

FLORIDA CHAPTER THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

*Courtney A. Tye Memorial
Graduate Student Scholarship*



We are pleased to announce that **Rebecca McKee** is the 2024 recipient of the annual scholarship for graduate studies, administered by the Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society. Rebecca is expected to graduate with her PhD in Wildlife Ecology & Conservation from the University of Florida in August 2024.

Rebecca's research interests are focused on issues with direct application to wildlife management. During her undergrad research at Davidson College (NC), she studied diamondback terrapin entrapment in crab pots. Her MS research at the University of Georgia focused on the efficacy of waif gopher tortoise conservation. Her PhD research involves understanding the impacts of Burmese pythons on native mammals and ecological function in the Florida Everglades. She has presented her various research findings as papers or posters at numerous conferences in the last decade and has several peer-reviewed publications.

After graduation, Rebecca will serve as an assistant professor at Mercer University, where she will combine her passions for wildlife research and mentoring students. Previously, she has mentored undergraduate students through the Doris Duke Conservation Scholars Program and through departmental mentoring programs at the Universities of Georgia and Florida. She has also served as a teaching assistant for eight semesters.

Rebecca plans to use the scholarship award to cover part of the costs associated with travel for mammal conservation field work and to disseminate the findings of her research at conferences.

The FLTWS Graduate Student Scholarship was established in 2012 to recognize and financially assist graduate students pursuing a career in wildlife biology at a 4-year school in Florida. In 2014, the scholarship was renamed the Courtney A. Tye Memorial Graduate Student Scholarship in honor of a respected FFWCC employee and graduate student scholarship applicant, who was tragically lost to the conservation community. Applicants for the scholarship are judged based on career interest, research relevance, contribution to Florida wildlife, demonstrated leadership, professional potential, TWS involvement, financial need, and recommendation from a professor.

As this year's recipient, **Rebecca** will receive a check for \$2,000. She will be recognized at the FLTWS Spring Conference, 24-26 April 2024 in Cape Coral, FL. To attend our Spring Conference, register at: <https://fltws.org/>.

*Monica Folk
Chair, FLTWS Scholarship Committee*