

confiscated. Among the animals confiscated was a pair of bog turtles being offered for \$750. Other states participating in last Sunday's Operation Herpscarn included California, Florida, Missouri, Illinois, Michigan, Maryland, Texas, North Carolina, Arkansas and Oklahoma. (Source: *Intelligencer Journal News*, Lancaster, Pennsylvania, 5 July 1998).

California. — An agreement over the proper way to slaughter animals for sale in Chinatown has died over the question of how to kill a turtle. The San Francisco Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and the merchants who sell live animals in Chinatown thought they could reach a compromise that would soothe animal-rights activists' sensibilities and preserve 5000 years of Chinese tradition. However, the chance for agreement died Wednesday, assuring that the cross-cultural controversy will fester and grow even more confrontational. The compromise brokered in April by the SPCA and the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association, a group with a 150-year history in Chinatown, fell apart over three issues: the humane and proper ways to kill hard-shell turtles, to kill soft-shell turtles and to store frogs. The controversy over selling live turtles, frogs and other animals for food in Chinatown has raged for more than two years. In a 1997 lawsuit, animal-rights activists accused the merchants of storing and killing animals in a cruel fashion by keeping them in cramped, dirty conditions, denying food and water, and tearing shells off live turtles. (Source: Gregory Lewis, *San Francisco Examiner*, 1 October 1998).

Maryland. — Maryland police cited 25 pet shops for the illegal sale of animals from frogs to turtles. After a six-month, 11-county shopping spree in 45 Maryland pet stores that sell reptiles and frogs, state Natural Resources Police have cited 25 shops for improperly selling certain cold-blooded pets. All but four of the shops were charged with violating licensing regulations designed to prevent profit-seeking collectors from capturing too many of the state's native creatures. Some pet store owners reacted angrily, accusing state police of not being able to tell fair game from foul. Species of turtles included a spiny soft-shelled turtle, which is common in the Ohio River Valley but in only a few spots in far Western Maryland and red-eared sliders under four inches. No one was arrested, but all 25 shops face maximum fines of \$1500. The license that most of them failed to obtain costs \$25. (Source: *The Sun*, Baltimore, Maryland, 21 November 1998).

Maryland. — The Maryland Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Service has proposed new crabbing regulations that would require certain floats for commercial trotlines, and modified funnels on crab pots set from private property or private piers, to reduce turtle bycatch and mortality. The proposed regulations would require floats of the same color, size and shape at or near the mid-point of a trotline utilized for commercial purposes in excess of 2000 feet. A crab pot set for noncommercial purposes from private piers must have a turtle bycatch reduction device attached to each entrance or funnel in the lower chamber constructed of wire or plastic rectangular in shape and dimensions which do not exceed 1 3/4 inches in height and 4 3/4 inches in length.

Public hearings concerning these proposed crabbing regulations were held on Wednesday, February 3, 1999 and Thursday, February 4, 1999. (Source: Press release from Maryland Department of Natural Resources forwarded by Mid-Atlantic Turtle & Tortoise Society, January 1999).

Wildlife Trade. — A lengthy undercover operation netted a Malaysian described as a flagrant international wildlife trafficker, along with two alleged accomplices with smuggling more than 300 exotic tortoises, lizards and other animals into the United States. The three men were arrested Monday and charged in a 55-count federal indictment alleging conspiracy, money laundering, smuggling and other crimes over a 2 1/2-year period. Keng Liang "Anson" Wong, 40, was arrested in Mexico City as he arrived for a meeting with an undercover U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service agent. Wong is already indicted in Florida on separate reptile trafficking charges. James Michael Burroughs, 47, was arrested in San Francisco and Beau Lee Lewis, 20, was arrested in Buckeye, Arizona. The indictment names a fourth defendant, Yuk Wah "Oscar" Shiu, 39, of Hong Kong, who remains at large. Turtles included the ploughshare tortoise, the radiated tortoise, the spider tortoise, the Burmese star tortoise and Fly River turtles. (Source: Washington DC, Reuters, 15 September 1998).

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Chelonian Research Foundation Linnaeus Fund: 1998 Grant Recipients

ANDERS G.J. RHODIN



Chelonian Research Foundation (CRF), established as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit tax-exempt private operating foundation in 1992, 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 first turtle taxonomist and father of all modern systematics.

