

# Lancaster Herpetological Society

Husbandry, Education, Conservation, Community

The Lancaster Herpetological Society ([www.lancasterherp.org](http://www.lancasterherp.org)) is a small club that meets once a month to discuss herps and herp-related issues. The club meets at the North Museum ([www.northmuseum.org](http://www.northmuseum.org), 400 College Ave., Lancaster, PA 17603) on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of every month. Meetings are open to the public, free of charge (donations accepted), and begin at 7pm. Please feel free to attend by entering through the back door (ring bell if locked). The membership requests that all children under the age of 16 be accompanied by an adult. For more information, contact Roy Mellott ([LancHerpSociety@gmail.com](mailto:LancHerpSociety@gmail.com)). *Hope to see you there!*

## Upcoming Meetings

<u>Date</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Comments</u>
10/19/12	Aura Stauffer	South Mountain Rattlesnake	Update from DCNR
11/16/12	Kyle Louks	Four Seasons of Herping	Wild Herper Extraordinaire
12/21/2012*	Zach Barton	Our Time at the Museum	A Trip Down Memory Lane
1/18/2013**	LHS	What is a Herp Club?	Forgotten Friend Reptile Rescue

\*Officer and Board Member Elections

\*\*1<sup>st</sup> Meeting at the new location in Manheim Township Library at Overlook Park

Upcoming [Havre de Grace](#) Herp Shows: Nov 3<sup>rd</sup>, Dec 15<sup>th</sup>, Jan 12<sup>th</sup>

Upcoming [Hamburg](#) Herp Show: Oct 20<sup>th</sup>, Dec 1<sup>st</sup>

Upcoming [Philadelphia](#) Herp Show: Nov 10<sup>th</sup>

# BIG ANNOUNCEMENT

LHS is changing venues! After nearly eight years at the North Museum, LHS will hold meetings at the Manheim Township Library beginning with our first meeting in 2013. We are hopeful that the new location will offer many benefits. LHS actually hosted a Frog Walk last March, and we were impressed with the facilities and the turn out. We thank the North Museum for welcoming us since our inception and nurturing the growth of our club.

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## **Club Happenings**

July saw Zach Barton sharing his trials and tribulations about building a turtle pond and a separate tortoise pen this past spring. The two enclosures kept a total of sixteen animals, many of them rescues and fosters. Turtles and tortoises receive numerous physiological and psychological from natural sunlight, and Zach received a lower electric bill by keeping them naturally.

In August, Jeff Chiyka shared the experience of a recent conference on venomous animal safety and husbandry at Catocin Wildlife Preserve & Zoo. Chad Arment, who also attended the symposium, contributed to the presentation as well with pictures and various additional comments. The individual seminars were comprised of a who's who list of professional herpetologists. Jeff's summary of the event was wonderfully detailed. With two members in attendance, hopefully LHS has acquired an additional network of quality speakers!

September brought the always wonderfully entertaining Dr. Meshaka of the State Museum of Pennsylvania. Dr. Meshaka has presented to our club three times in the past eight years. This time he shared his ongoing snake studies at various Pennsylvania sites. Dr. Meshaka demonstrated how different species seasonally dominate different habitats. This information is vital for responsible land management practices to encourage snake conservation, but was also useful to LHS for our leisurely herping and photography.

## **Forgotten Friend Reptile Rescue Update**

Colder Fall temperatures means a crowded reptile room at Forgotten Friend Reptile Sanctuary. We had more animals outdoors than ever this summer. Many of our native turtles spend 12 months/year outdoors. But our iguanas, alligators, sulcata tortoises, monitors, and tegus only get to spend the warmer months laying around in the sun. So after several months of basking in natural sunlight, all of our exotic residents are back in the reptile room, where it's always sunny and 70 degrees.

This month we sent three alligators down to our rescue friends at Croc Encounters in Tampa, Florida. Next month we're preparing to retire Abraham, our largest sulcata tortoise at 50 pounds, to our friend Jan Cooper's tortoise ranch in Tucson, Arizona. We are also preparing to return a papuan python to herpetologist Peter Kriz next month. The papuan python, which stretches beyond ten feet currently, spent the last couple years at the rescue while Peter was out of the country.

