Club members have been exploring vernal ponds and wetlands for signs of spring like this Wood Frog. Photo by Kelsey Frey

Have you encountered any signs of spring? The Spring Peepers started singing this year on those few warmer evenings of February. In some areas the Wood Frogs and Spring Peepers competed for the loudest chorus during above freezing, damp nights. Spotted Salamander and Wood Frog egg masses have been observed in various locations around the county and our neighboring counties.

Have you experienced the sensation of hearing a Peepers chorus start up at dusk? Have you stood in the middle of a wet forest full of these singing tree frogs and not been able to spot a single one? Witnessing a spring migration event is something everyone should do sometime in their lives. Listen for the wetland nearest you!

Corny Reptile Joke...

If you crossed a snake with a robin, what kind of bird would you get? A swallow! Happy Spring!

Calendar

April 19, 2013
Critter Encounter
Meet a live reptile or amphibian! Bring in a herp pet, photos, or stories to share.

May 17, 2013
PA Amphibian and Reptile Survey
Jason Poston and Brandon Ruhe will explain this important atlas project.

June 21, 2013
Kids Night
Learn herp basics and explore education stations

July 19, 2013
Do-it-yourself Herp Enclosures
Learn how board member, Zach Barton, constructed many of his own snake and turtle enclosures.

Reptile Shows:

- Eastern Herp Expo - April 6
- Havre De Grace/All MD - April 13, May 11, June 1, July 13
- East Coast Reptile Super Expo - April 20, June 22, July 27
- Northwestern Berks - April 27, June 8, Aug 3
2013 SO FAR: A FACELIFT FOR LHS

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

It has been a busy year so far for the board and members of Lancaster Herpetological Society (LHS). We moved to our new home at Manheim Township Public Library (MTPL). The board has been hard at work behind the scenes putting together some new ideas and meeting topics to make 2013 the best year yet for our organization.

The highly anticipated move to MTPL has proven to be beneficial. Our library liaison, Mary Ann Stanley, has been instrumental in helping LHS make the most of this fantastic meeting place.

In January, board members had an opportunity to present the goals of LHS: Husbandry, Education, Community and Conservation. Members gave short talks on each topic and how LHS is working to achieve those goals.

February brought the debut performance of super herper, Bob Ferguson. Bob was a bit nervous about speaking in front of a large group, but he really knocked it out of the park with his quick wit and fantastic photos from his year in herping. Unfortunately, we only got through June of the herping year, so we hope to have Bob back in the future for some more field herping stories.

We really filled the room in March for the Frog Walk. About 75 adults and kids were in attendance for Roy’s presentation on frogs and our walk through the Overlook campus. The weather was not ideal for migration and no frogs were found. But refreshments, prize giveaways and a chance for some social time left everyone with a smile on their face.

I was thrilled to be able to meet and chat with many new people. I hope to see them all back at a future LHS meeting.

We have many new speakers and events planned for this year. In addition to our regular meetings, LHS will participate in several off-site programs. Please check the website for more information on these events and volunteer opportunities. Additionally, I would like your feedback and suggestions on what we are doing right and where we could improve. Feel free to email me at jeff@lancasterherp.org.

Jeff Chiyka
President LHS

Bob Ferguson Feb 2013 by Kelsey Frey

Joanna Hulse March 2013 by Adam Mattel

Roy Mellott March 2013 by Adam Mattel

“To a New Beginning” cake from Robyn, photo by Adam Mattel

“T o a New Beginning” cake from Robyn, photo by Adam Mattel

Jeff Chiyka March 2013 by Adam Mattel
Get your kids excited to be outside! Let us spark their interest in reptiles and amphibians.

Join Lancaster Herpetological Society for their first annual Kid’s Night! Children ages 5 and up will explore the world of reptiles and amphibians through a short presentation, hands-on exhibits, and live animals. Each child will get a chance to play reptile jeopardy and win a prize to take home.

- 7pm at MTPL
- FREE
- Children must be accompanied by an adult.
- Pre-registration is required and space is limited.
- Call the library to register at 560-6441.

Davin holding a young Redtail Boa
Photo by Zach Barton
2013 LHS MEMBERS HERP ASPIRATIONS

Are you a competitive herper and obsessive list keeper? Are you a casual hiker or camper? No matter what your herping style, we hope you are excited for this spring and summer herping season!

What do we hope to see and do this year?

Hoping to see more of the smaller snakes like red-bellies, ring-necks, and greens - if I'm lucky! - Caleb H.

