



Historical Committee Yearly Report 2018

Officers, 2018-2019 – President: Tim Tristan, DVM, DABVP (Reptile/Amphibian), President-Elect: Mike Corcoran, DVM, DABVP (Reptile and Amphibian), CertAqV, Vice President: Kimberlee Wojick, DVM, DACZM, Secretary: Louisa M. Asseo, DVM, DABVP (Canine/Feline), Treasurer: Stacey Leonatti Wilkinson, DVM, DABVP (Reptile & Amphibian), Immediate Past President: Nicole Johnson, DVM, (1yr) Members-at-Large: Matt Allender, DVM, DACZM, Anke Stoehr, DVM, (2yr) Members-at-Large: La'Toya Latney, DVM, Dipl. ECZM (Zoo Health Management), Dip. ABVP (Reptile & Amphibian), Erica Giles, DVM, Executive Director: Wendy Dox. Last year's team was extremely hard working and fanatically dedicated to the ARAV, so much so they all got ARAV tattoos (photos 1 - 4)! Nicole Johnson accomplished much as President including establishing two new committees, Green Conference and Historical, as well as searching for an new executive director, helping with the JHMS, Herp Blerp, ExoticsCon, ARAV board meetings, international representatives and all those multitude of tasks that fall to the ARAV President, too numerous to list here. A big thanks to Dr. Johnson and all the ARAV officers for very productive year, well done!

The big ARAV news this year is Dana Varble, DVM, moved up from ARAV Executive Director to Vice President of Veterinary Education with the North American Veterinary Community (NAVC). Dana did an excellent job leading the ARAV from January, 2014 until October, 2018 and worked hard updating our website, especially membership services, redesigned our mobile platform and monthly newsletter, streamlined, improved and reduced cost of internal operations, brought in a new conference call service, moved the annual conference to a fully web-based submission and review process, and started using a conference event application. Dana also improved the JHMS with layout redesign with a JHMS specific logo, and full color photo usage throughout, increased advertising revenue, created PDF's of all JHMS volumes, posted on our website, with open access to JHMS volumes seven years and older, and helped get the JHMS listed on BioOne. We are very thankful for all the great work Dr. Varble did for the ARAV! Dana and Nicole Johnson, traveled to Cluj-Napoca, Romania, to represent the ARAV as one of the sponsors for the Transylvania Exotics, Zoo and Wildlife International Congress, from June 13 to 17, 2018. Wendy Dox, also with the NAVC, is our new Executive Director and has a lot of management and marketing skills (photo 5).

This year the ARAV met with the Associations of Small Mammal Veterinarians and Avian Veterinarians at the 2018 ExoticsCon held September 22 -27, 2017, at the Hilton, Atlanta, in Atlanta Georgia. There were close to a thousand conference attendees, (a little over a third of which were ARAV members), which makes Exotics Con the largest exotics conference in the world. More than half of students, and more than a third of technicians, registered as ARAV. There was a field trip to Zoo Atlanta to see their new \$19 million reptile house, completed in 2015, by former curator Brad Lock, DVM, DACZM. The ExoticsCon Auction, auctioneered by our own JHMS editor, Mark Mitchell, DVM, MS, PhD, DECZM (Herpetology) netted over \$33,000 for the Exotics Con, \$14,000 of which went to ARAV for our Research and Conservation Fund (photo 6). Incredible job Mark and the Auction Committee! The ExoticsCon keynote speaker, Frans de Waal, PhD, Director of the Living Links Center at Yerkes National Primate Research Center, challenged us to consider that animals also experience fairness, reciprocity, empathy, cooperation, and social behaviors that are not strictly limited to humans. Anthropomorphism is OK! There were a plethora of good research and practical lectures. Helen McCracken, BSc (Vet), BVs, MVS, gave a fascinating lecture on reptilian cloacal anatomy (photo 7). Exotics Con cost the ARAV over \$182,000 and grossed almost \$218,000, netting over \$34,000 for the ARAV.



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More good news from the JHMS Editor, Mark Mitchell, and the JHMS Editorial Board, chaired by Rachel Marschang, PD, DMV, DECZM (Herpetology), FTA Mikrobiologie, JHMS is now listed on BioOne and Google Scholar, which is an excellent step in the right direction, as we are now searchable. We are working towards the standard, PubMed. All old JHMS volumes have been posted online and volumes over seven years old are open access, which makes us even more accessible! The JHMS will remain at 2 timely combined issues per year until we have more submissions. We need to continue to promote the JHMS as a unique and novel journal and ask all colleagues to contribute. Important inducements include no publication cost and full color images for free. Half of JHMS articles are now from outside the US, which reflects our global membership.

