



NOMINATION APPLICATION FORM

Section 1: Applicant Details:

Name: Kate Mansfield

Date: 30/11/2024 09:35:47

Email address: kate.mansfield@ucf.edu

Nominated position: Board of Directors (3 x Positions)

Professional affiliations: University of Central Florida, Marine Turtle Research Group

Country of residence: USA

Geographic area of work: Western North Atlantic including Gulf of Mexico; South Atlantic

Section 2: Applicant Response:

How would you describe your work with sea turtles?

University professor and researcher

How many years have you worked with sea turtles?

Over 30 years (since May 1994)

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

I have attended every Annual Sea Turtle Symposium since 1995 with the exception of the Malaysia Symposium and the first Australia Symposium:

1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2022 (virtual; 2000, 2021 were cancelled due to COVID), 2023, 2024.

Have you been involved with any Symposium activities?

I served two elected terms on the International Sea Turtle Society's Nominating Committee (2010-2012 and 2016-2018), serving as the Nominating Committee Chair from 2016-2018. I have chaired several sessions (mostly in-water sessions), and served as one of the Program Chairs for the 39th International Sea Turtle Symposium in Charleston, SC (USA) where I introduced the first Turtle Trading Post. I've since continued the Turtle Trading Post at the 41st and 42nd Symposia in Cartagena, Colombia and Pattaya, Thailand. During the 42nd Symposium, I introduced Foraging with a Friend and hope to continue this activity during future meetings. For the 37th and 39th Symposia, I also introduced the (short-lived) Dance Your Research contest. Aside from these elected or programmatic activities, I've also participated in a number of student-run activities over the years including Speed Chatting and providing invited talks for the student workshops.

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?

My career is based on three main conservation approaches: research, education, and scientific advisory service/outreach. I work in place where I have access to resources that help ensure my success; however, I recognize that this is not the global norm. I try to leverage my privilege and provide access and resources when possible to help elevate research, education, and the impact of scientific advisory service to those who may not have the same resources or opportunities. As one of the Program Chairs for the Charleston meeting, I advocated (via the President-Elect) for a tiered registration for our Society's annual meeting, allowing registration discounts for members living in countries or regions experiencing economic, political, or environmental hardship. The goal of this tiered approach was to ensure a more diverse attendance at our annual meeting, strengthening our global the conservation approach through better representation of conservation perspectives. I also used my position as Program Chair to initiate an equipment donation program where unused supplies are distributed (free

of charge) to students and society members experiencing economic, political, or environmental hardship (called the Turtle Trading Post). Now in its third year, this initiative provides access to basic equipment that some students, conservation, and research programs may otherwise do without, elevating sea turtle research, education, and conservation in parts of the world that are typically under-represented in our Society. This past Symposium in Thailand, I initiated Foraging with a Friend where students and early-career researchers could sign up to have a free meal with an established sea turtle professionals. The goal of this activity was to help offset the cost of food for students and early career researchers, as well as offer an opportunity for participants to connect over a shared meal and to encourage new collaborations, mentorship opportunities, and idea exchange.

As an ISTS Board Member, I will continue to advocate for and explore initiatives such as these that will help provide access, and build community within our society, provide opportunities for students and early career researchers, (e.g., Foraging with a Friend), and help elevate our science on a global scale (e.g., Turtle Trading Post). Like most field biologists, I am resourceful. I am also creative both scientifically and in how I approach problems or defined needs. I would have much to learn about budgets and higher level society operations and hope I could contribute to ensuring the continued success of the society while also making it easier for broader global representation within the ISTS.

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

Sea turtle research and conservation is, by necessity, a collaborative science given the time scales associated with these animals' long lives as well as the geographic scale across which an individual turtle may be found during its life. The ISTS has a strong legacy of providing early career scientists, including undergraduates and graduate students a collegial and welcoming platform to present their work and to build life-long friendships and collaborative connections. It is also an important platform to broaden perspectives and build channels of communication that both strengthen collaborative ties as well as conservation efforts on a global scale. As noted above, I would like to see more opportunities within the Society to diversify perspectives and provide access and economic opportunity for individuals to attend and present their science at the Symposia. In addition to what I suggest in the section above, I would like to see more initiatives like the Turtle Trading Post where resources can easily and directly be shared to enable science to happen in places where the funding or equipment access is limited (perhaps establish an equipment library where items could be checked out or borrowed

for a period of time). Perhaps with some creative fundraising, I would also like to see more workshops and training opportunities sourcing expertise from across disciplines to elevate the science we do in new ways (e.g., AniMove workshops), and to train researchers how to translate that science into broader conservation initiatives (e.g., science communication and Rights of Nature legislation workshops).

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?

In many ways, my career has been shaped by both the ISTS and the profound professional and personal connections made within the global sea turtle community. A sea turtle generation roughly equals the span of one scientific career. Many of the pillars of the sea turtle community when I first started attending the ISTS in the mid-1990s have either retired or passed away. The ISTS and our annual Symposia are a way to ensure that the stories, the knowledge, and the joy for what we do as sea turtle biologists is shared and impressed upon the next generation of sea turtle scientists and conservationists. This is why I think about ways we can better connect with each other and share our knowledge and resources through the initiatives described above. This is why I tend to bring a horde of graduate and undergraduate students to the symposium every year—for many of these students it is their first time traveling outside of the US let alone presenting their research at a scientific meeting. And this is why I advocate for broader access for those who may not be able to afford to attend the meeting. The welcome my students receive at the symposium, the number of friendships they make, and the feedback and conversations they have with established scientists in the field is incredibly rare in many scientific meetings or societies. The ISTS Symposia are transformative and special; I want to see the ISTS to continue into the next decades (into another turtle generation). I want to help ensure that we retain the comradery, the opportunities to form lasting connections and collaborations, while learning from each other and working towards common conservation goals.

Please include a 250-word bio

Dr. Kate Mansfield is the Director of the University of Central Florida's Marine Turtle Research Group, and Davis-Shine Endowed Full Professor of Conservation Biology. Her research focuses on sea turtle biology, ecology, behavior, and conservation across all sea turtle life stages—from eggs to adults. Kate's lab provides transformative, field-based educational and research opportunities to undergraduate and graduate students, and scientific advisory service to state, federal, and international management entities.

Kate received a BA in Biology and Philosophy from Mount Holyoke College (1992), an MA in Marine Affairs and Policy from the University of Miami (1995), and a PhD in Marine Science from the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (2006). She worked at the University of Miami, Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science, Florida International University, and NOAA Fisheries, Southeast Fisheries Science Center as a postdoctoral fellow or research scientist. Kate has 30+ years of sea turtle experience including nesting beach monitoring; aerial surveys; fisheries bycatch reduction studies; in-water sea turtle capture; and movement studies using satellite, radio, and acoustic telemetry to track all life stages of sea turtle. Kate pioneered methods to track the sea turtle “lost years”, upending long-held assumptions about early sea turtle life history. Kate's field sites include long-term monitoring of coastal juvenile and nesting habitats in central Florida within an important sea turtle nesting habitat, the Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge. Her lab also conducts research on the oceanic “lost years” including satellite tracking work in the Gulf of Mexico, North and South Atlantic.

Photo:

https://drive.google.com/open?id=13TAbBYkXO_bJJkBy5xC5sHFuHA3fm2YQ

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 a Board member physically attending a minimum of three mid year retreats during their 4-year Board term, attending online Board meetings consistently, serving annually on multiple Committees, completing assigned tasks, and being responsive to online communications and requests.

The 2025 Board retreat is 10th to 15th August 2025 in Washington DC.

I understand and agree.