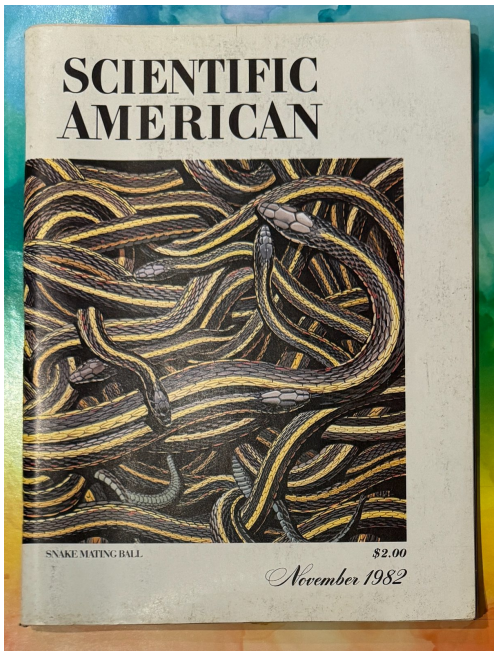
Scientific American

Magazine Research Record



November 1982, Volume 247, Number 5. Cover feature: Snake Mating Ball.

Publication Identification

Field	Information
Country	United States
Publisher	Gerard Piel
Publisher address	415 Madison Avenue, New York, New York 10017
Magazine title	Scientific American
Publication status	Continuing scientific publication; precise present status pending research update
Publication run	Founded in 1845; the November 1982 issue is documented here. Full chronological details pending research update
Editor	Dennis Flanagan (November 1982 masthead)
Printer	Pending research update
ISSN	0036-8733
Language	English
Publication type	General science and science communication magazine
Publication frequency	Monthly
Collection coverage	One physical issue represented: November 1982, Volume 247, Number 5
Earliest issue represented	Volume 247, Number 5, November 1982
Latest issue represented	Volume 247, Number 5, November 1982
Issue date	November 1982
Volume and number	Volume 247, Number 5
Established	1845
Cover price	$2.00
Cover subject	Snake Mating Ball
Relevant article	The Ecological Physiology of a Garter Snake
Authors	David Crews and William R. Garstka
Article opening page	158
Species discussed	Red-sided garter snake, Thamnophis sirtalis parietalis

Preservation Significance

This issue is significant within the preservation collection because it places snake reproductive biology on the cover of a major general science magazine rather than a specialist reptile publication. The cover image is explicitly identified as Snake Mating Ball, while the issue contains the article The Ecological Physiology of a Garter Snake by David Crews and William R. Garstka. Together, the cover and article preserve an example of herpetological research being presented to a broad scientific readership in 1982.

The article concerns the red-sided garter snake of western Canada and explains how the species' physiology and behavior are synchronized with an extreme seasonal environment. Its breeding aggregations are among the most visually dramatic aspects of that annual cycle, which helps explain the choice of a snake mating ball for the cover.

The issue is also useful for showing how reptile biology appeared within mainstream scientific communication during the period. Rather than presenting snakes primarily through captive care or hobby culture, Scientific American framed the subject through ecology, physiology, reproductive behavior and adaptation. That contrast makes the issue especially useful alongside the specialist reptile magazines preserved elsewhere in the collection.

Publication Metadata and Masthead Documentation

The November 1982 masthead identifies Scientific American, Inc. at 415 Madison Avenue, New York, New York 10017, with Gerard Piel as Publisher and Dennis Flanagan as Editor. Other named personnel, including associate, art, production and circulation staff, are preserved in the original Masthead and Publishing Information section below. The publication was monthly, with ISSN 0036-8733 and a United States annual subscription rate of $21. Printer: Pending research update.

International Distribution

The November 1982 publication statement documents a United States subscription rate of $21 per year. Specific overseas distributors, international subscriptions and regional circulation arrangements: Pending research update.

Issues Represented in the Collection

Volume 247, Number 5, November 1982. Cover: “Snake Mating Ball.” Featured article: “The Ecological Physiology of a Garter Snake” by David Crews and William R. Garstka, beginning on page 158.

Relevant Article

Field	Information
Title	The Ecological Physiology of a Garter Snake
Authors	David Crews and William R. Garstka
Magazine	Scientific American
Volume	247
Number	5
Date	November 1982
Opening page	158
DOI	10.1038/scientificamerican1182-158

Scientific American's own archive describes the article as examining how the red-sided garter snake survives the harsh environment of western Canada through a precisely timed cycle of physiology and behavior. The physical table of contents similarly summarizes the species as having evolved spectacular breeding habits.

