



**Meeting:** Southeast PARC Education Meeting

**Date:** February 19, 2001

**Location:** Chattanooga Clarion Hotel, Chattanooga, TN

## **Proceedings**

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### **Meeting Summary (prepared by George L. Heinrich)**

Eighteen people attended the Southeast **PARC** Education/Outreach Sub-Working Group meeting held at the Chattanooga Clarion Hotel on 19 February 2001. Topics covered included recruitment of state representatives (now completed) and the status of existing action items (see list below). Three new action items (#14 through #16) were added to the list. The establishment of a sub-working group (SWG) e-mail list and the development of an SWG page on the **PARC** website were also discussed. The latter will include a list of SWG contacts and the current status of SWG action items.

Future meetings (16-18 August 2001: Andalusia, Alabama and 15-17 August 2002: Stuttgart, Arkansas) were announced and discussed. State representatives were strongly encouraged to attend the August 2001 meeting as we will be working on ways to address herp education needs in individual states. They were also encouraged to develop a list of priority needs and invite the participation of key herp educators in their states.

### **Status of Action Items** (lead names in parentheses)

- 1) Share the SREL developed PowerPoint presentation about **PARC** by making it available on the website (David Scott and Erin Clark).
  - a. The PowerPoint presentation is now downloadable from the website. A compressed version of this presentation will be available in the future.
  - b. The PowerPoint presentation will be made available on a CD in the **PARC** "kit." The "kit" will also include the poster in several formats (see action item #5) and whatever else we want on the CD.
  - c. The images from the PowerPoint presentation will be made available on slides when a funding source is secured.
- 2) Educate teachers about amphibians and reptiles through programs like Project WILD; we also need to create the materials to educate (George L. Heinrich and Erin Clark).
  - a. In support of this action item, a resource directory similar to the one produced by Partners in Flight will be developed. This product will be made available as hard copy and on the **PARC** website. Mark A. Patterson will assist with the development of criteria for inclusion of material. Mark reports that he now has the guidelines used by several educational groups across the country for their inclusions or endorsements. A proposed list of criteria will be available for review in the near future.

3) Revise existing herp activities for Project WILD, Project WET and Project Learning Tree (John Jensen and Kitty Esco).

- a. Rusty Garrison contacted the Project WILD National office with the **PARC** revisions for the new guides. Some things were added, but no significant changes will be made until the next revision cycle in five years.
- b. Kitty Esco will check with Project Learning Tree and Project WET to see if their guide revisions are on the same cycle as Project WILD.

4) Make presentations about **PARC** at state/regional environmental education conferences (George L. Heinrich and Mark Patterson).

- a. George L. Heinrich will give a presentation about **PARC** at the League of Environmental Educators in Florida (LEEF) annual conference in March 2001.
- b. Mark A. Patterson will send a staff member to distribute **PARC** material at a conference sponsored by the Environmental Education Alliance of Georgia in March 2001. Jim Trostle will also be attending and has offered to assist.
- c. We need to develop lists of state/regional environmental education meetings and **PARC** members that can speak on our behalf.

5) Create a **PARC** display/poster and **PARC** materials to take to meetings (David Scott and Deborah Epperson).

- a. The existing **PARC** poster will be further modified and available as hard copy and on disk. Lisa Powers and David Scott will try to secure CARA funds to cover the cost of printing 1,000 posters. The disk will be included in the **PARC** "kit" (see action item #1).

6) Develop a **PARC** position statement on environmental education as a component of teacher education (Ray Ashton and Becky Smith).

- a. Ray Ashton and Becky Smith prepared a document titled, "**PARC** Position Statement on the State of Elementary and Secondary Education in the Sciences."
- b. The deadline for submission of comments on this document was extended to 1 March 2001. Comments should be sent directly to John Jensen.
- c. It was decided that this document would serve as a national **PARC** position statement and would therefore have to be submitted to the **PARC** steering committee for input and future direction.

