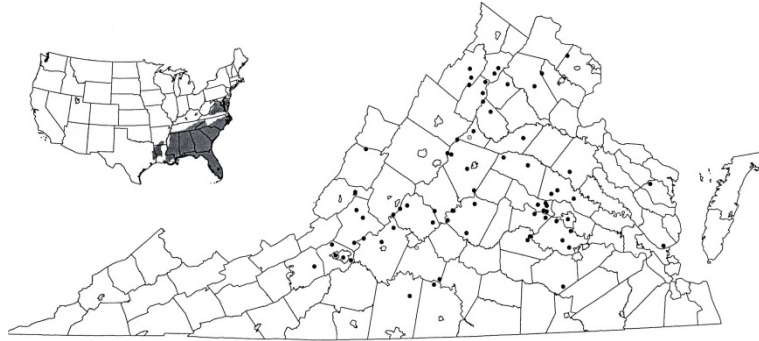


**BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH  
AND  
BIBLIOGRAPHY OF JOSEPH C. MITCHELL**



**Joseph C. Mitchell**  
Mitchell Ecological Research Service

**SMITHSONIAN HERPETOLOGICAL  
INFORMATION SERVICE**

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## SMITHSONIAN HERPETOLOGICAL INFORMATION SERVICE

The first number of the SMITHSONIAN HERPETOLOGICAL INFORMATION SERVICE series appeared in 1968. SHIS number 1 was a list of herpetological publications arising from within or through the Smithsonian Institution and its collections entity, the United States National Museum (USNM). The latter exists now as little more than the occasional title for the registration activities of the National Museum of Natural History. No. 1 was prepared and printed by J. A. Peters, then Curator-in-Charge of the Division of Amphibians & Reptiles. The availability of a NASA translation service and assorted indices encouraged him to continue the series and distribute these items on an irregular schedule.

The series continues under that tradition. Specifically, the SHIS series distributes translations, bibliographies, indices, and similar items judged useful to individuals interested in the biology of amphibians and reptiles, and unlikely to be published in the normal technical journals. We wish to encourage individuals to share their bibliographies, translations, etc. with other herpetologists through the SHIS series. If you have such an item, please contact George Zug [zug @ si.edu] for its consideration for distribution through the SHIS series.

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Cover Image: Virginia distribution of Corn Snake  
Mitchell & Reay 1999. Atlas of Amphibians and Reptiles in Virginia p. 88.

## Biographical Sketch

My parents were married shortly after World War II. I arrived on 16 August 1948. We lived in Bedford, Virginia, at the time and shortly afterward moved to Richmond. My dad was blue collar and worked in the maintenance section of a local bank that had numerous branches around town. Mom stayed at home. We lived in the suburbs on the north side of the city. I spent a lot of time in the adjacent woods building forts and just being outside. I essentially lived in the wood shop in middle and high school. I made a pair of award-winning lamps in my junior year and a pair of corner cabinets in my senior year along with a number of other things. After graduation from high school, I became a furniture craftsman's apprentice at a well-known furniture company. I was destined to be a master craftsman, or so I thought. The Vietnam War was escalating that summer, and I was caught up in the hype and rhetoric. I had emulated the Marines because an uncle by marriage was a Marine who had fought on Okinawa in World War II. He inspired me in several ways, including fostering my love of snakes. He always had a small live collection that he used for teaching at Boy Scout meetings. Thus, I developed two main interests in my early teen years: herpetology and woodworking.

That same uncle introduced me to the Virginia Herpetological Society in the early 1960s. The group focused solely on Virginia herpetology and aimed to publish a set of maps on the distributions of all the species in the state. It was finally published in 1985. They also published a newsletter that came out two to three times a year. At least one meeting a year consisted of formal talks and live animals, and often field trips. I attended the first one in 1963 and many thereafter. They introduced me to research and science. I was hooked.

