



## Call for Abstracts • Student Awards • Student Research Grants

### 2020 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE GOPHER TORTOISE COUNCIL

We are now accepting abstracts for oral and poster presentations for the **42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Gopher Tortoise Council Meeting**. This year's meeting will be "virtual" and is scheduled for **Friday, November 13, 2020**.

In addition to presentations about gopher tortoise biology, we welcome presentations on:

- commensals and other species associated with tortoises and southeastern upland habitats
- general ecology of upland pine ecosystems
- habitat management and restoration
- conservation initiatives
- policy, regulation, or economics
- monitoring and field techniques
- successful and creative partnerships conserving gopher tortoises, habitat, or associated species

#### **Instructions for Submitting Abstracts (Regular Oral Presentations, Speed Talks, and Posters):**

The deadline for submitting abstracts is **October 15, 2020**. Abstracts should be ≤300 words submitted in MS Word format, and should conform to the general style of Journal of Wildlife Management format (see sample abstract below). The presentation title, names, affiliations, addresses, and email of all authors should be provided with the abstract. **Please indicate if you wish to present a regular oral presentation, speed talk or poster presentation (see descriptions below).** Given the shortened on-line format of this year's meeting we encourage participants to give 5-minute speed talks. Be aware that depending on the number of abstracts received, you may be asked to present a speed talk or poster rather than a regular oral presentation. Student presentation awards are given for the top three student oral presentations and speed talks at the annual meeting. Please **indicate clearly if you are a student (undergraduate or graduate)** so that you can be considered for an award. Submit abstracts via e-mail to **Dr. Jeff Goessling** ([goessjim@eckerd.edu](mailto:goessjim@eckerd.edu)). All presenters will be asked to provide their presentation (in either Powerpoint or PDF format) the week prior to the meeting.

**Regular oral presentations** are allotted 20 minutes, including 3-5 minutes for questions. **Speed talks** are allotted 5 minutes for your presentation during which you may present key ideas, results and their meaning/implication. Three slides should be sufficient to allow you to get your point across during this style of presentation but it is at your own discretion to decide how many slides you want to use. Session chairs will be very strict about the 5-minute time limit.

**Poster presentations** will take place in on-line chat rooms the day of the conference, with presenters as hosts. Posters should be created using a standard poster format in MS Powerpoint, i.e., landscape orientation, set custom size to 48 inches (width) by 36 inches (height). We will ask that you submit your poster in advance of the meeting; detailed instructions will be sent to confirmed presenters.

### **Sample Abstract:**

#### **The Effects of Fish Size on Net Energy Intake of Snowy Egrets**

Toobee R. Estord<sup>1</sup> and Mork Ritters<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Everglades Division, South Florida Water Management District, 3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach, FL 33406

<sup>2</sup>Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, 3200 T. M. Goodwin Road, Fellsmere, FL 32948

Draining wetlands reduces their hydroperiod and causes a shift in the size structure of the fish community toward smaller and younger fish. Reduced fish size could potentially impact snowy egrets (*Egretta thula*) if it reduced their net energy intake. We tested the hypothesis.....  
MAXIMUM 300 WORDS.

### **J. LARRY LANDERS STUDENT RESEARCH GRANTS**

The J. Larry Landers Student Research Grant is a GTC competitive grant program for undergraduate and graduate students. Proposals can address research concerning gopher tortoise biology or any other relevant aspect of upland habitat conservation and management. The award amount is typically in the range of \$1,000-\$1,500. The proposal should be limited to four pages in length and include a description of the project, a concise budget (including requested grant amount), and a brief resumé of the student. This is an excellent opportunity for undergraduate and graduate students to access funding for their projects!

The deadline for grant proposals is **September 30, 2020**. Proposals should be submitted electronically in a Microsoft Word document to **Dr. Betsie Rothermel (brothermel@archbold-station.org)**. For more information, visit the Grant Program page of our website: [gophertortoisecouncil.org/grant-programs](http://gophertortoisecouncil.org/grant-programs)