SOAR ABOVE

Seek adventure in the outdoor paradise of Little Rock, Arkansas | p. 10

How to lighten your camera load, board candidate profiles AND MORE.
FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

An investment guaranteed to pay you back

Your whole life you’ve heard the importance of investing in your future. Perhaps your first steps toward financial security began as a child with a piggy bank. In school you were taught about compound interest. With your first real job in high school, you might have opened a savings or checking account. And as an adult, you may have enrolled in your company’s 401(k) program as a supplement to the company pension plan for retirees. As a full-time freelance, you may have opted for an IRA.

The important thing is you made choices at key moments in life for the purpose of realizing positive rewards somewhere down the line. Renewing your membership in OWAA also is an investment in the future. Yes, there are perks right now — enter into the nation’s oldest and largest organization of professional outdoor communicators and the associated benefits, such as this member-only magazine for starters.

As dues-paying members, you receive discounts on car rentals, hotels, outdoor gear and group health insurance. You have access to the Members Only section of OWAA’s website, where you can find job postings and contact information for other members and supporting groups. You are entitled to use the membership mailing list to spread the word about an upcoming project — a new book, a speaking engagement or a workshop you are leading. And entering OWAA’s annual Excellence In Craft Contest can bring recognition for your work as well as prize money.

You can attend the OWAA annual conference — an opportunity to meet other members and supporting groups. You are entitled to use the membership mailing list to spread the word about an upcoming project — a new book, a speaking engagement or a workshop you are leading. And entering OWAA’s annual Excellence In Craft Contest can bring recognition for your work as well as prize money.

You can attend the annual conference at member pricing, where there’s more than enough story material, constructive improvement workshops, and networking prospects to make attending well worth the cost. Can’t make the conference or wish you could see something you missed? Archived videos of conference sessions are available on our website.

There are many more reasons for being an OWAA member, but here’s one that’s often overlooked: It’s an investment in the future of professional outdoor communications. Outdoor journalists play a vital role in helping the American people see the value in the great outdoors. Through our work, we enlighten our readers, viewers and listeners about America’s outdoor resources, the importance of protecting those resources and how to enjoy the recreational opportunities they provide.

Former executive director Tom Sadler refers to OWAA as a professional guild and we as members are the keepers of the flame, the standard bearers for what is good and right within our craft. Since forming in 1927, our ranks have included legendary communicators. Durward Allen, Nash Buckingham, Homer Circle, Michael Fosmire, Curt Gowdy, John Madison, Pat McManus, Maynard Reece, Dave Richey, Buck Rogers, Leonard Lee Rue III, Lee Wulff, Ed Zern and many, many more.

Each of you contributes to the legacy of outdoor communications, but we need more voices to join our ranks. So, consider not only what an OWAA membership does for you now but also what continuing that membership does to ensure there is a future for the outdoors communication profession.

OWAA has been there for you in the past, and it’s here for you now. Let’s make sure it’s around for the next generation of outdoor communicators.

— Phil Bloom is OWAA’s interim executive director. Reach him at pbloom@owaa.org or 406-552-4049.
Go Big in Little Rock

Right before the Fort Wayne conference last year, I darted down to Brown County, Indiana, amped to ride its web of mountain biking trails that have earned “epic” status from the International Mountain Bike Association (IMBA). Unfortunately, the final vestiges of Tropical Storm Alberto arrived the same day, anoring a deluge that drenched the trails and scurried my hopes for single-track bliss.

So our group went zip-lining instead, perhaps not the smarter activity as light-
ingning was strobing the sky above, but it added a little extra adrenaline as we flung ourselves at break-neck speeds through a canopy of towering hardwoods with rain falling in sheets around us.

Flash forward to 2019, and I’m eying the abundance of trails that grace the landscape near Little Rock, where OWAA is set to kick off its big annual gathering June 22. Cuz a mountain biking renaissance, as Arkansas is home to almost half a dozen of IMBA’s “epic rides,” including trio near Hot Springs that range from the “shorter” 33-mile Womble Trail to the grueling 108-mile Ouachita National Recreation Trail. Time to start training.

But that’s just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to outdoor adventure and pre-, post- and post-conference opportunities in the Natural State. Having just experi-
ed it firsthand, I can report that Little Rock is truly the ultimate basecamp. In mid-January, we had our winter board meeting there, and after a long run of indoor meetings, a crew of us ventured out to chase ducks at the lakes—down to Bayou Meto Wildlife Management Area — 33,000 acres of public hardwood forest-bottomland right in the heart of the Mississippi Alluvial Valley that is arguably the world’s most famous flooded green timber duck hunting. Think of it as LaSaucier for the nation’s busiest waterfowl flyway.

For a kid like me from the Rockies who has only jump-hunted ducks along mountain streams, it was unbelievably cool to snap into Bayou Meto amid the inky pre-dawn in speedy camo duck boats like commandos. The birds didn’t really cooperate that morning, but standing in water up to my waist in neoprene waders as legions of waterfowl filled the sky above is an experience I’ll never forget.

And one I hope to repeat when the weather warms and spring runs it’s way through the waterfowl flyway.

The OWAA conference’s host hotel sits right on the river and next to a trail system that connects 58 parks, six museums and more than 5,000 acres of federal, state and local parkland along an 88-mile loop tailor-made for biking, hik-

ning, running—you name it. The section we strolled was paved, incredibly scenic and just begged for a road bike to explore it further. Along the way we passed outdoor amphitheaters, wild playgrounds with rock-climbing walls and tunnels my sons would have adored, and the Clinton Library—albeit closed that day by protocol of the federal government shutdown.

Of course, where there is water there is fishing and paddling. In between the ca-
noring, kayaking, standup paddleboarding, smallmouth fishing, etc., on the Buffalo National River, or right next door on the Little Maumelle River as it snakes past Pinnacle Mountain State Park, I don’t have the space here to do the vast array of opportunities justice.

No matter what your favored mode of outdoor adventure, do yourself a favor and check out the list of pre- and post-conference trips at www.

owaa.org/2019/conference.

I’ll also be remiss if I didn’t mention the restored forests there. When we arrived taking shape for Little Rock. Tim Mead and Pat Wray have been working their tails off with Jessica Seitz and Phil Bloom to create one of the hardest-hitting line-

ups of speakers and panel discussions I’ve seen at OWAA. From the conservation challenges of the proposed border wall to the Ethanol Mandate and deep well injec-
tion to how to best use Facebook tools to create and share content on social media, it’s thick with great story leads and brave new ways to hone our craft.

I can’t wait. Hope to see you there.

To the editor:

In 2012, I wrote a series of articles pointing out that our Pitt-

man-Robertson funds, hundreds of millions of dollars annually, were being squandered on uses other than habitat management and improvement. Those funds, first issued in 1939, are pro-

vided by a tax on guns, ammunition, bows and arrows and in-
tended to be used “primarily” (a common loophole) to improve habitat for birds and big game.

