

Statement of David G. Barker
Before the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
September 14, 2011

Thank you very much for this opportunity to testify on the significant adverse impacts on small businesses of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (FWS) proposal to list nine species of constricting snakes on the Injurious Wildlife List under the Lacey Act.

I am a herpetologist by training and author of numerous books and articles, both for scientific journals and the popular press. I am also the founder, along with my wife, of Vida Preciosa International, Inc., a commercial enterprise that specializes in the research and captive-propagation of pythons and boas. The testimony provided is based on my extensive fieldwork and research over several decades and experience in the reptile industry. Additionally, I am a member of the U.S. Association of Reptile Keepers (USARK), a trade association representing all segments of this industry, including its reptile breeding, retail, transportation, equipment manufacture, trade show promotion, medical supply, herpetological veterinary, and wholesale sectors. USARK has been in the forefront advocating against this proposed rule, working with other groups such as the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council (PIJAC) and the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA). I will also reference research and information compiled and submitted by USARK during this process.

FWS's proposed regulation lacks a scientific basis, being based on a single flawed study that has not withstood scientific review. More recent research contradict these findings. The rule was also developed without adherence to the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA). FWS failed to estimate the rule's costs and economic impacts on the small business community and to explore less burdensome alternatives offered by the industry. For these and other reasons, the proposed listing fails to meet President Obama's announced standards for scientific integrity and data quality, regulatory guidance, and minimization of impacts on small businesses.

Most importantly, this misguided regulation will destroy an entire industry, comprised almost exclusively of small and micro businesses. Its economic impacts, based on past industry growth, will amount to losses of between \$505 million and \$1.2 billion over ten years. Speaking personally, it will criminalize virtually 90 percent of my sales and affect a regulatory taking of my breeding stock and equipment. In short, if this rule goes into effect, it will destroy my life's work and investments for no rational reason.

The Regulation Lacks a Scientific Basis

Based on my own and others research, I can confidently state that the FWS proposed listing is utterly lacking in a scientific basis. It has been put forward on a widely discredited study by a U.S. Geological Service (USGS) scientist in 2008 purporting to find that as much as a third of the continental United States could provide suitable habitat for these nine species of pythons, anacondas and boa constrictor. From that, FWS concluded these snakes could become established and pose a danger to native wildlife, justifying the proposed Lacey Act listing.

In point of fact, there have been at least four subsequent studies – three of which were co-authored by government researchers or academic researchers under contract to U.S. Department

of the Interior agencies – that undermine the USGS study. They all support the incontrovertible fact that these snakes are highly intolerant to the cold, failing to survive in temperatures as high as forty degrees Fahrenheit. The fatal flaw with the USGS study, which was based on “climate matching” – or identifying regions of the world to which these snakes are indigenous to similar climates in the United States – is principally that it relied on mean monthly temperatures. It failed to account for persistent low seasonal temperatures throughout the U.S. that make all areas save for the most southern regions of Florida and Hawaii utterly inhospitable for these animals.

Only two of the nine species listed in the proposed action are thought to have become established. Burmese pythons are believed to be tenuously established in the Everglades region and a small population of boas may be established in a 20 acre glade of trees in a Miami city park. Genetic testing of Burmese pythons from the Everglades region shows that the population was introduced to Florida prior to 1994; the introduction most likely came from the accidental release of captive-bred babies from reptile distributor’s facility by Hurricane Andrew in 1992. Despite the relatively long establishment of these populations, these snakes have not extended their range beyond this narrow band. No attempt has ever been made to eradicate either of these species since they were first discovered.

Furthermore, despite the legitimate concerns over the establishment of these non-native species within the Everglades ecosystem, there has been no empirical evidence that their presence has threatened the ecosystem or caused any serious disruption. In fact, due to the particular harsh winters this year and last, it has been virtually impossible to find any boas or pythons in these areas. Despite intensive search efforts and even an open hunting season on these snakes, very few have been seen in Florida since 2009. Even the popular television show Python Hunters has had to turn its attention to other species and other localities, because pythons have become very scarce in the Everglades. Needless to say, despite decades of pet ownership of boas and pythons, they have not become established anywhere else in this country.

In short, the FWS proposal is a job-killing solution in search of a problem.

This Issue is Appropriately Addressed by the States

The general admonition to “not make a federal case out of it” applies strongly in this instance. States are well situated to allow, prohibit, or regulate this industry as they see fit. Thus, for instance, the State of Hawaii bans ownership, possession, or importation of any of these snakes. Texas uses a permitting system, controlling access to ownership of many of these snakes. Florida, which has the only established population, has likewise largely banned private ownership. In each instance, the law has been tailored to address important interests identified by these states’ citizens.

