

VHS STATEWIDE MEETING, 1967
CAMP CHICKAHOMINY, BSA
----- NEAR WILLIAMSBURG, Va.

You are invited to attend the VHS annual statewide meeting this Fall -- OCTOBER 14 and 15, 1967.

Families and friends are welcome!

This will be another mile post in the history of the Society.

DIRECTIONS FOR REACHING THE MEETING ARE GIVEN BELOW.

EXHIBITS: We will want to set up exhibits early on Saturday A.M. Virginian species should be in an area separated from "overseas" or non-regional specimens. All are to be properly labelled and the cages either locked or sealed with tape to prevent tampering, or escape of specimens.

Cages, vivariums, aquariums, and terrariums must be supplied by the exhibitor. Cages must be all SAFE and SECURE. Health and Safety Committee members -- senior or college faculty members will tour the exhibit to inspect all cages.

All VHS members, non-members or friends will sign a register. The specimens brought will be listed. This may prevent mix-ups which -- otherwise -- might occur during the two-day period. It happens at every meeting; let's prevent it.

Any fragile or valuable items to be exhibited should be placed in a suitable protective exhibit case or glass showcase with lock.

The sale or trading of venomous snakes will be restricted to the adult (over 18) group. Minors or junior members will not handle or trade poisonous specimens.

VHS hopes that interested adults, scouters and senior scouts will be able to join in the VHS activities, discussions, slide talks & exhibit.

Reptile Study Merit Badge Counselors, or any scouts who hold, or are working on, Reptile Study are welcome to participate actively.

Bedroll and blankets will be in order if you plan to stay overnight at the camp, or at a nearby state park or campground. Each party is responsible for food and cooking for the number of meals involved. This should be about five meals: Saturday, Oct. 14, lunch & supper; Sunday, Oct. 15, breakfast, lunch and supper. No Camp messhall or cooking facilities are to be used.

REST AREAS for MEN and WOMEN will be provided and marked..

Permission to use the Camp was granted to VHS by the Peninsula Council, BSA, executives and the camping committee. VHS will use only those areas designated by the Camp Ranger and the VHS statewide meeting chairman, Mr. R. Ed Goetz, or their deputies.

LET US, PLEASE, LEAVE THE CAMP IN BETTER CONDITION ON SUNDAY, IF THAT IS POSSIBLE, THAN WE FOUND IT ON SATURDAY MORNING! IT IS A NEW CAMP AND ITS USE IS A FINE PRIVILEGE, NOT A RIGHT.

COURTESY will be accorded all who attend. We hope to have a better-than-usual sprinkling of college & university faculty, executives and physicians. Please be respectful.

SEE YOU AT CAMP CHICKAHOMINY !

THE NORTHERN RED-BELLIED
SNAKE IN FAIRFAX COUNTY

Recently, while glancing over VHS Special Bulletin (Nos. 37-38) on the Snakes of Virginia, I discovered that the Northern Red-Bellied Snake (*Storeria o. occipitamaculata*) was marked as "expected" in Fairfax County, Va., and had apparently not been formally recorded from the county, to date. I realized that I had had a preserved snake of this species in a collection in my basement -- since October, 1964. It had been collected under a log near Backlick Run, Springfield, Va., in August, 1964. It was found about 3/4ths of a mile southwest of the intersection of county road #617 and county road #822 (Backlick Road @ Woodland Drive).

A few days later, James L. Baker, Annandale, who is also a VHS member, brought over a live specimen of the same species which he had collected on August 6, 1967, under an old newspaper near Occoquan Creek, about a mile southwest of Davis' Store, which is at the intersection of state route # 123 and county road #647.

Both of these specimens, which I believe may represent a county record, have been deposited with the Division of Reptiles and Amphibians at the U.S. National Museum (Smithsonian Institution), Washington, D.C.

Kent Wells, VHS
(August 17, 1967) 7101 Woodland
Springfield, Va.

Editor's note: A juvenile Northern Red-bellied Snake was taken at the bottom of an outside stairwell in damp leaves in the Spring of 1955, in the Warren Woods subdivision of Fairfax Court House. While preserved, it appears that it had not been recorded. The item is recalled to emphasize the need to record capture data and place all worthwhile specimens in a scientific collection. Also, watch window- and stair wells around suburban houses this spring; it's worthwhile!

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REGISTRATION FOR THE STATEWIDE
MEETING IN THE WILLIAMSBURG, VA.
AREA, October 14-15, 1967

VHS is asking a \$1.50 registration fee for NON-MEMBERS, and a .50 fee for VHS MEMBERS who have paid 1967 dues. If members who are "in good standing" (current) wish to pay the full \$1.50 they will be carried through 1968 as active VHS members.

The registration fee of .50 will be used to defray minor on-the-spot costs directly related to the annual statewide meeting. On the positive side, the \$1.00 fee portion will be handled through the Treasurer as normal dues. (A membership card will be issued.)

