

Approved: 2-17-93  
Date

## MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Don Sallee at 8:00 a.m. on February 11, 1993 in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present :

Committee staff present: Raney Gilliland, Legislative Research Department  
Dennis Hodgins, Legislative Research Department  
Don Hayward, Revisor of Statutes  
Clarene Wilms, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Senator Sheila Frahm  
Judy Withers, Sharon Springs, KS  
Debbie Fischer, Co-coordinator, Rattlesnake Roundup, Sharon Springs, KS  
Sarah Walker, Sharon Springs, KS  
Gary Moore, Oklahoma  
Larry L. Graf, Executive V-President, National Crotalus Society  
David Edds, President, KS Herpetological Society, Emporia  
Written testimony, Department of Wildlife & Parks  
Written testimony, Mark C. Reed, Director, Sedgwick County Zoo  
Written testimony, Eric M. Rundquist, Department of Herpetology, Sedgwick County Zoo & Botanical Garden, Wichita, KS

Others attending: See attached list

### **SB-137** - relating to the commercial harvest of prairie rattlesnakes

Senator Sheila Frahm appeared before the committee and presented testimony in support of SB-137. Senator Frahm told committee members this bill was requested by citizens of Wallace County who hope to develop the potential of rattlesnake hunts into economic development which is much needed in their area. Attachment 1

Judy Withers, Sharon Springs, KS, spoke to the committee presenting background on the idea of a rattlesnake roundup to help the economic stress of the community. Many conservational and educational suggestions were offered by Dr. Henry Fitch, Randall Reiserer and David Reber. Ms. Withers told the committee that the disassembled parts, skin, head, rattles, gall bladder and meat are all saleable items and are sold in Texas and Oklahoma. However, due to Kansas law it is not legal to sell them in Kansas. Attachment 2

Debbie Fischer, Co-coordinator, Rattlesnake Roundup, Sharon Springs, KS, appeared before the committee and presented testimony in support of SB-137. Ms. Fischer noted this was an effort to promote tourism in the western half of the state. She further noted that it was good promotion for the state of Kansas because even the Associated Press picked up news releases and they appeared in larger newspapers in the state. Attachment 3

Sarah F. Walker, Sharon Springs, KS, appeared before the committee and presented testimony in support of SB-137. Ms. Walker told the committee this bill will allow people in the western counties of Kansas to use one of their regenerating resources, the Prairie Rattlesnake, for their economic benefit and as one area in our state prospers so does the whole state. Ms. Walker suggested an amendment in Section C of the bill so that it would be lawful only during a period beginning March 1 and ending June 30 of each year. She also presented a petition from people in the Sharon Springs area as well as from other parts of the state which reads "We the undersigned, a Kansas resident and/or land owner, in order to promote the conservation and the utilization of a natural and regenerating resource, do petition for changes in existing Kansas state laws and Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks regulations concerning rattlesnakes. We specifically would like to see changes in the licensing of rattlesnake hunters, a definition of legal limits and the freedom to commercially use

## CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES, Room 423-S Statehouse, at 8:00 a.m. on February 11, 1993.

live or dead rattlesnakes. Other testimony and information was also furnished in Attachment 4.

Gary Moore, a central Oklahoma resident, appeared before the committee in support of SB-137. He told the committee he has been around rattlesnakes all of his life and has handled snakes professionally for over 20 years. Mr. Moore is involved in research with the Oklahoma State University as well as doing venom research. He stated the 5 snake limit makes it difficult to have a worthwhile rattlesnake roundup. It was noted that the five different hunts in Oklahoma generate from \$250.00 to over \$1,000,000 in those communities. It is estimated that only 1 to 2 percent of the land is hunted for such reptiles. Mr. Moore said that in most instances he tries to harvest only larger snakes leaving the smaller ones, who are more difficult to handle, alone. He noted this hunt is a big boost for the people of Sharon Springs. A number of researchers come into the areas to obtain data and information.

During questioning Mr. Moore noted the ability of small snakes to hide and their quickness made them more difficult to handle. A member asked about minimum age of a hunter with Mr. Moore noting there was no limit. Regarding snake bites Mr. Moore told the committee that you have four to six hours to treat a snake bite. It was noted that 10,000 to 20,000 people are bitten in the United States each year by poisonous snakes. Of those about 15 die from the snake venom itself, most people die of cardiac arrest.

Senator Frahm emphasized there were no snake bites at the Sharon Springs Rattlesnake Hunt and there were several hospitals within very close range as well as medical personnel standing by.

In answer to a question Mr. Moore said rattlesnakes and other snakes were necessary to control the rodent population, however a large population is not necessary. Many of the captured snakes are used for various types of study and research.

Larry L. Graf, Executive V-Pres., National Crotalus Society, appeared before the committee noting this society was established in 1992 for gathering and dissemination of information concerning rattlesnakes and rattlesnake hunting and is dedicated to the preservation of the species and the hunt through education. Mr. Graf is the publisher of the N.C.S. News, "A quarterly Publication of the National Crotalus Society" and spoke in favor of SB-137. Reference was made to benefits derived from the Sweetwater Rattlesnake Roundup which provides funds for numerous worthwhile causes in the area. Other references were made to the publication, N.C.S. News. Attachment 5

David Edds, Emporia, President, Kansas Herpetological Society appeared in opposition of SB-137 noting there is no evidence that such harvest can be sustained. His organization has opposed rattlesnake roundups since 1974 and continue to oppose them because they are environmentally destructive, because of their cruel and inhumane treatment of snakes, because of the danger to participants and spectators from careless snake handling, and because the present attitudes toward wildlife that encourage its overexploitation and destruction. Attachment 6

Written testimony from the Department of Wildlife & Parks was handed to committee members. Attachment 7  
Verbal testimony will be heard February 12, 1993.

Written testimony was faxed to Senator Don Sallee by Eric M. Rundquist, Department of Herpetology, Sedgwick County Zoo & Botanical Garden. Mr. Rundquist notes he was one of the co-founders of the Kansas Herpetological Society and wished to register his strong opposition to SB-137 for reasons set forth in Attachment 8.

Written testimony was faxed to Senator Don Sallee by Mark C. Reed, Sedgwick County Zoo, Wichita, Kansas stating that if passed, SB-137 would set a very bad precedent for conservation in Kansas in that it would allow potential commercialization of one of our state's nongame wildlife resources. Attachment 9

The chairperson announced the hearing would continue Friday, February 12 following discussion on SB-20.

The meeting adjourned at 8:59 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 12, 1993.

## GUEST LIST

## SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY &amp; NATURAL RESOURCES

DATE February 11, 1993(PLEASE PRINT)  
NAME AND ADDRESS

Bill Anderson  
James L. Gaff  
Larry Moore  
William Wolf  
Ted Boatwright  
DAVID AYERS  
Joe Harder  
David Edits 943 Garfield, Emporia  
DARRELL MONTEI  
Jim Ludwig  
Judie Withers  
Debbie Fischer  
Sarah Walker

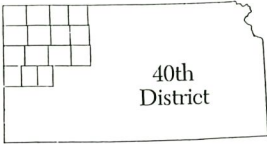
ORGANIZATION

Majority Leader office  
Water Dist #1 of To Co  
Ks. Audubon Council  
Onaga, KS NCS News  
Wellston OK.  
Topeka, KS NCS News  
Wamego KS " "  
Overbrook, KS " "  
Onaga KS NCS News/Onaga Herald  
Kansas Herpetological Society  
KDWP  
WESTERN RESOURCES  
Wallace Co. Rattlesnake Roundup  
Wallace Co. Rattlesnake Roundup  
Wallace Co Rattlesnake RR

# KANSAS SENATE



**SHEILA FRAHM**



985 S. RANGE  
COLBY, KANSAS 67701  
913-462 6948

## OFFICE OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

STATE CAPITOL  
TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612-1504  
913-296-2497

MEMBER:  
AGRICULTURE  
LEGISLATIVE COORDINATING COUNCIL  
ORGANIZATION, CALENDAR AND RULES  
STATE FINANCE COUNCIL  
VICE CHAIR:  
EDUCATION

### MEMORANDUM

TO: Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee

FROM: Senator Sheila Frahm

DATE: February 11, 1993

RE: SB 137

\*\*\*\*\*

Chairman Sallee and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to bring SB 137 to your attention. This bill was requested by citizens of Wallace County who are committed to the future and to the quality of life in their community.

This past fall Wallace County hosted their first annual Rattlesnake Hunt. As a result of this successful event, and with expectation for a second and many future events, they are requesting your consideration of several proposals which will assist with their project. This event has potential of being an economic development for the entire community. In a recent newspaper article, I noticed that Wallace ranked fifth among counties with the highest proportion of residents below the national poverty level. These citizens want to do all they can to assure their future and the future for their children and grandchildren.

Just for your background information, Wallace County, which compromises 914.1 square miles, has a population of 1821. That is just under two people per square mile. Though a specific count is difficult, there are undoubtedly more rattlesnakes than people in Wallace County.

Your favorable attention to this local concern is appreciated.

Senate Energy & Nat'l Resource  
February 11, 1993  
Attachment 1



Judie Withers  
Sharon Springs, Ks.

The Sharon Springs Rattlesnake Roundup idea was conceived about three years ago because of the economic stress of the community. Due to our location off of the interstate highway and no major tourist attraction, we searched for a resource within the area which could bring outside dollars into the community. We continue to be an economically stressed area. According to the Wichita newspaper of last Monday, Feb. 8, 1993, "Wallace county is one of five Kansas counties with 20% of the residents having income below the federal poverty level of \$12,675 per year". Income gained from an event of this type would be used for community improvements not otherwise possible. We feel that in time the businesses will develop sales ideas to gain individual profit from visiting tourism, but we must be able to grow for this to happen and to grow we must have additional inticements for hunters.

Upon combining the interests for economic development, sporting enthusiasts, and tourism development we undertook our first rattlesnake roundup. It was during the planning and execution of our first event that its apparent impact and effect through educational and conservation measures became evident. Many conservation and educational suggestions offered by Dr. Henry Fitch, Randall Reiserer, and David Reber have been accepted and put into place. Most of the men handling the snakes between the shows are present or retired teachers, some holding Masters degrees. We have invited both Dr. Fitch and other herpetologists to return to continue their research, to provide a booth of their own to present additional educational material, and to lecture during the butchering process which will be placed in a more remote area. We have agreed, also, to set a minimum size and encourage research and conservation reporting for the future protection of the animal.

We feel that our event was highly successful with "no problems of violence or anti-hunting activity reported" as written in the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks report of October 20. The herpetologists attending were supportive of our efforts as written by Randall Reiserer and David Reber in their report to the K.H.S., "We were impressed both by the responsibility with which the festival was organized and by the open-mindedness of many of the residents of Sharon Springs. The people of Wallace county are farmers and ranchers who live close to the land and who understand much more about it than some people credit them with."

By making the proposed changes we could attract more participants. Kansas residents would be able to purchase a non-firearms permit at a slightly higher fee than the present hunting license, but would not be required to take the hunters safety course which involves firearms. Kansas residents holding a current license could obtain the special permit at a small additional fee of \$3. At the present time the cost of the non-resident license is \$60.50 while only five snakes are allowed to be caught and still they cannot be sold. This is not a good

Senate Energy & Nat'l Resources  
February 11, 1993  
Attachment 2

return on their investment and these changes would make it more feasible for the hunter and in turn make an additional income for the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks. Both Dr. Fitch and George Pisani indicate in their report that "the disassembled parts skin, head, rattles, gall bladder and meat are all salable, retailing for a combined total usually more than \$35". That generates a substantial income in Oklahoma and Texas but is illegal in Kansas. Hunters in Kansas are missing out on this product. At our Rattlesnake Roundup we sold snake novelties from other states while the Department of Wildlife and Parks forced us to destroy the snake heads and return the skins to the hunter who mostly did not have the experience or the desire to tan and preserve properly, but they were not allowed to sell these skins to a taxidermist. Most, I believe, were wasted.

In reading some of the reports of our event, I have found numerous errors and misquotes. I have included the correct information on a separate sheet.

As I understand the history, the law which was revoked in 1990 dealing with commercialization of reptiles and amphibians was done so to protect the Kansas box turtle from pet stores. It was not intended as a protector or regulator of the prairie rattlesnake.

The question is how can we improve the Kansas Rattlesnake Roundup? We recommend that you approve our suggestions in order to make Kansas Rattlesnake hunting a conservation tool, a profit to the community and inviting for non-residents as well.

REPORT OF THE 1992 SHARON SPRINGS RATTLESNAKE ROUNDUP

74 registered hunters

28 from Wallace county

46 other parts of Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma

448 attended business-sponsored free ham and bean feed.

Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado, Texas, Oklahoma, Missouri

75 snakes brought in

26 hunters bringing in snakes

\$5113 "gate" intake @ \$4 for adults and \$2 for children

2000 estimated attendance (based on gate intake)

\$13112 total receipts

\$9512 total expenses

\$7500 spent in Wallace county on lumber, food,  
novelties, insurance, and motels.

\$1000 donation to Wallace County Pride who in turn  
designated this amount for new county brochures.

\$1000 donation to Wallace County JayCees for community  
projects.

\$1600 remaining in Rattlesnake Roundup account for 1993.

Each hunter was furnished the following in their packet:

Kansas Rules & Regulations

Medical information including first aid steps and  
locations of nearest hospitals

Map indicating local landowners who were agreeable to  
have hunting.

Dr. and Mrs. Henry Fitch and two K.U. students were in  
attendance gathering data for Kansas Department of  
Wildlife and Parks.

The hunting participants were not charged a registration  
fee.

The rattlesnakes in the pit were not "fixed in some way"  
as cited by Dr. Fitch. They were as they were brought in  
from the field.

February 11, 1993

I would like to take this opportunity to Thank You for allowing us to meet with your committee. We feel that the issues at hand are key factors in determining the future success of any Rattlesnake Hunt across the State of Kansas.

The main issue I would like to address is the impact our Rattlesnake Hunt had on our community, county and the State of Kansas.

For the most part, rural Kansas doesn't have a big calling card for tourism. The Rattlesnake Roundup was a good way to promote tourism to the Western half of the state. So many people think that Kansas stops at about Hays, KS without giving us in extreme Western Kansas a second thought. The Rattlesnake Roundup was a big enough drawing card for people all over the state that we feel that the aspect of tourism was very beneficial to the State.

Another benefit that the State received was the fact that we had people from as far as Kansas City at our snake hunt. These people traveling across Kansas eventually stopped and purchased something, somewhere. Whether it was gasoline, food or lodging, the town in which it was purchased benefited from the revenue.

Our Rattlesnake Roundup was a good promotion for the State of Kansas as far as advertising. The Associated Press picked up our news releases and ran them in the majority of the larger newspapers in the state, as well as in surrounding states. At least people know now that there is more to Kansas than just tornadoes, Dorothy and Toto!

As far as the impact on our County and Community is concerned, we feel the Snake Hunt was a definite asset. We estimated 2,000 people through our gates for the weekend. These same 2,000 people brought new money into our community. They spent their money on our gate admissions, T-Shirts, crafters etc., as well as in our businesses, including our restaurants and motels. The Snake Hunt brought our small community of less than 1,000 people back to life for that weekend. It stirred up an excitement and enthusiasm in our county that had been lacking for quite some time.

From the income and expense sheets that I handed out, you can see that a large portion of our expenses were spent right in our own county. This was just one of the few benefits that our county businesses received as a result of the Snake Hunt. As far as the income, over \$11,000.00 was spent at our Snake Hunt on gate admissions, T-shirts &

Senate Energy & Nat'l Resources  
February 11, 1993  
Attachment 3



February 11, 1993

caps, etc... for the 2 day weekend. We were very pleased with the \$11,000.00 we took in considering that we couldn't commercialize or sell any portion of our snakes, as other states do.

In smaller communities, such as ours, we are always looking for a way to promote tourism and to help our economy. To be able to use a natural resource, such as the rattlesnake, could mean a whole new industry for Wallace County, as well as any other County in Kansas wanting to organize a Snake Hunt.

Our landowners were more than happy to give hunters permission to hunt and our hunters, likewise, were very appreciative of the landowners. Although there weren't a large number of snakes caught, our landowners expressed some benefit in the reduction of numbers.

Even though it was not that much of an economic impact, the dance that was held on Saturday night was a good social drawing card for our community. It gave local citizens a chance to mingle with the out-of-towners. People were able to visit, socialize and meet new friends.

I am sure that there were beneficial spinoffs from our Snake Hunt that we probably aren't aware of, and will probably never know, but we do feel that there were more positive things came out of our Hunt than negative.

Any future hunt will benefit from the notoriety already established from our very first Kansas Rattlesnake Roundup. This will probably be our biggest benefit as coordinators of the Hunt.

Thank You.

