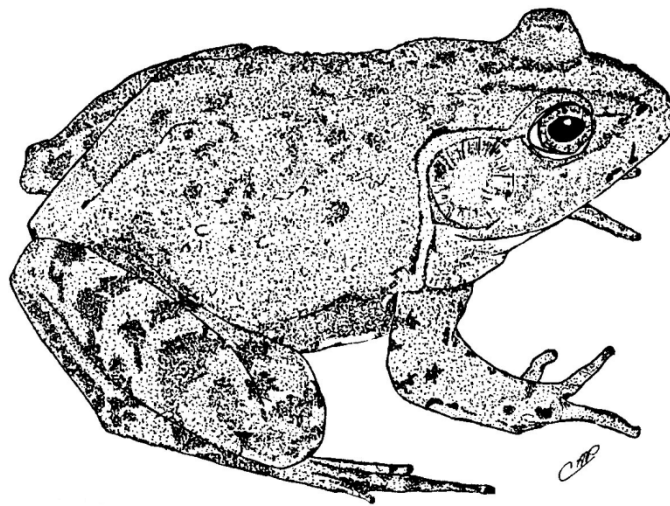


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BULLETIN INFORMATION

Catesbeiana is published twice a year by the Virginia Herpetological Society. Membership is open to all individuals interested in the study of amphibians and reptiles and includes a subscription to *Catesbeiana*, two newsletters, and admission to all meetings. Annual dues for regular membership is \$15.00. Payments received after September 1 of any given year will apply to membership for the following calendar year.

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Next Survey
Belmead Plantation
20-21 June 2014
Registration is Required
See Page 42 for details.



Albino *Nerodia sipedon* from James River State Park.

Results of the Survey of Pocahontas State Park

Jason Daniel Gibson
Galileo Magnet High School
230 South Ridge Street
Danville, Virginia 24541

Kory Steele
174 Lori Circle
Newport News, Virginia 23602

Introduction

The Annual Survey and business meeting of the Virginia Herpetological Society was held on 20 - 22 May 2011, at Pocahontas State Park. The Park had numerous advantages for a VHS survey. At nearly 3,237 ha (8,000 ac), the park is the largest Virginia State Park and has been in a state of conservation since it was first purchased in 1934, which is nearly 8 decades. The park is situated at the interface of the Piedmont and Coastal Plain physiographic regions, potentially providing a greater species richness from the combination of different habitats.

Located in the County of Chesterfield, the Park is located just 32 km (20 miles) from the state capitol in Richmond. This location also filled in a large gap of areas in Virginia that had not been previously surveyed by the VHS. In addition, a BioBlitz was conducted by the Virginia Natural History Society at the park in 2002, but the results were never published. This report will serve to provide the results of the VHS survey, and also compile the data from the 2002 BioBlitz and the Park's records for reptiles and amphibians.

The 2011 survey coincided with the 75th anniversary of the Virginia State Park's inception. Conducting the annual survey of Virginia's largest state park helped promote the Virginia State Parks.

Study Sites

Vegetation types are provided by Pocahontas State Park GIS. All sites contained approximately 100 feet in elevations, from 150 feet to 250 feet.

Site 1: 37.38478, -77.58293

This site was reserved for children and their chaperones because of the relatively easy and well-traveled trails that went around Beaver Lake. This is a popular trail that is used often, and it is near the main park road. Topography slopes steeply towards the lake. There are 3 to 4 streams that the trail crosses, including Third Branch Creek and its floodplain that is the main feed from the west into Beaver Lake. Vegetation is mixed upland hardwoods to the south of Beaver Lake, and pine hardwood to the north.

Site 2: 37.38427, -77.58552

This site included the trail following the south side of Beaver Lake and the surrounding forest. The vegetation was upland hardwood forest.

Site 3: 37.38671, -77.58489

This site consisted of the trail along the north side of Beaver Lake and the surrounding mixed pine hardwood forest. One major spring and a small stream flowing from the spring were found adjacent to the walking trail.

Site 4: 37.38890, -77.57320

This site was ideal for those wanting to get deeper into the woods and farther away from human traffic and was centered to the north of Swift Creek Lake and followed loosely Hawkins Road and Loop Road. Approximately 4 streams were encountered in the site. Approximately 70 ha (175 ac) was covered by the groups surveying the site. Due to the large area surveyed, multiple vegetation types were encountered including mixed upland and bottomland hardwoods, and stands of loblolly pine and stands of other types of pine. These vegetation types were not clustered in large groupings, rather they were arranged in striations that the groups crossed frequently. Topography encountered including deep ravines with streams, and sharp slopes leading to Swift Creek Lake.

Site 5: 37.38320, -77.53968

The site was centered around a cluster of rental cabins at the eastern side of the park along the Swift Creek Group Camp Road. The group also investigated the area east beyond the Swift Creek Lake spillway and along Fendley Station Trail. Two main streams were encountered, including the streams draining Swift Creek Lake. Approximately 21 m (70 ft) of topography was encountered in this area. The vegetation was limited to mostly loblolly pine with a smaller area of mixed upland hardwoods.

Site 6: 37.38300, -77.56280

This site's western boundary was the Algonquian Forest Trail, and the site continued north towards Swift Creek Lake and followed the Lakeview Mountain Bike Trail. There were approximately 3 to 4 ravines draining north towards Swift Creek Lake. Vegetation included pine, hardwoods, mixed upland hardwoods, and small stands of loblolly pine,

Site 7: 37.37920, -77.57510

This site was based around the campground where many of the survey attendees were lodged, therefore opportunistic encounters were documented. The campgrounds are situated south of Swift Creek Lake, and between the main park road to the west, and the Algonquian Camp Road to the east. No streams are documented for this site. Vegetation types include mixed upland hardwoods to the east, and pine and hardwood to the west.

Site 8: 37.39060, -77.58250

This site was based around the Box Turtle Mountain Bike Trail that is located north of the

Survey of Pocahontas State Park

Croston Forest Trail and the south of Swift Creek which feeds into Swift Creek Lake to the east. The Mountain Bike Trail forms a dense network of regularly traveled trails that lead the group towards Swift Creek and its large floodplain swamp. Several small streams were encountered, and the vegetation consisted entirely of mixed upland hardwoods where the trail occurs, and bottomland hardwoods associated with the Swift Creek floodplain.

Turtle Traps site: 37.38518, -77.58360

Turtle hoop traps were placed along the eastern shore of Beaver Lake. There were limited habitats available for the ideal placement of turtle hoop traps, and this site was the only habitat that met the practical requirements such as shallow enough water to keep a portion of the traps above water, but deep enough to submerge the openings for turtle entry. The site consisted of emergent vegetation and pine hardwoods at the shore.

Materials and Methods

Surveyors utilized usual collecting techniques including visual observation, listening for calling anurans, overturning cover objects, hand capture, and dipnetting. All captured animals were given a visual inspection to identify any malformations, disease or injuries. Digital photos were taken of any species considered county records or with injuries or disease. Group leaders were required to record all relevant data on data sheets. Animals were then released at the site of capture. Seven hoop turtle traps were deployed at the turtle trap site, near site one. These traps were baited with canned sardines. Table 1 indicates how much survey time was spent at each survey site.

Table 1: The amount of survey effort per research site.

	Site 1	Site 2	Site 3	Site 4	Site 5	Site 6	Site 7	Site 8	Turtle Traps
No. Hoop Traps set									7
No. Surveyors	15	8	20	13	5	11	8	12	
Hours Surveyed	3	4	6	6	7	4.5	1	3	
Person Hrs. Survey Effort	45	32	120	78	35	49.5	8	36	

Results

A total of 16 amphibians (nine anurans and seven salamanders) and 21 reptiles (four turtles, four lizards and 13 snakes) were observed during the survey time period. All the survey teams combined collected 455 total animals. There were no county records or invasive species found at the park. Table 2 summarizes the species and the number of animals captured at each survey site.

Table 2. Summary of the number of animals observed at each site.

Sites	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	TT
Species									
Amphibians									
<i>Acris creptians</i>	2	73	15	13		8		4	
<i>Anaxyrus americanus</i>		5	1	9		4	1	1	
<i>Anaxyrus fowleri</i>	1	20	11	12	14	17	1	6	
<i>Hyla chrysoscelis</i>		1	1	2	1			1	
<i>Lithobates catesbeianus</i>		1							
<i>Lithobates clamitans</i>		2		2	1		1		
<i>Lithobates palustris</i>		1	2			1	1	1	
<i>Lithobates sphenoccephalus</i>				1					
<i>Pseudacris crucifer</i>			4	1				4	
<i>Ambystoma maculatum</i>		12L	3			1		2	
<i>Ambystoma opacum</i>		1			1	2		4	
<i>Eurycea cirrigera</i>		3							
<i>Eurycea guttolineata</i>				2				1	
<i>Notophthalmus viridescens</i>		1						1	
<i>Plethodon chlorobryonis</i>				1				2	
<i>Pseudotriton sp.</i>			3L						
Reptiles									
<i>Chelydra serpentina</i>		1		1					1
<i>Chrysemys picta picta</i>		1		2				2	2
<i>Kinosternon subrubrum</i>				1					1
<i>Terrapene carolina carolina</i>	2	1		10	5			2	
<i>Plestiodon fasciatus</i>	2	6	13	5					
<i>Plestiodon laticeps</i>				2	2	1			
<i>Scincella lateralis</i>			2	2		7			
<i>Sceloporus undulatus</i>			2	13	2	4			
<i>Agkistrodon contortrix mokasen</i>		1							
<i>Carpophis amoenus amoenus</i>		1	7	6	1	6	4	4	
<i>Coluber constrictor constrictor</i>		1		3				1	
<i>Diadophis punctatus</i>		2		3	1			3	
<i>Heterodon platirhinos</i>								1	
<i>Nerodia sipedon sipedon</i>		1							
<i>Opheodrys aestivus</i>		1		1					

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<i>Pantherophis alleghaniensis</i>		3	1	6				3	
<i>Storeria dekayi dekayi</i>	1		1	2			1		
<i>Storeria occipitomaculata</i>				1			1		
<i>Thamnophis sauritus sauritus</i>		1							
<i>Thamnophis sirtalis sirtalis</i>		1	1						
<i>Virginia valeriae valeriae</i>			1						
Total Number of animals by site	8	141	68	101	28	51	10	43	4

Annotated Checklist Amphibians

1. *Acris crepitans* (Northern Cricket Frog)

Northern Cricket Frogs were found in a variety of microhabitats including wetlands around creeks, in leaf litter on the forest floor, on hiking trails, on the banks of streams, and along the margin of Beaver Lake. Numerous choruses of males were heard especially beside the lake.

