



Advancing Herpetological Husbandry,
the British Herpetological Society
and the International Herpetological Society
Present

Cooperation - The Future of Husbandry?

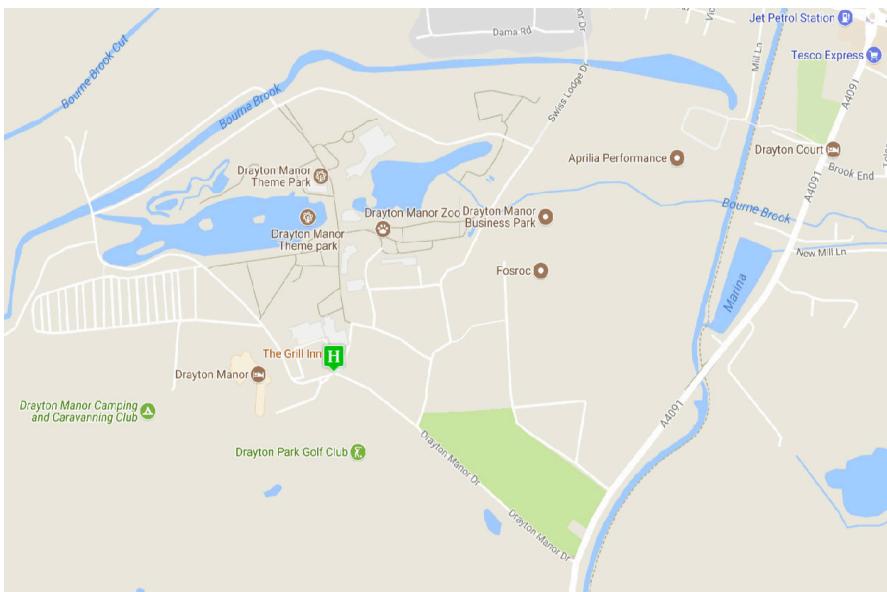
*Bringing private, trade and zoological sectors together for the
betterment of husbandry standards*

Event Programme - 22nd April 2018



Photo © Darrell Raw

Venue - Drayton Manor Park Hotel



For Satellite navigation devices use postal code: B78 3SA
There is ample parking on site.

Tamworth Station - The hotel is just 4 miles from the train station

AGENDA:

08:30-08:50

Arrival tea, coffee and cookies/pastries

08:50-09:05

Host Introductions

09:05-09:50

Chris Mitchell - Zoo Manager, Drayton Manor Park

Turning the Tide Together

During a time in our planet's history where biodiversity is declining at an alarming rate, we have found ourselves at a tipping point. We can stand aside and allow our planets lifeforms to die out one by one until it inevitably results in our own extinction or, as nature lovers, we can do something about it. All people who keep animals in either a private or professional setting must not contribute to wildlife endangerment, rather they have it in their gift to help turn the tide of extinctions. Though not appropriate for all species, there are some where healthy captive populations may be their last chance of survival. There are some existing mechanisms of how zoos and private breeders can work well together and an excellent current example of such collaboration is provided by the Swift Parakeet project. This is not without challenges, but if we can rise to the challenge then we can afford to be cautiously optimistic about saving our planet for generations to come.

09:50-10:35

Andrew Gray - Curator of Herpetology at Manchester University

Successful Amphibian Husbandry

Drawing on his wealth of experience working with amphibians in the field and in captivity, Andrew will detail his practices in maintaining a wide range of neotropical amphibians, long-term, for research, education and captive breeding. The presentation will cover many aspects of captive husbandry that may be applied to many species, but particularly those for keeping and breeding Hylids and Bufonids from Latin America.

10:35-10:45 - 10 minute recess



10:45-11:30

Tom Wells - Senior keeper at Colchester Zoo

How to Train your Dragon

Reptile training and enrichment. What is it? Why is it important? How can it be implemented? This talk will aim to convince people of the importance of enrichment for captive reptiles and amphibians as well as providing some understanding of what enrichment can involve. Using examples from my own experience this talk will look at some of the training that can be used with reptiles to enrich their lives as well as making their management safer for the keepers and more stress free for the animals. When it comes to advancing husbandry, enrichment is an important aspect which keepers must not overlook!

