

**Account:** South Carolina State Parks

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## South Carolina State Parks

at 19:00:01 on 7/17/2015 UTC

Nature at its finest. This is a picture taken at Keowee-Toxaway State Park by Ranger Bart Joy. It shows a Kingsnake killing a Copperhead. Kingsnakes use constriction to kill their prey and often kill venomous snakes! How cool is that?



**Toni Chaney** Awesome picture Ranger Bart!

at 19:03:03 on 7/17/2015 UTC



**Maggie Ruth Cochrane** that's why you don't kill the kingsnake.....

at 19:04:46 on 7/17/2015 UTC



**Connie Clayton Rule** David Rule

at 19:13:21 on 7/17/2015 UTC



**Vicki Tymon** King snakes can hang out in my yard all they want, even though they still freak me out.

at 19:14:56 on 7/17/2015 UTC



**OK Marie** Always someone bigger and/or badder than you!

at 19:15:11 on 7/17/2015 UTC



**Charley Foster** Janet McCall Chapman Black Snakes are Good !!!

at 19:16:16 on 7/17/2015 UTC



**Katy Talerico** Love king snakes! I been lookin for awhile now at wildlife rescue and rehab places to purchase wild king snakes so I can set them free on my property. Although I probably have some already, just haven't seen em yet. I've only found black, corn, and copperhead snakes so far.

at 19:19:44 on 7/17/2015 UTC



**Brian Michael Reapp Jr.** Elle Wynter Price

at 19:21:35 on 7/17/2015 UTC



**Angie Gates Bertsch** We camped there in May and saw a copperhead. Go king snake go!

at 19:22:51 on 7/17/2015 UTC



**Ray Wilkes** Melissa White

at 19:23:09 on 7/17/2015 UTC



**Sandy Erwin Hendon** That's a great pic!

at 19:23:11 on 7/17/2015 UTC



**Charles Robinson** Will Hand

at 19:23:36 on 7/17/2015 UTC



**Linda Adams Swittenberg** John says "Good job Kingsnake!" He said that rattlesnake just got karma! That Mama-- Christy Turner Hannon  
at 19:23:36 on 7/17/2015 UTC



**Lisa Wylie Hartzog** As far as I am concerned, that is VERY cool! The fewer venomous snakes the better!!!!  
at 19:27:39 on 7/17/2015 UTC



**Ben Stegenga** Very cool observation! However, let's not downplay the importance of venomous snakes, such as copperheads and rattlesnakes. They all have their place in nature and play very different, yet crucial roles in the environment. For example, timber rattlesnakes control the spread of Lyme disease and other tick-borne diseases by consuming up to 4,000 ticks (attached to their prey) every year. Also, lots of modern day medicines and treatments for cancers, heart attack, stroke, blood clots, etc. come from snake venoms, including copperheads and various rattlesnakes.  
at 19:40:18 on 7/17/2015 UTC



**Katherine M. Long** Cody Robinson, you know how I feel about snakes, but this picture is just too cool...  
at 19:43:25 on 7/17/2015 UTC



**Kerri Parker** Don't like king snakes, but love that they kill venomous ones!  
at 19:47:54 on 7/17/2015 UTC



**Jo Zukas** Where can I order a dozen or so King Snakes???  
at 19:49:12 on 7/17/2015 UTC



**Darren Kirby** Omg I'm not scared I'm taking my pet king snake with me after I find it lol  
at 19:49:41 on 7/17/2015 UTC



**Susan Ralston** That is Very cool!  
at 19:51:17 on 7/17/2015 UTC



**Samantha Clark McManus** Hmmmm...not so much! I can live without a close encounter!  
at 19:55:18 on 7/17/2015 UTC



**Ben Stegenga** Releasing snakes that were raised in captivity or relocated long distances often don't do well if released in an unfamiliar area. They'll often wander in search of the area where they came from. They may also have trouble finding a suitable den site for the winter. Both of these factors lead to a very low survival rate, so it's best to not release new snakes on your property. However, you can attempt to make your property snake-friendly. Kingsnakes can be super secretive, so you may have them on your land already!  
at 19:58:12 on 7/17/2015 UTC



**Bill Bowen** Seen things like that when I work at Keowee-Toxaway, seen bears bobcats all kinds of critters when I was there.  
at 19:59:32 on 7/17/2015 UTC



**Jim Rhinehart** Love my resident kingsnake. Lets me know he's around about once a year.  
at 20:00:36 on 7/17/2015 UTC



**Jennifer Packard** I just sent sue, kristen and patty a picture of mr. Snake having dinner in the egg box. Just a black snake, i am not going to bother him.  
at 20:04:45 on 7/17/2015 UTC



**Katy Talerico** You're right, I forgot about that. I read somewhere that snakes will travel long distances to return where they came from. I was looking to acquire some for awhile then gave up for that reason. And like you said, hopefully they're around! I have to swerve to avoid running them over on my neighborhood roads so I know they are close by 😊  
at 20:06:48 on 7/17/2015 UTC

