

The Newsletter of the Herpetologists' League

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HL 2001

Annual Meeting

Indianapolis

HL's 49th

annual meeting will be held 27-31 July 2001 at University Place Conference Center and Hotel in Indianapolis, Indiana. HL is meeting jointly with SSAR, so you can anticipate many great opportunities for herpetological discussions.

In addition to contributed papers and posters, topical symposia include: *Amphibian population declines* and *Herpetological research in zoos: The academic connection*.

The HL Distinguished Herpetologist lecture will be by Bill Branch, Curator of Herpetology at the Port Elizabeth Museum, South Africa. His lecture is titled: *Herps and Hopes: Africa in a new Millenium*.

This year's President's Travel Log promises to be fun. Slide presentations will be made by Patricia Burrowes (Puerto Rico), Tim Halliday (South Africa), John Wilkinson (a wandering herpetologist), Ross Alford (Australia), Hinrich Kaiser (SE Asia), and Mike Lannoo (Antarctica).

The deadline for submission of abstracts is 31 March and the deadline for regular registration is 30 May. We are anticipating a sell-out at the hotel, so make your reservations early. Want more info? See the meeting website at: www.ukans.edu/~ssar/ind.html

Sherman A. Minton Travel Awards

Call for Applications

Awards of US \$200 each are available to the 2001 SSAR/HL Annual Meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana. An applicant for a travel award must be a student and must be first author (or coauthor, see below) of a paper or poster to be presented. An applicant must include in the application package: 1) a letter signed by his/her major advisor or department chair that states: he/she is not completely funded for travel from another source; 2) an official copy of the paper or poster abstract to be presented; and 3) a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

If the research is co-authored, the applicant must also include a letter from his/her advisor stating that the work was primarily the product of the applicant. All qualified applicants will be pooled and awardees will be drawn at random. Students from the local meeting site are excluded from applying for a travel award.

Applications must be postmarked by 15 May 2001.

Award recipients will be notified by 1 June 2001 and award checks will be disbursed at the meeting. Direct requests for information and submit applications to: *Stephen C. Richter, Department of Zoology, The University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma 73019-0235, USA. Tel: (405) 325-7671; fax: (405) 325-6202; e-mail: richter@ou.edu.*

Herpetotrivia: In the Ten Thousand Islands in southwestern Florida, 240-480 loggerhead turtle clutches are laid along a 16-km shoreline. About 80% of the nests are depredated by raccoons. Foley, AM, SA Peck, GR Harman, and LW Richardson. 2000. *Herpetologica* 56: 433-445.

President's Corner

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I would like to take this opportunity to bring the HL membership up to date on a number of League activities over the recent months and to focus attention on an important issue looming on the horizon. Since the publication of the last newsletter, Maureen Donnelly has formally stepped down from the position of Secretary, which she ably filled for a number of years. Mac Given of Neumann College has taken over this important position as of January 1. Recent League activities include the implementation of some new financial oversight procedures aimed at maintaining the sound financial health of the League, and a serious push to re-evaluate the ways in which the League can best serve its members, particularly students. Possibilities include more student involvement on the board, improvements to the web site, and special activities in meeting programs geared toward student interests and needs. Perhaps the most pressing issue facing the Herpetologists' League, however, is that of electronic publishing. This is a subject about which all members should be informed and that will be a major topic of discussion at our upcoming annual meeting in Indianapolis.

As many of you may know, many societies, including HL, SSAR and ASIH, are currently wrestling with the issue of electronic publishing. The issue is a complex one. The League must soon decide to what extent, if any, it will pursue alternatives to the traditional paper copy journal. To a certain extent we, and other small scientific societies, are under pressure from publishers and institutional libraries that would prefer to deal in "journal packages" consisting of a diversity of biological journals in electronic format. Institutions would pay a single fee to publishers for electronic access to a cluster of journals and in some (many?) cases other (hardcopy) journals would no longer be taken. This poses a serious threat, as institutional subscribers provide much of HL's income. What income would come from participation in such a group venture in electronic publishing remains unclear. Several such programs exist and although some might provide us with some compensation (prorated on the relative usage rate of *Herpetologica* as compared to other journals in the package), other models call for HL to pay to be included and then provide no compensation for electronic use (fees go only to the publisher). Other ramifications include the impact on personal subscriptions – would we lose members if their institutions have *Herpetologica* and *Herpetological Monographs* on line?