2. *Anaxyrus americanus* (American Toad)

American Toads were encountered on the forest floor in leaf litter, in grass, and one was found at the base of a tree. One juvenile found at site 4 was observed to have a damaged paratoid gland.

3. *Anaxyrus fowleri* (Fowler's Toad)

The survey of Fowler's Toads yielded a mixture of adults and sub-adults. Animals were found under rocks, in leaf litter, in grass, on a tree stump, and under bark. Two sub-adult toads were found to be parasitized by chigger mites. One found at site 5 had two mites and the other found at site 2 had 4 mites.

4. *Hyla chrysoscelis* (Cope's Gray Treefrog)

Only calling *Hyla chrysoscelis* males were encountered during the survey. Males were heard vocalizing by the lake and in the woods.

5. *Lithobates catesbeianus* (American Bullfrog)

A small number of male bullfrogs were heard calling from the margin of Beaver Lake at site 2.

6. *Lithobates clamitans* (Green Frog)

Green Frogs were observed along the bank of a stream, in a stream, and on the shoreline of the lake. A few males were heard calling along a stream.

7. *Lithobates palustris* (Pickerel Frog)

Streams and along the bank of streams was the microhabitat most preferred by Pickerel Frogs according to our observations.

8. *Lithobates sphenoccephalus* (Southern Leopard Frog)

The only leopard frogs discovered during the weekend was a small chorus of calling males at a pond at site 4.

9. *Pseudacris crucifer* (Spring Peeper)

Adult and newly emerged spring peepers were found in leaf litter on the forest floor at three sites.

10. *Ambystoma opacum* (Marbled Salamander)

Ambystoma opacum adults were found in four locations. Each of these locations was near vernal areas. Most animals were captured under logs.

11. *Ambystoma maculatum* (Spotted Salamander)

Spotted Salamanders were also found at four sites. Each of these sites had access to vernal pools. One vernal pool was dipnetted and around 12 larvae were captured. All adults were found under logs. One adult found at site 3 was observed to have a missing left eye and an eye infection.

12. *Eurycea cirrigera* (Two-lined Salamander)

Only three Two-lined Salamanders were found during the survey period. All were found near streams and under logs. One adult at site 2 was found .76 m (2.5 ft) off the ground under bark of a fallen tree.

13. *Eurycea guttolineata* (Three-lined Salamander)

Three-lined Salamanders were found under logs in a stream and in a stream foraging. One animal found exhibited a clear, non-mottled belly.

14. *Plethodon chlorobryonis* (Atlantic Coast Slimy Salamander)

Plethodon chlorobryonis adults were found at two sites. Animals were found under bark and under logs.

15. *Pseudotriton* sp.

Three larvae were dipnetted in a spring at site three. Upon close inspection we determined that the larvae were *Pseudotriton* but we could not definitely identify the species.

16. *Notophthalmus viridescens viridescens* (Red-spotted Newt)

One adult and one eft stage newt were found during the weekend. The eft was found in leaf litter and the adult was found swimming in a stream flowing into Beaver Lake.

Reptiles

17. *Chelydra serpentina* (Snapping Turtle)

Turtle trapping yielded two captured snapping turtles, one adult female and the other was not sexed. Two additional turtles were found in streams at sites 2 and 4.

18. *Chrysemys picta picta* (Eastern Painted Turtle)

Two Eastern Painted Turtles were observed laying eggs (0837 h and 0840 h respectively) by Beaver Lake and another was digging a nest (1034 h). Later during the day the nesting site of the previously observed turtle digging was investigated. The nest was empty but a measurement of the nest was taken. The nest was 50 mm deep and 38 mm wide. An additional turtle was captured in a turtle trap.

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19. *Terrapene carolina carolina* (Eastern Box Turtle)

Twenty box turtles were found at five sites. Microhabitat surrounding the observation included beside stagnant water, in leaf litter, at the base of a fallen tree, in streams, and near streams. A female found at site 8 was blowing bubbles out of its nose and it had an eye infection. One adult found at site 4 was found dead in a stream.

20. *Kinosternon subrubrum subrubrum* (Eastern Mud Turtle)

One Eastern Mud Turtle was captured in a turtle trap. The other mud turtle was found in a floodplain at site 4.

21. *Plestiodon fasciatus* (Five-lined Skink)

Five-lined Skinks were the most commonly observed lizard with a total of 26 animals being found. They were seen under bark, basking on logs, and on the ground.

22. *Plestiodon laticeps* (Broad-headed Skink)

Plestiodon laticeps adults were found basking on trees and basking on rocks. One male female pair was seen basking together on the same tree.

23. *Scincella lateralis* (Little Brown Skink)

Eleven Little Brown Skinks were found on the ground in leaf litter and under logs at multiple sites.

24. *Sceloporus undulatus* (Fence Lizard)

Twenty-one Fence Lizards were observed basking on logs, on wood piles, and on the trunks of trees. A few males were observed displaying, doing pushups, and chasing females.

25. *Agkistrodon contortrix mokasen* (Northern Copperhead)

The one subadult Northern Copperhead was found when a survey member stepped on it. It was found on the forest floor at the edge of a stream. The survey member did not injure the snake.

26. *Carphophis amoenus amoenus* (Eastern Wormsnake)

A total of 29 Eastern Wormsnakes were captured at seven survey sites. They were found under logs, under bark, in logs, and between logs.

27. *Coluber constrictor constrictor* (Northern Black Racer)

Coluber constrictor constrictor adults were found in leaf litter on the forest floor, in grassy meadows, and along the margin of Beaver Lake. All animals were basking.

28. *Diadophis punctatus* (Ring-necked Snake)

Ring-necked Snakes were found in leaf litter, under pine bark, and under logs. Most snakes had full neck bands and ventral belly spots. One adult did have a full neck band and no spots on its ventrum.

29. *Heterodon platirhinos* (Eastern Hog-nosed Snake)

A dark patterned Eastern Hog-nosed Snake was found on the forest floor at site 8.

30. *Nerodia sipedon sipedon* (Northern Watersnake)

Despite abundant water sources only one Northern Watersnake was observed. This one snake was found under a log by a stream at site 2.

31. *Opheodrys aestivus* (Rough Greensnake)

The two Rough Greensnakes found during the weekend survey were found on a trail and in a grassy meadow by a stream.

32. *Pantherophis alleghaniensis* (Eastern Ratsnake)

Thirteen ratsnakes were found in a variety of locations including the forest floor and on trails. One dead adult was found at site 4. An adult male found at site 4 had reddish coloration.

33. *Storeria dekayi dekayi* (Northern Brownsnake)

Northern Brownsnakes were found in four locations. Most were found under cover objects but one adult was found on the surface of leaf litter. An adult found at site 4 had a bump on its back.

34. *Storeria occipitomaculata occipitomaculata* (Northern Red-bellied Snake)

One juvenile snake was found under leaf litter near a wood pile and another adult snake was observed basking on a log.

35. *Thamnophis sauritus sauritus* (Common Ribbonsnake)

One ribbonsnake was captured along the margin of Beaver Lake. When first handled the animal commenced to enter into a dead roll. What was interesting about this was the strobe-like effect that the stripes along its body made as it turned round and round. This appeared to be an effective technique to confuse predators.

36. *Thamnophis sirtalis sirtalis* (Eastern Gartersnake)

Eastern Gartersnakes were found at sites 2 and 3. Both were found basking on the forest floor.

37. *Virginia valeriae valeriae* (Eastern Smooth Earthsnake)

One earth snake was found under pine bark at site 3.

Discussion

Pocahontas State Park has over 3,237 ha (8,000 ac) of land within its borders. This survey sent groups out to many sites but only a small portion of land was adequately assessed. Where the park is bisected by Beach Road, our surveys were only concentrated in the northern section of park property. The southern portion is less developed and has fewer trails. To more adequately assess the biodiversity of the park more surveys going into new areas and surveys done during different seasons will likely increase the documented species list.

Pocahontas State Park (PSP) now has documented 55 species of amphibians and reptiles (Table 3). Not only does it have a large number of species but many of the species seem to be abundant. The status of one species, *Hyla gratiosa* is still uncertain. There are other species that have been collected in previous surveys but were not found during the VHS survey in 2011. Since some of the differences come from older observations, further intensive surveys are warranted

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to check on the status of those species. It would be nice to have corroborating observations of very similar species like *Acris creptians* and *Acris gryllus* and *Hyla versicolor* and *Hyla chrysoscelis*. These species can be very similar in phenotype and vocalization. *Acris gryllus* and *Hyla versicolor* are both listed on the reptile and amphibian database for the park but our survey did not yield observations of either, despite finding 115 cricket frogs and hearing many choruses. *Lampropeltis elapsoides* has also been documented for the park but genetic analysis on park specimens has not been conducted to confirm this observation. To date the only unequivocal Scarlet Kingsnakes have been documented in Bedford County, Virginia (Roble et al., 2007). Thirteen species of anurans are now known for Pocahontas State Park (Table 3). According to the VDGIF Species Observation (SppObs) Database (formerly the VDGIF Collections Database) and published records in *Catebeiana*, the following anurans are documented for Chesterfield County: *Gastrophryne carolinensis*, *Hyla femoralis*, *Pseudacris brimleyi*, and *Scaphiopus holbrookii*. Two other species, *Hyla cinerea* and *Pseudacris nigrita* are possible candidates for finding in future surveys. *Hyla cinerea* is documented to the north and west of PSP and *Pseudacris nigrita*, which was recently added to the state herpetofaunal list, and still needs its distribution defined, may well be found in PSP. Eight species of salamanders are currently recognized as residing in PSP with one additional species' status in the genus *Pseudotriton* uncertain (Table 3). Two additional species have been documented in Chesterfield County but have not been discovered in the park boundaries. These include *Hemidactylium scutatum* and *Pseudotriton ruber*. *Pseudotriton montanus* is documented in surrounding counties as is *Amphiuma means*, *Siren intermedia intermedia*, and *Siren lacertina*. The latter three species would require special trapping methods and correct seasonal surveying to find. Eight native species and one invasive species of turtles are known for PSP (Table 3). *Clemmys guttata* and *Kinosternon baurii* are the only turtles found in Chesterfield County and which might be added to the PSP species list. Lizards in PSP are represented by six species. *Aspidoscelis sexlineata* has been documented for Chesterfield County and therefore might be added to the PSP list if surveys during hot summer days are conducted.

