The Newsletter of the Herpetologists'League

September 2001. Volume 8, Number 2

Alicia Mathis, Editor

Dept. of Biology, Southwest Missouri State University, Springfield, MO 65804-0095

HL's Graduate Award Named for Robert G. Jaeger!

The following resolution was approved at the 2001 HL annual meeting in Indianapolis.

Whereas, Dr. Robert G. Jaeger has devoted many years of extensive and indeed honorable service to The Herpetologists' League, and

Whereas, Dr. Jaeger has been the distinguished Editor of *Herpetologica* for 20 consecutive years, and

Whereas, Dr. Jaeger has been a staunch supporter of student activities in The Herpetologists' League throughout this time, and

Whereas, Dr. Jaeger played a primary and inspirational role in the creation of The Herpetologists' League Student Award, and

Whereas, Dr. Jaeger has insisted that student award results be published prominently in the pages of *Herpetologica*, hence giving recognition to student members of the society,

Therefore Be It Resolved That

The annual Herpetologists' League Student Award Competition will be henceforth named the Robert G. Jaeger Student Award in honor of Dr. Robert G. Jaeger.

Call for Symposium Proposals for the 2003 HL Meeting

The Herpetologists' League sponsors thematic symposia for its annual meetings. Any League member may submit a proposal for a symposium for the upcoming meeting by sending a proposal application to the chair of the Symposium Committee. Official sponsorship by the Herpetologists' League allows for the scheduling and announcement of the symposium in the meeting program and registration materials. In addition, a small amount of money (a maximum of $2000) is available to support sponsored symposia.

Applicants should provide the following information: 1) a statement outlining the name/topic of the symposium, the scope of the planned presentations, the relevance of the topic to herpetology and, if appropriate, to the particular

meeting (e.g., timeliness or geographic appropriateness), and the goal of the symposium (not to exceed one single-spaced page of text); 2) a tentative outline of speakers (including presentation of titles and institutional affiliations) indicating the time to be allocated for each presentation and the total length of the symposium (e.g., half-day, full-day). Only speakers that have indicated their willingness to participate should be listed. This should be accompanied by a short (one paragraph) statement explaining how the particular slate of speakers and presentations meets the goals of the symposium as a whole. Note that two or more individuals should be involved with organizing each symposium and that the application should include the addresses, telephone and fax numbers, and e-mail addresses of these organizers. 3) a budget (not to exceed $2000) detailing the proposed use of funds requested from the Herpetologists' League. Appropriate expenses include full or partial support of travel, housing and/or registration expenses for symposium participants.

Sponsorship by the Herpetologists' League does not guarantee financial support and symposia may be sponsored and funded at a level lower than that requested by the applicants.

Interested persons should submit their proposals **no later than 1 May 2002** to: Rafael O. de Sa, Symposium Committee, Department of Biology, University of Richmond, Richmond, Virginia 23173.

Help keep costs low!

Pay your HL dues on time

2001 Winners: HL's Graduate Competition

Sixteen students participated in HL's Graduate Student Competition at this year's annual meeting in Indianapolis. Awards were based on short written papers and on oral presentations made at the meeting. Six of the participants were chosen as finalists and these students received monetary awards to fund travel to the meeting. An Overall Winner and Honorable Mention were selected. Below are short bio's of the six finalists and a brief description of their research in their own words.

Overall Winner:

Richard M. Lehtinen

Degrees: **B.S.** Winona State Univ. (Biology); Advisor: Michael Delong

M.S. Univ. of Minnesota (Conservation Biology); Advisors: Susan Galatowitsch and John Tester

Current: **Ph.D. candidate** at the Univ. of Michigan (Ecology and Evolutionary Biology); Advisor: Ron Nussbaum

