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**: $15 each while supplies last.
- **MEMBERSHIPS**: Memberships available through treasurer, Roy, or online. Membership fees support our website, snacks, speaker fees, and annual gift to the library. $15/year or $20/family.
- **HOSTESS**: Please see Mary Anne, library staff, for first aid or logistics needs. Thank you Mary Anne!!
Lancaster Herpetological Society 2016 Board Members

Dave McNaughton, President
Jesse Rothacker, Vice President
Roy Mellott, Treasurer
Pam Hartmoyer, Secretary
Kelsey Frey, Media Director
Kent Hartmoyer
Monica Bortz
Chris Bortz
Last Month: Potluck! Thanks everyone who attended!

Kate and Kim & Jesse’s Cakes!
Last Month:

New board members were elected.

Thank you retiring board members Caleb and Adam for your service!
Has anyone been herping lately??
Ice Turtles!

Dave McNaughton, Lebanon County, January 7th
Has anyone gotten any new pet herps, etc?

Albino bullfrog tadpoles - From Michael Shrom,
Above Average Amphibians
Available at Forgotten Friend Reptile Sanctuary:

Find out more on www.ForgottenFriend.org
Argentina snake invasion forces beach closures


An invasion of poisonous snakes washed downriver in recent floods forced authorities to close beaches to summer holidaymakers in northern Argentina, officials said Monday. Floodwaters in the Rio Plata and Rio Parana carried a species of water lily and with it countless crawling, slithering creatures, south to beaches at the mouths of those rivers near Buenos Aires.

"We are raising awareness of the risk and danger present today. There are otters and species of snakes that are poisonous," said Matias Leyes, an official in the coastal town of Quilmes, south of .........
Why are venomous sea snakes washing up on California Beaches?

The yellow-bellied sea snake (*Pelamis platura*) is very uncommon in California, but three (including this latest sighting) have washed ashore in Southern California in the past few months. Usually found in the tropical parts of the Pacific and Indian Oceans, including the western coast of Central America, Hawaii, Japan, and the eastern coast of Africa, these snakes have striking yellow bellies that serve as warning signals to other animals that they are venomous, meaning they inject a toxic substance when they bite a person or other animal. No human deaths have ever been reported as a result of *P. platura*.

Although experts are surprised by the sudden surge of *P. platura* in this area, the cause is relatively clear: Warmer waters in the equatorial Pacific Ocean, caused by El Niño, bring many unexpected tropical species northward through a mix of rising sea-surface temperatures and altered currents, expert say.
Snakes bite woman and three dogs in one Melbourne street

Three dogs have died and a woman bitten as residents in a southeast Melbourne suburb worry about a snake infestation in their street.

Cranbourne woman Barbara McDougall was putting out her bins when a venomous tiger snake suddenly appeared and bit her leg last week.

"I just thought `oh my God' and tried to shake it off," Ms McDougall told AAP on Thursday.

Ms McDougall spent three days in hospital recovering after being given antivenom and has since called in a snake catcher to do a sweep of her property.

Local residents have spotted snakes in Dalray Court, where three dogs have been killed by snake bites in the past two weeks.
Scientists trained monitor lizards not to chow down on poisonous toads by feeding them smaller, less-poisonous toads

In Australia, the invasive cane toads kill monitor lizards when they eat them. Imported in the 1930s to control pests on cane sugar farms, they quickly became an invasive species with no natural predators. The monitors are a sacred symbol in aboriginal art and culture. Up to 90 percent of the yellow-spotted monitors have died from eating the toads. The monitors only have to mouth a toad for less than 30 seconds and it can kill them. By feeding the monitors smaller, less potent cane toads, they convinced the monitors not to eat toads at all without doing permanent damage. The research team suggests releasing smaller species of toads to help train the monitors not to eat toads.
A tree frog only seen once in the 1870s has been found again -- in large numbers and thriving -- in the hilly forests of northeastern India.

Perhaps the most intriguing and evolutionary feature is the mother's parental care. The tadpoles feed on the mother’s eggs that she especially lays due to lack of food. The tadpoles also have no teeth, only flap-like papillae to swallow eggs.

Submitted by Adam M.
Developer James Tong pleads guilty to violating Endangered Species Act

Submitted by Zach

Agrees to pay $1 million to state, county, nonprofit wildlife agencies, provide 107-acre conservation easement. The species harmed by the grading of Dublin Ranch North, a 157-acre project, was the California tiger salamander, an 8-inch amphibian listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

Hundreds of young turtles rescued from frigid Atlantic in North Carolina

The quick drop in temperatures off the North Carolina coast this week caught several hundred sea turtles in water suddenly too cold for them to swim.

About 600 juvenile turtles needed help, Claire Aubel, a spokeswoman with the North Carolina Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores, said.

When a turtle is cold stunned, it stops swimming and just floats with the current. Some end up on shore. Some die, and some become prey.

Rescuers caught more than 600 turtles in two days; 450 were taken to North Carolina's three aquariums while others went to the Karen Beasley Sea Turtle Rescue and Rehabilitation Center in Surf City.

