Announcements for information, conferences or meetings with relevance to veterinary care of reptiles and amphibians are listed as a service to ARAV members. Send announcements to the Journal of Herpetological Medicine and Surgery, 3454 Chasewood Drive, San Diego, CA 92111 or fax to 858-541-2075 or email to terrapins@earthlink.net.

The Association of Reptilian and Amphibian Veterinarians has set-up a web page that includes a Member Directory so that people in need of veterinary care can contact ARAV members. Information will include your name, city, state and zip code, as noted in the current directory. If you wish to have this information changed (i.e. to a business address) or do not wish to be included please contact Susanne Grosch at ribbit@jump.net. Electronic business cards are also available!

PLACING AN ELECTRONIC BUSINESS CARD ON THE ARAV WEB SITE

Now that you have seen the ARAV web site, give your clients more information! In an effort to afford you the opportunity to provide more information about your practice and client service, we invite you to consider placing your business card on the ARAV web site. The ARAV member must provide his/her own text and graphic. The appropriate information would consist of your name, address, phone number, etc., and a short description of services offered, special interests or skills, and your business logo or some other appropriate graphic. The graphic has to be either in electronic form or in a form ready to be scanned. Note that if there is any cost for getting an image scanned professionally, the actual cost will be passed on to you. We would advise you to avoid intricate graphics as these do not display well on the web.

Your electronic business card will be linked directly to your name as it appears in the on-line Membership Directory. The information that you provide should not take more than 1/4 page if it was printed in a traditional publication. Send your information, along with your business logo/graphic (either in electronic form or ready to be scanned) and a $25.00 service fee, (payable to the ARAV) to Dr. Wilbur B. Amand, ARAV Executive Director, PO Box 605, Chester Heights, PA, 19017; tel 610-358-9530; fax 610- 892-4813; e-mail 75634.235@compuserve.com. Please contact Dr. Amand if you have any questions.

The ARAV reserves the right to refuse to publish any submissions that it deems inappropriate.

WHAT IS PARC AND WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (PARC) is an initiative designed to find solutions to problems faced by herpetofauna. People who have an agenda that in some way involves reptiles or amphibians 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.

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. Solutions for the conservation of wild populations vary but 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.

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. 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) or check the PARC Web site (www.parcplace.org).

CUC PHUONG TURTLE CONSERVATION AND ECOLOGY PROJECT

The Cuc Phuong Conservation Project is a multifaceted conservation initiative at Cuc Phuong National Park, Vietnam. Amongst the project’s major components is a species conservation program aimed at helping protect Vietnam’s freshwater and terrestrial turtles.

There are approximately 25 species of freshwater turtles and tortoises native to Vietnam. Nearly all of these species are heavily exploited for the wildlife trade with China.

There are approximately 25 species of freshwater turtles and tortoises native to Vietnam. Nearly all of these species are heavily exploited for the wildlife trade with China. Although estimates on the volume of turtles shipped daily across the border vary greatly (up to 1.8 tons/day by some accounts), hard evidence from regional protection authorities and visual inspections of trade seizures confirm that harvest levels cannot be sustained. Many of Vietnam’s turtle species are under immediate threat of destruction. Hunting pressures, combined with an equally alarming loss of forest habitat due to agricultural conversion, illegal timber cutting, and firewood collection lead one to doubt whether turtles will survive Vietnam’s race into the 21st century.

The Cuc Phuong Conservation Project became involved with national and regional authorities on freshwater turtles and tortoises after observing a number of large trade shipments that were seized by protection authorities. Clouded leopards, sun bears, langurs, and pheasants were retrieved from such shipments and placed into in-situ programs with long-term conservation objectives. Turtles were passed on back to traders and on to China. Further investigation indicated that although there was considerable international interest in protecting southeast Asia’s turtles, turtles distinctly lacked a voice in Vietnam. Aside from a few brief fact-finding missions by international experts, and trade survey reports by national institutions, Vietnam’s turtles are being exported to China wholesale with little concern for their protection or conservation.

The Cuc Phuong Conservation Project embarked on a species conservation program in 1998 aimed at helping pro-
tect Vietnam’s turtles through a combined conservation strategy, presently in its infant stages. The project focuses on (1) addressing the critical need for protection of Vietnam’s turtle species through public awareness and education, aimed at influencing and changing public attitudes, (2) establishment of an in-situ conservation program based at Cuc Phuong National Park that involves provision of facilities for turtles confiscated from the illegal trade, captive breeding, research, and translocation to suitable National Parks and protected areas within their native range, and (3) building the capacity and knowledge of national and regional authorities through training, providing materials, and working with rangers to improve enforcement and monitoring of the turtle trade.

At present, the project has established limited facilities at the park and houses approximately 200 turtles of 17 species. The initial stages of the public awareness and education programs are progressing, with plans to hold a pilot regional training workshop for protection authorities in November. The program is also establishing a steering committee composed of international and regional experts to help direct project developments and maximize the conservation benefits for turtles with the limited resources at hand.

For more information about the Turtle Conservation and Ecology Project at Cuc Phuong National Park, please contact: Douglas Hendrie, Project Manager, Cuc Phuong Conservation Project, Ninh Binh Province, Vietnam cpcp@fpt.vn.

