

Toledo Herpetological Society THS Newsletter

Volume 17, Issue 9

September 2006



Officer's Message

Now that school is back in session, we're once again meeting at the Natural Science Technology Center for our General Meetings. The September meeting is on Thursday September 21st and Colleen Riehl is giving a talk on animal massage techniques. And because we're running out of seasonably warm weather, this will be the last meeting of the summer season were we encourage you to bring your herp pets to the meeting. So bring in your lizards, snakes or turtles to share with the group.

The board members have also been hard at work making some revisions to the THS constitution. We'll read these changes at the Sept. meeting and will publish them in the October newsletter.

The Herps of the Month for September are a wonderful, diverse group of snakes from the Pituophis family or "pits" for short. Come see some neat members of this family on the 21st.

Mark your calendars for October 19th where pumpkin carving will be available again this year at the general meeting. Rob Snyder will also be presenting a "colorful" presentation on ball python morphs. If you think these snakes are just drab brown and tan, think again!



Albino San Diego Gopher
Photo courtesy of ENVY Reptiles
<http://www.kingsnake.com/nvreptiles>

On-line Help Available To All THS Members!

The THS Yahoo group is now available. The benefits are that members can share pictures of their pets, herp stories and ask reptile related questions that other members can answer. We need your input to make this a fun way to share information. For more information and to join this group, go to:
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ToledoHerpSociety/>

Sept. General Meeting Program

Natural Science Technology Center
Thursday, Sept 21st
7:15pm

Herp-of-the-Month

Sponsors: Ken, Sue, Lu, Sandy
Featured Herps: Gophers, Bulls, Pines
"The Pits"

Visit the Toledo Herpetological Society online at: <http://www.ths.4t.com>

Herp-of-the-Month

Gophers, Bulls, Pinesnakes

Common Name: Gopher snake / Bullsnake / Pinesnake

Family: Colubridae

Genus: *Pituophis* (name is derived from Latin, pituitarius, pertaining to phlegm or mucus and ophis, snake)

Origin: Central US, east of Rockies to western Indiana, southern Canada through Northeast Mexico

Size: 5 ft average for most gophers, bulls and pines often reach 6 ft, max size ≥8 ft

Life span: 22 yr. max

Active: Diurnal

Habitat: Grassy plains, prairies, sandy-semi-desert, agricultural areas

Captive habitat: Dry, roomy enclosure: ≥20 gal long tank; substrates: aspen bedding, newspaper, dry cypress mulch, Carefresh (Tekfresh); hide box, rough rocks or branches; water bowl large enough to soak, but avoid dampness in cage.

Temp.: 75-80°F (23-27°C)

Important: Avoid maintaining high ambient temperatures or regurgitation and death may occur.

Lighting: Incandescent for heat

Foods: Appropriately sized rodents (mice or rats). These constrictors are known for the high volume of rodents they eat and are capable of subduing multiple animals in their coils. They often use their coils to press their prey against the burrow walls to suffocate them.

Temperament: Wild caught are masters of defense -> mimic rattlesnakes.

Will vibrate tail rapidly, form S-loop, flatten head, open mouth, inhale air to look bigger then forcefully exhale yielding loud hiss. May strike but usually with a closed mouth.

Notes: The rostral scale on the tip of the nose for this genus is convex and protrudes prominently and is an adaptation that allows the snake to dig for prey and to lay eggs.

Male gophers are known to combat each other during the breeding season. This behavior is similar to that found in many species, including rattlesnakes. The males intertwine their bodies and attempt to force each other to the ground. This is harmless to both combatants.

Many species are marked by radically different patterns on the head, mid-body and tails that appear as if three snakes were combined in one animal.

References:

Mehrtens, John M. Living Snakes of the World. Sterling Publishing Co., Inc. New York, 1987

Texas Parks & Wildlife, Wildlife Fact Sheet, Bullsnake, 1996.

The Pituophis Page at: <http://www.kingsnake.com/pituophis/species.html>

Pituophis Parade by Patrick Briggs. Reptiles magazine, April 2001.

Compiled by: Cherie Bruno

Updated by: Ken Roshak

(Photos from: <http://www.homegrownherps.com> and <http://www.spsnakes.com>)



Herp News

Anyone familiar with ball pythons knows about "The Snake Keeper" at <http://ballpython.com> and the Sutherlands. I'll track the outcome of this story and post it in a future newsletter.

