



Outdoor Writers Association of America

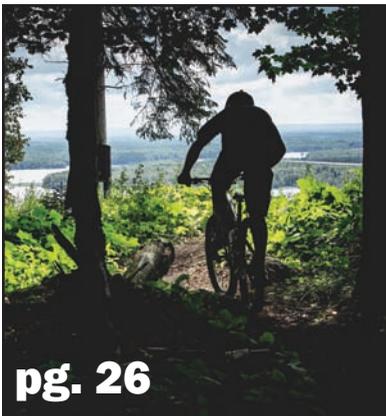
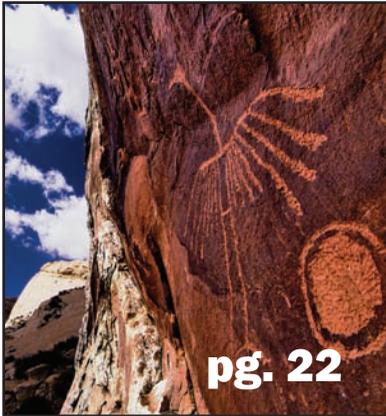
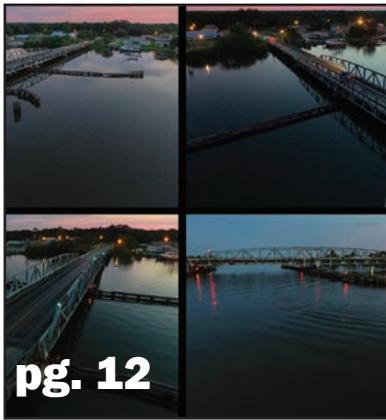
OUTDOORS UNLIMITED

The Voice of the Outdoors

February/March 2017

OUTDOORS UNLIMITED

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- 5 Finding the right word — *by Paul Bruun*
- 6 The appeal of magazine apps — *by Russell Roe*
- 7 Use storytelling to engage audiences — *by Becky Jones Mahlum*
- 8 Edit yourself to success — *by Amy Bulger*
- 9 As the trade winds blow — *by Lou Dzierzak*
- 10 Making the most of media trips — *by John Kruse*
- 11 Recording audio on your iPhone — *by Paul Queneau*
- 12 Shooting from the sky — *by Ruth Hoyt*
- 14 How to cover the outdoors like a crime reporter — *by Mark Freeman*
- 15 When, how to tag on social media — *by Taylor Wyllie*
- 4 Letter to the editor
- 21 Circle of Chiefs
- 16 Portfolio
- 25 2017 conference preview
- 18 Member discounts and deals
- 28 New members
- 20 National affairs and the environment
- 30 Association update



ON THE COVER

By Colleen Miniuk-Sperry

Ice graces a cascade along Duck Brook in Acadia National Park in Maine.

See more of Miniuk-Sperry's work in the portfolio on page 16.

— *Editor's note: The cover and portfolio were solicited and designed before Miniuk-Sperry became OWAA's interim executive director.*

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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2017 brings change and a birthday

Hunt begins for new ED, OWAA turns 90

I was talking to a fellow OWAA board member back in early November about the winter board meeting, and I told her things had been pretty quiet during the first half of my presidency. Everything, I explained, was moving along swimmingly.

That all changed two days later when **Tom Sadler**, our executive director, dropped his bomb and told me he was leaving his position.

After a deep breath acknowledging the task ahead, I congratulated Tom and thanked him for his four years with OWAA. Then we started earnestly talking about the next steps for Tom and for our organization.

OWAA is in a much better place today than it was when Tom was hired. It would be wrong to give Tom all the credit for the strides accomplished during his time as the executive director — I know he would agree with that sentiment.

Tom worked with the board and our members, but he also pushed our leadership to take more ownership for some of the issues. Of course, Jessica Seitz, our membership and conference staffer, has played a large role in our successes. So did OWAA part-time employee Kelsey Dayton. It has, indeed, been a group effort.

According to multiple sources, most employees in the United States these days average about 4½ years before moving on to other opportunities. Tom fell just a little short of the national norm, but I won't hold it against him.

While change at the top can be nerve-racking and take some adjustment, it should also be viewed as a healthy process for non-profit organizations. I personally feel the change can be particularly beneficial to professional nonprofit organizations like OWAA.

The selection committee, created by then president **Mark Taylor**, drafted a job description that tasked Tom with stopping membership declines and getting OWAA's finances back in the black.