It is instructive to note, however, that even Florida does not impose a restriction so sweeping as that proposed by FWS. Florida law allows for the display of such snakes, including allowing private individuals to bring these species into the state under certain controlled circumstances. This exception allows for the continuation of annual reptile trade shows held in the state, such as the major show in Daytona that just recently concluded. These trade shows¹ are economically

¹ There were over 300 reptile trade shows held across the United States last year.

important both to the industry (in terms of sales of snakes, equipment, supplies, and services) and to the locations that host them.

Florida has struck a balance that protects both its environment and regionally important economic activity in a manner that best suits it. FWS would deny states the right to make such a choice. The agency would also harm businesses in regions in which there is no chance of these constricting snakes to become established—the rule applies equally to Alaska and Florida; to Maine and Hawaii. Given the abundance of peer reviewed science, the virtual non-existent risk in pet ownership, and the current importance of the jobs and economic activity this industry provides for tens, if not hundreds, of thousands of Americans, the Lacey Act rule should be withdrawn.

A Lacey Act Listing of These Snakes Will Devastate an Entire Small Industry

The modern U.S. reptile industry has grown rapidly over the past two decades. The number of U.S. households that own a reptile rose from 2.8 million to 4.7 million from 1994 to 2008, an increase of 68%. In contrast, the number of households that own any kind of pet increased only 35% over that same period. Today, this sector of the pet industry has become increasingly complex, generating annual revenues approaching \$1.4 billion. The prime movers fueling this growth are small, predominately American businesses.

Many of these businesses began as captive breeding operations run by reptile enthusiasts and hobbyists. Over the years, these businesses have expanded their customer base to include foreign reptile breeders and pet owners.

Of the overall market for reptiles, the component comprising the nine species proposed to be listed is estimated to comprise about 11%, generating over \$100 million a year in economic activity. It is comprised of importers; captive breeding operations such as my own; specialized herpetological veterinarians; rodent breeders and distributors; manufacturers of food pellets, lighting, terrariums, terrarium decorations, heating products, vitamins and supplements, thermostats, snake hooks, sexing tools, and humidity products; specialized transport companies; trade show organizers and promoters; and others. Ninety-nine percent of the affected businesses qualify as small businesses under the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA).

Under the proposed rule, a significant portion of this business will be lost. This industry is driven by high-valued snakes specially bred for unique colors, patterns, albinism, and other traits. These so-called “morphs” can fetch hundreds and even thousands of dollars from collectors, both domestically and abroad. At the highest end, prices rise to the tens of thousands of dollars for an animal. If the Lacey Act listing is adopted, this sector will die and thousands of small breeding operations will be left with inventories of snakes and specialized equipment that will be virtually worthless.

Because FWS failed to produce any estimates of the size and value of the industry, much less develop any meaningful measure of the costs and benefits of the regulation, the industry itself bore the cost of producing an economic analysis. A copy of that report, produced by Georgetown Economic Services, will be submitted for the record. The study found that almost 60% of all sales involved interstate commerce. Thus, under the most charitable economic

assumptions, lost revenue impacts will range from \$42.8 million to \$58.7 million annually. However, given the fact that such interstate sales comprise such a large portion of total revenue, more realistic annual revenue losses range from \$75.6 million to \$103.6 million.

In my own personal circumstance, if the proposed rule is implemented, it will directly and negatively affect my wife's and my incorporated small business and our family income. About 90% of our business is derived from interstate and international sales. This regulation will thus destroy some 20 years of work and essentially confiscate the value of our investments in breeding stock and equipment. Conservatively, our family income will be immediately slashed by 35% at a time when income and work come hard and negatively impact our retirement. Additionally, our business is interconnected with many other local businesses, large and small, that also will suffer economic harm. Nationally, there are thousands of other families with small snake-breeding businesses similar to ours.

FWS utterly failed to take any hard look at these economic impacts and failed to consider reasonable alternatives to federal regulation offered by the industry. This is not just my opinion, but also that of the Small Business Administration's Office of Advocacy. In a strongly-worded comment letter (also submitted for the record), the Acting Chief Counsel for Advocacy, Ms. Susan Walthall, and the Assistant Chief Counsel, Ms. Jamie Belcore Saloom, found that FWS:

1. Failed to "adequately describe the impacts of the proposed rule on small businesses";
2. Did "not discuss significant alternatives to the proposed rule";
3. Did "not properly identify the small entities directly affected by the rule"; and
4. "Underestimates the economic impact on small entities."

