

SAVE THE DATE - Midwest Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation

Annual Meeting • August 13-15, 2010

Blanding's Turtle Biology, Conservation, and Management

Keynote Address: Dr. Justin Congdon, Professor Emeritus, University of Georgia
Savannah River Ecology Laboratory

- Invited Talks
- Poster Session
- Silent Auction



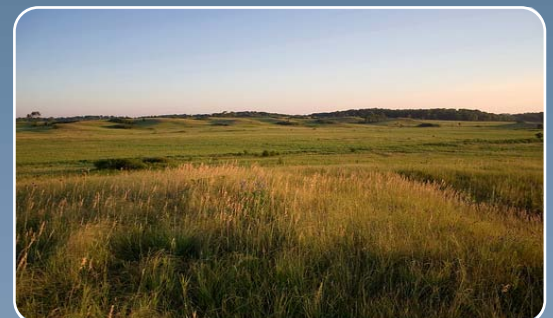
Meeting Site:

Lorado Taft Field Campus of
Northern Illinois University
1414 N. River Road
Oregon, IL 61061



Field Trips:

- Richardson Wildlife Foundation
Friday afternoon, August 13
- Nachusa Grasslands,
Sunday afternoon, August 15



Lorado Taft Field Campus is located 1.5 miles north of Oregon in north central Illinois. It is adjacent to Lowden State Park and overlooks the Rock River.
(<http://www.niu.edu/taft/>)



Blanding's Turtle Biology, Conservation, and Management Conference
at the
Annual Meeting of Midwest Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation
August 13-15, 2010

Meeting Site: Lorado Taft Field Campus of Northern Illinois University, 1414 N. River Road, Oregon, IL 61061. The Lorado Taft Field Campus (<http://www.niu.edu/taft/>) is located 1.5 miles north of Oregon in north central Illinois and overlooks the Rock River.

The Taft Campus has a rich history. During the summer of 1898, the noted American sculptor Lorado Taft and a small group of artists, architects and scholars established a summer retreat as a place to work, exchange ideas and socialize. This enclave became known as the Eagle's Nest Art Colony and flourished until the death of its last original member in 1942. In 1951, Northern Illinois University acquired a portion of the original art colony and the 141-acre campus is now the university's outdoor education and conference center. Among Taft's monumental, heroic sculptures, is a fifty foot statue of Black Hawk, which stands on a promontory overlooking the Rock River adjacent to the Taft Campus.

Housing and Meals: Dormitory style housing is available on site. All dorms are air-conditioned and heated with complete bathrooms. Pillows, mattress covers, and pads are provided. Linen sets are available at an additional cost. Friday dinner; Saturday breakfast, lunch, and dinner, and Sunday breakfast and lunch are included in the cost of registration. Meals are served family or buffet style in a modern, air-conditioned dining hall overlooking the Rock River - quality meals are a point of pride! Registrants wishing to camp may do so at Lowden State Park, adjacent to the Taft Campus (<http://dnr.state.il.us/Lands/Landmgt/Parks/R1/LOWDENSP.HTM>). Other lodging options are available in Oregon, IL.

Transportation: Directions and a Taft Campus map can be found at <http://www.niu.edu/taft/location/index.shtml>. Nearby airports include Chicago O'Hare (97 miles), Chicago Midway (105 miles) and Madison, WI (105 miles). Meeting participants needing ground transportation from Chicago O'Hare should contact Collin Jaeger (collinjaeger@gmail.com).

Meeting Theme: Invited talks will focus on **Blanding's Turtle Biology, Conservation, and Management** (a speaker list is included below). In addition, one goal of the meeting is to provide an updated assessment of the status and management actions for Blanding's turtles in the MW PARC region (list of state synthesizers is included below). . People interested in contributing data should contact Greg Lipps (GregLipps@aol.com).

Keynote Address: Dr. Justin Congdon. Dr. Congdon is Professor Emeritus at the University of Georgia's Savannah River Ecology Laboratory (SREL) where he was a Senior Research Scientist until 2001. He holds adjunct positions at the University of Michigan and Arizona State University. He has conducted long-term research on aspects of aging, ecology, and life histories of painted turtles, Blanding's turtles, and snapping turtles on the University of Michigan's Edwin S. George Reserve (31 years) and Sonoran mud turtles in the Chiricahua Mountains in southeastern Arizona (16 years) and on hatchling orientation and dispersal from nests and the composition of a seven species turtle community in the Weaver Dunes area in southeastern Minnesota (6 years). Research results have appeared in over 150 peer-reviewed publications.