**Herman Henrick** We have lots of Kingsnakes and no Copperheads. Go figure!



at 20:10:31 on 7/17/2015 UTC



**Laurie Korn Blackmon** You took the words right out of my mouth!!

at 20:14:50 on 7/17/2015 UTC



**Laurie Korn Blackmon** King snakes are truly awesome.....

at 20:15:16 on 7/17/2015 UTC



**Sharon Morrison** Which is which?

at 20:22:41 on 7/17/2015 UTC



**Carolyn Cook** Love my king snakes!!! Never ever kill them!!!

at 20:22:51 on 7/17/2015 UTC



**Ben Stegenga** You're welcome! :)

at 20:26:40 on 7/17/2015 UTC



**Kelly Rahn** Shannon: see all snakes aren't bad. Show 'em some love.

at 20:28:41 on 7/17/2015 UTC



**Kristin Waite Smith** Kerry Waite Richardson

at 20:30:10 on 7/17/2015 UTC



**Terry Raines** Jamie Raines Heather DeVault

at 20:32:45 on 7/17/2015 UTC



**Kerry Richardson** 👍👍👍

at 20:34:06 on 7/17/2015 UTC



**Misty N Chad Gittens** Go Kingsnake

at 20:37:07 on 7/17/2015 UTC



**Nancy Vaught** Thank you to the Kingsnake.

at 20:38:20 on 7/17/2015 UTC



**Renee Bagwell Britt** Scooter Britt

at 20:40:42 on 7/17/2015 UTC



**Ron Audas** King snakes and Rat ( Chicken )snakes are our friends.

at 20:42:55 on 7/17/2015 UTC



**Pam Fowler** never kill a King Snake, wish I had one at my house!!

at 20:48:50 on 7/17/2015 UTC



**Patrick Van Every** Love King Snakes so beautiful.

at 20:53:43 on 7/17/2015 UTC



**Joy Garrett Kinard** Barry Kinard Riley Kinard Jordan Kinard

at 20:59:19 on 7/17/2015 UTC



**John Silbernagel** ...and eat them.

at 21:02:15 on 7/17/2015 UTC



**Steven Jakubowicz** Cool picture, not often you see it happen. Kings are good to have around.

at 21:03:36 on 7/17/2015 UTC



**Linda Merck** Does a black snake kill copper heads some say they do and some say it only the king snakes  
at 21:07:53 on 7/17/2015 UTC



**Heather DeVault** That's pretty sweet##  
at 21:09:25 on 7/17/2015 UTC



**Ty Moore** Cool  
at 21:12:27 on 7/17/2015 UTC



**Ben Stegenga** Yeah, I've been working with snakes for over 12 yrs and I've only ever found 2 eastern kingsnakes. I know they're around and have friends who find them, but I just haven't been in the right place at the right time. If you see them nearby, then I'm sure you have them on your property, especially if you have all those other species. They're just crazy secretive!  
at 21:13:27 on 7/17/2015 UTC



**Ty Moore** King snakes will eat king snakes. I have seen it  
at 21:14:33 on 7/17/2015 UTC



**Paula Floyd** Geaux king snake!  
at 21:14:59 on 7/17/2015 UTC



**Jenine Coonis Williams** wow  
at 21:17:03 on 7/17/2015 UTC



**Cathy Moore Fulghum** The copperhead is the brownish color, and the king snake is wrapped around him.  
at 21:23:13 on 7/17/2015 UTC



**Stephen Lamphier** I've seen quite a few of them in west ga where I hunt. Consequently I've never seen a poisonous snake out there.... here's one I ran into after a rain storm a few years ago



at 21:33:43 on 7/17/2015 UTC



**Jim Galloway** That is cool. Both snakes are beautiful, especially the copperhead.  
at 21:41:13 on 7/17/2015 UTC



**Karen Kinsel** Yay?  
at 21:50:32 on 7/17/2015 UTC



**Ben Stegenga** Black rat snakes don't eat other snakes. They primarily eat rodents and birds. However, every rodent that a rat snake eats on your property is one less rodent that could potentially attract a venomous snake to your property. Black racers, which are also a black-colored snake will occasionally eat other snakes, including copperheads, but it's not their primary food.

at 21:59:35 on 7/17/2015 UTC



**Linda Merck** Thanks so much Ben Stegenga i seen black snakes around but didn't know for sure we have woods all around us and i sure dont want to see no copperheads

at 22:04:36 on 7/17/2015 UTC



**Bryn Harmer** Awesome!!!!

at 22:17:38 on 7/17/2015 UTC



**Joyce Prentice Coonis** Awesome!

at 22:22:39 on 7/17/2015 UTC



**Joe Reynolds** What if the poisonous snake bites the non poisonous snake. Are they immune to the venom ?

at 22:23:11 on 7/17/2015 UTC



**Will Hand** why i keep em around.

at 22:26:47 on 7/17/2015 UTC



**Ebenezer Bleezer** Hey Elieli Eli Chastain - are those tech colors?

at 22:27:49 on 7/17/2015 UTC



**Pat Tatham** Where can I get a king snake?

at 22:40:50 on 7/17/2015 UTC



**Ebien-Pesa Matthew** I love all snakes from spitting cobras to mambas to garter snakes.

at 22:44:40 on 7/17/2015 UTC



**Susan Hilton** Love it!!

at 22:55:56 on 7/17/2015 UTC



**Keishea McGriff-Mickles** That's why I stay out of their territory. Period!

at 22:57:01 on 7/17/2015 UTC



**Tommy Johnson** I love my Kingsnakes... They help me keep the copperheads at bay....

at 22:58:58 on 7/17/2015 UTC



**Adella Thompson** I

Hate

Snakes.... Remember???

at 23:00:19 on 7/17/2015 UTC



**Lisa Hintz** Yes they are immune to venomous snake bites or so it is believed. However it isn't known if they are immune to the neurotoxic venom of elipadaes such as the coral snake.