Debbie Fischer  
Co-coordinator  
Rattlesnake Roundup  
Sharon Springs, KS

Actual

INCOME

1992 RATTLESNAKE ROUNDUP

Donated Items:

First National Bank	\$1,000.00
Ruth Pletcher	100.00
Lyle Finley Trust	225.00
Donation from Merchants for Ham & Bean Feed	575.00
Smoky Valley Bean Inc. - 200 lbs. pinto beans	40.00
Heartland Mill - cornbread mix (100 lbs)	75.00

Loans:

PRIDE	500.00
Ruth Jackson	100.00

Other Sources of Income:

Snake Show Gate Receipts (estimated 2000 paid)	5,113.76
Pop Shack Receipts	622.55
Rolls from the snake meat	114.00
Hamburger Fry Receipts	378.10
Fishing Pit Receipts	57.51
Vendor & Crafter Receipts	622.25
T-Shirt, Caps, & Patch Sales	4,353.71

Sales Tax collected from Crafters & Vendors	42.87
---	-------

Total Income	13,919.75
--------------	-----------

SENATE COMMITTEE HEARING

FEBRUARY 11, 1993 - 8:00 AM

Statement in favor of SENATE Bill No. 137:

This bill will allow people in the western counties of Kansas to use one of their regenerating resources, the Prarie Rattlesnake, for their economic benefit and as one area in our state prospers so does the whole state.

With the commercialization of this regenerating resource conservation, education, and management will follow. It has been proven over and over, that until man considers something in Nature a USEFUL RESOURCE, he will not practice conservation and good management. At this point the ranchers, farmers and most people in that area just kill rattlesnakes because of the danger they represent in their work and damage to livestock. To quote Joseph T. Collins, from his book AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES IN KANSAS, "Unlike the timber rattlesnake, this species (the prarie rattlesnake) is quite aggressive and has a nasty disposition..... and should be recognized as the most dangerous venomous snake in Kansas." Since our first roundup, many ranchers and farmers are changing their attitude. They will let the hunters hunt the snakes instead of just killing them and leaving them to rot in the fields.

This bill will make provisions for a more accurate count of the snakes caught. This could become a very useful tool for the conservation and management of our Prarie Rattlesnake. One of our long range ideas is to develop a Wallace County Wildlife Preserve.

Senate Energy & Natural Res.  
February 11, 1993  
Attachment 4

This bill will generate more income for our area and our state. At our first Rattlesnake Roundup we had over 2000 people including tourists from six states attending the events. The special hunting permits will provide more income to the state by attracting many additional out of state people to our state and our western counties.

These are some of the few reasons I am urging you to support SENATE BILL No. 137.

by Sarah F. Walker  
314 Ericson  
Sharon Springs, Ks 67758

SENATE COMMITTEE HEARING  
FEBRUARY 11, 1993 - 8:00AM

Letter concerning the PETITION FOR ACTION:

Senator Sallee and Committee members:

This petition was circulated in effort to make our Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks aware of some needs in our state and to encourage them to take these changes into consideration.

These petitions represent over 500 concerned citizens of Kansas and they are from all over Kansas.

The Department of Wildlife and Parks has the original copies of these petitions and will be sending them.

TO CONCERNED KANSAS RESIDENTS, HUNTERS, AND LAND OWNERS:

When the first RATTLESNAKE ROUNDUP was held in Kansas, it became apparent that some changes were needed in our Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks regulations concerning rattlesnakes. These changes will not only help in Wallace county but in the entire state. We are sending this petition with as many signatures as possible to the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks to draw their attention to these challenges.

Please find enclosed existing Kansas Laws and Regulations and proposed changes.

For more information please contact:

JUDY WITHERS  
HC 1 BOX 485  
SHARON SPRINGS, KS 67758

PLEASE RETURN THE PETITION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO:

BRUCE WALKER  
BOX 97  
SHARON SPRINGS, KS 67758



# PETITION FOR ACTION

We the undersigned, a Kansas resident and/or land owner, in order to promote the conservation and the utilization of a natural and regenerating resource, do petition for changes in existing Kansas state laws and Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks regulations concerning rattlesnakes.

We specifically would like to see changes in the licensing of rattlesnake hunters, a definition of legal limits and the freedom to commercially use live or dead rattlesnakes.

NAME

ADDRESS

Virgil Singh	Box 241	Columbia, KS	67030
John Hughes	1250 N. Lorraine	Wichita, KS	67214
John Green	2009 N. Parkhurst	Wichita, KS	67208
Marjorie Chisholm	1944 Jackson	Wichita, KS	67203
Ronald E. Cunningham	2021 Old Manor	Wichita, KS	67208
Betty Broce	PO Box 530	SENEWICK, KS	67315
Charles Bolt	1249 S. St. Francis	Wichita, KS	67211
Stan Kentman	800 Kentman	Wichita, KS	67206
Carolyn McNeill	3900 N. Woodlawn	"	67226
Susan Adel	3958 Danbury	Wichita	67220
Allison Robinson	1422 State Street	Overland Park, KS	67010
Robert Shaw	433 W 6th	Leavenworth, KS	67114
L. Doelen	7053 N. Charles	Wichita, KS	67204
Mary Coker	351 W. 5th	Haystack, KS	67060
Larry Jamison	8516 Hickory	Wichita, KS	67212
Spencer Morgan	430 S. 1st	Haystack, KS	67060
Patricia Beck	9320 E. Fair	Wichita, KS	67204
Michael W. W. W.	2117 N. Market	Wichita, KS	67214
Sam Christen	103 N. Patton	Wichita, KS	67208
Karen Hartup	312 E. 5th	Newton, KS	67114
Elizabeth E. E. E.	5721 Munn	Wichita, KS	67217
Clarence Lemington	621 Herschel	Wichita, KS	67209
W. G. Vermington	214 S. Kessler	Wichita, KS	67213
Bill Collins	1114 E. Berkeley	Wichita, KS	67216
Robert A. Lewis	213 W. 2nd St	Newton, KS	67114
Marion F. Frost	407 N. Spruce	Wichita, KS	67214
Donald O. Beaudette	1302 Greenwich #233	Wichita, KS	67207
Michael R. Griffin	1335 S. Pinecrest	Wichita, KS	67218
Tim Bosch	2021 Old Manor Apt. 713	Wichita, KS	67208
Linda Calven	1326 Denver	Wichita, KS	67219

# PETITION FOR ACTION

We the undersigned, a Kansas resident and/or land owner, in order to promote the conservation and the utilization of a natural and regenerating resource, do petition for changes in existing Kansas state laws and Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks regulations concerning rattlesnakes.

We specifically would like to see changes in the licensing of rattlesnake hunters, a definition of legal limits and the freedom to commercially use live or dead rattlesnakes.

NAME

ADDRESS

Kelly S. Leonard	1116 N. Main	Goodland, KS
Cindy J. Baker	Rt 2, Box 115B	Goodland, KS
Tom Bell	Rt 2, Box 115B	Goodland, KS
Tom Davis	Rt 1 Box 94	Goodland, KS
Charles Miller	1515 Broadway	Goodland, KS
Laurie L. Myers	P.O. Box 93	Goodland, KS
Clinton Meier	1315 College	Goodland, KS
Marcie J. Jensen	11624 Syracuse	Goodland, KS
Harold Sease	825 W. Highway 27	Goodland, KS
Thibe Seich	Rt 1 Box 210	Edson KS 67733
Andy House	Rt 1 Box 133	Goodland, KS 67735
Kerry Benisch	RR1 Box 46A	Wakeeney, KS 67672
Quinelle Hills	Box 855	Colby, KS 67701
Bob Pfannerstiel	409 S. 3rd	Wakeeney, KS 67672
Tom Jones	LA Quivira Court	Hinwatha, KS 66434
Larry Mills	Rt 1	Little River KS 67245
Ed Deth	300 W. Almont	MAIZE KS 67101
Oliver Nambur	308 Khedive	Maize, KS 67101
LeAnne Womack	5736 S. Broadway	lot 10 Wichita, KS 67216
Debi Wagner	211-28	Great Bend, KS 67530
Susan Ellis	1118 E. 25th Terr	Lawrence KS 66046
Jennifer Green	P.O. Box 627	Louisburg, KS 66053
Budley J. Hughes	206 S. Arthur	E. Dacula, KS 67042
Robert Starn	910 S. C. St	ARKANSAS CITY, KS 67005
Sammy Glick	2520 SW 23rd	Topeka, KS 66611-1512
Paul Hantman	16375 6th St N	Wamego, KS 66597
Mary M. Breckelman	519 Cornwell	Colby, KS 67748
Diane Scott	412 E. 5th St	Colby, KS 67748
John H. H.	516 E. 16th St	Colby, KS 67748
Ann H. H.	516 E. 16th St	Colby, KS 67748
John H. H.	516 E. 16th St	Colby, KS 67748

# PETITION FOR ACTION

We the undersigned, a Kansas resident and/or land owner, in order to promote the conservation and the utilization of a natural and regenerating resource, do petition for changes in existing Kansas state laws and Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks regulations concerning rattlesnakes.

We specifically would like to see changes in the licensing of rattlesnake hunters, a definition of legal limits and the freedom to commercially use live or dead rattlesnakes.

NAME

ADDRESS

Alexis Stiles	4706 County Road KC, KS
Bryan D. Polen	P.O. Box 305 Sharon Spgs. KS.
Edna Brien	P.O. Box 319 Sharon Springs, KS.
Julie L. Samuelson	HC2 Box 466 Sharon Spgs, KS. 67758-9546
Pennie Hudson	HC2 Box 151 Sharon Springs, KS. 67758-
Danny Parks	HC2 Box 136 Sharon Spgs. KS. 67758
Steve Dren	HC1 Box 263 Sharon Spgs. KS. 67758
Claudine Coker	P.O. Box 225 Sharon Springs, KS. 67758
Heene Hoover	Box 14 Sharon Springs KS 67758
Leighton Cox	Box 479 Sharon Springs KS 67758
Shirley	609 Langston Oakley, KS 67748
Gemma Anderson	P.O. Box 536 Sharon Springs, KS. 67758
Sheri Still	HC2 Box 541 " " "
Dele Anderson	HC2 Box 48 Wallace KS P.O.
Cathy Brockhoff	Box 329 Sharon Springs, KS. 67758
James Schuch	Box 98 Sharon Springs KS 67758
Ab Smith	RRI Box 78 Tribune MS 67879
Linda Farmer	1605 Clark Goodland, KS. 67735
Rosalie Burk	Box 356 Sharon Spgs. KS. 67735
Angela Smith	464 W. 1st Herington, KS. 67544
Lois Sours	403 S. Boeke Sharon Springs KS
Dennis Bussen	Box 337 Sharon Springs, KS
Patricia Hoar	375 E. Cherry Colby KS 67701
Barbara Lymer	HC-1 Box 15 Sharon Springs, KS.
Gene Hunter	HC2 Box 121 Sharon Springs, KS.
Carrie Harrison	P.O. Box 626 Sharon Spgs
Elmer Smith	Elmer Smith Weir, KS
Luella Smith	Box 84 Weir, KS
Lonnie Charles	HC2 Box 126 Sharon Springs, KS. 67758

# PETITION FOR ACTION

We the undersigned, a Kansas resident and/or land owner, in order to promote the conservation and the utilization of a natural and regenerating resource, do petition for changes in existing Kansas state laws and Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks regulations concerning rattlesnakes.

We specifically would like to see changes in the licensing of rattlesnake hunters, a definition of legal limits and the freedom to commercially use live or dead rattlesnakes.

NAME

ADDRESS

<i>Raul V. Steenitz</i>	P.O. Box 581	Sharon Springs, KS 67752
<i>Andy Jones</i>	Box 91	Frontenac, K.
<i>James C. C. Jones</i>	Rt 1 Box 350	Perry, KS 66073
<i>Mark Hunt</i>	RR #1	Perry KS 66073
<i>H. A. Steenitz</i>	402 Box 31	Sharon Springs, KS 67752
<i>Todd E. Thudum</i>	12301 E. SUN CITY RD.	HAVEN KS. 67543
<i>W. J. Thudum</i>	1235 W 10TH	WICHITA KS 67201
<i>W. J. Thudum</i>	909 McElwain	Salina, KS. 67401
<i>Albert M. Thudum</i>	907 N. LINN	FRONTENAC, KS 66762
<i>Gaug Jensen</i>	103 1st	Phillipsburg, KS 67666
<i>Robert A. Palmberg</i>	807 Jefferson	Swett City, KS

الحمد لله

We specifically would like to see changes in the licensing of rattlesnake hunters, a definition of legal limits and the freedom to commercially use live or dead rattlesnakes.

ADDRESS

Name	Address	City, State, Zip
Ann Zarda	Box 4A	Lawrence, KS 6702
Bob Brumback	1175 North	Lawrence, KS 6702
Mark Aldredge	Box 161	Wichita, KS 67762
Tracy Zarda	RR-1 Box 94	Lawrence KS 67041
Mark Swanson	RR1 Box 75	Lawrence KS 6704
Hyatt Finkbe	Box 195	Shawnee, KS 67251
John E. Lee	321 S. 3rd	Wichita, KS 67272
Donna L. Lee	3370 5th	" " "
Karla Knorr	P.O. Box 661	St. Francis, KS 67756
Ann St. Clair	Rt 3 Box 86	St. Francis, KS 67756
Linda G. Gasky	RR1 Box 256	St. Francis, KS 67756
Wanda H. Lee	P.O. Box 231	St. Francis, KS 67756
Donna M. Lee	Box 142	St. Francis, KS 67756
Jim Brant	902 N. 1st	Oberlin, KS 67749
Frank Walker	515 N. Wilson	Oberlin, KS 67749
Yvonne Park	RR-2 Box 41	Wichita, KS 67072
Jackey Cardonell	Box 693	Tribune, KS 67879
David B. Cardonell	Box 693	Tribune, KS 67879
John A. Lee	Rt. 1, Box 49	Tribune, KS 67879
Donna L. Lee	P.O. Box 168	" " "
Paula Younger	P.O. Box 713	" " "
Bill Smith	P.O. Box 713	Tribune, KS 67879
Lisa Roberts	Box 293	Tribune, KS 67879
Perry Bender	Box 3	Tribune, KS 67879
Steve Olson	108 Plains	Dodge City, KS 67801
Nona Nelson	2905 Belmont	Garden City, KS 67846
Mike Nelson	"	" " "
Judy Reader	409 W. Thompson	" " "
Wilson Reed	2803 Belmont	Garden City, KS 67846
Rocky Ford	2805 Belmont	Garden City, KS 67846
Bonnie Pratt	1113 Kingsbury	Garden City, KS 67846-9

# PETITION FOR ACTION

We the undersigned, a Kansas resident and/or land owner, in order to promote the conservation and the utilization of a natural and regenerating resource, do petition for changes in existing Kansas state laws and Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks regulations concerning rattlesnakes.

We specifically would like to see changes in the licensing of rattlesnake hunters, a definition of legal limits and the freedom to commercially use live or dead rattlesnakes.

NAME

ADDRESS

Terrell L. Stover	1265 E. 8th	Colby, Ks.
Tom Bruggeman		Colby,
Michael D. Brown	1030 N. Chy	Lebanon, Ks.
L. E. Stupka		Colby,
John L. Kripf		Hickie Ks
Gene L. Scherer		Colby Ks
Donna Fisher	585 W 4th	Colby Ks
Ray Walker	1085 W 4th	Colby Ks
Ray Walker	660 N. Chick	Colby, Ks
Ray Walker	Rt 2 Box 45	Colby Ks
Bessie Valle	170 S. School	Colby Ks
Judy Heinsoe	945 E 6th	Colby Ks
Linda Madany		Colby Ks
Dale Ott	1275 W 2nd	Colby, KS
Shannon, Rickwell	655 W 6th	Colby KS
Jeffery L. Kael	105 E. Walnut	Colby KS
Chad J. Conrad	Box 193	Colby, KS.
Fred Munson	<del>Selden</del> Rt 2 Box 161a	Selden KS
Melissa Munson	HC 1 Box 94B	Selden, KS
Brian Williams	HC 1 Box 94B	Selden, KS
Robert D. Withers	Box 551	Colby Ks



# PETITION FOR ACTION

We the undersigned, a Kansas resident and/or land owner, in order to promote the conservation and the utilization of a natural and regenerating resource, do petition for changes in existing Kansas state laws and Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks regulations concerning rattlesnakes.

We specifically would like to see changes in the licensing of rattlesnake hunters, a definition of legal limits and the freedom to commercially use live or dead rattlesnakes.

