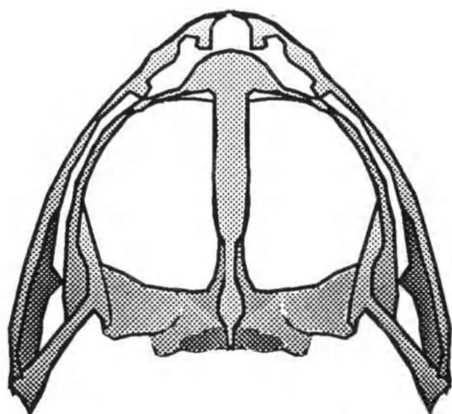


# CATESBEIANA



Bulletin of The Virginia Herpetological Society

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## BULLETIN INFORMATION

*Catesbetana* is issued twice a year by the Virginia Herpetological Society. Membership is open to all individuals interested in the study of amphibians and reptiles, and includes a subscription to *Catesbetana* and admission to all meetings.

Dues are \$5.00 per year and include a subscription to *Catesbetana* numbers 1 and 2 for that year. Dues are payable to: Ronald Southwick, Secretary-Treasurer, P.O. Box 5122, Virginia Beach, VA 23455.

## EDITORIAL POLICY

The principle function of *Catesbetana* is to publish observations and original research about Virginia Herpetology. Rarely will articles be reprinted in *Catesbetana* after they have been published elsewhere. All correspondence relative to suitability of manuscripts or other editorial considerations should be directed to Charles Neal or Eugene Gourley, Coeditors, Department of Biology, Radford University, Radford, VA 24142.

### Major Papers

Manuscripts being submitted for publication should be typewritten (double spaced) on good quality 8 1/2 by 11 inch paper, with adequate margins. Consult the style of articles in this issue for additional information. Articles will be refereed by at least one officer (past or present) of the Virginia Herpetological Society in addition to the coeditors. All changes must be approved by the author before publication; therefore manuscripts must be submitted well in advance of the March or September mailing dates.

Reprints of articles are not available to authors; however, authors may reprint articles themselves to meet professional needs.

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(Editorial policy continued on inside back cover.)

# CATESBEIANA

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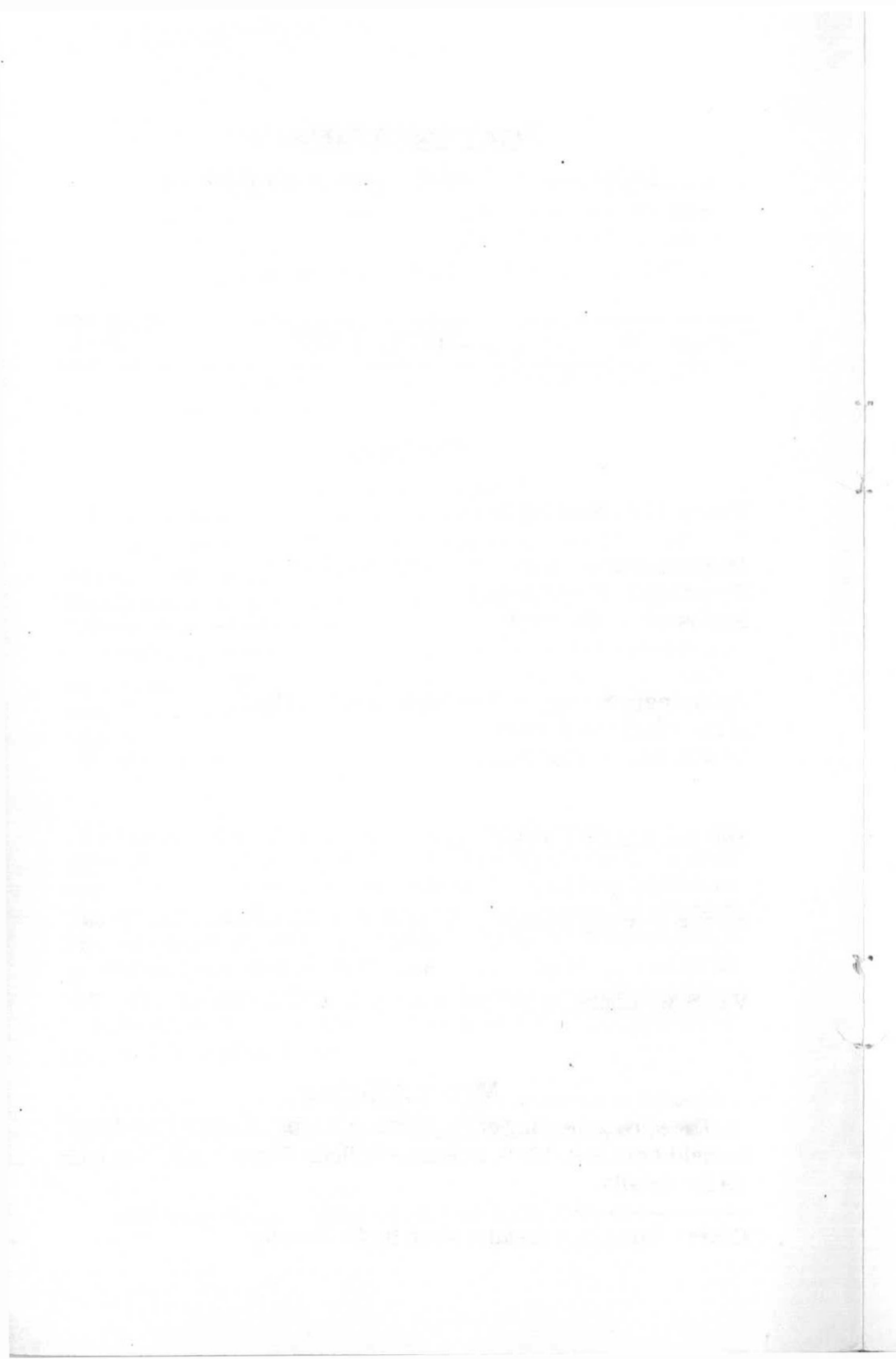
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## Meeting Notice

