

SOUTHEASTERN SECTION OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY 2025 OFFICER NOMINATIONS

The Southeastern Section of The Wildlife Society (SETWS) is proud to present the following slate of officers for the 2025 election of President-Elect and Secretary-Treasurer. Please find below the candidate bios and statements.

Nominees for President-Elect

Dr. Vanessa Lane, CWB®



For the past two years I have worked as Secretary/Treasurer of SETWS, familiarizing myself with how the organization operates. As Secretary/Treasurer I assisted with several important events, including SETWS incorporation, opening a high yield saving account to keep up with rising inflation, creating a Square account to handle online transactions, developing a standard operating procedures document for future secretary/treasurers, and others. More change is expected over the next few years, the most pressing of which is the upcoming need to create our own regional website due to changes in national TWS hosting. Aside from knowing upcoming tasks, I have also maintained a strong commitment to TWS in its various forms through the years. I currently work at an undergraduate-only institution as co-advisor

of an active TWS student chapter (ABAC) and I am familiar with the unique needs and wants of current and upcoming academics. Additionally, I maintain strong relationships with agency personnel (notably Georgia DNR) and have been representing SETWS at the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies conference for the past three years on the CW Watson Award Committee, which is SEAFWA's highest award. My combination of experiences with academia, agencies, and private businesses (i.e. Weyerhaeuser was my primary sponsor for my Ph.D.) I feel have provided me a solid foundation to represent my various colleagues in SETWS, and I am eager and honored to be presented with this opportunity. Thank you for considering me as your next President-Elect.

Kris Godwin



We as a profession are always facing challenges. What is encouraging is the ability of the outstanding professionals throughout the Southeastern Region tackle these challenges through resourcefulness and outside-the-box thinking. If I were to become your president-elect, I see my role as assisting all of you maneuver your way through these challenges as a support system and someone who has battled in the trenches for over 30 years. I will provide leadership, guidance and support; and be a voice to TWS, and others, on issues which are important to our region. My tenure in the wildlife profession encompasses a large diversity of roles - I served as state director for a federal program for 26 years, have served in multiple other leadership positions, as well as worked in the field as a biologist. I instructed students at Mississippi State University as an adjunct assistant professor and

assisted with field research projects. My husband and I own a tree farm where we are using all the skills and management lessons we preached to others about on our own property – which has been a humbling experience. I've learned I still have a lot to learn. I need to learn from all of you as well. Therefore, I want to hear and LISTEN to you, to hear and learn from you, what you need from the SE Section. As a leader, I need to serve you, our members.

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Nominees for Secretary/Treasurer

Dr. Angela Larsen-Gray, CWB®



I have been an active member of The Wildlife Society since I first became involved with the student chapter during my undergraduate studies. I began serving on working group boards during graduate school and have since become more involved with my local state chapter, including serving as chair of the Virginia TWS IDEA Committee. Recently, I became chair of the Southeastern Section Conservation Affairs Committee, which increased my engagement at the section level. I truly value the networking and leadership opportunities TWS has provided me and would love to help make those opportunities more accessible to everyone interested. I believe the Southeastern Section offers a great chance to connect people across our region who are working on similar challenges or seeking mentors or mentees with shared interests.

If elected as Secretary/Treasurer, I plan to maintain clear communication with members and ensure all financial responsibilities are handled with the utmost integrity. I also want to explore ways to provide more opportunities for members to give feedback, ensuring the section meets its members' needs and interests. I am eager to help make the Southeastern Section more connected among its members, strengthen networking opportunities, and offer resources valuable to the entire membership. Thank you for considering me for the Secretary/Treasurer role.

Dr. Virginie Rolland



I studied birds for my PhD and postdoc. Although I later expanded my research to mammals and herps, friends and colleagues would introduce me as either an ornithologist or a statistician. Neither felt right. It's only in The Wildlife Society that I found a home. Although my French college education is not enough to become a Certified Wildlife Biologist without extra courses, I do best identify as a wildlife ecologist. The Wildlife Society was also the first society (that I know) that explicitly supported women through the WoW group. Although I did not get actively involved with the group, it was particularly comforting to know it existed after I attended a Southeast Deer Group meeting where I could count women on two hands. And in general, the Society has been ahead of the curve in supporting and including underrepresented groups. So, out of all the professional societies I've been a member of over the years,

The Wildlife Society has always been the most natural one for which I volunteered my service. When I was secretary/treasurer for the Arkansas Chapter, I successfully streamlined the budget spreadsheet and even generated benefits that allowed us to reduce registration costs to students for the chapter meeting the following year. I also drafted needed revisions of our bylaws to reflect recent practices of the chapter (e.g., annual instead of biannual meetings). So, I am now ready to take on a similar role at the section level, building on my experience and my predecessor's legacy.