

## SCIENCE CLASS OBSERVES IGUANA REPRODUCTION

This past year, the seventh grade science classroom of Douglas Kranich, in Millinocket, Maine, was the scene of a successful breeding of green iguanas. The four-and-a-half year old pair has resided in the science classroom the past two-and-a-half years. In September 1993, Mr. Kranich noticed behavioral changes that led him to suspect sexual maturity of the iguanas. He then observed them mating on at least five occasions during March/April 1994. The resulting eggs hatched in August. Not only was this an excellent learning experience for students, Mr. Kranich carefully noted the husbandry conditions and recorded meaningful reproductive data.

During much of the period, the iguanas ranged freely in the classroom but had access to their ample sized cage as well. Thus, they were exposed to window-filtered sunlight, occasional direct sunlight, and a Vita-lite in their home cage. In addition to the warmth from window light, a reflector lamp (100 W) and an infrared heat lamp (250 W) were available. Although fresh produce was provided during summer months, the iguanas ate primarily store-bought fruits and vegetables. Meat and water were never provided. A reptile multi-vitamin supplement was sprinkled onto food once a week. Both iguanas

increased in length from 66 cm (female) and 76 cm (male) in March 1992 to 122 cm in December 1994. Twenty eggs were laid on June 1 (three apparently infertile), and these hatched between August 9 and August 20 (after 70-80 days incubation in moistened vermiculite at 27°C). The offspring averaged 26.3 cm in length and weighed 13 g. All began eating finely chopped greens within two weeks of hatching.

Although much is already known regarding green iguana reproduction, a lot remains to be learned about other iguana species. These observations from a very fortunate science class demonstrate how pet owners and herpetoculturists can contribute useful information about iguana biology.

**Source:**  
Douglas Kranich, Millinocket, Maine

## INVALID CLAIMS PET IGUANA SAVED HIS LIFE

Duane Wright, a resident of the Tucson area in Arizona, frequently falls asleep at night with his pet green iguana, Goliath, lounging on his chest. Disabled by asthma, valley fever and other chronic respiratory disorders, Wright occasionally stops breathing during the night—a life-threatening situation known as sleep apnea. One night in spring 1994, Wright recalls being awakened by Goliath at about 1:30 am. “She was beating me with her tail as hard as she could,” he claims, “digging with her

claws and scratching me in the face.” The iguana had roused her master just in time, because he had quit breathing and barely had sufficient energy to reach for his bronchi-clearing medication. Who needs a pet dog or cat when a cold-blooded reptile can look after one instead?

**Source:** Tucson Citizen, June 1, 1994

## 1994 IIS IGUANA CONFERENCE

On 20-23 October 1994, the International Iguana Society, Inc., held its second annual conference, once again at Marathon, Florida. The meetings began with the Second Annual IIS B-B-Q, at a picnic pavilion on the beach of Bahia Honda State Park. Twenty-nine members and guests were present to wine and dine on generous portions of food, to soak in the sunlight of a cloudless sky, and to float about in the refreshingly cool waters.

The IIS Board of Directors held two meetings to discuss the future of the Society and its programs.

Among other things, the Board is exploring the possibility of holding its third conference on San Salvador Island, Bahamas, where participants could assist in ongoing research of the highly endangered iguana (*Cyclura r. rileyi*) that is endemic to the island.

A general meeting also convened which featured the exceptional presenta-

tion by Dr. John Iverson. His slide lecture focussed on the feeding and digestive adaptations of iguanas, much of which was distilled in the previous issue of *Iguana Times* (Vol. 3, No. 3). He also described his recently developed population models which suggest that conservation efforts should be directed as much toward adult survivorship as juvenile survivorship—a concept that comes as a surprise to many iguana conservationists.

As with the first conference last year, the meetings took place at the Hidden Harbor Turtle Hospital, hosted by Richie Moretti and Capt. Tina Brown. Most of the participants stayed at the Hidden Harbor Motel, where captive and rehabilitating sea turtles were easily viewed in one of the two swimming pools (the other devoted to human use only). Field trips included a behind-the-scenes tour of the Dolphin Research Center (thanks to Laurel Ehrlich), a visit to Gregory Scott's live iguana and botanical collections, and a stroll through Eric Beers' impressive palm garden, with its equally impressive groups of monitors and iguanas.

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## Statement of Purpose

**The International Iguana Society, Inc.** operates as 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.

## Subscription 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 \$6.00 including postage. Annual dues for The International Iguana Society are \$25.00 for individuals, \$30.00 for foreign memberships, and \$35.00 for organizations, which receive double copies of the newsletter.

### Write to:

The International Iguana Society, Inc.  
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Southern College  
Collegedale, TN 37315

## 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 8½" x 11" paper, or may also be submitted on disk (3.5" or 5.25"). We support most word processing applications in both PC and Macintosh formats. Please include file name, software name & version number on the disk, and a hard copy printout of your file. 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 I.I.S., Department of Biology, Southern College, Collegedale, TN 37315, for more information.

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