The snake diversity at PSP hosts a healthy 19 species (Table 3). Three possible species already documented for Chesterfield County, which could be added to the PSP snake fauna are *Agkistrodon piscivorus*, *Nerodia taxispilota*, and *Virginia striatula*. *Farancia abacura* and *Farancia erythrogramma* are species documented in surrounding counties and *Lampropeltis triangulum* has a general statewide distribution. Not much is known about the distribution of *Tantilla coronata* so it should be placed in a list of possible species which could be found within park boundaries.

Pocahontas State Park is a very well maintained and managed park. Despite this fact, the VHS in this section of the paper offers suggestions for better managing the park for reptiles and amphibians. Please keep debris piles and fallen logs in the forest and surrounding areas. These serve as habitat for all reptiles and amphibians. A second suggestion is to not use horticultural netting for either erosion control or wrapping wood for sale to campers. The damaging effect of this netting to snakes has been well documented (Mitchell et al., 2006). Educational plaques outlining the usefulness of snakes and generally amphibians and reptiles would also be suggested. These could be posted around Beaver Lake. This is the most likely place people would come in contact with nesting turtles and watersnakes. As the park grows in its interest of its biodiversity it is important that accurate written records in addition to voucher photos and digital recordings of vocalizing males be meticulously collected and archived. Observations on abundance and health should also be taken. Decades from now this information will be invaluable to future managers and conservation biologists.

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Table 3. Comparison of three sources of amphibian and reptile species data from Pocahontas State Park.

Sites	VB	VHS	PSP
Species			
Amphibians			
<i>Acris creptians</i>	*	*	*
<i>Acris gryllus</i>	*		*
<i>Anaxyrus americanus</i>	*	*	*
<i>Anaxyrus fowleri</i>	*	*	*
<i>Hyla chrysoscelis</i>	*	*	*
<i>Hyla gratiosa</i>			*
<i>Hyla versicolor</i>			*

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<i>Lithobates catesbeianus</i>	*	*	*
<i>Lithobates clamitans</i>	*	*	*
<i>Lithobates palustris</i>	*	*	*
<i>Lithobates sphenoccephalus</i>	*	*	*
<i>Pseudacris crucifer</i>		*	*
<i>Pseudacris feriarum</i>			*
<i>Ambystoma maculatum</i>		*	*
<i>Ambystoma opacum</i>	*	*	*
<i>Desmognathus fuscus</i>	*		*
<i>Eurycea cirrigera</i>	*	*	*
<i>Eurycea guttolineata</i>	*	*	*
<i>Notophthalmus viridescens</i>	*	*	*
<i>Plethodon cinereus</i>	*		*
<i>Plethodon chlorobryonis</i>		*	
<i>Pseudotriton sp.</i>		*	
Reptiles			
<i>Chelydra serpentina</i>	*	*	*
<i>Chrysemys picta picta</i>	*	*	*
<i>Sternotherus odoratus</i>	*		*
<i>Kinosternon subrubrum</i>		*	*
<i>Pseudemys concinna</i>	*		*
<i>Pseudemys rubriventris</i>	*		*
<i>Terrapene carolina carolina</i>	*	*	*
<i>Trachemys scripta elegans</i>	*		*
<i>Trachemys scripta scripta</i>			*
<i>Ophisaurus attenuatus longicaudus</i>			*
<i>Plestiodon fasciatus</i>	*	*	*
<i>Plestiodon inexpectatus</i>			*
<i>Plestiodon laticeps</i>		*	*
<i>Scincella lateralis</i>	*	*	*
<i>Sceloporus undulatus</i>		*	*
<i>Agkistrodon contortrix mokasen</i>		*	*
<i>Carphophis amoenus amoenus</i>	*	*	*
<i>Cemophora coccinea copei</i>			*
<i>Coluber constrictor constrictor</i>	*	*	*
<i>Diadophis punctatus</i>	*	*	*
<i>Heterodon platirhinos</i>		*	*
<i>Lampropeltis calligaster rhombomaculata</i>			*
<i>Lampropeltis elapsoides</i>	*		
<i>Lampropeltis getula getula</i>			*
<i>Nerodia sipedon sipedon</i>	*	*	*

<i>Opheodrys aestivus</i>		*	*
<i>Pantherophis alleghaniensis</i>		*	*
<i>Pantherophis guttatus</i>			*
<i>Regina septemvittata</i>	*		
<i>Storeria dekayi dekayi</i>	*	*	
<i>Storeria occipitomaculata</i>		*	*
<i>Thamnophis sauritus sauritus</i>		*	
<i>Thamnophis sirtalis sirtalis</i>		*	*
<i>Virginia valeriae valeriae</i>		*	*
Total Number of Species	31	37	50

VB = Virginia BioBlitz amphibian and reptile survey results. This survey was conducted at Pocahontas State Park on May 11 and 12, 2002.

VHS = The Virginia Herpetological Society amphibian and reptile survey conducted on May 20-22, 2011.

PSP = Amphibians and reptiles of Pocahontas State Park. This list was downloaded from a park database on 5-4-2011 by I.C. Frentz.

Results of the 2013 HerpBlitz at Dick Cross Wildlife Management Area, Mecklenburg County, Virginia

Paul Sattler
Biology Department
Liberty University
Lynchburg, Virginia

Jason Gibson
Galileo Magnet High School
Danville City Schools
Danville, Virginia

Introduction

The eighth annual HerpBlitz was conducted at Dick Cross Wildlife Management Area (WMA). The Wildlife Management Area is named for a former Executive Director of the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. It was selected due to the limited number of surveys conducted in this county and in south central Virginia in general. This location was also selected due to its proximity to the most northern location of *Eurycea chamberlaini*, which has been found 21 km south of Buggs Island Dam in Vance County, North Carolina (Hoffman, 2012). Finding this species would represent a new state record.

Dick Cross WMA is in Mecklenburg County on the north side of the Roanoke River. It comprises 567 ha (1400 ac) of converted cattle farm. This property is found in the Piedmont physiographic province and has an elevation of 60 – 90 m (200 – 300 ft). Included within the confines of the property are vernal pools, agricultural fields, ephemeral and perennial streams, mature mixed hardwood and pine forest, and bottom land bordering the Roanoke River and Allen Creek. One hundred sixty-five acres of wetland impoundments created on the property serve as waterfowl habitat. Allen Creek winds through the eastern third of the WMA before forming the southeastern border.

Materials and Methods

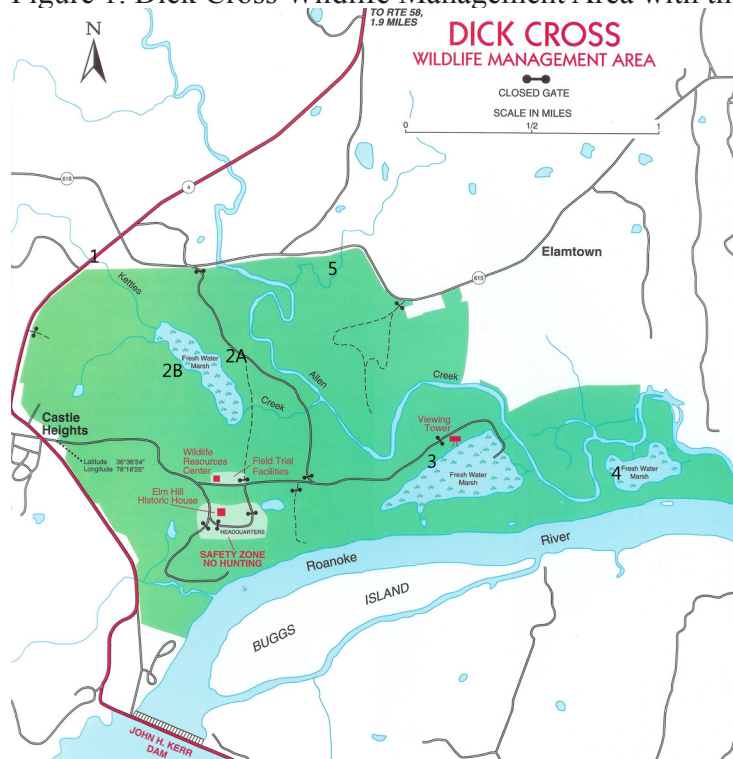
Sixteen volunteers participated in the Herp Bioblitz from 7-9 June 2013 using multiple collecting methods to find amphibians and reptiles. These methods included visual observation, listening for calling anurans, hand capture, and overturning cover objects such as logs and boards with snake hooks. Turtle traps, each baited with sardines, were positioned in several points of the freshwater marsh at Site 3. All captured animals were observed to identify possible malformations, injuries or disease, and other unique markings and characteristics, and released at the point of capture. Digital photos were taken of many of the captured animals and GPS coordinates of locations for many specimens were recorded. Survey group leaders summarized and submitted all relevant data on VHS survey group data sheets.

Study Sites:

Five major areas of the Dick Cross Wildlife Management Area were surveyed. All were near water to increase chances of finding both amphibians and reptiles. Most had deciduous forests surrounding them. The sites are shown below in Figure 1.

