LANCASTER HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY
HUSBANDRY, EDUCATION, CONSERVATION, COMMUNITY

VOLUNTEER FOR LHS COMMUNITY OUTREACH EVENTS!

Contact us to volunteer for the following outreach events this winter, spring, and summer! info@lancasterherp.org

Retirement Community Shows- Jan 27, TBA Feb, TBA March
Help Kelsey pack up some critters and travel to a local retirement community for a one hour program covering reptile and amphibian basics.

That Fish Place Snake Photos- Feb 8, March 29-30
Help the public get their photo taken with a snake! Talk about LHS and our activities in the community.

Pet Expo at the Farm Show Complex- March 1 & 2
Talk to the public about LHS and reptile and amphibians in PA.

Lancaster Native Plant and Wildlife Festival- April 26
Share some live native herps with the public and recruit visitors to LHS meetings and activities.

Reptile Week at Nixon County Park, York- June 28-July 6
Share live reptiles and interactive activities with the visiting public.

LHS Kids Night- August 15
Share your basic herp knowledge with kids while running an educational activity station for families.

Winter Calendar

January 17, 2014
Herp Law Forum
Captain Tom Burrell of the PA Fish and Boat Commission will discuss new PA Herp regulations.

February 21, 2014
Conserving the Galapagos
Dr. Emi Knafo will share her surgical innovations for island restoration.

March 21, 2014
Florida Herps Monograph
Dr. Walter Meshaka will share his research and book on Florida Herps.

April 11, 2014
Spring Amphibian Camping Trip
Pinchot State Park- Details inside!

April 18, 2014
Toad Migration Walk
Roy Mellott will share a presentation on Lancaster amphibians and then lead us on a walk through Overlook in search of American Toads. Bring a flashlight!

All meetings are held at 7pm at the Manheim Township Public Library at 595 Granite Run Drive, Lancaster, PA 17601.
Meetings are free and open to the public. Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult.

Reptile Shows:
Greater Philly- 1/12, 3/15
Havre De Grace/All MD- 2/8, 3/1, 4/12
Northwestern Berks- 2/22, 4/26
LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

As our herping season started wrapping up in late October, we were pleased to have Aura Stauffer back to discuss Timber Rattlesnake research in Western Pennsylvania. As usual, Aura has a knack for mixing science and personal observation into an informative presentation.

November brought us map turtle expert Billy Brown. Billy does research across the US on all species of Graptemys. I was amazed at the depth of knowledge he has; and I learned a great deal about these amazing turtles.

We closed out the year with our Social and Snake Cake contest. If you weren't there, you missed great food, great fun and a few surprise guests. Kelsey put together a fun “year in review” to get us thinking about LHS in 2013.

LHS did several presentations to local retirement communities over the past few months. We are honored and excited to be able to bring live herps and education to those who don't have the opportunity to experience reptiles otherwise.

All the recent sub-zero temperatures and snow fall may prevent field herping, but there is always plenty going on at LHS. The schedule for 2014 is full of great speakers and activities. We’re hoping to add several “members only” events, the first being our behind-the-scenes zoo trip in February.

Our group continues to grow in both membership and presence in the community. Check the website for more information on LHS 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
MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: JESSE ROTHACKER

When and how did you first get interested in herps?
I’ve been chasing frogs and lizards as long as I can remember. Caught a pond turtle on a family vacation to Wisconsin as a boy and spent the whole day with him before my parents made me release him.

Do you keep any herps? What herps do you keep?
Yes, I have a few. Boo and Jade the iguanas. Casper, Jasper, Sweetpea and Rick the burmese and reticulated pythons. Zachary the black rat snake. Bacon the alligator. There are some others.

Tell us about a pet herp you’ve had the longest or are particularly fond of.
Boo the iguana came in to us almost 10 years ago and was about 2 at the time. She is one of the sweetest iguanas you’ll ever meet.

What clubs and organizations are you active with besides LHS?
I am probably most active with Ephrata Community Church and Gateway House of Prayer, being involved in various community and outreach events and praying for our area and other nations. I also belong to the Palmyra Sportsman Association and enjoy shooting and archery.

Tell us a little about your professional career.
I am a Children's Pastor at Ephrata Community Church since March 2011, although we have volunteered in kids ministry for many years before that. I started Forgotten Friend Reptile Sanctuary in 2004. I am blessed to have two fun jobs where I can work with kids and animals.

Do you have any children? Do your children share your love for herps?
My son Kenny is 3 (with another one due March 2014). Kenny sort of views animals like normal scenery around our house. Although he enjoys helping with some animals jobs occasionally, he is currently more fascinated by pressing buttons and knobs and seeing what they do.

Tell us about a memorable herping trip.
One of my favorites was my first Gila Monster sighting in Arizona. I met up with a herpetologist named Roger Repp who was as much of a natural comedian as he was a veteran scientist. It was great discovering snakes and tortoises and lizards, especially GILA MONSTERS, while sharing some stories and laughs and getting the first few scratches on his new Toyota pickup.

