

IGUANA NEWSBRIEFS

IIS IGUANA CONFERENCE

Announcing **The International Iguana Society, Inc. Iguana Conference**, October 16-19, 1993. A **General Membership Meeting** will be held on Monday, 18 October at 7:00 pm at the Hidden Harbor Turtle Hospital, Marathon, Florida. The featured speaker will be **Tom Wiewandt**, renown iguana ecologist. The Board of Directors of IIS will conduct two board meetings during the conference, members' input is invited. **The First Annual IIS BBQ** will be on Sunday, 17 October starting at 3:00 pm. There will also be **field trips into several Florida Keys ecosystems**. For room reservations, please call or write to: Hidden Harbor Motel, 2396 Overseas Highway, Marathon, FL 33050, **800-362-3495**. Visa/MasterCard and checks accepted for one or all nights. Please be sure to indicate that you are part of the IIS Conference to **receive a 25% discount on off-season room rates**. Hidden Harbor is the site of important research on sea turtles and has several species in captivity on the resort. Send check for \$10.00 each person for the BBQ and registration (if vegetarian, please let us know) to: IIS, Rt. 3, Box 328, Big Pine Key, FL 33043. For more information call 305-872-9811.



Due to the length of feature article in this issue, *News of the Society*, *Reports on the Bahamian Research Project* supported by the society, and *Lizard Letters* will not appear until the next issue.



MAO DIES

The 30-35 year old male **Rhinoceros iguana**, *Cyclura cornuta* written about by **Wendy Townsend** in *I.T.*, Volume 2, Number 2, died peacefully in his habitat enclosure on 1 July, 1993. He had been a **Finca Cyclura** resident for nine years. He was known for his gentle disposition with humans. He was also trusted with children as young as three, despite his rather imposing form. He shared his habitat with two generations of green iguanas and outlived his original mate by four years. He is survived by his current mate, Greta and by 3 sons and 3 daughters on Big Pine Key. Mao sired three clutches with his original female (1987, 1988, 1989). Many humans who knew him were saddened by his departure. He was necropsied by Rene Cruz, DVM, Ramrod Key in conjunction with the Pathologist of the State of Florida, Animal Diagnostic Laboratory in Kissimmee. He was found to have **Hepatic lipoidosis**, a degenerative liver

condition. His mate seemed very "lost" at his absence, but has since become involved with his son, Jomo.



COMMERCIAL DIET PROVES BAD FOR CAYMAN IGUANAS

The National Trust for the Cayman Islands has embarked on a captive breeding program for the **Grand Cayman blue iguana**, *Cyclura nubila lewisi*, (see *I.T.*, Volume 1, Number 6). Director Fred Burton decided to use a diet consisting of primarily imported commercial iguana food. Many products have been introduced into the US market in the last two years. They were designed to be convenient, complete diets. In this case, the results have been poor, with many animals in the program suffering from metabolic bone disease despite the fact these animals have been raised out of doors in their native country. We urge caution when using these diets, especially when companies call iguanas "omnivores" or claim that their diet is "all an iguana needs."



NATIONAL BREEDERS' EXPO

IIS was well represented at the **4th National Reptile Breeders' Expo** held at the Twin Towers Hotel in Orlando on 14, 15 August,

1993. IIS members **Deborah Neufeld, Jan Truse, and Lori Sandlin** outdid themselves in preparing the IIS booth. Over 4500 participants and over 300 exhibitors were present during the 2 days of the expo. Over **500 free Iguana Care Sheets** were distributed and the Society enrolled **18 new members**. The National Reptile Breeders' Expo has evolved into the world showcase of herpetocultural achievement. Unfortunately, large numbers of imported, farm raised green iguanas were being sold in very crowded enclosures with some animals in poor condition. Hopefully this situation will be remedied at future expos.



ALLAN'S CAYS SIGNS SURVIVE ANDREW

The two informational signs installed in March, 1992 by IIS volunteers in the Allan's Cays have survived hurricane Andrew, reports IIS member **Tina Henize**. The heavy steel signs provide information about the Allan's Cay Iguana, *Cyclura cyclura inornata*, (see *I.T.*, Volume 1, Number 5) to visiting boaters. The hurricane passed to the north of the keys on 23 August, 1992 sparing the small islands the full force of the storm. The signs sustained no damage.

Statement of Purpose

The International Iguana Society, Inc. is a non-profit, international organization dedicated to the preservation of the biological diversity of iguanas through habitat preservation, active conservation, research, captive breeding and the dissemination of information.

The Iguana Times, the newsletter of the society, is distributed quarterly to members and member organizations. Additional copies are available at a cost of \$4.50 including postage. Annual dues for The International Iguana Society are \$25.00 for individuals and \$30.00 for organizations which receive double copies of the newsletter.

Write to:

The International Iguana Society, Inc.
Route 3, Box 328
Big Pine Key, FL 33043



Solicitations

Members of the I.I.S. are encouraged to contribute articles for publication in the *Iguana Times*, following a format like that shown in the most recent issue of the newsletter. Articles can deal with any aspect of iguana biology, ecology, behavior, husbandry, systematics, etc. Manuscripts must be typed, DOUBLE-SPACED, with wide margins, on 8 1/2" x 11" paper. Include your address and telephone number on the manuscript. Members are also welcome to submit letters to the Editor for publication in future issues of the newsletter. Authors of one page or more of print are entitled to three copies of the issue in which their article appears.

The Editors

Advertising policy of Iguana Times

We advertise only non-living products (except feeder insects). All products have been examined and been found to be high quality and fairly priced. Contact IIS, RT 3, Box 328, Big Pine Key, FL 33043, for more information.

I.I.S. Bookstore

As a service to our members, a limited number of publications will be distributed through the I.I.S. Bookstore. We believe this will become a valuable source of information. The following publications are now available:

- 1) **The Green Iguana Manual**, by Philippe de Vosjoli. 1992. **\$7.00** (including postage); **\$8.75** (non-members)
- 2) **Guide to the Identification of the Amphibians and Reptiles of the West Indies (Exclusive of Hispaniola)**, by Albert Schwartz and Robert Henderson. 1985. **\$19.00** (including postage); **\$27.00** (non-members)

Write to: I.I.S. Bookstore
316 W. Mission Ave., 117
Escondido, CA 92025

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