

THE VIRGINIA HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY launches its third year --- with an open meeting via correspondence. The program outlined here is open to revision until June 30, 1960. Your printable comments are invited. Changes made as a result of such comments and other worthy recommendations will be noted in May and June Bulletins. Pick the areas of interest to you and join in the program -- there's room for all!

Individual achievements of VHS members will be noted in the Bulletin --- let us know about your projects and how they are faring. This meeting-by-mail is provided as a way to overcome distances. Use the Bulletin as a medium for the exchange of information. Contribute toward the objectives of your state society.

#### VIRGINIA HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY CALENDAR -- 1960-1961

- MAY -- Conservation Month -- talks to neighborhood civic groups and service (luncheon) clubs. Exhibit at Scout-O-Rama - on the Fair Grounds, Richmond, Va.
- JUNE -- Public VHS Meetings, Arlington-Fairfax Counties; Norfolk ?
- JULY -- Summer Camp program -- visits to summer camps and state parks; co-operate with camp/park naturalists.
- AUGUST- THIRD STATEWIDE MEETING, VHS, Big Meadows ? Skyline Dr. ?
- SEPTEMBER -- COLLEGE NIGHT (may be part of statewide meeting - or) "in town" gathering of graduate zoology students, college bio majors and faculty members, plus VHS officers.
- OCTOBER -- NATIONAL ZOOLOGICAL PARK MEETING -- (date not set).
- NOVEMBER Hibernation: Preparation of feature articles for newspapers, magazines; scientific papers for appropriate journals; science projects for spring exhibits, etc.
- DECEMBER
- JANUARY 1961
- FEBRUARY -- Boy Scout Month: Talks to Scout Troops, Explorer Scout Groups and Cub Packs on Reptile Study, Conservation.
- MARCH -- VHS IN ITS FOURTH YEAR! High School Nights -- Biology and Science Instructors, Bio-Science Clubs, Science Fairs -- Awards to VHS student members exhibiting in herpetology.
- APRIL -- Out in the field again -- Conservation talks to Garden Clubs, Izaak Walton League Chapters, 4-H Clubs, etc. Exhibit and concurrent meeting with Va. Acad. of Science ?

#### 1960 OFFICERS OF THE VIRGINIA HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY:-

First President . John Thornton Wood, MD, Burkeville, Nottoway Co. Va  
 President-elect . W. Leslie Burger, Franklin College of Indiana  
 Chairman . . . . O.K. Goodwin, Newport News - Warwick, Virginia  
 Co-Chairman . . . . Dr. H.G.M. Jopson, Bridgewater College, Virginia  
 Treasurer . . . . Dr. Phoebe H. Knipling, Arlington, Virginia  
 Secretary . . . . Franklin J. Tobey, Jr. (Fairfax Co., Va.) and,  
 Editor, VHS Bulletin: 4706 Tallahassee Avenue, Rockville, Md.

## VHS PROGRAM 1960-1961 -- HOW TO REACH SOCIETY'S OBJECTIVES --

- (1) "Scientific study of Va. herptiles:" Observation in the field, collecting, record-keeping; museum and zoological park visits; personal reading in popular and scientific literature; activity in scientific societies -- preparation of papers for publication in Va. JOURNAL OF SCIENCE, HERPETOLOGICA, or COPEIA.

VHS activities bring members into contact with the Smithsonian Institution, National Zoological Park and U.S. National Museum. In 1961 we hope to meet concurrently with the Virginia Academy of Science and, perhaps engage exhibit space in that connection. We co-operate to every extent possible with the state's colleges and universities. Advanced student members are encouraged to join the Amer. Soc. of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists and the Herpetologists' League.