Sample submissions requested to aid in research on an emerging fungal pathogen of reptiles. The University of Wisconsin, School of Veterinary Medicine, Special Species Health Service, is initiating a study of Nannizziopsis vriesii, a poorly known ascomycetous fungus emerging as a significant disease agent of captive reptiles. Infection begins as a cutaneous disease, but can disseminate, leading to a fatal outcome. Disease has now been identified in North America, Europe and Australia and documented in lizards, snakes and crocodilians. Nannizziopsis vriesii has a wide variability in microscopic features so that it can be confused with many fungal species (e.g. Trichophyton sp., Geotrichum sp., Chrysosporium sp.) and probably has been misidentified in the past. It is currently unclear whether N. vriesii is a common environmental fungus, is part of the normal reptile skin microflora and only opportunistically causes disease in stressed animals, or whether it is a true transmissible or contagious pathogen. Treatment of affected reptiles has been largely ineffective, and the sensitivity of N. vriesii to antifungal drugs is mostly unknown. We are proposing to successively investigate the prevalence of the fungus in reptiles and in the environment, its pathogenicity, and its susceptibility to available antifungal drugs.

Phase I of the research is an epidemiological study of Nannizziopsis vriesii. The results of this study should give us insight into which species of reptiles are susceptible to infection with this fungus, and give us a better idea of the prevalence and sources of N. vriesii. In order to complete this study we are asking for your collaboration, and will be sending out letters with sample (shed skin or exuviae) submission instructions shortly to AZA institutions, veterinary schools with exotic animal clientele, and ARAV practitioners. Funding will be provided for shipping of the samples, as well as the fungal cultures of specimens we will receive. We will then compile and analyze all the data from the sample submissions. The results of our research will be presented at the annual ARAV conference, and will be published in a scientific journal. Your help in contributing samples will be greatly appreciated, as this phase of the research is imperative for a basic understanding of N. vriesii. Thank you in advance for your cooperation. For further information, please contact Jean A. Paré, Assistant Professor, Special Species Health Service, Department of Surgical Sciences, School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Wisconsin, 2015 Linden Drive West, Madison, WI 53706, USA. Tel: 608 262 4706, Fax: 608 263 7930. email: PareJ@svm.vetmed.wisc.edu

Chelonian Research Foundation (CRF), established in 1992 as a 501© (3) nonprofit tax-exempt private operating foundation, administers a turtle research endowment fund named the Linnaeus Fund, for which it invites the submission of chelonian research proposals for its Annual Turtle Research Awards. Named after Carolus Linnaeus (1707-1778), the Swedish creator of binomial nomenclature, the fund honors the firstturtle taxonomist and father of all modern systematics.

Linnaeus fund awards are granted annually to individuals for specific turtle research projects, with either partial or full support as funding allows. Priority is generally given to projects concerning freshwater turtles, but tortoise and marine turtle research proposals are also funded. Priority is given to the following general research areas: taxonomy and systematic relationship conservation, distribution and zoogeography, ecology, natural history, and morphology, other topics are also considered. Priority is given to projects that demonstrate potential relevance to the scientific basis and understanding of chelonian diversity and conservation biology. Award recipients agree to publish at least partial summarized results of the supported research in a CRF sponsored publication, such as Chelonian Conservation and Biology.

Awards at this time are typically in the $1000 - 2000 range for each project, with about 10 or more projects funded annually. There will be increased grant support from year to year, as the endowment fund grows - it has a current value of $161,000. The annual application deadline in November 15, with funding selection December 31. Submit applications in formal grant proposal format in triplicate as follows: title page, project objective, background and research rationale, material and methods, total project expenses, funding requested from CRF, funding available or requested from other organizations, general timetable, literature cited, a curriculum vitae for all key personnel.

Awards are granted through an internal review process carried out by the director and scientific advisory board of
The West Indian Iguana Specialist Group, a branch of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Species Survival Commission (SSC) is funding projects to help save the most critically endangered iguanas. The iguanas of the West Indies are a unique group of lizards that inhabit islands throughout the Greater Antilles and the Bahamas (genus Cyclura) and the Lesser Antilles (genus Iguana). The Fort Worth Zoo produced a poster for this group and the proceeds will go towards in situ conservation efforts. Fourteen species of this impressive group of lizards are depicted in a color poster 24" x 19" with pictures of individual species, range maps and text about their plight. The poster is available for $12.50 including postage from: IUCN/SSC West Indian Iguana Specialist Group, c/o Rick Hudson, Fort Worth Zoo, 1989 Colonial Parkway, Fort Worth, TX, 76110.

Clinical Instructor, Zoological Medicine. The Department of Small Animal Clinical Sciences, College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Florida invites applicants for a nontenure track clinical instructor position in Zoological Medicine. The candidate preferably should have a DVM or equivalent degree. Eligibility in either the American College of Zoological Medicine or the Avian Specialty of the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners is preferred.

Candidates with an interest in either Internal Medicine or Surgery and who have a background in non-domestic animals are also encouraged to apply, as are persons who have either completed Zoo, Avian or Exotic residences or will do so in the near future. The person filling this position will join 3 other faculty members responsible for the management of all non-domestic animals presented to the University of Florida, Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital (VMTH). Contractual agreements and or programmatic links also exist with the Lubee Foundation, Disney Animal Kingdom, St. Augustine Alligator Farm, Santa Fe Teaching Zoo, Central Florida Zoo, and White Oak Plantation. The individual's assignment will be primarily clinical service, with some didactic teaching. The clinical service will be predominantly within the VMTH with an emphasis on small exotic animals. Teaching responsibilities will involve didactic and clinical training of professional students. This position offers a unique opportunity to work with a wide range of non-domestic species (including pet exotics, freeranging wildlife, and animals from zoological collections) in an academic setting with strong interdisciplinary service support and a wide array of research opportunities. The closing date for applications is February 28, 2001. The position will be available 2001. Applicants should submit letter of application, curriculum vitae, and names of 3 individuals willing to write in support of the applicant to Dr Darryl Heard, Department of Small Animal Clinical Sciences, College of Veterinary Medicine, Box 100128 HSC, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida 32610-0126.

The University of Florida is an Equal Opportunity Affirmative Action Employer/Educator