

# Christopher Gillette

Wildlife Biologist & Photographer



# Field Experience

2009-Present. Alligator Handler. Educational presentations and wildlife care and handling. Everglades Holiday Park, Ft. Lauderdale, FL

2009-Present. Field Researcher(volunteer). Burmese Python research. Everglades National Park (ENP)

2013-Present. Removal of nonnative reptiles on state and SFWMD lands permit holder with University of Florida.

2011-2014 cast member on Animal Planet's show Gatorboys

2011-2013. Animal Handler/performer. Educational presentations and wildlife care and handling Everglades Alligator Farm, Homestead, FL

2007-Present. Wildlife Caretaker(volunteer). Venomous snakes. Everglades Outpost, Homestead, FL

2012. Environmental Consultant for Si Como No Wildlife Refuge, Costa Rica. Gave training seminar on handling *Crocodylus acutus* and set up their captive breeding program.

2010. Volunteer Researcher on *Nerodia rufipunctatus* project in Arizona.

2010. Expedition Leader on Herpetological Tour. Margarita Tours. Peru

2009. Photographer. Project Amazonas. Peru

2006-2009. Zookeeper/Venomous Snake Handler, Caretaker, Wildlife Shows/Penguin keeper/Alligator Caretaker, Wildlife Shows. Jungle Island. Miami Beach, FL

2005. Volunteer. Red Cross (post hurricane recovery). Palm Bay, FL

2003, 2004, and 2005. Nature Camp Counselor. Taught campers about Florida wildlife, cared for park exhibit animals. Brevard County Parks and Recreation. Palm Bay, FL

2016. Environmental educator promoting everglades literacy under the Everglades Foundation

2016. First mate and guide for several shark dives with various operators

# Presentations & Guest Lectures

Reptiles of South Florida, FIU. February 26, September 14, 2010. March 1, March 5, October 17, 2012

Amphibians of South Florida, FIU. March 29, October 17, 2012

Invasive Species of South Florida, FIU. October 24, 2012

Wildlife of South Florida, FIU

Inspirational speaker, FIU. February 7, 2013

Reptiles and Amphibians of Peru, Calusa Herpetological Society

Reptiles and Amphibians of Peru, Palm Beach A.Z.A.K

Guest appearance for Miami Museum of Science's Reptile Day. November 3rd, 2012

Guest Appearance for The Great Outdoors RV and Boat Show. September 2012

Crocodylian behavior-South Florida Herp Society 12-15-2013

Guest speaker at Chicago Herpetological Society, October 2014

Guest speaker for Herp Society of South Florida, October 2014

Guest speaker at FIU Environments & Societies, November 2014  
South Florida Underwater Photography Society, underwater everglades, 2-9-16  
USA Dive Club, Underwater Florida, 7-6-16  
Florida Trail Meeting guest speaker, everglades phototgraphy, 10-11-16

## Published Photography

Cover photo of Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences 2-14-2012 vol109  
Photo used in Pit Viper Snakebite Assessment and Treatment by Jon E Soskis  
Cover of and numerous photos throughout FROGS: The Animal Answer Guide  
Cover of and numerous photos throughout Invasive Pythons in the United States  
Cover of and numerous photos throughout Natural History of Neotropical Treeboas  
Cover of and numerous photos throughout Snakes of the Southeast, 5th edition  
Agalychnis Circle of Life published in HerpNation magazine, written and all photographs  
UF Herpetological Website  
Nature's Best Magazine  
Newt Pamphlet, Master Naturalist Program with University of Florida  
Buntbarsche Bulletin #289 cover image (cichlid magazine)  
Images throughout Peterson field guide to reptiles and amphibians of North America  
Images used in Tiny Turtle by Bob Plamitier  
Numerous photos used by the University of Florida's online resources  
Cast member on Animal Planet's GatorBoys  
Segment on Invasive species on CNN  
Featured on Don Wildman, Travel Channel  
WLRN's Alien Invaders  
Everglades Under Attack on Fusion 3/20/15  
Daily Planet on Discovery Canada, shark week episode  
TrailBlazers on Discovery Channel  
Featured on Discovery, NBC, E!, Animal Planet, WLRN, Fusion, numerous local and foreign networks

## Film Experience

2009-Present. Alligator Handler. Educational presentations and wildlife care and handling.  
Everglades Holiday Park, Ft. Lauderdale, FL  
2009-Present. Field Researcher(volunteer). Burmese Python research. Everglades National Park (ENP)  
2013-Present. Removal of nonnative reptiles on state and SFWMD lands permit holder with University of Florida.

