

# THE FORKED TONGUE

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE GREATER CINCINNATI HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY

## The Editor's Den

By Grady Calhoun

**The May Meeting will be Held at the Newport Aquarium at 7:30!!!  
Additional information is listed below.**

The April *Forked Tongue* features highlights from the March meeting and a description of upcoming activities for a VERY busy May. We are planning a very special May meeting at the Newport Aquarium, a field trip, and our big herpetology show at museum center.

## Calendar of Events

- 5/5 Monthly Meeting at the Newport Aquarium.
- 5/10 & 11 Big reptile display at the Museum Center
- 5/17 Field trip to Brown County, Ohio.
- 6/4 Monthly Meeting at NKU featuring Richard Schroeder speaking on captive maintenance and breeding of Gila Monsters.

## Announcements

**The May Meeting will be Held at the Newport Aquarium at 7:30!!!  
Additional information is listed below.**

## April Highlights

The April meeting featured Al Winstel speaking on Amazon Tree Boas. Al presented slides of his own tree boas and the other animals in his collection. Using his slides to illustrate, Al offered in depth commentary on his husbandry techniques and captive care particulars of breeding and raising these animals. Cage designs in Al's reptile room include habitats

made out of large pieces of furniture such as cabinets and chests of drawers with the drawers taken out. These were fitted with the necessary screens, liners, doors and hatches, climbing apparatus and hide boxes to make roomy, affordable housing. Al mentioned that when considering the water source for arboreal animals, it makes sense to locate a water bowl up high in the cage so the snake does not have to come down out of his "trees." For tree boas, it's important to provide ample sized branches over which to coil in order that the snake can distribute its weight. Each cage, of course, is outfitted with the proper gadgets and hardware to provide the necessary heat, rays, humidity, aeration, and so forth. Al has a lot of his systems on timers to provide consistent environmental conditions. He discussed the recommended and preferred diet of both the adult and baby animals.

Al discussed the coloration of many of his juvenile versus adult animals, and the experience he has had breeding for certain colors. Along with the slides Al provided us with detailed descriptions of his animals and their distinctive markings and colors. In addition to the Amazon Tree Boas, Al discussed the varied colors of his corn snakes, Pueblan Milk Snakes, Ball Pythons, Tiger Rat Snakes, Haitian Wood Snake, and his Grenada Tree Boa. He also talked about a couple of lizards including crested geckos, leopard geckos, and his Savannah Monitor which he raised from a hatchling and described as intelligent and active.

## May Meeting

The May meeting will be held on Wednesday May 7<sup>th</sup> at the Newport Aquarium. We will meet at the employee parking lot at 7:15 and go in together. Please be on time to avoid missing out on this great opportunity. This will be for members only. Robin Saunders of the Newport Aquarium will be giving a

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presentation on the new turtle exhibit, which will be immediately followed by a tour of the exhibit. There will be no charge for admission or parking.

### **WE WILL MEET AT THE EMPLOYEE**

**PARKING LOT AT 7:15.** You should be sure to be there at 7:15 or risk missing out, as the Aquarium will be closed to the public at this time.

### **DIRECTIONS TO THE NEWPORT AQUARIUM EMPLOYEE PARKING LOT FROM I-471:**

- From Cincinnati take I-471 S. over the Big Mac bridge, and take the first exit in KY (Rt. 8)
- S The exit will take you to the right and to a traffic light. Proceed straight through the light and into the "Port of Entry". (As if you are going to the riverfront restaurants)
- S Make an immediate LEFT on RIVERBOAT ROW upon entering the Port of Entry.
- S You will pass the Aquarium on your left.
- S Immediately after you pass the Aquarium you will come to a stop sign at COLUMBIA. Turn LEFT.
- S You will now immediately come to another stop sign at SECOND ST. Turn left.
- S The NEWPORT AQUARIUM EMPLOYEE PARKING LOT will be on your LEFT as soon as you turn on SECOND ST. It is a very small outside lot, so we should have no problems finding one another.

Robin will meet us there at 7:15 and we will proceed into the Aquarium.

If for some reason you need to contact someone during the trip you can contact Grady Calhoun at (513) 305-1623.

### **Annual Herp Show at Museum Center**

We will be holding our big herp show at Cincinnati Museum Center on May 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. Yes, its Mother's Day weekend like it has been for the last 10 years. We will be setting up on Saturday Morning and tearing down on Sunday evening. This is our

biggest event of the year so your support is greatly appreciated. More details will be available at the May Meeting.

