

## Sea turtle biologist wins national recognition

The National Wildlife Federation has honored turtle biologist George Balazs with its National Conservation Achievement Award for exemplary leadership in protecting wildlife and natural resources.

Balazs has devoted his 34-



**George Balazs:** *He has spent his career saving the Hawaiian green sea turtle*

year career to recovery of the Hawaiian green sea turtle, which he began studying in 1971 while working at the University of Hawaii's Institute for Marine Biology.

In 1973 he began an annual count of turtles nesting in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands that was instrumental in getting the species added to the Endangered Species List in 1978.

Now a protected-species biologist and team leader for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Fisheries Service, Balazs has become a world leader in sea turtle biology, publishing widely and serving as a scientific adviser for a number of turtle conservation groups.

Balazs received the award March 31 at the annual meeting of the National Wildlife Federation in Washington.