They concluded: "Advocacy believes that the proposed rule will have a significant [adverse] economic impact on a substantial number of small entities that has not been fully examined by FWS." By my reading, the Office of Advocacy is politely saying that FWS violated the law.

Advocacy's well-founded conclusions were based not only on a review of the agency's RFA analyses, but a full "round table" discussion with representatives of many sectors of the industry. Unlike FWS, the Office of Advocacy took the time to understand the industry and the impacts this Lacey Act listing would have on our businesses. We would likely not be in this position today if FWS had taken a similar approach.

FWS's Proposed Regulation is Inconsistent the Administration's Regulatory Guidance

Finally, given that this Committee is also hearing from Mr. Cass Sunstein, head of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA), it is worth noting that his office has an important role in this particular rulemaking. Not only is OIRA responsible for implementing the President's regulatory policy, but it is currently actively reviewing FWS's proposed listing rule. Indeed, it has been doing so since about April when USARK met with Office of Management and Budget (OMB), FWS, and Interior Department officials.

I appreciate that the OMB is taking a hard look at the FWS proposal, assuming it is an indication that the concerns raised by the various associations – USARK, PIJAC, and AZA – are being taken seriously. However, the uncertainty that its prolonged review has caused is virtually the same as having the rule in place. With no final decision, business for me and others have dropped precipitously as buyers are unwilling to make investments or purchase snakes whose transportation may be criminalized. We hope that OMB and OIRA will reject the proposed rule as inconsistent with Administration policy and the law, and do so now.

There are good reasons for this outcome. Submitted for the record is a copy of a letter USARK sent to Mr. Sunstein detailing the ways in which FWS failed to adhere to the procedural and substantive requirements of, for example, President Obama's January 18, 2011, Memorandum relating to small businesses and job creation, Executive Order 13563 reaffirming the general principles of regulatory philosophy and review, and the President's recently announced standards for scientific integrity.

With respect to scientific integrity, I note that I assisted in filing a detailed challenge to the USGS study under the Information Quality Act (IQA). Both the initial challenge and the industry's appeal were completely rebuffed by FWS and the Interior Department. Unfortunately, the IQA lacks teeth, providing business with no recourse when meritorious challenges to poor science underlying rules with major impacts are summarily rejected by federal agencies. I would ask Congress to consider strengthening the IQA.

Concluding Thoughts

A little discussed issue regards the disaster that may follow the implementation of the proposed action. What will happen to the million animals that are suddenly without value? Many, of course, may be maintained into the future as pets by their current owners. But what will be the outcome for animals that suddenly are unwanted or unaffordable? Some of the larger snakes can live in excess of 30 years. The proposed action makes no provision for the disposal of the animals. Zoos will not take even one. Animal shelters are completely unprepared and generally without trained staff, equipment, cages, or food. The implementation of the proposed action may precipitate the greatest slaughter of pet animals in American history.

Finally, I, like many others who are passionate about snakes and reptiles and who have made this their life's work, spend a large amount of time in educational activities and providing other public services. We introduce students to these magnificent creatures, assist zoos and aquariums in care, maintenance, and supply, aid conservation efforts, and publish articles, both for the scientific community and the general public. If this rule is adopted, all these valuable services will be lost, along with American jobs and the American dream for thousands of people. These "costs" – both human and monetary – are not offset one iota by this misguided rule that utterly lacks a single benefit. With this rule, we will be a poorer nation in all senses.

I thank you very much for this opportunity to testify on this very important matter. If there is any further information that would assist the Committee in its work, I will do my very best to provide it.

David G. Barker

David G. Barker is today an internationally recognized authority on pythons. He started his professional career at the Dallas Zoo's Department of Herpetology. During that time (1975-84) he was a supervisor in the Reptile House and the Children's Zoo, and was the public lecturer for the Zoo.

Barker left the Zoo to attend graduate school at University of Texas at Arlington. He undertook a study of the geographic variation, natural history and systematics of the ridgenose rattlesnake, *Crotalus willardi*, with an emphasis on the endangered New Mexico ridgenose rattlesnake. His research required field work in Mexico, New Mexico and Arizona. During the school year he worked as an instructor in the Department of Biology, and as a preparator in the UTA Museum of Herpetology.

In 1988 he again joined a zoo, this time as Curator of Education at the Gladys Porter Zoo in Brownsville, TX. After 18 months he returned to UTA to complete graduate school.

In January 1990 he and wife Tracy started Vida Preciosa International, Inc. [VPI] a commercial enterprise that specializes in the research and captive-propagation of pythons and boas. For many years, VPI housed the world's largest and most diverse collection of pythons. More species of pythons have been reproduced at VPI than at any other institution in the world.