1. Route 4 crossing Kettles Creek: Kettles Creek at the point it crosses under Route 4, just SW of Co. Rt. 615 in an area where the Creek forms a freshwater marsh. Surveyed on the evening of 7 June 2013. ($36^{\circ} 37' 33.08''\text{N}$, $78^{\circ} 18' 14.65''\text{W}$)
2. Freshwater Marsh #1: The western most of three freshwater marshes (Hundley Pond) on the Wildlife Management Area, north of the Wildlife Resources Center. Surveyed on 8 June 2013. 2A is the eastern side of Hundley Pond ($36^{\circ} 37' 12.05''\text{N}$, $78^{\circ} 17' 37.97''\text{W}$), 2B is the western side of Hundley Pond ($36^{\circ} 37' 9.22''\text{N}$, $78^{\circ} 17' 47.87''\text{W}$). The margins of the pond were surveyed using visual searches, dip netting, and overturning cover objects. The margins of the pond included forested areas and open grassy meadows.
3. Freshwater Marsh #2: The central of three freshwater marshes on the Wildlife Management Area, east of the Wildlife Resources Center. Surveyed on 8 June 2013 ($36^{\circ} 36' 52.01''\text{N}$, $78^{\circ} 16' 43.62''\text{W}$). There was a large area of submerged vegetation in addition to open water. There was a road on the north side of the pond and a deciduous forest.
4. Freshwater Marsh #3: The eastern most of three freshwater marshes on the Wildlife Management Area, due east of Freshwater Marsh #2. Surveyed on 8 June 2013 ($36^{\circ} 36' 49.95''\text{N}$, $78^{\circ} 16' 2.48''\text{W}$). There were cattails and small shrubs in the shallows, in addition to some open water. The pond was surrounded by deciduous forest and a grassy/dirt road.
5. Along an unnamed tributary to Allen Creek, south of where the tributary crosses Co. Rt. 615: Surveyed on 9 June 2013 ($36^{\circ} 37' 35.47''\text{N}$, $78^{\circ} 17' 9.18''\text{W}$). The floodplain of the creek, going through a deciduous forest was surveyed.

Figure 1. Dick Cross Wildlife Management Area with the five survey sites indicated.



Survey of Dick Cross WMA

Site 1 was surveyed on the evening of 7 June by two volunteers. Sites 2A, 2B, 3 and 4 were surveyed on 8 June by six to thirteen volunteers. Site 5 was surveyed on 9 June by six volunteers. The number of person-hours per survey site is listed below in Table 1.

Table 1. Survey effort per site.

Site	1	2A	2B	3	4	5
# Surveyors	2	9	7	13	6	6
Hours surveyed	0.25	3.0	3.0	1.25	2.0	0.8
Person Hrs of survey effort	0.5	27.0	21.0	16.25	12.0	4.8

Results

A total of fifteen amphibian and fourteen reptile species were found at Dick Cross WMA during the June 2013 HerpBlitz for a total of twenty-nine different species (Table 2). Of the fifteen amphibians, there were eleven anurans and four salamanders. Of the fourteen reptiles, there were seven snakes, two lizards, and five turtles. The VHS online list of herps includes 53 different species which had been previously vouchered for Mecklenburg County. Our survey found 27 of the 53, or more than half of the reported species. We also added two additional species, *Hyla cinerea* and *Kinosternon subrubrum*, as new county records .

Table 2. List of species observed at each site in the Dick Cross Wildlife Management Area.

** New record for Mecklenburg Count. * Second record for Mecklenburg County.

Species/Site	1	2A	2B	3	4	5	Total
Amphibians							
<i>Ambystoma opacum</i>		4		1			5
<i>Acris crepitans</i>	1	6	8	35			50
<i>Anaxyrus a. americanus</i>		3	5	2			10
<i>Anaxyrus fowleri</i>		1		4			5
<i>Desmognathus sp?</i>						1	1
<i>Gastrophryne carolinensis</i>	1			3			4
<i>Hyla chrysoscelis</i>	20			6			26
<i>Hyla cinerea</i> **	50	2	3	100	6		161
<i>Hyla versicolor</i>	30		1	20			51
<i>Lithobates catesbeianus</i>				3	1		4
<i>Lithobates clamitans</i>		2		7	6		15
<i>Lithobates spenocephalus</i>		2	6	5	21	5	39
<i>Notophthalmus viridescens</i>		4	1	1			6
<i>Plethodon cylindraceus</i>		1	1	1		1	4
<i>Pseudacris crucifer</i>		2	39	12	4		57
Reptiles							
<i>Carphophis a. amoenus</i>		1	2				3
<i>Chelydra serpentina</i>				2			2
<i>Chrysemys p. picta</i>			2	1			3

<i>Coluber c. constrictor</i>		2		3			5
<i>Diadophis punctatus</i>				1			1
<i>Kinosternon s. subrubrum**</i>		1		1			2
<i>Nerodia s. sipedon</i>				2		1	3
<i>Opheodrys aestivus</i>	1						1
<i>Pantherophis alleghaniensis</i>			1				1
<i>Plestiodon inexpectatus</i>							1
<i>Scincella lateralis</i>					2		2
<i>Terrapene c. carolina</i>		2					2
<i>Trachemys s. scripta *</i>				2			2
<i>Virginia v. valeriae</i>			1				1
Total	103	33	70	212	40	8	467

Annotated Checklist:

Amphibians:

Anurans:

Acris crepitans: (Sties 1, 2A, 2B, and 3) One Eastern Cricket Frog was calling from the marsh at Site 1 on the evening of 7 June. Two adult Eastern Cricket Frogs were hopping on the forest floor along the eastern margin of the freshwater marsh at Site 2A. Several males were calling from the same marsh. Eight Cricket Frogs were observed on the western side of the marsh, two calling and six on the ground. At Site 3 there were at least 35 Cricket Frogs, many along the margin of the second freshwater marsh, and some males calling from the marsh.

Anaxyrus a. americanus: (Sites 2A, 2B, and 3) One adult and two metamorph Eastern American Toads were seen hopping on the ground around the eastern margin of the freshwater marsh at Site 2A. Five metamorphs were seen around the western side of the Marsh at Site 2B. Two subadults were found in a grassy field at Site 3.

Anaxyrus fowleri: (Sites 2A and 3) A small adult Fowler's Toad was hopping on the forest floor along the wooded margins of the freshwater marsh at Site 2A. Four adult males were observed at the second freshwater marsh (Site 3). Three were calling and the fourth was on the road running along the northern shore.

Gastrophryne carolinensis: (Sites 1 and 3) One Eastern Narrow-mouthed Toad was calling the evening of 7 June from the swamp at Site 1. There were at least 3 males calling from the thick submerged vegetation of the marsh at Site 3.

Hyla chrysoscelis: (Sites 1 and 3) Both *Hyla chrysoscelis* and *H. versicolor* were calling at Site 1. Approximately 40% were *Hyla chrysoscelis* with about 60% *Hyla versicolor*, about 20 *Hyla chrysoscelis* were calling in all at Site 1. There were several individuals calling from the marsh at Site 3.

Survey of Dick Cross WMA

Hyla cinerea: (Sites 1, 2A, 2B, 3 and 4) A large chorus of at least 50 males was heard calling from the marsh at the point where Route 4 crosses Kettles Creek at Site 1 on the evening of 7 June. Several Green Treefrogs were calling from the freshwater marsh at Site 2A. Two adult males were heard calling from the western side of the marsh, and one observed on emergent vegetation. There was a large, continuous chorus of at least 100 individuals calling from the marsh at Site 3. Six adult Green Treefrogs were observed and photographed on the emergent vegetation of the third marsh at Site 4.

Hyla versicolor: (Sites 1, 2B and 3) Approximately 60% of the Gray Treefrogs, 30 in all, were *H. versicolor*, and identified by their call at the swamp at Site 1. A single male was heard calling from the freshwater marsh at Site 2B. A continuous chorus was heard at the marsh at Site 3.

Lithobates catesbeianus: (Sites 3 and 4) There were three American Bullfrogs seen along the road on the northern shore of the marsh at Site 3. A single male American Bullfrog was heard calling from the freshwater marsh at Site 4.

Lithobates clamitans: (Sites 2B, 3, 4, and 5) A metamorph Green Frog was seen in a puddle at Site 2A and a juvenile was found in the grassy meadow near the freshwater marsh. At Site 3 there were several males calling from the marsh, and one adult found on the road along the northern shore of the marsh. Six different males were heard calling from various parts of the third marsh at Site 4.

Lithobates spinocephalus: (Sites 2A, 2B, 3, 4 and 5) Two metamorph Southern Leopard Frogs were captured in the meadow areas around the eastern shore of the freshwater marsh at Site 2A. Six metamorphs were found along the western side of the marsh at Site 2B. At Site 3 there were four juveniles and an adult seen on the road along the northern shore of the marsh. Twenty-one juvenile Southern Leopard Frogs were seen, mostly in the grassy/dirt lane along the margin of the marsh at Site 4. Five adults were seen in the flood plain of the stream at Site 5.

Pseudacris crucifer: (Sites 2A, 2B, 3 and 4) Two metamorph Spring Peepers were found hopping on the forest floor in a grove of pines along the margin of the freshwater marsh at Site 2A. Thirty nine metamorph Spring Peepers were found on the forest floor on the western side of the marsh at Site 2B. Twelve metamorphs were observed near the marsh at Site 3. Four metamorph Spring Peepers were seen in the grassy/dirt lane along the margin of the marsh at Site 4.

Salamanders:

Ambystoma opacum: (Sites 2A, 3 and 4) One adult and three juvenile Marbled Salamanders were found under logs in the wooded edges of the freshwater marsh at Site 2A. A metamorph was found under a log in the forested northern shore of the freshwater marsh at Site 3.

Desmognathus sp? (Site 5) A dusky salamander was seen but not captured from under a rock in the stream at Site 5. The species could not be determined.

Notophthalmus viridescens: (Sites 2A and 3) One adult Red-spotted Newt was found under a cement block in one of the barns at the field trial facilities. Numerous larvae and one adult were dipnetted from the swamp/pond on the east side of the freshwater marsh at Site 2A. A red eft was found on the forest floor at the margin of the marsh at Site 2A. Another eft was found under a log in the forested northern margin of the marsh at Site 3.

Plethodon cylindraceus (Sites 2A, 2B, 3 and 5) One adult White-spotted Slimy Salamander was found under a log in the forested area just north of the freshwater marsh at Site 2A. Another adult was found under a log in the wooded western margin of the marsh at Site 2B. An adult was also found under a log in the wooded northern margin of the marsh at Site 3. An adult was captured from under a log in the flood plain of the stream at Site 5.

