

## **REBECCA PHARR MEEGAN MEANS**

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### **Education**

**M.S. Forestry.** Texas A&M University, College Station, TX. May 2000. Drs. R. N. Coulson and R. F. Fisher, co-advisors. Major emphasis on landscape ecology, forest entomology, GIS/GPS applications. Thesis title: The distribution and interaction of red imported fire ants and native ants across ecotones in a Post Oak Savanna.

**B.S. Forestry and Wildlife Resources, and Biology.** Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, VA. May 1996. Research projects: Population dynamics of the canvasback, Habitat management for the Wood Thrush on the Jefferson National Forest, Water quality assessment using macroinvertebrates as biological indicators: A comparison of urban, forested, and agricultural watersheds.

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### **Research Experience**

#### **Wildlife Biologist** (August 2001-Present)

Coastal Plains Institute and Land Conservancy

Wildlife biologist on multiple research projects and environmental educational outreach. Duties: 1) Principal investigator on 3 year project designing conservation strategies and management plans for ephemeral pond breeding amphibians, 2) co-principal investigator on 5 year study assessing amphibian response of wetlands augmentation, contract with the St. Johns River Water Management District, 3) acquiring grant monies to support research projects, 4) environmental education including field trips and presentations, 5) design and implementation of project investigating the decline of the southern hognose snake in the Munson Sandhills of the Apalachicola NF, 6) road-cruising for reptiles and amphibians, 7) operation of drift fence associated with an ongoing 9+ year project to determine the impacts of a major highway on pond-breeding amphibians, 8) hydrological monitoring of 22 wetlands in the Munson Sandhills of the Apalachicola NF investigating the effects of hydroperiod and rainfall on pond-breeding amphibians, 9) compiling technical project reports and publications.

#### **Biological Scientist, Geological Investigations Section**

Florida Geological Survey (September 2001-April 2005)

Project: Investigating Florida springs as part of the Florida Springs Initiative. Duties: 1) quarterly water quality monitoring of select springs throughout Florida, 2) preparation of technical reports, leading to the revision of the 1977 FGS publication "Springs of Florida"

(Bulletin 31 revised), 3) employing GIS to generate maps and as an analyzing tool, 4) water quality sampling of 125 Florida springs, 5) researching, visiting, and describing the State's springs 6) planning, scheduling, and researching access for extended field excursions, 7) training and supervising field crew, 8) measuring spring discharge, 9) public outreach (e.g. science fair judging, springs education).

**Wildlife Biologist** (July 2000-September 2001)

University of Kentucky, Department of Forestry

Project: Designing Florida panther habitat suitability and dispersal maps and models.

Contracted through a grant from Lee County. Duties: 1) using GIS technology to identify potential panther habitat and dispersal corridors, involves extensive use of ArcView and associated extensions, 2) field verification of GIS data 3) serving as invited participant on USFWS Multi-species Ecological Recovery Implementation Team (MERIT), Florida panther sub-team, 4) presenting research at national and local meetings, and 5) preparing final report and peer-reviewed manuscript.

**Graduate Research Assistant** (August 1998-June 2000)

Texas A&M University, Department of Entomology

Project leader and spatial database manager for red imported fire ant landscape ecology projects.

Duties: 1) designing and implementing master's research on the distribution and interaction of red imported fire ants and native ants diversity across ecotones, 2) supervising field technicians for 2 landscape ecology projects, 3) designing sampling techniques, 4) responsible for field work, creating maps, and data management, and 5) preparing annual reports and presentations.

**Graduate Teaching Assistant** (December 1999-May 2000)

Texas A&M University, Department of Entomology

Taught laboratory class for Insect Ecology (ENT 424). Duties: 1) creating computer simulations of various ecological concepts using Ecobeaker software, 2) re-writing laboratory manual, 3) preparing lectures and assisting students during exercises, 4) editing and grading lab reports.

**Wildlife Research Technician** (May 1996-August 1996)

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Department of Forestry and Wildlife Resources

Project: The effects of different timber harvest methods on salamander diversity and density.

This position involved extensive, unsupervised fieldwork in the remote mountains of West Virginia. Duties: 1) navigating through rough terrain to establish sampling transects 2) sampling for salamanders during or following nocturnal rain events, 3) identifying and processing captured specimens, 4) opportunistic searches for salamanders throughout study sites, 5) entering data using Microsoft Excel.

**Volunteer** (February 1995 – May 1996)

Virginia Tech Museum of Natural History

Assisted development of MINTS (an outreach program) collection for local schools, informative tours to all age groups, conducted science seminars for children.

