

## About Richard Moriarty



Carnegie Museum of Natural History is saddened by the recent passing of our great friend, Dr. Richard Moriarty. His deep commitment to the museum made possible the Carnegie Discoverers, which he helped found in 2006 and served as chair, and the R.W. Moriarty Science Seminars program that launched in 2010.

Dr. Richard Moriarty was a pediatrician, a former associate professor of pediatrics at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, and a vibrant member of Pittsburgh's medical community. He

advanced knowledge in the fields of pediatrics and toxicology, contributing more than 20 journal articles with the fundamental goal of reducing childhood fatalities due to poisoning.

Moriarty founded the Pittsburgh Poison Center—nationally known for the development of the Mr. Yuk poison warning symbol—and the National Poison Center Network that both fostered the development of and supported existing poison centers nationally.



**CARNEGIE MUSEUM OF  
NATURAL HISTORY**

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4400 FORBES AVENUE | PITTSBURGH, PA 15213

# The R.W. Moriarty Science Seminars

Exploring Nature, Culture, and the Future of Life on Earth



## Walter E. Meshaka, Jr., PhD

State Museum of Pennsylvania

“Awareness of the Natural World Through the  
Lens of Amphibian and Reptile Ecology at  
Powdermill Nature Reserve”

Monday, October 30, 2023 | Noon  
The 161<sup>st</sup> Seminar in a continuing series



### Abstract:

Curiosity brings awareness, and, awareness, in turn, makes caring possible. A protected resource, Powdermill Nature Reserve, in the northern Allegheny Mountains of Pennsylvania, provides an uncommon opportunity to understand the natural world in short-term and uninterrupted long-term research endeavors otherwise not possible. Presciently, Dr. M. Graham Netting understood the importance of such a place when he undertook the acquisition of the station in 1956. A beneficiary of this vision, Dr. Walter E. Meshaka, Jr. has, with the kind support of Powdermill staff, since 2002 undertaken research projects in the ecology of amphibians and reptiles at the station that have involved museum specimens and mark-recapture of individuals. Referring specifically to a few of the 16 published papers to date, Dr. Meshaka hopes to convey how the combination of traits comprising the Powdermill Nature Reserve can provide and await our awareness of this part of our natural world, its meaningfulness, and the importance of its stewardship.

### Biography:

Walter E. Meshaka, Jr., is an American Herpetologist. During 1995–2000, Dr. Meshaka was stationed at Everglades National Park, where he was Supervisory Curator of cultural and natural history specimens for the four national parks in southern Florida. Since 2000, his current position is Senior Curator of zoology and botany at the State Museum of Pennsylvania, Harrisburg. His 10 books, two monographs, and 243 papers reflect his primary interest in the ecology of North American native and exotic amphibians and reptiles. Association with the Powdermill Nature Reserve provided Meshaka with the opportunity to conduct short-term and long-term uninterrupted research on many of the station's 39 species. He is active in many professional societies, especially the Kansas Herpetological Society where he was the 2014 recipient of the Collins Award for Excellence in Kansas Herpetology. He served as an associate editor of *Journal of Herpetology* during 2006–2013 and is a managing editor of the *Journal of North American Herpetology*.