

JACKSONVILLE HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY

INVESTING IN EDUCATION, ADVOCACY AND CONSERVATION OF HERPETOFAUNA

January 2025

UPCOMING EVENTS

January Field Trip TBA

February 2 Monthly Meeting

March 2 Monthly Meeting

March 29 & 30 Repticon

Contact us:

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A LOOK BACK AT 2024

JHS had another successful year of education, conservation, and camaraderie! Here are the highlights:

Speakers:

- FWC Sea Turtle Stranding Coordinator Corey Lloyd
- FWC Marine Mammal biologist and rescue coordinator Ana Nader
- Dr. Tony Colbert, DVM
- Jason Clark, Southeastern Reptile Rescue, SnakesAreUsTV
- Wayne Hill, founder of the NRBE, renowned chelonian expert
- Vic Morgan, 1st President of JHS (1987), chelonian expert
- Brian Ferko, volunteer, St. Augustine Wild Reserve
- Cody Bertinelli, Reptile Preservation Institute

Field Trips:

- Oriane Center for Indigo Conservation
- Reptile Discovery Center
- St. Augustine Wild Reserve
- Ashton Biological Preserve
- St. Augustine Alligator Farm

Volunteer opportunities:

- Raptor Run at the St. Augustine Alligator Farm
- Get Buzzed to benefit The Rattlesnake Conservancy
- Sound of Science at Jacksonville University
- Earth Day at MOSH
- Tonka's Birthday at MOSH
- Repticon, Show Me Reptile, National Reptile Breeders Expo

In addition, JHS continued to provide support for Ashton Biological Preserve, including major funding for the documentary Gopher Games. [See here.](#)

See next page

JHS is a proud member of



The 2024 JHS Board of Directors will be meeting this weekend to begin planning the schedule for 2025. Due to various scheduling conflicts, election for the 2025 JHS Board will be held during the February meeting. Stay tuned for some exciting events.

2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President Lissa O'Rourke
Immediate Past President Chuck Smith
Treasurer Kathy McIntire
Sergeant at Arms Ed May
Sergeant at Arms Gary Carlson
Member at Large Chuck Saitta

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Asher Patrick



Asher is 5 years old with the biggest heart for animals, especially reptiles. He has had this heart since he was born and it has only continued to grow. Some of his first words included large animal animals, not the simple ones. At 18 months old, he could name dinosaurs by their scientific name, what they ate, and what continent they lived on. At 2 years old, he held his very first reptile by himself. This first encounter was with a baby American Alligator. For the longest time, it was all he talked about, and his passion grew. At 4, he had the dream of holding a snake. Wild Things Exotic Animals helped that come true. Through his passion and thirst for knowledge on reptiles, Asher helped his mom and Dad overcome their fear of snakes. For his 5th birthday, after much convincing, he received his first two snakes for his birthday: Steve and Robert. He chose to name them after the man and family he looks up to the most: Steve Irwin and his family. One day, he overheard his parents talking about snakes being killed in the neighborhood for just existing and became extremely angry and upset. Through that, Asher's Conservation Journey was born. It is Asher's Facebook page where he works to educate about reptiles and the importance of their place in the ecosystem and world. Asher's goal in life is to work at the Australia Zoo and be a wild conservationist alongside the Irwin family. We were invited by Mr. Gary to join JHS at a Show Me Reptile show after Asher struck up a conversation with him about reptiles. When not engulfed in the world of reptiles, you can find him on the mat practicing karate or out running 5ks.

Asher's current reptile collection consists of 8 ball pythons, 2 boas, 2 crested geckos, 1 leopard gecko, 1 sulcata tortoise, 1 rhino iguana, and 1 milk snake.