



NOMINATION APPLICATION FORM

Section 1: Applicant Details:

Name: Earl Possardt

Nominated position: Awards Committee - Lifetime Achievement Awardee
(2 x Positions)

Professional affiliations: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (retired June 2022)

Country of residence: Bulgaria

Geographic area of work: Global

Section 2: Applicant Response:

How would you describe your work with sea turtles?

My professional role was administering a U.S. government program to provide funding, and technical and scientific support for priority nesting populations globally outside the U.S. Primarily supporting on the ground sea turtle conservation projects but also involving intergovernmental liaison and collaboration.

How many years have you worked with sea turtles?

ISTS Awards Committee - Lifetime Achievement Awardee (2 x Positions) Application: Earl Possardt

22 years internationally (1998 - 2022) and 8 years solely within the U.S. working with federal and state sea turtle conservation programs/projects (1984 - 1992)

Which Annual Sea Turtle Symposia, or Annual Workshops have you attended?

Too many to list. The first in the early's 80's in Georgia, and subsequently at least 15 of which 6 were outside the U.S. and my last in Charleston (39th).

Have you been involved with any Symposium activities?

President, 22nd Annual Sea Turtle Symposium 2002, Miami, U.S.
Board of Directors; 2003-2005

What would you like the Nominating Committee, Board of Directors, and membership to know about you as a candidate for your nominated position? In what ways would you like to contribute to the Symposium/ International Sea Turtle Society?

First, I want to emphasize that while I have recently retired from 44 years of meaningful conservation work with US Fish & Wildlife Service I will never retire from finding ways to do meaningful and impactful conservation work for our planet's vast and diverse biodiversity within my capacity. Beyond my role on the Awards Committee if so chosen, I believe I can contribute to the ISTS community most usefully as a mentor where and when this is requested. I envision this also as the best way I can use my skills and experience to support ISTS in it beautiful mission to advance sea turtle conservation..

How do you envision using the Symposium to advance sea turtle biology and promote conservation?

See above

Why is the ISTS as an organization important to you, professionally and personally? What is your vision for the ISTS over the next 5 to 10 years?

From my earliest years when I attended my first pre ISTS sea turtle workshop in Georgia in the early 1980s and meeting the unassuming Lou Ehrhart "Doc" and other unassuming but passionate and committed sea turtle researches and conservationists, it has been the platform for meeting kindred souls that has informed, inspired and allowed me to develop partnerships that has amplified everything that I have been able to accomplish in my 30 years of ST conservation work within the USFWS.

My vision and hope for the ISTS is that it remains as welcoming to all as I experienced it as a newbe many decades ago, and that it will continue to be a nurturing ground where

the seasoned embrace and support the upcoming; always remembering the shoulders of those early pioneers we are standing on as we adapt our conservation strategies and methods to the context of the complexities of the future daunting environmental and social challenges that are looming.

Please include a 250-word bio

Earl Possardt's adventure with nature's diverse life forms began about the age of 4 feeding grasshoppers to spiders in his backyard and advancing by the age of 7 to catching snakes where he almost caught a juvenile milk snake which both terrified and fascinated him as it lunged at his hesitant hand. He was not academically inclined during his school years, however, so some day after high school graduation in 1966, he detoured into the Marine Corps for three years of adventure (oops) and his first trip to the jungles of Southeast Asia in 1968 from which he returned to become a very serious student. He subsequently earned a B.A. in Wildlife Biology from the University of Connecticut in 1973 and an M.S. in Wildlife Biology from the University of Massachusetts in 1977. He shortly thereafter started his work with the USFWS with a summer stint studying sea birds on an uninhabited off shore Alaskan island which progressed to various assignments with USFWS over the next 44 years working within the National Wildlife Refuge System, Endangered Species Program, refuge acquisition planning program, and for the last 22 years, growing and implementing an international marine turtle conservation program (standing on the shoulders of his USFWS mentor and hero, Jack Woody). In between and during his official duties with USFWS he worked with a large team of dedicated rattlesnake biologists over a period of 30 years to create a 400 plus page document to guide and inspire Timber Rattlesnake conservation efforts in the U.S. 35 states and two Canadian provinces; a species he has a special fondness for which he believes is due to his Abenaki heritage and its special reverence for this species.

Photo:

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1cy0Kzvf-9QxEA56G01VqfSbpqK6PKyvx>

Section 3: Declaration

Circle your response to the below statements:

I am a current member of ISTS

Yes

I have read and understand the ISTS by-laws and constitution Yes

I have read and understand the terms of reference for the position which I am nominating for: Yes

For Board of Directors nominees, I understand that the Annual Board Retreat is usually in the 3rd week of August: Yes

For Board of Directors nominees: Please read the following statement and add your initials below to confirm you understand the workload involved:

The Board is a working Board. All members of the Board are expected to carry the workload, share the responsibility of assigned tasks, and respond to written communications – this can typically be 40+ hours per year in addition to the Board meeting at the Symposium and the Board Retreat. If a Board member does not maintain their ISTS membership and demonstrate a high level of commitment to the ISTS as described in the Board members' TORs, they will be asked to resign from the Board. High level of commitment is defined as not missing two consecutive mid-year meetings, except under extenuating circumstances, and annually serving on 1-2 Board task forces, leadership roles, Committees, etc.