Thanks Jesse!

YOU ARE INVITED!

to the
INTERNATIONAL HERPETOLOGICAL SYMPOSIUM

July 16-20, 2014

The Mission Inn Hotel and Spa
3649 Mission Inn Ave.
Riverside, CA 92501 USA

Three days of presentations on Herpetology, Herpetoculture, and Reptile Veterinary Medicine, sponsored by Timberline, ExoTerra, and the International Herpetological Symposium Inc. The IHS Vendor tables will be open to the public and to IHS registrants at no charge during the entire conference with an incredibly diverse selection of herpetocultural supplies, artwork, books, and other items. There is a great social ice breaker on Wednesday evening and a fun and informative banquet with a special guest speaker on Friday. The IHS fundraising auction follows the banquet. Desert night driving, La Brea Tar Pits, LA Zoo, and Wild America are all possible additions to the experience. We look forward to seeing you at the 37th Annual International Herpetological Symposium in sunny southern California!

For more information, visit us at www.internationalherpetologicalsymposium.com
Join LHS for the 2014 year and get an LHS T-shirt!

New membership rates ($25) support member-only adventures, among other club expenses.

Reduced rate for families ($45)! It’s a bargain!

*Membership form on back page*

SPRING AMPHIBIAN CAMPING TRIP!!!

LHS Visits Gifford Pinchot State Park April 11th, 2014!

Join other club members for a fun night walk at Gifford Pinchot State Park on Friday, April 11th, 2014. Hopefully, we’ll hear spring peepers and wood frogs. We’ll also look for wood frogs and spotted salamanders crossing the trail.

Come by just for the walk, or stay overnight at the campground. Make your own reservations at www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/findapark/giffordpinchot/. Check out the campground map. One trail we’ll walk is the Mason-Dixon Trail.

Environmental Education Specialist, Beth Kepley-McNutt with the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources will guide our group to amphibian hotspots. Meet at the Information Kiosk at 7:30pm (sunset 7:42pm).

Bring headlamps or flashlights, preferably with a red-light setting. Wear warm clothes and boots or hiking shoes that can get muddy.

Contact Kelsey, kelsey@lancasterherp.org, for more information.

Top Photo: Club member Adam, examines wood frog egg masses at Pinchot State Park. Bottom Photo: Wood Frog at night at Pinchot State Park in April!
FORGOTTEN FRIEND REPTILE SANCTUARY
WINTER NEWS

2013 was a busy year for outreach, in which we provided well over 100 live reptile programs! 2014 is looking good already, and we just booked our first PROM event with live snakes, lizards, turtles, and crocs!

Lately we’ve had large pythons coming and going. In September, a 10-foot reticulated python was abandoned in rural York County. We assisted police with her recovery, and were able to determine that she used to belong to Tom Moore of Critter Caravans (although we haven’t received an answer why she was abandoned). The snake received vet treatment and is doing great. In December, we placed a 15-foot burmese python with the Lehigh Valley Zoo as part of their new reptile house exhibit. We also sent some unwanted alligators to a warmer climate with our friends at Southeast Reptile Rescue in Georgia.

At the moment we have a few adoptable herps. Currently available we have red tail boas, a FL King Snake, and a Ball Python. In recent months we’ve placed an 80-pound sulcata tortoise, a much smaller Russian tortoise, a false map turtle, and others. We’ve been networking homes for lots of reptiles on our FB page, facebook.com/forgottenfriend as well.

In our 2013 Reptile Rescue Survey, Iguanas were one of the most commonly surrendered pet reptiles. They are great pets, but you must have the space and the experience! Over the winter, remember to bathe or shower your iguanas occasionally. Reptiles that are native to humid climates may dry out under their heat lamps over the winter. Try adding some bits of fruit to their leafy greens as a treat, too!

Jade and Boo dine on fresh herbivore cuisine at Forgotten Friend. Photo courtesy of Harrisburg Magazine, which featured our rescue in their December 2013 issue.

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
Thank You LHS Sponsors and Partners!

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

Contact us: info@lancasterherp.org

BECOME A MEMBER OF LANCASTER HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY
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!

LHS Membership Form

*Get invitations to member’s-only limited-space trips and outings, and support a group that brings excellent speakers, educational opportunities, and camaraderie to the herpetological community and beyond.*

Please return this form with payment (cash or check) to an LHS board member, or join online at www.LancasterHerp.org.

Name: ____________________________________________________________
Address: __________________________________________________________
Email: ____________________________________________________________
Phone: ____________________________________________________________

Circle membership Type:
Individual 2014 (includes LHS t-shirt) $25.00
Family 2014 (includes 2 t-shirts) $45.00

Membership dues are paid annually each January.