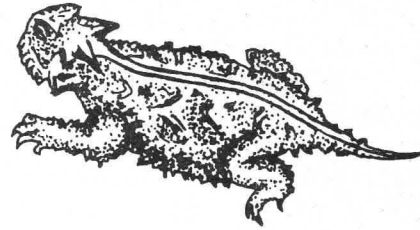


KANSAS  
HERPETOLOGICAL  
SOCIETY  
NEWSLETTER



Number 14

August 1976

KHS SEPTEMBER MEETING IN ELK COUNTY

The Kansas Herpetological Society field trip and meeting will be held on 24 (Friday), 25 (Saturday), and 26 (Sunday) September 1976 at Moline City Lake in southern Elk County, Kansas. Participants are urged to arrive on Friday evening. Directions to Moline City Lake (Supplied by Larry Miller) are: drive one mile west of Moline on U.S. Rt. 160, then drive south on a gravel road for 1 1/4 miles, then 3/4 mile west to the Moline City Lake. The KHS Executive Council will meet at noon during lunch on Saturday. Temperatures should be mild for camping --collecting should be good. Again, alcoholic beverages are not permitted on city property --bring soda pop.

A JULY WEEKEND IN GREAT BEND

Of the many devoted members of the Kansas Herpetological Society, the first to arrive at the Cheyenne Bottoms maintenance compound the evening of July 16, were Larry Miller and Marty Capron. Immediately upon their arrival, they captured a gravid female Graham's crayfish snake (Regina grahami), several western plains garter snakes (Thamnophis radix haydeni), and some diamond-backed water snakes (Natrix rhombifera rhombifera). Various other members began to trickle in that night after wandering lost through the area. By midnight a good group had assembled, around 17 of us --we were tempted to know how many more were still floundering aimlessly about the vast marsh. From the evening's successes it was evident that these three days should be one of the best weekends ever for herping.

We were up at the crack of dawn, or shortly thereafter, and Tom Collins led the first assault upon a local restaurant?! Once fueled for a day of herping, the hunt was underway. Several western massasaugas (Sistrurus catenatus) turned up, a few of these gravid females, and the ever present diamond-backed water snakes. The first of three unusual garter snakes turned up --what was believed to be a hybrid between Thamnophis radix haydeni and Thamnophis sirtalis parietalis.

Around 1:00PM several more members joined the force at the Brit Spaugh Zoological Park in Great Bend where we enjoyed a slide presentation by several members. Some highly "unusual" slides were viewed. After the show, Janet Krause led us on an informative tour of the zoo. We are indebted to her for making available the facilities of the zoo and for the excellent tour. A mysterious "behing closed-door" session of the executive council was also held. While watching a Kansas thunderstorm advancing from the west, most members scurried back to the camping area.

Confusing as most KHS field trips are, its hard to say just who caught what when. But, by the time the first storm bypassed us and the second actually hit, a speckled kingsnake (Lampropeltis getulus holbrooki) and a large bullsnake (Pituophis melanoleucus sayi) were added to the tally. Before, the storm, nine members elected to go road crusing, all in Marty's car. The trip was cut short as the storm moved in. Not wanting to be caught on top of a car, holding steel snake sticks in an electrical storm, we made a bee-line back for camp. However, not until Marty demonstrated the right way of pinning and holding a massauga, after he nearly, and quite unintentionally, showed us the wrong way! In this, the third round of hunts, a new record size diamond-backed water snake was secured. The rain was only of short duration and various cars hit the road scanning the view ahead for herps. Miraculously, everyone made it back to camp after seeing many anurans and finding a new record size western painted turtle (Chrysemys picta belli) of 195 mm.

We were up (more or less) early Sunday morning to head for town and an actual breakfast! Tom Collins and George Pisani left for Lawrence, as the rest headed back for the refuge and more searching. The third and final hybrid (?) garter snake and a young massauga were found.

