

Dedicated to the Memory of
Commissioner Enoch S. "Inky" Moore Jr.



PLAY

Pennsylvania • League • of • Angling • Youth

by Miranda Smith

Pennsylvania's Snakes

Aren't snakes spectacular?

The sight of a snake or even the thought of a snake will bring mixed reactions from people. Some people think they are splendid. Others find them scary. The truth is snakes really are spectacular creatures.

We have 21 species of snakes in Pennsylvania. Only three species are venomous.

Snakes play an important role in our environment. All snakes are predators. Many of the small animals they eat are considered pests. In turn, snakes also serve as food for other animals.

Unfortunately, people often kill snakes. They are afraid or have false beliefs about snakes. If you see a snake, it is best to watch it from a distance.

Many snakes are species protected by regulations. This means it is illegal to kill or take and keep a snake as a pet. For a current list of protected species, visit the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission's website or look in a current *Pennsylvania Fishing Summary* book.

In this issue of *PLAY*, you will learn all about snakes. Perhaps, you will learn that some things you thought were true about snakes are actually false.

A large Eastern Hognose Snake is coiled on a bed of straw. The snake has a distinctive pattern of dark brown and tan blotches. Its head is raised, and its mouth is slightly open, showing a pinkish tongue. A speech bubble is positioned near the snake's head.

IT'S **GREAT**
TO BE A **SNAKE!**

Eastern
Hognose
Snake