



## Meeting: Southeast PARC Education Meeting

**Date:** October 19, 2000

**Location:** Savannah River Ecology Laboratory - Aiken, SC

## Proceedings

### 19 October 2000

Savannah River Ecology Lab, Aiken, SC

#### **Organized by:**

George L. Heinrich (Boyd Hill Nature Park) and  
Erin Clark (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)

Meeting Summary (prepared by George L. Heinrich)

Seventeen people attended the Southeast **PARC** Education/Outreach Sub-Working Group meeting held at the Savannah River Ecology Laboratory on 19 October 2000. A summary of the 17-19 August 2000 meeting held at the Georgia FFA-FHA Center was reviewed and approved. Topics covered included identification and recruitment of state representatives and the status of existing action items (see list below). In addition, a presentation on box turtle radiotelemetry programs (funded by the Presbyterian Church) as an education/outreach tool was made by Lehr Brisbin. It was decided that the next meeting of this group would be held in association with the Southeast **PARC** regional meeting on 19-21 February 2001 at the Tennessee Aquarium (Chattanooga, Tennessee).

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 should be downloadable from the website by 1 December 2000 (see "**Publications and Materials**" page).
  - b. The PowerPoint presentation will also be made available on a CD.
  - c. The fifteen images from the PowerPoint presentation will also be made available on slides.
- 2) Educate teachers about amphibians and reptiles through programs like Project WILD (also need to create the materials to educate). Prior to addressing this need, an inventory of regional environmental education projects and materials will be developed (George L. Heinrich and Erin Clark).
  - a. A resource directory similar to the one produced by Partners in Flight will be developed.
  - b. Mark A. Patterson will assist with the development of criteria for inclusion of material.
- 3) Revise existing herp activities for Project WILD, Project WET and Project Learning Tree (Rusty Garrison, John Jensen and Kitty Esco).
  - a. Rusty Garrison contacted the Project WILD National office with the PARC revisions (John

Jensen and Rusty Garrison) 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 regional and state 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) conference in March 2001.
  - b. Mark A. Patterson will give a presentation about **PARC** at a conference sponsored by the Environmental Education Alliance of Georgia in March 2001.
  - c. We need to develop lists of 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 poster will be modified and available as hard copy or on disk by 1 December 2000.
- 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. Comments on the above document should be sent to John Jensen by 15 November 2000.
- 7) Evaluate southeastern zoos and aquaria to determine if they are optimizing their resources specific to southeast herp education and outreach (Dave Collins).
  - a. John Groves has offered to assist Dave Collins with this action item.
- 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.
- 9) Explore public service announcements with other agencies and conservation groups (Win Ott will help).
  - a. Win Ott wants to develop radio PSA's. He will continue to develop this idea.
- 10) Identify local educators to spread **PARC** message (Gene Ott, Jim Trostle and Robert Horan).
  - a. Gene Ott prepared a document titled, "Identification of Citizen Herp Conservation Educators."
  - b. Comments on the above document should be sent to Gene Ott as soon as possible.
- 11) Develop a document on giving pro-conservation presentations about snakes (John Jensen and Gene Ott).
  - a. Gene Ott prepared an outline that was sent out for review. Comments will be incorporated in the outline and "chapters" will be assigned to those interested in participating in the writing of the document. Several working group members volunteered to take on writing and editing assignments.
  - b. Comments on the outline should be sent to John Jensen and Gene Ott by 30 November 2000.

- 12)** Develop eastern indigo snake educational signage for use range-wide (John Jensen, Erin Clark and Katie Distler).
- a.** Initial fundraising effort is currently underway. The unplanned for profit from the Covington meeting was earmarked for this project. In addition, the proceeds from the silent auction to be held at the annual meeting of the Gopher Tortoise Council will be donated to this project.
  - b.** John Jensen is developing a plan of action.
- 13)** Distribute **PARC** material to selected names from the Southeastern Museums Conference mailing list (George L. Heinrich and Erin Clark).
- a.** George L. Heinrich will sort through list by 30 November 2000.
  - b.** George L. Heinrich and Erin Clark will prepare a cover letter.
  - c.** SREL will provide material for distribution.

### **Meeting Participants**

**I. Lehr Brisbin** (Savannah River Ecology Laboratory)  
**Erin Clark** (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service/Savannah River Ecology Laboratory)  
**Deborah Epperson** (Camp Shelby Field Office/The Nature Conservancy)  
**Kitty Esco** (Georgia Department of Natural Resources)  
**Whit Gibbons** (Savannah River Ecology Laboratory)  
**John D. Groves** (North Carolina Zoological Park)  
**George L. Heinrich** (Boyd Hill Nature Park)  
**John Jensen** (Georgia Department of Natural Resources)  
**Tony Mills** (Savannah River Ecology Laboratory)  
**Paul Moler** (Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission)  
**Gene Ott** (South Carolina Reptiles and Amphibians)  
**Win Ott** (Southeastern Hot Herp Society)  
**Stephanie Palmer** (Georgia Herpetological Society)  
**Mark A. Patterson** (Lanier Museum of Natural History)  
**David Scott** (Savannah River Ecology Laboratory)  
**Phil Spivey** (Georgia Department of Natural Resources)  
**Jim Trostle** (Columbus State University)