

CURT FREESE



Curt has just joined the Oceanites team. He grew up on a farm in eastern Iowa. In 1970 he received a B.S. in fish and wildlife biology from Iowa State University. In 1977, after completing his dissertation research on Amazonian monkey populations, Curt earned a Ph.D. in ecology from Johns Hopkins University.

Curt's career has focused on biodiversity research and conservation in diverse regions and ecosystems around the globe, including southern Africa, the tropical forests and coral reefs of Latin America, the mountains and rivers of Yellowstone National Park, the wetlands of coastal New England, the prairies of North America's Great Plains, the Sonoran Desert, and the seas and tundra of the Arctic. He has also traveled to experience the environment and wildlife of Antarctica.

The positions Curt has served in include, among others: seasonal biologist in Yellowstone National Park; Peace Corps biologist for the Costa Rica National Park Service, coordinator for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's program of technical assistance in Latin America, vice president for global programs and conservation science at World Wildlife Fund (WWF), founding managing director of WWF's Northern Great Plains Program, executive director of the nonprofit Yellowstone Ecosystem Studies; executive director of the Westport River Watershed Alliance in Massachusetts; and co-founder and first executive director of American Prairie, the vast grassland wildlife reserve being assembled in northeast Montana. Previous academic appointments include Rhodes College (Memphis), Montana State University, and the University of Massachusetts.

Curt has served on various nonprofit conservation boards, including the International Council for Bird Preservation (Pan-American Section), RARE, Montana Outdoor Science School, Montana Conservation Corps, and Westport River Watershed Alliance. In 2007, the Chicago Zoological Society awarded Curt the George B. Rabb Conservation Award