Costs of production of electronic media are generally lower, often much lower, than those associated with hardcopy journals (see Brian Crother's comments below). However, if dues and subscriptions were to drop substantially, the League would have very little income to work with and this could force a switch to electronic format publication only, as the high cost of traditional journal production could not be supported. For a variety of reasons, I am opposed to an e-version only of our journals. Most significantly, as a user of the literature, I believe that paper copy is easier to work with, and that a substantial (though shrinking) number of HL members, especially some overseas, are not equipped to receive electronic journals. All of this aside, however, electronic media offer some exciting options for data presentation and the rapid and timely dissemination of information. How, if at all, can HL keep its paper copy journals, but still take advantage of what electronic publishing has to offer? Last year the League joined AIBS, an umbrella organization of biological societies that can help to represent the League's interests in Washington and elsewhere. Membership in AIBS also makes HL eligible to participate in BioOne, a joint effort between AIBS and Allen Press that will bundle electronic versions of member society journals for package subscriptions to institutions under relatively favorable terms for the societies. The League has not committed to participation in this venture, but our options remain

open and it will be explored along with other options for electronic publishing.

At the upcoming meeting in Indianapolis, the board will seriously consider the options for electronic publishing and will try to develop policies to guide the Herpetologists' League into this new territory while maintaining a commitment to make the League's publications accessible to all and following a course of fiscal responsibility. **I strongly urge all HL members to make their opinions regarding the role of electronic publishing in the Herpetologists' League known to any of the board members prior to the Indianapolis meeting so that our deliberations will be better informed by your concerns and wishes.** To help make members aware of some of the issues involved, I have asked Brian Crother to prepare a condensed version of his committee's report on electronic publishing to the HL board, presented at the meeting in La Paz in 2000.

ELECTRONIC MEDIA: THE FUTURE OF HL PUBLICATIONS?

Brian I. Crother

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A couple of years ago, then HL President Joe Mitchell asked me if I would be willing to chair a committee charged with exploring publishing in electronic media (EM), i.e. web based. Apparently there was some concern that HL might not keep up (financially and in service to members) if it did not begin to utilize EM. Subsequent and current HL President Aaron Bauer continued the inquiry into EM which led to the submission of a report at the La Paz meetings by the assembled committee (myself, Steve Beaupre, Diana Hews, Karen Lips, John Fauth). At the upcoming meetings at Indianapolis the board will discuss EM and the direction and pace HL will proceed with electronic publishing. The following is something of a condensed version of the aforementioned submitted report so all the members can get a feel for where the HL might be headed.

If a society or journal is going embrace electronic publishing, four general questions should be addressed for the society to go forward. One, what is the need? Two, will the EM overcome extant publishing problems? Three, will the EM extend the possibilities of publishing, will it extend the boundaries of what can be published? How might EM be implemented and what might the consequences be for HL?

One, what is the need?

This is perhaps the single most important question for the HL. The answer to this question will dictate the direction and pace that the HL will proceed with regard to electronic publishing. Exactly what would the society's motives be for moving into EM? Convenience? Cost? Timely publication? Take advantage of the ability to publish in a broader media spectrum (sound, video, interactive, downloadable data sets, extravagant color)? Just to be modern? To preface what follows, all of these are achievable but the degree that some of them can be realized (e.g. reduced cost) will depend on choices the society makes. But does achievable equal need? No. It could be argued that we should leave well enough alone, and therefore we don't *need* to change anything. But, some of the committee's findings indicated that just about everybody is getting into EM to some degree, either as exclusive online journals or as paper/online journals where members have options. Although we don't need to do it, many are because of the advantages associated with EM.

