This issue is dedicated to the memory of Dr. John Edward Cooper (17 November 1929 - 28 August 2015).

**EDITORIAL POLICIES**

Views and opinions expressed in *NC Herps* represent those of the author(s) and not necessarily those of the Editor, the Society, its Executive Council, or the NC State Museum of Natural Sciences. 

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*NC Herps* prefers to print original articles, notes, cartoons, etc., but will occasionally reprint items from other sources. 

Material should be submitted to the editor in any reasonable format. Electronic submissions (e-mail attachments or disks) are very much preferred, but submissions may also consist of typed or handwritten hard copy, fax, crayon on construction paper, oil on canvas, watercolor, charcoal rendering, rude scrawlings in blood on paper napkins, verbal recitation, mental telepathy, etc. (I know what you’re thinking: “mental telepathy doesn’t work.” Well, no, it usually doesn’t.)

**Distribution:** Primarily distributed online in pdf format to members only. A few copies printed by NC Department of Agriculture Print Shop and distributed via U.S. mail or hand delivery.

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**COMING EVENTS**

7 November 2015 – 38th annual NCHS Fall Meeting, room 101, David Clark Labs, NC State University, Raleigh, NC. Contact Bryan Stuart or any officer.

10 January 2016 – NCHS Executive Council meeting, NCSM Research Lab, Raleigh, NC. 10:00 a.m. Contact TJ Hilliard or any officer.

12 March 2016 – 22nd annual Reptile and Amphibian Day, NC State Museum of Natural Sciences, downtown Raleigh. Theme will be **Frogs**! For info, contact Miranda Dowdy, 919-707-9885, miranda.dowdy@naturalsciences.org

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And more!
NCHS EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

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APPOINTED OFFICERS, COMMITTEE CHAIRS, etc.

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Website: Kim Burge; as above

Nominating Committee: Jeff Beane; as above

NC Herpetology Hall of Fame: David Cooper; as above

Events/Social Committee: Jananne O’Connell; 103 Amberlight Place, Cary, NC 27513; H: 919-906-3859; e-mail: lucky_irish13@yahoo.com

Auction: Jeff Beane and Jeff Hall; as above

Photo Contest: David Cooper; as above

Youth: Danielle Chek; 2112 Maizefield Ln., Fuquay Varina, NC 27526; H: 919-609-0703, 919-795-1005 (cell); e-mail: dcherps@gmail.com
SCANNING THE LITERATURE

This column is intended to inform NCHS members of recent scientific and popular herpetological literature relevant to North Carolina or otherwise of particular potential interest to the Society’s membership. Papers and notes published in major scientific journals and articles appearing in popular magazines will be included, and efforts will be made to locate noteworthy items appearing in out-of-the-way places, as well as any new books or other publications that may be of special interest. Should anyone happen across a recently published item that seems appropriate, please forward it to the editor. Format will be that of a standard literature citation appearing in a scientific publication.


Compilers: Jeff Beane, Tom Thorp, Bryan Stuart, Mike Dorcas, Andrew Durso
Snakes of North Carolina iPhone App
FREE!

This app features more than 150 color photographs and descriptions of the 37 non-venomous and venomous snakes found in North Carolina. Additionally, it provides information about the important roles snakes play in the state’s ecosystems, provides information on snake conservation efforts, provides helpful information regarding snakebite and answers frequently asked questions, such as “Do snakes chase people?” and “Are snakes slimy?”

This app is based on the book *A Guide to the Snakes of North Carolina* written by Michael E. Dorcas which is available on Amazon.

- Identify all 37 species of snakes with in-depth descriptions including information on diet/feeding, habitat/range, reproduction, and miscellaneous facts.
- Scroll through multiple images of each species.
- Geographic range map of each species with county boundaries.
- Search for species by both common name and scientific name.
- Information about what to do if bitten by a venomous snake.

**DOWNLOAD** by clicking HERE: https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/snakes-of-north-carolina/id940870626?mt=8 from within Mail on your iPhone

Produced by the Davidson College Herpetology Lab
App developed by Christian Hatch, Cyrus Bahram, and Patrick Devlin
Only available for iPhone

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**NC HERP TRIVIA QUIZ**

Identify the NC herp species referenced in each of the following quotations. All are residents of the longleaf pine ecosystem.

1) “The holotype was collected on a paved road bordered by a brushy field and sandy flatwoods dominated by longleaf pines (*Pinus palustris*).” (Palmer 1987).

2) “More like the creation of an imaginative artist than a real live frog.” (Conant 1975).

3) “The range of variation in color intensity and pattern, over an area of at most ten square miles, is quite amazing.” (Kauffeld 1957).

4) “Specimens were taken in pine forests, particularly around sawdust piles, in early May and late June. These, too, were considerable distances from known breeding ponds.” (Hardy 1969).

5) “The obscurity of the lifestyle of this taxon, even within herpetological circles, is amply demonstrated by the paucity of natural history information in the literature, and, paradoxically, the abundant distributional records that are published.” (Reichling 2008).

(Answers on p. 9)

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**Reptilefood.com has a herpetological society donation program.** If you order from their website through the NCHS link, NCHS will receive 5% of your purchase as a donation. All you have to do is go to www.reptilefood.com/society and click on “North Carolina Herpetological Society.” Then continue to shop as usual.

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**Morgan Reptile Replicas**

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DISAPPEARING FROGS PROJECT

Look for the Disappearing Frogs Project, DFP, to make its debut in the Triangle area beginning February 1, 2016 at the NC State University Crafts Center. The Disappearing Frogs Project is dedicated to creating interactive art installations to raise awareness of the global decline of frogs and other amphibians. It’s been estimated that at least one-third of known amphibian species are threatened with extinction. Frogs, being a visible and audible link to the well-being of our environment, play a critical role in the health of the global ecosystem. Being such small creatures, amphibians often go unnoticed, but now they beckon us to be better stewards of our environment. And the Disappearing Frogs Project is listening.

As a nonprofit organization, DFP inspires artists to address this global decline and take personal action to protect our environment. With a potential extinction at hand, artists can be a bridge to promote public awareness. In two years we’ve held two successful exhibitions. Awareness in the community is being raised; hearts of the public are being touched; and the Disappearing Frogs Project is inspiring people to get involved and to take personal action.

We invite you to unleash your artistic skills and create art that celebrates amphibians and their environment. Visit our website to see a list of 2016 exhibitions and events. You can also find our Call for Artists there or at this link, http://www.amphibians.org/disappearingfrogsproject/ncsucc/

Join us in 2016 as we Leap into Action.

Pam Hopkins
Regional Director of Communications
Disappearing Frogs Project
phopkins@disappearingfrogsproject.org
919-662-0306

Follow us on Instagram.

WETLAND WANDERINGS AND MUSINGS

Dennis W. Herman
Morganton, NC
©2015

24 May 2010 -- Ida’s Bog and Bluff Valley wetlands, Ashe Co., NC

Merrill Lynch and I observed the larvae of willow leaf beetles (Chrysomela knabi) feeding on the leaves of silky willows (Salix sericea). Careful examination of the willows revealed various instars of the larvae, cast pupal skin, and fully developed adults. The larvae looked superficially like those of other closely related coleopterans, and the adults were similar in appearance to ladybugs, but the heads protruded beyond the carapace.