### **Field Trip**

On Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup> we will be taking a field trip to the Fille family farm. This is 86 acres in Brown county Ohio that has never been "herped". There is a good chance of finding herps not often seen in the Greater Cincinnati area. We will be practicing catch, photo, and release of course. This will be an all day event. Please bring your own food and drinks. Be advised that there are no restroom facilities. No dogs please. We will be meeting at Mt Orab Krogers. Take I-275 to St. Route 32. Head towards Batavia. Stay on St. Route 32, past Williamsburg to the Mount Orab exit. This is St. Route 68. Turn Right at the stop sign. We will meet at the Kroger's right off the exit at 10am. We will depart from Kroger at 10:15am exactly. To continue to the farm as a caravan. If you find yourself lost on the day of the field trip call 265-2801. Please call the Filles at (513) 528-4452 for additional information.

### **Herpetology Weekend Was Great**

By all accounts Herpetology Weekend at Natural Bridge was again a success. We had a booth and had a new member sign up. The programs were very informative including Kristen Wiley from the Kentucky Reptile Zoo speaking on Timber Rattlesnakes. The field trips were also productive. People in the GCHS contingent observed garter snakes, fence lizards, black racers, black kingsnakes, four-toes salamanders, cave salamanders, copperheads, and dusky salamanders in the wild to name a few. As always this was a great time. If you have never experienced it you owe it to yourself.

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**Requirements for Submitting Articles to the Forked Tongue**

1. Articles can be submitted via 3.5" floppy disk or hard copy to Editor, GCHS 11470 Gatch Hill Road, Aurora, IN 4700.
2. Articles may be e-mailed to Grady Calhoun at gcalhoun@seidata.com.
3. 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.
4. All time dependent submissions must be in the editors possession no later than the meeting previous to the desired publication date.

**Classified Advertizing Policy**

GCHS Members may run a free classified ad of 7 lines or less at no charge for an unlimited time; however, the ad will be canceled after one month unless the editor is informed to continue it. Please include scientific names for the animals with your ad as well as your phone number and area code. Ads of up to 7 lines for non-member are \$2 per issue; ad charges for items more than 7 lines long are as follows:

Business card size	\$3 per issue
1/4 page	\$6 per issue
1/2 page	\$10 per issue
Full page	\$20 per issue

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

**Classifieds**

**For Sale:** Herp books, 2 by Bartlett & Bartlett: Monitors, Tegus, and Related Lizards; Geckos. Both are Barron's soft cover @\$3.00 ea. plus postage if mailed. One by Sprackland: Savannah & Grassland Monitors, AVS soft cover @\$4.00 plus postage if mailed. All in almost new shape (I bought two copies at different times, pretty smart, huh?) Located in N. Hamilton County. Al Winstel 513-729-2563

**For Sale:** Amazon tree boas (*Corallus hortulanus*) born 10/13. Various garden phases from gray to tan with light to moderate pattern. \$40.00 ea. Will probably have some eating by mid November. Al Winstel 513-563-4513. Local sales or could bring to GCHS mtg.

**For Sale:** Feeder rabbits and rats. Call Rod Surber at (812) 637-0305 or e-mail me at [Indianarockshop@aol.com](mailto:Indianarockshop@aol.com).

**For Sale:** Aquariums-all shapes and sizes (5-90 gallons). Boa Constrictor(s) may be available, prices negotiable. Call Chris at (513) 451-1203.

**Discount:** A 10% discount is offered to all card-carrying members of the GCHS at All Creatures Animal Hospital where I examine and treat many different reptiles.

Dr. Dan Meakin, All Creatures Animal Hospital, 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)

**Currently Held Positions**

President	Grady Calhoun (812) 926-1206 (513) 564-6041	Vice President	Dean Alessandrini (513) 347-0099
Treasurer	Peggy Fille (513) 528-4452	Editor	Grady Calhoun (812) 926-1206 (513) 564-6041
Sargent-at-Arms	Bruce Fille (513) 528-4452	Education Conservation Committee Co-Chairman	
Advisor	Ray Whitson (859) 342-8842		Matt Fille (513) 528-4452 Chris Bauer (513) 451-1203
Secretary	Polly Whittaker (513) 321-1884		

**About the GCHS**

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

Student	\$10.00	Corresponding	\$10.00
Individual	\$12.00	Sustaining	\$25.00
Family	\$18.00	Institutional	\$30.00
		Contributing	\$50.00

**Why Be a Member?**

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

Delhi Pet Center	(513) 451-4015
Kentucky Reptile Zoo	(606) 663-9160
Harrison Pet Center	(513) 367-1115
All Creatures Animal Hospital	(513) 797-7387
Dr. Dahlhausen’s Veterinary Clinic	(513) 576-0131

**P.O. Box 14783  
Cincinnati, OH 45250**