Recognizing the importance of this job description in finding our new executive director, I asked Mark to again be a part of the committee. I also asked a couple of other previous OWAA presidents, as well as former and current board members.



BRETT PRETTYMAN

I reached outside of the committee for input from others I felt could offer sound advice on what OWAA is looking for in a new executive director.

Vice President **Phil Bloom** chairs the Strategic Plan Committee and I asked him to encourage the committee members to send me their thoughts on what skills the next executive director should exhibit.

Tom's job for the past four years served as a template for a new job description. I also asked Tom to create a "Pass the Torch" document explaining the day-to-day duties of leading OWAA. Our Board of Directors and Executive Committee started using this type of document several years ago help our elected volunteers understand their duties during their terms. It has proven a valuable tool, and we owe thanks to board member **Kris Millgate** for suggesting we use it.

The selection committee will consider suggestions from all resources before coming up with the final description, which as of deadline for the magazine hadn't been finalized.

Picking a new executive director is only half the battle. An executive director is only as good as the job description in front of them. Preparing this document and picking a new leader is a time-consuming task full

of heavy responsibility. I want to thank the selection committee for volunteering their time, in addition to other OWAA duties many of them have, for the vitally important job of finding OWAA a new leader.

OWAA Turns 90

A new executive director is not the only excitement 2017 holds for OWAA. As of April 9, our organization will be nine decades old. This is truly something to celebrate. As current members of the organization, we need to reflect on all that has been accomplished since our beginnings, but we also need to focus on our vision for the future and all we can do in the next 90 years.

As chair of the marketing committee, board member **Tom Keer** and his gang came up with a campaign to celebrate our 90th birthday. You may have seen some teasing of this already, if not keep an eye out for it.

There will be specific suggestions for ways to recognize this important achievement, but I'd like our members to think about things they can do to help OWAA continue to grow, remain vital and serve our community.

These ideas could range from setting a goal of personally finding two new members, asking your favorite outdoor gear company if they might want to join as a Supporting Group, helping find a sponsor for one of our currently unsponsored Excellence in Craft contests or making a contribution to one of the many funds which help keep OWAA operating.

These are truly exciting times for OWAA. I hope you will join me in celebrating our wonderful collection of outdoor communicators. ■

— OWAA President Brett Prettyman
brettoutdoors@yahoo.com

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

PUBLIC LANDS ARE IMPORTANT TO EVERYONE

I would like to comment on President Brett's column in the December/January issue.

Let me make it clear, I am an easterner, a native of northern Vermont where I still live and hope to die, just not too soon. However, I agree with Brett that the attempts to transfer public lands to the states or private entities is an issue we should all be concerned about and not just a western issue.

Chris Madson's Circle of Chiefs column in the same issue is an example of why I find OU so valuable.

I have been a member of OWAA since 1985 and have attended the majority of the annual conferences including the most recent. They have all been valuable to me professionally and personally.

I gained enough material in Billings to write several columns about western issues and appreciate what the conference offered in the way of topics and speakers.

As for the makeup of the board, what's the issue? Any one of us can run for a seat. We owe those who serve now and have served in the past for all the hard work they put in to make OWAA a great organization.

— Gary Moore
Bradford, Vermont

Feedback guidelines

Members are encouraged to write about issues and topics. The executive director and editor will decide whether opinions are appropriate for debate or if the comments promote a personal cause; if the "cause" is unrelated to OWAA's mission and potentially damaging to the membership, the letter might not be printed. Word limit: 400. Longer letters will be returned for revision. Letters are not edited for grammar, spelling or style. Send letters to editor@owaa.org.

Miniuk-Sperry named Interim ED

OWAA's Board of Directors named **Colleen Miniuk-Sperry** interim executive director via an electronic vote Dec. 5. Miniuk-Sperry, OWAA's secretary, abstained from the vote that named her a temporary, part-time replacement for **Tom Sadler**.

Sadler resigned from OWAA to start a new position as deputy director of the Marine Fish Conservation Network.

OWAA President **Brett Prettyman** formed a search committee that is looking for a permanent replacement.

Miniuk-Sperry is a photographer and OWAA member since 2010. You can reach her at cms@owaa.org. ■



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POLLINATOR APPROVED



Finding the right word

BY PAUL BRUUN

A dim but unrelenting chorus chimes in my mind. “Where *is* that word I want?” Pressing my chin down on my chest and relaxing helps encourage this vocabulary retrieval process — sometimes.