Will the EM overcome extant publishing problems?

With short reflection, it becomes obvious that the most critical drawbacks to paper publications are timeliness of publication and cost. Depending on the format of the electronic journal, the problem of timeliness could be erased. However, if the EM version is just a mimic of the paper version, the same waiting periods will exist. As for cost, there is no question costs can be reduced, and even drastically depending how the electronic publishing is handled. We found many journals doing it for free. Other societies used

a hierarchical fee schedule, charging members based on how they preferred receiving their journals (e.g. web, CD, or paper). Even if only a portion of the membership went to EM, it would potentially save the society (and its members) money.

Will the EM extend the possibilities of publishing, will it extend the boundaries of what can be published?

The short answers are yes and yes. Online journals can include sound, video, be interactive, color, and have data sets that can be easily downloaded. Why only stare at an audiospectrogram of a frog call when you can actually listen to it as well? Why be limited to describing a series of behaviors when you can watch it as a video? When publishing a key, why not make interactive and include color photographs of the organisms (for an example see the *A KEY TO THE ANURAN TADPOLES OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA* by Altig et al. in the Contemporary Herpetology Information Series)? Instead of typing in a giant data matrix that you might want to reanalyze or add to other data, why not just download it?

How might EM be implemented and what might the consequences be for HL?

Getting EM as part of HL publishing can either be done in house (there are lots of talented members out there, again Contemporary Herpetology is an example) or pay a publishing company to implement it for HL. The publishing company would of course charge and the accountants would have to determine if we would be saving any money. But the publisher would handle both paper and EM formats and all the maintenance of the website. Again, the breadth of utilizing EM can range from simply employing electronic submissions of manuscripts for paper journals to completely online journals. Without doing the accounting, I think the society would save money at any level. Clearly, the society would be affected by making some sort of commitment to publishing in EM. But the society need not alienate members not comfortable with EM and should retain paper as an option, if it decides to offer online versions.

The Declining Amphibian Populations Task Force (DAPTF)

The DAPTF is currently working towards the production, in 2001 or 2002, of three products that will report the work that has been completed by its members over the last ten years: 1. A compendium of detailed reports from all the Regional Working Groups, 2. A multi-author book that will review progress that has been made in understanding amphibian population declines and their causes, and 3. A detailed database, in CD format, called dad (declining amphibian database). Since 1994, the DAPTF Office at the Open University has been receiving reports from around the world on the status of amphibian populations. Most of these have come from our Regional Working Groups, but many have come from individuals and from published sources. Some cover quite large areas, others report on very localized sites. We are putting these reports into a database, using software called IOS, with the objective of maximizing the ease and flexibility with which the data can be extracted and used by others. For example, interested researchers will be able to extract data from the CD, based on specific variables (such as: species, taxon, locality, habitat-type, cause of decline) or a combination of variables. The data are coded according to two main criteria, site and species. Site information includes variables such as longitude, latitude, altitude, the dates of declines and the number of species effected, and vegetation characteristics. Species information includes taxonomic details, habitat variables for different life stages, and data on population declines. There are extensive comments and full references are included. We hope to publish dad in Spanish, as well as English. The information will incorporate text, photos of species and location maps. IOS allows easy access to information by enabling the user to navigate through geographical pathways to site information. Species information is linked automatically to sites or can be accessed via taxonomic pathways. A highly flexible search system enables users to search directly for sites, species, etc., or make searches for any combination of variables. An analysis tool allows simple compilation and transformation of data and output to statistical packages. To the general public, and to the media, "amphibians" means "frogs", and there is a danger that this bias will also be reflected in the data that we collect. I am making a special plea to those who work on caecilians and urodeles to do all they can to insure that we receive data on the status of populations of species in these groups, to help us gather as comprehensive and balanced a dataset as possible. Because a primary objective of dad is to identify causes of amphibian declines, data on populations that have not declined are just as informative as data on populations that have. In a project of this kind, the issue of the ownership of data will inevitably arise. For this reason, what we are after are data that have already been published, but we suspect that there are a lot of relevant data that have been collected but not yet published. **If you, or someone you know is sitting on population data that they did not think was interesting enough to publish, now is the time to do it.**

If you have data you would like to contribute to dad, please contact: Tim Halliday (DAPTF International Director) --

t.r.halliday@open.ac.uk; Biology Department, The Open University, Milton Keynes, MK76AA, United Kingdom.

