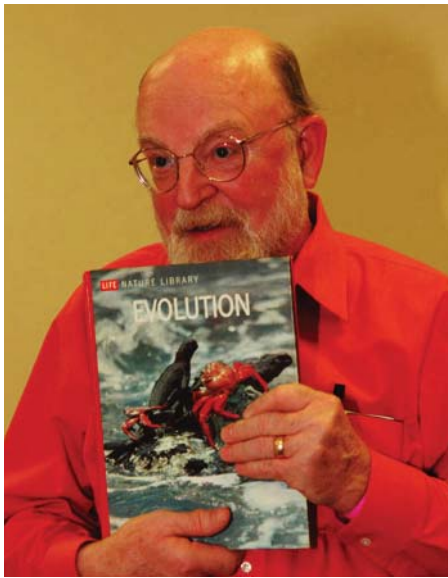
At the KHS auction, Pamela Cheever from Gretna, Nebraska, displays her astonishment at the amount of money the audience spent on perfectly worthless items. Courtesy ksheritage.com.



During the KHS auction on Saturday evening at the Topeka Zoo, Joe Collins did his best to keep the audience smiling while extracting money from them. The beer helped. Courtesy ksheritage.com.



L-R: Erica Peterson, Graceanne Johnson, and Laura Acuff show off the auction stuff. With their diligent help, the KHS remained solvent. Photograph by Suzanne L.



Joe Collins tries to convince the KHS auction audience to change their ways. Courtesy ksheritage.com.



. . . and Ross McNearney took home all the goodies. Courtesy ksheritage.com.

ERIC KESSLER RECEIVES THE MILKEN AWARD

Considered the Academy Award of teaching, the 2007 Milken Family Foundation National Educator Award is one of the greatest honors bestowed on an educator. And KHS treasurer Eric Kessler got the surprise of his life when Kansas Governor Kathleen Sebelius presented him with the award at Blue Valley North High School where he teaches biology, field biology, zoology and advanced placement biology. The 41-year-old Kessler is best known around Blue Valley North for his herpetology field trips to natural areas to look for amphibians, turtles, and reptiles. For his enthusiasm and dedication to his students, Eric was selected for The Milken Award, which comes with an unrestricted \$25,000 cash prize and an all-expense paid trip to Los Angeles. In early October 2007, Eric took some of his students on the KHS Fall Field Trip to Linn County, Kansas, to hunt for salamanders, frogs and toads, turtles, lizards, and snakes. Eric was one of only two Kansas teachers selected for The Milken Award in 2007.



Milken Award recipient Eric Kessler (left), shown here with students on an earlier KHS field trip. KHS member Anna Tarnowski is on the far right. Photograph by Suzanne L. Collins.

PAY YOUR 2008 DUES

If you have not already done so, send your calendar 2008 dues (\$15.00 regular, \$20.00 contributing) to:

Mary Kate Baldwin
KHS Secretary
 5438 SW 12th Terrace Apt. 4
 Topeka, Kansas 66604

Your attention to this matter will ensure that delivery of the *Journal of Kansas Herpetology* will be uninterrupted.

REPORT ON THE KHS FALL FIELD TRIP TO MIAMI COUNTY, KANSAS

The Kansas Herpetological Society Fall Field Trip for 2007, held on 5-7 October in Miami County, was a stunning success. Ninety-one participants conducted the most successful herpetofaunal count in the history of the KHS. Thirty-two species of amphibians, turtles, and reptiles were found, and over 4,000 specimens were caught or observed and counted during the weekend foray.

The event began on Friday, with campers arriving at LaCygne Lake Park to set up tents, cook the evening meal, and check the nearby habitat for critters. On Saturday morning, the group assembled at 9:00 am to receive instructions from Dan Murrow about the herpetofaunal survey to be done by them on the Black River Ranch property in the Marais des Cygnes River floodplain and adjoining forested hillsides. It was great habitat and occupied the participants for the rest of the day and again from 9:00 am to noon on Sunday. Saturday night consisted of the usual revelry around the campfires, dancing and singing offkey, followed by a night's slumber. The KHS extends its thanks to Gary Hosack, owner of the Black River Ranch in Miami County, for generously allowing a large band of herpetologists to roam his property and experience the beauty of his land.