But rather than waste more time pondering and floundering, it is prudent to move ahead with the piece and return later to playing this game of verbal hide ‘n seek.

There is much more to choosing the right word or words than many readers realize.

Careful writers add distinct words as a way of applying extra polish to their content. Good writing is a result of rewriting to improve reader understanding.

A dozen years ago I recognized that I was struggling, not only with correct spelling, but my vocabulary recall was flickering. I was also repeating words within close proximity in a paragraph and often within a sentence.

Enter a Franklin

I told my friend about my issue and she chuckled. “You need a Franklin.”

A Franklin was a small electronic device her junior-high-aged son used to help with spelling and word choice.

“You will love it,” my friend promised.

Dutifully I sought office supply warehouse aid and secured a Franklin Merriam-Webster Dictionary & Thesaurus spelling device for about \$25.

Powered by a watch battery, the miniature window-keyboard gadget slipped inconspicuously into in my laptop bag. With minimal hunting and pecking I quickly unraveled words whose spellings either baffle me or elicit mental blocks.

For instance “khaki” is a term that triggers a stubborn determination to attempt “k-a-h(k)-a-k-i.” Using this awkward approach stumps my Mac’s laptop dictionary programs. Enter “kahaki” in my online dictionary and “No entries found” results.

Rather than taking my own above-mentioned advice to move on when a word stumps and return later, such a brief spelling annoyance compels me to rush immediately to Google and sometimes Wikipedia to cure each and every spelling breakdown.

These instantaneous solutions disrupt writing continuity and burn time and data use. A fast Franklin visit avoids all of this.

Despite gobbling batteries, the diminutive Franklin has speedily vanquished my awkward spelling challenges.

Thesaurus digs deeper

I’ve focused on writing for newspapers, along with weekly columns, since the late 1960s. Preparing a quarterly piece for TROUT magazine on classic tackle for some reason prompted recall of classic writing devices.

Admittedly it’s more colorful than pleasant to recollect hellish composing rooms of Linotype machines and hot lead printing, calackity-clacking manual and portable typewriter woes — broken ink ribbons, snapped and jammed keys and messy carbon paper copies.

Electric typewriters added their own litany of physical nightmares. My word production as a speedy typist surpassed others who struggled with early computer keyboard setups and page spacing issues. The instant luxuries of spellchecking, fingertip copy-and-paste editing and superior file saving forced me to stop resisting computer technology.

Such improved copy production hasn’t solved everything. Gratefully, the years have been relatively kind to me, but it’s frustrating to fumble and dig for words and phrases that are faintly visible but beyond reach. Many allude to this situation as being on the “tip of the tongue.” I refer to it as in my “vague brain shadow.”

Years back I bought a “Doubleday Roget’s Thesaurus In Dictionary Form,” but used it sparingly. Seeking help installing a better word never seemed a problem. But now, plucking that shadowy term from my brain is becoming a considerable challenge. A simple fix finds me regularly clicking on the “thesaurus” part of my Mac’s dictionary, a process that adds a delightful array of alternatives to study.

I was embarrassed at first about using a thesaurus as a crutch. That was before I realized how much pleasure came from examining new words, both synonyms and antonyms.

Do I have plans to replace my antiquated 1970s thesaurus with its label of “250,000 Synonyms and Antonyms”?

It’s on my gift list, chiefly after an on-line examination shows “Roget’s 21st Century Thesaurus” promises “500,000 synonyms and antonyms yield over 1 million word choices” as well as “Hundreds of recently coined and common slang terms—plus commonly used foreign terms.”

A million words?

Who can resist such 21st century verbal inundation?

Not I!

With so many choices, I’ll never be stumped again. Or at least I’ll know how to find the right word. ■



Paul Bruun became the editor of the weekly Jackson Hole Guide in 1973. In 1978 he founded and edited the Jackson Hole Daily. His weekly outdoors and food columns begun in 1973 continue to regularly appear in the weekly Jackson Hole News&Guide. He also pens “Classics” about vintage fly gear on the last page of Trout Unlimited’s Trout magazine.

