

# OUTDOORS UNLIMITED

OUTDOOR WRITERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

THE VOICE OF THE OUTDOORS

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2019

## SPRING INTO CHANGE

Drone technology, online video  
deliver the views | [p. 6, 10](#)



Member discounts and deals, a  
reintroduction to an old friend  
AND MORE.



# OUTDOORS UNLIMITED

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2019 | VOL. 80, NO. 2

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### FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## New roles for familiar faces

Sylvia Bashline was OWAA's executive director (ED) when I joined the organization in 1991, a position she held for 10 years when OWAA was headquartered in State College, Pennsylvania.

Seven others have followed in her footsteps: Jim Rainey, Steve Wagner, Bill Geer, Kevin Rhoades, Robin Ginner, Tom Sadler and Brandon Shuler (plus a six-month interim gig in 2017 by Colleen Miniuk-Sperry).

And now there's me in a similar interim role while a board-appointed special committee begins looking for the next permanent ED.

Having been temporarily handed the reins brings to mind what Mark Sosin told me when I was elected vice-president of OWAA several years ago.

"Congratulations. Now don't screw it up."

So, what needs to be done to avoid that? For starters, taking care of you. That's the number 1 priority.

My intent is to engage the membership as often as possible through Outdoors Unlimited, our website, consistent distribution of timely news releases and ramped-up activity on OWAA's social media platforms.

Fortunately, I've had the advantage of Brandon, Colleen and Tom as a safety net while getting familiarized with managing OWAA's day-to-day operations. Their support has been immeasurable, as has that of OWAA President Paul Queneau, the rest of the executive committee, the board of directors and legal counsel Bill Powell.

And of course, Jessica Seitz.

It's been my good fortune to have worked closely with Jessica in planning the Billings, Montana, conference in 2017 and last year's gathering in Fort Wayne. She is immensely talented, which is no surprise to most of you, and we are blessed to have someone like her who cares deeply about our group.

The current transitional phase in headquarters staffing has the added

twist of Jessica's request to move from a full-time position to part time so she can have more time to spend with her husband, Tucker, and newborn daughter, Elizabeth.

Jessica will continue to coordinate OWAA's two biggest undertakings: the annual conference and the Excellence in Craft Contest. However, she will shed the member services coordinator duties.

That doesn't mean service to the membership is being abandoned, but it will require a good deal of juggling.

Our board of directors has identified member services and communications as key needs for OWAA, whether that's achieved through hiring additional staff or outsourcing.

Regardless, our objectives are aligned.

During my nearly 30 years as an OWAA member, headquarters was in two locations: Pennsylvania and Missoula, Montana.

The Missoula office moved from one building to another before being shuttered last year when then-OU editor Kelsey Dayton left to enter law school. With Jessica working from her home in Chewelah, Washington, and Brandon in Florida, it made no sense to keep paying rent for empty space.

That won't change much. The mailing address remains the same, but I will work from my home in Fort Wayne. Knowing that I'll be spending a lot more time in front of the computer, I've invested in a new office chair.

What I look forward to the most is hearing from you. What can OWAA do for you? What suggestions do you have for improving the organization, our conference, our outreach?

That's not a promise that all your ideas will be implemented, but you will be heard.

— Phil Bloom is OWAA's interim executive director. Reach him at [pbloom@owaa.org](mailto:pbloom@owaa.org) 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.



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#### ON THE COVER

BY TIM CHRISTIE | Male mountain bluebird perched on a limb on the ground with spring wildflowers in the background. Tim Christie submitted this stunning photo in December 2018, right before embarking on a 10-day photography trip to New Mexico, followed by a hunting excursion in Texas. Go to pages 16-19 to see the rest of Christie's portfolio for this issue of Outdoors Unlimited.



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

# It's a new year, and change is in the air



OWAA President Paul Queneau is conservation editor of Bugle magazine at the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation.

Paul Queneau  
OWAA president  
pqueneau@RMEF.ORG

As I write this in mid-January, OWAA is on the cusp of a big change, but one I see filled with promise. Executive Director Brandon Shuler recently submitted his resignation, which is something that always ignites a scramble by the president, the other members of the executive committee and the board to refill that position.

After Tom Sadler left the ED post in late 2016, then-president Brett Prettyman had the distinct benefit of having Colleen Miniuk-Sperry, a board member and current OWAA board secretary, step forward to serve as interim ED while a hiring committee conducted a national search to find a new leader. That process took six months, but she stuck with it and the organization is better for her efforts.

As soon as I received Brandon's notice, I began pondering if there might be anyone willing to do what Colleen did for us. Former OWAA president Phil Bloom immediately came to mind. He recently retired after a long and distinguished career as director of communications for the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, and before that as outdoors editor for The Journal Gazette newspaper. He was honored twice as Indiana DNR's Outdoor Writer of the Year and twice as well as Indiana Wildlife Federation Conservation Communicator of the Year.

A member of OWAA for almost three decades, Phil has served in a variety of volunteer leadership positions, including two terms as board president (2008-09 and 2017-18) and one term as board secretary. He was also elected twice to the board of directors. In 2013 he received the J. Hammond Brown Award for lifetime service to OWAA.

I knew it might be a long shot, but I suggested him as a possible interim director to OWAA's executive committee. They

enthusiastically agreed, and I reached out to him. After sleeping on it for a night to mull over the idea and talk to his wife Jessie, he called me back. I was thrilled to hear he was not only willing, but also excited about the prospect. He said he's been enjoying retirement but looking for something like this to sink his teeth into, and it sounded like just the kind of challenge he sought.

So the executive committee brought that idea before the board, which agreed to engage Phil as a prospective interim executive director, if he remained so willing. We invited him to join us at the winter board meeting in Little Rock, Arkansas, and Bill Powell drew up a one-year contract based on the length of time it might take to conduct a national search. After the board voted unanimously to accept the contract at the meeting, Phil worked alongside Brandon during a brief transition period.

While Phil is getting his feet under him as interim ED, I'll be busy working with the board to update OWAA's strategic plan, which will be a vital tool to help set the direction of the OWAA moving forward. I'll also be working with the board to organize a nationwide search for a new ED. It can be time-consuming, but it's also too important to rush.

I encourage member feedback both on what you'd like to see in a new strategic plan, the former version of which you can read at <http://owaa.org/about/strategic-plan>. I also encourage feedback on any changes you'd like to see in the executive director's role as we work to update that job description.

In the meantime, I want to thank Phil for stepping up so quickly when asked, and to Brandon for his service as he departs for other adventures.

# Farm Bill passage a win for hunters, anglers

Wildlife funding and public access will be increased

The \$876 billion Farm Bill passed in late December by Congress and signed by President Trump includes big victories for hunters, anglers and wildlife, according to a press release issued by the National Wildlife Federation.

As the primary source of private land wildlife conservation funding in the country, the Farm Bill included incentives for wildlife habitat and hunter access. Congress also left out proposed riders to the bill that would have negative impacts on fish and wildlife.

Aviva Glaser, director of agriculture policy for the National Wildlife Federation, says the bill's increase in Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) funds for wildlife will help farmers, ranchers and forest owners adopt wildlife practices that aid species like bobwhite quail, cutthroat trout and sage grouse. At present, \$60 million per year is allocated but the bill

will see EQIP funding rise to \$175-\$200 million per year, the release states.

The bill also includes \$50 million over five years for the Voluntary Public Access-Habitat Incentives Program — an increase of \$10 million from the last Farm Bill. This program will help farmers and ranchers restore habitat and open up private lands for walk-in hunting, fishing and other outdoor recreation.

"Private working lands provide important habitat for both game and nongame wildlife," Glaser states in the release. "With shrinking habitat across the country and species in crisis, one of the exciting wins in this Farm Bill was the increase in wildlife funding. Over a five-year period, there will be an additional \$600 million-plus over and above current wildlife funding levels that will go toward helping farmers, ranchers and foresters create wildlife habitat on working lands."

## Hunt's Photo and Video appoints new OWAA sales rep

Noah Buchanan will review products in future OU issues

Noah Buchanan has been appointed OWAA sales rep at Hunt's Photo and Video in Melrose, Massachusetts. Buchanan is available to answer questions or talk photography anytime, and he will be resuming Hunt's tradition of providing product reviews in upcoming issues of Outdoors Unlimited.

"Please let me know if there are any specific products you'd like to see reviewed, as well as products you'd like to see specials and savings on," Buchanan says.

He can be reached Monday through Friday at 781-462-2356 or via email anytime at [nbuchanan@huntsphoto.com](mailto:nbuchanan@huntsphoto.com).

Hunt's Photo and Video is just one of the many supporting businesses and organizations offering great deals and discounts to OWAA members. Turn to page 20 for more ways to save on products and services you need to do your best work.





# Take stories to new heights WITH DRONES

BY KRIS MILLGATE |  
IDAHO FALLS, IDAHO

I SULKED FOR 18 MONTHS. I honestly did. When the FAA decided to enforce rules for professional drone operators and let hobbyists have a free-for-all, I sulked in a serious way. If I'm going to invest in equipment for my production company, Tight Line Media, I'm going to use that equipment to make money. That's how I justify equipment and pay my mortgage.

Equipment costs are part of my profession, so in my 12 years as a freelancer, I've adapted to dramatic changes in the camera equipment. I started with one standard-definition camera in 2006. I switched to one high-definition (HD) camera in 2009, then upgraded to 4K (4 times as good as HD) in 2017. And it's not just one camera anymore. Now I have more than one, including underwater and overhead. I travel with a handful of cameras when I'm on assignment. Each one serves a unique purpose. One in particular also has unique rules: my drone.

