



A PUBLICATION OF THE UPSTATE HERPETOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION
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CNY SPCA Pet Walk – UHA participation

Article by Janet Calp

With an 82 degree high predicted for Sunday, September 11, I figured it would be an ideal day to display reptiles to represent UHA at the SPCA's Pet Walk fundraiser. I didn't even bring a long sleeved shirt. So it was with anticipatory goose bumps that I unloaded my legless lizard and western hognose onto our display table at Longbranch Park, which was not only inside a pavilion, but underneath a number of trees as well. Terry Norris and I arrived at 10AM to set up the display and the air was still chilly. Terry had a number of snakes with him including a western hognose, Honduran and his very attractive albino corn. He also had his educational photo display and the UHA banner set up by the time that I arrived. (My legless lizard decided to defecate juuuusst before I got him into his bag, thank goodness, so I had to clean up the mess before I left.)

In addition to the legless lizard, I also brought along a western hognose, Florida softshell turtle, bearded dragon, spring peeper and a couple of White's tree frogs. The event was well attended - there were dogs and their owners of every shape and size. While there were a number of booths targeting cat and dog people, we were the only 'exotic' display. We were set up in the last pavilion, which we shared with the Onondaga County Sheriff's Department. They were taking photos and fingerprinting children, so we got the benefit of a lot of their traffic.

As always, some adults and children were very interested in our animals and some made it clear that they preferred warm blooded pets. And as always we answered a number of questions and allowed some handling and "touching". (If I were to put out an FAQ poster, the number 1 question would be "Does it bite?")

Unfortunately we did not get any new members, but we gave out several brochures and generated some interest in our upcoming October open house at Beaver Lake. The promised 82 degrees never materialized but it was still fun.

(PS I think a FAQ poster might be useful for future displays. If anyone wants to help out, send me your list of the 5 most frequently asked questions, other than "Does it bite?" You can email me at: jancmx5@aol.com)



The Un-classifieds:

FOR SALE: 5 Baby Corn Snakes. They are C.B. 2005 Okeetee x Banded x Amelanistic. I am asking \$25 a piece for the 4 "normal" Okeetees and \$30 for the 1 albino that I have. Contact Jim Burke at 315-476-9317 or e-mail me at burkej@copper.net

These are line ads are free for UHA members; for non-members the fee is \$2.50. Each ad will run for two months unless otherwise requested. (The date following each ad is the last issue it will run) UHA makes no warranty as to the quality of items advertised in the HerpBeat.

Ads should be sent by mail to Attn: HerpBeat, Diana Sleiertin, 980 Schaap Road, Jordan, NY 13080 or via email to uha_herpbeat@earthlink.net. The deadline is the 10th of the month.

Conservation News

Check out this site for more information

Mampam Conservation

<http://www.mampam.50megs.com/>

Working to save the Buutan (or Gray's Monitor), the world's only true fruit eating lizard.



Herp Beat *Is a monthly publication of the Upstate Herpetological Association.*

UHA is a 501(C)(3) Not-for-Profit organization dedicated to the practice of herptoculture and herpetology. Membership is open to anyone who subscribes to the purposes of the Association.

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Need to submit by Snail Mail? Please do!

Mail Submissions To:

Diana Sleiertin
Attn: HerpBeat
980 Schaap Road
Jordan, NY 13080



EMAIL Submissions To:

uha_herpbeat@earthlink.net



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Editor's Corner Column

Still time to Participate!

A final reminder about the October Open House! Please be sure to contact Terry Norris or Janet Calp about getting involved. **The success of the Open House is dependent on all of us as members.** The only way we can hope to get past the negative public perception of reptiles and reptile owners is to present a fun, educational and safe environment for the general public to meet and interact with us and our animals. If you haven't already contacted Terry or Janet, please do so. There are only about 15 people scheduled to display animals, so we need more. Please be willing to spend the day educating others about your wonderful creatures.

It may have seemed months away, but now **it's here!** Tables need to be reserved; those needing electricity need to be set up in the correct areas. If you are interested in volunteering to help make the day run more smoothly, please let Terry or Janet know. They'll be happy for the extra assistance and support. Thank you all for your extra efforts.

As editor, I have been actively sending out PR to the media in hopes of increasing the audience. PR has been sent as far away as Rochester and Ithaca, and to nearly every outlet here in the Syracuse area. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we had a full house ALL day at Beaver Lake? In anticipation of such a large showing, we need to have full tables also. Please, even if you only a small collection, consider sharing and showing that day.

