LITTLE ROCK

'The Natural State' rolls out red carpet for OWAA | p. 6

Arkansas water trails a step back in time AND MORE.
FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Connecting at conference

My first OWAA conference was in 1991 at Niagara Falls, New York. Sylvia Bashline, then the executive director, encouraged me to attend, even though my membership application had yet to be approved. I was clueless about OWAA and its annual gathering, but I was eager to see if there was a place for me. The answer came in a parking lot encounter during Breakout Day on Wednesday, the middle day of what was then a five-day conference.

Still unsure of myself after visiting a few of the Breakout Day vendors, I was walking toward the bus pickup area to catch a ride back to the headquarters hotel when a car pulled up with a driver and two passengers.

The only person I recognized was John Husar and that only because he and I had covered Notre Dame football at one time for our respective newspapers, the Chicago Tribune and Fort Wayne Journal Gazette.

The driver asked a few oddball questions before saying, “Are you hungry?” Of course I was hungry, which is why I was heading to the hotel, probably to order room service and eat alone.

“Yes,” I said to the driver. “Hop in,” he said.

And I did, which is when the driver introduced himself as Bob Marshall of the New Orleans Times-Picayune. Husar was in the front passenger seat, and the third guy in the back turned out to be Tom Wharton of the Salt Lake Tribune.

Feeling a bit more at ease while settling into the back seat, I became suspicious as Marshall took us on a meandering drive that led into Canada. Eventually to a restaurant in Niagara-On-The-Lake. The food was great, and the conversation lively, and I felt as if I’d made some new friends.

Little did I know how those friendships would develop over the years. Was I ever lucky to be crossing that parking lot on the afternoon of June 3, 1991.

The Niagara Falls conference also introduced me to how prickly things can get in OWAA.

The first newsmaker panel of the conference (“Do Animals Have Rights?”) was a debate between Walter Howard, a biology professor from the University of California-Davis, and Wayne Pacelle, then the national director of Fund for Animals.

Some members thought it unconscionable for OWAA to allow an animal rights activist and avowed anti-hunter in our midst. Others saw it as rich story material. Howard and Pacelle went toe-to-toe on the stage that day. I don’t remember much of what was said, other than Howard’s line “Mother Nature is a cruel b----.”

I attended Tom Carney’s craft improvement session on smoother prose and one by the legendary John Madison on writing better leads.

Another newsmaker panel discussed the plight of the northern spotted owl, which two years later prompted me to do a pre-conference trip into a national forest in Oregon to look for the endangered bird.

It was at this conference where the Newspaper Section was formed, and I heard the OWAA prayer for the first time. recited eloquently at the closing night banquet by John McCoy, who became one of my best friends in OWAA.

As we head toward our 2019 meeting in Little Rock, Arkansas, in a few weeks, fond memories of my first conference and a couple dozen since are fresh in my mind.

What memories will you make at this year’s conference? Come and find out.

— Phil Bloom is OWAA’s interim executive director. Reach him at pbloom@owaa.org or 406-552-4049.
A Collective Thirst for Breakfast Antipathy

Two perfect plates of bacon, eggs and French toast sat before me and my good friend Matt, both of us voracious 20-somethings stunned to find ourselves unable to fit any food around the nervous pits in our stomachs. It was August 2000. The day prior we’d hitched our way to Durango, Colorado, from Würf Creek Pass, having left my truck where the Continental Divide Trail (CDT) crosses U.S. 160.

We had a fiesta night at a cheap hotel and clearly couldn’t hide our unease about the trek before us. The realization we were in the same boat gave way to laughter.

Ever since then we’ve held firm that the greatest adventures begin by being daunted to the point of breakfast antipathy. Our fear was ascribed to the fact 80 of the 100 miles of trail before us hovered above 12,000 ft in the Weminuche Wilderness. The CDT guidebook said it might be the harshest section of the entire 3,000-mile trail due to frequent lightning, altitude, and a maze of false trails and boulder fields above timberline.

But we gathered our wits, grabbed our packs, and caught the bus to Silverton, where a Jeep tour company would shuttle us to the Styx Pass trailhead. Unfortunately the old bus overheated repeatedly as it tried to climb Molas Pass, putting us an hour behind. Luckily, the Jeep shuttle waited for us, and we finally hit the trail at high noon. I’ll be forever grateful the weather proved sublime, and so did Ashley Stimpson’s photograph career. An Arizona-based photographer and writer, she shifted exclusively into outdoor photography in 2010 after attending the OWAA conference in Rochester, Minnesota. Her photo credits include National Geographic calendars, Arizona Highways, AAA Via, National Parks Traveler, and On Landscape. She has authored and self-published two photography guidebooks and leads photography workshops, including women’s photography retreats called Sheography.

ASHLEY STIMPSON

Ashley Stimpson is a Baltimore-based travel and outdoors writer who most often writes about Mid-Atlantic adventures by paddle, foot, or fins. Her features have been published in Chesapeake Bay Magazine, Baltimore Style, and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources magazine Maryland Natural Resources.

Her literary nonfiction has appeared or is forthcoming in Camas, Split Rock Review, and Driftless Magazine. A Midwesterner by birth, Stimpson believes all landscapes (even the dusty, flat ones) and the wildlife they encompass are worthy of respect and awe. She writes to inspire curiosity and a greater sense of belonging in her readers. A new OWAA member, Stimpson plans to use her $1,600 Madson Fellowship to attend OWAA’s conference in Little Rock, Arkansas, June 22-24.

COLLEEN MINIUK

Colleen Miniuk left a career in the corporate world in 2007 to pursue a freelance photography career. An Arizona-based photographer and writer, she shifted exclusively into outdoor photography in 2010 after attending the OWAA conference in Rochester, Minnesota. Her photo credits include National Geographic calendars, Arizona Highways, AAA Via, National Parks Traveler, and On Landscape. She has authored and self-published two photography guidebooks and leads photography workshops, including women’s photography retreats called Sheography.

Miniuk plans to use her $1,000 Madison Fellowship to attend the Fishtrap Outpost writing workshop with renowned author Craig Childs on the Snake River in September.

PAUL PRESSON

Paul Presson is a Special Operations, Desert Storm military veteran of 15 years. After leaving the service, he pursued an aeronautics degree at Embry Riddle University and began a successful career in logistics management. A military injury prevented him from working full time. An avid kayak angler and nature lover, he was no longer able to kayak fish, so he turned to writing about his past adventures. Since then, Presson has been published nationally and internationally. His writing has morphed into cartooning and photography. He also works with a non-profit disabled veterans’ group that helps veterans go fishing.

He will use his $400 Madison stipend to enroll in a digital photography class at St. Petersburg College in Florida.

