



PARC
PARTNERS
IN
AMPHIBIAN AND REPTILE CONSERVATION

2023 Annual Report



“Forging proactive partnerships to conserve amphibians, reptiles, and the places they live.”

Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (PARC) is an inclusive partnership dedicated to the conservation of herpetofauna - reptiles and amphibians - and their habitats. Our membership includes individuals from state and federal agencies, conservation organizations, museums, pet trade industry, nature centers, zoos, energy industry, universities, herpetological organizations, research laboratories, forest industries, and environmental consultants. The diversity of our membership makes PARC the most comprehensive conservation effort ever undertaken for amphibians and reptiles.



www.parcplace.org

www.facebook.com/PARCherps

www.instagram.com/PARCconserve





The Collaborative to Combat the Illegal Trade in Turtles (CCITT) added 33 new

members this year, bringing their total strength to 185 conservation professionals dedicated to preventing and responding to the harms caused by the illegal turtle trade.

2023 Co-chairs: Mike Ravesi, Scott Buchanan

2023 Events

Jan. - Illegal Turtle Trade Strategic Planning Workshop; Shepherdstown, WV (42 Attendees)

Mar. - Updates Presentation at North American Conference (35 Attendees)

Mar. - Updates and Resources to SEAFWA; Helen, GA (50 Attendees)

June - "Socio-Ecological Approach to Address Wildlife Trafficking"; Fort Collins, CO (75 Attendees)

July - Illegal Turtle Trade Session at Emydine Turtle Symposium; Huntingdon, PA (150 Attendees)

July - CCITT Updates at NEPARC Meeting; Middleton, CT (145 Attendees)

2023 Products

1. Internal Communications Guide for Members

2. "Case Studies and Decision Tools for Consideration of Repatriation of Confiscated Turtles"

3. Jeff Corwin Video with USFWS

The PARC Disease Task Team (DTT)

continued administering the Herpetological Disease Alert System (HDAS) and holding monthly meetings of professionals dedicated to mitigating the spread and impact of herpetofauna diseases across wild populations.

2023 Co-chairs: Jenna Palmisano, Lisa Shender

2023 Events

May - "Pesky Pentastomes" Webinar (111 Attendees)

Oct. - Ranavirus Virtual Workshop (40 Attendees)

2023 Products

1. Snake Lung Parasite Fact Sheet

2. Updated Decontamination Video

3. "Amping Up Biodiversity for Herps" in *The Wildlife Professional*



The Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Committee (ARCC)

is administered by the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, and helps identify effective means for member states, provinces, territories, and agencies to advance herpetofauna conservation.

Co-chairs: David Golden, Becky Gwynn

2023 Products

- Turtles of the Northeast State Regulations Guide



The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Task Team (DEITT) is dedicated to improving cultural competency, increasing inclusion, and engaging and recruiting from a wide audience of diverse backgrounds.

2023 Co-chairs: Kirsten Hecht, Marilyn Sobel

2023 Events

Jan. - Zoom Presentation on Police Abolition

May - Self-initiated Pause on All Activities

Oct. & Nov. - Task Team Discussions on DEI Future

2023 Products

1. PARC Increasing Participation Award (PIPA) Issued for Travel to SEPARC Meeting

2. PIPA Issued for Travel to NWPARC Meeting



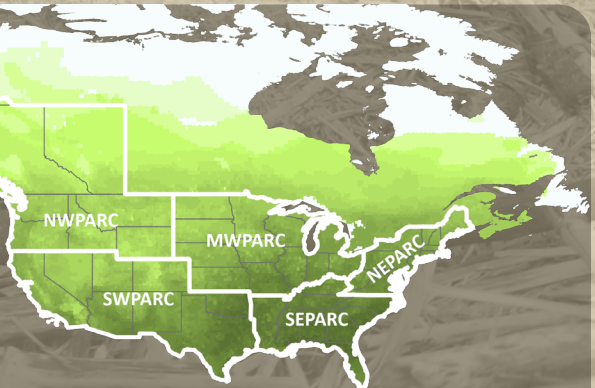
The Federal Agencies Steering Committee (FASC) is composed of representatives from 11 federal agencies who work together to support amphibian and reptile conservation through the PARC network.

Co-chairs: Brad Jost, Jenny Schultz (outgoing), Amy Commens-Carson (incoming)

The **2023 Annual Meeting** was held virtually June 14-20, and focused on identifying guest presenters of interest to federal agencies and increasing agency engagement in PARC's annual Amphibian Week outreach efforts.

2023 Events

Oct. - Webinar by Dr. Christopher Schalk on Wildlife Entanglements in Erosion Control Blankets



**Darker green indicates higher herpetofauna species richness (DOI:10.1016/j.tree.2011.09.007)*

National PARC

2023 Co-Chairs: Brad O'Hanlon (Ex Officios: Becca Cozad, Brian Zarate, Daren Riedle)

2023 Events

Mar. - Intro to PARC Workshop at North American Conference; St. Louis, MO
Mar. - Hellbender Breeding Facility Tour (In Conjunction with ARCC)
May - Amphibian Week; DC and Virtual (700 registrants for virtual hellbender program, 400 people at National Zoo, 462 at Natural History Museum, 200 at National Mall, 80 participants at communications workshop, 30 Art Contest Contestants)
May - Wild Turtle Week (58K Interactions, #wildturtleweek reached 4.4M people, #everyturtlecounts reached 2.2M)

2023 Products

1. Amphibian and Reptile Education Web Page
2. PARC Threadless Merchandise Store Opened
3. Amphibian Week Posters
4. Internal Social Media Policy Document
5. Amphibian and Reptile Book List
6. Alison Haskell Award to Bob Hansen



Department of Defense PARC (DoD PARC)



2023 Co-chairs: Chris Peterson, Robert Lovich

Twenty people attended the **DoD PARC Annual Meeting** from May 30 to June 01 at Fort Cavazos, TX. The meeting focused on reviewing current and future DoD PARC projects and integrating herpetofauna conservation on DoD installations. Participants also conducted a herpetofauna survey of the base, observing 23 species and recording a first-time observation of a Green Treefrog (*Hyla cinerea*).