The Infectious Diseases Committee, busily chaired by Rachel Marschang, wrote infectious disease fact sheets on *Mycoplasma* in turtles and tortoises, snake mites, *Devriesea agamarum*, and Testudine Intranuclear Coccidiosis for the European Association of Zoo and Wildlife Veterinarians infectious disease manual (which is still being worked on). They also compiled biannual lists of recent peer-reviewed publications on infectious diseases for the JHMS, and evaluated a membership survey of laboratories used for infectious disease diagnostics to generate a list for ARAV members. Dr. Marschang and liaisons from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updated the Salmonella handouts, a printed brochure for owners, and handout for veterinarians, (see them under member resources on our website). ARAV contributors were Carol Bradford, DVM, Rachel Marschang, and Mark Mitchell, CDC contributors included Megin Nichols, DVM, MPH, DACVPM, Rachel Silver, MPH Julie Sinclair, MA, DVM, MPH, DACVPM, Laura Smith, MA, Lauren Stevenson, MHS, Jean Whichard, DVM, PhD. While you are checking out the Salmonella handouts in member services also take a look at the ARAV Companion Care Guides. Excellent job Rachel! Membership/PR Committee Chair, Anneliese Strunk, DVM, ABVP (Avian) and Awards Subcommittee, Chair, Louisa M. Asseo, DVM, DABVP (Canine/Feline), mentioned the Zoo Med Reptile and Amphibian Veterinary Excellence Award was given to Matt Allender, DVM, DACZM, ARAV Member at Large, at ExoticsCon, for his outstanding research into reptile wildlife diseases (photo 8). The ARAV currently has over a thousand members, with more than 300 international members.

Social Media Subcommittee Chairs, Julianne Vickstrom, DVM, and Alicia McLaughlin, DVM, report that we have over 3,000 viewers (fans) of the ARAV Facebook page, up by more than 500 from 2017! You can use our Facebook page for case discussions and practice advice.

The Education Committee, co-chaired by Colin McDermott, VMD, and Nicola Di Girolamo, DMV, has increased the number of active student chapters to 20 (17 US, 3 international) which is way up from 8 last year and revised the student kit. Students are the future of reptile medicine and the lifeblood of our organization, well done guys! Research & Conservation Committee, chaired by Byron de la Navarre, DVM and Curtis Eng, DVM, had eleven official research proposals submitted in 2018 for \$29,400 in ARAV funding, \$9,000 was awarded by eight evaluators for three proposals (\$3,000 each). Those proposals included: Anti-Chytrid Amphibian Probiotics, Principle Investigator, Tim Korpita, PhD Student, CU, Boulder, CO; Health Assessments of Gopher Tortoises, Principle Investigator, Justin Perrault, PhD, Loggerhead Marinelifelife Center, FL; Rapid Detection Test for Ranavirus, Principle Investigator, Kirsten Monsen-Collar, Montclair State University, NJ. The ARAV Board of Directors designated this last proposal the recipient of the Kevin Wright Memorial Grant. Final decisions for 2019 awards will be announced February 1, 2019, deadline for



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submission of proposals for 2020, is October 1, 2019. The ARAV is doing a great job promoting and funding research in our field, please donate to our research and conservation fund so we can fund more research, well done Research and Conservation Committee!

Legislation and Welfare Committee, chaired by Richard Funk, DVM and Tony Qureishi, DVM, continued to circulate to the Board and others, announcements from United States Association of Reptile Keepers on herp legal issues, including pending legislation. They alerted the ARAV to the confiscation of over 10,000 radiated tortoises in Madagascar being rehabilitated by the Turtle Survival Alliance. Several of our members flew over to Toliara, Madagascar to help out in evaluating and treating these tortoises, most of which were thankfully saved. This committee also worked with Dana Varble and Angela Lennox, DVM, DABVP, Avian and Exotic Companion Mammals, regarding two internet sites in Indiana and Florida, offering fecal testing and antibiotics in violation of their state veterinary practice acts. The ARAV sent letters to the respective reporting authorities in both states, Indiana thought our case had merit. The Indiana site has removed fecal testing and antibiotics from their site and the Florida site appears to be down. If you know of proposed/pending legislations affecting ownership of herps, or someone practicing veterinary medicine without a license, please contact the Legislative and Welfare Committee.