The moment you make money from aerial footage shot with your drone, you advance from hobbyist to professional. Pros have to be licensed drone pilots, even if they have no interest in flying planes. I don't agree with that mandate, so I grounded my drone. That was my sulky summer of 2016.

A year later, I'm watching my neighbor, a hobbyist, fly his drone in our shared green space while my drone collects dust. I'm more than sulking. I'm steaming. Steaming mad. He's a nuisance with a new gadget, and he's too close to the airport. Pro violations would be piling up, but since he's a hobbyist, he's clear. Makes no sense.

Me sulking for 18 months makes no sense either, but I did. While I made my point by grounding my drone, I also didn't make a difference. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) doesn't care if I'm losing work because I can't shoot aerals because I won't take their test. That's just one less drone in their airspace that they have to worry about. I realized the only person I was punishing was me.

January 2018. Get over it. I stopped



Don't let the confusing rules governing drone photography keep you grounded.  
Photo: Kris Millgate.

sulking and started studying, every day for an hour at 6 a.m. I had to be done before getting kids off to school so I could then focus on things that actually pay my bills, like print and video stories for media outlets nationwide.

I stuck to my study plan for a month, took the test in February and passed. Barely. I'm proud of my barely. You have to pay \$150 every time you test. Paying it once was painful enough. Failing and having to pay again to test again would be torture. I took my 70 percent, barely passing score and ran with it. My whole town is within 5 miles of the airport, so I have to run far before I fly, but fly I do — with a drone pilot's license in my pocket.

My brain isn't built for half the information required to pass the test. Aircraft pilots have me beat on applicable relevance. That's why so many of them are easily picking up drone licenses and calling themselves filmmakers. Truth is, they're not. I don't call myself a pilot. Pilots shouldn't call themselves filmmakers.

The two are not interchangeable just because we have to take the same test.

I still don't want to be a pilot, but I want that overhead angle in my stories, and I'll take a test to get it. I test again when I renew my license in 2020.

## DO'S AND DON'TS

- Do study before testing. For at least a month. Online schools for \$300 are worth it, but make sure you choose a school that is media-friendly. Watching video is much more tolerable than reading dull flight training text.
- Don't sulk about having to know what won't apply to your purpose. Just know it, all of it, for the test.
- Do schedule your test before you finish studying. Some testing centers need several weeks' notice. And know where approved testing centers are. My closest approved center is two hours away, round trip, so I have travel expense on top of \$150 per test.
- Don't assume you can fly anywhere just because you passed the test. Many places ban all drone use, including national parks and some national monuments.

— Outdoor journalist Kris Millgate is based in Idaho, where she runs trail and chases trout. Sometimes she even catches them when she doesn't have a camera, or a kid, on her back. See more of her work at [www.tightlinemedia.com](http://www.tightlinemedia.com).



# Finding the stories in nature

Characters and plots abound, if you know where to look.

BY EMILY STONE | CABLE, WISCONSIN

**F**IRST-GRADERS ARE FUN TO TEACH. Sure, they can be a little rambunctious and giggly, but I know a magic trick. Seat them in a circle on their classroom rug and start telling a story. As long as it's a good story, and doesn't go on too long, they'll stare at you — wide-eyed, open-mouthed and silent — for the duration.

But we all have an inner first-grader, and we can be just as captivated by a good story. The difference, at least for me, is in where I find my stories these days.

The stories in nature are as good as, or better than, anything we can invent, and they are everywhere you look!

A couple of years ago, I found an aging maple leaf with a squiggly line etched through it. That squiggle was the recently vacated home of a leaf miner — one of many species of tiny larvae that feed on the juicy green mesophyll between the skins of a leaf. Along much of the translucent mine there was a fuzzy brown line of frass (caterpillar poop) down the center, but in some sections a zigzag pattern became visible.

Charley Eiseman, co-author of the fantastic resource, "Tracks & Signs of Insects and Other Invertebrates," and the Bug-Tracks blog, explained the cause of this pattern in an email. "It's mesmerizing," he wrote, "to watch a nepticulid larva at work under magnification — the central frass line is made up of many tiny pellets, and the larva is constantly depositing them as it eats, wiggling its tail end around methodically to place them just so."

Irregularities in the line tell us exactly where the larva grew too big for its breeches and molted into a new instar. The line of frass ended about a quarter of an inch from the end of the mine. That represents the length of the larva just before it popped out of the leaf, dropped to the ground and formed a cocoon to overwinter in. After reading that story as it squiggled across a leaf, I felt like I had

just watched a caterpillar grow up before my eyes.

When I wrote about that leaf mine for my weekly Natural Connections newspaper column, it became three stories in one. First was the discovery story of how I found the leaf. Second was a detective story outlining how I deciphered my clues, and third was the story of the caterpillar's short life. I use these basic plots often in both my writing and my teaching, so that any natural history information I want to convey is wrapped up in a story.

When humans are involved, stories of discovery catch my eye. The plot might contain an adventure, the research or the revelation. Sometimes my own life becomes part of the story. Sometimes I retell the exploits of a friend, a famous naturalist or a talented scientist. These probably are the most common stories you already use in your writing.

But, at least in my role as a naturalist and educator, not every story needs to include a human to be valid. Animal life cycles like that of the moth larva above, the phenology of nature through the seasons, food chains, relationships and adaptations all provide excellent characters and plot lines.

Last spring I found a crab spider hiding just below a spring beauty blossom while I was photographing wildflowers. Like any good superhero, she had become nearly invisible by turning white to match the flower (crab spiders can also turn yellow or green) and was waiting in ambush. Or so I thought. Looking more closely, I discovered the hairy, black body of a native bee dangling from the spider's clutches. This hapless bee had probably just emerged from her hibernaculum and was gathering resources to provision her young. That plot synopsis might read: single mother caught in the trap of a color-shifting villain.

Have you ever wondered why spruce trees rarely recolonize abandoned beaver meadows, even when spruce dominates the surrounding forest? Spruce seeds need

a particular fungus to colonize their roots and help them gather nutrients. Red-backed voles eat those fungi and disperse their spores, making them available to spruce seeds. But feisty meadow voles thrive in the beaver meadows, and won't allow red-backed voles into their grassy realms. Spruce seeds must stick to the forest or succumb to starvation. There's a story of a well-defended castle.

Adventure . . . resourcefulness . . . mysteries . . . magic . . . I still want to read and write about those themes. I've just discovered that I don't need to invent anything. Nature has already done it for me.

Now, you may have noticed that the stories I'm drawn to are pretty nerdy. Larvae, spiders and bees are not exactly charismatic megafauna. But that's exactly why using stories to teach about them is so important. If I can transform my subjects into heroes that inspire us, underdogs we root for or villains that make us shiver, then while I'm telling my story, everyone's inner first-grader will be wide-eyed, open-mouthed and silent for the duration.

— Emily Stone is the naturalist/education director at the Cable Natural History Museum, where she channels her inner first-grader into teaching, writing and telling stories. See more at [www.cablemuseum.org/connect](http://www.cablemuseum.org/connect).



The life cycles of all living things, even trees and plants, provide inspiration for stories if you look close enough.



# STATUS UPDATE: Change the way your audience views video

Want to stop incessant scrollers? Try filling the screen

BY KAREN LOKE | AUSTIN, TEXAS

I WAS A NEWS JUNKIE. I loved chasing it, shooting it, telling it and being first to get it out on the 10 o'clock news. My first job out of college was as a part-time overnight photojournalist covering homicides, fires, deadly wrecks and all things horrific to grab audiences. The NBC affiliate paid me a whopping \$4.98 an hour and kept me scheduled under the 40-hour minimum full-time employee status to avoid paying for insurance. This was a common practice in Austin, where the University of Texas pumped out about 500 plus radio-television-film students annually, almost all of whom want to stay in Austin, including yours truly.

I also shot high school football games on Friday nights, which was hard work but less horrific. That was 1990. Cameras were big and heavy, and I was only 120 pounds, but still young and fit.

Today, the big cameras are gone. Cell phones are acceptable forms of media attainment and delivery to your audience, and live streaming is quicker than a satellite truck. There aren't any Nielsen ratings on social media, but there are analytics — analytics for YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat and other forms of social media.

Before I switched from TV news to social media video production, I had that same drive to catch large numbers of viewers. I wrote character-driven stories that made viewers care about the subject and identify with the person portrayed in the story. That's basic storytelling 101 and should never change, no matter what happens with the way your audience views the story.

What did change was the format in which I delivered those stories. The Internet and other web-based storage and delivery methods for high-quality, high-resolution video eliminated the need for costly dubs and mail-outs of Beta SP tapes, a savings of more than \$800 monthly to the company where I work.

And things are still changing. It's not enough to just get the information out there on the web. You have to compete with everything else that's out there. Facebook is a river that never stops flowing, and to grab a viewer is equivalent to casting a perfect fly to that sweet spot in the river and hooking that fish.

One way to capture more eyeballs? Fill the landscape by changing the size of the video you post on Instagram and Facebook.

Most people watch video through their mobile phones or tablets. If you want to grab attention and entice your audience to actually click and watch your video, filling up the screen is a definite plus. Most video is widescreen 16x9 format. That will give you a horizontal rectangle on your mobile device with a

lot of space above and below your video, as well as competing information. I recently switched my size settings to square format (1200x1200) so when it is posted, it fills up most of the landscape on the phone.

As a social media video producer, I'm always looking for new ways to get the constant smartphone scroller to pause and take notice of my video and ultimately click on the image to get the full message.

