

THE FORKED TONGUE

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE GREATER CINCINNATI HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Vol. XXXIII, No. IV

www.cincyherps.com

April 2008

The Editor's Den

The April Forked Tongue features a review of some publications on Horned Frogs by Al Winstel.

wide x 2.5 feet deep) Must see!

Calendar of Events

April 2, 2008 – Monthly Meeting featuring Kristen Wiley of the Kentucky Reptile Zoo speaking on a Timber Rattlesnake Study.

May 7, 2008 – Monthly Meeting featuring Beth Cortright speaking about her recent trip to the Galapagos

June 4, 2008 – Monthly Meeting Matt Fille speaking on captive maintenance of monitors

June 28, 2008 – GCHS Auction – See details below

July 2, 2008 – Monthly meeting featuring Jeff Davis speaking on Central American Herping

GCHS Auction

We will be having a fund raising auction on Saturday, June 28, 2008 at the Meadow Shelter at Cincinnati Nature Center. It seems like a long way off but it will be here before you know it. We are hoping to make this a picnic type event culminating in a late afternoon auction. We are already starting to get donations and hope to get a lot more. Look to the GCHS website, www.cincyherps.com, for details on what will be auction as well as a list of our generous donators. We have already received the following; (all items are new in the box unless otherwise noted)

Donator

Item(s)

SaveonScales.com	Digital Small Animal Scale
Pet Solutions	\$25 gift certificate
Acorn Naturalists	\$25 gift certificate
	Small snake hook
	Amphibian writings book
Rep Cal	(6) Ultra-fine Calcium /D3
	(6) Herptivite Multivitamin
Makin Family	Gently used but sweet Custom Cage. (6.5 feet high x 4 feet

We have commitments from several other vendors and have yet to hear from nearly 100 other requests. We are very early in the process and are hoping for a lot of quality products. If you have anything (no junk) that you are interested in donating, give me a call at 812-926-1206 or e-mail at gradycalhoun@embarqmail.com. If you know of any businesses that may be willing to donate a gift certificate ask them. Just let me know so I can give them their free advertising and so that I can keep track of the items. I'll be looking for someone to head up the picnic aspect of this event at the next meeting.

New Forum on GCHS Website

Please take advantage of the forum on our website. Jason Folt created this to provide a tool for communications between GCHS members. It can be used for what ever you want. For example, you may want to organize a road trip to the Columbus or Indianapolis show, or coordinate a rodent shipment between several people to defray costs.

Digitization of old newsletters

I have a new list of newsletters that we need.

1980 – January, April

1994 – July, October, November, and December

1997 – January

2000 – March through October

If you have a stash of old newsletters, please go through them to see if you have any of these. If you find any bring them to the next meeting. We will gladly return them after they are scanned.

Horned Frog Book Reviews

By Al Winstel

Recently, I wrote an article about a horned frog caging system designed to keep the cage and substrate ammonia free without frequent substrate changes. The frog is still doing well. He has begun calling (so he's a he) and still seems to be doing well. Night crawlers

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and crickets have been the bulk of his food. He is also growing like a horned frog and responds to being touched near the front end by shrieking and hopping forward with open mouth. Each time I acquire a new herp or reacquire an old one, I research the critter. Hence my large herp library. Unfortunately Sue, my wife, does not understand why I don't get rid of those books once I read them! In fairness to her, our "shared" bookcase has evolved to hold 14 shelves of my books and 3 shelves of hers. At any rate, below are reviews of 3 of the horned frog books I have:

The General Care and Maintenance of Horned Frogs by Philippe de Vosjoli. 1990. The Herpetocultural Library. Advanced Vivarium Systems, Lakeside, CA. paperback. 38 pages. \$4.99

As the driving force behind the *Vivarium* magazine and the Herpetological Library series, it's tough for me to criticize de Vosjoli's work. He has probably done more to bring herpetoculture out of the dark ages than anyone else. True to form, this book is tiny, black and white, and presents the no frills facts about the horned frogs. Topics include large scale maintenance for wholesalers and retailers, as well as how to keep them in the home. Feeding schedules are given for various sized frogs to help control obesity. The importance of water quality is emphasized and there is a rather complete section on potential health problems. At the time this book was written, much of this was ground breaking information. There is a section on taxonomy which includes 6 species and 3 hybrids of *Ceratophrys*. All in all if you want info on horned frogs from the guy who "wrote the book," this is the place to go.

The Horned Frog Family and African Bullfrogs by R.D. and Patricia Bartlett. 2000. Barron's Reptile Keeper Guides. Barron's Publications, Hauppauge, NY. Paperback. 46 pages. \$7.99.

Another pair of authors that are difficult to criticize are the Bartletts. Once again, scads of experience with more species of herps than you can imagine paired with enthusiasm for the subject. This book is illustrated with usual beautiful Bartlett color photos of the species in question. It gives some history on the various horned frogs in the pet trade, describes their differences, and had detailed info on how to obtain a horned frog, along with ideas on caging for both adults and tadpoles. There is a short section on hydration chambers for breeding, as well as conditions for indoor

and outdoor cycling. There are 8 entries in the health problems section, again with emphasis on water quality and hygiene. If you are interested in seeing some beautiful photos of horned frogs combined with knowledge based on first hand info, this book is for you.

