

A person is silhouetted against a bright, golden sunset sky. They are standing on a small, dark boat or platform on a body of water. The person is holding a long, thin pole that extends diagonally across the frame. The water in the foreground is dark with some ripples. The overall mood is serene and adventurous.

OUTDOORS UNLIMITED

OUTDOOR WRITERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

THE VOICE OF THE OUTDOORS

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2019

EXCELLENCE IN CRAFT AWARDS

See who took home
the coveted awards

| p. 14



Getting outside in the
winter, honorary award
recipients AND MORE.

OUTDOORS UNLIMITED

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2019 | VOL. 80, NO. 5

CONTENTS



p.8 | VERMONT WELCOMES OWAA
By Gary W. Moore

p.10 | WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO BE AN OUTDOOR WRITER?
By Bob "Greenie" Grewell

p.11 | HIDE, SURVIVE OR THRIVE?
By Peter Schroeder



p.12 | STORY OF JACK MINER

p.14 | 2019 EXCELLENCE IN CRAFT AWARD WINNERS

p.24 | WINNING PHOTO ESSAYS



ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE p.4

NEW VP AND SECRETARY p.6

HONORARY AWARD RECIPIENTS p.9

BOOKSHELF p.29

ASSOCIATION UPDATE p.30

ON THE COVER

BY LEFTY RAY CHAPA | "2 Poles" won second place in the EIC People category. Chapa, from San Antonio, Texas, took home four EIC awards at the Little Rock conference, including two first-place winners and two seconds.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Turning up a treasure

Earlier this year, I ventured to Missoula, Montana, on a mission.

The goal was to unlock two OWAA storage units to see what was there, what to keep and what to discard.

Jessica Seitz and her husband, Tucker, came over from Washington with several file cabinets filled with OWAA records. Paul Queneau chipped in with extra muscle, as did my brother-in-law and travel partner, Jay Snyder.

Over the course of several days, we consolidated the holdings to one site while donating odds and ends (such as 10 box fans) to Goodwill and shredding around 2,000 pounds of old bank statements and EIC entries from as far back as the 1980s.

Office furniture, artwork, memorabilia, copies of every issue of Outdoors Unlimited and significant records are now securely stored under one roof.

Among the treasures was an item that I had never seen.

It is a framed copy of the program from the 1927 Izaak Walton League of America convention where OWAA was formed. The place was the Hotel Sherman in Chicago.

What's truly special about the document is the back page, where our founders scratched out the following statement and dated it April 9, 1927:

We, the undersigned, being agreed that an organization of recognized outdoor writers should be formed in America, for the purpose of bettering our profession, to give stability and standing to the same, and eliminate untruths from stories of the outdoors, do hereby form the Outdoor Writers Association of America.

Below that proclamation are signatures from Morris Ackerman, Peter P. Carney, Cal Johnson, Buell A. Patterson, Ed G. Taylor, Jack Miner, El Comancho and Mrs. Hal Kane Clements.

Another 30 names fill the bottom half of the page representing pro-

spective members of OWAA. The list includes such luminaries as Nash Buckingham and Zane Grey.

At a follow-up meeting, Ackerman was named OWAA's first president; Taylor, honorary president; Gregory Clark, vice president; Johnson, treasurer; and Patterson, secretary.

According to later OWAA history books, El Comancho is identified as W.L. Phillips and described as "a rugged individual who supposedly lived with the Comanche Indians as a youngster."

The Nebraska Authors website entry on Phillips identifies him as Walter Shelley Phillips, so W.S. and not W.L., but it supports the notion he spent time with several Indian tribes in Nebraska and accompanied an Otoe chief on buffalo hunts. A self-taught writer and illustrator, Phillips wrote a nationally syndicated newspaper column (Teepee Tales) and in 1904 founded the Pacific Sportsman Magazine.

For what it's worth, the back side of the framed historic document reveals the program and the menu for the IWLGA gathering. Attendees were served cream of asparagus soup, filet mignon, potatoes O'Brien, and other delicacies.

The featured speaker was Herbert Hoover, then U.S. Secretary of Commerce. When he ran for president a couple years later, Hoover described Prohibition as a "noble enterprise" and vowed to enforce the law banning the sale of alcohol.

If you don't see the irony in Hoover speaking at the event where OWAA was founded, you've never attended a hospitality room at an OWAA conference.

— Phil Bloom is OWAA's interim executive director. Reach him at pbloom@owaa.org or 406-552-4049.



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.



NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

2814 Brooks St., Box 442
Missoula, MT 59801
406-728-7434, Fax: 406-728-7445
info@owaa.org, owaa.org

STAFF

Executive Director: Phil Bloom
Conference Services Director: Jessica Seitz
Publications Editor: Suzanne Downing
Designer: Betsy Alvarez

PRESIDENT

Tim Mead, North Carolina

OFFICERS

1st Vice President: Pat Wray, Oregon
2nd Vice President: Christine Peterson, Wyoming

Secretary: Tom Wharton, Utah

Treasurer: Tom Sadler, Virginia

BOARD MEMBERS

John Kruse, Washington
Ann Simpson, Virginia
Danielle Taylor, Pennsylvania
Ruth Hoyt, Texas
Ken Keffer, Iowa
Shawn Perich, Minnesota
Nick Lowrey, South Dakota
Gary Moore, Vermont
Emily Stone, Wisconsin

COUNSELS

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

Copyright August/September 2019 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., 2814 Brooks St., Box 442, 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., 2814 Brooks St., Box 442, Missoula, MT 59801.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A hero's regard



OWAA President Tim Mead is a freelance writer and photographer from North Carolina with hundreds of credits in national and regional magazines.

Tim Mead
OWAA president
ancientanglertim@aol.com

Matt Nickell was among the folks I floated 187 miles down the Grand Canyon with last fall. At the outset, Colleen Miniuk, who put the trip together, had us introduce ourselves. After I finished brief remarks identifying myself as a retired academic, Colleen said, "He didn't tell you, he also writes books."

So, I was "outed" as an outdoor writer.

After asking what sort of things I wrote, Matt was sure he had read some of my pieces. Almost every day on the trip, he was certain he had seen my work, though he could not recall which article it was.

When I was a kid and mom and dad loaded my sister and me in the car to head "north" – perhaps to the family cabin near Lake Superior or some other destination in northern Michigan – we played games as we traveled. Don't worry, I'll come back to Matt.

Sister Nancy and I had no iPads to entertain us. Among the games we played was our version of the popular TV show, *What's My Line*. I always lost because I picked one of the Detroit Tigers or another of my other heroes – A. J. McClane, Ted Trueblood, Jason Lucas and Ray Bergman. When *Sports Afield*, *Outdoor Life*, and *Field and Stream* came, I studied articles written by these guys. As a teenager, I knew they and others spoke truth.

Byron Dalrymple was one of my heroes. He lived in Wolverine, Michigan. Wolverine then, and now, was small enough that a letter addressed to Mr. Byron Dalrymple got to him. He answered several letters with long typewritten letters – complete with strikeouts. I still have them.

There are people reading this who are heroes to unknown admirers. Kids who read our articles, see our videos, devour our books. Kids who think, "I want to be a writer like Jack Ballard." or, "Some-

day I'm going to make videos like Kris Millgate." or "I'll get a dog named Bella and become a famous duck hunter." You get the idea.

How should you act to earn a hero's regard?

I was sure my career would be first base for the Tigers or fishing editor for one of the "Big Three." Other factors intervened and I drifted into academic life. About 35 years ago Ken Dunwoody, then publisher at Game and Fish Publications, asked me if I'd ever written any outdoor items. I explained to Ken my youthful goals but said, "No. I've written lots of academic pieces but no outdoor work."

Within a couple days, Aaron Pass, then editor of *Carolina Game and Fish*, obviously at the suggestion of Ken Dunwoody, called to offer an opportunity to write for his magazine. I accepted, and the rest is history.

So, what's the link between Matt Nickell's confidence he had read at least some of my trout fishing articles and a youth accepting without doubt the wisdom and advice of the outdoor writers whose work he devoured month after month? The link is there are people out there who depend on us to provide reliable guidance. They accept the flies we recommend to catch trout and the guns we suggest are appropriate for the game they seek.

Some are kids who romanticize us as heroes. The future of outdoor recreation rests with them – and what we tell them.

Some are adults like Matt, who meet us by chance and are a little dazzled by the encounter. A few years ago fishing in Alaska I met a fellow angler from Casper, Wyoming. I asked if he knew Christine Peterson. He said he did not know her but read her work regularly. The rest of the week he seemed to give me special attention because I knew Christine.

Young and old – we owe these people our best. We are the custodians of our outdoor tradition. Don't drop the ball.

Federal aid spending reply

Stephen Carpenter's letter, printed in OU's April/May issue, warrants reply by its misrepresentation of the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act (Pittman-Robertson), its inaccuracy about the conservation status of popular wildlife species, and, more subjectively, with an eye toward the kinds of experiences we hope for ourselves as hunters.

Steve asserts that any use of Pittman-Robertson funds by state wildlife agencies for activities other than "habitat management and improvement" is inappropriate and counter to the legislation's intent. Steve also makes it clear that his interpretation of habitat management is more narrow than both the law's original crafters, and a series of secretaries of Interior, who administer PR fund distribution to the states. He characterizes using these funds for purposes outside his interpretation as "squandered."

In fact, state wildlife agencies may use PR for a range of conservation-related initiatives. When PR funds are used for habitat management/improvement, the law in no way specifies the money must be directed solely toward "game" species sought by we hunters. Instead, the law allows—even encourages—use of the money to support broad conservation work. The law states that funds "...should be used to address the unmet needs for a diverse array of wildlife and associated habitats, including species that are not hunted or fished, for wildlife conservation, wildlife conservation education, and wildlife-associated recreation projects." Research, surveys, reintroductions, and development

of facilities for the public's enjoyment of state wildlife lands (for wildlife-related recreation) are also allowed expenditures. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service audits state PR expenditures at 5-year intervals to ensure compliance.

In supporting his call for a narrow application of PR funds, Carpenter oversimplifies the status of several wildlife species, especially cottontail rabbits. He wrote, "...the brush-loving cottontail rabbit is already listed as endangered in some Eastern states." In regard to the cottontail with which hunters are most familiar, Carpenter's statement is untrue.

Three species of cottontail rabbits inhabit the eastern third of the country. These include the ubiquitous Eastern cottontail (*Sylvilagus floridanus*), the Appalachian cottontail (*Sylvilagus obscurus*) and the New England Cottontail (*Sylvilagus transitionalis*). Overwhelmingly, the Eastern cottontail outnumbers the others. It is true that the New England cottontail is state-listed as endangered in Maine and New Hampshire, but this rabbit occupies small fragments of remaining habitat, having been supplanted by sportsmen's introduction of the Eastern cottontail into its range.

