

VIRGINIA HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY - - - - - NORTHERN COUNTIES MEETING SEPTEMBER 23d

Members of the state society and prospective members whose names are in the files of the Society will meet in Arlington, Va. on Tuesday night, Sept. 23d at 7:30 P.M.

PLACE: Washington and Lee High School's "Little Theatre" -- front entrance at 1300 North Quincy Street, Arlington, Va. (vicinity of Cherrydale section).

PROGRAM: General introduction and explanation of the purposes of the Society and its organization; suggestions from the floor; discussion of program, projects, etc. for coming statewide meeting (see item below). At 8:15 P.M. the Little Theatre's doors will be opened to the general public for a brief talk by officers of the Society, the showing of short films, color slides, and other demonstrations of direct interest to members. Special guests and faculty members will be introduced to the assemblage. Home by 10:00 P.M.

EXHIBITS: Active members of the Society will be permitted to bring one cage with an unusual exhibit of interest to members and visitors. Cages must be secure against tampering. They may be delivered to the high school at 7:05 P.M. or anytime up to 7:30 P.M. when the Society proceedings will begin.

ADMITTANCE: Credentials committee will admit members and prospective members and their guests to the auditorium by 7:30 P.M. At that time the doors will be closed until 8:15 P.M. (Dues may be paid and recorded with the act'g sec'y.)

VHS STATEWIDE MEETING AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR '58-'59 TO BE IN RICHMOND AREA

Arrangements have been completed for reserving a site for the first statewide meeting -- this, we hope, will become an annual affair. MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW !!!

TIME & PLACE: OCTOBER 18th 1958 at CAMP SHAWONDASEE, BSA, near Chesterfield Court House, Va. The camp is most easily reached via Route # 10 out of Richmond, Va. It is well-known, having operated as the R.E. Lee Council BSA Camp since 1912. All the facilities we will require are at our disposal for the week-end. The Camp is on the edge of the Pocahontas State Park, fourteen miles south of Richmond. (See auto maps)

CAMPING: VHS-affiliated families will be permitted to camp and cook out on an individual basis. Plenty of good tent sites near water supply and other sanitary units. Campers should plan to move into the area on Friday night, October 17th 1958, in time to set up before dark (Standard time). Aides will be on hand to guide cars to area designated. Wives, daughters, definitely welcome to attend with male members.

MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE ON SATURDAY: Morning business program -- out of the way by noontime -- including nomination and election of first official slate of officers. Afternoon will be spent in discussions, seminars, reading of reports or papers, and possibly impromptu local hunts. (Bring powdered sulfur for dusting socks to keep off red-bugs which may be native to the area.) The Camp Ranger, Mr. DeChamp, will be our host representing the R.E. Lee Council, BS of A. He reports a large red-headed lizard in the area. Some may be lucky enough to capture and identify a specimen. Be certain of your quarry -- other red-headed denizens are not to be pounced upon. The Copperhead is not uncommon in the area -- please be guided accordingly -CAUTION.

PROGRAM: Morning business program, reports, nomination of officers whose terms are to run from statewide meeting '58 to next statewide meeting in '59. Election. In the afternoon the assembly may break down into specialty groups. Films and slides in the camp's mess hall in the evening on Saturday. Those who wish to leave early Saturday night may vote to move this program ahead. Campers may stay over to Sun.

EXHIBITS: The camp's Nature Pavilion and mess hall are available for exhibits. The number of cages will be limited to your own supply and transportation resources. All cages should be sound. The Society officers (acting) reserve the right to bar an unsafe exhibit. All personal possessions will be displayed at owner's own risk. The Nature Pavilion has seven 5" X 5" tables and a few 3" X 6" tables in a wall-less roofed pavilion. It is suitable for hardier live exhibits and preserved materials.

STATEWIDE MEETING, CONTINUED: Exhibits- The Camp mess hall has virtually unlimited table space, but a portion thereof must be reserved clear for the showing of films and slides and the seating of the audience. This building will be used for all of the sessions if the rainy day schedule goes into effect. Otherwise, the outdoor council ring with central fire and stone seats (bring seat cushions) will be used for pleasant day general sessions. NO PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE MEETING will be made in the DAILY NEWSPAPERS. This is to prevent curiosity-seekers from over-running the exhibits and sessions. PLEASE KEEP THIS A SOCIETY AFFAIR. Releases will be made by the officers of the Society to the radio and newspaper media after the sessions.