**Plant Pest Inspector Assistant** (May 1995-August 1995)

Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Blacksburg  
Distributed and monitored gypsy moth traps for Statewide Gypsy Moth Population Monitoring Project. Duties: 1) constructing and distributing gypsy moth traps on private lands, 2) compass and topographic map orientation, 3) periodic check and removal of gypsy moth traps, 4) educating local landowners about monitoring program, and 5) unsupervised fieldwork in remote areas.

**Volunteer** (July 1995-October 1995)

Virginia Tech Fish and Wildlife Information Exchange, Blacksburg  
Collected and analyzed tree data for Virginia GAP Analysis Project by identifying tree species based on leaf samples.

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## **Formal Presentations**

**Oral Presentation.** Pond-breeding Amphibians of the Sandhills. North Florida and South Georgia Sandhill Working Group, Tall Timbers Research Station, Tallahassee, FL, September 2008.

**Oral Presentation.** Management Strategies for Ephemeral Ponds: An Amphibian Perspective. Management Strategies for Ephemeral Ponds Workshop, Tall Timbers Research Station, Tallahassee, FL, October 2007.

**Oral Presentation.** Synthesizing Amphibian Research in Florida: a Preliminary Summary. Society for Wetland Scientists and Florida Chapter of the Wildlife Society Meeting, Palatka, FL, October 2006.

**Oral Presentation.** Hiking with Herps. Wakulla Springs Wildlife Festival, Wakulla Springs State Park, FL, April 2004.

**Oral Presentation.** The Snakes of Florida. Wakulla Springs Welcome Back Songbirds and Wildlife Festival, Wakulla Springs State Park, FL, June 2002.

**Oral Presentation.** Water Quality Sampling of Florida's First Magnitude Springs: FGS Bulletin 31 Update. Florida Academy of Sciences, 66<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, Miami, FL, March 2002.

**Oral Presentation.** Recovering the Florida panther through regional conservation planning. International Association for Landscape Ecology, U.S. Chapter National Meeting, Tempe, AZ, April 2001.

**Oral Presentation.** Recovering the Florida panther through regional conservation planning. Invited speaker to University of Kentucky, Forestry Departmental Seminar, Lexington, KY, April 2001.

**Oral Presentation.** Corridors, landscape linkages, and conservation planning for the Florida panther. Greater Everglades Ecosystem Restoration Science Conference, Naples, FL, December 2000.

**Poster.** Corridors, landscape linkages, and conservation planning for the Florida panther. University of Kentucky, GIS Days Conference, Lexington, KY, November 2000.

**Poster.** The distribution and interaction of red imported fire ants and native ants across ecotones in a Post Oak Savanna. Different posters with same title presented at:

US Chapter of International Association for Landscape Ecologists National Meeting, Ft. Lauderdale, FL, 2000

2000 Wildlife and Fisheries Student Research Symposium, College Station, TX, April 2000

Entomological Society of America National Meeting, Atlanta, GA, 1999.

Society of American Foresters Conference National Meeting, Portland, OR, 1999

Southern Forest Insect Work Conference, Pensacola Beach, FL, Oct 1999

**Oral Presentation.** The distribution and interaction of red imported fire ants and native ants across ecotones in a post oak savanna. Presented at:

East Texas Forest Entomology Conference, Lufkin TX, May 2000

Master's Defense, Department of Forest Science, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX, March 2000

**Oral Presentation.** The effects of fire ants on native ant and beetle communities along ecotones in a post oak savanna. Texas A&M University Forest Science Departmental Seminar, College Station, TX, 1999.

**Oral Presentation.** Soil arthropod utilization of ecotones in a post oak savanna. East Texas Forest Entomology Conference, Lufkin, TX, 1998.

**Poster.** Landscape ecology of red imported fire ants in a post oak savanna. Red Imported Fire Ants in a Post Oak Savanna (with A. Biggs, S. O'Keefe, and R.N. Coulson). Entomology Society of America National Meeting, Las Vegas, NV, 1998.

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## **Publications**

**R.P.M. Means.** 2008. Management Strategies for Florida's Ephemeral Ponds and Pond-Breeding Amphibians. Final report to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Coastal Plains Institute, Tallahassee, FL.

Means, R.C. and **R.P.M. Means.** 2008. Assessment of Amphibian Response to Wetlands Augmentation. Final report to the St. Johns River Water Management District. Coastal Plains Institute, Tallahassee, FL.