Most of the rescued animals are green sea turtles, but there were some loggerhead and Kemp's ridley turtles, too.


Submitted by Adam M.
Chameleons shoot their tongues out to about two body lengths. But Dr. Anderson thought that with the larger apparatus in smaller chameleons, their tongues might reach out proportionally farther.

And they did, to about two and a half body lengths. The smallest chameleon he tested, Rhampholeon spinosus, not only had this long tongue extension, but, as he writes in a paper published in Scientific Reports, it also demonstrated the highest acceleration and power output for any movement by a reptile, bird or mammal. Small insects and mantis shrimp put larger animals to shame.

The acceleration was about 8,500 feet per second per second, which meant that the tongue was pulling about 264 gs. And the power output was 14,040 watts per kilogram (about 2.2 pounds).

Smaller animals generally have higher metabolisms and require more food per pound, or per fraction of an ounce. So they need a souped-up shooting tongue.
17 reptiles have been seized so far in Florida’s Python Challenge, which began on Saturday, January 16, and will unfold until Sunday, February 14.

Their numbers have risen dramatically, negatively impacting the local population of rabbits, bobcats, raccoons, and also causing a downswing among much larger creatures, such as bears, deer and cougars. That’s why the Python Challenge was initiated, and back in 2013 it resulted in the capture of 68 such snakes.

This year it appears the competition will yield even more impressive results: **768 people from 24 states have signed up**, shelling out $25 in order to take part in the hunt.

...The hunter to ensnare the highest number of snakes on the designated hunting grounds will be rewarded with $3500, while the team that achieves the same goal will get $5000.


Submitted by Zach
Warm-blooded lizards!

The first known warm-blooded lizard, the tegu, can heat itself to as much as 10 °C above its surroundings – making it unique among reptiles. But bizarrely, it only switches on its heating system at certain times of the year. The discovery may add to the debate about whether dinosaurs were warm- or cold-blooded, or something in between – a bit like these lizards. It may also provide a clue to how warm-bloodedness, or endothermy, first evolved, says Glenn Tattersall of Brock University, Canada, who co-led the research with Cleo Leite at the Federal University of São Carlos in Brazil. Unlike mammals and birds – which can heat themselves – reptiles, amphibians and fish generally depend on absorbing heat from their surroundings.

Upcoming LHS events

- Sunday, Feb 7 - Board Meeting

- Friday, February 19, 2016, 7pm - Sand Boa Ecology, Husbandry, and Breeding with speaker Patrick Walker, at the Richard M. Nixon County Park, 5922 Nixon Drive, York, PA 17403. Talk followed by a nature center behind-the-scenes tour.

- Saturday, February 27, 2016, 10am - Philadelphia Zoo Field Trip, must register, limited spaces.

- Friday, March 18, 2016, 7pm - Roy Mellott, Lancaster County Amphibians

- Friday, April 8, 2016, 7pm - Pinchot Park Herping Field Trip!

- Friday, April 15, 2016, 7pm - American Toad Migration Adventure

- Friday, September 23-25 - LHS and MHS Fall Camping Trip at Blue Rocks
Gifford Pinchot State Park Trip!

Club members have booked sites 121-116 so far. ($23/site)

http://pennsylvaniastateparks.reserveamerica.com/welcome.do
Other Upcoming Nature Events?

Thurs, Feb 25 - Lancaster County Fossil & Mineral Club, 7pm, “Flourescent Rocks & Minerals” [https://www.facebook.com/events/107031902996117/]

Sat, Feb 27 - Hamburg Reptile Show, Nixon Park Maple Sugar Festival

Sat, March 12 - PSU GardenWise Seminar: [http://www.cvent.com/events/gardenwise/event-summary-b6c26b1a77b84ba0b2bcff13946d782c.aspx]

Sun, March 13 - York County Reptile Show @ Wyndham Garden Hotel, 2000 Loucks Rd, York, PA 17408, 10am-3pm ($35/table to vend)

Mon, March 14 - Lancaster Garden Club, 7pm, “Building the Home Rock Garden”

Sun., April 17 - PARS Intro Program @ Hawk Mountain, Berks Co., 10 am

Sat, April 30 - Lancaster Native Plant and Wildlife Festival - LHS and PARS educational tables - Looking for volunteers!
LHS & MHS
Fall Camping Trip
September 23-25

Blue Rocks Family Campground near Berks County Pinnacle
Please welcome, Bob Ferguson!

Bob is a naturalist on a constant treasure hunt for reptiles, amphibians, birds, adventures, and great photographs.

He loves herping with his children and he posts all the great pictures from his trips on his nature blog, http://fascinature.net.

Bob is the 5th highest contributor of PARS records with over 1500 records submitted. He also serves on the data verification committee and as the Carbon County Coordinator.

He’s incredibly passionate about bringing nature into the hearts of people and this passion is contagious when you hear him share his stories.
Photos from Bob’s Presentation…
Thank you Bob!!!!