Horned Frogs by Ray Hunziker. 1994. T.F.H. Publications, Inc. Neptune City, NJ. Paperback. 48 pages. \$7.50.

TFH has books on just about any pet, from skunks and chipmunks to venomous snakes. Ray Hunziker is a frequent author for herp books. The photos in this book are if anything even better than the Bartlett photos and are covered with a plastic coating which seems to protect them well. There are also a few cartoons. Some of the photos portray commercial herp supplies and food animals. Several cage set ups are shown and it is mentioned that horned frogs are not animals to be handled frequently. There is a good tadpole photo and 6 disease problems are mentioned. This book does seem pitched more toward the average frog buyer, while the previous 2 are directed toward a more experience herp keeper. This is a pretty long section on breeding horned frogs, which seems to be up to date, considered the publication date.

To summarize: If you are a rash beginner and need a conversational book with lots of color photos and some basic info (specific bits of info may be hard to find, even if they are there), you would probably like the Hunziker book. Someone who is amazed by the beauty of these frogs and wants lots of personal experiences included would do well with the Bartlett book. And if you are searching for a no frills manual on care and breeding that "tells it like it is," you want the de Vosjoli book. Considering the small price of each, buy all three. There is some overlap on info, but each author gives their book an individual spin.

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Classified Advertising Policy

GCHS Members may run a free classified ad of 7 lines or less at no charge for an unlimited time; however, the ad will be canceled after one month unless the editor is informed to continue it. Please include scientific names for the animals with your ad as well as your phone number and area code.

Ads of up to 7 lines for non-member are \$5 per issue; ad charges for items more than 7 lines long are as follows:

Business card size \$5 per issue

1/4 page \$10 per issue

1/2 page \$15 per issue

Full page inserts* \$15 per issue

*120 sheets per issue provided by advertiser

The GCHS is not liable for the quality of the merchandise advertised. The Society also reserves the right to refuse any ad considered inappropriate.

Requirements for Submitting Articles to the Forked Tongue

Articles can be submitted via CD or hard copy to Editor, GCHS 11470 Gatch Hill Road, Aurora, IN 47001.

Articles may be e-mailed to Grady Calhoun at gradycalhoun@embarqmail.com.

Black and white photographs can be included with articles. Photo submissions should include your name, phone number, and description of photo on the back. Photos can be returned.

All time dependent submissions must be in the editor's possession no later than the meeting previous to the publication.

Classifieds

Discount: A 10% discount is offered to all card-carrying members of the GCHS at *All Creatures Animal Hospital*. Dr. Dan Meakin, All Creatures, 1894 Ohio Pike, Amelia, OH 45102, 513-797-7387.

Discount: A 10% discount is offered to all card carrying members of the GCHS at Dr. Dahlhausen's Veterinary Clinic, 5989 Meijer Dr., Suite 2, Milford, Ohio 513-576-0131

(Number to left of decimal indicates males; number to right of decimal indicates females; number to right of second decimal indicates number of unknown sex. For example, 3.2.1=3 males, 2 females, and 1 unsexed specimen)

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Currently Held Positions

President	Grady Calhoun	(812) 926-1206	Vice President	Dean Alessandrini	(513) 347-0099
		(513) 564-6041	Editor	Grady Calhoun	(812) 926-1206
Treasurer	Peggy Fille	(513) 528-4452			(513) 564-6041
Sergeant-at-Arms	Bruce Fille	(513) 528-4452	Education Committee Chairman		
Advisor	Vacant		Peggy Fille		(513) 528-4452
Secretary	Kyle Becker	(513) 831-4898			

About the GCHS

The Greater Cincinnati Herpetological Society holds monthly meetings which typically consist of a short business section, a refreshment intermission, and a program related to herpetology. Both members and nonmembers are invited to attend. Membership is open to anyone with an interest in reptiles and amphibians. New members may sign up by mail or at the monthly meetings. Members receive monthly issues of *The Forked Tongue* and free classified advertising. Annual dues should be directed to the secretary at the society's mailing address, according to the rates below:

Student	\$10.00	Corresponding	
	\$10.00		
Individual	\$15.00	Sustaining	\$25.00
Family	\$20.00	Institutional	\$30.00
Contributing	\$50.00		

Why Be a Member?

Receive monthly issues of *The Forked Tongue*

- Meet individuals knowledgeable about herpetoculture
- Have access to captive-bred herps and feeder animals
- Participate in society-sponsored field trips, and outings.
- Receive a 10 percent discount on herp-related items and services when you show a valid membership card at the following establishments:

Delhi Pet Center	(513) 451-4015
Kentucky Reptile Zoo	(606) 663-9160
Harrison Pet Center	(513) 367-1115
All Creatures Animal Hospital	(513) 797-7387
Dr. Dahlhausen's	(513) 576-1990

P.O. Box 14783
Cincinnati, OH 45250

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