

SOUTHEASTERN SECTION OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY 2023 OFFICER NOMINATIONS

The Southeastern Section of The Wildlife Society (SETWS) is proud to present the following slate of officers for the 2023 election of President-Elect and Secretary-Treasurer. Please find below the candidate bios and statements.

Nominees for President-Elect

Dr. Rachael E. Urbanek, CWB®



My goal for SETWS and its membership is to continue the momentum of the last several years' SETWS Boards that have been working hard to create regional cohesion and collaboration among TWS members. When my co-authors and I published *Shifting Demographic and Attitudinal Changes of TWS Members (1991-2014)* in 2018, it was quite evident that many TWS members did not perceive much, or any, value in being a Section member. SETWS has developed great networking and support opportunities outside of the annual meeting such as the bimonthly Conservation Affairs Network meetings of which I attend regularly and have had the pleasure to meet wildlife professionals across our region and the Field Techniques Course of which 2 of my students attended last summer and highly (and excitedly) talked about. Within my home Chapter of North Carolina and at the international level, TWS has made great strides to become more inclusive and I was thrilled to see the SETWS Minorities in the Natural Resource Conservation Committee sponsor 16 students to attend the annual meeting! If elected for this position, I will strive to brainstorm new ways to bring our members together to share ideas, experience, and learn from one another. The wildlife profession has always been a close-knit community to me, and I want to help our community thrive.

Dr. Travis DeVault, CWB®



I've been an active member of TWS since 2001 and have a strong professional commitment to the organization. I became a Certified Wildlife Biologist in 2007 and have maintained certification since that time. I also have been an active member of the Wildlife Damage Management Working Group, serving as a Board Member, Chair-Elect, Chair, and Past-Chair. As Chair, I led the effort to add a student Board Member, allowing the Working Group to benefit from student voices, and encouraging more involvement from those new to the wildlife profession.

Over the years I have witnessed how important TWS is to wildlife management and conservation in the USA and abroad. I would welcome the challenges and opportunities that would come with service as President-Elect, and later President. I view participation with SETWS as an excellent way to provide meaningful service to our profession. As wildlife and human populations expand and interact more often, wildlife research and management will only increase in importance. If elected, I will work with the membership to continue the Section's efforts in highlighting the importance of science-based wildlife management and conservation, both for human and wildlife interests.

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Nominees for Secretary/Treasurer

Dr. Vanessa Lane, CWB®



I have been actively involved in multiple facets of The Wildlife Society over the past decade. As an associate professor at an undergraduate-only institution, my primary focus for most of my career has been on providing quality educational and outreach opportunities for my students. This includes participation at professional conferences such as SEAFWA, GA TWS, and TWS. I will continue to have a strong student-centered approach, as well as a keen appreciation and support for the professionals who make this organization and recruitment of new professionals into this field possible.

If elected as Secretary/Treasurer, I will of course focus on the main aspects of the position, such as providing rapid and accurate communication to our members. However, I also believe elected officials should be well-connected and well-informed on current or emerging issues. I have lived in the Southeast for 15 years now; during that time I have worked hard to cultivate relationships with other professionals throughout the Southeast, and also stay abreast of conservation issues, especially within Georgia. I have actively engaged myself and students on state and federal policy issues, including the submission of formal comments. Georgia is also currently preparing for our 2025 State Wildlife Action Plan update, and I have participated on both the bird and herpetofauna advisory teams.

The Southeastern Section of TWS has made numerous positive impacts to the profession and I am excited about my selection as a nominee for Secretary/Treasurer. Thank you for considering me for this position.

Dr. Kristine Evans



I feel strongly that the Southeast Section of TWS has a growing presence in the region and has the potential to greatly benefit the conservation community at large through connecting state chapter partnerships and working across geopolitical boundaries for larger conservation impacts. Through the Secretary/Treasurer role I can provide support to the Board in planning and executing regional events, like the Southeast Field Course, to meet the need for field-based conservation education in the region. Maintaining a strong presence at the Southeast Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies annual conference is always a priority and provides an opportunity for the regional chapter Board to meet and plan for coming events and achievements. Balanced accounts are fundamental to the

activities of the board, as are well-documented notes and action items. I will continue the good work of those before me in supporting the Section President and rest of the Board in all endeavors during my tenure.