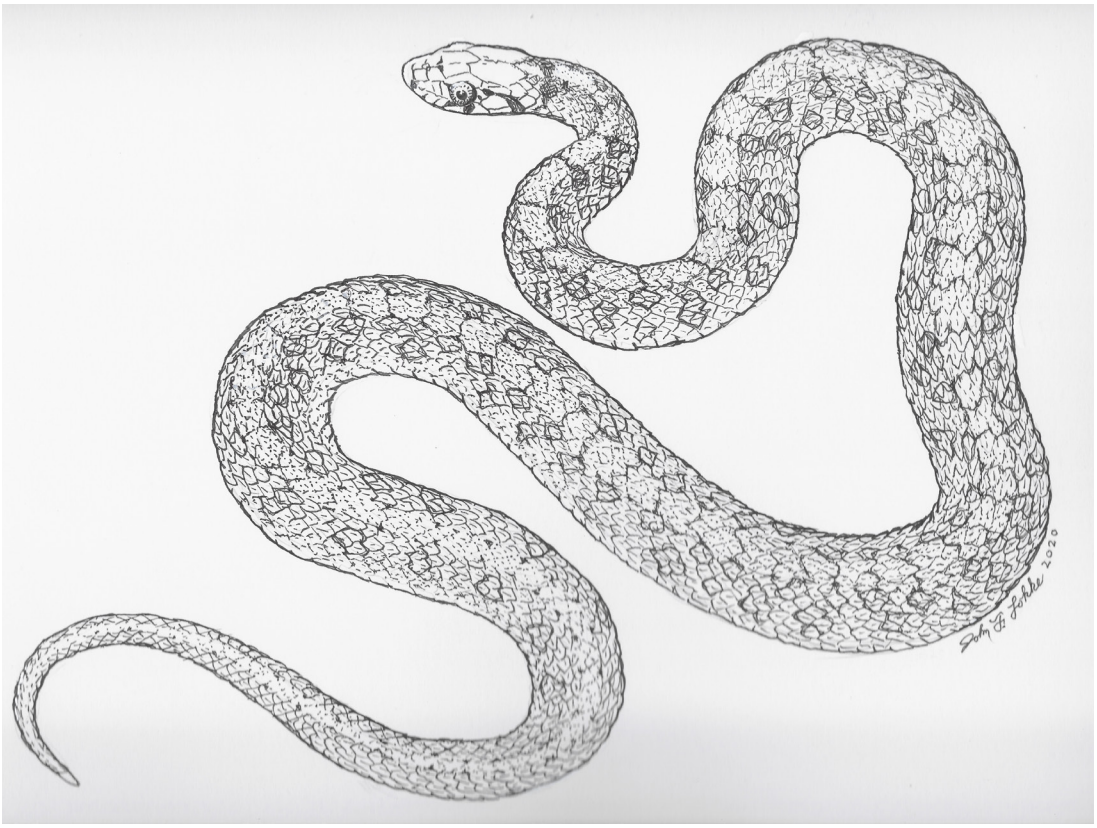
ISSN 1540-773X

Collinsorum

THE NEWSLETTER/JOURNAL OF THE KANSAS HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Volume 11, Number 1 October 2022



1974-2022

Published by the Kansas Herpetological Society
ksherp.com

Front Cover: DeKay's Brownsnake, *Storeria dekay*i, pen and ink by John Lokke, 2020. This is one of over 65 illustrations for the forthcoming informative coloring book for all ages on the Amphibians and Reptiles of Nebraska by Dennis Ferraro, Jacki Loomis, and John Lokke.

www.cnah.org/khs/

ISSN 1540-773X

Collinsorum

Volume 11, Number 1 — October 2022

TABLE OF CONTENTS

KHS BUSINESS

ARTICLES

KHS BUSINESS

KHS ANNUAL MEETING CALL FOR PAPERS, POSTERS, AND AUCTION ITEMS

The 49th annual meeting of the Kansas Herpetological Society will be held 5-6 November 2022 at Missouri Southern State University, 3950 E Newman Road, Joplin, MO 64801. Scientific paper sessions and general meeting activities will be held in the Billingsly Student Center Ballroom while the annual KHS Auction and associated festivities will be held at the North End Zone facility across campus. Effective immediately, the Society is accepting titles for talks to be presented at the meeting. The KHS annual meeting provides an opportunity for herpetologists and other like-minded individuals interested in amphibians and reptiles to come together for scientific lectures and friendly intellectual discussion. There is ample opportunity for socializing in a collegial and supportive atmosphere. Meeting registration is only $15.00.