The Appalachian cottontail lives in ridge-top scrub, from western Pennsylvania to northern Alabama, but nowhere are its population trends well understood. The International Union for the Conservation of Nature rates the Appalachian cottontail as "NT" (near threatened), but nowhere is it state-listed, although both Maryland and Pennsylvania designate the species as "in need of conservation."

Carpenter's assertion that "the cottontail rabbit is already listed as endangered in some Eastern states," then, is highly misleading. The rabbit that hunters every-

where know best is the Eastern cottontail. Though its local numbers fluctuate, it is generally abundant.

Steve also objected to restrictions on road access within state wildlife lands. "Many (roads) have been gated off to keep hunters out of the very land they had paid for," he wrote in his OU letter. My state, Pennsylvania, has 1.5 million acres of "state game lands," where it expends PR funds. As a hunter who has helped to support these lands' acquisition and management, I do not wish them to be widely open to motorized access, as Steve would have them.

Neither do I wish every acre of state lands to be intensively managed with "chain saws and bush hogs," as Steve advocates. I understand the merit of these practices and support them as part of well-planned strategies to benefit a range of early-succession wildlife, including ruffed grouse, and I believe that is how they are employed in my state. What too often follows such practices, however, is rampant infestation by invasives like multi-flora rose, garlic mustard, knotweed and a growing list of others. When I go into the woods to hunt a spring gobbler, I'd like to kill a turkey, but I also hope that a glimpse of blooming trillium, or the scent of mountain azalea will be part of my experience. Invasives like barberry and multi-flora do not satisfy that ideal.

High-quality hunting experiences involve more than a maximum density of game. Part of meaningful hunting and fishing is coming to know a native place in an intimate way. Such a perspective gives us the best shot at keeping hunting relevant in a changing world.

— Ben Moyer
Farmington, Pennsylvania

Conference testimonial

My heartfelt thanks for a fine, fun, and meaningful 2019 OWAA Conference in Little Rock. I really enjoyed the site and sessions. Most of all, I enjoyed the people. What a treat it is to be with other outdoor communicators to talk shop,

share adventures, and delve into what we are about. Besides being friendly and helpful folks, so many OWAA members are simply outstanding with camera, keyboard, words, and images. It is a privilege to spend them time with them. The point about members being good with words was especially driven home at Monday night's Honorary Awards Banquet. The top conference highlight for me was the words spoken from the podium that

night by officers, presenters, and some very deserving people honored with awards. Communicating from the heart "with the poet's soul" (to borrow from the poetic Kay Ellerhoff) made us all feel proud to be part of a great conference and a wonderful organization.

— Bill Graham
Platte City, Mo.

OWAA board elects Peterson VP, Wharton secretary



Image courtesy of Christine Peterson

MISSOULA, Mont. – OWAA's board of directors elected Christine Peterson of Laramie, Wyoming, as second vice president and Tom Wharton of Salt Lake City, Utah, as secretary at its summer meeting in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Peterson and Wharton officially took their new offices June 24, the same day Tim Mead of Charlotte, North Carolina, began his one-year term as OWAA's new president. He replaces Paul Queneau of Missoula, Montana.

Wharton replaces Colleen Miniuk, whose three-year term as secretary ended at the Little Rock conference.

The board also promoted Pat Wray to first vice president for the coming year.

Peterson is a freelance writer with byline credits in *Outdoor Life*, *National Geographic*, *Cool Green Science*, *High*



Image courtesy of Tom Wharton

Country News and others. She recently completed a three-year term on OWAA's board of directors and was named board member of year in 2018. Before launching her freelance career, Peterson was managing editor and outdoors editor of the *Casper Star-Tribune*, Wyoming's statewide newspaper.

Peterson's duties in the coming year include working with Wray to develop program content for OWAA's 2020 conference June 27-29 at Jay Peak, Vermont. She will become OWAA president in 2021.

She lives in Laramie with her husband, 3-year-old daughter, and a yellow Labrador.

"I care deeply about OWAA and about its future," Peterson said. "I attended my first conference to receive an EIC

award, but immediately realized the value of both the conference experience and OWAA's network of members. I want to help OWAA offer that same experience to even more members. I hope to continue OWAA's outreach efforts to outdoor communicators in and outside of the organization and help it grow and address the challenges of an ever-changing industry."

Wharton is a retired reporter and columnist for *The Salt Lake Tribune* where he worked for more than 45 years writing and photographing outdoors, prep sports, and small town life in Utah. He still writes and lectures on Utah topics.

During his 38-year tenure as an OWAA member, Wharton has served the organization as president (1998), board chairman (1999), a committee volunteer more than 50 times, and local chair of two conferences – Salt Lake (1990) and St. George, Utah (2001). He also played key roles in the formation of OWAA's Newspaper Section and the move of headquarters from Pennsylvania to Montana.

Wharton has written several books in addition to his award-winning reporting for *The Tribune* that include a Pulitzer Prize nomination for the series "The Year of the Great Lake" published in 1991.

"I'm honored to take on the secretary role of OWAA, a group I first joined in 1981," Wharton said. "The organization has meant a great deal to me over the years. I look forward to offering whatever I can to the board and organization."

Outdoors Unlimited has a new editor – Suzanne Downing

MISSOULA, Montana -- Suzanne Downing joined OWAA in June as its communications manager and editor of *Outdoors Unlimited*, the association's flagship magazine.

"Suzanne comes to OWAA with a wide variety of skills and experience from writing to editing to photography," said Paul Queneau, OWAA's immediate past president and conservation editor for the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation's *Bugle* magazine. "I've worked with her first as an intern at our magazine, then later as a freelancer."

"She is equal parts creative and enterprising, and a self-starter who is always professional, thoughtful and well-organized. Plus, she's just a darn nice person. What a great fit to guide the pages of *Outdoors Unlimited*."

Downing recently earned her master's degree in environmental science journalism from the University of Montana and continues working as a freelance writer



Image courtesy of Suzanne Downing.

and photographer covering environmental science, natural resource and conservation issues throughout the West.

In addition to her role as *Outdoors Unlimited* editor, Downing will contribute to communications efforts on the

OWAA website and social media.

In 2006, she earned a bachelor's degree in English/graphic art & design from Saint Xavier University in Chicago, where she focused on outdoor, environmental and humanitarian issue reporting and worked as an international photojournalist and associate marketing director in the Midwest for many years.

"I'm a naturalist at heart," she said. "I enjoy seeing a majestic elk just as much as a tiny wild orchid. I look forward to working with and learning from a myriad of outdoor communicators who share my passion for the great outdoors."

Downing said she always dreamed of living in the mountains, so she moved across the country from Indiana to Montana in 2015 with her husband, Joe, to settle into a small cabin on the Nine Mile Creek in Huson, Montana.

When she's not seeking and pitching stories that will get her outside, Downing loves exploring new parts of Montana.

Toyota helps 2 students attend conference

Two college students – Shekinah Corea from Biola University in California and Jeremy Talley from Henderson State University in Arkadelphia, Arkansas – attended OWAA's conference in Little Rock this year courtesy of a new Toyota "Let's Go Places" Scholarship program.

Curt McAllister, Midwest regional manager of corporate communications for Toyota, was on hand in Little Rock to introduce Corea and Talley at a breakfast sponsored by Toyota.

Corea, 18, is a public relations major at Biola.

"When I saw Toyota's email that they chose me for the scholarship, I couldn't wait to get to Little Rock," she said. "It was a big surprise."

She said the OWAA conference gave

her the opportunity to connect with established media professionals and learn vital information from them.

"I came to OWAA not sure what to expect, and I came out with more excitement and enthusiasm for the outdoors and outdoor writing than I had ever experienced before," Corea said. "Every conversation was full of so much rich information and passion for each individual's area of expertise."

"For someone who had always longed to be part of the outdoors world and until now was never awarded the chance, every person opened a door to something new and wonderful that will leave an impact for a lifetime."

Talley, 22, studies innovative media and photography at Henderson State.

He currently works on social media and a blog website for firearms. Talley also has been working with some of his professors on a documentary about white nose syndrome in bats that will be distributed to middle schools across the country.

"I got to go into caves and rappel down into a 60-foot trench," he said.

The Toyota scholarship, launched this year with OWAA, provided the two first-time OWAA conference attendees funds to cover registration, lodging, meals and the opportunity to attend all sessions and activities at the Little Rock conference.

OWAA intends to partner with Toyota in offering student scholarships for the 2020 conference in Jay Peak, Vermont.



Vermont Welcomes OWAA

Image courtesy of Jay Peak Resort in Vermont

BY GARY W. MOORE

JUNE IN VERMONT is a wonderful time. Everything is a vibrant green, farmers are haying, the cows are in the pastures, anglers are on the waters, and hikers on the trails.

You will want to bring the family as there will be much for them to do at Jay Peak and around the region. The resort has a wonderful indoor waterpark that is enjoyed by all ages, a tram that rises to the summit, golf, tennis and mountain biking. Check it out at <http://jaypeakresort.com>.

The Green Mountain State has so much to offer, from 125-mile-long Lake Champlain that forms the border between Vermont and New York and extends into Quebec to the Connecticut River, New England's longest, that divides Vermont and New Hampshire.

In between are mountains and valleys with picturesque small towns, rivers, streams, lakes and ponds just awaiting anglers, swimmers, canoeists and kayakers.

From Ben and Jerry's to the Shelburne Museum, Church Street in Burlington, and Montpelier, the nation's least populated state capitol and the only one without a McDonald's, there is something for

everyone to see and do.

International Lake Memphremagog is a short drive from Jay Peak. There you can find waterfront restaurants, a tour boat and a beautiful beach.

Hikers will find amazing trails, from the 272-mile Long Trail that traverses the backbone of the state from Massachusetts to Quebec and passes over Jay Peak, to the Appalachian Trail that enters Vermont from Massachusetts and continues with the Long Trail a third of the way up Vermont before splitting off and heading east to cross into New Hampshire at Hanover, cross the Dartmouth College campus and head north through the White Mountains and on to Maine and Mt. Katahdin.

New Hampshire is an hour's drive east from Jay Peak. Mount Washington, the highest peak in the east, is a half hour further. There you can hike to the summit, drive the Auto Road or ride the Cog Railway for a unique experience.

Foodies will love the many farmer's markets, farm to table restaurants, pick your own berries farms and countless brew pubs, wineries and several distilleries.

Many people equate Vermont with maple syrup as the state is the largest producer of the sweet product in the U.S. You can

visit sugar houses and taste maple syrup, maple sugar and other maple products before deciding on your purchases.

The options for pre and post trips in Vermont and the surrounding region are endless. I will be soliciting your ideas on what you want to see and do as I work with Vermont, Quebec, New Hampshire and the various businesses and organizations to make this the best conference ever.