The spring meeting of the Virginia Herpetological Society will be held April 8-9, 1989, at Prince William Forest Park. See page 19 for details.

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Cover: *Rana catesbeiana* skull by E. Gourley



## An Historical Review of the Fairfax County, Virginia, Bog Turtle Record

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Each scientific discipline has its own body of literature that must be understood in much detail if anyone, professional or amateur, is to contribute to it. This includes not only understanding what is written conceptually, but also who wrote what when. Mistakes, errors, or inaccuracies that creep into the literature are often perpetuated for years. Correcting such problems requires a complete review of the literature and an intuitive understanding of how some misunderstandings are created. This note describes one such problem from our historical perspective. It also clarifies some references in the Virginia herpetological literature.

Maurice K. Brady published a note in *Copeia* in 1924 (Brady, 1924) about a bog turtle, *Clemmys muhlenbergii*, that was brought to him from "a short distance below Stubblefield Falls" in Fairfax County, Virginia. Brady did not look at the specimen or question the identification by its collector. The specimen was eventually catalogued in the herpetology collection of the Smithsonian Institution (USNM 95195). At that time it was thought this represented the southern end of the larger northeastern isolate of *C. muhlenbergii* (see Ernst and Barbour, 1972). The note by Brady was apparently the basis for E.R. Dunn's inclusion of "Fairfax" and the bog turtle in his 1936 mimeographed checklist of Virginia amphibians and reptiles (Dunn, 1936). The Fairfax County record was perpetuated in Netting (1927), Pope (1939), Hoffman (1949), Carroll (1950), Carr (1952), and Barton and Price (1955).

Apparently upon reading Barton and Price (1955), Doris M. Cochran, then senior curator of the Division of Amphibians and Reptiles at the Smithsonian, asked A.J. Barton to examine the specimen. It turned out to be a juvenile wood turtle, *Clemmys insculpta*. He subsequently published a note in *Herpetologica* deleting the bog turtle from the Virginia checklist (Barton, 1960).

Witt (1962) noted the change in identification and its deletion from the checklist but did not cite Barton (1960).