This year's keynote speaker is Dr. Rulon Clark. Dr. Clark is an integrative biologist from San Diego State University and has an extensive publication record on diverse systems including behavior, natural history, physiology, biomechanics, and foraging ecology. Dr. Clark will be presenting portions of his work on rattlesnakes in his keynote address titled "The feeding ecology and hunting behavior of free-ranging rattlesnakes." You will not want to miss this!

Herpetologists at all levels of expertise are encouraged and urged to give a scientific paper presentations. An award and stipend of $200 (The George Toland Award for Ecological Research on North American Herpetofauna) will be presented for an outstanding student presentation at the end of the meeting, so students are strongly encouraged to participate. The $100 Meshaka Award for best poster will also be awarded. Additionally, the Suzanne L. & Joseph T. Collins Award for Excellence in Kansas Herpetology, a $1,000 prize. Being an even-numbered year, the Collins Award will be awarded for the best publication/presentation.

The annual fund-raising auction held at the MSSU North End Zone facility on Saturday evening. KHS will provide FREE BEER, SOFT DRINKS, and SNACKS. Please bring herpetological items for the auction. Hold them and bring them to the auction site Saturday evening. We count on you to bring items about amphibians, reptiles, and other stuff oriented to herpetology. PLEASE DO NOT BRING LIVING OR DEAD ANIMALS. No specimens or body parts of herpetofauna will be sold at auction."

49th Annual Meeting Call for Auction Items

It's that time again, folks. The KHS annual meeting is right around the corner, and so is the ever-popular live auction! The KHS Auction supports our scholarships, grants, and awards, plus sponsorship of the pocket guide series that features KS herps.

Every year, KHS funds its awards and conservation sponsorships through subjectively valued items sold at the auction. As such, we are calling for any items that may fit the description of "loosely associated with herpetology, and/or herpers." Historical items seen at the auction include (but are definitely not limited to) field/hiking/camping equipment, books, art, "art," posters, herping experiences, clothing (either new, used, or stolen from comrades), knick-knacks, paddywacks, and the disappointment of bidding rivals. The value of many objects is likely to be dubious, and subjective. Please, no live/dead animals or parts though. Remember, the correlation between price and value is more often a myth than reality at the KHS auction. Bid early, bid often, and support the KHS! :)

The auction will be held in the North End Zone Facility on Saturday night! Please bring items for auction directly to the facility. KHS Treasurer Dexter Mardis will be organizing the setup of the auction, along with auctioneers who may or may not be selected at random from the audience. Anyone wishing to donate items to the auction who cannot attend that night is encouraged to contact the KHS Treasurer at treasurer.khs@gmail.com to make other arrangements.

New Award Announcement: Curtis J. Schmidt Award for Public Education and Engagement

As we all are aware by now, the KHS and herpetology in general has been rocked by the sudden, tragic loss of Curtis J. Schmidt on June 16. As such, the KHS Executive Council has established the Curtis J. Schmidt to be given in his memory at our annual meetings starting this November. Curtis was unparalleled in recent KHS memory in his ability to reach out to folks with welcoming smiles and handshakes, entrapping them with his communicable desire to learn and educate. Throughout the last 20 years, Curtis served KHS by wearing many different hats. He sat on or led several committees and is the only person in KHS's 49-year history to serve as President twice (2006 and 2019). Curtis also served as Editor for several years.

To honor his memory, we will present the Schmidt Award to deserving individuals or organizations who match Curtis' ability to engage and educate the public about Kansas' herpetofauna. The award will be given out at the KHS Annual Meetings whenever an appropriate candidate is identified. KHS members are encouraged to nominate candidates for the award by emailing the KHS Awards Chairperson.