at 23:02:28 on 7/17/2015 UTC



**Marci Miller Jungbluth** Geeeeross!

at 23:12:23 on 7/17/2015 UTC



**Greg Decker** Tigger says payback time!

at 23:15:10 on 7/17/2015 UTC



**Scott Reaves** Sam Gary

at 23:25:05 on 7/17/2015 UTC





**Kathy Jacobs** Down with ALL snakes!  
at 23:35:04 on 7/17/2015 UTC



**Kevin Heaton** I love King Snakes



at 23:45:38 on 7/17/2015 UTC



**Chris Davis** That's they're named 'king'snake  
at 23:46:59 on 7/17/2015 UTC



**Jackie Rhodes** So cool!  
at 23:47:11 on 7/17/2015 UTC



**Ben Stegenga** No problem!  
at 23:49:08 on 7/17/2015 UTC



**Ben Stegenga** It actually isn't a good idea to kill any snake...  
at 23:58:00 on 7/17/2015 UTC



**Betty Harrington Jordan** We have a resident Kingsnake that hangs out around the outside garage and is welcome to stay as long as he likes. We may have to rethink this if he attacks our Bluebird houses.  
at 0:04:04 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Diane Braswell** Love the king snakes!  
at 0:05:05 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Ben Stegenga** Without snakes we'd be plagued with disease, crop damage, and property damage. Not to mention our medication and treatment for certain cancers, heart attack, stroke, blood clots, etc. all came from snake venom and save MILLIONS of lives every year. Snakes do a lot more than most people realize, and they deserve our respect and protection.  
at 0:07:29 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Bobby Harris** I need to get about a dozens King Snakes and turn them loose in my backyard since Richmond County will not come out and clean up their latest Drain off pond on Windsor Springs Road. They came out and cut almost all the timber and dug the whole to accommodate the Wal Mart that was coming to South Augusta. Well I guess after dig it you just cut the grass every couple of months and don't tell me call 311 have did that 12 times to no avail. Still a snake haven right behind my back fence.  
at 0:07:29 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Carolyn Mills Gaskins Easterling** I've seen this before and it's crazy to watch.

at 0:12:49 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Ben Stegenga** A simple cone-shaped baffle on the post or pole holding the birdhouse will effectively keep snakes from getting to the nest. :)

at 0:13:13 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Damian Lavaun Gaskins** Tami SHenry

at 0:17:32 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Lewis Jones** That's a big copperhead too.

at 0:33:10 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Travis LaFlamme** Playa gotta eat!

at 0:33:37 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Carrie Greaves** Or a black snake, even if they are 4 feet long :-)

at 0:34:57 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Ben Stegenga** Absolutely. That's nature. And one of the roles venomous snake play is being food for other animals. I just don't like it when people categorize snakes as either "good snakes" or "bad snakes". There's no such thing as a bad snake. They're all equally important and deserve our respect.

at 0:38:54 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Dell Sasser** I have seen this happen twice in the wild. First time was when I was five years old. I will never forget how the king snake tied the copperhead in knots and how easily he loosened them.

at 0:42:02 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**SpiritCurves Gregor** heck yea, I wan a King Snake !! Kelley Campbell needs one too :)

at 0:54:28 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Kelley Campbell** I need 5! My yard seems full of rat snakes the past couple years. Me likey.

at 0:58:08 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Jane Craft Lybrand** I need to borrow a kingsnake to take care of the 3rd copperhead I have encountered in my yard thus far this summer!

at 0:58:49 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Jill Howard Iser** eek! ... and neat. Bart Joy, Bart Joy?

at 1:02:12 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Bill Lanier** I hate copperheads

at 1:38:12 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Jeanine Hausaman** That's a big Copperhead too!!😄😄😄

at 1:46:57 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Cynthia Faber Smith** Considering that I killed 300 ticks off one dog in an afternoon doesn't make 4000 seem impressive. Lol

at 1:50:11 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Jeanine Hausaman** Snakes? NO. Enough found in the suburbs...😄

at 1:51:34 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Ben Stegenga** That's 4000 per each snake. A population of snakes could eliminate hundreds of thousands of ticks every year. That's hundreds of thousands of ticks that won't attach to your dog or you, and hundreds of thousands of ticks that won't reproduce. Now if you consider that a single tick can lay thousands of eggs, even a small population of snakes can

remove MILLIONS of ticks from the environment every year. And since they eat rodents that are much smaller than dogs, then yes, it is impressive.

at 1:57:36 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Laura Hooton** David Hooton- more snakes stuff- wow!

at 2:14:27 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Christina Hunt** Carol Scranton this is why you want to keep that King snake around!

at 2:18:32 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Rachel Alderton** Russ Thomas

at 2:24:23 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Becky Barron** Need some King snakes.

at 2:32:15 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Susan Hunt Gilkey** It's cool but I'd still rather be in Ireland!

at 2:34:30 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Nancy Edwards Reid** Amy I hope this picture isn't going to keep you from camping at Keowee Toxaway park.

at 2:42:15 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Bart Joy** That would be the one. It was really cool

at 2:43:09 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Wanda Harris** Yikes!

at 2:45:27 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Manella Calhoun** Go Bart!

at 3:05:27 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Heidi Thomson** Sarah Cannon Joy how cool is this?!? I saw Bart's name right away! Tell him we all said hello, especially William. The three kiddos still have their ranger badges 😊

at 3:08:13 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Sherri Simpson** Awesome

at 3:11:06 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Chris Winter** Kingsnake n king Cobra both get their names the same way, it's what's for dinner...and Copperheads are really beautiful

at 3:13:25 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Beth Baily-Billmeyer** The king snake is black?

at 3:33:17 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Karen Lucking** Awesomeㄿㄿ

at 3:47:26 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Rowena Sim** It makes me wonder if the King snake population is making a resurgence. We've had a few sitings on our property when weren't even looking for them.

at 3:47:34 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Ben Stegenga** I sure hope so! I'd love to see them more often.

at 3:49:37 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Jee Kamma Palmer** I will have a bad dream to night.

at 4:05:29 on 7/18/2015 UTC





**Colleen Pemberton** Garrett Bateman

at 4:32:12 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Brenda Sanders Crocker** I hope they. Kill each other

at 4:47:14 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Jackie Morgan** Go King Snake!

at 4:48:58 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Ben Stegenga** Yes, the kingsnake is the black and white one.

at 5:26:30 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Teresa Rice Hayes** I wish there had been a king snake around to kill the copperhead that bit our dog the other day.

at 5:32:33 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Tray Asbell** kings are super cool snakes! the last king I saw was at pauls house and was about seven foot long!...it was the largest snake I have seen in a long time!

at 6:08:19 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Lin House** Cool thing is...not a single bone in the Copperhead's body will be broken! No crushing. Kingsnake just "takes up the slack" everytime the Copperhead breathes.

at 6:09:22 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**BJ Smith** You go "Kingsnake" !!!

at 6:20:04 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Kristi Cornett** Interesting, I did not know that! While not a huge snake fan I appreciate them more now as I hate ticks. Pretty sure there's no use for ticks though. Those suckers could disappear lol

at 9:42:51 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Carolyn Bauknight** King snakes are the best

at 9:43:24 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**June Broad** The delicate balance of nature engineered and set into motion by the one true God.