- (2) "Consistent recording of all collecting data:" Field notes, collecting data, record-keeping and pertinent information -- the importance of these cannot be glossed over. Unusual or typical specimens should be preserved with complete collecting data. Selected projects should be undertaken to complete knowledge.
- (3) "County and locality surveys, reporting of finds:" Range data for many species are incomplete. Records of Virginian specimens are scattered in scientific collections -- depositories at USNM, VPI, William & Mary, Carnegie Museum (Pittsburgh). New specimens deposited will receive mention in VHS Bulletin. A much-needed Va. herptile census should be launched with the aid of summer camps, zoos, museums, park naturalists, agricultural agents, college and high school bio-science instructors and all students. This is in planning stage. (Blanks to be provided.)
- (4) "Broaden public understanding of Virginia's reptiles and amphibians:" Direct co-operation with High School Bio-Science Instructors, (through Va. Board of Education, and/or Va. Educational Ass'n) (Journal of Education) to bring VHS resources and benefits of membership to interested students' attention. VHS members might offer specimen identification service, talks to biology clubs. VHS plans to compile a booklet:  
 "SCIENCE PROJECTS -- Assistance from VHS" (employing VHS-Bull.)  
 (topics)
1. "What makes a Good Herpetologist?"
  2. "The Place of the Amateur in Herpetology"
  3. "Proper Balance in Collecting Specimens."
  4. "Science Projects Close at Hand."
  5. "What Constitutes a Scientific Study Worth Reporting?"
  6. "How to Go About an Original Research Project"
  7. "How to Prepare and Preserve Specimens"
  8. "What Kind of Notes and Records to Keep."
  9. "Challenging Problems in Va. Herpetology."
  10. "Ye Incomplete Herpetologie of Virginie."
  11. Bibliography --(the better references.)
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(4) "Broaden public understanding and appreciation of herptiles:"  
(continued)

Co-operation with all groups in state in the interest of broadening knowledge of Va. reptiles and amphibians via persons interested in our field among the following:

- Va. Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries -- District game biologists. Va. Fisheries Laboratories, Gloucester Point and at Wachapreague on the Eastern Shore -- staff biologists.
- Va. State Police, County Police, Firemen, First Aid & Rescue Teams.
- Va. Department of Conservation & Development - State Parks, Forests. Division of Parks -- state park naturalists; Division of Forestry -- District Foresters; Division of Water Resources -- engineers;
- Va. Dep't of Agriculture and the county agricultural agents.
- Occupational Groups with frequent contacts with herptiles:  
Doctors of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine.  
Electric and telephone utility linemen and  
Natural Gas Pipeliners (Utility Ass'n of Va.)  
Farmers, Gardeners, Nurserymen, Tree Experts.

Local (Community) Groups: Civic Associations, Garden Clubs, Rod and Gun Clubs; Scout Troops, Explorers, Cub Packs, -- extension of winter program with youth groups -- co-operate with summer camp naturalists and Reptile Study Merit Badge Counselors. VHS can offer talks on reptiles and amphibians, identification of live & preserved specimens -- trading, exchanging, or the loan of specimens to build up representative live collections. Advise camp naturalists on what specimens should be preserved in permanent scientific collections -- nearest depository.

(This letter will be sent to all Va. Boy Scout Councils asking them for names and addr: of Rep. Study Counselors and camp naturalists.

The Editor.

Two-way street -- camp naturalists can be a valuable adjunct in testing trial "popular key" to state's herpetofauna -- providing census information -- filling in knowledge gaps.

4-H Clubs are expanding their interests to meet semi-rural suburban needs. Potential is there.

- (5) "Co-operation with magazine and newspaper writers; radio-TV. Work with Outdoor Sports, Science, Nature, Garden, Conservation columnists -- supply useful, factual, interesting bits.

VIRGINIA WILDLIFE

VHS features and suggestions are being gathered and used:  
March, 1960 (back cover) "Virginia's False Coral Snakes"  
May, 1960 (feature) "The Southeastern Crowned Snake"  
Other back cover illustration ideas pending execution by artist. (Va.'s Poisonous Snakes (from existing artwork.)

- (6) "Preservation of typical or unusual specimens in scientific - educational permanent collections:" Co-operation with Dep'ts of Biology or Zoology, of universities and colleges which provide space for permanent collections. Depositories:

NE U.S. National Museum, (preserved) Washington, D.C.  
 National Zoological Park, (live) " "

SE College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Va.  
 SW VPI, Department of Biology, Blacksburg, Va.  
 NW Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh 13, Pennsylvania

NEEDED: THE MATERIALS WITH WHICH TO PUT A PUBLIC PROGRAM ACROSS

Short term needs: Bulletin articles by members on various points outlined in part above. Start preparation now. Legible "rough" drafts accepted.

Speakers' Bureau should be established -- all applications gratefully received. This will provide individual members with a "back-up" if, through fate, they should be unable to make a scheduled appearance.

News item clipping Bureau -members-at-large can help program by cutting out items with dates and paper name and sending these to the Bulletin Ed.

2" X 2" Color slide bank - and bank manager - are needed urgently to handle collection, sale, trading, of color slides (herpetological only) fill orders for duplicates on cost-plus-expense basis. WHO WILL STEP FORWARD TO FILL THIS GAP ?

Mimeographable (?) popular keys to Va. Snakes, lizards, turtles and, eventually amphibians (?).