Participants were: Ted Abel, Cathy Acuff, Laura Acuff, Rob Acuff, Zach Alstott, Tom Beaver, Steve

Billbe, Gerard Brungardt, Luke Brungardt, Petra Brungardt, Tom Brungardt, Sarah Bulmash, Milissa Capps, Dan Carpenter, Nathan Carpenter, Melissa Cline, Keith Coleman, Joseph T. Collins, Suzanne L. Collins, Daniel Cooper, Olivia Cowin, Mark Denney, Andy Durbin, Evan Glidewell, Sindy Gisler, James Gubanyi, Julian Gubanyi, Marla Gubanyi, Larry Hare, Joel Hicks, Spencer Hobson, Rodney Homer, Deb Horne, Katie Huck, Paul Ingram, Dan Johnson, Reggie Kapka, Gary Keller, Jacob Keller, Eric Kessler, Owen Kessler, Crystal Klaichang, Grant LaCina, Jeff LaCina, Jeff Lee, Meghan Lee, Jacob Lockhart, Madison Lockhart, Jill Lokke, Brandon Low, Judy Low, Michael McRoberts, Trevor Mitscher, Jake Mruskovich, Bill Munholland, William Munholland, Daniel G. Murrow, David Oldham, Jackson Oldham, Robin Oldham, Tag Oldham, Rohnie Phaipanya, Blake Porubsky, Brad Price, Katie Rach, Ann Rauh, Amanda Reub, Chris Riehle, Allison Rodriguez, Sam Roussopoulos, Brett Schmidt, Derek Schmidt, Lisa Schmidt, Alex Schroeder, Sarah Schweiger, Amanda Sevcik, Ethan Sharp, Kylee Sharp, Scott Sharp, Taylor Sharp, Mason Shields, Gage Spring, Brad Thompson, Brooke Thompson, Jan Thompson, Zach Warring, Weston Whitlock, Garrett Wilkinson, Victor Wilkinson, Jeff Witters and Lani Witters.

The following species were observed:



On Saturday morning, some of the participants at the KHS Fall Field Trip gathered at the LaCygne Lake campsite for the traditional group photograph. A few were still asleep in their tents, recovering from the Friday night festivities and excessive consumption of orange juice and soda pop. Photograph by Andy Durbin.



Trevor Mitscher and Emily Petersen from Olathe Northwest High School discover the joy of holding an American Toad (*Anaxyrus americanus*) during the KHS Fall Field Trip to Miami County. Field trip participants found about two dozen of these little amphibians during the weekend event, which saw a record 4,000+ amphibians, turtles, and reptiles counted. Photograph by Suzanne L. Collins.



Garrett Wilkinson (left) and Brandon Low display the Redbelly Snake (*Storeria occipitomaculata*) that they found during the KHS Fall Field Trip to Miami County. Photograph by Suzanne L. Collins.



During the KHS Fall Field Trip to the Black River Ranch, some participants got wet. KHS Field Trip Co-Chairperson Daniel G. Murrow blended with the environment as he successfully dipnetted for elusive Eastern Newts (*Notophthalmus viridescens*) in the Marais des Cygnes River backwaters in Miami County. Photograph by Eric Kessler.



Jill Lokke from Wichita got the big snake during the KHS Fall Field Trip. This healthy Western Rat Snake (*Pantherophis obsoletus*) was crossing the road at LaCygne Lake. Photograph by Suzanne L. Collins.



A second Redbelly Snake was found by Andy Durbin during the KHS Fall Field Trip. These snakes are rarely seen in Kansas; finding two in one weekend was exceptional. Photograph by Suzanne L. Collins.

KHS 2008 SPRING FIELD TRIP

The KHS 2008 spring field trip will be to Neosho County. For information as it is posted, be sure to check the KHS web site regularly at:

<http://www.cnah.org/khs/FieldTripSpringInfo.html>

For immediate information, contact:

Daniel G. Murrow
KHS Field Trip Chairperson

(see inside front cover of this issue)

OUR THANKS TO DEREK SCHMIDT

The KHS thanks Derek Schmidt, its esteemed Field Trip Committee Co-Chairperson, for his stalwart service to the Society. Derek is turning over the reins to Dan Murrow, effective 1 January 2008. Now he can kick back and herp with the rest of us.

KHS COMMITTEES RE-APPOINTED

KHS President Ginny Weatherman re-appointed the following individuals to KHS committees for a three-year term, effective 1 January 2008:

Media & Publicity

Robin Oldham

Committee Chairperson

(serves until 31 December 2010)

Awards

Daniel D. Fogell (chairperson)

Walter E. Meshaka, Jr.