at 10:38:53 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Amy W Cooper** I think I still don't like ANY snakes....but they serve a purpose

at 10:46:39 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Elizabeth Bethel** This is not something I like to think about, let alone look at!

at 11:02:30 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Ken Sislak** Come out and play in SC State Parks? Copperhead snakes? Yikes.

at 11:10:30 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Samantha Sotello** Gracie

at 11:15:01 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Steven Kramer** See Steve Kramer even snakes don't like snakes, case closed.

at 11:24:52 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Dawn S Cozort** Well I don't like any of them

at 11:34:27 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Brian Graves** And the copperhead has 2 yellow jackets on his mouth. He is just having a real bad day.

at 11:34:46 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Elger Hawkins** good snake  
at 11:39:24 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Jacque Rogers Foster** Andrea MacNamara Jacoby  
at 11:42:52 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Julie Lord Harrington** Jim  
at 11:45:20 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Derik Shelor** Eric Skid Siglin, you might find this interesting. Still getting copperheads?  
at 11:52:19 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Patricia Gore** Long live the king  
at 12:12:00 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Kathy Swanson** I have a picture we took at Croft State Park of the same event. Love it. The balance of nature. Leave them alone.  
at 12:32:47 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Bob Brusch** Cool  
at 12:35:45 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Brad Simon** Took this one last month. Was heading to work. Got out, took pictures, and pushed him in the grass/off the road.



at 12:41:03 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Lynda Tobey** Seeing anything kill anything is sickening! Thanks for the coffee break  
at 12:51:49 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Tara Christen** Lou - thought you would like this picture  
at 13:03:54 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Lou Cattano** What a cool shot. Thanks for sharing.  
at 13:04:46 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Luke Norris** Don't mess with the devil!  
at 13:10:45 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Wes Covington** Charlie Covington  
at 13:11:42 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Phyllis Smith** That's interesting. Just let them be where I'm not.  
at 13:23:04 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Kim Brody** While venomous snakes may have a place in the ecosystem, I don't want them at my place where they endanger the animals under my care. Can I buy king snakes and release them in my woods to control venomous snakes, rodents, etc? On the west coast lowes sells ladybugs to release in the garden and eat aphids. Wondering if can do something similar by tipping the scales in favor of the king snake.

at 13:23:43 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Kim Brody** I just saw I was not the first to think of that. Others replied low survival rate of domestic snakes released in the wild. Would it be the same for a breeding pair acquired locally?

at 13:26:42 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Ronnie Gunter** Snake. It's what's for dinner.

at 13:31:27 on 7/18/2015 UTC

**Tags:** hidden



**MaryAnn Williams** WOW SNAKE KILL A SNAKE WOW

at 14:06:37 on 7/18/2015 UTC (*hidden*)



**James Smith** We take care of our King Snakes in NC as well !!! They are always welcome I have a great respect for nature ... I fell in a spring nest of Copperheads as a 5 yr old and survived ... so I will always respect the Pit Vipers, but i welcome King Snakes anytime !

at 14:14:48 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Bruce Deal** I was lucky enough to witness this next to my house a couple of weeks ago.



at 14:33:20 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Laurie Myrick** Seriously?!?! Maybe you could talk the Rangers into telling the snakes they can't live there.....

at 14:37:48 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Cindy Jackson** Sarah Cannon Joy you tell Bart he did good!

at 14:46:04 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Emily Wallis-Oswald** Ronald Dean Wallis, you were right about always saying King snakes are good:)

at 15:21:53 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Jeffrey Coykendall** King Snakes give "royal lifts"

at 15:22:05 on 7/18/2015 UTC



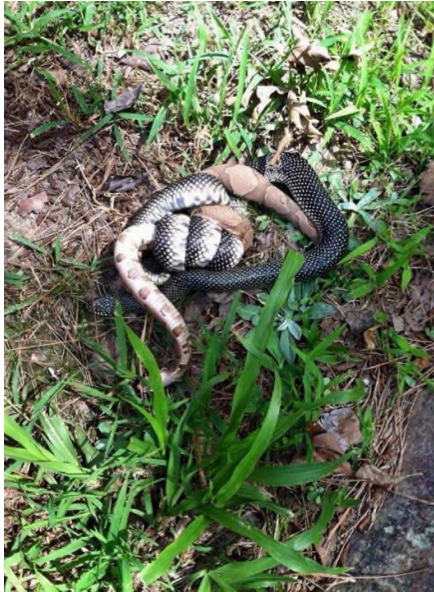
**Courtney Rebovich** Yay!  
at 15:27:59 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Mike Smith** That's pretty neat  
at 15:30:53 on 7/18/2015 UTC



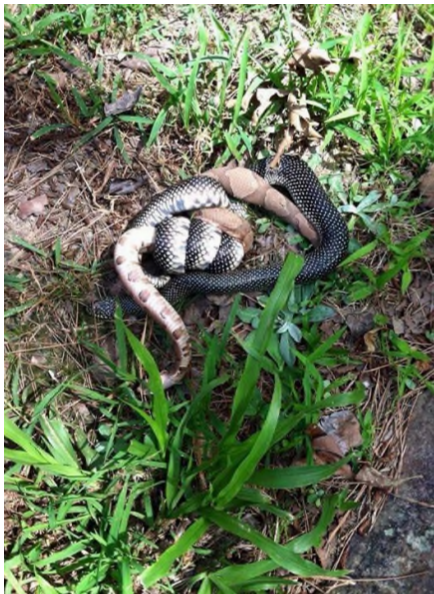
**Daniel Hasting** From the LowCountry



at 16:19:29 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Daniel Hasting** Wes Covington this is down here in the LowCountry



at 16:20:14 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Laurie Grassie** Thank you Mr. Kingsnake!  
at 16:30:17 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Terri King Dickson** What a lame remark. Of course there are snakes in the wooded areas of parks, lake recreation areas, hiking trails.... It's called nature for a reason.  
at 16:32:08 on 7/18/2015 UTC





