

Health screening a mountain chicken frog (Leptodactylus fallax) © DWCT

Yes, it's that time of year again... With informative and fascinating talks by **Prof. John Davenport** from the University College Cork (Ireland) and **Dr. Gerardo Garcia** from Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust (Jersey), this is a BHS event not to be missed! This year the meeting focuses on leatherback turtles and the mountain chicken frog and will take place at London Zoo with a 1.00pm start. Full meeting details inside...

# AGENDA

#### BHS 64th Annual General Meeting Saturday, 26th of March 2011

#### To be held at Bartlett Room, London Zoo, Regents Park, London (entry through ZSL Main Reception / Huxley Theatre)

1.00pm	Business meeting, including: ◆Approval of 2010 AGM Minutes ◆Matters Arising ◆Chairman's Report ◆Treasurer's Report ◆Council for 2011-12 ◆2012 Subscription fees ◆AOB
2.00pm	Refreshment break
2.15pm	<b>Speaker I - Prof. John Davenport (University College Cork)</b> Pleated turtle escapes the box – shape changes in the leatherback turtle ( <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i> )
3.15pm	<b>Refreshment break</b> During this break delegates will judge the BHS Photo Competition
3.40pm	Presentations ❖YHC Presentations ❖BHS Photo Competition
3.50pm	Speaker II - Dr. Gerardo Garcia (Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust) Saving the mountain chicken: integrating in situ and ex situ strategies.
5.00pm	Close

### You Know You're A Herper When...

•A mouse sitting in the kitchen isn't alarming, just defrosting

•You spend more money feeding your feeder crickets and mealworms than yourself.

•It's more entertaining to watch your leopard gecko hunt and eat crickets than watching any show on TV.

•You coo when your snake slurps a rat's tail like spaghetti.



# Reader Challenge

### Can you identify these herps?





## Words of the wise?

'In the middle ages, people took potions for their ailments. In the 19th century they took snake oil. Citizens of today's shiny, technological age are too modern for that. They take antioxidants and extract of cactus instead'

Charles Krauthammer 🛠







#### Across

1. How many species of crocodilian are there?

4. Is a sand fish a gecko, a skink or a salamander?

5. Snakes sometimes retain one of these.

9. What does the king cobra feed on?

11. How many species of alligator are there?

12. Common name for Bitis arietans.

14. Bearded dragons are native to which country?

16. Common name for Bothrops asper.

17. What does the diet of the Asian vine snake consist mainly of?

18. Latin name of the grass snake?

19. With exception of the Eublepharinae, can geckos blink?

#### Down

2. Can tadpoles make noises?

3. A colloquial name for the gaboon viper.

6. If a taipan is a proteroglyph, a gaboon viper is a...?

7. Where is the tomato frog native to?

8. The retention of juvenile traits into adulthood is known as?

10. What is the rattle of a baby rattlesnake sometimes referred to as?

12. A species of rattlesnake.

13. Correct name to describe skinshedding in snakes.

15. The only species of cobra to give birth to live young.

#### Answers in the next edition!





E volutionary advantage often makes for show-stopping stuff: a cheetah's speed for example, or a moth's almost perfect mimicry of tree bark. In some snails, however, it's simply down to a poor fit with a snake's jaw.

Some species of *satsuma* snail have shells that coil to the left, which probably evolved because the snakes that prey on them have jaws specialised for feeding on the molluses' right-coiling ancestors, a study published in *Nature Communications* suggests.

Snail genera tend to be either dextral (right-coiling) or sinistral (left-coiling), but the genus *Satsuma* contains both dextral and sinistral species.

In most land snails, the switch between dextrality and sinistrality is controlled by a single gene, meaning that reversals are likely to occur frequently. However, sinistral *satsuma* snails cannot mate with their dextral relatives, leading scientists to wonder how left-coiling individuals arising from random genetic mutation would be able to find sexual partners. Ordinarily, these snails would be expected to die out because the vast majority of potential mates would be dextral, and therefore incompatible. The study suggests that although sinistral individuals arising in a dextral species were disadvantaged when it came to mating, they had a distinct advantage over their right-coiling forebears, thanks to the fact that common snake predators that can easily eat dextral snails struggle to consume the sinistral ones. This survival advantage outweighed the mating disadvantage, allowing sinistrality to spread throughout previously dextral populations. Sinistrality also prevented mating with dextral ancestors, leading to reproductive isolation and the evolution of entirely new species.

