

GAVIN STANTON SHWAHLA

Multifaceted and passionate filmmaker with a bachelor's in wildlife science and experienced science communicator, narrative storyteller, and visual artist who is dedicated to connecting people to our planet and each other through stories that inspire. Motivated self-starter and enthusiastic individual in constant pursuit of personal and professional growth.

Portfolio: www.gavinwild.com • (908) 783-9200 • shwahla.gavin@gmail.com

EXPERIENCE

MEDIA PRODUCER/CREATIVE DIRECTOR, GAVIN WILD VISUALS – 2021- PRESENT

Notable Achievements: Produced a multi-award-winning short documentary (2022) while performing every role in the production process (producer, director, cinematographer, editor, etc.). Awarded *Winner* of two categories in the NC Wildlife Federation's Annual Photo Contest (2024). Contributed photography, videos, and graphics to the Conserve The Point effort and Save The South End campaign which successfully raised over 8 million dollars to purchase 150 acres of barrier island habitat on Topsail Island, NC to be conserved in perpetuity (2022-2025). Recipient of National Estuarine Research Reserve's DO Award for presentation of vital information (2024).

General Duties: Manage media production company specializing in communicating environmental topics in an engaging, educational, and memorable way to wide audiences through film and photography. Collaborate with clients to create original story concepts. Write original scripts and treatments that accurately convey ideas and story themes. Create shot lists and storyboards. Delegate and manage crew on and off set to efficiently and effectively meet project deadlines. Serve as one-person production team; managing budgets, operating camera and audio equipment, utilize Adobe's post-production software (Premiere Pro, Audition, After Effects) to edit, color, and deliver video projects. Communicate with producers and sponsors to facilitate and meet production demands. Conduct personal and compelling interviews for documentary/ promotional films. Plan, promote, and host live events such as talks and film screenings. Manage social media channels and write descriptive posts to build following around brand mission and values. View portfolio at www.gavinwild.com

DISTRIBUTION MANAGER, BARNEGAT OYSTER COLLECTIVE – MAY 2025 - PRESENT

Oversee daily distribution operations for NJ shellfish grower and distributor. Coordinate deliveries in accordance with mandated health and safety terms for the state of New Jersey. Ensure customers receive products on time and safely. Manage inventory of goods manually and through the digital system, Bluetrace. Assist farm crew in facility maintenance, farm duties, and shellfish processing. Experience with proper boating protocols.

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT, SINCLAIR BROADCAST GROUP, HUNDRED YEAR FILMS, ETC. – 2024 (CONTRACTUAL)

The following experience is compiled across productions with Sinclair Broadcast Group, Inner Tree Media, and Hundred Year Films: Served as Second Assistant Cinematographer, overseeing audio/ visual slating, marking blocking with talent, supervising shot list, and assisting in the technical lighting setup. Assisted with various tasks on set, including setting up and dismantling equipment, running errands, and helping with general production duties. Provided support to the director, producer, and other crew members as needed. Hauling equipment over various terrain. Take publicity stills for use on social media and promotion. Contributed to creative collaboration within a small team.

SALES REPRESENTATIVE, CANYON PASS PROVISIONS – 2024 - PRESENT

Part-time sales rep. for local, family-owned outdoor and lifestyle retailers. Provide customers with detailed information about outdoor products (e.g., camping gear, hiking boots, tents, etc.). Help customers select the right products based on their specific outdoor activities, needs, and preferences. Keep up-to-date with the latest trends, brands, and technology in the outdoor, travel, and lifestyle industry. Understand the brands carried by the retailer, including features, benefits, and unique selling points. Apply personal experience as an experienced traveler and outdoorsman to better assist customers and outfit them for their travels and expeditions.

OUTREACH ASSISTANT, SAVE BARNEGAT BAY – SEPT. 2022 - JAN. 2024

Facilitated screenings of the award-winning documentary film, *Drift*, to a wide audience within various settings, venues, and circumstances. Upheld the values and standards of the organization; maintained brand quality and public image. Helped educate and inform general public in Q&A sessions after the screening. Responsible for Audio Visual equipment transport, set-up, and general maintenance. Assisted Digital Marketing and Communication's Coordinator manage and create targeted social media content across all major social media platforms by facilitating access to special curated photo archives. Assisted in capturing and editing photo and video content to promote the organization's brand efficiently and professionally online.

INSTRUCTOR, BLUEHOUR PHOTO VENTURES – AUG 2022 - DEC 2024

Photo Workshop Instructor with Blue Hour Photo Ventures. Develop and host engaging, educational, in-the-field workshops for classes of up-to twelve students that cover a variety of professional photography techniques. Communicate with students and colleagues to deliver the high-quality services associated with the company's brand. Educate students individually and/or in groups to help improve their understanding of digital/ mirrorless cameras and knowledge of artistic design and composition. Facilitate a welcoming, safe, fun, non-discriminatory atmosphere where students can feel comfortable to learn!

INTERPRETER, JENKINSON'S AQUARIUM – NOV 2019- APR 2020

Conducted educational talks specific to each exhibit. Provided formal and informal information to the public. Co-facilitate off-site educational seminars, including the safe transport and handling of animals. Assisted in animal husbandry following aquarium-specific protocols. Safely handle reptiles in and out of exhibits. Completed various tasks (cleaning, feeding, outreach) independently and in teams. Assisted in water quality testing and other aquarist responsibilities (i.e. water changes, tank maintenance, and animal care).

