

## PRITCHARD AWARD



# Pritchard Turtle Conservation Lifetime Achievement Awards 2020: John Cann and Linda Cayot

*Anders G.J. Rhodin and Rick Hudson*



JOHN CANN

With the tragic passing of our beloved and honored colleague Peter Pritchard earlier this year, the Behler Award Committee is now honoring his unparalleled legacy by renaming our previous Turtle Conservation Appreciation Awards as the new Pritchard Turtle Conservation Lifetime Achievement Awards. The prestigious Behler Turtle Conservation Award (in its 15th year) will also continue to be awarded annually. Pritchard Awards will be presented annually to notably worthy living individuals in special recognition of their lifetime achievements and impact on turtle conservation or biology. Individuals previously honored for their lifetime achievements are: Hugh Quinn (2006), Bern Tryon (2010), Peter Pritchard and Ian Swingland (2016), Justin Congdon (2017), Bruce Weissgold (2018), and Kristin Berry and Olga Castaño-Mora (2019).

The two first recipients of the renamed Pritchard Award are John Cann and Linda Cayot, and we honor them for their important lifetime contributions to conservation, natural history, and taxonomy.

John Cann has written five books relating to Australian turtles, including two editions of *Australian Freshwater Turtles*, and has described several new taxa. His books provide a broad synthesis of natural history and taxonomy and are beautifully illustrated—behind them lie many years and miles traveled to study turtles in the field, usually camping and diving in their habitats, and many hours photographing them in nat-



LINDA CAYOT

uralistic settings to produce the stunning images that are his hallmark. John was also a gifted athlete, representing Australia in the Decathlon at the 1956 Olympic Games in Melbourne, and was recently presented with an Order of Australia for his services to conservation, the environment, and the community. We celebrate his important accomplishments and thank him for his lifetime of dedication to turtle conservation, taxonomy, and natural history.

Linda Cayot has worked on Galapagos tortoise conservation for 40 years, first as herpetologist at the Charles Darwin Research Station in the Galápagos, Ecuador, where she supervised the giant tortoise breeding and repatriation program. She also worked with Galapagos National Park on their management plan, initiating the successful project to rid northern Isabela and other islands of destructive feral goats. Later she worked at Galapagos Conservancy in the USA and helped launch the Giant Tortoise Restoration Initiative, a collaborative effort with Galapagos National Park that has the goal of restoring all Galapagos tortoise populations. She retired earlier this year, but continues to be active, co-editing a forthcoming major volume on Galapagos Giant Tortoise conservation. We honor her momentous contributions to conservation efforts in the Galapagos and the major difference she has made for the survival of the iconic giant tortoises there.