New Award Announcement: The Suzanne L. and Larry L. Miller Grant for Kansas Public School Teachers

Lifelong advocates for public education, hands-on learning, and boots-on-the-ground experiences, Suzanne and Larry Miller have spent more than 60 years of combined servitude in educating Kansas youth about herpetology. Suzanne served as a librarian at both the Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library. Larry taught middle school science in Caldwell, and later in the Topeka area as well. Whether it was during one of their hundreds of outreach programs, or on an actual school field trip around the country, Suzanne and Larry have affected thousands of lives. Honoring the Millers' life missions, the Suzanne L. & Larry L. Miller Grant for Kansas Public School Teachers provides up to $350 to support teachers in Kansas public schools who strive to give students hands-on, in-the-field experiences with Kansas amphibians and reptiles. Proposals may be submitted throughout the year, and will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. Teachers of Grades 1–12 in Kansas public school systems are encouraged to apply.

Miller Grants may be used to fund student learning experiences relating to Kansas herpetofauna or to attend organized herpetological events such as KHS field trips. Examples of use are transportation costs, food for students, field equipment, and camping supplies. Applications should meet the following criteria:

- Proposals must be submitted in hard copy to the KHS Awards Committee Chairperson (information is below). An electronic copy may be included as well, if desired.
- Grant submissions will include an itemized budget, and a brief statement of how it may enhance the understanding of Kansas herpetology for the teacher as well as the students.
- Proposals shall state where the teacher is presently teaching and/or will be teaching during the school year in which the funds will

be spent.

In addition to the above proposal criteria, awarded teachers are expected to provide a field trip report with the following information:

- Number of students included in the activity, as well as other teachers or aids who attended.
- A budgetary report.
- A summary statement of the recipient's satisfaction with the project, including activities from the trip, and what (if any) improvements could be made in the future.
- Photographs showing the students taking part in the event.

Reports are due to the KHS Awards Committee Chairperson no more than 60 days after the supported event.

KHS Awards Committee Chairperson:
Daniel D. Fogell
Arts and Sciences Division, 8800 O St.
Southeast Community College
Lincoln, Nebraska 68520
Dfogell@southeast.edu

New Award Announcement: The Gann Award for Women in Herpetology

Inspired by her father's unconditional support of her love for herpetology, Eva Gann has started the Gann Award for Women in Herpetology to honor his memory. To be given out yearly at the KHS Annual Meeting, the $300 Gann Award is intended to empower, inspire, support, and celebrate women in Herpetology.

The final terms and scope of the award are not yet decided but look for an announcement soon for more details.

KHS hopes to fund these awards in perpetuity and is asking for donations to empower this goal. If you wish to donate toward these goals, or any other of KHS' awards, checks made out to KHS may be mailed to the KHS Treasurer at:

Dexter Mardis
Biology, Box 26
1845 N Fairmount
Wichita, KS 67260

The KHS Webstore also accepts credit and debit donations.

Other Herp Happenings in Kansas

The 83rd Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference meets in Overland Park, KS February 12-15, 2023. Includes special session on Herps.

The Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference will host a special symposium entitled "The Importance of Conserving Nongame Species: Case Studies of Amphibians and Reptiles in the Great Plains. The symposia introduction reads as follows: Midwestern amphibian and reptile populations continue to face multiple threats to their health and persistence including habitat loss and fragmentation, climate change, the illegal wildlife trade, and emerging diseases. Because many these species often have relatively small home-ranges, as compared to larger game-species, they can serve as indicators of local land conservation and management efforts. Conservation of these taxa will require collaboration and cooperation from diverse stakeholders: local, federal, and tribal governments, research institutes, zoos and aquariums, non-profits, and the public. The objective of this symposium is to share current efforts and needs that will help us preserve Midwestern amphibian and reptile diversity in the Plains states, and beyond. This symposium seeks to provide a platform to share current research, management actions, and technologies and to foster collaborations for the conservation of amphibians and reptiles.

More Information can be found at: https://www.midwestfw.org/

Articles

New Newts: Population Discovered in Southeast Kansas

Emma M. Buckardt, Christine C. Rega-Brodsky, and Andrew D. George
Department of Biology, Pittsburg State University, Pittsburg, Kansas 66762

Eastern Newts (*Notophthalmus viridescens*) are a widespread and common species across eastern North America. Their range extends to the easternmost counties in Kansas. The Eastern Newt is listed as a Tier 1 Species of Greatest Conservation Need in Kansas due to their limited range and infrequent occurrence (Rohweder, 2015). Prior to 2021, this species has been documented in Bourbon, Cherokee, Linn, and Miami cos., Kansas (Taggart, 2021).