AVIAN MONITORING INTERN, USFWS – SUMMER 2019

Independently conducted daily surveys on beaches for Federally threatened Piping Plovers and State endangered Least Terns; including nest searching and monitoring. Carried out management actions; including enclosing plover nests and maintaining electric and symbolic fencing, predator tracking, and public outreach. Conducted flock estimates - Least Terns and mixed species shorebirds. Assisted with demographic monitoring of Saltmarsh and Nelson's Sparrows. Utilized mist-nets to capture and band (aluminum and color bands) adults and chicks. Performed nest searching and monitoring following species-specific protocols. Entered data into regional databases, provided summary analyses to Refuge biologists. Wrote updated seasonal report in partner with supervisors. Provide formal and informal education to the public. Led bird walks and tide pooling programs. Informed beach-goers about Piping Plover conservation.

VIDEO PRODUCTION INTERN, MARVO ENTERTAINMENT GROUP – 2018

Produced promotional video, *Art to Conservation*, to highlight the work of Jay N. Darling for outreach use by the Jay N. Darling Legacy Center. Filmed never-before-seen archival art pieces from Ding Darling's personal collection. Operated camera (exposure, composition, movement), edited video, and mixed sound. Conducted film interviews. Served as production assistant.

INDEPENDENT RESEARCH ASSISTANT, ROCKY MOUNTAIN BIO LAB – SUMMER 2017, 2018

Conducted daily surveys independently and in teams for Mountain White-Crowned Sparrows. Utilizing mist-nets and potter traps to band (aluminum and color bands) adults and collect morphological measurements. Performed nest searching and monitoring following species-specific protocols. Supervised interns on project methods in the field. Organized and entered data in databases. Led and conducted independent research focusing on the effects of blood parasites on the female's incubation period. Collected blood samples by brachial bleeding. Stained and analyzed blood smears following project-specific protocols.

EDITOR, PAUL SMITH'S COLLEGE – 2017-2019

Editorial staff of the online and print publication, The Apollos. Worked directly with chief editor. Developed and wrote original stories and articles. Conceptualized and produced original video stories and series. Photographed and filmed local events. Edited and reviewed copy. Responsible for weekly publishing of social media and web content. Assisted in planning and execution of digital marketing and social media campaigns.

EDUCATION

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE: WILDLIFE SCIENCE

PAUL SMITH'S COLLEGE, PAUL SMITHS, NY – 2019

**Completed accelerated course program to earn a Bachelor's in three years.*

RELEVANT COURSES: CREATIVE WRITING • COMIC BOOK WRITING • ART OF FILM

SKILLS

SCIENCE COMMUNICATION • DOCUMENTARY FILM • DIRECTING • NARRATIVE STORYTELLING • ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION • PHOTOGRAPHY • CREATIVE CONCEPTUALIZATION • PUBLIC OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATION • FILM AND VISUAL MEDIA PRODUCTION • PRODUCTION MANAGEMENT • CREATIVE DIRECTION • WRITING/STORYBOARDING • POST-PRODUCTION • VIDEOGRAPHY • WRITING/ EDITING FOR EDITORIAL PUBLICATIONS • SOCIAL MEDIA CONTENT & STRATEGY • SOCIAL MEDIA SOFTWARE (I.E HOOTSUITE, METIRCOOL, CANVA) • ADOBE CREATIVE SUITE (VIDEO EDITING, GRAPHIC DESIGN) • DATA MANAGEMENT • WILDLIFE RESEARCH • STORYTELLING • RELATIONSHIP BUILDING • TRAVEL • PADI OPEN WATER CERTIFICATION

AWARDS

BEST DOCUMENTARY - INDIFILMOPOLIS FILM FESTIVAL 2022 • BEST HOME GROWN DOCUMENTARY SHORT - GARDEN STATE FILM FESTIVAL 2022 • IMDB CREDITED - WOOD VIBRATIONS 2022 • FISCAL SPONSORSHIP AWARDEE - INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARY ASSOCIATION 2023 • WINNER (SCENES & PEOPLE) - NC WILDLIFE FED. ANNUAL PHOTO CONTEST 2024 • DO AWARD - NATIONAL ESTUARINE RESEARCH RESERVE FILM FESTIVAL 2024

VOLUNTEER

MEMBER, NEW JERSEY BAY ISLANDS INITIATIVE – JULY 2024 - PRESENT

Official member of the volunteer coalition of various organizations dedicated to protect and restore islands found in our estuaries across the state of New Jersey. Serve on the Outreach/Press Team to work with other members to implement social media and outreach strategy. Work with partners to produce visual content to meet outreach goals and engage target audiences. View more about NJBI here: www.njbayislands.org

BOARD MEMBER, CONSERVE THE POINT - TOPSAIL – APRIL 2023 - PRESENT

Founding board member of environmental nonprofit, Conserve The Point - Topsail, dedicated to preserving 150 acres of wildlife habitat from private development. Participate remotely and on-site in monthly board

meetings. Chairman of Fundraising Committee; Develop and strategize fundraising campaigns, pursue potential donors, plan community events. Member of Communications Committee; Asset in public outreach and digital marketing campaigns to increase community awareness and support: write and produce social media content for target audiences.

EVENT COORDINATOR, NATIONAL WILDLIFE SOCIETY (PSC STUDENT CHAPTER) – 2019

Organize, Run, and coordinate field trips, outreach, and events for the Paul Smith's College Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society.