

---

# NEWS NOTES

## Nile Monitor Hunt to Begin in Florida

A hunt scheduled in the state of Florida aimed at reducing the population of feral pythons will also include the alien Nile monitor (*Varanus niloticus*). The hunt, to take place March 8 through April 17, will occur in three areas: Everglades and Francis S. Taylor, Holey Land and Rotenberger Wildlife Management Areas. Anyone with a valid hunting license and who pays an additional \$26 fee will be able to hunt the reptiles. Unlike previous hunts, this one will be open to the public at large and not just individuals who possess reptile-of-concern permits. Hunters will be allowed to use all legal methods used in taking game animals (excluding centerfire rifles), as well as nets and snares. No live animals are allowed to be removed.

Source: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission – 22 February 2010

## Indonesian Ranger Attacked by Komodo Dragon

An Indonesian park ranger was attacked and severely wounded by a Komodo dragon on the island of Rinca. Marselinus Sabanhadir was heading for the toilet when a two-meter dragon which had been concealed behind a guard post rushed towards him, grabbing his right foot and causing deep lacerations before other rangers drove the animal away. Sabanhadir was taken to a hospital on Bali where he is recovering.

Source: Jakarta Globe - 23 February 2010; Mercury News - 23 February 2010

## Man Arrested with 40 Endangered Monitor Lizards

A 48 year old man from West Delhi, India was arrested and detained for 14 days of judicial custody for the



Combatting *Varanus salvator macromaculatus*. Lumpini Park, Bangkok, Thailand. Photograph by Tim Cox.

illegal poaching of endangered monitor lizards (*Varanus bengalensis*). Police seized a total of 40 monitors which were bound within seven gunny bags when they apprehended the subject in a park in Raghur Nagar. The man was planning on selling the animals for their meat, at 2000 Rupees each (ca. \$44 USD). The monitors are planned to be released back into the wild.

Source: *Indian Express.com* - 13 Jan 2010

## Cincinnati Zoo to Open New Monitor Lizard Exhibit

The Cincinnati Zoo, Ohio, US, will be opening a new Komodo dragon exhibit on 5 June 2010, after a four year period without a dragon on display at the zoo. The new exhibit will also feature several additional species of monitor lizard, highlighting the largest, longest, smallest, and some of the most colorful species in the genus.

Source: *zandavistor.com* - 29 January 2010



*Varanus salvator salvator*. Kandy, Sri Lanka.  
Photograph by **Lynda Hanwella**.

## Invitation to the Second Annual Meeting of the “AG Warane“ of the DGHT

We are pleased to invite all those interested in monitor lizards to the second annual meeting of the DGHT-AG Warane. The meeting will take place on 24 April 2010 in Hanau near Frankfurt. The participation fee for non-members is 10,- €, members are free of charge. The fee will be set against the membership fee for new members who attend the AG-Warane at the meeting. AG-members have to be members of the DGHT ([www.dght.de](http://www.dght.de)).

Location: Cafe-Restaurant Sandelmühle  
Philipp-August-Schleissner-Weg 2a  
63452 Hanau

Schedule of talks and presentations:

- 10:30 Begin of the meeting
- 11:00 Welcome: Kay Dittmar and André Koch, leaders of the AG-Warane
- 11:15 Klaus Wesiak (Frankfurt) & André Koch (ZFMK, Bonn): “Successful husbandry and first breeding of *Varanus juxtindicus* Böhme et al., 2002, with remarks on the development of juveniles of this rarely-kept endemic Solomon monitor species” (in German).  
*See report in Biawak* 3(4): 106-121.
- 12:00 Lunch break and group photo shoot
- 13:30 General meeting (inofficial)
- 14:00 Thomas Hörenberg (Stuttgart): “Keeping and breeding of Macrae’s tree monitor (*Varanus macraei*) and caesarean section in *V. (Odatria) tristis orientalis*” (in German).
- 14:45 Monika Labes (Germering): “Report on the Husbandry and Breeding of *Varanus exanthematicus*” (in German).
- 15:30 Coffee break
- 16:00 André Koch (ZFMK, Bonn): “News about Southeast Asian monitor lizards” (in German).
- 16:30 Jochen Meyer (Stuttgart): “Remarks about keeping and breeding of *Varanus rudicollis*“ (in German).
- 17:00 Farewell and social gathering

Further information can be found on the AG Warane homepage at [www.ag-warane.de](http://www.ag-warane.de), or contact Kay Uwe Dittmar (working group leader) at [dittmar@ag-warane.de](mailto:dittmar@ag-warane.de) or André Koch (scientific leader) at [a.koch.zfink@uni-bonn.de](mailto:a.koch.zfink@uni-bonn.de).