Dave Barker has published over 70 popular articles, and several dozen scientific papers on topics of systematics, taxonomy, natural history, animal behavior, morphology, reproductive physiology, and captive breeding. He has co-authored papers identifying a new species of large monitor lizard and three new species of pythons.

Barker was on the editorial committee of *Zoo Life* for three years. He is co-author of *A Field Guide to the Reptiles and Amphibians of Texas* (1987, Texas Monthly Press). He is co-author of *The Ball Python Manual* (1995), the only snake book to sell more than one million copies. He and Tracy have published two volumes in the *Pythons of the World* monographic series. The second volume was recognized as "The Best Animal Book of 2006" by the Independent Publishers Annual Awards. The Barkers currently are working on a third volume. Dave Barker is a recognized photographer and has published more than 500 images of reptiles in books, journals and periodicals.

Dave Barker is a member of the Boa and Python Specialist Group of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature [IUCN]. He has a python taxon named after him (*Leiopython albertisii barkeri*) and Tracy has a python species named in her honor (*Morelia tracyae*).

David G. Barker's Publications

BOOKS

- (in prep.) *Pythons of the World, Volume 3: The Short-tail Pythons: The History, Natural History, Care and Breeding*. with Tracy M. Barker. VPI Library, Boerne, Texas.
2006. *Pythons of the World, Volume 2: Ball Python Pythons: The History, Natural History, Care and Breeding*. with Tracy M. Barker. VPI Library, Boerne, Texas. 321pp.
1994. *The Ball Python Manual*. with Philippe de Vosjoli, Roger Klingenberg and Tracy M. Barker. The Herpetocultural Library, Advanced Vivarium Systems, Lakeside, California. 76 pp.
1994. *Pythons of the World, Volume 1, Australia*. with Tracy M. Barker. The Herpetocultural Library, Advanced Vivarium Systems, Lakeside, California. 171 pp.
1987. *A Field Guide to the Reptiles and Amphibians of Texas*. co-authored with Judith Garrett, Texas Monthly Press, Austin, Texas. 225 pp.

PROFESSIONAL ARTICLES

2011. A review of: Willson, J. D., M. E. Dorcas, and R. W. Snow. 2010. co-authored with Tracy M. Barker. *Identifying Plausible Scenarios for the Establishment of Invasive Burmese Pythons (Python molurus) in Southern Florida*. Biological Invasions. Online doi 10.1007/s10530-010-9908-3. *Bulletin of the Chicago Herpetological Society* 46(4): 41–43.
2010. A review of: Dorcas, M. E., J. D. Willson, and J. W. Gibbons. 2010. *Can Invasive Burmese Pythons Inhabit Temperate Regions of the Southeastern United States?* co-authored with Tracy M. Barker. Biological Invasions. Online doi 10.107/s10530-010-9969-6. *Bulletin of the Chicago Herpetological Society* 45(12): 187–189.
2010. A critique of the analysis used to predict the climate space of the Burmese python in the United States by Rodda et al. (2008,2009) and Reed and Rodda (2009). co-authored with Tracy M. Barker. *Bulletin of the Chicago Herpetological Society* 45(6): 97–106.
2010. A critical review of the action to place the great constrictors and boa constrictor on the Injurious Wildlife List. co-authored with Tracy M. Barker. [posted online June 2010 at: http://www.vpi.com/sites/vpi.com/files/S373_pro-con_002.pdf]
2010. The distribution of the Burmese python in China. co-authored with Tracy M. Barker. *Bulletin of the Chicago Herpetological Society* 45(5): 86–88.
2010. A flawed USGS report on giant constrictors. co-authored with Tracy M. Barker. *Bulletin of the Chicago Herpetological Society* 45(2): 25–28.