Burlington, where many will fly in, is just an hour and a half from Jay Peak as is Montreal. Historic Quebec City is a 3-hour drive. Boston is a 3 1/2 hour drive if you choose to fly there.

Be sure to bring your passport or enhanced license as Jay Peak is just six miles from the border between the U.S. and Quebec. You will want to visit the Eastern Townships or perhaps Montreal or Quebec City.

The one thing you won't see is billboards. Vermont outlawed them in 1968, so no crass advertising will block your view of the scenery.

We want you to come and explore our beautiful state and the surrounding region. Once you do, you will return again and again. Should you decide to move to Vermont, we would welcome you.

2019 Honorary Award Recipients

Five members received OWAA's most distinguished awards during the group's annual conference in Little Rock, Arkansas.

OWAA also presented an honorary membership to Jessica Seitz, a nine-year employee of the organization who announced she is stepping down as conference coordinator and Excellence In Craft contest coordinator due to a family move to Seattle.

J. HAMMOND BROWN MEMORIAL AWARD

OWAA's most prestigious recognition of a member for devoted past service to the organization over a period of continuous years.

RECIPIENT: COLLEEN MINIUK, CHANDLER, ARIZONA.

Since joining OWAA in 2010, Miniuk has served a three-year term on the board of directors followed by a three-year term on the executive committee as board secretary. She was voted board member of the year an unprecedented four times, including this year.

Her contributions include chief of the Photography Section, chief judge of the Illustration-Graphics category of EIC, craft improvement session presenter at conferences, judge of the Photo Scavenger Hunt and chair of the Member Services Committee.

She also stepped in as interim executive director of OWAA for the first half of 2017.

EXCELLENCE IN CRAFT AWARD

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

RECIPIENT: DAN SMALL, WESTBY, WISCONSIN.

Small's diverse and successful career sets a standard of excellence worthy of this award.

Since becoming producer and host of the Outdoor Wisconsin television show in 1984, he has produced and presented hundreds—maybe thousands—of radio and television shows, and podcasts, written countless magazine and newspaper articles, authored four books, served as editor of Wisconsin Outdoor News, and, later, as a contributing editor for that same publication.

As testament, his work has earned 90 awards in OWAA's Excellence in Craft program—59 for radio, 25 for television, and six for print media. Twice, works by him were chosen as OWAA President's Choice Awards—the best of the best.

JADE OF CHIEFS AWARD

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

RECIPIENT: MATTHEW MILLER, BOISE, IDAHO.

After an early career writing about performing arts, Miller turned to freelance writing about the outdoors and penned articles for Sports Afield, Living Bird, Bugle, Backcountry Journal,

National Geographic Online, and Grist.

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) of Idaho hired him in 2001 as communications director, and he launched TNC's first blog, Idaho Nature Notes, which led to his developing a science-based blog for TNC's global organization—Cool Green Science.

He is now director of science communications for TNC and editor and lead writer for Cool Green Science. He writes about everything from cutting-edge research to weird backyard nature to outdoor recreation.

He recently published his first book, "Fishing Through the Apocalypse: An Angler's Adventures in the 21st Century" (Lyons Press).

JACKIE PFEIFFER MEMORIAL AWARD

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

RECIPIENT: KAY MORTON ELLERHOFF, HELENA, MONTANA.

In presenting the Jackie Pfeiffer Memorial Award to this year's recipient Kay Morton Ellerhoff, Bill Powell said he thinks of it as "The Sweetheart of OWAA Award."

The award is given to honor the special qualities that Jackie Pfeiffer brought to OWAA and encourages everyone to exhibit these qualities of genuine warmth and radiance, goodwill, helpfulness, generosity, and kindness to others, especially at conference.

Powell said, "Practically everyone who has attended one of these (conferences) over the past years knows firsthand her joy of life, her brilliance, her generosity, her talents as a speaker, quick conversationalist, (and) her acquaintance with nearly everyone in the world."

OUTSTANDING BOARD MEMBER OF THE YEAR

Voted on and presented by OWAA's board of directors.

RECIPIENT: COLLEEN MINIUK.

In addition to fulfilling her duties as board secretary, Miniuk was instrumental in developing and formalizing a mentor program that will be launched this year.

COMMITTEE VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Recognizes excellence, commitment and service and going beyond the call of duty while serving on an OWAA committee.

RECIPIENT: DANIELL TAYLOR, SUMMERVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA.

She is the third recipient of this award, earning the honor for her diligent efforts to recruit candidates as part of the Officer Nominating Committee.

Why did you decide to be an outdoor writer?



Many people would like to write, but not everyone can. Photo by Suzanne Downing.

BY BOB "GREENIE" GREWELL |
MT. STERLING, OHIO

ONE OF THE TRUISMS of this outdoor writing adventure is simply being outdoors.

Hands-on experience and talent can't be manufactured and isolated. It appears to be built through a person's actual experiences, desires and innate creative motivations. The results might not have been there in the first place. Many people would like to write, but not everyone can.

Therefore, each of us writes for a multitude of personal reasons. To be published, our written creations better be factual, informative and devoid of negative moral and illegal ramifications. We must inform, entertain and excite readers, or we haven't done our job.

So, where do outdoor writers come from? Why would you read this? You might already be a published writer or an inspiring subject.

I recall telling my family in the late 1960s that I would love to be an outdoor writer. I was told it wasn't easy and that it wouldn't make me wealthy, but something motivated me to go for it. I just kept trying. I kept making mistakes. Occasionally I'd get lucky. But I truly believed just maybe one day I would see my name in

print.

Over the years I have met and bonded with remarkable outdoor writers who have become my family. I have studied their techniques and skills, which I hope has helped me advance.

If any of us planned to be wealthy with our "words" we were misguided. Every hour we spend outdoors developing articles will never be equaled financially. Therefore, we must love what we pursue.

Each of us has a deep appreciation of the outdoors. We share our hunting, fishing and other outdoor experiences to inform others and to express ourselves. And we do so because published results are extremely gratifying. In the beginning, each of us has obviously said to ourselves, "I think I want to be an outdoor writer."

Many people consider outdoor writers teachers and pre-experience adventurers who have grasped every outdoor experience they write about. Your distinct ideas, knowledge and motivations enable you to write articles that add new insight to readers outdoor adventures.

Outdoor writer groups were created to promote and preserve the future of outdoor journalism. Tagging along with experienced writers and photographers gives you a foundation. The majority will

unselfishly share their knowledge regarding how to view, develop, and finalize salable articles for publication.

Hopefully our writings have a positive impact on readers and promote many helpful ideas they can use in their favor. Your written facts have established a credible record of success.

How many days have you dealt with adverse weather, costly trips, unsuccessful outcomes, only to return home and still have a positive attitude about what you encountered? These are points we must share with readers.

I guess you might say outdoor writers are the "sacrificial lambs" for our readers when it comes to giving them an avenue to their successes. I have always been grateful I could cut the ice so someone else would be more productive.

Outdoor writing isn't the most uplifting financial factor in anyone's life, but I have learned everyone should make a "mark" in life and not a "stain."

Never stop doing what makes you happy. Never stop chasing your dreams. Never stop focusing on your love of being an outdoor writer because what you communicate through your work just might be your epitaph and a foundation of securing outdoor sports in a futuristic world where humans sometimes place personal profits over the future of our landscapes and wildlife.

I don't believe I've ever regretted my decision to be an outdoor writer. I hope none of you have either.

— Bob "Greenie" Grewell is a member of the Outdoor Writers of Ohio. He submitted this to OU. During a 40-year career as an outdoor writer, he has produced more than 1,500 magazine and newspaper articles for dozens of publications. He has been an OWO member for 35 years and served that state group as president, vice president, board member, and supporting member chairman. Grewell lives in Mt. Sterling, Ohio.



Hide, Survive OR THRIVE?

Winter can be a time for doing your best work

East Glacier, Montana in sunset. Photo by Suzanne Downing.

BY PETER SCHROEDER | SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

"WOULD YOU RATHER BE AMONG 3 MILLION PEOPLE who visit the park in summer or just 100,000 who arrive in winter?" said Rick Hoeninghausen, director of sales and marketing for Xanterra Parks & Resorts, which runs concessions in Yellowstone National Park.

Guiding our group on cross-country skis through Yellowstone, Hoeninghausen said, "With fewer people, it's quieter in winter. There are no cars, and animals are easier to spot and photograph against the snow with no leaves on trees to block views. Herds come down from the mountains and you see more wildlife in meadows: bobcats, antelope, foxes and bison."

As we glide past steamy geothermal features deep into woodlands, we keep a respectful distance from the occasional moose and herds of elk and bison while admiring the snow-covered park. With our added speed on skis, we continue deeper into the woods than summer hikers would normally go, giving us views of Yellowstone National Park that few have seen.

"In winter, all wild creatures adopt one of three strategies during the harsh winter months: hide, survive or thrive," Hoeninghausen said. Bears and many smaller animals hide by hibernating in dens or burrowing underground. Elk, bison,

and deer barely survive as they struggle through snowdrifts to forage for food — and try to avoid predators such as wolves and coyotes.

Meanwhile, wolves, coyotes and moose thrive. With large paws, wolves and coyotes can run on the top of snow and have ready pickings of slow-moving elk, rabbits and creatures more restricted in their movements. Moose, with their unique, highly flexible leg joints, can easily move through snowdrifts while their coats of hollow, insulating hairs enable them to stay warm in winter storms.

The same three options are available to us as outdoor communicators. Unfortunately, too many simply hide during winter. We close ourselves indoors like bears in comfortable homes and offices, only occasionally emerging for a breath of fresh air.

But the wolves and moose among us see winter in a different light. This is time to get outdoors to track down those stories and photos in a sometimes harsh, but stunning, environment, where there's less competition for opportunities that winter offers.

The biggest excuse for remaining indoors is frigid temperatures. But there's no such thing as being cold; there's only inadequate clothing. Get the right wardrobe, rent or buy the right gear, and join those who seek out special stories throughout the solitary and spectacular months of winter.

A spirit of determination

JOHN (JACK) MINER WAS BORN IN 1865 in Dover Center, Ohio (now Westlake, Ohio), the son of a brick maker.

Appropriate, since Miner later helped lay the foundation for OWAA. More on that later.

In 1878, Miner's family moved to a 100-acre wooded property in Kingsville, Ontario (now 400 acres).

At age 14, Miner went to work with his father and uncle at their brick and tile business, and in 1922 he replaced his humble wood frame house with a brick house, constructed from brick made in the factory. It still stands today at 332 Road 3 West in Kingsville, Ontario, and is restored to when Miner lived in the house.

