



NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 28

DECEMBER 1978

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Kansas Herpetological Society has had another good year. Many of its members have worked real hard with the elected officers to give the Society excellent programs, field trips and newsletters. A number of KHS members represented the Society at the SSAR-HL-ASIH meetings held at Arizona State University in Tempe, Arizona during the spring of 1978. The Holbrook contest brought new writers for the Newsletter and many good articles. Lots of members contributed to the non-animal auction that was held at the annual meeting. This auction netted the Society over \$250. Of course, the KHS continues to add to the knowledge of Kansas herpetology by adding more and more county records to the list.

Yes, 1978 has been a good year and coming years can be even better.

The Society looks forward to the leadership of Kelly Irwin, Peter Gray and future presidents, but as in the past they will need the help of you -- THE MEMBERS.

---LARRY MILLER
President KHS 1978



FIRST 1979 MEETING TO BE HELD IN LAWRENCE

The first 1979 meeting of the Kansas Herpetological Society will be held on 13 January 1979 in Dyche Auditorium (308 Dyche), in the Museum of Natural History on the University of Kansas campus in Lawrence. Members and friends should plan to arrive by 1:00 PM. At 1:30 PM, Dr. Robert F. Clarke (Emporia State University) will speak about his trip last December to the Bahamas. A short break will follow his presentation. In addition Darrel Frost (University of Kansas) will speak before the group about herping in Sonora. Both talks will be accompanied by slides. Bring slides, if you wish, to show after the presentations for another great KHS slide show.

What better way to spend a cold, snowy Saturday afternoon in January than at a KHS meeting watching slides and hearing stories of herping in more southern climates? Please plan to attend -- bring friends! Marjorie Perry will be there to collect anyone's \$4.00 membership dues for 1979.

The KHS Executive Council will meet in the foyer of the Natural History Museum at noon on 13 January 1979. They will then proceed to the Kansas Union for lunch and an Executive Council Meeting. Anyone is welcome to attend these board meetings.

Hope to see you all on 13 January 1979 in Lawrence!

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KHS ELECTION RESULTS -- OUR FEARLESS LEADERS FOR 1979

At the fifth annual meeting of the Kansas Herpetological Society, two persons were elected to serve as officers for 1979. Peter Gray (Wichita) was chosen KHS President-Elect and Marjorie Perry (Lawrence) was re-elected KHS Secretary-Treasurer. The 1978 President (Larry Miller, Caldwell) will assume the position of Past-President for 1979 and the 1978 President-Elect (Kelly Irwin, Topeka) assumes the KHS Presidency for 1979. The 1978 Executive Council appointed Janice Perry (Lawrence) to continue her services as Editor for the Society during 1979. The 1979 officers for the Kansas Herpetological Society are:

PRESIDENT: Kelly Irwin (913-354-1195)

2218 West 2nd Street Topeka, Kansas 66606

PRESIDENT-ELECT: Peter Gray (316-682-0624)

Sedgwick County Zoo 5555 Zoo Boulevard Wichita, Kansas 67022 PAST-PRESIDENT: Larry Miller (316-845-2680)

524 North Osage Street Caldwell, Kansas 67022

SECRETARY-TREASURER: Marjorie Perry (913-843-8270)

812 Murrow Court

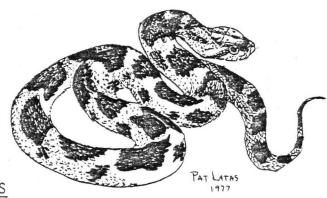
Lawrence, Kansas 66044

EDITOR: Janice Perry (913-864-4920)

Museum of Natural History University of Kansas Lawrence, Kansas 66045

The KHS wishes to thank Robert Clarke for his fine services during his term as KHS President-Elect, President, and Past-President.

Also, thanks go to the nominating committee: James Knight, Eric Rundquist and Andrea Stammler, and to the electors: Joseph Collins and Kelly Irwin.