Mapleton to Determine Fate of Snake Business

Thursday, August 24, 2006

NATALIE EVANS - Daily Herald (Central Utah's Newspaper)

After investing \$600,000 in property in Mapleton and applying for what they thought were the needed licenses, the fate of the Sutherland family's snake breeding business is in the hands of city's Planning Commission.

The Mapleton city attorney told the City Council on Wednesday that the family must get a condition use permit before their hundreds of snakes can slither into their new barn on nearly 3 acres in the city. The ball pythons still are in California, where the Sutherlands lived before recently moving to Mapleton. The hearing on the permit is set for Sept. 21. The council asked the city attorney to review the situation after it was brought to the council's attention Aug. 16.

Dan Sutherland has a business license for his commercial snake farm and has built two barns -- one for ball pythons and one for the rodents to feed them. Sutherland held a meeting Wednesday evening so residents could ask questions about the business. He sells the snakes online and mails them to their destinations via a shipping business. The Sutherlands' neighbors are upset because they said they didn't know about the snakes until they thought it almost seemed too late. "Why they couldn't come out and tell me months ago when the building first started is beyond me," Richard Howell said. He would be next door to the snake farm. Sutherland said there was no need to inform his neighbors, and that the snakes won't be a problem. "If we weren't here today, you would never even know what I'm doing here," he said, referring to smell and escaping snakes. Residents said they aren't convinced that the snakes can't escape -- and they don't want to come face to face with a python. "Say it's a horror movie and the snakes get out. That's the worst scenario," resident Gwen Warren said. She said the most likely scenario is a decrease in property value. Surrounding property is worth more than \$300,000.

Mayor Jim Brady said a conditional use permit for Mapleton's agricultural zone allows residents to raise snakes as pets. It also states that residents can breed animals. "You can breed your rabbits, chickens and goats, and you can also breed reptiles," he said. He said the pythons could be classified as exotic pets, not reptiles. In that case, the city's law states that there can only be one exotic pet per half acre of property, so the Sutherlands' 2.7 acres could house five snakes. But the Sutherlands plan on having more than five snakes. Last week, Colette Sutherland said they had 30 clutches of eggs hatch on their farm last year. Each clutch hatches six or seven snakes, so that's about 200 hundred snakes. The Sutherlands' former neighbors in California were at the meeting to show support for them. Edward Christensen, of Elk Ridge, has been in the Sutherlands' snake facilities. At first, he said he felt the same way as the residents when he heard about the farm. "I know when you hear about snakes in a building, you kind of get these visions of 'Oh crap, there's snakes crawling around all over the place.' " However, entering the barns changed his mind. "When you see the type of operation that they have, your fears just go away," he said, noting that he has no problem bringing his children into the snake barn. Mapleton resident and zoologist Hal Black said that there is no need to worry about the snakes as a danger. "The idea that there's some potential danger here to me is sort of funny," he said, noting that ball pythons are scared of people.

Natalie Evans is available at 344-2561 or nevans@heraldextra.com. This story appeared in The Daily Herald on page A1.

THS Feeder Co-op

Rob Snyder is the “Rodent Master” of the THS Feeder Co-op. Any questions, concerns or ideas regarding the Co-op should be directed to Rob at (419) 308-1346 or email at adherp@woh.rr.com. The Feeder Co-op is a benefit of being a THS member, so only THS members can purchase food through the Co-op.

Insects

Insect orders can be placed and picked up either in Toledo or Bowling Green. Orders must be picked up from the person you ordered from.

Toledo Area: Orders for meeting deliveries should be made through Sue Taylor. Faxing her at (419) 534-5819 is the preferred method for ordering crickets. You may also call her at home (419) 475-1901. Please be sure to include cricket size and quantity, your name and phone number in case of questions about your order. Orders are due the Friday before meetings.

Bowling Green Area: Call Eileen Underwood at (419) 372-8564. If she is not available, leave your order on voice mail, please include your name, phone number, cricket size and quantity. Bowling Green cricket orders are placed once a month, and your order must be in before the first Monday of each month.