Hometown: Lily Lake, Illinois

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Some unusual frogs in the tropics breed in water-filled parts of plants (phytotelms), rather than in ponds or streams. These microaquatic environments are thought to be relatively free of competitors and predators, but they are also small, have limited food resources, and can dry out more easily than larger water bodies. Phytotelmic frog larvae have evolved numerous strategies to cope with these conditions including: direct development, oophagy, detritivory and cannibalism. There are five frogs in the genus *Mantidactylus* from Madagascar that breed in water-filled leaf axils of screw pine (*Pandanus*) plants, however, there had previously been very little information on the diet and ecology of these species. Using plastic containers as experimental mesocosms, I manipulated density, water levels,

detritus levels, multiple cohorts and other variables to document the ecology of two of these species, *Mantidactylus bicalcaratus* and *M. punctatus*. My results indicate that the larvae are strictly detritivorous, as growth rates were significantly higher in the detritus treatment when compared to controls. No cannibalism was observed under any conditions. I also found a negative relationship between growth rates and both low water levels and increased density of larvae. These data provide the first substantial information on the ecology of these unusual frogs from the rainforests of Madagascar.

Honorable Mention:

John G. Himes

Degrees: **BS** , Univ. of Mississippi (Biology) **MS**, Louisiana State Univ. in Shreveport (Biology); Advisor: Laurence M. Hardy

Current: **Ph.D student** at Univ. of Southern Mississippi (Biology), Advisor: David C. Beckett

Hometown: Williamson, New York

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My research focuses on the ecology of water snakes (*Nerodia*). These snakes are extremely abundant in the upper tributaries of the Pascagoula River System of southeastern Mississippi and thus may play important roles as competitors, predators, and prey in aquatic ecosystems in this area. The midland water snake (*N. sipedon*) and the diamondback water snake (*N. rhombifer*) are especially common, and because they occur in the same water bodies and require the same resources, they are potential intra- and interspecific competitors. Moreover, adult water snakes may be potential cannibals of non-kin, newborn water snakes and thus may be able to exhibit kin recognition. To determine the validity of these hypotheses, I am testing snakes over several-month periods in field enclosures in which the densities and species of predators (snakes) and prey (fish or other snakes) are manipulated. The resulting growth rates (competition experiments) or number of prey types consumed (cannibalism experiments) of test snakes are recorded at the end of testing and are compared to those of snakes tested under different experimental treatments.

Travel Awards:

Eric Blackwell

Degrees: **AS**, Gadsden State Univ. (Gen. Education) **BS**, Jacksonville State Univ. (Biology)

MS, Jacksonville State Univ. (Biology)

Current: **Ph.D candidate** at Univ. of Alabama at Birmingham (Biology); Advisor: Ken Marion

Hometown: Jacksonville, Alabama

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My major field of study is amphibian ecology and my dissertation research focuses on population dynamics of spotted (*Ambystoma maculatum*) and marbled (*A. opacum*) salamanders. Both species are common and widespread throughout the eastern United States and thus may provide valuable clues for monitoring environmental degradation. Given the current magnitude of declining amphibian populations, it is necessary to establish normal life cycles, breeding cycles and growth parameters for amphibian populations. With these requirements in mind, this research was initiated to elucidate these dynamics for two populations of *A. maculatum* and one population of *A. opacum*. Specific objectives are to: 1) estimate population sizes, 2) estimate natural growth rates, 3) document

larval philopatry, 4) ascertain age at sexual maturity, 5) identify breeding frequency, and 6) determine breeding site fidelity.

Herpetotrivia: Pelodytid frogs from the southern Iberian peninsula differ from their northern counterparts both morphologically and genetically. They also have a different accent: mating calls from Andalusia are more complex. -- Sánchez-Herráiz et al. 2000. *Herpetologica* 56:105-118.

