42nd Annual Gopher Tortoise Council Meeting
Friday, November 13, 2020
Virtual meeting attended through Zoom

Agenda

08:40:00-9:00 AM Welcome & Meeting logistics. Jeff Goessling, GTC CO chair

Session 1 Oral Presentations (* denotes student competition presentation)

9:00-9:20 AM Adapted Release Methods Effects on Hatchling Emergence, Dispersal, and Survival: Preliminary Results. Rebecca A. Cozad, Derek B. Breakfield, and Matthew J. Aresco


9:40-10:00 AM Burrow Characteristics and Habitat Associations and of Gopher Tortoises in Urban Pine Rockland Reserves (Miami, Florida, USA). Steven M. Whitfield, Daniel Valle, Adrian Figueroa, Brianna Chin, Hugo Bravo-Gallegos, Frank Leone

10:00-10:20 AM Climate variability influences aspects of gopher tortoise fecundity. Elizabeth A. Hunter, Kevin T. Shoemaker, and David C. Rostal

10:20-10:40 AM Baseline stress metrics in head-started gopher tortoises (Gopherus polyphemus) and their relationship with post-release survival. Amelia L. Russell*, Kurt A. Buhlmann, Kristen J. Navara, Nicole I. Stacy, and Tracey D. Tuberville

10:40-11:00 AM Effects of gopher tortoise (Gopherus polyphemus) exclusion on understory plant community dynamics in a longleaf pine forest. Robin B. Lloyd Jr.*, Jeremiah A. Henning and Adam D. Chupp

11:00-11:15 AM BREAK

11:15 AM-12:00 PM Special Session: Update on the Gopher Tortoise Species Status Assessment (SSA) and Core team panel session. Mike Marshall and the gopher tortoise SSA core team
12:00-1:00 PM  **LUNCH BREAK**

1:00-2:00 PM  GTC membership business meeting

2:00-3:00 PM  **Session 2 Speed-talk Oral Presentations** (approx. five minutes allotted per talk, presented in order below)

*Closing the Gap: Addressing Gopher Tortoise Research Needs to Inform Practice and Policy.* **Katherine E. Gentry** and Alex M. Kalfin


*GPS technology reveals larger home ranges for immature Gopher Tortoises.* **Leyna Stenle**, Betsie Rothermel, and Christopher A. Searcy


*How many viable Gopher Tortoise populations in Georgia are bisected or bordered by roads?* **Houston C. Chandler**

*Skins for Sale: A Legal and Unquantified Threat to the Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake.* **Derek Breakfield**, Rebecca Cozad, and Matthew Aresco

*Nest site, nest temperature, and hatching outcomes across an environmental gradient in the gopher tortoise.* **KJ Loope**, JN DeSha, BB Rothermel, LL Smith, DC Rostal, KT Shoemaker, EA Hunter

*Survival of Immature Gopher Tortoises Recruited into a Translocated Population.* **Tracey D. Tuberville**, Rebecca K. McKee, Heather E. Gaya, and Terry M. Norton

*Gopher Tortoise Survey Results at Fort Rucker, Alabama.* **McKayla C. Susen**, Jennifer M. Howze, and Lora L. Smith
Session 3: Poster Presentations

Please enter the breakout room of your choice where you will find the poster presenter located. Please be courteous to presenters and only enter the room on the ten-minute interval (e.g., 3:00 PM, 3:10 PM, 3:20 PM…)

3:00-3:30 PM Group A Posters

*Changing Perceptions of Wildlife: How Collaboration can Protect Gopher Tortoises (Gopherus polyphemus) while Maintaining Industrial Progress.*

**Kimberly M. Andrews, Miranda L. Gulsby, James F. Renner, Thomas Fazio, Steven White, and Matt Elliott**


*Use of annual and lifetime home ranges to evaluate movement patterns of Gopher Tortoises at the northern limit of their geographic range.* **Craig Guyer, Jeff Goessling, and Brian Folt**

3:30-4:00 PM Group B Posters

*Investigating vertebrate relationships of the south Florida gopher tortoise: a study of vertebrate species within scrub, pine rockland, coastal hammock and grassland habitats.* **Lauren Melanson** and Evelyn Frazier PhD

*Vertebrate and Invertebrate Commensals in Gopher Tortoise Burrows of Southeast Florida.* **Amanda C. Hipps** and Jon A. Moore

*Restoring Sandhill and Managing Ruderal Habitat for Gopher Tortoises at Archbold: Initial Results and Lessons Learned.* **Betsie B. Rothermel** and Amanda West

4:00-4:30 PM Auction

4:30-5:00 PM Awards Ceremony and Auction Wrap up. **Betsie Rothermel** and **Jeff Goessling**

5:00 PM Annual meeting adjourns. We hope to see you next year in sunny St. Petersburg, Florida!