NAME

ADDRESS

Mary Warner	221 ERICSON	SHARON SPGS KS.
Mariel Warner	"	"
Sharon Chapman	328 Main	Sharon Springs, Ka.
David J. Stinson	214 West 2nd	" " "
Marilyn Stinson	214 West 2nd	Sharon Spgs, Ka.
Virginia Stinson	HC-1 Box 185	Sharon Springs, KS 67758
Nancy Lee Perry	RR #1, Box 132	Sharon, KS. 67861
Cada Stroup	Box 592 217N Palmer	Sharon Spgs, 67758
Sherry Weed	P.O. Box 154	Sharon Spgs, KS.
Synette Sangster	Box 246	Sharon Springs KS
Mrs. Bill Baker	HC2 Box 61	Sharon Spgs. KS
Betty Elder	RR #1 Box 26	Sharon, KS 67875
Lydia Kohn		Sharon Spgs, Ka.
John Twinston	Box 68	Sharon Springs
Paul Twinston	Box 68	Sharon Springs 67758
Judy Roney	RR1 Box 66	Wichita, Ka 67762
Luella Brown	HC1 Box 263	Sharon Spgs, KS 67758
Noble O. Sammler	HC1 Box 440	Sharon Spgs. KS. 67758
Phyllis Russ		
Mary Lou Hurlburt	Box 509	Sharon Spgs. KS. 67758
Carol Martin	HC2, Box 486	Sharon Spgs, KS 67758
Marvella Renner	Box 919	" "
Lorena K. Garcia	Box 425	Sharon Spgs, KS 67758
Dee Giesen	Box 209	Sharon Spgs. KS 67758
Shirley V. V. V.	HC1 Box 190	Sharon Spgs. KS 67758
John Green	HC1 Box 305	Sharon Springs, Ka. 67758
Julia Hammerling	HC3 Box 35	Goodland KS 67731
Kelli Whitney	704 1/2 S. Broadway	Haworth, KS 67463
Nancy Elder	Box 412	Sharon, KS 67758
Connie White	Box 127	Sharon Springs KS 67758

# PETITION FOR ACTION

We the undersigned, a Kansas resident and/or land owner, in order to promote the conservation and the utilization of a natural and regenerating resource, do petition for changes in existing Kansas state laws and Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks regulations concerning rattlesnakes.

We specifically would like to see changes in the licensing of rattlesnake hunters, a definition of legal limits and the freedom to commercially use live or dead rattlesnakes.

NAME

ADDRESS

CHRIS LESLIE	8722 Lockmoor Cir	Wichita, KS 67207
Pat Terick	2010 Carter	Augusta KS 67010
Burt Derry	4480 Hemlock	Wichita KS 67216
Fanny Hoff	2021 N. Old Manor	Wichita KS 67208
J.R. Moss	1607 Brandonwood Rd	Derby KS 67037-3518
Janis Krieh	6418 Rodeo	Wichita, KS 67226
Janis C. Duguid	4255 S. Lawrence Cir	Wichita, KS 67216
Christine Gray	1121 E. Luther	Wichita KS 67216
Gabrielle M. Gose	Rt 2 Box 275	Mulvane KS 67110
Melvin Bounous	425 Mockingbird Ln	Derby KS 67037
Erna Bailey	1322 N Woodlawn #125	Wichita KS 67208
Sam Bell	2329 White Oak	Wichita KS 67207
Garth Douley	Box 285	Clifton KS 66937
Charles Douley	P.O. Box 253	Clifton KS 66937
Mark Barthmer	4238 Stratford Lane	Wichita KS 67226
Rebecca L. Throck	2254 Woodland	Wichita KS 67204
J.C. Lybke	6226 So Hoover Ave	Whittier, Ca 90601
Frank Amund	7902 S. Grove	Wichita, KS 67233
Susan Trapp	2662 N. Ridgwood CT	Wichita KS 67220
Rene C. Souza	2021 N. Old Manor	Wichita KS 67208
Bob Killian	2021 N. Old Manor	Wichita KS 67208
Anna Cath	2021 N. Old Manor apt	Wichita KS 67208
Duguid	2021 N. Old Manor Apt 1106	Wichita KS 67208
Krista Neubert	55700 Maingate #1203	Wichita KS 67220
Beth Miller	2021 N. Old Manor Apt 702	Wichita 67208
Julie Hill	2021 N. Old Manor Apt 402	Wichita 67208
Termy Tandy	2021 N. Old Manor apt 717	Wichita 67208
Jeannie Paden	5220 E. 20th St.	Wichita 67208
Norman L. Howe	2021 N. Old Manor Apt 703	Wichita 67208
Gene Thompson	1706 N Shacker	Wichita KS 67214

# PETITION FOR ACTION

We the undersigned, a Kansas resident and/or land owner, in order to promote the conservation and the utilization of a natural and regenerating resource, do petition for changes in existing Kansas state laws and Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks regulations concerning rattlesnakes.

We specifically would like to see changes in the licensing of rattlesnake hunters, a definition of legal limits and the freedom to commercially use live or dead rattlesnakes.

NAME

ADDRESS

Amie Sharp	Sharon Spgs, KS
Maria J. Kullman	HC 1 Box 220
Lynn Kullman	Wallace, KS
Kirk Rice	Weston, KS
Dolores Kenny	Sharon Spgs
Lucretia Swanson	Sharon Spgs. KS. 67758
Kathleen Weigand	Goodland, KS. 67735
Marilyn Weigand	Goodland, KS. 67735
Judy Sloop	Weston, KS. 67762
Gladys B. Scott	Goodland, KS. 67735
Jo Mann	Goodland, KS. 67735
Barbara Atter	Goodland, KS. 67735
Arthur E. Eason	Goodland, KS. 67735
Leslie Wagener	Sharon Springs, KS. 67758
Kerida Wagener	Sharon Springs, KS. 67758
Jimmy Robben	Sharon Springs, KS. 67758
Melissa Plotcher	Sharon Springs, KS. 67758
Randy J. Robben	Sharon Spgs KS. 67758

# PETITION FOR ACTION

We the undersigned, a Kansas resident and/or land owner, in order to promote the conservation and the utilization of a natural and regenerating resource, do petition for changes in existing Kansas state laws and Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks regulations concerning rattlesnakes.

We specifically would like to see changes in the licensing of rattlesnake hunters, a definition of legal limits and the freedom to commercially use live or dead rattlesnakes.

NAME

ADDRESS

Mattie Newland	Sharon Springs
Lynn Kaster	Sharon Springs
Bernice Dorgueiler	Sharon Springs
Kenneth Dunning	Sharon Spgs. Ks.
Max Beardsley	Sharon Spgs. Ks.
Shawn Boehler	Sharon Springs, K.S.
Frances Vincent	Sharon Springs, Ks.
Vernon E. Vincent	Sharon Springs, Ks.
Ella Lowe	Sharon Springs, Ks.
John Lock	Wallace, KS
Virginia Jones	S.S. KS
Daisy F. Robben	Sharon Springs, Ks 67758
Bobbie Brown	Wallace, KS 67761
Ernie Barker	Sharon Springs, Ks.
Lindley Sawyer	Libero, Ks. 67879
K.B. Mandy	Sharon Springs, Ks.
Eric Swartz	Sharon Spgs Ks
Paulette Plunk	Sharon Springs, Ks.
Kathy Benteria	Sharon Springs, Ks.
Hazel Montandon	Wallace, Ks.
Anthony Garcia	Sharon Springs Ks
Ruth L. Fletcher	Sharon Springs, Ks.
Mary Beth Akers	Wallace, Ks.
Helen J. Starnel	Wenonah, Ks.

# PETITION FOR ACTION

We the undersigned, a Kansas resident and/or land owner, in order to promote the conservation and the utilization of a natural and regenerating resource, do petition for changes in existing Kansas state laws and Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks regulations concerning rattlesnakes.

We specifically would like to see changes in the licensing of rattlesnake hunters, a definition of legal limits and the freedom to commercially use live or dead rattlesnakes.

NAME

ADDRESS

Sharon Jensen

1112 Harrison Goodland Ks

Sharon Jensen

9211 E. 11th St. Apt. 410 Wichita, KS 67208

Sharon Jensen

1215 S. 10th St. Apt. 410 Wichita, KS 67208

Sharon Jensen

1349 E. 10th St. (in N. Wichita KS 67208

Sharon Jensen

6919 E. 10th St. (in N. Wichita KS 67208

Nancy Withers

802 N. Delaware Wichita, KS 67208

Nancy Withers

802 N. Delaware Wichita KS 67208

Jasper Plumb

HC-1 Box 480 S.S. Rd. 67758

Tom Willard

1309 Cherry Goodland KS

Beth Pugh

Rt. 1 Box 27A Weskan, KS 67761

# PETITION FOR ACTION

We the undersigned, a Kansas resident and/or land owner, in order to promote the conservation and the utilization of a natural and regenerating resource, do petition for changes in existing Kansas state laws and Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks regulations concerning rattlesnakes.

We specifically would like to see changes in the licensing of rattlesnake hunters, a definition of legal limits and the freedom to commercially use live or dead rattlesnakes.

NAME

ADDRESS

Art Mc	PO Box 136	Sharon Spgs KS 67758
John D...	PO Box 1	Sharon Springs KS 67758
Thomas Brown	PO Box 457	"
Cliff Elder	Box 584	"
Rona Langdon	HC2 Box 391	Sharon Springs KS 67758
Janine Brubaker	Box 517	Sharon Spgs, KS 67758
John Charles	Rt. 1 Box 8	Weskan, Ks 67762
Arnold Blam	HC 2 Box 30	Sharon Spgs KS 67758
Amy Springer	HC #1, Box 6	Wallace, KS 67761
Melissa White	Box 531	Sharon Springs, KS 67758
Ed Drown		Geoli Kan 67861
Er F...	Box 3083	Sharon Spgs, Ks 67758
Joy Ann...	Box 386	Trilby, Ks 67877
Glenn D. Mueller	HC2 Box 389	Sharon Springs, Ks 67758
Edith...	Rt. 1 Box 57A	Weskan, Ks 67762
Don Van Orden	Box 121	Sharon Spgs, KS 67758
Lynda K...	HC2 Box 289	Sharon Spgs 67758



# PETITION FOR ACTION

We the undersigned, a Kansas resident and/or land owner, in order to promote the conservation and the utilization of a natural and regenerating resource, do petition for changes in existing Kansas state laws and Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks regulations concerning rattlesnakes.

We specifically would like to see changes in the licensing of rattlesnake hunters, a definition of legal limits and the freedom to commercially use live or dead rattlesnakes.

NAME

ADDRESS

Phyllis S. Bliss	Box 164	Sharon Springs, Ks 67758
Robert A. Stephens	215 N. Pine	Sharon Springs, Ks 67758
Bernie Smyth	Box 296	" " "
Stan Weeks	Box 62	" " " "
Kelly J. Weeks	" "	" " " "
Philip B. Lettards	Box 98	Sharon Springs, Ks 67758
Paul E. Stephens	Box 25	" " " "
Wayne Stephens	" "	" " " "
Alan Perry	Box 216	Sharon Springs, Ks 67758
Reggie Michals	Box 144	Brewster, Ks 67737
Anna Lee Papp	Box 67	Sharon Spgs, Ks 67758
Martha Sue Best		Sharon Spgs
John Gosh	Box 8	Walden 67761
Phil Strandberg	Box 231	Sharon Spgs 67758
Bill Morford	Box 623	Sharon Springs 67758
Frank Walker	Box 426	Sharon Spgs Ks 67758
Genell Reiss	Box 193	Weskan Ks 67262
Francis G. Reiss	" "	" " " "
Donna Wentz	HC-1 Box 171	Sharon Springs
Chris Martin	Box 521	" "
Walt Jensen	Box 219	" " " "
Mike Olson	Box 431	Sharon Springs, Ks
Doug Allen	Box 448	Sharon Spgs, Ks

# PETITION FOR ACTION

We the undersigned, a Kansas resident and/or land owner, in order to promote the conservation and the utilization of a natural and regenerating resource, do petition for changes in existing Kansas state laws and Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks regulations concerning rattlesnakes.

We specifically would like to see changes in the licensing of rattlesnake hunters, a definition of legal limits and the freedom to commercially use live or dead rattlesnakes.

NAME

ADDRESS

Barbara Ryan

Heskan, Ks. 67762

Wallace Mote

Sharon Springs, Ks.

Dennis Mote

Sharon Springs, KS

Fox Skill

" "

Marlene J. Bolen

Wallace Ks. 67761

Patsy L. Short

Sharon Springs

Bob Short

Sharon Springs

Marjorie Mather

Sharon Springs KS

Dale Mather

Sharon Springs, KS.

Emily Vincent

Sharon Spgs. Ks. 67758

Christal Bohrer

Sharon Spgs, Ks. 67758

Greg Bohrer

Sharon Spgs, Ks

Donna J. Maguire

Sharon Springs, Ks.

Daniel L. Maguire

Sharon Springs, Ks

Jessie Lynne

" " "

# PETITION FOR ACTION

We the undersigned, a Kansas resident and/or land owner, in order to promote the conservation and the utilization of a natural and regenerating resource, do petition for changes in existing Kansas state laws and Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks regulations concerning rattlesnakes.

We specifically would like to see changes in the licensing of rattlesnake hunters, a definition of legal limits and the freedom to commercially use live or dead rattlesnakes.

NAME

ADDRESS

Laura Stusser	Wichita 67219 1110 S. Richmond
Jeanne Watters	836 So. Topeka Wichita 67211
Amelia Ornelas	2359 Hazland Wichita, KS 67209
Norma Arthur	3110 Charlston Wichita, KS 67219
Delma M. Fox	10415 E. Countryside Cir. Wichita KS 67207
Carol Newton-Hall	200 West Daniel Wichita, KS 67233
Michelle Anderson	2421 Yellowstone #804 Wichita, KS 67215
Mindy Keason	2323 N. Woodlawn Apt. 933 - Wichita KS 67220
Betty Davis	12107 S. Meridian Peck KS 67120
Paula	2702 S. Minnesota Wichita KS 67216
Bradley O'Murphy	1144 S. IPA Wichita KS 67211
Joyce Smith	1220 Hainsville Wichita, KS 67219
Peter Jones	2038 S. Green Wichita, KS 67211

# PETITION FOR ACTION

We the undersigned, a Kansas resident and/or land owner, in order to promote the conservation and the utilization of a natural and regenerating resource, do petition for changes in existing Kansas state laws and Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks regulations concerning rattlesnakes.

We specifically would like to see changes in the licensing of rattlesnake hunters, a definition of legal limits and the freedom to commercially use live or dead rattlesnakes.

NAME

ADDRESS

Don Redeker	Marysville
Bob Wolking	Marysville
Shaun Galvin	Marysville
Maury Lauer	Marysville
Paul Van Cleave	Marysville
Don Connerst	Marysville
Lynn Schmitz	Marysville
Nelson Holm	Marysville
Boz Coker	Marysville
Mark Munson	Ness Co.
Tom Munson	Ness Co.

# PETITION FOR ACTION

We the undersigned, a Kansas resident and/or land owner, in order to promote the conservation and the utilization of a natural and regenerating resource, do petition for changes in existing Kansas state laws and Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks regulations concerning rattlesnakes.

We specifically would like to see changes in the licensing of rattlesnake hunters, a definition of legal limits and the freedom to commercially use live or dead rattlesnakes.

NAME

ADDRESS

Linda Thum	Box 95 Wallace Ks 67761
Leanna Mills	HC Box 496 Sharon Spgs KS 67758
Dana McGuire	Box 211 Sharon Spgs KS 67757
Freda Majors	Sharon Spgs, Ken. 67758
Eugene Sherry	Leota Ks.
Sherry Coker	HC 1 Box 15 Wallace, KS 67761
Bew Henderson	Box 253 Sharon Springs, KS 67758
Wm. F. Johnson	P.O. Box 145 Wallace KS 67761
Paul Johnson	Leota Kan R1 Box 82 67879

# PETITION FOR ACTION

We the undersigned, a Kansas resident and/or land owner, in order to promote the conservation and the utilization of a natural and regenerating resource, do petition for changes in existing Kansas state laws and Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks regulations concerning rattlesnakes.

We specifically would like to see changes in the licensing of rattlesnake hunters, a definition of legal limits and the freedom to commercially use live or dead rattlesnakes.

NAME

ADDRESS

Randy D. Dickey

WALLACE KS

John K. K. K.

Sharon K. K. K.

John K. K.

Sharon K. K.

Virginia K. K.

429 W 2nd St. Kansas

Steve K. K.

Box 111 Dr. Smith So. Dak

William P. Long

P.O. Box 605 Iowa Park, Tex 7636

Billy James

P.O. Box 7 - Iowa Park, Tex 7636

Harold K. K.

# PETITION FOR ACTION

We the undersigned, a Kansas resident and/or land owner, in order to promote the conservation and the utilization of a natural and regenerating resource, do petition for changes in existing Kansas state laws and Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks regulations concerning rattlesnakes.

