

# The Newsletter of the Herpetologists' League

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HL 2000

Annual Meeting

*La Paz*

HL's 48<sup>th</sup>

annual meeting will be held 14-20 June 2000 at Universidad Autónoma de Baja California Sur La Paz B.C.S., Mexico! HL is meeting jointly with a number of other societies, so the scientific sessions promise to cover a diverse array of topics. Other herpetologists that will be joining HL at this sunny venue will include the members of SSAR, ASIH, and the Canadian Association of Herpetologists.

La Paz City is located on the Baja peninsula on the western coast of Mexico. The city is surrounded by the desert and the sea of Cortez, so there should be lots of spectacular scenery to entertain you between sessions.

In addition to contributed papers and posters, topical symposia include:

- Ecology and evolution in the tropics: Essays in tribute to Jay M. Savage.
- Natural history and evolution of the herpetofauna of southern California and Baja California
- Partners for amphibian and reptile conservation

The HL Distinguished Herpetologist lecture will be by Linda Trueb, Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Kansas. Her lecture is titled: *Frogs, fossils, and phylogeny: a perspective on the last 140 million years and prospectus for the future.*

Want more info? See the meeting website at: [www.uabcs.mx/asih](http://www.uabcs.mx/asih).

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## President's Corner

*Change and Opportunity*

As noted by Joe Mitchell in the last issue of *Communications*, the Herpetologists' League ended the 20<sup>th</sup> Century strong, active, and ready to face the future. The League begins the year 2000 faced with both impending changes and the opportunity for growth on several fronts. In the very recent past the League has expanded its activities in several directions. After many years of planning, the World Herpetological Checklist series was initiated with the recent publication of the first snake volume by Roy McDiarmid et al. This series reinforces the League's commitment to

systematics and provides HL members (and others) with an invaluable and authoritative source of information. The Snake Checklist has also benefitted the League financially. Sales of the book to date have been brisk and the League has already seen a significant profit. HL's endowment program, strengthened significantly by Joe Mitchell's Past Presidential challenge and generous donations from other League members, is also growing. With specific goals both for the base level of principal required and the intended use of interest generated by the fund, I am confident that the League will be able to build the endowment quickly.

I am also looking forward to growth of the league on another front. HL is known chiefly (and rightly) for the quality of its excellent publications *Herpetologica* and *Herpetological Monographs*. With programs such as the prestigious HL Graduate Student Award, and the checklist series, the League has enlarged the arena of its activities and has begun to approach more closely the ideal of a professional society that serves its members more broadly. This year the Board will hear the report of the Committee on Electronic Publishing chaired by Brian Crother. Although our existing publication series will continue to appear as they always have, the League will address issues related to the reduction of journal production costs, the possible provision of existing journals in alternative electronic formats, and the potential for new avenues for HL to serve its members through electronic media. Working closely with the Herp League Board, the newly elected Vice President Ken Dodd and I hope to explore these and other ways in which membership in HL can be made more attractive.

Accomplishing anything in a professional society is predicated on the existence of a core of dedicated people ready and willing to donate their time, effort, and skills; key society positions can be especially difficult to fill because they demand much of all three. We have recently undergone a shift of the Treasurer's office to Emporia, Kansas, where League finances are now under the able supervision of Lynnette Sievert. Changes will soon be coming in other positions key to the function and success of the League. During my term of office Maureen Donnelly will be stepping down as Secretary and Bob Jaeger has expressed his desire to retire from the editorship of *Herpetologica* at the end of 2001 (completing an impressive 20 years at the helm). I am not anxious to see either Mo or Bob leave their present posts, and I will not say goodbye to these valuable colleagues until the very last second of their service. However, the announcement of their intentions does provide the League with an opportunity to seek replacements in a timely manner, which should ease the trauma of transition. I am currently consulting with Mo, Bob, and other members of the HL Board regarding potential candidates for both HL Secretary and Editor of *Herpetologica* and **I would like to encourage all League members to contact me directly if they are interested in either post themselves, or if they have suggestions for candidates to be considered.** Obviously both positions are essential to HL's functioning and both require a strong level of commitment and a willingness to devote time and effort to the League. The rewards of this service are the opportunity to work with other dedicated herpetologists to help the Herpetologists' League grow and maintain its position as a premier professional society.

