

# 2012 National Reptile and Amphibian **Law Symposium**



Sept. 28-30, 2012  
Houston, Texas



# Welcome to the 2012 Reptile and Amphibian Law Symposium!



Whether you're here as a herp keeper, a researcher, a teacher, a veterinarian, a biologist, a breeder, a conservationist, a member of the herp industry, or representing a government agency, we're glad you came to the table.

The Reptile and Amphibian Law Symposium, in its two days of panels, discussions, and breakout sessions, is being held so all parties interested in reptiles and amphibians and the law can meet to discuss changes and issues with current and proposed reptile and amphibian laws. This discussion is expected to be civil, professional, and productive, and the moderators will see that those guidelines are respected.

This event was organized by the National Reptile Amphibian Advisory Council (NRAAC), with the assistance of event co-hosts the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council (PIJAC), the Association of Reptilian and Amphibian Veterinarians (ARAV), and the East Texas Herpetological Society (ETHS).

*Attendees will have the opportunity to participate in the concurrent ETHS 22nd Annual Conference, Breeder Expo and Educational Exhibit, held at the same location as the legal symposium. The ETHS event includes a Saturday conference, banquet, and auction, and a Sunday reptile expo. A ticket to the Sunday expo is included in the registration packets of all symposium attendees, provided they pick up their packet by 5 PM on Friday evening.*

## NRAAC

The National Reptile and Amphibian Advisory Council (NRAAC) is a not-for-profit educational organization, staffed and run by volunteers, dedicated to producing an annual symposium on laws, rules, and regulations regarding reptiles and amphibians at the local, state, national, and international levels.

## PIJAC

The Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council (PIJAC) is a non-profit trade association, advocating for the pet industry, pet owners, animals, and the environment. PIJAC represents the needs of the pet industry and those they serve, promotes responsible pet ownership and animal welfare, and fosters environmental stewardship.

## ARAV

The Association of Reptile and Amphibian Veterinarians is a veterinary organization promoting conservation and humane treatment of all reptilian and amphibian species through education, captive breeding, and habitat preservation. ARAV advances programs for preventive medicine, husbandry, and scientific research in the field of veterinary medicine dealing with reptiles and amphibians.

## ETHS

The East Texas Herpetological Society (ETHS) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the education of its members and the general public about the natural history, ecology, husbandry, conservation, proper care and treatment of reptiles and amphibians.

# Symposium Schedule



## Friday, September 28

*Each session will last approximately 1 hour and 50 minutes unless otherwise noted.*

7 AM–5 PM	Registration
8 AM	Invasive/Injurious Species
10 AM	The Lacey Act and its Role
Noon–1 PM	Break for lunch
1 PM	International Laws/CITES—Import/Export
3 PM	Endangered Species

## Saturday, September 29—Day 2

7–10 AM	Registration
8 AM	State Laws—Native Species
9 AM	Breakout Session—European Import/Export Laws (1 hour)
10 AM	State Laws—Non-Native Species
Noon–1 PM	Break for lunch
1 PM	Reptile Parasites/Diseases/Pathogens and the Law
3 PM	Private Reptile Ownership, Ethics, and the Law (1 hour)
4 PM	Private Reptile Ownership, Ethics, and the Law (1 hour)

# Panelists

## Carole H. Allen

*Gulf Office Director, Sea Turtle Restoration Project*

Carole H. Allen was long involved in the management of endangered sea turtles before she launched Help Endangered Animals—

Ridley Turtles (HEART) in 1982. After a career in communications with a variety of public and private agencies and organizations, she became the Gulf Office Director of the Sea Turtle Restoration Project (STRP) and a member of its Board of Directors. Allen is also First Vice-President of the Piney Woods Wildlife Society, Houston, a board member of Turtle Island Restoration Network, and a member of the Marine Turtle Group at the IUCN World Conservation Union, the Humane Society of the United States, and the Sierra Club.



## Jeff Barringer

*Founder and President, kingsnake.com*

A long-time hobbyist, reptile collector, and breeder, in 1997 Jeff Barringer launched kingsnake.com, still one of oldest, largest, and most popular reptile hobbyist communities on the Internet. Barringer was also one of the founders of the original National Reptile and Amphibian Advisory Council (NRAAC) in 1998, where he currently serves as chair of the steering committee. He is a long-time member of the East Texas Herpetological Society and the Southwestern Center for Herpetological Research. He has also served in an advisory role with organizations such as the International Herpetological Symposium and the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council.