Ballard, Lowrey, Stone added to board

Jack Ballard, Nick Lowrey, and Emily Stone have been elected to seats on OWAA’s board of directors. Their three-year terms begin at the June 24 board meeting during the summer conference in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Ballard, a 21-year member of OWAA, has two previous terms on the board and one as OWAA’s treasurer. He currently serves as an Endowment Trustee for the organization.

Ballard lives in Red Lodge, Montana, and has attended 15 conferences. He has had hundreds of articles published in more than 50 magazines or other publications, and has more than 1,000 photos featured in books, calendars, magazines and other media.

Lowrey is managing editor of the Capital Journal newspaper in Pierre, South Dakota, and serves as editor of the newspaper’s magazine, South Dakota Outdoors. His outdoor writing has appeared in newspapers all over South Dakota and in regional magazines.

Stone is the naturalist/education director at the Cable (Wisconsin) Natural History Museum. She writes Natural Connections, a popular column published in more than 20 local and regional newspapers. She also produces a podcast by the same name, and recently published her second book—“Natural Connections: Dreaming of an Elfin Skinner.”

MEMBER NEWS

3 members receive funds for skill-building workshops, conference

OWAA.org/OU | OUTDOORS UNLIMITED | JUNE/JULY 2019

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Little Rock offers easy access to nature

You don’t have to go far to find nature in Little Rock, site of this year’s OWAA annual conference. Right outside the back door of the headquarters hotel – DoubleTree by Hilton – is the Arkansas River Trail that offers 17 miles of paved pathways, including five pedestrian and bicycle bridges that connect the north and south banks of the river.

Along the way is the William E. “Bill” Clark Presidential Park Wetlands. Adjacent to the Clinton Presidential Library, the 13-acre restored wetland is designed to showcase wildlife and river life. It is a collaborative effort of several entities, including the City of Little Rock, the Arkansas Game & Fish Commission, and the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission.

In its namesake, Bill Clark (1943-2007), was an avid outdoorsman and a business, civic, charitable, and political leader in Arkansas for more than 30 years. A half-mile-long boardwalk loops around the wetlands, which pay tribute to Clark’s love of the outdoors as an avid hunter and angler.

Bearing the nickname “The Natural State,” Arkansas has plenty of other outdoor opportunities. Conference attendees can find explore an array of options through pre- and post-conference trips. There’s a chance to catch high-quality smallmouth bass on the Buffalo National River, mountain biking on the professionally designed Oz Trails network, snorkeling with experts to locate endangered freshwater mussels in the Saline River, rock climbing Jamestown Crag or Rattlesnake Ridge, or banding and releasing hummingbirds at the Fort Smith Conservation Education Center.

Check out all of the organized pre/post trips at https://owaa.org/2019conference/pre-post-conference-trips/, where you also will find a dozen do-it-yourself options, including Mammoth Spring, one of the world’s largest springs and home to Mammoth Spring National Fish Hatchery.

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, 67 volunteers judged 726 entries to determine the best of the best in our chosen profession.

A huge OWAA thank you to the following:

BLOG: Tony Dolle*, Bob Bramblet, Matt Harlow, Crystal Ross, Dan Small, Kim Thornton, Mike Zlotnicki

BOOKS: Paula DeGraaf*, Chris Hunt, David Kinney, Mark Taylor

COLUMN: Mark Taylor*, Karen Loke, Laura Lundquist, Ron Stolte

ILLUSTRATION/GRAPHIC: Colleen Miniuk*, Jana Bloom, Lindsay Brown, Blair Jones

MAGAZINE: Brad Isles*, Phil Bloom, Heide Brandes, Alan Clemmons, Tony Dolle, Holly Entersnady, Sandra Kelly, Bill Monroe, Christine Petersen, Russel Roe, Carrie Cousins, Spiller, Mark Taylor, Jenny Weiss

NEWSPAPER: J.J. Stockton*, Joe Albanese, Phil Bloom, Bill Graham, Kenny Hecker, Micah Holmes, Ellen Horowitz, John Hudson, Jodi Applegate Steiner, Tom Wharton, Drew YoungsDyke

PHOTOGRAPHY: Sam Dean*, Robert Annis, Bryan Cerjei, Mark Gocke, Doug McSchooler, John Maxwell, Martin Perez, 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 McGee, Grant McBride, Trey Rest, Nicola Whiteley, Jennifer Winterski

TV/VIDEO/WEBCAST: Lisa Ballard*, Chris Batin, Don Cash, Walter Drinker, Brent Drinker, Michael Greggans, Joe Hosmer, Brian Jennings, Carol Lynde, Tim Smith (Donates chief judge)

*Denotes chief judge
Making Wakes in the Big Woods

Arkansas Water Trails like ‘stepping back in time’

By Jeff Williams | Little Rock, Arkansas

A few boatloads of duck hunters whooshed by as we unloaded kayaks, a canoe and gear from our truck on an unusually bright and warm day last January.

I don’t know if the hunters were successful that morning – water was a bit high. We watched long strands of geese above the Arkansas Delta during our drive to Lake Hickson in northern Monroe County about 60 miles east of Little Rock, but ducks were scarce.

Two sit-on-top kayaks and a solo canoe would take the three of us off the lake and onto Bayou DeView Water Trail, a 5-mile path that snakes through Sheffield Nelson Dagmar Wildlife Management Area.

A water trail is like a hiking trail but sometimes with less room for error. Hiking trails often include bright markers set strategically among trees, although most are easy to follow anyway because they are, well, trails; even without markers, the path usually is clear. But it’s not as clear among the tupelo and cypress giants sprouting from shallow water. As soon as a boat’s wake disappears, so does the path. Without the bright blue markers – put in place along Bayou DeView by volunteers during high water – disorientation would set in quickly.

Even though we’re well past 12, we wore ours. Cooler lids must be securely fastened and each boat must include an attached trash container. Floating holders are required for beverages in aluminum cans or plastic bottles; glass containers are strictly forbidden.

“Trees in various stages of growth – or demise – take on all shapes.”

I’ve had friends and family come from out of town and they’re blown away,” said Kirsten Bartlow, watchable wildlife co-ordinator at the Arkansas Game & Fish Commission, paddling a canoe on this trip. “It feels like you’re stepping back in time. It’s got huge old trees, wildlife and it’s different each season.”

The Lake Hickson spur was practically deserted. I thought Bayou DeView would be just that – like a bayou,” Harris said. “I had no idea it would be a large expanse of water. I was surprised it wasn’t a channel like a typical bayou.”

The Lake Hickson spur was practically calm. We didn’t notice any flow until we made the turn upstream on Bayou DeView and saw water breaking around tree trunks. It wasn’t enough current to make paddling difficult, but the boat didn’t glide as easily. The cypress and tupelo were astounding, and we began to notice woodpeckers swooping among the trees and hammering for insects.