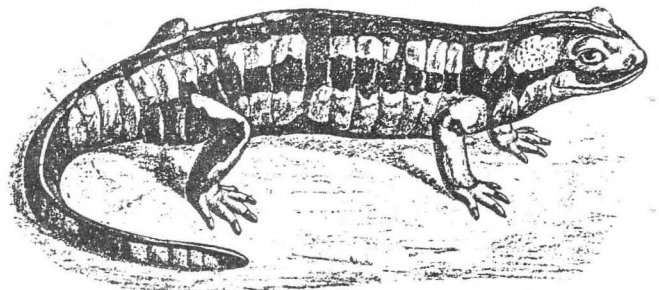
Despite Capron's unmentioned phenomol abilities to get into unheard of situations, the meeting was one of the best, turning out several records and many interesting herps. Casulties included far too many water snake bites and one diamond-backed water snake itself whose untimely death shall remain a mystery. Species caught or seen included: Thamnophis radix haydeni, Thamnophis sirtalis parietalis, Natrix rhombifera rhombifera, Natrix sipedon sipedon, Regina grahami, Lampropeltis getulus holbrooki, Pituophis melanoleucus sayi, Sistrurus catenatus, Chrysemys picta belli, Kinosternon flavescens flavescens, Chelydra serpentina serpentina, Trionyx sp., Rana blari (and probably Rana utriculara), Rana catesbeina, Pseudacris triseriata, Bufo cognatus, Bufo woodhousei, Scaphiopus bombifrons and probably something forgotten!

As always when herpetologist's meet in numbers, it was a very enjoyable, extemely funny and perfectly great meeting in addition to being a very rewarding one!

MARTIN B. CAPRON and JANICE PERRY

#### STATE BIOLOGICAL SURVEY DESERVES THANKS

All KHS members have recently received Technical Publication No. 1 of the State Biological Survey. This publication, entitled "New records of the fauna and flora of Kansas for 1975," was generously distributed to all KHS members through the courtesy of the SBS, and contains an article by Joseph T. Collins and Jan Caldwell listing all new amphibian and reptile county records established as of 31 December 1975. KHS members should use this article to up-date the maps in their copy of Collin's "Amphibians and Reptiles in Kansas." Many thanks to SBS.



### KHS BYLAWS AMENDMENT PROPOSED

In compliance with Article IX, Section 1 of the KHS Bylaws, the KHS executive council proposes to combine the elected offices of Secretary and Treasurer into the elected office of Secretary-Treasurer by the following amendments:

Article II, Section 4c and 4d shall be combined to read:  
The Secretary-Treasurer shall maintain the records of the Society and its officers, shall notify the membership of pertinent business, shall be responsible for all general correspondence of the Society, shall keep records and accounts of the Society including all monies received and disbursed, shall collect the annual dues and maintain the membership roster, and shall be responsible for all financial reports required by the business of the Society. The Secretary-Treasurer shall make a financial report to the membership at the general meeting. An outside audit shall be conducted immediately prior to the elected Secretary-Treasurer's acceptance of the Society's financial records by a three member committee appointed by the KHS President.

Article III, Section 1 shall read: The Executive Council of the Society shall consist of the President, President-Elect, Secretary-Treasurer, immediate past President, and Editor of the Society Newsletter.

Article IV, Section 6 shall read: The Secretary-Treasurer shall inform the elected candidates of their election. Newly elected persons will take office at the beginning of the next calendar year following the date of the general meeting election.

Article II, Article III, Article VII, and Article IX (except for the above sections) shall be altered as follows: the word Secretary should be changed to Secretary-Treasurer, and the word Treasurer eliminated.

The above amendments will be submitted to the attending KHS membership at the November 1976 KHS Annual Meeting.

### KHS NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The KHS Nominating Committee, composed of George Pisani (chairperson), Melissa Burt, Kelly Irwin, and Joseph T. Collins, announces the following candidates for 1977 KHS offices:

For President-elect: David Grow (Sedgwick County Zoo)  
Larry Miller (Caldwell)

For Secretary-Treasurer: Delphi Messinger (Sedgwick County Zoo)

The above nomination for Secretary-Treasurer is contingent on passage by KHS members of the proposed constitutional amendment. Should the amendment fail, additional nominees will be chosen. The election will be held at the KHS November annual meeting.