Barton and Price (1955) accepted the Fairfax County location given in Netting (1927) but rejected a nearby locality mentioned in Brady (1937). Netting had based his record on Brady's (1924) note. Brady (1937) included *C. muhlenbergii* as a probable species in his list of amphibians and reptiles of Plummer's island, Maryland (in the Potomac River immediately east of I-495, west). He noted that one specimen had been taken near "Stubblefield" (= Stubblefield Falls, about 1 mile west of Plummer's Island) and stated, "Species reported between canal and river in vicinity of the Island." Barton and Price (1955) omitted, without comment, the "reported" (their quotation marks) record "between the old Chesapeake and Ohio Canal and the Potomac River in the vicinity of Plummer's Island." Barton and Price (1955) apparently thought two records were presented in Brady (1937) and rejected the one that was not verified with a specimen. Barton (1960) simply noted it was considered dubious. Verified records of *C. insculpta* do occur in Maryland near Plummer's Island (Harris, 1975), and Brady (1937) includes this species in his list. Could juvenile wood turtles have been mistaken by local naturalists at that time as bog turtles? Perhaps Brady simply thought, based on the Stubblefield Falls turtle, that the bog turtle would be found on the north side of the river near Plummer's Island.

In 1963, Victor H. Hutchison published a note in *Copeia* (Hutchison, 1963) reporting a bog turtle (Duke University Collection R 197) collected in 1957 on the Blue Ridge Parkway in Floyd County. This reinstated the species on the Virginia checklist. The Fairfax County literature record remained a problem, however, because the Barton (1960) paper was apparently overlooked by the author of at least one other publication.

The Fairfax County locality turned up again in 1968 in a brief statement in the Virginia Herpetological Society Bulletin on turtles (Number 58, pg. 2). This time the location was "Oakton, Fairfax Co." A letter by Franklin J. Tobey to B. Belmore dated 1 March 1973 may clarify why Oakton was included. To quote: "When I first met the late Dr. Doris M. Cochran in the late 1940's, she asked me where I lived and I told her I was in Oakton (Fairfax County), Va., to which she replied: 'Oh, that used to be Bog

Turtle country!." Note that this was before the correct identification was made. In the previous sentence Tobey noted that "Historically, we believe that Dr. E. R. Dunn found the bog turtle in Fairfax County, Va., during the period he was living in Alexandria, Va." Tobey had referred to Carr's (1952) notation of the "Northern Virginia" location. Carr probably based his statement on Dunn's inclusion of the Fairfax location in the 1936 checklist.

In her paper on the reptiles of Mason Neck National Wildlife Refuge, M.K. Klimkiewicz (1972) stated that the bog turtle had not been collected in Fairfax County. She mentioned that the original USNM specimen was identified as *C. muhlenbergii*, citing "Tobey, 1968". Tobey (= Virginia Herpetological Survey, 1968) does not mention the specimen, so it is likely there was some correspondence that included the question of its identification. Klimkiewicz (1972) also noted that the specimen had been reidentified by K.T. Nemuras as *Clemmys guttata*; as communicated to her by R. G. Tuck. This identification was incorrect. Musick (1972) noted that reports of bog turtles from Fairfax County are in question and its occurrence on the Virginia Coastal Plain is doubtful. He cited Brady (1924) and Klimkiewicz (1972).

I have reexamined USNM 95195 and confirm its identity as a *Clemmys trisculpta*. It was collected by I.N. Hoffman, below Stubblefield Falls on the Potomac River, Fairfax County, Virginia, no date. The specimen is a dry shell of a 2 year old juvenile, 59.3 mm carapace length and 52.5 mm plastron length. There is no evidence that *C. muhlenbergii* has ever occurred in Fairfax County or the Virginia Coastal Plain.

Acknowledgements - I thank G. R. Zug for allowing me to examine the Smithsonian specimen. This work has been supported by a contract from the Nongame Wildlife and Endangered Species fund of the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.

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# Preliminary Survey of the Freshwater Turtles of the Blackwater River

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## Introduction

A survey of the freshwater turtles of the Blackwater River drainage in 1987 collected 365 turtles of six species. In order of decreasing abundance these were *Sternotherus odoratus*, *Kinostemon subrubrum*, *Chrysemys picta*, *Pseudemys rubiventris*, *Chelydra serpentina*, and *Trachemys scripta*. The *T. scripta* collection was a first record for the entire drainage. New county records were established for each species. *S. odoratus*, *K. subrubrum*, and *C. picta* were found widely distributed throughout the drainage.