If you want to see woodpeckers, go to the Big Woods,” Bartlow said. “I’ve paddled up on sleeping otters on a submerged log, I’ve seen pairs of bald eagles come back year after year to their nesting areas, great blue heron rookeries, migratory waterfowl in winter and, of course, migratory songbirds each spring and summer.”

We took a close look at a beaver lodge about 10 yards off the trail, with cypress knees shooting through intertwined branches. It showed signs of recent use, although we didn’t see its occupants. We didn’t see anyone else paddling, either. We enjoyed the solitude on our out-and-back excursion, but it’s simply a matter of time before these trails receive more use – they’re too attractive for paddlers to ignore.

“It was a spectacular day with the sun cutting through the trees – and it was quiet,” Harris said. “If you’re someone who hasn’t done this, and you like the outdoors, just do it.”

Trail Info

Bayou DeView Water Trail is one of many Arkansas Water Trails across the state, and more are on the way. Visit agfc.com, click on “Explore Outdoors” and “Wildlife” to learn more about these trails. Download a free app with a geo-referenced map that uses your smartphone’s GPS to keep track of your location on Bayou DeView, even without cellular service.

The above article is reprinted with permission from the March/April 2019 issue of Arkansas Wildlife, the magazine of the Arkansas Game & Fish Commission.
LAST-MINUTE MEMO
for Little Rock

If you are attending OWAA’s Conference June 22-24 in Little Rock, Arkansas, here are some helpful reminders:

- **Anything special I should pack?**
  - If you would like to participate in our Photo Scavenger Hunt, you must bring your own camera and camera card. Also bring any clips you would like to share with our editors at the Meet the Editors Panel – a clip box will be available for each attending editor. Of course, be sure to bring plenty of business cards for networking!

- **What should I wear?**
  - Wear comfortable shoes and casual clothes to the welcome dinner, EIC towards party, workshops and all demo events. The Honorary Awards Dinner on Monday night is more formal; a tie and sports jacket, dress or skirt are recommended. While all conference sessions will be inside, a Skid Day will be outside, so please be prepared for various weather conditions.

- **Where do I go when I arrive in Little Rock?**
  - The DoubleTree by Hilton Little Rock is the host hotel for conference attendees. Check-in is available beginning at 3 p.m. and reduced-rate parking is available for OWAA guests. The conference registration desk will be on the hotel’s second floor. Except for Demo Day and Field Skills Day, conference activities will be at the hotel and the attached Robinson Center. We encourage attendees arriving on Friday to pick up their badges, program and check-in materials at the registration desk before 8 p.m.

- **Will I need to transport myself to any conference activities?**
  - No. All transportation for conference activities is provided. Driving directions will be available at the registration desk if you prefer to drive yourself. Please note: Supporting Group representatives will need to provide their own transportation for Little Rock on Friday to pick up their badges, program and check-in materials at the registration desk before 8 p.m.

- **Can my spouse and family attend with me?**
  - Yes. Scheduled conference meals are included in your registration fee and available beginning with breakfast on Saturday and ending with dinner on Monday. Please wear your conference badge to all meal events and contact OWAA HQ (conference@owaa.org) if you have any dietary restrictions. For meals before and/or arrive early for setup.

- **Telling stories makes the perfect TV show**

  **ARRIVE EARLY FOR THESE FRIDAY ACTIVITIES:**
  
  **REGISTRATION**
  1 – 8 p.m., DoubleTree by Hilton Little Rock
  Beat the rush and check-in Friday. Your badge, the conference program, press identification material and more are available at the registration desk on the second floor.

  **BECOMING AN OUTDOOR COMMUNICATOR**
  3 – 6 p.m., Porter Room, Robinson Center
  This free, three-hour workshop will feature some of OWAA’s best-known communicators giving presentations about their specialties from field work to outdoor television shows and everything in between. Join Pat Wray and fellow OWAA members for this popular staple of the OWAA conference. Speaker presentations will be followed by an informal Q&A reception.

  **GREEN RIBBON MEETING**
  6 – 6:30 p.m., Porter Room, Robinson Center
  First-time at an OWAA conference? Haven’t been in a while? Join program chair Tim Miculek and conference planner Jessica Seltz, who will explain the ins and outs of the conference and what the “can’t miss” events are. Meet other OWAA members happy to act as mentors to help you navigate your first conference.

  **PRESIDENT’S HOSPITALITY**
  8:30 – 11:30 a.m., DoubleTree by Hilton Little Rock
  Come celebrate and host OWAA President Paul Gueneau for his service over the past year.

  **For even more fun, check out our lineup of pre- and post-conference activities at http://owaa.org/2019/conference/pre-post-conference-trips/**

**Can my spouse and family attend with me?**

  - Yes. Absolutely! A list of things to do in Little Rock and family-friendly and guest activities are available on the conference website: http://owaa.org/2019/conference/agenda/spouses-partners-families-guests. Any family or guests registered for the conference are welcome to join you for all conference meals and activities.

  - For more FAQs, visit: http://owaa.org/2019/conference/faq/.

  - For all TV shows. A script makes a story flow, a script not only guides an editor but also keeps the editor on task.

By Ron Schara
Golden Valley, Minnesota

If you’re an outdoor TV star/host, have you ever thought about sending a thank you to every viewer for all the shows you’ve sent into their living room TV sets? Did you for TV producers, videographers, editors and the like? I’ve often wished I could. It would be a nice gesture.

After two decades in the outdoor television show business, I’ve had my share of TV “wishes.” Wish I could do that stand-up again! Wish I could write that script again? Wish I’d changed that godawful music or that jump cut? Wish I’d cut that boring babbie in a fishing boat that was supposed to be funny but wasn’t.

My greatest wish? To create the perfect broadcast show. Yes, stop the show and weep. That’s a real wish. We will know it’s not happening. Too many moving parts in a TV production. Just get over it.

But wait! It’s the quest for perfection that really matters. Can we write better scripts? Can we make better video decisions, edits, and so forth? The answer is yes, of course. So… do you do that? Do you occasionally gather a few viewers and ask them to watch and respond? Do you sit down with your production team and watch your final product and your real “critique”? Everybody wears thick skins, right? It’s imperative to constantly look with a critical eye at what you’re parting on the air.

That’s the right thing to do, but I don’t see much evidence on the outdoor shows on my cable networks. Hey, fishing shows. A question: How many bass do you want me to watch you catch in 22 minutes of video? Sometimes you have a new bass on the line, but I never saw you unhook the first one.