MINUTES -- KHS EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING ON 17 JULY 1976

Present: Pisani (presiding), Clarke, Messinger, Perry, Collins

Absent: Caldwell, Rundquist

Action was taken on the following items of business:

- 1) Constitutional amendment--Pisani moved to amend the KHS constitution to combine the present elective KHS offices of Secretary and Treasurer into one elective office of Secretary-Treasurer. Pisani appointed Collins to draft the amendment for inclusion in the August or October KHS Newsletter. Seconded by Clarke.

APPROVED 4-0.

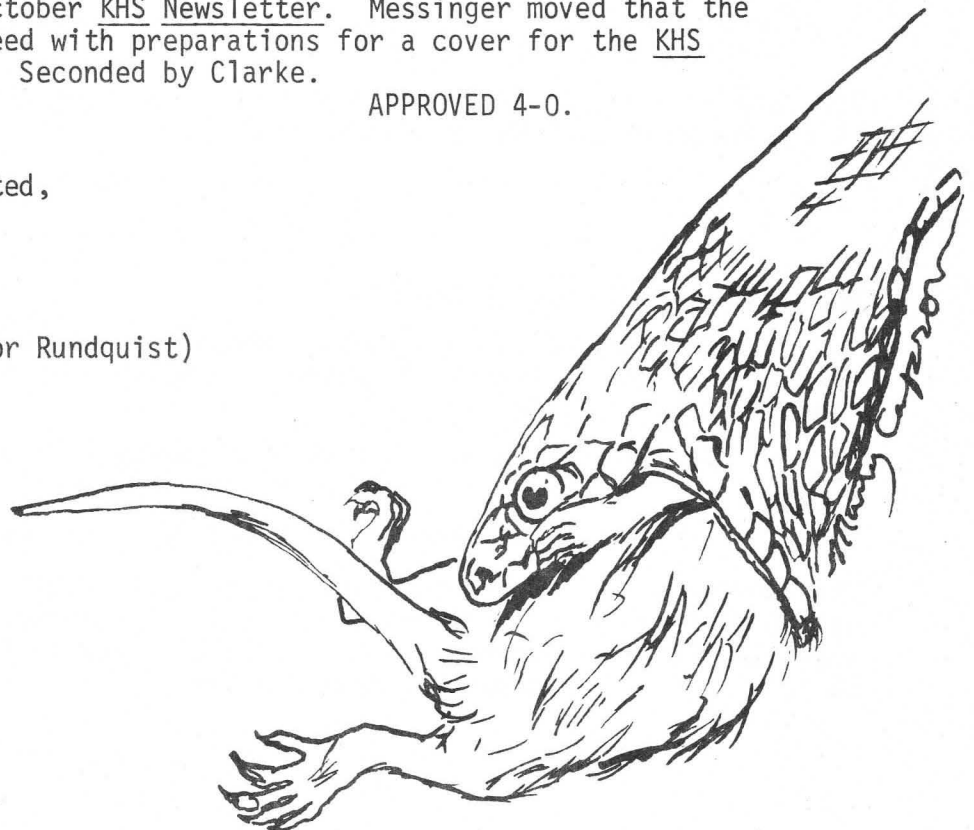
- 2) Pisani announced that KHS President Caldwell had appointed him chairman of the KHS nominating committee. Serving on the committee with Pisani are Collins, Melissa Burt (Topeka), and Kelly Irwin (Topeka). The committee will select a slate for 1977, said nominees to be published in the August or October KHS Newsletter, and to reflect the proposed constitutional amendment.

- 3) Perry proposed an official cover for the KHS Newsletter--she has consulted various printers for best price, and wishes to have covers on the KHS Newsletter beginning with the February 1977 issue. Editor Perry will solicit six drawings of Kansas endangered or threatened amphibians and reptiles in the August or October KHS Newsletter. Messinger moved that the editor proceed with preparations for a cover for the KHS Newsletter. Seconded by Clarke.