We specifically would like to see changes in the licensing of rattlesnake hunters, a definition of legal limits and the freedom to commercially use live or dead rattlesnakes.

NAME

ADDRESS

Brenda Jones 504 S Atchison Eldorado KS

Jimmie Bealwith # 619 N TAYLOR EL DORADO  
 1800 W 1st Dr + 2 Box 187 Ark City KS

Robert Brown 118 S Wilson Chanute KS

PETITION FOR ACTION

We the undersigned, a Kansas resident and/or land owner, in order to promote the conservation and the utilization of a natural and regenerating resource, do petition for changes in existing Kansas state laws and Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks regulations concerning rattlesnakes.

We specifically would like to see changes in the licensing of rattlesnake hunters, a definition of legal limits and the freedom to commercially use live or dead rattlesnakes.

NAME

ADDRESS

Ann Gibbs

904 Chalk Hill Ct, Lawrence, KS 66049

Jinda Napson

P.O. Box 507 Sharon SpS. KS. 67758



# PETITION FOR ACTION

We the undersigned, a Kansas resident and/or land owner, in order to promote the conservation and the utilization of a natural and regenerating resource, do petition for changes in existing Kansas state laws and Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks regulations concerning rattlesnakes.

We specifically would like to see changes in the licensing of rattlesnake hunters, a definition of legal limits and the freedom to commercially use live or dead rattlesnakes.

NAME

ADDRESS

<i>[Signature]</i>	Agra, Ks.
Brandon J. Somers	Sedgwick KS
Charlotte Y. Herson	Sedgwick, KS
OMW SACB	Sedgwick KS
Ed Sauerwein	SEDGWICK KS
Diane Sauerwein	Sedgwick, Ks
Delinda Fruman	Sedgwick, Ks.
Michael Fruman	Sedgwick, Ks.
Kate Kate	Sedgwick, Ks
Jim Kester	Sedgwick, Ks.
Deanna Somers	P.O. Box 220 Sedgwick KS
Rodney Kest	P.O. Box 75 STAFFORD, Ks Pres. Ks JC's

# PETITION FOR ACTION

We the undersigned, a Kansas resident and/or land owner, in order to promote the conservation and the utilization of a natural and regenerating resource, do petition for changes in existing Kansas state laws and Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks regulations concerning rattlesnakes.

We specifically would like to see changes in the licensing of rattlesnake hunters, a definition of legal limits and the freedom to commercially use live or dead rattlesnakes.

NAME

ADDRESS

Debbie Fincher	HC2 Box 436	Sharon Spgs, KS 67758
Jerry Marshall	HC2 Box 566	Sharon Spgs, KS 67758
Brian Deems	Box 6	Sharon Spgs, KS 67758
Don Hickey	PO Box 97	Sharon Spgs, KS 67758

# PETITION FOR ACTION

We the undersigned, a Kansas resident and/or land owner, in order to promote the conservation and the utilization of a natural and regenerating resource, do petition for changes in existing Kansas state laws and Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks regulations concerning rattlesnakes.

We specifically would like to see changes in the licensing of rattlesnake hunters, a definition of legal limits and the freedom to commercially use live or dead rattlesnakes.

NAME

ADDRESS

Benny Dreiling		Sharon Springs KS
Q.D. Walsen		Scott City, KS
Robert A. Rich		Sharon Springs KS
Cole Hudson		Sharon Springs KS
Eric Jensen		Jennings KS
Loretta Moore		Sharon Springs KS
M. J. Moore		Sharon Springs KS
Boni McKee		Sharon Springs KS
Sharon Kuehn		Sharon Springs KS
Edna Jensen		Sharon Springs KS
Royetta J. Nicholson		Waukegan KS 67261
Connie M. Hansen	P.O.B. 507	SHARON SPRINGS KS 67754
Chris Welsh		Sharon Springs KS 67754
Karen Walker		Sharon Springs KS 67754
Lesley Ann Allen	Box 204	Sharon Springs KS 67754
Dale Cowles		Sharon Springs KS 67754
Bradley Hufsch	Box 603	" " " "
Kathy Rogers		Sharon Springs KS 67754
Camille Martin		Sharon Springs KS 67754
Chris Martin		" " " "
Carol West		Sharon Springs KS 67754
Kathy Bonten		Sharon Springs KS 67754
Shirley Hunsley	Box 299	Sharon Springs KS 67754
John R. Hunsley	Box 299	Sharon Springs KS 67754
Jeff Williams		Waukegan KS 67762
Doug Fack	Box 86	Sharon Springs KS 67754
Ken Fack	H.C. BOX 190	Sharon Springs KS 67754
Kathy Smith	Box 200	Sharon Springs KS 67754
Julie Tubbs		Sharon Springs KS
Jeff Walker		Sharon Springs KS
Jane Kault		Topika KS

Deb Lanning  
Dense Schulto  
Angu Wungu  
Connie Borwell  
Mrs Rees  
Donna Lepstner  
Lance Rupp  
PAT Rupp  
Steve Christensen

Box 253  
✓ 673  
1107 Safford  
1610 Neil St.  
2616 Fleming  
1240 Upland Rd  
608 N 2nd  
2609 CHINEY  
2616 Carriage

Johnson, KS  
✓  
Garden City  
Garden City  
Garden City  
Garden City, KS  
G C KS  
G C KS  
Garden City

# PETITION FOR ACTION

We the undersigned, a Kansas resident and/or land owner, in order to promote the conservation and the utilization of a natural and regenerating resource, do petition for changes in existing Kansas state laws and Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks regulations concerning rattlesnakes.

We specifically would like to see changes in the licensing of rattlesnake hunters, a definition of legal limits and the freedom to commercially use live or dead rattlesnakes.

NAME

ADDRESS

Sarah Walker  
Bruce Walker

Sharon Spas, Ks 67758

Sharon Spas Ks 67758

" " KS " "

Rt 1 Box 139A Liberty Ks 6735

P.O. BOX 74 ALMA, KS 66401

Gerald Montgomery

Jerry Kane

James R. Miller

Jon Stewart

Tom Kivell

Gerald Price

527 Monhollowi Dr. Topeka, KS 66617

5823 SW 21st St. TOPEKA KS, 66614

Tribune, KS, 67879

# PETITION FOR ACTION

We the undersigned, a Kansas resident and/or land owner, in order to promote the conservation and the utilization of a natural and regenerating resource, do petition for changes in existing Kansas state laws and Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks regulations concerning rattlesnakes.

We specifically would like to see changes in the licensing of rattlesnake hunters, a definition of legal limits and the freedom to commercially use live or dead rattlesnakes.

NAME

ADDRESS

Pella Beamer	313 Center, Oakley, KS 67748
Talari Thomas	P.O. Box 572, Colby, KS 67701
Jill Raddard	Box 511, Russell, KS 67665
Jana Jordan	3101 Thunderbird, Hays, KS. 67601
Roni Harding	P.O. Box 628, Goodland, 67735
Marcille Currier	462 5th 7th, Atwood, 67730
Sheila Lankas	411 State, Atwood, KS. 67730
Betty Bethmann	816 College, Goodland KS 67735
Betty A. Krebs	Box 153, Bird City, KS 67731
G. Van Tilburg	910 2nd Apt 6, Phillipsburg, KS 67661
Samela Whitson	217 W. 5th, Goodland, KS. 67735
Anna Anderson	R.R. 1, BX 111, Hill City, KS 67642
Renee McCray	509 W. Main, Logan, KS 67646
Brett Owen	HCT BOX 530, Sharon Springs, KS 67771
Dale Oak	BX 25, Wallace, KS 67661
Alvin Lampe	1108 Cedar Dr Scott City - Scott City, KS - 67871
Judie Withers	HCT 14485, Sharon Springs, KS 67771
Donna Van Allen	5300 SW 25th, Topeka, KS 66614

KANSAS SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
ENERGY & NATURAL RESOURCES

11 February 1993  
8:00 A.M.

SENATE BILL No. 137 by Senator Frahm

AN ACT relating to the commercial harvest of prairie rattlesnakes; prescribing unlawful acts relating thereto; amending K.S.A. 1992 SUPP. 32-988 and repealing the existing section.

My name is Larry Graf, I was born, raised and live in Onaga, Kansas, located 50 miles north west of Topeka. Currently, Onaga is in Senator Sallee's district.

I am the Executive Vice President of the National Crotalus Society and Publisher of N.C.S. News. Crotalus is the scientific name for one of the two Genus of rattlesnakes, Crotalus being the more numerous and the larger bodied snake of the two. Both organizations were established in the fall of 1992 for the gathering and dissemination of information concerning rattlesnakes and rattlesnake hunting and is dedicated to the preservation of the species and the hunt through education. The first issue of our news publication (over 21,000 copies) is being distributed in 33 States. I am also a Jaycee International Senator and have been involved with the Jaycee movement for over twenty years. I would like to speak in favor of Senate Bill No. 137.

There are a few noted herpetologist in the United States who have said that Rattlesnake roundups serve no useful purpose and should be prohibited. In this part of the country, when the conservationists decry the sins of snake hunting, they, more often than not, use as an example, the Sweetwater Texas Jaycees round-up. Conservationists use Sweetwater because it is billed as the world's largest round-up, and it does produce the largest

-more

number of snakes of any hunt in the United States. The extraordinary high numbers of snakes involved are quoted to promote alarm among herpetologists and the general public. What is not mentioned, is the great deal of good that comes from this round-up.

Today's Round-up pumps 1 and a half to 2 Million dollars into the town's economy annually. These funds go to a lot of worthwhile causes in the area. To begin with there is the Sunshine Inn, a school that helps mentally disadvantaged adults develop employable work skills.

(SEE ATTACHED LIST)

In the beginning, the Sweetwater Rattlesnake Round-up, like all hunts or round-ups just getting started, had its humble origins. The Round-up began with a simple purpose in mind as a Community Development project. Local ranchers and farmers were having problems with damage to livestock due to the snake's bite, not to mention the number of bites being received by humans as well. After 33 years and literally tons of snakes taken, Rattlesnakes and man still live in an uneasy relationship with each other in Texas. For example, since the 1992 round-up, over 37 animal bites and six human bites have been reported in or near Sweetwater. SO MUCH FOR THE RATTLESNAKE BEING EXTINCT IN SWEETWATER.

In Oklahoma, commercial harvesting has been going on for almost a half a century. A 1988 study, sponsored by the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife, was conducted by two Kansas University

-more



professors, Doctors Henry Fitch and George Pisani. Their finding concluded that Oklahoma's diamondback rattlesnakes are holding their own despite heavy harvesting each spring in the state's snake hunts.

Our current laws and regulations are so restrictive as to preclude any significant income from this potential natural regenerating resource. A favorable vote on Senate Bill No. 137 would go along way in helping our communities establish volunteer self-help programs and quite possibly reduce the demand for public funds.

-end-

# SWEETWATER, TEXAS

## ROUND-UP CHARITIES

- **Sunshine Inn**  
Helps mentally disadvantaged adults
  - \* Develop employable work skills.
  - \* Provide supplies to school building.
  - \* Pays utilities.
  - \* Provides Van for transportation.
  - \* Provides building upkeep.
- **Youth Softball and Baseball Programs**
- **Shooting Education Courses**
- **Just Say No Program**
- **Scouting**
- **Youth Soccer**
- **Halloween on the Square**
- **Support of a drug-free high school graduation night**
- **Junior Livestock Show**
- **Santa Claus call-ins**
- **Jaycees' Annual Thanksgiving diner for the needy**
- **Support for the Ben Richie Boys Ranch**
- **Labor Day weekend rest stop**
- **Blood Drive**
- **Weekly Bingo at Nursing-Homes**
- **Nolan County Crimestoppers**
- **Hospice Programs**
- **American Cancer Society**
- **American Heart Association**
- **MDA**
- **Lake Sweetwater 4th of July Fireworks Display**

*And a list of other civic and cultural causes.*

Jim Withers  
Sharon Springs, Ks.

Committee Members:

As a rancher and farmer in Wallace county, I would like to furnish you with some information which is supportive of the rattlesnake roundups and my knowledge of the abundance of the prairie rattlesnakes in the area.

We are owners, partners, and caretakers of a 14,000 acre ranch in Wallace county. We deal with the prairie rattlesnake often and know there are more snakes than we see. Once when we burned out a mile of fence we found 19 dead rattlesnakes when we went back to put out the posts. This means that without seeing these as we went by with the weed burner, we walked by this many in one mile. If you would assume this number is typical of an average mile of fence then we would see that in our 60 miles of fence we could find approximately 1140 snakes in the fence-rows alone on our ranch.

We have had cattle, pigs, and dogs bitten by rattlesnakes with some being fatal. The local veterinarians have furnished me with the following figures: *Whitmore Veterinarian Clinic (Goodland)*: treats about 15 incidents of rattlesnake bite each year, but once treated 5 in one month.

*Dr. Mike Dodd (Oakley)*: treats about 8-10 each of cattle, dogs, and horses during a year.

As Dr. Henry Fitch stated in his article for the *N.C.S. News*, "Drastic reduction of the snakes may be justified on specific areas of private land where they are actually abundant enough to constitute a hazard to humans and cause occasional losses of valuable domestic animals".

We support this change as a means of encouraging more hunters to come to Wallace county.

*It is my pleasure to be able to meet before this committee to express to you some of the economic values of the proposed amendments to K.S.A. 1992 Supp. 32-988.*

*I have had the pleasure of serving Wallace County in the capacity of economic development director for the past 5 1/2 years. Within that time it has become increasingly evident that the most successful way of stimulating and increasing the economy in Wallace County is through the developing and adding value to resources already available within the county. Though the idea of harvesting rattlesnake is not often considered when speaking in terms of "value added", it does meet the implied criteria of "value added". We are asking that through the proposed amendments, we be allowed to use this natural resource of the area as a catalyst for tourism, trade, and education.*

*To be given the opportunity to harvest and sell the products of the rattlesnake would depreciate the wastefulness presently being preserved by the law. For those in the business of taxidermy, crafts and venders, being provided the opportunity to utilize the byproducts of the snake would allow them to generate commerce with the resources of the area.*

*It is known that tourism is now the 2nd largest industry in the United States, and should be recognized as a chance for economic expansion for communities of all sizes. Tourism opens opportunities for capturing outside dollars into a community. The opportunity for*

local and state government to benefit also increases when the tourist industry grows. As the tourist industry expands, so do tax revenues. The most important tax from the community point of view is the sales tax. When tourist expenditures are high, so are sales tax revenues.

Of considerable importance in many areas is the decline of local amenities such as museums, monuments, libraries, historical sites and entertainment districts. Other areas are unable to develop parks, recreational areas and other local attractions because of insufficient funding. These types of communities may find tourism to be a solution that provides the marginal profit and revenue balance needed to maintain or to develop these services. These facilities are then available for local use as well.

Permits and licenses issued for the privilege of harvesting rattlesnakes has also contributed to the funding of the State Parks and Wildlife. In September, 1992, the first effort was made in organizing a rattlesnake round-up. In a four day period, 1-non-resident license and 30-resident hunting licenses were sold in Wallace County, generating \$350 of funding to this program.

It is important to remember, tourists have more to offer a community than their dollars. They bring with them a variety of ethnic, geographic and socio-cultural experiences. By establishing contacts between people of different backgrounds, tourism offers vast opportunities for people to know and understand one another in a direct way.

*It is not my intent to stand before you today to suggest that the proposed changes to the present law would cure all the ills of Wallace County or any community. I am here to suggest that these changes will help to open a window of opportunity for a community that is exercising their desire to be creative and use (not abuse) the resources at hand to help generate a vitality that is so important and yet so difficult to maintain in our rural communities.*

Brenda Beringer  
Economic Development Director  
Sharon Springs, KS

February 9, 1993

Senate Committee of Energy and Natural Resources  
Topeka, Kansas

Dear Committee Members:

Please allow me to present my credentials which I feel give credibility to my forthcoming statements. I have been an avid outdoor fan since being old enough to venture into nature. I am a professional in my field of speech pathology and education. I have been employed by the Cerebral Palsy Research Foundation of Kansas for the past 20 years. My number one hobby for the past 30 years has been hunting and studying rattlesnakes. I am a pit handler in the Okeene, Oklahoma Rattlesnake Roundup, which is the oldest rattlesnake hunt in the United States. In this capacity I have been provided with many hours of observation and educational opportunities.

I believe not only in preservation of species but also in harvesting and managing our animal resources on a controlled basis. We have hunted the Okeene area for over 50 years and we still have an abundant rattlesnake reserve. Senate bill 137 is proposing a similar project for our own state of Kansas which I feel is feasible and long over due. In a controlled method such as Senate bill 137 is proposing we can manage the Kansas rattlesnake population just as well.

In these times of economic stress it is also worth noting the economic impact for western Kansas that controlled hunts could provide.

