

KANSAS HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

Number 2

September 1974

TOPEKA ZOO KHS MEETING A SUCCESS

On 13 July 1974 we held our second KHS meeting at the world famous Topeka Zoo. Joseph T. Collins, Museum of Natural History at KU, gave a most educational talk on the reptiles and amphibians of the Pacific Northwest, and presented an array of impressive slides along with words.

Our thanks go to Topeka Zoo Director Gary Clarke, Zoo Editor Nancy Cherry, and General Curator John Wortman for making the Zoo's education room available for our meeting. The exotic background of the zoo made the meeting just that much more enjoyable, and all in attendance were most impressed with the new Tropical Rain Forest building.

A total of 47 individuals attended the KHS meeting, hailing from Salina, Junction City, Topeka, Wichita, Lawrence and Omaha (Nebraska). I was most pleased to see so many people from so many places make the effort to attend.

A discussion of society business followed the scheduled program, and I explained some of the many things the KHS Executive Council has accomplished so far. We are attempting to set up a question-answer type of radio talk show in Topeka in conjunction with the Topeka Zoo and Topeka Friends of the Zoo. Beginning with this issue of the KHS Newsletter we are including a short "Current Literature" section to contain books and articles of interest to KHS members. Also in this issue we set policy as pertains to exploitation of amphibians and reptiles. A list of Kansas herptiles is being compiled in hopes of printing a field checklist similar to that issued by the Kansas Ornithological Society.

Your KHS Executive Council is making progress, but we need help. Response to the KHS questionnaire in the last KHS Newsletter was most gratifying (see "Questionnaire Results" elsewhere in this issue). This gives the KHS officers a good idea of what you wish to do. Now we need committees to accomplish some of these objectives. This takes volunteers. So I'm asking for bodies -- if you wish to serve on a KHS committee, send a note to me at: 913 Indiana Street, Lawrence, Kansas, 66044.

Eric M. Rundquist, KHS President

KHS WILL MEET IN SEPTEMBER AT EMPORIA

The KHS will meet at Emporia Kansas State College on 28 September 1974 (Saturday). The meeting will start at 1:30 pm in Room 72 in Breukelman (Science) Hall. Robert F. Clarke, well-known herpetologist, will speak on lizards. See the last page of this issue for directions to Breukelman Hall on the EKSC campus. All members are urged to attend and bring friends.

QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS

The following is a breakdown of the responses to the four questions asked in the KHS Newsletter in June:

- 1) Concerning the goals of the KHS
 - a. educate the public regarding the usefulness of herptiles and how to identify them.
 - b. promote interactions and idea exchange between experienced and inexperienced herpetologists.
 - c. de-emphasize the keeping of amphibians and reptiles as pets.
- 2) Concerning possible programs for the KHS
 - a. support natural history and population studies of Kansas herptiles.
 - b. support tadpole identification projects.
 - c. support research projects by Kansas-oriented herpetologists.
 - d. compile list of current books and articles on herpetology for KHS members (Note: see "General Works" section in Collins' Amphibians and reptiles in Kansas for an extensive list of these).
 - e. conduct seminars concerning techniques of keeping and photographing amphibians and reptiles.
 - f. conduct workshops on identification of herptiles.
 - g. conduct annual herp count in selected areas of Kansas.
- 3) Concerning possible projects for the KHS
 - a. conservation of natural habitat areas in Kansas exhibiting a distinct herpetofauna.
 - b. make a stand against commercial exploitation of Kansas amphibians and reptiles by individuals and/or groups.
 - c. publish a list of rare and endangered herp species in Kansas (Note: see "Current Literature" in this issue -- such a list was just published).
 - d. advise civic groups of KHS as source for talks for these groups.
 - e. urge passage of legislation protecting Schermerhorn Park in Cherokee County and a portion of the Red Hills in southwest-central Kansas.
- 4) Concerning preferred KHS meeting programs (ranked by preference)
 - a. field trips
 - b. educational activities
 - c. speakers
 - d. tours and conservation

The questionnaire and tabulated results were devised and compiled by the KHS Program Committee consisting of Jan Perry, Mark Thiry, and Chris Sperry (Chairman).