Visit HL on the Web!

<http://www.inhs.uiuc.edu/cbd/HL/HL.html>

GRAD SCHOOL NEWS...

Herpetology at Washington State University

Featuring the laboratories of: Patrick Carter, John Larsen, Kenneth Kardong, and Paul Verrell

Organismal biology of all kinds is a major focus of both teaching and research in the School of Biological Sciences at Washington State University (WSU). Conceptual interests range from systematics to conservation, and encompass taxonomic groups that include plants as well as a variety of invertebrate and vertebrate animals. The geographic location of WSU in southeastern Washington offers ready access to many kinds of both pristine and disturbed habitats. In addition, WSU administers several facilities that can be used for field research, and the School houses the Conner Museum of Natural History (containing one of the largest research collections of herps in the state). Finally, WSU maintains excellent academic ties with the nearby University of Idaho; these include cross-listed courses as well as active research collaborations.

Herpetology research at WSU is conducted by four faculty members and their postdocs, and graduate and undergraduate students.

PATRICK CARTER is an evolutionary biologist who is interested in quantitative genetic approaches to understanding the evolution of phenotypes, especially for traits that vary across the life cycle. PATRICK typically selects taxa other than herps to answer his questions, although he maintains an interest in ambystomatid salamanders. For example, M.S. student GREG RAGLAND is examining how the genetic architecture of traits that affect larval locomotor performance changes over ontogeny.

Although JOHN LARSEN is an emeritus professor, he remains active in research. JOHN's primary interest lies in the study of complex morphological adaptations that underlie the diversity of feeding modes shown by salamanders. In addition to biomechanics and functional morphology, JOHN also maintains an interest in the general biology of amphibians of the Northwest. For example, his graduate students have conducted research on topics as diverse as the spermathecal anatomy and breeding phenology of local species of salamanders.

Together with his graduate students, KENNETH KARDONG works on the evolution of complex systems within reptiles, in particular the evolution of the complex jaw apparatus of snakes. His lab adopts several approaches in this research. Through pharmacological studies, he has examined the characteristics of venom systems in advanced snakes. EDWARD JOHNSON, a postdoctoral student, continues this research dimension with an interest especially in hemorrhagic and myotoxic properties of snake venoms. Through ethological studies, KENNETH'S lab has examined the basic predatory behavior patterns of snakes and the proximate role of sensory systems in releasing phases of the hunting behavior. Currently this is under study by TAMARA SMITH, Ph.D. student, and several supervised undergraduates. TAMARA also is studying the biomechanics and evolution of squamate feeding systems. Further, through experimental studies, KENNETH'S lab has examined the relationship between jaw structure and its biomechanical and functional performance. These approaches have permitted the formulation of hypotheses concerning the adaptive steps in the evolution of advanced snakes, and identification of the more general evolutionary processes that they illustrate. Besides collaborations with colleagues in North America, KENNETH cooperates with laboratories having similar interests in Europe and, occasionally with colleagues within Japan and China.

Finally, PAUL VERRELL is an ethologist whose main interests lie in understanding the function and evolution of herp reproductive behavior patterns. Various ethological and phylogenetic tools are brought to bear on comparative data collected from both the lab and field. Other interests include the role that sexual behavior patterns play in population divergence and speciation, and the effects of various environmental contaminants on amphibian biology (the latter in collaboration with ROLF INGERMANN of the University of Idaho).