With my experience and background in hunting and capturing rattlesnakes, I see no reason why we Kansas can't enjoy similar activities right here at home. We have the snake resource so why not capitalize on it? I think Senate bill 137 should become a reality of law.

Yours Sincerely,



Virgil Pugh  
Director  
Adult Day Care Program  
2411 Jardine  
Wichita, Kansas 67719

February 9, 1993

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in reference to the legislation of buying and selling Rattlesnakes in Kansas. I have lived in Kansas all of my life. I grew up Goodland, Kansas and presently live in El Dorado, Kansas. I have taught Biology and Taxidermy at El Dorado High School for the last 28 years. I would very much like to see the present laws protecting reptiles ammended to exempt the Rattlesnake.

I have gone to Rattlesnake hunts in Oklahoma the last several years. I have helped the Waynoka Saddle Club with the butchering and selling of meat and skins. I have mounted numerous snakes for hunters in Oklahoma. I also use the snake skins, rattles and vertebrae to make items to sell at the hunts and at craft fairs.

The ranchers and farmers would benefit greatly if the law is ammended. The presence of the Rattlesnake is a danger to the families and livestock of the area ranchers and farmers. A community will also benefit in organizing a Rattlesnake Hunt. Hunters will need hotels, motels gasoline and food during their hunt.

Legalizing the buying and selling of Kansas snakes would benefit Kansas taxidermists and craftsmen. As it is now, we must purchase the snakes from Oklahoma hunts.

I am 100% for the conservation of our resources but I feel an annual snake hunt in Northwestern Kansas would be a positive move for the area residents, hunters and taxidermists. I do hope you reconsider the matter and help to ammend the present legislation to exempt the Rattlesnake from protection.

Sincerely,



Tom Kinder  
Wildlife Trophies  
R.R.3 Box 30  
El Dorado, Kansas 67042



**STATEMENT OF MARCIEA C. WEAVER, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR**

**SHERMAN COUNTY CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU**

**GOODLAND, KANSAS**

**REFERENCE:**

**RATTLESNAKE ROUNDUP**

**SHARON SPRINGS, KANSAS WALLACE COUNTY**

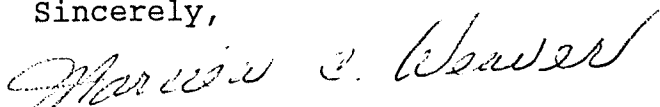
It is my pleasure to present this statement concerning t  
Rattlesnake Roundup of Sharon Springs. In addition to being Assistant  
Director of Sherman County Convention and Visitors Bureau, I contract  
with Northwest Kansas Travel Council to manage 6 sport, boat and  
travel shows. Northwest Kansas Travel region is composed of 16  
counties in the upper Northwest corner of Kansas.

The travel shows are judged by the amount of interest in  
brochures at each show, according to studies done on this subject  
success is based on an interest of .2% of total attendance. Kansas  
City, Missouri had an attendance of 116,000 and .5% picked Rattlesnake  
Roundup brochures as an interest to them. Tulsa, Oklahoma had 85,000  
attendance and .4% had an interest in Rattlesnake Roundup. This is  
enough evidence to indicate their is a vital interest in rattlesnake  
hunts in Kansas.

Sharon Springs stages a professional Rattlesnake Roundup and  
certainly warrants favorable recognition from the State of Kansas and  
Kansas Wildlife and Parks. Sherman County realized a marked increase  
during the 1st Roundup, our motels, services, retail and food  
businesses all reported increased sales. This indicates the  
Rattlesnake Roundup is a marketable Tourist Attraction for Kansas.

Thank you for reading my statement concerning Rattlesnake hunting  
in Kansas. Our small rural communities are having a hard time  
surviving and Sharon Springs/Wallace County have invented a very  
ingenious idea. I urge your support for Rattlesnake Roundup.

Sincerely,



Marciea C. Weaver, Sherman Co. CVB

People that were bitten by Rattlesnakes  
in Wallace County. "Twelve" (13)

Bob Waugh - Weckan

Judy Okenon - "

Chuck Lepsen. "

~~Frank~~ Loid Koehn "

Mrs Tom Hays

Ruth Spurlock

George Herb

Mr. Kuskoski

Le Roy Hendrick

Mrs Fred Fulton (Francis Mother)

Norman Teemer

Tanner Poe

M K White

None died from from the bite.

By: Glenn Hoover



# N.C.S. NEWS

Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Onaga, Kansas  
Permit No. 2

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE NATIONAL CROTALUS SOCIETY  
"Dedicated to the preservation of the species and the hunt through education."

FIRST QUARTER, 1993 VOLUME 1, ISSUE #1

## National Crotalus Society Formed

The National Crotalus Society was formed in the fall of 1992 and was established as a non-profit organization for the gathering and dissemination of information concerning rattlesnakes and rattlesnake hunting, to provide one central location where factual data could be stored and made available.

The Society's one goal is to educate all who are interested, in hopes that education will help in the preservation of the species and the hunt. In order to reach the maximum number of people in the shortest amount of time, the Executive Committee founded N.C.S. News. The News will be published four times per year, not only presenting the latest, most up-to-date information possible, but commentary, editorials, humor, views and opinions of hunters and individuals who work and/or play in the area of herpetology. Over 21,000 copies distributed in 33 States.

Executive Committee members are Larry L. Graf, Administrative Vice President; Mary Graf, Treasurer; David Ayers, William Wolf, Joe Harder and Ted Boatwright, Directors.

Subscriptions and advertising rates may be found elsewhere in this issue of N.C.S. News.

## Hold 1st Kansas Rattlesnake Roundup

Sharon Springs, Kansas-

Thirty-two hunters turned in 75 snakes during the first-ever rattlesnake roundup held in Kansas, in the small western town of Sharon Springs. The brand new event was held September 5 and 6, 1992.

Among those turned in, was a new record for the longest Prairie Rattlesnake (Kansas),



Gary Moore, left and Jim Mayhugh, right tease public address announcer Barry Walker, with a Western Diamondback Rattlesnake. Walker served as the master of ceremonies for Fangs & Rattlers, during the pit shows at Sharon Springs,

Kansas. Walker did pretty well all weekend until the "boys" started picking on him. A slip of the tongue, like HOLY \_\_\_\_ (STUF?) came out when the 6'1/2" rattler was wrapped around his neck.

measuring 52 1/2". The snake was captured by Michael Fry. The new record was verified by a herpetologist from the University of Kansas, assisting Dr. Henry Fitch. Fry was invited to display the snake in the K.U. Museum, however the offer was declined.

Second and third place, in the longest snake contest, both went to Bruce Walker of Sharon Springs, for snakes measuring 48 3/4" and 46 1/2" in length.

The longest and only Diamond Back rattlesnake winner

was owned by Jim Mayhugh, David Cell and Gary Moore of Waynoka, Oklahoma. It measured 72 1/2". The Diamond Back was brought-in from Oklahoma.

Trey Rancey won the t-shirt in the "Name The Snake" (on the promotional t-shirt) contest, which was SASNAK Sam or Sue. "SASNAK" is Kansas spelled backward.

Approximately 2,000 spectators attended the 2 day event and were amazed by the thrilling shows presented by the Fangs & Rattlers group from Granbury, Texas and information presented by professional snake handlers from Waynoka, Ok. The snake handlers were in charge of supervising the snake pit during the two day event.

Mr. Barry Walker was the public address announcer throughout the roundup and show, adding much to the crowd's enjoyment by information and passing on some humorous comments about the show and pit personnel.

In addition to the thrill of seeing the snakes in the pit, spectators were able to observe

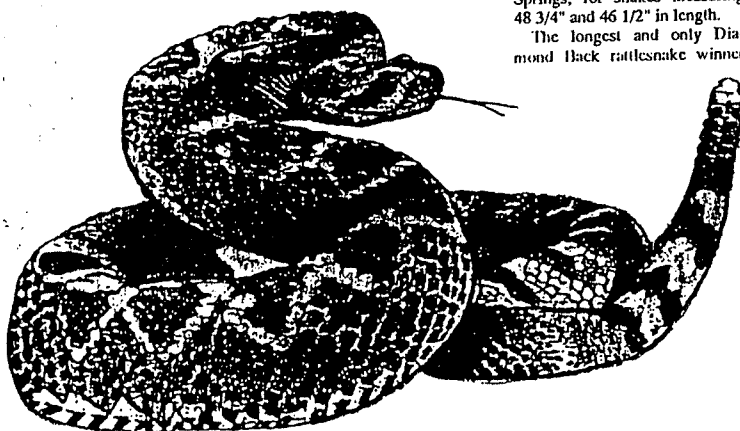
Dr. Henry Fitch, Kansas University Department of Systematics and Ecology, herpetologist, gathering data as snakes were brought in from the field.

Other displays, such as a rare mutant prairie rattler and her eighteen young were on hand. On Saturday and Sunday, spectators were allowed to watch the butchering process. During the butchering, members of the roundup committee explained the process, how to do it, precautions to take and then cooked the meat for spectators.

There was an abundant supply or representatives from the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks and law enforcement officers, who found the event to be well planned and executed, well within the framework of existing Kansas laws.

Dignitaries in attendance were State Senator Sheila Frahm, who weighed the first several snakes brought in, Agricultural Liaison to the Governor, Steven Anderson and State Representative Gayle Mollenkamp.

A 2nd annual rattlesnake roundup is being planned for early May, 1993.



Senate Energy & Natural Resources  
February 11, 1993  
Attachment 5

## N.C.S. News

"A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE  
NATIONAL CROTALUS SOCIETY"

LARRY L. GRAF, PUBLISHER ..... (913) 889-4564  
JOE D. HARDER, EDITOR ..... (913) 396-4496  
TED BOATWRIGHT, ADVERTISING ..... (913) 456-8377  
DAVID L. AYERS, TELECOMMUNICATIONS ..... (913) 453-2329  
WILLIAM W. WOLF, LOGISTICIAN ..... (913) 266-4172  
FAX NUMBER ..... (913) 889-4610  
Published at Onaga, Kansas 66521



The Sharon Springs, Ks crowd watch as Dr. and Mrs. Fitch gather data on the Prairie Rattler (*Crotalus viridis*).

## Rattlesnake Roundup In Kansas

By  
Dr. Henry S. Fitch

On 5-6 September 1992 the first organized rattlesnake roundup in Kansas was held at Sharon Springs, Wallace County. The roundup generated much interest and controversy. The response was enthusiastic on the part of some who traveled long distances to attend, and enjoyed the thrill of the hunt, but most herpetologists, conservationists and animal rights advocates took a dim view of the proceedings, deploring the killing of these economically beneficial animals, the cruelty involved in butchering them, and the misinformation about snakes that was transmitted to the public.

Roundup participants were charged a registration fee and were required to have a Kansas hunting license. They were transported to areas known to be snake-infested and were guided on the hunt by members of the local committee. The quarry was the prairie rattlesnake (*Crotalus viridis viridis*). Compared with the established roundups in Oklahoma and Texas where thousands of snakes are harvested annually, this hunt was not very successful; a total of 57 prairie rattlesnakes were brought in. Many, and perhaps most, of these were caught by local hunters days or weeks before the formal roundup and kept for the event. The snakes captured were butchered and the meat was cooked and served to roundup

participants. The skins were kept as trophies by the collectors.

I came to the roundup, sponsored by Kansas Wildlife and Parks, and arranged with the roundup leaders to examine the live snakes brought in. However, some were released in the pit before I had a chance to examine them. Females were giving birth during the week when the roundup was held, and evidently were highly secretive, staying out of sight under cover, so that they were poorly represented. In the sample that I examined, 81% were males and 19% were females. Most snakes in the sample had intact rattle strings (retaining the natal button) or else had tapered strings, so that the number of terminal segments lost could be estimated with some assurance. On the basis of size (millimeters snout-vent length) and number of rattle segments, snakes were tentatively assigned to eight annual age groups, as follows: 1 year: 580 mm, 4 rattles, 3%; 2 years: 683 to 840 mm, 6 or 7 rattles, 32%; 3 years: 785 to 950 mm, 8 or 9 rattles, 19%; 4 years: 860 to 938 mm, 9 or 10 rattles, 10%; 5 years: 940 to 1020 mm, 11 rattles, 10%; 6 years: 882 to 1038 mm, 11 or 12 rattles, 13%; 7 years: 1048 to 1063 mm, 13 or

14 rattles, 7%; 9 or more years: 1208 mm, 17 rattles (?), 3%. (Males are larger than females of comparable age and rattle number). Obviously immature snakes were poorly represented in the sample, with no neonates and only a single one-year-old. Small size, inability to rattle, and tendency to stay beneath concealing cover render the young snakes more difficult to find. Two-year-olds are adolescents, those three years old or older are sexually mature.

Under Kansas law snakes or snake products cannot be sold. Kansas Wildlife and Parks officials were on hand at the roundup, and arrests were made. Insofar as possible the event was intended to follow the pattern of established roundups in Oklahoma and Texas, and persons who had been active at those events were present as advisors. However, the sale of meat, skins, rattles and mounted specimens that generated substantial income in Oklahoma and Texas was illegal in Kansas.

The Kansas roundup was claimed to be a qualified success financially on the basis of income generated by registrants, admission fees to the "snake pit", and ancillary attractions. The "pit" was an enclosure, open

on top, in which all snakes captured were placed on display, with a few local non-venomous snakes and several imported Texas diamond backs. A team from Texas performed in the pit, with daredevil acts, such as crawling into a sleeping bag with live rattlesnakes, and their feats were described by an announcer on the loudspeaker. Presumably the rattlesnakes used in these performances were "fixed" in some way to minimize the risk. From time to time during the day, small batches of snakes were brought in to the butcher shop, decapitated, skinned and eviscerated, as part of the show. During the butchering the man in charge talked to the spectators, explaining such subjects as the capacity of the head to bite even after decapitation, internal anatomy, sexual difference, and general ecology. While some of the material was factual, there were gross errors and exaggerations; the audiences were told that the snakes were so abundant there was no chance they would ever be exterminated, and that females sometimes contained scores of fetuses.

There seemed to be some ambivalence on the part of roundup (Continued on page three)

## "Fangs & Rattlers"

The Southwest largest snake exhibitionists, brings to the market the most factual safety show, along with a hair raising thrill a minute show that the public has ever witnessed.

We have over 50 years combined experience in snake handling and are constantly upgrading our performance. Our main goal is draw large crowds with our thrill packed shows, however we provide factual information about species, habits and identification.

Our performances are family oriented and are continuous during the shows, in addition to having venomous snakes and other non-venomous reptiles for the public to view.



For Booking Information Contact:

## "Fangs & Rattlers"

252-A BrookValley OTS  
Granbury, Texas 76048  
(817) 573-2447

Fantastic Fund Raiser For Civic Clubs & Organizations!



## Dream Fulfilled

by Bill Wolf



As a young boy growing up in Kansas, I was interested in all sorts of animals, much the same as all small boys. I was especially interested in snakes, which did not please my mother very much. I finally convinced my mother to let me have a pet Black snake, which I kept for quite a long time. As the years went by, I was still interested in snakes, but never really had the opportunity to have any as a pet or go hunting for them.

At one time, I worked for a company and got to know a man who worked for the company next door. This man, and several of his friends liked to go Rattlesnake hunting and I was often invited to go with them. Unfortunately, my work at that time prevented me from accompanying them on their hunts.

Several years later, through another work acquaintance, I got my first opportunity to actually go Rattlesnake hunting. The first thoughts of actually going out and hunting for something that can actually do you harm are kind of exciting. As the time grew nearer to go on the hunt, I began to wonder if I really wanted to do this and I thought to myself, "This is something that you have always wanted to do, so do it". I thought what kind of clothing should I wear or

take, would I need a gun, knife, gloves, chaps, high boots or leggings, and all sorts of other questions ran through my mind about what I might need. My friend who gave me the opportunity to do this just said, "just take what you would if you were just going on an ordinary camp-out. I followed his advice since he was an experienced hunter and had first-hand knowledge of the thrill of the hunt.

As we approached the hunting area, I was rather apprehensive about the whole thing, but needed that rush and excitement of the hunt. We (my hunting partners and I) got out of the vehicles at a likely looking area and headed into some of the rockiest brushy area that we could find. It was, if there is such a place, the perfect Rattlesnake country. There were plenty of outcropping of rocks for the snakes to hide and warm themselves in and on. There was lots of natural cover from predators and it presented an obstacle which we knew we could overcome to attain our over-all goal of catching some live and, hopefully, large Rattlesnakes.

This first year of my initial hunting experience, I unfortunately did not catch any snakes; however, this did not deter my excitement of being on the hunt and helping my hunting partners bag a few nice sized snakes.

As the years passed, I gained experience on the do's and don'ts of snake hunting and some of the little secrets, if you can call them that, of how and where to look. The best places for snakes, etc.

