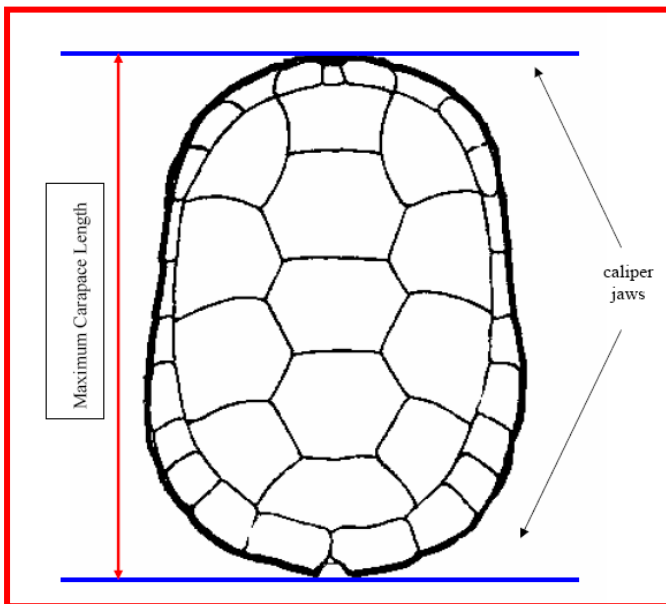


Box Turtle Education and Conservation Resources

The Box Turtle Connection: A Passageway into a Natural World.

By Ann Somers and Catherine E. Matthews. 2006.

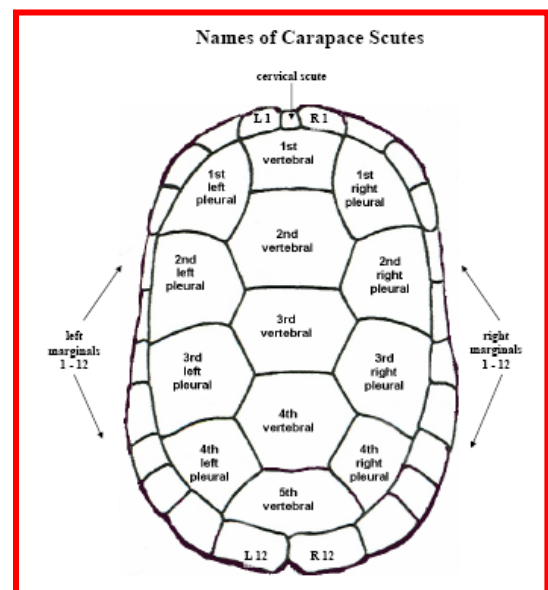
This 126 page manual is designed to introduce middle and high school teachers and students to the natural history of box turtles and to the simple field methods for studying box turtle natural history. The twenty-one chapters cover population status, causes of population declines, natural history, planning field research, guidelines for using reptiles and amphibians in field research, conducting surveys, age and gender determination, field equipment, marking techniques, radio telemetry, landowner relations, and specific activities that can be used with students. Ann and Catherine emphasize the importance of conducting investigations with care, organization, and thoughtfulness so that turtles are not harmed or stressed. Their book is a great compendium of useful information aimed at secondary school students and



teachers, but their book is so thorough and detailed that it is recommended for undergraduates and even graduate students who might want to study box turtles. Anyone with an interest in box turtles or who is contemplating starting their own population studies should read this interesting and useful book. The Box Turtle Connection includes 34 figures and photos, as well as 9 appendices and a glossary of terminology.

This manual may be downloaded as a pdf at no charge from Ann Sommers' web page.

The address is:
<http://www.uncg.edu/~absomers/BoxTurtleBook.pdf>.



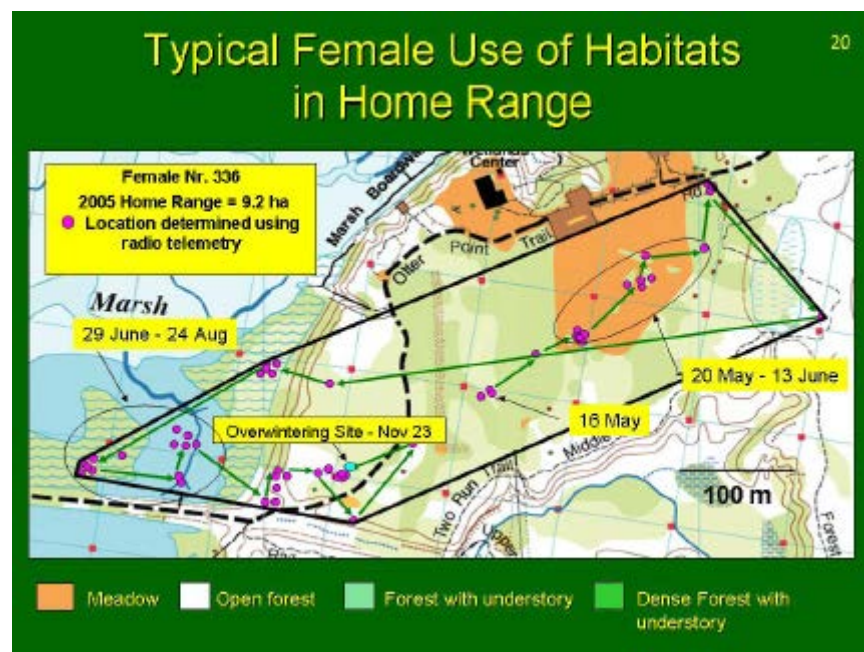
Eastern Box Turtles: Disappearing Gems of the Forest

By Sandra Barnett. Power Point Presentation on CD. Copyright, Mid-Atlantic Turtle and Tortoise Society, 2006.