"This could change the general view of evolutionary genetics," says Masaki Hoso, an ecologist at Tohoku University in Japan who led the study. "We've found that a single gene can have major effects on speciation and adaptation simultaneously."

To investigate the effect that living alongside snake predators might have had on the evolution of sinistral species, Hoso and his colleagues first looked at how effectively the snake *Pareas iwasakii* preys on *Satsuma* snails. They found that the snakes, which have more teeth on the right side of their jaws than the left, were able to eat all of the dextral snails fed to them, but only 12.5% of the sinistral snails.

Comparing the global distributions of both snakes and snails, the researchers found that sinistral snail species have evolved more often in areas in which predator and prey coexist. And a DNA-based family tree of the snail genus showed that sinistrality has arisen independently at least six times in *Satsuma*, more than would be expected were there not some driving force behind its evolution.

"We knew the snakes had trouble picking up sinistral snails," says Menno Schilthuizen, an evolutionary ecologist at the National Museum of Natural History of the Netherlands in Leiden, who specialises in snail evolution. "But Masaki has shown the snake might actually speed up the fixation of sinistrality, suggesting this is a very plausible speciation mechanism." ...

Source: Joseph Milton, www.nature.com



Well! I NEVER! Crafty Crocodilian Pays A House Visit

A three-year-old boy in Brazil gave his mother the fright of her life when she walked into her living room and found him stroking a 1.5 metre-long alligator. The woman made the discovery while she was mopping up the living room floor as high floodwaters receded in northern Brazil.

When the boy's mother found the reptile lying behind the sofa, she grabbed her son and alerted the local fire brigade to the incident. Firefighters managed to trap the creature and remove it from the house before

releasing it into a river in an environmentally protected area close to the city.

Chief fire officer Luiz Claudio Farias for the city of Parauapebas said the alligator could have seriously hurt or killed the toddler.

"It was lucky the reptile apparently wasn't in the mood for a meal'.

Source: Gaby Leslie, www.yahoo.com





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# ...Geckos Galore...

With over 2,000 species, the gecko is a fascinating animal. These wonderful lizards come in all shapes and sizes and are perfectly adapted to living in a whole range of habitats. Geckos are the only lizards that, apart from hissing, can truly vocalise and many will bark, chirp or click. Probably most renowned for their amazing ability to climb up vertical surfaces and shinny across ceilings at break-neck speeds, the geckos are also heralded as the most colourful lizard species.

#### Smallest Gecko



S. ariasae © B.hedges

With a snout to vent length between 16-18mm, the jaragua sphaero gecko (*S. ariasae*) is the world's tiniest gecko. It is indigenous to the Dominican Republic and Beata Island.



Rhacodactylus leachianus © E. Grosh

Native to New Caledonia and known to the locals as 'the devil in the trees' due to the growling noises that it makes, this heavy weight gecko can measure over 14 inches!

#### **RAREST GECKO**



Male H. stephensi © A. W. Hawkins It is hard to define rarity, but New Zealand's Coromandel striped gecko (*Hoplodactylus* stephensi) is certainly top of the list. Only four have ever been seen in the wild since its discovery in the 1960s.

#### **Commonest Gecko**



H. frenatus © Greg Calvert

The Asian house gecko (*Hemidactylus frenatus*) is among the most adaptable of the geckos and it is the most widespread. It is found in Asia, Australasia, Africa and South America.

Geckos Galore

#### Most Recognised Pet Gecko



Eublepharis macularius © Thor Hakensen

Recommended as the perfect 'starter' lizard, the leopard gecko (*Eublepharis* macularius) is a staple in any exotics pet shop. It is a member of the Eublepharinae, a family of geckos which includes the African fat tail, cave, banded and African clawed geckos. The family's distinguishing feature is that its species possess eyelids.

#### **Best Camouflaged Gecko**



U. phantasticus © Thor Hakensen

Madagascar's satanic leaf gecko (*Uroplatus phantasticus*) can blend effortlessly into its surroundings. The gecko's earth tones and leaf shaped tail make it very hard to spot indeed.