Another reminder that elections are coming up in November. This month's issue will be the first to have the "mail-in" ballots for those members too far away to attend the November meeting. Please be an active member and vote whether you can make the meeting or not. Having a Board is essential to our status as a Non Profit Organization and since it is a volunteer position, those who have volunteered in the past may not necessarily have bargained for long term tenure. Please consider all the biographies you have read and make your decisions for the future success of the UHA. Both the current members and the nominated members can have a huge impact on the group's future success, so please don't let November slip by.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible. Thank you in advance for your participation.

IMPORTANT NOTICE – LOST ITEM

Possibly Lost at : **Drumlins Country Club** **Syracuse, NY** **August 27, 2005**

A visitor to the NY Herpetological Expo is asking for your help.! Cindy Franz and her UHA member friend spent some time at Drumlins shopping for critters. Some time during the day, Cindy lost her bracelet!

Description: Silver bracelet with turquoise and onyx cabachon pendants. **Sentimental value** – anniversary gift!

Cindy is very upset at the loss of her bracelet and is hoping one of our members might be able to help her, maybe someone found it and was uncomfortable leaving it at Drumlins. If anyone has any information:

Contact Cindy Franz directly if you have found the bracelet or have any information (607)-749-3126

Board Member Voting Ballot

Please indicate your vote by marking the circle next to the name(s) of your choice. There must be (7) seven names chosen for Board Members.

- Terry Norris (current Board member)
- Richard Small (nominated Board member)
- Janet Calp (current Board member)
- Luke Campbell (nominated Board member)
- Ed Mahar (current Board member)
- Dave LeFever (current Board member)
- Diana Sleiertin (current/nominated Board member)
- Julie Hiscock (nominated Board member)
- Bob Cunningham (current Board member)
- Stephanie Heppler (nominated Board member)
- Mark Hamilton (nominated Board member)
- Brad Chambers (current Board member)

Please mail your ballot to Bob Cunningham at 409 Waldorf Parkway, Syracuse, NY 13224 or Diana Sleiertin at 980 Schaap Road, Jordan, NY 13080. Please be sure to mail ballot before the November 6th Meeting. All ballots will be counted with the ballots cast at the November meeting.

Please take the time to consider all the candidates and vote accordingly.

Thank you for being an active, voting member of the Upstate Herpetological Association.

Mexican Police Find 130 Animals in Bus

MEXICO CITY - The bus from Catemaco turned out to be a wild ride indeed: turtles and lizards, snakes and tarantulas, parrots and even an eagle rode along with the apparently unwitting passengers.

Mexico's federal attorney general's office said Wednesday that federal police had seized more than 130 wild animals they discovered in the luggage compartment of a bus headed to Mexico City from Catemaco, a region of eastern Mexico famed for its diverse wildlife as well as for traditional Indian medicine men.

The wildlife was discovered when officers heard odd sounds coming from the luggage compartment of an ADO bus at a checkpoint in Chalco on the eastern outskirts of Mexico City.

The agency said officers found boxes containing an eagle, two toucans, 41 mockingbirds, three iguanas, 14 parrots, 15 snakes, 55 tortoises and a tarantula.

Officials said they were trying to determine what to do with the animals.

October Meeting!

Did we miss you at the September Meeting? Be sure not to miss the October Open House!

HIGHLIGHTS:

Presentations and displays of Members' Reptile and Amphibian Collections!

PLEASE PARTICIPATE!

Socialize:

Sip, snack and chat at social moments

When: October 2, 2005

Time: 11:00 am to 4:00pm

**Where: Beaver Lake Nature Center,
Baldwinsville**



Directions From I-81 or I-90 - Take I-690 W. (changes to N. at NYS Thruway) to second Baldwinsville exit, 370 W. Proceed west on Rte. 370, 2 miles, turn right onto E. Mud Lake Rd.

Advertising Info:

If you would like to place an ad not covered in the "UnClassifieds" column, but aren't sure how to lay it out, send us your information with payment and we will create a custom ad for you or your business. A full-page ad is \$50 per month, 1/2 page ad - \$25, 1/4 page ad - \$15 and business card size \$10.

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Alicia Dugan – Aviculturist/ Manager



**Telephone: 315-214-0340
Located on Rt. 11 in North
Syracuse
(309 South Main St)**

October Open House –October 2nd

Let's get together and have a great Turnout.

Just as an FYI, the Chicago Herp Society holds a Two-day Reptilefest that is *Phenomenally* well attended, by both members and audience. Let's aspire to a similar turnout by our members. New efforts will be taken to widely publicize the Open House, so let's make sure we are all involved! It's not too early to plan to be there...

Mark your calendar and Plan your table!!

You need to book now to insure you have the electricity and space you might need.