Reptiles:

Snakes:

Carphophis a. amoenus: (Sites 2A and 2B) An adult Eastern Wormsnake was found under a log in the forested margin of the freshwater marsh at Site 2A. Two adult Eastern Wormsnakes were found along the western shore of the marsh at Site 2B, one under a log, the other in a log.

Coluber c. constrictor: (Sites 2A and 3) Two adult Northern Black Racers were seen (one captured) along the margin of the meadows on the east side of the freshwater marsh at Site 2A. They were both basking when first observed. Three adults were captured while they were foraging along the margin of the marsh at Site 3.

Diadophis punctatus: (Site 3) An adult Ring-necked Snake was found under a log in the forested northern shore of the marsh at Site 3. It had a complete band around the neck and spots on the venter.

Nerodia s. sipedon: (Sites 3 and 5) Two adult Northern Watersnakes were observed foraging along the margin of the marsh at Site 3. An adult Northern Watersnake was found DOR on Route 615 where it crosses the stream at Site 5.

Opheodrys aestivus: (Site 1) A DOR juvenile Northern Rough Green Snake was found on the road where Route 4 crossed the swamp at Site 1.

Pantherophis alleghaniensis: (Site 2B) The shed skin of an Eastern Ratsnake was found on the west side of the freshwater marsh at Site 2B.

Virginia v. valeriae: (Site 2B) A juvenile Eastern Smooth Earthsnake was found under a board at the southern end of the freshwater marsh at Site 2B.

Survey of Dick Cross WMA

Lizards:

Plestiodon inexpectatus: (On the Wildlife Resources Building at the staging area) One adult male Southeastern Five-lined Skink was captured on the cinderblock wall of the Wildlife Resources Building at the staging/meeting area south of the freshwater marsh of Sites 2A and 2B.

Scincella lateralis: (Site 4) Two adults were observed in the grassy/dirt lane running along the side of the third freshwater marsh at Site 4.

Turtles:

Chelydra serpentina: (Site 3) Two small adults were captured in the hoop traps set in the second marsh at Site 3.

Chrysemys p. picta: (Sites 2B and 3) One adult male Eastern Painted Turtle was found crossing a grassy meadow on the west side of the freshwater marsh at Site 2B. An adult female was found in the same area digging a nest hole. An adult female with a large leech attached to her venter was caught in a hoop trap set in the second freshwater marsh at Site 3.

Kinosternon s. subrubrum: (Sites 2A and 3) An adult Eastern Mud Turtle was found walking on the forest floor in the wooded area just north of the freshwater marsh at Site 2A. Voucher photographs were taken for deposition in the VHS Archives (Archive # 280). An adult male was captured in a hoop trap set in the marsh at Site 3.

Terrapene c. carolina: (Site 2A) The shells of one adult and one juvenile Eastern Box Turtle were found in the meadows surrounding the freshwater marsh at Site 2A.

Trachemys s. scripta: (Site 3) Two adult females were found crossing the road on the north shore of the second freshwater marsh at Site 3. They were presumably looking for nesting sites.

Discussion

Most of the species recorded during the 2013 HerpBlitz are common species found in most surveys. However, two additional species were added to the Mecklenburg County list by this survey.

It was not surprising to find *Kinosternon subrubrum*, the Eastern Mud Turtle, as it has been found in Charlotte and Halifax Counties to the west, Greenville to the east, and Prince Edward and Carroll to the north. Our record (VHS Archive #280) helps fill a hole in the distribution. Our finding of two specimens from within the wildlife management area, plus an additional unreported road crossing from outside the WMA, indicate the Eastern Mud Turtle is not uncommon in this general area. We would suggest the species can also be found in Lunenburg County to the north and Brunswick County to the east, for which there are still no vouchers.

More surprising is the finding of large numbers of *Hyla cinerea*, the Green Treefrog. While there had been heavy rains just before the HerpBlitz from Tropical Storm Andrea, which likely generated the large choruses heard (VHS Archive #279), we also had numerous visual sightings of Green Treefrogs (VHS Archive #278) on the emergent vegetation of all three freshwater marshes at the WMA. Three hypotheses can be postulated for the lack of records for this species in this county. Perhaps there is lack of previous surveys in Mecklenburg County or maybe if surveys have been conducted they were not done during the calling season. The third idea is that the species has been introduced to the area from surrounding counties or from local residents bringing the species back from visits to coastal areas. This is the first record of Green Treefrogs from the county. The nearest record is from two counties and 66 km east in Greenville County. The large population found in this new report makes it likely that Green Treefrogs may be found to the north in Lunenburg County, east in Brunswick County, or even further west in Mecklenburg or Halifax Counties.

Our report of two Yellow-bellied Sliders (*Trachemys s. scripta*) from Site 3 adds only the second record for Mecklenburg County according to the VaFWIS database. There had previously been only a single voucher for this species and our record (VHS Archive #277) provides support for the presence of the species in Mecklenburg County, which is the western extent of the species range in Virginia.

The finding of *Plestiodon inexpectatus* is not unusual as there are previous records for Mecklenburg County. With the exception of a few records from the western montane counties, this is near the western extent of their range in Virginia. Finding *P. inexpectatus*, but not the more common *P. fasciatus* or *Sceloporus undulatus*, is unusual. Both of the later appear to be common in the area (Mitchell, 1994).

Dick Cross Wildlife Management Area and Mecklenburg County more generally still have a lot of possible discoveries waiting to be found. The following section will take each taxonomic herp group and suggest possible species for herpetologists to be looking for in future surveys. Anurans which are likely to be documented in Mecklenburg County include the Eastern Spadefoot and the Upland Chorus Frog. Frogs found only one county to the east include the Pine Woods Treefrog and the Squirrel Treefrog. Surveys during tropical storms might quickly add some of these species to the county list. An interesting aspect of this area is that it is within the contact zone of the Eastern Cricket Frog and the Southern Cricket Frog (Mitchell and Reay, 1999). With news of the decline of Southern Cricket Frogs of late (Jensen, 2005; Micancin and Mette, 2009) this might be an area of interest to someone conducting research on these species. Although we did not find Chamberland's Dwarf Salamander during this survey, this is still a species which should entice some interest for herpetologists looking to add a new species to the state record. Species of salamanders which occur in neighboring counties include the Eastern Red-backed Salamander, the Mole Salamander, and the Northern Red Salamander. Salamander species found only one county to the east include the Amphiuma, the Dwarf Waterdog, and the Many-lined Salamander. Two interesting contact zones between closely related species are also found in this county. The ranges of the Southern and Northern Dusky salamanders and the Atlantic Coast and White-spotted Slimy

Survey of Dick Cross WMA

Salamanders overlap in Mecklenburg County. Perhaps a herpetologist looking for a genetics project could have something interesting to discover here.

In regards to lizards, the Broad-headed Skink if found would be a county record. The Eastern Slender Glass Lizard, which is classified as a tier IV species, is documented for this county. More observations of this species would be welcomed. The spotted turtle is known for Mecklenburg County. This is a tier III species. Any addition locations found for this species should be reported.

There are six species of snakes which could possibly be added to the county species list. These include the Northern Scarletsnake, Red Corn Snake, Queensnake, Southeastern Crowned Snake, Common Ribbon Snake, and the Rough Earthsnake. Many of these previously listed snake species are secretive and fossorial so a little luck might turn one up. An alert herpetologist might even come across an Eastern Cottonmouth.

Dick Cross Wildlife Management Area has great habitat for reptiles and amphibians. We encourage wildlife managers to leave road ruts, allow debris piles to stay in place or even build them up, and allow the habitat to stay wild. Though not observed at this wildlife management area, we always discourage the use of horticultural netting. This takes a toll on snakes when they get caught in the mesh and die. Pesticides and herbicides can cause harm to wild animals. Therefore we discourage its use on management area land. We encourage managers to report any disease or malformation they observe in reptiles and amphibians. These observations are important and need to be documented. Most people have cell phone cameras and can send pictures of unusual observations. These observations could be reported to the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries or the Virginia Herpetological Society. Managers of wildlife management areas have a tough balancing job between the multiple groups who use the area. For reptiles and amphibians, these areas need to be wet, wild, and free of pesticides and herbicides.

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Virginia Fish and Wildlife Information Service Database 2013
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Field Notes

***Ambystoma jeffersonianum* (Jefferson Salamander):** VA. Botetourt County, Cove Mountain NW of intersection of Blue Ridge Parkway and US 43, George Washington Jefferson National Forest (N 37° 29' 17.5" W 79° 40' 12.9") 4 June 2013. Mike Hayslett and Paul Sattler.

Range extension: On 4 June 2013 Mike Hayslett took his Sweetbriar College herpetology class to a vernal pool just off the Appalachian Trail in southeastern Botetourt County. The vernal pool sits in a small depression on the top of Cove Mountain. The pool was in the process of drying, but still held considerable water. There were thousands of tadpoles of *Lithobates sylvaticus* and hundreds of larvae of *Ambystoma jeffersonianum*. The pond supports significant breeding populations of both species. This site extends the known range of Jefferson Salamanders 29 km southeast of the nearest reported site (near Strom and the intersection of County Routes 621 and 615).

Michael S. Hayslett

Departments of Biology & Environmental Studies
Sweet Briar College
Sweet Briar, Virginia 24595

Paul W. Sattler

Department of Biology
Liberty University
Lynchburg, Virginia 24515

***Carphophis amoenus* (Worm Snake)** VA: Northumberland County, 1269 Pumpkin Hill Road, Burgess (N37° 52' 21", W76° 22' 02") May 10, 2013. Temple Moore.

County Record: On 9 May 2013 at approximately 14:00 hr while re-laying pavers in sand, I found three worm snakes under the pavers. All appeared to be healthy and active. This species has not been previously reported in Northumberland County (Mitchell J.C. and K. K. Reay. 1999, Atlas of Amphibians and Reptiles in Virginia. Special Publication Number 1, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, Richmond, VA 122 pp.; Mitchell, J.C. 1994. The Reptiles of Virginia, Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington DC 352 pp) although they have been reported from all three counties bordering Northumberland. In my participation as a Wildlife Mapper for VA DGIF, I have reported this species in the past but without a photo. A digital photo was submitted to the VHS archives (#283) as a voucher.