PAUL'S interests are reflected in Master's projects currently underway or nearing completion in his lab. BARRY STEPHENSON is conducting research on the sexual strategies of tailed frogs. ERIN KELSO is addressing similar questions in a squamate, the veiled chameleon. Work with a greater emphasis on data collected in the field includes research by PAUL HUANG on the reproductive ecology of dicamptodontids and by JARED FARLEY on water relations in toads. In addition, Ph.D. projects in PAUL'S lab that involve salamanders include a study of population divergence in Appalachian plethodontids by MICHELLE MABRY and of predator-prey relationships among ambystomatids by JULIE FRONZUTO.

Although herpetology is not an overwhelming research thrust at WSU, it is a major (if not *the* major) area of study in the labs of four faculty members. All of us welcome inquiries from people who are interested in our diverse research programs. Further information about WSU, our faculty and our graduate students can be obtained from our website at: www.wsu.edu

Herpetotrivia: -- A new iguanid lizard from Argentina has been named *Liolaemus heliodermis*, The literal translation of the specific epithet from the Greek is "sun skin". Males have a bright, sulfur-yellow dorsum (females are brown). See Figure 3 in the article for a photo of the colorful male. Espinoza, RE, F Lobo, and FB Cruz. 2000. *Herpetologica* 56:507-516.

Conferences, Conventions, Conclaves

American Society of Ichthyologists & Herpetologists

and the American Elasmobranch Society

ASIH's annual meeting will be held **5-10 July**

at The Pennsylvania State University in State College, Pennsylvania. Preregistration deadline is May 3rd. For more information see the meeting website: www.outreach.psu.edu/c&i/ichher/

Southwestern Association of Naturalists

SWAN's 48th annual meeting will take place **19-21 April**

at Fort Hays State University in Hays, Kansas. For more information see the SWAN website at www.emporia.edu/swan.

Animal Behavior Society The 2001 Animal Behavior Society meeting will be held **14-18 July** at Oregon State University. Symposia topics are *Behavioral genetics for the next decade* and *Detecting and measuring mating preferences*, and topics for invited paper sessions are *Song learning*, *Aggression and group organization in animal societies*, and *Educating in animal behavior*. Harry Greene will give the Keynote presentation and Fellows lectures will be presented by Ellen Ketterson and Eliot Brenowitz. Meeting information can be accessed at:

<http://www.animalbehavior.org/ABS/Program> .

MONEY, MONEY, MONEY

Sherman A. Minton

Travel Awards *See announcement on Page 1 of the newsletter!*

Southwestern Research Station Student Support Fund

The American Museum of Natural History awards several grants each year of approximately \$400-\$800 to graduate students or postdoctoral students pursuing research at its Southwestern Research Station in the Chiricahua Mountains, Portal, Arizona. Information and application forms for this program and other Museum grant programs can be obtained by writing: Office of Grants and Fellowships, American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West at 79th Street, New York, NY 10024-5192. For application dates and other questions, contact: Dr. Wade C. Sherbrooke, Director, Southwestern Research Station, American Museum of Natural History, P.O. Box 16553, Portal, AZ 85632 USA; phone/fax: (520)558-2396; e-mail: swrs@amnh.org.

Carnegie museum of natural History -- Collection Study Grants in Herpetology

The Carnegie museum of Natural History is pleased to announce a grant to support herpetological research by graduate students and foreign scientists. The grant is intended to defray costs of transportation and lodging associated with visiting and using the collection. The Carnegie's herpetological collection contains more than 194,000 preserved specimens, including one of the largest collections of turtles and extensive holdings from the West Indies, Mexico, South America, Spain, Africa, India, and the Philippines. Applicants should send the following, in duplicate: (1) a description of the proposed research (including its significance and the justification for visiting the Carnegie), not to exceed two pages, (2) literature cited, (3) budget, and (4) CV. Students should also arrange for two letters of recommendation to be sent. Awards will be made twice a year. Deadlines for application materials are 15 April and 15 November. Send applications to Collection Study Grants in Herpetology, Section of Amphibians and Reptiles, Carnegie museum of natural History, Pittsburgh, PA 15213-4080, and for more information, contact John J. Wiens (e-mail:wiensj@clpgh.org; phone 412-622-5520; FAX 412-622-8837.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Position Announcement *Research Assistant (10 week position)*