Fishing shows should be informative, right? Me, the sad hooker, wants to watch you, the happy hooker, so I can like you, right? You kindly tell your viewers what you’re using for bait to catch six bass a minute. But do I ever get to see a close up shot of that magical lure? Nah. Cameraman sleeping? We have a saying at Ron Schara Productions: If the camera doesn’t see it, it didn’t happen.

Am I picking on what I see? No, but I could pick on hunting shows for the same boring episodes that mostly begin with whispering in a tree somewhere and ending with the host/hunter kneeling by the humminggoak back telling me what I just watched.

I yell at my TV screen: “Don’t tell me the back came in from the right and snuffed something and then get started and the buck stopped and you flew an arrow at 5 yards. I JUST WATCHED YOU AND THE DEER!”

Tell me something different. Tell me how you feel! Tell me why you picked this spot to hunt (I should have heard that earlier in the show). Tell me why a wonderful animal is the white-tailed deer! Tell me something I haven’t already seen you do! Get it?

Okay, enough. I’m getting cranky. Outdoor television shows have many wonderful attributes. They take us to places we’ve never been and likely never will. They show us moments in the hunt or on the hunt that must be seen to be appreciated. You don’t have to convince me that outdoor television shows, good or lousy, serve some purpose.

But we all want to see better outdoor television communicators, right? We all want to see better outdoor communicators, right? We all want to see better outdoor communicators, right? We all want to see better outdoor communicators, right?

Did somebody mention script writing? Yeah, I did. Every story we produce at Ron Schara Productions starts with story idea, shooting, logging and finishes with a script. The script is voice tracked and then goes to the assigned video editor. Yes, but a script takes time. A fishing show is just cast, catch and release and do it all again. Who needs a script? The answer –
Snitching On My Niche

BY ALEX ZIDOCK | TAFTON, PENNSYLVANIA

O RIGINALLY, I TRIED A STANDARD AP-PROACH to produce a regional “hook and bullet” outdoors television show. I went to the cable company that provided service in our area and purchased a weekly 30-minute time block on its local channel. I contracted with enough local advertisers to cover costs and have a few dollars left over for me. I did not shoot or edit video, so I relied on others to follow me around the woods and waters to tape material. I spent days sitting at their side directing the editing. It was time consuming and took me away from other writing and photography assignments. After a year with this format, I wasn’t making enough money for the hours I was putting in, so I changed my approach and found a niche.

I worked out a partnership with the cable company where I would totally produce a 30-minute show and allow them to sell most of the advertising. I had to provide the airtime and a videographer for a couple hours a week at a specific location. The videographer would also edit the show.

The format of my show was simple. After a 15-second “tease,” JoAnne and I open the show with two minutes of banter about what hunting/fishing seasons are current, or about our guest or anything else we think will keep viewers interested. It takes about an hour to tape the show. Done!

After taping, the show is edited Wednesday and early Thursday morning. It’s no-brainer since they benefit from the exposure of having a TV show taped in their establishment each week.

A weeknight is an off night for most bar/restaurants, so I was new to me, and I was excited. I was an avid bass fisherman, but I never experienced big-water fishing. Everything from the big lures to the at-tractors to the big king salmon we caught were new to me, and I was excited.

The captain was a colorful guy with his shotgun marriage in the woods. We floated the Niangua River in southern Missouri that day, to get to know all about Joyce’s background, and I had a story – and a new friend.

That happened time and time again. I recently retired from The Kansas City Star after 36 years as the outdoors editor. But I’m still writing.

For me, the quest continues. I’m still looking for the characters that make our outdoors sports so great, and I’m still eager to tell their stories.

— Brent Frazee has been an OWAA member since 1980. He lives in Parkville, Missouri, with his wife, Jana, and his Labrador retrievers, Zoey. For more of Brent’s work, go to his website at brentfrazee.com.

Email him at brentfrazee@juno.com.
A lion strolls in Masai Mara, Kenya.

TOP RIGHT: A puma mother and cub in Torres del Plaíne, Chile. Capturing the image took 10 trips to the area over 15 years.

BOTTOM RIGHT: A cheetah chases its prey - a Gnu calf - at Serengeti National Park, Tanzania.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JOE MCDONALD
www.hoothollow.com

BIG CATS
Joe McDonald has been a professional wildlife photographer for over 40 years, with a special interest in the big cats and other predators. He has photographed all seven of the world’s big cats in one year four different times. The Snow Leopard has been the most difficult and challenging.
TOP LEFT:
Leopard at sunset, Serengeti National Park, Tanzania.

TOP RIGHT:
Puma cubs, Torres del Paine, Chile.

BOTTOM:
Lion killing an African Buffalo, Masai Mara, Kenya.
CRAFT IMPROVEMENT

Writing for magazines ISN’T EASY

Learning to work with editors is key to landing assignments

BY SHAWN PERICH | HOVLAND, MINNESOTA

W HEN I WAS STARTING OUT, veteran writers told me magazine pay rates had barely increased throughout their careers. Thirty years later, I can make the same observation.

Frustration with hard work for low pay is a primary reason I transitioned my business from writing to publishing nearly 15 years ago. If anything, magazines are spending even less on editorial as they struggle to survive in an altered media landscape. This doesn’t mean you should avoid magazine writing, but don’t think you can make a career out of it. Magazine writing is a grind where you pitch stories to editors, accept the assignments you receive, scurry to meet deadlines and all while continue your constant search for new assignments. The best you can hope for is to become a regular contributor, where you break into the magazine business. So how do you go about doing so? For starters, National Geographic and the New Yorker can wait. Your first sales have to convince the editor that you are a proficient writer, to tightly focused niche publications that cover an area you specialize in, like to write a story for Northern Wilds about this topic.” Occasionally, a hopeful writer will walk up and introduce themselves while I’m out and about. If the person appears to have potential, we’ll assign a story to them or tell them to go ahead with the story they’ve pitched to us. Our best writers are versatile and can cover a broad array of topics. For a freelancer, it pays, literally, to be versatile.

Generally, magazines plan out the issue before making assignments. This means the editor has specific story needs. At Northern Wilds, we have a theme for the issue and build our selection of stories around the theme. We also make sure our stories are relevant to the month of publication and our readership. We rarely report on something that has already occurred. Instead, we look forward to what will be happening when the issue comes out. Some writers, especially those with a news reporting background, have trouble understanding this concept. As a result, they pitch story ideas that don’t align with our editorial needs. When you approach an editor with a story idea, make sure you understand the magazine well enough to tailor the pitch to the editor’s needs.