Institutional Animal Care and Use Subcommittee, (subcommittee of the LAW committee), chaired by Brad Waffa, MSPH, DVM, reviewed all live animal lab proposals and the labs were personally inspected by the committee chair to verify and document the animals were being housed and handled the way they were supposed to be, all labs passed inspection.

The Green Conference Committee, chaired by Nicole Johnson, sought to decrease conference waste by using LEED certified hotels, reducing printed material and increasing online material, such as USB proceedings, decrease energy usage, use reusable, recyclable or biodegradable items, less plastics and disposable materials, less individually packed items (like metal straws individually wrapped in plastic), donate leftover food, reduce, reuse and recycle, to make our conference greener! A list of suggestions was approved for our conference planning committee to make the ARAV greener. Good job!

International Committee, Chair, Karina Mathes, Dr Med Vet, DECZM (Herpetology) has representatives in many areas and countries including, International Asia and Africa, Dinesh Vinherkar; Australia/ New Zealand, Shane Simpson; Belgium/Netherlands, Tom Hellebuyck; Canada, Leticia Materi; Central/Eastern Europe, Sid Knotek; Central / South America/ Caribbean, Patricia Edith Kunze; France, Lionel Schilliger; Germany, Frank Mutschmann; Italy, Malta, Emanuele Lubian; Japan, Yasutsugu Miwa; Spain/Portugal, Albert Martinez-Silvestre; Denmark/Sweden/Scandinavia, Beth Fledelius; Switzerland/Austria, Michaela Gumpenberger; UK/Ireland, Iain Cope; and US, Louisa Asseo. If you are interested in joining the international committee, please contact Karina Mathes. Lionel Schilliger and Albert Martinez-Silvestre translated ARAV ball python, leopard gecko, and bearded dragon brochures into their respective languages of French and Spanish. Thanks!

Budget & Finance Committee, chaired by Stacey Leonatti Wilkinson, DVM, DABVP (Reptile and Amphibian), reports ARAV total expenses were approximately \$141,000, \$53,000 involved JHMS expenses. Currently for the year we are operating at a profit of about \$21,000, but final numbers are not available yet. We have operated within budget well



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this year. An audit of all ARAV financials is ongoing by our accounting firm. The current balance of all accounts is \$446,992.23 with the balance in the Conservation & Research account at \$23,713.99. Membership dues are increasing by about 3% to keep pace with costs.

Stephen Divers, BVetMed, DZooMed (Reptilian), DECZM (Herpetology), DECZM (Zoo Health Management), FRCVS, DACZM, and Scott Stahl, DVM, DABVP (Avian), spent the last few years revising the third edition of Mader's Reptile Medicine and Surgery which should be out early in 2019 from Elsevier (photos 9-11) and are still friends! Many ARAV members worked on this project and we are all eagerly looking forward to seeing this pillar of reptile medicine and surgery!

The ARAV is doing well and moving forward with a new Executive Director. We need to increase submissions to the JHMS, keep up the good work and help where ever you can, the ARAV is your organization, make it a great one.

Photo 1:



Photo 2:



Photo 3:



Photo 4:



Photo 5:



Photo 6:



Photo 7:



Photo 8:



Photo 9:



Photo 10:



Photo 11;



Photo legends

1. ARAV Board members displaying their ARAV tattoos, from left, Johnson, Wojick, Varble, Corcoran, Giles.
 2. Past President Nikki Johnson and Member-at-Large Member, Erica Giles with freshly minted tattoos.
 3. Dana Varble years as Executive Director for the ARAV left a permanent mark on her.
 4. Close up of Dana's acute erythematous tattoo with two snakes forming the body of the *Pipa pipa*.
 5. Out with the old, in with the new, Dana Varble, ARAV past ED and her replacement, Wendy Dox, the new ARAV ED.
 6. Provocateur auctioneer extraordinaire, Mark Mitchell, leading another successful auction at ExoticsCon to raise money for research and conservation.
 7. Helen McCracken, lead veterinarian from the Melbourne Zoo after her outstanding talk on reptile cloacal anatomy.
 8. Matt Allender, DVM, DACZM, received the Zoo Med Reptile and Amphibian Veterinary Excellence Award for his outstanding contributions to reptile research.
- 9-11. Scott Stahl and Steve Divers, looking relieved after a long project nearing completion.