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Editors' Remarks

Long-time readers of *IGUANA* will have noticed regularly appearing features in recent issues addressing husbandry, profiles of notable "iguana persons," historical perspectives, biographical sketches, book reviews, and, less regularly, species profiles about non-iguanaid reptiles or amphibians found in areas where iguanas live. The husbandry feature serves an obvious purpose, namely to facilitate proper care of iguanas in captivity. Because many of our readers maintain captive iguanas and many others became involved initially in iguana conservation or research as a consequence of interacting with captive iguanas, this feature is devoted to the core of our reading audience. Note that husbandry features, although often focused on a particular type of iguana, present information that often is widely applicable to many species. However, some caution is advised. For example, some important differences apply to the care of Green Iguanas (*Iguana iguana*) and Black or Spiny-tailed Iguanas (*Ctenosaura* spp.) or even to different species of ctenosaurs (see Husbandry, p. 39).

The purpose for including historical perspectives may be less evident. George Santayana, a notable philosopher, coined the phrase, "Those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it." Many of the historical features presented so far date to the turn of the 20th Century and are notable in that the scientists often expressed disdain for iguanas, with the notable exception of their gustatory qualities. That the most enlightened minds of that day were unable to anticipate the inevitable impact that such attitudes would have on future generations of iguanas speaks eloquently to the failure to anticipate the dramatic growth of the human population and its generally negative effects on natural habitats and the wildlife that inhabits them. Sadly, such attitudes remain prevalent in the 21st Century, especially among policy-makers, whose views rarely extend beyond the next election or quarterly statement. If Santayana's prediction holds, wildlife populations will continue to disappear at alarming rates — and only education and the resultant awareness can evoke the necessary changes to curb this distressing trend. Future perspectives will continue to illustrate this recurring theme, but also will provide insights into the research that has caused at least some scientists and other concerned citizens to call for reforms.

In the next issue, we'll discuss profiles of individuals who have made important contributions to our knowledge of iguanas and of species who co-exist with iguanas in complex biotic communities.

Bob Powell, AJ Gutman, and John Binns

Statement of Purpose

The International Iguana Society, Inc. is a not-for-profit corporation dedicated to preserving the biological diversity of iguanas. We believe that the best way to protect iguanas and other native plants and animals is to preserve natural habitats and to encourage development of sustainable economies compatible with the maintenance of biodiversity. To this end, we will: (1) engage in active conservation, initiating, assisting, and funding conservation efforts in cooperation with U.S. and international governmental and private agencies; (2) promote educational efforts related to the preservation of biodiversity; (3) build connections between individuals and the academic, zoo, and conservation communities, providing conduits for education and for involving the general public in efforts to preserve endangered species; and (4) encourage the dissemination and exchange of information on the ecology, population biology, behavior, captive husbandry, taxonomy, and evolution of iguanas.

Membership Information

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U.S. and Canadian Organizational Membership*	\$35.00
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(* receives double copies of *Iguana*)

Additional copies are available at a cost of \$6.00 including postage.

JOIN ON-LINE AT: www.IguanaSociety.org

Membership questions? Call AJ at 860-236-8203, or write to: The International Iguana Society, Inc., 133 Steele Road, West Hartford, CT 06119

Solicitations

Members of the I.I.S. are encouraged to contribute articles, letters to the Editor, news items, and announcements for publication in *IGUANA*. General articles can deal with any aspect of iguana biology, including conservation, behavior, ecology, physiology, systematics, or husbandry. Submission of photographs to accompany articles is encouraged.

Manuscripts may be submitted via e-mail (send to ctenosaura@cyclura.com). For any contribution, please include your name, address, phone number, and e-mail address. Authors of one page or more of print are entitled to five copies of the issue in which their article appears.

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