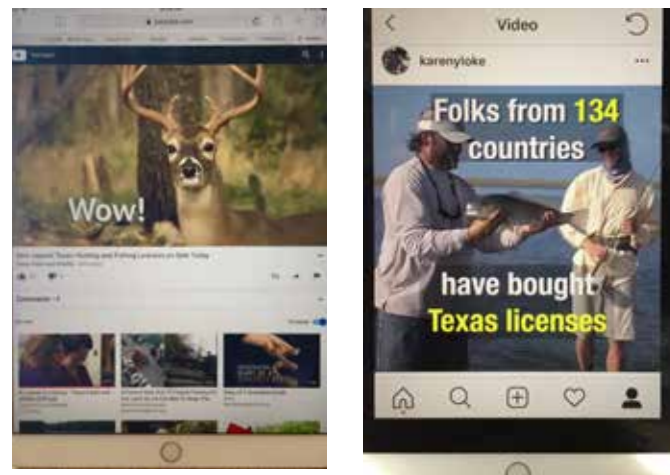
Analytics, however, show that the average "scroller" will watch six seconds or less of video. That's not much time to grab your audience. Statistics also show that most "scrollers" don't listen to audio while viewing video, so it's important to use text on screen to tell your message. Coming from a documentary background, this was a hard transition for me. I relied on natural sound to hook audiences. I'll still keep the sound in the video, but I know that few people will ultimately hear it.

Adding catchy music is a good idea, too. Just in case your viewer does have the audio on, music can set the tone of your video. But keep the music at one minute or less. Less is more. You can put a link in your post to lure viewers to the full production or more information, images, video and so on.

Social media is meant to be a tease. And there's no better payoff than all those "likes" and "shares." So start flirting.

Helpful note: There is no official Instagram app for iPads. Download the phone app to your iPad. One way to do it is to open Instagram on your iPad web browser and click on the link to download the app.

— Karen Loke is a social media video producer for Texas Parks and Wildlife.



# Presents and treasures

With the holidays behind us, it's time to appreciate the gifts that never stop giving

BY PAT WRAY | CORVALLIS, WASHINGTON

DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON, spoilage is not limited to foodstuffs lost in the back of our refrigerator ... it spreads like wildfire through our grandchildren. I wonder sometimes how we managed to raise our own children without them becoming terribly spoiled. "It was easy," my wife explained. "We didn't have enough money to spoil them."

One of the benefits of being financially challenged, I guess.

Nowadays, I struggle to find store-bought gifts for my grandchildren. I'm not fast enough to catch the fleeting fashions for my granddaughter, and any clothing I might buy for the boys will be outgrown before spring.

But I know the gifts I'll give them when we spend more time together.

I'll give them the chance to watch the blood-red sun sink behind the Cascades just as the dark orange moon rises over the Owyhee Mountains.

I'll teach them how to read bobcat tracks across virgin snow and understand from them the predator's leaping attack onto a surprised and unfortunate mouse.

I'll sit with them for hours by a mountain stream until they absorb the rhythm of the water and understand the movements of insects and feeding patterns of trout. Then I'll accompany them into the water with snorkels and masks so we can watch those same feeding fish from below.

I'll help them dig a snow cave and spend the night listening to the oppressive silence as we watch ice worms glisten across the walls.

A special gift would be helping them learn to call in different species of animals. I won't let them quit until they successfully attract ducks, geese, elk, deer, turkeys, moose, coyotes, wolves, bobcats, owls, blue grouse and with luck, cougars and bears.

I'll teach them how to fly and how to parachute out of aircraft. I hope those experiences will lead to a lifetime of dreams of soaring across the sky. I still occasionally dream of leaping miles across the land. It will be a special gift, indeed.

I'll pray they receive the gift of peace for themselves and their children, but I have no real hope it will materialize. So, I'll try to instill in them physical courage to meet the challenges they will face during their time in the outdoors, in their dealings with wild animals, dangerous weather and unforgiving terrain. Their physical courage will be sorely needed as well, as they navigate the societal and international conflicts that are certainly on our horizon.

I'll do my best to help instill in them an understanding that they are part of the earth and have a right and responsibility to protect their home. I hope to pass along a streak of stubborn-

ness that they'll need to stand up against the army of fools who want to disregard scientific research in favor of extreme beliefs or short-term economic benefits.

I'm not much for organized religion, since I don't feel the need for an interpreter in my own dealings with the Almighty, but I'd like to introduce my grandchildren to the concept that the remarkable nature of this world cannot simply be explained by evolution. And that they should maintain a cordial relationship with their chosen deity. I don't think it matters what name you use, but I'm pretty sure that He or She just wants to be acknowledged and thanked occasionally for the treasures we enjoy.

And treasures they truly are. My best and most important gifts will simply be teaching my grandchildren the ability to see and appreciate those treasures. And to accept their responsibility in the fight for their protection.

— Pat Wray's new novel, "Gift of the Grenadier," is now available in local bookstores, online and at [www.patwray.com](http://www.patwray.com). He can be reached at [patwray@comcast.net](mailto:patwray@comcast.net).

## SIX CANDIDATES CHOSEN TO RUN FOR OWAA BOARD

Six candidates, selected by OWAA's board nominating committee, will compete for three seats on the Outdoor Writers Association of America's board of directors. They will replace Robert Ford, Karen Loke and Christine Peterson. Those elected will begin their three-year term June 24, 2019. Candidate profiles will appear in the April/May issue of OU. Active, senior-active and life members will vote in an online election in April. Below is the slate in alphabetical order.

Jack Ballard  
Red Lodge, Montana

Trey Reid  
Little Rock, Arkansas

Nick Lowrey  
Pierre, South Dakota

David Sikes  
Corpus Christi, Texas

Gary Moore  
Bradford, Vermont

Emily Stone  
Cable, Wisconsin

# Hit the trail

Outdoor escapes abound in Little Rock for 2019 OWAA conference-goers



BY ZOIE CLIFT | LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

**T**HE LARGEST CITY IN ARKANSAS, Little Rock sits in the center of the state on the banks of the Arkansas River. One way to experience the region's natural beauty amid an urban landscape is the renowned Arkansas River Trail.

"The core of the Arkansas River Trail is a 15.6-mile, off-street trail loop anchored by the Big Dam Bridge to the west and the Clinton Presidential Park Bridge to the east and running along both sides of the Arkansas River in between," says John Lando-sky, the City of Little Rock's bicycle and pedestrian coordinator. "The trail is a beautiful recreational asset and an important bicy-cle and pedestrian transportation corridor in our community."

Multiple points of entry grant access to the Arkansas River Trail to start an adventurous day of urban walking. The Clinton Presidential Park Bridge is one such spot. The bridge is named after former U.S. President Bill Clinton, who also served as governor of Arkansas. Parking is available nearby at the Clinton Presidential Center at 1200 President Clinton Ave.

The bridge is used as a bike and pedestrian pathway across the Arkansas River and connects the cities of Little Rock and North Little Rock. It showcases expansive views of both the river and the downtown skyline, along with a vantage of the William E. "Bill" Clark Presidential Park Wetlands below. This restored wet-lands habitat can be accessed directly from the trail and explored via an elevated boardwalk.

Continuing west along the Little Rock riverbank, the Arkan-sas River Trail leads walkers to the nearby River Market District,

the entertainment hub of the city. There are many pit stop options among the many restaurants, coffee shops, stores and museums that call this popular district home.

Along the trail is the free-to-tour Witt Stephens Jr. Nature Center. Outside the center are bird feeding stations and gardens that feature native plants. Inside are displays and exhibits that teach about the wildlife and natural resources of the state.

The trail also goes by the Ottenheimer Market Hall, home to a year-round indoor market and seasonal outdoor farm-ers' market. This is also an access point to Riverfront Park, a picturesque landscape that stretches for 11 blocks on the south bank of the river. The park offers many attractions, including the beautiful Petit Roche Plaza, a showcase for the stone the city is named after. The Junction Bridge Pedestrian Walkway, which connects both sides of the river and carried trains across the Arkansas River until the 1980s, is here. And don't miss the Vogel Schwartz Sculpture Garden and its array of whimsical sculptures located along the trail. The Arkansas River Trail continues into an on-street portion of the route, so an ideal option if one is on foot and wants to keep exploring is to backtrack to the Junction Bridge Pedestrian Walkway and walk over the river to North Shore Riverwalk Park in North Little Rock.

Expansive views of both cities and the river can be seen from the bridge, and once one steps on the north shore there are mul-tiple options, depending on what one is in the mood for.

To the east, the trail leads back to the Clinton Presidential Park Bridge via the north shore section of the Arkansas River Trail. The downtown Argenta Arts District, full of art galleries,

plus bars, restaurants and coffee shops for refueling, is also with-in walking distance from the trail. To the west, the trail goes by the Arkansas Inland Maritime Museum, featuring guided tours of a World War II submarine, and continues on along the north side of the river for around 7 picturesque miles until it reaches the western anchor of the trail at the Big Dam Bridge.

The Arkansas River Trail is a long trail with many miles and sections to explore. Access points in both Little Rock and North Little Rock can be used as bases for trail exploration, whether via foot or bike. The bridges along the trail are destinations in them-selves, including the famous Big Dam Bridge, the longest bridge in the country built specifically for walkers and cyclists.