Issue Contents

The photographed contents page places the garter snake article within a broad multidisciplinary science issue. The principal articles listed are:

Field	Information
Page 52	A Bilateral Nuclear-Weapon Freeze, by Randall Forsberg

Page 62	The Harvesting of Interacting Species in a Natural Ecosystem, by John R. Beddington and Robert M. May
Page 70	The Growth of Western North America, by David L. Jones, Allan Cox, Peter Coney and Myrl Beck
Page 128	A Genetic Switch in a Bacterial Virus, by Mark Ptashne, Alexander D. Johnson and Carl O. Pabo
Page 142	Glueballs, by Kenzo Ishikawa
Page 158	The Ecological Physiology of a Garter Snake, by David Crews and William R. Garstka
Page 172	The Physics of Kettledrums, by Thomas D. Rossing
Page 180	The First Nuclear Industry, by Edward R. Landa

Masthead and Publishing Information

The photographed contents and masthead page provides a detailed record of the magazine's editorial and production structure for this issue. Gerard Piel is identified as Publisher, Dennis Flanagan as Editor, Brian P. Hayes as Associate Editor and Philip Morrison as Book Editor.

Field	Information
Publisher	Gerard Piel
Editor	Dennis Flanagan
Associate Editor	Brian P. Hayes
Book Editor	Philip Morrison
Art Director	Samuel L. Howard
Assistant Art Director	Steven R. Black
Production Manager	Richard Sasso
Copy Chief	Sally Porter Jenks
General Manager	George S. Conn
Advertising Director	C. John Kirby
Circulation Manager	William H. Yokel
Secretary	Arlene Wright

The page also lists a larger Board of Editors and extensive art, production and copy departments. Those credits document the institutional scale behind Scientific American and distinguish it from the smaller association and hobby publications represented elsewhere in the preservation collection.

Publication Statement

The publication statement identifies Scientific American as published monthly by Scientific American, Inc., 415 Madison Avenue, New York, New York 10017. It gives ISSN 0036-8733 and states a United States subscription rate of $21 per year at the time of publication. The same page records copyright 1982 by Scientific American, Inc.

Cover and Scientific Communication

The cover is unusually direct. It does not use a sensational headline or long explanatory caption. The image of intertwined garter snakes occupies most of the page, with only the short label Snake Mating Ball beneath it. That presentation treats the aggregation as a scientific phenomenon worthy of visual attention in its own right.

The cover also connects directly to the issue's internal research article. The table of contents identifies the relevant article and authors on page 158, making the relationship between the cover image and the scientific discussion explicit rather than inferred.

Independent Verification

Scientific American's current archive independently identifies the November 1982 issue as Volume 247, Number 5 and lists The Ecological Physiology of a Garter Snake by David Crews and William R. Garstka. The archive dates the article to November 1, 1982 and gives DOI 10.1038/scientificamerican1182-158.

Independent bibliographic records likewise identify the article in Scientific American, Volume 247, Number 5, beginning on page 158. These records corroborate the physical issue while the photographed cover and contents page remain the primary evidence for the copy preserved in the collection.

Website Category Placement

Field	Information
Primary section	Magazine Preservation
Country grouping	United States
Publication title	Scientific American
Issue	November 1982, Volume 247, Number 5
Snake related feature	Snake Mating Ball
Relevant article	The Ecological Physiology of a Garter Snake
Preservation emphasis	Mainstream scientific communication of snake ecology, physiology and reproductive behavior

Source Notes

Field	Information
Physical cover	Primary evidence for magazine title, November 1982 date, $2.00 cover price and Snake Mating Ball cover subject.
Photographed contents and masthead page	Primary evidence for Volume 247, Number 5, article title, authors, article opening page, publication staff, publication address, frequency, ISSN and subscription information.
Scientific American archive	Independent confirmation of the issue, article title, authors, date and DOI.
Independent bibliographic records	Corroborating evidence for the article's publication in Scientific American Volume 247, Number 5.

Research Cautions

- The physical cover price is $2.00 and should take precedence over secondary dealer listings that may describe a different price.
- The photographed contents page establishes page 158 as the opening page of the garter snake article. Do not assign a final page number unless verified from the complete article or a reliable bibliographic record.
- The cover label Snake Mating Ball is a cover subject description, not the title of the internal article.
- The issue is preserved because of its snake related cover and article, but Scientific American is a general science magazine and should not be classified as a reptile magazine. Staff information comes from this specific November 1982 issue and should not automatically be applied to other Scientific American issues.