APPROVED 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph T. Collins  
Acting Secretary (for Rundquist)



SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES



*The Society is pleased to announce that it will publish a facsimile of the*  
NATURAL HISTORY CLASSIC

**NORTH AMERICAN HERPETOLOGY**  
by John Edwards Holbrook

---

147 FULL-PAGE PLATES  
FIVE VOLUMES BOUND IN ONE  
Totalling Nearly 1000 Pages  
With a New Biography and Portrait of Holbrook

●

20 PLATES IN FULL COLOR

●

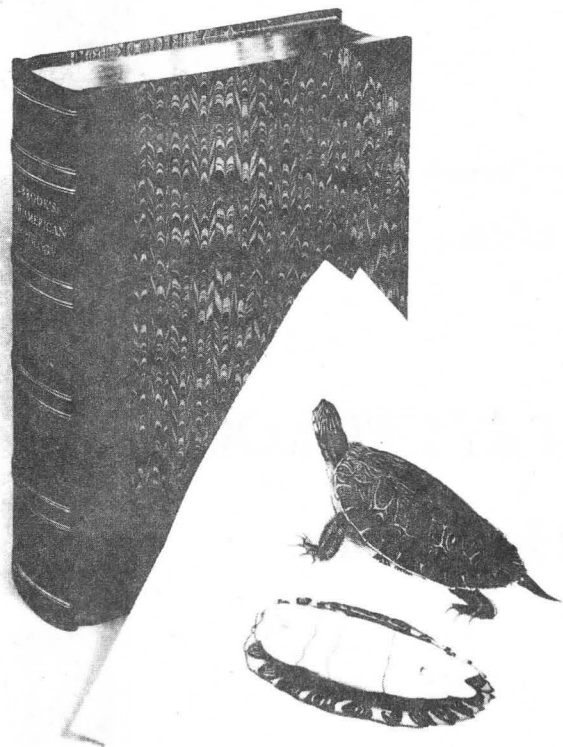
*To be published October 1976*

FULL DETAILS ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES

## ORDERING INSTRUCTIONS

Both editions consist of about 1000 pages including 147 full-page plates and a portrait, 20 of which are in full color. Page size is quarto (8½ by 11 inches, or 21.5 by 28 cm).

**REGULAR EDITION:** Clothbound with gold stamps. . . . .price, \$60



**PATRON'S EDITION.** . . . .price, \$175

This deluxe edition is strictly *limited to 150 copies* and will be issued according to the following specifications:

- Patron's copies will be hand bound to match the original bindings of Holbrook's book. These will have scarlet-red morocco leather spines and corners over genuine hand-marbled boards with 24-karat gold tops and ornamentation as well as raised bands on the spine (see photograph).
- A list of patrons will be printed on a special page in both editions. We can insure inclusion of patrons' names only if reservations are received by *the Society before July 1976*. Patron's copies will be designated on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Each copy will be signed by the authors of the introduction and individually numbered by the editor.
- Patrons will receive a separate set of the 20 color plates, printed on large sheets (10 by 13 inches, or 25.5 by 33 cm) of heavy stock suitable for framing. These will be unbound, in a portfolio.
- One of the color prints presented to patrons will be the portrait of Holbrook by David M. Dennis. This limited edition of 150 prints will be signed, dated and numbered by Mr. Dennis.

### TO ORDER

Orders may be placed with your own bookseller, or directly with the Society by writing Dr. Henri C. Seibert, Morton Hall, Ohio University, Athens, Ohio 45701, U.S.A. A price-list of other books, papers and journals published by the Society together with information on membership can be obtained from Dr. Seibert.

### ● SPECIAL PRICES TO SSAR MEMBERS ●

Society members can obtain substantial discounts by placing their orders directly with the Society. These should be sent to Dr. Henri C. Seibert, Morton Hall, Ohio University, Athens, Ohio 45701, U.S.A. Please make checks payable to "SSAR". Receipts sent on request only.