Most of the willows infested with the beetle larvae had been nearly defoliated. The small, nearly leafless, willows did not provide the usual amount of shade at the trees’ bases as normally foliated willows do. Maybe the beetles are part of the checks and balances of Nature. Beetle infestations may help keep the willows from rapidly spreading in the wetlands, thus providing more open areas for other wetland species of plants, and the bog turtle. How frequent or cyclic is the feeding regime of the leaf beetles on willows in these wetlands? How often do these beetles reach population densities of this size? How would this directly affect the resident population of bog turtles, since many of them use the pockets in and around the base roots of the willows? How much will the temperatures fluctuate at the surface level during this leafless period? Is there a correlation in bog turtle movements within a site like Ida’s Bog when preferred vegetational areas, i.e., small willows, are used frequently by the turtles as hibernacula or seasonal resting spots? Looking back over the years, I do not remember seeing these beetles, but I may just have not observed them while concentrating on finding turtles. It will be important to note changes in the turtle locations and behaviors during future site visits, no matter how slight they may be. So many questions, so few answers.

Isn’t Nature wonderful? A lifetime of learning and a lifetime of unknowns! What other seemingly insignificant observations may lead to important discoveries and open doors? I pity the up-and-coming biologists who are incredibly proficient in computer science and are happy with entering data collected by the natural historians and field biologists of the recent past. To truly learn about the wonderment of Nature, and the many aspects of the natural world, be it botany, zoology, geology, ecology, meteorology, or any of the disciplines encompassed in these sciences, one must become immersed in Nature—become one with Nature, become one with the wetland, become one with the bog turtle. That is what learning is all about. That’s what makes learning fun!
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MINUTES

Minutes of the NCHS Executive Council Meeting
Date: 12 July 2015
Location: NC State Museum of Natural Sciences Research Lab, Raleigh, NC
Attendees: Jeff Beane, Kim Burge, Danielle Chek, David Cooper, Ed Corey, Kurt Frega, TJ Hilliard, Jeff Mette, Laura Milko, Jerry Reynolds, Megan Serr, Joanne St. Clair, Dave Stephan, Bryan Stuart

President TJ Hilliard approved the agenda and began the meeting at 10:05 am.

Vice-President Bryan Stuart announced that the NCHS Fall Meeting would be held on Saturday, Nov. 7 at the usual fall venue on the NCSU campus in David Clark Labs, room 101. Doors will open at 7:30 a.m. and close at 7:30 p.m. The Executive Council decided to continue the tradition of a Fall Meeting theme and voted on the four most popular topics: “Year of the Frog,” “Herp Education,” “Rare and Declining Herps,” and “Herps of the Longleaf Pine Ecosystem.” With five votes, “Herps of the Longleaf Pine Ecosystem” narrowly edged out the other topics. Potential suggestions for talks included: longleaf burn regimes, endangered species work on Ft. Bragg and Camp Lejeune, head-starting gopher frogs, and ephemeral wetland restoration. All are encouraged to email Bryan with other suggestions for topics and speakers.

Secretary Laura Milko reported that she received the Treasurer’s Report from Ed Corey and it was entered into the record for the day. She also received and recorded, prior to the meeting, a Grants Committee report from Andrew Durso and a report on Herp Shop inventory from Sandy Durso.

Treasurer Ed Corey Ed reported that he has set up the new grant account on Quickbooks. He gave a brief report of treasury balances (see p. 8). The 2nd NC Congress of Herpetology (NCHS-NCPARC joint Spring Meeting at the NC Zoo in Asheboro) earned $1,414.10, which was split between NCHS and NCPARC.

Immediate Past-President and NC Herpetology Hall of Fame Committee chair David Cooper announced that he would send out requests for Hall of Fame nominations in the next couple of months.

Newsletter Editor and Nominating Committee chair Jeff Beane announced 1 September as the deadline to submit material for the next (October) newsletter. Nominations for candidates for Vice-President and Secretary are needed (Bryan Stuart and Laura Milko both announced their intentions to step down from their positions as Vice-President and Secretary, respectively). Voting will take place at the Fall meeting and until to Dec. 1. Laura Milko nominated Megan Serr for Secretary; TJ Hilliard seconded; Megan agreed to run for Secretary.

Advisor Alvin Braswell was absent; no report was given.

Education Committee chair Joanne St. Clair reported that the outreach for The Festival for the Eno went well, though the overall event had lower turnout than usual. Mike Smith is doing outreach called Club Scientific. Joanne initiated a discussion about a pamphlet put together by Carolinas Poison Center (with input from Mike Dorcas’ group at Davidson College) called “Poisonous Snakes of North Carolina”. The group discussed whether we should hand it out at outreach events or consider downloading a pdf of the Venomous Snakes of NC booklet to create a free and more accurate brochure. Joanne and TJ will contact Mike to discuss the brochure.

Present TJ Hilliard appointed an ad hoc Youth Committee with the overall goal of involving youth in every aspect of NCHS. Danielle Chek, NCSM Junior Curator and volunteer with the Museum’s Herpetology Unit, will chair the new Youth Committee. Danielle proposed a number of excellent ideas for launching the committee and encouraging young people to participate in the activities of the Society, beginning with recruiting other members under 18, reaching out to other local organizations and programs, and initiating herping trips throughout the year (e.g., at Prairie Ridge, participating in work days, etc.). Other ideas were also discussed, such as having a children’s activity or a youth-oriented field trip in conjunction with the meetings, pairing older Youth Committee members to work with younger members, and herpetology careers and college Q & A sessions. Contact Danielle Chek (DLCHerps@gmail.com) for more information, or to serve on the committee.

Webmaster Kim Burge will find out if Braintree can auto-send a receipt (similar to PayPal). Our Braintree total is still well below the lifetime total. Kim will do some research to see how the Shopping Cart feature can be made more seamless.

Herp Shop Committee chair Sandy Durso reported in absentia that she needed $600 for additional frog and snake books, and the Council voted to approve the additional expenditure.

Stewardship Committee chair Ed Corey reported that the stewardship plan for the Donnelley Hardpan Bog Preserve (Chatham County) was approved and filed. NCHS will now need to work toward accomplishing the stewardship goals (e.g., thin the loblolly pines). Two recent workday activities at the Donnelley Tract and Big Shoe Heel Creek Preserve (Scotland

(contd.)
NC Herps -7- October 2015

County) were productive; the group cleared trees to open up the wetland and other needed maintenance. Ed will try to coordinate more workdays in the fall; however, note that gun hunting will now be allowed on Sundays in NC. The prescribed fire proposal for Big Shoe Heel site will have to wait until next year. Based on a recent survey, there is encroachment from a neighboring parcel. Ed will look into whether we are able to buy the encroaching parcel.

The Lewis Tract (Randolph County) visit on June 6 was successful. Several NCHS members met with the owners and future donors, Jane and Craig Lawrence, and toured the property, which shows a lot of promise. The Lawrences have begun burning and removing some undesirable trees. They are aware of the timber rattlers on the property and are interested in a project to mark the animals, and a possible PIT-tagging and radiotelemetry project. The Lewis Tract may be a good candidate for a future Youth Committee field trip site.

