

## **2017 New Candidates for the EMAS Board**

Hello everyone! My name is **Bethany Sheffer** and I'm currently an AmeriCorps member serving with Balsam Mountain Trust (Sylva) as the Education Outreach Coordinator. I have an enormous passion for animals and conservation and have been fascinated by birds, in particular, since childhood. I'm a recent transplant from Michigan and am originally from the state's scenic Upper Peninsula. I have a Master's degree in Public Administration with an emphasis in Nonprofit Management and am looking forward to applying this education, as well as my passion for birding and engaging folks around birds, to EMAS.

**Nancy Casey** wanted to be an astronaut and astronomer in her younger years, but as she began to grow, her interest for all things-science-related turned into a passion for Earth science and environmental issues. She was born and raised in and around Washington, D.C., earning a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism and Political Science from the George Washington University and a Master of Arts in Geographical Sciences from the University of Maryland. Her entire career has been spent working for environmental non-profits and federal government agencies primarily as a researcher. Most recently, she worked for NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center analyzing satellite data in support of climate research. Currently, she's a contractor for NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information working for the U.S. Climate Reference Network. Nancy got hooked on birding over 20 years ago and thoroughly enjoys the challenging art of birding by ear. She participates in many bird counts, including the annual Breeding Bird Survey (Oteen section). Also an avid traveler, Nancy loves to hop a plane to far-away destinations – but doesn't leave home without her binoculars!

**Susan Hutson** has always loved nature, hiking, kayaking and travel. She took up birding seriously about three years ago. She earned her BA from Vanderbilt University and her PhD in Biochemistry and Nutrition from the University of Wisconsin Madison. Her career in academics included teaching and biomedical research which was funded for 30 years by competitive federal and industry grants. She has lived in Norway and throughout her career collaborated with scientists in the US, Asia and Europe. She has experience in community service having served on the Wake Forest University Medical School neighborhood safety taskforce and as an officer in the West End Neighborhood Association in Winston-Salem. She has held administrative positions at Wake Forest University and at Virginia Tech. Now she is “mostly” retired and starting a new career in an integrative health modality which gives her time to concentrate on birding and hiking both in the US and abroad, including completing the Coast to Coast Walk across England (with binoculars and camera in hand) in 2015. She is enjoying the biodiversity and beauty of the Southern Appalachians and travel focused on birding opportunities.

## **EMAS Bylaw Changes to be voted on at the June meeting**

The changes to the bylaws are in italics. To summarize, the President can now serve three terms,

instead of two. This brings that term limit in line with the three-term limit of the Vice-president and Treasurer. Another change is that At-large board members can be elected in any year, rather than just in even years. Also, the elections of the officers will alternate with President and Secretary elected in odd years, and the Vice-president and Treasurer elected in even years. This way we can preserve some continuity on the board. The Past-president will only be asked to serve one year.

The complete by-laws can be found at [www.emasnc.org](http://www.emasnc.org) and the revised by-laws will be posted there after the vote.

#### **Article IV. Board of Directors**

Section 1. The Board of Directors of EMAS shall be responsible for conducting the business of EMAS. The Board shall consist of at least four (4) officers and three (3) directors at large. *The immediate past president of EMAS shall serve one one-year term.* All board members shall be members in good standing of the National Society and/or EMAS.

Section 2. The term “board member” shall apply to all members of the Board.

Section 3. Selection and Removal of Board Members

- A. *Board members shall be elected by EMAS membership at the annual meetings as follows: president and secretary shall be elected in odd years; vice president and treasurer shall be elected in even years; directors at large may be elected in any year.*
- B. Board members shall be elected for terms of two years by a plurality of EMAS members voting in person or by proxy.
- C. There is no limit on the number of times a director at large may be reelected.
- D. A board member may be removed from the Board by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board at any time, with or without cause.
- E. *If board membership does not meet the required levels as described in Article IV, Section I, the Board shall fill those vacancies by majority vote of the Board. Any board member elected in this way shall serve until the end of the term of the board member he or she replaces.*

#### **Article V. Officers**

Section 1. The officers of EMAS shall be a president, a vice president, a secretary and a treasurer, and such other officers as may be determined by the board of directors.

Section 2. *The president, vice president and treasurer shall serve two-year terms, and no individual may hold the same office for more than three (3) consecutive terms. The secretary may serve an unlimited number of terms.*