Bridget Donaldson

Degrees: **BS**, Univ. of Colorado at Boulder (Ecological, Population, and Organismic Biology)

MS, Univ. of Tennessee (Ecology and Evolutionary Biology); Advisor: Sandy Echternacht

Current: Graduated with MS in May 2001; will soon begin work for the Natural Heritage Program (TVA's regional branch) in Knoxville, TN

Hometown: Cincinnati, Ohio

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Because eastern box turtles (*Terrapene carolina carolina*) are characterized by their terrestrial tendencies in the literature, I investigated whether aquatic habitats play an ecologically important role in their lives. With the use of trailing devices and radio transmitters, I examined the extent to which they utilize aquatic habitats and the influence wet areas may have on their home range and seasonal movement. Turtles used creeks and temporary ponds in three separate areas from June through August, generally extending their home ranges by means of abrupt linear movements towards the water in response to high temperatures and low precipitation. One hundred thirty-one turtles visited two small temporary ponds from June to September, and individuals remained in the ponds for up to 23 consecutive days. Home range sizes averaged 1.88 ± 0.49 ha via minimum convex polygon analysis, and 2.26 ± 0.76 ha via 95% kernel analysis. Kernel estimators were more effective at representing uneven home range use, often demonstrating the heavy use of water relative to other areas. This study demonstrates that wet areas have a significant effect on eastern box turtle lifestyle. They should be considered in wetland area conservation decisions where appropriate.

Rita Mehta

Degrees: **BA**, Univ of California at Berkeley **MS,** Univ of Texas at Tyler

Current: **PhD student** at the Univ of Tennessee at Knoxville; Advisor: Gordon Burghardt

Hometown: Huntington Beach, California

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In a broad sense I am interested in behavior from an evolutionary and physiological stand point. My research focuses on the feeding behavior of snakes. There is a great amount of diversity in the feeding behavior of snakes, especially members in the superfamily Colubroidea. With this particular project I studied a member of the genus *Elaphe* (*sensu lato*). *Elaphe*, commonly known as "rat snakes" inhabit the Old World as well as the New World. Members of New World *Elaphe*
are proficient constrictors while members of Old World seem to constrict in a more erratic manner. Interestingly, Old World and New World *Elaphe*

may not be each other's closest relatives. Behavioral evidence along with morphological and molecular data may help elucidate the relationship between Old World and New World *Elaphe*. In the laboratory I documented the prey-handling behaviors of 60 ingestively naive *Elaphe helena*. All snakes were fed *Mus musculus* of various percentages of the snake's body mass. The effects of prey size on capture position, direction of ingestion, condition of prey at ingestion, latency, and prey-handling method were recorded for each feeding episode.

Jeanne M. Robertson

Degrees: **BS,** Univ. of California, Davis (Exercise Physiology)

Current: **MS** student, Southern Illinois Univ., Carbondale (Zoology); Advisor: Karen R. Lips

Hometown: Cupertino, California

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Population fragmentation potentially affects the continual evolution of a species. The persistence of local populations depends largely on the life history traits of an organism, including the dispersal capacity and geographic distribution. I investigated individual movement patterns and hierarchical patterns of gene flow among stream populations of the Neotropical glass frog, *Centrolene prosoblepon* (Centrolenidae) at a cloud forest site in Central Panamá. I measured adult male movements over a one-year period through mark-recapture study. Mitochondrial DNA sequencing was conducted using toe tips obtained through the mark-recapture study to estimate levels of gene flow among subpopulations at 3 spatial scales: among headwater streams, among streams within a drainage and among drainages. Results of this study revealed high gene flow among headwater streams up to 3 km^2 and restricted gene flow at 6 km^2. High gene flow estimates between disjunct streams (separated by the continental divide) provide evidence for overland dispersal. Based on these results, I predict that *C. prosoblepon* populations probably occur as a metapopulation and that relocation of local populations is likely in the event of a catastrophic event. Sequencing revealed low gene flow among populations sampled from Costa Rica to Ecuador. Understanding the genetic history of populations is essential for identification of source populations; large genetic population differentiation was observed across a broad geographic range suggesting that each watershed may be a unique evolutionary unit for *C. prosoblepon.*
Conservation land management recommendations include forest corridors and riparian buffer zones to maintain/restore population connectivity.

Graduate Students in Herpetology!

Guidelines for the

Robert G. Jaeger Student Award

If you are a Master's or Ph.D. student with research results, consider participating in the annual competition for The Herpetologists' League Robert G. Jaeger Student Award for Graduate Research. There are six prizes to be won.