KHS OFFICERS AND THEIR ADDRESSES

Anyone wishing to correspond with or contact KHS officers can write to them at the addresses listed below:

Eric M. Rundquist (KHS President)
913 Indiana Street
Lawrence, Kansas 66044

George Pisani (KHS Pres-elect)
Dept. Biological Sciences
University of Kansas
Lawrence, Kansas 66045

Mary E. Dawson (KHS Treasurer)
Topeka Zoological Park
635 Gage Boulevard
Topeka, Kansas 66606

Richard Lattis (KHS Secretary)
Museum of Natural History
University of Kansas
Lawrence, Kansas 66045

ASHTON TESTIFIES IN TOPEKA

Ray E. Ashton, coordinator of public education at KU's Museum of Natural History, testified on rare and endangered amphibians and reptiles in Kansas at a July meeting of the Kansas Legislature's Special Committee on Conservation and Natural Resources. His testimony was concerned with "Proposal 19: Endangered Species Legislation" currently being considered by the Kansas Legislature.

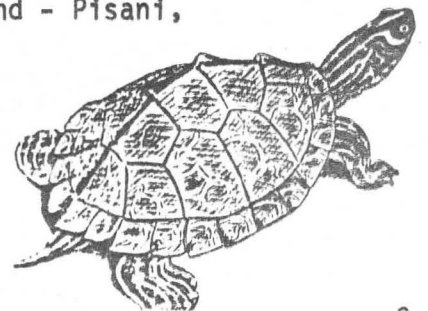
PERTINENT KHS EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MINUTES

The KHS Executive Council held meetings on 22 May and 29 June. At these meetings the Council:

- a. appointed Joseph T. Collins as KHS Newsletter editor until 1 January 1975.
- b. urged President Rundquist to investigate the Society's non-profit status with the IRS office in Topeka.
- c. proposed that the editor send introductory copies of the KHS Newsletter to KABT, KATS, AAZV, SSAR, and other appropriate organizations in order to increase membership.
- d. asked President-elect Pisani to explore the possibility of a KHS radio program in conjunction with WIBW, KANU or KLWN.
- e. appointed President-elect Pisani as KHS membership committee chairman. George discussed the idea of dividing the state into four regions with a KHS coordinator in each region.

In further action, the KHS Executive Council approved:

- a. the creation of a KHS Contributing Member category at \$15.00 per person per year (Moved - Rundquist, second - Pisani, passed unanimously).



- b. Redirected the KHS Newsletter editor to not publish any advertisements, private or commercial, which solicit trades or offer for sale any amphibian or reptile. Requests for specimens for legitimate research will be given full consideration by the KHS Newsletter editor. (Moved - Collins, second - Rundquist, passed unanimously).

Richard Lattis, KHS Secretary

SSAR MEETING ATTENDED BY KHS MEMBERS

The 17th annual meeting of the Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles was held on 14-16 August at Auburn University, Alabama. KHS members attending the SSAR meeting were Mary Dawson, Alan Savitzky, Ray Ashton, George Pisani, and Joseph Collins. The meeting was most enjoyable and featured an excellent live exhibit of Alabama amphibians and reptiles. Robert Mount (Auburn University) presented Mary Dawson (Topeka Zoo) with a fine pair of Alabama map turtles (Graptemys pulchra) which are now on exhibit at the Topeka Zoological Park.

MCLERAN IN "SPORTS AFIELD"

Vic McLeran, managing editor of Kansas Fish and Game, has another fine article in the August issue of Sports Afield. The article, entitled "The camouflaged copperhead" is about, naturally, copperheads and features quotes by Kansas herpetologists such as Robert F. Clarke, Henry S. Fitch, and Gary K. Clarke. Congratulations, Vic.

CURRENT LITERATURE

The following list is a compilation of books and articles which have recently appeared and may be of interest to KHS members:

Collins, J. T.

1974. Amphibians and reptiles in Kansas. Public Ed Series Mus. Nat. Hist. Univ. Kansas 1: 283pp. Available from the Museum of Natural History at KU for \$5.00 postpaid.

Czajka, A. F. & M. A. Nickerson

1974. The state laws regulating the collecting of reptiles and amphibians in the fifty United States. 79pp. Available for \$1.75 from Milwaukee Public Museum, 800 West Wells Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53233.

Nickerson, M. A. & C. E. Mays

1974. The hellbenders: North American Giant salamanders. 106pp. Available for \$4.25 from the Milwaukee Public Museum (see address above).

Platt, D. R., et al.

