

# KANSAS HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY

## 28th Annual Meeting Program

2–4 November 2001

### Theme of the Meeting

#### *Conservation and Natural History of Kansas Amphibians, Turtles, and Reptiles*

The entire program for the KHS 28th Annual Meeting will be held at Topeka Collegiate School, 2200 SW Eveningside Drive, Topeka, Kansas 66614 (785-228-0490) on 2–4 November 2001. Please contact the following motels directly to make your reservations; lodging arrangements will not be made by the KHS.

Meadow Acres Motel Best Western: 1-785-267-1681

Holiday Inn West Holidome: 1-785-272-8040

The KHS has a special room rate with Meadow Acres Motel (mention the KHS when making reservations).

Register at the door with the KHS Treasurer on Saturday and Sunday: Students \$5.00 per person; all others \$10.00 per person. Special KHS T-Shirts, featuring the artwork of Marty Capron, will be available at \$10.00 each.

The barbecue and annual KHS auction will be held on Saturday night (3 November) in Wakarusa, Kansas, at the Auction House. All proceeds from the auction go to the KHS. BEER WILL BE FREE.

**PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION.** KHS members are invited to participate in a competitive exhibit of photographs of native Kansas amphibians, turtles, and reptiles, all of which will be candidates for *The Suzanne L. & Joseph T. Collins Award for Excellence in Kansas Herpetology*. The competing photographs will be featured and available for viewing in the Topeka Collegiate School Library from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm on Saturday, 3 November 2001 under the watchful eye of Shelley Waugh (TCS Librarian). Photographers should plan to set up their images between 8:00 am and noon on that same date. All photographers exhibiting must be KHS members, and each photographer is limited to five (5) images. The photographer chosen as the 2001 recipient of *The Collins Award* must be present at the KHS auction to receive it.

**LIVE EXHIBIT.** A live exhibit of native Kansas amphibians, turtles, and reptiles will be assembled by Stephanie Meador and Sarah Bellows-Blakely, and will be featured and available for viewing and photography. The exhibit will be housed in the Topeka Collegiate School Lower School Science Center. Times for members to conduct herpetological photography on Saturday and Sunday are listed below.

### FRIDAY, 2 NOVEMBER 2001

7:00 pm to 11:00 pm KHS SOCIAL at the Jeremiah Bullfrog Bar and Grille, 2940 SW Wanamaker Road, Topeka (785-272-3764). Come and refresh yourself after a hard day's drive to the capitol of Kansas.

### SATURDAY, 3 NOVEMBER 2001

8:00 am Registration for both days: Mary Kate Baldwin (KHS Secretary) and Eric Kessler (KHS Treasurer) in the main foyer at Topeka Collegiate School. Free coffee and donuts will be available, compliments of Loren Shinn (Topeka Collegiate School).

8:00 am to 4:00 pm. Live Exhibit at the Topeka Collegiate School Lower School Science Center.

8:15 am Welcome by Mark Ellis (KHS President) and Dr. Michael Roberts (Headmaster, Topeka Collegiate School).

#### Scientific Paper Session 1 in the Topeka Collegiate School Assembly Hall

Moderator: Suzanne L. Collins, The Center for North American Herpetology, Lawrence.

8:30 am Keynote Speaker: Walter Meshaka, Jr., State Museum of Pennsylvania, Harrisburg. Topic: The Cuban Treefrog in Florida: Life History of a Successful Colonizing Species.

9:00 am Speaker: Nicole Palenske and David K. Saunders, Department of Biological Sciences, Emporia State University. Topic: Hematological Comparisons Between Two Hibernating Species, Bullfrogs (*Rana catesbeiana*) and Common Musk Turtles (*Sternotherus odoratus*).\*\*

9:15 am Speaker: James Pilch, Tertiary Oil Recovery Project, University of Kansas. Topic: A Timber Rattlesnake Sanctuary.\*\*

9:30 am Speaker: Mike Coker, Director, Topeka Zoo. Topic: Topeka Zoo Herpetarium: The Future.

