

# Ben Wasserstein

## Writer, Photographer and Conservationist

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Accomplished reporter and conservationist featured in outlets such as The Washington Post and broadcast on NPR. After covering Pennsylvania's Capitol and leading election coverage across two cycles, Ben Wasserstein traded his press credentials for a conservation vest in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe; monitoring wildlife, restoring habitat, and managing invasive species on the ground. That combination of investigative grit and global perspective defines everything Ben brings to a story: relentless on accountability, but always aware of the bigger world outside the building.

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### Areas of Expertise

Photography • Photojournalism • Investigative Journalism & Reporting • Wildlife Conservation • Political Reporting & Storytelling • Multimedia Content Production • Audience Engagement & Public Outreach • Event Coverage & Crisis Reporting • Public Speaking & Media Appearances • Crisis Communication • News Writing & Editing • SEO & Headline Optimization • Digital & Social Media Strategy

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### Professional Experience

**Nakavango Conservation Programme** | Victoria Falls, Matabeleland North Province, Zimbabwe  
*Volunteer*

August 2025

Completed an intensive hands-on conservation placement in the field, contributing directly to wildlife protection and habitat management.

- Photographed numerous animals, including four of the "Big Five"
- Assisted local community project by clearing stones from a school soccer field

### Freelance Journalist

October 2024 – June 2025

Pitched compelling story ideas related to Pennsylvania. Conducted in-depth research to meet tight deadlines. Attended events and demonstrations. Took photographs to accompany stories. Collaborated with fellow journalists to produce informative and thought-provoking articles.

- Published five articles about each presidential campaign's ground game in south central Pennsylvania
- Published four articles about Pennsylvania's 10th Congressional race
- Interviewed Jewish leaders on the state of antisemitism in the United States following the arson at Gov. Josh Shapiro's house on the first night of Passover

**WTF** | Harrisburg, Pennsylvania  
*Capitol Bureau Chief*

June 2023 – October 2024

Oversaw political coverage and reporting from the Pennsylvania Capitol. Interviewed elected officials at local, state and national levels.

Conducted listening sessions to gather audience insights. Produced informative articles and radio feeds for statewide and national distribution.

- Acted as pool reporter, contributing to collaborative media coverage of significant events
- Appeared on television to share investigative reports, increasing visibility and engagement with key topics
- Guest lectured on media literacy and civic engagement at colleges, fostering deeper understanding of media's role in society
- Led coverage planning for 2023 and 2024 elections to ensure comprehensive reporting on electoral processes
- Served as member of NPR's States Team and collaborated on regional reporting initiatives
- Uncovered critical evidence of sexual harassment in high-ranking official's office, holding politicians accountable

**The Post and Courier** | Charleston, South Carolina  
*Digital News Producer*

August 2021 – May 2023

Oversaw design and layout of morning edition of website. Managed content creation for daily newsletter. Produced weekly trivia to engage audience. Posted stories on Twitter and Facebook. Sent push notifications to inform audience of breaking news.

- Created engaging digital assets, including weekly trivia, to enrich website's content
- Contributed to team awarded 2021 Website of the Year by South Carolina Press Association for excellence in digital journalism
- Designed morning edition of website to enhance user experience and engagement
- Developed promotional Instagram posts and stories to drive traffic to articles
- Edited headlines for SEO to improve visibility and search engine rankings

**Capital News Service** | Richmond, Virginia  
*Team Leader, Staff Writer and Photographer*

January 2021 – May 2021

Led team of writers and photographers in producing impactful news coverage. Wrote and edited news stories under tight deadlines. Photographed events, creating compelling visual narratives.

- Attended Richmond Lobby Day demonstrations, documenting key moments to raise public awareness of civic engagement
- Conducted interviews with state senators and delegates from across Virginia, delivering in-depth insights into legislative issues
- Created story budgets to prioritize coverage and streamline editorial processes
- Strengthened connections with local leaders to facilitate access to crucial information for reporting

**The Collegian, University of Richmond** | Virginia  
*News Writer and Photographer | Visual Editor*

October 2018 – March 2021

Compiled credible data by interviewing professors, deans, students and special speakers. Took clear and professional photographs for articles. Edited photographs using the latest software. Photographed pivotal moments during public protests in Virginia.

- Achieved publication of a photograph in The Washington Post, showcasing professional quality work
- Engaged with editorial staff to pitch stories, collaborate on special projects and conduct revisions
- Led student photojournalists throughout pandemic, guiding them in effective reporting and photography practices

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## Additional Experience

**City and State NY** | New York, New York  
*Editorial Intern*

- Took photographs during moments of public unrest to capture critical moments
- Maintained contact with Congressional offices to gather insights and information
- Edited all photographs using Photoshop or Lightroom to ensure quality
- Created databases containing information on finance, insurance and real estate industries for reporting purposes
- Credited for photograph of Union Square riot on May 30, 2020, published in June 7, 2020 edition
- Documented significant events during 2020 civil unrest, providing visual account of protests and demonstrations

**Richmond Magazine** | Richmond, Virginia  
*Editorial Intern*

- Authored articles detailing current events in the greater Richmond area
- Conducted exclusive interviews and gathered data from various sources for in-depth analysis
- Used DSLRs and mirrorless cameras to take high-quality photographs
- Earned front cover story for October 2019 edition, showcasing impactful reporting

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## Education

**B.A. in Journalism** | University of Richmond, Richmond, VA | Graduated: May 2021

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## Honors & Awards

- 2021 Website of the Year – South Carolina Press Association
- Xerox Award for Innovation and Information Technology
- The Joseph E. Nettles Scholarship for Journalism
- Certificate of International Volunteer Service in Wildlife Conservation
- Dean's List

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## Publications and Broadcasts

- Featured in prominent publications including City and State NY, Richmond Magazine, Pennsylvania Capital-Star, Politics PA, The Washington Post, The Post and Courier and LNP
- Broadcast on PCN, WITF, WESA, WPSU, WHYI, WSKG, WLVR and NPR