**Joe Dryer** Black snakes will do the same thing!!

at 17:08:52 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Ben Stegenga** They're definitely around, but not commonly seen. However, the busy roads and years of indiscriminate killing of all snakes at that camp isn't helping their numbers at all.

at 17:14:20 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Ben Stegenga** Simple precautions like watching where you put your hands and feet, staying on the trail, wearing closed-toed shoes, and using a flashlight at night will keep you safe from any unpleasant snake encounters. If you see a snake simply don't mess with it. Give it some space and it will be more than happy to leave you alone. In most cases it will quickly flee in the other direction, and snakes will NEVER chase or bite unprovoked. And it's nature. Of course there are snakes there. That's the whole point of the park system...to preserve the area and ALL of the wildlife and plants that call it home. It's all important, so we shouldn't be picking and choosing based on which animals we have an irrational fear of. If you want to eliminate all chances of seeing a snake, then stay home. Simple as that.

at 17:21:25 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Ben Stegenga** Nice black rat snake!

at 17:22:36 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Ben Stegenga** One of the biggest issues with releasing any snakes into a new environment (your yard) is that the snakes are not familiar with the area. Snakes learn the area where they live (their home range) and if they are taken too far away from that area, they will often search for that familiar landscape. During that time they aren't necessarily interested in food and may cross habitat that leaves them vulnerable to predators or roads where they could get hit by traffic. Now if the snake does settle down instead of wander and finds enough food to sustain itself, it will still have to find a suitable place to spend the winter. Snakes often use the same location every year, so finding a new den site in a new area that sufficiently protects from the cold may be difficult. This is another big cause of death in relocated snakes, because their new den sites aren't often deep enough underground and they freeze during cold weather. It's also unwise to release anything from captivity because you run the risk of introducing new diseases to the wild populations. The best course of action is to make your property uninviting to snakes (keep lawns mowed, remove bush and wood piles, etc.).

at 17:35:21 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Kayla Sosebee** You can always just call a wildlife technician to come relocate any venomous snakes found in your yard. Some do it for free! :)

at 17:36:28 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Kim Brody** I saw that in the other post, thank you. Wondered if any way to mitigate those risks. Just curious. One of my livestock guardian puppies was bit last week. Not here, at her new home. But it could happen here too so it's one more thing for me to worry about. She survived thanks to the quick response of her new family who got her to the emergency vet right away. I'm not as close to a vet so I hope no one is ever bitten here.

at 17:37:20 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Ben Stegenga** Except venomous snakes play important roles in the ecosystem. Roles that non-venomous snake don't always fill. Venomous snakes also provide us with medicine and treatment for certain cancers, heart failure, blood clots, multiple sclerosis, etc. Without them, MILLIONS of people would die from those diseases every year.

at 17:38:24 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Kim Brody** I haven't found any yet. By the time they are in my yard, it would most likely be too late to avoid a bite to the face of a curious puppy.

at 17:38:25 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Kim Brody** Wanted to be proactive in preventing such an incident if possible.

at 17:39:01 on 7/18/2015 UTC

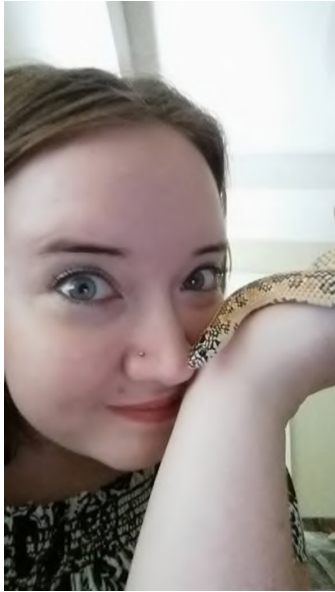


**Wes Covington** Charlie Covington got bit by a c-head when turkey hunting earlier this year. Needs some king snakes up there !

at 17:39:21 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Kayla Sosebee** My teeny pet king snake is the slowest at growing out of my other snakes, and she tries her best to fly out of my hands when I'm trying to socialize her. Still love her though. Silly cute gal.



at 17:41:09 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Ben Stegenga** I guess you hate breast cancer treatment too, because that's exactly what copperheads have provided us with...

at 17:42:24 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Elaine Gathings Hall** Rudy L Hall Sr.

at 17:42:49 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Kayla Sosebee** I definitely understand your concern. I guess it all depends on your state laws. I'm from GA, and we aren't allowed to purchase any native non-venomous snakes.

at 17:44:32 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Kim Brody** That's a cute baby king snake

at 17:51:08 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Dave Weber** Here in AZ we dont have Copperheads....but we do have Mohave rattlers. Here is a California Kingsnake eating a Mohave rattlesnake.



at 18:07:32 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**David Dean** I would prefer ticks with Lyme disease be controlled by the king snake.

at 18:25:39 on 7/18/2015 UTC





**Ben Stegenga** Actually black rat snakes don't eat other snakes. They primarily eat rodents and birds. However, every rodent that a rat snake eats on your property is one less rodent that could potentially attract a venomous snake to your property. Black racers, which are also a black-colored snake will occasionally eat other snakes, including copperheads, but it's not their primary food.

at 18:25:42 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Carol Sloan** Good job kingsnake!

at 18:43:14 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Jody Williamson** That's why you shouldn't kill a king snake

at 18:45:29 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Robert A Moore** Love King Racers and try hard to not harm them.

at 19:01:29 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Teresa Rice Hayes** Yeah they are around..this one was tucked underneath a rock ledge at the water; Max(the dog) got the bite just steps before the guys. So "indiscriminate" killing of that copperhead would've been a win as far as I'm concerned, but they were more concerned for caring for the dog at that moment.

at 19:03:48 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Janie Thibodeau** Makes me want to heave

at 19:08:32 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Yvonne Brant-Greene** My kind of snake, can't believe I just said that.