9:45 am Speaker: Eva A. Horne, Division of Biology, Kansas State University, Manhattan. Topic: Effects of Weather and Burn Treatment on Activity and Abundance of Tallgrass Prairie Reptiles: Some Preliminary Data.\*\*

Break 10:00 am

Scientific Paper Session 2 in the Topeka Collegiate School Assembly Hall

Moderator: Robin Oldham, Oswego, Kansas

10:15 am Speaker: Emily C. Moriarty and David C. Cannatella, Texas Memorial Museum, University of Texas, Austin. Topic: The Phylogenetic Relationships of North American Chorus Frogs.\*\*

10:45 am Speaker: Eric M. Rundquist, Animal Care Unit, University of Kansas, Lawrence. Topic: An Emerging Threat to a Fragile Kansas Herpetofauna.\*\*

11:00 am Speaker: Sean Daly, Department of Biological Sciences, Emporia State University. Topic: Morphometric Analysis of Vertebrate Red Blood Cells.\*\*

11:15 am Speaker: Curtis Schmidt and William Stark, Sternberg Museum of Natural History, Fort Hays State University. Topic: Herpetofauna of the Smoky Valley Ranch.\*\*

11:30 am Speaker: Henry S. Fitch, Fitch Natural History Reservation, University of Kansas, Lawrence. Topic: Reproduction in Central Plains Rattlesnakes.\*\*

11:45 am to noon KHS Group Photograph taken by Larry L. Miller (Kansas Heritage Photography, Wakarusa)

LUNCH: noon to 1:00 pm

Topeka Collegiate School students will be hosting a chili feed fund-raiser, and KHS meeting participants are invited to partake and give modest financial support to TCS. Non-carnivores can seek sustenance at nearby restaurants.

Scientific Paper Session 3 in the Topeka Collegiate School Assembly Hall

Moderator: Henry S. Fitch, Fitch Natural History Reservation, University of Kansas, Lawrence.

1:00 pm Speaker: Kelly J. Irwin, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, Benton. Topic: Status of the Ozark Hellbender (*Cryptobranchus bishopi*) in Arkansas.

1:15 pm Speaker: Megan Kearney, Department of Biological Sciences, Emporia State University. Topic: Digestive Efficiency and Food Passage Time of the Eastern Collared Lizard (*Crotaphytus collaris*).\*\*

1:30 pm Speaker: Calvin Cink, Department of Biology, Baker University, Baldwin City, Kansas. Topic: Homing Abilities in the Common Snapping Turtle, *Chelydra serpentina*.\*\*

1:45 pm Speaker: Dwight R. Platt, Bethel College, North Newton, Kansas. Topic: Snakes and Lizards of Harvey County, Kansas.\*\*

2:00 pm Speaker: Jay Kirk, Biology Department, Friends University, Wichita. Topic: The Eastern Indigo Snake Project on St. Vincent National Wildlife Refuge, Florida.

2:15 pm Speaker: April M. White, Southwest Missouri State University, Springfield, Ellen J. Censky, Connecticut State Museum of Natural History, Storrs, and Robert Powell, Avila College, Kansas City, Missouri. Topic: A Melanistic Lizard, *Ameiva corax*: What's Good About Being Black?

2:30 pm Speaker: Eli Greenbaum, Natural History Museum, University of Kansas. Topic: Venom Variation and Chemoreception of the Viperid Snake, *Agkistrodon contortrix*.\*\*

2:45 pm Speaker: Eric Kessler, Blue Valley North High School, Overland Park, Kansas. Topic: Retreat Site Selection by *Diadophis punctatus* and *Carphophis vermis* in Eastern Kansas.\*\*

3:00 pm Speaker: John Tollefson, Department of Biological Sciences, Emporia State University. Topic: Aquatic Turtle Assemblages in the Kansas River Drainage.\*\*

Break 3:15 pm

3:30 pm KHS General Business Meeting with KHS President Mark Ellis presiding

Introduction of current KHS officers by Mark Ellis

KHS Treasurer's Report for 2001 by Eric Kessler

KHS Secretary's Report for 2001 by Mary Kate Baldwin

KHS Editor's Report for 2001 by Travis W. Taggart

Report on Plans for the 29th Annual KHS Meeting at Lawrence in 2002 by KHS President-Elect Suzanne L. Collins

Election of KHS Officers for 2002. The 2001 KHS Nominating Committee is composed of Lynnette Sievert (Chairperson, Emporia State University, serves until 31 December 2001), Karen Toepfer (Olathe, Kansas, serves until 31 December 2002) and Joseph T. Collins (Kansas Biological Survey, serves until 31 December 2003), and offers the following slate of candidates:

For President

Suzanne L. Collins The Center for North American Herpetology, Lawrence

Serving as president-elect during 2001, and automatically assumes the KHS presidency on 1 January 2002.

For President-Elect

Larry L. Miller, Northern Hills Junior High School, Topeka.

Gregory Sievert, Department of Biological Sciences, Emporia State University.

For Treasurer (unopposed)

Eric Kessler, Blue Valley North High School, Overland Park.

For Secretary (unopposed)

Mary Kate Baldwin, Topeka Collegiate School.

Announcement of the results of the KHS election by the Elector, Mary Kate Baldwin.

Presentation of the Howard Kay Gloyd-Edward Harrison Taylor Scholarship for 2001 by Mark Ellis (KHS President).

