

VIRGINIA HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY 2d ANNUAL STATEWIDE MEETING

The second annual statewide meeting, exhibit, and election of 1959-'60 society officers will be held at:

**** CAMP SHAWONDASEE, near Chesterfield Court House, Virginia, on SATURDAY OCTOBER 10th, 1959**

Camp Shawondasee, the Robert E. Lee Council Scout Camp is located south of Richmond, Va. near Chesterfield C.H. and at the edge of the Pocahontas State Forest in Chesterfield county. We have invited any of the Richmond area scouts or scouters interested in nature, reptile study, conservation or zoology to attend. Camp sites may be occupied by Richmond scout troops. VHS will use center-of-camp facilities only.

CAMPING: Tents, trailers, welcome near trail to lake, Ranger DeChamp will direct you. His home is at entry to camp. Occupation Friday night after supper possible. Clear area Sunday A.M.

MOTELS: Motels & hotels are available on all approaches to state Capital or in town for non-campers. VHS cannot arrange.

MEETING: Will start Saturday morning with orientation, activities and exhibit of live reptiles and amphibians; domestic and foreign. VIRGINIA SPECIES PARTICULARLY DESIRED FOR EXHIBIT!

CAGES: Supply your own. Cages, vivariums, aquaria, terrariums must be secure to protect yourself and the viewers. Fasten, bolt, or lock cages or place tape over glass corners. Padlocks are preferred on cages containing poisonous varieties of snakes.

Business session will be held(after lunch)in the stone council ring. Election of slate of officers, discussion open.

FOOD: Bring your own meals - two box dinners apiece will see you through the program. Lunch and supper should tide you through 'til after the evening films or slides. Bring any of these & your projector, slides or other visual aids.

COMFORT: Bring your own blankets or bedroll if camping. Scout camp will not supply bedding. Bring cushion for seat in stone council ring. Dust socks and shoes with sulphur powder(mites!)

DRIVING INSTRUCTIONS: THROUGH RICHMOND TO ROUTE # 10 which can be picked up south of the James river from Routes 161, 60, 360 1 or 301. Turn right from # 10 on 604 at curve big sign for Camp Shawondasee. COMING UP FROM PETERSBURG take exit # 6 to Route # 10, heading west toward Chester and Chesterfield C.H. From 1 & 301 take Route # 10, or #144 & # 145 through Centralia, picking up # 604 on left after going through Chesterfield C.H. Area is well marked. Routes on any good road map.

SEE YOU NEXT WEEK AT CAMP SHAWONDASEE !!!!! BRING YOUR SPECIMENS!!

Families and friends of members are welcome. Members who wish to participate in the election make certain your dues are in for 1959. Status can be quickly determined from the membership roster carried in the last bulletin (No. 13).

LOOKING FORWARD TO ANOTHER TOP NOTCH ANNUAL STATEWIDE MEETING !!!!!

A FLEXIBLE TURTLE VIVARIUM

by: E.D.B. Rogot, Bethesda, Md.

Assuming that most small pet turtles are neither wholly aquatic nor entirely terrestrial, a compound situation must be met, particularly when various species are kept together. A "natural" model leads to two alternatives: a "pond" in a terrestrium; or an "island" in an aquarium. The latter is convenient for care and observation, and is flexible as well, in providing sufficient "land" and "lake" areas for different animal preferences. The major disadvantage is that the turtles should be transferred to a feeding dish each time they are given a full meal; however, this does insure adequate food for each animal and eliminates mealtime distractions.

Starting with a clear, colorless plastic refrigerator dish (see size below), air holes can be made through the lid using a hot blade or rod. For hatchlings, a secure lid is essential to prevent escape, though a 4-inch-deep tank MAY be as safe without the lid. At least half of the bottom surface is covered by a piece of slate or other thin flat stone with no sharp edges or points. Some smooth and rough pebbles of various sizes will finish the underwater terrain, leaving some area where the water will be deep enough for swimming. (A very deep tank with deep water is unnecessary and, in fact, some turtles may drown during a period of illness unless they can reach the surface to breathe by stretching the neck while all four feet remain on the bottom.)