Instead, I discovered that P-R funds were being used for “oth-
er” purposes ranging from salaries, trails, pickup, roads, culverts and bridges. Many have been gobbled up to keep hunters out of the very land they had paid for. Some 70 years after P-R was enacted, no state manages more than 1 percent of its wildlife management area holdings annually. The bulk of that 1 percent is mowing of grasslands, even though not one of our preferred game birds or ani-

mals lives in or feeds exclusively on grass. In fact, mowing has been blamed for the current decline in wild turkeys because the mowing takes place precisely when young birds would benefit most from seed head production, grasshoppers and other forage.

I produced several articles on the topic nationally, regionally and locally hoping to sway the hunters and my fellow writers that we have been losing habitat every year through simple neglect. Trees were being allowed to grow (mostly under the direction of foresters, whose agenda differs greatly from that of wildlife managers) on WMAs in the same manner and for the same reasons as our state forests — simply as money in the bank. In the 30, 50 or 90 years down the road. While states continue to add land to their WMA holdings using P-R funding, there is no provision for managing those lands.

The majority of WMAs east of the Mississippi River are 80 to 90 percent mature forest. Where are the clear-cuts, the sapling stands, the early-successional cover that game birds and animals need to survive and thrive?

During my 20 years as editor of a national magazine I made numerous trips to various states to hunt our most popular game species on public lands. In the process I discovered that, in every state, our “wildlife management areas” have been treated as mini state forests, left to grow with the goal of profiting from future timber sales. State wildlife biologists told me (in writing) that “nothing had been done” to improve wildlife habitat in their states during careers that spanned more than 30 years!

Now it is five years later and things are getting worse. I had hoped to get other outdoor writers to join me in demanding that our states use their Pittman-Robertson Act funds for their intended purpose but so far none of my colleagues have seen fit to tackle the issue. I’m sure many writers have believed their state wildlife managers were doing a great job of carrying out the duties under the Pittman-Robertson Act. I’m also sure none ever bothered to compare their state’s P-R disbursement (readily available on the USFWS’s website) to the total acreage managed for wildlife habitat (required of any state that uses P-R funds). Biologists who are not afraid to speak publicly have made it known that very few of those dollars ever reach ground level where chainsaw and bush hogs have been put into use. But it gets worse: 18 states are considering declaring the ruffed grouse “endangered,” which means hunting them can no longer be allowed. This constitutes half the states that contained strong populations of ruffed grouse just 50 years ago! The reason being given for the move is (surprise!): “habitat loss.”

The remaining states’ grouse populations continue to decline and are a fraction of what they were a mere half-century ago.

Grouse are “edge” birds, not forest birds, not grassland birds and not crop-

land birds. With state agencies making minimal effort to create or maintain important edge cover over the past 70 years the results could not have been more predictable. Meanwhile, wild turkey numbers have declined as much as 40 percent in the past 10 years and the brush-loving cottontail rabbit is already listed as endangered in some Eastern states.

But that’s OK. Don’t mention anything about this in your writing. We certainly don’t want to ruffle any feathers at the state level. Lay low and continue getting your free Breakout Day gear, hats, raffle prizes, plaques and trips.

After all, isn’t that what it’s all about?

— Stephen D. Carpenteri

Lyman, Maine
THE VALUE OF VIDEO
Why You Should Add a Minute to Every Article

BY LISA BALLARD | RED LODGE, MONTANA

WHEN I FIRST JOINED OWAA 16 years ago, I was a TV producer and host who wrote a few articles on the side. I had worked on shows for most major broadcast and cable networks and won a bunch of awards, including three Emmys because I was a stickler for details. When video started showing up on digital media platforms, the casual — okay, downright amateurish shooting and editing — irked me. That was not my world. I was a pro, so I ignored it. I don’t anymore. Now I consider my video production skills to be a competitive advantage. For several years after relocating from New England to Montana, I stopped producing video due to a plethora of magazine writing and photography opportunities that came my way. However, video is once again part of the menu of skills I readily offer an editor.

That’s right, an editor. It’s a rare traditional print magazine that doesn’t have additional web content. Some editors work solely on web-based publications or blogs. Any time content is distributed on a digital platform, there’s potential for video. Readers love it. Editors want more of it. Here’s how I approach it:

TIME COMMITMENT. At first, I quaked at the thought of adding video to a writing and photo assignment. On location, I had to experience the activity while shooting a photo package, and take notes and interview people, usually by myself. Who had time to produce a video clip, too? But I was thinking about it by the old rules, which required a broadcast-quality camera, acute attention to sound quality and lots of preproduction planning, plus at least a day on the back end to write and edit the piece. Thankfully, running times are much less, one to two minutes, which requires much less footage to fill and time to edit. What’s more, these mini-segments do not need to be a perfectly crafted story. They can capture merely moments, providing a taste of the place and what happened, or perhaps a key soundbite or two, which are what make even the most informal video segments engaging to viewers.

PAY. Even if you streamline the video production process, there’s still extra work involved, and you’re providing additional visual enhancements to your story at your editor’s request. Pay is appropriate. If your editor does not have a specific video budget and you’re already an established photographer, ask for your half-day rate or the equivalent of a full-page photo. That’s a good place to start for a video under two minutes, or just the raw footage. Getting a couple thousand dollars per finished minute for this kind of video production is not the norm.

COPYRIGHTS. Keep it. Just like your words and your photos, you are selling the right for a media outlet to use your video footage (or finished segment). Video production can be fruitful, not only as a service that enhances your attraction to an editor, but also as your stock footage library grows, it might be a source of revenue. If you don’t own it, you can’t reuse it in the future. Today, my label is content producer. Yours is, too, and the more types of content you can produce, the more successful you will be as an outdoor communicator.

QUALITY CONTROL. Nowadays, I can cover the visuals — both still and video — with one camera. It’s a high-quality DSLR (Nikon D500) that switches to video mode with the flick of a small switch. I take the still images I need, then shoot 30 seconds of video at each spot. It’s quick and easy, shooting-wise and gear-wise.

If you’re already shooting video but using an inexpensive point-and-shoot camera or your mobile phone, the quality — especially the focus if you zoom in, pull out or pan — can suffer, and you won’t know it until you get home and look at what you shot. Consider upgrading your camera if you want your video footage to be usable, let alone have a professional look. In my case, capturing sound on location is not important, as all my video clips for magazines and e-sites to date have music under them for background sound and supers to communicate key points. That said, if ambient sound or voices matter in your videos, pay attention to recording quality. Ironically, one of the keys to high-quality video is exceptional sound quality. Ditto with the supers. Be sure they are correctly presented from frame to frame, without typos. Call me old-fashioned about these points, but they are what make even the most informal video segments engaging to viewers.

