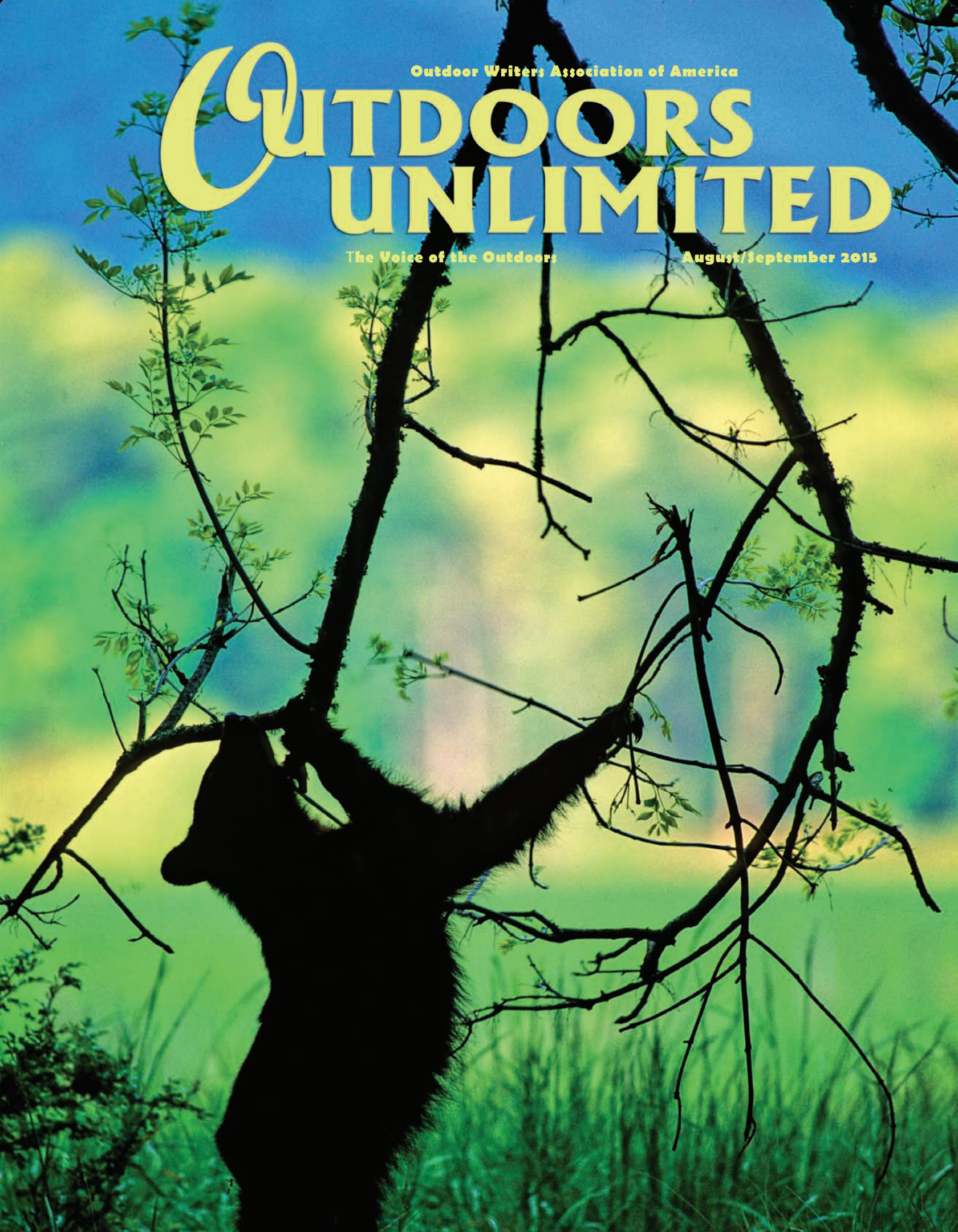


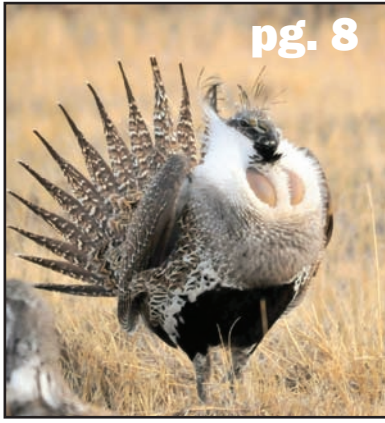
Outdoor Writers Association of America

OUTDOORS UNLIMITED

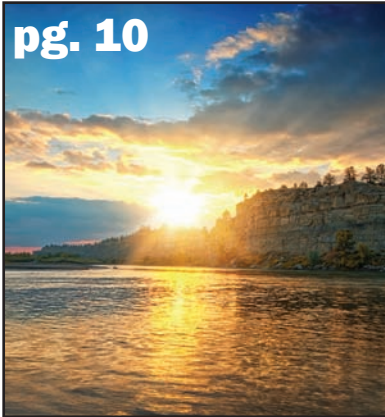
The Voice of the Outdoors

August/September 2015

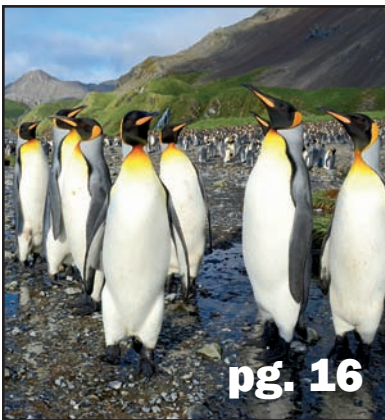




pg. 8



pg. 10



pg. 16

OUTDOORS UNLIMITED

August/September 2015, Vol. 76 , No. 4

5 Navigating vehicle reviews — *by Linda Water Nelson*

6 Production paperwork — *by Karuna Eberl*

7 Natural noise — *by Brad Zahar*

8 Covering the greater sage grouse — *by Laura Lundquist*

4 President's message

10 Conference preview

12 EIC winners

20 Honorary award recipients

21 New members

23 Association update

26 Supporter spotlights

28 Conference thank you



ON THE COVER

By Stephen Kirkpatrick

"Black Bear Cub Reaching for Leaves," was taken in Great Smoky Mountains National Park. See more of Kirkpatrick's wildlife photograph on his website www.kirkpatrickwildlife.com/.

OUTDOOR WRITERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Our mission: improve the professional skills of our members, set the highest ethical and communications standards, encourage public enjoyment and conservation of natural resources and mentor the next generation of professional outdoor communicators.

Copyright August/September 2015 by Outdoor Writers Association of America Inc. Reproduction in whole or in part without permission is prohibited. The contents of Outdoors Unlimited do not necessarily represent the opinion or endorsement of OWAA, its staff, officers, directors or members. Outdoors Unlimited (ISSN 0030-7181) is published bimonthly by Outdoor Writers Association of America Inc., 615 Oak St., Ste. 201, Missoula, MT 59801. Periodicals postage paid at Missoula, MT, and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Outdoors Unlimited, Outdoor Writers Association of America Inc., 615 Oak St., Ste. 201, Missoula, MT 59801.

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
615 Oak St., Ste. 201
Missoula, MT 59801
406-728-7434, Fax: 406-728-7445
info@owaa.org, www.owaa.org

STAFF
Executive Director: Tom Sadler
Membership and Conference Services
Director: Jessica Seitz
Publications Editor: Kelsey Dayton

PRESIDENT
Lisa Ballard, Montana

OFFICERS
Vice President: Brett Prettyman, Utah
Vice President: Phil Bloom, Indiana
Secretary: Paul Queneau, Montana
Treasurer: Ty Stockton, Wyoming

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Sam Caldwell, Texas
Brent Frazee, Missouri
Tom Keer, Massachusetts
Colleen Miniuk-Sperry, Arizona

Kris Millgate, Idaho
Vicki Mountz, Ohio
Paul A. Smith, Wisconsin
Shane Townsend, Texas
Paul Vang, Montana

COUNSELS
Attorney: William Jay Powell, Missouri
Medical: William W. Forgey, Indiana
Supporting Group Liaison: Katie McKalip, Montana

Looking ahead to another great year

My third conference as your executive director is in the history books. Every year I'm amazed at how much news, information and fun gets packed into three days.

Among that news is an OWAA status report I give to the membership. I'm recapping the highlights here for those unable to attend the conference.

While we could always be in better financial shape, we are holding our own. At the end of the first quarter of the fiscal year there are no unanticipated or extraordinary expenses. Revenues and expenses are in line with projections.

The key to our financial security rests on the revenue side of our operations. We can't cut our way to financial security; we need to grow our way there. Which brings me to membership.

Going into conference we had 721 individual members and 162 supporting groups. From April 1, 2014 through March 31, 2015, we added 64 new members and 43 supporting groups. Of course we lose members and supporters each year for a variety of reasons but the trend continues to look promising.

And if each member recruited just one



TOM SADLER

new member — just one — we would double the size of the organization. If you believe in OWAA and what we do, I am sure you can help one other person benefit from membership as you do.

One of those benefits is our membership directory, which as I announced at conference is moving online. Hopefully by the time you read this, it is up and running.

This searchable online directory will replace the printed version. We'll update it twice a month to keep it current.

Much of the content in the current printed directory, other than member and supporter information is already on the website in members area and where appropriate on the main website.

We also are working on the continuing issue of filming on federal public lands.

We hosted a panel on the subject at conference and used that discussion to move the federal agencies to recognize the importance of this issue to our members. President **Lisa Ballard** created an ad hoc committee to monitor and engage on this issue. **Mark Freeman** will chair that committee and he and I will continue to use the website to keep our members informed on actions on this issue.

Earlier this year, the American Sportfishing Association instituted a fee for media credentials for ICAST. Responding to some concerns raised by our members I worked with the association and they agreed

to waive the fee for all OWAA members in good standing.

Even with these efforts, we are always looking at ways to improve. The membership will receive a survey from the Member Services Committee, chaired by **Colleen Miniuck-Sperry**, asking how we can improve conference. Your response will help shape future conferences.

The fact that OWAA's reputation and general "buzz" has improved this past year is a direct result of the terrific effort the headquarters team puts into the organization. Jessica Seitz and Kelsey Dayton are essential parts of a small team managing a demanding workload. They are often the first contact for members and supporters and it is their efforts that keep the members and supporters happy. They both are constantly working to improve communications and service delivery for both members and supporters.