On March 25, 2021, we captured an Eastern Newt on Mined Land Wildlife Area (MLWA) Unit 6, approximately 3 km west of Pittsburg, KS (Figure 1). The individual was an adult female with a total length of 81 mm and was the first known record for Crawford County. We captured the newt using a minnow trap containing a glow stick as a lure in a small strip pit pond (hereafter "pond") left over from coal mining (Figure 2).

On May 25, 2021, we captured a 76-mm adult female in the same pond in a minnow trap containing a glow stick as a lure. On the same day, we captured a larval Eastern Newt in a dipnet in a marsh on the same MLWA. This larva was approximately 10 mm long and only had front limbs. On the following day we captured a second larva at the marsh and a third female adult (total length of 75 mm) in the pond.

On June 25, 2021, we captured two adults in the pond, one in a minnow trap and one with a dipnet. One individual was a female with a total length of 75 mm and the other was a male with a total length of 90 mm. On the same day we captured three larval newts in the marsh with a dipnet. The marsh had dried following the previous sampling period until it was a tenth of the size that it was in May. Flooding occurred on the evening of June 25, substantially increasing the water level in both the strip pit and marsh. Despite the increase in water levels, we captured 11 larval newts with a dipnet on June 26, 2021. Sizes were variable, although all individuals had both sets of legs (Figure 3). On the same day we captured a 90-mm adult and a larval newt in the pond. The adult was captured in a minnow trap with a glow stick and the larva was captured in a dipnet.

In total, six adults and one larva were captured in the pond and 16 larvae were captured in the marsh. The pond was surrounded by trees and shrubs and had 5 other ponds within about 30 m of its perimeter. The vegetation structure within the pond included leaf litter, woody debris, and duckweed (*Lemna minor*) covered about half of its surface. The pond had an average pH of 6.7. The marsh was completely surrounded by grassland and was managed for waterfowl by water manipulation and tilling. In March it was full of water and covered 1.92 ha. By May the water level had dropped to 15 cm and the total area was 0.18 ha. The marsh consisted of about 90% emergent and floating vegetation during May and June and had an average pH of 7.0. The pond and marsh were approximately 0.65 km away from each other and both had evidence of newt breeding activity, which likely indicates that there is a larger population of Eastern Newts on the MLWA.

We found this population of newts on a former strip-mining site that has been naturally revegetated. There were no known historic records of Eastern Newts in the county, and it is unclear whether this is a remnant population from pre-mining or a new colonization. Other amphibian species have continued to populate small refugia in heavily mined landscapes, which suggests that a local newt population may have persisted through the decades of mining operations (Hinkle et al., 2018). If the population was not present prior to mining, or was extirpated due to mining, colonization of the MLWA may have occurred from other populations in Kansas or Missouri. The closest records to the MLWA are from near the Spring River, approximately 23 km south in Cherokee Co. Kansas. Adults or juveniles (efts) may have traveled along the Spring River's forested tributaries to reach the MLWA, which is connected via Second

Cow Creek. Another possibility is that newts dispersed from undiscovered populations in Crawford Co. or other counties to the north, south, or east. However, the improving water quality of Spring River and its tributaries may have aided in the ability for newts to disperse over both water and land (Boroughs, 2020). Mined lands may have allowed for this range expansion, as mined lands can increase habitats like wetlands that would not otherwise exist in the region (Lannoo et al., 2009). These sites were confirmed to have a breeding population in 2022, with both sites having adults and larvae present.

Figure 1. First Crawford County record Eastern Newt (*Notophthalmus viridescens*).

Figure 2. The pond where the adult Eastern-Newts were captured, on June 25, 2021.

Figure 3. Two larval newts captured with a dipnet in the marsh on June 26,2021.

Literature Cited

Boroughs, K. 2020. Comparison of Threatened Neosho Madtom Densities Between Riverscapes Differing in Anthropogenic Stressors, with a Particular Focus on Recovery from Mining-derived Metal Pollution. Electronic Theses & Dissertations. https://digitalcommons.pittstate.edu/etd/344

Hinkle, M. P., Gardner, L. A., White, E., Smith, W. H., & VanGundy, R. D. 2018. Remnant Habitat Patches Support Green Salamanders (*Aneides aeneus*) on Active and Former Appalachian Surface Mines. Herpetological Conservation and Biology, 13(3), 634–641.