Product review: Olympus TG-5 camera

BY NOAH BUCHANAN

UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHY is becoming more popular all the time. From people taking vacations to the Caribbean, photographing surfing or even playing around in the pool during summertime, many of these moments would go undocumented without the use of a waterproof camera or water housing for your DSLR.

However, water housings can be wildly overpriced for the average person who doesn’t shoot in the water all the time. This gives camera manufacturers the opportunity to produce affordable, but high-quality compact waterproof cameras.

This is nothing new. Camera companies have been making disposable film point-and-shoot cameras for years. I remember taking trips to the beach with my family growing up and playing around with them, snapping many photos in and around the water. Today, this is not as practical, which is why digital waterproof point-and-shoot cameras have taken off.

The Olympus tough series has been around for a long time. It is the company’s waterproof, shockproof and freeze-proof model designed for worry-free use.

A rugged and tough camera, the TG-5 is also quite popular because of its ease of use for any level of photographer. It offers full auto as well as full manual control and all the semi-auto modes in between. With the ability to shoot in RAW, the photographer has full control when it comes to editing his or her photos, plus a great deal of information to work with on a 12-megapixel CMOS sensor.

With the TG-5 being able to shoot up to 20fps, the ability to capture moving subjects has never been easier. For those of you interested in doing video, the TG-5 can record 4K at 30fps and 1080P at 120fps. This gives you the ability to slow down your footage for very smooth playback.

For those of you looking to stay connected, the TG-5 offers built-in Wi-Fi.

Olympus has also designed its field sensor system into this camera, which provides a GPS module, manometer, compass and temperature sensor. All this can be transferred to a smartphone via the built-in Wi-Fi and imbedded into the metadata of your photos. In addition to wireless transfer ability, the built-in Wi-Fi also allows you to remotely control the camera from a smartphone or tablet.

The camera retails for $449. For more information and special OWAA pricing on the TG-5 or anything else that might be on your shopping list, please email me at nbuchanan@huntsphoto.com or call 781-462-2356.

— Noah Buchanan is Hunts’ Photo and Video OWAA sales rep.

FOR THOSE OF YOU LOOKING TO STAY CONNECTED, THE TG-5 OFFERS BUILT-IN WI-FI.
SHAVE SIZE AND WEIGHT — go micro 4/3rds

Great photography doesn’t have to come with physical strain

BY JOE MCDONALD | MCCLURE, PENNSYLVANIA

IN PHOTOGRAPHY, BIG GLASS, i.e. impressive telephoto, not only produce great close-up images but also, let’s face it, carrying one implies real gravitas — you’re a photographer! You pay for that badge of distinction, however, as big telephoto lenses and DSLR cameras are burdensome to carry around, and, if you fly often, a source of stress every time you board a plane with your carry-on bag. That heavy gear may also be giving you second thoughts about even lugging around a big lens, or walking that extra couple hundred feet to check out a different perspective.

There’s a solution for all those negatives and that’s going to a micro 4/3rds camera system. Both Panasonic and Olympus offer cameras and lenses in this format, and the size and weight of both are significantly reduced. I recently switched from a full-frame DSLR to the Olympus micro 4/3rds, so my expertise only lies with this brand. Accordingly, you’ll have to verify if something I mention applies to the brand you’re interested in.

Because the sensor of a micro 4/3rds is approximately half the size of a full frame DSLR, the magnification factor of any given lens is doubled. For example, a 300mm with a 1:4X equates to 840mm. That lens combo on my micro 4/3rds camera weighs 5 pounds, in contrast to the 15 pounds of my Canon 800mm on a full-frame DSLR. You can imagine the difference that makes after a day in the field. You might not look as impressive walking around with a micro 4/3rds rig but the results will be the same, or even better. There are several other real pluses.

With an electronic viewfinder you can be looking through an eyepiece when shooting video, rather than at the back of an LCD screen. Backlighting and glare on a hard-to-see screen is no longer a concern. The LCD screen flips out and tilts, too, making ground-level shooting easy — no more chin-in-the-dirt shooting. In some cameras, a keystone correction feature eliminates the need for heavy, bulky tilt/shift lenses, and a focus-locking feature composites deep-focus images, cutting out time-consuming software to achieve maximum sharpness and depth of field.

There are several other real pluses. With an electronic shutter, motor drive bursts as high as 60 frames per second are possible, allowing the capture of the most minor differences in poses or expressions. Image stabilization eliminates anything I had with my previous system, and now I can realistically hand-hold 840mm and get sharp shots. Recently, chasing pumas in Chile, I drove the roads with that lens in my lap, ready for any opportunity. I could not have done so with my old rig.

One feature with the Olympus really sold me, and if you shoot much action, please take note. It’s ProCapture, one of the drive modes. In ProCapture, when the shutter button is depressed halfway, the camera continually records images in a loop of 14 or 35 frames (depending upon the camera model), over-writing the oldest frame as a new one records. The camera doesn’t write to the card until the shutter is fully depressed. At that time, that frame, and the 14 (or 35) frames that preceded it are written to the SD card. Imagine the shots. A trout leaping at a mayfly, and you only caught the splash — before — but now you have the trout through its entire leap. A bird launches from a branch, and you record a bare branch — before — but now you have the entire take-off sequence. I’m telling you, it is a game-changer, and I’m capturing images, and entire sequences, I never could before.

So, are there any disadvantages to the micro 4/3rds system? You might guess sensor size, for capturing detail. Both Olympus and Panasonic address this by offering a feature that records a burst of several frames to produce a final composite that’s a very huge file. Even without using that feature, however, I’ve made 20x30 enlargements from an image cropped to 1/16th of the original sensor size and had satisfactory results. Higher ISOs may be problematic, as digital noise may be an issue, but I’ve found that to be somewhat image dependent, and frankly I’ve never needed to, nor have, shot at extremely high ISOs.

I have to admit, I feel a little different when I’m walking a birding trail and I’m surrounded by photographers with big, impressive-looking telephoto lenses. I probably look like an amateur to them, not a real “player” in the image game, but I don’t feel humbled or ashamed. Instead, I feel free, and I want to scream “Get with the program!” We want our photography to be productive but it can also be fun, too, when you’re not worried about shoulder strain or back ache or hiking that extra mile. I made the switch to micro 4/3rds and I never looked back.

— Joe McDonald is a contributing editor to Nikonian Photographer magazine.

Without ProCapture, the photographer would have caught only the tail of the Gabar Goshawk as the bird passed out of the frame; but with it, he recorded 14 other images as the hawk swooped in to harass the larger hawk-eagles. Photo: Joe McDonald.
Outdoor Opportunities Abound in The Natural State

COMING TO THE OWAA CONFERENCE in June? Don’t forget to plan time to explore the outdoors in Little Rock and around Arkansas. Little Rock Convention and Visitors Bureau, Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission and a wide range of local partners have put together pre- and post-conference trips showcasing their state.