The bridges are lures for both walkers and cyclists, and if on

a bike, one can make a game plan to hit them all in one ride. "Visitors really need to experience the bicycle/pedestrian bridges," says Lynn Bell, a member of the Arkansas River Trail Task Force. "Beginning with the Clinton Presidential Park Bridge and going through North Little Rock to the Big Dam Bridge and then farther west to the Two Rivers Park Bridge, there is beautiful scenery and the feeling of being far away from the city, even though you're right near the downtowns. From Two Rivers Park, riders can easily travel on to Pinnacle Moun-tain State Park, which is another local gem."

— Zoie Clift is a travel writer with the Arkansas Tourism Department.

## Conference preview: sessions

OWAA's 2019 annual conference presents several unique educational opportunities

### EXAMINING THE ETHANOL MANDATE

Congress established the Renewable Fuel Standard Program to reduce greenhouse gases and carbon monoxide emissions. It mandates plant-based fuels be added to all consumer fuels. The Environmental Protection Agency recently announced an increase in the formula from 10 to 15 percent. To meet the requirements, farmland, especially in the Midwest and Plains states, is being converted to produce corn ethanol and soy diesel, but there have been unintended consequences – damage to boat engines and effects on wildlife. Representatives from the EPA, National Marine Manufacturers Association and National Wild-life Federation will discuss the effects of ethanol fuels.

### MIXED-USE RIVER MANAGEMENT

Managing water resources is a balancing act between energy production, agricultural and recreational uses, and wildlife needs. As droughts increase, water temperatures rise, and human populations grow, effective management of these often-compet-ing interests is more important than ever. Mismanagement can have lasting financial and social consequences. Representatives from the energy sector, American Rivers and Arkansas' Buffalo River watershed will discuss how to find this balance.

### USING TECHNOLOGY TO DEVELOP CONTENT

Trending topics, viral videos and data-driven algorithms have changed how media managers and marketers value their content and measure its success with readers, listeners and viewers. The mass explosion of online content and data provides the tools to target content to specific individuals, communities and other demographics. Learn how editors and marketers are using these data in their decision making and how their actions can affect the way you pitch and write stories.

### PRODUCT REVIEW RELATIONSHIPS AND EXPECTATIONS

Products provided for gear reviews can be a win-win situation. Product marketers want an authentic voice to represent their products to consumers. Outdoor journalists have the skills and know-how to test the product and communicate that experience to their audiences. But to make the relationship between mar-keters and journalists successful, both parties should understand the expectations. With return on investment and earned media impressions driving marketing budgets, hear what product man-ufacturers expect when they get requests for demo gear. Know-ing what to ask a marketing representative up front can help you determine if their gear will be a good fit for the project or stories you have in mind.

### SOCIAL MEDIA INFLUENCERS

Want to boost your social media game? Individuals with large social media followings are in demand from companies and other content platforms to help boost their messages to a wide online audience. These new outlets have allowed people to mon-etize their social media presence by working with brands and agencies to generate content. Hear from marketing agencies how these relationships work and how to break into this new world of online opportunity.

### CLIMATE CHANGE AND WILDLIFE

Climate change affects wildlife species by altering their home ranges, migration routes and behavior patterns. Anglers and hunters are seeing how the changes affect their success. This seminar will explore how state and federal agencies and conser-vation groups are addressing the challenge of helping wildlife, sportsmen and sportswomen adapt to a changing landscape.



# Passive culpability, and how to avoid it

Writers, pay attention to fairness and the power of phrasing

BY KARUNA EBERL | CUDJOE KEY, FLORIDA

**T**HE GRIZZLY ATE THE SALMON. The salmon was eaten by the grizzly. Safe to say, anyone who has qualified for OWAA membership gets the difference between these two phrases.

But passive phrasings aren't always as simple as lax syntax. Sometimes they harbor more dubious motives. As President Nixon's spokesman said, "Mistakes were made." Yes, they were. But his removal of the subject from that sentence was not one of them. By getting rid of the pesky perpetrator, he avoided having to declare who was at fault. It's easier to say *it's regrettable* than *I'm sorry*.

We, as humans, use this sort of passive culpability often. It helps gloss over the details of uncomfortable facts. For example: *Honey, your favorite coffee cup just broke*, vs. *Honey, I just broke your favorite coffee cup*. Similarly, a journalist not wanting to alienate a source might lead with: *A man was killed in an officer-involved shooting*, vs. *Officer Poncherello shot and killed a man suspected of robbery*.

Passive culpability phrasing is so ingrained in our lexicon that, for better or worse, it sneaks in all over the place. For example, an opening paragraph about the Trail of Tears on teachinghistory.org states: "16,000 Cherokees were forcibly relocated from their ancestral lands." By what, bears? Fires? No, of course it was by people, people who chose to hurt other people. People who were my ancestors. That's a hard one to reckon with. It's a lot harder when the perpetrator is identified, and no longer nebulous.

The idea for this article sprang from a conversation with a fellow OWAA member, who pointed out that the phrase "violence against women" contains some problematic nuances, most notably a disappearing perpetrator. Though the people who cause the violence are most often men, this phrase takes men out of

the equation, thus subtly redefining it as a women's problem. It also replaces the uncomfortable, active verb *rape* (or *intimidate, attack or harass*), with the more palatable noun *violence*.

As George Orwell wrote in "Politics and the English Language": "Such phraseology is needed if one wants to name things without calling up mental pictures of them." Passive phrases distance both writer and reader from that which we would rather not face.

This is not to say that every uncomfortable fact needs to be in your face. Wait, let me phrase myself back into that sentence. I'm not advocating that every crappy fact be forced front and center. But I find it interesting how often I instinctively parrot passive phrasing. For example, the other day I wrote: *In May, 90 acres of endangered pine rocklands habitat were lost to development*. I rephrased it to: *A south Florida developer illegally bulldozed 90 acres of endangered habitat*. After all, this habitat did not just mysteriously disappear. Someone chose to destroy it. Still others chose to carry out that person's orders.

Another friend recently pointed out a similar observation in semantics. Our point of view usually comes into play, even when we think we are simply reporting the facts. He uses this example with his college English students:

*A group of Cuban refugees found freedom after crossing the Straits aboard a makeshift raft, as compared to: Local police intercepted a group*

*of Haitian immigrants after their boat made landfall on Key Biscayne.*

To put it into context: In South Florida, Cuban culture is celebrated, while racism toward other immigrants still lurks.

So here's a tricky one. A headline said that this year's toxic green algae blooms were caused by "nutrient-rich waters, heat and rain." Well, that is true. From a biological standpoint, those



The car window beckoned. The mayfly was vain.  
A photo was taken. Photo: Karuna Eberl.

## Andres Jimenez: Climate ally

**A**NDRES JIMENEZ is the Citizens' Climate Lobby's senior director of government affairs. In that role, he works with both the House and Senate to help expand the voice of Citizens' Climate Lobby and advocate for relevant legislation. Previously, Andres served as the associate director of government relations at Ocean Conservancy.

**Q What is the primary mission of the Citizens' Climate Lobby?**

**A** CCL's mission is to build the political will for the climate solutions we all need. As empowered citizens, our volunteers talk with neighbors, friends and local officials about how national climate action can help ensure a healthy future while strengthening the American economy.

**Q How and why was the CCL created?**

**A** CCL was founded in 2008 by Marshall Saunders. Before founding CCL, he had been working on microcredit — giving very small loans to people in developing countries. He soon realized that unless we addressed climate change, all those people who were working hard and building better lives for their families would be terribly harmed by droughts, food shortages, extreme heat and so on. He decided to form CCL to work on the huge problem of climate change, and during its early years, CCL took shape as a volunteer-driven organization that lobbies for a price on carbon.

**Q The CCL is dedicated to working on climate solutions in a bipartisan atmosphere. Why is this important, and how do you accomplish this in today's current political environment?**

**A** It's important to have bipartisan support for any major solution so that it can pass and so that it has staying power. Our incoming Congress has a Democratic House and a Republican Senate, meaning if we truly want legislation to pass through both chambers and get to the president's desk to become law, it will need to have buy-in from both parties. Then, having bipartisan support will prevent climate change from becoming a wedge that the parties and candidates use to drive distance between themselves in future campaigns. Instead, it will be an issue that serves as a bridge between the two parties, offering at least one area where legislators and Americans of both parties can stand on common ground.

We build bipartisan consensus through, quite simply, democracy. CCL has more than 100,000 supporters across the country, many of whom write, call or meet personally with their members of Congress during the year to encourage them to support bipartisan climate solutions like the recently introduced Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act. When real constituents show up in a member's office and express their concern about climate change, it moves the needle in both parties.

**Q What is the least communicated need in climate work, both scientifically and legislatively?**

**A** As far as the science of climate change, you can never make these four points enough: it's real; it's bad; scientists agree that it's human-caused, and we can fix it. In terms of legislation, we really don't talk enough about putting a straightforward price on carbon. The latest IPCC report from the UN said that carbon pricing is "central to mitigation" of climate change, so we need to communicate that more. Well-designed carbon pricing policy, like that laid out in the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act, can be effective at reducing emissions, while being good for people and good for the economy overall.

**Q How can OWAA members better communicate the CCL mission, and who should members reach out to for help on stories and news?**

**A** OWAA members can pursue stories that show Americans of every stripe are concerned about climate change. From hunters and anglers, to skiers and snowboarders, to families who enjoy camping and hiking, we can all agree that we want our natural resources to be preserved and our climate to be stable. The more it's clear that Americans are in agreement, the more likely it is that Congress will respond.



Andres Jimenez fishing with his daughters Norah and Emma in July 2018 on Florida's Anna Maria Island. Photo: Andres Jimenez.