After graduating from high school, I joined the U.S. Marine Corps on the day I had to register for the draft, 16 August 1966. It was the best decision of my life. Boot camp was at Parris Island, South Carolina, where I stayed almost three months. I became a Marine in December 1966. My training was in aviation ordnance school in Jacksonville, Florida, followed by two years at Cherry Point, North Carolina, where I worked as a member of the ordnance crew serving A6 bomber jets. We assembled and loaded bombs of various sizes, rockets, and missiles under the jets. That was where I lost all my high frequency hearing. We had two deployments to Yuma, Arizona, so the pilots could practice with live ordnance. I caught a Desert Iguana (*Dipsosaurus dorsalis*) under a generator on the tarmac and found that I liked the desert. I picked up orders in spring 1969 to go to Vietnam, and while I was home on leave accidentally broke my left fifth metatarsal bone. I hobbled into Camp Pendleton, California, in a walking cast. The base was the staging point for Marines going to Vietnam. Admin did not know what to do with me for over two months. When they finally got to me, they said I had too little time left for a Vietnam assignment; 13 months was the normal tour.

It was during that very unsettling time that I made up my mind to get a Ph.D. in biology. The decision occurred during an epiphany I had one night walking back to the barracks from the base library. I had taken some off-base classes at Cherry Point and some of the guys had been to college or were going. That influence, plus my interest in herpetology, fed my decision. I was assigned to the helicopter squadron on base for the rest of the year to work with ordnance on

helicopters and then became the aviation wing's small arms armorer. At the end of the year, I took an assignment on the Marine Corps base in Kaneohe, Hawaii, where I served my last eight months of active duty in 1970. While home on leave between California and Hawaii, I signed up for classes at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) in Richmond which started in September. With paperwork in hand, I was discharged from active duty just in time to make classes. My undergraduate years were essentially normal. I was asked to write a few articles for *Virginia Wildlife* magazine in my senior year. The two-part article on snakes was combined into one reprint and distributed widely. They told me years later that it was passed out to about 200,000 people in the state. It and other publications helped me get into graduate school. My GRE scores were not the best so my publications helped a lot. I wrote about 30 articles for the magazine on herps off and on through the 1990s.

I obtained my B.S. at VCU in 1974. I did a research project in my senior year on geographic variation in Corn Snakes (then *Elaphe guttata*) in the Atlantic Coastal Plain based on meristic characters. A professor there, Charles Blem, arranged a meeting with Dr. George Zug, Curator of Amphibians and Reptiles at the Smithsonian Institution. George became a colleague and mentor. He helped me obtain specimen loans from other museums so I could have adequate geographic coverage in my samples. He introduced me to various aspects of museum science and many professional herpetologists. He helped with my first publication in a national journal based on that project (Mitchell 1977). Just before I left for graduate school, George offered me the position of editor of the Geographic Distribution section of *Herpetological Review* (HR) published by the Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles (SSAR). He initiated that section for HR. That position led me to meet, mostly by mail, lots of professional herpetologists, and it was my entry into the professional societies. I remained in the position until 1979.

I married my first wife, Virginia Talley, a fellow biology student at VCU, in 1973. She and I moved to Tempe, Arizona, in August 1974. We had our daughter, Tanya, during our time there in 1975. We were divorced in 1978. I remarried in 1979 to Wendy Hoilman who was also a fellow biology student at VCU. We had three children: Joshua (1979), Justin (1985), and Elizabeth (1990). That marriage ended in 2003. My kids are now doing well in their respective careers. I remarried again in 2006 to Dr. Susan Walls, a professional herpetologist and scientist who got her Ph.D. at the University of Southwestern Louisiana. She was working for the U.S. Geological Survey as an amphibian biologist and living in Lafayette, Louisiana. I did not want to move there, and she did not want to stay there so we lived apart for two years. She was able to transfer into essentially the same position at the U.S. Geological Survey center in Gainesville, Florida. I moved down from Richmond in late 2007.