In addition to the headquarters team we have seen some exceptional volunteer efforts from the board. Many of the committees toiled quietly in the background discharging their duties and helping the organization. You'll see the fruits of these labors as OWAA heads into what I'm confident will be another great year. ■

— OWAA Executive Director Tom Sadler,
tsadler@owaa.org

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

KEER IS A GREAT BOARD ADDITION

The June/July issue of OU was most excellent. The Craft Improvement pieces were superb, particularly **Tom Keer's** contribution Planning the perfect FAM trip. I've had the pleasure of participating in two of his FAM ventures over the past several years. They were simply outstanding because he did exactly what he says to do in the article. Both the host and the writers benefited immensely from the events in both subsequent media placements, and in new

contacts and friendships developed—including my relatively new friendship with Tom and his wife Angela. Angela is an integral part of The Keer Group, and lends a wealth of expertise and class wherever she goes. Tom will be a wonderful addition to the OWAA board of directors.

— King Montgomery
Kennebunkport, Maine

Get involved, get more from OWAA

Thank you members of OWAA for trusting me with the helm of our organization. As **Mark Freeman** passes the gavel to me, I want to thank him most sincerely for his leadership over the last year. I hope I can preside with as much humor and wisdom.

Fortunately, Mark is not disappearing. He will chair three committees this year, Awards, the Past President's Council and the new ad hoc Public Lands Access Committee. He has no choice about the first two. Per OWAA's bylaws, the outgoing president chairs them, but the third is his baby, for which we should be grateful. Mark has worked tirelessly over the last year watch-dogging and recommending critical language changes to legislative proposals so that you and I can work on public lands without paying a fee or needing a permit. And there's still more to do.

Mark is but one example of an OWAA member swamped with deadlines, family commitments and other responsibilities, but who still carves out time to volunteer for OWAA. **Matt Miller** is another. This former board member is chairing the Board Nominating Committee and the Strategic Planning Committee on top of his full-time job with The Nature Conservancy and a new baby. As Matt scrambled to fill

his committees before the deadline which coincided with the annual conference in Knoxville, Tennessee, he wrote, "... You begin to realize how few people do so much for this organization!"

He's so right. OWAA is lucky to have those few extraordinarily dedicated volunteers. It's also lucky to have you! By simply paying your dues, attending conferences and convincing a colleague to join, you make OWAA a stronger, healthier organization that can provide more benefits to you. But this year, I'm asking for a little more.

Remember Uncle Sam's famous quote, "I want you!"? This year, I'm Aunt Lisa, and I want you ... to get more involved with OWAA! Please volunteer for a committee. OWAA has 19 of them plus a couple of ad hoc ones. Is there something you would like to change with the Excellence in Craft Awards? Join the Contests Committee. Want to contribute to Outdoors Unlimited to get more name recognition and familiarize others with your work? Volunteer for the Craft Improvement or the National Affairs and Environment committees. Got an educational background? Check out the Norm Strung Youth Writing and the Education committees. Are you good with money or fundraising? Raise your hand for the Development or the Finance committees. Are you frustrated with OWAA's image or website?

The Marketing Committee needs you. Do you know people who should be members but who aren't? Consider the Membership Recruitment or the Member Services committees.

OWAA is the "voice of the outdoors", and by extension, as members, we are too. The more active we are in the organization, the more credible our calling-cards with others in the outdoor industry and media world.

A complete list of OWAA's committees is in the directory and on OWAA's website, www.owaa.org. Let Jessica Seitz, OWAA's Director of Membership and Conference Planning (jseitz@owaa.org), know where your interests lie. You will get a call. I promise. There are more than 100 committee positions to fill each year.

It puzzles me when outdoor communicators drop out of OWAA complaining they don't get anything out of the organization. It might be because they don't put anything into it. Last spring, my son graduated from high school. He got into five colleges and could not make up his mind as the deadline for acceptances approached. "Wherever you go, what you put into it, you'll get out of it," I advised him. The same is true for OWAA. The more you get involved, the more you'll reap the benefits of being a member. ■

— OWAA President Lisa Ballard
Densmore1@aol.com



LISA BALLARD

2015-2016 OWAA COMMITTEES AND CHAIRS

AWARDS Mark Freeman	EDUCATION Jack Ballard	NATIONAL AFFAIRS & ENVIRONMENT Paul Smith	SUPPORTER RELATIONS Brett Prettyman
BOARD NOMINATING Matt Miller	ETHICS Terry Brady	NORM STRUNG YOUTH WRITING Paul Vang	TECHNOLOGY Earl Nottingham
CONFERENCE PROGRAM Phil Bloom	FINANCE Ty Stockton	OFFICER NOMINATING Kris Millgate	PUBLIC LANDS ACCESS Mark Freeman
CONTESTS Phil Bloom	MARKETING Paul Queneau	PAST PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL Mark Freeman	Complete list of committee members available at http://owaa.org/members-area/committees/
CRAFT IMPROVEMENT Karen Loke and Vicki Mountz	MEMBER SERVICES Colleen Miniuk-Sperry	SECTIONS Brett Prettyman	
DEVELOPMENT Rich Patterson	MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT Tom Keer	STRATEGIC PLANNING Matt Miller	

Steer your career into a new niche: Navigating vehicle reviews

BY LINDA WATER NELSON

There is a reason that vehicle manufacturers support OWAA and regional outdoor journalists' organizations. It is the indelible link between those who write about the outdoors and the vehicles they use to get there. How else would you tow boats and RVs or simply move gear from one place to another? But even more important, cars and trucks are crucial to the audience for whom you are writing, a group vehicle makers want to reach.

I discovered the connection between cars and trucks and outdoor writing about five years ago when an outdoor publication asked me to review a new truck. Since then I've used the cross-over of my years of writing about vehicles, with my passion for writing about the outdoors. It's a great way to expand into new markets and find new audiences.

I've been an automotive journalist for almost 29 years. As with most areas of journalism, it's a field loaded with stars and wannabes. With cars it seems as though everyone who has ever bought, driven or even ridden in a vehicle sees themselves as an expert and declares that they are an automotive writer.

But it takes more than having simply driven a truck to truly be an automotive journalist. To play with the vehicle manufacturers, they need to know that you can deliver the audience.

You also need to know how to truly test a vehicle. I took the publisher of an outdoor magazine off road to put a new heavy duty vehicle through its paces at a regional launch in Texas. The route included a hill climb, descent into water, rock crawl and all of the other challenges that auto writers love. I made that drive the ride of her life. By the time we returned to the ranch house, I had an assignment. I still write a column for that publication's website, as well as contributing articles. Now the bulk of my work is for outdoor publications and websites.

I have written about the best ways to haul fishing kayaks, transport firearms, or simply get the most out of an SUV, crossover or truck – all for outdoor publications. There is almost always a good sidebar about the wheels that got you there for a feature on an outdoor adventure.

To get a loaner vehicle you need to do some research. Fleet vehicles are authorized through the manufacturer's regional or national communications professionals. Expect to give them a detailed description of your project, your credentials as a proven journalist and even samples of your work. If they approve it, they send their authorization to the fleet management team in your area. They will contact you to make arrangements. It can take as long as two months to get an in-demand vehicle from the fleet. You'll have to have insurance and sign a waiver to get your hands on the steering wheel. You are then responsible for that vehicle and should plan to treat it as though it belongs to you and the bank and you still owe 59 payments.

No vehicle manufacturer will ever pay you for an article about their vehicle. That's not what they do. Instead, they will lend you the newest and best vehicles if you include them in some way – either visually or in the text, or both. If it is the right vehicle for the job, you are not compromising your ethics. You are simply adding another layer of value to the content. But be realistic. If you are trying to force in a mention of a new truck, just because you wanted to drive, it will be obvious to your editors and readers.

You also can write about vehicles at launches for new models. To score an invite you'll probably need a few clips featuring vehicles to show the manufacturer's public relations team to prove you are legit and not a wannabe. If a manufacturer includes you, they will expect you to write about that vehicle. They won't control your coverage, but they will expect coverage. There are often embargoes to be honored. They are not suggestions.

And as an outdoor writer you'll probably never be invited to test drive a Lamborghini at the track, so don't even bother asking. ■



Linda Water Nelson is an Austin, Texas, based outdoor writer specializing in sport vehicles. Since joining OWAA, she has learned to shoot and is working on her fishing skills.

OWAA offers Lightroom webinar

Adobe Lightroom streamlined the task of cataloging images, while offering top-shelf raw processing power and efficiency and mobile and web-sharing tools. The latest version offers new capabilities for outdoor photography, adding tools for stitching panoramas and merging bracketed photos using a minimum of disk space. Led by magazine editor and freelance photographer **Paul Queneau**, OWAA will offer a one hour webinar at noon Aug. 27 to demonstrate Lightroom's latest edition and answer questions about how best to adapt it to your own workflow. To sign up visit <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7110731180871195650>.

Production paperwork

Your guide to the less-glamorous, but important side of video

BY KARUNA EBERL

I don't know anyone who got into video for the paperwork. I wish I could write that collecting paperwork is as much fun as capturing your creative vision on film. It isn't. But being thorough about your project's paperwork from the beginning will save a lot of headaches down the road.

In the world of video, a good administrative trail is the difference between putting something up on YouTube and selling it to Discovery. It can also be the difference between ending up with a great documentary, or a grand lawsuit. Whether you're selling a documentary, a hunting TV pilot or just stock footage of mountain bikes riding off into the sunset, here are a few of the standard deliverables most distributors will require.

Personal releases are for everyone on camera, giving you permission to use their likeness. Ideally, fill out prior to shooting, as it's hard to track people down days, or years later. On the release, note a physical description and attach a picture. There are smartphone apps such as "Easy Release" and "mRelease" now that can greatly streamline this process, allowing you to digitally attach a photo the release and eliminating printed paperwork.

Crowd notice releases. If you're filming in a crowded area, post a few of these around, notifying passersby that by entering the filming area they are giving you permission to use their likeness. When using these, take a quick video or photo of the signs in place as proof they were used.

Location releases are like personal releases for locations, such as recognizable businesses and houses. Even if you have a film permit, you may need a separate location release. For example, your permit might cover shooting in a state park, but a location release may be needed to use footage of the entrance sign or ranger station.

Logo releases. In scripted films, product logos need clearance, whether they are on

people's T-shirts, a soda can or the shelves of a grocery store. In documentaries, it's more ambiguous. But, trying to get logo releases through corporate red tape can be a major time suck. It can also be expensive to blur them out in post-production. When it's not creatively necessary to have a brand in a shot, best to eliminate it. Similar rules apply for artwork, which can also require releases.

Music rights can be a dangdiddlydo of record label bureaucracy and runarounds. Music libraries save the hassle and there are many online sources from paid subscriptions to free databases where artists put up their songs as public domain. Licensing a particular song, especially a well-known one, requires more diligence and money, and a good amount of research to make sure you've attained all of the needed rights, such as master, synchronization, composition and performance.

Crew should have a basic start paperwork package, complete with a deal memo stating their rate and credit (or a volunteer deal memo if that's the case), plus a W-9 or W-2 and I-9. If the subject matter you are covering is sensitive, a nondisclosure agreement may also be helpful.