This superbly researched and illustrated presentation should be included in any program of study involving box turtles. The CD includes two slide show presentations about the eastern box turtle, *Terrapene carolina carolina*. The presentations begin with a description of the species and its distribution, then take the audience through a year in the life of these fascinating turtles. The presentations also discuss natural predators of box turtles, and the reasons why these turtles, which have successfully inhabited North America for millions of years, are now disappearing from our forests. The slide shows end with a host of suggestions as to what people of all ages can do to help save this animal.



One presentation is aimed at a middle school audience (grades 6 through 8) and runs about 25 minutes. The other is for a general audience, ranging from high school age on up and runs about 35 minutes. Included with each presentation is a script that can be printed and is meant to be read aloud by a teacher as the images are shown. To obtain a copy, send your mailing address, email address, and \$3.00 per copy to: Sandy Barnett, 335 Stafford Drive, Baltimore, MD 21228.



With the Grain: A website at <http://www.wtgrain.org>

With the Grain is an organization dedicated to educating people and especially landowners about their effect on the environment while motivating them to make informed, responsible decisions. The web site focuses on conservation and land management issues, specifically on the eastern box turtle and offers many practical techniques for landowners to initiate for effective stewardship of this species. Check the section on the web page called Habitat from Humanity (<http://www.wtgrain.org/w1turtle.htm>), where Gary Stock offers unvarnished, practical steps for landowners to use to support the habitat requirements eastern box turtles.

An example of the type of information contained in the landowner's guide is shown below:

Overwintering Habitats

"In fall, most turtles seek out such a windfall, even if it's small or shallow. They enter, then 'dig' a winter burrow, descending from two to ten (or even more) inches below ground surface. They back into soft soil, alternately opening and closing the rear shell, then sliding or pushing backward into the resulting cavity.

The safest soil is loose and permeable, topped with both decayed and fresh leaf litter. Some animals work through heavier soil, though less deeply. One benefit of a brush pile may be that it encourages invertebrates and small mammals to churn and loosen the soil beneath. Digging is easier, and good drainage assures moisture, without pooling of water."

A Working Guide to the Scientific Literature on Box Turtles (Terrapene)

Maintained by Ken Dodd

An up-to-date reference list of the scientific publications and reports on life history, ecology, population status, evolution, fossil record, external morphology, and conservation. Compiled by Dr. Ken Dodd (retired USGS scientist and herpetologist). This is an excellent source to find literature and scientific papers written about box turtles.

http://cars.er.usgs.gov/Center_Publications/box_turtle_bib1/box_turtle_bib1.html.

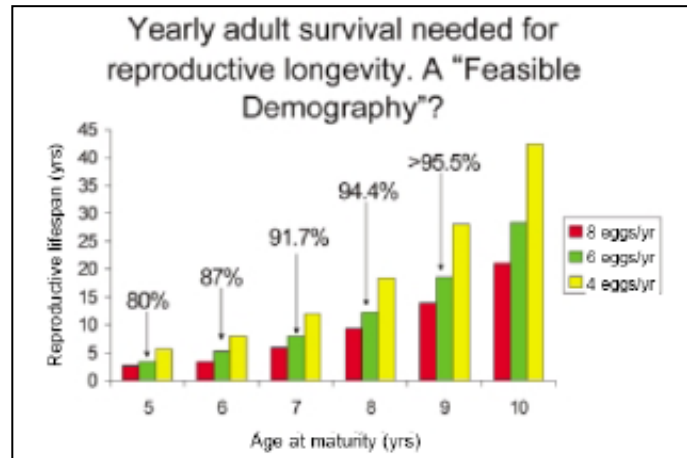
Summary of the Eastern Box Turtle Regional Conservation Workshop.

Edited by Chris Swarth and Susan Hagood (2004)

This 32-page report is a summary of a workshop held on September 28, 2004, at the National Wildlife Visitors Center at the Patuxent Research Refuge in Laurel, Maryland. Sponsored by Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary and The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), the workshop was the first in a series of workshops on the conservation of the eastern box turtle (*Terrapene carolina carolina*). The goal of this workshop was to bring together individuals actively engaged in box turtle research and conservation to assess the status of this species and the challenges it faces. The report discusses the population status and conservation of the eastern box turtle and recommendations for actions necessary to ensure its survival.

Includes summaries of six presentations and five breakout sessions, a list of participants and their contact information, appendices, a list of state regulations and short Literature section.

The report is available by going to the web site of the Humane Society of the United States (<http://www.hsus.org>) and by typing Box Turtles in the Search window.



Box Turtles Conservation. (<http://www.boxturtleconservation.org/index.html>)

The "Box Turtle Conservation" web page was created by Brian Wallace, Sandy Barnett, John Groves, Susan Hagood, and Christopher Swarth, organizers of the 3rd Box Turtle Conservation and Ecology Workshop. The web site summarizes the workshop held in November 2007, in Edgewater, Maryland.



Eighteen papers and seven posters were presented and all abstracts are available on the web site. The workshop had about 120 participants from 22 states and the District of Columbia. The keynote speaker, Dr. John Iverson of Earlham College, described his 25 years of research into the life history strategies and ecology of ornate box turtles in the Sand Hills of Nebraska. Author David Carroll spoke at the banquet about his natural history observations of turtles and their habitats, and his views on the future of natural habitats and wildlife in New England.

The Box Turtles in Trouble web site describes the Lucille Stickel Award. This award was established at this workshop to in order to provide modest funding to support research which contributes to the survival of wild box turtle populations. One or more research grants will be awarded annually following a competitive proposal review process. Requirements for submission of proposals will be posted on this web site. The web site (Publications tab) includes an easy link to downloading the pdf of the 2004 workshop summary.