The island is one or more thick stones, securely arranged so that an area is above the water that is large enough for all to bask. Freshly cut wood (i.e., not chemically treated in any way) is a nice floating island but far more difficult to keep clean.

For shelter and hiding some opaque plastic, moulded by heat into a tent or lean-to is fine; it can also be high enough to provide extra "dry land" on its roof. (A re-usable plastic drinking cup that is sold for picnic-ware as a substitute for paper or plastic-coated paper cups, has been excellent for moulding, cleaning and acceptability to animals. It shrinks in moulding, becoming thicker and more opaque, but it is light enough to be moved around by the smallest of the animals.)

During cool weather, when they eat only once a week, the tank need be emptied and cleaned only once a month. In summer, both the feeding and cleaning become at least twice as frequent. A sponge, used for nothing else, and bare hands with cold running tap water (NO SOAP) will clean the stones, "house" and tank. Stale water is used to refill the tank; during warm weather, especially if the tank is placed outdoors for sunning, evaporation may make it necessary to add water now and then to keep the level high enough for swimming. Small plastic boxes with stale water (or some of the tank water) make the feeding dishes. If tank water is used, it is replaced by new "stale" water. Before transferring the turtles back to the vivarium after feeding, they are gently rinsed in tap water and adherent food is rubbed off with the fingers. When the tank is cleaned, they are bathed more thoroughly.

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Turtle vivarium, continued:

by: E.D.B. Rogot

This thorough washing employs room-temperature tap water and a cotton swab. (This is a good time for measuring them for your records, too.)

For heat during cool nights and in winter, a goose-neck lamp with shield and 75-watt bulb directed at the island is bent over the tank: close enough to warm the stone, but not close enough to make it hot or to melt the plastic. About half of the tank is shaded with cardboard over the opposite end in place of the tank lid, or over it.

TABLE I

APPROXIMATE TANK SIZE THIS MANY & SIZE PER TANK	
AREA	DEPTH (inches)	NUMBER	SIZE (inches, carapace lg)
# 12"x 10"	4"	2	large, up to 3-4"
# 10"x 7"	4"	1	large to 4", or
		4	hatchlings, almost to 2" or
12"x 6"	3½"	2	medium, 2-3" or
		3	hatchlings (may be unstable)
# 8" x 5½"	4"	2	" " , up to 2"
# 7" x 5"	2½"	1 (or 2 small)	" " , lid essential.
8" x 3½"	3"	1	hatchling, less than 2"
3½"x 3½"	2½"		
3" x 4"	2½"		for feeding 1 - 2 small hatchlings

These have been most satisfactory sizes and arrangements tried.

Queries, notes, or comments to: E.D.B. Rogot, 5516 GreenTree Rd.
Bethesda 14, Md.

LOG-ROLLERS' ROUND-UP: The editor received a Ring-necked Snake from Ernest A. Taylor, Tampa, Fla., (Diadophis p. punctatus). This Southern Ring-necked Snake is one of the first seen -- -- -- the local (Fairfax county) varieties are either Northern (without the spots on the belly scales -- or intergrades, with some few spots on just a few scales. The editor is more familiar with the Diadophis p. edwardsi. * * * * * Roger H. Rageot, Curator of Natural History at the Norfolk Museum wrote early in September stating that he was in the Smokies during late August. He reports seeing the Red-cheeked Salamander (Plethodon j. jordani) in numbers under rocks in the spruce woodlands. He reports, also, the Pigmy Salamander (Desmognathus wrighti) and the Cliffside Salamander (Desmognathus perlapsus) at Clingman's Dome, elevation, 6642 feet!!

William Keeler, Falls Church, took a trip to Philadelphia to see the famed Zoo and to meet Dr. Roger Conant. Bill took along an unusual water snake found in southern Alexandria, Va. Dr. Conant identified it as a "highly aberrant Natrix s. sipedon". He noted that its dorsal pattern could pass as N. s. insularum and its belly pattern as Natrix sipedon pleuralis. Dr. Conant recommended that the specimen be preserved for scientific record. A close eye should be kept on the Water Snakes in the Potomac river area. Quite a variety of colors and other characteristics seem to occur. (Cont'd on page four....)

