

## A Tale of Two Herpetological Field Guides: Trinidad/Tobago and Arizona

John Murphy's lifelong fascination with reptiles drew him into an education and life focused on zoology and a career in science education. The Chicago Herpetological Society and the Field Museum provide contacts and opportunities. His Master's Degree in animal ecology and behavior was finished in 1974. His first introduction to the Arizona herpetofauna was in 1977 and finding his first Gila Monster. However, Murphy made an exploratory field trip to Trinidad in 1982 and the first Trinidad & Tobago book was published in 1997. In 1988, Murphy was asked to participate in a community ecology field study in Sabah, Malaysia. From October to December 1989 Murphy collected data and specimens in Borneo's Danum Valley with the help of three local collectors trained by Bob Inger. By 1992, Murphy was working with Voris and Daryl Karns (Hanover College) on homalopsid snakes. Fieldwork at Lake Songkhla in southern Thailand and other Thai localities continued from 1996 to 2007. Frequent trips to Arizona over the past 20 years renewed Murphy's interest in the state's amphibians and reptiles. In 2007, Murphy retired from teaching. Shortly after that, he took a second look at the Trinidad and Tobago fauna. Interested in escaping Chicago winters, John and Kathie moved to Green Valley, Arizona in 2014. His books include *Tales of Giant Snakes* (1997); *Amphibians and Reptiles of Trinidad and Tobago* (1997); *Homalopsid Snakes: Evolution in the Mud* (2007); *Secrets of the Snake Charmer: Snakes in the 21st Century* (2010); *Dogs and Snakes: avoiding the bite* (2016); *A Field Guide to the Amphibians & Reptiles of Trinidad & Tobago* (2018); *Arizona's Amphibians and Reptiles, a Natural History and Field Guide* (2018). He will be discussing his recent Arizona and Trinidad/Tobago books, which will be available for purchase and signature by the author.



20 June 2018, 7:15, 1510 E Grant Rd, Tucson. Pre-meeting dinner at Rubios 2906 Campbell, 5:30 pm.