

THE FORKED TONGUE

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE GREATER CINCINNATI HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Vol. XXXIII, No. III

www.cincyherps.com

March 2008

The Editor's Den

The March Forked Tongue features an article about a recent amphibian outing made by several GCHS members. Please send some articles. I'm running out of ideas.

Calendar of Events

March 5, 2008 – Monthly meeting featuring GCHS member, Jason Folt, speaking on herping in Arizona

March 15, 2008 – Ohio Amphibian Research and Conservation Conference. See details below.

March 22, 2008 – Habitat conservation day at Cedar Bog.

April 2, 2008 – Monthly Meeting featuring GCHS member, Kristen Wiley, of the Kentucky Reptile Zoo speaking on a Timber Rattlesnake Study.

April 12, 2008 – Habitat conservation day at Spring Valley

May 7, 2008 – Monthly meeting featuring GCHS member, Beth Cortright, speaking on her recent trip to the Galapagos Islands.

June 4, 2008 – Monthly meeting featuring GCHS member, Matt Fille, speaking on captive care and maintenance of monitors.

July 2, 2008, Monthly meeting featuring GCHS member, Jeff Davis Speaking on Central American herping.

Digitization of old newsletters

I have a new list of newsletters that we need.

1980 – January, April, and October

1994 – July and November

1997 – January

2000 – March through September

If you have a stash of old newsletters, please go through them to see if you have any of these. If you find any bring them to the next meeting. We will gladly return them after they are scanned.

Krohn Conservatory Education Program

by Grady Calhoun

The GCHS held its spring 2008 educational program at Krohn Conservatory on February 23rd and 24th. Although the weather wasn't great we had pretty good crowds both days. We had a really nice display of animals. Thanks to everyone who brought animals and volunteered to help. We have been doing this program for several years and are now "standard invitees" for two programs every year. We must be doing something right. Thanks again!

First Real Herp Outing of 2008

by Grady Calhoun

You know you all were thinking about it! A stormy March night; temperatures above freezing; perfect. I get a call about 4:30 Monday evening and Dean says, "It looks like a perfect night for salamanders." How could I resist. We had to wait until about 7:00 so that the rain was falling for a while. We were actually worried that it wouldn't be raining hard enough before and during our outing. My son, Justin, and I loaded up the civic with head mounted flashlights, a 10,000,000 candle hand-held flashlight, wading boots, dip nets, a camera and rain gear. We met Dean Alessandrini and Beth Cortright and drove to the first spot.

Our first stop was a vernal pond where spotted salamanders, Jefferson's salamanders, wood frogs and, of course, spring peepers are known to breed. This is private property that we had received permission to visit that night. I pulled off the side

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of the road and my car immediately sunk in the mud and had to be pushed out. This was going to be great!

The pond was very close to the road but any passer-by wouldn't even know its there. As soon as we got there we found that Jefferson's salamanders were in breeding mode. Much to my delight the spotted salamanders were also present in significant numbers. Although not all that uncommon, these were lifers for me. It was so great to see these huge, 7 inch salamanders "walking" under the water surface through the leaf litter. We were only there for 30 minutes or so, but a dozen or more salamanders were found and photographed. There were a few lone peepers peeping – no wood frogs observed. Of course we left all of the animals in place.

Our next stop was at the site of the old Fernald uranium processing plant. We met up with John Homer who works in habitat restoration at the site a little after 9:00 pm. By this time the temperature had dropped considerably and the rain kept coming. Jason Folt had also joined us at this point. We visited several vernal pools. One at which a tiger salamander had been found a year or more ago.

These areas proved to be far less productive than the first stop. Beth did come up with a salamander of interest. It was either a streamside salamander or a small mouth salamander. We took this individual with permission so that an Ohio salamander expert could positively identify it. Evidently finding a small mouth salamander would be a pretty big deal. By about 10:30 our enthusiasm was dampened and our bones were chilled. We called it a night when Dean proclaimed that the salamanders were smarter than we were and weren't out in this ridiculous weather. Even though it was a bit miserable at the end, everyone was really glad to have had the experience. I'd do it again in a heartbeat!

Ohio Amphibian Research and Conservation Conference

The Ohio amphibian research and conservation conference will be held on March 15, 2008 at the Ohio Historical Society in Columbus, Ohio.

This meeting is co-sponsored by the Ohio Division of Wildlife and the Ohio Biological Survey. Although the name has changed (formally the Ohio Working Group of the DAPTF), this will be the sixth such conference that has been held, once every four years. The meetings are well attended (75-100 registrants) and this will provide an excellent opportunity for GCHS members to network with nearly everyone in the state working with amphibians. This meeting will feature Dr. Jim Bogart of the University of Guelph, Canada, as keynote speaker presenting his fascinating research on the unisexual *Ambystoma* salamander complexes. Dean Alessandrini will be speaking on behalf of the GCHS amphibian conservation programs. Additionally, we will have an opportunity to set up a table with information, poster presentations etc. We'd love to have a good showing from the GCHS. We'll be discussing car-pool opportunities at the March meeting.