In his autobiography, Miner recounts running barefooted through the woods and on the family farm where he found a route that was only two miles to the factory. He spent "three to five hours a day wandering through the virgin forest, visiting and studying all the creatures that lived there..."

His observations of wildlife in the woods led Miner and his brother, Ted, to find work as hunting guides to help supplement the family income. Jack and Ted were asked by prominent members of Kingsville society and other towns to be their guides on hunting excursions.

In 1904, Miner founded one of the first private bird sanctuaries in Kingsville, Ontario, which helped transform the conservation movement and convince others of the importance of change.

Miner said, "The fowl of the air recognized me as their deadly enemy. Hence the germination of this thought which sprouted and grew in my mind: That they would know a friend if they had one."

The Sanctuary soon became a family passion.

For his work and role as conservationist, Miner received recognition as early as 1906 when a Minneapolis newspaper declared him the "founder of the Conservation movement."

He was the first to start banding migratory waterfowl in North America and to map their migration patterns. By 1909, Miner had 32 Canada geese coming to the Sanctuary for food

and refuge. Between 1909 and 1915, Miner banded 50,000 ducks, and in 1915 he began banding Canada geese, whose numbers had seen a sharp decline.

A black duck he banded in 1909 was later recovered by W.E. Bray of Anderson, South Carolina, on Jan. 14, 1910. The recovery of the duck was a pivotal moment: It proved that ducks and geese coming to the Sanctuary migrated south, and that their migration patterns could be tracked through the aluminum bands attached to their right legs.

The bands included Miner's address and a Bible quote, which became of particular interest for hunters and the public. When hunters recovered a bird, they would send Miner information on where, when and by whom the bird was harvested. Over the years Miner received thousands of letters and returned aluminum bands. Many hunters and the curious public also wrote

letters asking questions about the birds and visited the Sanctuary.

Miner embarked on a North American lecture tour in 1910 with all profits directed to the operation of the Sanctuary. The tour lasted 30 years.

Despite having learned to read and write later in life, Miner became a prolific writer on wildlife and sport hunting in magazines across North America.

He was a guest speaker at the 1927 Izaak Walton League's annual

banquet in Chicago, where future U.S. President Herbert Hoover was the guest of honor for a gathering of 1,100 guests.

The idea for OWAA was conceived at the banquet, and Miner became one of eight original signers of OWAA's founding document and one of the organization's 19 charter members.

Miner also was a member and president of many wildlife organizations, including one named after him – the Jack Miner League.

As a member of the Izaak Walton League, he often wrote articles for IWLA's magazine *Outdoor America* and was prominently featured in the September 1928 edition with the article "Lost in the Woods" written by Margaret Wade. Miner wrote articles for *Forest and Outdoors*, *Rod and Gun*, *Field & Stream*, *East and West*, *Northern Sportsman*, and the *Modern Archer*.

Miner communicated frequently with American Wildlife

"THE FOWL OF THE AIR
RECOGNIZED ME AS THEIR
DEADLY ENEMY. HENCE
THE GERMINATION OF THIS
THOUGHT WHICH SPROUTED
AND GREW IN MY MIND: THAT
THEY WOULD KNOW A FRIEND
IF THEY HAD ONE."

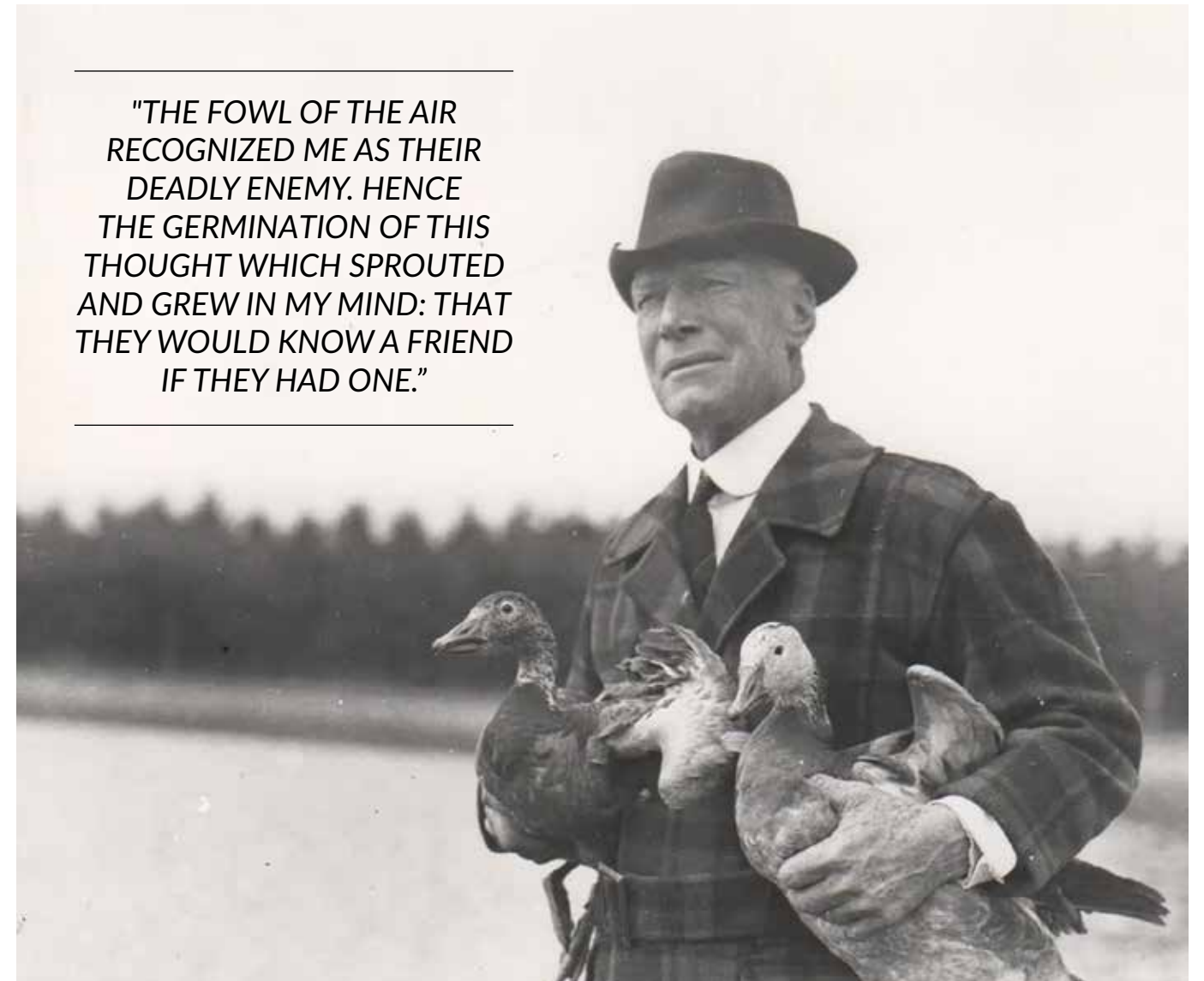


Image courtesy of Jack Miner Migratory Bird Foundation

Refuge Directors, wildlife experts, nature writers, and government officials. His banding net and sanctuary designs were emulated across North America, and the Kellogg Sanctuary in Augusta, Michigan, was designed "in the style of Jack Miner's

Sanctuary."

The first two Canada geese to the Kellogg Sanctuary were a gift from Miner.

Miner's story was shared through radio broadcasts, magazine articles, books, school textbooks, lectures, film, and

through visitors to the Sanctuary. He gave throughout his life what was greatly needed at the turn of the 20th century – a spirit of determination to conserve nature for future generations and to provide spaces for people to appreciate nature.



TV/VIDEO

HUNTING OR SHOOTING SPORTS

First place: Karen Loke, "In Memory of Jacob," Texas Parks & Wildlife PBS
Second place: Trey Reid, "Rabbit Hunting with Beagles: Passing on an Arkansas Tradition," KARK-TV/KARZ-TV
Third place: Mark LaBarbera and Dan Small, "Deer Hunt Wisconsin 2018," Fox Sports Wisconsin and Fox Sports North

FISHING

First place: Ross Purnell, "One Path: The Race to Save Mongolia's Giant Salmonids," Outdoor Channel
Second place: Jeff Kelm, "Ice Fishing with the Hmong Community," Milwaukee PBS
Third place: Trey Reid, "Fall Fishing on the Little Missouri River," KARK-TV/KARZ-TV

CONSERVATION OR NATURE

First place: David Majure, "Arizona Elk West Virginia Bound," AZ Game & Fish Department
Second place: Ross Purnell, "One Path: The Race to Save Mongolia's Giant Salmonids," Outdoor Channel
Third place: Eric Parker Andersen, "Life's a Beach," KARE-11 NBC

GEAR/TECHNICAL

First place: Bill Sherck, "Hunting the Alley," KARE 11 NBC
Second place: David Majure, "How to Fly Fish a Lake," AZ Game & Fish Department
Third place: Eric Parker Andersen, "Made for the Outdoors - Aplacka Rafts," Fox Sports North

OUTDOOR FUN AND ADVENTURE

First place: Kyle Heidenreich, "Stoney Point Surfers," KARE-11 NBC
Second place: Eric Parker Andersen, "Destination Polaris - Silverton Colorado," Fox Sports North
Third place: Trey Reid, "Wild and Scenic Mulberry River," KARK-TV/KARZ-TV



"On the Rocks" by James Smedley won second place in the EIC Outdoor Fun and Adventure category.

FAMILY PARTICIPATION/YOUTH OUTDOOR EDUCATION

First place: Grant McOmie, "Astoria Crabbing," KGW News
Second place: Bill Sherck, "Katelin's Day," KARE-11 NBC
Third place: Dan Small, "USSA Kids Fishing Outing," Milwaukee PBS

RADIO/PODCAST

HUNTING OR SHOOTING SPORTS

First place: Brian Jennings, "Ladies Hunting Camp," 1110 KBNB Bend
Second place: John Kruse, "A hunt aboard the Duck Taxi with Shelby Ross," Northwestern Outdoors Radio Network
Third place: Dan Small, "Reflections on a Season Not Hunted," Outdoors Radio Network/WRJC

FISHING

First place: Ty Stockton, "Don't just sit there, go fishing," Cowboy State News Network
Second place: John Kruse, "Kyle Jones and Idaho's Clearwater River Steelhead," Northwestern Outdoors Radio Network
Third place: Ty Stockton, "I am no fly-fishing purist," Cowboy State News Network

CONSERVATION OR NATURE

First place: Monica Gokey, "Cattle Among Us," Outlandish podcast
Second place: Ty Stockton, "Keep it public," Cowboy State News Network
Third place: Brian Jennings, "Footprints in the Wilderness," 1110 KBNB Bend

GEAR/TECHNICAL

First place: Ty Stockton, "Stay warm with plenty of layers," Cowboy State News Network
Second place: Jeff Kelm, "Ion Lithium Batteries," Outdoors Radio Network/WRJC
Third place: Ty Stockton, "GoPro on a dog is a great idea — but not on MY dog," Cowboy State News Network

OUTDOOR FUN AND ADVENTURE

First place: Ty Stockton, "Boat rentals have completely changed my outdoor strategy," Cowboy State News Network
Second place: John Kruse, "Hiking with Llamas," America Outdoors Radio Network
Third place: Ty Stockton, "Take a hike," Cowboy State News Network

FAMILY PARTICIPATION/YOUTH OUTDOOR EDUCATION

First place: Monica Gokey, "Fractured Self: What happens when parenthood



"Chincoteague Snow Geese at Sunrise" by Ann and Rob Simpson won third place in the EIC Scenic category.