I was accepted into Arizona State University's (ASU) zoology graduate program in 1974. It was a good choice. I loved the Sonoran Desert. Jack Fouquette became my major professor. He had a hands off approach to his graduate students. I was assigned an office on the third floor of the science building which was occupied by Justin Congdon, my office mate. Another Ph.D. student there was Laurie Vitt. Both Justin and Laurie finished their Ph.D's in the same year or one year after I finished my Master's Degree in 1976. They and other graduate students helped me mature in science and herpetology. I did my thesis research in Cochise County, Arizona, on a private

ranch that Justin had suggested. There, I focused on a one-year study of niche overlap and reproduction in four species of whiptail lizards. It was desert-grassland. I loved it and the herp diversity. I went on frequent field trips in southern Arizona and road cruised a lot. I found my first Arizona snake, a *Crotalus tigris* (Tiger Rattlesnake), on my first road cruise. I credit my ASU courses, fellow graduate students, and experiences in Arizona with making me a professional herpetologist.

The Graduate Program in Ecology at the University of Tennessee was one of the first of its kind in the United States to produce MS and Ph.D. degrees in ecology. The program accepted me for the Ph.D. My wife and I moved to Knoxville in August 1976. Sandy Echternacht, who got his MS at ASU, became my major professor. That time was stressful for my wife and me, and in about a year we separated. She moved back to Richmond. I finished my two years of matriculation and then I moved back to Richmond to take some time off. I obtained a part-time job teaching biology courses at VCU. In early 1979, I decided that I wished to finish my Ph.D. and approached Sandy about doing it long distance. He and the committee approved a long distance approach. I found a good project on the ecology of freshwater turtles in a series of abandoned golf course ponds northwest of Richmond. My committee accepted my proposal, and I trapped turtles nearly every day for three years. I lived less than five miles away with my wife Wendy.

In late 1979, Chris Pague, who had just graduated from Virginia Tech, and I announced that we were going to produce a herpetology of Virginia. The publicly-funded Non-game income tax checkoff program had just begun for the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF), and I was able to obtain support funds and salary from 1981 through 1989 for the Virginia herpetology project. In 1980, I began teaching biology classes part time at the University of Richmond (UR) and continued teaching throughout the 1980s. Those two jobs took up most of my time for a decade.

I finished my Ph.D. in 1982. The population ecology part of it was published in *Herpetological Monographs* in 1988. George Zug was the editor at the time. I published the four reproduction sections in the three national herpetological journals; two each on *Chrysemys picta* and *Sternotherus odoratus*. George was generous here as well because he had the VZ departmental histology lab prepare histological sections on the male testes of which there were many. Several other papers were based on the histology sections provided by that lab (e.g., Mitchell and Zug 1984; Buhlmann and Mitchell 2000; Glesenkamp et al. 2003).

I was also working with George again and became a Research Associate with the Smithsonian Institution. George was supportive as always and invited me to join him on a proposal to do a turtle project in Chitwan National Park in Nepal. We received funding, and I went over for a month in spring 1985. George followed in the fall. We discovered that the turtle project that we had planned would not work — human predation on turtles had decimated the local populations. I began to gather data on all the local Chitwan amphibians and reptiles. I also started a mark-recapture project on *Hemidactylus brookii* in and around the Smithsonian's field station at Saurah on the edge of Royal Chitwan National Park. On an excursion deep into the park, I

caught a frog that was later named a new species by Indraneil Das, *Rana chitwanensis*. That female specimen became the holotype. George followed up on the gecko study, and we ultimately published our paper on the project in *Amphibia-Reptilia* (Mitchell and Zug 1988).

There were many trips to the Smithsonian in the 1980s. Most were to obtain size and reproductive data on reptile specimens that had been collected in Virginia since the 1800s. Chris examined most of the amphibians. We amassed a huge database of which half ended up in *The Reptiles of Virginia* book. The other half sits in file drawers. My bucket list contains many projects that I aim to publish, including some based on those amphibian data. I do not have a list of all the places I wish to visit before I die but there are many and an unlikely goal. My main goal is to finish the many research projects begun in years past.