Insurance. There are three main types that might be needed: Production insurance, workman's comp and errors and omissions. Production insurance covers gear, rental cars (in most cases) and locations, and is often required for permits and equipment rental. Workman's comp requirements vary widely by state, but are oh-so-vital to



"On set" of a music video shoot, miles from any road in the Colorado high country. No need for a crowd release notice on this one. This is the fun part of production, but making sure your paperwork is in order is crucial for success. Photos by Karuna Eberl.



The combination of BLM, Forest Service and National Park permitting on this artsy feature shoot in Utah was a paperwork brute, but the views were serene.

follow. Obviously you want to protect the wellbeing of your crew, but beyond that, I've seen a lack of it lead to life-changing consequences for producers, including lawsuits, enormous hospital bills and even the threat of felony prison time. When you research policies, make sure they include independent contractors and volunteers. Errors and omissions insurance is a distribution requirement, indemnifying you and the distributor from content, copyright, libel

Natural noise

Using sound to tell compelling stories

BY BRAD ZAHAR

Sometimes you need more than images, when you are trying to showcase nature's beauty.

As someone with a TV and video background it's always been about visuals, but as I've learned in my young career, a good piece of audio can enhance the story you're trying to tell.

Using natural sound is a way to let your audience hear something other than the narration or music. While music can be dramatic, natural sound takes your viewer to the scene. Every hunter knows few sounds get your heart racing faster than hearing the leaves crunch as that 150-class buck moves in toward your stand. Wouldn't it be awesome to hear those crunching leaves while sitting on your couch while watching a hunting show?

When fishing a mountain stream for trout or a running riffle of water for steelhead, you want to hear the water and the birds chirp — we associate those sounds with our love of the outdoors.

Yes, you have to paint visuals, but bringing video and audio together is what gives

television a different perspective from other media only it can achieve.

As cliché as this sounds, when it comes to narration, less is more. The story is not about you.

Growing up in suburban Cleveland, Ohio, I was a rare kid who hunted, fished and hiked. Telling people about my adventures and even showing them photos didn't engage my peers.

When I got into television news I knew I had to find a way to make people care about what story I was telling. Other than having great visuals, the easiest thing I could control was the audio. The key to creating a compelling story is balancing the music, narration and natural sound.

I first got the opportunity to tell an outdoor story for television in February of 2014 when a local professional bass fisherman was gearing up for the Bassmaster Classic. It's one thing to sit and narrate for two minutes about your subject and use a few quotes from him about the event and his expectations. But it's a whole different ball game when you have video of him on the water with the sounds of the fish fighting and the fisherman talking to the fish as he battles him and celebrating when he lands the prize.

Standing on a boat next to a fisherman, shooting is as real as it gets. Add in the right mixture of audio and you have created a piece that not only captures emotion, but brings the viewer at home onto the boat.

Good audio though, too often becomes overlooked in pursuit of finding the perfect shot of video.

Pay attention the next time you watch a hunting show this fall. Are you actually engaged in it? Do you feel like you're there? I know there are some that I feel like I'm in the stand with the hunter. Other times the shows are just a lot of talking with a nice shot of buck walking toward a stand.

What kind of story do you want to tell? The one that keeps the viewer glued to the screen in anticipation, or the one that's easily forgotten? ■



Brad Zahar spent the last four years as a TV journalist. Now he writes and shoot video for several publications across the Great Lakes region. He can be found on Twitter @Brad_Zahar for all things fly-fishing, hunting and Cleveland, Ohio.

and similar lawsuits.

Investor agreements clearly state the arrangement between the project and any investors. Whether or not they are needed for distribution, they are a very good idea to get into place before accepting any investment money.

Producer and director contracts and LLC operating agreements are often overlooked. It's so easy to think, "I'm making this project with my best friends; we would never need these." Sadly, many a solid friendship has collapsed over the course of a project. Spell out these agreements early on, because if things start to sour, the lack of these can put the whole project in jeopardy.

Copyright filing. Distributors will want proof of ownership of the project, and usually this is in the form of a Form PA from the U.S. Copyright Office. Depending on your situation the owner will vary, but often it goes in the name of the project LLC.

Production forms. A few other organizational bits that can be useful to have on hand during a shoot are crew and cast lists, mileage logs, safety meeting worksheets and petty cash and per diem sign out sheets. ■



Karuna Eberl produced Hollywood features, directed outdoor documentaries and worked on non-scripted programming for networks including National Geographic Channel, Discovery and NBC Sports — until recently, when she left the hectic pace and paperwork behind to pursue a more human life of writing, photography and marine upholstery work with her guy, Steve, in the Florida Keys. If you need any of these forms, feel free to email her at karunae@mac.com.

Reporting tip sheet

Covering the greater sage grouse

BY LAURA LUNDQUIST

In April, I was one of 22 journalists who toured five Western states and covered 1,900 miles to see firsthand the complex challenges of conserving the greater sage grouse. Talking to advocates, landowners, industry representatives and state administrators, we learned what various groups are doing to preserve sagebrush habitat and avoid an Endangered Species Act listing for the bird.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director Dan Ashe will decide the bird's fate in September, if Congress doesn't continue to pass legislation that undercuts the ESA.

As the Sept. 30 deadline approaches, the potential listing, related reports and political maneuvering will gain more attention. For those reporting on what's been dubbed by many involved as "the largest conservation effort in history," the following details may be helpful when writing your stories.

BIOLOGY

■ An ancient species, the greater sage grouse is dependent on sagebrush and isn't very adaptable. Males often return to the same breeding grounds, or leks, even if the surrounding sagebrush has been destroyed. However, the females won't return if no habitat remains to protect their chicks, so subpopulations can wink out within a few years.

■ It's estimated that 16 million sage grouse once existed across their historic range. Now, around 200,000 remain.

■ An April 2015 **Pew Charitable Trust** report showed sage grouse populations across the West declined 57 percent between 2007 and 2013.

HABITAT

■ Scientists estimate that the 275,000 square miles of remaining sagebrush rep-



A male sage grouse stands at Seedskaadee National Wildlife Refuge in Wyoming. Photo courtesy Tom Koerner, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

resent just 44 percent of the bird's historic habitat. Most of the rest has been lost in just the past 40 years. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services put special emphasis on saving "core areas" where sage grouse are found and habitat is still good.

■ Protecting the habitat helps 350 other species, including mule deer, antelope and elk. "What protects the bird protects the herd."

■ Threats to sagebrush habitat include: Oil and gas development, open-pit mining, wind farms, urban development, certain agricultural practices (sodbusting and cattle ranching), wildfire and climate change. Related threats to the bird are: Roads, fences, crows/ravens, cheatgrass, continuous industrial noise and habitat fragmentation.

■ Eleven Western states harbor sagebrush habitat but different threats dominate

each state.

Wyoming retains the most habitat — 37 percent of the state — where the main threat is oil and gas, although cattle ranching plays a part. Montana is next with 18 percent sagebrush habitat and sodbusting is the main cause of destruction. Nevada and Idaho have high-desert areas covered by sagebrush, but devastating wildfires fueled by invasive cheatgrass have left only 14 percent coverage in each state.

Sagebrush accounts for less than 7 percent of the remaining states — Washington, Oregon, California, Utah, Colorado and the Dakotas.

■ Sagebrush is difficult to reintroduce and takes decades to grow into effective cover for sage grouse, so it's been called "a short old-growth forest."

OVERSIGHT

– Private vs. public land

■ Two-thirds of the surviving sagebrush grows on public land, managed mostly by the Bureau of Land Management. Unfortunately, the BLM’s multiple-use mandate allows more industrial and recreational development than on U.S. Forest Service land.

■ That could change at the end of August with the finalization of 15 regional sage grouse conservation plans. They amend 98 BLM land-management plans to require assessment of sagebrush habitat prior to granting land-use permits. But the plans are likely to face challenges from developers.

■ Sagebrush preservation is complicated by the fact that around a third of the remaining habitat is on private property, especially in Montana and Colorado. So over the past decade, the states have developed their own plans to preserve the bird, and some go further than others.

■ If the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service decides even one state plan is insufficient, the sage grouse will be listed in all states. During the grey wolf reintroduction, a court ruling confirmed that the agency couldn’t list a species by state.

■ That’s where the **Sage Grouse Initiative** comes in. The U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service created the initiative in 2010 to promote sustainable ranching that doesn’t degrade sagebrush habitat. Sportsmen’s groups such as the **Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation** anteed up to pay the salaries of on-the-ground representatives to work with landowners. Tools include voluntary conservation easements, rotational grazing and fence marking.

■ Citizen working-groups exist in many states, and more than 1,100 ranches have enrolled in the initiative, but many haven’t. Some conservationists question whether the gradual, small changes go far enough.

■ While states have been allocating funds and designing projects to protect the bird, representatives of some governors have threatened that such resources would be withdrawn if the bird were listed.

LISTING HISTORY

■ 2002 – First petition to list the sage grouse as endangered throughout the West.

■ 2005 – The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service determined that listing wasn’t warranted but the decision was challenged a year later by Western Watersheds Project.

■ 2007 – An Idaho federal district court ruled in support of Western Watersheds Project.

■ 2010 – The service decided a “threatened” listing was warranted but other species had higher priority for protection. This time, WildEarth Guardians challenged the agency demanding a ruling.

■ 2011 – A federal district court sided with WildEarth Guardians and set a Sept. 30, 2015, deadline for a sage grouse listing decision.



Deer cross a Colorado sage grouse lek on an early morning in April. Photo by **Laura Lundquist**.

■ April 2015 – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service decided against listing a sage grouse subpopulation in Nevada and California, deferring to the collaborative work being done at the local level.

CONGRESSIONAL ACTIONS

■ As part of last November’s “Cromnibus,” Congress approved a rider that prohibits the use of Department of Interior money to “draft, write or issue any rules related to the Greater sage-grouse.” So if Ashe and the service decides to list the bird, the service can’t publish guidance for the decision. If that happens, environmental groups have said they’ll go to court.

■ Most recently, congressmen inserted language into the House version of the National Defense Authorization Act that would delay a sage grouse listing for 10 years and transfer management of the sagebrush habitat to the states.

“Litigation is part of the game plan. We’re going to be litigated, doesn’t matter who wins out,” said San Stiver of the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Sage Grouse Team. “We’re not talking just about sage grouse — we’re talking about culture, we’re talking about economics. It’s a huge issue.” ■

— *Some reporting for this story was made possible with an Institute for Journalism & Natural Resources fellowship.*



After five years writing environmental stories for newspapers, Laura Lundquist has jumped into freelancing and hopes to join the incredible cadre of writers covering the environmental and outdoors stories of Montana and the Northwest.

Conference 2016: July 16,-18, 2016, Billings, Montana

Meet us at Montana's trailhead



The Yellowstone River flows unfettered for more than 600 miles before joining the Missouri River. It also provides excellent fishing opportunities near Billings, Montana, an area abundant with recreation possibilities and the site of OWAA's 2016 conference. Photo Courtesy Visit Billings.