We encourage all members to consider signing up for one or multiple trips as part of their conference experience. Trips are complimentary for individual members and will connect you with the people and places you need to generate story material and make the most of your trip to Arkansas.

Whether you are looking to try something new or just get outside in a new place, there are adventures waiting for you:

CANOE/KAYAK/PADDLE
• Float the Little Maumelle River just outside Little Rock
• Guided Kayak Trip at Ranch North Woods Preserve in Little Rock
• Arkansas River Kayaking/SUP Tour in Little Rock
• Float the Buffalo National River
• Historic Helena on the Mississippi

FISHING
• Paddling and Smallmouth Bass Fishing on the Buffalo River

MOUNTAIN BIKING
• Mountain biking the Oz Trails in Northwest Arkansas
• Mountain Biking Hot Springs and the New Northwoods
• Mountain Biking Boyle Park in Little Rock

NATURAL HISTORY
• Dig for Crystals at Wegner Quartz Crystal Mines in Mount Ida
• Take a Cave Tour at Blanchard Springs Caverns – Wild or Regular

ROCK CLIMBING
• Rock Climbing Jamestown Crag
• Rock Climbing at Rattlesnake Ridge in Little Rock

BY JESSICA SEITZ | MISSOULA, MONTANA

Looking for DIY activities? Find these as well as an up-to-date list of trips, full trip details and the trips sign-up form on the 2019 conference website: https://owaa.org/2019conference/pre-post-conference-trips/

SIGN-UP AT: https://owaa.org/2019conference/signup-for-pre-post-conference-trips/

SCUBA DIVING
• Scuba Dive Lake Norfork

STATE PARK OUTDOOR ADVENTURES
• Outdoor Adventures at Village Creek State Park

SUSTAINABILITY IN LITTLE ROCK
• Rock Town Distillery Grain to Glass Excursion in Little Rock
• Heifer International in Little Rock: Sustainability in Action

WILDLIFE ADVENTURES
• Snorkeling the Saline with Mussel Men
• Hold a hummingbird in your hands

Photos: Little Rock Convention and Visitors Bureau, Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism and Arkansas Game and Fish Commission.
Get in step with Little Rock
A short stroll reveals great food and good times

BY JEFFREY WILLIAMS | LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

GET A LITTLE TIME TO EXPLORE during the 2019 OWAA conference in Little Rock! You’ve come to the right place.
The DoubleTree Hotel is a great base camp for a walking or trolley adventure to landmarks, restaurants and cultural centers. Here’s a long-time resident’s perspective on spots that are tried-and-true local favorites and hangouts, and only minutes away by foot.
The Old State House Museum is the next-door neighbor to the east of the DoubleTree on Markham Street. This was the first capital of the state and holds historical collections and temporary exhibits. Admission is free.

Main Street, just three blocks east of the DoubleTree, leads to the South Main district — SoMa. On the way to Main is the Capital Bar and Grill, inside the historic Capital Hotel. Drop in for smooth cocktails and hand-crafted appetizers. Hang a right on Main Street and look for Soul Fish Café, Bruno’s Little Italy (pizza and pasta since 1949), Samantha’s Tap Room and Wood Grill (friendly bar), and popular Three Fold Noodles and Dumpling Co.

SoMa begins on the south side of the Interstate 630 overpass. This is the land of quirky shops such as Mony Modern Mercantile, Reinvent Vintage and the Green Corner Store. They offer offbeat goods, many of them locally produced. It sounds weird, but don’t miss the ESSE Purse Museum and Store; it’s much cooler than it sounds.

SoMa also features terrific dining: Dos Rocos (two rocks beer and tacos), Boulevard Bake House and Market, Community Bakery, Raduno Brick Oven and Barroom, Root Café, and South on Main (with a popular bar). Visitors can’t go wrong with any of those choices.

If you’re looking for a watering hole (and you probably will be since this is late June in Arkansas), slip into Midtown Billiards, a true dive that is often found on lists of best bars.

Rent a boat and see a new perspective of downtown Little Rock and North Little Rock from the Arkansas River.

Another option is skipping the turn on Main Street and continuing east on Markham Street toward the River Market District, which begins five blocks east of the DoubleTree. Take note of Iriana’s Pizza during the trek; it’s frequently been voted among the best in the state. We also should mention Historic Arkansas Museum, just a block south on Scott Street.
The River Market District is at its finest at night with live music venues, dining and special events. The Flying Saucer Draught Emporium offers more than 200 beers on tap, along with bar food. Cache Restaurant, with a variety of indoor and outdoor dining options, is more refined. Don’t miss the free exhibits at Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, across the street from the River Market, which houses a variety of food vendors, including Asian, pizza, burgers and desserts. More food and local beer is waiting at Damgoode Pies and Cajun-tinged Flying Fish.

A pedestrian overpass on the north side of the street leads to the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission’s Wirt Stephens Jr. Central Arkansas Nature Center, which is always free.

Walk off a few calories by continuing east on President Clinton Avenue to the William J. Clinton Presidential Center and Park (free admission to gift shop; usually an admission fee for exhibits) and the William E. “Bill” Clark Clark Presidential Park Wetlands. Just beyond the Clinton Center is the headquarters of Hefser International, including a gift shop with a variety of handmade, unique items.

Cross the Arkansas River on the Clinton Presidential Park Bridge, built by Rock Island Railroad in 1899 as part of the Arkansas River Trail, or trace your steps back to the hotel. By the way, complete a three-mile loop by crossing the river here, following the trail west in North Little Rock to the Broadway Bridge and crossing the river back to the hotel. Or instead of walking back to the DoubleTree on President Clinton Avenue/Markham Street, take the Arkansas River Trail through Riverfront Park, which includes Vogel Schwartz Sculpture Garden.

Although the Arkansas Travelers AA baseball team is on the road, North Little Rock has plenty to offer, and it’s a short stroll across the Broadway Bridge from the DoubleTree. Diamond Bear Brewing Company and Arkansas Ale House, for instance, is about a block south of Dickey Stephens Park, home of the Travelers. Another spot favored by locals — Flyway Brewing — is a block off Main Street.

Swing by Cregeen’s Irish Pub on the corner of Broadway and Main. For excellent Italian fare, have a bite at Ristorante Capo (great pizza and pasta) on Main Street. Relax with a beverage at Crush Wine Bar, also on Main. These are a few highlights — visitors will discover much more during a short walk.

— Jeffrey Williams is the editor of Arkansas Wildlife magazine, a member of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission and an OWAA member since 2003.
OPPOSITE PAGE: A bumblebee rests on a stucco wall barely within the shade line out of the sun.

TOP RIGHT: When your story is at the other end of the canyon and sheep are blocking the only way in.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Bears Ears National Monument in southern Utah is the epicenter of the nation’s public lands debate. The Obama administration made the monument. The Trump administration shrunk it. This is one of the many ancient relics within the monument.