# Publications

Gillette, C.R., and K.L. Krysko. 2012. New county record for the veiled chameleon, *Chamaeleo calyptratus* Duméril and Bibron 1851 (Sauria: Chamaeleonidae), in Florida. *IRCF Reptiles & Amphibians* 19:130-131.

Krysko, K.L., C.R. Gillette, R.M. Reichart, L.P. Nuñez, N.T. Coutu, J.A. Wasilewski, K.M. Enge, and A.P. Borgia. 2012. Preliminary dietary analysis for the non-indigenous Oustalet's chameleon, *Furcifer oustaleti* (Mocquard 1894) (Squamata: Chamaeleonidae), in southern Florida. *IRCF Reptiles & Amphibians* 19:280-287.

Krysko, K.L., L.A. Somma, M.R. Rochford, C.R. Gillette, K.M. Enge, and D. Cueva. 2012. Taxonomic corrections of certain verified non-indigenous reptiles from Florida reported by Krysko et al. (2011). *Zootaxa* 3199:66-68.

Krysko, K.L., J.P. Burgess, M.R. Rochford, C.R. Gillette, D. Cueva, K.M. Enge, L.A. Somma, J.L. Stabile, D.C. Smith, J.A. Wasilewski, G.N. Kieckhefer III, M.C. Granatosky, and S.V. Nielsen. 2011. Verified non-indigenous amphibians and reptiles in Florida from 1863 through 2010: Outlining the invasion process and identifying invasion pathways and stages. *Zootaxa* 3028:1-64.

Gillette, C.R., K.L. Krysko, J.A. Wasilewski, G.N. Kieckhefer III, E.F. Metzger III, M.R. Rochford, and D. Cueva. 2010. Oustalet's Chameleon, *Furcifer oustaleti* (Mocquard 1894) (Chamaeleonidae), a Non-indigenous Species Newly Established in Florida. *IRCF Reptiles & Amphibians* 17:248-249.

2016 Krysko et al. New Verified Nonindigenous Amphibians and Reptiles in Florida through 2015, with a Summary of over 152 Years of Introductions.

Molecular analyses confirming the introduction of Nile crocodiles, *Crocodylus niloticus* Laurenti 1768 (Crocodylidae), in southern Florida, with an assessment of potential for establishment, spread, and impacts

Preliminary diet analysis for the non-indigenous Oustalet's chameleon, *Furcifer oustaleti* (Mocquard 1894) (Squamata: Chamaeleonidae), in southern Florida

# Understanding of Capabilities

## Animal Handling

Experience handling adult crocodilians- American Alligator, American Crocodile, Cuban Crocodile, Morelet's Crocodile, Nile Crocodile, Orinoco Crocodile, Spectacled Caiman, Yacare Caiman, Cuvier's Dwarf Caiman, Schneider's Dwarf Caiman, Black Caiman, Saltwater Crocodile. Nonvenomous large snakes- Burmese Python, Reticulated Python, Green Anaconda, Boa constrictor, various other species.

## Venomous Snake experience

Several species of elapids such as King Cobras, Monocled Cobras (many other species in the genus *Naja*), coral snakes. Numerous species of vipers such as rattlesnakes, bushmasters, fer-de-lances, gaboon vipers, mangshan vipers.

Shark experience- have worked as a photographer in the water with Great White Sharks, Bull Sharks, Tiger Sharks, Silky Sharks, Dusky Sharks, Sandbar Sharks, Lemon Sharks, Caribbean Reef Sharks, Great Hammerhead Sharks, Scalloped Hammerhead Sharks, Nurse Shark

## Wildlife Education/Presentation

Handling animals with large crowds of people, being able to focus on proper animal handling while still delivering an exciting and educational experience to guests

In class lectures to students from 4th grade to college sophomores on topics such as invasive species, everglades ecology, reptiles and amphibians of Florida.

General public or club presentations on underwater photography, invasive species, tropical herpetofauna, etc

Presentations to crowds upwards of 600 people at a time, regularly entertaining over 2,000 guests a day

## Field Research

Safe capture, handling, and data collection of reptiles and amphibians and accurate field identification, utilize GPS, compile territory and population data, limited radio telemetry experience, carry equipment in field during harsh conditions of heat, heavy rains and mosquitoes