The appeal of magazine apps

BY RUSSELL ROE

Our art director at Texas Parks & Wildlife magazine likes to put “Easter eggs” in the app version of our magazine as a way to amuse readers (and, truthfully, himself) with little surprises. One month, a skunk sprayed at the screen when readers turned to the feature story on the animals. Another month, an “ouch” appeared on the screen and was heard through the device’s speakers if readers touched a prickly plant.

These little extras offer readers pleasant surprises as they swipe through the content of our magazine. And they’re something that can’t be accomplished in print. Apps can be expensive and time-consuming to produce, but they can be fun, too, and offer another way to reach readers and present content in new forms.

We launched our app in January 2015 for three reasons:

1. We wanted to be positioned for a digital future. We don’t think print is going anywhere anytime soon, but the world is increasingly digital and we wanted to be a part of it. We also want our advertisers ready when digital advertising exceeds print advertising. We want to create value not just for our readers, but for our advertisers by giving them new ways to reach their customers.

2. We wanted a new revenue stream. We figured that by offering a digital magazine, we could reach new readers who weren’t interested in print. We thought we might lose a few print readers

who wouldn’t switch to digital, but figured we’d gain more new readers who were out in the digital marketplace already. Those new digital readers would provide us money we weren’t getting otherwise.

3. We wanted to reach younger readers. Our audience is old and getting older. Our reader surveys tell us that. Younger Americans are reading on their computers and on their phones, and we knew we needed to go where young readers are in order to reach them.

It’s an uncertain time for magazine apps. The rise of tablets gave magazines a lot of hope for expanding audiences, and many new tools have come along to help magazines produce digital editions. But it hasn’t been smooth sailing, and some magazines have already pulled back after dipping a toe in the digital waters.

Apple got rid of Newsstand, where most of the digital magazines lived. That means magazine apps now live on a person’s home screen instead of clumped together with other magazines, a position that may give them more visibility or get them lost amid the clutter.

Despite that uncertainty, it’s important to be in the digital marketplace.

Magazines can start small and build a presence as time goes by. Many publications start with creating digital replicas of their content.

There’s software out there to convert a print magazine to digital form, and producing such a version doesn’t cost that much. The digital pages look just like the print

pages, shrunken down to fit on a tablet. One drawback is that readers looking for digital magazines expect more features than a replica can provide (a replica is especially hard to read on a phone). A replica’s clunkiness can turn readers off, though replicas can be enhanced with videos and hyperlinks. A replica at least gets your publication into the world of digital products, and that’s saying something.

Stepping up from the world of replicas means developing a more fully featured app using Adobe digital publishing products or app producers such as Twixl or Mag-Plus. This will take more time and money but will provide the reader with a more satisfying digital reading experience, with photos and type sized appropriately to suit the device. The costs rise dramatically in terms of staff time and software expenses when stepping up from a replica. But the payoffs can be big.

These apps provide new ways to present content. Videos, slide shows and audio enhancements can be easily integrated with articles, dramatically expanding the storytelling possibilities.

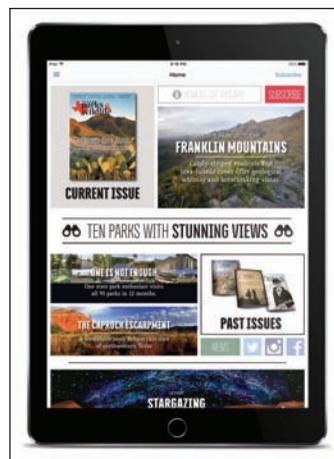
In the first app issue Texas Parks & Wildlife magazine published, we ran a story about wolf snails, which hunt and eat other types of snails. After hours of experimentation, our art director finally created a snail to crawl across the screen, complete with slime trail for the digital version of the story. The result is a little piece of interactivity that adds a bit of levity to the page.

For an article on river songs, we enlisted the help of some Texas singer-songwriters to record videos of a couple of notable Texas river songs mentioned in the story. The videos were placed directly into the app version of the story, providing enhanced content that print readers were not able to get. For the same article, we asked our in-house artist to provide illustrations and cover art. We shot a time-lapse video of him creating his artwork, and the video became a key part of the app experience. The app also linked to a Spotify playlist of dozens of Texas river songs.

Perhaps the best example showing the full use of the app’s capabilities came in



Using an app allows staff at Texas Parks & Wildlife magazine to tell stories in different formats.



The homepage for Texas Parks & Wildlife magazine's app highlights content, including interactive elements impossible to replicate in print.