Conservation Committee chair Dave Stephan reported that Tunstall Bay would be sold to The Nature Conservancy for fair market value. The Plant Conservation Program will hold a field trip on Friday, August 7, followed by a trip to Antioch Bay. NCHS would like see a plan for boundary integrity management developed for Tunstall Bay.

For Project Bog Turtle, Jeff Beane reported that PBT field crews had participated in several field days so far this year; there would be a few more in late September and early October. The usual summary of the year’s activities will be included in the January 2016 newsletter.

Membership Committee chair Jerry Reynolds reported 210 current memberships, including family memberships. Jerry will send an email reminder to 2014 members that aren’t currently paid-up. Online membership renewal is working well toward removing roadblocks to renewal.

Library-Archives Committee chair Jeff Mette proposed to donate free vintage NC Herps newsletters from early meetings at upcoming meetings; the group agreed unanimously. Jeff asked for ideas about how we can advertise the scanning station at meetings. Could we plan an activity around scanning? Jeff is still working on the catalog for things that are already there and tagging things for deaccessioning (e.g., old issues of Smithsonian magazine). Digitizing the NC Herps newsletter is currently the main priority, working from newest to oldest material. Jeff proposed that the Council decide whether only members should have access to the most recent 12 months, and after that everyone would have access to those issues. Everyone will have access to older issues. Text-searchable pdf files of NC Herps volumes 28-37 are digitized and ready to go on the website. Kim and the Council need to decide whether to put them up online right away or wait until the entire back catalog of NC Herps is ready.

Husbandry Committee chair Kurt Frega is still working on a list of herp-friendly county and state shelters; the list should be ready by the Fall Meeting. NCHS is receiving many requests to help identify many species. Kim will add the snake identification Facebook page to ncherps.org.

Ed reported $26,650 in funding available for 2016 grants. The Council changed the due date for 2016 proposals to 1 October 2015 so that the Grants Committee will have time to review proposals before, and announce winners at, the 2015 Fall Meeting. Grants Committee chair Andrew Durso reported (via skype) that, of four projects applied for and awarded funding for the 2014 grant cycle, one is completed (Sandy Durso/Jean Beasley), one decided they could not carry out the project and returned the funds (Courtney Anderson), and two have sent interim reports and received their remaining funds, but have not yet sent final reports (Adam Stuckert and Molly Albecker). The committee received and reviewed nine proposals on 15 October 2014. On 16 November, three proposals were chosen for funding, using funds available for the 2015 cycle plus funds returned from the 2014 cycle: Todd Pierson/Eli White, University of Tennessee/Western Carolina University (“An Environmental DNA Survey for the Patch-nosed Salamander (Ursupenerpes brucei) in North Carolina’s Gorges State Park,” $1,000); Cassie Dresser, University of Tennessee (“Assessment of a Mixed Source Reintroduction Program for Bog Turtles (Glyptemys muhlenbergii),” $1,000); Jeff Beane, NCSM (“Project Simus,” $647). The Ursupenerpes survey using eDNA was carried out in March but detected no evidence of presence of the salamander in Gorges State Park, and concluded that this species probably does not occur in the park or in North Carolina, because of the high detection probabilities known from previous studies. It is also probably the quickest-ever turnaround of any NCHS Grant project. So far, no interim report had been received for the other two projects. Andrew will soon finish going through all the files received from Dan Lockwood in 2010; he is still tracking down some of the publications that have resulted from NCHS Grants. Once that is complete, he will work with Kim to update the website with the names and projects of every NCHS grant that has been awarded since 1994—there have been 90 total applications, with 63 (75%), funded, totaling over $35,700, and resulting in at least 70 publications. Andrew will present a summary of the grants program at a meeting at some point.

David Cooper is working to transition Kevin Durso into the Photo Contest Committee chair. Kevin will need to contact past winners about low-resolution versions for website.

NCPARC Liaison Jeff Hall was absent; no report was given.

(contd.)
Events/Social Committee chair Jananne O’Connell was absent, but reported in absentia that she has reserved a room at McDaid’s Irish Pub (on Hillsborough Street, a five-minute walk from David Clark Labs), which has a projector and seats 50. Jananne is waiting on a catering quote.

In other business, the Council decided not to participate in the 2015 USA Science and Engineering Festival because the cost and distance are prohibitive.

The Museum’s Herpetology Unit is housing a number of posters for the Herp Shop that are being damaged over time by improper storage. A proposal was adopted to donate some of them to classrooms and other educational outreach groups and to allow members who join at a meeting to take one home. Remaining posters will be sold in the Herp Shop. Jerry will review the schedule of upcoming teacher events and choose ones to donate. Jerry, TJ (who has containers for them), Jeff Beane, and Bryan will look through the posters, and choose a selection to archive, a selection to donate to outreach and classrooms, and a selection to sell in the Herp Shop.

The Wildlife Society will hold its 2016 annual meeting in Raleigh on October 15-19. The Council discussed whether NCHS would consider contributing to the meeting, particularly if donations could be earmarked for a particular section of the meeting (e.g., herp conservation). Ed and Lori will acquire additional information, and Ed will create a Doodle poll for the Executive Council to vote on options.

President TJ Hilliard adjourned the meeting at 1:37 p.m.

The next business session is scheduled for November 7, 2015, during the Fall Meeting. The next Executive Council Meeting is scheduled for January 10, 2016 at 10 a.m. at the NCSM Research Lab.

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Milko, Secretary

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**TREASURER’S REPORT**

*Treasury balances as of 11 July 2015*

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<th>Amount</th>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NCHS has earned $7.87 in GoodSearch searches for 2015 and, since its inception, the grand total earned through this program is now $348.63! Individual contributions can be tracked on [http://www.goodsearch.com/](http://www.goodsearch.com/), so please take a moment to look at the new and improved website. If 200 people searched GoodSearch just 10 times a month, NCHS could earn at least $20 a month! Also, GoodShop is one extra click away from your favorite stores, including Cabela’s, Best Buy, Target, Walmart, etc. This is “free” money and only takes a moment of your time. If you have questions about this, check out [http://www.goodsearch.com/](http://www.goodsearch.com/) or email Ed.Corey@ncparks.gov. We are also enrolled in a program called Amazon Smile. Just like GoodSearch and GoodShop, you can earn money while making your purchases. Visit [http://smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) for more information!

Respectfully Submitted,
Ed Corey, Treasurer
RENAISSANCE MAN

John Edward Cooper (17 November 1929 – 28 August 2015)

Dr. John E. Cooper passed away peacefully at his home in Knightdale on 28 August 2015. John (“Coop” to many of his friends) was best known, for most of his career, as an expert on crayfishes and cave fauna. But John Cooper was a man of many great talents and interests: a well-rounded, old-school naturalist; an artist (from cartoons to beautiful scientific illustrations); an excellent writer and skilled editor; and a connoisseur of music, literature, and many other things. One of the many things that most people never knew about Coop, unless they had known him in his early days, was that he had a keen interest in, and knowledge of, amphibians and reptiles. In his days with the Maryland Herpetological Society and the Natural History Society of Maryland (he was born in Baltimore, attended Johns Hopkins as an undergraduate, worked at the Baltimore Zoo, and taught at Baltimore City College), he published many scientific and popular articles on herps.

