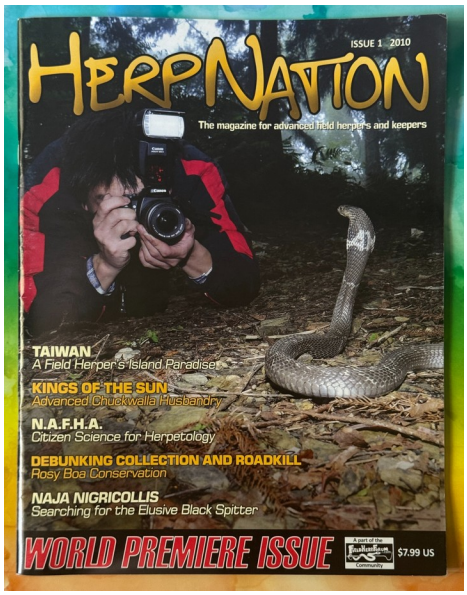
Herp Nation

Magazine Research Record



Issue 1, 2010. World Premiere Issue of Herp Nation.

Publication Identification

Field	Information
Country	United States
Publisher	Herp Nation Magazine / Herp Nation Media; founded by Scott Waters and Jeremiah Easter. Scott Waters continued operating the magazine after Jeremiah Easter left in October 2012.
Publisher address	Pending research update
Magazine title	Herp Nation
Publication status	Discontinued; later sources identify the magazine as defunct
Publication run	2010 to 2016, according to Scott Waters' biography; exact final issue not established
Editor	Pending research update
Printer	Pending research update
ISSN	Pending research update
Language	English
Publication type	Specialist herpetology, field herping, captive husbandry and conservation magazine
Publication frequency	Bimonthly / six issues per year. Contemporary advertising specifications explicitly state six issues per year.
Collection coverage	Nine documented issues representing 2010, 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015
Earliest issue represented	Issue 1, World Premiere Issue (2010)
Latest issue represented	Issue 18 (2015)
Years represented in the collection	2010, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015
Publisher / organization	Herp Nation Magazine / Herp Nation Media; founded by Scott Waters and Jeremiah Easter. Scott Waters continued operating the magazine after Jeremiah Easter left in October 2012.

Herp Nation

Publication record and preservation notes based on the photographed physical issues and independently located contemporary and bibliographic references.

Preservation Significance

Herp Nation has strong preservation significance as a short lived American herpetological magazine that documented the overlap between field herping, captive husbandry, conservation, citizen science and the developing online herpetological community during the early 2010s. The publication began in 2010 and continued through 2016, a period when specialist reptile and amphibian communities were increasingly

moving from print forums and magazines toward online communities and digital media. the physical issues preserve that transition in physical form. The World Premiere Issue explicitly identifies the magazine with the Field Herp Forum community, while later issues broaden the cover identity to “Reptiles · Amphibians · Herpetology · Husbandry.” The photographed issues also preserve articles on field research, conservation, captive breeding, unusual species, husbandry and citizen science. Independent bibliographic citations show that material published in Herp Nation continued to be referenced in professional and scholarly herpetological contexts. Preserving these print issues therefore retains both the specialist information they contain and a record of how the herpetological community communicated during a transitional period in print and digital publishing.

SPECIAL SECTION: Herp Nation, Field Herp Forum, and the Community Behind the Magazine

Herp Nation represents more than a short lived herpetological magazine. Its history documents a period when an established online field herping community expanded into traditional print publishing.

Herp Nation Media was launched in 2010 by Scott Waters and Jeremiah Easter, with Herp Nation Magazine as its flagship publication. Waters had previously founded Field Herp Forum, an online community devoted to field herping, photography, observation, research and discussion of reptiles and amphibians. Independent contemporary and near contemporary sources connect the magazine directly with FieldHerpForum.com. A Central Valley Herpetological Society history later stated that Jeremiah Easter left in October 2012 and that the magazine thereafter was operated by Scott Waters.

