

## NOMINEES FOR STUDENT BOARD MEMBER



### **Christopher Cleveland**

I am a PhD candidate at the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study (SCWDS) and the Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources. My dissertation research focuses on Dracunculid nematodes in humans, domestic animals, and wildlife in Chad, Africa and in North America. I also work as a Research Professional with SCWDS, conducting molecular diagnostics, parasite identification, and mentoring/teaching students and technicians. Broadly, my research interests are host-parasite transmission dynamics, host-switching events, phylogenetics of parasites, and management of zoonoses and wildlife-domestic pathogens. I have been a member of TWS for approximately 4 years, and when I'm not playing with long nematodes, I love exploring the woods with my family, chasing my dog, and cooking food that looks like parasites.



### **Alyssa Wetterau**

I am a PhD candidate of Zoology and Wildlife Conservation with the Cornell-Smithsonian joint graduate training program. Prior to entering graduate school, I worked as a program technician for the New York Wildlife Health Program which introduced me to the dynamic world of wildlife and sparked my passion for conservation. I hold a BS in Animal Science and Biological Sciences with distinction in research from Cornell University, where I developed an interest in infectious disease research.

My graduate work focuses on emerging infectious diseases of amphibians and I am broadly interested in understanding the interactions of factors that affects development of clinical disease in susceptible host populations. The structure of my graduate program provides me with unique opportunities to interface with scientists in both academia and government while also working closely with managers to translate basic research into conservation recommendations and boots-on-the-ground management tools.

I first became involved with Wildlife Diseases Working Group in 2014, when my research was included in The Vector! I am excited about the opportunity to contribute my perspective as a student to the WDWG board and hope to broaden student engagement in the working group by establishing resources for student communication and collaboration. I am especially interested in establishing student resources on the WDWG website for training and funding opportunities, career guidance, and mentorship.

## NOMINEES FOR BOARD MEMBERS AT LARGE (TWO SEATS OPEN)



### **Bieneke Bron**

Good day! I am Bieneke Bron, a young professional focused on zoonotic vector-borne disease with a passion for wildlife. I am a veterinarian from the Netherlands and recently completed my PhD at the USGS National Wildlife Health Center as a student of the University of Wisconsin – Madison. My thesis focused the ecology of plague and assessing the possible impact of the prairie dog oral sylvatic plague vaccine on non-target rodents. Last year, I started a post-doctoral appointment at the Midwest Center of Excellence for Vector-

borne diseases where I primarily work on tick-borne diseases in Wisconsin and focus on the risk of tick exposure in the urban, suburban and rural backyard, where ticks are brought in by... wildlife.

The notion that humans and nature are often placed side by side instead of being integrated intrigues me. As a participant of the wildlife disease working group, I hope to expand the focus of wildlife health guidance for the purpose of game, agriculture, human-health, conservation and for wildlife itself to the 'urban wild' as well. Since 2014 I have been a member of the TWS and I am a member of the Caesar Kleberg Award committee. However, infectious disease of wildlife was my first focus, thus I have been part of the Wildlife Disease Association since I learned about it in vet school in 2011, I co-founded the university's student chapter, and am a standing member of the Journal of Wildlife Disease endowment committee. In addition, I am a member of the American Association of Wildlife Veterinarians and the Entomological Society of America. I am excited to play a more active role in TWS, expand my knowledge of and interaction with the organization, represent the WDWG and share our knowledge.



### **Nate LaHue**

I am a veterinarian with a clinical and epidemiology background and have an interest in wildlife disease and conservation. I obtained my DVM from Cornell University in 2013. During my education, I had the opportunity to work with several state wildlife agencies, zoos, and even developed a research project to assess the risk of *Trypanosoma evansi* to Sumatran Rhinos in Indonesia. After vet school, I complete a year-long large animal internship at Washington State University. In 2015 I received a Masters of Preventive Veterinary Medicine from

UC Davis, a unique veterinary epidemiology degree. For my thesis, I researched tuberculosis transmission between wildlife and livestock in Spain. I worked subsequently in Botswana as a wildlife veterinarian and field laboratory manager for a local NGO that conducts research in wildlife ecology, conservation and public health in partnership with Virginia Tech. Specifically, I worked on a project evaluating mongoose TB transmission in wild banded mongoose. While there, I also conducted research in community health, managed the care of a small educational collection of wild animals on-site, and performed post-mortems on other wildlife species. I am currently in small animal practice and working on securing funding to return to school for a PhD. As a board member, I hope to facilitate discussion and sharing of knowledge within the field of wildlife medicine and conservation, further encourage student involvement, and expand public outreach or education.