New opportunities for the Herpetologists' League can only be explored when permitted by financial stability, which in turn can only be achieved with the continued support of a dedicated Board of Trustees, excellent Editors, and an engaged and involved membership. I encourage all HL members to consider ways that they can contribute to both the financial strength of the League and its continued growth as a professional organization. I hope that many of you will be able to participate in the 2000 meetings, again held jointly with ASIH, SSAR, and AES, as well as the Canadian Association of Herpetologists and the Neotropical Ichthyological Association. I look forward to seeing you in La Paz and to serving your interests on the HL Board.

-- Aaron M. Bauer (aaron.bauer@villanova.edu), HL President.

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## Visit HL on the Web!

<http://www.inhs.uiuc.edu/cbd/HL/HL.html>

### **The Declining Amphibian Populations Task Force (DAPTF)**

The DAPTF is currently working towards the production, in 2001 or 2002, of three products that will report the work that has been completed by its members over the last ten years: 1. A compendium of detailed reports from all the Regional Working Groups, 2. A multi-author book that will review progress that has been made in understanding amphibian population declines and their causes, and 3. A detailed database, in CD format, called dad (declining amphibian database). Since 1994, the DAPTF Office at the Open University has been receiving reports from around the world on the

status of amphibian populations. Most of these have come from our Regional Working Groups, but many have come from individuals and from published sources. Some cover quite large areas, others report on very localised sites. We are putting these reports into a database, using software called IOS, with the objective of maximizing the ease and flexibility with which the data can be extracted and used by others. For example, interested researchers will be able to extract data from the CD, based on specific variables (such as: species, taxon, locality, habitat-type, cause of decline) or a combination of variables. The data are coded according to two main criteria, site and species. Site information includes variables such as longitude, latitude, altitude, the dates of declines and the number of species effected, and vegetation characteristics. Species information includes taxonomic details, habitat variables for different life stages, and data on population declines. There are extensive comments and full references are included. We hope to publish dad in Spanish, as well as English. The information will incorporate text, photos of species and location maps. IOS allows easy access to information by enabling the user to navigate through geographical pathways to site information. Species information is linked automatically to sites or can be accessed via taxonomic pathways. A highly flexible search system enables users to search directly for sites, species, etc., or make searches for any combination of variables. An analysis tool allows simple compilation and transformation of data and output to statistical packages. To the general public, and to the media, "amphibians" means "frogs", and there is a danger that this bias will also be reflected in the data that we collect. I am making a special plea to those who work on caecilians and urodeles to do all they can to insure that we receive data on the status of populations of species in these groups, to help us gather as comprehensive and balanced a dataset as possible. Because a primary objective of dad is to identify causes of amphibian declines, data on populations that have not declined are just as informative as data on populations that have. In a project of this kind, the issue of the ownership of data will inevitably arise. For this reason, what we are after are data that have already been published, but we suspect that there are a lot of relevant data that have been collected but not yet published. If you, or someone you know is sitting on population data that they did not think was interesting enough to publish, now is the time to do it. If you have data you would like to contribute to dad, please contact: Tim Halliday (DAPTF International Director) --

t.r.halliday@open.ac.uk; Biology Department, The Open University, Milton Keynes, MK76AA, United Kingdom.

**Herpetotrivia:** Gopher tortoises in an Alabama population take at least 20 years to reach maturity. This slow growth may be due to the poor forage available in a habitat managed intensively for pine trees. Aresco, MJ and C Guyer. 1999. *Herpetologica* 55: 499-506.

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### What is PARC and why should you care?

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November 8, 1999

Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (**PARC**) is a recently developed initiative designed to address conservation of reptiles and amphibians. PARC is poised to find the solutions to the problems faced by herpetofauna. People who have an agenda that in some way involves snakes, frogs, turtles, salamanders, lizards, or crocodilians should find out about PARC.

