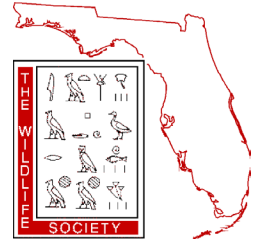


FLORIDA CHAPTER THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY



Paul Moler Herpetological Conservation Award 2023

We are pleased to announce that **Dale Jackson** is the recipient of the 2023 Paul Moler Herpetological Conservation Award, presented by the Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society.



Dale Jackson receives his award at the 2023 Spring Meeting of FLTWS (Laramie Ferry presenting)

Dale Jackson grew up in the Land of Lincoln. After completing his undergraduate degree at Eastern Illinois University (1971), he moved to a state that has yet to produce a U.S. president and earned his doctorate at University of Florida (1977). He spent three years at University of South Florida before helping to found Florida Natural Areas Inventory (1981) and finding his forever home there.

Dr. Jackson is FNAI's longest-tenured staff member. He has spent four decades studying and conserving Florida's herpetofauna, with research focusing on freshwater turtles. He has published more than 90 scientific papers and book chapters. At FNAI he oversees database development

for amphibians, reptiles, and aquatic invertebrates and is a principal participant in FNAI 's advisory role to the Florida Forever land acquisition program (involved in more than a dozen assessments).

He obtained grants totaling hundreds of thousands of dollars to study Gopher Tortoises & Frogs, Florida Bog Frogs, Florida Cave & Flatwoods Salamanders, River & Suwanee Cooters, and Alligator Snappers, and Southern Hognose Snakes. And also Florida's butterflies and rare & endangered invertebrates.

He has presented more 30 talks at scientific meetings, plus many others to the general public.

He has served as reviewer for 20+ professional publications and several granting agencies, including Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

Dr. Jackson served as Co-Chairman of the Gopher Tortoise Council as well as Chairman of the Conservation Committee of the Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles (SSAR), where he brought national attention to Florida herpetological conservation issues.

A couple of other Florida herpetological conservation achievements include developing and submitting two Conservation and Recreation Lands proposals in Brevard and Indian River counties that led to the establishment of what is now Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge to protect sea turtle nesting habitat.

Dr. Jackson also co-led the effort with Matt Aresco to secure protection in ca. 2006 for Florida's freshwater turtles, essentially ending massive harvest and commercial sale of multiple species, which led to other states following.

In addition to herpetological conservation, his interests include ecology (evolutionary, community, population, conservation), vertebrate evolutionary biology, paleontology, functional morphology, systematics, paleoecology, biogeography, reproductive strategies, trophic structures, and resource partitioning.

For his more than 40 years of contributions, Dale Jackson earned the Paul Moler Award for Herpetological Conservation in 2023.