

Minutes from the Tennessee Herpetological Society's (THS) October 26, 2001 Board/  
General Membership Meeting Held at Lincoln Memorial University

The board members of the Tennessee Herpetological Society introduced themselves.

Lisa Powers (President) announced that the East Tennessee member-at-large board position formerly filled by Tommy Owens was available.

**Secretary's Report**

Pandy English (Recording Secretary) read the minutes from the first Tennessee Herpetological Society's organizational meeting that was held October 13, 2000 at Chickasaw State Park in Henderson, Tennessee. She also distributed copies of the minutes from the electronic board meeting that began August 27, 2001.

Ray Jordan motioned that we accept the minutes. The motion was seconded and passed.

**Treasurer's Report**

John Placyk gave the treasurer's report. THS currently has \$450.00 in its account. He stated that First Tennessee Bank charges THS a \$5.00 penalty each month that our balance falls below \$100.00. It was suggested by the board to change to a bank that does not have a minimum balance requirement. It was stated that the money from the annual THS auction would go into the Chad Lewis Award account. John P. raised the issue of these monies being available for research.

John Copeland motioned that we accept the treasurer's report. The motion was seconded and passed.

**THS Nonprofit Status Report**

John Placyk led the group in a discussion concerning the THS's nonprofit status. John stated that he had applied for nonprofit status for THS with the IRS. However, our application did not meet the criteria for nonprofit status because of our bylaws.

John read the Nonprofit Status Code from the IRS. He stated that the IRS had extended the deadline for THS's application to 90 days versus the original 30 days.

Ray Jordan moved that we amend our application [hence our bylaws] to the IRS to meet their criteria for nonprofit status. The motion was seconded, discussed and passed.

**Vacant THS Board Positions**

Lisa Powers readdressed the issue of the vacant board positions of East Tennessee member-at-large and membership secretary.

Ray Jordan nominated John Copeland as East Tennessee member-at-large. Alan Peterson seconded. A vote was held. The nomination passed.

The membership secretary position was discussed. Duties include managing the membership database. John Copeland (co-host of present conference) noted that there was a great deal of returned mail for the recent conference mailings.

Pete Wyatt suggested that Floyd Scott at Austin Peay State University take responsibility for the membership database temporarily since the conference will be held at APSU in 2002. Alan Peterson suggested that whoever hosts the conference could be the membership secretary for that year. The responsibility of the membership database

would be that of the conference coordinator. APSU will host the conference in 2002. The University of Tennessee may host the conference in 2003. Lisa noted that THS has a floating conference database and a membership database. There was no further discussion on this issue.

#### New Business and Issues

The use of amphibians and reptiles for educational purposes was discussed. Ray Jordan suggested that this could be an issue for the Legislative Committee of THS since it involved Tennessee's wildlife laws. Pete suggested that the term Advisory Committee was more palatable. He noted that an advisory committee could alert the membership of the THS of issues that needed urgent addressing.

Pete motioned that an Advisory Panel using THS members be created. Bob English seconded the motion. The motion carried. Volunteers for the panel included Pandy English, Ray Jordan, Alan Peterson, and Lisa Powers.

#### Other New Business

##### Bob Hatcher Conservation Award

Pete made the motion that we create a permanent award that we name the Bob Hatcher Conservation Award to be given to a person that does good work for amphibians and reptiles as determined by the board. John Placyk seconded the motion. A discussion included making an agenda item for the January board meeting the creation of the criteria, rules, and guidelines for this award. The motion carried.

Ray Jordan suggested that the president of THS send a letter to Bob Hatcher notifying him of the creation of this award in his honor.

**\*Our president, Lisa Powers, is the first recipient of this award for the year 2001.  
Congratulations Lisa!!!!!!**

#### THS Logo

The THS logo was discussed. It was asked if the logo could have another species on it instead of two Tennessee cave salamanders. The rationale of the two state herps was noted. It was suggested that anyone wanting to submit other logo samples could do so. The deadline for logo submissions will be January 1, 2002.

#### Membership Brochure

Ray Jordan showed the group a mock-up of the THS membership brochure. The address on the brochure was discussed. It was suggested that the permanent address should be that of the membership secretary. Since we currently do not have a membership secretary it was suggested that we take the address off the brochure and just have the website address of the THS president on it.

#### Newsletter

The THS newsletter was discussed. It was suggested that the secretary copy information about the THS newsletter from the August 2001 electronic board meeting and send it to Brian Miller our newsletter editor. Pete reminded the group that it is the board member's responsibility to send information to the newsletter editor. Ray noted that groups like the Tennessee Ornithological Society get their members-at-large from different parts of the

state to send in articles. He also said that there could be a president's message and a TWRA announcement section. Examples of other herp societies' newsletters can be found at [www.chicagoherp.com](http://www.chicagoherp.com) and [www.kingsnake.com](http://www.kingsnake.com).

John Placyk motioned that we hold the newsletter discussion over until the January board meeting. The motion was seconded and passed.

The meeting was adjourned.

Minutes respectfully submitted by  
Pandy English, Recording Secretary