LEFT PAGE TOP:
"Flash Light" by Brian Grossenbacher won first place in the EIC People category.

LEFT PAGE BOTTOM:
"Northern Pintail Flushing," by Gary Kramer won second place in the EIC Action category.

TOP MIDDLE: "Wild Banana Plant" by Bill Vanderford won third place in the EIC Flora category.

TOP RIGHT: "Grandson & Grandmother" Lefty Ray Chapa won first place in the EIC Family category.

BOTTOM RIGHT: "Swarm O' Scads," by Carmen Alex won first place in the EIC Action category.



"Maples Leaves Around Fungus" by Lisa Ballard won second place in the EIC Flora category.



"Young Mongolian Girl" by Earl Harper won third place in the EIC People category.

TOP LEFT: "Look Up into the Sky (Father & Son)" by Lefty Ray Chapa won third place in the EIC Family category.

BOTTOM MIDDLE: "Baby Bobcats Play Time" by Ann and Rob Simpson won second place in the EIC Fauna category.

BOTTOM RIGHT: "Up" by Keith Crowley won first place in the EIC Flora category.



threatens to erase your identity?,” Out There podcast

Second place: Ty Stockton, “Get those kids outside,” Cowboy State News Network

Third place: Ty Stockton, “A backpack shouldn’t be bigger than the backpacker,” Cowboy State News Network

MAGAZINE

HUNTING OR SHOOTING SPORTS

First place: Michael Furtman, “Blasts from the Past,” Ducks Unlimited

Second place: Ken Blomberg, “The Island,” Ruffed Grouse Society magazine

Third place: Johnny Sain, “Blood Brother,” Hatch

FISHING

First place: David Zoby, “Eggs in Your Beer,” The Drake

Second place: Andrew Pegman, “A Tale of Two Trips,” American Angler

Third place: Noah Davis, “Culling,” The Drake

CONSERVATION OR NATURE

First place: Amy Grisak, “Bulls of Banff,” Bugle

Second place: Pat Wray, “A Rose by Any Other Name,” Game and Fish Publications

Third place: Karuna Eberl, “The Tiny Florida Butterfly That Refuses to Become Extinct,” Atlas Obscura

HUMOR

First place: Jon Tobey, “Troutaholics Anonymous,” The Flyfish Journal

Second place: Pat Wray, “Duff and the Barbed-Wire Fence,” Game and Fish Publications

Third place: Pat Wray, “How to Ruin a Good Bird Dog,” Game and Fish Publications

GEAR/TECHNICAL

First place: Amy Grisak, “Homemade Trail Meals,” The New Pioneer

Second place: Mike Zlotnicki, “Taking Stock of Shotgun Fitting,” Wildlife in North Carolina

Third place: James Smedley, “Paddling and angling,” Lake Superior Angler

OUTDOOR FUN AND ADVENTURE

First place: Chris Madson, “Zen in the Art of Wingshooting,” Pheasants Forever

Second place: Mark Aiken, “Skiing By Headlamp,” Vermont Magazine

Third place: Russell Roe, “Survival of the Fittest,” Texas Parks & Wildlife

FAMILY PARTICIPATION/ YOUTH OUTDOOR EDUCATION

First place: Kris Millgate, “A legit way to fish,” Hatch

Second place: Christine Peterson, “A Place in the Hunt,” Bugle

Third place: Lisa Ballard, “Fishing Bonds,” Colorado Outdoors

NEWSPAPER

HUNTING OR SHOOTING SPORTS

First place: Christine Peterson, “To take the shot: Hunters work to explain why they didn’t pull the trigger,” Casper Star-Tribune

Second place: Christine Peterson, “The great equalizer: As hunter numbers struggle, I decided to enter the field,” Casper Star-Tribune

Third place: Brent Frazee, “Public Pursuit,” Joplin Globe

FISHING

First place: Ben Moyer, “Cutthroat Adventure: Packhorse and saddle reach remote fishing,” Uniontown Herald-Standard

Second place: Christine Peterson, “Biologists say too many small lake trout are hurting Flaming Gorge trophy fish,” Casper Star-Tribune

Third place: Terry Brady, “Surfside: Introducing the old to new ways,” Pennsylvania Outdoors News

CONSERVATION OR NATURE

First place: Paul Smith, “Peregrine falcon recovery is Racine native’s life work,” Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

Second place: Paul Smith, “Chimney swifts are in a marked decline,” Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

Third place: Mark Freeman, “Franklin’s still missing,” Medford Mail Tribune

HUMOR

First place: Steven Griffin, “Forgotten corner of spirit freed by free sail boat,” Midland Daily News

Second place: Matthew Liere, “Remembering the great Pat McManus,” The Spokesman-Review

Third place: Pat Wray, “Fishing has its Challenges,” Corvallis Gazette-Times

GEAR/TECHNICAL

First place: Mark Neuzil, “The Surprisingly Interesting History of the Bent-Shaft Paddle,” GearJunkie.com

Second place: Pat Wray, “Knives are a Great Christmas Gift,” Corvallis Gazette-Times

Third place: Christine Peterson, “The right shot: How to decide what shot to use on your next bird hunting adventure, and why,” Casper Star-Tribune

OUTDOOR FUN AND ADVENTURE

First place: Christine Peterson, “Breaking it down: New mountain bike camps for adults build skills, confidence,” Casper Star-Tribune

Second place: Matthew Liere, “The ice whisperer,” The Spokesman-Review

Third place: Emily Stone, “A Naturalist on the Ice,” Price County Review

FAMILY PARTICIPATION/ YOUTH OUTDOOR EDUCATION

First place: Joseph Dits, “How Dad’s camping trips changed our lives,” South Bend Tribune

Second place: Glenn Sapir, “Welcoming in a Young Angler,” New York Outdoor News

Third place: Emily Stone, “Making Tracks,” Bayfield County Journal

BLOG

HUNTING OR SHOOTING SPORTS

First place: Bob Ford, “Black Powder Bunnies,” Beagle Bard blog

Second place: Bob Ford, “Good Run,” Lion Country Supply blog

Third place: Bob Frye, “Blind hunter takes his first deer on a memorable opening day,” EverybodyAdventures



TOP: “Mother/Daughter Cliff Jumping” by Brian Grossenbacher won third place in the EIC Outdoor Fun and Adventure category.

BOTTOM: “Family Fire” by James Smedley won second place in the EIC Family category.



TOP: “Yellowstone Sunrise” by Jack Ballard won first place in the EIC Scenic category.

MIDDLE: “Cloud Camo” by Brian Grossenbacher won third place in the EIC Action category.

BOTTOM: “Lynx Family Portrait” by Keith Crowley won third place in the EIC Fauna category.

FISHING

First place: Justine Hausheer, “How to Fail at Fishing: The Diary of a Birder Learning to Fish,” Cool Green Science

Second place: Chris Hunt, “Yellowstone promise,” Trout Unlimited’s Voices from the River blog

Third place: Brett Prettyman, “Voices from the river: Fly fishing as therapy,” Trout Unlimited’s Voices from the River blog

CONSERVATION OR NATURE

First place: Justine Hausheer, “Deciding the Fate of Myanmar’s Forests,” Cool Green Science

Second place: Matthew Miller, “Strange and Unbelievable Facts About Shrews,” Cool Green Science

Third place: Bob Frye, “Green herons fascinating, tool-wielding water birds,” EverybodyAdventures

HUMOR

First place: Chris Hunt, “Rain, cold...and the clicker,” Trout Unlimited’s Voices from the River blog

Second place: Justine Hausheer, “The Incredible Adventure of the Pooping Sloth,” Cool Green Science

Third place: Justine Hausheer, “Austrian Magpies Are The Real Angry Birds,” Cool Green Science

GEAR/TECHNICAL

First place: Jodi Stemler, “Choosing a Girl’s First Big Game Rifle,” Range365

Second place: Chris Hunt, “The caddis: ‘The most dishonest fly ever,’” Trout Unlimited’s Voices from the River blog

Third place: Bob Ford, “Chilling,” Beagle Bard blog

OUTDOOR FUN AND ADVENTURE

First place: Colleen Miniuk-Sperry, “Keep Paddling,” You Can Sleep When You’re Dead blog

Second place: Justine Hausheer, “Possum Terrors and Rediscovering Urban Wildlife,” Cool Green Science

Third place: Colleen Miniuk-Sperry, “Overturned,” You Can Sleep When You’re Dead blog

FAMILY PARTICIPATION/ YOUTH OUTDOOR EDUCATION



“Lupines in Torres del Paine Patagonia” by Ann and Rob Simpson won second place in the EIC Scenic category.



“Paddleboard Maze” by Brian Grossenbacher won first place in the EIC Outdoor Fun and Adventure category.

