About Zilla

Zilla is committed to producing innovative products to build and maintain a healthy reptile habitat. From terrariums to bedding, lighting to décor - Zilla provides all the necessary components for the successful keeping of reptiles and amphibians. Whether you are a beginner or a reptile enthusiast, the Zilla brand offers a variety of products to meet the specific requirements of your pets.
About the

St. Louis Herpetological Society

The St. Louis Herpetological Society's purpose is to share knowledge within our community and with our membership. To educate the general public, to encourage an appreciation of reptiles and amphibians and their importance in the natural world. Thus, education and conservation is our leading priority.

Board Members

President: Steve Brown
Vice President: John Ward
Treasurer: John Faletti
Editor: Bill Keith
Associate Editor: Debbie Brown
Membership Secretary: Debbie Brown
Corresponding Secretary: Michael Brodt

Members at Large

Lynn Hartke
Katie Fraizer
Bonnie Faletti
Shawn Wright

Justin Elden

Justin Elden works for the St. Louis Zoo Herpetology department where he cares for many endangered species of reptile and amphibian, with an emphasis on Vipers. He is also the founder of the Highlands & Islands Conservatory non-profit that is dedicated to the study and conservation of rare herps and their habitats.

James Brumley

Jim's store the Exotic A.R.C. has been in business at it's present location since 1995. He specialize in producing large quantities of his own captive bred reptiles. He is a past president of the St. Louis Herpetological Society.

Junior Herpers 12-14

Caleb Snicker
Thaniel Bentz
Dean Judd
Willem Lems
Joe Hupp

Joe Hupp has kept reptiles and amphibians since he was a child with his father. He's been actively breeding reptile for over 25 years and has been specializing in geckos for 17 years. He's produced over 160 species of reptiles and amphibians. A little over 100 of those species are geckos.

Professionally, he spent over 2 years in the aquatic & herp division at the St. Louis Zoo as an intern and seasonal keeper. He's also been a data collector for the Missouri Department of Conservation for a foreigny introduced pest as well as a breeding data collection for Mexican gray wolves for the Wild canid research & survival center. He currently owns & operates Joe Hupp Geckos.

John Richards

John Richards grew up a turtle enthusiast from a very early age. Growing up in Kansas City his fascination only increased with age and he started Loggerhead Acres Turtle Farm in 1995 which continues to this day. He will discuss his life and career working with the alligator snapping turtle as well as his observations and natural history of the species.

Patrick Nabors

The Nature of Frog Keeping - An exploration of frogs, terrariums and why keeping frogs is so different from keeping most reptiles!

Patrick Nabors has bred around 150 different species of frogs, lizards, and snakes over the past 28 years. For the past 20 years the focus has been frogs and poison dart frogs, as well as terrariums and plants. Animals and supplies produced are offered for sale via the website Saurian.net, and over the years, Saurian has sold animals to dozens of US and international zoos and institutions, as well as thousands of hobbyists.

Currently the breeding facility is located in Overland Park Kansas, where forty or so species and forms of frogs are being bred, as well as a few gecko species.

2019 Midwest Herpetological Symposium

Schedule of Events

Friday, September 27th

5:00 pm - Registration opens

6:00 pm - Welcome statement from our president Steve Brown

6:15 - 6:55 pm - Opening speaker, Bill Keith

Will present a summary of the Vincent’s Eagle Project

7:00 - 7:10 pm - Junior Herper Winner, Caleb Snicker, Age group 12-14

7:10 pm - ? - Hospitality area opens, free time to socialize
Saturday, September 28th

9:00 - 9:05 am - Welcome and Opening Remarks, Steve Brown
9:05 - 9:55 am - Jeff Briggler
10:00 - 10:50 am - Dru Reeves
11:00 - 11:10 - Junior Herper Winner, Thaniel Bentz, Age group 12-14
11:10 am - 12:00 - Joe Hupp
12:00 to 1:00 pm - LUNCH on your own
1:00 - 1:50 pm - John Richards
2:00 - 2:10 - Junior Herper Winner, Dean Judd, Age group 12-14
2:10 - 3:00 pm - Patrick Nabors
3:00 - 3:50 pm - Justin Elden
4:00 - 4:10 - Junior Herper Winner, Willem Lems, Age group 12-14
4:10 - 6:30 pm - BREAK
6:30 pm - BANQUET
7:30 - 8:30 pm - Keynote Address by Jim Brumley
“The progression of herpetoculture over the years”

About Our Guest Speakers

Jeff Briggler has been the State Herpetologist for the Missouri Department of Conservation since 2000. He received a MS and Ph.D. degree from the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville with a focus on pond breeding amphibians. Jeff spends the majority of time promoting, conserving, and monitoring amphibian and reptile populations in Missouri. He has been working on and leading hellbender conservation efforts since 2001 in Missouri. For his work on hellbenders, he received the 2012 Saint Louis Zoo Conservation Award and the 2014 PARC Allison Haskell Award for excellence in herpetofaunal conservation. He has published over 40 articles related to hellbenders.

Dru Reeves

Dru Reeves will talk about UVB Lighting.

We are enthusiastic reptile hobbyists especially into Chameleons. As hobbyists, we don't have a huge selections since we only have a handful of animals. But every animal is at top quality as we hand-picked them, and they all receive individual attention. The results are that we have outstanding offspring with tamed temperament. If you are looking for something a little more special than big chain pet shop, we are the place for you! Don't hesitate to contact us if you have any question!