at 19:13:07 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Ben Stegenga** Well, the snake was simply defending itself from a much larger animal that it saw as an immediate threat to it's safety. Unfortunately, even if a dog is simply curious, it usually sticks its nose right on a snake. Luckily, dogs are way more resistant to snakebites than people, and usually recover just fine. Killing that snake wouldn't really solve the problem. It only satisfies people's "need for revenge" and would put people at risk of a venomous bite. 80% of snakebites occur when people are attempting to kill or catch a snake. Leaving it alone doesn't put anyone at risk. And if you were successful at killing the snake, that would simply leave an vacant niche that other snakes will soon move in to fill. If you then try to kill those snakes, then you're simply putting yourself in danger again. There is no shortage of snakes in your area, so the best solution is to learn how to coexist with them. You can take measures to keep your yard uninviting to snakes (remove hiding places, keep grass short, etc.) and then just exercise basic caution when outside. Surprisingly, living alongside snakes really isn't all that difficult or dangerous.

at 19:20:59 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Joe Dryer** They will kill not eat!

at 19:45:50 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Annette Ridlehoover Jones** There is a king snake that has taken up residence in our back yard. It was here last year and still here this year. We don't bother it and it doesn't bother us. We haven't seen any other snakes in our yard so far this year. Maybe the king snake is doing its job!

at 20:10:38 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Barbara Sutherland** That's pretty cool but only from a distance.

at 20:25:20 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Patsy Brown** Glad I didn't kill the king snake in my shrubs!

at 20:36:57 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Jeff Gadd** Yea, Kingsnske !

at 20:42:09 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Jeff Bowditch** Cool!

at 20:43:45 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Teresa Rice Hayes** As I said the dog was steps before the guys (humans) walking by the snake, but the dog was struck by walking by it first, when it could've been the humans who would've walked right by it. So Ben Stegenga (caped crusader of snakes everywhere) lol I'm sure you enjoy sharing your wealth Of knowledge of reptiles, but they weren't in tall grass .. And making a comment on a state park site wasn't an invitation from me to you for your views, that you so enjoy blabbing off . As I said the killing of the copperhead after it attacks, wouldn't have bothered me in the least, and not for "revenge", but rather for protection of the people that walk past the area next. We will just have to agree to disagree. Witch disagreeing seems to be something you are very professional at. ٢

at 21:00:13 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Skip Still** This has been a good year for Eastern Kings.

at 21:34:26 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Ben Stegenga** Teresa Rice Hayes I'm sorry if I offended you, that was not my intent at all. I know most people don't agree with me, but I also know, most people don't have the experience or the knowledge about the animals I work with. Snakes are one of the most misunderstood animals in the world, and consequently many species are in trouble, so I find every opportunity possible to share scientific facts (not just blabbing off my personal views or biases) to educate people, promote conservation, and safety. This wasn't a personal attack. I was just trying to spread a little information. The snake in question was not in tall grass, but rather under a rock, another good hiding place. Once again, watching where you put your hands and feet, and wearing simple tennis shoes would keep one safe in such an instance. And I understand you want to keep your family safe, and yes, that needs to be a priority, but I believe one should also consider snakebite statistics (80% occur when someone is attempting to kill a snake) and the fact that other snakes from the surrounding habitat will fill the empty niches created by killing the initial snakes. Living with snakes is unavoidable in an area like where you live. People often make the mistake in believing I care only about the safety of the animals involved, and not the people. That couldn't be further from the truth. I'm trying to keep people safe while also teaching them to appreciate nature. And sometimes that involves making suggestions that are new to people and goes against everything that they've been taught. It may not always make me popular, but it's all based on scientific facts and statistics. I know this often makes me unpopular with those unwilling to change their mind or actions, but that's okay...I have developed some pretty thick skin. I always find it funny that people don't argue with their doctor, mechanic, plumber, or electrician, but they don't hesitate to disagree or discredit biologists and people who work with wildlife as their career. So yes, I guess you could say I'm a professional at disagreeing with people...people unwilling to change and who refuse to take advice from a snake specialist.

at 21:46:58 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Larry Bowditch** King snakes are immune to rattlesnake venom also.

at 21:49:23 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Christopher Caracciolo** Very cool

at 21:53:58 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Danny J Bowditch** Like Buckeyes are immune to Michigan weenies...

at 22:29:05 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Sandee Weaver** Omg

at 22:39:58 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Carole Tutan** ugly, but cool as long as it is just in a picture.

at 23:06:47 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Jackie Sue** I am glad I was not around

at 23:19:02 on 7/18/2015 UTC

**Larry Bowditch** You never stop, do ya? By the way that's Michigan Wolverweenies to you!



at 23:34:59 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Evelyn Dew** My daddy told me about the Kings snake when I was a little girl . We had one that lived under an old truck in the backyard and my father looked out for that snake. Rather like a pet.

at 23:35:38 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Aimee Pound Davis** Love this!

at 23:38:35 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Bertha Beck Kampe** I can't stand to look at snakes on TV or FB. But this stood me still & I read information.

at 23:58:12 on 7/18/2015 UTC



**Mike Tolman** Ryan Hobbs

at 0:23:17 on 7/19/2015 UTC



**Julie Moretto** That is cool and disgusting at the same time.

at 0:23:19 on 7/19/2015 UTC



**Ryan Hobbs** I saw that earlier. Really cool.

at 0:24:40 on 7/19/2015 UTC



**Dell Sasser** Please remember that I have never been able to find a single instance of a person dying from a copperhead bite in the state of Kentucky. Secondly, dogs and human bites kill more people in the United States than snakes. There is no reason to ever kill a snake.. None!