BY JACK BALLARD

It is called "Montana's Trailhead," an honor in a state known for adventure around every corner. Billings, Montana, the site of OWAA's 2016 conference, is situated in a region flush with outdoor opportunities. You'll find mountains to climb, fish to catch and don't forget to plan time to visit Yellowstone National Park to celebrate the National Park Service's Centennial at the country's first national park.

You aren't going to want to miss joining OWAA July 16-18, 2016, in a city ripe with adventure and rich in history.

Spawned by the Northern Pacific Railroad's push into Montana, Billings is named for Frederick Billings, a railroad man who realized the need for a town on the coming rail line. H. W. Rowley, one of the railroad's civil engineers, journeyed by stage to assess locations along the Yellowstone River bottom in February 1882. In March, papers were filed in Minnesota for the newly platted community and the boom began.

Billings' historic moniker, "The Magic City" originated not from



Billings offers outdoor adventure, but also great dining options and seven local breweries, many located downtown within walking distance of each other. Plan a trip where you play all day and then recuperate downtown. Photo Courtesy Visit Billings.



A cyclist lookout over the rimrocks at sunset in Billings, Montana. The “rims,” as the area is known, provide mountain biking, hiking and trail running opportunities right in town. Photo Courtesy Visit Billings.

a local illusionist or the enchanting character of the community. To Montana residents and visitors from other parts of the country, Billings was “magic” because it seemed to spring up overnight. One local history asserts that within weeks of being offered for sale in the summer of 1882, over 5,000 lots had been sold in the fledgling city which soon consisted of an odd assortment of tents and tacked together dwellings of uncertain design.

Currently, the Billings area is home to some 100,000 residents, claims the honor of the Treasure State’s largest city and has acquired a new title, “Montana’s Trailhead.” Like many trailheads in the nearby Absaroka Mountains, the path from Billings leads to a plethora of outdoor adventures and cultural attractions.

The city perches adjacent to the Yellowstone River, the longest free-flowing, undammed stream in the United States. Sandstone cliffs form natural barriers north and south of town, themselves a fascinating source of history and recreation. “Sacrifice Cliff,” located on the south side of the river is named for two warriors of the Crow Indian tribe who blindfolded their horses and galloped over the escarpment in a sacrificial act intended to halt a smallpox epidemic. The tawny buttresses on the north side of the city are locally known as “The Rims”

and contain one of Billings’ outstanding recreational attractions.

“Mountain biking on the Rims is about as good as you’ll find anywhere,” said Jeff Peterson, owner of Global Travel Alliance, who has powered fat tires in many locations across the country. Early morning riders (or runners) spot various creatures along the trail such as mule deer, great-horned owls and other species of wildlife. The mountain biking path boasts superb views of the city and the Beartooth and Pryor Mountains. Though flat in many places the trail dips and curves through coulees flush with stately ponderosa pines and sandstone boulders, offering adventure to novice and advanced riders alike.

The past two decades have seen a burgeoning craft beer culture exploding across Montana. Billings is no exception. After the sun sets on a day of inspiring activity, visitors and residents have no less than seven local breweries from which to choose; six of these are located in the downtown area within walking distance of each other. “The Garage,” home of Yellowstone Valley Brewing Company hosts live music every Saturday evening and intermittently on Wednesdays.

Water is lifeblood to the semi-arid plains of Montana. The early days of Billings found developers scrambling to provide

water to the growing community until a canal diverted water from miles upstream on the Yellowstone River to the fledgling city. Beyond its significance as a source of water for municipalities and agriculture, the Yellowstone River is a fascinating study in history and ecology. Dubbed the “La Roche Jaune” by early French trappers, their moniker is translated “the river of yellow rock” or “yellow stone” from whence the stream gets its English name. The Yellowstone flows unfettered for 678 miles before joining the Missouri River, just inside North Dakota. Captain William Clark journeyed down the Yellowstone on his return from the Pacific. Pompey’s Pillar, a National Monument, is located just 28 miles east of Billings. The captain’s carved initials remain on a sandstone formation near the river and represent some of the limited physical evidence of the epic Lewis and Clark Expedition. Along with its historic attraction, Pompey’s Pillar is a hit with birders who find numerous species endemic to prairie riparian areas within the monument.

Billings is located at a transition area along the Yellowstone, a stretch of river of some 30 miles where the river transitions from a cold-water to a warm-water stream. Anglers find trout in the Billings area, but they may encounter smallmouth bass as well. In recent years warm-water species of fish have been making their way further up the river. Evidence of a warming climate? Perhaps. What impact might they have on trout up-river? Questions like these give biologists issues to study on a free-flowing river and journalists fodder for articles.

Within an hour’s drive from Billings there are outstanding trout streams to explore, mountains to climb and battlefields to visit. Given its own recreational appeal and its location as a gateway to such classics as Yellowstone National Park, the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness, the Custer Battlefield and the Bighorn River, “Montana’s Trailhead” is the city’s perfect nickname. ■



Jack Ballard is a freelance author and photographer with credits in more than 25 regional and national magazines. Ballard has lived in the Billings, Montana, area for more than 30 years and is OWAA’s Local Conference Chair for the 2016 conference.

2015 Excellence in Craft Award Winners



"Monumental Morning" by David Schneider won first place in the scenic category in the photo contest.

TELEVISION/VIDEO/WEBCAST CONTEST

HUNTING/SHOOTING SPORTS

- 1st place: David Majure, "Kids and Wild Gobblers"
- 2nd place: David Majure, "A Blast from the Past"
- 3rd place: Karen Loke, "Dove Forecast 2014"

FISHING

- 1st place: Tim C. Smith, "Recreational Long Range Tuna Fishing"
- 2nd place: Charles "Trey" Reid, "Crooked Creek and the Art of Fly Fishing"
- 3rd place: Grant McOmie, "Bobber Doggin' Steelhead"

CONSERVATION

- 1st place: David Majure, "Arizona's Endangered Mexican Wolf"
- 2nd place: Charles "Trey" Reid, "Hummingbird Banding at Cooks Lake"
- 3rd place: John Carlin, "Trout Unlimited: Fracking could endanger national forest trout streams"

OUTDOOR FUN AND ADVENTURE

- * 1st place: Brett Prettyman, "The Utah Bucket List 2"
- 2nd place: Grant McOmie, "Oregon's Iron Giant"
- 3rd place: David Majure, "Wings Over Willcox"

FAMILY PARTICIPATION/YOUTH

OUTDOOR EDUCATION

- 1st place (three-way tie): David Majure, "Kids and Wild Gobblers"
- 1st place: Charles "Trey" Reid, "McNair Middle School Fly Fishing Club"
- 1st place: Grant McOmie, "Salmon Watch"



Gary Kramer's "Flushing Pheasant," won first place in the action category in the photo contest. It also won President's Choice for photography.

RADIO/PODCAST CONTEST

HUNTING/SHOOTING SPORTS

- 1st place: Ty Stockton, "Long-range hunting brings up questions of fair chase"
- 2nd place: Ty Stockton, "The economics of shooting"
- 3rd place: Charles Burchfield, "Trigger Finger Deer Management"

FISHING

- 1st place: Ty Stockton, "If you catch and release, release 'em right"
- 2nd place: Dan Small, "The Magic of Spring Creek Troutling"
- 3rd place: John Kruse, "Montana Ice Fishing with Mike Howe"



“Winter Sunset at Raven’s Nest” by Colleen Miniuk-Sperry won second place in the scenic category in the photo contest.

OUTDOOR FUN AND ADVENTURE

- 1st place: John Kruse, “Route of the Hiawatha”
- 2nd place: Dan Small, “Shipwreck Survivor Dennis Hale”
- 3rd place: Ty Stockton, “Return of the “Moat” makes me glad I have a boat”

FAMILY PARTICIPATION/YOUTH OUTDOOR EDUCATION

- 1st place: John Kruse, “Creating Memories for Disabled Children”
- 2nd place: Ty Stockton, “Take a kid hunting”
- 3rd place: Dan Small “Sara Nieheuser - Women on Target”

MAGAZINE/E-ZINE CONTEST

HUNTING/SHOOTING SPORTS

- 1st place: Mark Herwig, “Paw Power”
- 2nd place: Michael Furtman, “The Beaver Ponds”
- 3rd place: Tom Keer, “Best of the Sporting South: Top Dog”

FISHING

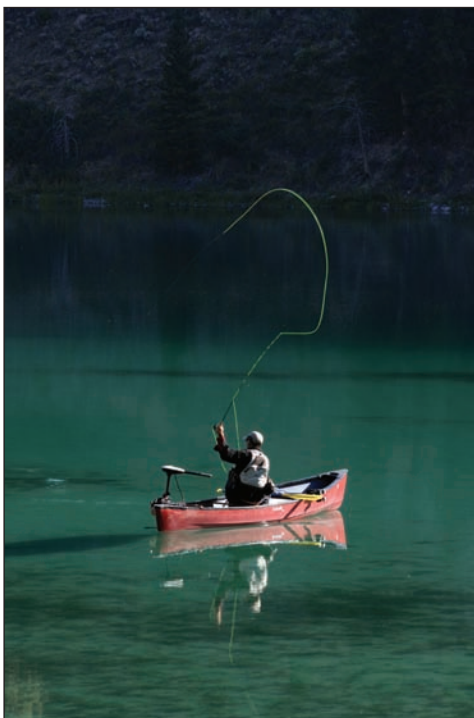
- 1st place: Tom Sadler, “Back to the Basics”
- 2nd place: Andy Whitcomb, “Fishy Relationships”
- 3rd place: Brian Irwin, “Revived”

CONSERVATION

- 1st place: Hal Herring, “Rotenone Reality”
- 2nd place: Dave Smith, “Sandhills and Cycles”
- 3rd place: Nate Schweber, “Dr. Trout”

HUMOR

- 1st place: Pat Wray, “The Best of Deliveries — A Bearskin Rug”
- 2nd place: Tom Keer “Wearing off the Brown”
- 3rd place: Steve Duda, “The Post-Capital Wilderness”



“Casting on Wade Lake” by Lisa Ballard won first in the people category in the photo contest.

CONSERVATION

- 1st place: John Kruse, “Winter Whale Watching”
- 2nd place: Ty Stockton, “Hunters need more conversations about ethics”
- 3rd place: Ty Stockton, “Don’t commercialize wild deer”

HUMOR

- * 1st place: Dan Small, “Red Green on Tour”
- 2nd place: Ty Stockton, “Jackalope will finally be federally protected”
- 3rd place: Ty Stockton, “Facebook is getting creepy”

GEAR/TECHNICAL

- 1st place: Ty Stockton, “The one-shot “sight-in”
- 2nd place: John Kruse, “Wide Angle Shooting Systems”
- 3rd place: Dan Small, “Survival Tips for Hunters”

THANKS TO THE 2015 CONTEST SPONSORS:

- National Rifle Association: Hunting or Shooting Sports category**
- Ocean Conservancy: Fishing category**
- Pew Charitable Trusts: Conservation/Nature category**
- Realtree: Family Participation/Youth Outdoor Education category**



Christopher Paparo's photograph "Bullfrog," won second place in the fauna category in the photo contest.