#### Most Colourful Gecko



P.ornata © Tommi Sandberg

Found in the Indian oceanic region, the ornate day gecko (*Phelsuma ornata*) with its bright colours and patterns easily takes top prize as the most colourful. It's also one of the nosiest geckos!

STRANGEST GECKO



*P.kuhli* © *Peter Kollar* Large, extendable skin flaps enable the the flying gecko (*Ptychozoon kuhli*) to quite literally glide between trees in Malaysia

#### CUTEST GECKO?



*N. e. punctatus* **©** *Tony Wills* All down to personal opinion but this one's definitely a contender!

# Getting a Tail Up on Conservation? New Method for Measuring Lizard Weight from Size

L izards are an important indicator species for understanding the condition of specific ecosystems. Their body weight is a crucial index for evaluating species health, but lizards are seldom weighed, perhaps due in part to the recurring problem of spontaneous tail loss when lizards are in stress. Now ecological researchers have a better way of evaluating these lizards.

Dr. Shai Meiri of Tel Aviv University's Department of Zoology has developed an improved tool for translating lizard body lengths to weights. Dr. Meiri's new equations calculate this valuable morphological feature to estimate the weight of a lizard species in a variety of different ecosystems.

"Body shape and body size are hugely important for the understanding of multiple ecological phenomena, but there is a need for a common metric to compare a multitude of different species," he says.

In a study published recently in the *Journal of Zoology*, Dr. Meiri evaluated hundreds of lizard species: long-bodied, legless species as well as stout, long-legged species; some that sit and wait for prey, others that are active foragers. Based on empirical evidence, such as well-established behavioural traits, he built a statistical model that could predict lizard weights in a reliable, standardised manner, for use in the field or at the lab.

For the study, Dr. Meiri looked at a large sample of lizards — 900 species in 28 different families — and generated a dataset of lizard weights, using this dataset



© Cameron J. Galipo

to develop formulae that derive body weights from the most commonly used size index for lizards (snout to vent length). He then applied a species-level evolutionary hypothesis to examine the ecological factors that affect variation in weight-length relationships between different species.

How can this standardised metric protect our environment? "It can help answer how lizard species may react if there were major shifts in the availability of food due to climatic changes," he says.

In the future, zoologists will be able to use Dr. Meiri's method to better predict which communities of animals will shrink, grow or adapt to changing conditions, even after massive environmental disasters �

Source: www.sciencedaily.com

# First Confirmed Species of Monogamous Frog

In 2010 a trio of biologists discovered in Peru the first confirmed species of monogamous amphibian: *Ranitomeya imitator*, better known as the mimic poison frog — a finding that provided groundbreaking insight into the ecological factors that influence mating behaviour.

The scientists' work, which has been published in *The American Naturalist*, may be the most solid evidence yet that monogamy can have a single ecological cause.

Analysing data on 404 frog species, the biologists found a strong association between the use of small pools for breeding, and the evolution of parental care, including intensive parental care involving egg-feeding and the participation of both parents. The researchers then focused on the mating and parenting habits of two similar frog species, the mimic poison frog and the variable poison frog (*R. variabilis*), that differed only in the size of the breeding-pool selected.

The researchers theorised that the differences in parental care and mating system between these otherwise similar species stemmed from the relative availability of resources in the breeding pools. The tadpole of the mimic poison frog grows up in much smaller, less nutrient-dense water pools that form in the folds of tree leaves. They are ferried there after hatching by the males who monitor them in the months following birth. About once a week, the male calls for his female partner who lays non-fertile eggs for the tadpoles to eat.

The variable poison frog, however, raises its tadpoles in larger pools. Again the rearing of the young is handled



*R. imitator* © *Ruud Schouten* mostly by the male. To test their theory, the scientists moved tadpoles from both species into differently sized pools. Tadpoles in larger pools thrived while tadpoles in smaller pools did not grow.

This, the scientists said, means that tadpoles living in the larger, more nutrientrich pools don't need the work of two parents as much as their smaller-pond counterparts. Species that raised tadpoles in smaller ponds were more likely to require the skills of both parents. In turn, this favoured parents that remained devoted only to the offspring that they had produced together.

