

1982

## Excellence in Science Teaching Awards

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To maintain healthy natural populations of tiger salamanders, it follows that marshes and woods must be within the adult's normal migratory distance. Without a doubt, populations of tiger salamanders have decreased in Iowa due to the drainage of marshes and the felling of woods for agriculture. Possibly the highest concentration of tiger salamanders in Iowa today is in Dickinson County, due to the abundance of habitat.

Tiger salamanders are remarkably adaptive and hearty animals. Both captive larvae and adults will eat insects and earthworms and can be trained to eat raw hamburger, liver and lunch meat. The less active adults may be fed two or three times a week while growing larvae should be fed every day. Captive adults do best in a terrarium with moist soil. Larvae can be held in an aquarium as if they were tropical fish but should be checked frequently for the presence of dark spots and the disappearance of gills and median fin, which indicate the onset of metamorphosis. At this time it is fun to put a substrate in the tank to give the animals the option of crawling out. Behavioral changes may then be observed.

#### References

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Johnson, T.R. 1977. *The amphibians of Missouri*. University of Kansas Museum of Natural History. Pub. Ed. Ser. No. 6. ix and 134 pp.  
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#### Excellence in Science Teaching Awards

The 1982 recipients of the Iowa Excellence in Science Teaching Awards were as follows:

##### Elementary

Chris Rohret, Penn Elementary School, North Liberty

##### Junior High

Donald Perschau, Meredith Jr. High School, Des Moines

##### Biology

Eugene Balk, Mason City Community High School, Mason City

##### Chemistry

Larry Dean, Saydel Consolidated Schools, Des Moines

##### Earth Science

Karen Murphy, Weeks Jr. High School, Des Moines

##### Physics

Claison Groff, Grand Community Schools, Boxholm