Most consumer magazines are visual products. They are designed to be attractive to the eye. The photos and graphics in a layout draw your interest to the story and encourage you to read the words. From an editor’s perspective, however, a story appears on the page is at least as important as what it says. This means it can be difficult to sell a story on the words alone. The key to successful freelancing is the ability to provide a complete story package. A great photographer with mediocre writing skills will nearly always outshine a great writer with mediocre photography skills. In my experience, many writers don’t understand the magazine production process, in which the editor plays a central role. A magazine has hundreds, if not thousands of moving pieces that must be perfectly timed on a page, proofed, corrected and perhaps reassembled, then proofed, corrected and proofed again. All of this is done against a hard deadline. It is up to the editor to keep this process moving and to make all of the necessary decisions along the way.

After you click the send button to deliver your story package to the editor, that person must copyedit and perhaps fact-check your story (for sure any websites or telephone numbers you’ve provided), file the photos and select the ones to use, write the captions and headline, and work with the designer on the layout. If the editor has any questions or needs further information about your story, he or she will get back to you with the expected.

Continued on page 23

Cookin’ Up Another New Story

BY TOM WATSON | APPLETON, MINNESOTA

T HERE IS ONE THING I LOVE NEARLY as much as I love writing – cooking! I find both have a lot in common. In fact, some of the ways I come up with new dishes is precisely the same way I’ve been able to take the basics of an initial story and “re-cook” them into several fresh and equally tasty articles. It’s sometimes even lucrative to pitch a new angle to an originally published piece to the same magazine and sometimes third run all based on an initial submission.

To carry the culinary analogy further, imagine an initial story on barbecuing salmon. You write about the foundation ingredients (fish), you talk about the preparation methods, the seasonings and other enhancements and so on through the technical details of cooking temperatures and time.

Your next article might be built upon the same basic category – cooking – but now you might talk about different methods of preparing your catch, or perhaps offer a selection of herbs and spices that work especially well to enhance fish and game. You might work up a travel piece that takes the reader around a region tasing local variations on a common theme.

“Sell the sizzle; not the steak!” is an old marketing adage that can be applied as well to re-telling and re-selling articles.

Each component of your article, each sizzling bit that enhances the overall story might be another story in itself. Part of the editing process, especially if you subscribe to the “less is best” tenets of writing, might yield subtopics of the main story that would be lend themselves to becoming subject matter on their own. I’ve been very successful writing about outdoor self-reliance and emergency skills and techniques – from basic steps to types of gear and everything in between. Each article has been rooted in the same basic format I’ve learned to trust, yet each subsequent treatment offers a new approach to the theme.

One step, for example, is emergency structures. From that one piece have sprung several additional articles: Shelter coverings; Useful Lashes and Knots for Emergencies; How to Make a Good Shelter Bed; Using Nature’s Shelters. The list is limited only by my awareness of the versatility of the topic.

If I am ever at a loss for a topic to pitch to a publisher I’ve worked for before, I go back to my files and go through stories to see if there are new angles within that original text that can be used to create an updated or expanded (or more focused) piece for that publication. A common example of one good option is a crossover topic (kayak/destination adventure in a fishing magazine or a review citing the versatility of a hunting product that can be used in a hiker’s environment). Such cross-referencing for possible tie-in referencing most always leads to several new options to pursue. In cooking you can always get by with the same meal time and time again. By changing the spices, ingredients and even the kind of heat you use, you can create so many more delicious entrees.

In the writing “kitchen,” too, changing the recipe based on the main dish may enable you to cook up more and more tasty “meals” (and “dessert” sideshouts, too) – and even help keep more food on the table as well.

— Tom Watson is a freelance writer and photographer who specializes in Alaska, recreational paddling, self-reliance, outdoor destinations, and product reviews. A columnist and contributor to several publications, he has been an OWAA member for 31 years. This is a reprint of an article that first appeared in Outdoors Unlimited in 2010. The author’s advice still has merit.
The squandering of a miracle

Commodification leads to polluted water’s devastating effects

BY GLENN SAPIR | PUTNAM VALLEY, NEW YORK

A version of this article originally appeared in the Dec. 27, 2000 edition of The Journal News. This article is one of 166 formerly published by Glenn Sapir and published in “A Sapior Sampler: Favorites by an Outdoor Writer.” Signed copies of the leatherette-bound hardcover are available for $29.50 plus $5 for P&H, from Glenn Sapior, Adirondack communities, Inc., 21 Shamrock Dr., Putnam Valley, NY 10579. Ten percent of OWAa member purchases will be donated to the OWAA Scholarship Fund.

Dying is easy; COMEDY IS HARD

Even the best humor can be lost in translation

BY RICH PATTERSON AND LARRY STONE | CEDAR RAPIDS AND ELKADAE, IOWA

WHEN YOU SAVOR YOUR MORNING COFFEE, ponder whether it might have once passed through other people you admire. Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt, Aldo Leopold, your own grandfather. Water, like air, is a miraculous substance required by all living creatures — yet owned by none. It sustains plant and animal life as it moves through Earth’s circulation system, being reused in a never-ending cycle. As consumers, we should respect water, and return it to its natural cycle unsullied so others can benefit from its life-giving properties. Society often doesn’t treat our environment with respect. We view natural resources as commodities to be used — or used up — for personal benefit. We all can point to examples: a savanna destroyed to create a housing development; crop fields laid bare for six months between harvest and planting; a stream channelized to drain a wetland. Aldo Leopold said it best in A Sand County Almanac 70 years ago: "We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. We may begin to use it with love and respect." Water is part of Leopold’s “land,” and is a key component of the worldwide community to which all living things belong. But farm groups and the government showed little respect for that community when they encouraged massive corn planting to produce the grain needed specifically and environmentally dubious fuel. As prices surged, farmers ripped out woodlots, fencerows and grasslands to plant ever more corn. Excessive fertilization, combined with new herbicides and insecticides, boosted yields while virtually eliminating insects and weeds. If pollution continues to increase, it’s only a matter of time before the food and water industries will voluntarily change their practices to abate this pollution — industrial agriculture plead that they don’t need regulation. They will voluntarily change their practices to abate this pollution — eventually.

Some progressive farmers have reduced pollution by planting cover crops and stream buffers, rotating crops and reducing tillage. Happily, there’s a growing movement among farmers who realize that restoring the health of the land and water system is a more sustainable — and profitable — approach to agriculture than searching for new chemicals. Unfortunately, too many farm operators caught in the squeeze between low crop prices, high rental rates and climbing seed and agrochemical costs cut corners. Wildlife habitat continues to erode as runoff increases. It’s disrespectful to the earth and fellow humans.

Government should help promote more diverse, sustainable agriculture, and sometimes it does. For example, the 2018 Federal Farm Bill legalizes growing industrial hemp with a low THC content. It’s a once-banned crop that requires less input than corn, yet yields fiber, oil and seed.