The bulletin cut short this time -- to get earlier date for duplication. The editor hopes this reaches members in time for them to plan for attendance at the coming:

2d ANNUAL MEETING of VHS at
CAMP SHAWONDASEE, near
Chesterfield Court House,
Route 10, south of the
state Capital, Richmond.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10th 1959

Fabulous exhibit !! We look forward to seeing you there!
Opportunity to compare notes with the Faculty members and many
others with an active interest in the field of herpetology.

!!! SEE YOU THERE !!!

The VIRGINIA HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY
Rt. # 2, Box # 241, McLean, Virginia
Return Postage Guaranteed

LIST OF VIRGINIAN AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES

by

W. Leslie Burger
Virginia Fisheries Laboratory
Gloucester Point, Virginia
Revised August, 1959

Salamanders

<u>Ambystoma jeffersonianum</u> (Green)	Jefferson Salamander
<u>Ambystoma maculatum</u> (Shaw)	Spotted Salamander
<u>Ambystoma opacum</u> (Gravenhorst)	Marbled Salamander
* <u>Ambystoma texanum</u> (Matthes). <u>West</u>	Small-mouthed Salamander
* <u>Ambystoma tigrinum tigrinum</u> (Green). " <u>Virginia</u> "	Eastern Tiger Salamander
<u>Amphiuma means means</u> Garden	Two-toed Amphiuma
<u>Aneides aeneus</u> (Cope)	Green Salamander
<u>Cryptobranchus alleganiensis alleganiensis</u> (Daudin)	Hellbender
<u>Desmognathus fuscus fuscus</u> (Rafinesque)	Northern Dusky Salamander
<u>Desmognathus fuscus brimleyorum</u> Stejneger	Central Dusky Salamander
<u>Desmognathus fuscus welteri</u> Barbour	Black Mountain Dusky Salamander
<u>Desmognathus monticola monticola</u> Dunn	Appalachian Seal Salamander
<u>Desmognathus monticola jeffersoni</u> Hoffman	Virginia Seal Salamander
<u>Desmognathus ochrophaeus ochrophaeus</u> Cope	Allegheny Mountain Salamander
<u>Desmognathus ochrophaeus carolinensis</u> Dunn	Blue Ridge Mountain Salamander
<u>Desmognathus planiceps</u> Newman	Flat-headed Salamander
<u>Desmognathus quadramaculatus</u> (Holbrook)	Black-bellied Salamander
<u>Desmognathus wrighti</u> King	Pigmy Salamander
<u>Diemictylus viridescens viridescens</u> (Rafinesque)	Red-spotted Newt
<u>Eurycea bislineata bislineata</u> (Green)	Northern Two-lined Salamander
* <u>Eurycea bislineata rivacola</u> Mittleman. <u>West</u>	Midwest Two-lined Salamander
<u>Eurycea bislineata wilderae</u> Dunn	Blue Ridge Two-lined Salamander
<u>Eurycea longicauda longicauda</u> (Green)	Long-tailed Salamander
<u>Eurycea longicauda guttolineata</u> (Holbrook)	Three-lined Salamander
<u>Eurycea lucifuga</u> Rafinesque	Cave Salamander
* <u>Gyrinophilus danielsi danielsi</u> (Blatchley). <u>West</u>	Blue Ridge Spring Salamander
<u>Gyrinophilus porphyriticus porphyriticus</u> (Green)	Northern Spring Salamander
<u>Gyrinophilus porphyriticus durvi</u> (Weller)	Kentucky Spring Salamander
<u>Hemidactylum scutatum</u> (Schlegel)	Four-toed Salamander
<u>Leurognathus marmorata marmorata</u> Moore	Northern Shovel-nosed Salamander
* <u>Manculus quadridigitatus</u> Holbrook. <u>East</u>	Dwarf Salamander
<u>Necturus maculosus maculosus</u> (Rafinesque)	Mudpuppy
<u>Necturus punctatus</u> (Gibbes)	Dwarf Waterdog
<u>Plethodon cinereus cinereus</u> (Green)	Red-backed Salamander
* <u>Plethodon dorsalis dorsalis</u> Cope. <u>West</u>	Zig-zag Salamander
<u>Plethodon glutinosus glutinosus</u> (Green)	Slimy Salamander
<u>Plethodon glutinosus chlorobryonis</u> Mittleman	Carolina Slimy Salamander
<u>Plethodon jordani metcalfi</u> Brimley	Metcalf's Salamander
<u>Plethodon richmondi richmondi</u> Netting and Mittleman	Northern Ravine Salamander
<u>Plethodon richmondi hubrichti</u> Thurow	Thunder Ridge Salamander