## Marc Cantos

*Florida Reptile Industry; Owner, The Turtle Source*

An amateur field herpetologist, naturalist, and photographer, Marc Cantos' experiences have ranged from the wilds of his native Long Island, NY, to the mountains of Arizona, to his current home of more than 20 years in Florida, and even to the Paraguayan Chaco, where he located and recorded Red and Black Tegus, several tortoise species, many little known amphibian and snake species, and some of the very first specimens of the newly discovered turtle species *Acanthochelys macrocephala*, the Pantanal Swamp Turtle. He is a charter member of the Calusa Herpetological Society, the Turtle and Tortoise Club of Florida, the Turtle and Tortoise Preservation Group, the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council, and The United States Association of Reptile Keepers.



## Karim Daoues

*Owner, La Ferme Tropicale*

Like most herpers, Karim Daoues has had a fascination with reptiles, amphibians and the natural world since childhood. A self-taught reptile expert, he opened the very first reptile and amphibian specialty shop in Paris in 1993, when he was 19 years old. The success of the business enabled him to travel the world and act as a consultant to a number of breeders and local exporters seeking to enter the European marketplace. An experienced keeper and breeder of a variety of reptile and amphibian species, he currently operates two retail locations, a wholesale business, and an educational division in France. Karim has written several books on reptiles and amphibians including "Reptiles : Écailles et sang-froid." He is also a long time member of his local and national wildlife commissions dealing with laws, licensing and regulation of exotic animal keeping in France.



## **Gina Distledorf**

*Board of Directors, East Texas Herpetological Society;  
Owner, Gina's Heart of Gold Rescue*

Herpetological societies and clubs across the United States all have one overriding mission: education. Teaching people about reptiles and amphibians, their importance, and the unique niche they occupy in our environment is their primary goal. East Texas Herpetological Society board member Gina Distledorf represents the values that ETHS and other herp societies and clubs across the United States share. A reptile hobbyist and a high school biology teacher, Gina also runs Gina's Heart of Gold Rescue, a reptile and amphibian rescue service in the Houston area.

## **Dr. Dante Fenolio**

*Conservation Scientist,  
Atlanta Botanical Garden*

Dr. Dante Fenolio's research interests involve the ecology of animals living in challenging environments like subterranean ecosystems or forest canopies, and he regularly conducts surveys of caves for the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, documenting federally listed endangered species and monitoring their populations. He also works with Brazilian colleagues in Central Brazil performing bioinventories of areas involved with hydroelectric power plant projects. With the Atlanta Botanical Garden, Dr. Fenolio helps to coordinate both local and international amphibian conservation efforts and to develop captive breeding methods for endangered species. He is finishing a book project right now that covers animals that spend all or most of their lives living in the dark.



## **Ken Foose**

*President, International  
Herp Symposium;  
President, Southern Nevada  
Herpetological Society*

From elephants to mice, cobras to corn snakes, Ken Foose has worked with a wide variety of both native and exotic species. He's been both a zookeeper and curator, working for a number of zoological parks including the Topeka, Seattle, and Spokane Zoos, as well as opening his own private zoo called Reptiles of the West in 1984, housing hundreds of species. In 1991 he opened his retail pet store, Exotic Pets, in Las Vegas. He is a long time officer and current president of the International Herpetological Symposium, an annual educational event that has brought reptile hobbyists, academics, zookeepers, and other reptile professionals together in conversation for the last 35 years. Ken has been breeding and working with reptiles since the early 70s.



## **Andrew G. Gluesenkamp**

*Ph.D. Herpetologist, Texas  
Parks and Wildlife Department*

Andrew Gluesenkamp graduated with a Ph.D. in Zoology in 2001 and conducted postdoctoral research as a Parsons fellow at the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History before returning to Texas to work as a karst specialist and cave biologist. In Texas, Andrew worked as a biological consultant specializing in karst issues, university lecturer, and skeletal preparator for the Texas Memorial Museum. In addition, he conducted numerous grant-funded projects on rare and endangered salamanders in central Texas before becoming the State Herpetologist for Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Most recently, Andrew has been involved in the controversial Dunes Sagebrush Lizard, which was declined Endangered Species status, and the Austin blind, the Georgetown, the Jollyville Plateau and Salado Salamanders, all of whose status is currently undecided.