First place: Chris Hunt, “Precious Time,” Trout Unlimited’s Voices from the River blog

Second place: Matthew Miller, “Why Staying on the Trail is Bad for Nature,” Cool Green Science

Third place: Candice Gaukel Andrews, “The National Park Service: Big Wonders in Small Spots,” Natural Habitat Adventures’ Good Nature Travel blog

COLUMN

First place: Jack Ballard, Successful Hunter

Second place: Terry Brady, Pennsylvania Outdoors News

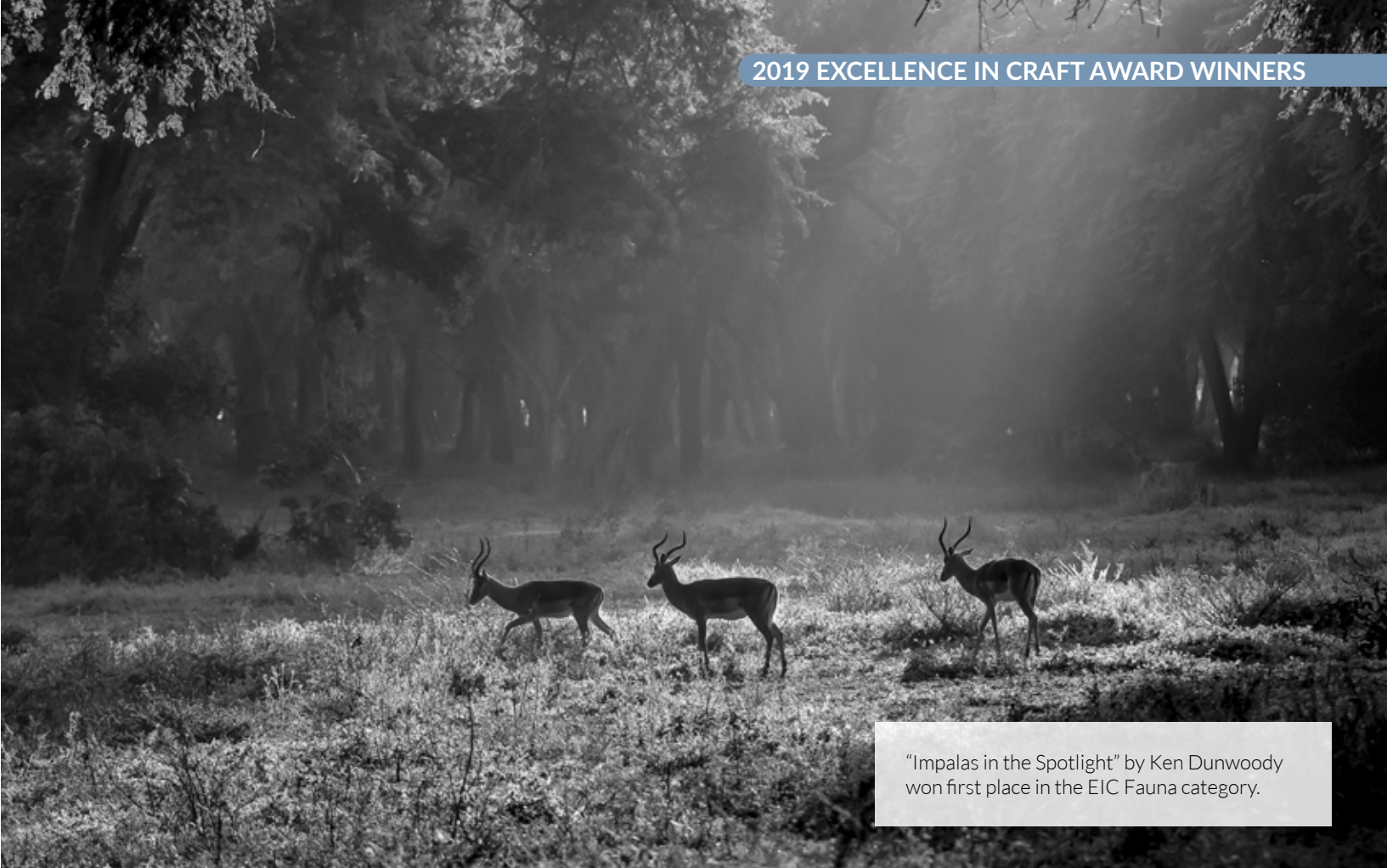
Third place: Candice Gaukel Andrews, Natural Habitat Adventures’ Good Nature Travel blog

BOOK

GENERAL AUDIENCE

First place: Dave Hall, “Moving Water: An Artist’s Reflections on Fly Fishing, Friendship and Family”

Second place: Tim Romano, “Stilt Houses of Texas”



“Impalas in the Spotlight” by Ken Dunwoody won first place in the EIC Fauna category.

Third place: Reid Bryant, “The Orvis Guide to Upland Hunting”

ILLUSTRATION/GRAPHIC

First place: Sam Caldwell, “Great Day in a Back Bay,” The Trip (book)

Second place: Bruce Cochran, “Way outside,” Kansas Wildlife & Parks magazine

Third place: Bruce Cochran, “Marsh madness #1,” Wildfowl magazine

PHOTOGRAPHY

ACTION

First place: Carmen Alex, “Swarm O’Scads,” Edelweiss Keys

Second place: Gary Kramer, “Northern Pintail Flushing,” Montana Outdoors

Third place: Brian Grossenbacher, “Cloud Camo,” Simms Fishing

PEOPLE

First place: Brian Grossenbacher, “Flash Light,” Field & Stream

Second place: Lefty Ray Chapa, “2 Poles,” Southwest Fly Fishing Magazine

Third place: Earl Harper, “Young Mongolian Girl,” Taimen Fund

SCENIC

First place: Jack Ballard, “Yellowstone Sunrise,” Large Mammals of the Rocky Mountains (book)

Second place: Ann and Rob Simpson, “Lupines in Torres del Paine Patagonia,” Holbrook Travel Calendar

Third place: Ann and Rob Simpson, “Chincoteague Snow Geese at Sunrise,” Virginia Wildlife magazine

FLORA

First place: Keith Crowley, “Up,” Hawke Optics

Second place: Lisa Ballard, “Maples Leaves Around Fungus,” Cool Green Science blog

Third place: Bill Vanderford, “Wild Banana Plant,” Lakeside Magazine

FAUNA

First place: Ken Dunwoody, “Impalas in the Spotlight,” charity donation

Second place: Ann and Rob Simpson, “Baby bobcats play time,” Virginia Wildlife magazine

Third place: Keith Crowley, “Lynx Family Portrait,” Northern Wilds Magazine

OUTDOOR FUN AND ADVENTURE

First place: Brian Grossenbacher, “Paddleboard Maze,” The Fly Fish Journal

Second place: James Smedley, “On the rocks,” Ontario Out of Doors magazine

Third place: Brian Grossenbacher, “Mother/Daughter Cliff Jumping,” Orvis

FAMILY PARTICIPATION/ YOUTH OUTDOOR EDUCATION

First place: Lefty Ray Chapa, “Grandson & Grandmother,” Kent Cartridge 2018 catalog

Second place: James Smedley, “Family Fire,” Municipality of Wawa

Third place: Lefty Ray Chapa, “Look Up into the Sky (Father & Son),” Corpus Christi Ducks Unlimited 2018 Banquet Program

PHOTOGRAPHY ESSAY

First place: Lefty Ray Chapa, “Texas Salt,” Southwest Fly Fishing magazine

Second place: Brian Grossenbacher, “WolfFish,” Gray’s Sporting Journal

Third place: Brian Grossenbacher, “Baja Birds,” Gray’s Sporting Journal

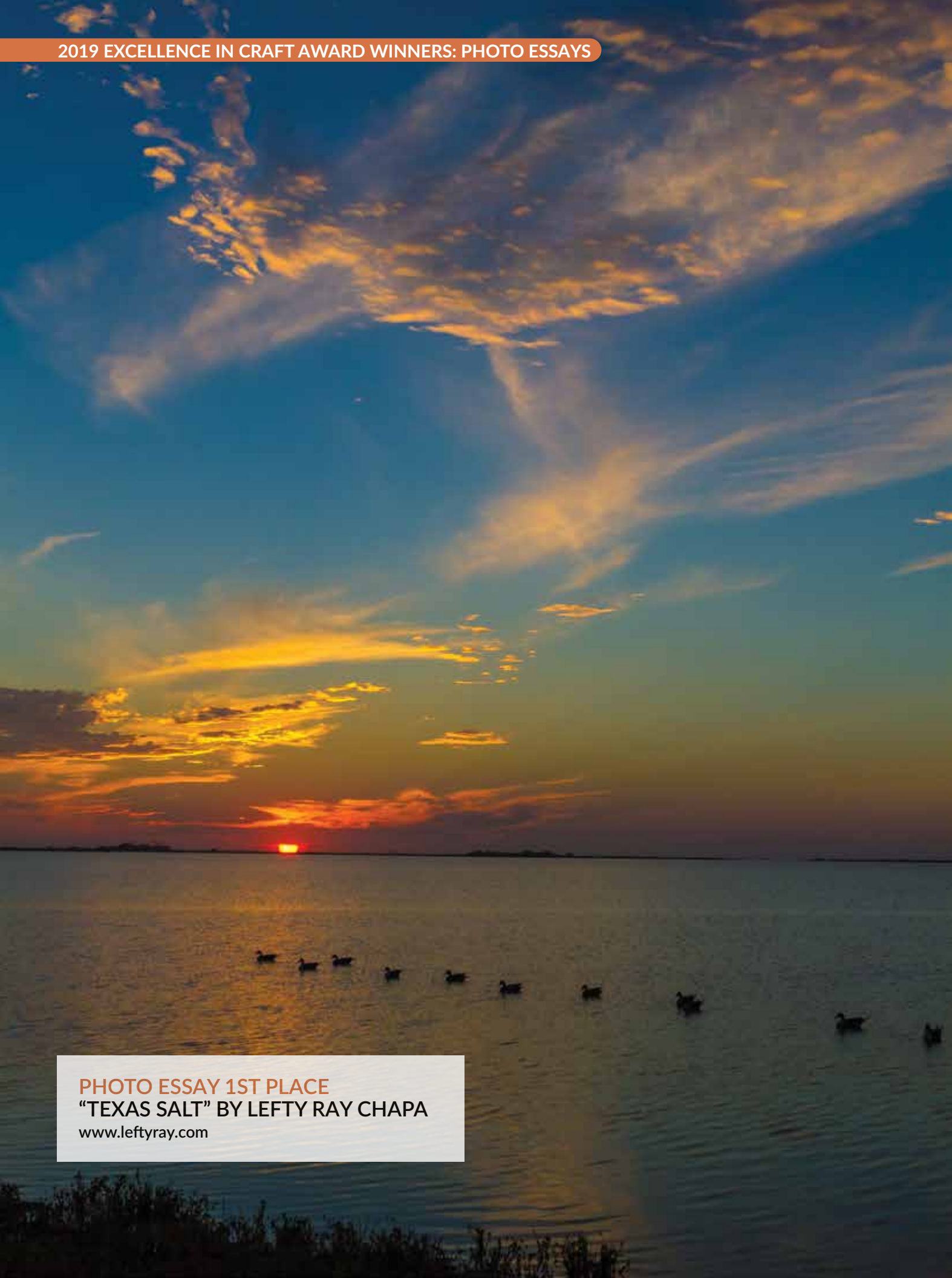
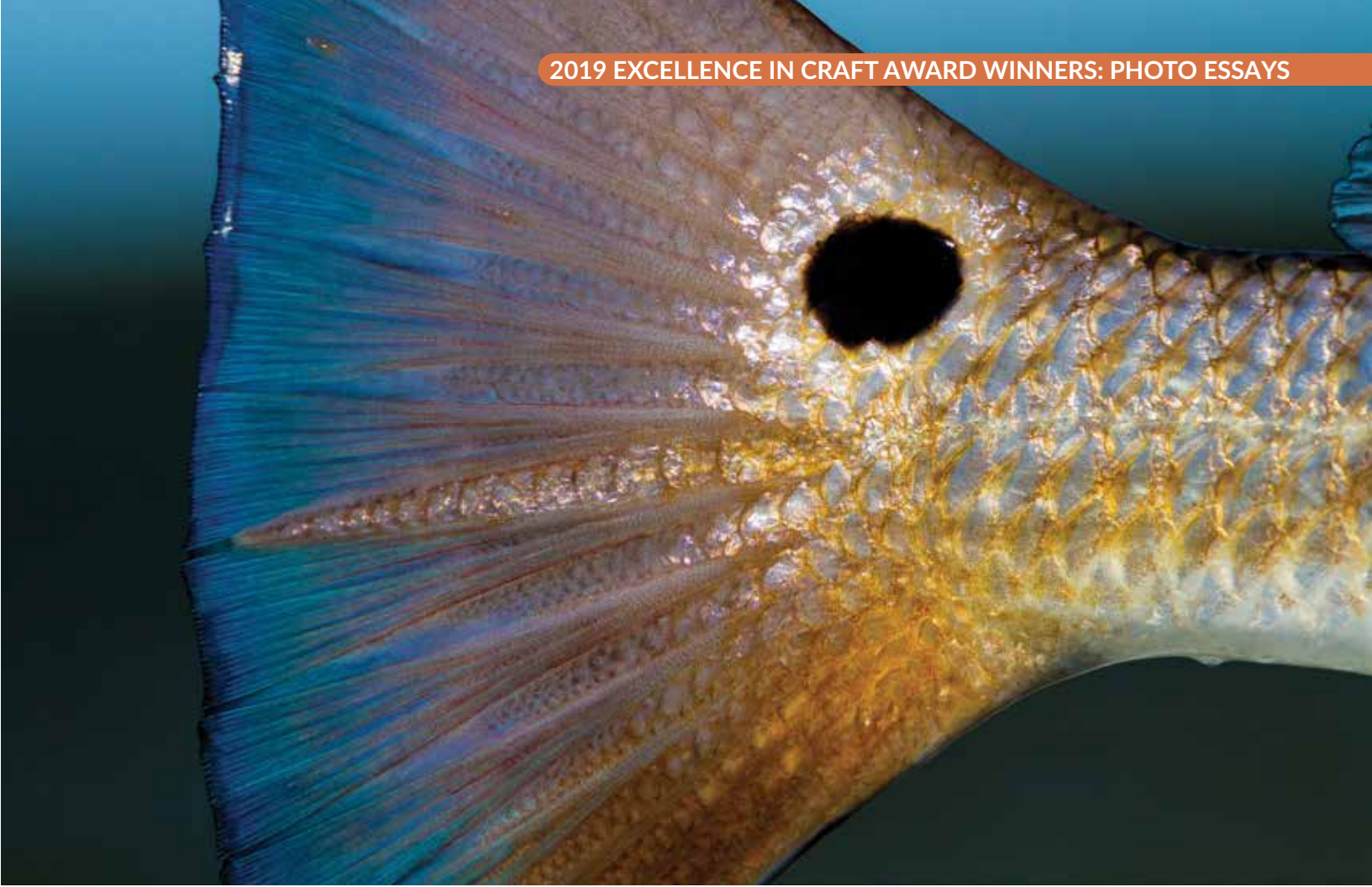