Medium Priority: Film strip of Virginian Snakes, other herptiles for Science, biology class use -- with or minus a timed voice recording describing what is seen.

"SCIENCE PROJECTS -- Assistance from VHS" (above)

Color 16mm Film, sound, 45 min. on Snakes of Va. in co-operation with state or industrial groups interested in objective of broadening public knowledge. (Police/Fire Academy training use.)

LENDING SETS of 2" X 2" color slides for classroom use -- or by members who are presenting a talk. North Carolina already operating a plan.

Long-range dreams: Color booklet - four-color companion piece to existing: "Fishlife in Virginia" (25¢)

(Commission of Game &  
 Inland Fisheries - )

"Birdlife in Virginia" (25¢)  
"Furbearers in Virginia" (in prep.)



Long-range dreams, continued:

T-V tapes on Snakes, Lizards, Turtles, Frogs, Salamanders, of Va. with youth groups exhibiting specimens. Mr. Ernest A. Taylor of Tampa, Fla. reports success for such a venture in Florida with active youth participation.

These would provide important and authentic documentaries for the Virginia viewing public. T-V's trend is toward information type programs -- one on "Dismal Swamp Denizens" marketable.

YOUR SUGGESTIONS, ADDITIONS, DELETIONS, TO ABOVE PROGRAM SOLICITED!

Write: Franklin Tobey, VHS-B, 4706 Tallahassee Avenue, Rockville, Maryland

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MEETING NOTICE

DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED

NOTICE

A Spring Meeting will be held at Washington and Lee High School in the Cherrydale section of Arlington, Va. for members in the area.

We are angling for a guest speaker who will be available in early June. THE DATE WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN THE MAY BULLETIN -WATCH FOR IT

VHS Business meeting will be from 7:30 P.M. to 8:00 P.M.

Doors will be open to the public at 8:00 P.M. promptly.

A talk by a guest herpetologist from nearby or visiting the area.

This will either include films or slides or be followed by film.

The program and question period is not expected to last beyond 9:30 P.M. EDT.

ONE-CAGE SPECIAL EXHIBITS OF HARMLESS SPECIES WELCOMED BY 7:15 PM

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VHS MEMBERS IN SOUTHEASTERN VIRGINIA -- HAMPTON-NORFOLK-WARWICK

An early or late summer meeting is planned for the Norfolk area. This will undoubtedly be at the Norfolk Museum of Science and Industry, Museum Plaza, Norfolk 10, Va. DATE AND TIME TO BE SET.

The Officers of VHS welcome this opportunity to meet some of the members from the Norfolk-Newport News area who have been unable to attend the past statewide meetings. WATCH FOR TIME AND DATE!

While still in planning stage, outline above will be attempted.

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STATEWIDE MEETING: "Experts" are advised to start planning now for a half-hour talk on a topic of their own choice -- of interest to our diversified membership. PROGRAM SUGGESTIONS ARE WELCOME.

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VHS BULLETIN: A formal or informal committee on the Bulletin is a must. Jurisdiction over content and methods of production can be delegated. If we are to fulfill the Society's needs we must reduce bulletin costs in a move to add pages. Ideas on this topic are welcome.

BULLETIN COVER: We hope to put out an occasional "special" edition with an illustrated cover. This, as a second "bite" after plate is used by another publication.

BULLETIN STENCIL-ADDRESSING: Please correct your street address if it appears incorrectly at bottom of the page. Or, add better address informatn. We plan to run stencilled addresses.

DUPLICATION OF THE BULLETIN is currently being done at minimum costs by the George Mason Occupational Training Center, Arlington, Va., under the guidance of Mr. Edward F. Rose of Falls Church, Va. Our scientific-educational, non-profit status must be maintained to continue the present satisfactory arrangement.

VHS HAS A HEAVY PROGRAM STAKED OUT FOR THIS YEAR. It is not an expensive program, but it cannot succeed without your active help and membership. Dues-paying puts members in touch with one-another but it is not the only avenue open to those members who want to take a more active part. Look over the program outlined in this April, 1960 bulletin and write your reactions, ideas, or where you want to help -- send your letter to the editor, VHS-Bulletin.

VHS MEMBERS SHOULD ENCOURAGE RICHMOND'S HOPE OF ADDING A REPTILE EXHIBIT TO the THALHIMER-VIRGINIA WILDLIFE EXHIBIT in the state Capital's beautiful Haymont Park. This project should have active backing over the long pull. Perhaps it is a dream -- at today's construction costs -- but it is one we hope will materialize. FT