Maine Herpetological Society Newsletter

Upcoming Events and Gatherings:

MAY MONTHLY MEETING

Show & Tell Saturday, May 21, 2011, 4:00pm Mid-Maine Chamber of Commerce Waterville, ME

JUNE MONTHLY MEETING

Saturday, June 18, 2011, 4:00pm Mid-Maine Chamber of Commerce Waterville, ME

JULY MONTHLY MEETING

Saturday July 16, 2011 4:00pm Mid-Maine Chamber of Commerce Waterville, ME

AUGUST MONTHLY MEETING

Saturday, August 27 2011, 4:00pm Mid-Maine Chamber of Commerce Waterville, ME

NATIONAL REPTILE BREEDERS EXPO

The Largest Reptile
Meeting in the World
August 19-21
Daytona Beach Florida
www.reptilebreedersexpo.com

New England Expo

MHS on the Road Again

By Doug Kranich

During the '90's, other than a few small shows in Rhode Island, there were no reptile expos in the Northeast. Because of that, four years in a row (1995-1998), a large group of MHS members traveled down to Baltimore to the Mid Atlantic Reptile Show held in September. It required much organization and travel time, (about thirty hours round trip) but each was a great adventure!

Then, in 1999, a breakthrough occurred. Bruce Lowder began his New England Expos in Manchester NH., twice a year. The show was nearly as large as the MARS show and certainly a lot closer. Also, the MHS began the venture of marketing itself and actually manning tables to promote the society. We asked Bruce if we could have a table for our Herp Society and he gladly offered a free table

On April 3, 2011, MHS attended and manned tables for a 23rd consecutive New England expo!! Yes, you read that number correctly. If there was any doubt in your mind, MHS has established itself as a fixture.

Bruce has often commented about the faithfulness of our group and its members. We not only attend but always man our tables so they are never empty. He has often mentioned the buzz of activity that



surrounds our tables. Whether it members selling stock like Nancy's veiled chameleons or the society's T shirts, posters, books, memberships, or the ever-popular plastic herps, we've never had an empty table!

This past show for example, there were twelve members that helped man the tables. In addition to the table given for the society, one extra was purchased for members to sell their stock. On occasion, we have even had two extra tables for that purpose. It was great to see each of the MHS members that made the trip down and stopped into the society table to say "Hi". Thanks also to each of you who renewed memberships.

It was an 'average' day for the table. We sold a few T-shirts, caps, posters, magazines but the highlight for the day was selling two of Dave Barker's ball python books, which has never happened before. (continued on page 2)

MHS on the Road Again

(continued from page 1)

There were also several other MHS members in attendance that were vending their own tables: Joanna Duby, Aliza Arzt, Mark Murdock of A+ Serpents, and Jasin Chapman of Hellbent Reptiles.

The New England Expo has continued to grow in popularity and is always well attended, but the attendance set a record and broke the 2500 level at the April 3 show. Even with the wide aisles at the show, that kind of crowd can make negotiating the floor a challenge. Bruce allowed people entrance about fifteen minutes early (10 am opening) and then there was no turning back. The congestion didn't let up until after 3 pm. I wish there was a way we could attract some of that attendance to Portland in August, where we average about 400 attenders.

The demand for vendor tables has also grown and with the annex room opened up and completely filled, the expo floor accommodated 130 tables. Bruce Lowder runs a great show and if you have never attended before, you need to make plans to attend the next one on Sunday, October 9.

MHS 2010 Financial Statement

MHS 2010 Financial Statement	
OPENING BALANCE 1/1/10	\$4,748.22
INCOME	
MEMBERSHIPS	\$561.00
BOOK/MAGAZINE/POSTER SALES	\$501.62
EXPO VENDOR TABLES	\$1,081.00
GATE RECEIPTS FROM EXPO	\$1,600.00
FROZEN RODENT SALES	\$878.40
DIVIDENDS	\$7.01
TOTAL INCOME	\$4,629.03
EXPENDITURES	
40 EVDO LICENOE	#450.00
10 EXPO LICENSE	\$150.00
EXPO HALL RENTAL	\$928.92
EXPO ADVERTISING EXPO MOTEL ROOMS	\$472.50
RODENT PURCHASES	\$609.00 \$1,000.00
WATERVILLE CHAMBER RENTAL	\$150.00
MEMBERSHIPS PIJAC USARK	\$200.00
WEWDENSHIP STUAC OSARK	φ200.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$3,510.42
CLOSING BALANCE 12/31/10	\$5,866.83

Wan't to See Something Added to the Unrestricted List?

