

Elisha Mitchell Audubon Society Board of Directors Slate, June 2018

Kristin Black, Student At-large member

Kristin has felt a deep connection with the natural world and birds in particular since she was a child. She currently attends UNC Asheville, working on earning her B.S. in Environmental Studies with a concentration in Ecology and Environmental Biology. Kristin was named WLOS's Person of the Week in late January 2017 for her service at WNC Nature Center caring for the education raptors. She also volunteers for Appalachian Wildlife Refuge, an organization that coordinates the needs of injured and orphaned wildlife. After graduating from UNCA, Kristin intends to continue her education and become an ornithologist with a focus on avian ecology and conservation.

Danielle Dibella-Lenaway, At-large

As a young child I dreamed of living in a tree house in Africa, painting the endlessly beautiful landscapes while helping save endangered animals. Maybe it was a dream, but it foretold of my interest and passion in protecting animals, working on conservation projects, and having a strong respect for nature. My particular interest in the Audubon society seems a natural fit since I've had a lifelong love affair with birds of all species and want to steer my passion towards being helpful and supportive of efforts to protect and enhance their environment.

My husband, Dennis, and I are recent arrivals to Asheville having come from Colorado via a decade living in Atlanta. I have a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the University of Colorado and remain connected to the arts in many respects. My professional career has been mostly focused on conceiving and launching small businesses – some successful, and some not so successful. What it has taught me is the importance of working in partnership with others and having a shared vision and purpose. My spare time was dedicated to animal rights, including disaster relief work serving as a member of HSUS's National Disaster Animal Response (NDART) team, spending countless hours raising funds and awareness for endangered species (e.g. Asian Elephants,) fostering abandoned pets, and serving on the Sierra Club's wildlife committee in Seattle helping with the reintroduction of native wolf species. With my husband of 36 years (once upon a time an epidemiologist with the Centers for Disease Control) I've enjoyed national and global travel that allowed me to experience a variety of different cultures and environments. Now I'm hoping to bring my considerable energy, enthusiasm, and experience to the EMAS Board. I'm very excited about this unique opportunity and look forward to meeting all of you in the very near future.

Cathy Walsh, At-large

As a clever bumper sticker states, "Not born in Asheville, but I got here as soon as I could," which was almost two years ago. Originally from New York, Cathy has also lived in California, upstate South Carolina, the Lowcountry of South Carolina, and Charlottesville, Virginia where

she earned her Master's in Education and Ph.D. in Clinical and School Psychology from the University of Virginia. She had a private practice in Mount Pleasant, SC for 27 years. She has been president of the Lowcountry Association of School Psychologists, the secretary-treasurer of the SC Academy of Professional Psychologists, the secretary of the SC Psychological Association, and the president of the Palmetto Fiber Arts Guild – all in Charleston. Currently, Cathy is a member at large on the Board of the WNC Fiber and Handweaving Guild. While in Charleston, she was involved with The Coastal Conservation League as a frequent participant in their bird walks and belonged to the local Audubon club. Birding for the past 40+ years, she is most recently working on bird identification by ear and studying several courses on birding with the Cornell Lab of Ornithology on-line. She never misses opportunities to bird. This coming August, Cathy will graduate from the NC Arboretum's certificate program as a Blue Ridge Naturalist in the Southern Appalachian Mountains.