

FIRST EXHIBIT ON BEHALF OF THE VA. HERPETOLOGICAL
SOCIETY

An exhibit on Virginia reptiles and amphibians was on display at the Northern Virginia Science Fair, held April 12th through 15th, at Fort Myer, Arlington. The glass-covered display had a choice spot among other special exhibits at one end of the Fort Myer gymnasium. It was the focal point of much public attention and was viewed by high school exhibitors, their parents, guests and friends. The official program of the science fair credited the Society with the specially prepared display. A panel of six charts done in oil color was used as the backdrop for the booth. The booth was manned, parttime, by the acting secretary of the Society. Live specimens were hand-carried into the hall at each session. This is a necessary precaution.

RESULTS OF THE DISPLAY: Favorable reaction on the part of visitors was observed. The idea is suggested to members owning display materials as a way to publicize the Va. Herpetological Society in other sections of the state. At least five new members were attracted to the Society through this booth. Student exhibitors on Snake Venom (Millsback) and Turtles of Virginia (Abell) won second and third places, respectively under the Biological Science category. Keep an eye on next year's science fairs.

MEMBERSHIP CARDS: A small insignia (outline of the state within a circle; a snake above and a salamander beneath the solid state) is being processed by photo-engravers for use on membership cards. These will be printed and in the mail with the May bulletin. A form (below) credits those members who have paid their 1958 dues. This may serve as your receipt in lieu of membership cards until that mailing.

POLICIES GOVERNING THE ACTING STAFF: Organizers of the Society are holding acting capacities only and have not been elected by the Society members at a statewide meeting. It is deemed advisable, therefore, to state to members and prospective members the policies which shall guide the acting officers until such a meeting can be held. (1) Keeping expenses to an absolute minimum necessary to keep the effort rolling; (2) Refraining from taking a stand or position on behalf of the members or otherwise speaking for them; (3) Using the Society name only where it will benefit the aims & purposes of the Society and not those of an individual member; and, (4) Promoting, with "dignified enthusiasm" the purposes of the Society. (See March Bulletin No. 1.)

NEW VIRGINIA SPECIES ARE BEING CHECKED :-

Authoritative reports indicate that the Pigmy Rattler is to be found (barely) in Va. An official report is yet to be published by Roger H. Rageot, curator of the Norfolk Museum (a founding member of the Society) and W. Leslie Burger, biology department, Faculty member, College of William & Mary, Williamsburg. The latter has been a great help, along with O.K. Goodwin (member from Warwick) in the steps leading up to the organization of this Society. (Any bloopers herein are not attributable to them.)FT.

As a supplement to a future issue of this bulletin (No. 3 or 4) we hope to have mimeographed copies of the known Va. species of reptiles and amphibians. Members are asked to help in securing records (backed up by specimens) for central and southwestern Va. counties, Accomack and Northampton counties on the Eastern Shore and the N.C.-Va. border counties (except Dismal Swamp). Anyone knowing prospective members in these areas please send their names and addresses to the acting secretary:

Franklin Tobey, Jr., Route # 2, Box # 241 (correct box No. 241) McLean, Virginia.

A brief membership-financial report will be carried in the May Bulletin & your card.

(more)

An interest in fossil reptiles and amphibians has been expressed by some of our student members. The Washington, D.C. EVENING STAR of April 23d called attention in its regular science column by Thomas R. Henry, to a Smithsonian Institution publication # 4296 # "The World of the Dinosaurs" written by Dr. David H. Dunkle, U.S. National Museum paleontologist. The booklet is available from the editorial and publications division of the Smithsonian only. (Price \$.50) Write: Smithsonian Institution at 10th & Independence SW, Washington 25, D.C.

COMING IN THE NEXT FEW ISSUES:

A list of distribution-of-species problems to be worked out by interested collectors. This should supply members with projects for some time to come. The list will be carried in future editions as space permits. ALSO: Possible announcement of a Va. Herpetological Society reference room -- if details of its use can be worked out.-- Bill Witt, serious student of herpetology temporarily on duty with the U.S. Air Force, has offered the use of his unoccupied bachelor quarters (at home in Arlington) as a refuge for week-end students or for evening reference use. Admittance would be by Va. Herpetological Society membership card only. Appointments to use the mountain of data Bill Witt has gathered would be made by phone in advance to assure the visitor that the librarian would be on hand or to arrange a mutually convenient time. The matter is under study pending acceptance by the mater familia whose own schedule at home would be affected. This generous offer, if realized, would be a boon to the Society members in Northern Va. and to other members visiting the area. If this idea carries this Society Library project should have the courteous and cordial co-operation of all members. Similar reference rooms are desirable in other areas where Va. Herps are thickly populated -- Richmond ? Norfolk ? Charlottesville ?

OFFER OF HELP FROM AN OLDER BROTHER TO THE NORTH: An officer of the Philadelphia Herpetological Society (PHS) --a hyper-active group which apparently covers most of Pennsylvania as well as the southern half of N.J. -- wrote the Society before our March Bulletin No. 1 circulated. PHS offers to cover the new Va. Herps in their existing bulletin (which is an excellent publication). It was deemed advisable to politely table this kind offer until a statewide meeting is held and the views of Va. herpetologists, amateur and professional, could be polled. (Dues would be higher!)

PLEASE BE ASSURED that your one or two-dollar membership fee is being carefully husbanded. This amount (multiplied by the fifty enthusiasts heard from) will be perhaps adequate to cover mimeographing expenses and postage. The staff takes or asks no pay and all energies expended on the Society's behalf are expended voluntarily. ((Your acting secretary is not a scientist but an amateur with 25 years' experience, a former magazine editor-turned professional organization consultant. It is hoped that his background can mesh well with avid interest and knowledge of other members to provide the medium we have been lacking -- we need better communication between Va. herps. FT has hesitated to state his background and qualifications for fear members would think he was running for state office -- he is not, and cannot be drafted.--)) WRITE US ! .

..... (detach) .
Membership in the Virginia Herpetological Society is welcomed by:

- name
- address
- title, or
- occupation

Type of membership: Faculty, staff, student; press-radio; dues \$1.00 per year. _____
All other gainfully employed; dues \$2.00 per year per individual. If you send your check note on it "for dues" and make it payable to Franklin Tobey, Jr. While some dollar bills have been received this is a risky way to remit.//Rt. 2, Box 241, McLean,