From time to time, member's ask why a particular species is not available on the Unrestricted List at the Dept. of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife. Thanks to MHS leadership, and nearly 3 years of persistent negotiations, in 2009 the list was dramatically improved. At the request of MHS, the DIFW has taken another proactive step in helping to grow Maine's economy. They have established a process by which a species can be reviewed and, if approved, added to the Unrestricted List. First step, answer the two Evaluation questions. Then review the Criteria used for getting an approval.

Commissioner's Evaluation Criteria:

a. Does the species potentially threaten Maine's indigenous fish or wildlife population or is a potentially invasive species? b. Is the species threatened, endangered, or experiencing declines throughout much of its native geographic range?

The Commissioner may grant the request if:

- 1) it is part of a recognized scientific recovery or sanctuary effort, or
- 2) the requested species is to be possessed as breeding stock to maintain unrelated bloodlines, or
- 3) the species is available from captive-bred stocks not negatively impacting native populations.
- c. Does the geographic distribution and life requisites of the species increase the likelihood of the species surviving in Maine if accidentally or intentionally introduced into the wild?
- d. Is there a history of adverse environmental impacts of the species in other locations?
- e. Is it possible that the species may harbor or disseminate an agent harmful to humans, domestic livestock, poultry, native wildlife, fish, other animals, or Maine flora?
- f. Is the species capable of inflicting serious bodily harm to humans and/or endangering the public welfare?
- g. Does the possession of the species potentially threaten a fish or wildlife population or the public welfare?

If all looks good, submit an application with MHS (We'll be submitting the applications in the Fall) The State of Maine charges \$50 per requested species, but as a member of the MHS, you can submit through the organization & pay only \$25. Another membership benefit that more than pays for your dues! For more information go to the MHS website www.maineherp.org.

Part 2

_{by} Doug Kranich

More "Extreme" Peru

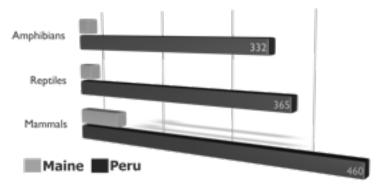
My previous article covered three 'extremes' associated with my trip to Peru: 1)the extreme preparation required from me as a teacher to leave my classroom for two weeks, 2) the extreme 'catch up' required after returning, and finally, 3) the extreme travel required to reach such a remote place. This week, I will focus on the extremes encountered while actually in Peru: weather and biodiversity.

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The first extreme was the intense sun, like none I'd ever experienced before. It was hard to imagine sunshine any more intense than I'd encountered in previous trips to Costa Rica and Aruba... but it was. The reason of course was due to our proximity to the equator at 3.5° south latitude. This was the first time I'd ever been to the Earth's southern hemisphere, but I went just barely over the equator.

I realized immediately that the sun was serious business, especially around midday. At noontime, direct exposure to the sun was like being in an oven or under a heat lamp. Unprotected skin burned quickly and several people took it upon themselves to keep the warnings constant; one bad burn could ruin your trip. I had to be vigilant with the sunblock but my arms and face still received quite a tan. Cloudy days were the 'sneakiest' and if I didn't know better, I'd say those UV rays could even bend around underneath into the shade to 'get you'.

The next extreme was the temperature. Daily high temps were around 90°F . The rainforest



was a bit cooler but that was mainly because you didn't have to worry about direct sun baking you. Nighttime was even better because the temperature usually managed to fall down to 80°F. A few nights were spent out on the water in boats exploring the shores and smaller tributaries. To experience the cooling rush of air in a moving boat was welcome relief from the heat. The city of Iquitos was a different story from the jungle; it was downright HOT. The temperatures remained in the mid 80's all night long.