Lannoo, M., Kinney, V., Heemeyer, J., Engbrecht, N., Gallant, A., & Klaver, R. 2009. Mine Spoil Prairies Expand Critical Habitat for Endangered and Threatened Amphibian and Reptile Species. Diversity, 1(2), 118–132. https://doi.org/10.3390/d1020118

Rohweder, M. R. 2015. Kansas Wildlife Action Plan (p. 176). Ecological Services Section, Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism in cooperation with the Kansas Biological Survey.

Taggart, T. W. 2021, April. Kansas Herpetofaunal Atlas: Eastern Newt. https://webapps.fhsu.edu/ksHerp/account.aspx?o=31&t=38

Chicken of the Trees and Corn: A Red Cornsnake, *Pantherophis guttatus*, Depredates a Green Iguana, *Iguana iguana*, at Hugh Taylor Birch State Park, Florida

[1]Shane Williams, [1]Gary S. Busch, and *[2]Walter E. Meshaka, Jr.
[1]Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Recreation & Parks, D5, Hugh Taylor Birch State Park, 3109 E Sunrise Blvd, Ft Lauderdale, FL 33304
*[2]Section of Zoology and Botany, State Museum of Pennsylvania, 300 North Street, Harrisburg, PA 17120
*Corresponding author: wmeshaka@pa.gov

The Green Iguana, *Iguana iguana*, has been known to Florida since first reported in 1966, where one of two concentrations of the species was associated with a release of a few hundred individuals associated with the pet trade (King and Krakauer, 1966). The Green Iguana remains a staple in the pet trade and is highly successful in much of southern Florida (Meshaka, 2011; Meshaka et al., 2022). This species is prey to several vertebrate predators in southern Florida (see review by Meshaka, 2011). Most notable, at Hugh Taylor Birch State Park (HTBSP), Broward County, the management policy of culling an overabundant Raccoon, *Procyon lotor*, population resulted in an unexpected rapid and profound population explosion of this previously rare lizard (Meshaka et al., 2007). The Red Cornsnake, *Pantherophis guttatus*, is a common snake at HTBSP. We report predation of the Green Iguana by a Red Cornsnake. At 0627 hrs on 12 May 2022, SSW encountered and photographed a predator-prey interaction between the two species on a road in the park. A male Red Cornsnake was entwined around, and engulfing the head of, what appeared to be a young-of-the-year individual (Figure 1). The protected nature of the park increased the likelihood of successful movement by the snake to the hammock after ingestion of what would be a substantial meal. Although the depredations by this species are unlikely to have a significant impact on the HTBSP Green Iguana population, it is likely not an uncommon event and presumed to have occurred while the lizard was asleep. A seasonal flush of young iguanas can serve as a seasonally abundant and nutritious food source for segments of a Red Cornsnake population such as HTBSP, which likewise can benefit from the Brown Anole, *Anolis sagrei*, also ubiquitous at this park.

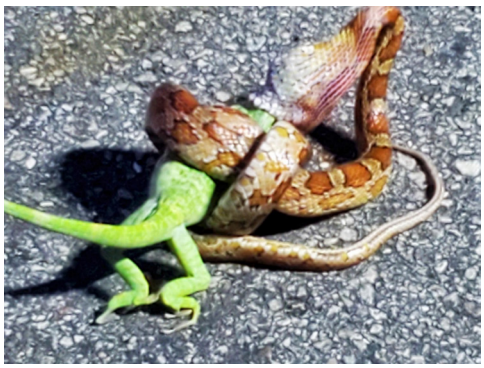


Figure 1. A young-of the year Green Iguana, *Iguana iguana*, captured by a male Red Cornsnake, *Pantherophis guttatus*, at Hugh Taylor Birch State Park, Broward County, Florida, 12 May 2022. Photographed by S. Williams.

Literature Cited

King, F.W., and T. Krakauer. 1966. The exotic herpetofauna of southeast Florida. Quarterly Journal of the Florida Academy of Sciences, 29:144–154.

