

Biology and Conservation of Snakes

July 22–26 2019



Location: Highlands Biological Station, Highlands, North Carolina

Instructor: Dr. Christopher L. Jenkins
Chief Executive Officer, The Orianne Society
Chairman, IUCN Viper Specialist Group
Adjunct Faculty, University of Georgia

General Description:

Students will be introduced to the global diversity of snakes, snake biology and conservation, and the natural history and ecology of Southern Appalachian Snakes. The daily schedule will include a morning lecture followed by a field trip returning around 5-6 PM each day. Lectures will include live animals and field trips will be heavily focused on learning field techniques and natural history.

Daily Schedule:

Day 1: Lecture on the distribution and diversity of Southern Appalachian snakes. Field trip to a foothills site to sample for snakes using cover boards.

Day 2: Lecture on global distribution and diversity of snakes. Field trip to a wetland to sample for water snakes including funnel trapping and mark recapture techniques.

Day 3: Lecture on snake ecology with a focus on thermal ecology, foraging and feeding, and reproduction and life histories. Field trip to a series of rattlesnake gestation sites including occupancy monitoring.

Day 4: Lecture on the status of and threats to snake populations globally and in the Southern Appalachians. Field trip to survey for stream snakes such as queen snakes.

Day 5: Lecture on conservation of snakes. Field trip to visit Orianne Society on the ground conservation projects in the region.

Required Equipment:

Hiking Boots, Turtleskin Snake proof Gaiters, rubber boots or river sandals.

Required Reading:

Select Chapters in **Snakes Ecology and Behavior** and in **Snakes Ecology and Conservation** (these will be provided to the students by the instructor)

Snakes of the Southeast. 2nd ed. Whit Gibbons and Michael Dorcas. 2015. University of Georgia Press. (~\$20 through Amazon)