

# 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

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- 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

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### 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

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### 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

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### 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

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### 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

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### 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

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### Population Status of the Suwannee Alligator Snapping Turtle

2022

State Wildlife Grant

\$36,000

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

2022

FL Fish & Wildlife Con. Comm.

\$109,000

### Movements of the alligator snapping turtle

2013

Conserve Wildlife Tag Grant

\$40,000

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

2011

State Wildlife Grant

\$60,000

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

2011

Professional Association of  
Diving Instructors

\$3,500

## Awards

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### 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

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### 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

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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, USA. *Herpetological Conservation and Biology*, 17(3), 560–566. [https://doi.org/https://www.herpconbio.org/Volume\\_17/Issue\\_3/Thomas\\_etal\\_2022.pdf](https://doi.org/https://www.herpconbio.org/Volume_17/Issue_3/Thomas_etal_2022.pdf)
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

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### Dr. Mike Allen

DIRECTOR

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352-325-6077

### Dr. Steve Johnson

PROFESSOR

University of Florida

352-846-0557

### Dr. Jerry Johnston

PROFESSOR

Santa Fe College

352-395-5348

### Dr. Franklin Percival

DIRECTOR (RET.)

USGS/FL Co-op Research Unit

352-538-0002

### Andrew Gude

MANAGER

US Fish & Wildlife Service

703-622-3896

### Kevin Enge

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Florida Fish & Wildlife

352-334-4209

### Dr. Dave Steen

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Florida Fish & Wildlife

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