

FLORIDA CHAPTER THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Influential Woman in Wildlife Award 2023



We are pleased to announce that **Susan Walls** is the recipient of the 2023 Influential Woman in Wildlife Award, presented by the Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society.



Susan Walls receives her award at the 2023 Spring Meeting of FLTWS (Laramie Ferry presenting)

Susan received her M.S. and Ph.D. at the University of Louisiana – Lafayette. Following a two-year post-doc in Oregon, she took a faculty position at the City College of the City University of New York. She then moved South for a faculty position at the University of Southern Mississippi but, after a few years joined the U.S. Geological Survey as a research wildlife biologist to serve as the coordinator and lead scientist for the southeastern region of the Amphibian Research and Monitoring Initiative (ARMI). She is currently with the USGS Wetland and Aquatic Research Center in Gainesville, FL. Susan's research group establishes and implements long-term

monitoring of amphibians at key sites within the southeastern U.S. (AL, GA, FL, SC, NC and TN) and conducts research on potential causes of declines. The team focuses on model-based monitoring to assess the impacts of climate change, emerging diseases, habitat restoration, and invasive species on amphibian communities. Most recently she has worked with state, federal, academic, and NGO partners to address the conservation needs of imperiled species such as the frosted flatwoods salamander. Another recent research direction has been to provide the science needed to help inform listing decisions for imperiled amphibians and reptiles, such as the rimrock crowned snake and the Keys ring-necked snake, along with the Florida and Cedar Keys mole skinks.

As author or co-author Susan has published over 80 articles in peer-reviewed journals and given numerous presentations at professional meetings. She is currently co-editing a book titled *Strategies for Conservation Success in Herpetology*, to be published by the Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles. From January 2020 to December 2021 Susan served as the President of The Herpetologists' League and is currently serving as Past-President of the Society. Susan has been an Associate Editor for the journal *Wetlands* and is currently an Associate Editor for *Frontiers in Amphibian and Reptile Science*.

Susan has always made an effort to mentor, promote, and encourage younger women in the field. As Herpetologists' League President, she had a strong commitment to diversity and inclusion within the society and at meetings. FLTWS was pleased to honor her with The Influential Woman in Wildlife Award in 2023.