The PARC Mission Statement puts it succinctly:

**To conserve amphibians, reptiles and their habitats as integral parts of our ecosystem and culture through proactive and coordinated public/private partnerships.**

These beleaguered animals and their habitats may at last have people on their side, in North America and perhaps the whole world. Reptiles and amphibians have been steadily disappearing from much of the United States during the past few decades. Everyone is familiar with the amphibian problems, but the reptile plight is every bit as severe. One example is the southern hognose snake, a small harmless species that once lived from Mississippi to North Carolina. No specimens have been seen in Alabama or Mississippi for more than 18 years. Another is the eastern indigo snake, the last sighting of a native specimen being reported from Alabama more than 40 years ago. And, of course, an amphibian, the flatwoods salamander of the Southeast, is the most recent species to be added to the federal list of threatened species. And the list goes on and on, from California to Maine to Florida.

PARC could be the answer to helping maintain the herpetofaunal component of our country's natural heritage and recovering some of what we have almost lost. PARC's organizational meeting in Atlanta in early June was the first national gathering. Based on attendance, PARC is the most diverse group of individuals and organizations that have ever worked together to address the problems confronting reptiles and amphibians on a national and global scale.

Diversity has become a symbol of strength, health, and well-being in biological communities, and so it is with societies and organizations. The more than 200 individuals who attended the organizational meeting represented 170 organizations. Included among the participants were representatives of museums, nature centers, state wildlife departments, universities, federal agencies, conservation societies, research laboratories, forest products industry, the pet trade, and environmental consultants and contractors. The attendance included participants from 33 states, Canada (British Columbia), Mexico (Mexico City), and the District of Columbia. Many of the groups are unaccustomed to working together, but the time has come to put aside differences of opinion and to hear all sides. No one has an interest in eliminating more herpetofauna, but solutions for the conservation of wild populations vary among government agencies, conservation groups, and private industry. All sides must be listened to and all must be allowed to participate, because all can contribute to solving the problems. The diverse mix of people and organizations will not only be able to identify the problems confronting native herpetofauna but will also be able to implement solutions and provide the support needed to assure the effective conservation of native herpetofauna.

One consensus among the participants at the PARC meeting is that a key goal in developing a sustainable approach for conservation of reptiles and amphibians should be to familiarize the public with the organisms and their habitats so that everyone develops an appreciation for herpetofauna. Public support of such an effort, with any group of fauna or flora, is a vital ingredient for a long-term solution.

Some people have asked, Why should people care about reptiles and amphibians? My first response is, ask the millions of people in the country who do care. For every person you can find who says he does not care about what happens to turtles, frogs, or salamanders, I can find ten or more who do care. Most people have just never been asked. In fact, a majority of U.S. citizens would be supportive of a nationwide conservation effort, not just for reptiles and amphibians, but for all wildlife.

Herpetofauna represent a major part of our natural heritage. If these animals are in trouble, we are in trouble. Reptiles and amphibians are sentinels of our environmental health. If they are declining and ultimately disappearing, we need to make amends. What happens to herpetofauna is a sign of what could happen to other wildlife and maybe even to us.

PARC is not looking for scapegoats but instead is looking for partnerships with people who want to do the right thing, who want to set the score right in the nation's conservation efforts towards herpetofauna, towards all reptiles and amphibians. My impression is that the PARC concept will be highly successful and lead this country and others onto the path of conservation of native wildlife. PARC has a vision of providing the remedies necessary to correct the environmental problems that confront this group of animals and their habitats. It may be the last chance we will have for

us to assure that humans and herpetofauna can live harmoniously in today's world.

Let us know if you want to participate ([parc@srel.edu](mailto:parc@srel.edu)) or check the PARC Web site ([www.parcplace.org](http://www.parcplace.org)).

### **WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS?**

1. Visit the PARC Web site, now located on [www.parcplace.org](http://www.parcplace.org). or communicate directly with PARC ([parc@srel.edu](mailto:parc@srel.edu)).
2. Determine how you might contribute to PARC's Priority Conservation Needs for Reptiles and Amphibians (see the PARC Web site).
3. Lend your support to efforts by nature centers, museums, or schools in your community that are involved in educational projects directed toward reptiles and amphibians.
4. Get involved in the regional or technical working groups. For current listings of chairs, check out the PARC Web site ([www.parcplace.org](http://www.parcplace.org)).