PHOTO ESSAY 1ST PLACE
"TEXAS SALT" BY LEFTY RAY CHAPA
www.leftyray.com



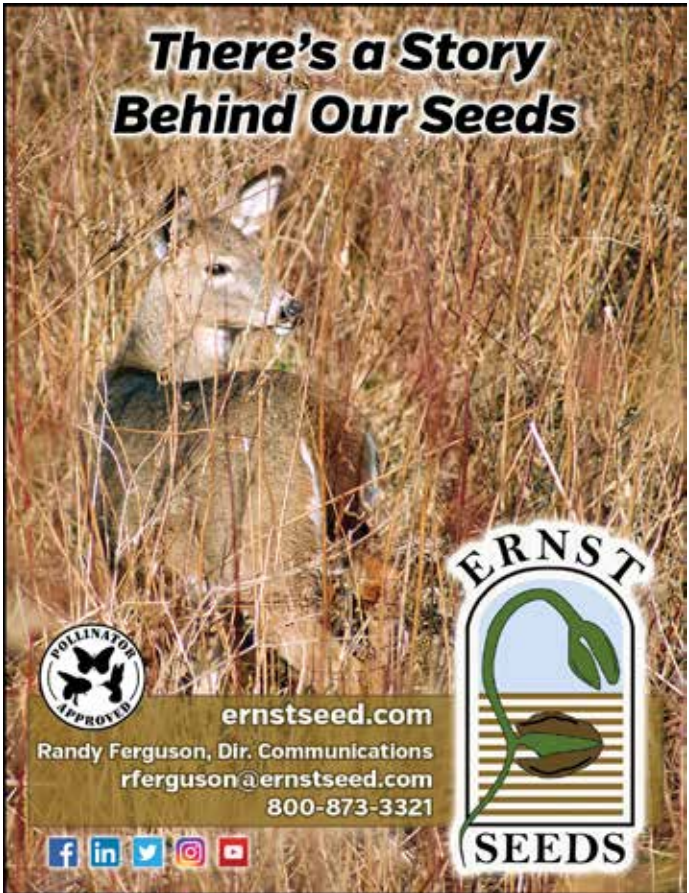


**PHOTO ESSAY
2ND PLACE
"WOLFFISH"**
BY BRIAN
GROSSENBACHER
[www.
grossenbacherphoto.com](http://www.grossenbacherphoto.com)



THANKS TO THE 2019 CONTEST SPONSORS

REALTREE:
Family Participation/Youth Outdoor Education category
PEW CHARITABLE TRUSTS: Conservation/Nature category
IZAACK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA:
Outdoor Fun and Adventure Category



THANK YOU TO OUR EXCELLENCE IN CRAFT CONTEST JUDGES

OWAA's annual Excellence In Craft is a massive undertaking that requires dozens of volunteer judges to evaluate and score each entry. This year, 63 volunteers judged 726 entries to determine the best-of-the-best in our chosen profession. A huge OWAA thank you to the following:

LOG: Tony Dolle*, Bob Bramblet, Matt Harlow, Crystal Ross, Dan Small, Kim Thornton, Mike Zlotnicki
BOOKS: Paula DelGiudice*, Chris Hunt, David Kinney, Mark Taylor
COLUMN: Mark Taylor*, Karen Loke, Laura Lundquist, Ron Steffe
ILLUSTRATION/GRAPHIC: Colleen Miniuk*, Jana Bloom, Lindsay Brown, Blair Jones
MAGAZINE: Brad Isles*, Phil Bloom, Heide Brandes, Alan Clemons, Tony Dolle, Holly Endersby, Sandra Kelly, Bill Monroe, Christine Peterson, Russell Roe, Carrie Cousins Spiller, Mark Taylor, Jenny Weiss
NEWSPAPER: Ty Stockton*, Joe Albanese, Phil Bloom, Bill Graham, Kerry Hecker, Micah Holmes, Ellen Horowitz,

John Hudson, Jodi Applegate Stemler, Tom Wharton, Drew YoungeDyke
PHOTOGRAPHY: Sam Dean*, Robert Annis, Bryan Cereijo, Mark Gocke, Doug McSchooler, John Maxwell, Martin Perea, Jay Snyder, Mark Taylor
PHOTOGRAPHY ESSAY: Sam Dean*, Seth Gitner, Kyle Green, Mark Taylor
RADIO/PODCAST: Brian Geiger*, Kelly Adams, Tristina Bickford, Mark Freeman, Grant McOmie, Amber Nabors, Trey Reid, Nicola Whitley, Jenifer Wisniewski
TV/VIDEO/WEBCAST: Lisa Ballard*, Chris Batin, Don Cash, Walter Dinkins, Brent Drinkut, Michael Greggans, Joe Hosmer, Brian Jennings, Carol Lynde, Tim Smith

*Denotes chief judge



PHOTO ESSAY 3RD PLACE
"BAJA BIRDS" BY BRIAN
GROSSENBACHER
www.grossenbacherphoto.com

BOOKSHELF



MY PLACE AMONG MEN

AUTHOR: Kris Millgate

INFO: Inkshares; softcover; 230 pages with photos; \$16.99, e-copy; \$7.99

This reporter-inspired memoir explores the life of a woman working in an environment where a smudge of awkward always stains the story. Her misadventures in the wild reveal the trials and triumphs of an outdoor journalist finding her place among men. Order at tightlinemedia.com.

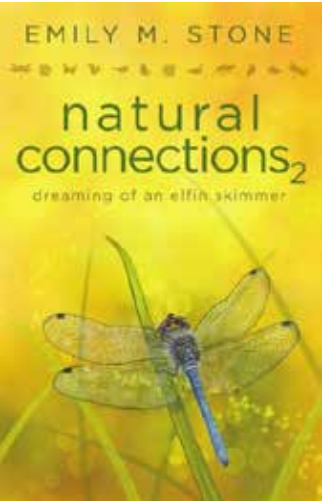


NATURAL CONNECTIONS 2: DREAMING OF AN ELFIN SKIMMER

AUTHOR: Emily M. Stone

INFO: Green Darner Media; paperback; illustrated; \$18.96 All proceeds benefit children's nature education.

Do you also love finding adventure and intrigue in strange places? Emily Stone's second book transports you across the moat into a magical world where nature is better than fiction. Elfin skimmer dragonflies dart above the incredible community cupped inside a single leaf. A leaf miner grows up before your eyes. Lichens surrender in order to survive. By using science to tell stories, Emily wields a magic that makes the whole world feel more alive. To order contact info@cablemuseum.org.



