

# Travis M. Thomas

RESEARCH SCIENTIST

Nature Coast Biological Station, University of Florida

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*I'm a researcher with broad interests in ecology and technology*

## Some stuff about me

- I have a passion for data science and technology.
- I have a strong background in field-techniques.
- I combine my passion and background to answer a variety of questions regarding population and conservation ecology.

## Education

### University of Florida

PHD WILDLIFE ECOLOGY & CONSERVATION

- Dissertation - Diamondback Terrapin Ecology & Threats

Gainesville, FL

2020

### University of Florida

MSC WILDLIFE ECOLOGY & CONSERVATION

- Thesis - Ecology of the Alligator Snapping Turtle in the Suwannee River

Gainesville, FL

2013

### University of Florida

BSC NATURAL RESOURCES & CONSERVATION

- Undergraduate Honors Thesis - Morphology of the genus Macrochelys

Gainesville, FL

2009

## Work Experience

### University of Florida / Nature Coast Biological Station

RESEARCH SCIENTIST

Cedar Key, Florida

2020-present

### University of Florida / Nature Coast Biological Station

RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Cedar Key, Florida

2015-2016

### Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

BIOLOGICAL SCIENTIST

Gainesville, Florida

2011-2015

### University of Florida / Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation

RESEARCH TECHNICIAN

Gainesville, Florida

2009-2011

### University of Florida/ Florida Museum of Natural History

COLLECTIONS ASSISTANT

Gainesville, Florida

2007-2008

## Active Research Projects

### Utility of Novel GPS Technology to Track Turtles

2022

UF, Oxford

### A 4-Stage Projection Matrix for the Alligator Snapping Turtle

2022

UF, USGS

### Assessment of Passive Fishing and its Impacts on Wildlife

2022

UF, FWC, USFWS

### The Effectiveness of Discrete BRDs on Terrapin Exclusion and Crab Capture Rates

2021

UF, FWC

## Assesment of Terrapin Body Sizes Across Florida

2021 UF, FWC

## Population Status Assesment of the Suwannee Alligator Snapping Turtle

2020 UF, FWC, USFWS

## The Efficacy of Different Satellite Transmitters on Freshwater Turtles

2020 UF, USGS

## Teaching Experience

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### Wildlife Techniques

2022 Volunteer TA

### Wildlife of Florida

2020 University of Florida

### Modeling for Endangered Species (workshop)

2019 Teaching Assistant

### Wildlife of Florida

2019 University of Florida

### Wildlife of Florida

2018 co-Instructor

### Wildlife of Florida

2017 University of Florida

## Volunteer Experience

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### Lower Suwannee National Wildlife Refuge Group

2017-PRESENT Board Member

### Florida Museum of Natural History

2006-2009 Cedar Key, Florida, USA

### Taita Conservancy

2004 Collections volunteer

## Grants/Funding

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### Population Status of the Suwannee Alligator Snapping Turtlre

\$36,000 2022

### Effectivness of discrete BRDs on terrapin exclusion and crab captures

\$109,000 State Wildlife Grant

### Movements of the alligator snapping turtle

\$40,000 2022

### Population Status and Distribution of the Alligator Snapping Turtle

\$60,000 Florida Fish & Wildlife

### Geomorphic Riverine Processes and Their Effect on Turtle Ecology

3,500 2013

## Awards

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### Exceptional Service

2009 Conserve Wildlife Tag Grant

### Community Leadership Award

2005 2011

Florida Museum of Natural History

Santa Fe College

## Professional Presentations

<b>The Suwannee Alligator Snapping Turtle: Population Status &amp; Current Research</b>	Tuscon, AZ
SYMPOSIUM ON THE CONSERVATION AND BIOLOGY OF TORTOISES AND FRESHWATER TURTLES	2022
<b>Occupancy and Threats to the Diamondback Terrapin in the Suwannee Estuary</b>	Virtual
PHD DEFENSE	2020
<b>The Alligator Snapping Turtle: Past Present and Future Conservation</b>	Virtual
UF WEBINAR	2019
<b>Home Range and Habitat Selection of the Suwannee Alligator Snapping Turtle</b>	Orlando, FL
SYMPOSIUM ON THE CONSERVATION AND BIOLOGY OF TORTOISES AND FRESHWATER TURTLES	2014
<b>Population Ecology of the Ornate Diamondback Terrapin</b>	Hickory Knob, SC
SE PARTNERS FOR AMPHIBIAN & REPTILE CONSERVATION	2013
<b>The Alligator Snapping Turtle in Florida</b>	Tuscon, AZ
SYMPOSIUM ON THE CONSERVATION AND BIOLOGY OF TORTOISES AND FRESHWATER TURTLES	2012
<b>Morphology of the Alligator Snapping Turtle</b>	Lake Tiak O'Khata, MS
SE PARTNERS FOR AMPHIBIAN & RETILE CONSERVATION	2011
<b>Genetics and Morphology of the Alligator Snapping Turtle</b>	Gainesville, FL
FLORIDA HERPETOLOGY CONFERENCE	2011
<b>Long-term Population Demographics of the Gopher Tortoise</b>	Orlando, FL
SYMPOSIUM ON THE CONSERVATION AND BIOLOGY OF TORTOISES AND FRESHWATER TURTLES	2010
<b>Freshwater Turtle Assemblages of the Santa Fe River, Florida.</b>	Ocala, FL
SE PARTNERS FOR AMPHIBIAN & RETILE CONSERVATION	2009
<b>The Alligator Snapping Turtle</b>	Ocala, FL
SE PARTNERS FOR AMPHIBIAN & RETILE CONSERVATION	2009

