such love and respect, but my personal testament to his special qualities is all the years he supported our field studies on rattlesnakes out of his personal income. We were unable to get more than small grants to conduct our fieldwork, but his interest in nature and devotion to science did not allow this to deter our work. Largely through his personal support, we continued the work from 1978–1990. As he would be the first to say, the studies on rattlesnakes may not have been "profound", but they were done with a genuine and pure interest in science that is not always evident in today's scientific studies. We conducted fieldwork mostly on weekends during the spring and summer, and in the winter we would use the weekends to catch up on laboratory work and data analysis. Although Dick had a deep love and respect for the animals he studied, he was definitely from the old school that believed in the scientific value of "sackin' up" some specimens. One of my favorite memories was our tradition of going to the lab on Saturdays to do dissections. The work was tedious, but allowed for hours of lively, mostly scientific discussions, with coffee and a donut for our snack. Dick would be dissecting a rattlesnake with all manner of unmentionable "uck-puck" (his favorite term) on his fingers, and if he needed to record something on the data form or took a bite of his donut, he simply licked his fingers and proceeded. He agreed with my admonishments that he probably shouldn't do that, but in a short time, he was right back to using the most natural of cleaning methods. Another memorable occasion was one Saturday when we were dissecting some gravid female rattlesnakes and Dick kept insisting that the mature ova looked "real tasty." We must have forgotten the donuts that day, because we decided that science would be no worse off if we cooked up a couple of the ova. It probably is no surprise that they were terrible and we were never tempted to eat any of our specimens again.

Dick was born August 22, 1933 in Tacoma, Washington and grew up in the same town. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree in conservation from Washington State College in 1956. Following two years in the U.S. Army Signal Corps, he began graduate studies in fisheries science at Oregon State College in 1958 where he received Master of Science and Doctoral degrees in 1960 and 1969. He began his academic career in 1960 at Oregon State University and accepted a position as acting Assistant Professor of Zoology at the University of Idaho in September 1967. At the University of Idaho, Dick taught ichthyology, general zoology, herpetology and biological science courses. He was tenured in 1972 and was promoted to Professor of Zoology in 1984. During his academic career at the University of Idaho, he had graduate students in both fisheries science and herpetology. He retired from the University of Idaho in 1991.

Dick's professional memberships included the American Fisheries Society, American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles, The Herpetologists League, Idaho Chapter American Fisheries Society, Oregon Chapter American Fisheries Society (charter member), Pacific Fishery Biologists, Sigma Xi, Phi Sigma and Phi Kappa Phi. During his career, he authored or contributed to four books, and over 60 refereed publications and papers. One of Dick's most notable publications was the Fishes of Idaho, which he co-authored with James Simpson in 1978. This text was the first that described Idaho fish species, their biology and distribution.

After retiring, Dick stayed active pursuing his life-long passion for fishing and hunting, but he also did consulting work that included both fish and amphibian studies. Most of the herpetological work was done for Simpson Timber Company in northern California, where true to his style, he insisted that he work for only modest compensation. However, his efforts were instrumental in developing a research and monitoring program for forest amphibians that may well set the standard for the forest products industry. Upon his death, Dick was working on a field guide to the native fishes of Idaho, and the morphological variation and distribution of Idaho sculpins. He is survived by his wife Margaret, son John Wallace, two daughters Kate Mecham and Liz Branter, and four grandchildren Meredith Wallace, Megan Mecham and Zachary and Nicholas Branter.

For many of us that knew him during his active post-retirement years, he was simply "Wallace", and on any gathering with two or more of his friends, a favorite pastime was telling Wallace stories. One of my favorites was related to his life-long nemesis, elk. On a particularly cold elk hunting expedition, he got a late start hunting in the morning, and was once again unsuccessful, because he had put his dentures in a glass of water before going to bed and awoke to have them frozen solid in a block of ice. He delighted in telling fishing and hunting stories, but in keeping with his self-depreciating style, he was just as likely to tell you about his "screw ups" as his successes, of which he had plenty. Although he commonly told these stories in greater detail than anyone needed to know, his obvious enjoyment and passion for being in the outdoors made every story worth the wait. We have truly lost a great champion of science, and to all those that knew him, a great friend. We can only hope that he is now where the trout and white-tailed bucks are big and on the move.

