

AN OPEN HOUSE AND HERPETOLOGICAL  
MEETING AT U.S. NATIONAL MUSEUM

## INVITATION:

It is our great pleasure to be able to invite you and your (VHS) membership to join us on December 31, 1966, (Saturday) when we will hold an open house in the Division of Reptiles and Amphibians, US National Museum, for the Herpetologists League and assembled (state) herpetological societies. During the afternoon of that day, we will have an opportunity for presentation of information and notes, as we did at the first open house at the end of last year. Dr. Carl Gans, University of Buffalo, will present a film showing some of the work that has been done during recent years in his laboratory on functional anatomy, including high-speed photography of the bite of poisonous snakes. We hope, also, to be able to have a showing of the color photography by Dr. Nathan Cohen during the afternoon.

We are holding this open house this year in order to permit the members of the Herpetologists League to visit the Museum, and also to meet with the enthusiastic members of the (state) herpetological societies. It would be hoped that some of the members of VHS would be interested in coming a day or two early to participate in some of the meetings of the League, which has a program scheduled for the 29th and 30th of December, at the meetings of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS).

Cordially,

(Dr.) Doris M. Cochran

(Dr.) James A. Peters

Division of Reptiles and  
Amphibians, U.S. National  
Museum, Tenth & Constitution NW  
Washington, D.C. 20560

(dated) September 28, 1966

SUCCESSFUL, INTERESTING, VHS  
STATEWIDE MEETING, FALL '66

An enthusiastic group from many areas of the state, and a few hardy out-of-staters, made the trip to Camp Brady Saunders for the statewide meeting, October 15 and 16, 1966. We are most indebted to those who presented illustrated talks. Among these were: John H. McLaughlin, Chief Law Enforcement Division, State Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries, Richmond; R.E. Goetz of Hampton, Va., who has been

active in his area on TV-radio and in the schools talking on reptiles; Wally Evans of Richmond; Gerald C. Schaefer, Biology Professor, University of Richmond; Naturalist Les Southall of Petersburg, Va.; Robert Weems, Randolph-Macon College student, who spoke on fossil turtles from Miocene strata along the Potomac; and Dr. A.J. Bullard a North Carolina Dentist who gave an excellent presentation on the various tree frogs of the region.

### SHIPPING SMALL AMPHIBIANS

by Jeff Richmond, VHS  
Ashland, Virginia

At the past VHS meeting, a question arose concerning how to go about shipping small amphibians. It is hoped that the following suggestions will help to get that prize salamander from point "A" to point "B" in good shape, or to prevent an extremely active frog from disrupting the mail carrier's daily appointed rounds.

Shipping containers are simple, cheap, and as near as your kitchen. Ordinary plastic refrigerator containers used to package prepared salads, cottage cheese, or left-over food, are ideal. The fitted snap-on lid is sufficient. Even a tin can with a plastic or fabric taped across the top has been used. In any case, the container should be well ventilated. Holes may be made with an icepick or some similar instrument. Since amphibians will dry out quickly--if placed in a dry environment--some provision must be made for maintaining a moist surrounding. Sphagnum moss is ideal for this. The moss holds moisture well. It is easy to handle and is generally easier on the animal. However, moist paper towels are sufficient in most cases. The toweling must be crumpled in the container. The container should then be placed inside a stout cardboard box and well padded. Either excelsior or

newspapers are well suited to the purpose. Glass containers may be used for the specimens, if their tops are perforated. Especially good padding in the cardboard box is essential. The advantage of a non-breakable container is obvious. The cardboard box, also ventilated well, should be tightly sealed to prevent accidental opening. Any good tape will do. It is important that the box be marked as to the nature of its contents. Such labels as: PERISHABLE, SCIENTIFIC MATERIALS; LIVING MATERIALS, AVOID EXTREMES OF HEAT OR COLD; HANDLE WITH CARE, BIOLOGICAL SPECIMENS, etc., should be applied.

