

# KANSAS HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY



37th Annual Meeting Program  
6–7 November 2010  
Topeka Zoo, Topeka, Kansas



*Dedicated to the Memory of James Edward Gubanyi (1944-2010)*

## *Sponsors*

The McPherson Family Trust • Zoo Book Sales • Topeka Zoo

## **Saturday, 6 November 2010**

8:00 am Registration: Mary Kate Baldwin (KHS Secretary) and Eric Kessler (KHS Treasurer) just inside the entrance to the Gary K. Clarke Education Center, Topeka Zoo. KHS Annual Meeting T-Shirts featuring our state chelonian, the Ornate Box Turtle, will be available for purchase for \$15.00 each. Free coffee, juice, and donuts.

9:00 am to 4:00 pm Zoo Book Sales in the Gary K. Clarke Education Center. The popular and highly regarded book seller, Eric Thiss, will display his impressive diversity of herpetological titles. Buy your favorite books, new and old. Eric is a generous contributor to the KHS auction.

KHS Auction. The annual KHS auction will be held on Saturday night (6 November) at 6:30 pm in the Gary K. Clarke Education Center at the Topeka Zoo. All proceeds from the auction go to the KHS. Beer, Soft Drinks, and Snacks will be free.

### Scientific Paper Session 1 in the Gary K. Clarke Education Center at the Topeka Zoo

Moderator: George R. Pisani, Kansas Biological Survey, Lawrence & KHS Distinguished Life Member

9:00 am Welcome by Kathy Ellis (KHS President)

9:05 am Welcome by Brendan M. Wiley, Director, Topeka Zoo

9:15 am KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Daniel D. Fogell, Southeast Community College, Lincoln, Nebraska. Topic: Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes: Climate Change and Nebraska's Peripheral Herpetofauna

9:45 am Speaker: Steven Higgins, University of South Dakota, Vermillion. Topic: Preliminary Findings on Cryoprotection by Urea and Glycerol in the Boreal Chorus Frog (*Pseudacris maculata*) \*\*\*

10:00 am Speaker: Jodie Hearlson, Jennifer Singleton & Brent Thomas, Emporia State University, Emporia, Kansas. Topic: Selected Aspects of Semi-Aquatic Turtle Assemblages in East-Central Kansas Ponds \*\* \*\*\*

BREAK 10:15 am to 10:30 am

### Scientific Paper Session 2 in the Gary K. Clarke Education Center at the Topeka Zoo

Moderator: Dwight R. Platt, Bethel College, North Newton, Kansas & KHS Distinguished Life Member

10:30 am Speaker: Peter Warny, WildMetro Inc., New York, New York. Topic: Urban Turtle Ecology: The City Sliders of New York

10:45 am Speaker: Eva A. Horne, Kansas State University, Manhattan. Topic: Cricket Frogs Talk . . . with their Feet

11:00 am Speaker: Shelly Evans & Lynnette Sievert, Emporia State University, Emporia, Kansas. Topic: Captive Housing Preferences of the Corn Snake, *Elaphe guttata* \*\*\*

11:15 am Speaker: Katie Talbott, Fort Hays State University, Hays, Kansas. Topic: Initial Results on a Study Investigating Female Choice in *Crotaphytus collaris* \*\* \*\*\*

11:30 am KHS Group Photograph taken by Larry L. Miller (Kansas Heritage Photography)

LUNCH: 11:45 am to 1:15 pm (the Topeka Zoo Concession is recommended)

Scientific Paper Session 3 in the Gary K. Clarke Education Center at the Topeka Zoo

Moderator: David Oldham, Pittsburg State University, Pittsburg, Kansas & Former KHS President

1:15 pm Speaker: Bruce Rothschild, University of Kansas Museum of Natural History, Lawrence. Topic: Why Dragons Stopped Climbing Trees: The Story of Arthritis in the Lizard Family Varanidae

1:30 pm Speakers: Olivia Cowin, Sam Parker, Carrie Remillard, Austin Rice, Jordan Surgnier & Garrett Long, Blue Valley School District, Overland Park, Kansas. Topic: Observations on the Eastern Newt, *Notophthalmus viridescens*, in Miami County, Kansas: Habitat Features and Associated Herpetofauna \*\*\*

1:45 pm Speaker: J. Daren Riedle, Lincoln University, Jefferson City, Missouri, Richard Kazmaier, West Texas A&M University, Canyon & Jamie Killian & Wes Littrell, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Tennessee Colony, Texas. Topic: Community Structure of Two Aquatic Turtle Communities within the Middle Trinity River Basin, Texas

2:00 pm Speaker: Jennifer Brown, University of South Dakota, Vermillion. Topic: Interactive Effects of Chytrid, Contaminant, and Predatory Stressors on Woodhouse's Toad (*Anaxyrus woodhousii*) Tadpoles \*\*\*

2:15 pm Speaker: Alexander J. Muensch, Missouri State University, Springfield. Topic: The Ontogeny of Spatial Ecology and Habitat Use in a Population of Cottonmouths (*Agkistrodon piscivorus*) in Southwest Missouri \*\*\*