The surviving Field Herp Forum screenshots preserved with the collection provide an unusually direct record of the magazine at the moment it was being introduced to the community from which it emerged. In a July 4, 2010 discussion, Waters reported an enormous response to the magazine, discussed the delayed premiere issue and stated that Issue 1 was expected to ship around July 15. He described Herp Nation as a publication intended to share the stories of advanced field herpers and keepers around the world.

That same discussion documents the intended publication schedule and early distribution model. On July 20, 2010, Waters stated that Herp Nation was bimonthly and that issues were intended to go out on the first of the appropriate month. He identified September 1, 2010 as the planned release date for Volume 1, Issue 2. Because the premiere issue had been delayed, the second issue was expected to follow only about five weeks later so that the magazine could return to its intended schedule. The discussion also records direct communication between the publisher and prospective readers concerning subscriptions and individual issue purchases.

Most importantly, the screenshots preserve the relationship between Herp Nation and Field Herp Forum. Waters told forum members that the magazine would reflect the members of that community and deliver a quality product to them. Herp Nation therefore provides a physical record of a community that had largely developed online transferring some of its knowledge, photography, field experiences, conservation interests and discussions into print.

Independent contemporary discussion supports that relationship. A 2010 account of the North American Reptile Breeders Conference reported that Waters explained that Field Herp Forum had spawned a magazine dedicated to advanced techniques and field herping. A 2011 herpetology forum discussion described Herp Nation as relatively new, focused less on the conventional reptile hobby and more on field herping, advanced herpetological husbandry, field research and conservation, and noted that it published six issues per year.

Herp Nation Media also expanded beyond the printed magazine into Herp Nation Online, blogs, news stories, the Herp Nation Radio Network, and Herp Nation LIVE video and audio. This broader media

activity places the magazine within a period when specialized herpetological communities were moving between print and digital forms rather than existing exclusively in either one.

The relationship eventually moved in the opposite direction as well. In December 2014, Waters announced through Field Herp Forum that J. P. Lawrence's article, “Conservation of a Polymorphic Frog,” originally published in Herp Nation Issue 9, was being made available as a free digital download. The collection contains a physical copy of Issue 9, providing a direct connection between the surviving printed magazine and the later digital circulation of its contents.

Later sources demonstrate the continuing value of the publication after it ceased. Herp Nation is described by later herpetological publications as defunct. In 2019, the Southwestern Center for Herpetological Research discussed the inaugural issue while reproducing its cover in a bulletin. In 2023, the same organization republished a snakebite account that had originally appeared in Herp Nation Issue 16 in 2014, explicitly identifying the original magazine as defunct. These later uses show that material first published in Herp Nation continued to have historical and educational value after the magazine itself ceased publication.

The physical magazines preserve the publication itself. The surviving forum screenshots preserve something equally important: the people, community and circumstances that produced it. Printed magazines can disappear. Websites can disappear too. Forum discussions, downloads, photographs and other digital records can vanish when websites close, domains expire or technology changes. Once those records disappear, the history surrounding a small specialized publication can become extremely difficult, and sometimes impossible, to reconstruct.

For that reason, the preservation of Herp Nation includes more than the physical issues. The surviving contemporary screenshots and publication history are being preserved alongside them so that the story behind the magazine is not separated from the magazine itself. Once the story is lost, it is gone forever.

Additional contemporary forum records establish actual distribution more precisely than the original proposed release dates. Scott Waters announced the magazine on June 17, 2010 and anticipated shipping the premiere around mid-July. On July 20, he reported that copies were arriving for dispatch on July 20 or 21. Forum members then reported receipt of Issue 1 on July 23 and 24, 2010. These dated acknowledgments document physical circulation without treating the projected July 15 date as the confirmed release date. [Field Herp Forum search-result archive, page 4: June–July 2010 posts; page 3: July 23–24, 2010 posts.]

Scott Waters announced on September 7, 2010 that Issue 2 was in print and would begin shipping around September 13. He expressly described a continuing mid-month, bimonthly release pattern following the mid-July premiere. In November 2010 he reported that Issue 3, including Mike Pingleton’s article about Snake Road in southern Illinois, was in press and expected to ship the following week. These contemporary statements distinguish intended scheduling from documented production and distribution. [Field Herp Forum search-result archive, page 3: September 7 and November 11, 2010 posts.]

