Welcome to Lancaster Herpetological Society!

- **RESTROOMS**: Out of the room around the corner to the right
- **TRADING POST**: Check out the Trading Post where members can sell or trade herp stuff.
- **SIGN-IN**: Sign in to make sure you’re on our e-mailing list.
- **T-SHIRTS**: LHS t-shirts FREE with your membership.
- **MEMBERSHIPS**: Memberships available through treasurer, Roy, or online. Membership fees support our website, snacks, speaker fees, and annual gift to the library. $25/year or $45/family.
- **SNACKS**: Please help yourself!
- **HOSTESS**: Please see MaryAnne, library staff, for first aid or logistics needs. Thank you Mary Anne!!

Lancaster Herp Society Board Members

Caleb Hulse, President  
Jesse Rothacker, Vice President  
Roy Mellott, Treasurer  
Kelsey Frey, Secretary and Media Director  
Dave McNaughton  
Pam Hartmoyer  
Kent Hartmoyer  
Adam Mattel

Has anyone been herping lately??
Jesse (11/19/15) and Jake heard peepers!

Oct 28. Cruising in the rain centre county, 65 degrees, spotted salamanders, green frogs, bull frogs, peepers, hatchling hognose snakes… - Jake C.

Eastern box turtle came out of hibernation at Jesse’s garden.

Juvenile Rat snake in someone’s house in York County.

French Creek - American toad under log “Squishy” - Mitch
I found the latest ever Gap record for a living box turtle this week (Lebanon County). He was marked in 2007 and hasn't been seen until now. - Dave

I also had three more spotted turtles - three more got radiotelemetry trackers - “House Mothers”. I accidentally ran over the Gap's first red-bellied snake record and Lebanon County's third overall record. It will be the first museum voucher for the county. - Dave
Has anyone gotten any new pet herps?

Jeremy - brought full grown corn snake to meeting. “Just for Pets” in Dover. “Saturn”

Kelsey’s new Kenyan Sand Boa

Mitch’s Friend, Xavior, got a anole.
Erica’s new fire bellied newts and baby giant day geckos

Vlad got a California King @ Hamburg - Thanks to Laney. Also, new buttermilk corn. New tarantulas! Tarahumaran Mountain Kingsnake (Mexico) - has since lost it.
Zach got a new Greek Tortoise. Super Cute. Five new corn snakes. VMS Herp has a nice website. Caramel, Caramel Motley, Sunkist Hypo, Pewter, strawberry ghost…. that’s it.

Available at the rescue:

ball pythons
redtail boas
African Rock Python (small)
Tortoises

Blue-tongue Skink

Find out more on
www.ForgottenFriend.org
Coming soon!! Super Green Turtle Machine!
(Jesse’s van)

Herps in the News?
What salamanders can teach us about baseball
Date: November 18, 2015
Source: University of Louisville (Which they publish after the World Series, and University of Louisville, as in “Louisville Slugger” did the research-who by the way is now owned by a European company)
Borghuis, assistant professor in the Department of Anatomical Sciences and Neurobiology at UofL, and Anthony Leonardo, Ph.D., of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, used high speed videography to capture 270 instances of salamanders striking at flies. Through analysis of the videos, Borghuis developed an algorithm that predicted where the salamander's tongue would strike based on the fly's path.

"This information adds to a small set of clear examples of how vertebrates -- including humans -- use prediction for dealing with delays in motor processing," Borghuis said. "Now that we know how the salamander does this, we can further investigate the neuromechanisms that make this happen."


Summary:

Researchers have increased our understanding of how people and animals deal with sensorimotor delay in day-to-day interactions by analyzing the hunting skills of salamanders.

18th November 2015

**Breakthrough discovery leads to eradication of fatal amphibian disease**

Research published today details the first-ever successful elimination of a fatal chytrid fungus in a wild amphibian, marking a major breakthrough in the fight against the disease responsible for devastating amphibian populations worldwide. The highly-infectious chytrid pathogen has severely affected over 700 amphibian species worldwide; driving
population declines, extirpations and species extinctions across five continents.

Results from the seven-year study show the first evidence of eradicating the chytrid pathogen *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis (Bd)* affecting amphibians in situ. Published today (18 November) in *Biology Letters*, the paper details the outcome of a project led by scientists from the Zoological Society of London (ZSL), the National Museum of Natural History in Spain (MNCN), and Imperial College London.

The study combined antifungal treatment of Mallorcan midwife toad (*Alytes muletensis*) tadpoles with environmental disinfection. By using an antifungal to treat tadpoles and a common laboratory decontaminant to sterilise the environment, researchers were able to clear infection from populations of the toad over the research period.

video URL: https://youtu.be/zbixjsKQgn8

Indonesia’s anti-drug agency chief is reportedly planning to build a prison on a remote island which will be guarded by crocodiles. He claims the snapping reptiles can’t be bribed, unlike human warders, and definitely won’t let inmates escape.

“We will place as many crocodiles as we can there. I will search for the most ferocious type of crocodile,” National Narcotics Agency (BNN) chief Budi Waseso said, as cited by Indonesian news portal Tempo.

Waseso is eager to build a special prison for drug dealers on a remote island and was trying to come up with a way to prevent drug offenders from controlling the narcotics deals.
from behind bars – quite a common practice in Indonesia. The crocodiles seem to be the best way out to him.


Officially linked the already known pathogen to snake fungal disease - been proven! Probably native to our environment. - Dave and Jake

Upcoming LHS events

● December 18th: Holiday Social & Board Member Elections
  ● POSITIONS AVAILABLE. Please consider joining our planning team.
  ● Bob Ferguson - JANUARY!
● Currently Making 2016 Schedule!!! Please submit your speaker and field trip ideas to Kelsey, Jesse, or Pam!

Other Upcoming Nature Events?

Oaks Herp Show - tomorrow
Lancaster County Fossil and Mineral Club Show and Sale - Tomrrow
and now...

snake Assemblages at Shippensburg University

with Vlad Rep

Speaker
Speaker Bio
Vlad has a Bachelor's degree in Biology from Shippensburg University and is currently a grad student at the same school. He presented this research at CPUB last year and it won 2nd place in the Ecology category.

Program Description
Pennsylvania has 22 species of snakes, three of them venomous. Worldwide, snake populations are threatened by anthropogenic impacts such as habitat alteration, poaching, illegal collection for the pet trade, etc. Conservation efforts are being implemented but with a growing human population many of these impacts are hard to avoid or overcome. Herpetological studies in anthropogenically affected areas are few and often inconsistent. This study, a continuation of a long term project, assesses the snake community at Shippensburg University (SU), which is affected by urban and agricultural stresses.

- There are mostly water snakes and garter snakes at Shippensburg University.
- They tend to be smaller sized than other locals.
- It is very hard to do coverboard research with annoying college students around messing with your boards.
- For more information, contact Vlad at vr0933@ship.edu

THANK YOU VLAD!
Results
Population Structure (T. viridans) based on new captures
Population estimate (N) = 1983.88 (N= (n1*n2)/m)
Introduction

- Sanka understocked
- Currently, few student on life history demographics
- particularly true in NE demographics of urban areas

Ex:
- Danks, 197 (L. triangulatum)
- Marston, 198 (L. tricolor)
- Furness, 1990 (L. nigricans)
- Wick, 1990 (L. bicolor and C. rufus)
- Bratt, 1990 (C. rufus)