7) Evaluate southeastern zoos and aquaria to determine if they are optimizing their resources specific to southeast herp education and outreach (John Groves, Dennis Herman and Jennifer Nolan).

8) Link frog call website currently under development by Craig Guyer (Auburn University) to the **PARC** website (John Jensen).

- a. The Auburn University herp page, which will include frogs and frog calls of Alabama, is being developed and will be available for linkage when completed.
- b. Suggestions for other links should be forwarded directly to David Scott.

9) Explore radio public service announcements (PSA's) with other agencies and conservation groups (Win Ott, Lisa Powers and David Scott).

- a. David Scott, Whit Gibbons, Lisa Powers, and Suzanne Veaudry Casaus will write a variety of PSA scripts.
  - b. Win Ott will be asked to assist with the recording and distribution phase of this project.
- 10) Identify local educators to spread PARC message (Gene Ott and Jim Trostle).
- a. Gene Ott prepared a document titled, "Identification of Citizen Herp Conservation Educators."
  - b. Jim Trostle has made some progress with this action item in the Columbus, Georgia area.
- 11) Develop a document on giving pro-conservation live presentations about snakes (John Jensen, Tony Mills and Gene Ott).
- a. Assignments for each chapter have been made and authors should be obtaining information for their contribution and beginning to write. John Jensen and Tony Mills will serve as editors. No deadlines have been set. The draft document will be posted on the **PARC** website for review and comments before a hard copy final document is prepared.
- 12) Develop eastern indigo snake educational signage for use range-wide (John Jensen and Erin Clark).
- a. Initial fundraising has generated \$3,020.50 for this project. That amount includes \$2,617.00 raised at a silent auction held at the 2000 meeting of the Gopher Tortoise Council.
  - b. A mockup sign example was prepared and submitted to USFWS to see if refuge managers agree with its utility or have suggestions for improvement. Laura Janacek (SREL) will design the final sign. At this point, we are just waiting on USFWS to finish their review.
  - c. Erin Clark has secured \$15,000 from USFWS to support eastern indigo snake educational efforts.
- 13) Distribute **PARC** material to selected names from the Southeastern Museums Conference mailing list (George L. Heinrich and Erin Clark).
- a. George L. Heinrich reviewed the list of 2,684 names and identified 250 that are value to us.
  - b. George L. Heinrich and Erin Clark will prepare a cover letter.
  - c. SREL has provided copies of the ten-page PARC brochure. The two-page flier is out of stock and will be reprinted soon. This project is on hold until that time.
- 14) Develop a resource list of state/regional herp educators (George L. Heinrich).
- a. George L. Heinrich will request that state representatives assist with this project.
  - b. This information will be made available on the Southeast **PARC** regional section of the **PARC** website.
- 15) Use **PARC** expertise to enhance National Wildlife Federation's "Backyard Wildlife Program" (Suzanne Veaudry Casaus).
- 16) Introduce **PARC** to local/state/regional herpetological societies and encourage links between websites (Jim Trostle).

## Meeting Participants

SEPARC Ed Meeting 2001

Mark Bailey (Conservation Services Southeast)  
Anastasia L. Baima (Forestry, Savannah River Site)  
John Byrd (Clinton High School)  
Suzanne Veaudry Casaus (National Wildlife Federation)  
Erin Clark (Savannah River Ecology Laboratory)  
George L. Heinrich (Boyd Hill Nature Park)  
Dennis Herman (North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences)  
Bob Herrington (Georgia Southwestern State University)  
John Jensen (Georgia Department of Natural Resources)  
Kim Kilgore (Arrowhead Environmental Education Center)  
Chris McGrath (North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission)  
Jennifer Nolan (Tennessee Aquarium)  
Lisa Powers (Tennessee Herpetological Society)  
David Scott (Savannah River Ecology Laboratory)  
Don Seriff (Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Department)  
Jen Sheehan (Savannah River Ecology Laboratory)  
Heather Sullivan (Mississippi Museum of Natural Science)  
Jim Trostle (Columbus State University)