**R.P. Meegan (editor).** 2007. Management Strategies for Ephemeral Ponds. Proceedings from a one-day workshop at Tall Timbers Research Station, October 23, 2007. Coastal Plains Institute, Tallahassee, FL.

**R.P. Meegan.** 2007. Management Plans and Conservation Strategies for Ephemeral Ponds and Ephemeral Pond Breeding Amphibians. Second annual report to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Coastal Plains Institute, Tallahassee, FL.

**R.P. Meegan.** 2006. Management Plans and Conservation Strategies for Ephemeral Ponds and Ephemeral Pond Breeding Amphibians. First annual report to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Coastal Plains Institute, Tallahassee, FL.

Means, R. C. and **R. P. Meegan.** 2005. Assessment of Amphibian Response to Wetlands Augmentation. Third annual report to the St. Johns River Water Management District. Coastal Plains Institute, Tallahassee, FL. 53 pp.

Means, R. C. and **R. P. Meegan.** 2004. Assessment of Amphibian Response to Wetlands Augmentation. Second annual report to the St. Johns River Water Management District. Coastal Plains Institute, Tallahassee, FL. 43 pp.

Scott, Thomas M., G.H. Means, **R. P. Meegan**, R. C. Means, S. B. Upchurch, R. E. Copeland, J. Jones, T. Roberts, A. Willet. 2004. Bulletin 66: Springs of Florida. Published for the Florida Geological Survey, Tallahassee, FL.

Means, R. C. and **R. P. Meegan.** 2003. Assessment of Amphibian Response to Wetlands Augmentation. First annual report to the St. Johns River Water Management District. Coastal Plain Institute, Tallahassee, FL. 49 pp.

**R.P. Meegan.** 2003. A survey for the southern hognose snake (*Heterodon simus*) in the Munson Sandhills of the Apalachicola National Forest. Final report to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 16 pp.

Means, R.C. and **R.P. Meegan.** 2002. Human History of the Apalachicola River. *In* Southeastern Geological Society Field Trip Guidebook 42. Southeastern Geological Society, Tallahassee, Fl. 39 pp.

**R. P. Meegan** and D. S. Maehr. 2002. A Landscape Approach to conservation planning for the Florida panther in Southwest Florida. *Southeastern Naturalist* 1(3): 217-232.

**R. P. Meegan**, R. C. Means, G. H. Means, and T. M. Scott. 2002. Water quality sampling of Florida's first magnitude springs: FGS bulletin 31 update. *Florida Scientist*: 65 (Supplement 1).

Scott, T. M, G. H. Means, R. C. Means, and **R. P. Meegan.** 2002. First Magnitude Springs of Florida. FGS Open File Report No. 85. Florida Geological Survey, Tallahassee, FL.

Maehr, D. S. and **R. P. Meegan**. 2001. Corridors, Landscape Linkages, and Conservation Planning for the Florida Panther: Enhancing Expansion Potential for an Endangered Species in Southwest Florida. Final Report to Lee County.

Harris, L. D., L. C. Duever, **R. P. Meegan**, T. S. Hctor, J. L. Schortemeyer, and D. S. Maehr. 2001. The biotic province: Minimum unit for conserving biodiversity. *In* Large Mammal Restoration: Ecological and Sociological Challenges in the 21st Century (Eds. D. Maehr, R. Noss, and J. Larkin), pp.321-343. Island Press, Washington, D.C.

**R. P. Meegan**. 2000. The distribution and interaction of red imported fire ants and native ants across ecotones in a post oak savanna. M.S. Thesis, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX.

**Meegan, R. P.**, S. T. O'Keefe, R. N. Coulson, S. B. Vinson. 1999. The distribution and interaction of red imported fire ants and native ants across ecotones in a post oak savanna. Proceedings of the 1999 National Society of American Foresters Conference, Portland, OR.

O'Keefe, S. T., **R. P. Meegan**, D. F. Wunneburger, A. Men, R. N. Coulson, and S. B. Vinson. 2000. A landscape perspective of fire ants (*Solenopsis invicta* Buren) and implications towards their management: an initial assessment. Proceedings of the 2000 Imported Fire Ant Conference, Chattanooga, TN. Pgs. 13-14.

Coulson, R. N., S. T. O'Keefe, D. F. Wunneburger, **R. P. Meegan**, S. B. Vinson. 1999. Landscape ecology of the red imported fire ant in a post oak savanna. Proceedings of 1999 Imported Fire Ant Conference, Charleston, SC. Pgs. 37-45.