Ann and Rob Simpson won second in the flora category in the photo contest with "Mountain Lady's Slipper."



"Crimson Columbine," by Ann and Rob Simpson, won third place in the flora category.



"Hooked on Fishing," by Mike Wintroath, won third place in the outdoor fun and adventure category in the photo contest.



"Turtle Rapids" by James Smedley won second in the family participation/youth outdoor education.



Ann and Rob Simpson's "Cross Country Skier Yosemite" won second place in the outdoor fun and adventure category.



"Wolves on Deer Kill" by Gary Kramer won third place in the fauna category.



"King Penguins," by Tim Gallagher, won first place in fauna in the photo contest.



"Windmill at Sunset," by Betty Wills won third place in the scenic category.

GEAR/TECHNICAL

- 1st place: James Smedley, "Keepers"
- 2nd place: Shane Townsend, "The Original Multitool"
- 3rd place: Wm. Hovey Smith, "Two Years with Young Blunderbuss"

OUTDOOR FUN AND ADVENTURE

- 1st place: Russell Roe, "Courage and a Rope"
- 2nd place: Tim Gallagher, "Subantarctic Sojourn"
- 3rd: Marty Basch, "Exploring New Hampshire's North Country on the Northern Forest Canoe Trail"



"Young Goose Hunter" by Gary Kramer won second in the people category and third in the family participation/youth outdoor education category.

FAMILY PARTICIPATION/YOUTH OUTDOOR EDUCATION

- * 1st place: Matthew Copeland, "Lessons From the Land"
- 2nd place: Lisa Ballard, "Raising an Outdoorsman"
- 3rd place: Pat Wray, "Telling Stories"

BOOK/E-BOOK CONTEST

GENERAL AUDIENCE

- 1st place: Randy Spencer, "Wide and Deep: Tales and Recollections from a Master Maine Fishing Guide"
- 2nd place: Edward Kanze, "Adirondack: Life and Wildlife in the Wild, Wild East"
- 3rd place: Jay Zimmerman, "The Top Ten Guide to Fly Fishing"



Jessica McGlothlin's "Marley and Jake," won first in the outdoor fun and adventure category.



Joseph Dits won first in the flora category with "Wetland Leaves."



Michael Furtman's "Hooded Merganser Duckling's Leap of Faith," won third in the action category in the photo contest. It also won People's Choice.

NEWSPAPER/NEWS WEBSITE CONTEST

HUNTING/SHOOTING SPORTS

1st place: Pat Wray, "Natural progression realized during hunt with son"

2nd place: Mark Freeman, "Not by a long shot?"

3rd place: Nelson Sigelman, "On Martha's Vineyard, women embraced by hunting's bonds"

FISHING

1st place: Tom Tatum, "Looking back at my most memorable catch"

2nd place: Tom Stienstra "Fishing pole a present connection to past"

3rd place: Christine Peterson, "All in a day's work"

CONSERVATION

1st place: Nate Schweber, "Moving Back Home Together"

2nd place: Tristan Baurick, "Running free again"

3rd place: David Hendee, "Answering the call of the cranes"

HUMOR

1st place: Marty Basch, "From Mount Israel, such a view"

2nd place: Mark Freeman, "Grill-to-grill dining is not an Oregon thing"

3rd place: Pat Wray, "Morning ministrations of old men"

GEAR/TECHNICAL

1st place: Brett Prettyman, "Hot New Gear is Worth the Wait"

2nd place: Brett Prettyman, "Insider's Guide to Outdoor Gear"

3rd place: Bob Frye, "Wooden crankbaits have their place on the water"

OUTDOOR FUN AND ADVENTURE

* 1st place: Tom Stienstra, "Paddling with giants: Humpback whale spectacle in Monterey Bay"

2nd place: Brett Prettyman, "Nonprofit shares outdoor 'magic' with people with disabilities"

3rd place: Mark Freeman, "Green Skiing"

**FAMILY PARTICIPATION/YOUTH
OUTDOOR EDUCATION**

- 1st place: Brent Frazee, "The hunt for diversity"
- 2nd place: Brett Prettyman, "Father and daughter trek through Antarctica together"
- 3rd place: Pat Wray, "Outdoor adventures with one of life's treasures"

COLUMN CONTEST

OVERALL

- 1st place: Ted Williams, "A Mighty Wind," "The Edge of Insanity," "Hydro-Quebec Hits Granite"
- 2nd place: Tom Stienstra, "Fishing pole a present connection to past," "Thrill of the hunt, click of the shutter," "Farming for birds: Rice farmers rescue wetlands"
- 3rd place: Tom Keer, "Puppy Love," "Alone in the Woods," "Naming Coverts"

CHILDREN'S STORY CONTEST

OVERALL

- 1st place: Ellen Horowitz, "Aspen Grove Grocery"
- 2nd place: Michael Furtman, "Meet the Dabbling Ducks"
- 3rd place: Michael Furtman, "Super-Duper Diving Ducks"

BLOG

HUNTING/SHOOTING SPORTS

- 1st place: Tom Keer, "Improve Your Dog Work by Hunting for a Different Species"
- 2nd place: Tom Keer, "Working with Different Dogs"
- 3rd place: Matthew Copeland, "Harvest"

FISHING

- 1st place: Tom Keer, "Rebuilding Angler Stocks One at a Time"
- 2nd place: Robert Ford, "Uncomfortable - Trout Fishing"
- 3rd place: Tom Keer, "Learning from Family and Friends"

CONSERVATION

- 1st place: Matthew Copeland, "The Birds and the Beast: A Real Life Fable"
- 2nd place: Bob Bramblet, "Everglades Restoration and Our Responsibility"
- 3rd place: Candice Andrews, "On the Loss of Passenger Pigeons and Parks"



"Flying Eagle on San Juan Island" by Ken Dunwood won second place in the action category in the photo contest.



Gary Kramer's "Fishing with Bear on Brooks River, Alaska" won third place in the people category in the photo contest.

HUMOR

- * 1st place: Matthew Copeland, "Ultra Sensitive"
- 2nd place: Robert Ford, "Rabbit Hunting in NC - 'Aha'"
- 3rd place: Robert Ford, "O'BeagleCare"

GEAR /TECHNICAL

- 1st place: Matthew Copeland, "Choosing the Right Hunting Binocular"
- 2nd place: Ty Stockton, "Keep the fancy wheels out of the snow"
- 3rd place: Marty Basch, "Review Scubba Wash Bag"

OUTDOOR FUN AND ADVENTURE

- 1st place: Mike Sepelak, "We Went Awalkin' ...Again"
 2nd place: Colleen Miniuk-Sperry, "Trails I've Hiked: Hamburger Rocks at Capital Reef National Park"
 3rd place: Ken Keffer, "3 Dunes Challenge"

FAMILY PARTICIPATION/YOUTH**OUTDOOR EDUCATION**

- 1st place: Chris Madson, "The lesson"
 2nd place: Tom Keer, "Handing over the reins...or check cords"
 3rd place: Matthew Copeland, "Garden Hackle"

ILLUSTRATION/GRAPHIC CONTEST**GENERAL AUDIENCE**

- 1st place: Joe Mahler, "Pick Up Illustration"
 2nd place: Joe Mahler, "Stripping Illustration"
 3rd place: Bruce Cochran, "Marsh Madness: "A Twitter? Honest! I thought it was a teal"

PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST**ACTION**

- * 1st place: Gary Kramer, "Flushing Pheasant"
 2nd place: Ken Dunwoody, "Flying Eagle on San Juan Island"
 3rd place: Michael Furtman, "Hooded Merganser Duckling's Leap of Faith"

PEOPLE

- 1st place: Lisa Ballard, "Casting on Wade Lake"
 2nd place: Gary Cramer, "Young Goose Hunter"
 3rd place: Gary Cramer, "Fishing with Bear on Brooks River, Alaska"

SCENIC

- 1st place: David Schneider, "Monumental Morning"
 2nd place: Colleen Miniuk-Sperry, "Winter Sunset at Raven's Nest"
 3rd place: Betty Wills, "Windmill at Sunset"

FLORA

- 1st place: Joseph Dits, "Wetland Leaves"
 2nd place: Ann and Rob Simpson, "Mountain Lady's Slipper"
 3rd place Ann and Rob Simpson, "Crimson Columbine"

FAUNA

- 1st place: Tim Gallagher, "King Penguins"
 2nd place: Christopher Paparo, "Bullfrog"
 3rd place: Gary Kramer, "Wolves on Deer Kill"

OUTDOOR FUN AND ADVENTURE

- 1st place: Jessica McGlothlin, "Marley and Jake"
 2nd place: Ann and Rob Simpson, "Cross Country Skier Yosemite"
 3rd place: Mike Wintroath, "Hooked on



"Grimacing," by James Smedley, won first place in the family participation/youth outdoor education category. Fishing"

FAMILY PARTICIPATION/YOUTH OUTDOOR EDUCATION

- 1st place: James Smedley, "Grimacing"
 2nd place: James Smedley, "Turtle Rapids"
 3rd place: Gary Kramer, "Young Goose Hunter"

*Denotes President's Choice Winner

2015 Norm Strung Youth Writing Awards contest winners announced

OWAA awarded 12 Norm Strung Youth Writing prizes totaling \$1,700. The contest was sponsored by the **Safari Club International Foundation**.

The annual contest has categories for poetry and prose in two divisions: junior (grades 6-8) and senior (grades 9-12). Entries must be outdoors oriented and previously published in a newsletter, newspaper, magazine, literary collection, or similar publication. First-place winners in all categories received \$250, second-place winners received \$125 and third-place winners received \$50.

JUNIOR POETRY

First place: "Cycle" by Nathan James Phuong

Second place: "How to Be a Hawk" by Griffin Bannon

Third place: "Ode to a Conch Shell" by Sydney Sullivan

SENIOR POETRY

First place: "Fish Catching" by Michelle Chen

Second place: "Dear Mother" Deanna Altomara

Third place: Untitled by William V. Hartley

JUNIOR PROSE

First place: "It Was Big Enough" by Reese Blakeney

Second place: "Young lady Sherlock Holmes cracks the case" by Rylee Gjesvold

Third place: "Bringing Home the Bacon" by Ramsay Smith

SENIOR PROSE

First place: "The treasured weeks of November" by Brooke Cote

Second place: "The Delicate Arc of a Falling Pheasant" by Elizabeth Rubbelke

Third place: "The magic of the salt marsh" by Ryan Chelius

Winning entries from this year's contest will be printed in the December/January issue of Outdoors Unlimited.