The author with captured Rainbow Boa

The extreme humidity was also 'off the charts' every single day. The moment I first stepped off the plane and walked onto the tarmac in Iquitos, the combination of heat and humidity was alarming. It was even oppressive while walking and exploring in the rainforest. During every adventure in the jungle I found myself totally soaked from sweat. Sleeping was hot and sweaty but I was so exhausted every night that my deep sleeps helped me to get my rest despite those harsh conditions. Several of our party brought portable, battery-powered fans for cooling purposes. I survived without one but it was the one item I wished I'd taken to help beat the heat and humidity.

Personally, the adjustment from Maine's winter to the Amazon's extremes didn't bother me much. Proof of that would be that I averaged over three miles of exploring the jungle trails per day. One memorable day, I even walked over ten miles! My good health and decent physical condition helped me make the most of my time there. The tougher adjustment for me was returning home to Maine. The Friday night (1/29/2010) I landed in Bangor, I walked out of the terminal building into the teeth of a -25F windchill! It left me chilled for the entire next week before I finally readjusted.

You might still be wondering why I endured these extreme and harsh weather conditions to visit Peru. The best answer to that would be that I wanted to experience the area's incredible, extreme biodiversity (the number of different species that occupy the same area). Peru has one of the greatest biodiversities on the planet. To quote the Convention on Biological Diversity's website (www.cbd.int):

"Peru is known as one of the world's 10 "megadiverse" countries, for its rich diversity in ecosystems, species, genetic resources and culture. Peru's biodiversity is one of the pillars of its national economy, plays a direct role in sustaining a large part of the population, has an important role for culture, science and technology and provides essential environmental services in terms of soil fertility, air quality and water supply."

Let me summarize by comparing the biodiversities of Maine and Peru. For amphibians, Maine has 18 species; Peru has 332. For reptiles, Maine has 22 species, Peru has 365. For mammals, Maine has 75 species; Peru has 460. For birds, Maine has 331 species; Peru has 1700. For all plant species, Maine boasts 1500, and Peru has a whopping 25,000!! I believe that says it all.

Next time, join me and we'll go boating down the Amazon River!



USGS Denies Due Process to Reptile Industry FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

On On April 15th, the US Association of Reptile Keepers (USARK) received a response from the US Geological Survey (USGS) to a long standing appeal and Request for Correction under the Information Quality Act (IQA). In rejecting USARK's contention that the USGS failed to maintain a high standard of quality for their work as required by IQA, the USGS stated, "This document was not designated by the USGS as a highly influential scientific document", and therefore subject to IQA standards. USARK rejects this statement as self serving and believes the document to be "highly influential" based on the exact criteria laid out by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and, therefore, subject to the IQA standards.

The USGS report serves as the sole document being used to justify a federal rule making by US Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) to add nine constrictor snakes to the Injurious Wildlife list of the Lacey Act. If enacted, the rule would prohibit interstate trade, imports and most exports of the listed species, thereby destroying thousands of jobs and hundreds of millions of dollars in trade, putting over a million reptile breeders, collectors and pet owners in jeopardy of felony prosecution. USARK considers this response irresponsible and in direct conflict with guidelines set by forth the OMB.

