



Herp Happenings

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PARC Mission:

To conserve amphibians, reptiles and their habitats as integral parts of our ecosystem and culture through proactive and coordinated public/private partnerships.



Carolina Herp Atlas
www.carolinaherpatlas.org



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Pine Woods Snake - Jeff Hall

2008 NCPARC Annual Meeting, March 6-7

The 2008 NCPARC Annual Meeting will be held at [Trinity Center](#) located at the Coast in Salter Path near Emerald Isle on Bogue Banks. This year's theme is "Habitat for Herps and Humanity—Threats to Conservation of Imperiled Species". Topics will include development pressures/issues, varying levels of conservation/preservation, roads, and more. More information about the annual meeting, directions to Trinity Center, and how to register will be available soon on the [NCPARC website](#).

SE HMG Workshop

The first ever workshop on the Southeast Habitat Management Guidelines, held in TN, was a big success! Look for details soon on a similar workshop to be held in NC in May.

EVENTS CALENDAR

(For more details see newsletter)

12/17: PRT WORKING GROUP MEETING, UNC-G

1/16/08: RIMM WORKING GROUP MEETING AND PRESENTATION BY MIKE DORCAS, UNC-G

1/24/08: EO WORKING GROUP MEETING, NC MUSEUM OF NATURAL SCIENCES RESEARCH LAB

2/12: CASP FROG CALL ID WORKSHOP, FAYETTEVILLE

2/21: CASP FROG CALL ID WORKSHOP, FALLS LAKE

2/21-2/24: SOUTHEAST PARC ANNUAL MEETING, UGA, ATHENS, GA

2/21-2/22: NCTWS ANNUAL MEETING, HAW RIVER STATE PARK, BROWNS SUMMIT

2/26: CASP FROG CALL ID WORKSHOP, DAVIDSON

2/29-3/1: REPTILE & AMPHIBIAN DAYS AT FORT FISHER AQUARIUM

3/6-3/7: NCPARC ANNUAL MEETING, TRINITY CENTER, SALTER PATH

3/15: REPTILE & AMPHIBIAN DAY AT NC MUSEUM OF NATURAL SCIENCES

4/3: AMPHIBIANS WORKSHOP, COOL SPRINGS EE CENTER, NEW BERN

4/8: CASP FROG CALL ID WORKSHOP, RIVER PARK NORTH, GREENVILLE

4/17: CASP FROG CALL ID WORKSHOP, HOWELL WOODS LEARNING CENTER, FOUR OAKS

4/26-4/27: NC HERP SOCIETY SPRING MEETING, JONES LAKE STATE PARK, ELIZABETHTOWN

Calling Amphibian Survey Program (CASP)

- The 2008 CASP season is nearly upon us!. The first sampling window spans January 15–February 28. If you were an observer in 2007, you were automatically reassigned to your route for 2008 (except for a few of you who requested new routes). Route information and materials will be mailed in early January. All observers who passed the frog quiz in 2006 will need to retake the quiz sometime between now and the end of the 2008 CASP season (www.pwrc.usgs.gov/frogquiz). Taking the quiz sooner rather than later may help you hone your skills to be ready for the field season. If you are not an observer and are interested in taking on a route, please contact Jeff Hall. A HUGE thank you to all of the volunteers that make CASP possible! For more information on CASP, go to www.ncparc.org/casp/casp.htm
- Numerous Frog Call ID workshops will be held across the state before and during the 2008 CASP field season. Several are already planned for the Piedmont and Coastal Plain with several more to be added for the Piedmont and Mountains. To register for January 26th at Davidson College, contact Steve Price at (704) 894-2868 or sjprice@davidson.edu. To register for February 12th in Fayetteville, April 8th in Greenville or April 17 in Four Oaks, contact Jeff Hall. To register for February 21 at Falls Lake SRA, contact Brian Bockhahn at (919) 676-1027 or brian.bockhahn@ncmail.net.

Herp Workshops

Several workshops will be offered this Spring at Cool Springs Environmental Education Center near New Bern. Co-lead by Jeff Hall and Mike Campbell, NC Wildlife Resources Commission, the workshops on April 3 (amphibians) and June 26 (reptiles) will be full day trainings, 8-4:00, focused on general ecology and natural history and will offer participants extensive information on native species. Through hands-on fieldwork and classroom presentations, participants will learn basic biology, identification, habitat requirements and human interactions with herps. These workshops will be held in conjunction with Weyerhaeuser, and will qualify for Component II of the NC OEE certification. Contact Mike Campbell to register, (252) 514-6663 or mike.campbell@ncwildlife.org. Additional workshops are still being arranged at Agape Center in Fuquay-Varina, Camp Chestnut Ridge in Efland, and at Carolina Beach State Park. Contact Jeff Hall for more information.

Working Group Meetings

- The Policy, Regulation, and Trade (PRT) group will meet December 17th at UNC-G from 1-4 PM. Topics to be discussed include: legal issues surrounding potential to change existing venomous reptiles law, Asian food markets, and public hearing schedules for proposed regulations affecting snapping, mud, and musk turtles.
- The Research, Inventory, Monitoring, and Management (RIMM) group will meet January 16th also at UNC-G from 1-4. Topics will include: update on *Bd* chytrid fungus, discussion on wildlife passage issues, and update on the Box Turtle Research Group. Mike Dorcas will be giving a departmental seminar at UNC-G after the RIMM meeting at 4 PM entitled “[Impacts of *Homo sapiens* on Amphibian and Reptile Populations.](#)” All are welcome. He’ll be discussing anthropogenic effects on herp populations and discuss research on 1) urbanization and stream salamanders, 2) harvest and diamondback terrapins, and 3) invasive Burmese pythons in the Everglades.
- The Education and Outreach (EO) group will be meeting January 24th at the NC Musuem of Natural Sciences Research Lab facility on Reedy Creek Road in Raleigh. The meeting will begin at 1PM; however, Jeff Beane will be conducting a tour of the musuem's wet lab for those interested at 12:30. Discussion during the meeting will be centered around the following: 2008 CASP workshops, 2008 annual meeting, HMG workshop, and participation in festivals and other events.

NCPARC Booth Events

NCPARC volunteers will be needed to assist with booths at both Reptile and Amphibian Days at the Fort Fisher Aquarium and Reptile and Amphibian Day at the Museum of Natural Sciences. The Fort Fisher Aquarium event, February 29–March 1 is a new event and is being held in part to celebrate the Year of the Frog as designated by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA). Fitting that this event would begin on Leap Day! The Museum of Natural Sciences Reptile and Amphibian Day has been held annually for many years and regularly attracts around 10,000 people. The theme at this year’s event will be constrictors.

NCPARC will host booths at both events with live animals, educational brochures, hand-stamps, and giveaways. Contact Jeff Hall if you are available to volunteer for either of these events. Some housing may be available for the Fort Fisher event.