11:30-12:15

Dr. Tariq Abou-Zahr - Veterinarian

Morphs, Mutations & Selective Breeding - How far is too far?

Breed related/conformational issues are a big welfare issue at the moment, particularly in our more traditional companion species. So called "exotic species" are certainly not exempt either and there are several reptilian morphs and mutations with associated potential health and welfare complications. In this talk, we'll look at some of the main examples, discuss the ethics behind them and consider whether we as hobbyists should act to prevent these problems from becoming worse.

12:15-13:35

Buffet Lunch, runners-up poster presentations

Runners-up in the Student Competition will have the opportunity to present posters of their work to the delegates.

13:35-14:20

Tell Hicks

Some Personal Observations on the Advance of Herpetological Husbandry

Much has changed, within the hobby, since I was a young schoolboy, keeping snakes and lizards in my bedroom and filling my parent's greenhouse with all manner of reptiles and amphibians. In those days our knowledge of reptile husbandry was extremely basic, there was little advice to reference and, with only wild caught herps being available, the life expectancy of the animals we cared for was often limited. Captive breeding was almost non-existent and the production of diverse colour morphs not even dreamt of. Although my passion for herpetology has always been focused on the study of them in the wild, and not with their husbandry, through my life I have had the privilege of 'rubbing shoulders' with many of the hobby's most influential experts and innovators. My talk is a personal account of some of the changes that I have seen.

14:20-14:30

Presentation to student by Tell Hicks and judges

The winner of our new Student Competition will be presented with prizes before giving his/her presentation to the audience.

14:30-15:00

Presentation by Student

15:00-15:15 - Tea, coffee and cookies/pastries

15:15-16:00

Dave Perry - Peregrine Livefoods

Bio-active keeping in context with hobby developments

Dave Perry is best known as co-founder of Peregrine Livefood, now in its 30th year. Prior to starting Peregrine, Dave was a very keen herpetologist and between him and his business partner Tim Green had bred some 70 - 80 species. As a long term promoter of what is now labelled "Bio-Active", he is involved in supporting the growth of this trend amongst hobbyists. In his talk Dave will cover the basic idea of what Bio-Active means, demystifying the concept and explaining how everyone can be involved to the level that suits them.

16:00-17:00

Chris Davis - Keynote speaker

Keeping and breeding non tropical amphibian and reptile species as naturally as possible

I am thrilled that we are now in an age where an increasing number of people are approaching herpetological husbandry using naturalistic vivaria. At the same time, I am astonished that it has taken so long to adopt methodologies which a few of us have been doing with enormous success for many years. In this talk I shall discuss these methodologies with details of vivaria that frequently go well beyond merely naturalistic, and their inhabitants. I will show how, despite occasional failures (ALWAYS attributable to husbandry errors) the results produce healthy colonies of robust disease free animals with far greater than typical life spans. These techniques can be extended to the more exotic species often without the benefit of additional heating or lighting. This is generally down to studying the natural environment of the animals and particularly the climate - temperature requirements, for example, are frequently assumed and far short of the mark. These same techniques can then be extended further for even subtropical animals. It is my hope that by the end of this relatively informal talk, informed by natural history and experience and generally ignoring the science will benefit other keepers and breeders, and that they can and will build on this to far exceed my limited accomplishments, and also demonstrate their relevance and importance to conservation practices.



Profits raised by ticket sales and sponsorship are donated to a charity or conservation initiative chosen by our hosts, Drayton Manor Park Zoo. This choice is based on a relationship between the Zoo's projects and the goals of the recipient.

Last year's selected charity:



The aim of ATP is to establish a safe and sustainable future for Asian turtles, and to ensure that no further turtle species become extinct in the region. We implement strategic interventions that directly contribute to the conservation of Asian turtles, helping to ensure efficient use of limited resources, as well as developing capacity, strengthening leadership, and ultimately effecting positive attitudinal and behavioural change within society.

<http://www.asianturtleprogram.org/>



2017 Conference Photos