Individual members of the Society may purchase copies at the following reduced rates providing orders are *received by 15 August 1976*. Afterward, prices will revert to the regular rates advertised above. Please mark the edition you desire and return this order form to Dr. Seibert. Payment in advance would be greatly appreciated.

Please *print* below the address to which your copy should be mailed:

NAME:

ADDRESS:

**REGULAR EDITION.** . . . .price, \$ 50

**PATRON'S EDITION.** . . . .price, \$150

If you order a patron's edition, please *print* below your name as you wish it to appear on the patrons' page:

ZIP CODE:

A DEPOSIT OF \$50 IS REQUIRED FOR  
PATRON'S COPIES

## CURRENT LITERATURE

This current literature section has been compiled by Mary E. Dawson and Joseph T. Collins, and contains articles and books on amphibians and reptiles of possible interest to KHS members.

Brown, M.

no date (1976?). Oklahoma's Poisonous Snakes. Outdoor Oklahoma Conservation Notebook. 4 pp. Available free from Dean G. Graham, Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, 1801 North Lincoln Boulevard, Oklahoma City 73105.

Collins, J. T.

1976. Kansas snakes: an educational experience. Kansas Fish and Game, 33(4): 16-19. This July-August issue of Kansas Fish and Game is available for 50¢ from: Vic McLeran, Kansas Forestry, Fish and Game Commission, P.O. Box 1028, Pratt 67124.

Collins, J. T. and J. Caldwell

1976. New records of fishes, amphibians and reptiles in New records of the fauna and flora of Kansas for 1975. State Biol. Surv. Kansas Tech. Publ., 1: 1-97.

Dixon, J. R. and R. R. Fleet

1976. Arizona elegans. SSAR Cat. North American Amphibians and Reptiles, 179.1-179.4 Available from Dr. Henri Seibert, SSAR, Department of Zoology, Ohio University, Athens 45701.

Fitch, H. S. and R. W. Henderson

1976. A new anole (Reptilia: Iguanidae) from Great Corn Island, Caribbean Nicaragua. Contrib. Biol. Geol., 9: 1-8. A limited number of reprints available free from Dr. H. S. Fitch, Museum of Natural History, University of Kansas, Lawrence 66045.

Ford, N. B.

1976. Pheromone trailing behavior in three species of garter snakes (Thamnophis). Master's thesis, University of Oklahoma. 32pp.

Leutscher, A.

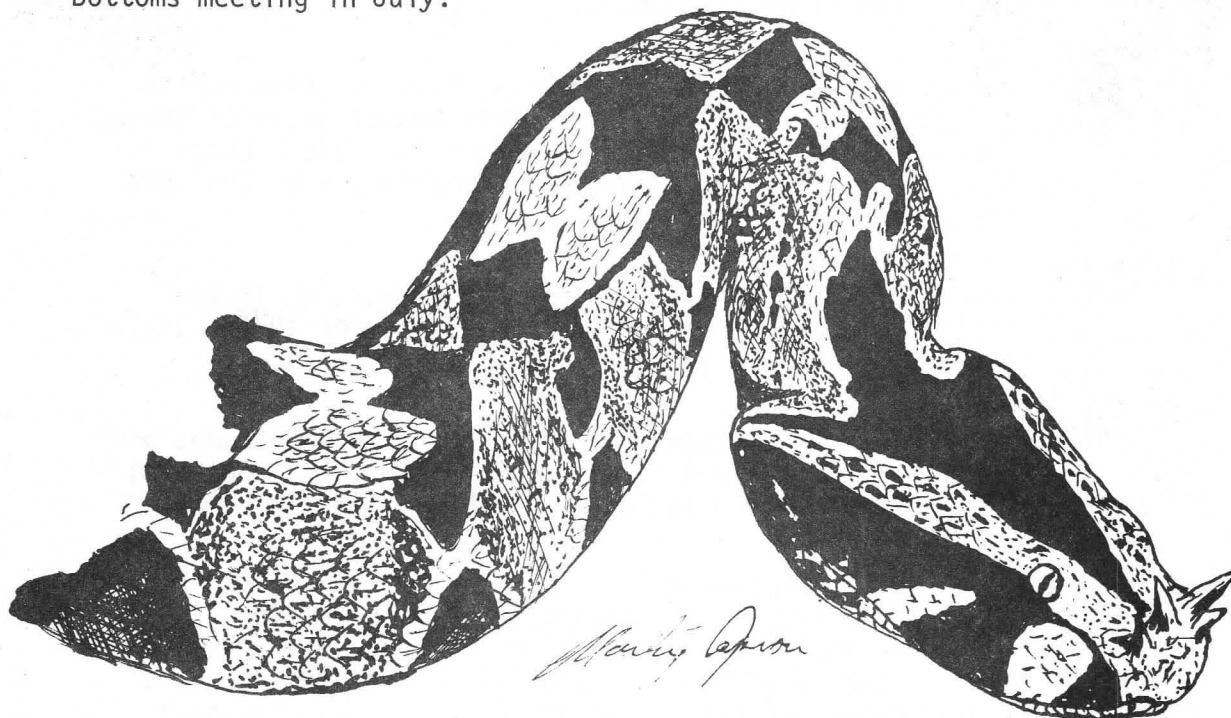
1976. Keeping reptiles and amphibians. 164pp. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York. Price not known--available in most major bookstores.

