

## Candidate Search for Vice President of The Wildlife Society (TWS)

The TWS Nominating Committee is searching for and evaluating potential candidates for Vice President of The Wildlife Society. To assist us with this search, please provide information for the seven categories below.

Complete and submit this form to the Nominating Committee: [nominations@wildlife.org](mailto:nominations@wildlife.org) by 11:59 pm Eastern Standard Time on Friday, March 13, 2026. Please include the name of the nominee in the filename (e.g. *TWS VP 2026\_Nomination\_Smith.docx*). Do not submit a CV or resume in place of this nomination form.

Prior to submission, *all italicized text below this point can be deleted.*

### NOMINEE:

I. **Contact Information** (*Include name, mailing address, phone numbers, email*)

Budd Veverka

99 East Middle Patent Rd, Bedford, NY 10506

812-929-9970

budd@mianus.org

II. **Education**

BS, Wildlife Management, Unity College in Maine, 1999

MS, Biology, Eastern Kentucky University, 2007

III. **Current position**

Director of Conservation and Stewardship

2016–Current

Mianus River Gorge, Inc. – Bedford, NY

- Coordinates all land management activities for ~1,100 acres in the Mianus River Watershed, including invasive species removal, installing deer exclosures, and monitoring boundaries.
- Develops and drafts the Mianus River Gorge Land Management Plan every five years.
- Coordinates and/or conducts all trail development and work.
- Directs volunteer efforts and coordinates volunteer projects.
- Coordinates and conducts annual easement monitoring on ~200 acres of private land.
- Coordinates all visitor logistics, including opening and closing the preserves, scheduling weekend coverage, and maintaining the trailhead grounds.
- Supervises the preserve land manager and summer interns.
- Works with the Director of Research and Education on the Deer Management Program, including regular hunting and post-season culling efforts.
- Conducts wildlife and habitat research projects in coordination with the research and education program, including planning, implementing, and evaluating projects conducted through graduate, undergraduate, and high school programs.
- Mentors high school and undergrad students conducting scientific research.

- Coordinates wildlife and habitat consultations for local landowners.
- Conducts public programs, both on-site and across the state and region.
- Develops and writes publications, newsletter articles, and informational signage.
- Assists in grant writing and fundraising.

### **Additional positions pertinent to TWS president position**

Farmland Game Research Biologist 2007–2015  
Indiana Dept. of Natural Resources – Bloomington, IN

- Conducted management and research of Indiana’s gamebirds (woodcock, dove, bobwhite, pheasant, etc.), cottontails, and tree squirrels.
- Coordinated federal and state population monitoring surveys including the Woodcock Singing Ground Survey and National Mourning Dove Banding Program.
- Monitored and managed black bear conflict in Indiana, including television and print interviews.
- Designed and implemented research projects, including hiring and supervising research technicians.
- Established and modified small game hunting regulations and proposed administrative rule revisions.
- Interacted with the media and public.
- Assisted deer, waterfowl, and furbearer programs.

#### **IV. Memberships and involvement with TWS at the TWS, Section, and Chapter levels**

Regular TWS Member since 2005

Certification: AWB (2005) and CWB (2015)

Award: TWS Fellow (2024)

Council Service:

- Caesar Kleberg Award Committee (2023-2026)

Current member of:

- Northeast Section (**Executive Officer, 2022-2026; President, 2023-2025; Awards Chair, 2019-current**)
- New York Chapter (**Executive Officer, 2019-2023; President, 2019-2022**)
- Private Lands WG (**Co-Chair, 2025-current**)
- Habitat Restoration WG
- Invasive Species WG.