Temple Moore

Certified VA Master Naturalist
DGIF Complementary Work Force
207 N Fairfax St
Alexandria VA22314

Lampropeltis calligaster rhombomaculata (Mole Kingsnake) VA: Suffolk City, Main Entrance Road to South Quay Sandhills Natural Area Preserve. 13 September 2013. Carrie Harmon.

City Record: I observed a snake mid-morning upon driving down the main entrance road, east of the Blackwater River, to South Quay Sandhills Natural Area Preserve (a Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation property). The property and entrance road path is located in Suffolk, down South Quay Road, directly branching off of the western-most end of the Wyanoke Trail. The main entrance road branches south off the Wyanoke Trail. The snake was seen traveling in a northwest direction, across the main entrance road path about 200 meters south of Wyanoke Trail, toward the Blackwater River. The main entrance road is flanked on both sides by a recently clear-cut pine stand growing on deep sand. The snake appeared to be about a meter long, at most 2.5 centimeters in diameter, and moving at a slow but steady pace. Digital photographs were taken of this animal, and one photograph has been entered into the VHS Archive (#281).

According to Mitchell and Reay (1999, Atlas of Amphibians and Reptiles in Virginia. Special Publication No. 1, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, Richmond, Virginia. 122 pp.), and Mitchell (1994, The Reptiles of Virginia. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, D.C. 352 pp.), this is a new observance record for the City of Suffolk, and currently the eastern-most sighting of the Mole Kingsnake in Virginia.



Carrie Harmon
5503 Old Carrsville Road
Carrsville, VA 23315

***Pantherophis guttatus* (Red Cornsnake).** VA: Northumberland County, Heathsville (N37°51'22.63", W76°24'30.25"). 8 April 2014. Brian Rueger.

County Record: On 8 April 2014 at 0951 h, wildlife photographer Brian Rueger observed a domestic cat threatening an adult red cornsnake while observing his front yard which is early successional habitat approximately 4.5 meters from a densely forested area. Upon his approach, the domestic cat vacated the area, and Mr. Rueger obtained several photographs. The length of the snake was estimated to be 1 meter. Weather conditions were overcast with ambient temperature estimated to be 17 degrees C. *Pantherophis guttatus* was not documented for Northumberland County by Mitchell and Reay (1999, Atlas of Amphibians and Reptiles in Virginia. Special Publication No. 1, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, Richmond, Virginia. 122 pp.), Mitchell (1994, The Reptiles of Virginia. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, D.C. 352 pp.), Tobey (1985, Virginia's Amphibians and Reptiles: A Distributional Survey. Virginia Herpetological Society, Purcellville, Virginia, 114 pp.), Linzey and Clifford (1981, Snakes of Virginia. University Press of Virginia, Charlottesville, 173 pp.) or the Virginia Herpetological Society (<http://virginiaherpetologicalsociety.com/cgi-bin/herplist/action.php>). A digital photograph was submitted to the VHS archives (VHS Archiver #289).



Timothy P. Christensen
113 Davids Way
Yorktown, VA 23692

***Coluber constrictor constrictor* (Northern Black Racer)** VA: Greene Co.: 568 Hancock Dr. Ruckersville. 24 September 2013. A. Pehanick.

County Record: On 24 September 2013 at approximately 1730 h, a juvenile northern black racer was found on a residential driveway in Greene County, Virginia. The snake was discovered near the garage and underneath a small plastic tray used for flower pots. It struck twice to avoid capture and managed to escape.

A digital image of the snake was submitted to the Virginia Herpetological Society's Snake Identification website. It was identified as a northern black racer. This is the first documented record of *Coluber constrictor constrictor* from Greene County (Toby, F.J. 1985. Virginia's Amphibians and Reptiles: A Distributional Survey. Virginia Herpetological Society, Purcellville, VA. 114 pp; Mitchell, J.C. and K.K. Reay. 1999. Atlas of Amphibians and Reptiles in Virginia. Special Publication No. 1, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, Richmond, VA. 122 pp.). The digital image has been deposited in the VHS Archives (#284).



John M. Orr
George Mason University
MS3E1
Fairfax, Virginia 22030

Lampropeltis getula (Eastern Kingsnake) VA: Orange County, 31130 Price Rd., Mine Run N 38.238586, W 77.828159) 13 April 2014. Pam McMillie.

County Record: On 13 April 2014 I went out to the garden at my residence and observed an Eastern Kingsnake in the process of consuming a Common Five-lined Skink. This represents a new record for Orange County (J.C. Mitchell and K. K. Reay. 1999. Atlas of Amphibians and Reptiles in Virginia 122pp.). The find is not surprising since Eastern Kingsnakes are found in Greene County to the west, Louisa County to the south, Shenandoah County to the east, and Rappahannock County to the north of Orange. This find highlights the need for more surveys to be done in Orange County. A digital photograph was submitted to document this new County Record (VHS Archive #287)



Pam McMillie
Old Rag Master Naturalist
31130 Price Rd.
Mine Run, VA 22508

Opheodrys aestivus (Rough Greensnake). VA: Mecklenburg Co., Palmer Point Park (36°33.876"N, 79°17.095"W). 13 January 2013. Jason Gibson.

Early Seasonal Activity: On 13 January 2013 I was at Palmer Point Park with a group of birders looking for ducks in Kerr Lake. On our way out of the park, at 1320 h, I discovered a freshly run-over Rough Greensnake. The animal was still alive but had a mortal injury. The total length of the animal was 52 cm. The outside air temperature was 66°F. This is a highly unusual observation for this species; I personally have never collected this species before May. The earliest recorded activity date in Mitchell (1994, *The Reptiles of Virginia*. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington DC. 352 pp.) is the month of March. A digital photo of this snake has been deposited in the VHS archives (Digital voucher # 282).



Jason D. Gibson

Galileo Magnet High School
230 South Ridge Street
Danville, Virginia 24541

Storeria dekayi dekayi (Northern Brownsnake) VA: Loudoun Co., 21 Oak Lane, Potomac Falls (approximate coordinates 39° 02' 19.453"N 78° 23' 22.711"W). 6 April 2013, Joanne Levy, and 22 November 2013, Jonathan Levy and Joanne Levy.

County Record: Two different Northern Brownsnakes were encountered in our yard in Loudoun County. On the afternoon of 6 April 2013 I found a small, dead Northern Brownsnake (estimated approximately 12 cm) under a rock in the woods in our back yard. There appeared to be some damage to the snake's head and lower jaw. On 22 November 2013 my husband found a live Northern Brownsnake under the leaves when he was raking our yard. He captured it to show it to me. I took pictures and released it the next day. I estimated that it was approximately 23 cm.

The range map that was shown for the Northern Brownsnake on the Virginia Herpetological Society website indicated that this species was "known or likely to occur" in Loudoun County, but there was not an official record of occurrence in Loudoun County either on the VHS website or in other publications consulted. There have been officially documented records of occurrence in nearby adjacent Fairfax County. (Mitchell, J.C. and K.K. Reay. 1999. *Atlas of Amphibians and Reptiles in Virginia*. Special Publication Number 1, Virginia Department of Game and Inland

Fisheries, Richmond, VA, p. 96; Mitchell J.C. 1994, *The Reptiles of Virginia*. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington DC. p. 261; Tobey, F.J. 1985. *Virginia's Amphibians and Reptiles: A Distributional Survey*. The Virginia Herpetological Society, Purcellville, VA. p. 83.) Digital photographs were submitted to document this new County Record (VHS Archive #288).



Joanne Levy

21 Oak Lane
Potomac Falls, VA 20165

***Storeria dekayi dekayi* (Northern Brown Snake).** Va: Prince Edward Co., Hampden-Sydney College campus (37°14'37.770"N, 78°27'50.550"W). 10 July 2013. E. Davis Carter.

County Record: During the spring of 2013, E. Davis Carter and Rachel Goodman set up four sites with 216 artificial cover objects located on the Hampden Sydney College property. On 10 July 2013, E. Davis Carter found a Northern Brown Snake underneath a 2 x 4 foot plywood cover board. The time of capture was 9:22 a.m. and the air temperature, snake temperature and ground temperature were 24.5°C, 23.4°C and 21.8°C respectively. The cover board was located on the edge of a narrow clearing created for power lines. The snake weighed 4.8 g and had a snout to vent length of 20.6 cm and tail length of 6.0 cm.

Northern Brown Snakes have been recorded in most counties in central and eastern Virginia. The species has been sighted in Amelia and Nottoway County, both of which border Prince Edward County; however the species has not been reported in the latter county to date (Mitchell J.C. 1994, *The Reptiles of Virginia*. Smithsonian Press, Washington, D.C. 352pp. and Mitchell and Reay 1999, *Atlas of Amphibians and Reptiles in Virginia*. Special Publication Number 1, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. Richmond VA 122pp.). A digital photograph was deposited in the VHS Archive (# 285) as a voucher.



E. Davis Carter and Rachel M. Goodman

Department of Biology
Hampden-Sydney College
Hampden-Sydney, Virginia 23943

***Chelydra serpentina* (Snapping Turtle)** VA: Botetourt County, Mount Pleasant Church Road, just east of the intersection with West Wind Road and west of the entrance to Camp Eagle, Fincastle (37.539540, -79.896832). 22 May 2014. Dwayne Yancey

County record: At approximately 08:30 h on 22 May 2014, I observed a large turtle crossing Mount Pleasant Church Road, northeast to southwest. It was coming from a field with a large pond and moving toward a larger field which eventually leads to Borden's Run, a small tributary of Catawba Creek. Three smaller ponds are also nearby, so this is a water-rich area. When the turtle saw me, it stopped in the middle of the road. I sat a water bottle beside it for a size comparison for a photograph. After I was a safe distance away, the turtle resumed its crossing of the road. When I drove through the area about 30 minutes later, it was gone. Several years ago, I observed another very large turtle crossing the road in the same area but was not able to get a photograph of it. Many box turtles are often seen in the same place. I sent the photograph to the Virginia Herpetological Society, which identified the turtle as an eastern snapping turtle. The Snapping Turtle has not previously been documented from Botetourt County (Mitchell and Reay 1999, Atlas of Amphibians and Reptiles in Virginia. Special Publication No. 1, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, Richmond, Virginia. 122 pp.), Mitchell (1994, The Reptiles of Virginia. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, D.C. 352 pp.). A digital photograph of the animal was submitted to the VHS Archive (# 292) as a voucher.