The researchers used genetic analyses based on techniques similar to DNA-based forensic methods used for paternity cases to investigate the mating system of the mimic poison frog. Surprisingly, all but one of the families investigated were completely genetically monogamous. Many animals thought to practice social monogamy have been found through genetic testing to be less faithful than previously believed. Monogamy turns out to be relatively rare, even in birds and mammals - particularly in mammals - and reptiles **\$** 

Source: www.sciencedaily.com

### The Mystery Surrounding the Turtle Super Tongue

One type of turtle possesses an extraordinary organ that allows it to breathe underwater and stay submerged for many months.

The common musk turtle has a tiny tongue lined with specialised buds, scientists have discovered. Rather than use this tongue for eating, the turtles use it to exchange oxygen, solving a mystery of how these reptiles can remain submerged for so long.

"I was very surprised, I really didn't expect that," says zoologist Egon Heiss, who is studying for his PhD at the University of Vienna in Austria.

Mr Heiss and colleagues made the discovery while studying the feeding habits of the common musk turtle (*Sternotherus odoratus*), a freshwater species that inhabits lakes and rivers in southern Canada and the eastern US.

Adults spend most of their lives underwater, but juveniles occasionally come onto land to search for food.

While filming these juveniles trying to feed, the researchers noticed something unusual: when the animals found food, they could only eat it after dragging it back into the water. Out on land, they struggled to swallow their prey. A closer examination of the turtle's tongue revealed why.

The common musk turtle has a weak and tiny tongue covered with and surrounded by specialised bud-like cells called papillae.

Further tests revealed that the turtle uses these cells around its tongue to breathe, by drawing in oxygen from water that passes over them. "We knew that an organ for aquatic respiration must be present somewhere but finally discovered



it accidentally," says Mr Heiss.

Some turtles cannot breathe underwater at all.

All marine turtles, for example, must come to the surface at least every few hours to gulp air.

Some freshwater turtles cannot breathe underwater while others can via their skin. Other freshwater species, such as the side-necked turtles of Australia, cope by using specialised cavities in their rear, known as cloacal bursae, to draw in water and remove the oxygen. Such turtles often need to spend long periods of time underwater, where they hibernate, remaining asleep and still, not feeding and slowing their metabolic rate down.

"Musk turtles, however, lack cloacal bursae and their skin is relatively thick and lacks a well developed capillary network," Mr Heiss told the BBC.

So how these turtles spend months underwater without coming to the surface had been a mystery – until now.

Source: www.sciencedaily.com



### **Request for Sponsorship from a BHS Member**

DearAll,

My name is Bianca op den Brouw, and I am an undergraduate studying BSc (Hons) Zoology at Liverpool John Moores University. As part of my course, I am entitled to take a Sandwich Year – a 12 month break from formal study between my  $2^{nd}$  and  $3^{rd}$  years, during which I will be getting work experience beneficial and relevant to my course in which I can apply the skills and knowledge gained during my  $1^{st}$  and  $2^{nd}$  years. This will provide me with invaluable experience and will greatly improve my skill set and employability.

Over the 12 month period, I will be undertaking two 6 month research internships with Global Volunteers International (GVI) – an excellent charitable organisation committed to improving global environmental and humanitarian issues.

My first internship (1 July-8 Dec 2011) will be spent in the Seychelles conducting coral reef ecology and turtle research. GVI's ambitious Marine Research and Conservation Expedition supports the work of local government and NGOs, working on the marine environment of the Seychelles, which contains the highest biodiversity in the Indian Ocean.

My second internship (approx 6 Jan 2012-6 July 2013) will be situated in the Ecuadorian Amazon conducting rainforest ecology research, helping to manage a permanent, fulltime biological field station at Yachana to conduct scientific research and generate national and international conservation interest as well and work closely with local government and community groups and children.

Both internships are conservation and community orientated and are of a highly scientific calibre, providing me with full scientific training and qualifications on biological survey techniques. For more detailed information on the internships, I have created a webpage with further information; please visit www.wix.com/bianca\_odb/internships.

Upon completion of my current studies I intend to pursue the field of herpetology by undertaking a PhD in Zoology and focussing my research on the Saltwater Crocodile, *Crocodylus porosus*, after which I hope to become a field researcher and university lecturer.