### **HOW IS PARC DIFFERENT?**

Included among the characteristics of PARC that make it distinctive from all other groups with a focus on herpetofaunal conservation are the following:

- PARC includes reptiles under its purview as well as amphibians.
- PARC is habitat focused and is taking a strategic and cooperative approach to developing a broadly based conservation plan.
- PARC includes state agencies and the private sector, such as the timber industry, as well as specialists and non-specialists with an interest in herpetology.
- PARC will focus on not only endangered and threatened species but will also work toward the objective of "keeping common native species common."

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## **GRAD SCHOOL NEWS...**

### **Herpetology at the University of Oklahoma**

*Featuring the laboratories of: Janalee Caldwell, Laurie Vitt, Rich Cifelli, Victor Hutchison, and Rosemary Knapp*

The University of Oklahoma has a strong program in organismal biology in general and herpetology in particular. In part, this is a function of the close working relationships among faculty in the Department of Zoology and what are affectionately known as the ORUs (outside research units), the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History (OMNH), the Oklahoma Biological Survey, and the Oklahoma Biological Station. All units are located on the campus, except for the Biological Station, which is located on Lake Texoma in southern Oklahoma. Many faculty have joint appointments in the Department of Zoology and the different units, although all graduate students receive their degrees through the Department of Zoology. Altogether, the department can boast of 16 graduate students and one undergraduate student currently conducting research in some aspect of herpetology. In July of 1999, construction of a new museum facility for the OMNH was completed, and the herpetology collection as well as 10 other major collections were moved into the building. The Division of Herpetology is housed on the third floor of the museum, complete with state-of-the-art collection space, prep and research laboratories, a library, archive room, and office space for the curators, JANALEE CALDWELL, associate curator of amphibians, and LAURIE VITT, curator of reptiles. The current curators and graduate students are fortunate in continuing to have the wise counsel of its famous Curator Emeritus CHARLES C.

CARPENTER. The Division of Vertebrate Paleontology, encompassing a space similar to herpetology but on the second floor, is headed by curator RICH CIFELLI. Planning and construction of exhibits, which has been in process for nearly five years, continues, and the museum will officially open to the public in May, 2000. The research collections are fully functional, and currently both herpetology and vertebrate paleontology are searching for collection managers. More information can be found on the OMNH web site at [www.snomnh.ou.edu](http://www.snomnh.ou.edu).

JANALEE CALDWELL continues to work on the ecology and behavior of Amazonian amphibians, with a special interest in dendrobatids. She has six graduate students working on a variety of projects. STEPHEN RICHTER is a Ph.D. student working on the factors that limit the geographic distribution of frogs. He is interested in whether populations at the edge of their range are under more physiological stress than those in the center of the range. Developmental stability is correlated with physiological stress, and STEPHEN will examine whether fluctuating asymmetry, a measure of developmental instability, is greater in peripheral populations, using gray treefrogs as a study organism. CHRISTOPHER LEARY, also a Ph.D. student, is focusing on how social interactions and hierarchical status influence the expression of alternative mating tactics. He will investigate satellite behavior as it relates to age, condition, and androgen levels in *Bufo cognatus*. MARK WALVOORD, a master's student, is interested in how physiological condition, such as temperature and hydration level, affect performance in the cricket frog, *Acris crepitans*. MARK will attempt to relate his laboratory findings on jumping ability in these frogs to conditions that frogs experience in the field. DEAN CROSHAW, a master's student, is interested in various aspects of amphibian social behavior, including mating systems, parental care, and sexual selection. He is currently planning future investigations of nest desertion, communal nesting, and benefits of brooding in salamanders with terrestrial oviposition. JOHN MALONE is planning a master's thesis on the social system of the barking frog, *Eleutherodactylus augusti*; in particular, JOHN is interested in whether these frogs exhibit parental care and, if so, how this care might affect survivorship of eggs and embryos. He hopes to compare two populations of this frog that breed in different habitat types. For his master's thesis, DANTE FENOLIO plans to investigate population structure and factors that influence the distribution of the grotto salamander, *Typhlotriton spelaeus*, in caves in northeastern Oklahoma.