1974. Rare, endangered and extirpated species in Kansas II. Amphibians and reptiles. Trans. Kansas Acad. Sci., 76(3): 185-192. Available from the KHS Newsletter editor-

CURRENT LITERATURE (CONTINUED)

Shaw, C. E. & S. Campbell

1974. Snakes of the American West. 332pp. Available from A. A. Knopf, Inc., New York. Check with your local bookstore.

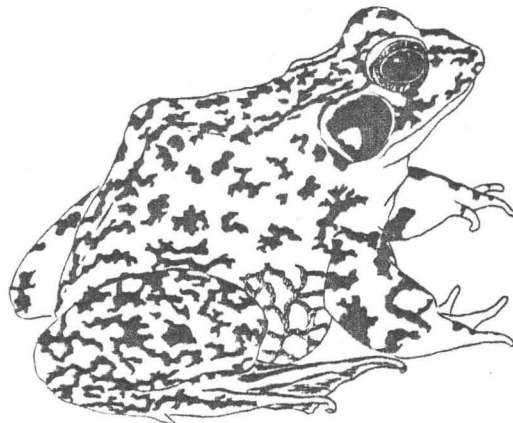
WASSERSUG TO CHICAGO

Richard Wassersug, assistant curator of herpetology at the Museum of Natural History at KU, has accepted a position of assistant professor in the Department of Anatomy at the University of Chicago. Chicago's gain is our loss. Good luck to Richard in his new job.

KHS NEWSLETTER FORMAT & FREQUENCY SET BY EDITOR

The KHS Newsletter will normally appear six times per year if sufficient interest permits. Each issue should appear prior to a KHS meeting. The editor earnestly solicits news notes for your KHS Newsletter. In particular, short notes on current projects involving Kansas amphibians and reptiles are needed.

The editor would like to thank Charlotte Leviton (KU), Valerie Murphy (KU), and Shelley Skie (Lawrence) for their assistance in the preparation of this issue of the KHS Newsletter.



-- Joseph T. Collins, KHS Newsletter editor, Museum of Natural History, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas 66045.

KHS PROGRAM COMMITTEE QUESTIONNAIRE

The KHS Program Committee, after the good response received from this questionnaire in the first KHS Newsletter, wishes to hear from those KHS members who did not respond the last time. Please return the questionnaire to Mary Dawson (address below).

- 1) What should be the goals of the KHS? Be specific regarding implementation of suggested goals.

- 2) What programs would you like to see the KHS plan for its meetings? Please list specific examples (slide talks, etc.) and give details.

- 3) What public projects should the KHS consider? Please give specific examples.

- 4) Number in order of preference what you most wish to participate in:
 - speaker presentation
 - field trips
 - educational workshops
 - other (be specific) _____

KHS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Interested persons may join the Kansas Herpetological Society by applying for regular membership (\$3.00) or Contributing membership (\$15.00). All members receive the KHS Newsletter and are entitled to participate in all Society functions. Make checks payable to: Kansas Herpetological Society.

Your name _____

Address _____

_____ zip code

Please return this application with your dues to: Mary Dawson, KHS Treasurer, Topeka Zoological Park, 635 Gage Boulevard, Topeka, Kansas, 66606.

EMPORIA KANSAS STATE COLLEGE

Office of Admissions:

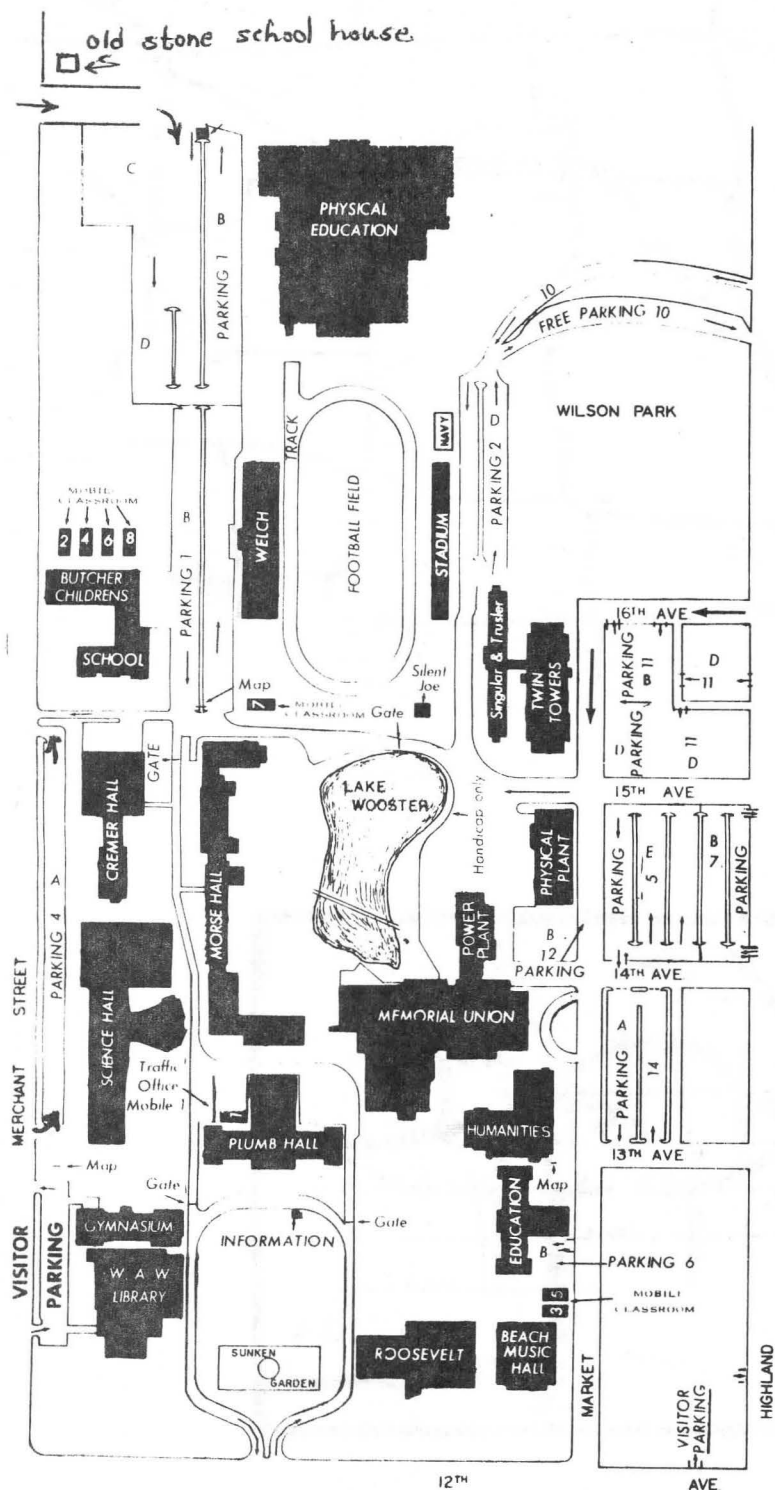
Dave Eldridge Director

Jan Jantzen Assistant Director

Tom Klotz Admissions Counselor

Plumb Hall Room 103

Telephone 343-1200 ext. 465



KANSAS HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING

ROOM 72 SCIENCE HALL
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28
1:30 p.m.

BIOLOGY DEPARTMENT IS IN THE NORTH END OF THE SCIENCE HALL.

PARKING LOT 4 A (WEST SIDE OF SCIENCE HALL) HAS 25¢ CHARGE. ENTER AT SOUTH END. FREE PARKING IN LOTS 1 B BETWEEN BUTCHER CHILDRENS SCHOOL AND WELCH STADIUM. ENTER AT NORTH END BY TURNING INTO STREET OFF OF MERCHANT STREET WHERE OLD STONE SCHOOL HOUSE IS.

ALSO PLENTY OF FREE PARKING IN LOTS ON EAST SIDE OF CAMPUS.

Campus Building Guide:

- HUMANITIES** — Departments of Speech and Art
- EDUCATION** — School of Education and Psychology
- BEACH MUSIC HALL** — Department of Music
- ROOSEVELT** — Department of Sociology
- PLUMB HALL** — Departments of Foreign Language, Social Science and English
- SCIENCE HALL** — Departments of Physical Science, Biology and Mathematics
- CREMER HALL** — Departments of Industrial Education, Home Economics and Division of Business and Business Education
- PHYSICAL EDUCATION** — Division of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Athletics
- MEMORIAL UNION** — Cafeteria
- MORSE HALL** — Housing Office and Financial Aids

