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Message from a Co-Chair

Ericha Nix

Message From a Co-Chair

Dear GTC Members,

I hope this letter finds you and your families in the greatest of health during the COVID-19 pandemic. Wherever you may be in the Southeast or beyond, you are probably working from home, homeschooling your children, and sharing a workspace with your spouse. These truly are unprecedented times we are living in.

April 10th was Gopher Tortoise Day and though all in-person events across the range were canceled due to the need for social distancing, I am happy to report that several events still carried on relying heavily on social media and creative thinking outside the “burrow.” A sincere thank you goes out to all GTC volunteers and others who have continued to educate the public and shared their passion for this amazing species during these strange times we are living in.

The annual meeting is currently still on schedule for November 6-8th, 2020 in St. Petersburg, Florida. The GTC executive committee continues discussing contingency plans in the event that we will still be under state and/or federal social distancing guidelines. Please continue to keep up to date with GTC over the summer as we will likely send out a survey gauging interest and ability for participants to join our meeting as regularly scheduled in person in Florida. As we get nearer to the meeting date, we will share information with you regarding the meeting venue, lodging, and registration.

In closing, be on the lookout during the summer months for GTC correspondence as we will update you as things change or we may need your input via a survey on how to proceed with the annual meeting. We will do our best to contact members through social media and email with news and annual meeting updates. Thank you for your patience as we move forward and I hope we can get back to our routines soon and hug our friends and family!

— Ericha

Gopher Tortoise Council outreach volunteer Carol McCoy participated in an e-celebration of Gopher Tortoise Day with the Friends of Stump Pass State Park. Find them on Facebook or YouTube for the “Tortoise Ten” - 10 days dedicated to learning more about gopher tortoises. Photo courtesy of Friends of Stump Pass Beach State Park.
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mark your calendars for the 42nd Annual Gopher Tortoise Council Meeting in St. Petersburg, Florida
November 6-8th, 2020

Stay tuned for more details on our website: www.gophertortoisecouncil.org, or follow us on Facebook.

Donna J. Heinrich Environmental Education Grant

The GTC Environmental Education Grant was established to support educators and organizations committed to developing educational projects about the gopher tortoise and the fascinating world in which it lives. The grant also honors Donna June Heinrich, an environmental educator whose life was dedicated to conserving wildlife and their associated habitats.

Applications which contain the following will be given preference:

• Projects that reach diverse and new audiences
• Projects that focus on the importance of the conservation of intact upland ecosystems
• Projects that encourage community involvement
• Projects that have matching funds

Deadline for submission of this year’s proposals is September 30th, 2020. Requirements, instructions, and the application can be found on GTC’s Grant Program webpage.

Submit proposals or send questions to Jessica McGuire at jmcguire@quailforever.org.

The J. Larry Landers Student Research Grant

The J. Larry Landers Student Research Grant is a GTC competitive grant program for undergraduate and graduate students. Proposals can address research concerning gopher tortoise biology or any other relevant aspect of upland habitat conservation and management. The amount of the award is variable but has averaged $1,000 over the last few years. The proposal should be limited to four pages in length and include a description of the project, a concise budget, requested grant amount, and a brief resume of the student. This is an excellent opportunity for undergraduate and graduate students to access funding for their projects!

The deadline for grant proposals each year is September 30th, 2020. Proposals should be submitted electronically in a Microsoft Word document to Betsie Rothermel at brothermel@archbold-station.org. For more information, visit the Grant Program page of our website at http://gophertortoisecouncil.org/grant-programs.

“Like” us on Facebook to get more gopher tortoise news and Council updates!
An Interview with a Herpetologist featuring John Jensen

Gopher Tortoise Council (GTC): Congratulations on your retirement after a distinguished career with Georgia DNR. What do you consider your most important conservation accomplishments during that time?

