

# Eastern Box Turtle

*Terrapene carolina carolina*



**Box turtles** are common residents of the woods in the southeastern U.S.. They are often encountered after rains, walking slowly across the forest floor.

Males usually have **red eyes** and a concave plastron (bottom part of the shell). Females have **brown eyes** and a flat plastron. **Box turtles** are true omnivores, feeding on a variety of plants and small animals. Their trademark is a hinge on the front part of the plastron allowing the turtle to close up very tightly. This feature provides great protection from raccoons, foxes and other predators. **Box turtles** are extremely long-lived and some individuals may live for 50 years or more!



Photo by David Scott

Adult male Eastern Box turtle. See the red eye?!



Photo by Tony Mills



This information is provided as a public service by the *Savannah River Ecology Laboratory Outreach Office*, located on the Savannah River Site near Aiken, S.C.

For more information, call Tony Mills at (803) 725-9725 or Lindy Nowak at (803) 725-0156.

You may also visit us at: [www.uga.edu/srel/outreach.htm](http://www.uga.edu/srel/outreach.htm)