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR THE UHA

**Show your interest in educating the public,
Share your beautiful animals, your knowledge and your time!**

Contact Janet Calp or Terry Norris to schedule your table! (Contact info on Page 2)

Angry Gator Wranglers Quit Reptile Hunt

September 20, 2005 4:38 PM EDT

LOS ANGELES - Gator wranglers from Florida have abruptly quit their search for the city's elusive 7-foot alligator, livid that they were publicly ridiculed by a brash Hurricane Katrina evacuee that a councilwoman brought in to help nab the reptile.

Thomas "T-Bone" Quinn described as "retarded" the tactics employed by the wranglers from Orlando-based Gatorland. He made his comments on Saturday after being escorted by Councilwoman Janice Hahn to Ken Molloy Harbor Regional Park in South Los Angeles, where the gator dubbed Reggie has inhabited a lake for at least two months.

"I am not going to allow Gatorland to be referred to as 'retarded,'" Gatorland team leader Ted Williams said Monday. "I will not allow some swamp rat to walk into a situation and make comments about Gatorland and this team. We conducted ourselves in a professional manner."

Williams also accused Hahn of playing him "like a little puppet" for political purposes.

Hahn said Monday that she was surprised by Williams' reaction. Quinn, a 47-year-old Gulf Coast pipe fitter, apologized for his remarks and all of the men seemed to be getting along by Saturday night, she said.

"I thought it wouldn't hurt to have somebody else's advice," said Hahn, who praised Gatorland's efforts. "The only agenda I have is catching Reggie and I thought this was an opportunity to give this evacuee something to do."

The Gatorland team has spent the past week working quietly after dark, setting out bait, laying in wait in the swampy vegetation and cruising the 53-acre Machado Lake in canoes.

Quinn has not yet joined the hunt.

City officials said they needed to do a background check and decide whether he could work without liability insurance. They also were worried by Quinn's graphic descriptions of how he usually stabs alligators in the brain to kill them.

Hahn said he's filled out paperwork to become a city volunteer, which will take care of insurance questions.

Background checks appear to have come back clean, she said.

Quinn said he would abide by city rules to keep Reggie alive.

Wranglers from Florida and Colorado have tried in vain for five weeks to catch Reggie, who allegedly was dumped in the 53-acre Machado Lake by his former owner when he got too big to keep as a pet.

Some people, including Gatorland's Williams, are suggesting that Reggie should be left alone.

Hahn said she may consider that option as long as it's legal.

"I think we need to seriously consider the fact that he may not be caught," she said.

Zoo's Tortoise Gets Bladder Stones Removed

SAN FRANCISCO - A desert tortoise at the San Francisco Zoo is moving more swiftly now after having four bladder stones - one as large as a baseball - removed from his underbelly.

The 40-year-old tortoise named Cactus returned to public display this week after undergoing the surgery, in which veterinarians cut into his shell, removed the bladder stones and resealed the incision using fiberglass.

The stones weighed a little more than a pound - a lot for an animal that normally weighs just eight pounds, and potentially life-threatening at that size if not removed, zoo officials said.

Bladder stones occur frequently in both captive and wild tortoises because they don't urinate often enough, said Joe Fitting, director of the zoo's Animal Resource Center.

"They want to retain water. They're desert specialists," Fitting said.

The desert tortoise, the state reptile of California, also is found in parts of the Southwest and Mexico.

They were listed in 1989 as threatened under the California Endangered Species Act.

Zoo officials said Cactus, who's been living there since 1985, has been recuperating well since the operation, although his underbelly will take two years to heal

★ Zoo Request ★

The Rosamond Gifford Zoo is making a request to the members of the UHA. Over the years, the zoo's population of Dendrobates has begun to decline and they are looking to add to their collection. However, because a recent bacterial epidemic that has decimated other zoos' populations, Rosamond Gifford would like to purchase from a member who has a well established, private breeding colony - without any new specimens being recently introduced.

If any member currently had some Dendrobates they would be willing to part with, please contact the Rosamond Gifford Zoo's Herpetological Curator at (315) 435-8512.

UPSTATE HERPETOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

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Renewal

New Membership

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Name _____ Phone (____) _____

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City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Special Interests _____

(This information will be used in the directory.

*Feel free to include anything you think other
members may find helpful)*

Referred by: _____

Mail check Payable to:

Upstate Herpetological Association

Mail to: Bob Cunningham

409 Waldorf Parkway

Syracuse, NY 13224



www.afordturtle.com

DON'T FORGET!!!

October Meeting will be on October 2, 2005!!!

~ Be at Beaver Lake!

This is the Reptile Open House ~ DON'T miss this fun filled day!

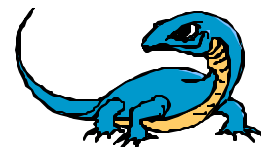
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