

THE FORKED TONGUE

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE GREATER CINCINNATI HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Vol. XXIX, No. IX

www.cincyherps.com

September 2004

The Editor's Den

By Grady Calhoun

The September Forked Tongue features an article regarding the protected status of Box Turtles in Indiana and a request for information from the Center for North American Herpetology.

REMEMBER THAT WE WILL MEET AT 7:00 WEDNESDAY RATHER THAN 7:30!!!

This was done as a suggestion to get our younger members and those of us who have to get up early out a little earlier.

Calendar of Events

11/3/04 Monthly Meeting at the Cincinnati Nature Center. Speaker will be Winston Card from the Cincinnati Zoo.

12/1/04 Holiday Meeting at Ryan's Steakhouse in Florence KY. Speaker will Erik Keyser speaking on Japanese Giant Salamanders.

Annual Holiday Meeting

The annual holiday meeting will be held at Ryan's Steakhouse in Florence KY. We have been meeting there for the past several years. Our speaker will be of the Cincinnati Zoo speaking on Giant Japanese Salamanders. The cost of the meal will be Adults \$8.19 plus \$1.13 for a drink Children 4 to 12 years old are 50 cents per year of age Tips are not included but are appreciated.

Directions from I-75 South out of Cincinnati
At exit 182, take Ramp (RIGHT) onto SR-717 [Thoroughbred Blvd]
Turn RIGHT (East) onto SR-842 [Houston Rd]
Turn RIGHT (South-East) onto SR-1017 [Turfway Rd]
Turn RIGHT (South-West) onto SR-18 [Burlington Pike]
Turn RIGHT (North-West) onto Cavalier Blvd
Address: 40 Cavalier Boulevard,
Florence, KY 41042
(859) 282-9199

Election Update!

The not so new slate of officers is as follows:

| | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| President | Grady Calhoun |
| Vice President | Dean Alessandrini |
| Treasurer | Peggy Fille |
| Sergeant at Arms | Bruce Fille |

Elections will take place in October and the new officers will take over in November.

Collecting eastern box turtles from the wild in Indiana will soon be illegal.

An Indiana law, effective October 23, 2004, prohibits the collection of eastern box turtles (*Terrapene carolina*) or their parts from the wild in Indiana. Individuals who currently possess an eastern box turtle, a subspecies, or their parts will need to apply for the new box turtle possession permit. There is no cost for the permit.

The eastern box turtle is tottering between maintaining stable populations and becoming endangered. "Prohibiting the taking of the eastern box turtle in Indiana is one of the best ways that we can help protect this species," said State Herpetologist, Zack Walker. Current studies reveal that male eastern box turtles must hear or see a female before the mating process will even begin. Low animal numbers in populations prevent adequate contact between males and females. Additionally, we now know that box turtles have a homing instinct. Turtles displaced by humans will instinctively attempt to return to their home habitat, often times forcing them to travel through unsafe conditions.

Past collection has already harmed many box turtle populations. The loss of habitat and an increasing number of roads through their habitat also contribute to their decline. Walker reports, "We now are aware of how detrimental incidental collection and displacement is to the population and it is essential that it does not continue as it has in the past."

The eastern box turtle (*Terrapene carolina*) is a small to

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medium-sized turtle with a domed shell. The top of the turtle's shell is variable in color and pattern but is typically marked with yellow to orange streaks and blotches on a dark background. The eastern box turtle is very similar in appearance to the state-endangered Ornate box turtle (*Terrapene ornata*).

The Natural Resources Commission approved the recommended administrative rule changes on July 20, 2004. The Governor's Office, Attorney General's Office and the Indiana Secretary of State gave final approval of the rule changes on September 23, 2004. This change in the administrative rules puts Indiana in the top ten of states in the country trying to conserve the eastern box turtle.

Specific information about eastern box turtles and new possession permits in Indiana is available on the Wildlife Diversity Section's website at: www.IN.gov/dnr/fishwild/endangered

Permit information may also be obtained by contacting the Division of Fish & Wildlife at 317-232-4080.

Media contact:
Zack Walker
zwalker@dnr.in.gov
812-334-1137

Permit Information:
Linnea Petercheff
lpetercheff@dnr.in.gov
317-232-4080

Review of Existing Non-Native Species Databases in the United States

CNAH RESEARCH REQUEST Number 10
The Center for North American Herpetology
Lawrence, Kansas <http://www.cnah.org>

The Heinz Center's State of the Nation's Ecosystems project, in collaboration with Tom Stohlgren, Science Program Director at the Fort Collins Science Center, is conducting a review of existing non-native species databases in the United States. This effort is part the Center's work on the next edition of the State of the Nation's Ecosystems, which may be accessed at:

<http://www.heinzctr.org/ecosystems/report>, scheduled for publication in 2007, and will support work on identifying a consistent set of national indicators for describing non-native species.

If you currently have or are working on a database that involves non-native species of amphibians, turtles, reptiles or crocodylians in the United States, we request that you participate in a short survey (5-10 minutes total) designed to collect general information about your database. We are gathering information on the types of data that are collected on non-native species in the United States. The results of this survey will be reported back to the community through a report and/or journal publication. Other goals of this effort are to ascertain the availability of data for populating the Heinz Center national-level non-native species indicators and to contribute to the development of a larger meta-database of non-native species databases, now being developed by the National Institute of Invasive Species Science (NIISS).

With your cooperation, we hope to obtain metadata associated with all major non-native species databases to accurately assess currently available data and identify where gaps exist. Data contributors will be given the opportunity to establish links to the entire "shared database" through the NIISS website, thus providing access to other non-native species data sets and facilitating data-sharing among researchers, agencies, and organizations. All survey participants will be acknowledged for their contribution on the NIISS website, all necessary permissions will be obtained, and all data will be properly cited and attributed. Please specify in the comments portion of the survey if you would prefer to remain anonymous, and we will gladly honor your request. After reviewing the survey results, we may ask your permission to use selected data for inclusion in the 2007 State of the Nation's Ecosystems report or other publications.

If you are willing to complete this survey, please contact Alycia Waters at: mawaters@nrel.colostate.edu
To learn more about the National Institute of Invasive Species Science, please go to: <http://www.niiss.org/>
If you have questions about the Heinz Center Non-native Species indicators, please contact

Laura Meyerson
meyerson@heinzctr.org
202-737-6307

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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.

Classifieds

For Sale: Captive Bred albino boa constrictors, (Peter Kahl strain). These are 2004 babies, all feeding and looking great! \$1000.00 each. Partial stripes available for \$1600.00. Call Scott Kass at 513-779-8124

For Sale: Albino (gold) axlotyls. 3"- 4" long. \$10 each. Call Harrison Pet Center 513-367-1115.

For Sale: Captive bred Grey banded kingsnake. Three months old. Eating live pinkies. \$50.00 each. Call Grady Calhoun at 513-564-6041

For Sale: Juvenile Amazon tree boas (*Corallus hortulanus*), brown phases, will be feeding when sold \$15 each. Call Al Winstel at 513-729-2563

For Sale: 7.0 '03 Tiger Rat Snakes (*Spilote pullatus*) Very well started, nice black and yellow coloration. Approximately 30 inches or more. Feeding voraciously on live hoppers. \$60 each or two or more for \$50 each. Call Marc (859) 344-9626

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)

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 editors possession no later than the meeting previous to the desired publication.

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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 Co-Chairman | | |
| Advisor | Ray Whitson | (859) 342-8842 | | Peggy Fille | (513) 528-4452 |
| Secretary | Vacant | | | Chris Bauer | (513) 424-5818 |

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

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