

Monica Lasky

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EDUCATION

- 2026 **Ph.D.**, Wildlife Ecology and Conservation, University of Florida
Thesis: How megaherbivores uniquely influence ecological communities
Committee: Robert McCleery (advisor), Ara Monadjem, Robert Fletcher, Robert Holt
- 2022 **M.S.**, Ecology, Colorado State University
Thesis: Does fear of humans drive wildlife interactions in African food webs?
Committee: Sara Bombaci (advisor), Joel Berger, Melinda Smith
- 2017 **B.S.**, Zoology, North Carolina State University
Class Valedictorian, Department Honors, *summa cum laude*

PUBLICATIONS

13. Glennon K,...**Lasky M**,...McCleery RA. Impala and nyala foraging suppresses growth of invasive parthenium weed. *Biology Letters* (In review).
12. Troy S,...**Lasky M**,...Fletcher RJ. Cryptic herbivores influence tree demography at early life stages more than large herbivores in African savannas. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*. (In review).
11. McMurry S, Parsons A, **Lasky M**,...McShea W. Standardized camera trapping data from National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON) sites and other forest plots. *Ecology*. (In review).
10. **Lasky M**, Sibiya MD, and Hull V. 2025. Applying the adaptive cycle and resilience principles to understand and manage human-wildlife relations on the African savanna. *Journal for Nature Conservation*: 126896. DOI: [10.1016/j.jnc.2025.126896](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jnc.2025.126896)
9. Nelson-Olivieri J,...**Lasky M**,...Bombaci SP. 2023. It's not just noise: The consequences of inequitable noise for urban wildlife. *Nature Ecology and Evolution*. DOI: [10.21203/rs.3.rs-2753779/v1](https://doi.org/10.21203/rs.3.rs-2753779/v1)
8. **Lasky M** and Bombaci SP. 2023. Human-induced fear in wildlife: A review. *Journal for Nature Conservation*: 126448. DOI: [10.1016/j.jnc.2023.126448](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jnc.2023.126448)
7. Kays RW, **Lasky M**,...Cove MV. 2022. Which mammals can be identified from camera traps and citizen scientist photographs? *Journal of Mammalogy*: gyac021. DOI: [10.1093/jmammal/gyac021](https://doi.org/10.1093/jmammal/gyac021)
6. Kays RW, **Lasky M**, Pease B, Parsons AW, and Pacifici K. Evaluation of the spatial biases and sample size of a statewide citizen science project. 2021. *Citizen Science: Theory and Practice* 6(1): 34, 1–12. DOI: [10.5334/cstp.344](https://doi.org/10.5334/cstp.344)
5. **Lasky M**, Parsons AW,...Kays RW. 2021. Carolina critters: camera trap data from mammal surveys across North Carolina. *Ecology*: e03372. DOI: [10.1002/ecy.3372](https://doi.org/10.1002/ecy.3372)
4. Cove M, Kays R, Bontrager H, Bresnan C, **Lasky M**, Frerichs T, . . . Mcshea W. 2021. SNAPSHOT USA 2019: the first coordinated national camera trap survey of the United States. *Ecology*: e03353. DOI: [10.1002/ecy.3353](https://doi.org/10.1002/ecy.3353)
3. **Lasky M**, Parsons A, Schuttler S, Mash A, Larson L, Norton B, Pease B, Boone H, Gatens L, and Kays R. 2021. Candid Critters: Challenges and Solutions in a Large-Scale Citizen Science Camera Trap Project. *Citizen Science: Theory and Practice* 6(1). DOI: [10.5334/cstp.343](https://doi.org/10.5334/cstp.343)
2. **Lasky M**, Campbell J, Osborne JA, Ivory EL, Lasky J, and Kendall CJ. 2021. Increasing browse and social complexity can improve zoo elephant welfare. *Zoo Biology*: 1– 11. DOI: [10.1002/zoo.21575](https://doi.org/10.1002/zoo.21575)
1. Bartoszek I, **Hendricks M**, Easterling I, Andreadis P. 2018. *Python Bivittatus* (Burmese python) Marine Incursion. *Herpetological Review* 49(3): 554 - 555.

GRANTS, SCHOLARSHIPS, AND HONORS

2025	University of Florida Center for African Studies Pre-Dissertation Research Award
2024	Sigma Xi Grant in Aid of Research Recipient
2023	Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Jennings Scholarship Recipient
2022	Wiley <i>Zoo Biology</i> Top 10 Most Downloaded Paper
2021	Graduate Degree Program in Ecology Small Research Grant Recipient
2021	Princeton University's Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Scholar
2021	Ecological Society of America Conference Registration Grant Recipient
2020	Graduate Degree Program in Ecology Small Research Grant Recipient
2020	National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow
2020	Sigma Xi Member
2019	Honorable Mention: NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program
2017	Friends of Barefoot Beach Research Scholarship Recipient
2017	Mote Marine Laboratory College Internship Program Scholarship Recipient
2017	Phi Beta Kappa Scholar
2016	Business and Professional Women Lois Frazier Scholarship Recipient
2014	Sigma Alpha Pi (Society of Leadership and Success) Scholar
2013	Golden Key International Honour Society Scholar
2013	National Society Collegiate Scholar
2013	Campbell University's Presidential Scholarship Recipient

RESEARCH & WORK EXPERIENCE

2023–24	Field Lead, International Research Experience for Students (Eswatini & South Africa) Co-led two, two-month student field programs in southern Africa, guiding intensive biodiversity surveys across two countries while training participants in camera trapping, vegetation and rodent surveys, cross-cultural collaboration, and savanna ecology.
2018–20	Project Coordinator, North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences Coordinated a statewide citizen science camera trapping wildlife survey, including volunteer and data management, public outreach, and maintaining partner relationships.
2017–18	Invasive Species Field Technician, Conservancy of Southwest Florida Using radio telemetry to discover population management techniques for invasive Burmese pythons in southern Florida.
2016–17	Research Intern, North Carolina Zoo Effects of zoo management techniques and environmental factors on captive elephant behavior.
2016	Tour Guide, San Diego Zoo Educating guests on animal behavior, ecology, and conservation efforts to ignite a passion for wildlife.
2015–16	Research Volunteer, North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences Using computerized tomography to analyze bone growth patterns of ancient fauna.
2015	Research Volunteer, North Carolina State University Environmental drivers of phenotypic variation of genitalia in mosquito fish.
2015	Research Assistant, North Carolina State University Exploring the effects of fescue toxicosis on bovine physiology.