2:30 pm Speaker: Erik Zeidler, University of Kansas, Lawrence. Topic: Herpetofauna in the Big Apple? A Comprehensive Study of Common Snapping Turtle Populations Amidst the Hustle and Bustle of Bronx, New York \*\*\*

BREAK 2:45 pm to 3:00 pm

Scientific Paper Session 4 in the Gary K. Clarke Education Center at the Topeka Zoo

Moderator: Dan Carpenter, Derby, Kansas & Former KHS President

3:00 pm Speaker: Jennifer Singleton, Jodi Hearlson, and R. Brent Thomas, Emporia State University, Kansas. Topic: Escape Rates of Aquatic Turtles from Funnel Traps and Basking Traps \*\*\*

3:15 pm Speaker: Walter E. Meshaka, Jr. & Naim Edwards, State Museum of Pennsylvania, Harrisburg & Pablo R. Delis, Shippensburg University, Pennsylvania. Topic: Seasonal Activity, Reproductive Cycles, and Growth of the Pickerel Frog, *Lithobates palustris* (LeConte, 1825), from Pennsylvania

3:30 pm Speaker: Michael Rochford & Frank J. Mazzotti, University of Florida, Gainesville. Topic: Cold Constrictors Unconquered \*\*\*

3:45 pm Speaker: Doug Eifler & Maria Eifler, Erell Institute, Lawrence, Kansas. Topic: Catch Me If You Can: Escape Behavior in a Namibian Sand Lizard

4:00 pm Speaker: Joseph A. Gubanyi, Concordia University, Seward, Nebraska. Topic: *James Edward Gubanyi (1944-2010)*

KHS General Business Meeting

4:15 pm KHS General Business Meeting, KHS President Kathy Ellis presiding

Introduction of KHS Officers & Dignitaries by Kathy Ellis

KHS Interim Treasurer's Report for 2010 by Eric Kessler

KHS Secretary's Report for 2010 by Mary Kate Baldwin

KHS Editor's Report for 2010 by Curtis J. Schmidt

KHS Historian's Report for 2010 by Suzanne L. Collins

Report on Plans for the 38th Annual KHS Meeting in Topeka, Kansas, on the first weekend in November 2011 by KHS President-Elect Derek Schmidt (Overbrook, Kansas)

Election of KHS Officers for 2011. The KHS Nominating Committee, composed of David Oldham (Pittsburg State University), Eva Horne (Kansas State University), and Joseph T. Collins (Kansas Biological Survey, University of Kansas, Lawrence), offers the following slate of candidates:

For President • Derek Schmidt, Overbrook, Kansas  
President-elect during 2010; automatically assumes the KHS presidency on 1 January 2011

For President-Elect (unopposed) • Travis W. Taggart, Fort Hays State University, Hays, Kansas  
For Treasurer (unopposed) • David Oldham, Pittsburg State University, Pittsburg, Kansas  
For Secretary (unopposed) • Eva A. Horne, Kansas State University, Manhattan

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

KHS Awards Ceremony

Moderator: Joseph T. Collins, Kansas Biological Survey, University of Kansas

Presentation of the first *Henry S. Fitch-Dwight R. Platt Award for Field Herpetology* for 2010. The recipient receives a commemorative certificate and a check for \$100.00.

Presentation of the *Howard Kay Gloyd-Edward Harrison Taylor Scholarship* for 2010. The recipient receives a commemorative certificate and a check for \$300.00.

Presentation of the *Alan H. Kamb Grant for Research on Kansas Snakes* for 2010. The recipient receives a commemorative certificate and a check for \$300.00.

Presentation of *The Suzanne L. & Joseph T. Collins Award for Excellence in Kansas Herpetology* for 2010. The recipient of The Collins Award receives a commemorative plaque and a check for \$1000.00.

Presentation of *The Bronze Salamander Award for Distinguished Service to the Kansas Herpetological Society*.

KHS Business Meeting adjourns around 5:00 pm. Dinner at the restaurant of your choice. Then return to the Gary K. Clarke Education Center at the Topeka Zoo no later than 6:30 pm; that's where free beer, soft drinks, and snacks are located.

DINNER ca. 4:45 pm to 6:15 pm

### **Saturday Evening, 6 November 2010**

6:30 pm Autograph session in the Gary K. Clarke Education Center on the Topeka Zoo grounds. Daniel D. Fogell will autograph copies of his new book, *A Field Guide to the Amphibians and Reptiles of Nebraska*; Suzanne L. Collins, Travis W. Taggart, Joseph T. Collins, and artist Errol D. Hooper, Jr., will autograph copies of their new book, *Amphibians, Reptiles, and Turtles in Kansas*. Zoo Book Sales will have both books available at that time.

7:30 pm. The annual KHS Auction will be conducted in the Gary K. Clarke Education Center at the Topeka Zoo by Walter E. Meshaka, Jr., Daniel Fogell & Eric Thiss, ably assisted by former first daughter Grace Anne Johnson, KHS Secretary Mary Kate Baldwin and KHS Treasurer Eric Kessler. 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, 7 November 2010**

8:00 am Registration for participants that did not register on Saturday: Mary Kate Baldwin (KHS Secretary) and Eric Kessler (KHS Treasurer) just inside the entrance to the Gary K. Clarke Education Center, Topeka Zoo. KHS Annual Meeting T-Shirts featuring our state chelonian, the Ornate Box Turtle, will be available for purchase for \$15.00 each. Free coffee, juice, and donuts.