For its 7th Annual Linnaeus Fund Awards selection on 31 December 1998, CRF awarded a total of \$10,000 divided among 10 research projects. Awards granted were as follows:

BOWNE, DAVID R. Terrestrial movement and subsequent effects on population dynamics of *Chrysemys picta*

- picta* (eastern painted turtle). University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia.
- BROPHY, TIMOTHY R. Geographic variation in two southeast Asian batagurids, *Malayemys subtrijuga* (Schlegel and Müller, 1844) and *Notochelys platynota* (Gray, 1834). George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia.
- FORMIA, ANGELA. Population and genetic structure of the green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) in the Gulf of Guinea, West Africa: implications for management and conservation. Institute of Zoology, London, United Kingdom.
- GARCIA, GERARDO; KUCHLING, GERALD; AND FEISTNER, ANNA T.C. Effects of incubation temperature on sex, growth rate and survivorship in the Madagascan side-necked turtle *Erymnochelys madagascariensis*. Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust, Jersey, United Kingdom.
- JOHNSON, STEVE A. Gaps in a solid foundation: shell kinesis in the Testudines. University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida.
- LEUTERITZ, THOMAS E. Distribution, status, and biology of the radiated tortoise *Geochelone radiata* (Shaw, 1802) in south west Madagascar. George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia.
- LITZGUS, JACQUELINE D. Latitudinal variation in life history of the spotted turtle (*Clemmys guttata*): the southern extreme. Miami University, Oxford, Ohio.
- MILLER, JULIE K.; AND SCOTT, J. MICHAEL. Demography of a population of three-toed box turtles (*Terrapene carolina triunguis*) across a 35 year period of landscape transformation and habitat fragmentation. University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho.
- PEDRONO, MIGUEL; AND SAROVY, AUGUSTIN. Trial release of the world's rarest tortoise (*Geochelone yniphora*) in Madagascar. Université Pierre et Marie Curie, Paris, France.
- STARBIRD, CHRISTOPHER. Leatherback sea turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*) dive and foraging behavior around Kei Kecil Island, Indonesia. University of California, Santa Cruz, California.

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 generally given to the following general research areas: taxonomy and systematic relationships, distribution and zoogeography, ecology, natural history, and morphology, but other topics are also considered. Priority is also 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 or 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 to \$2000 range for each project, with about ten or more projects funded annually. It is anticipated that there will be increased grant support from year to year as the endowment fund

grows. The annual application deadline is November 15, with disbursement on December 31. Submit applications in formal grant proposal format in triplicate as follows: title page, project objective, background and research rationale, materials and methods, total project expenses, funding requested from CRF, funding available or requested from other organizations, general timetable, literature cited, and curriculum vitae for all key personnel.

Awards are granted through an internal review process carried out by the Director and Scientific Advisory Board of CRF, which includes Anders G.J. Rhodin, Russell A. Mittermeier, Peter C.H. Pritchard, John L. Behler, and Terry E. Graham. Submit applications to:

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The 19th Annual Sea Turtle Symposium – Student Presentation Awards

ANDERS G.J. RHODIN AND DAVID WM. OWENS

The 19th Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation was held in March 1999 in South Padre Island, Texas, USA. About 250 scientific papers and posters were presented. Student presentations were entered and judged in competition for the Archie Carr Best Student Presentation Awards. These annual awards have been co-sponsored and jointly presented by the Sea Turtle Symposium and Chelonian Research Foundation since the 17th Annual Symposium in 1997. Student papers and posters were judged on both the scientific quality and research significance of their content as well as the professionalism of their presentation.

Fifty-two student presentations were evaluated by the Student Awards Committee: Anders G.J. Rhodin (Chair), Ana R. Barragán, Raquel Briseño-Dueñas, Stephen J. Morreale, Frank V. Paladino, James I. Richardson, Michael Salmon, Jeffrey A. Seminoff, and Jeanette Wyneken. A total of \$2250 was awarded in prizes to one winner and two or three runners-up in each of the two presentation categories. Student award winners are listed in bold type.

Papers

1. **JAMES, MICHAEL C.** 1999. Distribution and conservation of the leatherback turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*) in Atlantic Canada: research partnerships with the fishing community. (North Atlantic Leatherback Turtle Working Group, Biology Dept., Acadia University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada). \$500.
2. **NICHOLS, WALLACE J., DUTTON, P., SEMINOFF, J.A., BIXBY, E., ABREU-GROBOIS, F.A., AND HIDALGO, A.R.S.** 1999. Poi