at 0:39:50 on 7/19/2015 UTC



**Ben Stegenga** And I'd say we need snakes now more than ever.

<http://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory/study-high-risk-areas-lyme-disease-growing-32473881>



at 1:07:47 on 7/19/2015 UTC



**Susanna Buck Register** Excellent!

at 1:10:48 on 7/19/2015 UTC



**Claire Ostein** Won't the copperhead bite kill the king snake.

at 1:12:01 on 7/19/2015 UTC



**Lisa Bousquet** Looks like my king snake I had for years. Such awesome snakes wild or in captivity.

at 1:43:53 on 7/19/2015 UTC



**Brian McTamney** Very calm and she knowes no one will hurt her.



at 1:54:08 on 7/19/2015 UTC



**Mark Trexler** immune to viper venom. kingsnake wins every time.

at 3:02:04 on 7/19/2015 UTC



**Bill Lanier** Yes, I hate breast cancer treatments.

at 3:09:08 on 7/19/2015 UTC



**Ava Buck** Mandy, I swear you were switched at birth!

at 3:23:26 on 7/19/2015 UTC



**Neil Douglas Soldi** Long live the king

at 3:34:05 on 7/19/2015 UTC



**Claire Ostein** WOW!! Amazing

at 3:42:12 on 7/19/2015 UTC



**Byron Garrison Beall Sr.** ...and don't kill copperheads.

at 4:11:28 on 7/19/2015 UTC



**Mary Margaret Brill-Bartelotte** it's disgusting

at 5:55:18 on 7/19/2015 UTC



**Glenn Swaringen** When I was a kid I saw this scene play out at the edge of our pond. I went to the granary to retrieve a hoe (not that kind) to drag the ball of snakes out of edge of water. After the king snake choked the moccasin, he stretched him out on the bank for din din. I had no sense of time back then, but thinking the ordeal lasted for several hours before watching the then XL King snake crawl off in the sunset. may have skipoed super that night;

at 5:55:43 on 7/19/2015 UTC



**Glenn Swaringen** i hear a brown recluse spider is as venomous as a copper head

at 5:58:52 on 7/19/2015 UTC



**Cindy Poland** Interesting....I can't help it though...snakes just give me the creeps! 🤩

at 10:10:32 on 7/19/2015 UTC



**Milamber Endaevor** I have Pythons and Boas it's interesting to me that in the picture the King Snake has the copper head wrapped with his back half. Mine all use the front half to constrict

at 10:46:45 on 7/19/2015 UTC



**Bonnie Odom** Pretty cool.

at 11:40:02 on 7/19/2015 UTC



**Kim Lundh** Natures check and balance

at 12:46:41 on 7/19/2015 UTC



**Barry Hughes Gravely** Then what good are roaches? That's always baffled me

at 13:43:05 on 7/19/2015 UTC



**Charles Lee** thats nice ---- you can keep them in your yard

at 14:18:03 on 7/19/2015 UTC



**Ben Stegenga** Barry, roaches are important decomposers and are vital to the process of returning nitrogen to the soil. Without them many plants and forested ecosystems would really suffer. Roaches are also important food sources for many invertebrates, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and birds. Since so many species rely on them for food, their disappearance would greatly disrupt the food chain, causing major population drops in other species. And yes Charles, all snakes will remain welcome in my yard. :)

at 14:33:36 on 7/19/2015 UTC



**Anne Kiser** Regarding increase in ticks/Lyme disease..... This prescribed burn advocate has loooooooooonnnnnng thought lack of fire allows tick popn's to skyrocket.

at 15:00:36 on 7/19/2015 UTC



**Belinda Tauber Steinmetz** VERY cool

at 15:03:32 on 7/19/2015 UTC



**Jennifer Kosanovich** When you venture into their habitat, be alert & respectful. I've hiked in more states than I can count over the last 20 years and have never found the need to kill a snake. Even when my dogs have been with me, we've never had an aggressive incident. Be aware of your surroundings and enjoy every beings role in nature. You are the intruder in this situation.

at 16:10:55 on 7/19/2015 UTC



**Daniel Townsend** I'll kill a copperhead if it is threatening my life period. People worship animals too much.

at 17:18:40 on 7/19/2015 UTC



**Frances Bonetto** So cool

at 17:44:02 on 7/19/2015 UTC



**Michelle Lewis** My husband and I stopped by this station so I could take a picture of the beautiful building when I walked up on this. Terrified, I ran back down the hill and my husband walked up taking pictures of it. We are so glad the Rangers were there so we could alert them to it so nobody else would stumble unaware onto this! Thanks to the Rangers who were there for this. Totally awesome. Byron Lewis and Michelle Lewis. This was on our 22 year anniversary!

at 18:51:15 on 7/19/2015 UTC



**Margie Kacer** My friend thekingsnake.

at 20:10:53 on 7/19/2015 UTC



**Andrew Woody** Awesome

at 20:22:30 on 7/19/2015 UTC



**Hubert Yarborough**





at 2:47:34 on 7/20/2015 UTC



**Matthew Bruce** .....then they eat em

at 4:49:46 on 7/20/2015 UTC



**Joanne Osbon** Very cool!

at 7:15:34 on 7/20/2015 UTC



**Elsa Smitty** Awesome

at 11:24:40 on 7/20/2015 UTC



**Fran M. Hall** I'm just terrified of all snakes....

at 16:35:28 on 7/20/2015 UTC



**Ben Stegenga** Yes, I've read a good bit about prescribed burns being important in controlling tick populations too!

at 19:57:39 on 7/20/2015 UTC



**Ben Stegenga** Kim, maybe you should consider snake aversion training for your dogs. I now of a couple people in GA and AZ who offer those courses, and I'm sure there are many others that do as well.

at 22:03:15 on 7/20/2015 UTC



**Kim Brody** I google searched for that and only found classes in AZ.

at 22:03:55 on 7/20/2015 UTC



**Kim Brody** If anyone knows of classes in Columbia sc area please share.

at 22:04:53 on 7/20/2015 UTC



**Kim Brody** I'm conflicted though because that will still leave the goats vulnerable.

at 22:06:25 on 7/20/2015 UTC



**Ben Stegenga** Well, we wouldn't have that treatment without them, so it might be time to rethink your view of copperheads.

