

VIRGINIA HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY

STATEWIDE MEETING A HUGE SUCCESS! Fifty VHS members and friends assembled at Chesterfield C.H., Va. 9 miles south of the state capital for the first annual meeting of this Society. Delegates came from as far away as Bedford, Bridgewater and Norfolk. A strong delegation came from the Virginia and Maryland suburbs of Washington, D.C. Messages from many other members expressed regret at being unable to attend.

EXHIBITS WERE SET UP EARLY, QUICKLY ABSORBING AVAILABLE SPACE! Many Virginia varieties and out-of-state reptiles and amphibians were on exhibit. The cover was provided by a sunny pavilion with a large fireplace at each end. Tables were arranged in an open "U". From this base sorties were made into the surrounding woodland. Many varieties of Reptiles and Amphibians were seen and taken alive during the day. The Society's president, Dr. John T. Wood, of Burkeville, brought in 2 Copperheads (Agkistrodon contortrix mokeson). Several species of salamanders, lizards and snakes were seen and recorded. Swapping of specimens left the younger set a bit puzzled over what they had and had not. Anyone knowing the present location of three King Snakes (Lampropeltis getulus (sp)?) which escaped from a jar with a loosened lid -- please write c/o the Secretary. The owner would like to know where they went.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE VHS STATEWIDE MEETING AT CAMP SHAWONDASEE, BSA.
(1) Electing (unanimously) the officers nominated by those present for 1958-1959 as follows:

President	. . . . .	John Thornton Wood, M.D. (Burkeville)
President-elect	. . . . .	W. Les Burger (F) Coll. of Wm & Mary
Chairman	. . . . .	O.K. Goodwin, (G) (Newport News, Va.)
Co-Chairman	. . . . .	Dr. Harry G.M. Jopson (F) Bridgewater
Treasurer	. . . . .	Dr. Phoebe H. Knipling (F) Arlington
Secretary	. . . . .	Franklin Tobey, Jr. (G) (McLean, Va.)

- (2) Welcoming the Luray (Va.) Natural History Society to participating membership -- in whatever degree the Luray group desires to exchange;
(3) Deciding against publishing formal or scientific papers; (VHS suggests COPEIA, HERPETOLOGICA, The VIRGINIA JOURNAL OF SCIENCE, and any similar journals. Popularly written conservation articles within the scope of herpetology will be welcomed occasionally by VIRGINIA WILDLIFE);
(4) Approving the idea of preserving one concrete-floored, "T"-shaped open-sided shelter at Camp Hoover above Criglersville, Va. for rainy weather camper-hiker use; (After camp buildings are razed by the Nat'l Park Service no shelters will remain in that general area.)
(5) Rejecting the generous offer of the Philadelphia Herpetological Society to publish a four-page Virginia section in its PHS bulletins;
(6) Approving the PHS offer to send sample copies of PHS bulletins to the VHS membership -- (a new roster will have to be prepared -- now 150!);
(7) Voting thanks to Robert E. Lee Council, BSA and its ranger, Mr. A. de Champ for the use of Camp Shawondasee facilities for this meeting.

We, as a Society, will have to build up strength in the Richmond area and co-operate with our hosts to the utmost in any matters within our special field of interest. We hope Richmond will let us know where and when we may return the favor by contributing to program, events, etc

Those members and friends who remained after the evening meal saw excellent and highly artistic color slides of the Dismal Swamp region & its herpetofauna as photographed by Roger H. Rageot, Curator of Natural History, Norfolk Museum. (Rageot recently returned from Paris and the Brussels Fair.) Dr. John T. Wood and A/2C Wm. L. Witt contributed also.

The color slides, made in the course of several field trips by the trio were much enjoyed by all. Our thanks to them and to the many exhibitors.

The new field guide prepared by Dr. Roger Conant was on view near the registration desk along with other recent literature. The FIELD GUIDE TO REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS appeared in the bookshops only three days before the statewide meeting. The copy was sent to the Secretary by the publishers especially for the purpose of exhibition at the VHS meeting. The Conant work is number twelve of the famous Field Guide series edited by Roger Tory Peterson. Copies of the folder describing it were distributed at the meeting. For those who weren't, there is one enclosed. Many members voiced warm approval of the work and many fine plates and distribution maps. (Publishers: Houghton-Mifflin, Boston, Mass. \$3.95 Here is an excellent Christmas gift idea for parents of serious students N.B. The editor still awaits your suggestions as to other popular books or texts within our scope of interest. All items for future VHS bulletin use will be welcomed during the winter months when we temporarily suspend publication. Your ideas will be adopted or adapted, not lost!

Let us hear from YOU! (1) ideas or news for the VHS Bulletins; (2) new members' or prospective members' names and addresses; (3) data on herp species for the distribution maps (Va. or nearby states); (4) books.

COLOR SLIDES ARE IN DEMAND! Those having duplicates of Va. reptiles or amphibians are advised to let the word get around if such are available for purchase or trade. Let the Secretary know if you are willing to have copies made of the originals in your possession; specify size 2" X 2" or other. List the species and your asking price.

NEW MEMBERS SINCE THE LAST BULLETIN: (Membership cards were taken to VHS meeting. Those not distributed there are attached to this bulletin.)

- *BRADSHAW, John O. (Stu) PO Box 175, Burkeville, Va. Nottoway County
- *CRAIG, Mark (Stu) Route # 5, Box 249, Bedford, Va. Bedford County
- *DICKEY, Adeline M. (Sales) 505 Massachusetts Ave. NW Washington, D.C.
- *GILLESPIE, Dan (Stu) 1616 Annandale Rd., Falls Church, Va. (Fairfax)
- *GREEN, Dr. N.B. (F) Marshall College, Huntington, West Virginia
- Correction: HALLE, Leslie 1402 Lee Highway, Arlington 9, Va. (Arl.)
- *HICKMAN, Joseph (Stu) 5401 Youngblood Street, McLean, Va. (Fairfax)
- *HIGHTON, Dr. Richard (F) University of Maryland, College Park, Md.
- *KEELER, Robbie (Stu) North Washington St. Falls Church, Va. (Fairfax)
- *KEELER, Ronnie (Stu) " " " " " " " " " "
- *KNIPLING, Dr. Phoebe H. (F) 2623 Military Rd. Arlington, Va. (Arl.)
- *MCKENNEY, James (Stu) 9109 Eaton Rd. Silver Spring, Maryland
- *SCOTT, Frederic R. (C) 115 Kennondale Lane, Richmond 26, Va. (Chstrfld)
- *WILLIAMS, Mike (Stu) 1702 Tucker Avenue, McLean, Va. (Fairfax)
- *WOOD, John F. (Stu) Burkeville, Va. c/o Dr. John T. Wood (Nottoway)
- *XANTEN, William A. Jr. (Sf) Nat'l Zoological Park, Washington 9, D.C.

WANTED: Letters from persons with adequate records (within 5 mi. of a map-name locality) backed by preserved specimens on hand or in established collection: WRITE: W. L. Burger, College of William & Mary, Williamsburg, Va. with carbon copy to A/2C Wm. L. Witt, 60th FIS, OTIS AFB, Massachusetts. Data for distribution maps, Va. Anybody with ideas on a locality label "SOUTH QUAY, BLACKWATER, Va. write William Witt soon! We were pleased to see you (missed you) at the Statewide meeting! FT

THE NEXT BULLETIN WILL BE OUT MARCH FIRST, (GOD WILLING!) 1959!

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