## Publications

- Thomas, T. M., Boone, W., Allen, M. S., Martin, C., & Johnston, S. A. (2022). Occupancy of the diamond-backed terrapin (*malaclemys terrapin*) on coastal islands in the suwannee river estuary, florida. *Herpetological Conservation and Biology*.
- Thomas, T. M., Suarez, E., Enge, K., Barry, S. C., & Johnston, S. A. (2022). Variation in relative abundance and body size of the suwannee alligator snapping turtle in the suwannee river. *Southeastern Naturalist*.
- Denton, M., Johnston, G. R., Thomas, T. M., Waddle, H., Walls, S. C., & Hart, K. M. (2022). Dietary niche of three omnivorous turtle species: Insights from stable isotope analysis. *Southeastern Naturalist*.
- Thomas, T. M., Enge, K. M., Suarez, E., & Johnston, G. R. (2022). Population status of the suwannee alligator snapping turtle (*macrochelys suwanniensis*) in the suwannee river, florida. *Chelonian Conservation and Biology: Celebrating 25 Years as the World's Turtle and Tortoise Journal*, 21(1), 2–10.
- Suarez, E., Thomas, T. M., Turner, W. M., Gandy, R. L., Enge, K. M., & Johnson, S. A. (2021). Population size and structure of the ornate diamondback terrapin (*malaclemys terrapin macrospilota*) on small gulf coast islands in florida. *Chelonian Conservation and Biology: Celebrating 25 Years as the World's Turtle and Tortoise Journal*, 20(2), 265–272.
- Enge, K. M., Stevenson, D. J., Thomas, T. M., Johnston, G. R., Jensen, J. B., Stegenga, B. S., Chandler, H. C., & Moler, P. E. (2021). Distribution and relative abundance of the suwannee alligator snapping turtle (*macrochelys suwanniensis*). *Chelonian Conservation and Biology: Celebrating 25 Years as the World's Turtle and Tortoise Journal*, 20(2), 184–199.
- Thomas, T. M., & Enge, K. M. (2019). The alligator snapping turtle. In *Amphibians and reptiles of florida* (pp. 239–244). University of Florida Press.
- Johnston, G. R., Thomas, T. M., Suarez, E., Lau, A., & Mitchell, J. C. (2015). Population structure and body size of the suwannee alligator snapping turtle (*macrochelys suwanniensis*) in northern florida. *Chelonian Conservation and Biology*, 14(1), 73–81.
- Thomas, T. M., Suarez, E., & Enge, K. M. (2015). New county records of reptiles from the suwannee river, florida, USA. *Herpetological Review*, 46(4), 608.

10. Thomas, T. M., Granatosky, M. C., Bourque, J. R., Krysko, K. L., Moler, P. E., Gamble, T., Suarez, E., Leone, E., Enge, K. M., & Roman, J. (2014). Taxonomic assessment of alligator snapping turtles (chelydridae: Macrochelys), with the description of two new species from the southeastern united states. *Zootaxa*, 3786(2), 141–165.

11. Diemer Berish, J. E., Kiltie, R. A., & Thomas, T. M. (2012). Long-term population dynamics of gopher tortoises (gopherus polyphemus) in a pine plantation in northern florida. *Chelonian Conservation and Biology*, 11(1), 50–58.

12. Enge, K. M., Jernigan, A., Johnson, R., Berish, J. E. D., Moler, P. E., Thomas, T. M., & Kiltie, R. A. (2012). What the world needs is a better gopher tortoise trap. *Herpetological Review*, 43(4), 574–578.

13. Johnston, G., Thomas, T. M., & Lau, A. (2012). Alligator snapping turtle: Growth rates. *Herpetological Review*, 43(2), 474–475.

## References

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<b>Dr. Mike Allen</b>	NCBS-University of Florida
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