To participate, you must (1) be a member of The Herpetologists' League in good standing, (2) be either a registered graduate student or have completed your graduate degree within 12 months of the Award presentations at the annual meeting, (3) submit a single-authored abstract by the "call for papers" 15 February 2002 deadline for the 2002 annual meeting, noting on the abstract your intention to compete only in the HL Award competition (this applies only to this particular abstract, different abstracts/presentations may be submitted to other competitions), (4) submit a single-authored extended abstract to the Chair of the HL Award Committee (four pages of text, double-spaced, minimum 11 point or 12 pitch type, 1 inch [2.5 cm] margins, with additional literature cited, tables, and figures for a maximum of 10 pages in total) written in format for Herpetologica, due 6 May 2002 (two months before the first day of the annual meeting), and (5) give the oral presentation at the annual meeting. Note that

noncompliance with any of these requirements will result in disqualification.

The judges will review the extended abstracts and pick up to six finalists for the rest of the competition. Their names will be announced at the meeting after the presentations (all presentations will be in a single session). If you are a finalist, you will receive a travel award of $200. In addition, The Herpetologists' League will host a dinner for the finalists on the evening of the Award Session. The winner will be announced later at the HL Business Meeting, and the award shall consist of (1) $300 (for a total of $500), (2) 10 years of back issues of Herpetologica, and (3) an invitation to submit an expanded full-length manuscript to Herpetologica/Herpetological Monographs (which will be subject to normal review) as a lead article identifying the author as winner of the Award. All participants will receive collated comments from the judges on their talk and extended abstract.

Admittedly, The Herpetologists' League's student award competition is more demanding than those of the other herpetological societies but the chances of winning something are higher, and we submit that you'll get a lot out of the experience whether you win the first prize or not. For assistance on giving oral presentations and writing the extended abstract, we recommend that you refer to the June 1998 Supplement of Herpetologica (Volume 54: S42-S54 and S67-S75).

For further information or questions concerning The Herpetologists' League award, contact Linda S. Ford, Chair of the HL Jaeger Student Award for Graduate Research Committee, Department of Herpetology, American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West at 79th Street, New York, NY 10024-5192, USA. Phone: (212) 769-5857; Fax: (212) 769-5031 [email: lford@amnh.org].

Winners of the Sherman A. Minton

Student Travel Awards to the 2001

HL/SSAR Meetings

Christopher R. Wilson, Appalachian State University

Ulrich Kuch, Univ of Frankfurt

Omar Attum, Univ of Louisville

Ricardo Torres-Cervantes, Univ Nacional Autónoma de Mexico

Amanda Crnkovic, Louisiana State Univ, Shreveport

Mark E. Walvoord, Univ of Oklahoma

Michael J. Rubbo, Pennsylvania State Univ

Richard M. Lehtinen, Univ of Michigan

Stacy N. Smith, Univ of Georgia

Rebecca Symula, East Carolina Univ

Philip J. Bergmann, Univ of Calgary

Angelo P. Bufalino, St. Louis Univ

Sarah M. Holt, Univ of Guelph

Michael N. Marchand, Univ of New Hampshire

Jason R. Rohr, Binghamton Univ

Owen M. Lockhart, Indiana Univ of Pennsylvania

Caren S. Goldberg, Univ of Arizona

This one-time award was in honor of the memory of the late Sherman A. Minton, recognizing his many important contributions to herpetology, toxicology and medicine. **Thanks to all who made donations for this award!**

GRAD SCHOOL NEWS...