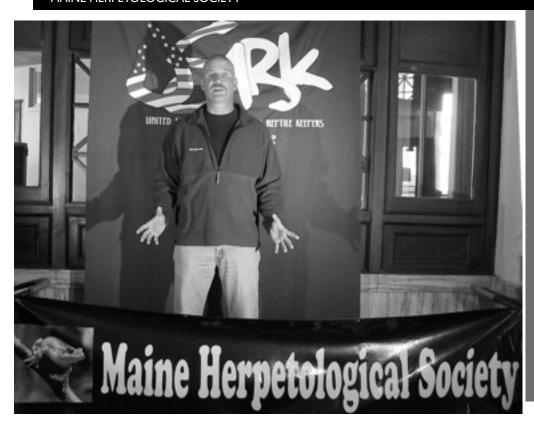
In addition to the potentially devastating economic impact of the proposed rule, the report itself is highly controversial as to the science. The data set on which the conclusions of the 2009 Constrictor Report are based has been demonstrated to be so mischaracterized as to suggest either incompetence or an intentional attempt at deception. Michael Cota, researcher at the Thailand National Natural History Museum, stated in his public comment to FWS, with specific reference to the USGS climate data set, "With a 60% error rate for just one country (Thailand), how many imaginary data sets were used for these reports?" The Constrictor Report is NOT a peer-reviewed scientific document. It is an internal report authored by strongly biased USGS biologists. In fact, a panel of 11 independent experts from the National Geographic Society, University of Florida, Texas A&M and others stated in a letter to the US Senate Environmental & Public Works Committee that this report was "not scientific", and "not suitable as the basis for regulatory of legislative policy decisions".

In an ironic attempt to divert attention from his Department's dismal public image and failure to bring change, Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar gave the "Partners in Conservation Award" to the Giant Constrictor Risk Assessment Partnership for their work regarding constrictor snakes.

The Partners in Conservation award is the highest award granted by the Department of Interior (DOI). The Giant Constrictor Risk Assessment Partnership (ridiculously referred to as Giant CRAP or GCRAP) comprises a small number of government biologists employed by FWS, the National Park Service (NPS), and USGS. USARK CEO Andrew Wyatt commented, "How can the Secretary honor a group of government biologists who give their committee the acronym of Giant CRAP? It may be a joke to them, but it is certainly not a joke to the millions of pet owners and reptile keepers whose livelihoods are at stake."

This prestigious award was given to GCRAP even though the work they had done has been questioned from its inception and continues to be mired in controversy. USARK feels the Award given by Secretary Salazar rewards GCRAP for its concerted effort to ruin decades of successful business, conservation efforts, and education initiatives by private citizens.

"The hubris and unbridled contempt shown by USGS and FWS for the reptile industry is disheartening and without basis", said Wyatt. "It took two appeals before Gordon Rodda saw fit to finally retract his statement that 'southern Florida has an acknowledged reputation for unsavory characters, both reptilian and otherwise". Wyatt added, "We have created a clear public record of the problems with the science and economics, but USGS and FWS seem determined to ignore the facts in favor of their own preference. Wyatt went on to say, "Art Roybal from FWS and Gordon Rodda and Robert Reed from USGS have made a mockery of due process. I hope they will be held accountable."



USARK PRESIDENT

"It's important to be involved with your local Herpetological Society. My visit with the Maine Society has been a great experience. This organization deserves your support"

Andrew Wyatt

Application for Membership

Maine Herpetological Society c/o Doug Kranich 99 Water Street Millinocket, ME 04462

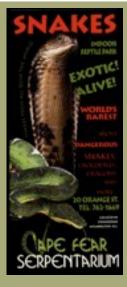
Please Circle One:

\$8 Student \$10 Individual \$15 Family

Date:	· .	' 1	

Name:	(This information	
Phone:	will be used in the membership	
Address:	directory. Feel free to include anything you think other members may find helpful)	
City:	Please do not included the following in the directory:	
State: Zip:		
Email:	[] Name	
Special Interests:	[] Address [] Phone	
	Make check or money order payable to: Maine Herpetological Society	





The Cape Fear Serpentarium

www.capefearserpentarium.com

If you are traveling along the coast in North Carolina, be sure to check out The Cape Fear Serpentarium. It is a one of a kind facility that houses dozens of exhibits which offer visitors a close encounter with many of the rarest and most dangerous reptile species in the world. A photographic display of outcomes from venomous bites will make you happy that the Fer-de-Lance & Bushmaster don't live in Maine.

The exhibits include:

- Rare and Dangerous Venomous Species
- Exotic Lizards and Dragons
- Large Constrictors (Anacondas/Pythons/Boas)
- Large Crocodiles

Dean Ripa is the founder of the Serpentarium. They are located at 20 Orange St. in Wilmington, NC. You will not be disappointed if you visit!

Maine Herpetological Society 99 Water St. Millinocket ME 04462

