

## O B I T U A R I E S

*In Memoriam:*  
Ella “Marie” Poyner  
(1963–2006)



Marie Poyner and one of her beloved pet Green Iguanas.

Ella “Marie” Poyner was born Woo Mon Chue in Taiwan on 25 January 1963, and was adopted by the Poyner family in February 1963, moving with them to National City, California.

Marie’s dream of becoming a veterinarian went unfulfilled. Nevertheless, she never hesitated to help animals (and people) throughout her life. Marie cared for many iguanas, including Baby and Dragon, who came into her life in 1994. She read extensively on iguana husbandry and veterinary care in order to provide the best possible life for her charges. Marie touched the hearts of many people, sharing her knowledge through online forums and providing assistance to iguanas in distress, even going so far as to purchase and ship supplies to animals in need.

Marie was a longtime IRCF member who provided gift memberships for her friends in order to encourage them to become involved with conservation. She also was an enthusiastic supporter of the Blue Iguana Recovery Program. To make a donation honoring Marie, please contact [Des@IRCF.org](mailto:Des@IRCF.org).

Marie passed away in Cleveland, Ohio on Sunday, 10 October 2006. She is survived by family, many friends, and her three iguanas. She will be sorely missed by all, for her sharp wit, delightful personality, and extensive iguana knowledge. Rest in Peace, Marie.

*In Memoriam:*  
Margaret “Meg” Stewart  
(1927–2006)

Distinguished Teaching Professor Emerita of Biological Sciences Margaret “Meg” Stewart passed away on 2 August 2006 after battling pancreatic cancer. Stewart was known for a lifetime of dedication to science and biological conservation. An outstanding teacher, she was particularly interested in mentoring female students. Her graduate trainees are themselves a distinguished group of scientists and academics.

Known internationally for her studies of amphibians and reptiles, Stewart officially retired in 1997, although she continued to serve as founding director of the Graduate Program in Biodiversity, Conservation, and Policy. Associate Professor George Robinson of the Department of Biological Sciences said, “She spent a lifetime doing the difficult things that others shirked, and her fierce Scots integrity stands out in all her accomplishments.”

Stewart’s first love was frogs. An African frog was named for her (*Phrynobatrachus stewartae*) and is known as Stewart’s Puddle Frog. She also studied the Mink Frog (*Rana septentrionalis*) of the Adirondacks, the frogs of Jamaica, and the Coqui (*Eleutherodactylus coqui*) of Puerto Rico. Her distinguished work on the Coqui led to an honorary doctorate from the University of Puerto Rico–Mayagüez in 1996.

In 1979, Stewart became the first woman to lead a professional herpetological organization when she was elected president of the Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles (SSAR). In 2005, the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists (ASIH) awarded her its Robert K. Johnson Award for excellence in service to the society and the ASIH’s highest award, the Henry S. Fitch Award, for long-term excellence in herpetology.

Survivors include her husband, George E. Martin, mathematics professor emeritus at the University at Albany, and her brother, John M. Stewart, a renowned peptide chemist at the University of Colorado Medical School in Denver.



Margaret “Meg” Stewart in the mid-1980s at El Verde Field Station in Puerto Rico.