SAVE THESE IMPORTANT KHS DATES

The KHS Executive Council has planned the 1979 meeting and field trip dates of the Society, as follows:

Meeting January 13
Meeting March 24
Field Trip May 25-28
Field Trip July 20-22
Field Trip September 14-16
6th Annual Meeting November 17

Be sure you mark these dates down on your calendar and plan to attend! Bring friends, too!

FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING HELD IN CALDWELL

The Fifth Annual Meeting of the Kansas Herpetological Society was held on 18 November 1978 in Caldwell, Kansas. Like all other KHS meetings, this meeting was full of excitement! Not just the meeting itself was exciting (but then, aren't all KHS meetings fun and exciting?) --- also the events preceding the meeting.

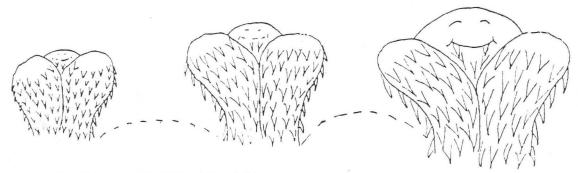
As most of the eager members approached the Caldwell metropolis from the east, they were confronted by a derailed train! A few members, realizing the available options, elected to park their cars, crawl over the train and risk their lives prowling the backstreets of Caldwell in search of the community building. Other KHS'ers decided to take back roads until another entrance into Caldwell was found. There may still be a few lost souls wondering aimlessly in the barren countryside in southeast Kansas. More likely than not, these lost KHS'ers are still trying to unglue their cars from the sticky mud! Those lucky members who had car and bus troubles, managed to miss the excitement of the derailed train altogether!

Despite all the mishaps, the meeting began on schedule with Joseph Collins speaking on rattlesnakes. He had numerous slides of these serpents, both rare and common forms. It was quite an enjoyable presentation. Afterwards, the group left for a neighborhood restaurant for chow and socializing.

With full stomachs, the group returned to the meeting site. They received a warm welcome from Larry Miller, to Caldwell and to the 5th Annual KHS Meeting. Larry then opened the meeting with the election of officers for 1979. Peter Gray (President-elect) and Marjorie Perry (Secretary-Treasurer) won the election. Next, Janice Perry made the presentations for the Holbrook contest. Al Kamb received first place, Amy Li was awarded the second place prize and Marty Capron won third.

When the business portion of the meeting was over, friends and members gathered for a group photograph. Afterwards, the crew collected itself inside for the first KHS non-animal auction. Joseph Collins was the auctioneer, and the membership kept dishing out the money like there was no end! This was the Society's first money-making project, and was quite a success (only you -- THE MEMBERSHIP COULD HAVE MADE IT AS SUCCESSFUL AS IT WAS!) -- THANK YOU members! A very short slide show followed the auction. The meeting ended around 4:30 PM.

This meeting was very enjoyable and well supported by the membership. Let's see even a bigger turnout at the January meeting in Lawrence.

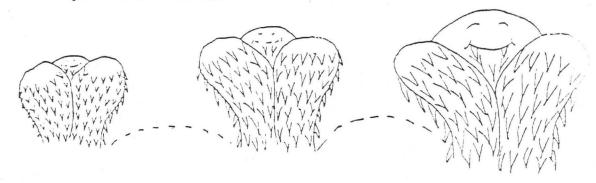


THE KHS TRIPLE -H- AVARD FOR 1978

The uniqueness and delicacy that nature has provided for most of her inhabitants has long fascinated people, from the long-necked grace-fulness of giraffes, to homing instincts found in salmon, and even to the scaley beauty of reptiles. All aspects of wildlife are necessary and can be appreciated by everyone. Various types of institutions have been established to display this wide array of wildlife to a public that may not have a chance to view these animals in their natural habitat. Unfortunately, unethical practices persist among animal dealers dealing with wildlife in general, and amphibians and reptiles in particular.

Some of these animal dealers exploit reptiles and amphibians; normal specimens, as well as exotics or unusual ones such as albinos and color or pattern variants. People are encouraged to possess the most unusual animals: the protected species, or the highly dangerous forms (at the highest price, of course). The methods these dealers use for obtaining animals are frequently unethical, often ignoring the status of an individual species and/or state, federal and international laws. They import animals illegally without proper permits, and ofter solicit persons to rape certain areas of the country, indifferent of the effects their actions will have on the environment.