I first met John in December of 1984, while I was filling out an application to work at the Museum. He was then Director of Research and Collections and editor of the Museum’s now-defunct journal *Brimleyana*. What I remember most about our first meeting was how friendly he was to me. When I began my career at the Museum six months later, as a part-time technician, he treated me as an equal, and we had many pleasant conversations about herps and other creatures. John left the Museum in December of 1985, and I did not see him again until I randomly ran into him on Ann Somers’ front porch during the social at the 1989 NCHS Spring Meeting. In the mid-1990s, John returned to the Museum, first contracted for some part-time data entry, then hired on as Curator of Crustaceans. From 1998 to 2014, I was very fortunate to work with him at the Museum’s Research Lab, his office just two doors down from mine. We shared many stories and laughs. By then, he was no longer doing fieldwork, though he was an avid caver and field biologist for most of his life. He spent most of his time working steadily on new crayfish descriptions and other crayfish publications. If I ever needed an editorial opinion on any written material, he was my go-to guy; he would look at it even if he didn’t really have time to do so. When he wasn’t in his office or lab, he could be seen out walking on the “prairie” behind our lab, or sitting in his car, smoking his pipe, with either classical or classic rock music (most often Creedence Clearwater Revival) blasting, up until the time his declining health forced him to retire in 2014.

Many NCHS members, with the exception of some of the older ones, will not have known Dr. Cooper. I am not certain if he ever attended an NCHS meeting, unless it was some of the very early ones. But everyone in the Society knows his son David—our Immediate Past-President and Photo Contest Committee chair. Many will also know David’s mother and John’s ex-wife, Martha Cooper, who is a current member and who has attended a number of our meetings.

John Cooper was a good friend, and a very positive influence on my career. I think I miss most of all his warped sense of humor—he was forever bringing me a new Tim Dorsey or Carl Hiaasen book to read, or taping some odd snippet of song lyric to my door (like “These are the days of lasers in the jungle,” or “The pump don’t work ‘cause the vandals took the handles.”). He was a true Renaissance Man—a singular, unique individual. As Hamlet said of his father: “Take him for all in all. I shall not look upon his like again.” When my cell phone rang on the morning of his passing—Bill Palmer calling to convey the terrible news—I was crouched on a granitic dome, staring at a timber rattlesnake in a rock crevice. John would have loved that.

-- Jeff Beane

ANSWERS TO “NC HERP TRIVIA QUIZ”

1) *Ophisaurus mimicus* (mimic glass lizard).
2) *Pseudacris ornata* (ornate chorus frog).
3) *Elaphe guttata [=Pantherophis guttatus, etc.]* (corn snake).
4) *Ambystoma mabeei* (Mabee’s salamander).
5) *Rhadiniaea flavilata* (pine woods snake).

*Quiz by Jeff Beane*
The North Carolina Herpetological Society (NCHS) presents a small grants program to support herpetological research, conservation, and education projects by members of NCHS. Grants ranging up to $1,000 will be awarded on an annual basis, as funding is available. All applicants must be current NCHS members. Proposals submitted in proper format will be evaluated by the NCHS Grant Review Committee and forwarded with recommendations to the Executive Council for approval. An effort will be made to select the best projects, while trying to support the efforts of the broadest range of members. If suitable proposals are lacking, less than the total available funds will be awarded. Unused funds will revert to the NCHS Treasury.

Research and conservation projects concerned with Endangered, Threatened, Special Concern, or declining species are encouraged, but other projects will be considered. Educational projects should address a recognized area of need, and should identify the principal audience to be reached. Applications will be accepted from individuals only, and only one application per year per member will be accepted. Projects demonstrating good success and a need for continuation may receive additional funding for multiple years. However, alternative funding for project continuations is encouraged. Applications, submitted in triplicate, should include:

a. Objectives of the project.
b. Proposed methodology.
c. Budget for use of requested funds.
d. Timetable for project activities.
e. Project location information.
f. Brief résumé of applicant including address and phone number.
g. Any cost share involved with the project.
h. A statement indicating intent to comply with all state and federal laws that may apply to activities or species associated with the project, and intent to follow the guidelines for conducting field research on amphibians and reptiles published jointly by SSAR, HL, and ASIH (copy available on request).

Up to 80% of requested funding can be paid prior to completion of a project at the discretion of the Executive Council. Final payment will be made upon receipt of the final report. If a grantee is unable to complete a project for any reason, unexpended funds must be returned to the NCHS with an explanatory statement. At the discretion of the Executive Council, equipment purchased with grant monies may be retained by the NCHS after completion of project activities.

Project results should be presented to the membership of the NCHS either in the newsletter NC Herps or as a program at a Society meeting.

Grant applications should be sent electronically to: nchsgrants@gmail.com

Applications may also be mailed to: NCHS Grant Review Committee
Utah State University Department of Biology
5305 Old Main Hill
Logan UT 84321

Electronic submissions are encouraged. Applications must be received by 1 October 2015. Applications received after the deadline may not be considered for funding. Notification to applicants will be made during the first week of November and successful applicants will be announced at the NCHS Fall Meeting. Grant awards will normally be available on 15 January. An interim grant report is due on 15 August, and the final report is due on 15 March of the following year.

The final written report should include a title page, abstract, introduction, materials and methods, results, discussion, acknowledgments, and literature cited, in that order. The report should be no more than 13 pages unless special circumstances dictate otherwise.

Funding to support this grants program will be set at 30% of the balance of funds in the NCHS Treasury over $5,000, exclusive of special fund balances, and shall not exceed $3,000 annually. Moneys available for a grant cycle will be determined by July, prior to review of proposals by the Grant Review Committee. Funding level for the NCHS Grant Program is subject to annual review and adjustment at the discretion of the Executive Council.

The Grant Review Committee is appointed by the President of NCHS. All members of that committee should be members of NCHS, and may not apply for a grant while serving on the committee. Any Executive Council members applying for a grant should abstain from discussions about and voting on the approval of said grant(s) when reviewing the recommendations of the Grant Review Committee.

Current Grant Review Committee: Andrew Durso (chair), Dave Stephan, Lori Williams.

NOTE: The NCHS Executive Council also occasionally considers requests for financial support of other herp-related activities, programs, or needs not covered under our current grant guidelines. Direct any such special requests to the NCHS President.

[These initial guidelines for the NCHS grants program were accepted by the Executive Council on 20 February 1994; amended 8 Jan. 2006, 18 June 2013, and 12 Jan. 2014.]

John Cooper with
FALL MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

The 38th annual NCHS Fall Meeting will be held on Saturday, 7 November 2015, in room 101 of the David Clark Labs building on the campus of North Carolina State University in Raleigh (see agenda, p. 17; and map, p. 18). The theme will focus on herpetofauna of the longleaf pine ecosystem.

FREE PARKING is available in the Dan Allen Parking Deck at the corner of Dan Allen Drive and Yarbrough Drive; use the east entrance off of Dan Allen. Parking spaces are also available all along Yarbrough Drive.