LAURIE VITT continues to study the community ecology of Amazonian reptiles. Four graduate students and one undergraduate are currently working with him. SHAWN SARTORIUS, a Ph.D. student, is studying how operative environmental temperatures influence lizard spatial distributions at different geographic scales. He has obtained operative temperatures from a variety of habitats and microhabitats at field sites in Brazil and the U.S. while concurrently making observations on the habitat use, behavior, diet, and body temperatures of all lizard species at the same sites. Ultimately, he will look at the way a physiological parameter (thermal requirements) limits resource exploitation by the various lizard taxa that occur within these sites. JOEL JOHNSON, a master's student, is interested in interspecific interactions of lizards and the factors that influence them. JOEL previously worked on a project in the San Marcos and Comal Rivers in Texas that assessed the status of the endemic plants and animals of these two river systems, including the San Marcos salamander (*Eurycea nana*) and the Texas blind salamander (*Typhlomolge rathbuni*). SEAN MENKE, a master's student, is focusing on the effects of a desert edge on lizard community structure. Both positive and negative edge effects have been documented for many vertebrates, and SEAN hopes that results from his research can be used to explain community interactions in desert lizards and applied to conservation of desert habitats. ERIC ROTH plans a master's thesis on pit viper ecology. In particular, he will investigate factors determining spatial distribution and movements. He plans to work on spatial ecology of a Florida or Texas cottonmouth population. MATTHEW BRANDLEY is working on a B.S. degree and is studying how closely related lizards evolve morphologically in different habitats, using skinks in the genus

*Eumeces*

as model organisms. MATT plans to combine morphological, ecological, and phylogenetic data to investigate this topic.

RICH CIFELLI works primarily on Mesozoic vertebrates, particularly mammals (we'll forgive him for that), with special interests in systematics and functional morphology. Current and recent work on herps includes collaborative studies on fossil lizards, snakes, captorhinomorphs, and theropod and sauropod dinosaurs. RICH has one Ph.D. student and two master's students currently working on herps. RANDALL NYDAM'S Ph.D. work focuses on the patterns and trends in the evolution of lizards during the Early and medial parts of the Cretaceous period in North America. During this time period, a shift occurred from primitive, simple lizard faunas in North America to more complex and diverse lizard faunas characteristic of the Late Cretaceous and Tertiary. Another project of RANDALL's involves estimating body size in lizards based on the skeletal features of the lower jaw, a method that will provide a quantitative estimate of the body size of most fossil lizard taxa. For his master's thesis, JULIAN HILLARD is doing an ecomorphologic, ontogenetic, and phylogenetic study of tooth shape in crocodylians. JULIAN is focusing on living taxa, and he hopes to be able to apply the results to analyses of fossil crocs. MATHEW WEDEL, a master's student, is using computed topographic scans of sauropod dinosaur vertebrae in order to investigate the dinosaurs' air sac systems, which were presumably similar to those of birds and would have radically affected mass, food intake, and respiratory and thermal physiology. MATT co-authored a recent description of *Sauroposeidon*, a new giant dinosaur from southeast Oklahoma.

VICTOR HUTCHISON just completed a term as President of SSAR. He continues to have an active lab and is working with his graduate students on a variety of projects in physiological ecology. He plans to "retire" in May 2001, but will continue to work on a backlog of papers. VIC currently has two Ph.D. students and one master's student. PEDRO DO AMARAL completed a master's degree on the thermal ecology of the red-bellied snake, *Storeria occipitomaculata*. His Ph.D. work will investigate the thermoregulation cycles of the box turtles, *Terrapene ornata* and *T. carolina*, including characterizing the effects of bacterial LPS on thermoregulation of *T. carolina* and assessing whether deterministic or stochastic models better describe the thermoregulation cycles of box turtles. CARI DEEN completed a M.S. degree on the effects of lipopolysaccharide and acclimation on induced behavioral fever in juvenile *Iguana iguana*. She is working on a Ph.D. and will investigate the time course and characteristics of induced fever and the chronopharmacology of pyrogens in behavioral thermoregulation by Dipsosaurus. DEBORAH LUTTERSCHMIDT has completed a master's thesis investigating the influence of melatonin, thyroid hormones, and their interactions on the thermoregulation of the African house snake, *Lamprophis lineatus*. DEB is also working on the influence of progesterone on the thermal selection of the Gulf coast toad, *Bufo valliceps*, and the influence of melatonin and thyroid hormones on liver glycogen concentrations in this toad. ROSEMARY KNAPP, a relatively new assistant professor in Zoology, is studying the physiological mechanisms underlying behavior and how these mechanisms may have been modified over evolutionary time. She strives to do this by studying species with some sort of "atypical" reproductive behavior. The current major focus of her lab is the neuroendocrine basis of individual variation in behavior as represented by species with alternative male reproductive phenotypes. She has studied the role of steroid hormones in several such species, including tree lizards (*Urosaurus ornatus*). Although she has been focusing on fish since coming to OU in 1998, studies of anurans, with CHRIS LEARY, a Ph. D. student with JANALEE CALDWELL, and lizards with multiple male reproductive tactics are planned for the future. Another project getting underway is an examination of the endocrine and physiological bases mediating egg attendance by female *Eumeces*