<p><u>Crickets</u> Pinhead to adult sizes 500 \$8.00 1000 \$11.00 1500 \$16.00</p>	<p><u>Superworms</u> small, med. or large size 500 \$12.00 1000 \$20.00</p>
<p><u>Waxworms</u> 50 \$5.25</p>	<p><u>Mealworms</u> 1000 \$7.50</p>



Rodent Orders

THS does not offer live rodents. To order, call Rob Snyder at (419) 308-1346. The Co-op rodent supply comes from the All Ohio Reptile Sale (Columbus, Ohio), for delivery at the next general meeting or pick-up at Eileen Underwood's office at BGSU before 5:00. **Large orders must be picked up at Eileen's office the Saturday evening they are picked up from Columbus.** We will let you know if this needs to be done when you call us with your order.

<p><u>Frozen Mice</u> Pinkies 100 for \$21.00 Fuzzies 100 for \$24.00 Hoppers 100 for \$34.00 Weaned 50 for \$24.50 Lrg adults 50 for \$27.00 Xlrg adults 25 for \$17.25</p>	<p><u>Frozen Rats</u> Pinkies 100 for \$39.00 Fuzzies 100 for \$49.00 Pups 25 for \$18.50 Weaned 25 for \$22.25 Small 20 for \$21.00 Medium 10 for \$17.00 Large 5 for \$12.50 Xlarge 3 for \$10.25 XXlarge 2 for \$9.00 XXXlarge 2 for \$9.50</p>
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Feeding Tip

Many people may “balk” at keeping mice or rats in their freezers but this method offers both healthy prey and substantial cost savings. Feeding prey that has been frozen for 30 days or longer kills off most parasites and other organisms that may be harmful to your herp. Just be certain to thaw out frozen prey thoroughly before offering them to your pet. Thawing can be done by soaking in warm water, leaving in the refrigerator overnight or placing in a bag and soaking in warm water. Remember to slightly warm the prey with warm water before offering it to your pet. This encourages a healthy feeding response and will help when transitioning from live to thawed meals. And buying in bulk offers a substantial savings so we encourage you to take advantage of the feeder co-op with your THS membership and place your next order with our Rodent Master!

THS Information

Officers and Board Members

President: Richard Schroeder, (517) 673-6170
Email: Richard.Schroeder@pfizer.com
THS Email: toledo_Herp_society@hotmail.com

Vice President: Eileen Underwood
(419) 352-5504 or (419) 372-8564
Email: eunderw@bgsu.edu

Secretary: Judy VandenBroek, (419) 352-5653
Email: vjudy@bgsu.edu

Treasurer: Sue Harman, (419) 697-7550
Email: new address posted soon

Sergeant-At-Arms: Gary Hune, (419) 475-6395

Board Member-At-Large: Hillary Harms
(419) 308-0529
Email: hillary_harms@yahoo.com

Board Member-At-Large: Sandy Allen
(419) 475-0521
Email: snakelady@toast.net

Membership Secretary: Luann Navarre
(419) 345-4123
Email: lnavarre@marcos.com

Newsletter Editors: Ken Roshak / Hillary Harms
(419) 475-1384
Email: BlackSwampSerpents@toast.net

Webmaster: Sandy Kiraly, (260) 485-3461
Email: igniche@gmail.com
THS Website: <http://www.ths.4t.com>

General Information:

Email: toledo_herp_society@hotmail.com
Website: <http://www.ths.4t.com>

THS General Meetings

Held the third Thursday of each month (unless otherwise noted) at the Toledo Public Schools Natural Science Technology Center (see map on cover sheet). Meetings begin 7:15 p.m. If you plan to purchase society merchandise or food through the co-op, please arrive early to do so. Visitors are always welcome and encouraged.

Advisors

Amphibians

Richard Schroeder, (517) 673-6170
Eric Olsen, (419) 824-2238, erico11@msn.com

Arachnids

Richard Schroeder, (517) 673-6170

Crocodilians

Richard Schroeder, (517) 673-6170

Iguanas

Sandy Kiraly, (260) 485-3461
Sandy Allen, (419) 475-0521
Lisa Morgan, (419) 353-8747

Lizards

Eileen Underwood, (419) 352-5504
Sandy Allen, (419) 475-0521
Sandy Kiraly, (260) 485-3461

Monitors

Richard Schroeder, (517) 673-6170
Hillary Harms, (419) 308-0529
Sandy Allen, (419) 475-0521

Snakes (Large species)

Tim Nijakowski (419) 826-7021
Eileen Underwood, (419) 352-5504
Sandy Allen, (419) 475-0521

Snakes (Small species)

Eileen Underwood, (419) 352-5504
Sandy Allen, (419) 475-0521
Ken Roshak, (419) 475-1384

Turtles/Tortoises

Richard Schroeder, (517) 673-6170
Eric Olsen, (419) 824-2238, erico11@msn.com
Eileen Underwood, (419) 352-5504

THS Board Meetings Open to any member who wants to attend. Board meetings start at 7:00 p.m., meeting schedule and location varies, so please contact a board member if you plan on attending.