2023 Events

Mar. - Hour-long presentation at the National Military Fish and Wildlife Association Meeting; St. Louis, MO (200 attendees)

2023 Products

1. Podcast: Eastern Massasauga Population Assessment at Camp Grayling
2. Podcast: Anuran Acoustic Monitoring at the West Point Military Academy
3. Species Profile Videos (Eastern Diamondback, Common Gartersnake, and American Alligator)
4. DoD PARC Coloring Book
5. DoD PARC Snake Fungal Disease Survey Report
6. Snake Pamphlets for Six Military Installations

Other Highlights

1. Loaned Bioacoustic Recorders to Six Military Installations
2. Cooperative Agreement with Smithsonian and University of Illinois to Conduct Western Pond Turtle Monitoring on Installations
3. Cooperative Agreement with Tangled Bank Conservation to Study Genomics of Nine Sensitive Herpetofauna Species on DoD Lands.



Midwest PARC (MWPARC)

2023 Co-chairs: Travis Kurtz, Michela Coury (Ex Officio: Melissa Youngquist)

The MWPARC Annual Meeting

was held at the Touch of Nature Outdoor Education Center in Carbondale, IL from Aug. 25-27. Fifty-two people attended the conference, including keynote speaker Dr. Christopher Philips of the Illinois Natural History Survey.



2023 Events

Feb. - "Importance of Conserving Non-Game Species: Case Studies of Amphibian and Reptiles in the Great Plains" Symposium at the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference; Overland, KS

2023 Products

1. Awarded Five \$500 Student Travel Grants
2. Provided Financial Support for Reprint of Timber Rattlesnake Conservation Action Plan



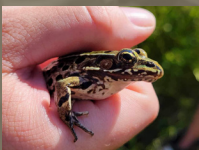
Northeast PARC (NEPARC)

2023 Co-chairs: Luke Groff, Kevin Oxenrider

The theme of the **NEPARC Annual Meeting** was 'Sharing the Landscape,' which was attended by 158 people from July 23-25 at Wesleyan University in Middletown, CT. The meeting included a panel discussion, a roundtable on ethical herping, and workshops of photography, data collection, and turtle education. Dr. Kealoha Freidenburg provided the keynote address, "Suburban Amphibians in a Changing World."

2023 Products

1. "Disinfection Protocols for Herpetofaunal Pathogens" in *Herpetological Review*
2. "Amping Up Biosecurity for Herps" in *The Wildlife Professional*
3. Launched New Website





Southeast PARC (SEPARC)

2023 Co-chairs: Keri Lejeune, Ericha Nix
(Ex Officio: Robert Hill)

Folks were 'Together Again, Renewing Connections' at the **SEPARC Annual Meeting** at the YMCA Blue Ridge Assembly in Black Mountain, NC from Feb. 23-26. More than 268 members attended in person, along with 37 following virtually.

2023 Events

Sep.: Sponsored Florida Herpeton with South Florida Herpetological Conference; Fort Myers, FL (100 Attendees)

2023 Products

1. Hellbender Conservation Action Plan
2. Cuban Treefrog Fact Sheet
3. Argentine Black and White Tegu Fact Sheet
4. Red-Eared Slider Fact Sheet



Northwest PARC (NWPARC)

2023 Co-Chairs: Laura Sprague, Christine Parker-Graham

The **Annual Meeting** was held jointly with **SWPARC** in Grand Mound, WA from Apr. 24-28 with more than 250 attendees. The theme was "Recovery and Resilience in a Pandemic and Climate Changing World," and Dr. Marguerite Pappaioanou gave an excellent plenary talk on "One Health." The meeting also included a session on wildlife morbidity and mortality as well as a herping field trip to the Black River Watershed.

2023 Events

Apr. - Indigenous and Scientific Communities Workshop; Grand Mound, WA (40 Attendees)
Apr. - Surveillance and Monitoring Workshop; Grand Mound, WA (60 Attendees)

2023 Products

1. Issued Luminary Award to David Pilliod
2. Issued Unsung Hero Award to Betsy Howell

Southwest PARC (SWPARC)

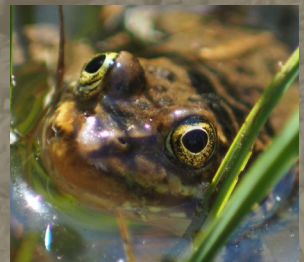
2023 Co-Chairs: Cristina Jones

2023 Events

-Steering Committee Co-chair spoke at 2023 AFWA Investigator and Intelligence Summit; San Diego, CA
-Steering Committee members attended NAWNRC and The Wildlife Society Annual Meeting

2023 Products

1. Drafted Conservation Action Plans for the Sonoran Mud Turtle, California Tiger Salamander, and Columbia Spotted Frog



**Partners in Amphibian and Reptile
Conservation (PARC) is a project of the**



ARC

Amphibian and Reptile
Conservancy