skinks in collaboration with LAURIE VITT. Herpetology at OU is a diverse enterprise, spanning the gamut from fossils to recent herps and from ecology and behavior to physiology and neuroendocrinology. For more information about OU and the zoology faculty and graduate students, visit the website at: [www.ou.edu](http://www.ou.edu).

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**Herpetotrivia:** A new montane pitviper was recently described from Veracruz, Mexico. According to the authors, "it is surprising that this pitviper had gone unnoticed for so long, especially because it is found relatively close to a large metropolitan area and in a region where North American herpetologists have scoured the countryside for decades". The venomous nature of the snakes' bite was personally tested by one of the authors. -- MA López-Luna, RC Vogt, and MA de la Torre-Loranca. 1999. *Herpetologica* 55:382-389.

**Herpetotrivia:** -- Female collared lizards often lay their eggs at sites distant from the core areas of their home ranges. Females exhibit heightened post-ovipositional aggression, possibly to re-establish ownership after a 1-2 day absence from their core areas. Sloan, CL and TA Baird. 1999. *Herpetologica* 55:516-522.

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## Conferences, Conventions, Conclaves

### Southwestern Association of Naturalists

SWAN's 47<sup>th</sup> annual meeting will take place at the University of North Texas in Denton, Texas from **April 20-22**. For more information see the meeting website at [www.biol.unt.edu/swan](http://www.biol.unt.edu/swan).

### Animal Behavior Society

The 2000 Animal Behavior Society meeting will be at Morehouse College and Zoo Atlanta in Atlanta, Georgia from **5-9**

**August**. Symposia include *Dispersal behavior*, *Comparisons of the behavior of primates and cetaceans*, and *Applied animal behavior*. Robert Trivers will give the Keynote presentation and Fellows lectures will be presented by Chris Boake and Hugh Drummond. Meeting information can be accessed at:

<http://www.animalbehavior.org/ABS/Program/>.

### Joint Annual Meeting:

The Society for the Study of Evolution

The American Society of naturalists

The Association of Tropical Biologists

The Society of Systematic Biologists

The Evolution 2000 Joint Meeting will be held **23-27 June** in at Indiana University in Bloomington. For a schedule and related conference information, please see:

<http://www.indiana.edu/~iuconfs/e2k/index.html>.

## MONEY, MONEY, MONEY

### Southwestern Research Station Student Support Fund

The American Museum of Natural History awards several grants each year of approximately \$400-\$800 to graduate students or postdoctoral students pursuing research at its Southwestern Research Station in the Chiricahua Mountains, Portal, Arizona. Information and application forms for this program and other Museum grant programs can be obtained by writing: Office of Grants and Fellowships, American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West at 79<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY 10024-5192. For application dates and other questions, contact: Dr. Wade C. Sherbrooke, Director, Southwestern Research Station, American Museum of Natural History, P.O. Box 16553, portal, AZ 85632 USA; phone/fax: (520)558-2396; e-mail: [swrs@amnh.org](mailto:swrs@amnh.org).