The Virginia non-game support expired in 1989. So I began accepting contracts for herp projects from various state agencies and private companies, as well as teaching part-time to adults in the evening school at the University of Richmond where I created two courses: Conservation Biology and Environmental Biology. At that time, there was no Conservation Biology textbook so I had to create a detailed course synopsis. Both courses became popular for the adult students. The part-time evening classes lasted through the nineties. Most of my contract jobs during that time were related to conservation. I was able to obtain far more money from 2–3 page contract proposals for field work than I ever could have on typical grant proposals. Total page count for the contracts I generated is 5,336 in 150 reports. These contracts were my main sources of income for over 30 years. I never had a permanent job and remained independent all my life.

I mentored several students while I was teaching. Two should be mentioned. Scott Stahl and Kurt Buhlmann both worked for me on the Virginia herpetology project in the 1980s. Scott went to vet school at Virginia Tech and is now one of the leading amphibian and reptile veterinarians in the country. He just published the third edition of the massive bible on herp medicine and surgery. Kurt worked with me on several contract jobs well into the 1990s. I helped get him into graduate school at the University of Georgia for his Ph.D. He has become one of the leading freshwater turtle and tortoise conservation biologists in the world.

During the early 1990s, I worked on publishing the *Reptiles of Virginia* book. Chris abandoned the project in 1990 to work for the Nature Conservancy in Colorado. Unfortunately, the amphibians of Virginia part of the project has still not been completed. I was fortunate to work with the Smithsonian Institution Press, and they published my book in 1994 (Mitchell 1994). My editor, Peter Cannell (deceased not long after the book came out), told me later that the printing of my book was held up a month due to the comet impacts on Jupiter. The Press had scheduled the printing of a book on Jupiter that was tied to the printing of my book. They wanted the impact to happen first so they could use the photos.

After I finished my Ph.D., my attention was largely on the natural history of Virginia amphibians and reptiles. More and more attention was being paid to conservation nationally about that time, and I was not keen on finding a current theory from which to derive hypotheses for my research. So it was easy for me to become a conservation biologist. I focused on natural history and

conservation biology but still remained keenly interested in museum specimen research. I knew the value of series of specimens from single locations. Chris, who was a good collector and preserved good specimens, and I collected multiple specimens where possible. Our combined collections amounted to about 26,000 in the Smithsonian amphibian and reptile collection and another 6,000 in the Carnegie Museum. Of course, back then I had in mind to use data from those samples for papers, but changes in life has limited those options. I have published several of them, but there are many and I think I can finish at least some of them before I die.

I am a strong product-oriented person. Woodworking projects like furniture filled that space in my psyche in high school and when I worked odd jobs in college (painting, cabinet work). Once I turned away from making furniture to becoming an academic in college, my products were publications. Being a hard-core natural historian and ecologist made it easy for me to see the value of natural history observations. Publishing single, unique observations adds to the collective knowledge on that species and could lead to questions not thought of before. Many of my publications have been notes and short papers on ecology and natural history of amphibians and reptiles. I have even coauthored papers on mammals with a graduate student who worked for me on Fort A.P. Hill in Virginia for several years. Many of my papers were with co-authors with whom I enjoyed working.

I have had a long-standing interest in history and biography. I read a book on John Banister around 1986. Banister was the first university-trained naturalist to work in the “New World” in the late 1600s. He collected many specimens, mostly plants, and sent them to his contemporaries in England. Linnaeus used some of the specimens in his seminal work in taxonomy. Banister was killed when a hunter in the field party mistook him for a turkey in 1692. I was unhappy with the Virginia Journal of Science because too many papers were on topics other than natural history. So Richard Hoffman and I started our own journal and named it *Banisteria*. The first one was published in 1992, 300 years after Banister was killed. It focuses on a wide range of natural history topics and history. The Virginia Natural History Society was formed in about 1994 and *Banisteria* became its journal. The 50<sup>th</sup> issue was published in 2018. I was co-editor or sole editor for 16 years. The current editor, Steve Roble, took over the position in 2000 and overlapped with me for seven years.