Herpetological Review, 2004, 35(3), 213–215.

John E. Werler (1922–2004)

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John E. Werler was born on 11 June 1922 in Oldenburg, Germany, and immigrated to Weehawken, New Jersey in 1926. He "cut his teeth" in herpetology and the zoo field in Staten Island, New York City. His father was not pleased with his nascent interest in natural history so he burned his animal books. His recollections: "During my early teens I developed a keen interest in reptiles, a passion that inevitably led me to Staten Island Zoo's reptile study society." The group's monthly meetings were held at the Staten Island Zoo, which maintained one of the nation's premier reptile collections. Carl Kauffeld, the zoo's charismatic reptile curator, usually conducted the meetings. According to John, "it was an opportunity to mingle with others, both amateur and professional, who shared the same interest."

From Weehawken it was a tedious journey by bus and ferry to Manhattan, trudging several blocks to a subway station, then on to another ferry terminal for Staten Island, a long ferry ride and then yet another bus to the zoo.

However, John did not mind the two-and-a-half hour one-way trip because "for the next couple of hours I would share a common passion with others," and "to a budding young herpetologist, this was the ultimate experience." "Becoming a member of the Staten Island Zoo reptile study society was one of the most important events of my young life," he reminisced decades later. A year after he had joined the group, a keeper position became available and he applied. Fortunately for him and the herpetological world, Carol Striker, the zoo director, sent him a memo, dated 18 October 1940: "This letter will serve to notify you that you have been appointed to the position of Reptile Keeper, Second Class, salary $1200.00 per year, effective October 1st, 1940." Thus John Werler, at the age of eighteen, began a productive and successful zoo career, which spanned half a century until his retirement as the Houston Zoo director in 1992.

His new boss, the legendary Carl Kauffeld, continued to be a willing mentor. "It was not unusual for him to spend an hour or two explaining to a keeper or a curious novice the basics of taxonomy, the secrets of captive reptile maintenance, or the historical background of herpetology." John's duties ranged far beyond the maintenance of exhibits and caring for reptiles. Ahead of his time, Kauffeld was aware of the need for accurate record keeping on each specimen under his care. Application of computer chips on live animals was but science fiction then; the task required manual markings on animals as a permanent identification. John's job was to assist the curator with individually marking rattlesnakes. And the zoo had a large number of rattlesnakes.

"It involved pinning each snake to the floor with a snake stick, then grasping the reptile behind the head with the other hand," John noted. He was to hand-hold each specimen while Kauffeld clipped certain scales under the snake's tail. "Picking up the first two snakes went according to plan; the third did not. It jerked its body backward violently just as the snake stick was being lifted from its head. When the sudden, unexpected snap loosened my hold, the rattler instantly turned its head to one side, sinking one of its fangs deep into my right thumb. The bite was serious enough to keep me in a local hospital for five days, and in ten days I was back at the zoo. In spite of the accident I was able to perform my usual routine duties upon my return."

FIG. 1. John E. Werler, then-curator at the San Antonio Zoo, and rattlesnake friend. A variation of this photograph was used on the cover of his bulletin on the venomous snakes of Texas. Photo courtesy of John E. Werler.

"But I faced a nagging question: would I be mentally prepared to once again pick up and hand-hold a venomous snake?" The painful experience was fresh in the young man's mind as he confronted a momentary, paralyzing doubt. However, "I was determined not to let that fear destroy my confidence."

After returning to work, one day he used a snake stick to pull a large cottonmouth from its cage, placing it on the service aisle floor before him. "Almost reluctantly — remembering vividly the circumstances of my first snake bite — I pinned the reptile's head with the stick. But for a brief attempt to pull itself free from the restraining device, the snake remained calm as I picked it up. When it was over, there was perspiration on my forehead, but the deed was done, the challenge met, and my confidence regained. I was back in the business of reptile keeping." [The foregoing is from a four-page note he sent to KK, dated 10 June 1999]

In 1946 John became curator of reptiles at the San Antonio Zoo and was promoted to assistant director in 1952. He moved to the Houston Zoo and served as general curator from 1954 to 1963, when he became the director. As part of the ceremonial opening of the zoo's Reptile House in 1964, Werler demonstrated proper handling of a cobra. He majored in biology at William & Mary College and served four years in the U. S. Coast Guard.