<u>*Plethodon richmondi nettingi</u> Green. West	Cheat Mountain Salamander
<u>Plethodon richmondi popei</u> Highton and Grobman	Southern Ravine Salamander
<u>Plethodon wehrlei wehrlei</u> Fowler and Dunn	Wehrle's Salamander
<u>Plethodon wehrlei dixi</u> Pope and Fowler	Roanoke Salamander
<u>Plethodon welleri ventromaculatum</u> Thurow	Weller's Salamander
<u>Plethodon yonahlossee</u> Dunn	Yonahlossee Salamander
<u>Pseudotriton montanus montanus</u> Baird	Eastern Mud Salamander
<u>Pseudotriton montanus diastictus</u> Bishop	Midland Mud Salamander
<u>Pseudotriton ruber ruber</u> (Sonnini)	Northern Red Salamander
<u>Pseudotriton ruber nitidus</u> Dunn	Blue Ridge Red Salamander
<u>*Siren intermedia nettingi</u> Goin. West	Western Lesser Siren
<u>Siren lacertina</u> Linnaeus	Greater Siren
<u>Stereochilus marginatus</u> (Hallowell)	Many-lined Salamander

Frogs and Toads

<u>Acris gryllus gryllus</u> (Le Conte)	Southern Cricket Frog
<u>Acris gryllus crepitans</u> Baird	Northern Cricket Frog
<u>Bufo quercicus</u> Holbrook	Oak Toad
<u>Bufo terrestris americanus</u> Holbrook	American Toad
<u>Bufo woodhousei fowleri</u> Hinckley	Fowler's Toad
<u>Gastrophryne carolinensis carolinensis</u> (Holbrook)	Eastern Narrow-mouthed Frog
<u>*Hyla andersoni</u> Baird. East	Anderson Treefrog
<u>Hyla cinerea cinerea</u> (Schneider)	Green Treefrog
<u>Hyla cinerea evittata</u> Miller	Northern Green Treefrog
<u>Hyla crucifer crucifer</u> Wied	Northern Spring Peeper
<u>Hyla femoralis</u> Sonnini and Latreille	Pine Woods Treefrog
<u>Hyla gratiosa</u> Le Conte	Barking Treefrog
<u>Hyla squirella</u> Sonnini and Latreille	Squirrel Treefrog
<u>Hyla versicolor versicolor</u> Le Conte	Eastern Gray Treefrog
<u>Limnaeodius ocularis</u> (Bosc and Daudin)	Little Grass Frog
<u>Pseudacris brachyphona</u> (Cope)	Mountain Chorus Frog
<u>Pseudacris brimleyi</u> Brandt and Walker	Brimley's Chorus Frog
<u>Pseudacris nigrita feriarum</u> (Baird)	Upland Chorus Frog
<u>Pseudacris nigrita kalmi</u> Harper	New Jersey Chorus Frog
<u>Rana catesbeiana</u> Shaw	Bullfrog
<u>Rana clamitans melanota</u> (Rafinesque)	Green Frog
<u>Rana palustris</u> Le Conte	Pickerel Frog
<u>Rana pipiens pipiens</u> (Schreber)	Northern Leopard Frog
<u>Rana pipiens sphenoccephala</u> Cope	Southern Leopard Frog
<u>Rana sylvatica sylvatica</u> Le Conte	Eastern Wood Frog
<u>Rana virgatipes</u> Cope	Carpenter Frog
<u>Scaphiopus holbrooki holbrooki</u> (Harlan)	Eastern Spadefoot

Turtles

<u>Amyda ferox spinifera</u> (Le Sueur)	Spiny Softshell Turtle
<u>Caretta caretta caretta</u> (Linnaeus)	Atlantic Loggerhead
<u>Chelonia mydas mydas</u> (Linnaeus)	Atlantic Green Turtle
<u>Chelydra serpentina serpentina</u> Linnaeus	Common Snapping Turtle
<u>Chrysemys picta picta</u> (Schneider)	Eastern Painted Turtle
<u>Chrysemys picta marginata</u> (Schneider)	Midland Painted Turtle
<u>Clemmys guttata</u> (Schneider)	Spotted Turtle