## **James Hampton**

*Special Agent, Law Enforcement, United States Fish & Wildlife Service*

Special agents with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Office of Law Enforcement are plainclothes criminal investigators who enforce federal wildlife laws throughout the United States. They target crimes such as wildlife trafficking that undermine U.S. efforts to conserve wildlife resources. Service special agents protect threatened and endangered species, migratory birds, marine mammals, and imperiled animals and plants around the world. Their investigations document violations of federal wildlife laws as well as such crimes as smuggling, conspiracy, money laundering, mail and wire fraud, and making false statements. James Hampton is a Special Agent with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Office of Law Enforcement, based in Houston, Texas.

## **Scott Hardin**

*Biologist, Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council*

Scott Hardin formerly served as the Bureau Chief of Fisheries Services for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

In that role, he conducted freshwater fisheries management projects, including aquatic habitat restoration, aquatic plant management, urban fisheries programs, non-native fish laboratory, and aquatic education. Most recently, Hardin was the Section Leader for Exotic Species Coordination at the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Hardin developed Florida's Exotic Pet Amnesty Program, which offers an alternative to releasing non-native pets into the wild, and has also authored publications on risk analysis. He continues to work on methodology to improve science-based risk assessments.



## **Captain Linda Harrison**

*Division of Law Enforcement, Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission*

Florida has long been a major port of entry and an import-export hub for the trade in a variety of exotic species, including reptiles and amphibians. Florida is also home to more invasive and injurious exotic species than any other state. As such, Florida has probably the most extensive set of regulations for the management of both exotic and native species, with rules and laws regulating everything from elephants to venomous snakes. In Florida, the state agency tasked with managing compliance with this diverse collection of laws and regulations is the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, and its Division of Law Enforcement. Captain Linda Harrison of the Investigations section has been a long time member of the Commission assigned to managing these regulations, and is often the first point of contact when laws and regulations regarding exotic species change.

## **Craig Hoover**

*Chief, Branch of Operations, United States Fish & Wildlife Service*

Craig Hoover is the Chief of the Branch of CITES Operations in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Division of Management Authority, which is located in the International Affairs Program in Arlington, Virginia. His office is responsible for developing and implementing U.S. CITES policies, regulations, and procedures, compiling CITES annual wildlife trade reports, and preparing documents and U.S. negotiating positions for meetings of the CITES Conference of the Parties and technical committee meetings. Hoover has also worked as a supervisory intelligence analyst and wildlife inspector for the Fish and Wildlife Service's Office of Law Enforcement, and as a program officer and deputy director of TRAFFIC North America, the wildlife trade monitoring unit of World Wildlife Fund and IUCN—The World Conservation Union.



## Doug Hotle

*Curator of Herpetology,  
Albuquerque Biological Park*

Doug Hotle has worked at several AZA institutions as a keeper, senior keeper, manager, general curator, and an executive director.

In addition to improving husbandry and propagation techniques with zoos, Doug has served as a contract biologist for the state of Indiana and US Department of the Navy, heading up a Timber rattlesnake conservation program. He routinely assists in training for individuals who come in contact with venomous snakes as a part of their occupation, and has also worked as Curator of Herpetology for the Natural Toxins Research Center at Texas A&M University—Kingsville, where he oversaw the husbandry of a serpentarium of over 500 venomous snakes, performed daily venom extractions, and conducted research on the biomedical applications of snake venoms. Doug has published for both general audiences as well as in peer-reviewed journals. He currently serves as Curator of Herpetology for the Albuquerque Biological Park, and is working in conjunction with state and federal agencies on conservation programs for native endangered herps in New Mexico.



## Glen Jacobsen

*Attorney, World Chelonian  
Trust, Minnesota  
Herpetological Society*

Glen (Jake) Jacobsen has been a prosecuting attorney in the State of Minnesota for 25 years. He is a trustee and legal advisor to the Chelonian Trust, one of the web's preeminent turtle and tortoise information and educational websites. He is also the legal advisor and past president of the Minnesota Herpetological Society, and a partner of the Turtle Survival Alliance, where he serves on the animal placement committee. As an assistant county attorney, Jacobsen is responsible for the prosecution of persons charged with violations of state statutes regarding the taking, collecting, housing, care, and treatment of all animals, including reptiles and amphibians. He has assisted in drafting, revising, amending, and reviewing reptile and amphibian related state statutes and local ordinances in Minnesota and around the country.