FOCUS ON GRADUATE PROGRAMS IN HERPETOLOGY AT

INDIANA STATE UNIVERSITY

The Department of Life Sciences of Indiana State University is located in Terre Haute, one hour west of Indianapolis on I-70. Situated in a river valley on the edge of the Pleistocene glaciation, Terre Haute has a rolling topography, with nearby wooded hills and ravines, in addition to more agricultural settings to the west and north. The department has a diverse set of resources and faculty devoted to studying organismal and environmental biology. Kieweg Woods, a property located 15 minutes from the campus, has deciduous woods, oldfield, and pond habitats and is available for research. Offices and laboratories occupy two floors of a large building that is over 400,000 square feet. Shared use laboratories include a thermal imaging facility directed by GEORGE BAKKEN with equipment for a variety of behavioral and ecological studies of thermal biology. Equipment is also available for video imaging of animal behavior and image analysis, in several faculty laboratories. Five new walk-in environmental chambers are available for use in the department. Facilities for studies involving molecular genetic techniques (e.g. minisatellite DNA fingerprinting, microsatellites, RAPDs, AFLPs) are available in the laboratory of ELAINA TUTTLE. Five faculty members use radiotelemetry in their research. The Department of Geology, Geography, and Anthropology has state-of-art remote sensing and geographic information systems facilities and is conveniently located in the same building as life sciences, facilitating training and collaboration on projects in conservation biology with researchers in the Department of Life Sciences.

CHARLES J. AMLANER (D. Phil., Oxford University) is internationally recognized as an expert both in radiotelemetry and in sleep physiology and the evolution of sleep in a variety of vertebrates. CHRIS MATTHEWS recently documented sleep behavior and asynchronous eye closure, a behavior related to sleep, in lizards for his Master's thesis. Other projects have shown that unihemispheric sleep in birds functions in anti-predator vigilance. Charlie has a complete microsurgery lab fitted for gathering neuropysiological (EEG) and behavioral measures of sleep. Charlie is the chairperson of the department. MICHAEL J. ANGILLETTA, JR. (Ph.D., The University of Pennsylvania) is an ecologist integrating studies of behavior and physiology to address questions about the evolution of life histories. Focusing on the eastern fence lizard (*Sceloporus undulatus*), Mike and his collaborators use comparative and experimental approaches to tease apart the sources of variation in life history phenotypes (e.g., growth rate, age and size at maturity, reproductive effort). Additionally, Mike is interested in the ecology and energetics of reptilian embryos, and has quantified the effects of temperature on the growth and survival of fence lizard embryos. Using these data, he has predicted the nesting behavior of lizards in natural populations. Presently, he is testing these predictions and will soon undertake experimental studies of nest site selection in the field. Mike started at ISU in August of 2000, and his first student CHRIS OUFIERO will investigate the thermal ecology and energetics of frogs in Brazil for his masters thesis research. GEORGE S. BAKKEN (Ph.D., Rice University) continues his work on thermal ecology, which began with the use of model lizards to map the operative temperature of the thermal environment. He is planning work on thermal mapping methods that may provide both more detail and better area coverage by combining operative temperature measured with lizard models with remote sensing methods and data. AARON KROCHMAL a Ph.D. student, has discovered that western diamondback rattlesnakes have the ability to estimate the thermal properties of their habitat at a distance using remote cues, including thermal radiation sensed by the facial pit, and plans studies of how this interacts with visual cues. A postdoc and two other graduate students are studying thermoregulation in hibernating bats (furry reptiles) and swimming ducklings (feathered reptiles).

RUSTY GONSER (Ph.D., State University of New York, Albany; Adjunct Faculty) studies ecology, conservation and evolution of frogs. Rusty has examined the genetic structure of the Puerto Rican frog, *Eleutherodactylus coqui*, using molecular and behavioral techniques. He found that coquies from eastern and western Puerto Rico are distinctly different, indicating that the two populations have become isolated over recent evolutionary time. In conservation biology studies Rusty is using white-tailed deer as model organisms for determining the genetic effects of population fragmentation.

DIANA K. HEWS (Ph.D., The University of Texas at Austin) studies both proximate and evolutionary aspects of sexual selection and mating systems, from the perspectives of behavioral endocrinology, animal communication, and evolutionary biology. Current emphases include studying differences between the sexes in territorial aggression and studying alternative reproductive tactics in male lizards. Doctoral student VANESSA QUINN is examining three *Sceloporus*
species and the relative importance of early androgens in organizing species differences in abdominal blue patches used during aggression. Vanessa also has explored the role of these patches in male-male and male-female encounters using a paint-manipulation paradigm. MARK MANWARING in his master's work is describing the distribution and abundance of brain androgen receptors in males and females of the same three *Sceloporus* species, using immunocytochemistry. For her master's research, ERINA HARA is generating histological sections of the brain and analyzing them to assess sexual dimorphism in the brain of *Sceloporus undulatus*, a typical species that exhibits sexual dimorphism in aggressive behavior. ANGIE FULFORD is completing a laboratory study of chemical cues in red-backed salamanders, *Plethodon cinereus*, for her master's thesis. Angie has found that red-backs can discriminate cues deposited on a crushed leaf substrate, which is more chemically complex than the standard substrate used in laboratory studies, filter paper. Angie has thus validated a large body of chemoreception research.

