

# Travis M. Thomas

RESEARCH ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

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🐦 Allcology

*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 Assistant Professor

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA / NATURE COAST BIOLOGICAL STATION

Cedar Key, Florida

2023-present

### Biological Scientist

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA / NATURE COAST BIOLOGICAL STATION

Cedar Key, Florida

2020-2023

### Research Assistant

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA / NATURE COAST BIOLOGICAL STATION

Cedar Key, Florida

2015-2016

### Biological Scientist

FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION / FWRI

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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### Turtle Population Ecology and Grazing Potential in Lake George, FL

2023

UF, FWC

### IUCN Red List Assessment Project Leader (freshwater turtles)

2023

UF, FWC, USFWS, IUCN

### Effectiveness of a Small Robotic Vehicle to Conduct Tortoise Surveys

2023

UF, FWC

## Utility of Novel GPS/GNSS Technology to Track Wildlife

2023

*UF, University of Oxford*

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

2023

*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

2022

*UF, FWC*

## Assesment of Terrapin Body Sizes Across Florida

2022

*UF, FWC*

## Using Custom Built GPS Tags to Locate Nesting Areas of Imperiled Species

2022

*UF, FWC*

## Population Status Assesment of the Suwannee Alligator Snapping Turtle

2021

*UF, FWC, USFWS*

## The Efficacy of Different Satellite Transmitters on Freshwater Turtles

2021

*UF, USGS*

## Teaching Experience

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### Co-Instructor

FIELD TECHNIQUES LAB (WIS 4945C)

2024

*University of Florida*

### Instructor

WILDLIFE TECHNIQUES (WIS 4945C)

2023

*University of Florida*

### Instructor

QUANATATIVE WILDLIFE ECOLOGY (WIS 4601C)

2023

*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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### Friends of the Lower Suwannee National Wildlife Refuge

BOARD MEMBER (2017-2022)

*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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### Suwannee Alligator Snapping Turtle nesting movements

2023

*Conserve Wildlife Tag Grant  
\$60,000*

<b>Abundance and grazing potential of freshwater turtles in Lake George, FL</b>	FL Fish & Wildlife Con. Comm.	2023	\$165,000
<b>Population Status of the Suwannee Alligator Snapping Turtle</b>	State Wildlife Grant	2022	\$36,000
<b>Effectiveness of Discrete BRDs on Terrapin Exclusion and Crab Captures</b>	FL Fish & Wildlife Con. Comm.	2022	\$109,000
<b>Movements of the Alligator Snapping Turtle</b>	Conserve Wildlife Tag Grant	2013	\$47,000
<b>Population Status of the Alligator Snapping Turtle</b>	State Wildlife Grant	2011	\$60,000
<b>Geomorphic Riverine Processes and its Effect on Turtle Ecology</b>	Professional Association of Diving Instructors	2011	\$3,500

## Certificates & Awards

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<b>Bayesian Modeling Certificate</b>	NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION	2024
<b>Teacher's College certificate</b>	COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE & LIFE SCIENCES	2023
<b>Teaching More Effectively certificate</b>	OFFICE OF TEACHING EXCELLENCE	2019
<b>Exceptional Service Award</b>	FLORIDA MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY	2009
<b>Community Leadership Award</b>	SANTA FE COLLEGE	2005
<b>The President's Student Service Award</b>	GEORGE W. BUSH	2005

## More Recent Presentations

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<b>The Suwannee Alligator Snapping Turtle: Population Status &amp; Current Research</b>	UF/FAS-SEMINAR	Gainesville, FL	2023
<b>Tracking Turtles: SnapperGPS and potential conservation implications for turtles</b>	INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON THE CONSERVATION AND BIOLOGY OF TURTLES	Charleston, SC	2023
<b>The Suwannee Alligator Snapping Turtle: Status &amp; Current Research</b>	INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON THE CONSERVATION AND BIOLOGY OF TURTLES	Tucson, AZ	2022
<b>Occupancy and Threats to the Diamondback Terrapin</b>	PHD DEFENSE	Virtual	2020
<b>The Alligator Snapping Turtle: Past Present and Future Conservation</b>	UF/NCBS WEBINAR	Virtual	2019

## Publications

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Catizone, D.J., **T.M. Thomas**, C.M. Romagosa, and M.M. Lamont. 2024. Demography of a Previously Undocumented Diamondback Terrapin (*Malaclemys terrapin*) Population. *Estuaries and Coasts*

**Thomas, T.M.**, K.M. Enge, E. Suarez, E. Leone, and B. Bankovich. 2024. Home Range and Habitat Selection of the Suwannee Alligator Snapping Turtle in the Suwannee River. *Chelonian Conservation and Biology*, 22:2 pp 146-155

Barry S.C., M.D. Smith, B. Heres, **T.M. Thomas**, B.J. Hall-Scharf, .H.J Brockman. 2023. Water temperature and season length interact to explain a rare non-linear ecogeographic cline in body size, *Journal of Biogeography*, 2023;00 pp