2010. Review: *Giant Constrictors: Biological and Management Profiles and an Establishment Risk Assessment for Nine Large Species of Pythons, Anacondas, and the Boa Constrictor*. Robert N. Reed and Gordon H. Rodda. 2009. U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report-1202, xviii + 302 pages. co-authored with Tracy M. Barker. *Bulletin of the Chicago Herpetological Society* 45(1): 1-8.
2009. Review: *Reducing the risks of the wildlife trade* by K. F. Smith, M. Behrens, L. M. Schloegel, N. Marano, S. Burgiel, and P. Daszak. 2009. *Science* 324:94–95. co-authored with Tracy M. Barker. *Bulletin of the Chicago Herpetological Society* 44(6): 96–97.
2008. Book review: *The lizard king, the true crimes and passions of the world's greatest reptile smugglers* by Bryan Christy. co-authored with Tracy M. Barker. *Bulletin of the Chicago Herpetological Society* 43(11):177-178.
2008. Will they come in out of the cold? Observations of large constrictors in cool and cold conditions. *Bulletin of the Chicago Herpetological Society* 43(6): 93–97.
2008. Review: *An Ecological Risk Assessment of Nonnative Boas and Pythons as Potentially Invasive Species on the United States* by Robert N. Reed. 2005. *Risk Analysis* 25(3): 753–766. co-authored with Tracy M. Barker. *Bulletin of the Chicago Herpetological Society* 43(4): 63–67.
2008. The Tympanum: Comments on a flawed herpetological paper and an improper and damaging news release from a government agency. co-authored with Tracy M. Barker. *Bulletin of the Chicago Herpetological Society* 43(3): 44–47.
2008. The distribution of the Burmese python, *Python molurus bivittatus*. co-authored with Tracy M. Barker. *Bulletin of the Chicago Herpetological Society* 43(3): 33–38.
2008. The reproductive husbandry of the Trans-Pecos ratsnake. co-authored with Tracy Barker. In: *The Complete Suboc*. Dusty Rhoads. ECO Herpetological Publishing and Distribution, Lansing MI: 193–196.
2007. Geographic variation in pheromone trailing behaviors in the Indonesian water python (*Liasis mackloti*) of Indonesia's Lesser Sunda Archipelago. co-authored with Christopher K. Carmichael, Brian R. Kreiser, Tracy J. Barker, and James C. Gillingham. In: *Biology of the Boas and Pythons*. Robert W. Henderson and Robert Powell [eds.] Eagle Mountain Publishing, LC. Utah: 227–242.
2004. Phylogenetic relationships of the Australo-Papuan *Liasis* pythons (Reptilia:Macrostomata), based on mitochondrial DNA. co-authored with Leslie Rawlins and Stephen Donnellan. *Australian Journal of Zoology* 52: 215–227.
2003. Family: Boas. co-authored with Tracy M. Barker. In: Michael Hutchins, James B. Murphy, and Neil Schlager [eds.] *Grzimek's Animal Life Encyclopedia, Second Edition: Volume 7, Reptiles*. Gale Group, Farmington MI: 409–418.
2003. Family: Pythons. co-authored with Tracy M. Barker. In: Michael Hutchins, James B. Murphy, and Neil Schlager [eds.] *Grzimek's Animal Life Encyclopedia, Second Edition: Volume 7, Reptiles*. Gale Group, Farmington MI: 419–428.

2003. Family: Splitjaw Snakes. co-authored with Tracy M. Barker. In: Michael Hutchins, James B. Murphy, and Neil Schlager [eds.] *Grzimek's Animal Life Encyclopedia, Second Edition: Volume 7, Reptiles*. Gale Group, Farmington MI: 429–432.
2003. Family: Woodsnakes and Spinejaw Snakes. co-authored with Tracy M. Barker. In: Michael Hutchins, James B. Murphy, and Neil Schlager [eds.] *Grzimek's Animal Life Encyclopedia, Second Edition: Volume 7, Reptiles*. Gale Group, Farmington MI: 433–436.
2002. Foraging ecology of the threatened New Mexico ridgenose rattlesnake (*Crotalus willardi obscurus*). co-authored with Andrew T. Holycross, Charles W. Painter, and Michael E. Douglas. In: *Biology of the Vipers*. Gordon W. Schuett, Mats Höggren, Michael E. Douglas, and Harry Greene [eds.] Eagle Mountain Publishing, LC. Utah: 243–252.
2001. Heavily exploited but poorly known: systematics and biogeography of commercially harvested pythons (*Python curtus* group) in Southeast Asia. co-authored with J. Scott Keogh and Richard Shine. *Biological Journal of the Linnean Society* 73: 113–129.
2000. Systematics of pythons of the *Morelia amethystina* complex (Serpentes: Boidae) with the description of three new species. co-authored with Michael Harvey, Loren K. Ammerman, and Paul T. Chippindale. *Herpetological Monographs*, Herpetologists League. No. 14: 139–185.
1998. A new species of blue-tailed monitor lizard (Genus *Varanus*) from Halmahera Island, Indonesia. co-authored with Michael Harvey *Herpetologica* 54(1): 34–44.
1996. The Lesser Sundas python (*Python timoriensis*): taxonomic history, distribution, husbandry, and captive reproduction. co-authored with Tracy M. Barker. In: *Advances in Herpetoculture*. Peter D. Strimple [ed.]. Special Publication of the International Herpetological Symposium, Inc., No. 1: June 1996: 103–108.
1996. "Sarcocystis sp. (Apicomexa) from the New Mexico ridgenose rattlesnake, *Crotalus willardi obscurus* (Serpentes: Viperidae) from Sonora, Mexico". co-authored with Chris McAllister, Steve J. Upton and Charles Painter. *Journal of Helminthological Society of Washington*.
1992. Variation, Intraspecific Relationships and Biogeography of the Ridgenose Rattlesnake, *Crotalus willardi*. (MS thesis) In: Campbell, Jonathan A., and Edmund D. Brodie, Jr. (eds.), *The Biology of the Pitvipers*. Selva, Tyler, Texas. pp 89-106.
1990. An investigation of the natural history of the ridgenose rattlesnake, *Crotalus willardi*. A report to: Endangered Species Programs, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, State Capital, Santa Fe, NM 87504: 1-100.
1989. An apparent natural hybrid rattlesnake and *Crotalus willardi* (Viperidae: Crotalinae) from the Peloncillos Mountains of New Mexico. co-authored with Jonathan A. Campbell, E. D. Brodie Jr. and A. H. Price. *Herpetologica* 45(3): 344-349.