Travis W. Taggart

(serve until 31 December 2010)

Field Trips

Daniel G. Murrow

Committee Chairperson

(serves until 31 December 2010)

Nominating

Joseph T. Collins (chairperson)

Eva Horne

David Oldham

(serve until 31 December 2010)

NOTES

UNUSUAL DIET IN A CAPTIVE WESTERN GREEN LACERTA (*LACERTA BILINEATA*)

The Western Green Lacerta, *Lacerta bilineata*, is considered to be carnivorous, as is the case for most members of the family Lacertidae (Corti and Lo Cascio, 2002. The Lizards of Italy and Adjacent Areas. Edition Chimaira, Frankfurt am Main, Germany. 1654 pp.). However, in early August 2007 I observed a captive adult Western Green Lacerta consume a sliver of banana that I offered it as an experiment. The lizard first licked the banana and then picked it up and proceeded to eat it. Captive Green Lacertas maintained by me normally are given a diet of crickets and mealworms together with occasional earthworms and waxworms. After observing this specimen consume the piece of banana, I continued to regularly feed the Western Green Lacertas pieces of banana every week or so. Apparently, Western Green Lacertas are like some species of geckos that are primarily insectivorous but which also occasionally consume fruit.

Submitted by **JAMES GUBANYI**, 2501 SW Burnett Road, Topeka, Kansas 66614.

TRACHEMYS SCRIPTA (Slider). Kansas: Wallace Co: 38.96842°N, 102.01799°W, 3821 ft elev. 9 July 2007. Suzanne L. Collins, Joseph T. Collins, Curtis J. Schmidt and Travis W. Taggart (MHP 13688). Verified by David Bender. Represents the rediscovery of this species by lending support for two records (KU 3258-9 [given only as Wallace County]) that were collected in the summer of 1911. The specimen is the most northwesterly record in North America (Conant and Collins 1998. Peterson Field Guide to Reptiles and Amphibians of Eastern and Central North America. Third Edition Expanded. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston. xviii + 616 pp.).

Submitted by **SUZANNE L. COLLINS**, The Center for North American Herpetology, 1502 Medinah Circle, Lawrence, Kansas 66047.

LAMPROPELTIS CALLIGASTER (Prairie Kingsnake). KANSAS: Rush Co: 38.53805°N, 99.05465°W. 15 April 2006. Brian C. Bartels. MHP 13640. Verified by Curtis J. Schmidt. New county record (Collins and Collins 1993. Amphibians and Reptiles in Kansas. Third Edition. University Press of Kansas. xx + 397 pp.)

Submitted by **BRIAN C. BARTELS**, Sternberg Museum of Natural History, Fort Hays State University, Hays, Kansas 67601.

THAMNOPHIS SIRTALIS (Common Garter Snake). KANSAS: CHEYENNE CO: 39.99622°N, 101.74483°W. 4 October 2007. Curtis J. Schmidt and Kendra L. Phelps (MHP 13686). Verified by Brian C. Bartels. New county record (Collins and Collins, 1993. Amphibians and Reptiles in Kansas. Third Edition, University Press of Kansas, Lawrence. xx + 397 pp.) and range extension to the northwest in Kansas.

Submitted by **CURTIS J. SCHMIDT** and **KENDRA PHELPS**, Sternberg Museum of Natural History, Fort Hays State University, Hays, Ks 67601.

THE 10th ANNUAL RUNNING OF THE LIZARDS

The Tenth Annual Running of the Lizards took place in SE Topeka in early September 2007. The chase was one of the scheduled field trips for the herpetology course taught at Washburn University.



Dumpster diving for Italian Wall Lizards was one of the more successful techniques adopted by students in Joe Collins' Washburn University herpetology class.



Here, one of Joe's students, Lisa Schmidt, displays an Italian Wall Lizard. Images by Suzanne L. Collins.