As an experienced hunter now I still like the excitement of the hunt. Not knowing if the next turn or by the next bush could be

a really big snake or if you will become just a little too lax in your efforts and be bitten, or if coming around a corner of a high outcropping of rock come face-to-face (just inches from your face as I have seen happen) or just about anything unexpected. Your nerves are on edge, you jump at the slightest movement, your adrenaline rushes as you capture a snake or help to bag one.

After the hunt, you take a certain amount of pride that you just did something that you had always wanted to do. When other people ask about your experience it will be hard to express to them the feelings of excitement, danger and fun. You have gone into the world of the Rattlesnake, hunted, maybe captured, and not been bitten by a very dangerous, beautiful, interesting animal and can now tell others of the fun and thrill of the hunt. Most of all you look forward to the next hunt and some of the questions you may ask yourself, will I catch more or less than the last hunt, or will I really catch a big record-breaking snake worthy of a trophy or mount, or will I turn him loose so someone else can have the thrill of catching him.

As for me, "I've been bitten by the hunting bug" and am looking forward to the next hunt, wherever that may be. I feel I'm doing something that many other people only talk or think of doing.



## A Rattlesnake Roundup In Kansas

(Continued from page one)

leaders as to the purpose of the event. One objective was extermination, and many people retain the traditional attitude that all snakes are vermin to be killed on sight. Another idea is that the snakes constitute an exploitable resource which the community should utilize to generate income and improve the quality of life, while still a third objective is recreational. Of course these viewpoints are not entirely compatible. Drastic reduction of the snakes may be justified on specific areas of private land where they are actually abundant enough to constitute a hazard to humans and cause occasional losses of valuable domestic animals, but widespread extermination needs to be discouraged.

If roundup leaders and participants, conservationists, and Kansas Wildlife and Parks officials could reach consensus, roundups might be continued with their objectionable features eliminated and important benefits realized. Hunts could be managed to provide recreation, community income, and data for research without killing the snakes. There is excellent opportunity for education and indoctrinating the public about rattlesnakes and ecology in general. The hunts might be continued as competitive events with prizes for largest snake, most snakes, most unusual snake, but without mass killing or removal; after the roundup snakes would be released in the habitats and localities where they were captured. Through this procedure the recreational, social and economic benefits of the hunt could be preserved while avoiding the

creativity of butchering and the ecological disruption involved in removing important predators. Qualified authorities -- selected members of the Kansas Herpetological Society and/or graduate students in herpetology -- might be brought to the roundup to lecture on such subjects as: "Snakebite; prevention and cure", "Snakes of Kansas", "The internal anatomies and classification of snakes", "Food habits of the prairie rattlesnake in Kansas", "Reproduction in rattlesnakes", "The sensory pit of crotaline snakes", "Rattle development in the prairie rattlesnake and others". After attending such sessions people would surely overcome some of their phobia about snakes and would gain some appreciation of the role of snakes in the local ecosystem.

The collection of snakes assembled in the course of a roundup provides a massive population sample, with unparalleled opportunity for obtaining demographic data, bearing on such matters as sex ratio, population structure in annual age classes, growth, rattle development, food habits and longevity. Hopefully, research of this type will be sponsored and encouraged at future roundups. It is still not even known whether Kansas *viridis* females produce litters on an annual or biennial schedule. A half century ago L. M. Klauber concluded from his study of the large "Platteville series" from dens of the High Plains in northeastern Colorado, that these snakes reproduce biennially. But more recent study of more southern populations (Cimarron National grassland in southwestern Kansas, and in northern New Mexico) suggest an annual cycle.

## N.C.S. NEWS NATIONAL ADVERTISING RATE

Per Column Inch .....	\$9.00
Full Page .....	\$562.50
1/2 Page .....	\$281.25
1/4 Page .....	\$140.75
Classified Advertising ....	20c per word (Minimum of \$5.00 or 25 words)

All Advertising MUST Be Pre-Paid!

For Further Information Call or Write NCS News At

**N.C.S. News**  
Post Office Box 4  
Onaga, Kansas 66521  
(913) 456-8377  
Fax (913) 889-4610

## Roundups! Do They Take Too Many Rattlers?

Environmentalists deplore impact of hunts on snakes, other species

Rattlesnake roundups are a thrill for spectators but environmentalists say they threaten the survival of the eastern diamondback, a much-feared snake that slithers through Southern folklore, according to Associated Press writer Elliott Minor.

Hunters capture about 1,000 diamondbacks a year during roundups in Whigham, Fitzgerald and Claxton, Ga. Some are sold for venom, some are used for medical research and some are slaughtered for their meat and hides.

Opponent Bob Mount, an Auburn University biologist, said the roundups fulfill the hunters' need to prove their masculinity.

"They get to prove they're macho men," he said.

Ken Darnell, president of an Arizona firm that supplies venom for medical research, said the Georgia roundups provide most of the world's supply of eastern diamondback venom. Snake venom has dozens of medical uses, including use in a drug that helps people with blood-clotting problems, he said. Diamondbacks grow to about 7 feet long and have diamond-shaped blotches edged with yellow on their backs.

Diamondbacks live in an area that stretches from southeastern

North Carolina to eastern Louisiana. The Southeast has four roundups a year -- the three in Georgia and one in Opp, Ala., which attracts 50,000 visitors.

Environmentalists are concerned that hunters are taking too many snakes out of the wild, and they are alarmed about the use of gasoline to force snakes out of gopher tortoise burrows. The burrows are a haven for more than 300 other species, including the endangered indigo snake.

Walt Timmerman, a biologist with the Florida Park Service said thousands of diamondbacks are killed each year for their hides and countless others are run over by cars or killed maliciously.

He will lead a committee that will study ways to protect the rattlesnake and ban gassing in Georgia and Alabama. Gassing is illegal in Mississippi, Louisiana and Florida.

The tortoise council has no desire to outlaw rattlesnake hunting, but says states should regulate it before the diamondback is pushed to the brink of extinction, according to Mr. Timmerman.

Roundup organizers say the snakes are treated well and the hunts appear to have no impact on the population.

"We can't tell any significant difference in the places we hunt from year to year," said Danny Strickland, vice president of the Evans County Wildlife Club, which sponsors the Claxton Rattlesnake Roundup.

Organizers say they discourage gassing, but concede they cannot guarantee it does not occur.

Hunters catch diamondbacks with a plastic hose and a snake hook. They shove the hose into a burrow and listen for a rattle.

Those who use gasoline pour a quarter of a teaspoon of fuel into the hose and blow through it. The liquid evaporates and the fumes are supposed to drive the snake out.

Hunters also catch rattlers outside the burrows with the snake hook or they dig out the burrows.

"There are a lot of environmental groups that are against it, but they don't live in this part of the country," said John Luckie, chairman of the Fitzgerald Jaycees' rattlesnake roundup. "Rattlesnakes are not thought too highly of. They're not a cuddly species."

Fitzgerald's 20th annual roundup should generate up to \$10,000 for civic projects and

charity, Mr. Luckie said.

About 450 snakes are slaughtered for hides, meat and jewelry at the roundup, he said.

The 33rd annual Whigham Rattlesnake Roundup is the state's oldest.

Profits are used for community projects and the approximately 300 snakes that are caught are sold to a company that extracts venom, said organizer Myron Prevatte. The venom is used to make antivenin used in the treatment of snake bites.

The approximately 300 snakes caught in Claxton are used for research, sold to zoos and used for meat and leather

## Rare Skins U.S.A.

A multi-million dollar business was incubated right here in Henryetta, Oklahoma, but because of varying opinions about the product used, Henryetta has become the loser in a business which could have meant the partial answer to its economic/industrial problems.

John F. Shaddix has built a thriving business out of selling exotic skins, but feels Henryetta's city ordinances have made it impossible for Henryetta to enjoy the benefits of the business.

Shaddix is the buyer and as-

sociate promoter of the now second largest rattlesnake roundup in the world, held annually in Freer, Texas. Due to the cooperation of the City Council, animal control officers, politicians and town fathers of Freer wanting their town to obtain new revenue, the roundup has become very important to the town's economy and is sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce.

In the South Texas area within the last 12 months, Rare Skins spent over \$100,000 which could have been spent in Henryetta. This money was received by people living in communities, ranches, farms, middle income and lower income families. A lot of unemployed oil field workers trying to feed families were selling rattlesnakes.

Rare Skins, Inc. in Henryetta occupies five buildings on Main Street and three other buildings in town used in the processing and wholesale portions of the business.

At the present time Rare Skins employs about 15 people in Henryetta, as compared to 40 employees in Texas and other states. Rare Skins USA has a lot of its products leather-laced by professional craftsmen, who are mostly Disabled American Veterans.

"Most of my business would have been in Henryetta, except for their laws against keeping snakes of any kind within the city limits," Shaddix says.

Shaddix decided to form his own company, Rare Skins. After two years, Shaddix was ready to hire a chemist and use his special process to chrome tan skins

(Continued on Page Five)

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION Keystone Reptile Club Inc.

109 TWIN HILL ROAD #16  
DILLSBURG, PA 17019

"The Original Pennsylvania Snake Club"  
Our Motto is: "Keep 'em alive"

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY: \_\_\_\_\_  
STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
D.O.B. \_\_\_\_\_

I the undersigned do hereby make application for membership in the **Keystone Reptile Club, Inc.** and agree to observe the rules and regulations that are in force or that hereafter may be adopted by the Corporation.

I will not hold the **Keystone Reptile Club, Inc.**, responsible for any injuries, accidents or such other misfortunes that may be incurred to myself or members of my family during any or all activities in which this Corporation may be participating.

I understand that if I do not pay my dues each year, I will be removed from club records and would have to re-join as a new member.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_ (M/Y)

### N.C.S. News - Roundups & Shows Listing

DATE	CITY	STATE	DATE	CITY	STATE
Jan. 30-31	Whigham	Georgia	Apr. 17-18	Archer City	Texas
Feb. 13-14	Cleburne	Texas	Apr. 17-18	Waynoka	Oklahoma
Feb. 27-28	Ogelsby	Texas	Apr. 24-25	Freer	Texas
Feb. 27-28	Weatherford	Texas	Apr. 24-25	Mangum	Oklahoma
Mar. 6-7	Opp	Alabama	Apr. 24-25	Okeene	Oklahoma
Mar. 6-7	Taylor	Texas	May 1-2	Sharon Springs	Kansas
Mar. 6-7	Walnut Springs	Texas	June 5-6	Landisburg	PA
Mar. 13-14	China Spring	Texas	June 12-13	Andreas	PA
Mar. 13-14	Claxton	Georgia	June 12-13	Fairchance	PA
Mar. 13-14	Sweetwater	Texas	June 12-13	Sinnemahoning	PA
Mar. 20-21	Brownwood	Texas	June 17-20	Noxen	PA
Mar. 20-21	Fitzgerald	Georgia	June 19-20	Chet Lake	West Va.
Mar. 27-28	Big Spring	Texas	June 19-20	Curwenville	PA
Mar. 27-28	Lomela	Texas	June 26-27	Cross Fork	PA
Apr. 3-4	Waurika	Oklahoma	June 26-27	Towanda	PA
Apr. 10-11	Gainsville	Texas	June Weekends	York Springs	PA
Apr. 17-18	Apache	Oklahoma	Aug 21-22	York	PA
			Sept. 11-12	Forkston	PA

The List Above May Not Be Complete. If You Know of A Roundup, Let Us Know!

### Special Thanks

We, the producers of N.C.S. News take this opportunity to thank those special people who helped us with this first issue of the N.C.S. News. Without your help and devotion to our cause, this first issue would not have been possible.

James White, Granbury, TX  
Larry Mackey, Waurika, OK  
Deb Fischer, Sharon Sprgs. KS  
John Luckie, Fitzgerald, GA  
Bill Wheeler, Dillsburg, PA  
John Shaddix, Henryetta, OK  
Butch Myers, Buhler, KS  
Chuck Blythe, Granbury, TX  
Clark Shiffer, Bellefonte, PA  
Dr. Henry Fitch, Lawrence, KS  
Jack Kirchhofer, Wakarusa, KS  
Sid Smiley, Waynoka, OK  
Bill & Kate Harder, Onaga, KS  
All replying State Wildlife Agencies

**N.C.S. News**  
**Staff**

# Roundups Do Serve A Useful Purpose

By John Harris, Kansas Jaycees

While the Rattlesnake Round-Up garners a lot of attention for the Sweetwater Jaycees and their community, not to mention the 1.5 to 2 million dollars it pumps into the town's economy annually, the monies raised go to a lot of worthwhile causes in the area. To begin with there is the Sunshine Inn, a Jaycee project that helps mentally disadvantaged (18 year olds through adults) from around the state develop employable work skills. They supply the school building that has been partitioned off into classrooms for the students. The chapter pays the cost of the utilities, supplies a van for transportation of clients from Abilene State School, see to the upkeep of the Inn and the van while providing money for special events such as special trips and parties for the people of Sunshine. Other projects include: youth softball and baseball programs; Shooting Education courses; Just Say No programs; scouting; youth soccer; Hal-loween on the Square, support of a drug-free high school graduation night, Sweetwater Junior Livestock Show and Santa Claus call-ins. Then there is the Jaycees' Annual Thanksgiving dinner for the needy; support for the Ben Richie Boys Ranch in Abilene, giving both money and muscle. For the public at large: the Labor Day weekend rest stop east of Interstate 20; an annual blood drive and a weekly bingo game at nursing homes. Other contributions are made to the Nolan County Crimestoppers and Hospice programs, the American Cancer Society, American heart Association, and MDA. The Sweetwater Jaycees also support the annual Fourth of July fireworks display at Lake Sweetwater and a list of other civic and cultural causes.

In the beginning, the Sweetwater Rattlesnake Round-Up had its humble origins. The Round-Up began with a simple purpose in mind as a Community Development project. Local ranchers and farmers were having problems with losing a lot of

livestock due to the snake's bite. This was not to mention the number of bites being received by humans as well. The ranchers turned to the Jaycees for help as such is the way in a lot of other communities across the country. The Chapter responded and thus, the first Round-Up was initiated in 1959. That first year alone, 3,128 pounds of rattlesnakes were caught. Since then, the average poundage of rattlesnakes captured annually amounts to a little over 6,300 pounds, with the lowest amount being recorded in 1965 at 2,340 with the greatest amount in 1982 hitting a whopping 17,986. An average snake weighs between a pound or a little bit over. This may seem like a lot of rattlesnakes being taken from the wild, but the Jaycees are quick to stress that this Round-Up is strictly for rattlesnake population control not elimination. It could well be argued that for every snake captured, eight to ten more are still in the area.

In 1959 and 1960, all that was purchased from the snake were its rattles which went from ten to fifteen cents each. The amount of rattlesnake caught is directly related to the price per pound the market pays nowadays. In recent years the price was as low as \$4.25 to a record high in 1988 where it topped out at \$9.00 per pound. For 1992, the going rate was roughly six dollars per pound.

Rattlesnakes and man live in an uneasy relationship with each other in Texas. For example, since last year's round-up, 37 animal bites and six human bites have been inflicted by rattlers in or near Sweetwater. Many times, it is the elderly who are most susceptible to being bitten as snakes like to find cool moist areas in the summertime such as flower beds and home gardens. At one time, seventeen rattlesnakes were pulled from a house basement not far from downtown Sweetwater.



## Rare Skins

(Continued From Page Four)

into pure leather. This would allow the boot companies the ability to manufacture boots using the skins. At that time there was no process by which the skins could be made strong enough to be used for boots.

Following research, as to who had the best formulas for tanned skins, Tandy Leather, owner of Bona Allen boot Co., awarded Rare Skins, Inc. a three quarter million dollar contract and the business was on its way.

"We bought live rattlesnakes and skins nationwide as well as from all major rattlesnake roundups such as San Angelo, Sweetwater, Freer and other cities that have rattlesnake roundups.

Since that time Rare Skins, Inc. has bought an average of 81% of all rattlesnakes bought and sold in the U.S. for boot companies and custom manufacturing at their leather factory headquartered in Henryetta."

Items manufactured here include rattlesnake hat bands, belts, billfolds, freeze-dried rattlesnake whole mounts, snake head keychains and necklaces, buckles, rattlesnake skin vests, boot straps with chain and spur straps, snake skin wrapped pool sticks, bowling bags, accessories, briefcases, watchbands, neckties, Rattlesnake skin kilties and many more top quality items.

"Rare Skins is not in competition with any of its suppliers or buyers, since we developed our formula for tanning we are not in competition with Ma and Pa manufacturers of glycerin preserved skins," said Shaddix.

A strong proponent of keeping an ecological balance in nature, Shaddix believes there should be no more restraints added to laws concerning the killing of furbearing varmints in overpopulated areas which provide much of the living for farmers and ranchers in remote areas due to their pelt sales during the legal designated fur season.