Scientific Paper Session 5 in the Gary K. Clarke Education Center at the Topeka Zoo

Moderator: Curtis J. Schmidt, Fort Hays State University, Hays, Kansas & Former KHS President

9:00 am Speaker: Walter E. Meshaka, Jr. & Amy Kippel, State Museum of Pennsylvania, Harrisburg.  
Topic: Reproductive Cycles of the Northern Redbelly Snake, *Storeria occipitomaculata occipitomaculata* (Storer, 1839), in Pennsylvania

9:15 am Speaker: Ryan Miloshewski & Caitlyn McCall, Rockhurst University, Kansas City, Kansas, George R. Pisani, Kansas Biological Survey, University of Kansas, Lawrence, & Mindy Walker, Rockhurst University, Kansas City, Kansas. Topic: Timber Rattlesnakes: Educating and Calming the Anxious Public \*\* \*\*\*

9:30 am Speaker: Dandan Liu, Cailin Wilson, Jodie Hearlson, Jennifer Singleton, R. Brent Thomas & Scott S. Crupper, Emporia State University, Emporia, Kansas. Topic: Prevalence of Antibiotic Resistant Bacteria Associated with the Red-eared Slider (*Trachemys scripta elegans*) \*\*\*

9:45 am Speaker: Brynn Blair, Madeline Buell, Austin Hansen, Nick Hettrick, Evan Key & Joe Whalen, Blue Valley School District, Overland Park, Kansas. Topic: Observations on the Eastern Newt, *Nothophthalmus viridescens* in Miami County, Kansas: Preliminary Data on its Natural History \*\* \*\*\*

10:00 am Speaker: Aubrey Aronson & Jeff Witters, Olathe South High School, Olathe, Kansas. Topic: One Full Year of Spatial and Thermal Ecology of *Terrapene ornata* in Northeast Kansas \*\* \*\*\*

BREAK 10:15 am

Scientific Paper Session 6 in the Gary K. Clarke Education Center at the Topeka Zoo

Moderator: Dan Johnson, Overland Park, Kansas & Former KHS President

10:30 am Speaker: Peter Warny, WildMetro Inc., New York, New York. Topic: Deformed Frogs: How, When, Where and Why?

10:45 am Speaker: Bill Welch, Wichita North High School, Kansas. Topic: Turtle Trapping on the Little Arkansas River in Kansas \*\*

11:00 am Speaker: Steven Grant & Richard Kazmaier, West Texas A&M University, Canyon, and Donald Ruthven & Michael Janis, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Paducah, Topic: Ecology and Demography of a Rolling Plains Population of Ornate Box Turtles, *Terrapene ornata* \*\*\*

11:15 am Speaker: Jeff Witters, Olathe South High School, Olathe, Kansas. Topic: Field and Lab Study of *Terrapene ornata* for Educational Purposes: Lessons Learned and Future Directions \*\*

11:30 am Speaker: Shannon Muro & Richard Kazmaier, West Texas A&M University, Canyon, and Jim Ray, B&W Pantex, Amarillo, Texas, Topic: Diet of Texas Horned Lizards, *Phrynosoma cornutum*, in a Fragmented High Plains Landscape \*\*\*

11:45 am Speaker: Mark S. Mills & Teresa Ausberger, Missouri Western State University, St. Joseph, Missouri. Topic: Using Coverboards to Examine Biodiversity in the Loess Hills at Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge, Missouri

Noon: Presentation of the third annual *George Toland Award* by S. Ross McNearney, representing The McPherson Family Trust. The award is given for the best paper presented at this meeting by a KHS student member on the ecology of North American amphibians, reptiles, turtles, and/or crocodylians. The KHS Awards Committee will select the winner. The recipient must be present to receive the commemorative certificate and a check for \$200.00, co-sponsored by the KHS and *The Center for North American Herpetology*.

ADJOURNMENT

Have a safe trip home. See you on the first weekend in November 2011 in Topeka, Kansas, for the 38th Annual KHS Meeting.

*37th Annual Meeting Committee*

*Kathy Ellis (Chairperson)*

*Mark Ellis, Dan Johnson, Derek Schmidt, Suzanne L. Collins, Joseph T. Collins*

*Notes: The Suzanne L. & Joseph T. Collins Award for Excellence in Kansas Herpetology will be given at this KHS 37th Annual Meeting in Topeka, Kansas, to the KHS member judged to have published the best paper on a native species of Kansas herpetofauna. The KHS Awards Committee (Daniel D. Fogell, Travis W. Taggart & Walter E. Meshaka, Jr.) selected the recipient from presentations made and papers published during 2008 and 2009.*

*\*\* after a title indicates it is a candidate for The Collins Award in 2012.*

*\*\*\* after a title indicates it is a candidate for The Toland Award, to be presented on Sunday (7 November 2010) at the close of the meeting.*