ARTICLES

A REVISED DISTRIBUTION RECORD OF *MASTICOPHIS* IN KANSAS

A specimen in the Sternberg Museum of Natural History at Fort Hays State University, Hays, Kansas (MHP 9680) bears the specific identification *Masticophis flagellum* and locality of Miami County, Kansas. This record represented a range extension northward for the species in Kansas (Taggart et al., 2005) and has been the subject of much debate. The material associated with this identification is a fragmentary piece of shed skin from which it is difficult to make a positive identification. Given the similarity in scalation between the Coachwhip (*M. flagellum*) and the Eastern Racer (*Coluber constrictor*), the latter of which is known to occur statewide (Collins and Collins, 1993), it was uncertain whether MHP 9680 was a specimen of *M. flagellum*. Using Qiagen DNEasy DNA extraction kits (Qiagen USA), total genomic DNA was isolated from a small section of the shed skin of MHP 9680. A 428bp segment of the mitochondrial cytochrome b gene was amplified using the primers L14910 (Burbrink et al., 2000) and ColSeq1R (Burbrink et al., in press) and sequenced using ColSeq1R. The sequence is identical with AF337098 (a specimen of *C. constrictor*). The sequence was included in a rangewide dataset for *C. constrictor* from Burbrink et al. (in press) and a phylogenetic tree was constructed in PAUP* v4.10b using the BioNJ neighbor joining algorithm. The results of this analysis placed MHP 9680 in the Central clade of *C. constrictor* (Burbrink et al., in press) with 100% bootstrap support (Figure 1). These analyses suggest that MHP 9680 is not *M. flagellum*, but *C. constrictor* and that it does not represent a range extension for *Masticophis* in Kansas.

I wish to thank Travis W. Taggart, Curtis J. Schmidt, and Joseph T. Collins, curators of herpetology at the Sternberg Museum of Natural History, Fort Hays State University, Hays, Kansas, for loaning me the fragment of shed skin from MHP 9680. This research project was supported by a grant from *The Center for North American Herpetology*.

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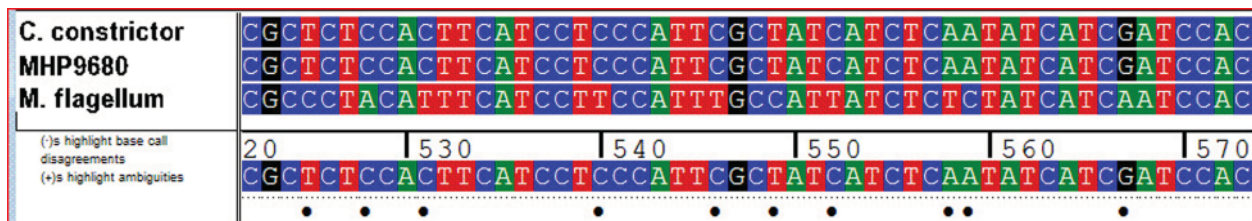


Figure 1. A DNA comparison of MHP 9680 with an Eastern Racer (*Coluber constrictor* AF 337098) and a Coachwhip (*Masticophis flagellum* AY 486927).



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 in 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, 5438 SW 12th Terrace Apt. 4, Topeka, Kansas 66604, USA.

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

Editorial Policy

The Journal of Kansas Herpetology, issued quarterly (March, June, September, and December), publishes all society business.

Submission of Manuscripts

As space allows, *JKH* 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 10th 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. In the interest of consistency and clarity the common names used in *JKH* will follow the latest edition of standardized common names as organized by CNAH (www.cnah.org), which are also used in the prior, current and subsequent editions of *Amphibians and Reptiles in Kansas* (currently Collins and Collins, 1993).

Submission of Original Artwork.

Pen and ink illustrations and photographs are also welcomed. Illustrations and photographs will be returned to the author only upon request.

Advertisements

The Journal of Kansas Herpetology will accept advertisements at the rate of \$25.00 per quarter page per issue, up to a one-page maximum per issue. No advertisements for live animals or parts thereof will be accepted.

Peer-reviewed manuscripts

JKH publishes original peer-reviewed submissions under the Articles section. 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 research publications 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

The Gloyd-Taylor Scholarship is present annually by the Kansas Herpetological Society to an outstanding herpetology student. The scholarship is \$100.00 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. The recipient of the grant will be selected by the KHS Awards Committee. The award of \$100 is given annually.

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

The Award is established in recognition of the scientific and photographic achievements of Suzanne L. Collins and Joseph T. Collins, whose life-long study and conservation of the native amphibians, reptiles, and turtles of Kansas is amply demonstrated in their extensive and excellent writings and photography, both academic and popular, about these animals. The Collins Award shall be presented no more than once each year. In even-numbered years, the Award is bestowed upon an individual who, in the preceding two calendar years, had published a paper of academic excellence on the native species of Kansas amphibian, reptile, and/or turtle and in odd-numbered years, the Award is bestowed upon an individual who was chosen the best in a juried competition featuring the art of photography in portraying amphibians, reptiles, and/or turtles. 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.

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