For short distances, Parcel Post is sufficient. The sender may request Special Handling at a small additional fee. Specimens that must be shipped over long distance should be sent by Air Parcel Post or AIR FREIGHT. If well packed, specimens will survive for greater periods. For more valuable specimens, shorten the shipping time to reduce the chances of mishap.

NOTICE: Fellow VHS members: I am presently engaged in a study of the taxonomy of the Cricket Frog (Acris). I need information concerning any aspect of this genus, as well as specimens for this study. All assistance is welcome.

-----

Cricket Frogs (Acris) This frog is about one inch to one and a quarter inches in length. It is generally dark green or brown with some suggestion of a stripe down its back of a lighter green or brown. The most consistent marking is a small triangle on the head between the eyes. The triangle points to the rear of the animal. This frog is a non-treeclimbing frog. It is common along the edges of ponds, lakes, rivers or streams, almost all year around. Any specimens will be ap-

VIRGINIA HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY

BALLOT

FOR ELECTION OF OFFICERS OF THE VIRGINIA HERPETOLOGICAL SOC.  
SOCIETY FOR THE YEARS 1967 AND 1968;

Lack of time and a quorum at the recent statewide meeting made use of a mail ballot necessary in selecting officers for VHS for 1967-1968.

If you are a member you are entitled to return a ballot marked as you wish. You may elect whether it will be a secret ballot or sign it. Simply tear off (or cut off) the membership application form at the bottom. Mail it with check or money order to the VHS Treasurer. See small envelope enclosed. For membership renewal you may use the same form and envelope. If your membership status is in doubt, act today.

An opportunity is provided to WRITE IN your own candidate. A run-off election will be provided if there are ties. VOTE BELOW:

<u>OFFICE:</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>VHS NOMINEE</u>	<u>WRITE IN VOTE:</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>( X )</u>
PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Harry G.M. Jopson ( ) (Vertebrate Zoologist, Bridgewater College, Va.)	-----	-----
SECRETARY	<input type="checkbox"/> Franklin J. Tobey, Jr. ( ) (public information officer, bio-medical programs, US AEC)	-----	-----
TREASURER	<input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Phoebe H. Knipling ( ) (Science Supervisor, Arling- ton, Va., County High Schools)	-----	-----
CO-CHAIRMEN	(FOR NEXT YEAR'S STATEWIDE IN WILLIAMSBURG, VA. AREA)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> James R. Martin, Norfolk, Va.	-----	-----
	<input type="checkbox"/> R. Ed Goetz, Hampton, Va.	-----	-----
	<input type="checkbox"/> O. King Goodwin, Newport News	-----	-----
VHS REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES:	(Approval only)	<input type="checkbox"/> WRITE-INS	
VALLEY	Robert P. Kern, Winchester, Va.	-----	-----
TIDEWATER	R. Ed Goetz, Hampton, Va.	-----	-----
PIEDMONT	Robert J. Gagnon, Mechanicsville, Va.	-----	-----
HIGHLANDS	Costello M. Craig, Bedford, Va., and R. Wayne Hodges, Pulaski, Va.	-----	-----
BOARD OF DIRECTORS	(BIOLOGISTS AND ZOOLOGISTS FROM COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES, VIRGINIA SECONDARY SCHOOLS)	<input type="checkbox"/>	(APPROVAL ONLY)

AFTER MARKING BALLOT (SEE OTHER SIDE) FOLD SO THAT  
THE ADDRESS OF THE SECRETARY SHOWS WITH FOUR CENT STAMP.  
USE STAPLE OR GUMMED LABEL TO SECURE BALLOT FLAP (SEAL)  
AND PLACE IN MAIL BOX.



VIRGINIA HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
2623 MILITARY ROAD  
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22207

Franklin J. Tobey, Jr.  
4706 Tallahassee Avenue  
Rockville, Maryland 20853

PLEASE check the ZIP CODE used in your  
address. Effective January 1, 1967,  
Postal regulations will require that all  
third class mail must carry a correct  
ZIP CODE. If your ZIP CODE is not as it  
is shown on your address call this fact  
to our attention when renewing membership.

Thank you, VHS