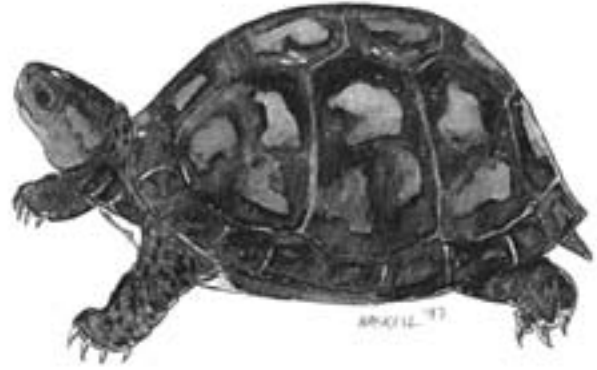


## O B I T U A R Y

## Alison Haskell (1956–2006)

The Fish and Wildlife Service family and conservation community lost a very special friend. Alison Haskell died peacefully at her home in Ashfield, Massachusetts in the company of her husband John Rosseel and family and friends.

Alison was born on 26 December 1956 in Berkeley, California, and grew up on the coast of Massachusetts. She received a B.S. and M.S. in wildlife biology from the universities of New Hampshire and Massachusetts, respectively. Her master's thesis focused on population ecology of the Plymouth Redbelly Turtle (*Pseudemys rubriventris*). She studied at Tufts University Veterinary School, where she also worked as the chief veterinary technician at the Wildlife Clinic for five years, and became noted for her exceptional ability in handling raptors. In 1993, she joined the Fish and Wildlife Service as a Wildlife Research Specialist in the Division of Federal Aid. Alison's unique and extraordinary blend of skills, ranging from wildlife health to population viability analyses, suited her extremely well in administering a wide variety of grant programs, including Section 6 Endangered Species, Wildlife Restoration, Partnerships For Wildlife, Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program, and State Wildlife Grants. Alison's passion for wildlife may have been exceeded only by her compas-



An Eastern Box Turtle (*Terrapene carolina carolina*): Watercolor by Alison Haskell.

sion for her fellow humans, and she channeled that professionally by becoming adept at conflict resolution and facilitation. She assisted many Service and State fish and wildlife agency programs as a trainer and facilitator. She left Federal Aid in 2002 to become the national coordinator for Partnerships in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (PARC).

Alison was diagnosed with stage-4 ovarian cancer in late 2002, and on the insistence of her physicians, took a medical retirement from the Service to focus on treatment and recovery. Despite an unbelievably grueling regimen of surgeries and chemotherapy, Alison formed a non-profit organization, Cures for Ovarian Cancer, to advocate for early detection screening, which is not currently a part of routine physical examinations for women or provided for in health care plans. Her campaign took her far and wide speaking to audiences to increase awareness.

An accomplished artist specializing in water color, Alison also formed the non-profit Northeast Wildlife Heritage to raise funds for conservation efforts in the northeast through sales of her art and other crafts.

Alison is survived by her husband John, her parents, two sisters and a brother, and many nieces and nephews, and her two Corgis, Ursa and Ry, named for two of her favorite constellations, Ursa Minor (the little dipper) and Orion (the hunter). She leaves a network of friends, whom she touched deeply with her ability to make others feel good. Alison's spirit will be with us on starry nights when Ursa Minor and Orion grace the sky, but those who knew her well will feel her presence when the planet Venus rises, the diminutive planet that burns the brightest.

PARC has established the Alison Haskell Excellence in Herpetofaunal Research and Conservation Award. Donations for the first award can be made to: The New England Chapter, TWS, Attn: A Haskell Herp Award, c/o Doug Blodgett, VT Fish and Wildlife, 271 North Main Street, Suite 215, Rutland, VT 05701.

*John F. Organ*

Chief, Division of Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Hadley, Massachusetts



FRED SNYDER, NEW JERSEY DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Alison Haskell in the field with a bear cub.