

SBSC Weekly Highlights, July 26, 2007

SBSC SCEP Coordinates Rare Gartersnake Roundup: Erika Nowak, a SCEP PhD student with the Southwest Biological Science Center, coordinated a multi-agency capture effort for wild narrow-headed gartersnakes (*Thamnophis rufipunctatus*) in Oak Creek, Arizona, on July 12-13. Six juveniles and one adult gartersnake were captured. Their capture added to efforts by the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Arizona Game and Fish Department to assist declining gartersnake populations by establishing captive breeding populations. Seventeen volunteers from these agencies and the USDA Forest Service, Phoenix Herpetological Society, and local herpetofauna enthusiasts assisted with the capture effort. Contact: Erika Nowak, SBSC Colorado Plateau Research Station, Flagstaff, Arizona. 928-523-7760, Erika.Nowak@nau.edu

SBSC SCEP Provides Rattlesnake Awareness and Safety Trainings: Erika Nowak, a SCEP PhD student with the Southwest Biological Science Center, conducted two rattlesnake awareness and safe handling trainings for the National Park Service. The first training was held July 11, at the Kelso Depot, in Mojave National Preserve, as part of the monthly safety training, with 20-25 park staff and volunteers in attendance. The second training was held at Montezuma Castle National Monument on July 23, specifically for 5-10 new staff members. Topics covered were local rattlesnake identification and natural history, prevention and treatment of snakebite, along with research techniques and results. Nowak instructs interested staff on proper snake handling techniques, using a live captive rattlesnake. Contact: Erika Nowak, SBSC Colorado Plateau Research Station, Flagstaff, Arizona. 928-523-7760, Erika.Nowak@nau.edu

SBSC Scientists Presents: Cave Research Scientist J. Judson Wynne of the Southwest Biological Science Center will be presenting two invited papers at the National Speleological Society's Annual Convention in Marengo, Indiana, 22-27 July 2007. These talks are entitled "Mars Analogue Sites and Their Importance in the Search for Caves on Mars" and "Thermal Behavior of Earth Caves and Possible Cave-like Structures on Mars." Contact: Jut Wynne, USGS Southwest Biological Science Center, Flagstaff, AZ. 928.523.7757, jut.wynne@nau.edu