at 22:06:42 on 7/20/2015 UTC



**Ben Stegenga** Both species are important and help us more than most people ever realize.

at 22:08:21 on 7/20/2015 UTC



**Bill Lanier** no, I hate copperheads

at 23:12:18 on 7/20/2015 UTC



**Adam Wright** I was bitten by a Copperhead last July. While when I was bitten, I wasn't sure exactly what happened other than my leg hurt. Later, when i got off the trail and could tend to



my leg, I saw I had two puncture wounds and some swelling. Ended up not being as bad as I feared at the time.

at 14:21:31 on 7/22/2015 UTC



**Clinton M. Webb III** Could have been a dry bite. Venomous snakes don't always inject venom when they bite. Yes, I know you know this!

at 14:38:47 on 7/22/2015 UTC



**Adam Wright** I had a doctor's appointment a couple of days later so I decided to not go the emergency room given the pain was localized and not all that bad...considering. My doctor said it was most likely a dry bite.

at 14:56:40 on 7/22/2015 UTC



**Sandra S. Obi** I 'm all for killing copperheads no matter how the dirty work gets done 🤖

at 21:26:07 on 7/22/2015 UTC



**Ben Stegenga** Kim, I believe that Southeastern Reptile Rescue provides snake avoidance training for dogs. If nothing else they may be able to point you towards someone else in your area who does. They're really awesome people. Also, to ease some of your worry, goats, and other livestock are fairly resistant to the venom of our native species and deaths from snakebite are very uncommon.

at 5:07:18 on 7/25/2015 UTC



**Ben Stegenga** No, they actually don't kill the other snakes. They aren't immune to the venom so that would put them at risk of dying in the process. Plus they wouldn't want to waste all that energy required to constrict another snake if they're not going to eat them. It's a fairly common myth about black rat snakes.

at 5:11:24 on 7/25/2015 UTC



**Ben Stegenga** Why?

at 5:15:03 on 7/25/2015 UTC

**Version:** Current

**Tags:** edited



**Ben Stegenga** I ran across this article, and thought it was fitting. It's written by another professional biologist who has even more experience than I do with reptiles. It's a pretty good read, and goes to show that I'm not just spouting off my own opinions. These are scientific facts and they are worth considering. <http://www.livingalongsidewildlife.com/2013/10/the-only-good-dog-is-dead-dog-why-it.html>



at 5:26:24 on 7/25/2015 UTC



**Kim Brody** Thanks Ben Stegenga. I will contact the place you mentioned and ask about training.

at 21:13:25 on 7/25/2015 UTC



**Byron Garrison Beall Sr.** (Controlled) burning is important to many indigenous plants and trees as well.

at 22:50:15 on 7/25/2015 UTC



**Ben Stegenga** Indeed!

at 22:52:15 on 7/25/2015 UTC



**Michael Miskel** I don't kill any snake. Venomous included.

at 0:41:31 on 7/26/2015 UTC



**John B Francis** Katy- if you want kings on your property, set some places that they would want to live, or at least want to hang out for a while while cruising about... If your property is big enough, try setting down old tin roof pieces or some old plywood. Set it at field edges, along a wood line.. If you build it, they will come...

at 12:51:35 on 7/26/2015 UTC



**Katy Talerico** Cool John B Francis thanks! Already got old firewood in piles near the woods so I guess I'm good😊

at 13:38:48 on 7/26/2015 UTC



**David Harrison** King snakes are common around our property. Cool snake. I recently sold a boat that had been outdoors but under cover for 2 years without use. I commented to the buyer, as we removed the tarp, that there would almost certainly be rodent damage. NONE. Looked like it did when I last used it 2 years ago. We were amazed, then we noticed the two front cleats. Huge king snake skins were intertwined on BOTH front cleats. No conjecture on why the boat was critter damage free now. Buyer hoped the snake was still down in the boat for the trip to his place.

at 18:45:34 on 7/26/2015 UTC



**Justin Michael Davis** They're called King snakes for a reason

at 20:55:27 on 7/26/2015 UTC



**Wendell H Davis** Thus the reason for King

at 21:20:22 on 7/28/2015 UTC



**Patricia Trish Bryant** Ben Stegenga, while I've never been a snake fan, they just give me the willies, I don't kill them. I have spent the past few minutes reading this post and have gotten quite an education from a knowledgeable and reliable source. Snakes will still likely give me the willies, but I will also admire and appreciate them (from afar) much more than I did before reading the post. Thanks for investing the time to share your considerable knowledge about our slithering neighbors, their benefits and how to co-exist with them. You rock!

at 15:04:40 on 7/29/2015 UTC



**Ben Stegenga** Thank you so much Patricia! As you can probably tell, I'm very passionate about snake conservation, and I take every opportunity I get to share information to whoever will listen. They are such misunderstood creatures, and undeserving of their bad rap. I'm so glad you found my comments enjoyable and informative. I know most people won't come to love snakes the way I do, but that's okay. All I ask is that they give them respect and acknowledge their place in nature. THANK YOU for being open-minded and compassionate even towards creatures you don't necessarily like. We would have far less wildlife problems if more people had your attitude. You rock!

at 16:08:12 on 7/29/2015 UTC



**Judith Tisdale Hurley** That is so interesting. Thanks for sharing

at 22:54:43 on 8/01/2015 UTC



**Tanya Craven Croft** Wish there would have been a king snake when I got bit by a copperhead 3 weeks ago. Very painful experience. 5 viles of anti venom. I foot is still swollen  
at 0:34:28 on 8/04/2015 UTC



**Megan McClain** I love this. People get so fearful of snakes that they forget just how important they are to the ecosystem.  
at 5:27:04 on 1/15/2016 UTC



**Edward Hudson** Vipers lives matter haha  
at 16:09:51 on 7/19/2016 UTC



**Cassandra Morrow Harris** Sarah Harrell this popped up on my timeline today!  
at 13:08:07 on 7/17/2017 UTC



**Sarah Harrell** I need to invite a few Kingsnakes over to inspect my yard...  
at 13:24:41 on 7/17/2017 UTC



**Susan Carkin** Jaime Carkin Wise  
Gulp!!!! ☐  
at 23:10:52 on 7/19/2018 UTC