## Dr. Elliott Jacobson

*Association Reptile Amphibian  
Veterinarians, University of  
Florida*

Elliott R. Jacobson, PhD, DVM, DACZM, is currently a Professor of Zoological Medicine at the Department of Small Animal Clinical Sciences in the College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Florida. The author or co-author of 250 refereed scientific papers and 37 chapters in texts, he has edited and co-edited four books, and has been either the principal or co-principal investigator on 83 funded projects since 1978. Since 1979, Dr. Jacobson has advised 30 residents and has advised or served on the committee of 18 graduate students. Almost all of former residents are employed in major zoological institutions and aquariums scattered across the United States. In 1986 he became a Diplomate of the American College of Zoological Medicine. Dr. Jacobson has also been a reptile hobbyist since childhood, keeping and breeding a wide range of reptiles. He currently has about 120 snakes.



## Susan Jewell

*Injurious Wildlife Listing  
Coordinator, United States  
Fish & Wildlife Service*

Susan Jewell is an injurious wildlife biologist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the Washington, DC, headquarters. In her role with the service, she coordinates the listing of injurious wildlife, such as the Burmese python, under the Lacey Act. She also coordinated the listing of threatened and endangered species under the Endangered Species Act. With 12 years of field experience as a biologist in the Everglades and Florida Keys with the Fish and Wildlife Service at Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge, the National Park Service at Everglades National Park, and National Audubon Society studying Florida's wading birds, Jewell has first-hand knowledge of the scope of the invasive problems in Florida and elsewhere in the United States. She is also the author of a number of books and articles about nature and the environment, including *Exploring Wild South Florida: A Guide to Finding the Natural Areas and Wildlife of the Everglades and Florida Keys*.



## Gerald Keown

*Executive Director,  
Southwestern Center for  
Herpetological Research*

Gerald Keown's lifelong vocation has been law enforcement, both at a local and at a state level. He retired from the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education in 2001 after serving over 35 years in Texas municipal and state law enforcement. Keown, who describes himself as an avocational herpetologist with 50+ years of field experience, has had papers and notes published in *Herpetologica*, *Journal of Herpetology*, *Herpetological Review*, and *Captive Breeding*, as well as to regional publications. In addition to his herpetological interests, he is also a naturalist and wildlife photographer whose work was published regularly in numerous outdoor and hunting publications during the 1980s. In early 2007, he was one of the founders of the Southwestern Center for Herpetological Research, where he currently serves as the Association's Executive Director.



## Michael Maddox

*Vice President of Government  
Affairs & General Counsel, Pet  
Industry Joint Advisory Council*

Michael Maddox is PIJAC's General Counsel and Vice President of Governmental Affairs. He directs a government affairs team that reviews thousands of legislative bills and regulatory initiatives annually and manages a comprehensive program for responding to legislative and regulatory initiatives with potential to adversely impact the pet industry and pet owners. Overseeing the review and analysis of pet industry-related legislative and regulatory initiatives introduced or promulgated at the federal, state and local levels, he directs lobbying and grass roots activities while coordinating with association members, coalition partners, and other stakeholders interested in preserving rights of pet owners. Michael has actively represented PIJAC as representative to international organizations such as the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and the International Air Transport Association (IATA). Prior to joining PIJAC, he served as legislative-regulatory counsel and Administrative Law Judge to an executive branch agency in Virginia, as well as staff attorney for a Virginia legislative commission.



## Dr. Michael Murphy

*Department of Health and Human Services/Food & Drug  
Administration*

Dr. Michael Murphy was born and raised in Dallas, Texas, where he received his BS, DVM, and PhD degrees from Texas A&M University. He also earned his JD from William Mitchell College of Law in Minnesota. He is a professor emeritus of the University of Minnesota, where he taught veterinary and graduate students and conducted diagnostic veterinary medicine and toxicology-oriented research for 22 years before joining the FDA. He now serves as a Veterinary Medical Officer in the Division of Surveillance in the Center for Veterinary Medicine at FDA, which coordinates with other divisions in CVM to decide jurisdiction, develop enforcement strategies, obtain expert witnesses, and work on scientific, compliance, and regulatory issues.

## Ty Park

*Lasco Inc.; Owner, Ty's Lizards*

Real estate developer, businessman, and longtime reptile hobbyist Ty Park of Ty's Lizards in Punta Gorda, Florida, was one of the breeders who made the jump from hobbyist to commercial breeder in the late 80s. His business, Lasco Inc./Ty's Lizards, is one of the largest suppliers of captive-bred reptiles and amphibians to the retail supply chain. He is best known for his many donations over the years at charity auctions held at reptile events around the United States, donating tens of thousands of dollars to reptile and amphibian conservation organizations and causes such as the International Reptile Conservation Foundation. He joined the National Reptile and Amphibian Advisory Council in the spring of 2012, serving as Vice-Chair of the Steering Committee, responsible for setting the goals and direction of the educational organization and its annual reptile and amphibian law event.