The popular Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), initiated in 1985, pays farmers to plant trees, prairie species, and other perennial plants that provide wildlife habitat while reducing erosion and water pollution. Unfortunately, many former CRP acres were converted to cornfields as corn prices rose.

The Waters of the United States rule was implemented under the Environmental Protection Agency Clean Water Act protection to small tributaries in an effort to reduce farmland pollution. It was successfully and aggressively resisted by farm groups and was recently eliminated by the Trump Administration.

Resistance to regulation, and the snail’s pace of pollution reduction, could turn out to be self-defeating. Political winds shift. If pollution continues to increase, it’s only a matter of time before the food and water industries will voluntarily change their practices to abate this pollution — industrial agriculture plead that they don’t need regulation. They will voluntarily change their practices to abate this pollution — eventually.

Circle of Chiefs articles are written by those who have received the Jade of Chiefs Award for conservation reporting and coverage. The Jade of Chiefs honorees are considered OWAA’s conservation council. The article reflects the opinion of the authors. If you’d like to add to the discussion, please send a letter to info@owaa.org.
Different problems... SAME REASONS
Humans inevitably err when they try to outsmart nature

BY PAT WRAY | CORVALIS, OREGON

O

F ALL OF GOD’S GIFTS TO EARTH and its inhabitants, sunshine has to be the very best. I suppose a couple could argue, and I’m sure there would be plenty of votes for warm chocolate chip cookies, but for my sunshine, sunsets top them all.

And very few could compete with the sunshine I recently experienced while standing in thigh-deep water on a 42-degree day in central Arkansas, listening to the whisper of mallard wings and hiding behind an oak tree with a borrowed 20-gauge shotgun. OK, it was more than a little chilly, but it was an early morning sun oozing through a low cloud layer. And it was more than a little bit beautiful.

We were surrounded by 33,000 acres of water along with other members of the OWAA board of directors who were in Little Rock for a mid-winter board meeting. I’d been invited by the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (AGFC) to go duck hunting in Bayou Meto (pronounced BY-oh ME-doh) in the world’s largest waterfowl management area.

As I stood in the old waters of Bayou Meto, hoping for some of the passing mallards to cup their wings and circle down, I couldn’t help but think about the issues of Bayou Meto and how they mirror the lessons we are still learning in the Pacific Northwest.

More than 100 years ago, we built our first fish hatchery, and it took us decades to realize that fish we were developing and releasing often overwhelmed native fish they were supposed to be supplementing. Now we have hatcheries specifically designed to simulate natural conditions, using native strains so the fish are capable of surviving and thriving once released.

Isn’t it funny how the more we learn, the more we attempt to return to Mother Nature’s plan? I guess that’s what happens when we don’t know what we don’t know. I can hardly wait to see what happens when the hulls start due for all the tracking and deep well injection going on in search of oil and gas.

How do you spell hubris?

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RMEF Elk Camp set for July in Utah

pen air entertainment, live podcasts, hunting film premiers, the Total Archery Challenge experience, elk hunting and cooking seminars, interactive exhibits, raffles and auctions, outdoor events, the World Elk Calling Championships and much more. It all happens under the blue skies at 7,000 feet in the heart of elk country.

The 2019 RMEF Elk Camp will take place July 13-14 in Park City, Utah.

“There is no better place to celebrate elk, conservation and hunting than outside in the mountains,” said Kyle Weaver, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation president and CEO.

The RMEF Mountain Festival is free, open to the public, and will be held outdoors in the shadows of the Wasatch Mountains in the Canyons Village at Park City. It will feature more than 100 outdoor industry vendors and interactive displays including elk hunting and elk calling seminars, well-known hunting personalities and live music.

Go to www.rme.org/Events/ElkCamps/MountainFest for registration, a daily event schedule and other information.

NSSF, BJA UNVEIL GUN SAFETY VIDEOS

The National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) and the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) have unveiled a new video series — Many Paths to Firearms Safety — to help new and potential gun owners understand the responsibilities they have if they decide to keep a firearm in their home.

The series reflects that more Americans — especially women — are buying guns for many different reasons, ranging from personal protection to recreational shooting. The central message is that while there are many different reasons why someone would choose to buy a gun, the common thread among them must be a commitment to store firearms responsibly when not in use so they can’t be picked up by a child, stolen or accessed by someone who may want to harm themselves.

The new videos are viewable online at https://projectchild-safe.org/education/videos.

PILOT PROJECT RECYCLES OLD FIBERGLASS BOATS

A pilot project funded by BoatUS and recreational marine industries in Rhode Island aims to finally find a solution for the disposal issue for recreational fiberglass boats.

The most common way to dispose of an old boat is to crush and bury the pieces in a landfill where the fiberglass (essentially plastic) degrades slowly. Some boats are abandoned, left beached by their owners or lost to storms, potentially creating navigation hazards or causing environmental harm to waterways.

Begun in 2018, the Rhode Island Fiberglass Vessel Recycling (RIFVR) Pilot Project aims to address the disposal issue for the high number of recreational fiberglass boats reaching the end of their service lives. Between 2003 and 2012 alone, about 1.5 million recreational boats in the U.S. were “retired.”

The pilot project has collected 20 tons of recycled material and is processing the material to supply to concrete plants, where it will be used as an energy source and as a filler for concrete products, according to Evan Ridley of the Rhode Island Marine Trades Association (RIMTA), the project’s sponsor.

Writing for Magazines continued from page 18

When working with editors, remember this: Editors don’t take responsibility in the assignment. Turn in a story that is written to the best of your ability.

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Now do less than your best, because you are always facing competitors who are willing to work harder and do it better than you. Understand that magazines are published in fall color. Visuals are important. The days when you could get by with only a writer are long past. Make sure you have a working knowledge of photography, as well as the media platforms employed by magazines, including video, podcasts, websites and social media.

In this era of so-called “new media,” versatility is the key to succeeding as an outdoor communicator.

— Shawn Perich is the publisher of Northern Wilds, a columnist for Minnesota Outdoor News, and a book author. An OWAA member since 1985, he is a member of OWAA’s Board of Directors.
DONORS

January through April brought monetary gifts from generous donors. Their tax-deductible donations are dedicated to fund designed 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

Jim Low

Joel Vance

John Kruse

Paul Queneau

Ruth Hoyt

America Outdoors Radio/Northern Western Outdoors Radio

Renaissance Charitable Foundation

BOB SMITH FUND

Jim Low

CREDENTIALS REVIEWS:

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

Nick Lowery

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/about-owaa-skills-subject-matter-sections.