Alligator River Wildlife Refuge

The Research Position is available for biology, zoology, or wildlife ecology and management majors beginning in mid-May 2001 for 10 weeks at the Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), North Carolina. Successful applicant will assist with Amphibian and Reptilian Diversity Study of Alligator River NWR (swamps) and Pea Island NWR (beach dune habitat). Applicant is expected to work cooperatively with interns and professional staff (USFWS and USGS). Persons with previous experience in herpetology and collecting methods are encouraged to apply. The research requires an enjoyment of working outdoors and an acceptance of hot weather, high humidity, insects, poisonous snakes, and long field days. Typical tasks and skills for the position are: systematic herp searches, night road-collecting, drift fence monitoring, aural amphibian counts, collecting from a small boat, accurate data entry and management, daily field notes, use of aerial photos and maps, and use of GPS and compass. Requirements: two years of college in wildlife ecology, biology, or related major. Salary: \$9-10/hr (40 hr week) depending on experience. Lodging will be provided on Pea Island NWR. Please send a letter, resume, copy of transcripts; and the names, addresses, and phone numbers of three references to: Dr. J. Michael Meyers, USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Warnell School of Forest Resources, The University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602-2152; e-mail: jmeyers@smokey.forestry.uga.edu or Joe_Meyers@usgs.gov. **Application deadline: 30 March 2001.** Web Information: www.pwrc.usgs.gov/research/sis2000/meyers04.htm.

Center for North American Herpetology

New Web Site

The Center for North American Herpetology (CNAH) is pleased to announce its new, completely updated and expanded internet web site at: <http://www.naherpetology.org> The new web site is the result of many months of hard work by CNAH Web Site Director Travis W. Taggart, and I think you will be pleased with the finished product. All of the previous features, articles and sections of the old web site are retained (but in many cases re-configured), and much new has been added. Those of you who have bookmarked the old web site will be automatically forwarded to this new site. You may wish to update your bookmark for faster access. This is the premier academic web site for North American herpetology, and will deliver the ultimate access to information about the amphibians, turtles, reptiles, and crocodylians of the United States and Canada. We hope you find it useful, intellectually stimulating, and worthwhile. -- Joseph T. Collins, The Wildlife Author Laureate of Kansas, Adjunct Curator of Herpetology, Sternberg Museum of Natural History, Herpetologist Emeritus, University of Kansas Natural History Museum. Address: The Center for North American Herpetology (CNAH), 1502 Medinah Circle, Lawrence, Kansas 66047. (785) 749-346, email: jcollins@ukans.edu.

Field Museum Herpetological Collections Online

The website for the retrieval of information on the approximately 265,000 specimens in the collection of the Division of Amphibians and Reptiles at the Field Museum can be queried at <http://www.fmnh.org/herps/>. This new service was implemented as part of a grant from the National Science Foundation

The Field Museum's amphibian and reptile collection is global in origin and almost equally divided between the New World and Old World. The approximate breakdown of collection holdings by major geographic area is: North America (32.9% of catalog entries), Indo-Australia (20.9%), Asia (15.4%), South America (10.4%), Africa (9.0%), Central America (4.7%), Australia (2.7%), Caribbean (1.2%), Pacific (0.9%), Europe (0.6%), Madagascar (0.5%), Atlantic Ocean (0.3%), and Indian Ocean (0.1%).

The total number of catalog entries from the United States is approximately 50,500. States representing from 5-10% of this total included (ranked highest to lowest): Illinois, New York, Texas, North Carolina, Mississippi, and Indiana.

The collection contains over 6,000 species and 1,180 genera. The approximate breakdown of collection holdings by order or suborder is: frogs (42.6% of catalog entries), salamanders (12.4%), caecilians (0.25%), turtles (1.97%), rhynchocephalians (0.006%), lizards (26.4%), snakes (16.0%), amphisbaenians (0.16%), and crocodylians (0.26%).