Other faculty members have active research programs in organismal and environmental biology. STEVE LIMA (Univ. Rochester) studies predator-prey relationships, especially in birds using theoretical and empirical approaches. Conservation issues related to grassland birds using reclaimed strip mines in central Indiana is also a research focus in collaboration with PETER SCOTT (LSU). Peter studies plant-pollinator interactions, working with insects and hummingbirds, and his current research emphasizes forest fragmentation and pollinators. MARY ANN MCLEAN (Univ. Calgary), studies community ecology of soil communities and anthropogenic effects on these communities. ELAINA TUTTLE (SUNY Albany) studies white-throated sparrows and examines how individuals maximize fitness through the differential allocation of time, energy, and resources. Her lab uses physiological, genetic, and behavioral techniques to study mating strategies. JOHN WHITTAKER (Cornell Univ.) teaches Herpetology, Mammalogy, and Vertebrate Zoology, which all have strong field components to familiarize students with local habitats. The author of the recent Audubon field guide, *Mammals of North America*, John currently studies biology and conservation of bats. Further information about our graduate program can be found via a link to the Organismal and Environmental Group, located at the bottom of the Department's web page at http://biology.indstate.edu/dls/ In addition, PDF versions of recent research publications of the faculty and students are available at this site.

Herpetotrivia: It's tough being a caecilian biologist in Cameroon. First, the genus *Crotaphatrema* is known from a total of only eight specimens. Second, the newest species of the genus is named *Crotaphatrema tchabalmbaboensis*. Try spelling that one! -- Lawson, DP. 2000. *Herpetologica* 56:77-80.

Don't forget to let HL know if your e-mail address changes!!

Notify the HL Treasurer's Office at: sievertl@esumail.emporia.edu

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Declining Amphibian Populations

Task Force (DAPTF)

Did you know that DAPTF:

- is a scientific organization dedicated to determining the nature, extent, and causes of amphibian declines and disappearances?
- has awarded more than $40,000 in seed grants for research in 2001?
- coordinates efforts by more than 90 regional working groups in 100 countries?
- maintains a Rapid Response Fund to investigate mass mortality events and disease outbreaks in the field?
- publishes *Froglog*, a free, bimonthly newsletter that is mailed to more than 3000 subscribers worldwide?
- is a specialist group of the *Species Survival Commission* of the *International Union for the Conservation of Nature*?
- is working with *Conservation International* to initiate a global amphibian assessment in 2001-2003?
- is a core project of *IBOY*, the *International Biodiversity Observation Year*?
- is a non-profit organization that has only one regular paid employee? (Nearly all officers and staff are volunteers.)
- derives its operating budget from grants, awards, institutional contributions, and personal donations?

DAPTF welcomes participation
by individuals and institutions that would like to help save amphibians around the globe.

For more information or for a free subscription to *Froglog*, please contact John Wilkinson at <Daptf@open.ac.uk>

or visit our web site <http://www.open.ac.uk/daptf/>

Cash donations to DAPTF are tax deductible for individuals filing U.S. returns.