1989. "Variation, Intraspecific Relationships and Biogeography of the Ridgenose Rattlesnake, *Crotalus willardi*." A report to: Endangered Species Programs, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, State Capital, Santa Fe, NM 87504: 1-77.
1987. A Preliminary Report on the Geographic Variation of the Ridgenose Rattlesnake, *Crotalus willardi*. A report to: Endangered Species Programs, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, State Capital, Santa Fe, NM 87504: 1-80.
1984. Maintenance and Reproduction of Green Tree Monitors, *Varanus prasinus*, at the Dallas Zoo. *Eighth Annual Reptile Symposium on Captive Propagation and Husbandry*, Columbus Zoo, Columbus, Ohio.
1984. Maintenance and Reproduction of Black-headed Pythons, *Aspidites melanocephalus* at the Dallas Zoo. *Eighth Annual Reptile Symposium on Captive Propagation and Husbandry*. Columbus Zoo, Columbus, Ohio.
1981. Miscellaneous Notes on the Reproductive Biology of Reptiles: Eight Species of the family Boidae, Genera *Acrantophis*, *Aspidites*, *Candoia*, *Liasis* and *Python*. co-authored with James B. Murphy and William E. Lamoreaux, 1981. *Transactions of the Kansas Academy of Science*. 84(1): 39-49.
1981. Maintenance and Reproduction of Pythons at the Dallas Zoo. *Fifth Annual Reptile Symposium on Captive Propagation and Husbandry*. Oklahoma City Zoo, 1981, 86-92.
1980. Courtship and Copulation of the Ottoman Viper, *Vipera xanthina*, with Special Reference to Use of Hemipenes, co-authored with James B. Murphy, *Herpetologica* 36(2): 165-170.
1979. Social Behavior in a Captive Group of Indian Pythons, *Python molurus* (Serpentes, Boidae) with Formation of a Linear Social Hierarchy. co-authored with James B. Murphy and Kenneth W. Smith. *Copeia*. 1979 (3): 466-471.
1978. Miscellaneous Notes on the Reproductive Biology of Reptiles: Eleven Species of the Family Boidae, Genera *Candoia*, *Corallus*, *Epicrates*, and *Python*. co-authored with James B. Murphy and Bern W. Tryon, 1978 *Journal of Herpetology*. 12(3): 385-390.

POPULAR ARTICLES

2010. Can Burmese Pythons Learn To Hibernate? By Mikey Dorkman. A parody. [Online at http://www.vpi.com/sites/vpi.com/files/Dorkman-paper_001.pdf.]
2010. Herpetoculture in the 21st century. co-authored with Tracy M. Barker. *Bulletin of the Chicago Herpetological Society* 45(9): 144-149.
2010. In response to the defense of the USGS report on giant constrictors posted by Dr. Susan Haseltine. co-authored with Tracy M. Barker. [posted January 2010 online at: http://newswatch.nationalgeographic.com/2010/03/13/climate-matching_predictions_giant_snakes_exagerrated/] [also at: http://www.vpi.com/sites/vpi.com/files/Haseltine_response_002.pdf]