Dwayne Yancey

1791 Mount Pleasant Church Road
Fincastle, VA 24090

***Plestiodon anthracinus* (Northern Coal Skink):** VA., Highland Co., Co. Rt. 462 N. of Monterey and Blue Grass (38° 29' 50.0"N 79° 36' 48.1"W). 20 June 2012- 12 July 2013. Gene and Paul Sattler.

County Record: The Northern Coal Skink (*Plestiodon anthracinus*) is known from scattered montane locations above 300 m. in the Blue Ridge and Valley and Ridge physiographic regions of western Virginia (J.C. Mitchell. 1994. *The Reptiles of Virginia*. Smithsonian Institution Press, 352 pp.). Coal Skinks in Virginia were first reported by Hoffman (R.L. 1944. *Eumeces anthracinus* [Baird] in Virginia. *Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington* 57:122-124.) from Alleghany County. Mitchell (1994. *The Reptiles of Virginia*. Smithsonian Institution Press, 352 pp.) listed one site each in Patrick, Botetourt, Albemarle, and Augusta Counties, with two sites in Alleghany County. There was also an unvouchered record from Highland County. Since then, occasional additional reports have appeared on a regular basis. Roble (1994. *Field Notes: Eumeces anthracinus anthracinus. Catesbeiana* 14(2):40-42.) reported on another site in Alleghany County for which there was no voucher. Hayslett (1994. *Field Notes: Eumeces anthracinus anthracinus. Catesbeiana* 14(2):43-44.) reported another site in Botetourt County. Roble et al. (1998. *Field Notes: Eumeces anthracinus anthracinus. Catesbeiana* 18(2):49-51.) reported on two sites, a fourth site in Alleghany County from 1996 and a new record for Bath County from 1998. Donahue (2005. *Field Notes: Eumeces anthracinus anthracinus. Catesbeiana* 25(2):79-80.) reported on unvouchered records from Augusta County in 2002, Rockingham County in 2002, Montgomery County in 2003, and Rockbridge County in 2003. Arielle and Lapradd (2004. *Field Notes: Eumeces anthracinus anthracinus. Catesbeiana* 24(2):70.) reported a new record for Franklin County from 2004. Croy (2006. *Field Notes: Eumeces anthracinus anthracinus. Catesbeiana* 26(1):22-23.) reported a vouchered record for Montgomery County from 2004. Finally Donahue (2006. *Field Notes: Eumeces anthracinus anthracinus. Catesbeiana* 26(1):23-24.) reported yet another site from Alleghany County from 2006.

Mitchell's (op. cit.) unvouchered record from Highland County is a specimen Chris Pague captured from Sapling Ridge in June 1989 (Young, D.A. 1993. *An Annotated Checklist of Reptiles and Amphibians from Highland County, Virginia. Catesbeiana* 13(1):3-8.), but the specimen was lost (Steve Roble, pers. Comm.) such that no voucher is available. Here we report a location in Highland County, about 2 km. east of Sapling Ridge where several specimens have been observed over the period of a year. Its proximity to Sapling Ridge suggests this is the same population sampled by Pague almost 25 years ago. The first specimen was captured, photographed, and released by GS on 20 June 2012. On 22 June 2012 GS returned and found, photographed and released a second specimen. Photographs were brought to PS on 26 June who identified the lizard as a Coal Skink on the basis of the dark venter and scales on the bottom jaw. Since no voucher for Highland County was available, GS returned on 10 July 2012 and two adults were captured and after photographing both specimens (VHS Archive #286), one was released and the other retained as a voucher in the Liberty University Natural History Museum. A juvenile specimen (9.5 cm TL) was captured, photographed and released on 1 September 2012 by PS, and possibly the same juvenile also captured, photographed and released on 7 July 2013. The observation on 1 September 2012 extends the recorded activity period in Virginia one

month from the previous latest observation of 1 August (Hayslett, M. Op. cit.) The habitat in Highland County does not coincide with the typical xeric habitat, often a shale barren, but is a high elevation meadow with a stream within 50 m of the most common capture site. The current vouchered (filled circles) and unvouchered (open circles) records for the Coal Skink in Virginia are summarized below in Figure 1.



Figure 1. 2014 Virginia distribution map for *Plestiodon anthracinus*. Open circles are Unvouchered records



Gene and Paul Sattler
Department of Biology
Liberty University
1971 University Blvd.
Lynchburg VA 24502

***Hemidactylus turcicus* (Mediterranean Gecko):** Summary of confirmed locations in Virginia.

The Mediterranean Gecko is an introduced species in the United States, being imported originally from the Mediterranean area. They occupy buildings during the colder winter months feeding on insects and other arthropods, but can be found on the outside walls of buildings on summer nights where they forage, often on insects attracted to lights. They do not appear to be a serious competitor with native lizards and could not survive the cold Virginia winters outdoors. They appear to be able to slowly spread from one building to another during warm summer nights, and more rapidly as eggs, juveniles or adults are accidentally transported in shipping containers. In March 2014 I received a live Mediterranean Gecko from a missions organization in Lynchburg. It was one of two received in a shipment of medical supplies from Mexico. Most major US cities in the South now contain populations.

Kleopfer et al. (2006. Geographical Distribution. *Hemidactylus turcicus*. Herpetological Review 37:106-107) reported on a breeding population of Mediterranean Geckos in Richmond. Sattler et al. (2007 Catesbeiana 27 (1)) reported their presence at several sites in Lynchburg and nearby Bedford County. More recently Swartwout et al. (2014. Geographical Distribution. *Hemidactylus turcicus* USA: Virginia: Montgomery Co. Herpetological Review 45(1):92) reported on collecting a voucher on the campus of Virginia Tech, which was mentioned by Knight (1993. Dactylus 2:49-50) as the first record in Virginia, but without a voucher. On the basis of the Richmond breeding population, and others, the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries now recognizes *Hemidactylus turcicus* as an introduced but naturalized species. The VHS website lists me as a contact for reporting sightings of Mediterranean Geckos, so I periodically receive reports from various locations within the Commonwealth. I have been keeping a database of sightings verified by a voucher photograph. It seemed timely to provide an update on these locations since the list is fairly lengthy.

The following Virginia cities contain at least one location where the presence of Mediterranean Geckos has been verified by a voucher photograph:

Alexandria	Blacksburg	Charlottesville	Culpepper
Fredricksburg	Herndon	Lynchburg	Martinsville
Mount Crawford	Norfolk	North Dinwiddie	Portsmouth
Richmond	Springfield	Suffolk	Virginia Beach
Williamsburg	Winchester		

Paul Sattler

Department of Biology
Liberty University
1971 University Blvd.
Lynchburg, VA 24502

Chelydra serpentina (Snapping Turtle) VA: Virginia Beach, Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge. April 3, 2014. Eric D. Wolf.

Diet. Snapping Turtles are omnivorous and listings of food items vary widely, including aquatic plants, frogs, toads, fish and more (Mitchell J.C. 1994, *The Reptiles of Virginia*. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington DC. 352 pp.). Mitchell (Op. cit.) also refers to Snapping Turtles as voracious predators that will eat anything they can subdue that are known to occasionally prey on ducks. Direct evidence of Snapping Turtle predation on ducks is sparse in published literature but I recorded such an incident on Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge.

I observed an adult female Blue-Winged Teal (*Anas discors*) struggling and thrashing in a large fresh-water pool approximately 0.5 m deep and began filming as I approached. It was only when I was within 1-2 m that I was able to see a large Snapping Turtle submerged just below her with one leg still clamped firmly in its mouth. The turtle abruptly twisted its head, pulling off the entire leg and ingesting it along with a great deal of supporting muscle and tissue. The duck died moments later. A pair of videos documenting this observation can be found at:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0BwqX9mKrDayZRnBwa3NMclFpNjQ/edit?usp=sharing>
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0BwqX9mKrDayZZWg4bVUzSlhTRm8/edit?usp=sharing>

Eric D. Wolf

Conservation Management Institute
College of Natural Resources and Environment
Virginia Tech
Blacksburg, VA 24060

New County Records recently published in Herpetological Review:

Fulton, J.N., M. Couch, and W H. Smith. 2014. New geographic distribution records for Herpetofauna in southwestern Virginia, USA. *Herpetological Review* 45(1):105-106.

Lee County: *Ambystoma maculatum*.

Russell County: *Ambystoma maculatum*, *Sceloporus undulatus*

Wise County: *Ambystoma opacum*, *Ambystoma maculatum*, *Pseudotriton montanus*, , *Chelydra serpentina*, *Carphophis amoenus*, *Heterodon platirhinos*, *Nerodia sipedon*.

M.C. Swartwout, R. Andrews, and D. Linzey. 2014. Geographic Distribution *Hemidactylus turcicus* from Montgomery County, Virginia. *Herpetological Review* 45(1):92.

President's Corner

I am happy to be back in my second term as president of the VHS.

Every two years there is a routine change in the VHS officers through an election, but I really think that we need to make an even greater change. We currently have more than 2,300 Likes on the VHS Facebook page, but our total membership is less than 10% of that. How do we convert those fans to members who can support our public education and science research activities? How do we entice them out from behind the monitor to come hold a box turtle at a VHS survey? How do we decide which social media site to focus our efforts on to recruit the next generation of herpetologists? I don't think any of these problems are unique to the VHS, we just have more than 55 years of history and tradition to acknowledge while still moving forward with being competitive for people's attention. The number one problem I wrestle with is: how does the VHS stay relevant? I think the best answer is to stay focused on the native herps of Virginia like we have, but also provide information and more opportunities that can only come from the VHS.

A big change happened only a few months after my term began in October 2013: we paid out the largest amount of money for research grants, and the largest funding for a single grant. Aside from public education, I cannot imagine many things that are more important for the VHS than stimulating and funding scientific research. The most we had previously paid out was \$1,500 for three grants. In 2014 we paid out \$3,300 for three grants, including \$2,300 to determine if the newly emerging disease, snake fungal disease, is present in Virginia. I think it is very important for the VHS to be proactive on this and I am pleased that Dr. Amanda Guthrie at the Virginia Zoo is willing to take on this project.