OWAA COMMITTEE CHAIRS: 2019-2020

AWARDS – Paul Queneau

BOARD NOMINATING – Tim Christie

CONFERENCE PROGRAM – Pat Wray (chair), Christine Peterson (co-chair)

CONTESTS – Phil Bloom

CRAFT IMPROVEMENT – Ken Keffer

DEVELOPMENT – Shawn Perich

EDUCATION – Ann Simpson

ETHICS – Terry Brady

FINANCE – Tom Sadler

MARKETING – open

MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT – Kelsey Roseth

MEMBER SERVICES – Colleen Miniuk

NATIONAL AFFAIRS AND ENVIRONMENT – Drew YoungeDyke

OFFICER NOMINATING – Ken Keffer (chair), Ruth Hoyt, Shawn Perich

SECTIONS – Ruth Hoyt

STRATEGIC PLANNING – Colleen Miniuk

AD HOC COMMITTEES

SUPPORTER RELATIONS – Katie McKalip

DIVERSITY – Holly Endersby

HISTORY – Pat Wray

CONFERENCE SITE SELECTION REVIEW – Pat Wray

OUTDOOR MARKET – Paul Queneau



DONORS

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

OPERATING FUND

Kirk Deeter
John Nickum
Brett Prettyman
Pat Wray

JOHN MADSON FELLOWSHIP

Paula Del Giudice
Kenny Wooten

CREDENTIALS REVIEWS:

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

Nick Lowrey

NEW MEMBERS

New member listings include references to acronyms that relate to skills, subject matter and sections. A key for those acronyms is published on Pg. X and can be found at <https://owaa.org/ou/about-owaa-skills-subject-matter-sections/>

BRENT BIRCH, 3 Thad Lane, Little Rock, AR, 72227. (H) 501-951-2850, (W) 870-900-0505, publisher@arkansasgrandprairie.com. Publisher and author of “The Grand Prairie: A History of Duck Hunting's Hallowed Ground”; co-creator and editor of “Greenhead: The Arkansas Duck Hunting Magazine”; and co-founder of the Arkansas Waterfowl Hall of Fame in Stuttgart, Arkansas. Also serves on the Arkansas Game & Fish Foundation Board and is an avid supporter of Delta Waterfowl and Ducks Unlimited. A born and raised Arkansan who cut his teeth duck hunting in the White River Bottoms at Crocketts Bluff as well as the rice fields and reservoirs of Lonoke, Prairie and Arkansas counties. (Mollie) Skills: BDELP-WX; Subject Matter: CEO; Sections: M. Approved for Active membership; sponsored by Randy Zellers.

SUZANNE DOWNING, 21435 Ninemile Rd., Huson, MT 59846. (C) 219-713-5755, sdowning@owaa.org. Communications manager and Outdoors Unlimited editor for OWAA. A freelance writer and photographer, her work has been published in Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation's Bugle magazine and the Missoulian newspaper. She also served as the deputy managing editor for Byline magazine, the University of Montana's School of Journalism annual print publication, and published photos online with Montana Public Radio alongside an audio story. She has a conservation ecology long-form piece in the works for Smithsonian magazine and is writing a children's book on hiking in Montana. Author of the illustrated children's book “Sunny”. (Lulu 2010) (Joe) Skills: ENOS; Subject Matter: ACGLOQRSU; Sections: MP. Approved for Active membership; sponsored by Paul Queneau.

TIM FEATHERS, 5716 Hidden River Circle, Schofield, WI 54476. (H) 715-302-8458, tfeathers@charter.net. Recently retired from teaching art for 30 years. Took up digital photography 10 years ago, and after doing portrait and wedding photography on the side realized his true love is trying to combine nature and fine art photography. Much of his photography is from northern Wisconsin and Upper Michigan and is based at Whispering Point, a 20-acre property with a lakeside log cabin that he and his wife (Renee) bought a couple of years ago. Skills: S; Subject Matter: S; Sections: P. Approved for Associate membership; sponsored by Ken Keffer.

JOHN GURZO, 707 Oak Glen Rd., Howell, NJ, 07731. (H) 732-370-4794, coachjg16@optimum.net. Contributor to Mother Earth News, New Jersey Outdoors, The Trapper, and others. First paid outdoor article was published 30 years ago in The New Jersey Fisherman. Skills: O; Subject Matter: ABCFI; Sections: Magazine. Approved for Active membership; sponsored by Phil Bloom.

JIM HARRIS, 2 Natural Resources Dr., Little Rock, AR 72205. (H) 501-978-7345, (W) 501-978-7345, (C) 501-580-

1731, jim.harris@agfc.ar.gov, Managing editor for Arkansas Wildlife magazine, the publication of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission. Other duties, besides writing and editing the magazine for AGFC, include compiling weekly fishing and waterfowl Reports, Waterfowl Reports. A member of the agency's Facebook team to monitor correspondence with customers and answer questions through all social media outlets. (Tricia) Skills: CEOS; Subject Matter: ACDEKLO; Sections: BCMP. Approved for Active membership; sponsored by Jeff Williams.

SARA KANGAS, 3611 38th St. NW, Apt. 304, Washington, D.C., 20016. (H) 940-597-7199, kangas14@gmail.com. Director of communications for the National Association of Conservation Districts. A Texas A&M graduate with a bachelor's degree in entomology, if she's not in the office, you can find her tracking down cool bugs. Skills: CDEOQSVW; Subject Matter: ORS; Sections: MCP. Approved for Active membership; sponsored by John Kruse.

STEPHANIE MALTARICH, 1035 Van Buren St., Missoula, MT, 59802. (H) 303-961-3841, smaltarich@gmail.com. A master's student in environmental studies with a focus on environmental writing at the University of Montana. An outdoor educator and enthusiast, she is pursuing a writing career focused on environmental stories and how the outdoors and natural setting impact livelihoods. She writes about female perspectives in the outdoors, fun adventures by foot or bike, and profiling individuals doing cool things. She is the nonfiction board chair and blog editor for Camas Magazine and has had bylines in Crested Butte Magazine, Misadventures Magazine, and NRS's Blog Duct Tape Diaries. Skills: EOW; Subject Matter: LMNOR; Sections: M. Approved for Student membership.

RAVEN VAN DEN BOSCH, 64 Hardin Reynolds Rd., Critz, VA 24082. (H/W) 276-694-2757, (C) 919-747-1140, thewildcanvas@gmail.com. A master's candidate in professional writing at NYU (Washington Square) campus. Creative director in advertising for 29 years,

writing advertising copy for clients, digital content, blogs and newsletters. An avid outdoors lover, she is a licensed trapper, hunter, angler, taxidermist, and wildlife rehabber specializing in waterfowl, reptiles and raptors. When not doing homework or caring for her farm, she volunteers teaching kids about wildlife and writing. Skills: CDEIW; Subject Matter: ACILQU; Sections: C. Approved for Student membership.

CHRIS WOOD, 1777 N. Kent St., Ste 100, Arlington, VA 22209. (H) 571-274-0601, chris.wood@tu.org. President and CEO of Trout Unlimited. Before joining TU in 2001, he served as senior policy and communications advisor to the chief of the U.S. Forest Service. Began his career as a temporary employee with the Forest Service in Idaho and also worked for the Bureau of Land Management's fish

and wildlife program. Author and co-author of numerous papers and articles and three books – “Watershed Restoration: Principles and Practices” (AFS 1997), “From Conquest to Conservation: Our Public Land Legacy” (Island Press, 2003), and “My Healthy Stream: A Handbook for Streamside Owners” (Trout Unlimited and Aldo Leopold Foundation, 2013). Skills: BCLO; Subject Matter: AOR. Approved for Active membership; sponsored by Chris Hunt.

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 on Page XX and can be found at <https://owaa.org/ou/about-owaa-supporter-resources>

SUBMITTABLE, 111 N. Higgins Ave., Ste. 3, Missoula, MT, 59801. Contact: Keriann Strickland, senior marketing manager, (W) 406-860-7266, keriann@submittable.com, www.submittable.com. Easy-to-use platforms for organizations, teams, and individuals make it simple for organizations and teams to collect and review any content online. Quickly create digital forms to gather exactly the information and files you need, and then review submissions with your team—all from one platform, no downloads or email required. Great for accepting and reviewing pitches and completed stories; photo and video content; grant, scholarship, fellowship, job or member applications; contest entries and more. Individuals can create a free account and submit work to thousands of organizations that use Submittable to collect submissions or applications.

KEY TO SKILLS, SUBJECTS, SECTIONS, RESOURCES

SKILLS

A — Artist, Illustrator or Cartoonist
B — Book Author
E — Editor
I — Information/Education
L — Lecturer
M — Motion Picture Photographer or Producer
N — Newspaper Writer or Columnist
O — Writer
P — Publisher
Q — Public Relations
R — Radio Broadcaster or Producer
S — Still Photographer
T — Television Broadcaster or Producer
V — Video Producer
W — Magazine Writer or Columnist
X — Podcaster

SUBJECT MATTER

A — Freshwater Fishing
B — Saltwater Fishing

C — Hunting
D — Firearms and Shooting
E — Hunting Dog Handling
F — Archery and Bowhunting
G — Camping and Backpacking
H — Recreational Vehicles
I — Trapping
J — Water Sports
K — Boating
L — Outdoor Travel
M — Winter Sports
N — Bicycling
O — Natural Resources
P — Wilderness Survival
Q — Wildlife Specialist
R — Environmental Affairs
S — Nature
T — Cooking
U — Birding

SECTIONS

Operating under OWAA governance, Sections provide an additional venue

to accomplish the OWAA Mission and serve as a positive resource in OWAA. Individual members and the Board of Directors may use sections for advice and assistance.
B — Broadcast
C — Communications/Media Relations
M — Magazine
N — Newspaper
P — Photography

SUPPORTER RESOURCES

CATEGORIES:

C – Source for conservation news and information
D – OWAA member discount offered
G – Samples for gear reviews available
I – Image samples available
O – Source for other outdoor news
P – Source for product news or catalogs



OUTDOOR WRITERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

2814 Brooks St., Box 442
Missoula, MT 59801
406-728-7434, Fax: 406-728-7445
info@owaa.org, owaa.org

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.



OUTDOORS UNLIMITED
August/September 2019
Vol. 80, No. 5

LOOKING FOR MORE? Go online to read past issues of *Outdoors Unlimited*. PDFs are also available for printing. Visit: owaa.org/ou/category/departments/table-of-contents.

Meet a member



NAME: Joseph Albanese

RESIDENCE: Long Island, New York

OWAA MEMBER SINCE: 2016

AREA(S) OF OUTDOOR COMMUNICATION: Most of my works cover fishing, hunting, and shooting topics. But my favorite subject matter is conservation, and working with organizations like Ducks Unlimited lets me bring some science to the masses.

WHAT DREW YOU TO THE FIELD? I've loved the outdoors since I was a small child. I worked in natural resources for a decade before I began writing as a way to share my love of the outdoors with others.

WHAT ENTICED YOU TO JOIN (OR REJOIN) OWAA? I was drawn to OWAA as a place where I could network with established professionals and learn from seasoned communicators.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE OUTDOOR ACTIVITY? It's hard to pick just one, but I am haunted by waters. In the warmer months you can find me throwing flies at fresh or saltwater species. I spend the colder months chasing ducks and geese.

WHAT ARE YOU CURRENTLY WORKING ON? Currently, I'm creating written and video content for a number of publications including *Field & Stream*, *Outdoor Life*, *Strung*, *Fly Fisherman*, *Tail* and others.

WHAT HAVE YOU GAINED FROM THE ORGANIZATION? OWAA has provided many opportunities through the job listings in the Outdoor Marketplace. Membership has allowed me to reach out to other, more experienced members for advice.