Unfortunately, whilst the benefits of these placements are priceless, they are not free. Both internships will costs a grand total of  $\pounds 13,883$ , a very large sum of money. For this reason, I am writing to request sponsorship or a donation to help me reach my goal. A full breakdown of costs and further information including referees can be found on my webpage.

I would also like to add that I would be very pleased to produce a report or give a talk at a BHS meeting when I return from my placement �

Yours sincerely

#### Bianca op den Brouw

# **Events**

# 2nd Mediterranean Herpetological Congress (MHC2) 23<sup>rd</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> May 2011 in Marrakesh, Morocco

Held every four years, interested parties are invited to attend the 2<sup>nd</sup> MHC which will focus on the theme **'Conservation of the Mediterranean Herpetofauna in a changing environment'**. Hosted in Marrakesh, the congress will examine many aspects of herpetology in the mediterranean basin including the conservation of herp diversity, the fostering of collaboration networks, the promotion of effective dialogue and information sharing among researchers and stakeholders as well as highlight the detrimental impact global change is having on natural reptile and amphibian populations in the region.

The Mediterranean basin has an extraordinary richness in biodiversity combined with high endemism and represents one of planet's 34 biodiversity hotspots. As such, two field excursions are being planned for congress participants: a mid-congress field trip on the 25th of May to the Atlas mountains; and a post-congress field trip to southern Morocco to the valley of Draa.

For further information on the MHC2, please visit http://www.ucam.ac.ma/cmh2/ acceuil.html or email cmh2@ucam.ac.ma



# The British Herpetological Symposium

On the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of April this year Bangor University Herpetological Society, in affiliation with the BHS and ARG UK, will be hosting the first of the annual British Herpetological Symposiums. The symposium will be a platform for British herpetologists to converse on current advances across an array of relevant fields.

The symposium will be £30 for both days or £20 for a single day to cover essential running costs. This fee is payable in advance before Friday the  $18^{th}$  of March.

All enquiries should be sent to herp.symposium@gmail.com



# Arunachal Pradesh Herpetological Expedition 24<sup>th</sup> April - 10<sup>th</sup> of May 2011

Once again Planet Wildlife is offering an amazing opportunity to take part in a herpetological excursion to India with renowned herpetologists, researchers and conservationists Romulus Whitaker and Gerry Martin. This year participants will join Rom on a trip to the Talle Valley for an extensive survey of venomous snake species: the information obtained will be added to 'The National Snakebite Survey'. Not for the feint of heart, the trip will involve a considerable amount of hiking and 'roughing it' in the remote terrain of this beautiful landscape. Target species include the mountain pitviper. Jerdon's pitviper, whitelipped pitviper, Kaulback's pitviper, the banded krait and the black krait. The cost is £1840 per person exclusive of flights but includes accommodation, taxes and transfers. For further information on this excursion or other fabulous herping trips offered by Planet Wildlife please visit www.planetwildlife.com or email uk@planetwildlife.com



Banded krait (top) and white-lipped pitviper

# Amphibian and Reptile Training for Professionals

The Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Trust (ARC) has developed a unique series of training courses for 2011, designed for those involved with the conservation of amphibians and reptiles in a professional capacity. This year's quality courses have been organised in partnership with the Field Studies Council and represent great value for money. All courses are included in our 2011 training brochure which is available to download from:

http://www.arc-trust.org/downloads/ ARC\_Professional\_Training\_Programme\_2011.pdf

Places are limited so book your place as soon as possible using the booking form at the back of the brochure. Alternatively visit the ARC website:

www.arc-trust.org

# A Big Thank You to David Wareham!

**The Natter Jack** team would like to extend its sincere thanks to avid herper and master cartoonist David Wareham. As readers will be aware, Dave very kindly contributed his wonderful cartoons for a number of years to the NatterJack – raising many a smile and chuckle! Sadly Dave has had to lay down his ink and paper for the time being and undoubtedly his cartoons will be sorely missed by all. Just don't forget Dave, if you ever feel like taking up that pen again, there will always be a spot for your fab cartoons in the NJ! Once again many, many thanks.