I have been deeply involved in conservation since the late 1980s and was active on several fronts. A large group of people, including me, had a meeting in Atlanta in 1999 which resulted in the formation of Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (PARC). I served on the board and the management committee until the mid-2000s. Riding in a car to a subsequent meeting in Atlanta with Whit Gibbons and Kurt Buhlmann, our discussions led me to think of producing a herp management manual for PARC. Kurt, Whit, and I wrote the first draft of a document, the “straw dog”, using the Savannah River Plant ecosystem as the model. The model was used in a 2001 meeting in Chicago attended by 85 people from all over the United States to springboard into the real documents. We agreed to use U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regions for our project. That resulted in five Habitat Management Guidelines (HMG), one for each region, and were published in the PARC Technical Publication Series. Mark Bailey, Jeff Holmes, Kurt, and I hammered out the section formats, tone, and style in a hotel in Wekiva Springs, Florida, for the

southeast region HMG one night while attending a meeting of the Gopher Tortoise Council. We subsequently received an award from the Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society for it. Al Briesch, Kurt, and I wrote the second one for the northeast region. Subsequently, Kurt and I served as primary editors for the remaining three HMGs. The last one (Southwest) was published in 2016. I consider the PARC HMG series to be one of my most important contributions.

Being the Geographic Distribution section editor for *Herpetological Review* introduced me to the professional societies. I began attending annual meetings in 1982 and have only missed three so far. I have served on various committees for the American Society of Ichthyology and Herpetology (ASIH), the Herpetologists' League (HL), and SSAR. I was elected secretary of HL in 1986 and then president in 1996, serving a total of 20 years on the Board. I am currently the herpetology historian for ASIH and editor of the Herpetological Conservation book series for SSAR. My service to these societies provided immense personal satisfaction all these years. I met many professional herpetologists from around the world and some became friends. I see some of them at the meetings every year, but fewer and fewer attend. The big change is the number of young people who participate in the meetings; I do not recognize most of them. It's the price of becoming a senior colleague I guess. Over all these years, the collective professional herpetological community has been my tribe.

It turned out that my transition from Virginia to Florida had unforeseen consequences. I did not realize how much of my identity was tied to my home state. I had contract jobs for a few years, including one in 2009 that had me collecting samples for an amphibian disease study on 11 military bases literally coast-to-coast. I had to collect the samples in spring, summer, and fall so I drove cross-county three times that year. I finished the last one in September and had a heart attack a month later. I agreed to undergo a triple bypass at the end of December. The surgeon allowed me to take a camera into the operating room, and someone at the head of my table, perhaps the anesthesiologist, took two photos of my heart. I reasoned that I am a vertebrate zoologist and wanted to see what it looked like. I later put the photos in my gallery on Facebook. I initially wanted to hang a picture of my heart on the wall to be funny and prove that I sometimes have a heart. However, every time I look at those photographs, all I can feel is the trauma I had while recovering from the surgery. Contract jobs fizzled out, although one still comes along once in a while. Susan and I found a nice ~6 acre place in the country outside of Gainesville. Northern Florida is now my home.

About seven years ago Andy Holycross asked me to write an account on the Mojave Rattlesnake (*Crotalus scutulatus*) for his *Snakes of Arizona* book. A year later he asked me to be his co-editor. I accepted partly because it allowed me to participate in Arizona projects again. I had the task of managing 50 people, most of whom I did not know, resurrect and complete species accounts they started in the early 2000s. I ended up coauthoring 13 of those accounts. Our conservative approach to snake taxonomy resulted in 56 species accounts, plus an assortment of associated chapters. This book is scheduled to be published in 2019. A book in the SSAR Herpetological Conservation series I manage should also be published in 2019. Now on to the book I promised Roger Conant in 1993 that I would finish for him. And my interest in woodworking has started up again.