MIKE ADAMS, 105 Griscom Mill Rd., Corbin City, CA 08720. (H) 609-675-0150, mikel35adams@gmail.com. Freelance outdoor writer, wildlife field professional and conservation advocate hailing from southern New Jersey. Recent bylines,写了 for Hatch magazine and has written for Garden & Gun, Field & Stream, and other publications. Has also written and hosted several deer hunting segments for Game News beginning in 2007 and a columnist since 2012. Has provided freelance work for several outlets, including Pennsylvania Game News, The Athletic, and numerous newspapers and magazines. Has also written and hosted several deer hunting segments for a television news program (WBRE-28) in Scranton, Pa.

JOHN KEATLEY, Florida Hikes, P.O. Box 10046, Cocoa, FL 32927. (H) 321-536-4058, jknavigator@gmail.com, www.florida-hikes.com. Has been writing about and guiding tours along the Space Coast, has spent most of his youth in the woods or on the water, attaining the rank of Eagle Scout in 1973. During a 33-year career on the Space Shuttle program at Kennedy Space Center he found time between missions to unwind in the outdoors. After the program ended, named his decades of attention to detail toward writing about the outdoors. The freelance writer joined Florida Hikes.com in 2012 as a regular contributor, with a strong focus on cycling, paddling, and hiking. Has since authored seven outdoor and travel books, most recently the third edition of “30 Hikes in Central Florida.” Regularly writes about travel on TrailLink.com with a special emphasis on cycling trips. Is a member of the Florida Outdoor Writers Association and the Society of American Travel Writers, and the founder of the Florida Trail Hikers Alliance. (Sandra Friend) Skills: BLOQ, Subject Matter: GHJLKN; Sections: P Approved for Active membership; sponsored by Luke Larsen.

JOHN RADZIWILLA, Hook & Barrel Magazine, 9808 Bettertown Dr., Oak Point, TX 75067. johnradz@hotmail.com, www.hookandbarrel.com, http://www.hookandbarrel.com. Founding owner, editor-in-chief, Hook & Barrel Magazine. Passionate about the outdoors, particularly the lifestyle that encompasses it. Ask him his favorite hunt or fish to catch and he’ll respond “any that get me outside, with a cold beer in my hand, and in the company of good friends.” (Natalie) Skills: EPW; Subject Matter: ABCDFGHJKLPST; Sections: M Approved for Active membership, sponsored by Karen Loke.

MEGAN ROSS, 8182 Pippin Dr., Rome, MI 48065. (H) 586-713-8629, megaross@ou.edu, www.megaross.com. Senior journalism and art student at the University of Kentucky pursuing a career in environmental journalism, combining her love for the outdoors and writing. Skills: ACDEOSW; Subject Matter: GLINORST; Sections: M Approved for Student membership.

TOM VENESKY, 450 W. County Rd., Wapwallopen, PA 18660. (C) 570-212-1234, x 104, www.veneskyfishing.com. Has been full-time outdoors writer since 2000 for two daily newspapers, Attendance for Hatch magazine and has written for Garden & Gun, Field & Stream, and other publications. Has also written and hosted several deer hunting segments for Game News beginning in 2007 and a columnist since 2012. Has provided freelance work for several outlets, including Pennsylvania Game News, The Athletic, and numerous newspapers and magazines. Has also written and hosted several deer hunting segments for a television news program (WBRE-28) in Scranton, Pa.

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 owaa.org/about-owaa-skills-subject-matter-sections.

SHANE TOWNSEND, 105 Seacoast Dr., Fredericksburg, TX 78624. (H) 830-456-4563, (W) 512-879-1369, townsend.jihan@owaa.org. For regional office officer serving at the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi, Kenya. Fellow at The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment. In 2014, FalconGuides published his first book “Paddling Texas:” Writs for Hatch magazine and has written for Garden & Gun. Field & Stream, and other publications. Has also written and hosted several deer hunting segments for Game News beginning in 2007 and a columnist since 2012. Has provided freelance work for several outlets, including Pennsylvania Game News, The Athletic, and numerous newspapers and magazines. Has also written and hosted several deer hunting segments for a television news program (WBRE-28) in Scranton, Pa.

NATHANIEL WILSON, 29 Gilmer Dr., Anderson, SC 29621. (C) 864-430-6502, wilsanath@gmail.com, www.bluewalljournal.com. Native of Greenville, South Carolina and currently a staff fisheries and wildlife biology student at Clemson University. Prior to enrollment, has spent much of the last decade working as a guide and leading river trips on the Rogue and Croco rivers in Oregon and The Middle Fork of The Salmon River in Idaho’s Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness. Has contributed both images and text to several river focused guidebooks as well as national and international attention campaigns. Also with his recently-co-founder Blue Wall Journal that will exist as a home for educational content meant to drive increased engagement with the natural world. (Christine) Skills: MOS; Subject Matter: AGIKORS; Sections: P Approved for Student membership.

NEW SUPPORTING GROUPS, AGENCIES AND BUSINESSES

Supporting Group listings include references to acronyms that relate to resources they provide. A key for these acronyms can be found at owaa.org/about-owaa-supporter-resources.

ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE FUND, 301 Congress Ave., Ste. 1300, Austin, TX 78701. Contact: Sepp Haukebo, program manager - recreation fisheries. (W) 409-333-3355, Sepp.Haukebo@edf.org, www.edf.org. Since 1967, we’ve found innovative ways to solve the toughest environmental problems. We work on issues related to the terrestrial, aquatic, and marine environments finding solutions that meet economic and ecological needs. We work with user groups like farmers, ranchers, hunters, and fishermen while also helping to fill the needs of resource managers and scientists. Resources: CO.

NAVINICS, 142 Sealy Place, Pendergrass, GA 30567. Contact: Tom Bracht Jr., promotions manager. (W) 770-235-3567, tbrach@navinics.com, www.navinics.com/uaa. Navinics was established in 1984 in Viareggio, Italy. Navinics’ produces electronic charts for the leisure boating and fishing markets. Owned by Garman. Our mission is to delight our customers by producing market leading innovative and innovative marine cartography content and features through the use of creativity, engineering excellence through market knowledge and efficient production procedures. We want to expand as the global leader in marine content and location-based services built on innovation derived from our lifestyle appreciation and its expertise. Natural. Navinics’ functional cartography database is the world’s largest and includes oceans, seas, rivers and more than 38,000 lakes. Navinics makes this unique and valuable content available to boaters for use in GPS chartplotters, and within our app for Apple and Android devices. Resources: P.

OREGON’S MT. HOOD TERRITORY, 1830 Blankenheim Rd., Ste. 100, West Linn, OR 97068. Contact: Casey Knopik, public relation and marketing specialist. (W) 503-742-5933, casey@mthoodterritory.com, www.mthoodterritory.com. Oregon’s Mt. Hood Territory is the official destination marketing organization for Clackamas County, Oregon, and is responsible for developing and promoting tourism throughout the county. We work to increase the number of new and repeat visitors to strengthen the local economy. For more information on Oregon’s Mt. Hood Territory visit www.mthoodterritory.com. Resources: CF.