Continued on page 26



PHOTOGRAPHY  
BY TIM CHRISTIE

Tim Christie joined OWAA in 1985 and credits the organization with invaluable assistance in helping him to achieve success as a freelance wildlife and nature photographer and writer. He was the recipient of the OWAA Excellence in Craft award in 2015. You can view more of his images at [Timchristiephoto.com](http://Timchristiephoto.com).



LEFT PAGE: Male house finch eating juniper berries in late January.

TOP LEFT: Pika with grass in its mouth.

TOP RIGHT: Greater sage grouse displaying on a lek in early spring.

BOTTOM LEFT: Beaver stands below a cottonwood tree that was felled for food.





Mule deer buck stands on alert framed against an Arizona red rock background.

TOP: Common loon feeds day-old chick a worm.  
ABOVE: Yellow pine chipmunk pair interact atop a rock.  
RIGHT: Porcupine stands atop a deadfall surrounded by arrowleaf balsam-root flowers in bloom.



# Member discounts and deals

Check out the 2019 courtesy discounts offered by OWAA Supporting Groups, Agencies and Businesses

Supporting group access to OWAA is open to groups, agencies and businesses with an interest in the outdoor field and a desire to support OWAA programs — for expanded public information on outdoor recreation and conservation, professional craft improvement and recognition of outdoor writing as a specialized field.

Traditionally, many OWAA supporters have extended courtesy discounts to OWAA members to help build relationships with them. For more information on member discounts, email membership@owaa.org or call 406-728-7434.

**ABERDEEN AREA CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU** offers to arrange film and media tours for members of OWAA. We work directly with guides, outfitters, landowners and lodges. We can help make the connections needed to host a quality film and media event. Many times there is no charge for these film and media events. Contact Casey Weismantel at caseyw@visitaberdeensd.com or 605-225-2414 for more information.

**ABSOLUTE OUTDOOR INC.** offers a 30 percent media discount to OWAA members on Full Throttle, Onyx and ArcticShield products. Contact Mary Snyder at msnyder@absoluteoutdoorinc.com or 320-252-2056, ext. 103 for ordering information.

**ALLEN COMPANY** offers a 40 percent media discount to OWAA members on their line of hunting, shooting, tactical and archery products. Contact Lee Betty at lee.betty@allencompany.net or 303-718-2807 for ordering information.

**BLACK RIVER TOOLS** offers media wholesale pricing for Driftmaster rod holders, Father Nature bird feeders and Cart Lok golf cart locks. Call 803-473-4927 and ask for David to take advantage of this offer.

**BRITE-STRIKE TECHNOLOGIES** offers OWAA members 50 percent off manufacturer's suggested retail price on all items. Call 508-746-8701 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Eastern time, Monday through Friday, or email

customerservice@brite-strike.com and mention OWAA membership.

**BROWNING/WINCHESTER REPEATING ARMS** offers a discount below dealer wholesale on their products for OWAA members. Contact Shaundi Campbell at Shaundi.campbell@browning.com or 801-876-2711, ext. 3278 for more information.

**ENVIRON-METAL INC.**, makers of nontoxic shot developed to replace steel in waterfowl hunting, offers OWAA members access to a full range of discounted HEVI-Shot products via ExpertVoice. If a member would like to obtain access to ExpertVoice to view discounted pricing and available products, simply contact Tina Larsen at tlarsen@hevishot.com.

**EPPINGER MFG. CO.**, makers of the world-famous Dardevle spoon, offers writers traveling on assignment a loaner tackle box program: We send you a tackle pack loaded with the appropriate lures for the location you will be fishing and writing about. All you need to do is contact Marketing Director John Cleveland, and he will set up your custom tackle pack and ship it to you. We ask in return that our products are featured in some way in the publications you are writing for, and require a copy of the finished story when it is published. When the project is completed, we ask that you return the box, minus any tackle you wish to keep for further adventures. We also offer writers a 50 percent discount off factory retail pricing on any purchase done directly with our factory. For more information, please contact John Cleveland, John@eppinger.net, Dardevle1@aol.net or 313-582-3205 directly at our factory in Dearborn, Michigan.

**FLYING FISHERMAN** is pleased to offer OWAA members a 40 percent discount off MSRP on direct purchases of Flying Fisherman polarized sunglasses and angler accessories. To receive your media discount, contact Bobby Vaughn at bobby@flyingfisherman.com or 800-335-9347, and mention your OWAA membership. Prepayment is required. Please have your billing and

shipping addresses and credit card details available.

For **GRABBER AND HOTHANDS** products for OWAA members, use the offer code OWAA25 for 25 percent off at www.warmerwarehouse.com and www.coolingwarehouse.com. OWAA members can also use offer code OWAA10 for 10 percent off at www.warmers.com.

**GUMLEAF USA** is pleased to extend a 20 percent discount to OWAA members off our incredibly comfortable, European-made, handcrafted, 85 percent natural rubber boots. To order, ask questions or for product review info, please call Jack toll free at 844-486-5323.

For **HUNT'S PHOTO & VIDEO** discounts, contact Noah Buchanan at 781-462-2356 or nbuchanan@huntsphoto.com. Watch for Hunt's direct mail and email specials throughout the year, or visit our Hunt's blog at www.wbhunt.com/blog for product reviews and our latest news.

**L.L. BEAN** is pleased to offer OWAA members a discount of up to 20 percent on all sporting goods, apparel and footwear (not included are items from the Home, Travel or Kids catalogs). To receive the discount, members can call 800-458-3058, ext. 38136 (M-F only) and identify themselves as OWAA members. The discount is not available online or at L.L. Bean retail or factory stores, and is intended for the individual OWAA member's use only.

**LODGE MANUFACTURING CO.** offers a 50 percent discount off retail prices for OWAA members. Please contact Mark Kelly at mkelly@lodgemfg.com to place your order.

**MARTIN FLORY GROUP'S** public relations services include a variety of manufacturers in the outdoors, boating, fishing and RV markets. Many of these companies work with writers on discounts and product review projects. For a complete list of clients, go to www.martinflory.com, and then contact Martin Flory Group about your specific projects at news@martinflory.com or 847-662-9070.

**MEPPS (SHELDON'S, INC.)** offers a 40 percent discount to outdoor writers on all lures and kits. Mister Twister offers a 40 percent discount to outdoor writers on all soft plastics, kits and electric fillet knives. For more information, please contact the Mepps and Mister Twister Communications Director at 800-237-9877.

**MYTOPO**, a Trimble Company, is pleased to provide OWAA members with free products for evaluation, or discounted products for personal use. MyTopo's suite of products includes professional GIS mapping software, Terrain Navigator Pro, and a wide array of printed map products the company prints and ships within 24 hours, including:

- USGS topographic maps sold via the traditional USGS quad or custom-centered any place in the U.S. or Canada
- USDA aerial imagery, custom-centered in the U.S. (one-third of U.S. updated annually)
- Digital Globe premium satellite imagery for the U.S. and Canada
- Public Land maps pre-centered and outlined for WMAs and federal, state and local public land areas
- Game Management Unit maps for the Western U.S.
- Game Management Unit boundary overlay for USGS topographic maps or aerial imagery maps
- Maps with option to overlay U.S. Forest Service roads, Lake Contours and public land boundaries
- Private land maps—overlay private landowner names and parcel boundaries

MyTopo generously provides one complimentary map per year to every OWAA member. Use the promotional code "OWAA" during checkout at www.mytopo.com to order your free map at the company's website, www.mytopo.com, or contact Paige Darden, paige@mytopo.com, or 877-587-9004 to take advantage of this offer. Our professional

software, Terrain Navigator Pro, is available for review by visiting www.terrainnavigator.com and signing for the free 7-day trial. We are happy to provide a discounted subscription to any OWAA media or sponsoring member organization needing professional mapping software.

**PHOTOSHELTER** offers a discount to OWAA members on both standard and pro annual accounts at www.photoshelter.com. Use promo code "OWAA\_2014." PhotoShelter is the leader in photography portfolio websites. Its websites are packed with powerful tools that make doing business easier and help photographers generate more income from their work. More than 70,000 professional and serious amateur photographers around the world use its complete solution to display, market, sell, deliver and manage photography online.

**PORTA-BOTE FOLDING BOATS** offers OWAA writers a 50 percent discount and free delivery to the lower 48 states for their unique line of folding boats. Available in 8-, 10-, 12- and 14-foot lengths. All fold to 4 inches flat. Colors include olive drab, aluminum and Pacific pearl. This includes the brand new ALPHA 1 Series with newly patented folding transom. For more information, call 800-227-8882 or email info@portaboat.com. Porta-Bote Folding Boats has also been awarded a sales franchise by Suzuki Outboard Engines. This means they can offer very low OWAA prices to writers for these outboards up to 30 horsepower.

**SEAGUAR** has extended their VIP program to OWAA members. Seaguar's VIP program entitles you to purchase Seaguar products directly at a discounted price. Of course, these products must be for your own personal use. Send an email to support@seaguar.com with the subject line "Seaguar VIP Request-OWAA Member." A Seaguar VIP rep will then contact you to verify your membership and provide you the instructions to register. Once you're registered, you can begin purchasing Seaguar products and dream of the big ones that won't get away. Whether you are battling a bluefin tuna or a perch, Seaguar has the best lines and leaders to fit your needs.



**SPORTDOG BRAND** offers OWAA members access to a full range of dog training products via ExpertVoice. If a member would like to obtain access to ExpertVoice to view special industry pricing and available products, simply contact Matt M at [MattM@psccc.net](mailto:MattM@psccc.net).

**STORMY KROMER** offers OWAA members a 30 percent discount on all regularly priced items. To receive the discount, please call 888-455-2253 and ask for Kirsten (Mon-Fri, 7-5 Central time), and identify yourself as an OWAA member.