## Unique Chance to Own Dave's Original Illustrations All Proceeds to go to Macmillan Cancer Support

**For auction:** A collection of over 50 original pen and ink drawings some of which were used in a reptile-related magazine as well as the BHS Newsletter, under the title of '*Wareham's World'*. The drawings all measure approximately 7x5 inches, have the captions in blue crayon, the signature 'Wareham', and have a full signature on the reverse. The proceeds from the sale of these original cartoons will go towards a donation to the Macmillan Cancer Support. Anyone interested in these drawings please email for further details to: Dave on hawkmoth@supanet.com. The highest bid received by the 31st March wins the whole collection of drawings **\$** 

Correspondence for **The Natter Jack** should be sent to Mikaella Lock at the following address: 54 Hillside Road, Dover, Kent, CT17 0JQ. Alternatively e-mail: herpeditor@yahoo.co.uk All other correspondence, including membership enquiries and subscriptions, should be sent to: The British Herpetological Society, c/o The Zoological Society of London, Regents Park, London, NW1 4RY.

FOR SALE: Kahl albino boa constrictors. Late CB10 all feeding and shedding well. £300 each. 100% hets £75 each. Please contact Neil Bennie for more information on: neilbennie@hotmail.com

THE BRITISH HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY 63 Years in Herpetology Registered Charity No. 205666 Website: http://www.thebhs.org





BRITISH HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY

# 64th Annual General Meeting

# Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2011

To be held at Bartlett Room, London Zoo, Regents Park, London

(entry through ZSL Main Reception / Huxley Theatre - see location maps overleaf)

## AGENDA

1.00 pm	Business meeting, including: Approval of 2010 AGM Minutes Matters Arising Chairman's Report Treasurer's Report Council for 2011-12 2012 Subscription fees AOB
2.00 pm	Refreshment break
2.15 pm	Speaker Prof. John Davenport Pleated turtle escapes the box - shape changes in the leatherback turtle Dermochelys coriacea
3.15 pm	Refreshment break During this break the AGM Photo Competition will be judged
3.40 pm	Presentations YHC Presentations BHS AGM Photo Competition
3:50 pm	Speaker Dr. Gerardo Garcia Saving the mountain chicken : integrating in situ and ex situ strategies
5:00 pm	Close

#### 2011 BHS AGM

The AGM is almost upon us and we have invited two world-reknowed herpetologists to speak to our members on their recent work. Prof. John Davenport and Dr. Gerardo Garcia will fly from Eire and Jersey respectively to attend our AGM and we hope as many of our members as possible will make the trip to London to support the meeting.

Please do arrive early (12.00am) to take advantage of free entry to the reptile house before the meeting (entry via Huxley Theatre).

#### PARKING and ENTRY to the AGM

Parking will be available at the main Zoo car park, at a cost of  $\pounds 1250$  (daily fee). There is also some onstreet parking in the vicinity charged at  $\pounds 2.40$  per hour.

There will not be a charge for entry to the meeting or Zoo, but you should arrive for the AGM at the Huxley Theatre, opposite the main Zoo entrance. Please see the map supplied on page 3 of the latest NatterJack newsletter, Issue No. 192-193,

# Provisional Minutes of the 63rd (2010) Annual General Meeting of the British Herpetological Society

Date:Saturday, 27th March 2010Venue:Huxley Theatre, London Zoo, Regents Park, London.Chair:Jon Coote

#### 1. Apologies for Absence

Roger Avery, Frank Bowles, John Cooper, Don Freeman, Mark Hollowell, Robert Jehlé, Jenny Spencer, Todd Lewis. This AGM was quorate (21/410).

2. Minutes of the 62<sup>nd</sup> AGM

The Minutes were circulated, approved and signed by the Chair as an accurate record of the  $2009~62^{nd}$  AGM.

#### 3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

#### 4. Annual Reports

- 4 i) The Chairman's report was circulated at the meeting. Trevor Beebee questioned that the Joint Scientific meeting was omitted; Chris Gleed-Owen gave a verbal report.
- 4 ii) The Treasurer's report (1<sup>st</sup> January 2009 31<sup>st</sup> December 2009) was circulated and a narrative was given by Michael Wise. Chris Gleed-Owen asked if the Gift Aid claim was in hand; MW confirmed this.

#### 5. Election of Council for 2010–11

Council for 2010-11 was approved as given below, including one nomination for a vacant post.

(years served in current term of office given in brackets).

