

SETWS Candidate Information Form

NAME: Dr. Rachael E. Urbanek, CWB®

OFFICE: President-Elect

PRESENT CAREER POSITION: Professor & Chair of the Department of Environmental Sciences, University of North Carolina Wilmington. (2022-present)

FORMER CAREER POSITIONS: Associate Professor, EVS-UNCW (2020-2022); Assistant Professor, EVS-UNCW (2015-2020); Assistant Department Chair, EVS-UNCW (2019-2022); Adjunct Faculty, Department of Biological Sciences, Arkansas Tech University (2015-2017); Assistant Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, Arkansas Tech University (2012-2015).

EDUCATION: Ph.D.: Cooperative Wildlife Research Lab, Southern Illinois University Carbondale. B.S.: Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences & Forestry Minor: The Pennsylvania State University

TWS ACTIVITIES:

TWS:

2021- Fellow

2013-2015: Increasing Agency Membership Committee

2013: Leadership Institute Participant

SETWS:

2023: Chair, Audit Committee

2022: Member, Audit Committee

2016-present: Member, SETWS Conservation Affairs Committee

NCTWS:

2023-present: Member, Heritage Committee

2022: Member, Annual Meeting Program Committee

2021: Past-President

2020: President

2019: President- Elect

2018-present: Member, Mentoring Committee

2016-present: Chair, Conservation Affairs Committee

Student Chapter Faculty Advisor:

2018-present; Seahawk Wildlife Society (UNCW)

2014-2015; Arkansas Tech University

AFFILIATIONS: TWS, SETWS, NCTWS, Seahawk Wildlife Society, Urban Wildlife Working Group

VIEWS:

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 a 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.

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NAME: Travis DeVault

OFFICE: President-Elect

PRESENT CAREER POSITION:

Associate Director for Research and Senior Research Scientist, University of Georgia's Savannah River Ecology Laboratory, 2019 - present

FORMER CAREER POSITIONS:

Postdoctoral Research Associate and Instructor, Department of Forestry and Natural Resources, Purdue University, 2003 - 2006

Research Wildlife Biologist, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Wildlife Services, National Wildlife Research Center, Central New York Office, 2006 - 2008

Supervisory Research Wildlife Biologist and Field Station/Project Leader, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Wildlife Services, National Wildlife Research Center, Ohio Field Station, 2008 - 2019

EDUCATION:

BS in Life Sciences, Indiana State University, 1996

MA in Life Sciences, Indiana State University, 1999

PhD in Wildlife Ecology, Purdue University, 2003

TWS ACTIVITIES:

TWS member, 2001 - present

Certified Wildlife Biologist®, 2007 - present (renewed in 2012, 2017, 2022)

Executive Board Member, Wildlife Damage Management Working Group, 2010 - 2012

Chair-Elect/Chair/Past-Chair, Wildlife Damage Management Working Group, 2012 - 2018

Chair, Wildlife Management Excellence Award Committee, Southeastern Section, 2021 - 2023

Regularly publishes peer-reviewed articles in TWS journals: *The Journal of Wildlife*

Management (6 articles), *The Wildlife Society Bulletin* (8), and *The Wildlife Professional* (1)

Lead editor and author for the book Wildlife in Airport Environments: Preventing Animal-

Aircraft Collisions through Science-Based Management, the first volume in the series *Wildlife Management and Conservation* published by Johns Hopkins University Press in association with TWS

AFFILIATIONS:

The Wildlife Society - State, Section, and National levels

TWS Wildlife Damage Management Working Group

Association of Field Ornithologists

VIEWS:

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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NAME: Vanessa Lane

OFFICE: Secretary/Treasurer (possibly president-Elect in the future, but I'd feel more comfortable learning the ropes as Secretary/Treasurer to start with.)

PRESENT CAREER POSITION: Associate Professor of Wildlife Ecology & Management, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College

FORMER CAREER POSITIONS: Lecturer of Fish and Wildlife Management, University of Minnesota-Crookston

EDUCATION:

Ph.D. Forest Resources, University of Georgia

M.S. Animal and Range Sciences, Montana State University

B.S. Natural Resources Management, Cornell University

TWS ACTIVITIES:

Secretary, SE TWS Representative for the CW Watson Award Committee, SEAFWA 2022 (3-year term; committee succession will be Vice President next year and President in 2024)

Member at Large, GA TWS 2020-2023

Judged numerous poster and oral presentations at SEAFWA, GA TWS, MN TWS, and TWS over the years.

Co-coordinator for the Southeastern Wildlife Conclave

College and University Education Working Group, TWS 2012-2015

Audit Committee, SE TWS 2014

Region 1 Representative, Minnesota Chapter of TWS 2014

AFFILIATIONS:

The Wildlife Society - member and Certified Wildlife Biologist

Southeastern Chapter of The Wildlife Society - member

Georgia Chapter of The Wildlife Society - member

Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society - co-advisor

VIEWS:

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.

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NAME: Kristine Evans

OFFICE: Secretary/Treasurer

PRESENT CAREER POSITION: Associate Professor, Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Aquaculture/Associate Director, Geosystems Research Institute, Mississippi State University

FORMER CAREER POSITIONS:

- Geomatics Coordinator, Gulf Coastal Plains and Ozarks Landscape Conservation Cooperative;
- Assistant Regional Data Manager, Southeast Region National Wildlife Refuge System Inventory and Monitoring Network, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service;
- Coordinator, National CP-33 Habitat Buffers for Upland Birds Monitoring Program, Mississippi State University;
- Coordinator, USDA-NRCS/MSU Northern Bobwhite Restoration Project, Mississippi State University
- Associate Coordinator, Oil Spill Response, Tri-State Bird Rescue and Research

EDUCATION:

- Ph.D., Forest Resources, Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Aquaculture, Mississippi State University – 2012
- M.S., Wildlife and Fisheries Science, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Mississippi State University – 2004
- B.S., Wildlife Biology, Department of Biological Sciences, Ohio University - 2000

TWS ACTIVITIES:

- At-Large Board Member, Mississippi State Chapter of The Wildlife Society (2021-2023)
- Southeast Section Representative, Mississippi State Chapter of The Wildlife Society (2017-2019)
- At-Large Board Member, Mississippi State Chapter of The Wildlife Society (2011-2012)
- Southeast Section of The Wildlife Society non-game diversity working group (2015-2017)

AFFILIATIONS:

- East Gulf Coastal Plain Joint Venture Technical Advisory Team (invited chair 2017-present)
- East Gulf Coastal Plain Joint Venture Landbird Working Group (invited chair; 2020-2021)
- East Gulf Coastal Plain Joint Venture Waterbird Working Group (invited; 2017-present)
- Member - The Wildlife Society (National; Southeast Section, Mississippi Chapter)
- Society for Conservation Biology

- Gulf of Mexico Alliance
- Women in Natural Resources - Mississippi State University
- American Ornithologists Union (2008-2012)

VIEWS:

Your vision for your role in this position and that of the SE Section for wildlife professionals in the region; 250 words max

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.