Blanding's Turtle Biology, Conservation, and Management Invited Speakers

Jennifer Anderson-Cruz (NRCS - Iowa)
Whitney Banning (INHS, University of Illinois)
Kent Bekker (Toledo Zoo)
Steve Harvey (Ohio DNR)
Andrew Kuhns (INHS, University of Illinois)
Madeleine Linck (Three Rivers Park District, Minnesota)
Dan Ludwig (Illinois DNR)
David Mifsud (Herpetological Resource and Management, Michigan)
Michael Pappas (Minnesota)
Janine Refsnider (Iowa State University)
Arun Setherman (Iowa State University)
James Spetz (Cleveland MetroParks, Ohio)
Dan Thompson (DuPage County Forest Preserves, Illinois)
Lee Waltson (Argonne National Lab, Illinois)

Blandings Turtle Status in the Midwest State Synthesizers

Illinois - Dan Ludwig (Illinois DNR)/Mike Dreslik (Illinois Natural History Survey, University of Illinois)
Indiana - Sarabeth Klueh (Indiana DNR; **awaiting confirmation**)/Bob Brodman (St. Joseph's College)
Iowa - Karen Kinkead (Iowa DNR)
Ohio - Carolyn Caldwell (Ohio DNR; **awaiting confirmation**)/Greg Lipps (OH)
Michigan - Yu Man Lee (Michigan Natural Features Inventory)/David Mifsud (Herpetological Resource and Management, MI)
Minnesota - Carol Hall (Minnesota DNR)
Missouri - Jeff Briggler (Missouri DNR)
Nebraska - Dan Fogell (Southeast Community College; **awaiting confirmation**)
South Dakota - Brian Smith (Blackhills State University; **awaiting confirmation**)
Wisconsin - Rori Paloski (Wisconsin DNR; **awaiting confirmation**)/Gary Casper (Great Lakes Ecological Services)/Bob Hay (WI; **awaiting confirmation**)

Contributed Posters: Participants wishing to present contributed posters relating to Midwest amphibians and reptiles should provide a title, author list and affiliations, and abstract on the online registration form. Abstracts for contributed posters will be included in the meeting program and will be due by July 16. (You can return to the registration site to update your information until July 16.) Information regarding poster size and abstract format is forthcoming. Space for posters is limited and so later submissions may be rejected. Questions regarding poster presentations should be directed to Allison Sacerdote (a.b.sacerdote@gmail.com).

Breakout Sessions: Breakout sessions will seek to (1) evaluate current Blanding's Turtle status and management strategies with the goal of sharing that information with the USFWS and state agencies and (2) address current task team objectives. Contact information for breakout session organizers will follow. Possible topics include:

Blandings Turtle Status - Information Gaps
Blandings Turtle Management - Tactics, Strategies, and Research Needs
Fire and Herps
Agriculture and Herps



Silent Auction: To raise funds for Midwest PARC, a silent auction will run throughout the day on Saturday, August 14. Individuals having items to contribute should indicate this on the online registration form or contact Kristin Stanford (theislandsnakelady@yahoo.com).

Social Events: Opening reception, Friday evening, August 13; Ravenswood Media screening (<http://ravenswoodmedia.com/>) and mixer, Saturday evening, August 14

Field Trips:

Richardson Wildlife Foundation, Friday afternoon, August 13

Located 30 mi south of the Taft Campus, Richardson Wildlife Foundation is a privately owned restoration site consisting of a mix of grassland and wetland habitats. Notable herps include Blanding’s Turtles.

Nachusa Grasslands, Sunday afternoon, August 15

Located 11 mi south of the Taft Campus, Nachusa Grasslands is one of the Nature Conservancy’s greatest success stories (<http://www.nature.org/wherewework/northamerica/states/illinois/preserves/art1116.html>). Home to 600 native plant species, the 3,000 acre reserve is the site of on-going grassland restoration. Notable herps include Ornate Box Turtles, and both Eastern and Plains Hog-nosed Snakes.

Registration: Registration is available online at <https://www.regonline.com/blandingsturtle>. The deadline for early registration is July 16; late registration is available through July 30. Reduced registration rates are available to undergraduate and graduate students. Registration includes meals, snacks and beverages, and meeting materials. Questions relating to registration can be directed to Greg Lipps (greglipps@aol.com).

Early Registration (on or before July 16)

<u>Professional</u>	registration with onsite lodging, meals, and linens	\$157
	registration with onsite lodging and meals (no linens)	\$150
	registration only	\$130
<u>Student</u>	registration with onsite lodging, meals, and linens	\$107
	registration with onsite lodging and meals (no linens)	\$100
	registration only	\$80

Late Registration (July 17-July 30)

<u>Professional</u>	registration with onsite lodging, meals, and linens	\$167
	registration with onsite lodging and meals (no linens)	\$160
	registration only	\$140
<u>Student</u>	registration with onsite lodging, meals, and linens	\$117
	registration with onsite lodging and meals (no linens)	\$110
	registration only	\$90

Recreation: Hiking - Taft Campus and Lowden State Park; Fishing/Canoe/Kayak rental - Rock River (www.rockriveroutfitter.com); Swimming - Oregon indoor pool (www.oregonpark.com); Eagle’s Nest Colony art exhibit - Oregon Public Library (M-Th 9-8 pm, F & Sat, 9-4, closed Sun; view at <http://oregon.lib.il.us/>, click on ‘Art Gallery’); John Deere Historic Site - Grand Detour, IL features Deere’s home, archaeological exhibit of shop where in 1837 Deere developed the first successful steel plow, working blacksmith shop (W-Sun 9-5; http://www.deere.com/en_US/attractions/historicsite/index.html).

Sponsorship: USDA Forest Service Eastern Region, Northern Illinois University Institute for the Study of the Environment, Sustainability and Energy, Northern Illinois University Department of Biological Sciences

Contact: Richard B. King, Department of Biological Sciences, Northern Illinois University, rbking@niu.edu, 815-753-7833