We are pleased to announce that Sarah Teman is the recipient of the 22nd annual scholarship for undergraduate studies, administered by the Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society. Sarah is a senior at the University of Florida, majoring in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation. She expects to graduate in Spring 2020.

During her undergraduate experience, Sarah has participated in a number of field projects on diverse topics and in far ranging locations. She worked in Belize under a grant collaborating with partners examining wildlife issues, agroforestry, and sustainability in a forest reserve. She conducted research in Swaziland funded by an NSF grant investigating the effects of habitat heterogeneity on rodent seed foraging in bush encroached savannas, which she will publish shortly. Sarah volunteers with the UF College of Veterinary Medicine's Aquatic Animal Health Lab, where she assists with researching marine mammal reproduction and manatee health assessments, strandings and necropsies. Last summer, she interned with Marine Mammals of Maine as an animal care, stranding response, and necropsy technician for marine mammals. She has also volunteered with short-term field projects including trapping and sampling Florida mice, herpetofauna in Ocala National Forest, and turtles in the Santa Fe River.

Sarah joined the UF Student Chapter of TWS as a freshman, served as Conclave coordinator for two years, and is currently president. She has worked to provide her peers with opportunities to gain wildlife skills, certifications, funding for conferences, networking opportunities, and mentorship. Sarah plans to attend graduate school studying marine mammal ecology and population dynamics.

The FLTWS Undergraduate Student Scholarship was established in 1998 to recognize and financially assist undergraduate students pursuing a career in wildlife biology at a 4-year school in Florida, during their Junior or Senior year. In 2008, the scholarship was renamed the Greater Everglades Student Memorial Scholarship in honor of 3 FAU students tragically lost during a wading bird survey. Applicants for the scholarship are judged based on extracurricular activities, demonstrated leadership, professional potential, financial need, personal goals, contribution to Florida wildlife and a letter of reference from a wildlife professional. The Florida Wildlife Federation and the National Wild Turkey Federation co-sponsor the scholarship. As this year’s recipient, Sarah will receive a check for $1,500 at the FLTWS Spring Meeting, 25-27 March 2020 in Jacksonville, Florida.

Monica Folk
Chair, FLTWS Scholarship Committee