REGISTRATION will take place at the meeting ($5 members, $3 all students, $7 non-members). If you wish to renew membership for 2016, or join for the first time, you may do so at the meeting. Please complete a membership form, even if you are renewing (so that our Membership Directory information is current). Extra forms will be available. We don’t want to “lose” members who join at meetings but fail to turn in forms. If your address, phone number(s), area code, e-mail, or other membership information has changed, or if any information appeared incorrectly in the last Membership Directory or on your newsletter mailing address label, this would be a reasonable time to make such corrections.

REFRESHMENTS will be served at the meeting, as usual. Try to remember to bring your own reusable cup or coffee mug. NCHS continues to try to reduce disposable trash. There may be some extra cups on hand for those who forget. Members may wish to consider bringing a reusable cloth napkin also. Refreshments will be set up outside the auditorium.

There should be jars at the registration table for contributions to the Society’s various funds—Project Bog Turtle, Aubrey Shaw Memorial Stewardship Fund, Project Simus, etc. Contributions are tax-deductible.

HERP SHOP items for sale will include the usual wide assortment of T-shirts, books, posters, greeting cards, coffee mugs, hats, pins, and other items. Do all your Christmas shopping in one spot! (If you are available to help staff the Herp Shop during the meeting, please contact Sandy Durso.)

AUCTION: Always one of the more entertaining features of our meetings, the auction will feature the usual (or unusual) assortment of herpetologically-oriented items. Bring money and a bidding attitude. If you have items to donate (literature, prints, photos, posters, artwork, cages, hooks, field equipment, decorative items, toys, clothing, jewelry, etc.), please bring them to the meeting (early), or get them to Jeff Beane or Jeff Hall before the meeting. No live herps or herp parts will be auctioned, but almost anything else goes (as long as it lies somewhere near the realm of legality). Items donated to the auction are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. All proceeds go to NCHS general fund.

RAFFLE: This meeting’s raffle will feature another beautiful replica made and donated by Joe Morgan, and perhaps some smaller items. Raffle tickets will be $1 each. Buy as many as you want; you need not be present to win, but if you are not present, you need to arrange with someone who will be present to pick up your prize. The drawing will be held at the end of the meeting.

LUNCH: An optional, reasonably priced, catered lunch will be provided, and the business session will be held immediately afterward. Members may choose to bring their own lunch instead. There are several restaurants within walking distance, for anyone not wishing to attend the group lunch and business meeting (which would be pretty crazy, since it will be incredibly awesome).

2015 NCHS PHOTO CONTEST

Please read below for the details of submitting photos for the traditional categories and the assignment category.

For the 2015 Fall Meeting Photo Contest, we ask each of the members (yes, that includes you) to submit PHOTOS OF HERPS OF THE LONGLEAF PINE ECOSYSTEM to be judged in our special Photo Assignment category.

PHOTO ASSIGNMENT CATEGORY SPECIFICS:

Each member may submit up to three longleaf pine herp photos for judging in the Assignment category. These photos are IN ADDITION to any photos submitted for the other three categories (color images of herps, black & white images of herps, “herpers in action”) as described below in the Traditional Photo Contest announcement. One winner will be chosen in the Photo Assignment category. The prize for the Photo Assignment category has not yet been determined, but will be different from the prizes awarded for the other three traditional categories.

Please refer to the traditional photo contest announcement below for details regarding presentation of entries, judging, submittal requirements, the deadline for entry, and the fine print. Please contact David Cooper via e-mail (photocontest@ncherps.org) with any questions.

TRADITIONAL PHOTO CONTEST: Please read this carefully before submitting photos.

Traditional Categories: 1) color images of herps; 2) black & white images of herps; and 3) “herpers in action.” Entries must be submitted in digital format (see below), and are limited to three per entrant per category.

(contd.)
**Prizes:** First, second, and third place prizes will be awarded in each category. Prizes will consist of coupons good toward the purchase of any Herp Shop items (or toward the purchase of NCHS memberships). First place winners will receive a $20 coupon; second place winners will receive a $10 coupon; and third place winners will receive a $5 coupon. NCHS reserves the right to award no prize if insufficient entries are received in a category for fair judging.

**Presentation of Entries:** A PowerPoint slide show of all eligible entries will be compiled by the Photo Contest Committee chair. This slideshow will be presented, and winners will be announced, at the end of the day at the NCHS Fall Meeting.

**Judging:** The judging will be performed by a qualified panel of three judges appointed by the Photo Contest Committee. Judges will not be contest participants, will not have been a party to the slide show compilation, and will not have previously seen the entries.

**Submittal Requirements:** The contest is open to any amateur (1) photographer who is a current member (2) of NCHS. The photography contest will again be in all-digital format. Digital images should be submitted as JPEGs. Resolution should be high enough to avoid pixilation when shown in the PowerPoint presentation. No modifications will be performed after the image is submitted, with the exception of sizing the images for optimal fit in the photo contest PowerPoint presentation. **Images submitted should be labeled with title, photographer’s name, species, locality information, and the date the photo was taken.** Images may depict either wild or captive animals from any geographic location. Images should be submitted via e-mail should be sent to: [photocontest@ncherps.org](mailto:photocontest@ncherps.org). Any questions may be directed to the Photo Contest Committee chair at the above-listed e-mail address.

**Deadline:** All entries must be received no later than 11:59 p.m. on Saturday, 24 October 2015. This will allow the Photo Contest Committee time to compile and judge entries before the meeting. Entries will not be accepted after the deadline, including the day of the meeting.

**The Fine Print:** By submitting an image to the NCHS photo contest, the photographer affirms that the image is his or her own work (3), and gives NCHS the right to show the image as part of the photo contest presentation at the Fall Meeting. Low-resolution versions (not suitable for print) of winning photos may be included in the NCHS newsletter and/or on the NCHS website (4). Certain photos may be used in NCHS educational materials or for non-profit NCHS fund-raising purposes (5).

(1) For the purposes of the NCHS photo contest, “professional photographer” is defined as a person who has ever made, in any given year, ten percent (10%) or more of his or her yearly salary from the sale of photographs.

(2) Current members are defined as those members whose memberships have not expired yet. Entries from members whose memberships are currently expired will not be considered for judging until the membership is renewed.

(3) Images will not be accepted if the member submitting the image is not the actual photographer.

(4) Photographer retains the right to disallow the use of his or her photo on the NCHS website or in the newsletter. Photographers wishing to exercise this right shall give notice by e-mail at the time photos are entered into the contest. We won’t even get mad at you.

(5) Photographer will be notified in writing prior to use of his or her photo by NCHS for educational or fund-raising purposes. Photographer will have the opportunity to refuse NCHS the right to use his or her photo.

**LODGING:** The Raleigh area has numerous hotels/motels, including many near campus. Many of our members also live in the Raleigh area. If you’re from out of town and need to stay overnight, it doesn’t hurt to ask around—chances are someone can put you up.

Bring your used/unwanted cell phones to the meeting. Ann Somers will be collecting old cell phones to raise money for herp conservation projects in NC, and there will be a collection receptacle at the meeting.

A GROUP DINNER and SOCIAL will be held following the meeting. Location to be announced. Don’t miss it! There could be surprises.

