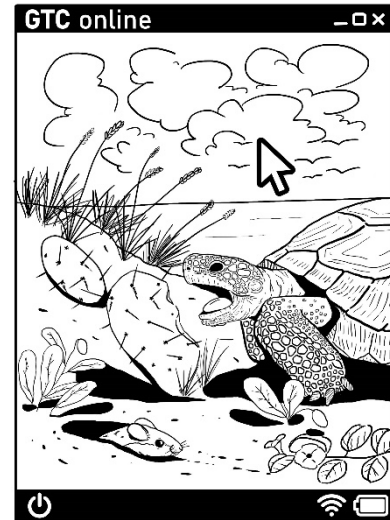


43rd Annual Gopher Tortoise Council Meeting
Friday, October 29, 2021 (8:45am-5:00pm EDT)

Virtual meeting attended through Zoom



Agenda

- 08:45-9:00 AM *Welcome & Meeting logistics.* **Jeff Goessling & Becca Cozad**, GTC Co-Chairs
- 9:00-9:20 AM *Cognition for conservation: How understanding tortoise cognition can help their conservation.* Kelsey Felder, Elisa Frasnelli, Thomas W. Pike, Steven Whitfield, and **Anna Wilkinson**
- 9:20-9:40 AM *Continuous Monitoring of Gopher Tortoise Burrows Using Time-Lapse Imaging and Machine Learning.* **Michael Hilton** and Jeffrey Goessling
- 9:40-10:00 AM *Reproductive integration of gopher tortoises in a translocated population with multiple source populations.* **Kevin J. Loope**, J. Nicole DeSha, Matthew J. Aresco, Kevin T. Shoemaker, Elizabeth A. Hunter
- 10:00-10:20 AM *Seasonal and Habitat-specific Growth Rates of Juvenile Gopher Tortoises in South-central Florida.* **Betsie B. Rothermel**, Chelsea L. Moore, Leyna R. Stemle, and Christopher A. Searcy
- 10:20-10:40 AM *Seasonal Space Use and Inter-Annual Site Fidelity of Female Gopher Tortoises (*Gopherus polyphemus*).* **Chelsea Moore** and Betsie B. Rothermel
- 10:40-11:00 AM *Seed Consumption by Gopher Tortoises at the Southern Limit of their Range.* **Adrian Figueroa**, James Lange, Steven Whitfield
- 11:00-11:10 AM **BREAK**
- 11:10 AM-12:30 PM **Special Session: Current Challenges for Tortoise Relocation.** Panel includes Matt Aresco, Neal Halstead, Linda McCarthy, Kate Richardson, and Ian Vincent. Moderated by Eric Sievers.
- 12:30-1:00 PM **LUNCH BREAK**
- 1:00-2:00 PM GTC Membership Business Meeting

- 2:00-2:05 PM *An Evaluation of Cryptosporidium serpentis in Free-Ranging Snakes to Inform the Recovery of an Imperiled Serpent, the Eastern Indigo Snake.* **Bradley M. O'Hanlon**, James E. Bogan, James C. Godwin, Michelle Hoffman, Lora L. Smith, Houston C. Chandler, and Brooke L. Talley
- 2:05-2:10 PM *Bridging the Gaps to Save the Burrows: A Framework for Proactive Conservation.* **Katherine Hendrickson**, Lauren Melanson, Renata Schneider, Julie Ghenassia
- 2:10-2:30 PM *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
- 2:30-2:50 PM *Status, Distribution, and Habitat Associations of Gopher Tortoises in Southeast Florida.* **Steven Whitfield**, Joshua Scholl, Evelyn Frazier, Katherine Hendrickson, Adrian Figueroa, Lauren Melanson, Renata Schneider, Olivia Rothberg, Julie Ghenassia, Jon Moore
- 2:50-3:10 PM *What we have learned over 10 years of research on gopher tortoises in southeast Florida.* **Evelyn Frazier**, Jessica Huffman, Lauren Melanson, Joshua Scholl, Marina Lauck, Brian Cooney, Dana Elhassani, Arafat Bari, Kent Haizlet, Andrea Rodriguez, Jennifer Unger, Laura De Souza, and Gillian Imirie
- 3:10-3:20 PM **BREAK**
- 3:20-3:50 PM *Poster Session (two posters)*
- A Look Behind the Curtain: A Review of Florida's Listing Process.* **Alyssa A. Hoekstra** and Bradley M. O'Hanlon
- Sightings, Submissions, and Citizen Scientists: Using the FWC Gopher Tortoise Sightings web application to understand tortoise distribution across Florida.* **Caitlin Jones**, Nicole DeSha, Michelina Dziadzio, Alex Kalfin
- 3:50-4:15 PM *Auction*
- 4:15-5:00 PM *Awards Ceremony, Auction Wrap up, and Closing*