Editorial discussions also show the publication’s intended balance of subjects. In an August 16, 2011 discussion of Volume 2, Issue 3, Jeremiah Easter described an ambition to balance field herping and herpetoculture rather than devote the magazine exclusively to either. On July 20, Scott Waters announced Volume 2, Issue 3 as the magazine’s first “Venom Issue,” scheduled for August; Easter confirmed the issue was at press on August 16, and Waters reported on August 31 that shipping had begun the prior week. On November 19, 2011, Waters reported Volume 2, Issue 4 was shipping. These posts document both editorial intent and specific issue chronology. [Field Herp Forum search-result archive, pages 1–2: July–November 2011 posts.]

The forum additionally records readers reacting to the magazine as an educational and community publication. September 2011 discussions identify articles on Crotalus concolor, envenomation, Heloderma and the midget faded rattlesnake; readers also debated the suitability of a comic for a publication shared

with younger audiences. Such contemporary criticism and praise document the readership and editorial expectations, rather than independently establishing the accuracy of every article. [Field Herp Forum search-result archive, pages 1–2: September 2011 posts.]

Issue-specific references continued after 2011. On April 29, 2014, Sam Bacchini announced that Issue 16 had gone to print; Scott Waters identified Kent VanSooy's field rattlesnake-bite account as appearing in Issue 16. In August 2014 a forum contributor anticipated Issue 17; these remarks help establish issue activity but do not verify the dates on which each copy was delivered. In January 2015, subscribers publicly questioned a prolonged delay between issues. In February 2015, Waters acknowledged that it had been the longest interval between issues, while expressing an intention to continue and expand the magazine. These statements document irregularity late in the run without establishing a final publication date. [Field Herp Forum search-result archive, page 1: 2014–2015 posts.]

Publication Metadata and Masthead Documentation

Field	Information
Publication	Herp Nation
Launch	2010
End of publication	2016, according to Scott Waters' professional biography
Original cover description	"The magazine for advanced field herpers and keepers" appears on Issue 1
Later cover description	"Reptiles · Amphibians · Herpetology · Husbandry" appears on the later photographed issues
Frequency	Six issues per year / bimonthly
Cover price	$7.99 U.S. on Issue 1 and Volume 2.5; $8.50 U.S. on Issues 9, 10, 11, 13, 14 and 18. Issue 15 cover shown does not display a price on the photographed front.
Language	English
Subject	Field herpetology, reptile and amphibian husbandry, conservation, captive breeding, natural history and herpetological community topics
Associated community	FieldHerpForum.com is identified on Issue 1 as part of the Field Herp Forum community.

International Distribution

The supplied premiere cover lists a United States price of $7.99 and identifies FieldHerpForum.com as part of its community. The existing record discusses worldwide contributors and an online readership, but does not establish specific international print distributors or circulation territories.

Contemporary reader testimony provides direct evidence of overseas delivery. On September 5, 2010, a forum member in Germany reported receiving Issue 1 on September 3. In January 2011, another reader thanked the magazine for its international distribution; a September 2011 discussion reported receipt of Volume 2, Issue 3 by an overseas subscriber. Scott Waters also acknowledged additional international shipping expenses in June 2010. These records demonstrate international subscriber fulfillment, but do not identify formal foreign distributors or establish comprehensive circulation territories. [Field Herp Forum search-result archive, pages 3–4: June 2010, September 2010, January 2011 and September 2011 posts.]

