

4th Box Turtle Conservation Workshop

March 22-23, 2013

North Carolina Zoological Park, Asheboro, North Carolina

Registration is now open for the 4th Box Turtle Conservation Workshop (see links below). This workshop takes place March 22-23, 2013, at the North Carolina Zoo and is aimed at individuals actively engaged in Box Turtle research and conservation. A tour of the NC Zoo will take place on Sunday, March 24th.

The workshop is sponsored by the National Box Turtle Conservation Committee, the North Carolina Zoological Park, the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, the National Science Foundation, The HERP Project, and the Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary in Maryland. Deadline for registration is February 1, 2013.

Objectives

The workshop will focus on Box Turtle population trends, ecology, life history strategies, systematics, and epidemiology. A special session on infectious diseases, chaired by Dr. Matt Allender, will be held in light of recent concerns over ranavirus in wild Box Turtles. Box Turtle populations are declining throughout their range, yet few efforts have been made to assess current population status for developing long-term conservation strategies. A major goal of the workshop is to provide current information on population size throughout the species' range, and to encourage population studies in states where these turtles occur.

Abstract Format

Researchers are invited to submit an abstract of 500 words or less describing ongoing or completed research related to the workshop objectives. Submit the abstract as an attachment (MS Word format); do not paste the abstract directly into your email message. Please include your name, email address and phone number, organizational affiliation, presentation title, and indicate your preference for an oral presentation or a poster.

Deadline for Abstracts

The deadline for receipt of abstracts is January 15, 2013. Email your abstract to Sandy Barnett at sandy.barnett@verizon.net. Abstracts will be reviewed by the conference organizers and evaluated on the basis of their consistency with workshop objectives and the geographic area represented by the project/research study that is described. Authors will be notified by January 30 if their abstract is accepted.

Keynote Speaker

Dr. Michael Dorcas of Davidson College will be the keynote speaker. Dr. Dorcas will discuss Eastern Box Turtle demography, conservation, and strategies for helping wild populations by engaging citizen scientists. He has studied the life history strategies and ecology of reptiles and amphibians for over 20 years and has published more than 75 scientific papers. The Dorcas undergraduate herpetology program at Davidson College has published a number of papers and has many projects underway. Dr. Dorcas serves on The Box Turtle Connection Committee in North Carolina and in 2009 he was elected an AAAS Fellow (American Association for the Advancement of Science).

Registration and Contact Information

\$85 (professional); \$75 (full-time students). To register go to <http://tickets.nczoo.org/Info.aspx?EventID=30>. To learn more about the workshop, please visit the National Box Turtle Conservation Committee website at www.boxturtleconservation.org. If you have questions about the workshop, please contact John Groves at john.groves@nczoo.org.

This is the fourth in a series of workshops aimed at bringing together individuals actively engaged in Box Turtle research and conservation. To view and download a report on the first Box Turtle Conservation Workshop held in 2004, please visit the National Box Turtle Conservation Committee website and click on publications.