Shaddix says there are an estimated 100 million rattlesnakes in the state of Texas and the rattlesnake population in Okla-

homa is definitely on the increase by 10 million plus. These figures are not approved or disapproved by wildlife agencies.

"My 23 years of buying rattlesnakes and my association with hunters from Texas to Oklahoma give me the information to back up these statements. In Texas alone, 90% of the land is not even hunted by snake hunters, due to private landowners and inaccessible terrain. Ten percent of the territory hunted is down on a limited scale and only two percent of the 10 percent of the territory of Texas is hunted aggressively where overpopulated dens are found."

"The industry is being wiped out by the new laws which over-protect wildlife. Yearly some 10,000 Texas families living away from big cities on farms, ranches, etc., go without Christmas due to the fur industry being protested and world suppressed economy. Rabies cases are epidemic in Texas because of the overpopulation of fox, skunks, coyotes, raccoons, opossums and even bobcats, in some areas," Shaddix says.

The most inhumane way for any animal to die is at the hands of Mother Nature, dreadful diseases, starvation and other hungry animals. Several large sheep and goat raisers in Texas have been put out of business or seriously damaged due to the increase of predators which government trappers cannot control due to overwhelming amounts of land they have to cover. It would take tens of thousands of trappers to curtail the furbearing varmints in Texas as of now.

Since the ordinance against keeping live rattlesnakes went into effect in Henryetta, Ok,

Shaddix says he cannot buy live rattlesnakes locally. Rare Skins laid off over 25 employees in 1978 and has since moved major portions of its operation to Texas to be spread among 11 processing plants.

"The buying locations of Rare Skins is usually right in some of the town's busiest business districts," Shaddix says.

How safe is handling those snakes? Shaddix said he has been buying rattlesnakes for 23 years at his downtown locations without anyone getting bitten. No snakes have gotten loose nor have there been any violations of city ordinances. He considers his method of holding live rattlesnakes until time to process them extremely professional, safe and unprecedented.

Shaddix has attended special speaking engagements at colleges and non-profit organizations, such as Lions Clubs, Optimist Clubs, Rotary, Kiwanis and the Chamber of Commerce, telling them about his rattlesnake business. He is considered an authority on wildlife, explains how his business started and has survived economic ups and downs.

Most of all John Shaddix tells of real people's hunting, selling and spending revenues derived from wildlife harvesting.

As this story goes to press, Shaddix is setting out again to buy another shipment of snakes, "It takes a lot of skins to keep my business going," he said. "Maybe one day I can centralize in Henryetta, local laws permitting, and at least be able to call it my home base again. That would mean a lot to me, my wife Patricia and to Henryetta."

## N.C.S. News Subscription Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Street \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

47th Annual  
Waynoka

Rattlesnake  
HUNT

SATURDAY &  
SUNDAY  
Waynoka, Ok.

FREE  
HAM &  
BEANS



NO  
FIREARMS!  
SNAKE  
SHOW

SATURDAY & SUNDAY

VISIT THE  
LITTLE SAHARA  
RECREATION AREA  
SOUTH OF WAYNOKA  
Camping facilities available

Snake Butcher Shop in Saddle Club Bldg.  
Fresh Butchered Meat And Hides On Sale

PRIZES TO BE GIVEN AWAY

Announcer:  
BEN  
BUCKLAND

SPONSORED BY THE  
WAYNOKA SADDLE CLUB



## Crazy? Maybe!

by Joe Harder

"Hunting SNAKES! You must be crazy!" was the first thought, when my long-time friend, Larry Graf asked me if I'd like to go with him to Waurika, Oklahoma last spring.

Graf has always been regarded in the community as being a little bazaar, maybe even a little nuts, but if there one thing I didn't want to do, it was go into a snake's habitat and see if he could catch me before I caught him!

One night at a local high school ball game, my sneaky buddy, Graf, started talking about doing some kind of snake hunting and education flier. I must have shown some interest because he kept talking about how he would do most of the work getting information, all I had to do was type-set the information, and put it in the flier; Maybe take a picture or two, but wouldn't even have to get close to a snake.

Little did I know, I was IN. Graf had suckered me into going hunting with him and two of his cronies, in western Kansas.

We hunted hard the first two days, but came up with only two bull snakes and a green racer, hardly anything to get too excited about, except one that got away, as I was walking back to the truck, was a good sized snake. He went across the toe of my boot. I'm not sure which of us was more frightened, the snake or me. I've always been afraid of snakes, but this time, my heart was in my throat (and very easily there could have been something in my drawers). As for the snake, he went on into a yucca and I never saw him again.

Following the three days of snake hunting, I still hadn't caught or been caught by a snake, but I had been bitten by

the bug to find and catch a rattlesnake.

On the road back home, Graf started talking about this flier thing, he was calling by now, a newsletter. The B.S. started flying around the van and within a couple of hours, we had a publisher, editor, advertising salesman, logistician and a telecommunications specialist and Oh yes, a name for the now "publication", The N.C.S. News.

The trip home didn't seem like it took six hours, because of the plans being made. I figured this session was a lot like going to the outhouse, but went along with it anyway.

It's five months after my first snake hunt, and here we are printing our first edition of the N.C.S. News, printing 22,000 copies of something that started as fliers and has grown into a full-fledged publication.

Thanks to Larry Graf's stubborn "Dutch" enthusiasm, we're printing America's only National Snake Hunting publication and we're planning our next hunt in April! Way to go GRAF!

## Letter to NCS News

Thank you for sending the letter regarding your new newsletter. As chairman of the Fitzgerald Jaycees Rattlesnake Roundup for the past 16 years I was very pleased to be asked to participate.

Our roundup will be held on March 20 and 21, 1993 at Paulk Park in Fitzgerald, Ga.

We have, over the years had the largest number of snakes of any roundup in Georgia.

Last year we bought approximately 400 Easterns that average 4.5lbs. per snake. Our event raises around \$10,000 for our local Jaycee needs. If you want to see some real rattlesnakes, come visit us in March.

Thanks,  
John Luckie, Fitzgerald, Ga.

## In My Opinion

By Chuck Blythe

(Editor's Note: We at N.C.S. News met Mr. Blythe briefly at the Waurika, Oklahoma hunt in the spring of 1992. C. E. "Chuck" Blythe was one of three professional snake hunters in Texas for years and he has been curator of reptile houses and displays. At one time he had the second largest collection of rattlesnake species in the United States. He has organized five snake hunting and handling clubs, training their members to hunt and handle snakes. His first club was the South Plains Rattlesnake Hunting Club (Lubbock, Texas) followed by the Venomaires, The Snake Kings, The Original Venomaires (all in the Fort Worth area). He has trained over two hundred pitmen and women and survived four serious bites and over one hundred nicks and scratches, including a Cobra bite. He is the author of the book, Poisonous Snakes of America, what you need to know about them. The book was published by Branch-Smith, INC., Fort Worth, Texas in 1979. We asked Chuck to contribute an article of his choosing for our first issue and he has graciously accepted.)

In the early snake Hunts here in Texas (1965-72), the Hunts paid 10 cents a pound as an incentive to get hunters to come and turn in their snakes. This plus trophies and prize money

left the Hunts with large numbers of snakes.

We (The Venomaires) asked as our fee, 25% of the gate and all the snakes turned in. At the end of the Hunt season, (February-April) we would have 2000 to 3000 snakes on hand. We would keep about 200 for lectures to schools and scouts, the rest we turned back loose so we would have the fun of recatching them next year. Never more than six at a time and not closer than a half mile apart. This done to not over-populate the area causing them or others to starve.

I was a professional snake Hunter from 1958 to 1965. Then I became a snake handler. I started the Venomaire Reptile Hunting Club in 1965 with eight members. By 1968, we had over 70 trained hunters and handlers. Since then I have trained over 200 handlers and we are still active. Only seven of our handlers have been bitten during this time. We don't and won't allow anything fake in our show, no snake-proof boots or doctored snakes. We wear regular cowboy boots you can buy in any western store.

One Eastern Rattlesnake Hunt, from 1966 to 1980 was the best snake hunt in Texas. For the last six to eight years a couple of the top men running the hunt have saved the best dens for their friends to hunt and win prize money or trophies. All the local dens are hunted out before the hunt. Then paying hunters and spectators are sent to these

dens where a few snakes are killed just before they get there. Many people who pay to hunt or watch, have to sit and wait for guides. Some nearly beg to go out and some never do, leaving in disgust.

Another hunt area has been hunted out since 1970. They take people and the press out to salted dens. Nine out of 10 snakes turned in there have been caught elsewhere and brought to this hunt. The hunt has been too commercialized, everything from food to hides is two to three times higher than other hunts, along with cafes and motels.

The Handlers in their pits are a shame to our type of pitmen; they wear snake-proof boots and chaps. Many snakes turned in there are starved and dehydrated, caught and caged at least one to two months.

A couple of other hunts are just snake shows now. They don't even take people out any more.

I have tried for over 28 years to help get people over their fear of snakes and to stop the needless slaughter of rattlesnakes.

## Letter To The Editor

We are sorry, but the authors of Snakes of the World have denied permission for you to quote and reference their book. Both Mr Brazaitis and Ms. Watanabe are opposed to hunting.

Sincerely, Loretta Mowat  
Editorial Assistant,

## Subscribe Today To N.C.S. News ONLY \$5.00 per Year!

You Get Information You Want & Need, Plus  
informative articles written by people who know!


Just Fill out the subscription form,  
write us a \$5 check and you'll receive 4 issues  
of the N.C.S. News, keeping you updated on all  
the hunts in the United States.

## N.C.S. News Subscription Form


Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_



### The Opp Jaycees Invite You To Our 34th Annual Rattlesnake Rodeo March 6th & 7th 1993



<p><b>Saturday 6th</b></p> <p>GATES OPEN AT 8 A.M.</p> <p>             SNAKE RACES              QUEEN &amp; COURT              ARTS &amp; CRAFTS              SNAKE SHOWS              FRIED SNAKE MEAT              FOOD              BUCK DANCING              GREASED POLE CLIMB              COUNTRY CONCERT 6 P.M.         </p>	<p><b>Sunday 7th</b></p> <p>GATES OPEN AT 10 A.M.</p> <p>             SNAKE RACES              QUEEN &amp; COURT              ARTS &amp; CRAFTS              SNAKE SHOWS              FRIED SNAKE MEAT              FOOD              BUCK DANCING              GREASED POLE CLIMB              COUNTRY CONCERT 3 P.M.         </p>
--	---

Rattlin' Country Concerts will be Top Name Entertainment

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

**THE OPP JAYCEES AT (205) 493-9559**

EXECUTIVE OFFICE: 404 N. MAIN ST. P.O. BOX 596, OPP, AL. 36467

# The Timber Rattlesnake

by Clark Shiffer

Reprinted with permission from  
The Pennsylvania Angler, October, 1987

The largest of the three poisonous snakes found in Pennsylvania, reaching a maximum of five feet, the timber rattlesnake (*Crotalus horridus horridus*) inhabits the mountainous regions of the state. It has been recorded from 46 counties. Another species of rattlesnake found in Pennsylvania, the Eastern Massasauga (*Sistrurus catenatus catenatus*), or swamp rattlesnake, is rare and is listed as an endangered species.

The timber rattlesnake has two color phases, yellow and black (the phases are permanent). Both have all-black tails. The yellow phase varies from a dull yellow to a rich lemon color, and the black phase varies anywhere from a brownish tint to a beautiful velvety black. It has been said that yellow phase rattlers are predominantly females and blacks are males, but colors cannot be correlated exactly with sex. Newborn timber rattlesnakes are gray with darker markings.

During the period from October or November to April or May, Pennsylvania timber rattlesnakes require secure hibernation sites extending below the frost line. These "dens", as they are called, are usually found on forested portions of rocky ridges, most often on slopes facing south. Deep cracks or crevices in the rocks provide access to underground retreats where temperatures of around 50 degrees F. prevail, even during the coldest winters.

When spring air temperatures reach about 60 degrees F. during the daytime, or exceed that temperature for a number of days in a row, the snakes emerge from hibernation. They initially bask in the immediate vicinity of the den, but most soon move to more open, rocky sites nearby. Here they bask in the sun for many days, moving into shaded areas when too warm, and beneath rocks during the cooler spring nights. Basking, or "sunbathing", is necessary so that the snake's body temperature is raised high enough to promote the proper functioning of various organs and assist in ridding the snake of parasites or disease organisms. The gonads of mature individuals, particularly, cannot begin the processes of maturation without a period of basking.

Contrary to statements handed down in the literature on timber rattlesnakes that they mate in the spring at the den and have young at the end of summer, year after year, it is now known that mating takes place primarily in July and August when males and unmated females are scattered throughout the forest. The snakes that remain closest to the den are those females that were

mated the previous summer. More than one of these "gravid" females may bask in the same area all summer long to bring developing eggs and embryos to full development slightly more than one year from the time the snakes were mated. They take no food during this time, drawing on the energy stored in fat reserves during one-and-a-half summers of previous feeding. They may drink rainwater, which collects in leaf or rock depressions.

Recent studies now indicate that timber rattlesnakes do not reach breeding readiness until about four to five years of age. Females, therefore, can only bear young for the first time when they are five to six years of age. In many parts of the north, another year may be added to these figures. Furthermore, sufficient time is required between births to build fat reserves, so females only have young every two to three years. Because the average timber rattlesnake may live to be 15 or 20 years of age, the long maturation period and low productive rate mean that many females may give birth only to five or six litters (each averaging seven to eight young) in their lifetime. Only a small percentage of the young rattlesnakes reaches adulthood and maturity. The species is very vulnerable to exploitation.

The principal food of timber rattlesnakes is mammals, mostly rodents, which make up about 90 percent of their diet. Birds, eggs, other mammals and amphibians are also eaten. Prey is primarily secured at night from an "ambush" position alongside a log or fallen limb. Their presence at or along streams has more to do with the availability of prey there and the heightened movements of males, particularly, during the mid- to late-summer breeding season.

While males and unmated females may range several or so miles from the den during the summer, all individuals move back to the den vicinity during the fall months, where they bask close to one another until cooler temperatures drive them underground for another hibernation. The same den is used year after year during the entire life individual rattlesnakes comprising a colony. Trans-located too far from their home den, the snakes may fail to find a suitable hibernating site in strange surroundings or fail to reproduce with others of their kind, because colonies are usually widely separated.

Although the hollow, interlocking rattle segments are supposedly used to warn of the rattlesnake's presence, the snake will strike without warning, but

only out of fear and the perceived need to defend itself. The primary use of the venom is in securing prey, so a strike under defensive conditions may or may not result in injection of venom. The snake can withhold venom at will. "Dry bites" are not uncommon.

Given a chance, most timber rattlesnakes will lie quietly or crawl away to the safety of a rock crevice. Human scent invokes fear in them and they are probably more afraid of us than we are of them. They are not aggressive and will not attack, but will stand their ground if forced to do so. Wanting only to be left alone to accomplish quietly what nature intended that they should, they are as characteristic of Pennsylvania as hemlock forests, whitetail deer, brook trout and mountain laurel, and deserve protection as part of our natural heritage.—Clark Shiffer is the Commission herpetology and endangered species coordinator.

## Letter To The Editor

Dear N.C.S. News

Here are a few pictures from our snake hunt for your newsletter.

Thank you for all of your help during our snake hunt and in the planning stages also. You gave us some valuable information and assistance that we really appreciated.

Good luck on your newsletter. It sounds like a lot of people are interested in this sort of thing. Your newsletter should prove to be a great source of information to all snake hunters and snake hunt coordinators as well. I look forward to reading your first issue.

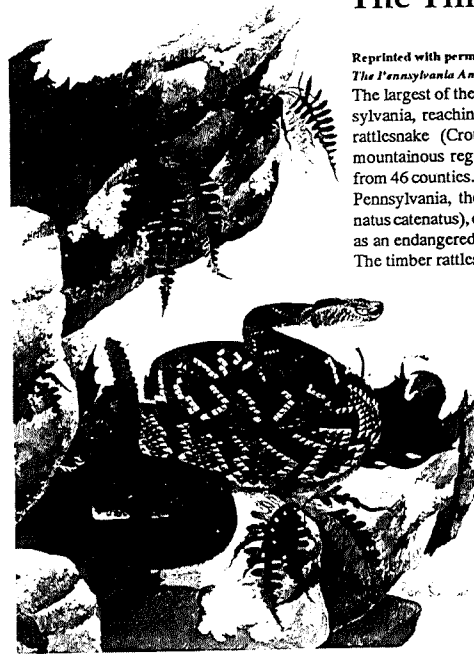
Wallace County is planning their next hunt on the weekend of May 1 & 2, 1993. We are going to try the Spring and see if we can gather in a few more snakes.