**SPEAKERS**

**Brian Ball** has worked at the Fort Bragg Endangered Species Branch as a Wildlife Biologist since 2001. Although the majority of his work is focused on the federally endangered red-cockaded woodpecker and Saint Francis’ satyr butterfly, there is time left over for the many reptiles and amphibians found on the installation. He has a B.S. in Biology from Appalachian State University, where he remained to earn a M.S. studying hellbenders under the whimsical tutelage of Dr. Wayne Van Devender. He is interested in all aspects of field herpetology, although he will confess that salamanders, snakes, and frogs are his favorite subjects to encounter in the field. To this point in his career, he has not won any distinguished awards or honors, although he did win the raffle at the 2003 NCHS Fall Meeting.

**Jeff Beane** is Herpetology Collections Manager for the North Carolina State Museum of Natural Sciences in Raleigh. He has been employed with the Museum since 1985. Jeff holds a B.S. in Zoology from North Carolina State University (1982). Active in NCHS since 1982, he has served as its newsletter editor since 1986, and in many other capacities. He is a frequent contributor to *Wildlife in North Carolina* magazine, and has authored many other popular and scientific publications. His interests include virtually anything pertaining to natural history or conservation, especially sandhills and longleaf pine ecosystem ecology and the natural history, zoogeography, and conservation of amphibians and reptiles in North Carolina and the Southeast.

**Jeff Hall** was hired in 2007 by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission and is the Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (PARC) Biologist. He has been active in NCHS for many years, and has served the Society in many capacities. As PARC Biologist, Jeff works with landowners to promote habitat management that benefits reptiles and amphibians as well as other wildlife species. He coordinates the North Carolina chapter of PARC helping to bring public and private partners together to further conservation efforts for reptiles and amphibians. Jeff also participates in fieldwork on a variety of projects, including rare amphibian monitoring and habitat restoration, upland snake conservation, and Project Bog Turtle. In addition, he manages the Calling Amphibian Survey Program (CASP), which is designed to monitor long-term trends of frog and toad populations across the state. Jeff, his wife Shannon, and two boys live in Greenville, NC.

*(contd.)*
Pam Hopkins is an environmental enthusiast. She grew up in the Southeast with a love of nature and a curiosity to learn more about the world around her. Her family was always taking trips in the camper that involved some sort of nature adventure. Whether it was driving to Kennedy Space Center in Florida to watch Apollo 11 rocket to the moon, diving for lobster in the turquoise waters of the Florida keys, or hiking and camping under the stars, there was always some aspect of nature to see and behold. Animals have always surrounded her, including pet snakes, mice to feed the snakes, cats to catch the mice, dogs to chase the cats . . . you get the picture. She has rehabilitated numerous animals, including a gravid three-legged box turtle that laid her egg in the bathtub, as well as an armadillo that was injured on the side of the road. Affectionately called Sam (curiously, that is also the name of her husband—wonder what that means), he was eventually released back into the Florida wild! Ultimately her travels led her to North Carolina, where she earned a degree in Business Management from NC State University. In 2011 she became actively involved with the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences, working as a volunteer on opening events for the Nature Research Center. She is married, has three teenage children, one dog, two cats, and two frogs! Pam’s interest in frogs began when her young daughter, Rachel, also became interested in these captivating creatures . . . and many of you know the rest of the story.

Mike Martin is working as Field Project Manager with the Amphibian and Reptile Conservancy (ARC) to survey for and conduct radiotelemetry studies with the threatened and endangered herpetofauna of Francis Marion National Forest. He has a B.Sc. in Zoology from NC State University and did some graduate work through the University of South Carolina. He began work with eastern diamondbacks through South Carolina Department of Natural Resources in 2007 by collecting data for Dr. Jayme Waldron. This led to work throughout much of lower South Carolina, where he continues to monitor populations and work to conserve imperiled herps. Radiotelemetry has been his tool of choice to help develop repeated snapshot encounters into a long-term story to better understand the lives of poorly understood species. He enjoys outreach, photography, travel, and spending time outdoors—usually with herps involved.

Graham Reynolds is a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Herpetology at the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University. He will be joining the faculty of the University of North Carolina Asheville in January 2016 as an Assistant Professor of Vertebrate Biology. He was previously a postdoc at the University of Massachusetts Boston, and earned a B.A. from Duke University, where he studied poison dart frog behavior in Panama, and a Ph.D. from the University of Tennessee Knoxville, studying population genetics of reptiles in the Turks and Caicos Islands. He is the co-editor of the books *The Amphibians of Tennessee* and *The Reptiles of Tennessee*. Graham is largely interested in reptiles and amphibians of the southeastern U.S. and Caribbean, with special focus on boid snakes and *Anolis* lizards in the West Indies.

Nate Shepard is a Wildlife Diversity Technician with the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, working with reptiles and amphibians in the eastern half of the state. He has a B.S. from NC State University and an M.S. from Marshall University. He is interested in all things herp-related, but tends to focus on species native to the longleaf ecosystem. Species of interest include eastern diamondback rattlesnakes, eastern tiger salamanders, Carolina gopher frogs, Mabee’s salamanders, Pine Barrens treefrogs, and Carolina pigmy rattlesnakes, among many others. He is not 17 years old.

**ABSTRACTS**

**Life as a Wildlife Biologist on Fort Bragg**

**Brian Ball**

Fort Bragg Endangered Species Branch  
[jeff.beane@naturalsciences.org](mailto:jeff.beane@naturalsciences.org)

Fort Bragg is home to The Airborne and Special Operations Forces. Located in the North Carolina Sandhills, the installation covers more than 160,000 acres of longleaf pine habitat. Although many believe the red-cockaded woodpecker is the only species found on Fort Bragg, an astounding diversity of reptiles and amphibians can be found there. I will take a brief look at some of the animals that coexist with the Army and the pros and cons of working on a military installation.

**Here’s to the Herps of the Longleaf Pine: An Overview of North Carolina’s Longleaf Ecosystem and its Herpetofauna**

**Jeffrey C. Beane**

North Carolina State Museum of Natural Sciences  
[jeff.beane@naturalsciences.org](mailto:jeff.beane@naturalsciences.org)

Variants of the longleaf pine ecosystem once covered the southeastern U.S. in a 90-million-acre swath from southeastern Virginia to eastern Texas, including most of the eastern half of North Carolina. But we have treated our official state tree with great disrespect. Only about three percent of the once-vast forests of longleaf remain. North Carolina has retained some comparatively intact and well-managed examples of longleaf that are important on a global scale. These include tracts on military bases (Fort Bragg, Camp Lejeune); national and state forests (Croatan, Bladen Lakes); state-owned wildlife management areas (Sandhills and Holly Shelter game lands); and private lands (Green Swamp Ecological Preserve). Well over 100 species of amphibians and reptiles have been documented in longleaf pine habitats in North Carolina. Several are endemic to, dependent on, or otherwise closely tied to the longleaf system. This presentation will highlight the value and plight of North Carolina’s remaining longleaf, and profile some of the iconic biodiversity, herpetofaunal and otherwise, that comprises, characterizes, and depends upon it.

*contd.*
Conservation and Management of Longleaf Pine Ecosystems by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

Jeff Hall
North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
jeff.hall@ncwildlife.org

The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) actively works toward conservation of longleaf pine forests and the species inhabiting those forests. The NCWRC is involved in acquisition, management, surveys, and monitoring of tracts containing longleaf pine. These tracts require management, sometimes in the form of restoration, and sometimes in the form of maintenance, including prescribed fire and timber harvest. Recent and historical acquisitions by the NCWRC will be discussed, along with management activities needed to maintain them. I will also highlight priority reptiles and amphibians targeted for survey and monitoring work within these landscapes.