Carnegie Museum of Natural History -- Collection Study Grants in Herpetology

The Carnegie museum of Natural History is pleased to announce a grant to support herpetological research by graduate students and foreign scientists. The grant is intended to defray costs of transportation and lodging associated with visiting and using the collection. The Carnegie's herpetological collection contains more than 194,000 preserved specimens, including one of the largest collections of turtles and extensive holdings from the West Indies, Mexico, South America, Spain, Africa, India, and the Philippines. Applicants should send the following, in duplicate: (1) a description of the proposed research (including its significance and the justification for visiting the Carnegie), not to exceed two pages, (2) literature cited, (3) budget, and (4) CV. Students should also arrange for two letters of recommendation to be sent. Awards will be made twice a year. Deadlines for application materials are 15 April and 15 November. Send applications to Collection Study Grants in Herpetology, Section of Amphibians and Reptiles, Carnegie museum of natural History, Pittsburgh, PA 15213-4080, and for more information, contact John J. Wiens (e-mail@clpgh.org; phone 412-622-5520; FAX 412-622-8837.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Position Announcement** *Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History*

*The University of Oklahoma*

The Museum has a position for a Curatorial Specialist in herpetology. Minimum requirements: Bachelor's Degree in Zoology, Biology, or other related museum discipline, and 48 months experience with systematic collections or other museum-related work to include computer analysis of data and specimen preparation; OR Master's Degree in one of these disciplines, and 24 months of similar experience. The person selected will assist the Curators with technical supervision, management, and maintenance of the reptile and amphibian collection. May include field work in U.S. and abroad. Position starts 1 July 2000. Salary is \$25,000 (plus full fringe benefits), and applications will be considered until position is filled. Hiring contingent upon background check.

Applicants should submit a resume, cover letter and three reference letters to: Personnel Services, 905 Asp Avenue, Norman, Oklahoma 73019. Please refer to job #01-010N. Materials submitted in application for positions(s) become the property of OU. For other information on employment at the University of Oklahoma, call (405) 325-1826 or TDD at (405) 325-5529. AA/EOE.

Please contact Janalee Caldwell (caldwell@ou.edu) or Laurie Vitt (vitt@ou.edu) for additional information.

### **New List Server**

*St. Peterburg State University(Russia)*

*Vertebrate Morphology and Zoology List*

The list was organized to inform subscribers about current activities at the Department of Vertebrate Zoology of St. Petersburg State University (Russia) and the Department of Terrestrial Vertebrates of the Zoological Institute (St. Petersburg). The List also contains information about current issues of the *Russian Journal of Herpetology*, new books and periodicals in the field, expeditions, job opportunities, grants, fellowships, conferences, and information of general interest.

The List is primarily focused on morphology, evolution, developmental biology, speciation, and paleontology. The List

does not target the areas of pure ecology, systematics, conservation, and captive breeding.

Interested herpetologists are welcome to subscribe and to participate in the List (subscription is FREE!). Although the List is not for Chat, subscribers can send information about their activities and can send questions to the list to find collaborators or information that might not be available elsewhere.

Subscribers will regularly receive the table of contents of the *Russian Journal of Herpetology* and the irregular electronic newsletter "Seminars in Morphology" with summaries of talks which take place in the Morphological Seminars at the Department of Vertebrate Zoology of St. Petersburg State University.

To subscribe either visit the homepage of the List (<http://morphology.listbot.com>) or send a blank message to: [morphology-subscribe@listbot.com](mailto:morphology-subscribe@listbot.com).

## Web Pages

### *Herpetological literature searches*

**Herpetological journal contents.**--Lists the contents of several herpetological publications. Whenever possible, the e-mail or street addresses of the author of the publications also are included. [Http://www.herplit.com/contents](http://www.herplit.com/contents).

**The Herplit Database.**--The database contains 50,000+ herpetological citations and it is completely searchable. The results of each search may be selected and e-mailed to the user. This site is meant to help people with literature searches and new citations are continually added. Both the additions and the entire database can be downloaded as a tab-delimited file which is set up to be imported directly into EndNote or other database programs. [Http://www.herplit.com/herplit](http://www.herplit.com/herplit).

--Breck Bartholomew, Bibliomania! P.O. Box 58355, Salt Lake City, Utah 84158-0355, e-mail: [breck@herplit.com](mailto:breck@herplit.com).