Miller, L.

1976. Pesticides kill many animals. Bull. Oklahoma Herp. Soc., 3: 36.

KHS CONTRIBUTES TO HOLBROOK FACSIMILE

The Kansas Herpetological Society through action by its Executive Council has voted to contribute \$50.00 to the Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles toward publication of a facsimile reprint of John E. Holbrook's 1842 edition of "North American Herpetology." The facsimile will be issued in late 1976 --it is probably the single most important work on North American amphibians and reptiles, and is impossible to obtain. The KHS wishes to thank those members who contributed donations for the facsimile at the Great Bend - Cheyenne Bottoms meeting in July.



KHS NEWSLETTER COVER FOR 1977

At the executive council meeting on July 17, the KHS officers gave their consent for a cover to be placed on the KHS Newsletter beginning with the February 1977 issue. Each issue will feature a different endangered or threatened Kansas amphibian or reptile. All members are encouraged to submit to the Editor drawings of any Kansas endangered or threatened amphibian or reptile no later than December 31, 1976. The drawings should be done in black ink on white paper of any size. Larger drawings are preferred.



Probably the most interesting and spectacular field trip taken to date was to the Florida Keys. The primary purpose of the trip was to dive the coral reefs, collecting specimens for the exhibit programs at the Florida State Museum. We devoted all our nights for collecting reptiles and amphibians. Among our most interesting finds were Hyla septentrionalis, Spaerodactylus notatus and a large Elaphe guttata rosacea on Big Pine Key. One night we had no sooner begun our road cruising when the large female Rosy Rate was spotted in the middle of the road. That same night, a key deer nearly ran into the side of the car. We also were successful in collecting some Bufo terrestris which were sent to Dr. Sheldon Guttman at Miami University, Oxford Ohio, who is collaborating with us on a study of these beasts. Comparisons of calls, morphology, and blood proteins of the keys toads with those in the peninsular and panhandle areas of the state are in progress.

The FSM and The University of Florida is a hot bed of herpetological activity. Dr. Auffenberg has the museum live rooms filled with Varnuas, used in his detailed studies of behavior. He also has students working with alligators, crocodiles, Cyclura, and mangrove watersnakes. Dr. Archie Carr is working with sea turtles among other things. Also, the herpetology staff is being increased by the addition of Marty Crump, a recent PhD student from Kansas University.

In closing, if any of you leave the rolling hills of Kansas for the "flatlands of northern Florida," stop by and see us.

