



### **Vin Russo Bio:**

Vin Russo's herpetological career started no differently from most herpetologists, Biologists & naturalists in that he often spent his childhood summers in search of Reptiles in the forest, lakes & streams of Suburban New York. His career in Herpetology started early in life with the formation of wholesale Reptile & Amphibian Import / Export business he started with his brother in the mid Eighties. From those shipments of Reptiles he cherry picked many beautiful color morphs & locality specific boas to start his collection. This business also took him to many exotic places in the world to view & photograph these beautiful creatures in their wild habitat. During the early nineties he took a break from the wholesale world & entered the business world as a Mortgage Banker. One reason for the hiatus was the fact that he felt it was simply not ecologically correct to Import so many wild animals from their diminishing wildlife. Therefore he felt it was necessary to take the time and compile enough animals to start his own commercial breeding operation. This dream came true in 1997 with the start of Cutting Edge Herpetological Incorporated, a state of the art breeding facility to commercially breed Boa constrictors. His familiar website ([www.cuttingedgeherp.com](http://www.cuttingedgeherp.com)) is dedicated to the care of recognition of all the subspecies & color variants of Boa constrictor. Russo also was instrumental in starting the Long Island Herpetological Society back in 1988 and assisted with the description of a *Boa c. longicauda* with his Brother Paul Russo & Dr. Robert Price in 1989. Today Vin Russo still travels to South & Central America to photograph & understand these rare & beautiful creatures. He also breeds Boa constrictors as a full time career.

The boa constrictor is without question one of the most popular snake species being kept by reptile lovers today. Once considered to be a rare and exotic pet, boas are now being bred in large numbers, both by hobbyists and commercial breeders. The increased availability, combined with an ever-increasing palette of selectively bred colors and pattern anomalies, has catapulted the "common boa" into stardom among keepers and herpetoculturists.

In *The Complete Boa Constrictor*, Vin Russo takes us into the tropical world of the boa constrictor in all of its forms and geographic races. No armchair quarterback, Russo has traveled to many of the locales discussed in the text and has searched for (and sometimes discovered) the prize he sought: The boa constrictor in its beautiful wild habitat.

Not just a natural history book, *The Complete Boa Constrictor* boasts over 450 photos in 280 pages and stakes its rightful place among the other titles in the *Complete*

series published by ECO; it is a thorough how-to manual for anyone who wishes to keep or breed this denizen of the Central and South America Rain forests.