



## FINDING AID

# **JAMES E. DEACON PAPERS**

1965-2012, undated

Processed by Allyson Sekerke, 2024

Death Valley National Park  
PO Box 579, Death Valley, CA 92328  
Death Valley, CA

**Accession Number: DEVA-02765**  
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**COLLECTION SUMMARY**

**Catalog Number:** DEVA 66593  
**Collection Number:** 66593  
**Title:** James E. Deacon papers  
**Dates:** 1965-2012, undated  
**Extent:** 1.25 linear feet and 1.20 gigabytes  
**Creator:** James E. Deacon  
**Languages and Scripts:** Collection is in English and script is Latin  
**Custodial History:** Collected by James E. Deacon and donated by Jack Williams.

**HISTORY**

James Everett Deacon, also known as Jim Deacon, was born May 18, 1934 in White, South Dakota, and died in his Nevada home on February 23, 2015. Deacon is known for his conservation work with endangered desert fishes, particularly the Devils Hole pupfish.

Deacon earned a B.S. from Midwestern University and a Ph.D. from the University of Kansas, Lawrence in 1960. He began working as an assistant professor of biology at the University of Nevada Las Vegas in 1960. He became an associate professor of biology in 1965 and a professor of biology in 1968. He retired from the University of Nevada Las Vegas in 2002.

Deacon was a founding member of the Desert Fishes Council, an organization with a mission to “preserve the biological integrity or desert aquatic ecosystems and their associated lifeforms,” and served as the chair of the organization from 1975-1977. Deacon served on the Devils Hole Pupfish Recovery Team from 1978-1982 and the Warm Springs Pupfish Recovery Team from 1975-1980.

**Sources**

“About DFC.” Desert Fishes Council. Accessed January 21, 2025.  
<https://www.desertfishes.org/>.

“Death Valley National Park Mourns the Loss of Long Time Friend of the Park.”  
National Parks Service, March 10, 2015.  
<https://www.nps.gov/deva/learn/news/jim-deacon.htm>.

“James Everett Deacon – State of Nevada.” State of Nevada. Accessed January 21, 2025. [https://tools.water.nv.gov/Hearings/past/Spring%20-%20Cave%20-%20Dry%20Lake%20and%20Delamar%20Valleys%202011/Exhibits/GBWN%20Exhibits/GBWN\\_Exh\\_015%20Deacon%20CV.pdf](https://tools.water.nv.gov/Hearings/past/Spring%20-%20Cave%20-%20Dry%20Lake%20and%20Delamar%20Valleys%202011/Exhibits/GBWN%20Exhibits/GBWN_Exh_015%20Deacon%20CV.pdf).

“Noted UNLV biologist James Deacon has died.” Las Vegas Review-Journal, February 27, 2015. <https://www.reviewjournal.com/news/noted-unlv-biologist-james-deacon-has-died/>.

## **COLLECTION CONTENT AND STRUCTURE**

### **Scope and Content Note**

This collection includes Devils Hole pupfish data, records related to Cappaert v. United States, correspondence, press clippings, pupfish modeling group records, presentation notes, Devils Hole algae records, printed presentation slides and figures, Devils Hole mapping project records, reports and publications, video, photographs, and slides. Items are predominantly related to Devils Hole, the Devils Hole pupfish, and efforts to save the pupfish.

This collection also includes obsolete media formats that cannot be easily accessed. These include one floppy disc and one zip drive in box 1 folder 1 and two VHS tapes, one reel of black and white silent Super 8 film, and one MiniDV tape in box 3 folder 1. The floppy disc and zip drive are believed to have become corrupted and data has not been retrieved.

| <b>Box and Folder List</b> |          |                                 |                          |
|----------------------------|----------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Box #                      | Folder # | Title                           | Dates                    |
| 1                          | 1        | Devils Hole pupfish data        | 1976, 1997-2012, undated |
| 1                          | 2        | Cappaert v. United States       | Undated                  |
| 1                          | 3        | Correspondence                  | 2002-2005, undated       |
| 1                          | 4        | Press clippings                 | 1979-1983                |
| 1                          | 5        | Press clippings                 | 1984-1994, undated       |
| 1                          | 6        | Pupfish modeling group          | 2003                     |
| 1                          | 7        | Presentation notes              | Undated                  |
| 1                          | 8        | Devils Hole algae               | 1975-1976                |
| 1                          | 9        | Presentation slides and figures | Undated                  |

|   |    |   |                        |
|---|----|---|------------------------|
| 1 | 10 | Maps and mapping project  | 1976-1986,<br>undated  |
| 1 | 11 | Reports and publications  | 1969                   |
| 2 | 1  | Reports and publications  | 1973-1988              |
| 2 | 2  | Reports and publications  | 1990-1997              |
| 2 | 3  | Reports and publications  | 1997-1998              |
| 2 | 4  | Reports and publications  | 1998-2002              |
| 2 | 5  | Reports and publications  | 2002-2003              |
| 2 | 6  | Reports and publications<br><br><i>Note: The CD labeled Yuri Graves Thesis DH Pufffish has been copied to archival digital storage.</i> | 2004-2012              |
| 2 | 7  | Reports and publications  | Undated                |
| 3 | 1  | Video   | 1994-1998,<br>undated  |
| 3 | 2  | Photographs<br><br><i>Note: The CD labeled Devils Hole Photo Album has been copied to archival digital storage.</i>                     | 1968, 2003,<br>undated |
| 3 | 3  | Slides<br><br><i>Note: The CD labeled Ash Meadows Don Sada Slides has been copied to archival digital storage.</i>                      | 1980-1982,<br>undated  |
| 3 | 4  | Slides of Ash Meadows and Devils Hole   | 1967-1974,<br>undated  |
| 3 | 5  | Slides of Ash Meadows and Devils Hole   | 1965-1975,<br>undated  |
| 3 | 6  | Slides with underwater shots of Devils Hole   | 1977, undated          |
| 3 | 7  | Slides  | 1977-1986,<br>undated  |