If you need any more information just give me a call. Let me know if I can help in any way.

Thanks Again,  
Deb Fischer  
Sharon Springs, Ks.



**HAVE A STORY,  
ARTICLE OR SOME-  
THING TO SAY?  
SEND IT TO  
N.C.S. NEWS**



**Subscribe to NCS News Today!**  
**THE National Crotalus Publication**

24th Annual

## Rattlesnake Hunt

and

**FLEA MARKET**

**Senior Citizen Center**

**Feb. 27-28, 1993**



For information contact...

**Oglesby Lions Club**

Oglesby, Texas

Phone 456-2382, 456-2214, 456-2575, 456-2554

HEART OF TEXAS SNAKE HANDLERS

**REGISTER SATURDAY MORNING**

No Snake Hunters  
registered after  
10 A. M. Sunday

No Professional snake hunters!  
Pri Admission: Adult \$2.00; thru high school \$1.00  
Hunter registration fee \$5.00—Children under 6 FREE

Hunters must sign safety pledge

- ✓ Big Dance
- ✓ Educational Displays
- ✓ Breakfast Sat. & Sunday
- ✓ Live Demonstrations
- ✓ Carnival Rides

Other delicious food served both days,  
Served from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

\$5.00 per person, \$10 per couple for Dance  
8-12 on Feb. 27, 1993

Top Prices paid for Snakes.

**CASH PRIZES**

and trophies for...

- Longest Snake
  - Smallest Rattlesnake
- (Plus Ten Pounds of Other Snakes)

## Editorial

By Larry Graf  
Publisher, N.C.S. News

For years now, pit show handlers have been accused of disseminating misstatements and misinformation by conservationists and herpetologists. In the HERP Bulletin, volume 17, No. 2 dated June 82, of the New York Herpetological Society, W.H. Martin of Harpers Ferry, West Virginia writes, "Rattlesnake roundups serve no useful purpose and should be prohibited." In this issue of N.C.S. News, Dr. Henry Fitch writes, "During the pit show, people got into a sleeping bag with snakes that were somehow fixed to minimize the risk."

Every snake hunt, show or roundup in the United States is sponsored by some form of community based non-profit organization which conduct these activities as fund raisers for their other community projects. In some cases, large amounts of funds raised, go to very worth while charities, such as Muscular Dystrophy. To flatly state that roundups serve no useful purpose, simply is NOT the truth.

During the pit show in Sharon Springs, Kansas, I was one of those people who got into a sleeping bag with snakes. Being involved with the show, I can assure Dr. Fitch, that those snakes were in no way Fixed. Statements such as these indicate that little or no time has been spent visiting with pit show people, handlers or hunt organizers, which contributes to the misunderstanding which obviously exists between conservationists and hunt enthusiasts. We at N.C.S. News do not want to sound ungrateful to Dr. Fitch for his contribution to our first issue, but we must point out that not all misstatements are made by handlers.

While most handlers, hunters and pit show people have no formal education in herpetology, many do possess years of experience, making them extremely knowledgeable. They are also bright enough to know that if you kill the Goose that lays the "Golden Egg", there won't be anymore golden eggs. A considerable amount of research time was spent getting ready for this issue, we encountered, many herpetologists who were extremely uncooperative when we explained our purpose. These same people profess a desire to educate the general public. It seems they fail to realize that each snake hunt attracts from

between 2,000 to 40,000 people each year. What better place to insure correct information is passed along. The conservationist movement could try for years and never reach this number of people.

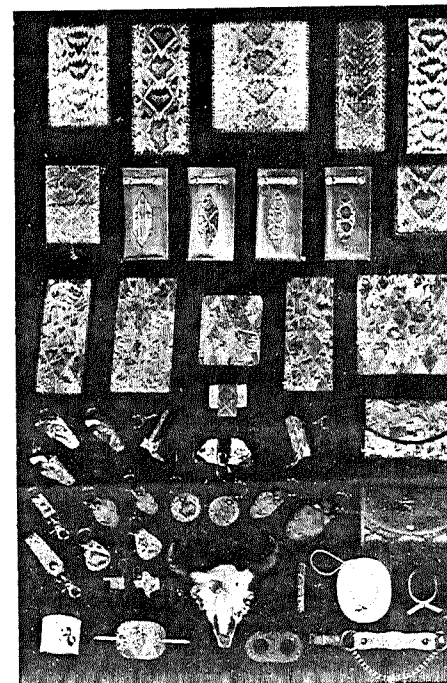
N.C.S. News has visited with most of the hunt organizers in the U.S. and have found a willingness on their part to work

with the conservationists, in order that, together we might dispel prevalent myths concerning rattlesnakes and to foster an understanding of the importance of all snakes in the ecosystem.

A little cooperation between hunt enthusiasts and conservationists would go a long way in changing the general

public's idea that "The only good snake, is a dead snake". N.C.S. News takes the position that you don't have to embrace someone's "TOTAL" convictions to cooperate in areas of mutual interest.

**ADVERTISING  
IN AMERICA'S  
ONLY  
SNAKE HUNTER'S  
NEWSPAPER  
MAKES SENSE!**



We have the finest quality products available anywhere. In the picture above are Wallets (tri-folds, bi-folds & Cowboy Wallets) business card cases, Checketerlas, all sizes & shapes keychains, hair barrettes, bootstraps, skull with rattlesnake through the eyes.



We are a  
wholesale  
company and you  
must have a  
**TAX NUMBER**  
to order from us!  
We welcome  
inquiries!



**Quality First & Then Quantity!**

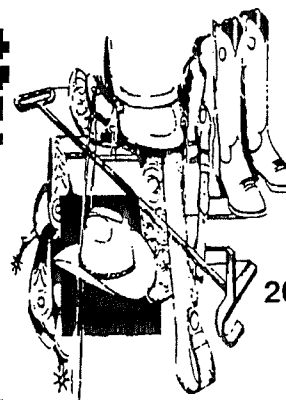
**800-275-6099**

**For Orders Only**  
*Rare Skins USA*

202 West Broadway Henryetta, Ok. 74437

918-652-7788 or 652-7118

Fax: 918-652-8876



February 11, 1993

Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
Senator Don Saltee, Chairperson:

My name is David Edds, and I am from Emporia. I appreciate the opportunity to comment on Senate Bill 137.

I am President of the Kansas Herpetological Society for 1993. The Kansas Herpetological Society is a 200-member state association of amateur and professional herpetologists interested in conserving our wildlife resources, especially the amphibian and reptile fauna of our state. While I do not presume to speak for each member, based on discussions at our annual meeting last fall, I believe what I have to say here reflects the views of the great majority of our membership.

We oppose Senate Bill 137. We oppose take of the prairie rattlesnake (Crotalus viridis) as proposed by this bill because there is no evidence that such harvest can be sustained. Indeed, studies of the harvest of western diamondback rattlesnakes (Crotalus atrox) in Texas indicate significant long-term consequences for those populations (Campbell et al., 1989).

Rattlesnakes are an important component of local ecosystems, being major predators of destructive rodent populations. Detailed studies of the effects of removal of rattlesnakes are critical, but have not been performed in Kansas.

The Kansas Herpetological Society has been on record since 1974 as opposing rattlesnake roundups. We continue to oppose events of this type because they are environmentally destructive, because of their cruel and inhumane treatment of snakes, because of the danger to participants and spectators from careless snake handling, and because they present attitudes toward wildlife that encourage its overexploitation and destruction.

Before exploitation of wildlife populations is allowed, it is critical that wildlife managers understand the current status of those populations, in terms of numbers, distribution and reproductive capacity. We know none of these things for Kansas populations of prairie rattlesnakes. To simply suppose they are doing fine could be disastrous to those populations.

Senate Bill 137 has no provision for bag limits on harvest of snakes. The basis of wildlife management is a knowledge of the number of individuals that can be harvested yet still sustain that harvest. Such information is lacking for prairie rattlesnakes in Kansas. It is almost certain that unlimited take would lead to decimation of populations.

Senate Energy & Nat'l Resources  
February 11, 1993  
Attachment 6

Another major principle of wildlife biology is to delay harvest until after a species' annual reproductive event. However, this bill proposes to allow harvest between March 1 and June 30, the breeding season of the prairie rattlesnake. Senate Bill 137 does not include provisions to prohibit take of breeding females, or of individuals that have not yet reached reproductive maturity. No population can sustain itself if it is not allowed to reproduce.

Sound wildlife management for sustainable yield prescribes population censuses before and after harvest. However, Senate Bill 137 does not limit the region of the proposed hunt. Without a fixed area, monitoring of harvest impacts becomes infeasible.

The Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP) Commission has already taken steps to address the question of commercialization of rattlesnakes in Kansas. A scenario similar to this arose in 1991 with regard to commercialization of freshwater mussels in Kansas. Faced with a deficiency of knowledge about the status of our mussel populations, but an increasing demand for their exploitation, KDWP funded research to study critical aspects of the biology of these animals in Kansas. Then, armed with data on the status of the resource, KDWP implemented prudent regulations for their harvest -- regulations that satisfied both harvesters and wildlife managers. Such a well-thought-out program through our state wildlife management agency seems to be called for in the case of prairie rattlesnakes.

Given the fact that many aspects of Senate Bill 137 are not supportive of sustainable yield and protection of this resource, and that certain provisions are in direct conflict with existing State statutes and regulations, the Kansas Herpetological Society urges you not to approve this bill. We support current protection against commercialization of reptiles and other wildlife in Kansas, including KSA 32-1002, which makes it unlawful to take wildlife, including reptiles, for sale, exchange, or other commercial purposes, and KAR 115-20-2, which establishes a possession limit of five for reptile species. We feel it is important to protect against commercialization of wildlife, for history shows how destructive this practice has been to wildlife populations in the past.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to comment.

STATE OF KANSAS



Joan Finney  
Governor

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE & PARKS

Theodore D. Ensley  
Secretary

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

900 SW Jackson St., Suite 502 / Topeka, Kansas 66612 - 1233  
(913) 296-2281 / FAX (913) 296-6953

S.B. 137

TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO: SENATE ENERGY & NATURAL RES. COM.

PROVIDED BY: KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND PARKS

FEBRUARY 10, 1993

S.B. 137 would create a special commercial prairie rattlesnake harvest permit. The permit price is set at \$3.00 for both residents and nonresidents if they have a valid (Kansas) hunting license. The permit price is set at \$20.50 for those that do not have a valid license.

The bill specifies that commercial harvest and sale of prairie rattlesnakes is prohibited except as provided by the bill. A commercial harvest time period is established from March 1 through June 30. Each person receiving a permit would be required to submit a report to the Wildlife Division of the Wildlife and Parks Department. That division would be responsible for designing the report. Commercial (harvest) purposes is defined as the harvest, taking or possession of five or more prairie rattlesnakes for the purpose of purchase, sale or trading.

Natural resource management is one of the primary statutory missions of this Department. It is a public responsibility the Department takes quite seriously. S.B. 137 authorizes a wildlife "taking" and commercialization of that wildlife taking, but excludes the Department from regulatory involvement with the activity. Problem areas with the bill include:

- The Department could not establish methods and means of take.
- The Department could not establish limits on the number of prairie rattlers taken, if such limits were needed.
- Anyone wishing to hold a commercial event could do so, as frequently as desired within the "taking" time period, and wherever desired.
- Commercialization would not be limited to established events.

Senate Energy & Nat'l Resources  
February 11, 1993  
Attachment 7

- Unclear who permit holders could sell to, probably only other permit holders. This means a harvester would also be a dealer and commercial dealers are treated differently in other commercial wildlife ventures.
- Persons taking less than 5 snakes under a special permit for a round-up event could not commercially dispose of their snakes.
- No provision is made for individuals who are exempt by law from securing a hunting license.
- A hunter education card would likely not be required. The hunter education course stresses subjects such as behavioral and resource ethics, landowner relations, first aid and survival training, basic wildlife management, care of harvested animals and hunter responsibility --- all in addition to firearms safety.
- "Taking" is already defined in K.S.A. 32-701 as including harvest and possession. It is not recommended that the "taking" definition be altered due to the enforcement confusion which ensues.
- The provision for a legal hunting license should also specify "issued to the individual".
- Commercial purposes is defined in K.S.A. 32-701 as meaning for a valuable consideration. A different definition appears in S.B. 137.
- Would allow for the sale of a wildlife meat. This is prohibited for other species of wildlife even if commercialization is permitted.

The rattlesnake round-up issue is relatively new to Kansas with the first such event held last fall in Sharon Springs. It was held under current regulations so the Department is not anti-roundup nor is it impossible to conduct a round-up. The issue has been discussed on three separate occasions during public Commission meetings. There has been strong support for the event by some and strong opposition by others. A decision has not been reached on possible regulatory changes, but discussions are continuing. Law enforcement issues were raised during the January Commission meeting and the Commission requested further discussion in that area at the March meeting.

The Department must oppose S.B. 137 because it removes the Department's authority to protect and manage a wildlife species. And the bill does not contain any built in resource protection and management measures.

## SEDGWICK COUNTY ZOO &amp; BOTANICAL GARDEN

5555 Zoo Boulevard  
Wichita, Kansas 67212  
Office (316)942-2213  
FAX(316)942-3781

## FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION COVER

DATE: 2/9/1993

NUMBER OF PAGES (including cover page) 1

TO: Legislative Administrative Services  
ATTENTION: Senator Don Saltee  
FROM: Eric M. Rands, Department of Herpetology

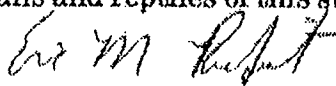
## MESSAGE:

Dear Senator Saltee,

By way of introduction, I am one of the co-founders and first president of the Kansas Herpetological Society and its current editor. I am currently employed as an herpetologist at the Sedgwick County Zoo. I am contacting you concerning Senate Bill No. 137 which comes before the Energy and Natural Resources Committee of the Senate on Thursday, 11 February.

As you know, this bill would authorize the commercial harvest of prairie rattlesnakes in the state of Kansas. I want to register my strong opposition to the passage of this bill. I am opposed to this bill for the following reasons: 1) the bill would set a dangerous precedent regarding commercialization of non-game wildlife in Kansas. There currently is a significant problem here with the illegal collection for sale of a variety of species of Kansas amphibians and reptiles and this bill would appear to open our borders to anyone who decides to take for profit one particular species, which, in my view, would lead to other laws being passed for any non-game species.; 2) The Kansas Wildlife and Parks Commission has been studying this issue for some time and has held two hearings on the subject so far. They will be taking final action on the issue at their March 4 meeting. These folks are uniquely qualified and empowered to deal with issues such as this and I feel passage to this bill strips them of their authority and credibility; 3) This bill, if passed, would conflict with existing state wildlife law and regulations; 4) The defined period for take (1 March-30 June) occurs during the only breeding period for this species and the take is unlimited. This is extremely irresponsible and bad wildlife management. I know of no state conservation agency that would allow harvest of any species under such conditions. In fact, when a commercial collectors category for wildlife existed in Kansas some years ago, this same period was defined as out-of-season for all amphibians and reptiles.

I recommend that you attempt to have non-game personnel from the Department of Wildlife and Parks attend and comment at your hearing. In addition, I also recommend that you contact Joseph T. Collins of the University of Kansas to testify. Mr. Collins is the foremost authority on the amphibians and reptiles of this state. Thank you for taking the time to read this communication



Senate Energy & Natl Resources  
February 11, 1993  
Attachment 8  
\*\*\*\*END\*\*\*\*



## SEDGWICK COUNTY ZOO

5555 Zoo Boulevard  
Wichita, Kansas 67212  
Office (316)942-2213  
FAX(316)942-3781

## FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION COVER

DATE: 2/10/1993NUMBER OF PAGES (including cover page) 1TO: Legislative Administration Services (913)296-1153ATTENTION: Senator Don SalleeFROM: Mark C. Reed, director

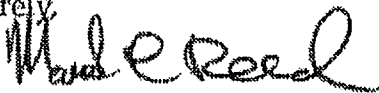
## MESSAGE:

Dear Senator Sallee,

I have been made aware of a bill that will come before your committee on 11 February and would like to comment on SB 137.

As you know, this bill, if passed, would allow the commercial take of prairie rattlesnakes in Kansas. As the director of the state's largest zoo and the largest tourist attraction in the state, I am concerned about this potential commercialization of one of our state's nongame wildlife resources. Prairie rattlesnakes are a significant member of the High Plains ecosystem and an important predator on destructive rodent populations. Conservation of our dwindling natural resources is the highest priority at the Sedgwick County Zoo and this bill, if passed, would set a very bad precedent for conservation in Kansas. Therefore, I have to state my opposition to SB 137.

Sincerely,



Mark C. Reed, director  
Sedgwick County Zoo

Senate Energy & Nat'l Resources  
February 11, 1993  
Attachment 9

\*\*\*END\*\*\*