## Volunteers

Approximately 30 volunteer positions are open at the American Museum of Natural History's Southwestern Research Station in Portal, Arizona. The volunteer program is run annually and offers students in biological sciences outstanding opportunities to observe and become involved with scientists doing field research. **Food and lodging are provided to volunteers** in exchange for 24 hours per week of routine chores, with the remaining time available for research activities.

The program is open to both undergraduate and graduate students; the latter may pursue their own research projects. Faculty knowing of promising students should alert them to this opportunity for professional experience toward, development of, and evaluation of their career goals.

Volunteers are needed between March 14 and November 1. Appointments are for part of this period, with a minimum appointment of six weeks. Applicants for Spring positions (March-May) should submit applications by February 15, summer volunteers (June-August) by April 1, and fall volunteers (September- November ) may apply any time.

For applications write: Dr. Wade C. Sherbrooke, Director, Southwestern Research Station, American Museum of Natural History, P.O. Box 16553, portal, AZ 85632 USA; phone/fax: (520)558-2396; e-mail: [swrs@amnh.org](mailto:swrs@amnh.org).

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## PUBLICATION NOTICES

### Problem Snake Management:

### **The Habu and the Brown Treesnake**

Edited by Gordon H. Rodda, Yashio Sawai, and Hiroshi Tanaka. 1999. Cornell University Press. A Comstock Book. 560 pages (49 tables, 79 drawings, 30 photos). \$49.95 (cloth). ISBN: 0-8014-3507-2. Foreword by Harry W. Greene. Intensive research on and management of poisonous snakes has centered on Japan, home of the Habu, and Guam, where brown treesnakes have killed off many native species. This book draws on that research to present comprehensive guidelines for snake management offering a wealth of information on their biology and behavior previously unavailable in English. To order, contact: Cornell University Press: phone: (607) 277-2211; [www.cornellpress.cornell.edu](http://www.cornellpress.cornell.edu).

### **Chameleons**

By Petr Necas. Krieger Publishing Company. 348 pages (280 color photos and 45 black and white drawings and photos). \$47.50 (cloth). ISBN: 1-57524-137-4. This English language edition is translated from the German language edition published in 1995. This book is partly a compilation of published information and partly a summary of unpublished data from various breeders, biologists, and veterinarians, with the author's view reflected on each topic.

For order information contact: Krieger Publishing Company, P.O. Box 9542, Melbourne, FL 32902-9542, Tel: 1-800-724-0025, Fax: (407)951-3671; e-mail: [info@krieger-pub.com](mailto:info@krieger-pub.com), URL: [www.web4u.com/krieger-publishing/](http://www.web4u.com/krieger-publishing/)

### **A Field Guide to the Snakes of Borneo**

By R. B. Stuebing and R. F. Inger. 1999. Natural History Publications (Borneo). 250 pages (including color plates). \$39.00 (paperback). Shipping: \$4.50 minimum and \$1.00 for each additional book. Prices subject to change without notice. To order, contact: The Borneo Company, 10 Locust Hill Rd., Cincinnati Ohio 45245-3114. Phone: (513) 752-0848. E-mail: [RS888@aol.com](mailto:RS888@aol.com).

### **A Guide to the Reptiles of Belize**

By Peter J. Stafford and John R. Meyer. 1998. Academic Press. \$39.95 (soft cover).

**Policy for Advertisement of New Books** As a service to our readers, *Communications* is pleased to publish announcements of new books of interest to HL members. However, we do not accept formal "advertisements". We will include the "standard" information (title; author; publisher; price (HB/PB); no. of pages, maps, illustrations), plus, optionally, a very brief 1-2 sentence description of the book and an address for orders. This information should be sent to the editor of *Communications*. Announcements will be included as space allows and content may be edited.

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## **Communiqués to *Communications***

Target dates for distribution of *Communications* are March and September. Herpetologically-relevant announcements are included as space allows. Send submissions/questions/comments to: Dr. Alicia Mathis, Dept. of Biology, Southwest Missouri State University, Springfield, MO 65804-0095. Phone: 417-836-5699; FAX: 417-836-4204;

**e-mail: [sam477f@mail.smsu.edu](mailto:sam477f@mail.smsu.edu).**