Issues Represented in the Collection

Issue	Year	Cover text / selected subjects visible on cover
Issue 1, World Premiere Issue	2010	Taiwan field herping; advanced chuckwalla husbandry; N.A.F.H.A. citizen science; rosy boa conservation; Naja nigricollis
Volume 2.5	2012	Salamandering; green ratsnakes; Pine Barrens; frogging Amazonia; "Paradoxism"
Issue 9	2012	Herping Asia's mega cities; strawberry dart frogs; speckled forest pitviper; lithographs
Issue 10	2012	Himalayas; Arabia; glossy snakes; Sandhills; spotted turtles
Issue 11	2012	Boelen's python; backyard tortoises; Shangri Lost; hybrids; herping the Mojave
Issue 13	2013	Ecuador conservation; calico cow sucker; snake venom bioprospecting; Treasury Island treefrog; Samos Island
Issue 14	2013	Circle of Life, Agalychnis; scaleless ball python; organic herper; Komodo dragons; Paraguay
Issue 15, Special Edition	2014	Caudate care; Bauer's chameleon gecko; Centralian pythons; bearded dragons; Reptile Super Show special edition
Issue 18	2015	Breeding earless monitors; Lesser Sunda Islands; mangrove salt marsh snakes; beaded lizards in Sinaloa; reptilian longevity; third wave of herpetoculture

Publication History and Independent Verification

Herp Nation Media was launched in 2010 by Scott Waters and Jeremiah Easter. A Central Valley Herpetological Society sponsor profile states that they launched Herp Nation Magazine as the flagship product, followed by online, radio and video projects. The same source states that Jeremiah Easter left in October 2012 and that the magazine thereafter was operated by Scott Waters.

Scott Waters' biography with The Biodiversity Group identifies him as the founder of Field Herp Forum and states that he founded Herp Nation Magazine, which operated from 2010 to 2016. This provides independent support for the publication's overall date range.

Contemporary Herp Nation advertising specifications state that the magazine was published six times per year and explicitly describe that schedule as bimonthly. The specifications also note that actual arrival dates could vary with the publisher's schedule.

Independent bibliographic evidence confirms that Herp Nation was used as a source for substantive herpetological material. The San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance bibliography cites Jeffrey Lemm's 2010 "NAFHA - Citizen science for herpetology" in Herp Nation Magazine 1, pages 36–41, matching a subject advertised on the World Premiere Issue.

A Smithsonian annotated bibliography cites the 2015 article by Tuyoshi Shirawa and Sam Bacchini, "Captive maintenance and the first reproduction of Borneo Earless Monitors," Herp Nation 18: 6–20. This independently confirms Issue 18 and one of the major subjects advertised on the physical copy.

A 2016 periodical dealer listing independently records Herp Nation World Premiere Issue 1, Volume 2.5, Issues 9, 10, 11, 15 and 18, among other issues. This strongly corroborates the issue numbering visible in the photographed holdings.

Additional dated forum records corroborate the early issue sequence: Issue 1 was reaching domestic readers by July 23–24, 2010; Issue 2 was in print in early September 2010; Issue 3 was in press in November 2010; Volume 2, Issue 3 was shipping by late August 2011; and Volume 2, Issue 4 was shipping by November 19, 2011. Later posts place Issue 16 at press on April 29, 2014 and refer to Issue 17 in August 2014. These statements help document publication chronology but do not supersede the exact designations printed on physical copies. [Field Herp Forum search-result archive, pages 1–4.]

Numbering Notes

The photographed run shows a change in numbering style. The premiere copy is labeled Issue 1. One 2012 copy is labeled Volume 2.5, while other 2012 copies are labeled Issues 9, 10 and 11. Later copies return to sequential issue numbering, including Issues 13, 14, 15 and 18. This numbering should be preserved exactly as printed on each physical issue rather than normalized into a reconstructed volume system.

Website Category Placement

Website field	Recommended content
Primary website section	Magazine Preservation
Publication Identification	Country, title, years represented, publisher / organization and frequency
Issue Metadata	Issue designation exactly as printed, year, cover price when visible, and principal cover subjects
Publication History	2010 launch, founders, connection with Field Herp Forum, later operation by Scott Waters, and 2016 end date
Preservation Significance	Short lived specialist print publication documenting field herping, husbandry, conservation and the transition toward digital herpetological media