I SPY
What fills frame when in the field

I’m an outdoor journalist of the action and still kind. I shoot footage and photos with up to five cameras when I’m on assignment. It’s a circus of shutter speeds, but sometimes I’m lucky enough to capture a moment in all its natural wonder.

PHOTOGRAPHY
BY KRIS MILLGATE
www.tightlinemedia.com
TOP: Iceland’s northern region is stunning; so are the island’s sunsets. No filter.

RIGHT: Salmon are endangered in Idaho. Researchers count them by snorkel sight instead of hands on.

TOP LEFT: Owls on the ground are better than owls in the outhouse. Yes, that really happens. That’s why vent pipes on outdoor bathrooms now have screens covering openings.

TOP RIGHT: Before monarchs are beautiful butterflies, they are the clean lines of colorful caterpillars.

BOTTOM: New life hatches six months after wildfire kills it.
Board candidates’ profiles

Five OWAA members are running for three seats on OWAA’s board of directors. Their responses have been lightly edited for grammar, spelling and Associated Press style.

All active, senior active and life members are encouraged to vote by the May 1 deadline. Members received an email on April 1 with a link to the online ballot. Members who don’t have an email address listed in OWAA’s database will receive a paper ballot by mail. Winners will be announced in Outdoors Unlimited and on the OWAA website. New board members will start their three-year terms on June 24, 2019, at the summer board meeting.

JACK BALLARD
RESIDENCE: Montana
YEARS OF OWAA MEMBERSHIP: 21
CONFERENCES ATTENDED: 15
COMMITTEES: In two previous terms on the board of directors and as one as treasurer, I have served on most of the standing committees of the organization, I am currently an OWAA Endowment trustee.

Jack Ballard has published hundreds of articles in more than 50 different magazines and other publications. He also has published more than 1,200 photos in magazines, books, calendars and other media. He is the author of 13 books. His two most recent books are “Wildlife Photography” (2017) and “Monarchs and Other Hummingbirds” (2018). He writes frequently in the areas of big-game hunting, upland bird hunting, fly-fishing (fresh and saltwater), wildlife natural history, conservation and other outdoor recreational pursuits.

1. Why are you running for OWAA’s board of directors? What are the top three things you hope to accomplish as a board member?

I hope to provide leadership in keeping the organization financially sound, offer an informed perspective and to make the organization more relevant to contemporary tastes. I have been involved in more than 50 boards and committees of the organization. I am currently an OWAA Endowment trustee.

2. As “The Voice of the Outdoors,” OWAA needs to be current and vibrant, and become more diverse. What is your vision for accomplishing this challenge? How should OWAA recruit new members while retaining the ones we’ve got?

I would like to see OWAA work to become more diverse, not just in terms of members but also in terms of what they love about the outdoors. We need to appeal to a wider audience by getting more people involved in conservation, whether it be through hunting or fishing. OWAA can best serve its membership if it provides them with information that is relevant to their interests. One way we can do this is by re-designing our website to make it more user-friendly and easy to navigate.

NICK LOWREY
RESIDENCE: South Dakota
YEARS OF OWAA MEMBERSHIP: 4
COMMITTEES ATTENDED: 3
COMMITTEES: None

Nick Lowrey is the managing editor of the Capital Journal in Pierre, South Dakota, and serves as editor of the newspaper’s magazine, South Dakota Outdoors. His outdoor writing has appeared in newspapers all over South Dakota and in regional magazines. Over the course of his five years at the Capital Journal and South Dakota Outdoors, Nick has helped the magazine expand its distribution, built a state Capitol news bureau and most recently oversaw the launch of the newspaper’s re-design.

1. Why are you running for OWAA’s board of directors? What are the top three things you hope to accomplish as a board member?

I am a hunter and an angler. I grew up professionally without hunting and fishing. Since I joined OWAA – it’s one of the only times I get to speak with fellow outdoor communicators. I also learn a lot and make connections that I couldn’t otherwise.

2. As “The Voice of the Outdoors,” OWAA needs to be current and vibrant, and become more diverse. What is your vision for accomplishing this challenge? How should OWAA recruit new members while retaining the ones we’ve got?

As an organization of communicators, we’re ideally situated to help make more outdoors people. To do that OWAA needs to become a more active, integral part of the national R3 movement. For those unfamiliar with R3, it stands for Retain, Recruit and Reactivate. The goal is to recruit new hunters and anglers, retain existing hunters and anglers and finally to reactive those hunters and anglers who have given up the lifestyle. While the idea is focused mainly on making more hunters and anglers, it can apply just to any outdoor pursuit, particularly when looking at the issue of diversity.

There is a growing interest in locally sourced food, healthy living, spending time outdoors, being active, and embracing a healthier lifestyle. This is something that we can all agree upon. Many, especially those living in urban environments, don’t know how to get started. While I believe it’s important for us to educate people about the benefits of outdoor recreation, I also believe it’s important for us to help our members learn how to navigate the outdoors. One way we can do this is by providing more resources for our members, such as webinars, workshops and other learning opportunities. Additionally, we can work with local organizations and clubs to get people involved in conservation.

3. What are the most important benefits and services OWAA offers to its members? What are your ideas for ways OWAA can best serve its membership?

The biggest benefit I’ve been provided is the opportunity to learn from my fellow outdoor communicators. Usually this comes through the annual conference. I would like to see OWAA work a little harder at keeping our members connected throughout the year. That could be through organizing web-based mini conferences or finding better ways to help members connect outside of conferences to ask each other questions, collaborate or commiserate.

Outdoors Unlimited also has been a valuable resource.

4. The annual conference is OWAA’s most important event of the year. How do we attract more members to this “can’t miss” event and keep them coming back?

That’s a tough question, largely because I don’t know enough about why members don’t come. One thing I’ve tried to do is attend every conference that’s been held since I joined OWAA – it’s one of the only times of the year I get to speak with fellow outdoor communicators. I also learn a lot and make connections that I couldn’t otherwise.

5. Tell us about your outdoor passions — what they are, why you love them, and how they fit into your professional media work.

I am a hunter and an angler. I grew up professionally without hunting and fishing. Still, I wasn’t until 2012 when I start...
TREY REID
RESIDENCE: Arkansas
YEARS OF OWAA MEMBERSHIP: 11
CONFERENCES ATTENDED: 4
COMMITTEES: Conference Planning

Trey Reid started his professional career in 1997 as a sportswriter and copy editor at the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette from 1999 to 2001 before becoming the newspaper’s outdoors editor from 2001 to 2005. Reid left the newspaper business to work for ESPN, where he worked as the field reporter on the show “BassCenter” from 2005 to 2006. He went into public relations with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission in 2006 and now is the agency’s assistant chief of communications, producing and hosting the agency’s television show “Arkansas Wildlife” since 2011. Reid also has worked as a freelance writer, with work published in national and regional media. He has done a good job of recruiting members to OWAA to strengthen and enhance the friendships and mentoring opportunities I’ve cultivated in the organization.

