

Lancaster Herpetological Society

Husbandry, Education, Conservation, Community

The Lancaster Herpetological Society (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, 400 College Ave., Lancaster, PA 17603) on the 3rd 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 (LanchHerpSociety@gmail.com). *Hope to see you there!*

Upcoming Meetings

<u>Date</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Comments</u>
1/20/12	DVD	<i>ReptileMania</i>	Video Night
2/17/12	Jesse Rothacker	Reptile Rescue in Amish Country	Forgotten Friend Reptile Rescue
3/16/12	Roy Mellott	Frog Walk Bring a Flashlight and Appropriate Clothes	<i>***Special Meeting at Manheim Township Library in Overlook Park***</i>
4/20/12	TBA	TBA	

Upcoming [Havre de Grace](#) Herp Shows: Feb 11th, Mar 3rd, Apr 14th

Upcoming [Hamburg](#) Herp Show: Feb 25th

Upcoming [Reading](#) Herp Show: Jan 21st

Club Happenings

In October, Aura Stauffer made her 3rd visit to LHS. Always informative, Aura shared and updated ongoing timber rattlesnake research. Also, Aura added more information on the environmental impacts of Marcellus shale drilling on Pennsylvania habitats. With first hand observations, Aura was able to speculate about possible impacts on timber rattlesnakes populations in Pennsylvania. We hope to have Aura back again.

November was another Members' Night, the herpetological equivalent of show-and-tell. It was a huge hit! Russian tortoises, a ball python, and several varieties and morphs of boas were brought. A comical coachwhip stole the show! Thanks to everyone who brought something.

In December, our very own Caleb Hulse shared some research on Pennsylvanian salamanders. The studies he cited were led by his father, Dr. Arthur Hulse, a published author and professor of biology. Caleb's presentation focused on hellbenders, mudpuppies, and red spotted newts and was quite informative. Thanks Caleb!

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Forgotten Friend Reptile Rescue Update

Rescue Update by Jesse Rothacker

Forgotten Friend Reptile Sanctuary is keeping as busy as ever. Even though the native turtle ponds are iced over, and the box turtles are hibernating in compost and leaf piles until April, there is still a lot going on in the reptile room, where it's always sunny and 70 degrees.

In recent months we rescued a 6-foot red tail boa constrictor that was wandering Lancaster County Park, and an 18-inch alligator that turned up in someone's backyard in Manheim Township. We've had a chance to adopt out some of our last red ear sliders, a few corn snakes, and a rainbow boa. We still have some corns, kings, boas, and a ball available for adoption...even a reticulated python for that person on your list who has everything!

In February we will connect with another rescue, Southeastern Reptile Rescue, from Georgia. Jesse will get a chance to help them do an outreach program at a big event in Harrisburg, and they'll be taking some Sulcattas from Forgotten Friend to adopt out in their warmer climate. Always fun to work together with other rescues!

Forgotten Friend is also planning to visit many libraries again this summer. Here's a preview of what we have planned for them:

'Reptile Night Life' Live Reptile Show for the 2012 Summer Reading Program

Reptiles and amphibians are mysterious creatures; the stuff of legends and dreams! They are most active while we sleep, crawling out of their secret places under cover of darkness. Many boas, pythons, and rattlesnakes are equipped with heat sensors on their faces to hunt in the dark. Many crocodilians use ripple sensors on their snouts to find a midnight snack, or simply leave their mouths open and crush anything that enters! Geckos and chameleons may prefer hunting for bugs at night, when it's easier for lizards to hide from predators. Some [salamanders](#) gather by the thousand in woodland ponds on rainy nights in the Spring, then disappear below ground the rest of the year. This Summer we'll introduce you to another world; a world that exists while we're dreaming! Jesse Rothacker, founder of Forgotten Friend Reptile Sanctuary, will be leading a live animal encounter featuring 15 snakes, lizards, turtles and crocs from around the world. The families in the Summer Reading Program will get to meet wildlife from all over the planet, learn each creature's environmental importance, and discover a Reptile Night Life that takes places while we dream.

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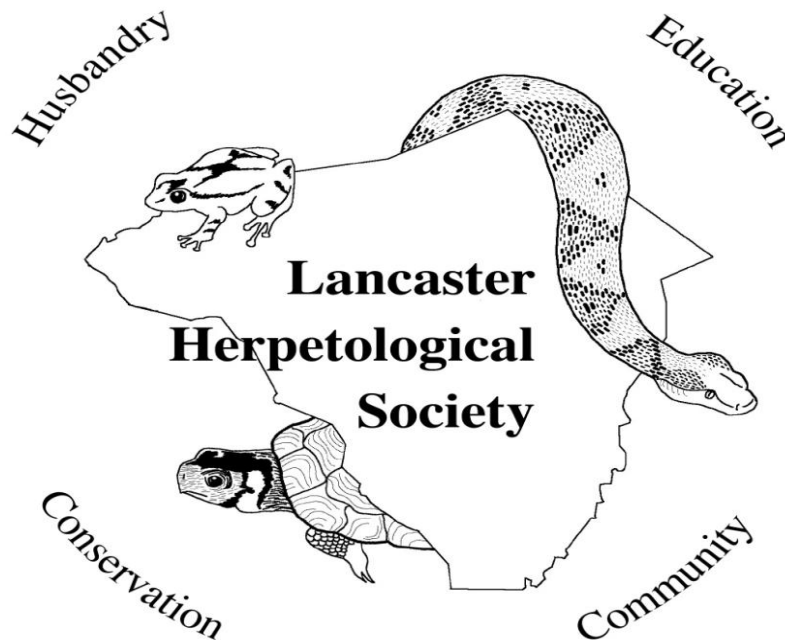
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Requests

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).

If you wish to contribute to the website, please contact Caleb (bursur83@gmail.com).

If you wish to contribute to the newsletter, please contact Zach Barton (zbarton@ycstech.org). 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 Spring 2012 Newsletter is approaching fast!



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