The Disappearing Frogs Project

Pam Hopkins
The Disappearing Frogs Project
phopkins@disappearingfrogsproject.org

Art * Awareness * Action. These three simple words have a direct correlation to an innovative environmental exhibition. The Disappearing Frogs Project uses art to communicate the important role that amphibians play, not only in our ecosystems, but ultimately in the health of mankind. Nearly one-third of known amphibians are threatened with extinction. If we act now we can change this ominous forecast. With potential extinction at hand, artists become a bridge to promote public awareness. Utilizing the powers of art to communicate, along with the collaborative efforts of multi-disciplined scientists, the Disappearing Frogs Project effectively addresses this global decline by raising public awareness and inspiring personal action. Frogs are a visible and audible link. They are an important component of the global ecosystem and they’re beckoning us to be better stewards of our environment. By addressing the amphibian extinction crisis now, we can be the catalyst for change and together we can safeguard these captivating creatures.

Natural History and Ecology of Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnakes (*Crotalus adamanteus*) in the South Carolina Lowcountry

Mike Martin
Amphibian and Reptile Conservancy
mikedmartin82@gmail.com

Eastern diamondback rattlesnakes were once a relatively common snake of the southeastern longleaf pine forests. Many consider these snakes an icon of the Southeast’s herpetofauna, yet populations have been dwindling throughout their range since the mid-20th century. While a recent petition for federal listing has elicited an increase in eastern diamondback research, concerned researchers have used mark-recapture and radiotelemetry in South Carolina since the 1990s to better understand the natural history and ecology of these rattlesnakes and explore strategies to help conserve populations. In the process of doing so, researchers have collected data and made observations that continue to improve our understanding of eastern diamondbacks in a way that will hopefully guide management and fuel further research to keep the world’s largest rattlesnake a functional member of longleaf communities. Here, we will discuss past and present research, some of the findings along the way, and make mention of interesting notes on the species’ habitat use, phenology, behavior, life history, and more.

Caribbean Boas: Diversity, Distribution, and Discovery of a Remarkable Fauna

R. Graham Reynolds
Harvard University & University of North Carolina Asheville
robertreynolds@fas.harvard.edu

The cataloguing of an entire fauna is a process often spread over generations, if not centuries. The West Indies hold a remarkable group of boid snakes, a collection of 12 extant species distributed across the Greater Antilles and Bahamas Platform. Despite the first species description from this group coming in the mid-19th century, new species have been described in intervals right up until the present time. Even for a relatively small collection of large-bodied vertebrates, it is noteworthy that so much remains to be discovered regarding the diversity, natural history, and distribution of this group. I will narrate the history of study of the West Indian boas, weaving in contemporary research aimed to fill in significant gaps about our knowledge of these fascinating snakes. I will discuss adaptive evolution and the origins of disparate body sizes, such as the giant 4m long Cuban boa and the miniature Hispaniolan vine boa. Finally, I will describe recent efforts to (finally) catalogue the breadth of diversity in the West Indian Boas, such that we might mitigate Wallacean and Linnean shortfalls in this group.

(contd.)
A Review of the Carolina Gopher Frog in North Carolina: Current Status, Future Prognoses, and What to Do About It

Nathan Shepard
North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
nathan.shepard@ncwildlife.org

Carolina gopher frogs (Rana capito) are longleaf ecosystem specialists that require large tracts of well-managed land, including large tracts of uplands and large, grassy ephemeral ponds. In North Carolina, the Carolina gopher frog inhabits the southeastern portion of the state, where it has declined at a heavy rate due to habitat destruction and fire suppression. Historically, 32 sites made up of 7-8 population complexes were known in North Carolina. Since 2007, the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (WRC) has been actively monitoring all extant populations on an annual basis. Currently, only six populations are known, with three being informally classified as “of serious conservation concern.” These populations of concern are of focus in restoration and population augmentation (head-starting) projects. In North Carolina, the Carolina Gopher Frog is state-listed as a Threatened species and is a possible candidate for federal listing under the Endangered Species Act. I will present an overview of this species in North Carolina, focusing on WRC’s role in mitigating at-risk populations.

* * *

ELECTIONS: It is once again time to elect an NCHS Vice-President and Secretary (President and Treasurer will be elected next fall). Following are the candidates for two-year terms beginning 1 January 2016. Additional nominations will be accepted during the Fall Meeting business session. Ballots are included in this newsletter. Extra ballots will be available at the Fall Meeting. A space for write-in candidates is included. Members may vote after nominations close during the Fall Meeting business session (ballot box will be at the meeting), or ballots may be mailed in. Ballots must be returned by 1 December 2015. Individual members are allowed one vote each, and family memberships are also allowed one vote per family.

Also, be sure to cast your vote for NCHS Member-of-the-Year for 2015. A space is included on the ballot along with the candidates for office. Nominations should be based primarily on outstanding service or contributions to NCHS, but general contributions to the fields of herpetological research, conservation, or education may also be considered. Only current dues-paying members are eligible for nomination. Each membership is allowed one vote (family memberships are allowed one vote per family). The winner will receive a certificate and a year’s free membership, and will be announced in the January newsletter.

CANDIDATES FOR NCHS OFFICERS (2016-2017)

VICE-PRESIDENT

NAME: David Beamer
LOCATION: Spring Hope, NC.
PRESENT POSITION: Biology Instructor, Department of Natural Science, Nash Community College.
EDUCATION: B.S. Biology, Indiana University Northwest; M.S. Biology, East Carolina University; Ph.D. Interdisciplinary Program of Biological Science, East Carolina University.
INTERESTS: Integrating evolutionary and ecological approaches to elucidate the factors responsible for the diversification and distribution of salamander lineages; mentoring undergraduate students in science (especially underrepresented groups in science).
SERVICE: Member since 2006; Speaker at spring 2008, spring 2009, spring 2010, and fall 2014 meetings; NCHS grant recipient, 2007; co-led workshop and field trip for 2014 NCPARC meeting; has participated in field trips and bio-blitzes. First-time candidate for office.
CAMPAIGN SLOGAN: “If I elected I will try my best to find good speakers for our spring and fall meetings.”
NAME: **Nathan Shepard**  
LOCATION: Rockingham, NC.  
INTERESTS: Natural history, ecology, habitat management, and conservation biology of reptiles and amphibians; photography.  
SERVICE: Member since 1994; Husbandry Committee chair, 2008-2012; speaker at 2015 Fall Meeting; has participated in "Reptile and Amphibian Day;" assisted with Project Simus and Project Bog Turtle; donated auction items; contributed material to newsletter; participated in NCHS field trips and Stewardship Committee workdays; led field trip for 2015 Spring Meeting; speaker at 2014 NCPARC meeting; participated in, and won prizes in, NCHS fall photo contests. First-time candidate for elected office.  
CAMPAIGN SLOGAN: “I’ll work on the campaign slogan.”

