

## GENERAL MEETING

The last meeting was held on the 27<sup>th</sup> May 2005.

The new Bio Diversity Act was discussed. This may bring some changes to our hobby, but there is some hope. Those of you who would like to view the final draft, visit [www.environment.gov.za](http://www.environment.gov.za).

The next meeting is to be held on the 24<sup>th</sup> June 2005. The time will be 19h30 for 20h00 as usual.



**TRANSVAAL HERPETOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION**  
**TRANSVAAL HERPETOLOGIESE VERENIGING**

## THE TRADING POST

*If you would like to advertise anything reptile-related in the Newsletter please contact the editor before the 2<sup>nd</sup> last Friday of every month. This service is available free of charge to members for private ads and a small fee is charged to companies.*

Mice available:

Pinks R2.75, Fuzzies R3.00, weaned R3.50 and adults R4.00 each.

Rats available:

Pinks R2.00, Pups R4.00, Weaned R4.50, Sub Adult 6.50, Adults R10.00 each.

Orders to be placed before 3:30pm every Wednesday, and will be available for collection Friday evenings and Saturday mornings. Delivery can be arranged at an additional cost. Fixed pre-paid bulk orders qualify for discount. Frozen rodents are also available on request.

Contact: Heidi 083 374 7087

Or e-mail me at [bushbaby@exclusivemail.co.za](mailto:bushbaby@exclusivemail.co.za)

## Snake Keeping / Husbandry Course

### ***At last ..... a course for the reptile hobbyist !***

This course starts at 09h00 and runs until 16h00

This course covers the following topics:

*General Husbandry*, caging, heating, breeding, force feeding .....

*Health care*, including tubing, medicating etc ...

*Breeding*, probing, pop sexing, incubation and some personal breeding tips!

This is a must for all serious herpetologist!

Coffee and lunch will be served.

Certificates will be issued on successful completion of this course!

Costs - R450 per person

Venue - Aqua-Aviaries Walkerville. Soon to be available throughout South Africa.

Date – 4 June 2005.

Please contact Heidi at 0833747087 for bookings

## SOS<sup>2</sup> Reptile Expo

Finally the day of the expo arrived. Some exhibitors got their stands ready the day before, but others started unpacking stock at 6am and started setting up their stands. The last exhibitor started unpacking at 9:30, but had lucky finished before the doors opened. Even with a newer larger venue the hall was packed wall to wall with reptile goodies. Exhibitors arrived from the Free State, KwaZulu Natal, Limpopo, Northwest and obviously Gauteng as well.

At 9:50 the foyer was packed with anticipating visitors. 5 minutes later the queue was all the way down the stairs, and one couldn't see the end of it from the top of the stairs. At 10am the doors were opened. The hall filled quite fast as the potential buyers and curious visitors entered. It was a wonderful sight to see the visitors carrying out cages, and new additions to their collections. As these customers left there were plenty of new comers who took their place. At one stage a lady was sitting on the couch with several Bank bags around her feet as she was waiting for her other half to finish all his transactions and bring more beasties. It was quite a sight to see.

There were a huge variety of reptiles available. There were Skinks, various Dragons, Agamas, Basilisks, Iguanas, Geckos, many different Vipers, Rattlesnakes, Pythons, Boas, Ratsnakes, Milksnakes and Pine snakes to name just a few, each with their own various morphs. Some of the nicest reptiles which were available, were the Albino Boas, Anerythristic Boas, Albino and Normal Granite Burmese Pythons and baby Green Anacondas.

There were also cages, substrates, decorations, thermostats, vitamin supplements, tongs and other equipment, T-shirts and even reptile G-strings for sale. Crickets, cockroaches, spiders and scorpions also found their way into the expo.

Many people bumped into old friends for the first time in years and groups of people could be found standing around or sitting on the chairs and couches catching up on news or gossip. It was nice to see a few old faces there as well.

Unfortunately we did have a theft incident. A group of three children stole 5 snakes, ranging from a common R100 cornsnake to a R5000 albino Green Burmese Python hatchling. All the snakes were found within four days after the expo and returned to their rightful owners. It is unfortunate that we cannot trust all of those in this hobby, and next year we will look into better security measures.

Kwêla (Kyknet) presenters spent most of the day in our company and the programme was aired the following Wednesday. It was nice to see

someone doing something positive for reptiles, and they will be welcome at future expo's. A huge thank you to the whole crew. Repti Pets won the Best Exhibitor on Show award and Ilza Lawry won the raffle prize of 2 baby Red Tail Boas. The reptile auction was not very successful and next year it will be held a bit earlier in the day with a proper catalogue and expected prices distributed before hand. The people who did stay for the auction got amazing bargains. Thank you for all those who helped on the day and helped with advertising the event. The day turned out largely successful for most of the exhibitors and visitors. What was very evident was that reptile prices will have to come down if the volume of sales are to be increased. Some of the exhibitors already wanted to know when the date is for next year's expo. We have managed to get the same venue for next year and will be holding the expo over one and a half days so that more people can attend. We will inform you of dates, etc. closer to the time.

## **MARCH BIRTHDAYS**

On behalf of the THA we would like to wish you all a happy belated birthday. (You thought we forgot about you.)

2 – Renier Delport  
4 – Neal Martin  
8 – Raymond Cross  
9 – Hendrik van den Heever  
11 – Lora Coutts  
15 – David Burt  
15 – Hendrik Lourens  
17 – Natasha Veldkamp  
18 – Roy Dady  
20 – Bennie Havenga  
29 – Rita Veale

## **APRIL BIRTHDAYS**

On behalf of the THA we would like to wish you all a happy birthday.

3 – Fanie van den Heever  
18 – Desiree Clarke  
19 – Karen Clarke  
25 – Charlene Pfeifer  
30 – Juan Foster

## **MAY BIRTHDAYS**

1 – Rudi Bagchus  
1 – Rikus Fischer  
12 – Stuwart Maseko  
21 – Zane Jageman  
23 – Debbie Heunis  
28 – Martin Buitendag  
28 – Vaughan Veale

## EDITORS NOTE

Thank you to those who submitted articles. We would like to request original articles, which have been written by members. Please visit our website [www.tha.co.za](http://www.tha.co.za). We are open to any suggestions to improve the website.

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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