Herp Vets / Events

Member Recommended Herp Veterinarians

David P. Ernsthausen - Animal Hospital at West Ridge, Ltd., 1244 Ridgewood Dr. Ste. 1, Bowling Green, OH. (419) 354-PETS (7387)

Roger H. Grothaus - Reynolds Road Animal Hospital, 2850 N. Reynolds Road, Toledo (419) 531-5589

Crystal Ponsor - The South Suburban Animal Clinic, 2661 N. Dixie Highway, Perrysburg (419) 872-0920, www.suburbananimalclinics.com

Tim Reichard – Bird & Exotic Pet Wellness Center, 5166 Monroe Street, Suite 305, Toledo (419) 843-3137, www.birdexoticpetvets.com

Ross D. Mahowald - Sylvania Veterinary Hospital, 5227 S. Main St., Sylvania, OH (419) 885-4421, www.sylvaniavet.com

Michael P. Meyers - Hartman Veterinary Hospital, 3924 Airport Highway, Toledo (419) 385-7433

Andrea Maceri – VetSelect Animal Hospital 1010 west Oakley Park Road, Commerce Township, Michigan 48390. (248) 926-9696 Emergency (248) 684-0468, www.vetselect.com

THS Calendar of Events

09/21/06 THS General Meeting

- Talk on Animal Massage
- Life is the “Pits” for some snakes!

09/28/06 THS Board Meeting ^

10/19/06 THS General Meeting

- Pumpkin Carving!
- Ball Python Morphs

10/26/06 THS Board Meeting ^

^ THS members are welcome to attend the Board Meetings. Contact a Board Member for times and locations.



Pituophis deppei deppei

Photo courtesy of <http://www.splitrockreptiles.com>

2006 Reptile Show Dates

Michigan Reptile Sale *

Taylor, Michigan (248) 586-1265
www.michiganreptileshow.com

01/14/06	05/13/06	09/09/06
02/11/06	06/10/06	10/14/06
03/04/06	07/08/06	11/11/06
04/08/06	08/12/06	12/09/06

All Cleveland Reptile Show *

Fairview Park, Ohio (614) 833-6905

www.pythons.com/allclevelandshow

01/22/06	05/21/06	09/17/06
02/12/06	06/11/06	10/15/06
03 – none	07/16/06	11/12/06
04/30/06	08/13/06	12/10/06

All Ohio Reptile Show *

Columbus, Ohio (614) 457-4433

www.allohioshows.com

01/21/06	05/06/06	09/16/06
02/11/06	06/10/06	10/14/06
03/11/06	07/15/06	11/11/06
04/08/06	08/12/06	12/09/06

* Note that wild-caught/imported animals are sold at these shows, check purchases closely!

Classifieds

Ads: up to 5 lines are free to non-commercial THS members. Monthly commercial rates are as follows:

business card \$2.50
1/4 page \$5.00
1/2 page \$9.00
full page \$18.00

Pre-paid ads will be discounted by 10%.

You must specify an expiration date for your ad. There is a 3 month maximum limit after which you will need to re-submit the ad to the editor. Ads sent without an expiration date will only run once. Inappropriate ads will not be run, THS is not responsible for the quality of the merchandise or the animals listed here. Animal genders are indicated by the following code: males.females.unknown.

Newsletter general information: Anyone is welcome and encouraged to submit material to be published in the THS newsletter. Newsletter contributions must be received by the editor by the 25th of the month to be included in the next newsletter. THS reserves the right to edit or reject any material submitted for publication in its newsletter. **Disclaimer:** The opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the author(s), and do not necessarily reflect those of the Toledo Herpetological society.

Mid-Michigan Reptile Rescue, purpose:

The rescue, rehabilitation, and adoption placement of abandoned, abused, and unwanted reptiles and exotics, as well as education of the general public. The Mid-Michigan Reptile Rescue has hundreds of reptiles available for adoption, see their website at: www.geocities.com/midmichiganherp or contact **Jane Billette** via phone at (989) 684-7938 or email at midmichiganherp@yahoo.com.

