

THE FORKED TONGUE

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE GREATER CINCINNATI HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The Editor's Den

By Grady Calhoun

The July Meeting Time and Place has been changed!!!

The July *Forked Tongue* features

Calendar of Events

- 7/10 Monthly Meeting in room 401 of Nunn Hall at NKU featuring Will Bird of the Louisville Zoo speaking on Herps of Kentucky.
- 8/2 Canoe trip tentative
- 8/6 Monthly meeting at NKU Tentative program - wildlife photography
- 9/3 Monthly Meeting at NKU Tentative program - Herp Hibernation
- 9/13 Picnic at the Calhoun House

June Highlights

The June meeting featured Richard Schroeder speaking on captive maintenance and breeding of Gila monsters. As most herpers know Gila monsters and Beaded lizards are the only venomous lizards. Most the venom resides in glands in the bottom jaw. The venom is delivered by running around the teeth rather than through fangs as is typical with venomous snakes. Gila bites are usually much less dangerous than that of North American Pit vipers. Richard said that there have been no documented cases of fatalities resulting from a Gila bite.

He started by describing the captive maintenance protocols that have worked for him. He said that one of the most frequent mistakes made when keeping Gilas is that of keeping them too dry. It appears to many keepers that since Gilas are desert dwellers they would prefer a dry environment. The fact of the

matter is that the Gilas spend most of their time underground in burrows that are significantly more humid than the desert surface. As with many reptiles it is recommended to establish a temperature gradient across the enclosure so that the animals can go to wherever they are most comfortable. He had slides of some of his caging. It ranged from simple rubbermade rack setups to very decorative display cages. He is currently keeping reticulated and banded Gilas. He says that the differences between the two subspecies goes way beyond the color patterns. In his experience, the banded Gilas are much more aggressive.

Since Gilas are protected animals proper documentation must be maintained to own them. This consists of a notarized document from the breeder stating that the animals were produced in captivity. Richard has been very successful in producing young Gilas. All hatchlings appear to be banded. They start out with a significant amount of black and some cream markings. Their color and pattern changes as they get older.

He ended the presentation by showing us some of his specimens. This was a great presentation and we really appreciate Richard driving all the way from Toledo to be with us.

JULY MEETING CHANGES

The July meeting will be held on **Thursday** July 10th in room 401 of Nunn Hall at NKU. This is the building just to the left of the building we typically meet in. Check out our website for a campus map. We have made this change to accommodate our speaker. The program is on herps of Kentucky and is in Powerpoint format. It should be really great. Please make every attempt to attend.

Upcoming Events

The July Meeting is Thursday, July 10th at 7:30 at the NKU

Joe Collins is speaking at the Louisville Herpetology Society on Sunday July 6th

Rescued Animals need Homes

We desperately need volunteers to adopt animals that are given to the society. If you are willing to provide a good home for iguanas, large boas or pythons, tortoises or crocodilians please contact Chris Bauer at (513) 451-1203 or Matt Fille at (513) 528-4452.

Classified Advertizing 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 advertized. The Society also reserves the right to refuse any ad considered inappropriate.

Requirements for Submitting Articles to the Forked Tongue

1. Articles can be submitted via 3.5" floppy disk or hard copy to Editor, GCHS 11470 Gatch Hill Road, Aurora, IN 4700.
2. Articles may be e-mailed to Grady Calhoun at gcalhoun@seidata.com.
3. 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.
4. All time dependent submissions must be in the editors possession no later than the meeting previous to the desired publication date.

Classifieds

For Sale: Feeder rabbits and rats. Call Rod Surber at (812) 637-0305 or e-mail me at Indianarockshop@aol.com.

For Sale: Aquariums-all shapes and sizes (5-90 gallons). Boa Constrictor(s) may be available, prices negotiable. Call Chris at (513) 451-1203.

Discount: A 10% discount is offered to all card-carrying members of the GCHS at All Creatures Animal Hospital where I examine and treat many different reptiles.

Dr. Dan Meakin, All Creatures Animal Hospital, 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)

Currently Held Positions

President	Grady Calhoun (812) 926-1206 (513) 564-6041	Vice President	Dean Alessandrini (513) 347-0099
Treasurer	Peggy Fille (513) 528-4452	Editor	Grady Calhoun (812) 926-1206 (513) 564-6041
Sargent-at-Arms	Bruce Fille (513) 528-4452	Education Conservation Committee Co-Chairman	
Advisor	Ray Whitson (859) 342-8842		Matt Fille (513) 528-4452 Chris Bauer (513) 451-1203
Secretary	Polly Whittaker (513) 321-1884		

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	\$12.00	Sustaining	\$25.00
Family	\$18.00	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**