

## Pritchard Turtle Conservation Lifetime Achievement Awards 2022: Robert Zappalorti and Ronald Brooks

Anders G.J. Rhodin<sup>1</sup> and Rick Hudson<sup>2</sup>

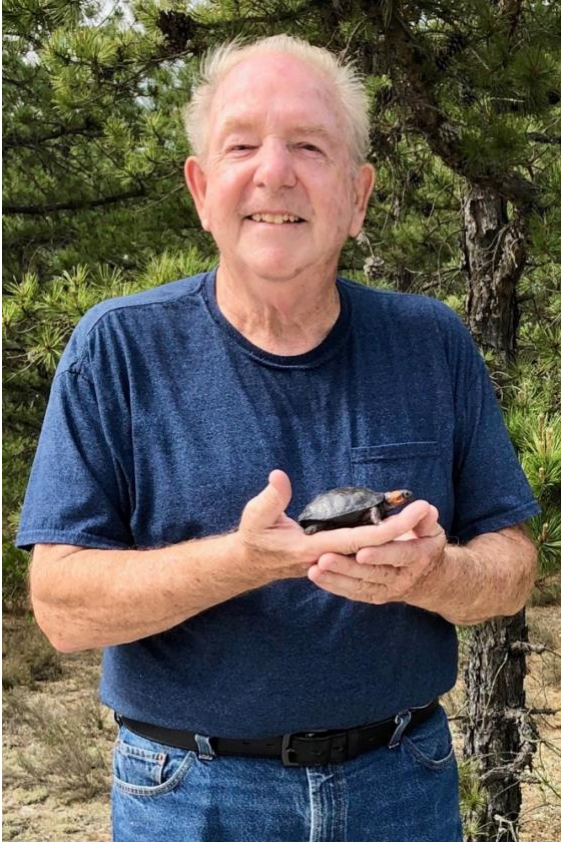
With the passing of Peter Pritchard in 2020, the Behler Award Committee honored his legacy by renaming our previous Turtle Conservation Appreciation Awards the Pritchard Turtle Conservation Lifetime Achievement Awards. These awards are presented to notably worthy living individuals in special recognition of their lifetime achievements and longterm impact on turtle conservation or biology.

This year the 3rd annual Pritchard Awards honor the lifetime achievements of Bob Zappalorti of the USA and Ron Brooks of Canada, and we recognize and honor them for their important contributions to turtle conservation, ecology, and natural history.

Robert T. Zappalorti started his career in 1964 as a reptile keeper at the Staten Island Zoo, New York. While there, he initiated intensive studies on Bog Turtles in New Jersey, which have continued for almost 50 years. In 1977, he founded Herpetological Associates, Inc., an environmental consulting company providing reptile and amphibian surveys, adverse impact analyses of development projects, and producing mitigation and conservation plans. His most important lifetime contributions have been his longterm Bog Turtle studies on the many aspects of their secretive behavior, mating season, clutch size, nesting ecology, hatching success, depredation of eggs, hatchlings, and adults, their movements and activity periods, home range size, foraging behavior and diet, and winter hibernation habits. We honor him for these longterm in-depth studies which have helped focus conservation efforts on this Critically Endangered species.

Ronald J. Brooks is Professor Emeritus at the University of Guelph in Canada, retiring in 2006 after 36 years of teaching integrative biology. His work on turtles has focused on the ecology, life history, and conservation of Canada's populations of Snapping Turtles, Midland Painted Turtles, Wood Turtles, Blanding's Turtles, Eastern Musk Turtles, Spiny Softshells, and Spotted Turtles. Most of these studies, often in collaboration with colleagues, were at the Algonquin Wildlife Research Station in Algonquin Provincial Park, Ontario, where he was also Director from 1983 through 2001. He is especially proud of his work on the conservation of Canada's turtles, and specifically that the Snapping Turtle is no longer considered "vermin" or a "game species," but instead considered a species at risk, with widespread popular public support for its protection. We honor him for his important work on turtle ecology and conservation in Canada, and also for mentoring and educating many students.

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Bob Zappalorti with a Bog Turtle.



Ron Brooks at a Snapping Turtle nest.