2010. The Precautionary Principle and Pythons. co-authored with Tracy M. Barker. *The Occasional Papers of Vida Preciosa International* no. 2. VPI Library, Boerne Texas: 5 pp. [posted 3 January 2010 at http://www.vpi.com/sites/vpi.com/files/PP-and-Pythons_BarkerBarker.pdf and available on request].
2009. Join the Reptile Nation: The importance of participating in USARK. co-authored with Tracy M. Barker. *Reptiles Magazine* 17(12): 28–31
2009. On Burmese pythons in the Everglades: Questions posed and answered on the issues of pythons in South Florida and in captivity. co-authored with Tracy M. Barker. *The Occasional Papers of Vida Preciosa International* no. 1. VPI Library, Boerne Texas: 21 pp.
2008. Dave Barker's response to House Subcommittee on Insular Affairs and Wildlife re HR669. [posted online April 2009 at: http://www.vpi.com/sites/vpi.com/files/HR669_DGBtestimony_09_002.pdf]. 5 pp.
2008. An open letter to Dr. Ray W. Snow. co-authored with Tracy M. Barker. [posted April 2008 at: http://www.vpi.com/sites/vpi.com/files/Snow_OpenLTR_001.pdf].
2007. Blood pythons: past and present. co-authored with Tracy M. Barker. *Reptiles Magazine* 15 (11): 48–61.
2006. The measure of experience. co-authored with Tracy M. Barker. *Monitor, Journal of the Victorian Herpetological Society*. 15(1): 10–11.
2000. The pythons of the Isle of St. Francis. *VIDA Preciosa Magazine* [formerly at www.vidapreciosa.com], January 2000.
2000. The thorny devil, a portrait of *Moloch horridus*. *VIDA Preciosa Magazine* [formerly at www.vidapreciosa.com], January 2000.
1999. Score one more python! Photographs of the rough-scaled python, *Morelia carinata*. *VIDA Preciosa Magazine* [formerly at www.vidapreciosa.com], December 1999.
1999. The pygmy python, *Antaresia perthensis*. *VIDA Preciosa Magazine*. co-authored with Tracy Barker. [formerly at www.vidapreciosa.com; now available by request]. November 1999.
1999. The reproductive husbandry of Borneo short-tailed pythons, *Python curtus breitensteini*. *VIDA Preciosa Magazine* co-authored with Tracy Barker. [formerly at www.vidapreciosa.com; now available by request]. November 1999.
1999. The reproductive husbandry of blood pythons, *Python curtus brongersmai*. *VIDA Preciosa Magazine*. co-authored with Tracy Barker. [formerly at www.vidapreciosa.com; now available by request]. October 1999.
1999. The dwarf python of Angola and Namibia in captivity. *VIDA Preciosa Magazine*. co-authored with Tracy Barker. [formerly at www.vidapreciosa.com; now available by request]. August 1999.

1999. The reproductive husbandry of jungle carpet pythons, *Morelia spilota cheynei*. *VIDA Preciosa Magazine*. co-authored with Tracy Barker. [formerly at www.vidapreciosa.com; now available by request]. September 1999.
1999. The reproductive husbandry of the common boas constrictor, *Boa constrictor imperator*. *VIDA Preciosa Magazine* co-authored with Tracy Barker. [formerly at www.vidapreciosa.com; now available by request]. August 1999.
1999. Albinism in pythons and boas. *VIDA Preciosa Magazine*. co-authored with Tracy Barker. [formerly at www.vidapreciosa.com; now available by request]. August 1999.
1999. Snake bite, part I, my first snake bite. *VIDA Preciosa Magazine*. co-authored with Tracy Barker. [formerly at www.vidapreciosa.com; now available by request], August 1999.
1999. Snake bite, part II, why big snakes bite. *VIDA Preciosa Magazine*. co-authored with Tracy Barker. [formerly at www.vidapreciosa.com; now available by request]. August 1999.
1999. Snake bite, part III, observations and advice on big snake bites. *VIDA Preciosa Magazine*. co-authored with Tracy Barker. [formerly at www.vidapreciosa.com; now available by request]. August 1999.
1999. Green tree python incubation temperatures, *VIDA Preciosa Magazine*. co-authored with Tracy Barker. [formerly at www.vidapreciosa.com; now available by request]. August 1999.
1999. The war against snake mites [in three parts]. *VidaPreciosa.net*. co-authored with Tracy Barker. [formerly at www.vidapreciosa.net; now at www.vpi.com]. April 1999.
1999. The measure of experience. *VidaPreciosa.net*. co-authored with Tracy Barker. [formerly at www.vidapreciosa.net; now available by request]. April 1999.
1999. Determining the sex of snakes. *VidaPreciosa.net*. co-authored with Tracy Barker. [formerly at www.vidapreciosa.net, now at www.vpi.com]. April 1999.
1999. The reproductive husbandry of the reticulated python (*Python reticulatus*). co-authored with Tracy Barker and Kevin McCurley. *Reptiles*. 7(11):pp 44-63.
1999. The belle of the ball. [morphological variation in *Python regius*.] co-authored with Tracy Barker. *Reptiles*. 7(9): pp 48-59.
1999. The captive care of ball pythons. co-authored with Tracy Barker. *Reptiles*. 7(9): pp 60-65.
1999. A tapestry of carpet pythons. co-authored with Tracy Barker. *Reptiles*. 7(5): pp 48-71.
1998. A hybrid boa in the genus *Corallus*. co-authored with Tracy Barker. *Reptiles*. 6(3): pp 14-17.
1997. Hunting the reticulated python. *Reptiles*. 5(6): pp 56,57.