2. As “The Voice of the Outdoors,” OWAA needs to be current and vibrant, and become more diverse. What is your vision for accomplishing this challenge? How should OWAA recruit new members while retaining the ones we’ve got?

We can’t forget our past and our roots, but by being current and vibrant, we must break out of the mold we’ve cast for far too long. Why doesn’t our membership include more travel writers? More action sports writers? While we’ve done a good job of recruiting members whose focus goes beyond “book and bullet” and into the richarray of non-consumptive, conferencetype, networking opportunities and just plain old fun. We have to make the conference relevant on multiple levels. We must continue to seek dynamic presenters who can deliver engaging material on a variety of subjects. In addition to craft improvement sessions, we need to focus more on providing content that can be converted to marketable stories for publication or broadcast. We need to broaden the scope of our pre-and post-conference trips. If I’m a freelancer attending the conference, I want to leave with enough stories that I at least can cover my travel expenses. We’ve done this in the past, but I think we’ve fallen short in this area in more recent years. We also need to make the conference more fun. In the earliest days of my OWAA membership, the annual conference featured multiple hospitality suites every night, huge raffles with items donated by sponsors and industry supporters, and a robust silent auction. There’s no reason we can’t do that for the conference every year.

3. What are the most important benefits and services OWAA offers to its members? What are your ideas for ways OWAA can best serve its membership?

The annual conference is a huge benefit as it networking, which occurs for OWAA members. Attending the Outreach program is a valuable benefit as well. It is a chance to learn something new from every speaker. I continue to do that every year and look for ways to meet the needs of needs as they are identified.

4. The annual conference is OWAA’s most important event of the year. Why are you running for OWAA’s board of directors? What are the top three things you hope to accomplish as a board member?

I am ambitious for the organization’s success and feel I can make a difference. We need to strengthen and enhance the friendships and mentoring opportunities I’ve cultivated in the organization. My passions are hunting, fishing, camping, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing as well as working in our 55-acre woods to improve wildlife habitat and the health of the forest. All of the above end up as column articles, photographs and presentations.

EMILY STONE
RESIDENCE: Wisconsin
YEARS OF OWAA MEMBERSHIP: 6
COMMITTEES: None

As the naturalist/ education director at the Cable Natural History Center in Cable, Wisconsin, Emily Stone writes a popular Natural Connections column published in more than 20 local and regional newspapers and produces a Natural Connections podcast. This column, and additional freelance writing, have earned her EIC awards in multiple categories. Her second book, “Natural Connections—Dreaming of an Elk Skim,”
men” was due out in March 2019. While her writing is mostly aimed at adults, she also enjoys leading children’s programming and practicing ways to communicate with all ages effectively. She designs museum exhibits and edits the biannual newsletter. With a degree in outdoor education natural history from Northland College and a fishing naturalist masters degree from the University of Vermont, she is dedicated to celebrating science, and to telling stories about the tiny, gross, and underappreciated parts of nature.

1. Why are you running for OWAA’s board of directors? What are the top three things you hope to accomplish as a board member?

In just a few years of membership, OWAA has made a positive impact on my professional life. Now I’d like to return the favor by serving on the board. 1. I hope to increase our outreach to educators and scientists. If we can help educators and scientists hone their craft, then we can work our work can find even broader audiences. 2. I would like to see an increase in craft improvement resources aimed at people who write for younger audiences. 3. I hope to help continue to increase attendance at the annual conferences.

2. As “The Voice of the Outdoors,” OWAA needs to be current and vibrant, and become more diverse. What is your vision for accomplishing this challenge? How should OWAA recruit new members while retaining the ones we’ve got?

I love the way that both the conferences and Outdoors Unlimited provide opportunities for intergenerational networking. Giving members the chance to share their skills and learn new ones is the most important part of retention and recruitment. I would also like to bring more educators and scientists into the fold, as well as communications professionals who are writing for the next generation.

3. What are the most important benefits and services OWAA offers to its members? What are your ideas for ways OWAA can best serve its membership?

Networking, craft improvement sessions and opportunities for rejuvenation at the annual conferences are incredible. OWAA’s conferences are the most useful and easiest to navigate of any conference I’ve attended. Outdoors Unlimited is like a mini conference with fewer travel expenses. Those two benefits are synergistic. I love having met the OU contributors in person at the conferences, because personally knowing their credentials makes having their advice in print even more valuable.

4. The annual conference is OWAA’s most important event of the year. How do we attract more members to this “can’t miss” event and keep them coming back?

At the Cable Natural History Museum, we’ve found that excellent programming is our best tool for recruiting new participants. In the same way, when OWAA schedules conference sessions that address new challenges in our field, then members may find that they can’t afford not to attend. Perhaps additional incentives for first-time attendees could also help set the hook. I was hesitant to try to afford a conference initially, but once I experienced my first conference, future attendance became a priority.

5. Tell us about your outdoor passions—what they are, why you love them, and how they fit into your professional media work.

I grew up as a “mud and water daughter” and turned that into a profession when I began mentoring girls at summer camp. Teaching and learning are my favorite outdoor activities. The focus of my work continues to be getting people of all ages outdoors where they can connect with the natural world. Their fresh joy feeds my work. Even if I can’t personally take people outside, my newspaper column lets readers explore nature vicariously. I tag along with scientists doing field work whenever possible. I consider myself a naturalist, which means knowing a little bit about almost everything. That said, botany and geology form the base of my knowledge. All of that informs my writing, and you can often find me seeking inspiration on my cross country ski, one of three bikes, or paddling through the Boundary Waters in my canoe.

Proposed bylaws change

After its January 2019 meeting, the OWAA Board of Directors voted to recommend the following changes to the Bylaws:

Delete the following language from paragraph 7.1:

“Only Active members in good standing for three years may be elected as Directors.”

The proposed wording change, which will be included on the April 1 Board of Directors Election ballot, matches the voting rights provisions in paragraph 3.3 and the officer qualifications in paragraph 8.2 with the director qualifications of paragraph 7.1.

OWAA’s bylaws are viewable in the member section of our website at owaa.org/members-area/bylaws.

BEN ELLING

Ben Elling is an outdoor television producer, cinematographer and editor based in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Upon graduating with dual degrees in film and creative communication from the University of Minnesota, he joined Ron Schara Productions as a cinematographer. Elling currently produces Made For The Outdoors, where he documents and shares the stories behind some of today’s top outdoor products and gear. His work can be found on several regional and national television networks. In his free time, Elling enjoys mountain biking, whiskey, and still photography.