John Jensen (JJ): Because I have always recognized that habitat loss is, by far, the greatest threat to wildlife in our region, my greatest satisfactions have been when my work, at least in part, led to acquisition of highly valuable conservation properties. I feel particularly proud of being, perhaps, the lead advocate for the protection and habitat improvements of what eventually became Sandhills Wildlife Management Area (formerly known as Fall Line Sandhills WMA) in Taylor County, Georgia. The presence of numerous tortoise burrows on the site warranted conservation measures there on its own merit; but later, colleagues and I kept finding other rarities including the only Fall Line population of striped newts ever known, three gopher frog breeding ponds (including one that has served as the source population for captive rearing and re-establishment efforts), the most robust population of federally endangered pondberry in the state, tiger salamanders, Southern hog-nosed snakes, Florida pine snakes, Eastern diamondback rattlesnakes, nesting Southeastern American kestrels and Bachman’s sparrows, sandhills golden aster, lax water-milfoil, and others. Many other lands in this region were subsequently acquired or conserved through perpetual easements, particularly via Georgia’s Gopher Tortoise Conservation Initiative, adding incredible connectivity and further protection. The completely unexpected explosion of massive solar farms in this area only reinforced the importance of getting these sites protected.

GTC: In recognition of your years of service both to GTC and the field of conservation, you received the Auffenberg and Franz Conservation Award at the 2019 GTC meeting. What does this award mean to you?

JJ: Wow, just being tangentially associated with the award’s namesakes, who have done so much for biology and conservation, is such a great honor. And, being recognized by my peers for this past year’s award really means a lot. What a great retirement gift it was!

GTC: I don’t know if this is well-known fact, but you originally studied geology. When did you realize that field wasn’t quite for you, and did any mentors or experiences influence your decision to focus on wildlife?

JJ: When I started college at University of Iowa, I had an undeclared major, not really knowing what profession best suited me. I took a couple of geology classes and really enjoyed them. At the time, petroleum geology was a booming field, so it seemed like a good science/money-making pursuit. I later transferred to Auburn University, which required all geology students to have two minors in the field of science, mathematics, or engineering. I double-minored in biology, my true passion, but something I wasn’t convinced I could make a living doing. Right before I graduated, the petroleum industry fell on hard times and there were no jobs available, so my first real job out of school was as a hydrogeologist inspecting underground storage tanks for leaks. I hated it, and probably would have equally hated being a petroleum geologist. I kept the job maybe three months, then went back to Auburn to follow my passion and earn a BS in biology. Classes and/or associations with George Folkerts, Craig Guyer, Bob Mount, Jim Dobie, and John Freeman especially influenced my decision to become a wildlife/conservation biologist.

GTC: What is your most memorable experience while working with gopher tortoises?

JJ: Probably the very first professional experience I had with them, spending an entire summer on the Conecuh National Forest working on a research project under the leadership of Craig Guyer. It was the greatest immersion training for learning coastal plain critters, plants, habitats, ecology, conservation, and management. It was by far my most fun summer ever, too.

Continued on next page
An Interview with a Herpetologist continued...

GTC: From mountains to the sea, Georgia has a wide variety of habitats. Do you have a favorite habitat when looking for or studying herps?

JJ: I really enjoy the cave and karst habitats of the Cumberland Plateau, but coastal plain isolated wetlands would have to be my favorite. The diversity of animals and plants that depend on them is fascinating to me, and with so many associated rare species, the opportunity for important discoveries of new populations at unexplored sites is relatively high. I always get a rush when I find a previously unknown population of some imperiled animal or plant.

GTC: With a rapidly changing world, what major challenges and opportunities do you anticipate the next generation of herpetologists will face?

JJ: The challenge is obvious – dealing with continued human overpopulation and all the associated threats it has on herpetofauna, especially habitat loss and alteration. What provides opportunities is that science continues to advance, and with it comes new information on how to better conserve and manage wildlife. Additionally, increased land acquisition and protection efforts are adding natural habitats in which research, conservation, and management can continue.

GTC: What advice do you have for younger members of the council who are just beginning their careers in conservation?

JJ: At least early in your career, don’t become so one species- or one taxon-centric that you literally don’t see the forest for the trees. If your goal in life is to be a gopher tortoise biologist, you will be more marketable and successful if you’ve also made an effort to learn sandhill plants, for example. Plus, opening up your natural world to all that it holds just makes being out in it much more interesting and fun, at least to me.

GTC: Finally, how is retirement treating you? Are you involved in any conservation projects that are keeping you busy?

JJ: Retirement is great – I highly recommend it! Right now, you can’t pull me out of the turkey woods or my fishing holes to do much of anything else, but I do have some contract work with a land trust monitoring over 50 conservation easement properties throughout the Southeast. That keeps me in the woods and professionally involved with wildlife.