1997. Big and beautiful, the reticulated python. co-authored with Tracy Barker. *Reptiles*. 5(6): pp 48–55, 58-67.
1997. The best pythons in captivity. co-authored with Tracy Barker. *Reptiles USA 1997*: 78–92.
1996. The captive reproduction of the blood python. co-authored with Tracy Barker. *Reptiles*. 4(3): 25–34.
1996. Introducing Big Red, the care and maintenance of the blood python. co-authored with Tracy Barker. *Reptiles*. 4(1): pp 56–69.
1996. Pythons and boas in your home. co-authored with Tracy Barker. *Reptiles USA*. 1996: pp 32–47.
1995. Big snake bites, part 2. co-authored with Tracy Barker. *Vivarium*, 7(3): 38–43.
1995. Big snake bites, part 1. co-authored with Tracy Barker. *Vivarium*, 7(2): 36–40.
1995. The maintenance and husbandry of the dwarf python from Angola and Namibia. co-authored with Tracy Barker. *The Vivarium*. 7(1): 30–34.
1995. A new python in captivity from New Guinea, the New Guinea carpet python; and a the Sawu python, a correct common name. co-authored with Tracy Barker. *The Vivarium*. 6(6): 30–33.
1995. The mechanics of python reproduction. co-authored with Tracy Barker. *The Vivarium*. 6(5): 30–33.
1995. The southern stars of Australia; Australia's small pythons. co-authored with Tracy Barker. *The Vivarium*. 6(4): 30–35.
1994. The blood python and other subspecies of the short-tailed python (*Python curtus*). co-authored with Tracy Barker. *The Vivarium*. 6(3): 30-33, 35.
1994. Boas in the spotlight. co-authored with Tracy Barker. *The Vivarium*. 6(2): 38-41.
1994. The African Giants [maintenance and reproduction of both subspecies of *Python sebae*]. co-authored with Tracy Barker. *The Vivarium*. 6(1): 18-21.
1994. "Maintenance and reproduction of a little-known python: Savu python, *Liasis mackloti savuensis*. with Tracy Barker. *The Vivarium*. 5(6): 18-21.
- 1993-1993-1994. Ask the Experts. co-authored with Tracy Barker. Eight advice columns published in *The Vivarium*, issue 4(5) through issue 5(6).
1993. Bold Confidence and White Boas. *The Vivarium*. 4(4): 20-22.
1992. Precious and Few [details trip to photograph *Atelopus zeteki*]. co-authored with Tracy M. Barker. *ZooLife*. Ingle Publishing Company, Los Angeles. 3(1): 60-68.
1991. It's a Business. [David G. Barker and Tracy M. Barker writing as Helena Nickel and Germond Hibbitt]. In: *League of Florida Herpetological Societies Newsletter*. No.6.

1991. A Pyramid of Snakes. [David G. Barker and Tracy M. Barker writing as Helena Nickel and Germond Hibbitt]. In: *League of Florida Herpetological Societies Newsletter*. No. 5.
1990. One of a Kind. co-authored with Tracy M. Barker. *The Vivarium*. 2(6): 32-33.
1989. Great Things Are Hatching at the Zoo. *Zoo News*. 19(3): 1-2.
1989. The Cardinal Rules of Birdwatching *Zoo News* 19(2): 1-2.
1989. Birding in the Valley. *Zoo News* 19(2): 6.
1989. "Don't Buy Ivory." *Zoo News* 19(2): 2-3.
1988. "Crocodile Tales: Facts about the largest living reptiles." co-authored with Pat Burchfield. *Zoo News* 18(4): 1-3.
1988. "A World of Trouble." *Zoo News* 18(4):7-8.
1988. "Wet, Wild and Close-up." *Pentax Life* 10(3): 20-22.
1988. "Rattlesnakes; Uncontrolled roundups are having a bad effect on the environment." Viewpoints. *The Dallas Morning News*. March 13, 1986.
1986. "Our Fragile Earth Systems." Viewpoints. *The Dallas Morning News*. January 9, 1986.
1982. "A Natural History Tour of the Davis Mountains." co-authored with Judith Garrett. *Austin Homes and Gardens Magazine*. November, 1982.