

Obituary:

Dr. Barbara A. Savitzky of Norfolk, died July 22, 2009 at age 61 following the rapid progression of metastatic breast cancer. A resident of Norfolk for more than 20 years, Dr. Savitzky was an associate professor of biology at Christopher Newport University, from which she retired in 2008 after 18 years of service. She earned the B.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. An authority on the biology of amphibians and reptiles, Dr. Savitzky was known for her work on snakes (including Virginia's endangered Canebrake Rattlesnake), turtles, and salamanders. Born in Bridgeport CT, Dr. Savitzky served on the governing boards and committees of scientific and conservation organizations, including the International Herpetological Committee (World Congress of Herpetology), Conservation Committee and Endowment Committee (ASIH), Herpetological Taxa Committee (VaDGIF), VHS, SSAR, HL, Society for Conservation Biology, Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology, and the Animal Behavior Society. Dr. Savitzky was widely admired for waging a relentless battle against metastatic cancer, for which she received treatment almost continuously for more than 20 years. Dr. Savitzky will be missed by the herpetological community in Virginia for her long research program and the many students she trained to follow her fascination with Virginia's amphibians and reptiles.