



## 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the Tennessee Herpetological Society 25-26 September 2025 Cedars of Lebanon State Park, Lebanon, TN

### Business Meeting Notes *Recorded by Joshua M. Hall*

#### Award Recipients

Congratulations to the 2025 recipient of the Chad Lewis Memorial Grant: **Aiden Shaw** of The University of Tennessee at Knoxville. The funded project title is: *Reproductive isolation and patterns of co-occurrence in Black-bellied and Shovel-nosed Salamanders (Desmognathus)*

**Cindy Scruggs** of Tennessee Tech University received the Niemiller Travel Scholarship. And the inaugural Floyd Scott Memorial Award went to **Ross Rubin** of Middle Tennessee State University.

The award for best student poster was given to **Ross Rubin** of Middle Tennessee State university for presenting his work of *Pathogen induced dysbiosis predictably restructures the snake skin microbiome in community enrichment experiments*

The award for best student oral presentation was given to **Cindy Scruggs** of Tennessee Tech University for presenting her work entitled: *The long-term effects of incubation temperature on morphology and performance in the Streamside Salamander (Ambystoma barbouri)*

The Bob Hatcher Memorial Award was given to **Dr. Danny Bryan**, Emeritus Professor at Cumberland University

#### Publication Committee

Herpetological Society Journal received a more submissions in 2025 than 2024. We are still working to get the journal indexed so articles are more easily discovered.

#### Outreach and Social Media Committee

Please follow and interact with us on the Tennessee Herp Society accounts on Facebook, Instagram (@tnherpsociety), and Twitter (@TennesseeHerper).

#### Treasurer's Report

As of the meeting date, the balance in the checking account was \$9,860.88 and the investment balance for the Chad Lewis Grant was \$34,503.40. The previous year's conference (Steele Creek Park) income was \$4,255 and conference expense was \$3,406.64.

#### New Business

A new fund was created with a \$1000 donation to offset the cost of conference attendance for retired and emeritus members.

Members voted to combine the membership and registration fee into a single payment. This allows all attendees to be members and vote on society business. The business meeting can now be interspersed throughout the meeting rather than put toward the end (and have low attendance).

Members voted for the society to provide a 100% match to the travel awards, which raises them to \$200 awards.

#### Elections

President: Lee Barton  
Secretary: Joshua M Hall  
Sargent at Arms: Chase Kinsey  
West, TN Rep: Brian Butterfield

#### Next Annual Meeting

2026 will bring a West Tennessee meeting. Updates will be on the society website.