## Description of Study Area

The Blackwater River (Chowan Drainage) is located in southeastern Virginia. It is formed by the confluence of Blackwater swamp and Second Swamp in the southwestern corner of Prince George County. From its origin in Prince George County, the Blackwater River flows in a southeasterly direction and forms the greater length of the boundary between Sussex and Surry Counties. Near Isle of Wight County, the river changes course and flows almost due south into North Carolina, forming the boundary between Southampton and Isle of Wight Counties first and then between Southampton and the City of Suffolk. Immediately below the Virginia/North Carolina line, the Blackwater River merges with the Nottoway River to form the Chowan. The total length of the Blackwater River is 105 miles. The watershed encompasses 740 square miles, which is primarily forest and agriculture. The Blackwater River lies entirely within the Coastal Plain, and the topography of the watershed is classified as relatively flat to gently sloping terrain. The riparian zone is a heavily wooded wetland

with cypress and tupelo gum trees being most common. From its origin to just above Franklin, the river has numerous channel obstructions from fallen trees. In this area the forest canopy generally covers the riparian zone. Below Franklin the river has been channelized and is periodically cleared of snags for barge traffic to reach Union Camp Corporation. In this lower section, the river widens appreciably allowing exposure from the forest canopy. The Blackwater River is aptly named for the water is dark due to the presence of tannic and other organic acids from decaying vegetation in the swamps.

### Procedures

A survey of the freshwater turtles of the Blackwater River drainage was conducted from June 6 - November 1, 1987. Sampling gear included Iverson traps (Iverson, 1979) and trap nets. The trap nets were of the South Dakota style, commonly used if fish population sampling. The traps were generally unbaited and set in the water with the top above the surface so the turtles would not drown. The traps were generally checked twice a week. All turtles were transported to Dr. Joseph C. Mitchell (Univ. of Richmond, Richmond, Va.) for preservation and further study.

### Results and Discussion

In an extensive survey of freshwater turtles in the Blackwater River drainage in 1987, a total of 365 turtles were collected. The specimens represented six species of three families (Table 1). In order of decreasing abundance, the species collected were *Sternotherus odoratus* (stinkpot), *Kinosternon subrubrum subrubrum* (eastern mud turtle), *Chrysemys picta picta* (eastern painted turtle), *Pseudemys rubiventris rubiventris* (red-bellied turtle), *Chelydra serpentina serpentina* (common snapping turtle), and *Trachemys scripta scripta* (yellow-bellied slider).

The collections were made at 33 stations extending from middle Prince George County to below Franklin. The majority of the stations (23) were located on the mainstem of the Blackwater River. Eight stations were on tributary streams, and two were in

millponds within the drainage.

Accounting for 59% of all the turtles collected, *Sternotherus odoratus* was by far the most numerous species in the survey. It was collected at 26 of the 33 stations and was widely distributed throughout the drainage. As many as 38 specimens were taken at one station. The high incidence of *S. odoratus* is undoubtedly influenced by its primarily aquatic nature. New county records for *S. odoratus* established by this survey include Isle of Wight and Southampton (Tobey, 1985). The Iverson traps were considerably more successful than trap nets in catching this turtle. No explanation for this observation is known.

*Kinosternon subrubrum* was the second most numerous species in the survey with 73 specimens collected (20% of total). It was found at 19 of the 33 stations but seldom in large numbers. Generally fewer than five specimens were collected per station; the largest number per station was nine. It was widely distributed throughout the drainage and was almost always found in association with *S. odoratus*. The preference of *K. subrubrum* for terrestrial habitat probably biases this survey regarding its abundance relative to the other species collected. One new county record (Southampton) for *K. subrubrum* was established by this survey (Tobey, 1985).

*Chrysemys picta* was the third most numerous species in the survey. Sixty-seven specimens of *C. picta* were collected at 23 stations. Generally fewer than five specimens were collected at each station; the largest number collected per station was 10. *Chrysemys picta* was found well distributed through the Blackwater River drainage. This represents a considerable expansion in the known records for this species. Previously, *C. picta* had been collected at only three locations within the Blackwater River drainage (Tobey, 1985). One new county record (Southampton) was established by this survey.

Six specimens of *Pseudemys rubiventris* were collected at four stations. Five of these specimens were taken in trap nets, which shows the greater effectiveness of trap nets over

Table 1. Results of Blackwater River turtle survey, 1987.  
 Sampling method: IT - Iverson trap; TN - Trap net.