PLANETARY DESIGN, PO Box 1011, Bonner, MT 59823. Contact: Jess Nepstad, CEO Owner. (W) 406-728-7008, (F) 406-827-6440, jnepstad@planetarydesigns.us. Secondary contact: Alyssa Perkins, director of finance, alyssa@planetarydesigns.us. Makers of ultra-durable coffee gear for baristas quality brew anytime, anywhere — backcountry, cross-country, road trips, van life, RVing, camping, hiking, biking or just enjoying a nice sexy afternoon, we’ve got the best coffee brewer and storage gear for your adventure. Supporter Resources: GIP.


REINSTATED SUPPORTING GROUPS, AGENCIES AND BUSINESSES

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

R.L. WINSTON ROD COMPANY, 500 S. Main St., Twin Bridges, MT 59759. Contact: Leslie Clark, marketing. (W) 406-684-5764, (Toll Free) 866-964-7637, (F) 406-684-5753, lclark@winstonrods.com, www.winstonrods.com. The R.L. Winston Rod Company has been building the world’s finest flyfishing rods since 1929. Supporter Resources: GIP.
The Extinct Birds Project started in 2015 after the author witnessed a drawer full of extinct birds at the Roger Tory Peterson Institute of Natural History in Jamestown, New York. It’s the most comprehensive book ever published about where, why and how women fish. Rey spent two full years speaking with devout women anglers far and wide, seeking out a wide range of female anglers, from age 20 to 90, from the Florida Keys all the way to Alaska. They fish for nearly every species that swims in freshwater and salt. They fish with lures and flies and bait. They fish out of multi-million-dollar sport-fishing yachts and out of kayaks, off pier and beaches. All are passionate about their favorite outdoor sport. Their personal stories are fascinating.

Armando Basulto

Armando is an avid and life-long outdoorsman, writer, photographer and hunter. His work has been featured in a wide variety of outdoor and action-lifestyle publications including American Frontiersman, American Survival Guide, Ballistic, Tactical Life, Survivor’s Edge, Canoas and Beasts, and more. Armando has developed working relationships with a diverse group of creative vendors and publishers in the outdoor industry. In addition, he has co-authored a combatives manual for the Special Operations community. Armando holds undergraduate degrees from Montclair State University and NYU as well as a Master’s degree from Fordham University.

The first issue of Outdoors Unlimited was published in 1940. It didn’t take much to fill the “magazine” in those early days because it was printed on 8½ x 11 paper and folded to make a finished book at about 8 inches by 6 inches. The back page proclaimed it the Official Organ of OWAA. Besides the planning, editing, and design work that goes into today’s Outdoors Unlimited, there’s a need for a lot more content – articles and photos.

Moving Water explores the friendships made through our passions – in this case, fly fishing. Featuring 20 of author Dave Hall’s ethereal landscape paintings, Moving Water tells his moving story about an introduction to fly fishing as a boy, of the influence of a family of artists, and the closest of friends, and with an ending that will send and inspire. Hall paints and writes on the Henry’s Fork of the Snake River in Idaho. Signed copies are available at MovingWater.org/giving-pack 25 percent of every sale going to river conservation.

The Extinct Birds Project

INFO:

AUTHOR: Alberto Rey
INFO: Canadaway Press; softcover; 228 pages; 143 illustrations; $45

The Extinct Birds Project started in 2015 after the author witnessed a drawer full of extinct birds at the Roger Tory Peterson Institute of Natural History in Jamestown, New York. Countless questions ran through Rey’s mind: How did the extinctions happen? What else can and will happen? Rey set out to answer these questions and to accompany an exhibition and this website (http://www.extinctbirdsproject.com/) tries to answer these questions and accompanies an exhibition and this website (http://www.extinctbirdsproject.com/).

Hiking Indiana, 3rd Edition

INFO:

AUTHOR: Phil Bloom
INFO: Falcon Guides / Globe Pequot; softcover; 272 pages; all color maps and photos; $24.95.

By Phil Bloom: Fort Wayne, Indiana

The suggested length for submissions is 650 to 750 words, and if you have a photo or artwork to go along with it, that’s even better.

CIRCLE OF CHIEFS

The Circle of Chiefs regularly produce opinion pieces on conservation issues, but as my brother-in-law often says, “Opinions are like noses and elbows – everybody has one or two.”

If you have a different take on a topic the Chiefs have tackled, nothing prevents you from offering a counter point of view. This is your magazine, too.

We also print letters to the editor, so if there’s something you want to get off your chest, fire away.

SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

If you have stories or photos for Outdoors Unlimited, email them to info@owaa.org.
Meet a member

NAME: Drew YoungeDyke
RESIDENCE: Ann Arbor, Michigan
OWAA MEMBER SINCE: 2018
WEBSITE: https://blog.nwf.org/authors/drew-youngedyke/page/2/

AREA(S) OF OUTDOOR COMMUNICATION: I am the communications coordinator for the National Wildlife Federation Great Lakes Regional Center. I do public relations, write for magazines, blog, and do a podcast.

WHAT DREW YOU TO THE FIELD? It’s better than being an insurance lawyer! I’m amazed I’ve found a career that allows me to write about conservation, weave in my personal outdoor recreation experiences, and get paid for it. I love the outdoors and participating in nature on an active level, and I believe in conserving it.

WHAT ENTICED YOU TO JOIN (OR REJOIN) OWAA? To communicate the work of the National Wildlife Federation to the best outdoor writers in America, and, as a freelance outdoor writer, to learn from them myself.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE OUTDOOR ACTIVITY? Still-hunting whitetail deer with a recurve bow out of a backpack camp on public land. Though there are more effective ways to obtain venison, this method triggers an embedded, ancient instinct which no other outdoor activity can.

WHAT ARE YOU CURRENTLY WORKING ON? Producing the NWF Outdoors Podcast, encouraging hunters and anglers to use non-lead ammunition and fishing tackle to reduce impacts on non-target wildlife like bald eagles and loons, generating support for the plan to keep Asian carp out of the Great Lakes, writing my new column for Woods-N-Water News on outdoor recreation and fitness, and raising my new son, Noah!

WHAT HAVE YOU GAINED FROM THE ORGANIZATION? The National Wildlife Federation has benefitted by spreading the message about work like the need to keep Asian carp out of the Great Lakes, which is part of my job. I’ve also personally benefitted through new assignments for National Wildlife, craft improvement, personal connections, and introducing my niece to National Parks by buying her Ken Keffer’s Ranger Rick book.