NEWS RELEASE

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Learn to identify venomous snakes

THE WOODLANDS, TEXAS (January 14, 2013) – On Thursday, February 7, 2013, at 7 p.m., The Woodlands Township presents the free program, *Identifying Backyard Snakes*, with Mike Howlett in the Nancy Bock Auditorium at McCullough Junior High School, 3800 S. Panther Creek Drive, 77381.

Appealing to all ages, from elementary students to adults, the informative and entertaining lecture covers safety and features live, contained specimen. "If a picture is worth a thousand words, then seeing live snakes is worth a thousand pictures," Mr. Howlett says.

Being able to recognize venomous species calms human nerves and protects beneficial snakes from being killed. "If people eliminate all snakes, we will see a drastic increase in the rodent population," according to Mr. Howlett.

Mr. Howlett is a herpetologist, an expert in snake behavior. He is a master at teaching adults and children quick and easy ways to distinguish our area's venomous snakes from harmless species. Dispelling popular misconceptions about snakes, Mr. Howlett emphasizes recognizable traits that are quickly recalled in a surprise meeting.

The free program is the first offering in the 2013 lineup for *A Walk in Woods* Nature Lecture Series organized by The Woodlands Township and sponsored by The Woodlands G.R.E.E.N., Hilton Garden Inn and Waste Management. For more information, call 281-210-3800 or visit www.thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov.

For more information on The Woodlands Township government, please call 281-210-3800 or visit www.thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov.

Photo: Venomous snake or harmless? Learn snake safety and quick tips for recognizing venomous species at a free program with Mike Howlett on Thursday, February 7, 2013, 7 p.m. at McCullough Junior High School. Due to its appetite for rodents, the Texas Rat Snake pictured is considered beneficial. *Photo by Mike Howlett*