Presentation of the Alan H. Kamb Grant for 2001 by Mark Ellis (KHS President).

5:00 pm to 6:30 pm. Barbecue in Wakarusa, Kansas, at the Auction House.

Approximately 6:45 pm. Presentation of The Suzanne L. & Joseph T. Collins Award for Excellence in Kansas Herpetology by Mark Ellis (KHS President) and Robert Powell (Avila College, Kansas City, Missouri, and Board Member, The Center for North American Herpetology). The recipient of The Collins Award receives a commemorative certificate and a check for \$1000.00.

Approximately 7:00 pm. The KHS Auction will be conducted by Joseph T. Collins, ably assisted by KHS Secretary Mary Kate Baldwin, KHS Treasurer Eric Kessler, Ann Rundquist, (Lawrence), Suzanne L. Collins (Lawrence), Sarah Bellows-Blakely, Emily Heronemus, and Natalie Penn, and featuring many excellent books and other items (of questionable value). The KHS takes cash, credit cards, and checks. Be sure and get a bidding number before the auction commences. Bid vigorously, and support the KHS.

SUNDAY, 4 NOVEMBER 2001

8:00 am Registration for participants that did not register on Saturday: Mary Kate Baldwin (KHS Secretary) and Eric Kessler (KHS Treasurer) in the main foyer at Topeka Collegiate School. Free coffee and donuts will be available, compliments of Loren Shinn (Topeka Collegiate School).

8:00 am to noon. Live Exhibit at the Topeka Collegiate School Lower School Science Center.

Scientific Paper Session 4 in the Topeka Collegiate School Assembly Hall

Moderator: Stanley D. Roth, Jr., Kansas Biological Survey, Lawrence.

8:15 am Speaker: Chad Whitney, Olathe North High School, Kansas. Topic: The Timber Rattlesnake in Johnson County, Kansas.\*\*

8:30 am Speaker: Doug Eifler, Haskell Indian Nations University, Lawrence, Kansas. Topic: Nectar Feeding in New Zealand Geckos.

8:45 am Speaker: Travis W. Taggart, Sternberg Museum of Natural History, Fort Hays State University. Topic: A New Plethodontid Salamander from South-Central Arkansas.

9:00 am Speaker: Patricia Burrowes, University of Puerto Rico, San Juan. Topic: Declining Amphibian Populations in Puerto Rico.

9:15 am Speaker: Michael Urban, Benedictine College, Atchison, Kansas. Topic: Herpetofauna of the Benedictine Wetlands.\*\*

9:30 am Speaker: Rafael Joglar, University of Puerto Rico, San Juan. Topic: The Coquis of Puerto Rico.

9:45 am Speaker: James Gubanyi, Topeka, Kansas. Topic: Status of the Introduced Western Green Lacerta (*Lacerta bilineata*) in Shawnee County, Kansas.

10:00 am Speaker: Dan Fogell, University of Nebraska at Omaha. Topic: The Prairie Rattlesnake (*Crotalus viridis viridis*) in Iowa's Loess Hills.

10:15 am Speaker: Angela Babbitt and Lynnette Sievert, Department of Biological Sciences, Emporia State University. Topic: Food Passage Time in *Hyla chrysoscelis* at 15°C and 20°C.\*\*

10:30 am Speaker: Larry L. Miller, Northern Hills Junior High School, Topeka, Kansas. Topic: The Italian Wall Lizard (*Podarcis sicula*) in Topeka: An Alien Natural History.

Break 10:45 am

Scientific Paper Session 5 in the Topeka Collegiate School Assembly Hall

Moderator: Dwight R. Platt, Bethel College, North Newton, Kansas.

11:00 am Speaker: Joseph T. Collins. Topic: The Third Annual *Kansas Amphibian Monitoring Program* (KAMP) Conference: More Comments, Criticisms, and Discussions, plus a Summation of Progress Made.

Presentation of the KAMP *Big Croaker Awards* for 2001 (two awards of \$100.00 each will be given to the most diligent KAMP volunteers during the 2001 season).

Have a safe trip home. See you in November 2002 in Lawrence, Kansas.

28th Annual Meeting Committee  
Mark Ellis, Chairperson

Joseph T. Collins will serve as Master of Ceremonies for the meeting

Notes: *The Suzanne L. & Joseph T. Collins Award for Excellence in Kansas Herpetology* will be given at this KHS 28th Annual Meeting in Topeka, Kansas, to the KHS member judged to have taken a photograph of exceptional merit of an amphibian(s), turtle(s), and/or reptile(s) native to Kansas. The KHS Awards Committee will judge the entries.

*A double asterisk \*\* indicates that the presentation listed in the above program is eligible for The Collins Award in*