STA. NO.	METHOD	DATE	TRAP DAYS	<i>Sternotherus odoratus</i>	<i>Kinostemon subrubrum</i>	<i>Chrysemys picta</i>	<i>Pseudemys rubiventris</i>	<i>Trachemys scripta</i>	<i>Chelydra serpentina</i>	TOTAL
BWR01	IT	6/6-6/14	30	11	2	2	---	---	---	15
BWR02	IT	6/15-6/20	30	---	6	---	---	---	---	6
BWR03	IT	6/21-6/28	40	26	9	1	---	---	---	36
BWR04	IT	6/24-6/28	20	4	5	---	---	---	---	9
BWR05	IT	6/29-7/2	16	---	4	1	---	---	---	5
BWR06	IT	6/29-7/12	93	38	5	5	---	---	---	48
BWR07	IT	7/13-7/19	35	8	---	1	---	---	---	9
BWR08	IT	7/13-7/19	28	11	7	2	---	---	---	20
BWR09	IT	7/20-7/26	35	2	1	1	---	---	---	4
BWR10	IT	7/20-7/26	32	5	2	10	---	---	---	17
BWR11	IT	7/27-8/2	28	10	4	4	---	---	---	18
BWR12	IT	7/27-8/2	28	8	7	3	---	---	---	18
BWR13	IT	8/3-8/9	28	1	4	---	---	---	---	5
BWR14	IT	8/3-8/9	21	---	---	1	---	---	---	1
BWR15	IT	8/2-8/6	5	---	---	1	---	---	---	1
BWR16	IT	8/2-8/6	5	3	---	1	---	---	---	4
BWR17	IT	8/2-8/6	5	---	---	1	---	---	---	1
BWR18	IT	8/2-8/6	5	2	---	---	2	---	---	4
BWR19	IT	8/10-8/16	28	13	1	5	---	---	---	19
BWR20	IT	8/10-8/16	29	2	1	1	---	---	---	4
BWR21	IT	8/17-8/24	34	11	9	8	---	---	---	28
BWR22	IT	8/17-8/21	17	2	---	1	---	---	---	3
BWR23	IT	8/19-8/24	12	13	---	---	---	---	---	13
BWR24	IT	8/22-8/30	72	23	1	8	1	1	---	34
BWR25	IT	8/27-8/30	8	1	---	---	---	---	---	1
BWR26	IT	9/14-9/23	59	7	2	2	---	---	1	12
BWR27	TN	9/26-11/1	37	4	1	---	2	---	---	7
BWR28	IT	9/14-9/23	46	2	1	1	---	---	---	4
BWR29	IT	9/26-10/11	74	1	---	---	---	---	---	1
BWR30	IT	9/26-10/4	18	2	---	---	---	---	---	2
BWR31	IT	9/26-10/4	45	---	---	6	---	---	---	6
BWR32	IT	10/1-10/18	36	5	---	1	---	---	---	6
BWR33	TN	10/1-11/1	32	---	1	---	---	---	---	1
BWR33	TN	9/26-11/1	37	1	---	---	1	---	1	3
TOTALS			1068	216	73	67	6	1	2	365

Iverson traps for capturing large aquatic turtles. The four stations represented by *P. rubiventris* collections were either in the mainstem of the river or in a millpond suggesting that the species prefers large water habitat. All four stations were in the lower portion of the drainage. This observation is probably a function of gear selectivity rather than species distribution. The trap net stations were all in the lower portion of the drainage. Prior to this survey, only two collections of *P. rubiventris* were known from the Blackwater River drainage (Tobey, 1985). One new county record (Prince George) was set by this survey.

*Trachemys scripta* was found at only one station. This location provided not only a new county record (Isle of Wight) for *T. scripta*, but it was also the first record for the entire Blackwater River drainage.

*Chelydra serpentina* was collected at two stations (one specimen each). Both stations were on the mainstem of the river. Previously, *C. serpentina* was known only from two collections in the Blackwater River drainage (Tobey, 1985).

### Acknowledgements

I wish to thank Dr. Joseph Mitchell for his encouragement in this study, for his assistance in identifying the specimens, for the distribution records cited in the text, and for his constructive review of the manuscript. I also wish to thank Mr. Richard Cowell for his assistance in making the field collections.

### Literature Cited

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- Tobey, F.J. 1985. Virginia's amphibians and reptiles: A distributional survey. Virginia Herpetological Survey. Privately published, Purcellville, Va. 114 pp.

## The President's Corner

With this issue I start a new column in *Catesbeiana* that provides a forum containing various news and other items of interest to our members. I welcome comments and input on items I have missed.