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## Professional Activities

The Wildlife Society, Annual Meeting, Miami, Florida, November 2008  
North Florida and South Georgia Sandhills Working Group, Tall Timbers Research Station, Tallahassee, FL, September 2008

Organized and presided over a Management Strategies for Ephemeral Ponds, a one-day workshop for landowners, land managers, and biologists. Tall Timbers Research Station, Tallahassee, FL, October 2007

Society for Wetland Scientists and Florida Chapter of the Wildlife Society Meeting, Palatka, FL, October 2006.

Gopher Tortoise Council Annual Meeting, Palatka, FL, 2005

Florida Academy of Sciences, 66<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, Miami, FL, 2002.

US Chapter of International Association for Landscape Ecologists National Meeting, Tempe, AZ, 2001.

Greater Everglades Ecosystem Restoration Conference, Annual Meeting, Naples, FL, 2000

Invited Participant: USFWS South Florida Multi-Species Recovery Implementation Team

Forestry Graduate Student President 1998-1999, 1999-2000

Assisted planning and speaker hospitality (Dr. Jack Ward Thomas) for 2000 Integration Across Ecological Scales Symposium, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX

US Chapter of International Association for Landscape Ecologists National Meeting, Ft. Lauderdale, FL, 2000.  
Entomological Society of America, National Meeting, Atlanta, GA, 1999.  
Society of American Foresters, National Meeting, Traverse City, MI, 1998, Portland, OR, 1999  
Southern Forest Insect Work Conference, Pensacola Beach, FL, 1999  
East Texas Forest Entomology Conference, Lufkin, TX, Fall 1998; Spring 1999; Fall 2000; Spring 2000  
Advisor at Southeastern Collegiate Forester's Conclave, Holiday Lake, VA, 1998  
Texas A&M Forestry Club 1997-1998, 1998-1999, 1999-2000  
Red Card Wildland Firefighting Certification, 1998  
Texas Forestry Summit, Beaumont, Tx, 1998  
The Wildlife Society, Virginia Tech Chapter, Conservation Issues Committee Chair 1994 –1996  
Southeastern Wildlife Society Conclave, Raleigh, NC, 1995; Clemson, NC, 1996  
Certified project WILD educator, 1996

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## **Awards and Honors**

Team Extra Effort Award, Florida Geological Survey, 2004  
Florida Springs Protection Award, Florida Department of Environmental Protection and Florida Springs Task Force, 2004  
Individual Extra Effort Award, Florida Geological Survey, 2003  
Team Extra Effort Award, Florida Geological Survey, 2003  
National Society of American Foresters Cultural Diversity Scholarship, 2000  
Texas Society of American Foresters Outstanding Forestry Student at Texas A&M, 2000  
Outstanding Master Student, 1998-1999, 1999-2000  
Graduate Student of the Year, 1997-1998, 1998-1999, 1999-2000  
Southland Paper Mills Forestry Scholarship, 1998, 1999, 2000  
1<sup>st</sup> Place in poster competition, Fish and Wildlife Student Research Symposium, College Station, TX, 2000  
1<sup>st</sup> Place in poster competition, biology and ecology section, National Entomological Society of America Conference, Atlanta, GA, 1999  
Honorary Member of The Wildlife Society, Virginia Tech Student Chapter, 1995

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## **Professional Societies**

Society for Conservation Biology  
Union of Concerned Scientists  
Florida Native Plant Society  
Florida Wildlife Society  
Gopher Tortoise Council  
Xi Sigma Pi  
Gamma Sigma Delta

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**JOB RELATED SKILLS:**

Experience in numerous methods of sampling and monitoring invertebrates and vertebrates. Computer expertise: GIS (ArcView, Pathfinder, RAMAS GIS), Excel, Photoshop, Homesite, Endnotes, Powerpoint, Word. Extensive experience using Global Positioning Systems (GPS). Experienced in driving standard transmission and 4WD vehicles, operation of small boats (including towing and backing). CPR and First Aid certified December 2001. SCUBA certified (advanced open-water) since 1994.

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**References**

Dr. D. Bruce Means, Supervisor  
Coastal Plains Institute and Land Conservancy  
Telephone (850) 681-6208  
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Dr. Thomas M. Scott, Assistant State Geologist  
Florida Geological Survey  
Telephone (850) 488-9380  
Email: thomas.scott@dep.state.fl.us

Dr. Robert N. Coulson, Graduate Advisor, Professor, and Employer  
Texas A&M University, Department of Entomology  
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