## Megan Russell

*Wildlife Permits Specialist, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department*

Texas regulates both native and exotic reptiles in some fashion, be it the licensing systems for pythons and venomous exotic snakes, monitoring the black and white lists of native species and their trade, or in the field where game wardens regularly encounter reptile hobbyists searching for desert species. All require some form of permit or license, many of which leave field herpers, businesses, and pet owners worrying about compliance with the law. Megan Russell, the Wildlife Permits Specialist for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, is probably the best person in all of Texas to ask questions regarding permit and license requirements for both native and non-native reptiles and amphibians in the Lone Star State.

## Amneris Siaca

*Permit Biologist, Branch of Permits, United States Fish & Wildlife Service*

Coordination of agents and inspectors in the field, as well as development and implementation of policy, is done through the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's Division of Management Authority, which is located in the International Affairs Program in at the agency's headquarters in Arlington, Virginia, where Amneris Siaca is a biologist at the Branch of Permits. Her office is responsible for implementing an international permit program, monitoring trade as well as coordinating with inspection and enforcement officials, providing technical assistance, and representing the United States at CITES meetings.



## Cindy Steinle

*Vice President, Chicago Herpetological Society, Owner, Small Scale Rescue*

Starting over 20 years ago with her first green iguana inherited from a friend who passed away, Cindy Steinle embraced the reptile and amphibian community as a way of life. Currently the site coordinator of kingsnake.com, one of the oldest and largest reptile and amphibian communities on the Internet, she is a volunteer with several organizations including her own reptile and amphibian rescue, Small Scale Reptile Rescue, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where she works with a number of local shelters, agencies, and organizations to provide rescue services for her community. She also serves as the vice-president of the Chicago Herpetological Society, is a member of the advisory board of the International Herpetological Symposium, and is an educational volunteer for the International Reptile Conservation Foundation.



## Brad Wendt

*Supervisory Wildlife Inspector, United States Fish & Wildlife Service*

Wildlife inspectors of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service are the nation's front-line defense against the illegal wildlife trade. These professional import-export control officers ensure that wildlife shipments comply with U.S. and international wildlife protection laws. Stationed at the nation's major international airports, ocean ports, and border crossings, wildlife inspectors monitor an annual trade worth more than \$2 billion. They stop illegal shipments, intercept smuggled wildlife and wildlife products, and help the United States fulfill its commitment to global wildlife conservation. Brad Wendt, Supervisory Wildlife Inspector at the Houston inspection facility, is one of the investigators who ensure that wildlife shipments comply with U.S. and international wildlife protection laws. He and the staff in Houston process thousands of permits every year.

## Dr. Edward Wozniak

*Zoonosis Control Division,  
Texas Department of State  
Health Services*

In 2008, Dr. Edward Wozniak joined the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), where he serves as the Region 8 Veterinarian in charge of zoonotic and vector borne disease control. He has developed and teaches a specialized 8-hour continuing education course on reptile identification, evaluation, safe venomous snake capture and handling tactics, and snake bite first aide for animal control and emergency response personnel. Dr. Wozniak is board eligible in both laboratory animal medicine and preventive medicine, and has applied to attain full diplomat status in the latter in 2013. In addition to his work with Department of State Health Services, in 2010 Dr. Wozniak was appointed as a Lieutenant Colonel in the Texas State Guard, where he serves as the Public Health Officer for the Alamo Group Medical Response Unit.



## Dr. Jennifer Wright

*Centers For Disease Control  
and Prevention*

Dr. Jennifer Wright led a study of infection control practices among 3,000 practicing veterinarians in the US, the results of which were used to guide development of infection control practices for veterinarians. From 2006–2009, Dr. Wright served as the study director for the Anthrax Vaccine Research Program and the ACIP Anthrax Vaccine Work Group lead. She currently serves as the team lead for the Health Promotion and Program Implementation team within the Division of Foodborne, Waterborne and Environmental Diseases at CDC, where she has worked on recent outbreaks of human illness related to backyard poultry, small turtles (<4"), and frozen rodents used as reptile feed. Dr. Wright and her team work with the public and stakeholders to ensure pet owners are able to enjoy their animals, while also ensuring they are protecting their health.