**STURM, RUGER & COMPANY INC.** offers a media discount to OWAA members. Contact Paul Pluff at [ppluff@ruger.com](mailto:ppluff@ruger.com) or 603-865-2668.

**SUZUKI MARINE** (Outboard Motors) offers discounts to OWAA members in the continental U.S.A., including Alaska. There are too many variables with motor size, rigging parts, labor and location to

print the actual discount amount. Contact Dean Corbisier, [dcorbisier@suz.com](mailto:dcorbisier@suz.com), 714-996-7040, ext. 2234, with your needs and together we can work out a solution.

**ORVIS COMPANY INC.** The Orvis Friends in the Field program provides professionals in the outdoor industry access to the best fly-fishing and wingshooting products offered by Orvis. To register, go to [www.orvis.com/OFF](http://www.orvis.com/OFF) and enter "OWAA" in the sponsor field.

**UMAREX USA** offers OWAA members a 40 percent discount off website pricing for Umarex Airguns, Axeon Optics and Optical Dynamics products. To take advantage of this offer, use code OWAA-VIP during checkout at: [umarexusa.com](http://umarexusa.com), [axeonoptics.com](http://axeonoptics.com), and [longdistancelight.com](http://longdistancelight.com).

**MEDIA FAM/EDITORIAL** trips available with **VISIT CENTRAL FLORIDA** for OWAA members looking to cover the region. We would be glad to have you

join us exploring our more than 375 miles of hiking and paddling trails, getting up close and personal with a wide variety of animal species in what USA Today named one of the "Top 50 Places in the US to See Wildlife" or assist you in hauling in some trophy-class bass in the Largemouth Bass Capitol of the World. Contact Al Snow at [al@visitcentralflorida.org](mailto:al@visitcentralflorida.org) for more information.

**YO-ZURI INC.** is pleased to offer OWAA members dealer pricing on all products they offer in the U.S.—a substantial savings over retail pricing. For price inquiries and orders, please contact the sales department, 772-336-2280, Ray. [Gardner@Yo-Zuri.com](mailto:Gardner@Yo-Zuri.com).

Additional discounts are being added all the time! Be sure to check out the Members Area of OWAA's website at [www.owaa.org/members-area](http://www.owaa.org/members-area) for member benefits and discounts including car rentals, hotel accommodations and health insurance.

## NEW MEMBERS

## NOAH DAVIS

Noah Davis hunts and fishes along the Allegheny Front near his home in central Pennsylvania. His essays have appeared in American Angler, The Drake, The Fly Fish Journal, Angler's Journal, Flyfishing & Tying Journal and Southern Culture on the Fly. Davis studies poetry at Indiana University.



## MICHAEL ADAMS

Michael Adams is a podcaster from Linden, Michigan. Twelve years ago he took his passion for the outdoors and knowledge from his broadcast television job as a director and formed the "Up North Journal Podcast" with his son. This adventure has now led him to live-streaming the show every Sunday evening with his co-host as they produce each episode. The focus of his work is encouraging people to get themselves and their families involved in the outdoors. He also spends much of his time involving himself with deer management and habitat management.



## TREVOR RITLAND

Trevor Ritland spent his youth chasing butterflies with his biologist parents across the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, but left the United States soon after college to live in the cloud forests of Monteverde, Costa Rica. Working as an intern and teaching assistant for study-abroad programs, Ritland used his spare time to pursue local environmental stories: night patrols with fishermen on the search for poachers and secret trips into protected forests to document deforestation fueled his conviction that stories of adventure can change the way we interact with the planet's most imperiled species. Recently, Ritland returned to the United States to work with his nonprofit, Adventure Term, an experiential education organization training the next generation of creative environmental storytellers. He is currently working on stories examining the environmental impact of the proposed border wall on the imperiled species of the borderlands, and a documentary examining the disappearance of the Monteverde golden toad.



## JOHN SCHERRER

John Scherrer is a freelance writer specializing in developing content for blogs and websites. He writes about his passions: fly fishing, fishing with light spinning tackle and winter fishing through the ice. Scherrer is a lifelong resident of northwest Pennsylvania near the shores of Lake Erie, with its fabulous fishing for walleyes, bass, steelhead and panfish. He has been fortunate to also experience fishing in Alaska, the Rocky Mountain states, New England and Canada. Scherrer has had more than 30 articles published on the FishUSA website. He has operated his own website design and Internet marketing company for more than 20 years, specializing, but not limiting himself, to businesses related to hunting and fishing. As a new member of OWAA, Scherrer hopes to expand his writing opportunities and continuously improve his craft. He is a husband, father and grandfather of five.



## MONICA GOKEY

Monica Gokey is a print and radio journalist in west-central Idaho. She's one of the producers of Outlandish, a podcast about public lands and what they mean to us. She's also a writer for BirdNote and a stringer for the NPR affiliate in Boise. When she's not writing or making radio, you can find Gokey chasing her three kids around the cattle ranch they call home.



## REID BRYANT

Reid Bryant is an avid hunter, angler and writer who lives in southern Vermont with his wife and two daughters. By day, Bryant serves as endorsed operations manager for the Orvis Company; in that role, he seeks out unique sporting destinations for Orvis customers. His freelance writing career is focused primarily in the wingshooting and fly angling arenas. He is a frequent contributor to such print publications as Gray's Sporting Journal, Shooting Sportsman, Covey Rise, American Angler and The Drake magazine. He has written three books, namely "The Orvis Guide to Upland Hunting" and "Training Bird Dogs with Ronnie Smith Kennels" (both with Rizzoli) and "The Incomparable Pono: a History" (private publication). Bryant serves as a contributing editor for Shooting Sportsman magazine.



## OWAA offers financial assistance

## MADSON FELLOWSHIP

OWAA members, as well as nonmembers, are invited to apply for the 2019 John Madson Fellowship.

Applications must be sent to OWAA headquarters, postmarked or e-mailed no later than March 1, 2019.

Since its inception in 1994, the John Madson Fellowship has provided OWAA members with more than \$15,000 in funding to continue their education in outdoor communication fields. It can provide funding for individuals to participate in OWAA programs such as the annual conference, as well as outside continuing education opportunities.

The fellowship is funded through the John Madson Fellowship Fund, an endowment composed primarily of OWAA member contributions and fundraising efforts. Its goal is to enhance professional communication skills for OWAA members and nonmembers. Funds are invested and managed by OWAA endowment trustees.

For more information about the fellowship, visit [www.owaa.org/programs/scholarships-fellowships/madson-fellowship](http://www.owaa.org/programs/scholarships-fellowships/madson-fellowship).

## BODIE MCDOWELL SCHOLARSHIP

OWAA is accepting applications for its Bodie McDowell scholarship program. Scholarships are for the 2019-2020 academic year.

Applications must be sent to the OWAA headquarters, postmarked or e-mailed no later than March 1, 2019.

Established in 1966, more than \$138,000 in scholarships have been awarded since 2002. Approximately \$22,000 in scholarships will be awarded in 2019. Each scholarship includes a one-year student membership with OWAA.

The Bodie McDowell scholarship program is open to undergraduate and graduate students at any school who demonstrate a record of accomplishment in, and commitment to, fields in outdoor communication.

Applications for the 2019 award are now available. For more information about the scholarship, visit [www.owaa.org/programs/scholarships-fellowships/bodie-mcdowell-scholarship](http://www.owaa.org/programs/scholarships-fellowships/bodie-mcdowell-scholarship).



## DONORS

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

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Sam Godfrey  
Marty Malin  
Colleen J. Miniuk-Sperry

## NEW MEMBERS

*New member listings include references to acronyms that relate to Skills, Subject Matter and Sections. A key for those acronyms can be found at [owaa.org/lou/about-owaa-skills-subject-matter-sections/](http://owaa.org/lou/about-owaa-skills-subject-matter-sections/).*

**MICHAEL ADAMS**, Up North Journal, 4171 Thompson Rd., Linden, MI 48451. (H) 810-964-6553, michaeladams@upnorthjournal.com, www.upnorthjournal.com. Owner and host of the Up North Journal podcast and live stream, podcasting for more than 11 years and fast approaching its 500th episode. Covering anything and everything outdoors, from hunting, fishing and trapping to land and wildlife management and beyond. Goal is to help others, especially young people, get involved in the outdoors. Shows are recorded every Sunday night at 7 p.m., as well as live-streamed on Facebook. Works with Cabela's and Mossy Oak as one of their pro staff members, and as a product representative for Vortex Optics. Skills: TVX; Subject Matter: CDFIOQ; Sections: BC. Approved for Active membership; sponsored by John Kruse.

**REID BRYANT**, The Orvis Company, 939 Kirby Hollow Rd., Dorset, VT 05251. (C) 802-246-7972, reid617@gmail.com, www.reidbryant.com. Maintains a freelance writing career in addition to full-time employment with The Orvis Company. Contributing editor, Shooting Sportsman magazine and a frequent contributor to Covey Rise, Gray's Sporting Journal, American Angler and a host of other fly-fishing and hunting publications. Author, "The Orvis Guide to Upland Hunting," from Rizzoli and "The Incomparable Pono: A History." A second book on dog training is under contract with Rizzoli, due out in 2019. Hosts the Orvis Hunting and Shooting Podcast. Much of his print work is done in conjunction with photographer Brian Grossenbacher. Skills: BLOWX; Subject Matter: ABC-DEGLOPR; Sections: C. Approved for Active membership; sponsored by Brian Grossenbacher.