Wanted: Reviewers for *Herpetologica*

Herpetologica
has a well-deserved reputation for publication of high quality herpetological research. The formidable task of maintaining this standard requires an army of qualified reviewers. If you are willing to share your expertise as a reviewer of manuscripts for *Herpetologica*, please submit your name and areas of specialty to one or more of the Associate Editors listed below. **Please provide both subject areas and taxonomic specialities**. *Graduate students who have published at least once in a peer-reviewed journal are encouraged to submit their names for consideration!!*

Ecology:

-Carl Anthony: anthony@jcu.edu

Ethology:

-Edmund Brodie III: bbrodie@bio.indiana.edu

Molecular Systematics:

-David Green: david.m.green@mcgill.ca

Systematics and Morphology:

-Joseph Mendelson III: sapa@biology.usu.edu

-Stephen Tilley: stilley@email.smith.edu

Conservation Biology:

-Henry Mushinsky: mushinsk@chumal.cas.usf.edu

Physiological Ecology

-Linda Zimmerman: zimmerman@cc.denison.edu

Annual Meetings

2002 Kansas City

2003 Manaus, Brazil

2004 Norman, Oklahoma

2005 Tampa, Florida

(all HL + SSAR + ASIH)

MONEY, MONEY, MONEY

Southwestern Research Station Student Support Fund

The American Museum of Natural History awards several grants each year of approximately $400 - $800 to graduate 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 contacting: Office of Grants and Fellowships, American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West at 79th Street, New York, NY 10024-5192. E-mail: rnavarro@amnh.org. http://research.amnh.org/grants/index.html;; Applications due: Feb. 15. Address questions concerning the Station to Dr. Wade C. Sherbrooke, Director, Southwestern Research Station, American Museum of Natural History, 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-mailwiensj@clpgh.org; phone 412-622-5520; FAX 412-622-8837.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Southwestern Research Station : 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 twenty-four 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. The program is open to non-students as well, particularly in the spring and fall.

Volunteers are needed between mid-March 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.3rd International Symposium on *Emys orbicularis*:

18-20 April 2002 in Kosice, Slovak Republic

This symposium is hosted by Vychodoslovenske Muzeum Kosice in association with Muserum fur Tierkunde Dresden and DGHT Rheinbach and follows on Dresden (Germany) and Le Blanc (Fracey) *Emys* symposia held in 1996 and 1999, respectively. It should bring together scientists, conservationists and interested people from both the western and eastern parts of the distribution of the European pond turtle to know the latest information about its biology.

For more information about the Symposium, please visit www.cassovia.sk/emys or contact: Peter Havas, Titogradska 18, 040 11 Kosice, Slovak Republic; E-mail: havasp@vakke.slposta.sk; or other organizers by E-mail at: novotynmilanko@yahoo.com, pavelsiroky@hotmail.com, fritz@snsk.de

Searchable Online Bibliography: Herpetofauna of Florida

A searchable online bibliography on the herpetofauna of Florida is available on the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's website. The internet address is http://wld.fwc.state.fl.us/herpbibl Abstracts from some herpetological symposia proceedings still need to be added. The bibliography presently contains 5,800 citations but will be periodically updated. It contains scientific literature, popular articles, newsletter articles (including photocopied newspaper articles), abstracts of symposia, and governmental "gray" literature (if readily available). It does not include some trivial references, children's literature, or foreign articles without English summaries. The bibliography can be searched for 27 topics, for all species occurring in Florida, or for a topic on a particular species. It can also be searched by author and/or year of publication and by word strings. Citations are included only if they particularly reference Florida.

International Society for the History and Bibliography of Herpetology

The ISHBH serves as a forum to bring together individuals who have a serious interest in the history as well as the bibliography of herpetology. You are invited to join the society and receive its Bulletin and Newsletter, published twice annually. Membership is US $30 for 2 years for regular members and institutions; student membership is only US $10 for 2 years. Life memberships are available for a single payment of US $300. Payment by personal check in $US can be sent to: ISHBH, P.O. Box 2123, S-220 02 Lund, Sweden. For further information see the ISHBH web site at: www.teorekol.lu.se/~rana/ISHBH.

PUBLICATION NOTICES

North American Box Turtles.