Following the turbulent 1960s, the American zoo world faced formidable challenges in the next decade. The precarious financial status of municipalities caused difficulty for many urban zoos. Moreover in the era of awakening environmental awareness, zoos became a target of criticism from increasingly vocal animal advocate groups. As federal laws, regulations and an international treaty on wild animal trade became stricter, wholesale importation of wild animals was coming to a screeching halt. Soon, it became vitally important for zoos to maintain self-sustaining populations by effectively managing captive wild animals in a more scientific manner.

As the Houston Zoo director, John Werler hosted the 1973 annual conference of the American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums (AAZPA, now American Zoo and Aquarium Association, or AZA). It was an unusual conference with a heavy dose of technical paper sessions on breeding and small population management of zoo animals. It was at this conference that the future direction for zoo animal management was laid out, based on biological principles, especially genetics. Later, the National Academy of Sciences (1975) published the conference proceedings.

One of the critical animal management issues surfacing in the forefront of the AAZPA was that of surplus animals. While some species were not reproducing sufficiently, on the other hand offspring of certain species were "flooding" the market, causing a serious dilemma for zoos. Contemplating the issue John alerted his colleagues eloquently (1974): "We are well aware that a major factor in the reduction of wildlife is vanishing habitat. A related problem, unique to our profession, is becoming increasingly evident — that of vanishing space. We have become extremely suc-

cessful in breeding certain species." He continued, "Even when occasional rare species are successfully bred in captivity, there remains the nagging problems of finding space to properly accommodate the expanding captive groups." Ahead of his time, he then suggested a need for a collective animal management program. As zoos faced more rapid changes, John Werler took the AAZPA presidency for the period 1975 to 1976 and made every effort to resolve difficult issues. [He told KK around that time that after he had made a critical decision, a prominent Texas zoo director did not speak to him for a year.]

FIG. 2. Houston Zoo director John E. Werler (right) with reptile curator Tommy Logan during the mid-1960s. Photo courtesy of John E. Werler.

Gary K. Clarke, retired director of the Topeka Zoo, Kansas and a former AAZPA president (1971–1972) comments (pers. comm.): "John was one of the all-round zoo professionals who emerged from initial interest in herpetology." Speaking of herpetology, Chris Wemmer of the Smithsonian National Zoological Park wondered (1991), "How come herpetologists tend to be more committed biologists than bird and mammal curators?" He also observed, "Their intellectual commitment is manifested by higher individual publication rates, more collaboration with non-zoo biologists, more field experience, and probably higher per capita membership in professional societies." John Werler typifies this particular breed of zoo professional. Dr. Wemmer then revealed a list of 21 scholars worldwide in "A Gallery of Zoo Researchers and Zoo Biologists." Included in this impressive roster were highly respected European scholars, along with John Werler and his mentor Carl Kauffeld.

In Werler's honor, Roger Conant described the Tabasco Watersnake *Natrix* (= *Nerodia*) *rhombifera werleri* in 1953. Two amphibians from Veracruz, Mexico were named after Werler: Werler's False Brook Salamander (*Pseudoeurycea werleri*) and the leptodactylid frog *Eleutherodactylus werleri* [now *E. laticeps*]. Later this year, a paper by Jonathan Campbell and Werler will appear in *Southwestern Naturalist* describing a new species of lizard named after Werler's beloved late wife (*Diploglossus ingridae*).

Werler died of cancer on 21 March 2004. He and his wife Ingrid had one son, John H. Werler.

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Herpetological Review, 2004, 35(3), 215–216.

Walter Auffenberg (1928–2004)

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Walt Auffenberg passed away on 17 January 2004 at the age of 75 after a long illness following a stroke in December 1995. He is survived by two sons, Kurt and Troy, six grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. Walt was born in Detroit, Michigan, on 6 February 1928, the only child of Walter and Ida Auffenberg. He developed a passion for herpetology early in his childhood, and by the time he graduated from Denby High School Walt had amassed a sizable collection of preserved snakes. If he made good grades in school, Walt was allowed to take the bus or hitchhike to far off places, such as Florida and Mexico, to collect herps. His parents had purchased two small orange groves and a fernery near Deland, Florida, for their eventual retirement, and after graduation from high school, Walt tended these small plots of land. Walt enlisted in the Medical Corps of the United States Navy near the end of World