MATT LIERE

Matt Liere is a freelance writer and newspaper columnist from Eastern Washington. His work shows frequently in The Spokesman-Review, highlighting personal exploits based loosely on truth, heavy on nostalgic fiction. He comes late to the game, serving 23 years as a Coast Guard aviator before picking up a pen. A concurrent divorce left him broke and broken, so he took up writing — then quickly found a great woman with a real career. He and Gina have been married for over six blissful years, happily straddling the line between lunacy and sanity with their four kids on the outskirts of Spokane.

DEAN KUIPERS

Dean Kuiipers has written about environmental politics, nature and the arts for three decades. A former editor at the Los Angeles Times; his work has appeared in Outside, Rolling Stone, Men’s Journal, The Atlantic, Playboy and many other publications; he is the author of the award-winning books Burying Rainbow Farm and Operation Bite Back, and his new memoir about a shattered family reunited by their habitat work on a worn-out hunting property, The Deer Camp, comes out in May.

NEW MEMBERS

MORGAN MASON

Morgan Mason has a rich history of chasing adventure on the wild side of life with a camera in hand. The Kansas farm boy and Iraq veteran turned photographer has spent his time along the Flint Hills, peaks and rivers of Colorado, shorelines of Baja and now hones his skills in his backyard of Montana. You’ll typically find his bearded bird dog by his side. He currently works in the MeatEater Inc network as an editor and content contributor.

CALVIN MCSHANE

Calvin McClane resides in Grand Marais, Michigan, where he spends his time fishing and hunting along Lake Superior’s southern shore. He is a freelance writer who uses his background in academic philosophy to examine the relationship between humans and wilderness. His work has been featured in Michigan Out-of-Doors Magazine, Lake Superior Angler Magazine, Woods N-Water News, and the Great Lakes Pilot. He is also a columnist for the Pictured Rocks Review, regularly writing about living off the land, exploring Michigan’s Upper Peninsula with his dogs and small town life.

COLE O’BRIEN

Cole O’Brien is a producer, writer, editor and photographer on several outdoor TV series. After earning his bachelor’s degree in Film and TV Production from Hamline University, he proved to be an asset in both production and post-production in the world of television. As the producer of the Discovery Channel documentary show Operation Fishing Freedom, he has had the opportunity to document stories of many veterans, ranging from World War II to present day Iraq War veterans. O’Brien’s work has appeared on Discovery Channel, Travel Channel, ABC, NBC, Fox Sports Networks, Outdoor Channel, Sportsmans Channel, Wild TV and The American Heroes Channel.
ASSOCIATION UPDATE

DONORS

November and December brought monetary gifts from generous donors. These tax-deductible donations are dedicated to boost OWAA efforts ranging from education programs to operational costs. For details about OWAA funds, contact OWAA headquarters at 406-728-7454.

OPERATING FUND

Peter Anastasi
Calif. Department of Fish & Wildlife
Phil Bloom
William F. Hollister
Ken Keffer
Rick Lushers
Philip Larson
Chris Madison
Matthew L. Miller
John P. McCoy
Joe Pogue
Lynn B. Starnes
C. John Sullivan
Luanne Sewell Waters
Roy Welch

RESTRICTED ENDOWMENT

Philip M. Bloom
C. John Sullivan

BODIE MCDOWELL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

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Craig L. Rieben
Stephen J. Salmon
C. John Sullivan

JOHN MADSON FELLOWSHIP FUND

Martin H. Garrell
Chris Madison
Ben Moyer
Christine Peterson
Larry Stone
C. John Sullivan
Luanne Sewell Waters

BOB SMITH FUND

Colleen J. Micinski-Sperry
C. John Sullivan

CREDENTIALS REVIEWS:

The following members have successfully passed the review of their member credentials:

Jack Ballard
Gary Moore
Terry Reid
David Sikes
Emily Stone

NEW MEMBERS

New member listings include references to acronyms that relate to Skills, Subject Matter and Sections. A key for these acro-

ymns can be found at www.ownutahabout.

MARK AIKEN, 830 Johnnie Brook Rd., Richmond, VA 23235. (H) 804-734-6789, aikenactions@gmail.com, http://markaiken.com/. In the winter you’ll find him on the ski trails at Stowe, lapping backcountry skin runs, running on his dirt road in Vermont — or at his writing desk. In the summer you’ll find him running, biking, swimming, hanging with his kids — or — at his writing desk. Freelance writer, runbackcountry skier, and manager in the Ski & Ride School at Stowe. Out his door he has access to running, biking and mountain biking trails — including a short trail in the woods on his property that he built with his kids. Writes for a number of national and local magazines mostly about the outdoors and recreation — but certainly not limited to that. Freelance writer, runbackcountry skier, and manager in the Ski & Ride School at Stowe. Out his door he has access to running, biking and mountain biking trails — including a short trail in the woods on his property that he built with his kids. Writes for a number of national and local magazines mostly about the outdoors and recreation — but certainly not limited to that.

DEAN KUIPERS, 8757 Arlene Terrace, Los Angeles, CA 90046. (C) 310-428-8929, sikkudeak@comcast.com, http://www.deankuipersonline.com/. His new memoir, “The Deer Camp,” recounts how a wildlife habitat extension, and family hunting camp saved his relationship with his father by getting their hands in the dirt. He is an award-winning journalist and writes on nature, environmental politics, outdoors recreation and the arts, and was most recently on staff at the Los Angeles Times. Dean has received several non-fiction books, including “Burnring Rainbow Farm,” which was a 2007 Library of Michigan Foundation Notable Book; “Operation Bite Back,” about eco-activist Rod Coronado; and “I Am A Bullet,” a study of cultural acceleration with fine artist Doig Atkin. He and his wife, Lauri Kraus, co-authored “A Garden Can Be Anywhere,” a personal and stylized new how-to on organic gardening. He has edited two books about the much-beloved rock and roll magazine, Ray Gun, including the new “Ray Gun: The Bible of Music and Style.” (Lauri Kraus) Skills: BENDOW; Subject Matter: ACGMRO; Sections: MN. Approved for Active membership; sponsored by Mike McKenna.

MATTHEW LIERE, 22122 N. Harms Ln., Spokane, WA 99208. (H) 509-202-7789, (C) 509-202-7789, mwolfe@earthlink.net. Freelance columnist for The Spokesman-Review. Work highlights personal experiences based loosely on truth and heavy on nostalgic fiction. Late to the game after a 25-year career with the Coeur d’Alene Press, Dworce left him book a pen- helped repair and launch a new career. (Gina) Skills: NOSW; Subject Matter: ACDKJ; Sections: M. Approved for Active membership, sponsored by Peter S. Schroeder.