The deadline for next year's entries is in March, 2016. For complete contest rules and more information, visit www.owaa.org/programs/contests/norm-strung-youth-writing-awards. ■

Congratulations to the 2015 OWAA honorary award recipients

JADE OF CHIEFS AWARD

Nominated, voted on and presented by past award winners, known as the "Circle of Chiefs."



Recipient: Pat Wray, Corvallis, Oregon

Pat Wray embodies the values of conservation the Jade of Chiefs represent, said Kris Thoenke, last year's recipient of the award.

"He is a champion of our outdoor heritage who stands up for his beliefs and is not afraid of controversy," Thoenke said. "Pat's decades of experience in the outdoors where he observed, learned and formulated his views on conservation makes him fearless but fair when tackling controversial issues; it is one of the traits that has defined his career and earned him respect among his peers. With a conservation ethic that is second to none, the Circle of Chiefs made a wise decision by recognizing Pat's accomplishments and his distinguished career as one of the voices of conservation."

EXCELLENCE IN CRAFT AWARD

For outstanding effort in upholding the OWAA Creed and continued excellence in craft.



Recipient: Tim Christie, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

The first photograph Tim Christie published appeared on the cover of American Hunter in 1981. It was the start of a career that includes cover images on more than 500 magazine issues, including some of the biggest such National Wildlife, Field & Stream and Sports Afield, among others. Christie knows animal behavior and he also knows the light of the Rocky Mountains, said Chris Madson, a previous recipient of the award.

"He also understands that you can't get quality images unless you're outdoors," Madson said. "He's out there almost all the time – capturing the image isn't just a business with Tim; it's a consuming passion."

Christie's career evolved to include writing reflecting a lifetime of outdoor experiences and the ability to capture the stories of people and their relationships with each other and the outdoors. He's won more 60 awards in the Excellence in Craft photography contests and at least 11 for writing.

OUTSTANDING BOARD MEMBER AWARD

Chosen by the Board of Directors.



Recipient: Colleen Miniuk-Sperry, Chandler Arizona

For the second year in a row, the Board of Directors chose Colleen Miniuk-Sperry for the Outstanding Board Member Award.

"There's no secret to those who work with her why Colleen's been board member of the year, each of her first two years on the board," said Mark Freeman, OWAA's most recent past president. "She's passionate about this group and crazily organized. But what really stands out about Colleen is how she uses her business background to help us as OWAA members learn more about ourselves. Her membership survey generated some hard data that really opened some eyes about who we are and where we're going as an organization. I can say we're better organization, and better people, for knowing Colleen."

Beyond the membership survey Miniuk-Sperry is always there to lend a hand when needed, said Tom Sadler, executive director.

An OWAA member since 2010, Miniuk-Sperry is an outdoor photographer, writer, instructor, speaker and book author specializing in outdoor recreation, nature, conservation and travel.

JACKIE PFEIFFER MEMORIAL AWARD

Awarded for exemplifying warmth and radiance, goodwill, helpfulness, generosity and kindness to others. Members and their spouses are eligible for the award.



Recipient: Glenn Sapir, Putnam Valley, New York

Shortly after receiving the Jackie Pfeiffer Memorial Award last year, Debbie Flanigan started thinking about a candidate for the next year and Glenn Sapir's name immediately came to mind. Sapir's kind heart and helpful nature mirrors the attributes of the award's namesake. Flanigan met Sapir years ago at an OWAA conference and he immediately made Flanigan and her husband Tim Flanigan feel welcome.

"He shared his genuine smile and warm handshake, which was also his promise of a helping hand," Debbie Flanigan said. "Everyone who meets him quickly recognizes and admires his moral strength. A consummate professional, his calm, instructive and always helpful demeanor induces those in his presence to stand a little taller to better absorb his warmth and goodwill. Reliable, insightful and caring, Glenn Sapir readily gives his personal attention to another's needs."

WELCOME TO OWAA



Alex Burton, 26, lives on the outskirts of Louisville, Kentucky, he developed a deep passion for the outdoors at 6 years old, when his aunt took him on hiking trips. He's been hooked ever since. He's now an avid hunter, angler and bushcrafter who is instilling the same passions into his three young children. After starting his own outdoor blog last year he stumbled into his first paid writing job at Wide Open Spaces. He has been there a short time but has grown fast and recently received a promotion. Although he's still fairly new to published writing, he hopes to continue growing in the outdoor world. His dream is to be able to write full time to spend more time with his family and the outdoors.



Roger Catchpole is an entrepreneur, outdoors writer and dedicated wingshooter. He grew up hunting partridge and pheasants on his family estate in rural Suffolk, England. He holds degrees in conservation biology and marketing from the University of Birmingham (UK) and a master's degree in business administration from the University of Florida. Catchpole runs Sportody, the world's fastest growing outdoor sports review platform, and returns to England frequently to partridge shoot and manage his country estate — Stowlangtoft Estate. Catchpole is a talented and well-respected outdoor adventurer and is a contributor and opinion leader for leading U.S. outdoor lifestyle magazine Covey Rise as well as the UK's premier hunting magazine The Shooting Gazette. Catchpole focuses his writing efforts on wing-shooting, upland hunting dogs and fine shotguns. He lives in Boston with his wife, Michelle, and an English cocker spaniel, Austin Powers.



Joel Robert Hayes is a Minnesota native, but grew up on the prairie of Western Oklahoma. Throughout his childhood and adolescence, his family instilled in him a love of outdoor activities and a deep respect for the land. After graduating from South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, Hayes found himself on the banks of the Mississippi River in Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, and then in the hill country near Austin, Texas. Besides hunting deer and wild hogs in Texas, or walleye fishing in Canada, Hayes has completed three Ironman triathlons, climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro, stood atop Macchu Picchu in Peru and competed in the Colorado River 100 canoe race. He remains an avid hunter and general outdoorsman, enjoying camping and hiking with his wife. He is also an aspiring cook and a source conscious one, promoting the practices of local foraging, hunting and fishing. He shares his tales contributing monthly to The Outdoorsmen Magazine and on the blog he shares with his wife, KnivesandCorks.com.



Genie Jennings is a contributing editor for Women & Guns Magazine and active in promoting and protecting the shooting sports. A sports fisherman since pre-school years, she has recently embarked on perfecting her art of fly-fishing. She lives in Maine with her husband, teaching alpine skiing in the winter, gardening, fishing and traveling in other seasons. Breast cancer interfered with her life last summer and changed her perspective, if not attitude, about the use of time and energy. There is not enough for the important things, so the clutter of outside demands must be quieted and, where possible, eliminated. One of the important things is becoming as physically capable as possible, which involves things such as studying how the body functions and practicing yoga. She delights in describing herself in the third person.



Nick Lowrey grew up, for the most part, in eastern South Dakota. He went on his first pheasant hunting trip with his father at 6 years old and never looked back. He was also introduced to the fly rod at an early age. Lowrey joined the army after high school and served as an infantryman in the 10th Mountain Division. Following his military career Lowrey enrolled at South Dakota State University and chose journalism for his major — mostly because he needed to pick something to qualify for the G.I. Bill. It was a natural fit though, and two years into his degree program Lowrey started a monthly outdoors section in the school's student newspaper. He graduated in 2013 and went to work for the state's largest daily newspaper as a general assignment reporter. In the spring of 2014 the Capital Journal offered him a job as the paper's news editor and editor of its new outdoors magazine South Dakota outdoors. Lowrey jumped at the chance. He has lived in and covered the outdoors in Pierre, South Dakota, since April 2014.

WELCOME TO OWAA



Growing up in Montana, **Laura Lundquist** loved the outdoor life and wide-open spaces from an early age. But it would be several more years and a number of careers before she realized how much she wanted to tell Montana's stories. After earning two engineering degrees, studying conservation genetics and working as a pilot for the military and commercial airlines, she made it back to Montana and eventually to the University of Montana School of Journalism in 2008. She worked five years as an environmental reporter in Idaho and Montana, garnering state and regional awards before making the jump to freelancing in March 2015. So far, her freelance stories have appeared in Montana Quarterly, American Forests and the Society for Environmental Journalists Journal.



Marshall Nych's habitat is a family farm in western Pennsylvania. An elementary school teacher and deputy wildlife conservation officers for the Pennsylvania Game Commission, he has a knack for working with wildlife. When Nych isn't misguiding the youth of Mercer County, he is writing outdoor humor. He regularly writes for Bucktail Outdoors, Countryside magazine, International Game Warden and Pennsylvania Outdoor Journal. His award winning work has appeared in more than 15 publications. He typically writes of misadventure. Many of his misfit and miscreant characters are serving sentences on his website – www.marshallnych.com. Although Nych has fished 15 states and four countries, his best catches remain his wife, daughter and son.



A native Yankee, **Marion J. Patterson** grew up poking around the pukka brush. Climbing trees, slopping in brooks, watching clouds and devouring outdoor adventure stories morphed into a career in education with public school systems – movement and earth sciences and language arts. Today she and husband, Rich, co-own Winding Pathways encouraging people to create wondrous yards. The focus of the company is to blend spirit, mind and body for a healthy holistic lifestyle. Patterson, a returning member to OWAA, has several previous magazine credits, currently blogs and writes for The Gazette (Iowa), assists with ecological assessments, conducts healing energy workshops, leads labyrinth walks and works with adults pursuing their education at Kirkwood Community College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Her favorite teaching venue is as videographer and “assistant instructor” at Lakeside Labs of the University of Iowa – Frog Camp! Go Outside and Play!



Jo Schaper has an unusual slant on outdoor writing: Hammer and paddle rather than hook and bullet. From Missouri, with degrees in geology and writing, Schaper's articles and photography focus on rocks, water, the non-living landscape and getting people interested in the same. She has written for Bob Whitehead's Outdoor Guide since 1998, and includes the Missouri Conservationist, Missouri Life, Show-Me Missouri, GeoTimes, The Kaleidoscope Weekly and the Springfield News-Leader among numerous freelance credits. She served as assistant editor and primary reporter for River Hills Traveler from 2007 to 2014, until sidelined by an auto accident. She founded www.missouriworld.net in 1996 and maintains websites on Missouri geology, springs, caves and caving. Her current venture is www.josjournal.com, and she is working on Rock Talk, a layperson's guide to geology. She is a Fellow of the National Speleological Society, member of the Missouri Outdoor Communicators and loves to hike and float Missouri's streams.

ASSOCIATION UPDATE

DONORS

April, May and June brought monetary gifts from generous donors. These tax-deductible donations are dedicated to funds designed to boost OWAA efforts ranging from education programs to operational costs. For details about OWAA funds, contact OWAA headquarters at 406-728-7434.