GCHS Auction in Planning

The GCHS has not had a fund raising auction since 1994. The one and only auction that I remember was quite a success. I figure that it is time to do it again. The ball has already been set in motion so it is going to happen. We just need to work out a few details. I have contacted either by written letter or e-mail close to 100 potential donors. We have actually started to receive positive responses and even actual donations. I have targeted nearly every vendor of reptile and amphibian supplies on kingsnake.com and those in the most recent issue of *Reptile* magazine. Issues that we need to work out include when and where to hold the event. Our typical monthly programs are booked through July and I really don't want to wait until August. Right now I am thinking of a weekend day at an outside venue, maybe at a pavilion at the Cincinnati Nature Center or at another local park. This way we could have a picnic type setting and make it into a real event. We'll talk about this at the March meeting. We will begin posting the actual donations made and the names of our supporting donators once we decide on a date.

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Classified Advertising Policy

GCHS Members may run a free classified ad of 7 lines or less at no charge for an unlimited time; however, the ad will be canceled after one month unless the editor is informed to continue it. Please include scientific names for the animals with your ad as well as your phone number and area code.

Ads of up to 7 lines for non-member are \$2 per issue; ad charges for items more than 7 lines long are as follows:

Business card size	\$3 per issue
1/4 page	\$6 per issue
1/½ page	\$10 per issue
Full page	\$20 per issue

The GCHS is not liable for the quality of the merchandise advertised. The Society also reserves the right to refuse any ad considered inappropriate.

Requirements for Submitting Articles to the Forked Tongue

Articles can be submitted via CD or hard copy to Editor, GCHS 11470 Gatch Hill Road, Aurora, IN 47001.

Articles may be e-mailed to Grady Calhoun at gradycalhoun@embarqmail.com.

Black and white photographs can be included with articles. Photo submissions should include your name, phone number, and description of photo on the back. Photos can be returned. All time dependent submissions must be in the editor's possession no later than the meeting previous to the publication.

Classifieds

Discount: A 10% discount is offered to all card-carrying members of the GCHS at *All Creatures Animal Hospital*. Dr. Dan Meakin, All Creatures, 1894 Ohio Pike, Amelia, OH 45102, 513-797-7387.

Discount: A 10% discount is offered to all card carrying members of the GCHS at Dr. Dahlhausen's Veterinary Clinic, 5989 Meijer Dr., Suite 2, Milford, Ohio 513-576-0131

(Number to left of decimal indicates males; number to right of decimal indicates females; number to right of second decimal indicates number of unknown sex. For example, 3.2.1=3 males, 2 females, and 1 unsexed specimen)

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Currently Held Positions

President	Grady Calhoun	(812) 926-1206	Vice President	Dean Alessandrini	(513) 347-0099
		(513) 564-6041	Editor	Grady Calhoun	(812) 926-1206
Treasurer	Peggy Fille	(513) 528-4452			(513) 564-6041
Sergeant-at-Arms	Bruce Fille	(513) 528-4452	Education Committee Chairman		
Advisor	Vacant		Peggy Fille		(513) 528-4452
Secretary	Kyle Becker	(513) 831-4898			

About the GCHS

The Greater Cincinnati Herpetological Society holds monthly meetings which typically consist of a short business section, a refreshment intermission, and a program related to herpetology. Both members and nonmembers are invited to attend. Membership is open to anyone with an interest in reptiles and amphibians. New members may sign up by mail or at the monthly meetings. Members receive monthly issues of *The Forked Tongue* and free classified advertising. Annual dues should be directed to the secretary at the society's mailing address, according to the rates below:

Student	\$10.00	Corresponding	\$10.00
Individual	\$15.00	Sustaining	\$25.00
Family	\$20.00	Institutional	\$30.00
Contributing	\$50.00		

Why Be a Member?

Receive monthly issues of *The Forked Tongue*

- Meet individuals knowledgeable about herpetoculture
- Have access to captive-bred herps and feeder animals
- Participate in society-sponsored field trips, and outings.
- Receive a 10 percent discount on herp-related items and services when you show a valid membership card at the following establishments:

Delhi Pet Center	(513) 451-4015
Kentucky Reptile Zoo	(606) 663-9160
Harrison Pet Center	(513) 367-1115
All Creatures Animal Hospital	(513) 797-7387
Dr. Dahlhausen's	(513) 576-1990

P.O. Box 14783
Cincinnati, OH 45250

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