

THE FORKED TONGUE

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE GREATER CINCINNATI HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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www.cincyherps.com

August 2006

The Editor's Den

The August Forked Tongue features an article on the Vietnamese Mossy Frog. I need articles!

Calendar of Events

December, 6 2006 - Annual Holiday Meeting at Ryan's Steakhouse in Erlanger KY.

January 3, 2007 - Monthly meeting featuring Jason Folt Speaking on Adventures from Snake Road.

February 7, 2007 - Monthly meeting featuring Phil Peak and Will Bird speaking on Snake Conservation in Kentucky

Annual Holiday Meeting

The 2006 GCHS Holiday Meeting will again be held at Ryan's Steakhouse, located at 40 Cavalier Blvd, Florence, KY 41042. This event has traditionally drawn a large group, for good food, fun and education. The back room of the restaurant is reserved for the GCHS from 6:30 on.

Cost including buffet, drink, taxes and tip is - \$12/adult (13 and over) \$6/child (9-12) \$5/child (4-8) Free/child (3 and under)

Each person pays as they walk in. It is an all-you-can-eat buffet with a wide variety of foods, salad and desserts.

Directions from Ohio

- Take I-75 south to the KY-1017 exit, EXIT 182, toward Turfway Rd.
- Merge onto Thoroughbred Blvd/KY-717.
- Turn right onto Houston Rd/KY-842.
- Turn right onto Turfway Rd/KY-1017.
- Turn right onto KY-18/Burlington Pike.
- Turn right onto Cavalier Blvd.

Vietnamese Mossy Frog

Theloderma corticale

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Mossy Frogs, *Theloderma corticale*, are semi aquatic frogs from Northern Vietnam. They live in and around mountain streams in their natural habitat. Adult size is about three inches. They have a beautiful cryptic

appearance, and rough skin which gives them their name. In a properly designed setup they can practically disappear, but be right in front of your eyes!



Small frogs can be housed in a simple set up for a few weeks, while they get some more size on them, and you become accustomed to their requirements. A large pet carrier, or critter keeper, with a half inch to an inch of water in it would be good. You might cover two or three sides with paper, on the outside of the carrier, to allow the frogs to feel a bit more secure. A piece of cork bark or other type of wood will allow them to pull out more easily. Just make sure to clean it once a week with hot water. Keep them like this, feeding as suggested below, until they have doubled in size, which should take four to six weeks. Then they will be much safer in your terrarium! While this simple set up is not mandatory, it will most likely result in faster growth and a higher success rate for you.

Here we are keeping the frogs in large plastic tubs, approximately 20 gallon size, with screen lids. The tubs are translucent. We keep about 25 baby or juvenile frogs in these setups, with about a half gallon of water in them. The water does not cover the bottom of the tub, due to the tubs having a "well" around the outer edge, and a domed center. There is nothing in these tubs but water and frogs. Every other day the water is dumped out, and the bottom of the tub is dried off. Then we add appropriate size crickets to the tub, and leave them in with the frogs for about an hour. Then the

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crickets are removed, and fresh water added back in. This accomplishes several things all of which are beneficial for these young frogs. First it keeps the water clean, as there is no substrate to get dirty. Second it makes it easy for the frogs to catch their food, and eliminates the problem of the crickets drowning and fouling the water. A third benefit is that it allows us to easily monitor the young frogs for good weight.

As with most frogs that I am familiar with, mossy frogs need no special lighting. Background light is sufficient for the frogs, but it would be a shame to not be able to see these wonderful frogs, so I recommend lighting the tank. Fluorescent lights are the light of choice. Other types of lighting can add too much unwanted heat to the tank. When choosing fluorescent bulbs, look for ones called "Daylight" or similar terminology, but don't waste money on "Full Spectrum" or UV – B producing bulbs. The frogs do not require this type of lighting.

As your frogs grow, they will need a larger tank. Any set up for these frogs should incorporate a large water area, with places for the frogs to pull out and rest at waters edge. A minimum size tank is probably a thirty gallon aquarium, with two thirds water area. The level of the water is not particularly important but it should be at least three inches deep to allow the frogs room to move around in it. They are tolerant of a wide variety of temperatures, although they seem to prefer temps in the mid to upper seventies. Lower temps will be tolerated, and warmer temps shouldn't pose a problem, but they should probably not be exposed to temps above 85. The lid of the tank can be an aquarium hood, or a screen lid with some plastic covering about half the lid, to bring the humidity up. They do not require a particularly high humidity, but will spend more time out of water if you give them less ventilation, and higher humidity.

Food is pretty simple, a few crickets each, two or three times a week, with calcium and vitamin supplements added. We suggest Rep-Cal and Herptivite. You can feed them after dark, and just throw the food into the tank. They will track it down and eat it. Alternatively a feeding station can be used. A plastic shoebox is fine for this. Place it in the terrarium when the lights go out, with the crickets in it, and the frogs will learn to eat out of it. This will prevent crickets from running loose through out the tank, and cut down on dead crickets in the water supply.

These frogs seem pretty easy to breed, and will lay eggs on limbs or other wood surfaces just above the water level, or on rocks and other objects at water's edge. They have a quiet call, and are very hardy. Adult males can be distinguished from females by their nuptial pads, on the thumb of the front feet. The frogs seem to do well in a mixed sex group, and breed for us throughout the year. Eggs are taken and incubated in Petri dishes.

Tadpoles are raised on the same algae mix we use for our dart frog tadpoles. Tadpoles can be raised in groups, or will grow faster if raised individually. They can be ready to morph in as little as sixty days, if they are kept individually in the mid seventies, or it can take up to a year if temperatures are cooler.

Martin Memorial Fund Proposal

Kristin Stanford, better known as the "Island Snake Lady" spoke to the GCHS at the November meeting. She is working with threatened Lake Erie water snakes. Her efforts include field work, habitat conservation, and public out reach. The request to the Martin Memorial fund is for \$300 to help support her public outreach efforts. Most of her other research activities , the more "scientific aspects", receive financial support. However the important aspect of getting the community involved does not. The importance of community appreciation is as important to the successful protection of the species as any other aspect of her efforts - maybe more so. Her presentation included the impact of educating the public and getting them involved. This proposal was brought up to the attending membership at the November meeting and opened up for questions. We would like to vote on this at the December meeting. Additional information on Kristen's work can be found at www.respectthesnake.com.

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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 \$2 per issue; ad charges for items more than 7 lines long are as follows:

Business card size	\$3 per issue
1/4 page	\$6 per issue
1/2 page	\$10 per issue
Full page	\$20 per issue

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 3.5" floppy disk or hard copy to Editor, GCHS 11470 Gatch Hill Road, Aurora, IN 47001.

Articles may be e-mailed to Grady Calhoun at gradycalhoun@earthlink.net.

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

Rats and Mice for sale. Reasonable price. Call Jesse or Tom (513) 876-0579.

For Sale: 75 gallon aquarium including freshwater filter system, lighting, hood, all accessories, fish, solid pine stand. Excellent condition. Asking \$400 OBO. Please call Erin at 513-471-2950.

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 Veterinary Clinic	(513) 576-0131.

P.O. Box 14783
Cincinnati, OH 45250

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