I also wonder how our newsletter fits into today's environment of social media and instant news. I find myself wanting to post news articles to our Facebook page instead of waiting four or five months for it to be published in our newsletter. We are likely to see some big changes with our newsletter since it is our most readily accessible publication for non-scientists. Changes we are considering include publishing more than twice a year, and making the newsletter more like a magazine format and easier to read within your email inbox.

One of my highest priorities during my second term will be to again increase membership benefits. We are already finding ways to have member-exclusive surveys and discounts, and a number of other ways to make having a VHS membership enticing. I think our members will be pleased with the changes we are making here.

A few things that will not change are the quality and nature of our peer-reviewed journal, *Catesbeiana*. We have limited company with other statewide herpetology organizations by having a publication dedicated to our state's herps. Our website will continue to be the best in the country. Apparently it really is the best because we are getting nearly 5 million hits a month (you read that right: 5,000,000), and I recently received compliments on it from a visiting herper from Wisconsin who said that our website is well known there. We also are keeping up with doing various herp-IDs from the public. Between email and Facebook, it's not unusual for us to get 8-12 ID requests a day!

President's Corner

The VHS will only ever be as good as its volunteers. We have a very dedicated group of people that make up our decision-making executive committee. But we always could benefit from new people and new ideas. If you have ideas, or think you could help, I would love to hear from you.

Kory Steele
president@vaherpsociety.com



Minutes of the Fall 2013 VHS Meeting

Virginia Herpetological Society
Minutes of the Fall Meeting
Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries Headquarters
Richmond, VA 23230
October 5, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 3:25pm by President Larry Mendoza, with 23 in attendance. The agenda was provided to all attending.

The following old business was reviewed:

Research committee, to work on standardizing a template for survey reports being published in *Catesbeiana*. Do we need to GPS each find? Will a GPS point risk exposure of rare species? VHS currently has 6 GPS units. Kory Steele will assist Mike Meyer with the logistics. A template should include entry for parasites, diseases, and deformities found on species, and document microhabitat. Jason Gibson will work on laminated disease plates to help group leaders in the field. It was suggested to hold a group leader orientation before each survey or possibly at the fall meetings, add a section to the website with group leader responsibilities, interview the group leader at the end of the day to improve clarity and quality of data entry, place GPS instructions on the education page of our website, and consider creating an app that eases the input of data in the field.

Committee Reports

Newsletter, Susan Watson: The most recent newsletter went out at the end of August. She needs material by late January for the next issue and will send out an email notification as the time gets closer. Susan would like to obtain an assistant to help with collection of material and production of the newsletter.

Catesbeiana, Paul Sattler: A digital version was easier to manage than the previous paper versions. Paul sent 8.5x11 inch paper copies to the archive and science museums for a total cost of \$23.86.

Past President, Kory Steele: Kory is continuing with herp IDs and needs to start tracking county records presented on Facebook IDs. He is organizing surveys for snake fungal infections at Back Bay with Dr. Amanda Guthrie from the Virginia Zoo.

Education Committee: Mike Clifford: Mike is starting to receive more requests for presentations than we can commit to. He would like to compile a list of capable presenters to represent the VHS. We discussed possibly creating a YouTube video to show when the VHS cannot make an appearance. The Education Report was made available to those attending and is on the website.

HerpBlitz, Jason Gibson: Jason and Paul are working on the survey report from this year's blitz at Dick Cross WMA in Mecklenburg County. Jason is considering the southwest region of Virginia for next year's survey, near the second weekend in June. He is still awaiting more information to finalize the Breaks Interstate Park publication.

Cafepress, Patricia Crane: Bumper stickers are the biggest seller. Illustrations present better on shirts than photographs. The 2014 calendar was presented at the meeting.

Treasurer-Secretary, Emily Steele: We have 246 members and 1999 Facebook fans. Our current bank account balance is \$10,467.47.

Minutes

Research, Committee: Mike Meyer: see “old business” for report.

Website, John White: The website is now receiving one million hits a month. We currently have 2 Oracle-based databases installed on our server. This allows our species pages to automatically update with new county records.

Advisory Committee: John Orr, Rachel Goodman, Caroline Seitz, Kelly Geer: No reports made available.

New business

- Election of new executive committee members.
 - President, Kory Steele
 - Vice President, Mike Salotti
 - Treasurer-Secretary, David Perry
 - Conservation Committee chair, David Perry
 - Past President, Larry Mendoza
- We discussed potential sites for the 2014 Survey. Suggestions made include: False Cape, Culpeper County, Brunswick County, and Lake Anna State Park. We are still considering a joint survey with the Tennessee Herpetological Society.
- Open discussion: The newly elected president and treasurer will discuss budget plans. Requests were submitted a couple months ago for things such as turtle traps, informational fliers, and new display boards. Assignments will be made as to who will keep an update on county records through sources such as *Banesteria* and *Herp Review*.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:00pm.

Emily Steele
VHS Treasurer-Secretary

Treasurer's Report

Virginia Herpetological Society Treasurer's Report May 14, 2014

Previous Checking Balance November 1, 2013 \$11,062.63

Net Receipts (excludes PayPal fees):

November Dues	\$368.00
November Donations	\$100.00
December Dues	\$296.11
January Dues	\$778.80
February Dues	\$545.00
March Dues	\$345.26
April Dues	\$546.05
May Dues (5/01-5/14)	\$ 72.52
May 8 CafeExpress	\$ 33.04

Total Net Receipts \$3,084.78

Disbursements:

Catesbeiana 33(2)	\$27.96
2014 VDGIF Permit for live animal exhibits	\$21.00
Virginia SCC Fee	\$25.00
Tabletop Exhibit Repairs	\$319.00
U.S. Postage Stamps	\$19.60
Membership Card Paper Stock	\$8.73
VHS Grant Award-Cory Goff	\$500.00
VHS Grant Award-Amanda Guthrie	\$2,330.00
Pinesnake Flyer Lamination	\$28.69
2014/15 VDGIF Collection Permit	\$40.00

Total Disbursements \$3,319.98

Balance on Hand May 14 2014 \$10,827.43

VHS Membership: 217

Facebook Fans: 2,380

David Perry
VHS Secretary/Treasurer

2014 Spring Survey

The 2014 Spring Survey and Business Meeting was held at James River State Park on June 16-18. We found 33 of the 46 species documented for Buckingham County, and added two new records for Buckingham County; the River Cooter and Northern Red-bellied Snake. In addition, a baby albino Northern Water Snake was captured (see p2). The weather was ideal, not too hot and sunny. A large crowd showed up and six teams of volunteers surveyed the Park for amphibians and reptiles.



Belmead Plantation HerpBlitz

June 20th & 21st, 2014

Location of the Survey: Belmead Plantation -

<http://mapsengine.google.com/map/edit?mid=zAN8OV5YiD5s.k-11ti9Z3w98>

Address: 5000 Cartersville Rd., Powhatan, VA 23139

Dates & Times:

- Saturday, June 21 – Main Survey (8AM to 3PM) – Survey wrapup (3-4PM) (See photos and captured animals from other groups)
- Sunday, June 22 – Secondary Survey, VHS Members only, limited space (8AM to 12PM). The location and time to meet will be available only to VHS members.
- Please review our general guidelines for surveys. Expect to take your lunch and water with you.

Preregistration for this event is required for coordination purposes.

Space is limited to 50 people. Contact Jason Gibson (frogman31@gmail.com) to pre-register.

Camping:

The nearest campground is Bear Creek Lake State Park <http://www.reserveamerica.com/camping/bear-creek-lake-state-park/r/campgroundDetails.do?contractCode=VA&parkId=140156>

Some limited primitive camping (no showers) is allowed on the site but space is limited. Virginia Herpetological Society members only. Please contact the coordinator for information about this camping opportunity.

Field Notes

The field notes section of *Catesbeiana* provides a means for publishing natural history information on Virginia's amphibians and reptiles that does not lend itself to full-length articles. Observations on geographic distribution, ecology, reproduction, phenology, behavior, and other topics are welcomed. Field Notes will usually concern a single species. The format of the reports is: scientific name (followed by common name in parentheses), state abbreviation (VA), county and location, date(s) of observation, observer(s), data and observations. The name(s) and address(es) of the author(s) should appear one line below the report. Consult the editor if your information does not readily fit this format. **All field notes must include a brief statement explaining the significance of the record** (e.g., new county record) **or observation** (e.g., unusual or rarely observed behavior, extremely early or late seasonal record, abnormal coloration, etc.). Submissions that fail to include this information are subject to rejection. Relevant literature should be cited in the body of the text (see Field Notes in this issue for proper format). All submissions will be reviewed by the editor (and one other person if deemed necessary) and revised as needed pending consultation with the author(s).

If the field note contains information on a **new county (or state) record**, **verification is required in the form of a voucher specimen** deposited in a permanent museum (e.g., Virginia Museum of Natural History) or a **photograph** (print, slide, or digital image) **or recording** (digital recording of anuran calls) deposited in the archives of the Virginia Herpetological Society. Photographs and recordings should be sent to the editor for verification and archiving purposes; the identity of voucher specimens must be confirmed by a museum curator or other qualified person. Include the specimen number if it has been catalogued. Prospective authors of distribution reports should consult the VHS website (County/City Herp Lists) to determine if they may have a new county record. New distribution records from large cities that formerly constituted counties (Chesapeake, Hampton, Newport News, Suffolk, and Virginia Beach) are acceptable, but records from smaller cities located within the boundaries of an adjoining county will only be published if the species has not been recorded from that county. Species identification for observational records (e.g., behavior) should be verified by a second person whenever possible.

PHOTOGRAPHS

High contrast photographs (digital images) of amphibians and reptiles will be considered for publication if they are of good quality and are relevant to an accompanying article or field note. Published photographs will be deposited in the Virginia Herpetological Society archives.

Paul Sattler, Catesbeiana Editor
Biology/Chemistry Department
Liberty University
MSC Box 710155
1971 University Blvd.
Lynchburg, VA 24515

psattler@liberty.edu