A Natural History

By C. Kenneth Dodd, Jr. 2001. University of Oklahoma Press. 231 pages (48 color photos and 43 black and white illustrations). $59.95 (hardcover). ISBN: 0-8061-3294-9. Volume 6 in the Animal Natural History Series (V. Hutchison, Series Ed.). Accounts of all species, range maps, keys, glossary, extensive bibliography. Chapters on evolution; habits and habitats; activity and movements; behavior and the senses; courtship and reproduction; food and feeding behavior; population structure and demography; predators, parasites and disease; and conservation. **All royalties from sales of this book will go to The Chelonian Research Foudation**.

For orders contact: University of Oklahoma Press, 4100 28th Avenue NW, Norman, OK 73069-8218 or (800) 627-7377 or www.ou.edu/oupress.

VIST HL ON THE WEB!

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

Sea Turtles of the Georgia Coast

By C. Ruckdeschel, C. R. Shoop, and G. R. Zug. 2000. Occas. Publ. Cumberland Isl. Mus., No. 1. 100 pages. $12.95 (paperback) plus $3 shipping and handling. ISBN: 0-9679388-0-5. Natural history of sea turtles, specific information on sea turtles in Georgia but applicable to other areas. Numerous illustrations by Carol Ruckdeschel, and keys to stranded turtles and partial turtle carcasses and skeletal elements. Order from Cumberland Island Museum, P.O. Box 796, St. Marys, GA 31558-0796.

Life, Love, and Reptiles: An Autobiography of Sherman A. Minton, Jr., M.D.

Edited by Breck Bartholomew. Forward by Kraig Adler. 2001. 236 pages. $24.50 (hard cover). Krieger Publishing Company. ISBN: 1-57524-172-2 In this book, Sherman shares some of his many experiences, from being on a navy ship when it was hit by a Kamikaze plane, to diving with sea snakes in the South Pacific; chasing geckos in the Sind Desert and treating people with tropical diseases in Central America. This is a modest account of the full and exciting life of this gifted man, a physician; father of modern Indiana herpetology; expert in toxinology, sea snakes, and snake bite; and devoted husband and father.

To order contact: Krieger Publishing Company, P.O. Box 9542, Melbourne, FL 32902-9542; Phone 1-800-724-0025 or 321-724-9542; Fax 321-951-3671; E-mail: info@krieger-publishing.com; www.krieger-publishing.com

The Philosophy and Practice of Wildlife Management, 3rd Edition

By Frederick F. Gilbert and Donald G. Dodds. 2001. Krieger publishing Company. 370 pages $34.50. ISBN: 1-57524-051-3. This major revision provides history, systems, and examples from both the United States and Canada. Newly added chapters deal with North American land claims and rights to wildlife resources and the effects of parasites and diseases on wildlife populations. Also included are sections on endangered species management; environmental impact assessment; socioeconomic issues; management approaches, legislation, and jurisdiction; and an introduction to international wildlife concerns.

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Field Guide to Amphibians and Reptiles of Illinois

By C. A. Phillips, R. A. Brandon, and E. O. Moll. 1999. Illinois Natural History Survey Field Manual No. 8. 300 pages. $19.99 (hardcover). A field guide to aid biologists, naturalists, land managers, law enforcement officials, and students in the identification of the amphibians and reptiles found in Illinois. Full-color photographs of all 102 species plus information on habitats, natural history , and distribution.

To order send $19.95 (includes shipping and handling) to: Distribution Center, Illinois Natural History Survey, 607 East Peabody Drive, Campaign, Illinois 61820. Make checks payable to Illinois Natural History Survey. For more information, please call the Publications Office at 217-333-6880 or go to: http://www.inhs.uiuc.edu/cbc/collections/herp_links/FGannounce.html

Aussie Slang: A Guide to Understanding the Language of OZ

By Martha and Bayard Brattstrom. Horned Lizard Press. "Before you go herping in Australia, get your copy!". Download for $5.00 only on line at: montanabookstore.com.

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Herpetotrivia: *Colostethus caeruleodactylus*
is a new species of leaf-litter frog from the Amazon. Adult males have sky-blue fingers during the breeding season. **See the color picture on page 181 of the article**. -- Lima and Caldwell. 2001. *Herpetologica* 57:180-189.

Coming Soon

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