Last October, the Virginia Herpetological Society was 30 years old. As far as I am aware, we are the third oldest regional herpetological society in the country, only New York and Philadelphia herp societies are older. The VHS differs from most other societies by having as its exclusive focus the herpetology of Virginia. Three areas were identified by its charter members as the necessary directions a largely amateur society should take (see Tobey, 1988, *Catesbeiana* 8(2):21-26). These are education, conservation, and research. Historically, these areas have been served mostly through the actions of its individual members and the publication of distributional summaries in the VHS bulletin (first series, numbers 37, 57-58, 67-68). The publication of the VHS distribution maps by the first secretary, F.J. Tobey, in 1985 was the crowning achievement for the charter group. The change from the bulletin format to *Catesbeiana* ushered in a new era for VHS. We are the new generation of VHS members and we must carry on the tradition of a Virginia focus. It is up to us to forge new paths in the three areas mentioned above. We started that process at the October, 1988 meeting in Radford.

All 1988 members of VHS received a notice of the new program that offers a small grant to private individuals for research on Virginia herpetology. The program is in direct keeping with the research direction of the society. It starts in 1989 and I'll have a report on it for the Fall issue of *Catesbeiana*. Please let me know if you are interested and have not heard of this program.

At the Fall 1988 meeting we also decided to allocate funds for the design and production of automobile bumper stickers. This project was headed by Bob Hogan of the Roanoke area. The stickers contain the seal of the society and promote conservation, education, and research. They will be for sale, to recover costs, at the spring meeting and from the Treasurer, Ron Southwick.

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*Catesbeiana*. 1989. 9(1): 15-18.

The VHS is a supporting society of the forthcoming Symposium on Endangered and Threatened Species in Virginia, to be held at VPI&SU on 28-29 April, 1989. The seminars presented at this meeting will summarize months and even years of work that have gone into identifying those Virginia species that need legal protection. A registration fee is required, but it is open to the public. I urge those of you who can to attend. For more information contact Susie Gilley, Dept. of Game and Inland Fisheries, PO box 11104, Richmond, VA 23230-1104.

Vice President Kurt Buhlmann and I have been thinking about ways to further the conservation and education goals of the VHS. We will present a proposal at the Spring business meeting to seek outside funds to help produce a color leaflet on Virginia's endangered and threatened herps. Such a leaflet, 2-4 pages of standard page size with color photos, could be sent to schools around the state and passed out at various public events. This could advertise the VHS, as well as provide educational and conservation material. It is expensive, hence the need to seek outside funds. Come to the Spring meeting and let's talk about it.

Some concern was voiced at the fall 1988 meeting that the society was not attracting younger members. We all recognize that young people are the life blood of organizations such as this and that our society can direct youth's energy into constructive pathways. I, for example, was introduced to herpetology via my uncle Costello Craig, who is a charter member of VHS. I attended my first VHS meeting in the Fall of 1962 and through Cos, attended most of the others for several years afterward. We need current members to help devise ways to attract and work with middle school and high school youths. Please send me your suggestions and we will start working on this problem at the Spring meeting.

Finally, group and individual photos of members attending past VHS meetings have been taken by a variety of people. Certainly photos exist from the early years, as well as from recent years. It is time we assemble these photos into an album for the the society. Please send me your black and white or color prints (or negatives), or slides. My wife and I will accumulate them, have them duplicated (for those loaned), and assemble them in some



format. A list of names identifying those in the photos should be included, if possible. The album becomes the property of VHS. We can have the first product available for the Fall 1989 meeting if you send the material. This is a society project, so dig up those memories and send them in.

### News

(1) Interested in volunteering for sea turtle research in Costa Rica? There are three programs with numerous teams working on green turtles and leatherbacks. Ten-day programs cost \$1410 and 17-day programs cost \$1722. For details contact Massachusetts Audubon Society, Natural History Travel, Lincoln, MA 01773.

(2) A new magazine for snake freaks devoted to husbandry and propagation called *Snake Keeper* is published by a British group. Subscription is 18 pounds sterling for 12 issues. Interested? Write Snake Keeper Magazine, 159 Stanley Hill, Amersham, Bucks HP7 9EY, United Kingdom.

(3) *The Vivarium* is a new slick magazine devoted to captive husbandry. Cost is \$20 for 4 issues per year. Write the American Federation of Herpetoculturists, PO Box 1131, Lakeside, CA 92040.