With the humane interest of all abused amphibians and reptiles, the KHS Editor takes this opportunity to problingly award the HOPPING HEMIPENIS OF HORROR for 1978 to all those animal dealers and their customers who profit from the selling of reptiles and amphibians. Jeers to those who support this insanely stupid exploitation of the world's herpetofauna. Here's hoping the feds get wind of the situation and envenomate you where it hurts!!



CURRENT LITERATURE

This current literature section has been compiled by J. T. Collins, and contains titles of books and articles on amphibians and reptiles of possible interest to KHS members. Generally, titles listed here are those written by KHS members, those which contain direct reference to Kansas herpetofauna, or those of significance regarding North American amphibians and reptiles.

- Collins, J. T.
 - 1978. Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles. Assoc. Syst. Collections Newsletter, 6(5): 49-50.
- Fitch, H.
 1978. Sexual size differences in the genus <u>Sceloporus</u>. Univ. Kansas Sci. Bull., 51(13): 441-461.
- Harris, H. S. and R. S. Simmons
 1978. A preliminary account of the rattlesnakes with the descriptions of four new subspecies. Bull. Maryland Herp. Soc., 14(3): 105-211.
- Minton, S. A.
 1978. Beware: Nonpoisonous snakes. Natural History, 87(9): 56-61.
- Myers, C. W., J. W. Daly and B. Malkin
 1978. A dangerously toxic new frog (Phyllobates) used by Embera
 Indians of western Colombia, with discussion of blowgun
 fabrication and dart poisoning. Bull. American Mus. Nat.
 Hist., 161(2): 307-366. Available for \$5.95 from: Publications,
 American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West at 79th
 Street, New York, New York 10024.
- Rundquist, E. M., Stegall, E., Grow, D. and P. Gray 1978. New herpetological records from Kansas. Trans. Kansas Acad. Sci., 81(1): 73-77.
- Turtles. A new magazine on all aspects of turtles. Available for \$11.00 per year (4 issues) from: Turtles Magazine, P.O. Box 2237, Pueblo, Colorado 81005.

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AL KAMB WINS HOLBROOK CONTEST

At the KHS Executive Council Meeting on 9 July 1977 at Ottawa County State Lake, the executive council decided to initiate a contest to award the SSAR facsimile reprint of John Holbrook's North American Herpetology to the winning KHS member.

Briefly, the contest rules stated that the first place prize will be

the book, a second place prize will be a set of color plates from the book, and a third place prize will be a free 1979 membership in the KHS. Winners must be KHS members (1977 and 1978 Executive Council members, excluded) and write an article on Kansas amphibians and/or reptiles to appear in the KHS Newsletter between October 1977 and October 1978.

Based on the above rules, the judging committee (Joseph Collins, Larry Miller and Janice Perry) decided upon three individuals to receive the prizes. The first place prize (Holbrook book) was awarded to Al Kamb, University of Kansas, for his article entitled "Food consumption in the red milk snake Lampropeltis triangulum syspilia". Amy Li, University of Kansas, received the second place prize -- a set of color plates for her article "Comparative reproduction studies of two colubrid snakes". Martin B. Capron was awarded the third place prize (a 1979 membership in the KHS) for his article "Notes on the possible occurance of broad-banded copperheads in Kansas".

Many thanks to all those individuals who wrote articles for the KHS Newsletter during 1978. Also, many thanks to the judging committee.

FIRST KHS NON-ANIMAL AUCTION A SUCCESS

At the Fifth Annual KHS Meeting the first non-animal auction was held. All items auctioned were donated by KHS members. Among the items auctioned were: color slides, color photographs, books, snake hooks, critter bags, aquariums, pen and ink drawings, Holbrook color plates and a few color slide surprise packages. The total profit from the auction was \$254.73, which was added to the KHS treasury. The highest bid received on any one item was \$21.00 for an-almost-complete set of Holbrook color plates. Books and publications brought in a total of \$75.00!