## NOMINEES FOR BOARD MEMBERS AT LARGE (Continued)



### **Glen Sargeant**

I have been a research wildlife biologist and statistician at the USGS Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center in Jamestown, North Dakota, since 1997. I work primarily on population ecology and management of large mammals in national parks and on statistical applications in ecology. I'm an alumnus of the University of North Dakota (B.S., wildlife), University of Idaho (M.S., wildlife), and University of Wisconsin--Madison (M.S., biometry; Ph.D., wildlife).

I've been a member of The Wildlife Society since 1984. Since then, I've been a board member and secretary-treasurer for the Biometrics Working group, a board member for the North Dakota Chapter, and a board member and vice-president for the Central Mountains and Plains Section. I've organized or helped organize several workshops and symposia for the Biometrics Working Group, served on numerous committees, and co-authored the TWS Technical Review of Ungulate Management in National Parks of the U.S. and Canada. I

hope to be elected because I think those experiences will help me promote interests of the Wildlife Diseases Working Group and because professional service has been a particularly gratifying aspect of my career.



### **Michelle Verant**

I am passionate about advancing knowledge and management of wildlife disease and increasing awareness about the importance of wildlife health for healthy ecosystems and human well-being. As a wildlife veterinarian for the National Park Service, I achieve these goals by providing technical assistance and training to wildlife biologists, guiding practices and policies related to wildlife health across national parks and engaging the public through communication and outreach. The last two years I have served as the NPS

coordinator for white-nose syndrome response, assisting parks with funding, management and outreach, as well as connecting with partners for strategic, landscape-scale conservation of bats. It's been a pleasure for me to apply outcomes of my research and the knowledge and relationships I established during my PhD focused on investigating the epidemiology and pathogenesis of white-nose syndrome, which I completed at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the USGS National Wildlife Health Center. I have presented some of this work at past TWS conferences and have co-led multiple WNS Workshops to share knowledge and field techniques with a diversity of wildlife professionals. I have a DVM and Master's of Public Health from the University of Minnesota and have a broad range of knowledge and experience in wildlife health issues and disease ecology. I am eager to contribute to the mission and accomplishments of The Wildlife Society by serving a second term as a Board Member of the Wildlife Disease Working Group.

## NOMINEES FOR BOARD MEMBERS AT LARGE (Continued)



### **Brianna Williams**

I received my bachelor's degree from the University of Georgia in Forest Resources with a Wildlife Biology and Management emphasis. While completing my undergraduate degree I began conducting wildlife disease research at the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study (SCWDS) on three blood borne parasites in African carnivores. I briefly took a hiatus from work at the University of Georgia to intern on a project in New Mexico researching the effects and maintenance of sylvatic plague in small mammal populations in collaboration with the USGS. I came back for round two as a double dawg and am currently finishing a PhD from the

Warnell school of Forestry and Natural Resources in Wildlife Biology and Management. My doctoral research focuses on the health of a breeding population of six species of seabirds located on Middleton Island, Alaska. Specifically, I am conducting a survey of a variety of blood borne pathogens, the role of avian influenza maintenance in seabird breeding grounds associated with convergent waterfowl flyways, and experimental effects of ectoparasitism on nesting black-legged kittiwake chicks. While the health of seabirds is my current research focus, I am passionate about the research and management implications of a variety of diseases affecting wild and domestic populations. I have served the Wildlife Diseases Working Group for the past two years as the Student Representative. As I finish my terminal degree and transition to a young professional, I hope to transition to active board member. In this role, I hope to build bridges and continue to connect a variety of student groups to professionals working in the wildlife disease field.