(4) *The Great Ridley Rescue*, by Pamela Phillips, is a book about the efforts to rescue Kemp's ridley sea turtle from the brink of extinction. A portion of the sales goes to the conservation of sea turtles. 180 pages for \$19.95, plus \$2.00 postage. Write Mountain Press Publishing Co., PO Box 2399, Missoula, Montana 59806.

**Last Word**

*Catesbeiana* is the only way through which we can communicate news, articles, and items of interest to the members of the VHS. It is the means by which you can communicate your interests and what you are doing in Virginia herpetology. Observations you make on Virginia herps are important. They should be published in *Catesbeiana*. If you could contribute something but are unsure of how to write it up, then contact one of the officers or the editors. We'll help you any way we can. *Catesbeiana* survives only because of your input.

Joseph C. Mitchell, President  
January 17, 1989

**SPRING 1989 MEETING  
OF THE  
VIRGINIA HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

The Spring 1989 meeting of the VHS will be held on 8-9 April 1989 at Prince William Forest Park (PWFP). This is a 2-day field trip meeting. There will be a Business Meeting on Saturday and field trips on Saturday and Sunday.

Meeting Place: Cabin Camp 2, PWFP (see directions).

Schedule:        Saturday, April 8

12:00 - 12:30 PM	Assembly at PWFP
1:30 - 5:30 PM	Organized field trips
5:30 - 7:00 PM	Supper
7:00 - 9:00 PM	Business meeting or night trip for early-breeding amphibians. Business meeting will follow if the amphibians are active.
9:00 - 10:00 PM	Ecology of PWFP (D. Young & C. Pague).

Sunday, April 9

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM	Organized field trips on the ecology of PWFP (drift fence sites).
1:00 - 2:00 PM	Lunch or departure.

### Agenda

The Business Meeting will afford the opportunity to buy the bumper stickers, discuss the upcoming Endangered Species symposium, hear who was awarded the first VHS field research grants, and discuss issues mentioned in the President's Corner.

This is a field trip meeting, so wear your hiking clothes and be prepared for wet and cool weather. We have been given the use of Cabin Camp 2, and the fees have been waived. So come to camp overnight in rustic cabins. The cabins have beds with mat-

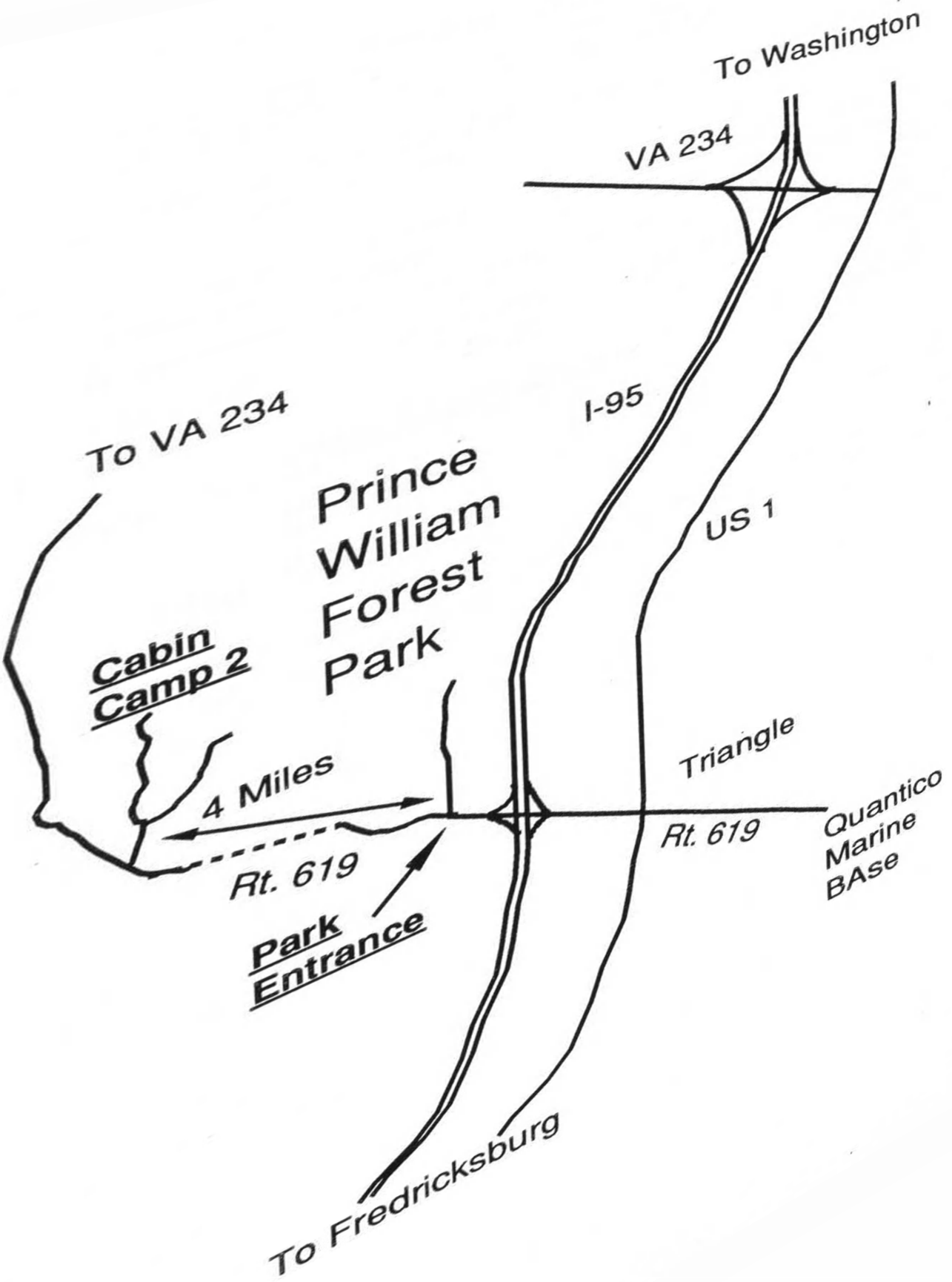
tresses, and some have electricity. There are several bath houses. There is no heat in the cabins, but the dining hall has a fireplace. It is there we will have our group meetings, and communal meals, if you so desire. Bring food, cooking gear, and warm sleeping bags.

