



CHICAGO HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Affiliated with the Chicago Academy of Sciences

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additional photos available upon request

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ReptileFest, the nation's largest educational reptile and amphibian show, April 9 and 10, 2011

Chicago—April 9 and 10, 2011 the Chicago Herpetological Society will host the 18th annual ReptileFest at the University of Illinois Chicago Campus, Physical Education Building, 901W. Roosevelt Road, Chicago, Illinois. Show hours are 10 AM until 5 PM on both Saturday and Sunday. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$7 for children 3-11. This is an educational event. There are no live animal sales. Online information and discount coupons are available at www.ReptileFest.com.

ReptileFest is a family-friendly event dedicated to educating the public about reptiles and amphibians. It is unique among large reptile shows because there are no animal sales. Because of this fact, many local conservation groups participate in the show and many private collections of rarely seen animals are present. Native Illinois species are featured, including Illinois' state reptile and amphibian, along with exotic species from around the world. Hands-on opportunities abound and there is someone to answer questions at every turn. In addition to animal displays there are lectures about conservation and husbandry issues, children's activities, herp-related products for sale, and an Ask-A-Vet table.

Highlights of ReptileFest include:

- Snakes and lizards of all sizes, many of which can be handled by visitors.
- Tortoises and turtles to meet and feed.
- Alligators, crocodiles and caimans on display.
- "Herps of Illinois," an exhibit on state reptiles and amphibians, including the state reptile, the painted turtle, and state amphibian, the tiger salamander.
- Photo opportunities with giant snakes and other animals that will impress and amaze your friends.
- Unique books, clothing and jewelry available for purchase.
- Temporary tattoos and other activities for children.
- Lectures on conservation and reptile husbandry.
- Conservation and nature organizations will be in attendance.

The Chicago Herpetological Society is one of the nation's oldest and largest regional herpetological societies—a group of people who like to get together and learn about reptiles and amphibians. Throughout the year the CHS puts on dozens of shows for groups in the Chicagoland area including the Chicago Cultural Center, Notebaert Nature Museum, and Plum Creek Nature Center. ReptileFest is the Society's biggest show and, at 40,000 square-feet, the largest of its kind in the nation. In addition to the shows, the CHS provides financial support for scientific research in Illinois and around the world, has monthly meetings open to the public, and fosters cooperation between amateur and professional herpetologists.

Photos from past ReptileFest's are attached below and are available at our web site.

Opportunities for events or shows with live animals prior to Reptilefest can be arranged by contacting Rick Hoppenrath at number above.



At ReptileFest, families have the opportunity to get up close and personal with hundreds of reptiles and amphibians, like this giant Burmese Python.



Iguanas are popular pets but many people don't know how to care for them properly. At ReptileFest you can talk with the Iguana Squad about how to help your pet grow to be as healthy and beautiful as this Iguana.

ReptileFest has activities for people of all ages. The Turtle Pit is a popular place for kids to play and parents to sit and relax.