FEATURE ARTICLE

Celebrating a Viable Population at Split Oak Forest WEA

By Kimberly Buchheit

Everyone was anticipating a fun and educational, well-attended event for Gopher Tortoise Day at Split Oak Forest WEA in April of 2020. Surprise!

We have all been stunned by how our world has been transformed since the 2019 Gopher Tortoise Council Meeting in Gulf Shores, Alabama last November. By the 2020 Spring Equinox, official directives to slow the spread of COVID-19 based on “flattening the curve” required us to emulate proven reptilian survival strategies. Who could have predicted that we humans would be ordered to isolate and take refuge in our burrows? Hatching a revised plan for Gopher Tortoise Day 2020 during final preparation mode provided some much needed distraction to counteract the disappointment.

Split Oak Forest WEA, located in Florida’s Orange and Osceola counties, has provided the region’s citizens and visitors with unique opportunities to observe and appreciate several imperiled wildlife species in a preserved natural setting. In addition, Split Oak Forest is a perfect outdoor laboratory to demonstrate the qualities and characteristics of prime gopher tortoise habitat, activity and behavior. With this knowledge comes an inherent obligation to share information with visitors to these important conservation lands. Friends of Split Oak Forest, Inc. is the organization that has adopted public outreach and education as a part of their mission to protect this unique preservation project from harm.

Continued on next page
Celebrating a Viable Population at Split Oak Forest WEA continued...

The Friends of Split Oak Forest and partners/sponsors were planning Gopher Tortoise Day 2020 activities for nearly a year prior to the cancellation decision. The Split Oak Forest Gopher Tortoise Day planning committee and volunteers had produced an inaugural event in 2019 with great success and promise for becoming a marquis annual community outreach event. For 2020, exhibits included some upgrades and new activities were added.

Friends of Split Oak Forest were excited to offer a free day of activities dedicated to educating the public about the fascinating species that has become the beloved mascot for the organization’s grass-roots efforts to save Split Oak Forest. The planned program included the following partners and activities:

- Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), David Turner, Bryan Ames and biologists — Mobile wildlife exhibit, field biology, fire and management Q&A
- Swamp Girl Adventures, Kim Titterington and Family — Sheldon, Mayor of Gopher Tortoise Day signs the Proclamation, hands-on tortoise encounters, educational materials, reptile Q&A
- Florida Native Plant Society (FNPS) Pine Lily Chapter, Tayler Figueroa — Gopher tortoise forage plants exhibit, native plants Q&A
- Florida Trails Association, Doug Kucklick — Exhibit and information, Q&A
- Bear Warriors United, Katrina Shadix, Executive Director — “Bear Aware” exhibit, handouts and information
- Osceola Mom, Angela Mikolajek — Graphic arts and promotions (and herding cats)
- Friends of Split Oak Forest Committee/Volunteers
  - Mary Nesler, Resident Artist — Kids activities, arts and crafts director
  - Tina Sorbo, Megan Sorbo (Youth Conservationist Award of Merit Winner) — Photo booth
  - Lee Hutchins, Ariel Hartney, JR McGovern and family — Floating volunteers
  - Nathalie Van Turnhout and Dave Wegman — Gopher tortoise burrow hikes
  - Jessica Sullivan and Krista Stump, IFAS Agents — Habitat Information
- Vincent Zuniaga — Photography

Once the decision was made to cancel the event, our committee scurried to host an online art contest to inspire gopher tortoise-themed drawings, paintings, photography and crafts. We received lovely, responsive entries and will be awarding prizes (in-person) the next chance we get. Two of the entries are pictured here. This article is the first publication of the works outside of our social media postings. We expect to use these new images in our advocacy communications. All entries were considered winners. Entrants agreed that the art submitted may be used in print, online or in promotional materials such as cards, postcards, stickers, etc.
Celebrating a Viable Population at Split Oak Forest WEA continued...

Speaking of swag, we also rolled out our adorable, branded buttons to spread the word about saving Split Oak Forest. To give a simplified summary, Split Oak Forest WEA was acquired through Preservation 2000 Grant funding administered by Florida Communities Trust (FCT) and has been owned by the people of Orange County and Osceola County, Florida since the mid 1990’s. It is impeccably managed by Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). Split Oak Forest is protected through Deed Restrictions, layered with Conservation Easements and other Interagency Agreements and commitments.