**DANNY DEFAUW**, Up North Journal, 989 Carriage Hill Dr., Fenton, MI 48430. (C) 586-596-4960, dadefauw28@gmail.com, www.upnorthjournal.com. Growing up in the outdoors, he got the opportunity to hunt and fish with a number of inspirational people. Along with being the co-host of the Up North Journal podcast and livecast, he works with others in the outdoors industry as a pro staff member for Cabela's and Mossy Oak. He helps promote the outdoors in various media and is always recruiting new hunters. He wants to provide opportunities for learning through seminars and speaking engagements at outdoor events. Skills: X; Subject Matter: CF; Sections: B. Approved for Active membership; sponsored by Drew Youngedyke.

**ELI FRANCOVICH**, The Spokesman-Review, 999 W. Riverside Ave., Spokane, WA 99205. (C) 208-819-1345, (W) 509-459-5508, elif@spokesman.com, www.spokesman.com/staff/eli-francovich. Outdoors editor, reporter and photographer for the Spokesman-Review, covering recreation, conservation, policy and environmental issues. Coordinates and helps produce two outdoor sections per week. Skills: ENS; Subject Matter: CDFGHL-NOR; Sections: NP. Approved for Active membership; sponsored by Rich Landers.

**BRIAN GROSSENBACHER**, Grossenbacher Photo, 5891 Sypes Canyon Rd., Bozeman, MT 59715. (H) 406-582-1760, (C) 406-581-4159, (W) 406-582-1760, photos@grossenbacherphoto.com. Lives in Bozeman, Montana, with his wife Jenny and two daughters, Mackenzie and Sable. In 2005, after 15 years of guiding, he started shooting photos when he and Jenny were asked to write "Fly Fishing Montana." On a gamble they used the photo budget for the book to buy a camera and two lenses. Before the book was published, he had already sold a handful of magazine covers and discovered a previously unknown passion for photography. He is now a regular contributor to Field & Stream, Gray's Sporting Journal, The Fly Fish Journal, Covey Rise and many others. In addition to exclusively shooting all of the action photography for Simms Fishing Products, he also shoots for Orvis, Mossy Oak, Buff, Costa, Bass Pro Shops, Canada Tire, Karisma Resorts, Shimano, Brunton and others. Has traveled exten-

sively in North, Central and South America, Russia, Mongolia, New Zealand and the Bahamas shooting active lifestyle images. Skills: S; Subject Matter: ABCDEFGHJKLMPQST; Sections: P. Approved for Active membership; sponsored by James Smedley.

**CRAIG RALEIGH**, Wide Open Spaces, 2845 Redman Rd., Brockport, NY 14420. (H) 585-802-7372, craigraleigh1@ymail.com, craigraleigh.com. Author, "The Hunter's Way: A Guide to the Heart and Soul of Hunting," Harper Collins/Dey Street Books; self-published works include "A Walk in Clarkson, and Other Outdoor Stories," and "Water Wolf and Other Concoctions." Contributor, wideopenspaces.com, Genesee Valley PennySaver. Hunting, fishing, camping and hiking since forever. Wildlife inspector, bird watching fool, and all-around nature lover. Craves a full freezer, but has eaten paper many times. Not afraid to tell it like it is where our hunting and fishing passions lie. Skills: BCO; Subject Matter: ABCEGKRS; Sections: M. Approved for Active membership.

**TREVOR RITLAND**, 813 W. University Ave., Apt. 313, Flagstaff, AZ 86001. (H) 864-387-9571, ritlandtrev1@gmail.com, www.adventureterm.com/trevor-ritland-creative-portfolio. Graduate student in science communication and documentary studies at Northern Arizona University, where he also works as an instructor. Cofounded the nonprofit Adventure Term in 2017, an experiential education organization that invites students from all backgrounds on field expeditions to produce multimedia stories about the planet's most threatened ecosystems and imperiled species. Photo and writing credits in Mongabay and Blue Ridge Outdoors Magazine. Recently names to the "30 under 30" list of outdoor adventurers by Blue Ridge Outdoors. Currently on the search for the Monteverde golden toad, an iconic Central American amphibian that may not be as extinct as scientists believe. His next project will be an Adventure Team expedition though the Southwestern borderlands, beginning in June 2019. Skills: MOSVX; Subject Matter: GLOQRS; Sections: BCMP. Approved for Student membership.

**JOHN SCHERRER**, 8001 Blazy Rd., Edinboro, PA 16412. (C) 814-602-0404, (W) 814-602-0404, johndscherrer@gmail.com. Owner of a web design and Internet marketing company that has done many web projects for fishing tackle stores and gun shops. Contributor of web content to FishUSA, a multimillion-dollar homegrown online fishing tackle retailer. Skills: CDO; Subject Matter: ACDFGILM. Approved for Active membership; sponsored by Andy Whitcomb.

**ZACHARY SMITH**, Rural Missouri, P.O. Box 1645, Jefferson City, MO 65102. (H) 417-274-1114, (C) 417-274-1114, (W) 573-659-3425, zandrewsmith@gmail.com, www.ruralmissouri.coop. Field editor for Rural Missouri magazine, where he primarily writes and shoots photos for the outdoors section and other feature stories in the magazine. Active member and board member of the Missouri Outdoor Communicators and an avid outdoorsman in his personal life. Skills: EOSVW; Subject Matter: ACDFGILORSU; Sections: BCMP. Approved for Active

membership; sponsored by Lucas Bond.

**LARRY WHITELEY**, 2507 N. Farm Road 97, Springfield, MO 65802. (C) 417-830-9023, (W) 417-830-9023, lwhiteley2@basspro.com. Host of the award-winning, internationally syndicated Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World Radio for 28 years. The show is heard every day on radio stations in all 50 states and over the American Forces Radio Network. For 25 years he has also written Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World Tips for America's weekly local newspapers, as well as regional and national magazines and websites. Writes his own award-winning outdoor articles for many magazines, including Cabin Living, Outdoor Guide, ShowMe, ODU and BigO and for the website sharetheoutdoors.com. (Maryann) Skills: NOQRW; Subject Matter: ABCDFGL-MOSTU; Sections: BCMN. Approved for Active membership; sponsored by Brent Frazee.

**TANA WILSON**, 208 Melanie Lane, Libby, MT 59923. (C) 406-291-2144, tanaw@g.clemson.edu. Master's candidate in parks and conservation areas management at Clemson University. 2018 Bodie McDowell Scholarship recipient. Approved for Student membership.

**GLENN ZINKUS**, 2229 NW Kinderman Dr., Corvallis, OR 97330. (H) 541-753-0170, (C) 541-908-0457, gazinkus@gmail.com. An avid outdoor enthusiast who writes and photographs for fly fishing and upland bird hunting publications, including Northwest Fly Fishing, Eastern Fly Fishing, Southwest Fly Fishing, Fly Fishing and Tying Journal, Fly Tyer, Westfly, The Angling Report and the North 40 Blogs. He hunts behind his brace of Brittanys in search of wild Western gamebirds. Skills: OSW; Subject Matter: ABCEGLNORT; Sections: MP. Approved for Active membership; sponsored by Pat Wray.

## REINSTATED MEMBERS

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

**PJ DELHOMME**, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, (Active) 123 Fairway Dr., Missoula, MT 59803. (H) 406-240-8354, (W) 406-523-4570, bugle@rmef.org. Hunting editor, Bugle magazine. Freelance writer and photographer for regional and national publications, including Outdoor Life, Montana Magazine, Montana Outdoors and others. Skills: EOSW; Subject Matter: CFGLNORS; Sections: M.

## NEW SUPPORTING GROUPS, AGENCIES AND BUSINESSES

*Supporting Group listings include references to acronyms that relate to resources they provide. A key for those acronyms can be found at [owaa.org/lou/about-owaa-supporter-resources](http://owaa.org/lou/about-owaa-supporter-resources/).*

**OUTDOORS TOMORROW FOUNDATION**, 25 Highland Park Village, #100-195, Dallas, TX 75205. Contact: Lucas



Fairchild. (W) 214-577-9852, lucas@lovell-fairchild.com, www.gootf.com. The mission of the Outdoors Tomorrow Foundation (OTF) is to teach outdoor education and promote and fund conservation of wildlife. OTF began in 1981 with the purpose of expanding youth outdoor education and furthering wildlife conservation efforts. In 1998, with a model provided by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, OTF pioneered the first public educational curriculum for secondary schools in Texas called "Outdoor Trails." In 2007 a complete curriculum rewrite helped merit accreditation by the Texas Education Association for the newly named "Outdoor Adventures" (OA) program. Today OTF has established the OA education program in more than 400 schools throughout the country. OTF provides curriculum and equipment grants to schools that have adopted OA, as well as providing avenues for teacher training and workshops without charge. OTF partners with state agencies and conservation organizations to expand its life-changing outdoor education program. With more than 37,000 students currently enrolled, OTF looks to further expand the OA curriculum in Texas and beyond. With the financial assistance needed to continue to grow the program, and an endowment to ensure that every secondary school student

in the United States will have an opportunity to participate, OTF's primary focus has become the expansion of Outdoor Adventures. The OTF utilizes the Wildlife Heritage Society and the Guardians of the Legacy giving programs to fund our mission. Generous support of these programs ensures a tradition of promoting ethics, values and wildlife conservation. Supporter Resources: CIO.

### REINSTATED SUPPORTING GROUPS, AGENCIES AND BUSINESSES

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

**CITIZENS CLIMATE LOBBY**, 1750 K St. NW, 11th Floor, Washington, DC 20006. Contact: Andres Jimenez, senior director, government affairs. (W) 773-807-2181, andres.jimenez@citizensclimatelobby.org, www.citizensclimatelobby.org. Focused on what we see as the single most impactful solution to climate change — a national carbon fee. Supporter Resources: C.