Meshaka, W.E., Jr. 2011. A runaway train in the making: the exotic amphibians, reptiles, turtles, and crocodilians of Florida. Monograph 1. Herpetological Conservation and Biology, 6:1–101.

Meshaka, W.E., Jr., S.L. Collins, R.B. Bury, and M.L. McCallum. 2022. Exotic Amphibians and Reptiles of the United States. University Press of Florida. Gainesville, Florida. 260 pp.

Meshaka, W.E., Jr., H.T. Smith, E. Golden, J.A. Moore, S. Fitchett, E.M. Cowen, R.M. Engeman, S.R. Sekscienski, and H.L. Cress. 2007. Green iguanas (*Iguana iguana*): the unintended consequence of sound wildlife management practices in a south Florida park. Herpetological Conservation and Biology, 2:149–156.

Male-Male Combat in Prairie Kingsnakes

Ryan Philbrick
Wichita, KS

Male-Male combat and courtship have been recorded in 76 species in five families of snakes (Senter et al., 2014), but rarely observed in the wild in *Lampropeltis* spp. (Starr et al., 2021). On 12 April 2022, I was proceeding with my daily lunch hour walk through Chisholm Creek Park at the Great Plains Nature Center in Wichita, KS. The temperature this day was 27ºC (81ºF) with southerly winds at 56-80 km/h.

I observed two snakes twisting and rolling together, upon closer inspection I identified the snakes as Prairie Kingsnakes, *Lampropeltis calligaster*. The two snakes were head to head and tail to tail, and appeared roughly to be the same size. The bodies were extended, more or less, in a straight line, but twisted around one another (Fig 1). Or rather, they were twisting around one another. At times they were twisting rapidly. At other times, the motion slowed or paused, but they consistently remained intertwined around one another. I began to notice that their heads seemed to be leading in all the twisting. It was as if they were jockeying for the upper position. During some of the pauses in the action, whichever individual had the upper hand seemed to be pinning the head of the other snake to the ground. When one of the two had a few extra inches to work with (whether it was a few inches longer, or a few inches "ahead"), it used that extra length, curled back on itself, in trying to pin down the head of the other.

Eventually, the helix they formed began to loosen and their motions became less choreographed. As they began to separate, there were a couple of quick motions I understood as strikes. One snake headed promptly away from the area into the prairie grass nearby. The other seemed content to hang around beneath the trees where most of the action took place.

Moehn (1967) observed two *L. calligaster* engaged in combat near Nevada, MO. In this instance, both snakes were completely intertwined, and it appeared that each snake attempted to throw the other by pushing the loop against the neck of its opponent. In both the Moehn (1967) and my observations both snakes would roll over as a unit. In both instances, the snakes were moving constantly, but covered very little distance. My observations were also consistent with observations of male-male combat in other *Lampropeltis* such as *L. getua holbrooki* (Carpenter and Gillingham, 1977) and *L. g. californiae* (Starr et al., 2021).

Figure 1. Two male Prairie Kingsnakes, *L. calligaster*, observed in combat, Sedgwick County, KS.

Literature Cited

Carpenter, C.C., and J.C. Gillingham. 1977. A combat ritual between two male speckled kingsnakes (*Lampropeltis getulus holbrooki*: Colubridae, Serpentes) with indications of dominance. The Southwestern Naturalist 22:517-524.

Moehn, L.D. 1967. A combat dance between two prairie kingsnakes. Copeia 1967:480-481.

Senter, P., S.M. Harris, D.L. Kent. 2014. Phylogeny of courtship and male-male combat behavior in snakes. PLoS ONE 9(9): e107528. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0107528

Starr, S., C.A. Drost, A.T. Holycross and R.D. Babb. 2021. *Lampropeltis californiae* (California Kingsnake) Behavior/Male-Male Combat. Herpetological Review 52:160-161.