Bodie McDowell Scholarship Fund

Galen Geer

Restricted Endowment

Beatrice Hunn

Thayne Smith

Tom Wharton

NEW MEMBERS

New member listings include references to acronyms that relate to Skills, Subject Matter, and Sections. A key for those acronyms can be found at <http://owaa.org/ou/about-owaa-skills-subject-matter-sections/>

Roger Catchpole, 235 S. Main St., Ste. 3075, Gainesville, FL 32608. (C) 352-283-3895, roger.catchpole@sportingodyssey.com. Entrepreneur, outdoors writer and dedicated wingshooter. Grew up hunting partridge and pheasants on his family estate in rural Suffolk, England. Holds degrees in conservation biology and marketing from the University of Birmingham and a master's degree in business administration from the University of Florida. Lives in Gainesville, Florida, with his wife Michelle and an English cocker spaniel Austin. Runs the outdoor sports review website Sportody, (www.sportody.com) and returns to England frequently to manage his country estate Stowlangtoft Estate and partridge shoot. Talented and well-respected outdoor adventurer and a feature writer for Covey Rise and the UK hunting magazine The Shooting Gazette. Focuses his writing efforts on wingshooting, upland hunting dogs and fine shotguns. Has extensive knowledge of the global outdoor sports industry and a strong understanding of hunting in North America and Europe. Skills: W; Subject Matter: CDE; Sections: Magazine. Approved for Active membership; sponsored by **Tom Keer**.

Robert Curley, Chimani, 65 Kingswood

Rd., North Kingstown, RI 02852. (H) 401-222-9604, bob@chimani.com, www.chimani.com. Editor, Chimani, a publisher of mobile apps focused on U.S. National Parks and other outdoor activities. (Christine) Skills: BEO; Subject Matter: GLO; Approved for Active membership; sponsored by **Tim Mead**.

Gary Garth, The Courier-Journal, 358 Butterworth Rd., Murray, KY 42071. (H) 270-435-4544, (C) 270-293-6263, (W) 270-293-6263, garygarth@gmail.com. Outdoor writer, The Courier-Journal. Outdoor columnist, Kentucky Monthly. Contributing editor, Field & Stream. (Katy) Skills: CNOW; Subject Matter: ACGN; Sections: Magazine, Newspaper, Photography. Approved for Active membership; sponsored by **Brent Frazee**.

Shayna Hartley, 60 Glenelg St. E., Lindsay, ON K9V1Z3. (H) 705-878-4708, shayna.hartley@gmail.com, www.shaynahartley.com. Student, North American School of Outdoor Writing, with a focus on conservation and wildlife. Approved for Student membership; sponsored by **Roger M. Brunt**.

Joel Hayes, Lo Scopo LLC, 1806 Clay Ln., Cedar Park, TX 78613. (C) 512-573-1058, joel@hayesworld.com. Considers himself more of an engineer than a writer, but writing is what he loves. Spends most of his time developing new technology, but real success comes down to being able to communicate the use and value of that technology in an effort to make someone's life enjoyable. Currently writes a monthly column for The Outdoorsmen magazine. Articles largely focus on recounting his outdoor adventures, which range from fly-fishing in Singapore, to deer hunting in Texas, to climbing Mt. Kilimanjaro, to an Italian recipe for wild hog that he picked up working on a vineyard in Tuscany. Has begun to expand his focus on local and wild foods and telling the stories of others who share the same passions he does. He and his wife recently started a food blog, knivesandcorks.com, where his primary focus will include preparation of wild game. (Rachel Dawn (Allen)) Skills: CW; Subject Matter: ABCDGHKLN; Sections: Maga-

zine. Approved for Associate membership; sponsored by **Kris Millgate**.

Genie Jennings, 59 Earls Rd., South Berwick, ME 03908. (H) 207-384-3276, skiwishes@gmail.com. Contributing editor since 2008, Women & Guns Magazine, "Making a Difference" columnist. Ski instructor; covered technical aspects of skiing and coaching. (Stanley) Skills: CLW; Subject Matter: ABDM. Approved for Active membership; sponsored by **Lisa Ballard**.

Trevor LaClair, 1901 Mirtle Grove Ct., Columbia, MO 65201. (H) 573-228-8870, laclairts@gmail.com, <http://trekkingwithtrevor.wix.com/trekking-with-trevor>. Student, University of Missouri-Columbia, graduating in May 2015, with a bachelor's degree in fisheries and wildlife. His goal is to eventually become a host of a wildlife show. Interested in telling stories about wildlife around the world, wildlife rehabilitation, conservation projects, successful relationships between humans and animals and backcountry traveling. Interested in hosting videos for both kids and adults. In August 2014, created a website with a blog, wildlife photography and videos about wildlife and outdoor adventures. Volunteers at zoos and sanctuaries working with and around a wide variety of wildlife. Hobbies include wildlife photography and filmmaking, scuba diving, snorkeling, backpacking, camping, kayaking, bouldering, working with animals, wilderness survival and primitive living, and outdoor interpretation. Skills: IOSTV; Subject Matter: GJLOPQRSU; Sections: Media Relations, Photography, TV/Video. Approved for Student membership.

Nick Lowrey, Capital Journal, 307 N. Tyler Ave., Pierre, SD 57501. (H) 605-595-2591, (W) 605-224-7301, nick.lowrey@capjournal.com. News editor, Capital Journal newspaper in Pierre, South Dakota, and editor of the newspaper's quarterly outdoors magazine South Dakota Outdoors. Worked as a reporter at the Argus Leader newspaper in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and served as editor-in-chief of South Dakota State University's student newspaper The Collegian.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24

ASSOCIATION UPDATE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23

Prior to his career in journalism, he served as an infantryman in the U.S. Army's 10th Mountain Division, assigned to Alpha Company, 2-22 INF. (Leah Hilsabeck-Lowrey) Skills: ENOSW; Subject Matter: ACDR; Sections: Magazine, Newspaper. Approved for Active membership; sponsored by **Brett Prettyman**.

Laura Lunquist, 201 Cottonwood St., Missoula, MT 59801. (C) 406-274-2426, lundquistl@gmail.com. Freelance writer. Selected as a fellow to attend the April 2015 Institute for Journalism and Natural Resources Sagebrush Institute. Former environmental reporter, Bozeman Chronicle and Twin Falls Times-News. Skills: NOW; Subject Matter: ACGLNOQRSU. Approved for Active membership; sponsored by **Paul Queneau**.

Marshall Nych, 3213 Bethel New Wilmington Rd., New Wilmington, PA 16142. (C) 724-977-3419, mnych@hotmail.com, www.marshallnych.com. This author's habitat is a family farm in New Wilmington, Pennsylvania. When he isn't writing outdoor humor, he is an elementary teacher misguiding the youth of Mercer County. Although he has fished 15 states and four countries, his best catches remain his wife, daughter and son. Regular contributor, Bucktail Outdoors, Countryside magazine, Pennsylvania Outdoor Journal and International Game Warden. His work has appeared in 15 publications. (Laura) Skills: IOW; Subject Matter: ACFS; Sections: Magazine. Approved for Active membership; sponsored by **Ben Moyer**.

Ashley Peters, Audubon Louisiana, 6160 Perkins Rd. Ste. 135, Baton Rouge, LA 70808. (H) 952-715-1209, (W) 504-500-1880, apeters@audubon.org. Supports Audubon's efforts by managing Web-based communications, media outreach, publication design and various other conservation, outreach and fundraising efforts. Most recently worked on the Restore the Mississippi River Delta campaign, which comprises Audubon, the National Wildlife Federation, the Environmental Defense Fund, Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation and Coalition to Restore Coastal

Louisiana. Before moving to Louisiana, worked for a conservation nonprofit in Alaska managing 25 AmeriCorps members, conservation project agreements and community outreach. Also worked for the State of Minnesota, Department of Natural Resources on communications projects for state parks, state trails, water trails, Wild and Scenic Rivers and state forests. Her outreach efforts in Minnesota includes writing articles for the Minnesota Conservation Volunteer, the promotion of outdoor recreation programs and managing seasonal publications which highlighted birding and wildlife-watching areas, naturalist programs and volunteer opportunities. Got her start in the conservation field by maintaining and building trails as an AmeriCorps members in Alaska and Minnesota. Skills: DIQVW; Subject Matter: GMORU; Sections: Media Relations/ Communications. Approved for Associate membership; sponsored by **Phil Bloom**.

Jo Schaper, Geo Communications Services, 46 Cedar Dr., Pacific, MO 63069. (H) 636-271-8380, (C) 636-667-4162, (W) 636-667-4162, (F) joschaper@socket.net, www.missouriworld.net. Volunteer member, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service communications working group on white nose syndrome. Author, website Jo Schaper's Missouri World covering Missouri geology, springs and caves information. Jo's Journal blog under development. (Eugene Vale) Skills: ACELNOS; Subject Matter: GJLORS. Approved for Active membership; sponsored by **Bill Powell**.

REINSTATED MEMBERS

Reinstated member listings include references to acronyms that relate to Skills, Subject Matter, and Sections. A key for those acronyms can be found at <http://owaa.org/ou/about-owaa-skills-subject-matter-sections/>.

E. Mickey Wright, (Associate) 18 Ryder Rd., Ossining, NY 10562. (C) 845-772-2064, numick13@yahoo.com. Bachelor's degree in English literature, published writer of children's literature. Hunter for 42 years, fisherman for 44 years. Recently published in *Fur-Fish-Game*, *The Bird Hunting Report* and the anthology, "Fish-

ing's Greatest Mis-Adventures." (Susan) Skills: BILNOW; Subject Matter: ABCD-FILOPQRS.

NEW SUPPORTING GROUPS, AGENCIES AND BUSINESSES

Supporting Group listings include references to acronyms that relate to resources they provide. A key for those acronyms can be found at <http://owaa.org/ou/about-owaa-supporter-resources/>.

Click-It Hot, 2880 Burgandy Dr., Cumming, GA 30041. Contact: Dennis Mcalister, president. (W) 678-485-9774, dennis.mcalister@clickithot.com, www.clickithot.com. Secondary contact: Bob Epstein, public relations and marketing director, 772-812-0933, bobepstein@aol.com, 638 Crestview Loop, Crossville, TN 38571. Hand and body warmers for sportsmen and women for safety and comfort in the outdoors and for medical purposes as well. Supporter Resources: GIP.