Friends of Split Oak Forest, Inc. is a non-profit, grassroots organization that was formed to protect Split Oak Forest from the threat of the Osceola Parkway Extension, a major toll roadway being planned for the area. Over the past three years, President Valerie Anderson, Vice-President Dave Wegman and Secretary Gretchen Robinson have led advocacy efforts, raised awareness and inspired the public to become engaged. Group efforts have included documenting the unique biodiversity that comprises Split Oak Forest. Many people have come to know and love Split Oak Forest through self-directed passive recreation opportunities and organized hikes arranged with various subject matter experts conducting informal field seminars. Gopher Tortoise Day has become an extension of these programs.

In mid-December of 2019, the Central Florida Expressway Authority (CFX) and Osceola and Orange County had agreed to pursue the preferred alignment of the Osceola Parkway Extension (OPE) through Split Oak Forest’s diverse and protected southern square mile. At this time, the plan is for the proposed OPE to directly impact a 60 acre swath through Split Oak Forest in Osceola County. Secondary impacts have not been analyzed in detail, but it is estimated that approximately 200 acres in total may become difficult or impossible to manage with fire.

It is anticipated that the partners, Orange and Osceola County, will be applying to FCT for modifications to the Grant Award Agreement to obtain approval for the non-conforming use of the land. Prior to FCT’s consideration of the request for modifications, we understand that CFX will be seeking approval from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) for a complex land exchange.

Based on the Gopher Tortoise Survey of Split Oak Forest WEA published by Florida Natural Areas Inventory in December 2019, Split Oak Forest presently supports a viable population of 290 Gopher Tortoises on nearly 1,800 acres. However, this population is in a precarious position should the roadway alignment become reality. With the threshold for a minimum Viable Population (MVP) being 250 individuals on a minimum of 250 acres, this population would no longer be viable given a decrease of 14%. Further analysis of these population data may provide the basis for reconsideration of the “Split Oak Avoidance Alternative” that would co-locate a portion of the OPE alignment with Cyrils Drive, an existing local road. This option would reduce the loss, fragmentation and degradation impacts to this protected gopher tortoise habitat and currently viable population.

We celebrate the viable gopher tortoise population at Split Oak Forest. In our hearts and minds, every day is Gopher Tortoise Day at Split Oak Forest, with or without a special event to honor them.

Friends of Split Oak Forest contacts: kimberlybuchheit@gmail.com & valerie@friendsofsplitoak.org
Highlights from Gopher Tortoise Day 2020

Gopher Tortoise Day, annually observed on April 10th, is a celebration intended to raise awareness for this remarkable reptile across its range. Although in-person events were cancelled this year, all was not lost! People still celebrated the gopher tortoise in the spirit of social distancing, taking to the internet to bring awareness and promote gopher tortoise conservation. Several e-celebrations took place, attempting to engage followers and bring awareness to the species’ importance as a keystone.

In Florida, several organizations celebrated the gopher tortoise by posting to social media. One such agency was the Palm Beach County Department of Environmental Resource Management (PBCDERM). Using Facebook, they brought viewers to the High Ridge Scrub Natural Area to learn about tortoises. Staff encountered tortoises and their burrows during a cleanup of the natural area. Within this video, they highlighted the gopher tortoise’s importance as a keystone species, describing the importance of their burrows to the ecosystem and showing the importance of preserving scrub habitat.

Friends of Stump Pass Beach State Park dedicated the first ten days of April to getting to know the gopher tortoise. A different aspect of the gopher tortoise was highlighted each day on their Facebook page in appreciation for the species. Some topics highlighted were:

- Eastern indigo snakes as commensal species
- Use of game cameras to observe tortoise behaviors
- Gopher tortoise burrow identification
- Planting native species for gopher tortoises
- How to move a tortoise out of the road
- Venomous snake commensal species

The group posted fact sheets and links to coloring books, games, and word searches for people to have fun and learn at home. On Gopher Tortoise Day, the group hosted a virtual field trip and scavenger hunt.

In Georgia, the Chehaw Park and Zoo celebrated the Georgia state reptile by posting an educational video to Facebook. The video gave an overview of the gopher tortoise’s importance and why populations are threatened.

The Orianne Society also celebrated Gopher Tortoise Day by posting a link to the film “The Ecosystem Engineer”. The film was created to highlight the importance of the gopher tortoise as a keystone species and the organizations dedicated to gopher tortoise conservation in Georgia. People were encouraged to watch from the safety of their own burrow.