Hatchling Northern Pinesnake



Bearded Dragon hatchlings \$25-80 depending upon size and color. Pictus Geckos juveniles \$25-\$50. Viper Gecko subadults \$50/pair. Crested Gecko juveniles \$50 - \$150 depending upon size color and sex. 2005 Corn Snake hatchlings: Amel motley \$60. Poison Dart froglets \$35-\$55 depending on color and species.

Contact **Eileen Underwood** at (419) 372-8564
Email – eunderw@bgsu.edu

Available at THS meetings: nutritionally complete turtle and tortoise diets, bulk pricing, sample sizes available.

Contact **Richard Schroeder** at (734) 622-2529.

Jungle Carpet Python babies - \$75, Hog Island Boa babies - \$150, Speckled King Snake babies - \$30, yearling False Water Cobras - \$150, het hypo Florida king snakes - \$30, three year old male het green ghost ball python - \$400, Het albino Ball Pythons – males \$100 to \$150 female \$600, Silkworms – 10/\$1.

Contact **Rob Snyder** at (419) 308-1346
Email – adherp@woh.rr.com

How about a deal on Reptiles! I have it. Bearded Dragons Adult 1.1.1 \$25.00 Each. Leopard Geckos 1.1.2 with cage and heat cave \$40.00 for it all! Viper Gecko 0.1.0 with cage for Free! Crested Geckos 1.1.0 with Cage for \$150.00. There are many extras and freebies Check <http://web.mac.com/kaniap/iWeb/Reptiles/Home.html> for more information. **Patrick Kania** at 419-410-7127 or kaniap@mac.com

Crack the code! Write the real word that each of the codes represent. Each letter in the real word has been changed to another letter. For example, a B in the code might really mean C. Once you figure out the code for one letter, the same code is used for all the words on this sheet.

Code:	A	B	D	F	H	J	K	M	N	O	P	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
Letter:																			

1.	TUTFNUMT	_____
2.	TDDWZTVNO	_____
3.	MKJKOV VNOVNWJK	_____
4.	FBTYKDKNU	_____
5.	OTVVDKJUTSK	_____
6.	ZKFSN	_____
7.	FNXOT	_____
8.	PAVBNU	_____
9.	WZHTUT	_____
10.	XNT	_____

*Portions of this puzzle were taken from www.edhelper.com

A word of thanks to THS member Hillary Harms who has been contributing Herp puzzles to the newsletter since their inception. We hope you continue to enjoy them!

THS Membership Application

Please print and fill out completely especially for renewals. We would appreciate your current and complete information.

Please check membership type

Family (\$18.00/yr; 2 adults and children under 18)

Single (\$15.00/yr; 16 or older)

Membership: New () Renewal ()

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____ Apt#: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone Number:() _____ Email Address: _____

Spouse's and Children's name (Family Memberships): _____

Herps you are currently keeping, or skills you'd like us to know about: _____

I do () do not () wish to have my name in the THS directory

Make checks payable to the Toledo Herpetological Society and mail to THS P.O. Box 2781 Toledo, OH 43606-0781

Herp Photos

As we move to an electronic format one of the advantages over hard-copy printing is the fact we can add photos more easily and the herps can be viewed in all the glorious color "mother nature" intended. If you haven't already made the jump to an Electronic Newsletter, email Hillary (Hillary_Harms@yahoo.com) and give her your name and email address. Plus, feel free to submit your pictures to Ken (BlackSwampSerpents@toast.net) for submission in the THS newsletter. Because of the limited space I'll try and include your photos as soon as possible. When submitting photos, be sure to include a little information about your entry.



Rattlesnake! Oh, that's a bunch of "bull"! A case of mistaken identity!

This bullsnake is doing what comes naturally when trying to defend itself, rearing up in an S-shape and hissing ferociously. And while most of this is simply for show, it's this behavior that often mistakes it for a rattlesnake by many people. Rattlers share much of the bullsnake's home range, which has also contributed to this mistaken identity.

Bullsnakes are gaining popularity as pets and are robust, mostly gentle snakes that make good, hardy pets. More information on bullsnakes can be read here:
<http://www.northern.edu/natsource/REPTILES/Bullsn1.htm>

Photo courtesy of:
<http://people.vanderbilt.edu/~r.s.reiserer/evolbio.html>

THS

PO Box 2781
Toledo, OH 43606-0781



If this box is checked, your membership is due within 30 days.

Map to General Meetings