MORE ON ACCOMMODATIONS: The Society has no facilities for making reservations for its members. Hotel and motel space is available within easy travel distance along the highways leading into Richmond, or in the state capital itself. Since all those in attendance at the day-long meeting will have to provide for their own meals it is important that each person coming into the camp Saturday bring a picnic lunch and a box supper. Camping over Saturday night (Oct. 18th) until Sunday morning has been cleared for those who wish to remain until Sunday. All exhibits must clear camp by Sunday afternoon, Oct. 19th. Local soda-pop and candy concession will be open during the week-end for the use of all, including children. Everything else in the way of provisions will have to be brought into the camp by members and their families. Except in case of dire emergency, no camping facilities other than space, water, and sanitary conveniences will be provided by the camp or the Society.

FIELD NOTES: Wm. E. Cooper, Jr. reports the Rough Ground Snake (Salpadora striatula) and the Eastern Ground S. (H. valeriae) in the Henrico County area (vic. of Richmond) and the Florida Cooter (Pseudemys floridana) from ponds in or near Byrd Park, Richmond. Also, he mentions the Eastern Milk S. (Lampropeltis dolliata triangulum) and the Rainbow Snake (Abaster erythrogrammus) from Chesterfield County (vic. of Camp Shawondasee where Bill has worked as an assistant to the naturalist. He has an immature Smooth Green S. (Opheodrys vernalis) captured in Rockbridge County near Goshen Gap. * * * * W. Leslie Burger of William & Mary, reports five state records for Lee County as the result of a trip to the Cumberland Gap National Historical Park area in S.W. Virginia. These are: The Black King Snake (Lampropeltis getulus niger), the Midwest Worm Snake (Carphophis amoenus helena), Midland Water S. (Natrix sipedon pleuralis), Spiny Soft shell Turtle (Amyda ferox spinifer) and the Stripe-neck Musk Turtle (Sternotherus carinatus peltifer). Burger notes the region is in the Tennessee River basin area.

* * * * Douglas Landwehr, herpetology student from Tulane University, spent the summer working at the Nat'l Zoological Park. He has returned to Tulane and New Orleans. Before he left he called our attention to the "Save Our Snakes" series published by the New York Zoological Society under the able direction of Dr. Oliver. * * * * *

Charles L. Hanson & family visited McLean from Winous Point, Ohio, bringing several Fox Snakes (Elaphe vulpina) and Island Water Snakes (Natrix sipedon insularum) from their native Lake Erie-side habitat. Some of these, along with melanistic Garter Snakes (Thamnophis sirtalis) went to the NZP collection. Others were given to the Society's acting secretary-treasurer and have been distributed to members with sturdy cages -- we were cautioned not to start any new species introduction within the state

NEW MEMBERS SINCE THE ROSTER WAS TYPED IN JULY are:

*CORBETT, Richard (Stu) Barbee Street, McLean, Va. *CRAIG, Costello (G) Bedford, Va.
*CUNNINGHAM, Paul (Stu) Shirley Street, McLean, Va. *HALL, Harlan (Stu) McLean, Va.
*KEELER, Wm. J. (G) 271 N. Washington St. Falls Church, Va. (Change of address for:
*McLAUGHLIN, John H. (St) Game Biologist Supervisor, Box 40, Roanoke, Va.

REQUESTS TO BE ADDED TO LIST-potential members- are as follows:

CLARKE, Dr. Robt. F. (F) State Teachers College, Emporia, Kansas (Virginia WILDLIFE)
DICKEY, Adeline M. (Sales) Addick Petland, 505 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington, DC
McKENNEY, James (Stu) 9109 Eton Rd. Silver Springs, Maryland
WATT, Robt. M. Jr. (G) Fern Lake, Middlesboro, Kentucky (by W. Les Burger)

PLAN NOW TO ATTEND THE STATEWIDE MEETING AT CAMP SHAWONDASEE, near RICHMOND, Va.