### Passive Culpability continued from page 14

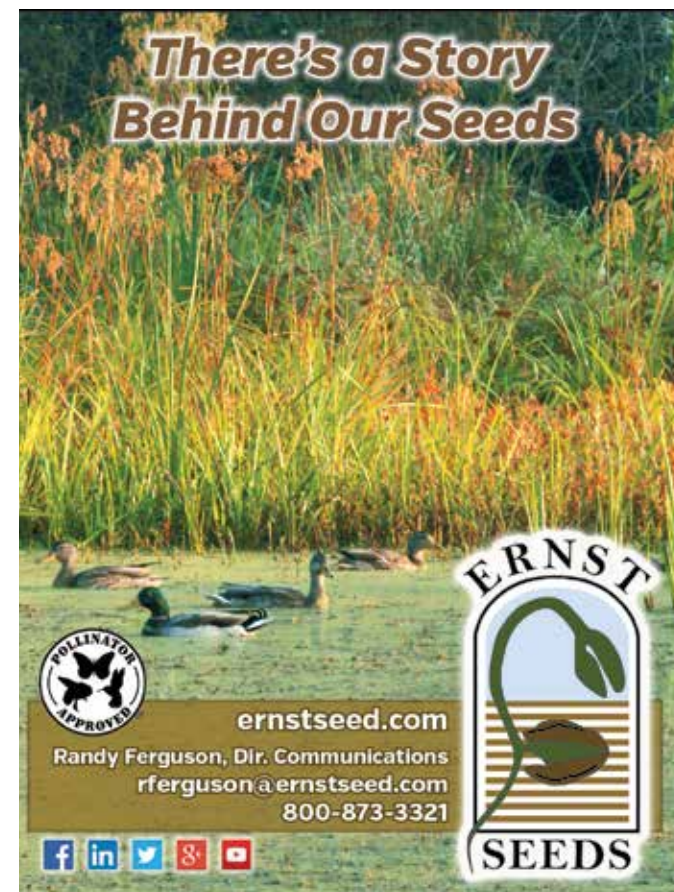
elements allow algae to thrive. But that kind of makes it sound like it's just nature doing her thing.

In reality, the mostly undisputed, oversimplified explanation is that thanks to a century of astonishingly poor engineering, mismanagement and political corruption (all of which continue to thrive), when seasonal rains prompt the Army Corps to release excess water from Lake Okeechobee, that water is rife with fertilizer and livestock waste (i.e. nutrients), which help the algae reach full blossom by the time it hits the coastal cities.

The result is that millions of people are physically and economically affected by the algae crisis, mystified by it and desperate to stop it. So is it okay to sweep the parent causes under the rug? Maybe. Maybe not. I cannot know the circumstances leading to that bit of reporting, only how reading it affected my own thoughts and actions.

Clearly there are no definite answers to these ponderings, only our ability as writers and editors to make conscious choices with our phrasing. I'd be interested in hearing your thoughts on this, and continuing this dialogue. There is much to learn.

— Karuna Eberl writes about the outdoors and environmental matters from Cudjoe Key, Florida, and the great beyond.



### FOUR SEASONS IN VERMONT

**AUTHOR:** Gary W. Moore

**INFO:** Maine Outdoor Publications; softcover; 147 pages with photos; \$14.95.

The book is a chronicle of short essays all about the natural world the author grew up in and helped steward and conserve for future generations. It's about field, forest and swamp, about remote places and places tramped and explored.



### BULL'S-EYE! THE SMART BOWHUNTER'S HANDBOOK

**AUTHOR:** Bob Banfelder

**INFO:** Broadwater Books; softcover; 124 pages with photos; \$24.99.

Award-winning outdoors writer and crime-thriller novelist Bob Banfelder pens his third book in the "Smart" outdoors series. Along with Banfelder's "Fishing Smart Anywhere Handbook for Salt Water & Fresh Water" as well as his "North American Small & Big Game Hunting Smart Handbook," Bob's newest title, "Bull's-Eye! The Smart Bowhunter's Handbook," provides insightful information on crossbows, compound bows, arrows and bolts, broadheads (both fixed and expandable), targets, clothing and gear. Banfelder has done extensive research and field testing aimed at achieving field-point accuracy.



### MARTHA'S VINEYARD FISH TALES

**AUTHOR:** Nelson Sigelman

**INFO:** Stackpole Books; hardcover; 224 pages; 133 photos; 2 maps; \$24.95

The focus is on Martha's Vineyard but the information, fishing tips and stories about Island characters will sound familiar to anyone who has spent time in a community of fishermen.

This informative and fun read answers the questions asked in local tackle shops, including the best spots to catch a striped bass on a fly rod—Lobsterville Beach—and rigging tackle for blues, fluke, black sea bass, false albacore and bonito. Spin fishing, bottom fishing and fly fishing are all covered. This is a "how to" book that flows with the character and personality of a fishing-obsessed island off the coast of Massachusetts.

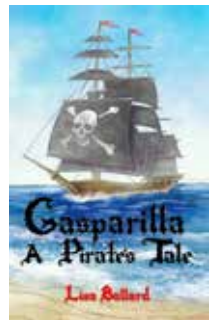


### GASPARILLA: A PIRATE'S TALE

**AUTHOR:** Lisa Ballard

**INFO:** Richter Publishing; 53 pages; hardcover, softcover and e-book; \$18 for hardcover, \$15 for softcover and \$6 for e-book.

José Gaspar never intends to become a pirate, but after he's falsely accused of stealing the crown jewels, it becomes his fate while trying to escape on a ship bound from Spain to Florida. After saving his best friend and freeing the crew from the ship's evil captain, he defeats the infamous Pierre Lafitte, then claims the west coast of Florida as his pirate domain ... until the Americans find him. "Gasparilla" is a swashbuckling outdoor adventure that takes place first on the high seas (Atlantic Ocean) and then on the Spanish Main. The sailors in OWAA and anyone interested in pirate lore will love it. It's the author's hope that "Gasparilla: A Pirate's Tale" will be the first in a series of pirate-themed children's books that not only delve into that period in time, but also touch on the natural history of Florida, the Caribbean and other regions where pirates have roamed. The author is an OWAA member who lives in Montana but has traveled and worked extensively in Florida.



### TURKEY MEN 2

**AUTHOR:** Thomas R. Pero

**INFO:** Wild River Press; hardcover; 198 pages; \$49.95

Turkey Men 2 chronicles the quests of six hunters who years ago set their sights on killing a wild turkey in all 49 states where the birds now thrive.

It features the U. S. Super Slam quests of Tom "Doc" Weddle of Bloomington, Indiana; Dave Owens of Acworth, Georgia; James F. Hascup of Ringwood, New Jersey; Daniel Rorrer of Pulaski, Virginia; James Wilhelm of Eagle Rock, Virginia; and Jon D. Pries of Trout Run, Pennsylvania. Each of their stories is extraordinary and engaging.

Turkey Men 2 is the follow-up volume to Turkey Men 1, which Wild River Press published in 2017. A complimentary CD audio recording comes with each book. The CD was made at a noted professional recording studio called Postal Recording in Indianapolis, where Pero interviewed Weddle and Owens, who flew up from Georgia for the occasion.

Just before Turkey Men 2 went to press, Owens was named Grand National Turkey Calling Champion, Senior Division Open, at the 2018 National Wild Turkey Convention in Nashville.







OUTDOOR WRITERS  
ASSOCIATION  
*of America*

## OUTDOOR WRITERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

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# Meet a member

**NAME:** Doug Nielsen

**RESIDENCE:** Henderson, Nevada

**OWAA MEMBER SINCE:** Early 2000s; rejoined in 2018

**WEBSITE:** <http://intheoutdoors.net>

### AREA(S) OF OUTDOOR COMMUNICATION:

On the freelance side, my primary freelance outlet is the Las Vegas Review-Journal, where I have written the weekly outdoor column since 2004. My writing credits include a variety of outdoor publications, and at one time I produced a short-format radio show: "Takin' it Outside."

For the NDOW, I contribute to agency publications, such as the annual hunting and fishing guides, and produce informational videos for distribution through social media.

### WHAT DREW YOU TO THE FIELD?

My earliest memories are laced with images of family campouts in the West's open spaces and outdoor lessons learned from my maternal grandmother. The outdoor tradition has played a role in my family's life for generations, and I feel a deep-seated desire to share the outdoors through the storytelling craft, be it written, visual or auditory. Plus, I really enjoy telling the outdoor story.

### WHAT ENTICED YOU TO JOIN (OR REJOIN) OWAA?

I rejoined OWAA after a lengthy absence because I missed the association with fellow outdoor writers. Moreover, I want to broaden the subject matter I communicate about and felt coming back to the OWAA would help me to accomplish that.

### WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE OUTDOOR ACTIVITY?

I have always enjoyed the traditional outdoor pursuits like camping, hunting, fishing or boating, but in recent years have fallen in love with kayak fishing.

### WHAT ARE YOU CURRENTLY WORKING ON?

Currently, I am looking to establish an active blog and am considering expanding into video production and a possible return to radio.

### WHAT HAVE YOU GAINED FROM THE ORGANIZATION?

Looking back at my previous stint as a member of OWAA, perhaps the biggest thing was something I learned from the late Tony Dean. He told me that to be successful all I needed to do was take a step forward toward my business goals and then keep stepping.

