

Curriculum Vitae

Sky Button

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Education:

Master of Science in Fish and Wildlife Conservation December 2019

Virginia Polytechnic and State University, Blacksburg, VA

Thesis topic: Defining instream habitat components necessary for successful Eastern hellbender

(*Cryptobranchus alleganiensis alleganiensis*) recruitment

Bachelor of Science in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation April 2017

University of Florida, Gainesville, FL

Overall GPA: 3.8/4.0

Upper Division GPA: 3.9/4.0

GRE Scores

167 Verbal (98th percentile)

162 Quantitative (82nd percentile)

6.0 Analytical Writing (99th percentile)

Research Experience:

- Led drift fence field work in Ocala National Forest, at vernal pools in the park. This project is with University of Florida and the US Forest Service, and is part of a long-term study to assess amphibian populations in the region. I will be responsible for the operations of the drift fence study, and training volunteers July 2016-June 2017
- Researched the influence of congeners on Plethodontid microhabitat preferences, as part of Samford University's 2016 REU program May-July 2016
- Assisted with analyzing the gut contents of invasive Burmese pythons to determine their dietary preferences in the Everglades February-May 2016
- Assisted the Amphibian Research and Monitoring Initiative with data entry, programming frog call recognition software, and miscellaneous field work on ornate chorus frogs and flatwoods salamanders January-May 2016
- Assisted with drift fence surveys at vernal pools in Ocala National Forest to monitor amphibian populations and movements August 2015-April 2016
- Assisted with the capture of turtles for population monitoring using mark-recapture techniques at Weeki Watchi Springs State Park, Florida October 2015
- Led and assisted with trapping and radio telemetry of Tegus in the Everglades May-August 2015
- Led and assisted with contracted road-cruising (EIRAMP) surveys for reptiles and amphibians in South Florida May-August 2015
- Led independent research analyzing survey data to examine relationships between detection odds of native and exotic anurans in Everglades National Park May-August 2015
- Assisted with removal of invasive species in South Florida, including Tegus, Spectacled caiman, and the longest Burmese python ever captured in the Everglades May-August 2015
- Assisted with marking hatchling American crocodiles for population monitoring May-August 2015

Publications:

Button S., and C. Greenberg, and J. Austin. 2017. *Anolis carolinensis* (green anole). Diet. Herpetological Review. In Press.

Button S. 2017. *Plethodon glutinosus* (northern slimy salamander). Climbing Behavior. Herpetological Review. In Review.

Button S., C. Greenberg, A. Sovie, and J. Austin. 2017. Environmental Drivers of Colonization and Extinction Dynamics in the Florida Crowned Snake (*Tantilla relicta*). Herpetological Conservation and Biology. In Prep.

Johnson S.A., **S Button**, V. Guzman-Vargas, T. Ackerman, B. Remke, and S. Tillis. 2016. Imperiled Amphibians and Reptiles of the Southeast: American Crocodile (*Crocodylus acutus*). Gainesville: Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida.

Scholarly Presentations:

Oral:

S. Button and Bakkegard K. *Plethodontid Microhabitat Selection in the Presence of Congeners*. Samford University 2016 REU Symposium. July, 2016.

S. Button and Button C. *Social, Environmental, and Ethical Dimensions of Rattlesnake Roundups in the United States*. New England-St. Lawrence Valley Geographical Society (NESTVAL) 2012 Annual Meeting. October, 2012. Farmington, Maine.

Poster:

S. Button. *Modelling the Impacts of Climate Change on Prey-Dependent Tetrodotoxin Resistance in *Thamnophis couchii* Using Weighted Model Averaging*. 2017 Joint Meeting of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists. July 2017. Austin, Texas.

S. Button and K. Bakkegard. *The Importance of Congeners in Determining Plethodontid Habitat Selection in a Ridge-and-Valley Stream*. Southeastern Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation 2017 Annual Meeting. February 2017. Little Rock, Arkansas.

S. Button and Button C. *Tying Remoteness, Habitat Suitability, and Hospital Proximity to Diminutive Venomous Snakebite Risk in Connecticut*. Association of American Geographers 2010 Annual Meeting. November 2010. New York City, New York.