- Enge, K.M., **T.M. Thomas**, G. Brashear, and J.R. Willmott. 2023. Observations of Male Combat in Alligator Snapping Turtles in Florida and Georgia *Southeastern Naturalist*, 22:sp12 pp 388-392
- Thomas, T.M.**, K.M. Enge, E. Suarez, S.C. Barry, and S.A. Johnson. 2023. Variation in relative abundance, population structure, and body size of the Suwannee Alligator Snapping Turtle (*Macrochelys suwanniensis*) in the Suwannee River. *Southeastern Naturalist*, 22:12 pp 264-274.
- Shook, A.K., C. D. Battaglia, K. M. Enge, C. J. Franklin, J. C. Godwin, A. C. Johnson, E. J. Kessler, E. Munscher, K. Norrid, L. Pearson, V. Ricardez, D. J. Stevenson, **T.M. Thomas**, J. L. Carr. 2023. Anthropogenic threats to alligator snapping turtles (Chelydridae: *Macrochelys*), *Southeastern Naturalist*, 22:12 pp 25-55
- Denton, M.J., G.R. Johnston, **T.M. Thomas**, J.H. Waddle, S.C. Walls, K.M. Hart. 2023. Dietary niche of three omnivorous turtle species in a northern Florida river: Insights from stable isotope analysis, *Southeastern Naturalist* 22:12 pp 359-377
- Johnston, G.R., J.S. Geiger, **T.M. Thomas**, K.M. Enge, E. Suarez, and B. Davis. 2023. Maximum Body Size of the Suwannee Alligator Snapping Turtle (*Macrochelys suwanniensis*), *Southeastern Naturalist* 22:12 pp 418-428
- Carr, J.L., J. Terry, D.B. Ligon, K.M. Enge, C.J. Krueger, **T.M. Thomas**, G. Brashear, G. R. Johnston, M. Gordon, G. Lloyd, E. P. Hill, D.J. Stevenson, D. A. Steen. 2023. Nesting emergences and other terrestrial movements of *Macrochelys* (Testudines: Chelydridae), *Southeastern Naturalist*, 22:12 pp 378-387
- Enge, K.M., J.D. Mays, **T.M. Thomas**, E.P. Hill, E.T. Stonecypher, and M.T. Fedler. 2023. Distribution and Relative Abundance of *Macrochelys* (Alligator Snapping Turtles) in the Florida Panhandle. *Southeastern Naturalist*, 22:12 pp
- Thomas, T.M.**, K.M. Enge, E. Suarez, G.R. Johnston. 2022. Population Status of the Suwannee Alligator Snapping Turtle (*Macrochelys suwanniensis*) in the Suwannee River, Florida. *Chelonian Conservation and Biology*, 22:1 pp 2-10
- Thomas, T.M.**, W.W. Boone IV, M.S. Allen, C.W. Martin, S.A. Johnson. 2023. Occupancy of the Diamond-backed Terrapin on Coastal Islands in the Suwannee Estuary, Florida, USA. *Herpetological Conservation and Biology*, 17:3 pp 560-566
- Enge, K.M., D.J. Stevenson, **T.M. Thomas**, G.R. Johnston, J.B. Jensen, B.S. Stegenga, H.C. Chandler, P.E. Moler. 2021. Distribution and Relative Abundance of the Suwannee Alligator Snapping Turtle (*Macrochelys suwanniensis*). *Chelonian Conservation and Biology*, 20:2 pp 184-199
- Suarez, E., **T.M. Thomas**, W.M. Turner, R.L. Gandy, K.M. Enge, and S.A. Johnson. 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 pp 184-199
- Johnston, G.R., **T.M. Thomas**, E. Suarez, A. Lau, J.C. Mitchell. 2015. Population Structure and Body Size of the Suwannee Alligator Snapping Turtle (*Macrochelys suwanniensis*) in Northern Florida. *Chelonian Conservation and Biology* 14:1 pp 73-81
- Thomas, T.M.**, E. Suarez, K.M. Enge. 2015. New county records of reptiles from the Suwannee River, Florida, USA. *Herpetological Review* 46:4 pp 608
- Thomas, T.M.**, M.C. Granatosky, J.R. Bourque, K.L. Krysko, P.E. Moler, T. Gamble, E. Suarez, E. Leone, K.M. Enge, J. Roman. 2014. Taxonomic assessment of Alligator Snapping Turtles (Chelydridae: *Macrochelys*), with the description of two new species from the southeastern United States. *Zootaxa*, 3786:2 pp 141-165
- Diemer-Berish, J.E., R.A. Kiltie, **T.M. Thomas**. 2012. Long-Term Population Dynamics of Gopher Tortoises (*Gopherus polyphemus*) in a Pine Plantation in Northern Florida. *Chelonian Conservation and Biology* 11:1 pp 50-58
- Enge, K.M., A. Jernigan, R. Johnson, J.E. Diemer-Berish, P.E. Moler, **T.M. Thomas**, R.A. Kiltie. 2012. What the world needs is a better gopher tortoise trap. *Herpetological Review* 43:4 pp 574-578

## References

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