Previous Member of:

- North-Central Section (Awards Chair, 2014-2015)
- Indiana Chapter (President, 2014-2015)
- Eastern Kentucky Student Chapter

#### **Membership with other professional organizations**

Lower Hudson Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISM)

Partner Representative, 2016-current; **Steering Committee, 2020-current**

Environmental Monitoring and Management Alliance (EMMA)

Organizational Representative, 2016-current; **WG Chair, 2020-2023**

Hudson to Housatonic regional conservation partnership (H2H RCP)

Organizational Representative, 2016-current; **WG Chair, 2017-2019**

Advisory Board of Forest Defense, LLC

Member, 2026-current

Conservation Committee of Greater Hudson Valley Council, Scouting America

**Committee Chair, 2024-current**

National Wild Pheasant Technical Committee/Midwest Pheasant Study Group

State Representative, 2007-2015; **Committee Chair/Coordinator, 2010-2012,**

**Primary author and editor of the National Wildlife Pheasant Conservation Plan**

National Bobwhite Technical Committee

State Representative, 2007-2015

Eastern Management Unit Dove Technical Committee

State Representative. 2007-2015

**Nominee, please provide your answer to the following question (500-word limit):**

*Why are you interested in running for the office of TWS Vice President and what is your vision for The Wildlife Society?*

The Wildlife Society has been a deeply important part of my life as I have navigated through my education and career in the wildlife profession. Moving from college to seasonal jobs to full-time positions in numerous locations, TWS, and the amazing people I have met and become friends with, have been the one constant through the many changes. Our community, with its diversity of amazing individuals, has helped me grow and become not only a better biologist but a better person. This has led me to make every effort to pay it forward to those coming after me, helping students and new professionals find a place in our field. At this moment in time, I believe that it is vital for The Wildlife Society to broaden our community, reaching out to conservation professionals and organizations that do on-the-ground work for wildlife, such as land trusts, county and local governments, utility companies, and outdoor education centers, but have typically not considered themselves wildlife professionals, expanding our outreach and challenging our members to find these dedicated professions and invite them into this wonderful organization.

In getting to know me, I spoke of inspiration. That ability to inspire, whether it be the child wanting to learn about an animal they love, the farmer considering a conservation practice on their ever more precious land, or our political leaders who are solicited for favor every day, must be our primary purpose. We must find ways to inspire young students to connect with the wildlife profession before they enter college. My own organization has developed a strong high school research program, and I know there are other organizations out there with amazing youth programs. How can we develop and bring those programs into The Wildlife Society? How can we inspire through our outreach? I think the rebrand and elements like “Our Wild Lives” have started us on that path, but I want to work hard to turn our message, our inspiration, into results that will strengthen and grow our organization and make us a stronger advocate for wildlife and our people.

**V. Nominee, please share information about yourself that members should know for selecting the Vice President of TWS (500-word limit).**

What's the best way to really know me and why I want to be an integral part of The Wildlife Society leadership? I could talk about my education at Unity College and Eastern Kentucky University, where I earned a bachelor's in wildlife management and a Master's in biology, respectively. I could talk about my professional career, with a diversity of work on species from flying squirrels and trumpeter swans to peregrine

falcons and native pollinators to invasive earthworms and black bears. Maybe I could talk about my accomplishments, like leading the effort to create a national conservation plan for ring-necked pheasants, developing new techniques for invasive species control, or having the privilege to be named a Fellow of The Wildlife Society. Yet I believe the most important part of knowing me and how I feel about our profession is how it all started. As a child growing up in rural western Pennsylvania, I hunted, fished, and read my father's Pennsylvania Game News. I loved being outdoors and joined the scouting program, eventually earning the Eagle Scout rank, but one moment really set me on my path. I was just 14 years old when I attended a black bear talk presented by PGC biologist Gary Alt at the Game Commission Museum on Pymatuning Lake. Watching his presentation that day, educational, but lively and fun, inspired me, and I told my father that day, as we walked from the building, that I was going to be a wildlife biologist when I grew up. To this day, every time I walk into a room to talk to the public about birds or bats or bears, I think about that day, and I wonder if there is a child in that room who will find that same inspiration from me. This is why being a wildlife professional is so important to me, and probably to many of you.

**VI. Please "paste" a recent photograph of the nominee below (in .jpg, .jpeg or .tif format).**

