

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

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

Research Scientist

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA / NATURE COAST BIOLOGICAL STATION

Cedar Key, Florida
2020-present

Research Assistant

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA / NATURE COAST BIOLOGICAL STATION

Cedar Key, Florida
2015-2016

Biological Scientist

FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Gainesville, Florida
2011-2015

Research Technician

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA / DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE ECOLOGY AND CONSERVATION

Gainesville, Florida
2009-2011

Collections Assistant

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA/ FLORIDA MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

Gainesville, Florida
2007-2008

Active Research Projects

Utility of Novel GPS/GNSS Technology to Track Freshwater Turtles

2022

UF, Oxford University

A 4-Stage Projection Matrix for the Alligator Snapping Turtle

2022

UF, USGS

Assesment of Passive Fishing and its Impacts on Wildlife

2022

UF, FWC, USFWS

The Effectivness 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

Volunteer Teaching Assistant

WILDLIFE TECHNIQUES (WIS 4945C)

2022

University of Florida

Teaching Assistant

WILDLIFE OF FLORIDA (3402L)

2020

University of Florida

Co-instructor

MODELING FOR ENDANGERED SPECIES (WORKSHOP)

2019

University of Florida

Co-instructor

WILDLIFE OF FLORIDA (3401/3402L)

2019

University of Florida

Teaching Assistant

WILDLIFE OF FLORIDA (3402L)

2018

University of Florida

Teaching Assistant

WILDLIFE OF FLORIDA (3402L)

2017

University of Florida

Volunteer Experience

Lower Suwannee National Wildlife Refuge Group

BOARD MEMBER (2017-PRESENT)

Cedar Key, Florida, USA

Florida Museum of Natural History

COLLECTIONS VOLUNTEER (2006-2009)

Gainesville, Florida, USA

Taita Conservancy

VOLUNTEER (2004)

Tsavo, Kenya

Grants/Funding

Population Status of the Suwannee Alligator Snapping Turtlte

2022

FL Fish & Wildlife
Conservation Commission,
SWG Grant
\$36,000

Effectivness of discrete BRDs on terrapin exclusion and crab captures

2022

FL Fish & Wildlife
Conservation Commission,
CWT Grant
\$109,000

Movements of the alligator snapping turtle

2013

FL Fish & Wildlife
Conservation Commission,
CWT Grant
\$40,000

Population Status and Distribution of the Alligator Snapping Turtle

2011

FL Fish & Wildlife
Conservation Commission,
SWG Grant
\$60,000

Awards

Exceptional Service

2009

Florida Museum of Natural
History

Community Leadership Award

2005

Santa Fe College

The President's Student Service Award

2005

George W. Bush

Professional Presentations

The Suwannee Alligator Snapping Turtle: Population Status & Current Research

Tucson, AZ

SYMPOSIUM ON THE CONSERVATION AND BIOLOGY OF TORTOISES AND FRESHWATER
TURTLES

2022

Occupancy and Threats to the Diamondback Terrapin in the Suwannee Estuary

Virtual

PHD DEFENSE

2020

The Alligator Snapping Turtle: Past Present and Future Conservation

Virtual

UF/NCBS WEBINAR

2019

Movements of the Suwannee Alligator Snapping Turtle

Orlando, FL

SYMPOSIUM ON THE CONSERVATION AND BIOLOGY OF TORTOISES AND FRESHWATER
TURTLES

2014

Population Ecology of the Ornate Diamondback Terrapin

Hickory Knob, SC

SE PARTNERS FOR AMPHIBIAN & REPTILE CONSERVATION

2013

The Alligator Snapping Turtle in Florida

Tucson, AZ

SYMPOSIUM ON THE CONSERVATION AND BIOLOGY OF TORTOISES AND FRESHWATER
TURTLES

2012

Morphology of the Alligator Snapping Turtle

Lake Tiak O'Khata, MS

SE PARTNERS FOR AMPHIBIAN & REPTILE CONSERVATION

2011

Genetics and Morphology of the Alligator Snapping Turtle

Gainesville, FL

FLORIDA HERPETOLOGY CONFERENCE

2011

Long-term Population Demographics of the Gopher Tortoise

Orlando, FL

SYMPOSIUM ON THE CONSERVATION AND BIOLOGY OF TORTOISES AND FRESHWATER
TURTLES

2010

Freshwater Turtle Assemblages of the Santa Fe River, Florida.

Ocala, FL

SE PARTNERS FOR AMPHIBIAN & REPTILE CONSERVATION

2009

The Alligator Snapping Turtle

Ocala, FL

SE PARTNERS FOR AMPHIBIAN & REPTILE CONSERVATION

2009

Publications

1. 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 Estuary, Florida. *Herpetological Conservation and Biology (in Press)*.
2. 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 (in Press)*.

3. 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 (in Press)*.
4. 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*, 21(1), 2–10. <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.2744/CCB-1500.1>
5. 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*, 20(2), 265–272. <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.2744/CCB-1485.1>
6. 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. <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.2744/CCB-1488.1>
7. Thomas, T. M., & Enge, K. M. (2019). The Suwannee Alligator Snapping Turtle (*Macrochelys suwanniensis*). In *Amphibians and Reptiles of Florida* (pp. 239–244). University of Florida Press.
8. 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. <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.2744/ccab-14-01-73-81.1>
9. 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. <https://doi.org/http://dx.doi.org/10.11646/zootaxa.3786.2.4>
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. <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.2744/CCB-0904.1>
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

Dr. Mike Allen

DIRECTOR

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Dr. Jerry Johnston

PROFESSOR

Santa Fe College

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DIRECTOR (RET.)

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Andrew Gude

MANAGER

US Fish & Wildlife Service

703-622-3896

Kevin Enge

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Florida Fish & Wildlife

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Dr. Dave Steen

SECTION LEADER

Florida Fish & Wildlife

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