Honors and Professional Memberships:

- Recipient: NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Honorable Mention April 2017
- Member: Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles (SSAR) January 2017-Present
- Member: Orianna Society January 2016-Present
- Recipient: President's Honor Roll Spring 2016
- Recipient: Dean's List Spring 2015, Spring 2016
- Member: University of Florida Student Honors Organization August 2014-April 2017
- Member: UF Society for Conservation Biology (SCB) August 2014-April 2017
- Recipient: National AP Scholar July 2014
- Recipient: Windsor Rotary Club Scholarship June 2014

- Member: National Honor Society
- Recipient: Honor Roll

May 2013-June 2014
August 2010-June 2014

Employment:

Site Manager, University of Florida/US Forest Service
Ocala National Forest, FL

July 2016-June 2017

- Led drift fence surveys in Ocala National Forest
- Carried out drift fence maintenance
- Organized and trained volunteers

2016 Summer REU Participant, Samford University
Oak Mountain State Park, AL

May-July 2016

- Researched the relative importance of community dynamics and microhabitat components in shaping space use within stream plethodontid salamander assemblages

Green Office/Lab Intern, UF Office of Sustainability
Gainesville, FL

September 2015-Present

- Assisted with the creation of a survey to give to various offices and labs on campus to determine which areas of sustainability groups on campus need to improve upon the most, and which areas they are excelling at the most already
- Assisted with the administering of this survey
- Assisted with tabling and hosting events involving the UF Office of Sustainability

Biological Intern, Fort Lauderdale Research and Education Center
Davie, FL

May-August 2015

- Assisted with the tracking of invasive Tegu movements, and the removal of Tegu lizards
- Conducted independent research on the relationship between detection odds for native and exotic anurans in Everglades National Park
- Assisted with road-based (EIRAMP) surveys for reptiles and amphibians
- Assisted with marking hatchling American crocodiles for population monitoring
- Assisted with the removal of various other exotic species, such as Burmese pythons (including the longest ever captured in Everglades National Park), Spectacled caimans, and Oustalet's chameleons

Scribe, Gainesville Student Business Services
Gainesville, FL

September-November 2014

- Transcribed dictations sent in by customers

Outreach and Volunteer Work:

Graduate Research Assistant, Virginia Tech University
Blacksburg, VA

July 2017-Present

- Researching environmental factors required for reproductive success and recruitment in Eastern hellbenders (*Cryptobranchus alleganiensis alleganiensis*)
- Researching proximate causes of filial cannibalism in nest-guarding male hellbenders
- Carrying out outreach and environmental education work at rural elementary, middle, and high schools in southwestern Virginia about the importance of protecting Appalachian stream ecosystems.

Senior Leader, Kids N' Critters Program
Windsor, CT

August 2012-June 2014

- Taught others about the program and how to care for the animals in the program
- Educated others on field trips on the importance of herpetofauna and their ecological functions
- Helped to organize field trips, and feeding of animals
- Was responsible for answering any questions that underclassmen had about the Kids N' Critters program or any of the animals in it
- Committed over 900 hours to this program throughout high school

Volunteer Intern, Secondary Mills Project

August-October 2014

UF/IFAS School of Forest Resources & Conservation

- Called different companies that use lumber and inquire about whether their lumber met certain resource conservation certifications and standards

Founder/Leader, Eco Adventures Club

November 2012-June 2014

Windsor, CT

- Organized meetings and outings at the outdoors club at my former high school that I founded

Volunteer Assistant Nature Camp Counselor, Northwest Park

June-August 2013

Windsor, CT

- Helped educate kids within a nature camp setting about local ecosystems and the flora and fauna, and assisted with setting up daily games and activities

Skills and Experience:

- 2000+ hours of experience with reptile and amphibian surveys
- Experienced at researching stream amphibian communities
- Experienced at monitoring animals using telemetry, PIT tags, and VHF transmitters (specifically Tegus)
- Experienced at handling amphibians and reptiles
- Experienced at writing scientific publications
- Experienced at driving four-wheel drive and standard shift vehicles
- Lots of data entry experience (with University of Florida in the Everglades and in Ocala National Forest, and with the Amphibian Research and Monitoring Initiative)
- Experience with R software
- Experience with GIS
- Experienced at driving four-wheel drive work vehicles, and clean driving record
- Experience working in extreme weather conditions and around biting and stinging insects
- Experienced at backpacking with heavy equipment, and with backcountry camping
- Experience with programs MARK, CAPTURE, and DISTANCE
- Experience with occupancy modelling, niche modelling, parametric and some non-parametric statistics