

Jon Evans serves as the Assistant Provost for Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability at Sewanee: The University of the South. In this position, he is responsible for developing and implementing a comprehensive strategy for integrating sustainability across the curriculum and making sustainability a vital part of University operations and decision-making. He also leads University efforts to promote sustainability and landscape-level conservation across the Cumberland Plateau region.

His current research interests and recent publications center on the dynamics of forest change in the southeastern United States and the conservation of biodiversity in forested landscapes. As founding Director of Sewanee's Landscape Analysis Laboratory, he led a federally funded, multi-disciplinary project that used GIS and remote sensing to examine the environmental consequences of native hardwood conversion to pine plantations on the Cumberland Plateau. This research led to fundamental changes in land-use decision-making within the region and helped to catalyze major conservation initiatives.

He graduated from Cornell University in 1979 with a major in Biology and received his doctoral degree in Botany from Duke University in 1989. Following a two year Postdoctoral Fellowship in Ecology at the University of Virginia, he joined the faculty in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at Rice University as a Huxley Fellow. Since 1994, he has been a faculty member in the Department of Biology at Sewanee, where he is currently a tenured Full Professor. He teaches courses in ecology, botany and conservation biology and manages the Sewanee Herbarium, which maintains an extensive vascular plant collection for the University's 13,000 acre campus and surrounding region.