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## Curriculum Vita – J. C. Mitchell

Birthplace: Lynchburg, Virginia; 16 August 1948

Marital Status: Married

Education:

B.S. Biology, Virginia Commonwealth University, 1970–1974

M.S. Zoology, Arizona State University, 1974–1976

Ph.D. Ecology, University of Tennessee, 1976–1982

Positions Held:

United States Marine Corps

1966 Corporal, Aviation Ordnance

1970 Honorable Discharge, disabled veteran

Virginia Commonwealth University

1978–1979, Instructure in Biology

University of Richmond

1979–1986 Instructor in Biology

1984–1989 Research Biologist

1990–1999 Adjunct Professor, School of Continuing Studies

1994–2006 Research Biologist

National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution

1983–2007 Research Associate

J. Sergeant Reynolds Community College

1989 (fall) Adjunct Faculty

College of William and Mary

1990 (fall) Visiting Assistant Professor

Randolph-Macon College

1992–1993 Visiting Assistant Professor

2004–2005 Visiting Assistant Professor

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

1996–2000 Research Biologist

Mitchell Ecological Research Service, LLC

1989– Present owner & CEO

Virginia Museum of Natural History

1985–1988 Member of the Scientific Advisory Board

1993–present, Research associate

Florida Museum of Natural History

2016-present, Research Associate

Guest editor, Bulletin of the Florida Museum of Natural History, Volume 54, 2017

Awards & Special Recognition:

1973 Grant-in-Aid of Research from Sigma Xi

1980–1981 Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Fund Grant (AMNH)

- 1980 Grant-in-Aid of Research from Sigma Xi  
 1982–1983 Helen T. Gaige Award in Herpetology (ASIH)  
 1992–2007 Certified Senior Ecologist, Ecological Society of America  
 1993–1994 Academic Year Distinguished Faculty Award, School of Continuing Studies,  
 University of Richmond  
 1994 Certificate of Appreciation from the George Washington National Forest for writing  
 the interagency (U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service) conservation plan for the Cow Knob  
 salamander  
 1995 The Professional Award from the Virginia Chapter of The Wildlife Society  
 2007 Paul Moler Herpetological Conservation Award from the Florida Chapter of The  
 Wildlife Society, in recognition of the publication of *Management Guidelines for  
 Amphibians and Reptiles in the Southeastern United States* (PARC, 2006) with Mark Bailey,  
 Jeff Holmes, and Kurt Buhlmann  
 2007 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Virginia Herpetological Society  
 2008 The Jefferson Award for Outstanding Contributions to Virginia Natural History,  
 Virginia Museum of Natural History  
 2011 Outstanding Academic Title (*Salamanders of the Southeast*), Choice Magazine

Fieldwork: United States, Nepal, Nicaragua, Peru

Professional Organizations:

American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists

Member of the Time, Place, and Program Committee, 1992–1999

Member of the Environmental Quality Committee, 1993–2001

Board of Governors, 1996–2001

Herpetology Historian, 2004–present

*Amphibian & Reptile Conservation*

Editorial review board, 1999–2004

Association of Southeastern Biologists

Member of the judging committee for best paper at the annual meeting of the Southeastern  
 Chapter of ASIH Boone, NC 1991

Member of the Priorities in Public Affairs Committee, 1993–1994

Herpetologists' League

Chairman of the judging committee for best graduate student paper presented at the annual  
 meeting. Veracruz, Mexico, 1987

Chairman, Constitution Revision Committee, 1989–1990

Co-host of the Symposium on the Conservation and Captive Husbandry of Amphibians and  
 Reptiles. A symposium to honor Roger Conant. August 9–10, 1991, Pennsylvania State  
 University (with SSAR)

Chairman, Resolutions Committee, 1990–1992

Chairman, Conservation Committee, 1990–1995

Official Liaison representative to ASIH, 1991–1996

Official representative to the Committee for the National Institutes of the Environment,  
 1991–1998

Member of the Long Range Planning and Finance Committee, 1986–1999  
 Member of the Intersociety Liaison Committee, HL and the Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles, 1986–1999  
 Elected Secretary, 1986–1989, 1990–1993, and 1994–1995  
 Elected President-elect, 1996–1997, President 1998–1999, and Past President 2000–2005  
 Official representative of HL to the American Institute of Biological Sciences Council, 2001–2003  
 Editorial Board member, 2004–2010