A 2" X 2" slide projector, automatic or manual, and a 16mm sound motion picture projector will be brought to the Statewide meeting by the VHS Secretary for use at the Saturday evening slide and film show.

If you need any other type of mechanical equipment to present your discussion properly, PLEASE BRING IT.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM VHS MEMBERS

In Bulletin #52 of the Virginia Herpetological Society, I read with interest the article by Kent Wells of Springfield, Virginia, describing observations of the northern red salamander. I was particularly interested in a statement in it which indicated that the red salamander is not common in Fairfax Co.

Although it has been some years since I did extensive collecting in Fairfax County, and, no doubt, some of the areas where I collected have been destroyed, nevertheless, I would like to refute the statement that this species is not common in the county. The following records should substantiate my contention:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Locality</u>
1939	Feb.	12	Dunn Loring
	May	11	Franconia
1941	July	5	Dranesville
1942	Nov.	10	Belle Haven
1943	Mar.	7	Pohick Creek
	Dec.	21	Annandale
1944	Jan.	29	Dead Run and Turkey Run
1945	Jan.	7	Lorton
	Jan.	21	Fairfax
1946	Jan.	1	Centreville Popes Head Creek
	Jan.	3	Holmes Run
	Jan.	16	New Alexandria

In most of the localities cited above both larvae and adults were collected, in some instances in

considerable numbers. . . . I trust that the records herein will serve to establish the fact that the No. red salamander (Pseudotriton r. ruber) is quite abundant in Fairfax County. I might also add that the eastern mud salamander (Pseudotriton m. montanus) also occurs in appropriate habitats.

Sincerely,

(August 23, 1967)

James A. Fowler
 Director of Education
 Henry Ford Museum
 and Greenfield
 Village, Dearborn,
 Michigan

Mr. Roger Conant, in "A Field Guide to Reptiles and Amphibians" (1958) notes: "Mud and Red Salamanders are easily confused -- even experienced herpetologists have trouble with them. Check color of iris; it normally is yellowish instead of brown in the Reds. Look at shape of head: in the Muds snout is blunter and shorter in front of eyes."

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While our scout troop was on our summer camping trip this year -- Kerr Dam, Mecklenburg Co., July 16-22 -- I caught a No. Banded Water Snake (Natrix s. sipedon). I believe this not on record (VHSB#38) but is listed as "expected" in the county. I have the live specimen now.

(July 26, 1967)

Dennie Hollowell
 602 Sterling Point
 Chesapeake, Va. /Dr.
 23703

This would be a Mecklenburg Co. record, if preserved and placed in a scientific collection. FJT

COMMUNICATIONS continued:

. . . Information is desired on the availability -- on temporary loan -- of preserved specimens of the Virginian milk snakes, genus: Lampropeltis. Coastal Plain Milk Snakes, and intergradations (?) between the Coastal Plain Milk S. and the Scarlet King Snake, are of particular interest. Please provide information you have to:

Franklin J. Tobey, Jr.
4706 Tallahassee Ave.
Rockville, Md. 20853

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"... I was pleased to see, in the latest VHS Bulletin (No. 52), that the annual statewide meeting would be held in the Peninsula area this year. I am planning to attend. I'm now at Cherry Point, North Carolina, and I get home to Richmond almost every weekend. I would appreciate your sending the Bulletins while I'm here. Even though I'm in the service, I'd still like to keep up with Va. herpetology. My regards to the members; hope to see you all this fall.

Cordially, "Joe"

(8/'67)

(L/Cpl Joseph C. Mitchell
MABS 14 ORD. MAG 14
2d MAW FmF Lant
MCAS Cherry Point, N.C.
28533)

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SEE YOU OCTOBER 14-15 AT THE
VHS ANNUAL STATEWIDE MEETING!

DON'T FORGET THE VHS ANNUAL STATEWIDE MEETING, OCTOBER 14-15, 1967.

" . . . I believe I can make the October 14-15 meeting, but cannot say for certain, yet. . . . I am going to make every effort to get to this meeting. If I can, I'll bring along my collection of reptile slides and, perhaps, movies of our collecting trip to Trinidad. I believe part of the staff of the Norfolk Museum is planning to come also.

Hope to see you!

Jim Martin (Mr. J.R.)
4724 Sullivan Blvd.
Va. Beach, Va. 23455

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To: Maryland Herpetological Society officers and,

To: VHS members and officers

It is time to think, once again of the annual National Zoological Park meeting. First held by VHS in 1959, and just about once a year since, it became a joint MHS-VHS meeting in 1966. Since 1967 is entering its last quarter, it would be helpful if a group of Md. and VHS members would form an NZP meeting committee and gather a few ideas for a program. The early winter days, or Christmas holiday week, offer a feasible period.

Arrangements should be checked out, beforehand, with Mr. Jack DePrato and his staff at the NZP Reptile House. How about it?

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