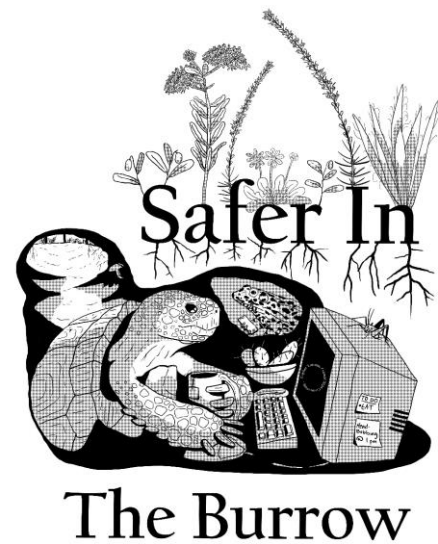


42nd Annual Gopher Tortoise Council Meeting

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

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

9:20-9:40 AM *The Relocation and Conservation of Gopher Tortoises in Florida: Are Long-term Protected Recipient Sites Effective?* **J. Steve Godley**

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)

Plasticity in Gopher Tortoise Nesting Behaviors and Fecundity in a Translocated Population. **Nicole DeSha**, Kevin J. Loope, Matthew J. Aresco, Kevin T. Shoemaker, Elizabeth A. Hunter

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

Identification of a novel mortality-associated Helicobacter species in gopher tortoises (Gopherus polyphemus), qPCR test development and validation, and an epidemiological survey. **Tasha M. Desiderio**, Nicole I. Stacy, Robert J. Ossiboff, Marley Iredale, Linda L. Archer, Amy B. Alexander, Darryl J. Heard, Sarah E. Crevasse, William F. Craft, Daniel V. E. Fredholm, Kyle A. Donnelly, Justin F. Rosenberg, April L. Childress, Kathy Russell, James F. X. Wellehan Jr.

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

*Observations of Gopher Tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*) Recruitment Following Prescribed Fire on a Private, Working Forest Landscape in Louisiana.* **Duston R. Duffie**, Scott A. Rush, Darren A. Miller, Daniel U. Greene, and Keri L. Lejeune

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!