About the Kansas Herpetological Society

The KHS is a non-profit organization established in 1974 and designed to encourage education and dissemination of scientific information through the facilities of the Society; to encourage conservation of wildlife in general and of the herpetofauna of Kansas in particular; and to achieve closer cooperation and understanding between herpetologists, so that they may work together in common cause. All interested persons are invited to become members of the Society. Membership dues per calendar year are $15.00 (U.S., Regular), $20.00 (outside North America, Regular), and $20.00
(Contributing) payable to the KHS. Send all dues to: KHS Secretary, (address inside the front cover)

KHS Meetings
The KHS holds an annual meeting in the fall of each year. The meeting is, minimally, a two day event with lectures and presentations by herpetologists. All interested individuals are invited to make presentations. The annual meeting is also the time of the Saturday night social and fund-raising auction.

Field Trips
The KHS hosts three field trips each year, one each in the spring, summer, and fall. Field trips are an enjoyable educational experience for everyone, and also serve to broaden our collective understanding of the distribution and abundance of the amphibians, reptiles, and turtles in Kansas. All interested persons are invited to attend.

Editorial Policy

Collinsorum, currently issued digitally as submissions warrant, publishes all society business.

Submission of Manuscripts
As space allows, *Collinsorum* publishes all manner of news, notes, and articles. Priority of publishing is given to submissions of Kansas herpetological subjects and by KHS members; however, all submissions are welcome. The ultimate decision concerning the publication of a manuscript is at the discretion of the Editor. Manuscripts should be submitted to the Editor in an electronic format whenever possible. Those manuscripts submitted in hard copy may be delayed in date of publication. Manuscripts should be submitted to the Editor no later than the 1st of the month prior to the month of issuance. All manuscripts become the sole possession of the Society, and will not be returned unless arrangements are made with the Editor.

Reprints & Artwork
Collinsorum publishes original peer-reviewed submissions under the Articles and Notes sections. Upon review, acceptance, and publication, Portable Document File (PDF) copies are provided gratis to the author on request.

Societal Awards, Grants, and Recognitions

Distinguished Life Members
Individuals selected as Distinguished Life Members are chosen by the KHS Executive Council based on their distinguished published research papers on Kansas herpetology.

Bronze Salamander Award
Established in 1987, this Award is presented to those individuals whose efforts and dedication to the Kansas Herpetological Society go far beyond the normal bounds. The recipients of this Award have given exemplary service to the KHS, and are presented with an elegant bronze sculpture of a Barred Tiger Salamander.

The Howard K. Gloyd - Edward H. Taylor Scholarship
Established in 1993, The Gloyd-Taylor Scholarship is presented annually by the Kansas Herpetological Society to an outstanding herpetology student. The scholarship is a minimum of $300.00 and is awarded on the basis of potential for contributing to the science of herpetology. Students from grade school through university are eligible.

The Alan H. Kamb Grant for Research on Kansas Snakes
KHS members only are eligible to apply for The Alan H. Kamb Grant for Research on Kansas Snakes, which was established in 2001. The recipient of the grant will be selected by the KHS Awards Committee. A minimum award of $300 is given annually. Research results (in whole or in part) must be submitted for publication in Collinsorum.

The Henry S. Fitch - Dwight R. Platt Award for Excellence in Field Herpetology
KHS members only are eligible to apply for The Henry S. Fitch - Dwight R. Platt Award for Excellence in Field Herpetology, which was established in 2010. The recipient of the grant will be selected by the KHS Awards Committee. The award will be given annually when sufficient funds have been raised to establish a trust.

The George Toland Award for Ecological Research on North American Herpetofauna
This CNAH Award was established in 2008 in recognition of the scientific career of George Fredrick Toland, whose life-long interest in herpetology was passed on to so many of his students. The recipient of this award will be selected by the KHS Awards Committee. A minimum award of $200 is given annually at the end of the KHS meeting. Research results (in whole or part) must be submitted for publication in Collinsorum.

The Suzanne L. & Joseph T. Collins Award for Excellence in Kansas Herpetology
This CNAH Award was established by Westar Energy in 1998 in recognition of the achievements of Suzanne L. Collins and Joseph T. Collins. In even years, the Award is bestowed upon an individual who, in the preceding two calendar years, had published a paper of academic excellence on native species of Kansas amphibians, reptiles, and/or turtles, and in odd years, the Award is given to an individual who, in a juried competition, took the best photograph of an amphibian, reptile, or turtle representing a species native to Kansas. The Collins Award is minimally $1,000.00 and is neither a grant nor a scholarship. No nominations or applications can be made for it.