*Herpetological Natural History*

Editorial advisory committee, 2000–2004  
 Editorial advisory board, 2001–2006

International Society for the History and Bibliography of Herpetology

Editor, *Bibliotheca Herpetologica*, 2018-present

Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation

Member of the Management Working Group, 2000–2004; Chair 2004–2009  
 Member Joint National Steering Committee, 2005–2008

Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles

Editor, Geographic Distribution section of *Herpetological Review*, 1975–1979  
 Regional Herpetological Society Liaison Committee member, 1982–1984  
 Member of the Nominating Committee, 1985  
 Member of the Kennedy Award Committee, 1990–1992  
 Editor, *Herpetological Conservation* book series, 2007–present

Turtle Survival Alliance

Member and Chair of the Scientific Advisory Committee 2002–2003.

Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries

Chairman of the amphibian and reptile committee for Virginia Endangered Species Symposium (April 1989) and book (Virginia's Endangered Species) 1988–1990.  
 Member of the reptile and amphibian taxa advisory committee, 2004–2007.

Virginia Herpetological Society

Editor, *Catesbeiana*, 1982–1984  
 Elected President, 1989–1993

Virginia Natural History Society

Co-founder & co-editor of *Banisteria*, 1992–2007

World Conservation Union (IUCN)

Member Tortoise and Freshwater Turtle Specialist Group, 1987-present  
 Co-chair of the Appalachian Working Group of the Species Survival Commission's Declining Amphibian Populations Task Force, 1994–2001  
 Member Declining Amphibian Populations Specialists Group, 1998-present  
 Amphibian Specialist Group 2006-present



## **Endnote – Contributions to the history of the Division of Amphibians & Reptiles – USNM**

As one grows older, there comes a desire to record one's past experiences and also the history of one's workplace. None of us in the USNM Division of Amphibians and Reptiles has expressed a desire to write a divisional history for the past half-century. As an alternative, I am encouraging colleagues who have been associated with the division to create autobiographical sketches. Although such sketches will not provide a detailed history of divisional activities, each offers a unique perspective of past divisional activities and insights into each author's contribution to the division and, of course, a window into the author's personality.

The SHIS series is an obvious outlet. SHIS has been a facet of the division's contribution of research information to the herpetological community since its establishment in 1968 by James A. Peters.  
2016 GRZ

### **Previously published contributions to divisional history**

- SHIS 1. A list of the herpetological publications of the United States National Museum, 1853-1965. James A. Peters 1965 [revised 1968].
- SHIS 42. A revised list of the herpetological publications of the National Museum of Natural History (USNM) 1853-1978. Ronald I. Crombie 1979.
- SHIS 51. Biography and bibliography of James A. Peters. Frances J. Irish & George R. Zug 1982.
- SHIS 101. Herpetological publications of the National Museum of Natural History (USNM), 1853-1994. Ronald I. Crombie 1994.
- SHIS 147. Biographical sketch and bibliography of W. Ronald Heyer. W. Ronald Heyer & Miriam H. Heyer 2016.
- SHIS 148. Biographical sketch and bibliography of James B. Murphy. James B. Murphy 2016.
- SHIS 149. Biographical sketch and bibliography of C. Kenneth Dodd, Jr. C. Kenneth Dodd, Jr. 2016.
- SHIS 150. Biographical sketch and bibliography of Carl H. Ernst. Carl H. Ernst 2016.
- SHIS 151. Biographical sketch and bibliography of Richard Highton. Richard Highton 2017.
- SHIS 152. Biographical sketch and bibliography of Robert P. Reynolds. Robert P. Reynolds 2017.
- SHIS 153. Biographical sketch and bibliography of Jeffrey E. Lovich. Jeffrey E. Lovich 2018.
- SHIS 154. Biographical sketch and bibliography of Steven D. Busack. Steven D. Busack 2018.