--RAY E. ASHTON, Florida State Museum, Gainesville, FL

#### DUELLMAN LEADS HERP LEAGUE

William E. Duellman, Curator of Herpetology, professor of Systematics and Ecology, and KHS member, in the Museum of Natural History at the University of Kansas, was recently elected president of the Herpetologist's League for 1976 and 1977. The HL is an international organization devoted to herpetology, and publishes the periodical Herpetologica. The KHS congratulates Duellman on his election to this important position.

#### TRUEB ASSUMES KU EDITORSHIP

Linda Trueb, adjunct curator of herpetology in the Museum of Natural History at the University of Kansas and KHS member, has recently been appointed editor of all Museum publications. Her responsibilities include editing the Museum's Monograph Series, Miscellaneous Publication Series, Occasional Papers Series, and Public Education Series. Congratulations to Linda --we are certain the Museum's publications will thrive under her careful editorship.

## NOTES OF A DISPLACED KANSAS HERPER

A year has passed since my departure from the Midwest and I thought I would take this opportunity to report to my fellow Kansas herpetologists about "what's happening" in sunny Florida.

Upon my arrival in Florida, I took up residence on Little Lake Santa Fe which lies about 18 miles east of Gainesville. The lake and its surrounding cypress swamp is at my front door and a small gum swamp is at my back. Surrounding the gum swamp, is an abandoned pecan grove and pine flatwoods. With this large diversity of habitat, I have collected and observed over 50 species of reptiles and amphibians!

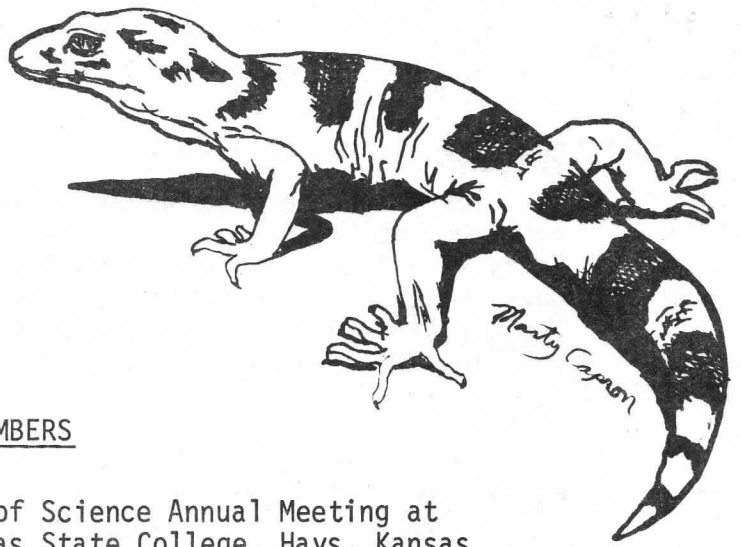
Currently, Dick Franz and I are studying two species in the area: Rana hecksheri and Gopherus polyphemus. River frog tadpoles, which are as large as Rana catesbiana tads, will school by the thousands for several months. We have recently begun our field work on gopher tortises. The tortise burrows are unearthed in order to study their co-inhabitants. This is no easy task, for the burrows zig-zag, as well as venture under trees for a lateral distance of thirty feet and vertically to six feet! As we dig, we are taking soil samples for analysis and sifting the dirt in search of all invertebrates we can find.

Along with these studies, Dick and I are well into writing a new handbook of Florida Amphibians and Reptiles. The seven active amateur herp societies of Florida have been assisting with this book. Individuals have been encourage to submit their photographs of Florida herps, the best of which will be used to illustrate the book.

We have established an information network where people around the state supply us with new county records. Information on frog calls (dates, weather, etc.) in all parts of the state are welcomed. All observations and new records will be published in a periodic newsletter. To begin this cooperative effort, all professional and amateur herpetologists in the state were invited to attend the First Annual All Florida Herpetologist's Meeting held at the Florida State Museum on January 17. More than 150 people attended the conference, not only from throughout Florida but from New York, Georgia and other states. The program was outstanding and included a photo workshop run by Saul Freiss, a top professional wildlife photographer. Walter Auffenberg's Komodo Dragon's and Peter Pritchard's talk on sidenecks of the world highlighted the program. After the program there was good food and merry making.