PRADCO Outdoor Brands, 2600 Corporate Dr. Ste. 250, Birmingham, AL 35242. Contact: Wesley Gullede, assistant manager — events. (W) 205-995-4517, wgullede@pradcooutdoorbrands.com, www.pradcooutdoorbrands.com. PRADCO Outdoor Brands is the largest company in the world that manufactures and markets major hunting and fishing brands and products under one parent organization. It is a leader in producing game calls, scents, attractants, game feeders, game cameras, tree stands and fishing lures. PRADCO Outdoor Brands' powerful portfolio ranges from top lure brands Rebel, Yum, Booyah, Lindy and Bomber Saltwater Grade to top hunting brands such as Moultrie, Summit, Code Blue and Knight & Hale. PRADCO Outdoor Brands' heritage in the outdoor business goes all the way back to 1894, when Heddon Lures was founded on the banks of the Old Mill Pond in Dowagiac, Michigan. PRADCO Outdoor Brands have been reaching consumers for parts of three centuries, which gives it a rich heritage to set it apart from its competitors. PRADCO Outdoor Brands is headquartered in Birmingham, Alabama, and has manufacturing locations in Alabama and Arkansas.

ASSOCIATION UPDATE

Supporter Resources: GIP.

The SHIFT Festival, P.O. Box 350
110 N. Millward St., Jackson, WY 83001.
Contact: Christian Beckwith, director. (W) 307-690-1561, cb@theventurecollective.com, <http://shiftjh.org>. Oct. 7-10, 2015, The SHIFT Festival, Jackson, Wyoming. SHIFT is an annual festival that uses food, film, speakers and outdoor recreation for an in-depth exploration of outdoor access, responsible recreation, conservation leadership and youth engagement for communities striving to live in balance with nature. Please visit <http://www.shiftjh.org> for a complete schedule of events. Supporter Resources: C.

The Wilderness Society, 1615 M St. NW First Floor, Washington, DC 20036. Contact: Michael Reinemer, communications manager. (W) 202-429-3949, (F) 202-429-8443, michael_reinemer@tws.org, www.wilderness.org. The Wilderness Society is the leading conservation organization working to protect wilderness and inspire Americans to care for our wild places. Founded in 1935, and now with more than

700,000 members and supporters, it has led the effort to permanently protect 109 million acres of wilderness and to ensure sound management of our shared national lands. Supporter Resources: CIO.

REINSTATED SUPPORTING GROUPS, AGENCIES AND BUSINESSES

Reinstated Supporting Group listings include references to acronyms that relate to resources they provide. A key for those acronyms can be found at <http://owaa.org/ou/about-owaa-supporter-resources/>.

Ruffed Grouse Society, 451 McCormick Rd., Coraopolis, PA 15108. Contact: Matt Soberg, editor and director of communications. (W) 412-203-4118, (Toll Free) 888-564-6747, (F) 412-262-9207, matts@ruffedgrousesociety.org, www.ruffedgrousesociety.org. Conservation is our main mission. Hunters were the first conservationists and the Ruffed Grouse Society and its members continue that great

tradition. The Ruffed Grouse Society's membership consists mainly of grouse and woodcock hunters who support national scientific conservation and management efforts to ensure the future of the species. Our organization employs a team of wildlife biologists to work with private and local, state and federal government landowners who are interested in improving their land for ruffed grouse, American woodcock and the other songbirds and wildlife that have similar requirements. We do this with individualized attention, specific programs to help landowners and by working with local, state and federal governments to develop land management assistance programs.

USDA Forest Service, 201 14th St. SW Yates Bldg., 3 SC, Washington, DC 20250. Contact: Nathaniel Gillespie, national assistant fisheries program leader. (W) 202-205-7827, ngillespie@fs.fed.us. Mission: to sustain the health, diversity and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. ■

NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR OWAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

■ BOARD NOMINATING PROCEDURE

The OWAA Board Nominating Committee is now accepting candidates for review. They will choose a slate so OWAA members, in spring 2016, can elect three new board members for three-year terms.

Service on the OWAA Board is a great way to enrich your experiences as a member and to make deeper connections with outdoor communicators across the nation. At 88 years and rising, OWAA members are growing stronger as America's "voice of the outdoors." A tradition of excellent volunteers has been the driving force behind OWAA's longevity.

If you would like to recommend a candidate or put your own name on the list, please forward names and candidate information to committee chairman **Matt Miller** at m_miller@tnc.org by Sept. 30.

Submissions of potential candidates should include name, background in outdoor communications, years of OWAA membership, committees served on, conferences attended, why do you want to run, or why do you think the person is qualified to serve.

Per board policy, names go into a pool, committee members rank candidates and those with the best ranking fill out the slate. Don't be shy, and don't hesitate to try again if you've been nominated in years past. Many outstanding board members have served who on first try did not make it to the election slate or did not get elected.

■ OFFICER NOMINATING PROCEDURE

The Officer Nominating Committee is also accepting candidates. They will choose a slate for second vice president and secretary. Those officers will be elected by the board at the July 2016 board meeting during the conference in Billings, Montana. To nominate or suggest a second vice president and secretary candidate, please contact committee chair **Kris Millgate** at kris@tightlinemedia.com.

Deadline for nominations is Sept. 30, per the OWAA Board and Officers Nominating Procedure. ■

SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHTS

SHIFT festival and summit

Where conservation and outdoor recreation come together

Held each October in the spectacular valley of Jackson Hole, Wyoming, **SHIFT** is an annual festival that celebrates the outdoor recreation and conservation partnership with food, film, speakers, workshops and outdoor adventure. Set at the forefront of the 2015 SHIFT Festival, which runs from October 7-10, is the SHIFT Summit, an in-depth exploration of the opportunities and challenges before the outdoor recreation and conservation partnership, with an emphasis on GEMS (Gateways to Environments of Major Significance) as laboratories for communities striving to live in balance with nature.

Media frames the conversation in the public mind and an engaged “voice of the outdoors” is critical for well-informed reportage from the nexus of conservation and outdoor recreation. Attending OWAA members will have a chance to inform the summit dialogue with their unique perspectives and to network with the content generators at the forefront of the conversation, including conservation pioneers, youth-engagement leaders, public-land managers and policy makers, outdoor-industry leaders and outdoor

recreationists. OWAA attendees have additional access to:

- The SHIFT Awards, recognizing the most innovative, impactful, replicable conservation and outdoor recreation work in North America.

- Keynote presentations featuring National Geographic’s Chief Content Officer Chris Johns, who will share insights on Yellowstone National Park, the first national park in the world and the sole subject of the May 2016 issue of National Geographic Magazine, and New York Times food columnist Mark Bittman, who will speak on food and how it has the power to make or break not only our personal health, but that of the planet.

- The People’s Banquet, SHIFT’s popular celebration of sustainable food systems and Jackson Hole’s “foodie event of the year.”

For more information, please contact Christian Beckwith, director, at cb@shiftjh.org, or for the festival schedule and ticket information, visit www.shiftjh.org. ■

Wrangler Riggs Workwear

Rugged clothing line perfect for outdoor enthusiasts

Wrangler Riggs Workwear, the leading industrial grade apparel collection from the iconic denim brand Wrangler, is designed for men who need clothing that keep up with them for long, grueling hours in tough work conditions. The collection uses the latest quality materials that are tested in the field for durability and versatility, and most importantly, comfort all day long.

Wrangler Riggs Workwear can be worn for any tough job — whether it be on the oil rig, in construction, or even mowing and other outdoor activities. The brand recently announced that Brett Favre would be the face of the new collection. Favre has worn the Riggs collection for protection and durability while doing work on his property and has been a longtime partner of the brand.

No matter the task, Wrangler Riggs Workwear offers a variety of technologies for premium resilience and comfort that can withstand wear and tear. The Wrangler Riggs Workwear collection features

something for every hardworking man, including the leisurely outdoorsman. Wrangler Riggs Workwear Ripstop Ranger Cargo Shorts are ideal for the summer heat and made with 100 percent ripstop fabric for ultimate durability. They have roomy side pockets with flaps and concealed snaps to hold tools and accessories. At the knees, the shorts are reinforced and bottom vented, allowing for ease of movement. In the exhausting summer heat, it’s crucial to have gear that won’t quit. Wrangler Riggs Workwear offers different technologies and features for any task.

Wrangler Riggs Workwear apparel is available nationwide in specialty stores, including work apparel chains, and western wear stores, as well as through online and catalog retailers. For more information about Wrangler Riggs Workwear and the entire collection of Wrangler products, visit



Wrangler Riggs Workwear line includes the Ranger Cargo Shorts. The ripstop fabric makes them durable, while the design is perfect for the summer heat. Photo courtesy Wrangler.

Wrangler.com. ■

Superior Printing of Heritage & Tradition



Why Not Let Us Make Your Next Book?

Whether you are putting thoughts and observations to paper, or capturing nature in all its glory through photography or painting, Seaber Turner Associates can provide the expertise to produce an original masterpiece that will be cherished by generations.

**OWAA Member
Benefit-Payment
Terms:** 1/3 Net
30-60-90 days
from delivery of
finished product.

Seaber Turner Associates specializes in the manufacturing of books, magazines, calendars, and catalogs to look the way you envision without compromise. Our state-of-the-art book manufacturing facilities enable self-publishers, non profit organizations and corporations to cost-effectively purchase printing of as little as 250 copies or as many as desired.

We are **PROUD** to serve **OWAA** and **MEMBERS** as your printer.
Please call us at **610.944.6871** anytime to discuss your projects.



**SEABER TURNER
ASSOCIATES**
SUPERIOR BOOK PRINTING

610.944.6871
seabturner@aol.com
www.seaberturner.com



Copyright notice: Contributors grant rights for OWAA to publish once in Outdoors Unlimited, both the print and online versions, including archives, and on the OWAA website.

**Outdoor Writers Association
of America Inc.
615 Oak St., Ste. 201
Missoula, MT 59801
406-728-7434**

August/September 2015



Looking for more? Go online to read past issues of OU. PDFs are available for printing, too.
Visit: www.owaa.org/ou/category/departments/table-of-contents.

Knoxville conference thanks

OWAA would like to thank everyone involved in making our 2015 conference a success. Specifically, we would like to thank:

Knoxville Planning Team

Brett Prettyman, conference program chair
Tony Dolle, conference local chair
Kelli Gibson, Visit Knoxville
Erin Donovan, Visit Knoxville
Rebecca Williams, Knoxville Convention Center
Kate Jackson, Knoxville Convention Center
Lynn Armstrong, Knoxville Convention Center
Robin Holbrook, Holiday Inn World's Fair Park
Carol Evans, Outdoor Knoxville
Jerry Fouse, Tennessee Valley Authority
Travis Brinkley, Tennessee Valley Authority
Joe Everett, John Sevier Hunter Education Center

Conference Sponsors

American Fly Fishing Trade Association
Izaak Walton League of America
National Shooting Sports Foundation
Nissan North America
Ocean Conservancy
Safari Club International Foundation
Sage Grouse Initiative
Tennessee Valley Authority
Toyota Motor Sales U.S.A.
Travel Manitoba
Visit Knoxville

We could not have done this without you and hope to see you all in Billings, Montana in July 2016. ■