Source Notes

Source	Use in this record
the physical copies	Primary evidence for issue designations, years, cover prices, cover descriptions and visible article subjects.
Herp Nation Media advertising specifications	Independent evidence that the magazine was published six times per year / bimonthly.
Central Valley Herpetological Society sponsor profile	History of Herp Nation Media, founders Scott Waters and Jeremiah Easter, and the 2012 management change.
The Biodiversity Group biography of Scott Waters	Independent evidence for Herp Nation Magazine operating from 2010 to 2016 and Waters' role as founder.
San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance publications bibliography	Independent citation to Jeffrey Lemm's 2010 Herp Nation Magazine article.
Smithsonian annotated bibliography	Independent citation to the 2015 Issue 18 earless monitor article.
FaunaClassifieds periodical listing	Independent issue level corroboration for Issue 1, Volume 2.5, Issues 9, 10, 11, 15 and 18.
Field Herp Forum search-result archive, four PDFs (June 2010–February 2016)	Contemporary dated posts and excerpts documenting first-issue delivery, issue production, subscriber distribution, editorial aims, international readership and later schedule irregularity. Some results are excerpts rather than full posts.

Research Cautions

- Do not normalize Volume 2.5 into a different issue number unless documentary evidence establishes an official equivalence.
- Do not assume that the nine photographed issues constitute Damien's complete Herp Nation holdings unless the collection inventory confirms that point.
- Use the exact printed issue designation from each cover because Herp Nation changed numbering conventions during its run.
- The 2010 to 2016 publication span is independently supported, but this record does not claim that every issue published during those years has been identified.

Primary Source Notes from the Field Herp Forum Screenshots

- July 4, 2010: Scott Waters reported an enormous response to the magazine, discussed the delayed premiere issue, and expected Issue 1 to ship around July 15.
- July 20, 2010: Waters stated that Herp Nation was bimonthly, that issues were intended to go out on the first of the appropriate month, and that Volume 1, Issue 2 was scheduled for September 1, 2010.
- The 2010 discussion documents direct communication between the publisher and prospective readers concerning subscriptions, individual issue purchasing, publication timing, and the magazine's relationship to Field Herp Forum.
- Waters described the magazine as reflecting the members of Field Herp Forum and as presenting the stories of advanced field herpers and keepers.
- December 6, 2014: Waters announced a free download of J. P. Lawrence's "Conservation of a Polymorphic Frog" from Issue 9, documenting later digital circulation of material originally published in the print magazine.
- These screenshots should be preserved with the Magazine Research Record because they document publication history that may not survive in formal bibliographic records.
- July 23–24, 2010: Multiple subscribers reported physically receiving the first issue, providing evidence of actual distribution after the mid-July planned shipping date.
- September–November 2010: Scott Waters documented Issue 2 production and a mid-month bimonthly schedule, then identified Issue 3 as being in press, with Mike Pingleton's Snake Road article.
- September 3, 2010: A Germany-based subscriber reported receiving the premiere issue, confirming at least one international physical delivery.
- July–November 2011: Scott Waters and Jeremiah Easter described the first Venom Issue (Volume 2, Issue 3), its printing and shipping, the balance between field herping and herpetoculture, and the shipment of Volume 2, Issue 4.

- April 2014–February 2015: Forum posts establish Issue 16 going to press, an anticipated Issue 17, subscriber concern about delays, and Scott Waters' acknowledgment of the longest interval between issues.
- The four PDFs preserve 182 search matches as displayed by the forum. Results may be truncated, and repetitions within conversations should not be counted as independent testimony.

Additional Independent Corroboration

- Central Valley Herpetological Society records describe Herp Nation Media as launched in 2010 by Scott Waters and Jeremiah Easter, with Herp Nation Magazine as the flagship product, and connect Waters and the publication with FieldHerpForum.com.
- A 2010 Reptile Apartment report from the North American Reptile Breeders Conference states that Waters explained that Field Herp Forum spawned a magazine dedicated to advanced techniques and field herping.
- A December 2011 herpetology forum discussion describes Herp Nation as focused on field herping, advanced husbandry, field research, and conservation and states that it published six issues per year, independently supporting the bimonthly schedule.
- Later collector records list Herp Nation issues from the 2010 premiere through Issue 18 in 2015, supporting the surviving issue sequence represented in the collection.
- Later Southwestern Center for Herpetological Research publications identify Herp Nation as defunct and republish or discuss material originally printed in the magazine, demonstrating the continuing value of its contents after publication ended.