

*These minutes do not reflect
edit of President LISA Powers.*

Minutes of the first Tennessee Herpetological Society organizational meeting held October 13, 2000 at Chickasaw State Park, Henderson, Tennessee.

Lisa Powers of Froghaven Farm directed the meeting.

A background was given stating that the first Herpetology Conference in Tennessee was held seven years prior at Lincoln Memorial University in Cumberland Gap, Tennessee and that since then there had been discussions among the group to form an official society of herpetologists in Tennessee.

The by-laws of the Tennessee Herpetological Society were distributed for approval. The following corrections were made to the by-laws:

Article II., Section 2, Line 1. The word habitat was inserted after wildlife.

Article V., Section 2, Line 2. The word role was corrected to roll.

Article VII., Section 7, Line 5. The word or was corrected to on.

Article VIII., Section 1, Line 4. Article IX was changed to Article XI and Section 4 changed to Section 5.

Article VIII., Section 7, Line 2. One-week was changed to three-week.

Article XI., Section 4, Line 2. The word once was added after re-election.

Article XIII., Section 1, Line 1. The word committee was inserted before members.

Article XV., Section 5, Line 4. The phrase, no later than the next annual meeting, was added after the word Society.

Article XVI., Line 8. The words Board of Directors replaced Executive Committee.

Article XVI., Line 10. The words current treasurer replaced principal office.

The by-laws were approved.

Lisa Powers brought up the discussion of whether to stagger the terms of officers to instill continuity to the board of directors. She stated that this could be accomplished by some officers serving one year instead of two for the first term. The issue was discussed and it was decided by a majority vote to keep the terms of offices as they are currently stated in the by-laws: "The term for Directors shall be two years..."

Elections were held. It was decided by the group to add to the by-laws that there should be one member-at-large for each grand region of the state. Ballots were distributed. Nominations were accepted from the floor for each office. Voting took place and had the following results:

President - Lisa Powers, Froghaven Farm

Vice-president - Pete Wyatt, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency

Treasurer - John Placyk, Jr., University of Tennessee at Knoxville

Recording Secretary - Andrea (Pandy) English, LEAPS

Membership Secretary - Teri Wildt, Warner Park Nature Center

Publications Secretary - Brian Miller, Middle Tennessee State University

Corresponding Secretary - Bob English, LEAPS

Sergeant-at-arms - John Byrd, Clinton High School

Members-at-large -

East Tennessee - Thomas Owens, Knoxville Zoological Gardens

Middle Tennessee - Ray Jordan, Tennessee Technological University, Cookeville, TN

West Tennessee - Alan Peterson, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency

Standing Committees were discussed. It was decided that the Membership Committee should be chaired by Teri Wildt, Membership Secretary and the Library/Archives Committee should be chaired by Brian Miller, Publications Secretary.

The logo for the Society was discussed. It was agreed that the state reptile, the box turtle and the state amphibian, the Tennessee cave salamander should appear on the logo. Celeste Peery of the Nashville Zoo volunteered to design the logo.

A computer website for the Society that would include information such as herpetological research across the state was discussed. Todd Campbell of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville volunteered to organize the creation of the site.

Lisa Powers brought up other possible projects of the Tennessee Herpetological Society such as a newsletter, a herpetology conference for the general public, educational posters, and the Tennessee Amphibian Monitoring Program (TAMP) taken under the auspices of the Herpetological Society.

Membership dues to the Society were mentioned but were not discussed.

It was announced that the next board meeting may be held in association with the North American Amphibian Monitoring Program's (NAMP's) annual meeting that will be held between January 8-10, 2001 possibly in Nashville.

It was agreed that next year's conference should be held at the same time of year in East Tennessee and that Ron Caldwell of Lincoln Memorial University, Cumberland Gap, TN would be asked to host.

Lisa Powers, the newly elected President, listed some of her future goals for the Society. One goal was to increase the diversity of membership by reaching out to state park employees, teachers, and more universities. To include teachers it was suggested to send information to Tennessee Science Teachers to both the schools and the teachers and to keep the same schedule format for the conference (Thursday/Friday/Saturday). This would allow teachers to use professional leave days to attend the conference.

It was announced that the auction raised \$587.00. L. Powers advised that it would cost \$100.00 to gain incorporation for the Society and \$150.00 to apply for non-profit status, leaving \$337.00 for stationary, etc. This was the last point of business and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by: Pandy English, Recording Secretary