Many thanks are due to the auctioneer: Joseph Collins. Also, thanks go to all those people who donated items for the auction, and to those persons who brought money with them to buy the items! Without the help of everyone the auction would not have been a success.

KHS MEMBERS INVITED TO WILDLIFE STUDY

The third annual Chikaskia River Wildlife Study is being planned for 13-15 April 1979. It will be held on private land near Drury, Kansas along the beautiful Chikaskia River. There will be at least one organized field trip, several live herps will be available to photograph, evening campfires and more will highlight the study.

Mark these dates on your calendar now. Contact Larry Miller at 524 North Osage in Caldwell, Kansas for more information.

LHS teacher to head group

Lawrence High School biology teacher Stan Roth has been chosen president-elect of the 9,000-member National Association of Biology Teachers for 1979 and will be president of the group in 1980.

Roth, who has taught at LHS for 20 years, said he will be responsible for steering the organization of college and high school teachers in a more activist direction.

"We have been very conservative up to this point and have a mandate from the membership to get with it," he said. "We will be taking stands on political issues — such as sex education, evolution, genetic engineering and environmental concerns —

as they affect the classroom."
Roth said his increased involvement in the association will involve executive committee meetings several times a year and an annual convention in October but it will not interfere with his teaching duties.

Reprinted from: The Lawrence Daily Journal World, 30 November 1978.

KHS EDITORS EXTEND THEIR THANKS

The editors of the <u>Kansas Herpetological</u>
<u>Society Newsletter</u> would like to thank the following persons who gave their energy, time, interest and support in the production of the KHS Newsletter during 1978. Jeff Black, Don Burgdorfer, Joseph Collins, Kelly Irwin, Jim Knight, Larry Miller, Mary Ellen Nelson, George Pisani, Laura Palmer, Mary Palmer, Scott Palmer, Eldon Perry, John Perry, Marjorie Perry, Eric Rundquist, Sean Santoro, Terry Schwaner, and Clifford Schwartz.

Additional thanks go to those members whose articles and art work graced the pages during the year. Martha Bickford, Marty Capron, Gregg Goff, Al Kamb, Anita Kern, Tom Johnson, Pat Latas, Amy Li, Delfi Messinger, Barbara Paschke, Leslie Rice, Shelley Skie, Michelle Warner and Rob Wencel.

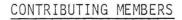
And finally, thanks go to Dr. Frank B. Cross, Dr. William E. Duellman and Dr. Philip S. Humphrey at the Museum of Natural History on the University of Kansas campus for the use of the facilities in the Museum.

---The KANSAS HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER is issued every other month by the Kansas Herpetological Society. All interested persons are invited to become members. Membership dues per calendar year are: \$4.00 (regular) and \$15.00 (contributing) payable to: Marjorie Perry, KHS Secretary-Treasurer, 812 Murrow Court, Lawrence, Kansas 66044. All manuscripts and notes should be sent to the Editor. EDITOR: Janice Perry, Museum of Natural History, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas 66045. ASSOCIATE EDITOR: Rose Etta Kurtz, Museum of Natural History, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas 66045.



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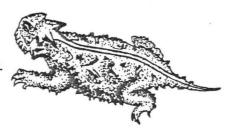
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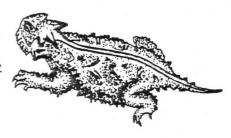
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KANSAS HERPETOLOGICAL

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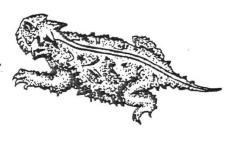
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Zoo Odyssey, 306 Tropicalia, Jensen Beach, FL 33457





VALUABLE KHS GOODS!

A Brief Outline of Suggested Treatments for Diseases of Captive Reptiles, by James B. Murphy. Published by the Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles and the Kansas Herpetological Society. 1975.

Single copies are available at U.S. \$1.00 each (\$0.75 each for orders of 25 or more) including postage. Orders may be sent to: Henri C. Seibert, Department of Zoology, Ohio University, Athens, Ohio 45701, USA.

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