<u>Clemmys insculpta</u> (Le Conte)	Wood Turtle
<u>Clemmys muhlenbergi</u> (Schoepff)	Bog Turtle
<u>Deirochelys reticularia reticularia</u> (Latreille)	Northern Chicken Turtle
<u>Dermochelys coriacea coriacea</u> (Linnaeus)	Atlantic Leatherback
* <u>Eretmochelys imbricata imbricata</u> (Linnaeus). East	Atlantic Hawksbill
<u>Graptemys geographica</u> (Le Sueur)	Map Turtle
* <u>Graptemys pseudogeographica ouachitensis</u> Cagle	Ouachita Map Turtle
<u>Kinosternon subrubrum subrubrum</u> Lacépède	Eastern Mud Turtle
<u>Lepidochelys olivacea kempfi</u> (Garman)	Atlantic Ridley
<u>Malaclemmys terrapin terrapin</u> (Schoepff)	Northern Diamond-backed Terrapin
<u>Pseudemys floridana floridana</u> (Le Conte)	Florida Cooter
<u>Pseudemys floridana concinna</u> (Le Conte)	River Cooter
<u>Pseudemys rubriventris rubriventris</u> (Le Conte)	Red-bellied Turtle
<u>Pseudemys scripta scripta</u> (Schoepff)	Yellow-bellied Turtle
<u>Sternotherus minor peltifer</u> Smith and Glass	Stripe-necked Musk Turtle
<u>Sternotherus odoratus</u> (Latreille)	Stinkpot
<u>Terrapene carolina carolina</u> (Linnaeus)	Eastern Box Turtle

Lizards

* <u>Anolis carolinensis carolinensis</u> Voigt. East	Carolina Anole
<u>Cnemidophorus sexlineatus sexlineatus</u> (Linnaeus)....	Eastern Six-lined Racerunner
<u>Cnemidophorus sexlineatus pauciporus</u> Hoffman..	Middle Atlantic Six-lined Racerunner
<u>Eumeces anthracinus anthracinus</u> (Baird)	Northern Coal Skink
<u>Eumeces fasciatus</u> (Linnaeus)	Five-lined Skink
<u>Eumeces inexpectatus</u> Taylor	Southeastern Five-lined Skink
<u>Eumeces laticeps</u> (Schneider)	Broad-headed Skink
<u>Ophisaurus attenuatus longicaudus</u> McConkey	Eastern Slender Glass Lizard
* <u>Ophisaurus ventralis</u> (Linnaeus). East	Eastern Glass Lizard
<u>Sceloporus undulatus hyacinthinus</u> (Green)	Northern Fence Lizard
<u>Scincella laterale</u> (Say)	Little Brown Skink

Snakes

<u>Abaster erythrogrammus</u> (Latreille)	Rainbow Snake
<u>Agkistrodon contortrix mokeson</u> (Daudin)	Northern Copperhead
<u>Agkistrodon piscivorus piscivorus</u> (Lacépède)	Eastern Cottonmouth
<u>Carphophis amoenus amoenus</u> (Say)	Eastern Worm Snake
<u>Cemophora coccinea</u> (Blumenbach)	Scarlet Snake
<u>Coluber constrictor constrictor</u> Linnaeus	Northern Black Racer
<u>Crotalus horridus horridus</u> (Linnaeus)	Timber Rattlesnake
<u>Crotalus horridus atricaudatus</u> Latreille	Canebrake Rattlesnake
<u>Diadophis punctatus punctatus</u> (Linnaeus)	Southern Ringneck Snake
<u>Diadophis punctatus edwardsi</u> (Merrem)	Northern Ringneck Snake
<u>Elaphe guttata guttata</u> (Linnaeus)	Corn Snake
<u>Elaphe obsoleta obsoleta</u> (Say)	Black Rat Snake
<u>Farancia abacura abacura</u> (Holbrook)	Eastern Mud Snake
<u>Haldea striatula</u> (Linnaeus)	Rough Ground Snake
<u>Haldea valeriae valeriae</u> (Baird and Girard)	Eastern Ground Snake
* <u>Haldea valeriae pulchra</u> Richmond. West	Mountain Ground Snake
<u>Heterodon platyrhinos platyrhinos</u> Latreille	Eastern Hog-nosed Snake
<u>Lampropeltis calligaster rhombomaculata</u> (Holbrook)	Mole Snake
<u>Lampropeltis doliata temporalis</u> (Cope)	Coastal Plain Milk Snake
<u>Lampropeltis doliata triangulum</u> Lacépède	Eastern Milk Snake