Lately we've been getting calls for many more animals than we can handle. So keep an eye on our public adoption forum at [www.forgottenfriend.org/forum](http://www.forgottenfriend.org/forum) for more adoptable herps. We adopted out several boa constrictors recently, but still have some available for adoption. We also adopted out a ball python as well. Also for adoption we have a yellow anaconda, a Central American Wood Turtle, and a few others. We got our first call for a gaboon viper recently. We were able to network a home for it, along with the copperhead, tree boa, and rat snake it lived with. The owners of that snake also had a reticulated python, which they decided to keep. We recently

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took a few animals into the rescue as well. One animal was a green iguana, who is full of eggs. Another animal that recently arrived at Forgotten Friend is a male bearded dragon named Mario.

**Mario the bearded dragon loves to show off!**



## **Requests**

LHS exists solely as a volunteer organization. The club would not survive without the constant and continual input of its members. Arranging speakers, organizing field trips, and producing the newsletter take volunteered time. If you have ideas for and are willing to take the lead in arranging speakers or field trips, please contact Roy Mellott ([LancHerpSociety@gmail.com](mailto:LancHerpSociety@gmail.com)).

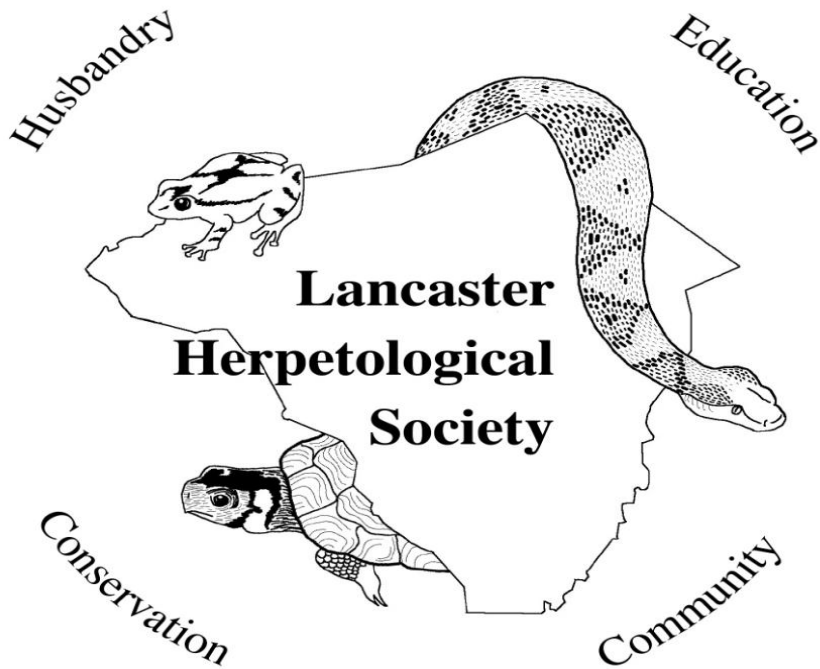
If you wish to contribute to the website, please contact Caleb Hulse ([bursur83@gmail.com](mailto:bursur83@gmail.com)).

If you wish to contribute to the newsletter, please contact Zach Barton ([zbarton@ytech.edu](mailto:zbarton@ytech.edu)). Possible original contributions include: book reviews; species care sheets; notes from a field herping trip; herp news summaries; and opinionated essays. The deadline for the Winter 2013 Newsletter is approaching fast!

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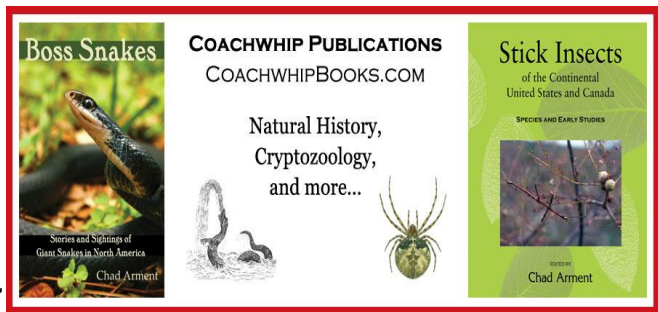
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**FORGOTTEN FRIEND**



**REPTILE SANCTUARY**



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