

Pritchard Turtle Conservation Award

Recognizing lifetime achievements, 2021: Bonnie Raphael and Don Moll

by Anders G.J. Rhodin and Rick Hudson

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

This year the Pritchard Award honors the lifetime achievements of Bonnie Raphael and Don Moll, and we recognize and honor them for their important contributions to turtle conservation, veterinary medicine, education, ecology, and natural history. They and their predecessors are heroes of the global chelonian conservation community.

Bonnie L. Raphael earned a DVM from Michigan State University and, after completing a residency at the University of Florida under Elliott Jacobson, became the first full time veterinarian at the Dallas Zoo. She later moved to the Bronx Zoo of the Wildlife Conservation Society, where she found the niche that captured her attention, intellect, emotion, and abilities: the world of turtles and tortoises. For the next 26 years, working with other giants in the field (John Behler, Bill Holmstrom, Rick Hudson, Steve and Kalyar Platt, Paul Calle, and Herilala Randriamahazo, to name a

few) she became a champion for the role of veterinary medicine in conservation, particularly as applied to chelonians. She frequently worked in the field, notably in Myanmar, Madagascar, and Vietnam, and excelled at supporting and mentoring aspiring young wildlife veterinarians. Although retired since 2016, she continues to work with TSA and as a Veterinary Advisor with WCS. We honor her for her tireless veterinary efforts on behalf of turtle conservation.

Don Moll is Professor Emeritus at Missouri State University and retired in 2010 after 33 years of teaching ecology, biogeography, and other biology courses. His main research interests are chelonian conservation, ecology, and natural history, and he has conducted field research in the USA, Central America (Belize and Costa Rica), East Africa (Tanzania), and Southeast Asia (Thailand). He and his brother Edward (former Chair of the TFTSG) together wrote the influential and important book *The Ecology, Exploitation and Conservation of River Turtles* in 2004. He has particularly enjoyed working with graduate students and has mentored many M.S. students at Missouri State and as an adjunct professor at the University of Louisville, the University of Florida, and Chulalongkorn University, Thailand. We honor him for his important work on turtles, and also for mentoring and educating many students. 🐢