MORGAN MASON, Meateater Inc., 298 Shelter Grove Circle, New York, NY 10041. (C) 970-274-6070, morgan@themeatetreater.com, www.themeatetreater.com. Associate editor and contributor for Meateater Inc., based out of Bozeman, MT. You can often find him with his dog Pinion and a camera in the field or a firearm or bow, ready to shoot either. The Flint Hills of Kansas is where he finely tuned his passion for hunting while chasing upland birds, white-tailed and spring turkeys. The western lands of Montana, Idaho, Utah, Wyoming make the perfect venue for him when he is not chasing waterfowl and mountainides. Skills: EOS; Subject Matter: ACEGOT; Sections: P. Approved for Active membership; sponsored by Sam Lungren.

CATHY MCKENNA, 8929 Ridgeway Drive, Norwalk, CA 90650. (H) 310-807-3053, cathy.mckenna@gmail.com. Formerly Shepperd editor for Scripps League Newspapers Inc. and News Media Corporation. In addition to that. Credits in the New York Times, Rolling Stone and other publications. Work has aired on public radio stations across the West and Alaska. Contributor for several podcasts, including BirdNote, Outdoors and Out There. Skills: OR; Subject Matter: KLRSTU; Sections: M. Approved for Active membership; sponsored by Kris Milligate.

MARK A. McDOUGALL, 117 Dune Drive Rd., Henderson, NV 89002. (H) 702-566-0119, (C) 702-526-7637, intheoutdoorslv@gmail.com, http://intheoutdoors.net/. Currently working as a producer, writer, video editor and photojournalist on the TV shows “The Great Outdoors” and “Backroads with Ron and Raven,” “Rooster Tales” and “Operation Fishing Freedom.” As a photojournalist he is both a shooter and his own director of photography, including even doing some story shoots solo at times. And as an editor he does everything from segment/story editing to color correction to audio enhancements for every story he captures. Other than being a photojournalist, and show/segment editor, he is very hands on in the production of his outdoor TV shows as well, including producing, script writing and motion graphics animation. He has written a full episode for the new series called Operation Fishing Freedom, created the lower thirds and locators for the show Rooster Tales, and worked on the production of creating a few creative outdoor cinema commercials. (Erica) Skills: EMOSTV; Subject Matter: ABCDKLRS; Sections: B. Approved for Active membership; sponsored by Bill Sherk.


SCOTT SEVERSON, HuntTested LLC, 17520 Blaire Ave., Wausaya, MN 55591. (H) 952-239-7455, scott@hunttested.com, https://hunttested.com/. Founder and editor in chief of HuntTested. Former product testing manager for North American Hunter Magazine. All editors for HuntTested are avid outdoors people with a passion for hunting, and the gear that increases our enjoyment of the outdoors. Skills: CDEOQPVW; Subject Matter: CDEFGPS; Sections: C. Approved for Active membership.

KAITLIN SULLIVAN, 605 W. 142nd St., #45, New York, NY 10032. (H) 651-356-1698, kaitlin@sullivangroup.com. 2018 recipient of the Bodie McDowell Scholarship. Skills: RW; Subject Matter: LR; Sections: C. Approved for Student membership.

LEO WATTS, 117 Dune Drive Rd., Henderson, NV 89002. (H) 702-566-0119, (C) 702-526-7637, intheoutdoorslv@gmail.com, http://intheoutdoors.net/. Currently working as a producer, writer, video editor and photojournalist on the TV shows “The Great Outdoors” and “Backroads with Ron and Raven,” “Rooster Tales” and “Operation Fishing Freedom.” As a photojournalist he is both a shooter and his own director of photography, including even doing some story shoots solo at times. And as an editor he does everything from segment/story editing to color correction to audio enhancements for every story he captures. Other than being a photojournalist, and show/segment editor, he is very hands on in the production of his outdoor TV shows as well, including producing, script writing and motion graphics animation. He has written a full episode for the new series called Operation Fishing Freedom, created the lower thirds and locators for the show Rooster Tales, and worked on the production of creating a few creative outdoor cinema commercials. (Erica) Skills: EMOSTV; Subject Matter: ABCDKLRS; Sections: B. Approved for Active membership; sponsored by Bill Sherk.

STEVE DUGGER, 117 Dune Drive Rd., Henderson, NV 89002. (H) 702-566-0119, (C) 702-526-7637, intheoutdoorslv@gmail.com, http://intheoutdoors.net/. Currently working as a producer, writer, video editor and photojournalist on the TV shows “The Great Outdoors” and “Backroads with Ron and Raven,” “Rooster Tales” and “Operation Fishing Freedom.” As a photojournalist he is both a shooter and his own director of photography, including even doing some story shoots solo at times. And as an editor he does everything from segment/story editing to color correction to audio enhancements for every story he captures. Other than being a photojournalist, and show/segment editor, he is very hands on in the production of his outdoor TV shows as well, including producing, script writing and motion graphics animation. He has written a full episode for the new series called Operation Fishing Freedom, created the lower thirds and locators for the show Rooster Tales, and worked on the production of creating a few creative outdoor cinema commercials. (Erica) Skills: EMOSTV; Subject Matter: ABCDKLRS; Sections: B. Approved for Active membership; sponsored by Bill Sherk.

ASSOCIATION UPDATE

ASSOCIATION UPDATE
Meet a member

NAME: Joe McDonald
RESIDENCE: McClure, Pennsylvania
OWAA MEMBER SINCE: 1980
WEBSITE: www.hoothollow.com

AREAS OF OUTDOOR COMMUNICATION: Presently I’m a contributing editor to Nature Photographer magazine, writing pieces incorporating wildlife natural history and photography. Lectures and photography seminars, website articles, and producing short video documentaries on wildlife and photography fill the rest of my time.

WHAT DREW YOU TO THE FIELD? Reptiles, as a kid. I wanted to be a herpetologist and started taking photos of snakes and turtles while still in middle school. That morphed into a consuming interest in wildlife photography, and a naïve confidence to submit photos and articles to major nature magazines while still an undergrad — and I had success. That generated requests for talks at various nature and outdoor events, and later to subbing for an outdoor writer at a newspaper. Things kind of snowballed from there.

WHAT ENTICED YOU TO JOIN OWAA? The late Tom Fegely, OWAA member and outdoor writer, was my mentor. I visited him at his office and he kindly offered me a chance to write for his column when he was away on a trip, an opportunity that might not happen today with the internet. Tom encouraged me to join OWAA.

WHAT ARE YOU CURRENTLY WORKING ON? Editing images! It never ends. A big part of our income is organizing and leading wildlife photography tours, and my wife and I are traveling around 30 weeks of the year, so we’re shooting a lot, usually in at least five continents each year. That travel has generated 8 books in the last five years, and presently I’m working on the next, on the Gnu migration in Africa. I’m also working on several ebooks and how-to videos on various photography subjects.

WHAT HAVE YOU GAINED FROM THE ORGANIZATION? Our travel schedule has precluded attending conferences for too many years, but the OU magazine has more than made membership worthwhile. The genuine, no-nonsense tips and advice has been very helpful, and very motivational, too, as I’ve explored new marketing ventures.