I want to get my kids out this summer, especially my youngest who likes to go on "nature walks". Any herp is a good herp through the eyes of a child. - Zach B.

I want to find a Queen, a Green, a Worm, and an Earth. - Adam M.

I would again like to find Broad-headed Skinks in Lancaster and would also like to find a PA Wormsnake. - Roy M.

Give me snakes! Lots of snakes! And the occasional turtle would be cool, too. - Jeff C.

I'd like to find new Hognose spots and PA Wormsnakes AND herp with Bob Ferguson. - Jesse R.

The species that I wish to observe this year are Rough Green Snakes, Hellbenders, Spadefoots, and Copperheads. I hope to find some species that aren't described as being found in Berks County. - Alex W.

I want to learn more about identifying larval salamanders and tadpoles. I hope to find new herping spots in Lancaster and York Counties. I would love to find some species I've never seen before like a venomous species in PA, a fence lizard, coal skink, Red-belly Snake... the list goes on! - Kelsey F.

This year I would like to find a short-headed garter snake, Thamnophis brachystoma. Also, continue contributing to the Maryland Herp Atlas Project by "connecting the dots" between unproven blocks with common species to better understand their distribution. My annual goal is to observe at least 75 species and record sightings in at least 50 counties, not all in PA. - Kyle L.

I guess I'd like to see a Timber Rattlesnake since I've never seen one in the wild before. - Joanna H.
FORGOTTEN FRIEND REPTILE SANCTUARY SPRING NEWS

Currently at the rescue we have a couple reptiles for adoption. One is a male bearded dragon who is a full-sized adult. The other is a juvenile green iguana. Both have been very healthy and active since they came in a few weeks ago. We are also expecting another red tail boa and some others.

In April we will have a chance to speak about reptile rescue at the South Texas Herp Association in San Antonio. It started when we made rescue connections with Frank Saling of the Reptile Hospice and Sanctuary of Texas (www.rhandst.com). Frank's rescue role with the San Antonio herp club is much like Forgotten Friend's rescue role with LHS, so it promises to be a fruitful connection...especially when we need to send some species to warmer climates! Hopefully we will have some southwestern herp sightings to report.

Forgotten Friend is once again preparing for educational outreach through the summer reading program. We'll be invading dozens of libraries in June and July with 15 snakes, lizards, turtles and crocs, including all 17 of Lancaster County's libraries. We hope you can join us!

Who is Forgotten Friend Reptile Sanctuary?
Forgotten Friend Reptile Sanctuary is a reptile rescue in the middle of Amish country, Pennsylvania. Registered as Forgotten Friend, Inc., we are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization focused on educational outreach and rescuing reptiles. Lancaster Herpetological Society board member, Jesse Rothacker, is the founder and president of Forgotten Friend Reptile Sanctuary.

Learn more at Forgottenfriend.org

SPRING HERPING PHOTOS

Wood Frog Eggs by Jeff Chiyka
Looking for snakes at a local park by Kelsey Frey
American Toad in a hole at Overlook by Kelsey Frey

HERPS IN THE HEADLINES...
H.R. 996: Invasive Fish and Wildlife Prevention Act (HR669 Re-write) 3/18/13 - US Herp Alliance
Long Island woman says she bought potpourri with a snake inside 3/3/13 - New York Post
Snakes in the Wild Harbor Deadly Mosquito-Borne EEEV Virus Through Hibernation, Study Finds 10/1/12 - Science Daily
Thank You LHS Sponsors!

We are a group of reptile and amphibian enthusiasts. We meet the third Friday of every month at 7pm at the Manheim Township Public Library. We host guest speakers on a variety of topics, facilitate critter encounters, lead field herping adventures, and attend community events. Our club is open to all folks curious about cold-blooded creatures! We hope you can join us!

Membership Form

Name: ____________________________
Address: ____________________________
City: __________________ State: ______ Zip: ______
E-mail: ____________________________

Please check membership type:

☐ Individual - $20

☐ Business - $50

New members welcome anytime.

Please return this form with payment (cash or check) to an LHS board member.

All ages are welcome. Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult.

LHS Board Members:

Jeff Chiyka, President
Caleb Hulse, Vice President
Roy Mellott, Treasurer
Kelsey Frey, Secretary, Media Director
Jesse Rothacker
Zach Barton
Adam Mattel
Joanna Hulse

Contact us: lancherpsociety@gmail.com

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