President	Prof. Trevor Beebee (4)
Chairman	Mr. Jon Coote (1)
Treasurer	Mr. Michael Wise (1)
Secretary	Mr. Trevor Rose (4)
Research Committee Chairman	Dr. Chris Gleed-Owen (3)
Education Committee Chairman	Mr. Don Freeman (3)
Captive Breeding Committee Chairman	Dr. Simon Townson (3)
Conservation Officer	Mrs. Jan Clemons (3)
Herpetological Journal Editor	Dr. Robert Jehlé (1)
Herpetological Bulletin Editor	Mr. Todd Lewis (1)
NatterJack Editor	Vacant
Website Editor	Vacant
Trade Monitoring Officer	Mr. Peter Curry (3)
Scottish Group Representative	Mr. Frank Bowles (3)
North West Group Representative	Mr. Richard Parkinson (3)
Ordinary Member 1	Mr. Neil D'Cruze (2)
Ordinary Member 2	Mr. David Willis (1)
Ordinary Member 3	Mrs. Jenny Spencer (1)

Members standing for continuation in their posts:Research Committee ChairmanDr. Chris Gleed OwenEducation Committee ChairmanMr. Don FreemanCaptive Breeding Committee ChairmanDr. Simon TownsonConservation OfficerMrs. Jan ClemonsScottish Group RepresentativeMr. Frank BowlesNorth West Group RepresentativeMr. Richard Parkinson

Nominees for vacant posts:	
NatterJack Editor	None received
Website Editor	Miss Anne Braae
Trade Monitoring Officer	None received

All Council nominees re-standing in post and those nominated unopposed for vacant posts, specifically Miss Anne Braae for Website Editor were voted in to office by the membership.

#### 6. 2011 Subscription Fees

In accordance with the Constitution, a review of subscription rates was undertaken at the previous Council meeting of 19<sup>th</sup> January 2010 in preparation for the AGM. Analysis showed that whilst income for 2009 matched the predicted value, as expected increases (mainly in postage) had reduced the balance between income from subscriptions and costs to provide membership material to approximately £1200. Further increases in April 2010 and 2011 were likely to result in a deficit. TR advised that Council had deemed it necessary to increase subscription rates for "Print" membership options as of 1<sup>st</sup> January 2011.

New "Print" rates proposed we	re as follows:
Full membership	£40
Ordinary	£28
Family	£50
Overseas	£45
Associate	£70
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"Online" subscriptions are to remain unchanged.

The above rates were proposed from the floor by Richard Butler, seconded by Michael Hine, the motion was carried *nem con*. **Action:** TR to advise the membership of the new rates and update

subscription and renewal forms in readiness for 2011.

#### 7. Any Other Business

- Michael Hine questioned how one is granted Fellowship of the Society. This is at the discretion of Council, and numbers are limited to a maximum of 10 Fellows at any one time. Fellowship generally results from a significant contribution to the Society or to herpetology in general. It was also noted that whilst Council were responsible for deliberating the relevant merits of nominees, any member of the Society can propose candidates for Fellowship for consideration by Council.
- Michael Hine noted that adverts for captive bred stock had ceased to appear in *the NatterJack* newsletter. Council advised that this was not because any restrictions had been placed on adverts, but simply that few, if any, were being submitted. Members should be aware that this facility is still in place and adverts can be submitted to the newsletter editor at any time.

The Chairman closed the AGM.

### BHS Council for 2011-2012

In accordance with the BHS Constitution, Council for the forthcoming year will require ratification by members at the AGM.

The following Council posts are current, years completed as of the AGM given in brackets/followed by term:

#### Chairman

Mr. Jon Coote (2/5)

#### Treasurer

Mr. Michael Wise (2/5)

#### Herpetological Journal Editor

Dr. Robert Jehlé (2/3)

#### Herpetological Bulletin Editor

Mr. Todd Lewis (2/3)

#### **Research Committee Chairman**

Dr. Chris Gleed-Owen (1/3)

#### Website Editor

Ms. Anne Braae (1/3)

#### Captive Breeding Committee Chairman

Dr. Simon Townson (1/3)

#### **Conservation Officer**

Mrs. Jan Clemons (1/3)

#### **Development Officer**

Mr. Mark Hollowell (1/3)

Scottish Group Representative Mr. Frank Bowles (1/3)

North-west Group Representative Mr. Richard Parkinson (1/3)