In Mississippi, the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science invited people on Facebook to tune in and join outreach educator, Sabrina Cummings, to learn about the gopher tortoise. The video featured an education ambassador tortoise during her morning forage.

Check out PBCDERM’s video celebrating gopher tortoises on Facebook. Screenshot courtesy of PBCDERM.

Check out Friends of Stump Pass Beach State Park’s e-celebration for Gopher Tortoise Day on YouTube.

Visit Chehaw Park and Zoo’s Facebook page to watch their Gopher Tortoise Day video.

Visit Mississippi Museum of Natural Science’s Facebook page to learn more about gopher tortoises.

Continued on next page
Highlights from Gopher Tortoise Day 2020 continued...

Just because April 10th has come and gone doesn’t mean we can’t still pay homage to the importance of the gopher tortoise and its conservation. Here are a few ways you can celebrate the gopher tortoise while social distancing:

- Take a family hike through gopher tortoise habitat
- Encourage kids to develop an appreciation for nature and gopher tortoises by using the Gopher Tortoise Field Trip Guide or other hands-on activities found on the GopherTortoiseDayFL website
- Continue to use social media to promote gopher tortoise conservation and education!

Recent Research Citations

Below are a few recently published articles pertaining to gopher tortoises and upland communities in the southeast! Check out GTC’s Education & Outreach section of our website for tortoise and snake bibliographies for more interesting reads.


Interested in some light reading? Longtime GTC member and former Co-Chair David Steen recently published Secrets of Snakes: The Science beyond the Myths. As the name suggests, this book tackles common snake questions and myths. Check out DavidSteen.com for more information or to request a signed copy.
Name Game
The genus of this species group, Lampropeltis, is a combination of two Greek words: lampros, which means shiny, and pelta, which means shield. “Shinyshield” refers to the glossy appearance of scales on all kingsnake species.

Range and Appearance: Eastern kingsnakes can be found throughout most of the gopher tortoise’s range. Members of the genus can be found throughout the southern United States westward to California, as far north as Maine, and northwestward to Montana. Eastern (L. getula) kingsnakes are primarily black with white bands across their back. Florida (L. floridana) and Apalachicola (L. meansi) kingsnakes are creamy-white in color and have thick dark brown to tan bands. As their names suggest, black (L. nigra) kingsnakes are nearly solid black, and speckled (L. holbrooki) kingsnakes have a white speckled pattern over a black body. Adult snakes average 90 – 122 cm (3 – 4 ft). Intergrades of these species occur where ranges meet. Neonates look similar to adult snakes, but may display darker colors that fade over time.

Natural History: Kingsnakes are known for their propensity to eat other snakes (ophiophagy). They have evolved to be resistant to venom and therefore will regularly consume venomous snakes. Their diet also includes lizards, turtle eggs, birds, and small mammals. Kingsnakes are primarily active during the daytime and use refugia, like mammal burrows, stump holes, rock piles, and downed logs to escape extreme hot or cold temperatures. These terrestrial snakes use many habitat types including pine forests, sandhills, hardwood forests, and meadows. They are sometimes found around the shorelines of wetlands. The breeding season begins in the spring and eggs hatch during the summer.
Kingsnakes
*Lampropeltis getula, L. floridana, L. holbrooki, L. nigra, & L. meansi*

**Conservation Challenges:** Kingsnakes are in decline throughout their range. The cause of decline is unknown, but contributing factors likely include habitat loss and fragmentation, wetland alteration, pollution, invasive species such as the red imported fire ant, road mortality, and overcollection for the pet trade. Kingsnakes have declined in many protected landscapes where other snake species prosper such as the Conecuh National Forest in Alabama and the Apalachicola and Ocala National Forests in Florida. None of these kingsnake species are state or federally protected, and laws governing their conservation and protection vary by state.

*Florida kingsnakes (pictured above) are lighter in coloration than other kingsnake species.*

**Kingsnake Taxonomy:** The genus *Lampropeltis* is one of the most diverse snake groups in North America. Historically, 18 subspecies of *L. getula* have been identified; however, recent genetic modeling such as mtDNA and nuclear DNA analyses have suggested many of the former subspecies should be classified as distinct species, which are presented in this guide. There are also several other, smaller, kingsnake species throughout the gopher tortoise’s range including the scarlet kingsnake (*L. elapsoides*), short-tailed kingsnake (*L. extenuata*), mole kingsnake (*L. calligaster*), and northern and south Florida mole kingsnakes (*L. occipitolineata* and *L. rhombomaculata*, respectively).