We're not just socializing or sitting in my backyard watching the herps go by, we're in the field continuously. Heavy anuran activity began last Christmas Day after an one month lull. Pseudacris nigrita, Pseudacris ornata, Hyla crucifer, and Limnaodeus ocularis were in heavy chorus. Along with the winter rains, Ambystoma cingulatum and Notophthalmus perastriatus were found in temporary ponds with the toads. We are busily recording calls and photographing these animals for several educational progams being considered.

With the coming of spring, the trees leaved out and the azalea's finished their astonishing blooms, the spring breeders began; Hyla cinerea and Bufo terrestris, even though the usual spring drought was broken.

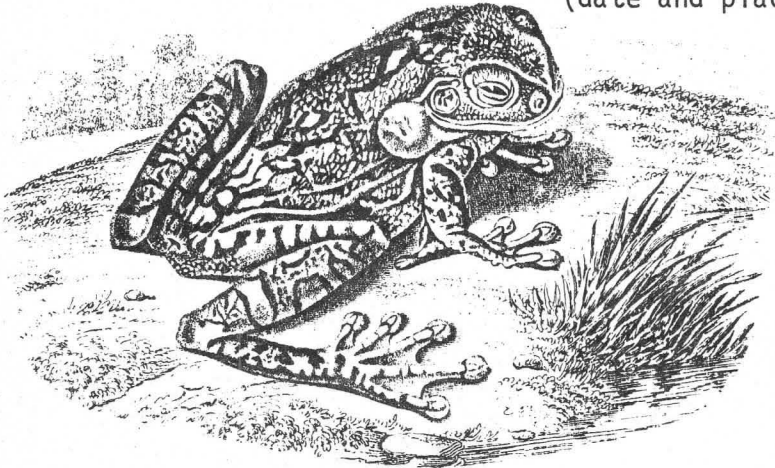


FUTURE MEETINGS OF INTEREST TO KHS MEMBERS

15 April 1977 -- Kansas Academy of Science Annual Meeting at Fort Hays, Kansas State College, Hays, Kansas

11-17 August 1977 -- Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles 20th Annual Meeting at the Museum of Natural History on the KU campus, Lawrence, Kansas.

November 1977 -- Kansas Herpetological Society 4th Annual Meeting (date and place to be announced).



--The KHS Newsletter is issued every other month by the Kansas Herpetological Society. All interested individuals are invited to become members. Membership dues per calendar year are 3.00 payable to: Delfi Messinger, KHS Treasurer, Sedgwick County Zoo, 5555 Zoo Boulevard, Wichita, Kansas 67212. All manuscripts and notes should be sent to the editor. EDITOR: Janice Perry, Museum of Natural History, University of Kansas, Lawrence 66045, and ASSOCIATE EDITOR: David Grow, Sedgwick County Zoo, 5555 Zoo Boulevard, Wichita 67212.

#### SCHWANER RETURNS FROM SAMOA

Terry Schwaner, former KHS secretary, returned from a six month research project headquartered at Pago Pago in American Samoa. Although Terry experienced incredible difficulty in finding watersnakes of the genus Natrix, he did succeed in capturing many lizards of the genus Emoia plus some toads (Bufo marinus). A welcome return home to Terry from the KHS.

#### PISANI PHOTO ON BIOSCIENCE

The front cover of the July 1976 issue of BioScience is a color photograph taken by George R. Pisani, current KHS Past President. The photo features a two-tailed Great Plains Skink (Eumeces obsoletus). Congratulations to George --it is a signal honor to have his photography displayed internationally.

#### KANSAS ACADEMY OF SCIENCE APPLICATION ENCLOSED

Enclosed with this Newsletter is a membership application to the Kansas Academy of Science. All KHS members are encouraged to join the KAS. The KAS publishes original research manuscripts in its Transactions, and is the second oldest state academy of Science in this country.