Please direct any comments, suggestions, or problems to Harold Voris (hvoris@fmnh.org) or Alan Resetar (aresetar@fmnh.org), both of whom are at: Division of Amphibians and Reptiles, Field Museum of Natural History, 1400 S. Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60605-2496.

Herpetotrivia: The spadefoot toad's (*Scaphiopus couchii*) larval period is the shortest reported for any anuran: about 8 days. -- See Buchholz, DR & TB Hayes. 2000. *Herpetologica* 56:455-468.

Volunteers

Approximately 30 volunteer positions are open at the American Museum of Natural History's Southwestern Research Station in Portal, Arizona. The volunteer program is run annually and offers students in biological sciences outstanding opportunities to observe and become involved with scientists doing field research. **Food and lodging are provided to volunteers** in exchange for 24 hours per week of routine chores, with the remaining time available for research activities.

The program is open to both undergraduate and graduate students; the latter may pursue their own research projects. Faculty knowing of promising students should alert them to this opportunity for professional experience toward, development of, and

evaluation of their career goals.

Volunteers are needed between March 15 and November 1. Appointments are for part of this period, with a minimum appointment of six weeks. Applicants for Spring positions (March-May) should submit applications by February 15, summer volunteers (June-August) by April 1, and fall volunteers (September- November) may apply any time.

For applications write: Dr. Wade C. Sherbrooke, Director, Southwestern Research Station, American Museum of Natural History, P.O. Box 16553, portal, AZ 85632 USA; phone/fax: (520)558-2396; e-mail: swrs@amnh.org.

Graduate Students!!

Now is the time to start thinking about participating in next years HL Award competition for Graduate Research.

(See *Herpetologica* 56: 521-522)

PUBLICATION NOTICES

Tarantulas in the Vivarium: Habits, Husbandry, and Breeding

By Peter Klaas. English Ed. 2001. Krieger Publishing Company. 152 pages (123 color photographs). \$29.50 (hard cover). ISBN: 1-57524-018-1. First section discusses anatomy, life history, relationships to other arthropods, vivarium diseases and parasites, and bites to humans. Second section is individual accounts on 40 of the more commonly kept species. For order info contact Krieger Publishing Company, P.O. Box 9542, Melbourne, FL 32902-9542, Tel: 1-800-724-0025, Fax: (321)951-3671; e-mail: info@krieger-publishing.com, Web: www.krieger-publishing.com

Chameleons

By Petr Necas. Krieger Publishing Company. 348 pages (280 color photos and 45 black and white drawings and photos). \$47.50 (cloth). ISBN: 1-57524-137-4. This English language edition is translated from the German language edition published in 1995. This book is partly a compilation of published information and partly a summary of unpublished data from various breeders, biologists, and veterinarians, with the author's view reflected on each topic.

For order information contact: Krieger Publishing Company, P.O. Box 9542, Melbourne, FL 32902-9542, Tel: 1-800-724-0025, Fax: (407)951-3671; e-mail: info@krieger-pub.com, URL: www.web4u.com/krieger-publishing/

Policy for Advertisement of New Books As a service to our readers, *Communications* is pleased to publish announcements of new books of interest to HL members. However, we do not accept formal "advertisements". We will include the "standard" information (title; author; publisher; price (HB/PB); no. of pages, illustrations, maps), plus, optionally, a very brief 1-2 sentence description of the book and an address for orders. This information should be sent to the editor of *Communications*. Announcements will be included as space allows and content may be edited.

Communiqués to *Communications*

Target dates for distribution of *Communications* are March and September. Herpetologically-relevant announcements are included as space allows.

Send submissions/ questions/comments to:

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e-mail: sam477f@mail.smsu.edu.

HL Annual Meetings

2001 Indianapolis

2002 Kansas City

Herpetologists' League

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20% DISCOUNT OFF THESE ALREADY LOW PRICES FOR STUDENT MEMBERS!!

New members who sign up at the meetings are eligible for these prices.

NOTICE!! Several issues of *Herpetologica*
are out of print and others are reduced to a few copies, so first come, first served.