



Virginia Herpetological Society 2009 Fall Symposium : Call for Student Papers and Posters

For additional information and to register please visit the VHS website at www.vaherpsociety.com ,
or email Susan Watson at susan.watson@dgif.virginia.gov

The VHS 2009 Annual Fall Symposium will feature student poster and paper (oral presentation) sessions on Saturday, October 24th. Monetary prizes will be awarded as follows: \$100 as top prize for both the paper and poster categories, and \$50 as the second place prize in both categories. Also, enjoy other offerings at the event, such as our keynote speaker, Dr. Ried Harris, of James Madison University. It will be held at Three Lakes Nature Center & Aquarium, in Henrico County, just north of Richmond, Virginia.

Please send all student submissions for papers and/or posters to the VHS Vice President, Dave Van Gelder, at dfvangelder@comcast.net no later than October 20th, 2009, and include your name, contact information, affiliation, poster and/or paper title, and abstract. Also, please see the event announcement on the VHS website, www.vaherpsociety.com, for further details, including registration forms for the event. Registration is \$5 if you want a pizza lunch provided, or FREE if you wish to do lunch on your own.

The awards and descriptions of submissions for each category are described below:

Franklin J. Tobey Award

This award is for the best student posters, and is named for VHS's first lifetime achievement award winner, Franklin J. Tobey, for his service. To be eligible for this competition students must be the sole author and presenter, must submit an abstract 2 weeks before the event, be a high school, undergraduate, or graduate student. Judges will use a rubric similar to one used in judging posters for the SSAR competition. This rubric will include the following criteria: introduction, methods, data analysis and interpretation, conclusions, innovation, originality, scientific significance, presentation and graphic design. Each criterion will be rated from 0 to 10 points. Posters must be smaller than six feet tall and four feet wide. Fifteen posters is the maximum the facility will hold so the first fifteen abstracts will be the only ones accepted.

Richard L. Hoffman Award

This award is for the best oral paper presentation, and is named for VHS's second lifetime achievement award winner, Richard L. Hoffman, for his service. To be eligible for this competition students must be the sole author and presenter, must submit an abstract 2 weeks before the meeting, be a high school, undergraduate, or graduate student. Judges will use a rubric similar to one used in judging oral presentations for the SSAR competition. This rubric will include the following criteria: introduction, methods, data analysis and interpretation, conclusions, innovation, originality, scientific significance, presentation and design. Each criterion will be rated from 0 to 10 points.