

Herps & Perps! The Blackmarket Trade in Arizona Reptiles

Dr. Cecil Schwalbe was the first state herpetologist for the Arizona Game and Fish Department (1984-1990). He was then lured back to the University of Arizona (where he earned his doctorate in zoology) to establish a research program to guide the conservation of our native amphibians and reptiles. He and his graduate students investigated many of Arizona's native species, reaching south into Mexico to study sea turtles and desert tortoises. Intensive research focused on the Sonoran desert tortoise, native ranid frogs, and the invasive American bullfrog. He has served on many conservation and advisory teams, including federal recovery teams for the Mojave desert tortoise and the Houston toad. He worked for National Geographic Expeditions for ten years on trips to Central and South America and the southwestern United States. He is an ecologist emeritus with the U.S. Geological Survey and co-teaches science and environmental journalism classes with his wife, Carol, in the University of Arizona School of Journalism. He has been a member of the Tucson Herpetological Society almost since it was created.

This presentation of slides and stories addresses the continuing problem of illegal trading in Arizona wildlife, focusing on a series of sting operations in the 1980s, with some interesting insights since then. You will be amazed how quickly a state investigation becomes international and at the variety of animals involved. Cecil delivers astute observations with a warm sense of humor. Come be enlightened — and entertained.



18 July 2018, 7:15, Ward 3 Conference Room,
1510 E Grant. Pre-meeting dinner at Rubios,
2906 N Campbell, 5:30.

Cecil mirroring for Crotalus pricei, Chiricahua Mtns