**For More Information:**

*Created by Bradley O’Hanlon and Jennifer Howze*

*Photographs provided by Bradley O’Hanlon and Kevin Enge*

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New Eastern copperhead fact sheet from the Upland Snake Conservation Committee

Eastern Copperhead
Agkistrodon contortrix
Upland Snake Species Profile

Name Game
The genus, Agkistrodon, and species name, contortrix, are contractions of Greek words. The genus refers to the snake’s fangs, ankistro: fishhook, and odontos: tooth. The species name describes the snake’s behavior, contortus: twisted, and rix: performer.

Range and Appearance: Copperheads are named after the distinct copper coloration on their heads. They have light brown to tan bodies, sometimes with a pinkish-hue. They have dark brown hourglass-shaped saddles, or “Hershey kisses”, down their sides. Young snakes resemble adults, but also have a yellow tail tip used for caudal luring. Copperheads are absent from much of Florida and southeastern Georgia, but otherwise can be found throughout the Southeast. Range wide, Eastern copperheads can be found from Massachusetts through Central Texas. Copperheads are frequently confused with venomous cottonmouths and non-venomous corn snakes. Cottonmouths have a large dark band through the eye, and corn snakes have reddish blotches on their bodies and lack hourglass markings.

Natural History: Copperheads are found in many terrestrial habitats including mountainous terrain; hardwood, pine, and mixed forests; farmlands; ruderal habitats; and suburban areas. Copperheads are typically active at night, though they may exhibit daytime activity during cooler months. Copperheads primarily hibernate alone in the Southeastern Coastal Plain, whereas in the northern parts of their range, animals generally hibernate deep within rock crevices with many other individuals. Copperheads have a broad diet and prey on small mammals, birds, lizards, amphibians, large insects, and even other snakes. Adults average 50-95 cm long (20-37 in), though large males can exceed 127 cm (50 in). These snakes can breed in both the spring and fall. Sperm from fall mating events is stored over winter. Females give live birth between June and October. An average clutch is 4-8 individuals, though clutches of over 20 neonates have been reported.

Upland Snake Conservation Initiative
www.gophertortoisecouncil.org
Eastern Copperhead
*Agkistrodon contortrix*

*Conservation Challenges:* Copperheads can be relatively abundant in their southeastern range within areas of suitable upland habitat, including residential communities. Some states have implemented protections in the northern portions of their range where populations are declining.

*Copperhead Myths:* There are many myths about copperheads, and snakes in general. Two of the most common copperhead myths are:

**Myth:** If you smell cucumbers in the woods, you are near a copperhead.

**Fact:** This is somewhat true, but also misleading. All snakes can produce a musky scent when threatened, and a copperhead’s musk can have a cucumber-like aroma. However, a snake typically does not musk unless it is bothered. Even when threatened, a snake may choose not to release its musk. Therefore, a person could be inches away from a copperhead and not smell it.

**Myth:** Copperheads, and other venomous species, will mate with non-venomous snakes including “black snakes” (i.e., black racers and rat snakes), to create dangerously fast and venomous snakes.

**Fact:** This is not biologically possible. Copperheads belong to the viper family, Viperidae, while racers and rat snakes belong to Colubridae. Because of the taxonomic differences, these species cannot interbreed. In the northern parts of the copperhead’s range, they often share communal hibernacula with racers and rat snakes, which may have led to this myth’s inception.

*Copperheads give live birth in late summer through early fall. Neonates have yellow tails and are able to deliver venomous bites. How many babies can you count in this picture?*

*Several snake species including cottonmouths (middle photo) and corn snakes (bottom photo) are often misidentified as copperheads (top photo).*

For More Information:


Created by Bradley O’Hanlon and Matthew Hinderliter
Photographs provided by Bradley O’Hanlon, Matthew Hinderliter, and Michelina Dziadzio
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The Tortoise Burrow
http://www.gophertortoisecouncil.org

The Tortoise Burrow is published in Spring, Summer, and Winter. Interested in submitting an article? Contact the Newsletter Editor for information:
Michelina Dziadzio
Michelina.Dziadzio@MyFWC.com

Decisions concerning publication of submitted material rest with the editor and co-chairs.

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