

FLORIDA CHAPTER THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY



Courtney A. Tye Memorial Graduate Student Scholarship

We are pleased to announce that **Samantha Baraoidan** is the 2017 recipient of the annual scholarship for graduate studies, administered by the Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society. Samantha is expected to graduate with her Master of Science in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation in late 2017.

Samantha received her BS in Wildlife Ecology from the University of Florida (UF) in 2014. She worked for several years for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FFWCC) as a habitat restoration biologist, before returning to UF for graduate school. Her research focuses on interactions and movement patterns of coyotes, cattle, and feral swine on Florida rangelands. This involves using proximity loggers, camera traps and GPS collars on all three species to document spatial interactions and behavioral effects, at the MacArthur Agro-ecology Research Center in south-central Florida. Human dimensions of wildlife ecology is her particular interest, and she is currently developing a field guide and training course for ranchers throughout the southeastern United States to assess potential cases of livestock depredation.

The Wildlife Society has benefitted greatly from Sam's involvement. She was an officer in the UF Student Chapter for all 4 years of her undergraduate program, including President. She has been the Treasurer of the Florida Chapter since 2015 and played a huge role in the planning and implementation of the 2016 Spring Meeting. She continues to be active in the leadership and assists with Chapter events, merchandising, and meeting registrations.

After graduation, Sam hopes to work as a wildlife biologist with a government or nonprofit agency, conducting practical research with direct applications to wildlife management, especially mitigation of human-wildlife conflicts and conservation on multi-use lands.

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. The Florida Wildlife Federation and the National Wild Turkey Federation co-sponsor the scholarship. As this year's recipient, Samantha will receive a check for \$3,000 and present her research findings at the FLTWS Spring Meeting, 5-7 April 2017 in Orlando, FL.

Monica Folk
Chair, FLTWS Scholarship Committee