



## **SPECIAL BULLETIN**

**November 2007**

### **Help Needed To Plan 2008 Annual Meeting**

Southwest Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation are looking for several volunteers to help plan the 2008 annual meeting to be held in Austin, Texas June 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. We already have local coordinators to handle the venue needs but still need several people (Note: you do not need to be an Austin local) to focus on constructing the agenda, acquiring speakers, handling registration, vendors, sponsors, posters, field trips, etc.... Please contact Randy Gray [randygray1@msn.com](mailto:randygray1@msn.com) or Craig Ivanyi [civanyi@desertmuseum.org](mailto:civanyi@desertmuseum.org) if you're interested in volunteering to help with any aspects of the 2008 meeting. This is a great way to guide the conference in the direction you feel will be most valuable.

### **Website Coordinator**

We are also looking for someone to help keep the existing SW PARC website up to date (updating meeting info, posting meeting minutes, etc.). The website is currently maintained by the University of New Mexico but we need someone to help keep it current on a monthly basis. This person does not need to be associated with UNM. You can view the website at <http://chelydra.unm.edu/swparc/> Please contact Craig Ivanyi [civanyi@desertmuseum.or](mailto:civanyi@desertmuseum.or) or Randy Gray [randygray1@msn.com](mailto:randygray1@msn.com) if you're interested.

### **Salmonella, *E. coli* and Herps: A Major Conservation Problem**

There is a growing concern over herps and food safety of leafy greens in Central California that may grow into a national issue with all raw agricultural products proposed to be regulated in a current Senate Bill. The *E. coli* contaminated spinach deaths recently discussed in the news have resulted in quick reactions from outside the government. Specifically, food buyers have told farmers they need to prevent all wildlife from accessing any fields growing leafy greens for human consumption. They are requiring draconian measures, such as having riparian areas completely cleared of vegetation,

rodent poisoning and fence construction between streams and crop fields. Some are preventing harvests because tadpoles are found in nearby creeks, which are costing farmers thousands of dollars. These activities directly destroy habitat and prevent wildlife movement within the landscape necessary for foraging, breeding and taking refuge. Frogs have been accused with spreading salmonella by the buyers of produce with no data backing up this accusation. The underlying reason frogs are targeted is that salad mix is mowed and the buyers don't want to find frog parts in their bags. Instead of changing harvesting procedures, frogs are unjustly being blamed for carrying human pathogens. The unproven solutions and accusations are resulting in decades of conservation work being destroyed.

If anyone can provide information (literature citations, studies, etc) on this subject please forward to Randy Gray ([randygray1@msn.com](mailto:randygray1@msn.com)). A Fact Sheet about the issue will be prepared and distributed to educate farmers, ranchers, managers and the general public about this issue, to identify where and if there are problems, and what can be done to minimize or negate them.. If you're interested in participating in this effort or providing information please contact Randy Gray [randygray1@msn.com](mailto:randygray1@msn.com)

### **SW PARC SPONSORING NEW BOOK “Lizards of the American Southwest”**

Southwest PARC members Rob Lovich and Lawrence Jones are the contributing technical editors of a new and exciting book tentatively titled, “Lizards of the American Southwest: A Photographic Field Guide”. This effort needs sponsors to offset publication costs, making the book affordable to anyone interested in lizards. Below are some highlights of the book:

- It covers all 96 species from AZ, NM, CA, NV, UT, CO, and TX west of the Pecos River (the lizard capital of the United States).
- This (approximately) 525-page field guide will be the most comprehensive, yet concise guide on lizards of the region in over 60 years (hence, many significant updates).
- It targets a wide audience from nature lovers and ecotourists to herpetologists.
- There will be about 500 high-quality color photographs of all species.
- It is authored by more than 50 species experts; all accounts are peer-reviewed.
- Nomenclature and taxonomy will be based on the 2008 interagency scientific committee on common and scientific names of reptiles and amphibians.
- There will be numerous introductory chapters, including chapters on the lizards of the States of northwestern Mexico, natural history, conservation, and lizard-watching.
- Each species account will have an accompanying up-to-date range map.

This book will be published by Rio Nuevo Publishers, a subsidiary of Treasure Chest Books. Rio Nuevo Publishers are also a major distributor of natural history books; it will be available at all major outlets, as well as most minor ones, and nature and visitor's centers. We anticipate the book becoming available in 2008.

**Donations for this project will be gladly accepted at \$500 increments—a minimum of \$500 will guarantee a line as a sponsor. We need to raise \$10,000 -- that is only 20 sponsors at \$500 or ten at \$1000 (or one at \$10,000!). Additional dollars will of course help make the retail price even more affordable. All financial contributors will be acknowledged as sponsors in the finished book. In-kind services will also be acknowledged.**

Hopefully agencies, organizations, or even individuals can help support this effort.

None of the contributors (editors, authors, photographers, map-makers, illustrators) will be paid for this project. All royalties will go to a grant program for the Herpetologists' League.

To make a financial contribution, please contact Carrie Stusse at Rio Nuevo Publishers, P.O. Box 5250, Tucson, Arizona, 85703, or [carries@rionuevo.com](mailto:carries@rionuevo.com). Feel free to contact us for more information on the book: Lawrence Jones at [gilaman@comcast.net](mailto:gilaman@comcast.net), and Robert Lovich at [rlovich@gmail.com](mailto:rlovich@gmail.com). Thank you!