



## Midwest PARC Quarterly Newsletter - August 2021

Compiled by members of the **Outreach and Communications Team (OCT)**  
(Interested in joining the OCT? Contact Jen Lamb [jylamb@stcloudstate.edu](mailto:jylamb@stcloudstate.edu))

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### Call for Abstracts for MWPARC 2021!

We invite you to submit abstracts for oral or poster presentations. Oral presentation should be on our focal topics: Species of Conservation Concern (SOCC), Urbanization, Wildlife Trade, and Agricultural Impacts. We welcome poster presentations on any topic regarding the conservation of amphibians and reptiles.

Abstracts should be submitted through our [Abstract Submission Form](#) by **September 4, 2021**. Notification of abstract acceptance will be sent by September 11.

Oral Presentations will be held via Zoom and scheduled for 15 minute time-slots (10-13 minutes with 2-3 minutes for questions). Speakers will have the option to record their talk but are asked to be available for questions.

Posters will be uploaded to [Padlet](#) where the presenter can answer questions in blog-post style. Stay tuned for more details on poster preparation and submission.

**Share this announcement!** Download a PDF of this announcement with links for abstract submission [here](#).

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## **Brodman Student Award at MWPARC 2021!**

**Four students** presenting at this year's [MWPARC meeting](#) will be awarded a **Brodman Student Award**. This is the Award's inaugural year! Two awards will be allocated for ongoing research projects, and two for research projects which are completed. **Each award is \$600!** Students must **indicate on the abstract submission form if they wish to be considered for this award.**

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## **Call for Junior Co-Chair and Advisory Board Nominations!**

**MWPARC is looking for a Junior Co-Chair!** Co-chairs serve for two years and are responsible for organizing the annual meeting, keeping the region connected with National PARC, and more. **MWPARC is also looking for two Advisory Board Members.** Members serve for two years. Their primary responsibilities are to help guide co-chairs, assist with meeting planning, facilitate working groups, and keep MWPARC updated with respect to emerging issues and activities related to amphibian and reptile conservation.

**Interested in nominating yourself or another individual?** Let us know by contacting Jennifer Buchanan ([jbuchan3@g.emporia.edu](mailto:jbuchan3@g.emporia.edu)). You can also learn more about current members [here](#).

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## **Student Travel Award Updates**

Midwest PARC offers a travel grant to students to help offset transportation costs associated with participation in herpetological fieldwork with an experienced researcher. **In 2021, 12 grants (\$100) were awarded** to students across the Midwest region! These students have been up to some interesting work, including studying *Ranavirus* and surveying urban turtle communities. **You can read more about their research via the [Resources page at our website](#).**

**Congratulations** to our awardees for persevering in an unusual year!

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## **Other Announcements**

**MWPARC's proposal for a herp symposium accepted for the upcoming Fish and Wildlife Conference (FWC) in February 2022!** The symposium is being organized by Melissa Youngquist (Co-chair of MWPARC) and Mark Mills (MWPARC Advisory Board Member). Learn more by visiting the FWC website [here](#).

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## **Hot Off the Presses! - Recent Publications**

### **Books and Guides**

**Reptiles of Ohio (Volumes I and II).** 2021. Edited by J.G. Davis, G. Lipps Jr., D. Wynn, B.J. Armitage, T.O. Matson, R.A. Pfingsten, and C. Caldwell. Available for purchase through the [Ohio Biological Survey's](#) website.

**The Timber Rattlesnake: Life History, Distribution, Status, and Conservation Action Plan.** 2021. Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation. Available for purchase at <https://trcap.portalpro.com/Catalog>.

### Scientific Journal Articles Featuring Herps in the Midwest

**Where do Blue-spotted Salamanders burrow, and how can we find them?** Glennemeier (Shedd Aquarium, Chicago, Illinois) used “flitch wood” and cover-boards, along with photo-identification of individuals, to examine the relationship between salamander abundance and vegetation characteristics in woodlands in Illinois.

Glennemeier, K. 2021. Vegetation preferences of Blue-spotted Salamanders (*Ambystoma laterale*) using Readily Accessible Monitoring Protocols. *Herpetological Review* 52(2): 266 - 274.

**What happens to tadpoles when you combine parasites and pesticides?** Strasburg and Boone (Miami University, Oxford, Ohio) examined the impact of pesticides (*Bti*, atrazine) and trematodes on survival, growth, and malformation in tadpoles of the Northern Leopard Frog in Ohio.

Strasburg, M. and Boone, M.D. 2021. Effects of Trematode Parasites on Snails and Northern Leopard Frogs (*Lithobates pipiens*) in Pesticide-Exposed Mesocosm Communities. *Journal of Herpetology* 55(3): 229 - 236. DOI: 10.1670/20-082

**Where do Blanchard's Cricket Frogs go in the spring?** Badje et. al. used visual encounter surveys to study the movements and habitat use of cricket frogs as they migrated from overwintering sites to breeding sites in Wisconsin.

Badje, A.F., Brandt, T.J., Bergeson, T.L., Paloski, R.A., and Kapfer, J.M. 2021. Spring Movement Ecology of Blanchard's Cricket Frog (*Acris blanchardi*) in Southwestern Wisconsin, USA. *Herpetological Conservation and Biology* 16(2): 271 - 280.

**Want to see your research highlighted?** Have you recently published about populations of amphibians or reptiles in the Midwest? We want to hear about it! Reach out and let the Outreach and Communications Team (OCT) know ([jylamb@stcloudstate.edu](mailto:jylamb@stcloudstate.edu))

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**Header photo description:** Two Northern Leopard Frogs (*Lithobates pipiens*) in shallow water. A smaller, browner individual is perched on tiny duckweed plants at the surface, while the larger, greener individual is partly submerged beneath the surface of the water with only its eyes above it. Photo by Melissa Younquist.