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**SECRETARY**

NAME: **Megan Serr**  
LOCATION: Raleigh, NC.  
PRESENT POSITION: Graduate student in Zoology, North Carolina State University  
EDUCATION: B.Sc. Biology, California State University, San Bernardino; M.Sc. Zoology, University of Nebraska.  
INTERESTS: Bio conservation, invasive species, toxicology, animal behavior, and reproduction. For both undergraduate and masters’ degrees, worked with amphibians. A science educator who loves doing outreach events.  
SERVICE: Member since 2010; served on Nominating Committee, 2014; attended July 2015 Executive Council meeting and every general meeting and congress since joining; does educational outreach presentations five or more times a year; has participated in NCHS field trips and donated auction items. First-time candidate for office.  
CAMPAIGN SLOGAN: “Just let me check that log.”

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**Nominating Committee:** Jeff Beane, Bryan Stuart, Jeff Hall
THE NORTH CAROLINA HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Announces

38th Annual Fall Conference and General Meeting

Saturday, November 7, 2015

North Carolina State University
Room 101, David Clark Labs
Raleigh, NC

Theme: "Herpetofauna of the Longleaf Pine Ecosystem"

AGENDA

8:00 – 9:15 a.m.  
Registration and Refreshments

9:15 – 9:30 a.m.  
Welcome and Announcements

9:30 – 10:00 a.m.  
Here’s to the Herps of the Longleaf Pine: An Overview of North Carolina’s Longleaf Ecosystem and its Herpetofauna.  Jeffrey C. Beane, North Carolina State Museum of Natural Sciences

10:00 – 10:30 a.m.  

10:30 – 10:45 a.m.  
Break

10:45 – 11:15 a.m.  
Life as a Wildlife Biologist on Fort Bragg.  Brian S. Ball, Fort Bragg Endangered Species Branch

11:15 – 11:45 a.m.  

11:45 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.  
Lunch and Business Session

1:30 – 2:45 p.m.  
Auction

2:45 – 3:15 p.m.  
Caribbean Boas: Diversity, Distribution, and Discovery of a Remarkable Fauna.  R. Graham Reynolds, Harvard University & University of North Carolina Asheville

3:15 – 3:45 p.m.  
The Disappearing Frogs Project.  Pam Hopkins, The Disappearing Frogs Project

3:45 – 4:00 p.m.  
North Carolina Herpetology Hall of Fame

4:00 – 4:15 p.m.  
Break

4:15 – 4:45 p.m.  
Natural History and Ecology of Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnakes (Crotalus adamanteus) in the South Carolina Lowcountry.  Michael D. Martin, Amphibian and Reptile Conservancy

4:45 - 5:15 p.m.  
NCHS Photo Contest.  David Cooper, NCHS Immediate Past-President

5:15 – 5:30 p.m.  
Raffle Drawing, Closing Announcements

5:30 p.m. until . . .  
Group Dinner and Social (location to be announced at meeting)
If you have additional questions concerning the Fall Meeting, feel free to contact Bryan Stuart (919-707-8861; bryan.stuart@naturalsciences.org), TJ Hilliard (919-919-567-1895; tjhilliard@nc.rr.com), or Jeff Beane (919-707-8864; jeff.beane@naturalsciences.org).

Not a part of this great natural wonder worthy of the name forest remains intact within the state's borders. It has been rooted out by hogs, mutilated by turpentining, cut down in lumbering, or burned up through negligence. The complete destruction of this forest constitutes one of the major social crimes of American history.

--B.W. Wells, 1932
BALLOT FOR ELECTION OF 2016-2017 NCHS OFFICERS

Note: -- Only votes of current members will be counted.
       -- Individual members are allotted 1 (one) vote.
       -- Family memberships are allotted 1 (one) vote, regardless of number of family members.
       -- President and Treasurer are elected in even-numbered years; Vice-President and Secretary in odd-numbered years.

Member Name: _______________________________________________________________________

Address:  ____________________________________________________________________________

Phone:  _____________________________________________________________________________

Vote for 1 (one) candidate in each category.

VICE-PRESIDENT:  David Beamer     _____  Nathan Shepard     _____  Write-in: ________________________________

SECRETARY:  Megan Serr     _____  Write-in: ________________________________

Member-of-the-Year: Please vote for the one NCHS member who you feel has made the most outstanding contribution to the Society (and/or to the field of herpetology) during the past year. Nominees include Jeff Beane, Ed Corey, Jeff Hall, Jerry Reynolds, and Bryan Stuart, but you may vote for any current member.

Your Vote for NCHS Member-of-the-Year: ________________________________

Extra ballots will be available at the Fall Meeting. You may vote after nominations are closed during the meeting, or mail your ballot to: North Carolina Herpetological Society, N.C. State Museum of Natural Sciences, 11 West Jones St., Raleigh, NC 27601-1029. Ballots must be returned by December 1st, 2015. Election results will be included in the January 2016 newsletter.

If you wish to renew your membership for 2016, you may include a membership form and dues with your ballot. Be sure to complete the entire form.
**NORTH CAROLINA HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY**  
**MEMBERSHIP FORM/CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM**  
www.ncherps.org  
*(Save time and money—renew online!)*

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**Name:** __________________________________________________________  
**Date:** _______________

**Address:** _______________________________________________________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number and Street</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Zip</th>
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**Home Phone:** ___________________________  
**Work Phone:** ___________________________

**Email:** ______________________________________  
**Date of Birth:** _______________

**School / Institutional Affiliation:** ______________________________________

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**ANNUAL DUES FOR THE YEAR OF: ____________**

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<th>NEW MEMBERSHIP</th>
<th>RENEWAL</th>
<th>CHANGE OF ADDRESS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Individual $15.00</td>
<td>Family $20.00</td>
<td>Student $10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life $200.00</td>
<td>Lifetime Family $250.00</td>
<td>Exchange (Complimentary)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Total amount paid: Cash:** _______________  
**Check #** ___________________________  
**Date paid:** ___________________________

*Newsletter delivery via email (pdf file) only unless you do not have an email address or access to a computer.*

**I do not have email or a computer and request hardcopies be mailed to my address above.**

For family membership, list other names, dates of birth: ______________________________________

For gift membership, please include your name in this space: ______________________________________

Please check here if you do NOT want your information published in the Membership Directory in the July issue. ______

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Please make check or money order payable to: **North Carolina Herpetological Society.**

*Dues and contributions are tax-deductible.*

Renew online or mail to: **North Carolina Herpetological Society, NC State Museum of Natural Sciences,**  
**11 West Jones Street, Raleigh, NC 27601-1029**

*Dues are for the calendar year. Anyone joining before Nov.1 receives all newsletters and other mailings issued during that year. Anyone joining after Nov.1 will receive a membership for the following calendar year. Individual memberships are allotted 1 vote each in elections and 1 newsletter subscription. Family memberships are allotted the same regardless of number in family, but all persons are full members.*

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Please check any of the following that might interest you:

| Elected office (President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer) | Conservation |
| Education | Membership |
| Library/archives | Herp shop |
| Husbandry | Grants |
| Stewardship | Field research assistance |
| Meeting speaker (topic: ___________________) | Workday help |
| Refreshments | Reciprocal newsletters review |
| Newsletter writing | Event coordination |

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**Special skills or resources you might be willing to offer:** ___________________________

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**Herpetological interests:** ___________________________