Depending on the number of people attending, we will break into 2 groups, each of which will be led by someone familiar with PWFP. The ecology of the herps in PWFP will be the theme of the field trips and the program. At least one group will be interested in night forays for early-breeding frogs and salamanders. Bring your cameras.

Directions:

Prince William Forest Park is located west of I-95 immediately north of Quantico Marine Base in Prince William County. Take the **Triangle Exit** and follow the signs to the park. To get to Cabin Camp 2, take **Co. Rt. 619 west**. It is about 4 miles from the park entrance to the gate of the camp. Signs will be posted to help guide you. If you have trouble with the map, ask for directions at the entrance booth on the park entrance road; they will be expecting us.

Information: Joseph C. Mitchell. Dept. of Biology.  
University of Richmond. Richmond VA 12173.  
(804) 289-8234; (804) 740-7453.



### Membership Application

I wish to  initiate  renew membership in the Virginia Herpetological Society for the year 19\_\_\_\_.

I wish only to receive a membership list. Enclosed is \$1.00 to cover cost.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Dues category:  Regular (\$5.00)  Family (\$7.50)  Under 18 (\$3.00)

Interests:  Reptiles  Amphibians  Captive Husbandry

Distribution  Research

Specifically \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to the Virginia Herpetological Society and send to the treasurer: Ronald Southwick, P.O. Box 5122, Virginia Beach, VA 23455.

## Field Notes

This section provides a means of publishing natural history information on Virginia's amphibians and reptiles that does not lend itself to full-length articles. Observations on geographic distribution, ecology, reproduction, phenology, behavior, and other areas are welcomed. Reports can be on single species or fauna from selected areas, such as a state park or county. The format of the reports is TITLE (species or area), COUNTY AND LOCATION, DATE OF OBSERVATION, OBSERVERS, DATA AND OBSERVATIONS. Names and addresses of authors should appear one line below the report. Consult published notes or a coeditor if your information does not readily fit this format.

If the note contains information on geographic distribution, a voucher specimen or color slide should be sent for verification and deposited in a permanent museum or sent to the Virginia Herpetological Society. Species identification for observational records should be verified by a second person.

The correct citation format: Croy, S. 1984. Field Notes: *Lampropeltis getulus niger*. *Catesbetana* 4(1):12.

## Herpetological Artwork

Herpetological artwork is welcomed. If the artwork has been published elsewhere, we will need to obtain copyright before we can use it in an issue. We need drawings and encourage members to send us anything appropriate, especially their own work.