#### Ordinary Member 1 Mr. David Willis (2/3)

The following Council posts will complete their term as of the AGM; the current holders (as shown) will re-stand, although these posts are open for further nominations from interested members. Scheduled term of office is given in brackets:

#### President

Prof. Trevor Beebee (5)

#### Secretary

Mr. Trevor Rose (5)

The following posts were filled by members co-opted by Council during 2010; these now require ratification into post at the AGM. Please note these posts are open for further nominations from interested members. Scheduled term of office is given in brackets:

#### Education Committee Chairman

Ms. Kim Le Breuilly (3)

The NatterJack Editor Ms. Mikaella Lock (3)

#### Ordinary Member 2

Dr. Ian Stephen (3)

#### COUNCIL VACANCIES & NOMINATIONS

#### **Trade Officer:**

Nominee: Mr. Robert Catchpole Proposed by: Trevor Rose Seconded by: Mark Hollowell

#### **Meetings Organiser:**

Nominee: Mr. Simon Maddock Proposed by: Wolgang Wuster Seconded by: Axel Barlow

#### Ordinary Member (2 posts):

Two further nominataions have been received in addition to Dr. Ian Stephen, co-opted at the October Council Meeting. This will necesstate a ballott at the AGM to determine the successful two candidates from three nominees.

In order to assist the voting members, the following short texts have been provded by the candidates in support of their nominations:

# Nominee:

#### **Dr. Angelo Pernetta**

Proposed by: Trevor Beebee Seconded by: Frank Bowles "I am currently a lecturer in environmental biology based at the University of Brighton. My academic research interests lie in aspects of conservation biology, ecology, ethology and population genetics for reptiles and amphibians. My recent PhD research focused on understanding the ecological and genetic consequences of habitat fragmentation for smooth snake populations in Dorset. More recently, I begun research into the consequences of grass snake coloration for their predation by birds. From an international perspective I am also interested in the autecology of Mascarene island reptiles and the global wildlife trade, particularly with respect to the exotic pet trade. Having been a member of the British Herpetological Society since 2003, I would welcome the opportunity to fulfill the role of Ordinary Member on the BHS Council and help the Society go from strength to strength."

#### Nominee: Mr. Adam Radovanovic

Proposed by: David Willis Seconded by: Trevor Rose "I have been fascinated by herpetology since an early age. I gained work experience at the Birmingham Nature Centre whilst at school and took over as Curator of Reptiles after college. I've also been on a few field trips to India and Thailand to study this amazing class of animals. I have contributed to the BHS Bulletin with a forthcoming husbandry and reproduction paper and a few book reviews.

I would very much like to join the Council of the BHS."

### Nominee: Dr. Ian Stephen

Proposed by: Trevor Rose Seconded by: Jon Coote Ian was unavailable to provide supporting text, but Trevor Rose writes: Ian was co-opted to the post of Ordinary Member in October od last year following the resignation of Jenny Spencer, who relocated abroad. Ian will be wellknown to some members of BHS as Curator of Reptiles at London Zoo, particularly those who have been treated to behind-the-scenes tours of the reptile house after the previous two AGMs. As well as the important field work in which Ian has participated in recent years, he also appeared in a series of TV shows which depicted the work of London Zoo and its staff

# Рното Сомертітіон

We will run the ever-popular photo competition again this year, with prizes on offer for the best entrants. You don't need to be an expert with a camera - entries are judged by the attending members at the AGM and everyone has a different take on what makes a good photo; the only stipulation is that it has to be herp-related of course!

Photos should be submitted in printed form, up to A4 size. Please restrict your entries to a maximum of 3 photos. If you plan to attend the AGM, simply bring your photo(s) along on the day for display during the refreshment break. Attendees at the meeting will vote for their favourites and the photo with the most votes wins!

If you are unable to attend, you can still enter by sending your photos to the Secretary at:

11 Strathmore Place, Montrose, Angus, DD10 8LQ.

Closing date for entries is 24<sup>th</sup> March 2011, please note we will endeavour to return your photos but this cannot be guaranteed. Winners will be notified by post and results will be published in the April edition of the *NatterJack*.

Good luck and herpy snapping!



# Photographic Competition

Just bring or send your pictures along, enter them and maybe win fabulous prizes

Reptile and Amphibian subjects only