POSTERS & PRESENTATIONS

10. McCleery RA, **Monica Lasky**, Botero-Cañola S, Canino N, Rota T, Lopez and EP. 2024. International Research Experiences for Students (IRES): from China to Africa and Beyond. *Oral Presentation, Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Seminar Series, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL.*
9. **Lasky M***. 2024. Collaborating across borders to understand the impact of shrub encroachment on savanna ecosystems. *Oral Presentation, 6th Eswatini Biodiversity Research Conference, Simunye, Eswatini.*
8. **Lasky M*** and Botero-Cañola S*. 2023. Collaboration across borders to understand the roles of herbivores in savanna ecosystems. *Oral Presentation, 5th Eswatini Biodiversity Research Conference, Simunye, Eswatini.*
7. **Lasky M.** 2022. Fear in the shape of humanity: Does fear of humans drive cascading changes across African food webs? *Oral Presentation, Front Range Student Ecology Symposium, Fort Collins, CO, USA.*
6. **Lasky M***, Parsons A, Schuttler S, Mash A, May A, Larson L, Gatens L, Pedrozo C, Kays R. 2019. Immense, dense, and intense: challenges to monitoring mammal populations across large areas with citizen scientists. *Poster Presentation, Meeting of the American Society of Mammalogists, Washington, DC, USA.*
5. **Lasky M***, Schuttler S, Parsons A, May A, Smith K, Kays R. 2019. What's the best engagement bang for your outreach buck? Comparing feedback outlets for sharing results with citizen science volunteers. *Oral Presentation, Citizen Science Association Conference, Raleigh, NC, USA.*
4. **Lasky M***, Demers N. 2017. Gopher tortoise foraging preferences at Barefoot Beach Preserve. *Poster Presentation, Annual Gopher Tortoise Research Council, Aiken, SC, USA.*
3. **Hendricks M*, Campbell J, Kendall J.** 2017. **Analyzing factors affecting shade utilization and availability for zoo elephants.** *Poster Presentation, Annual Undergraduate Research Symposium, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC, USA.*
2. Lamb A*, **Hendricks M***, Chapman M*, Campbell J. Gauging public opinion on the ethics of zoological conservation. 2017. *Poster Presentation, Annual College of Sciences Research Symposium, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC, USA.*
1. **Hendricks M***, Sriraman A*, Fleming D*. 2015. Preimplantation Genetic Practices: Past and Future. *Research Poster, Annual Undergraduate Res. Symposium, NC State University, Raleigh, NC, USA.*

TEACHING & CAPACITY BUILDING

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| 2025 | Teaching Assistant: Biodiversity Conservation (FW 370) and Wildlife Issues, University of Florida |
| 2023 | Mentor: Integrated Digitized Biocollections (iDigBio) iDigTRIO Biology Career Conference and Fair 2023 |
| 2021 | Teaching Assistant: <i>Design of Fish and Wildlife Studies</i> (FW 370), CSU |
| 2021 | <u>Interview</u> : <i>Field Notes</i> , Africa Center, CSU |
| 2021 | Guest Lecturer: Fundamentals of Ecology, CSU (LIFE 220) |
| 2021 | Mentor: Athena's <i>Talaria</i> High School Research Program |
| 2021 | Presenter: <i>Expedition Colorado</i> , Fort Collins Conservation District |
| 2020 | Teaching Assistant: <i>Design of Fish and Wildlife Studies</i> (FW 370), CSU |
| 2020 | Press Interview: <i>Candid Critters project captures photos of animals in the wild</i> , Winston Salem Journal |
| 2020 | Contributor: <i>Tracking Pythons: The Quest to Catch an Invasive Predator and Save an Ecosystem</i> by Kate Messner |

2020 Press Interview: *Critters caught on camera*, Gaston Gazette
2019 **Guest Appearance on Wild Animals Podcast:** *Jaeger: the python that should have never been in the Everglades*,
2019 Speaker: *NC GreenSTEM Student Conference*, Craven Community College
2019 Speaker: *Earth Day* at the Mooresville Public Library
2019 Guest Speaker: *Envirothon Competition*, NCSU
2018–20 **Social Media Manager:** *North Carolina's Candid Critters*
2018–20 **Writer:** *North Carolina's Candid Critters Blog*
2017 Undergraduate Teaching Assistant: *Ecology* (AEC 360), NCSU

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Reviews

2024 Paper Reviewer: *Journal of Zoology*
2021 Proposal Reviewer: Graduate Degree Program in Ecology Small Research Grants
2019 Paper Reviewer: *Southeastern Naturalist*
2021 Proposal Reviewer: Graduate Degree Program in Ecology Student Awards

Memberships

2021 –22 Member: American Society of Mammalogists
2020 – **African Research Fellowship Committee**
2022 – Member: Center for African Studies, University of Florida
2021 –22 Member: Africa Center, Colorado State University
2021 – Member: Center for Human-Carnivore Coexistence, Colorado State University
2020 – Member: Society for Conservation Biology
2019 – Member: Ecological Society of America