Terry was born in Morristown, New Jersey in 1958 and caught ring necked snakes and red backed salamanders in his backyard four years later. He received a Biology degree from Bucknell University in Pennsylvania and then a Ph.D. at Oregon State University studying the ecology of Pacific coast. After conducting research at Stanford University for several years he joined the faculty at Stetson University in DeLand, Florida. At Stetson, he teaches Ecology, Biostatistics, Invertebrate Zoology and Environmental Biology. For the last two decades he has studied the field biology of pigmy rattlesnakes and box turtles with Dr. Peter May and a dedicated group of Stetson students. Twenty of these students have published their research in scientific journals. Working with his colleagues, he has also written grants that have brought in over three and half million dollars in funding for Stetson’s science facilities and undergraduate research efforts. Most recently, he received the McEniry Award, Stetson’s highest award for excellence in teaching.