<u>Lampropeltis getulus getulus</u> (Linnaeus)	Eastern Kingsnake
<u>Lampropeltis getulus niger</u> (Yarrow)	Black Kingsnake
<u>Natrix erythrogaster erythrogaster</u> (Forster)	Red-bellied Water Snake
<u>Natrix rigida</u> (Say)	Glossy Water Snake
<u>Natrix septemvittata</u> (Say)	Queen Snake
<u>Natrix sipedon sipedon</u> (Linnaeus)	Northern Water Snake
<u>Natrix taxispilota taxispilota</u> (Holbrook)	Brown Water Snake
<u>Opheodrys aestivus</u> (Linnaeus)	Rough Green Snake
<u>Opheodrys vernalis vernalis</u> (Harlan)	Eastern Smooth Green Snake
<u>Pituophis melanoleucas melanoleucas</u> (Daudin)	Northern Pine Snake
<u>Storeria dekayi dekayi</u> (Holbrook)	Northern Brown Snake
<u>Storeria occipitomaculata occipitomaculata</u> (Storer)....	Northern Red-bellied Snake
<u>Tantilla coronata coronata</u> Baird and Girard	Southeastern Crowned Snake
* <u>Tantilla coronata nutrifer</u> (Schwartz). West	Appalachian Crowned Snake
<u>Thamnophis sauritus sauritus</u> (Linnaeus)	Eastern Ribbon Snake
<u>Thamnophis sirtalis sirtalis</u> (Linnaeus)	Eastern Garter Snake

Explanation

This list includes amphibians and reptiles that may be found, as well as those definitely known, in Virginia. An asterisk (*) in front of a name indicates that the form is expected but has not yet been found in Virginia. All forms listed without asterisks are represented by preserved specimens from precise localities in the state. When I first prepared a mimeographed list in June, 1958, 128 kinds of amphibians and reptiles were included as definitely recorded from Virginia. Because of information obtained in the meantime, four forms have been deleted from the list and eleven forms added, so that the total now rests at 135 species and subspecies. They include 45 salamanders, 26 frogs and toads, 22 turtles, 8 lizards, and 34 snakes - all supposedly definitely known in Virginia.

One of the most interesting aspects of a faunal list is the class of borderline cases, the species and subspecies for which there are inexact records, verbal reports, or other strong indications that they occur within the study area - but no positive evidence. Indication of such forms, starred in the present list, may suggest to naturalists the kinds of animals to be especially sought in areas in which they are working. Most of the amphibians and reptiles that are starred in the present list are expected in specific parts of the state as indicated after the scientific name.

Of the 18 forms starred in my 1958 list because their discovery in Virginia was expected, four have since been discovered in the state and five others (all subspecies) struck from the list of "possibles" on the basis of new distributional data. This shows the skepticism with which starred names should be regarded, for, although they can be sought for with anticipation, probably only about 50 percent will be found in Virginia. The 15 starred forms in this list are not included in the totals.

Most of the names used in the present list conform to those used in the Sixth Edition of the Checklist of North American Amphibians and Reptiles by Karl P. Schmidt (1953) and in the Field Guide to Reptiles and Amphibians of Eastern North America by Roger Conant (1958). The latter publication is highly recommended as an identification guide and brief summary. Data that has been recently obtained requires some changes in names and in details of distribution. I plan to summarize this new information on the Virginia herpetofauna in a publication to appear in late 1959. Detailed acknowledgment of assistance must be postponed until then. Many members of the Virginia Herpetological Society have contributed valuable information and advice. Mr. Roger Conant of the Philadelphia Zoological Society has been most generous with information.