Use storytelling to engage audiences

BY BECKY JONES MAHLUM

The first time I learned about the power of using stories in news releases and articles was during a webinar sponsored by the Public Relations Society of America about a year ago. I was embarrassed. I was a devotee of the now-so-five-minutes-ago inverted pyramid and in presentations had promoted its use. It felt like the time I took my brand-new, one-speed bike with big fenders to a biking summer camp only to find everyone else had sleek 10-speeds. I may have been more physically comfortable, but I could not keep up with the latest in bike technology. The shame was similar to how I felt during the storytelling seminar. Why didn't I know about what all the other kids were already using?

Like bringing a 10-speed to a week-long bike trip, I quickly realized using storytelling makes sense. When we were students, good teachers told us stories to cement concepts in our young minds. Using metaphors and anecdotes puts your main points in context for the listener or reader. They give us a reason to keep reading, while helping us retain the message.

And, whether I'm writing an article for Ducks Unlimited's magazine or writing a press release for the organization, I want my audience to keep reading and understand my and the organization's message.

Stories connect information with emotion so we can remember it longer. I've held on to some stories for years, retelling them over and over, something you likely want your readers to do.

We are more likely to talk about an experience than facts and figures. The writing expert Ann Wylie suggests leading with an anecdote and following up with a statistic that shows the scope of the problem. Numbers help us frame an issue, but it helps to first give the reader a reason to care about that gee-whiz statistic.

Stories are up to 22 times more memorable than facts alone, according to Jennifer Aaker, a Stanford Graduate School of Business marketing professor. Aaker says facts and figures shouldn't be completely eliminated from your storytelling. When data and story are used together, audiences are moved emotionally and intellectually.

Hearing stories stimulates chemicals in our brains. According to a study published in Harvard Business Review, character-driven stories consistently cause us to make oxytocin, a hormone that can influence emotions and social behavior. The researcher and author

of the article, Claremont Graduate University Professor Paul J. Zak, reported the amount of oxytocin released by the brain predicted how much people were willing to help others, like donating money to a charity that is part of the narrative.

Zak's research showed including some kind of struggle or tension that eventually leads to triumph can motivate people and help them remember your story. He says it captures people's hearts by first attracting their brains.

Applying this technique to what I write about most, conservation work and major sponsors to Ducks Unlimited, took some figuring out. Sometimes I need to fish around during an interview to get that great story, the pivotal moment, and sometimes the best stories fall in your lap.

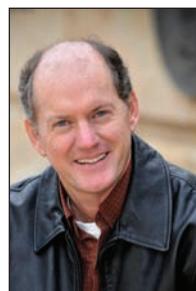
I was working on an article that emphasized recruitment and how members bring each other into the fold, when I learned how one member joined DU after falling into water on a minus 28-degree day. On the chilly walk back to the car, he and his companion decided they needed a dog. The dog trainer they eventually hired turned out to be the chair of a local Ducks Unlimited event. Sharing this story is way more interesting than simply telling members they might find recruits in unexpected places.

In an article covering a successful Ducks Unlimited committee in a small town, I lead with a metaphor featuring Ginger Rogers. The more interesting lead hopefully kept readers engaged, whether they are Ducks Unlimited members, or an editor at the local newspaper, who might find the article intriguing enough to use.

One thing riding a grandma bike at bike camp taught me was the power of friendship. My good friend, despite her sleek 10-speed, stayed with me in the back of the pack the entire trip. We did have company, though, from the guy who brought a low-rider banana bike. If you are under 50, you may need to Google that. ■



Becky Jones Mahlum is the communications manager for Ducks Unlimited's Great Plains Region, headquartered in Bismarck, North Dakota. Mahlum worked as a journalist for most of her career. She joined Ducks Unlimited in 2005.



Russell Roe is managing editor for Texas Parks & Wildlife magazine. He lives in Austin, Texas.

Edit yourself to success

BY AMY BULGER

I've sweated out late nights in front of the screen, laboring for the perfect words as a deadline approached. I've tweaked my own writing until I could throw my hands up in touchdown victory — and then the edits came back. How can writing feel so right when it's flying from your fingers and look so wrong when the track changes come back from your editor? The answer may be in how much time you devote to self-editing.

Laying an objective eye on your own copy is one of the most challenging parts of the writing process and, from the side of the editor's desk, it's also one of the most apparent. Editing is a subjective business, but one where the basics never change — grammar rules, spelling and fact-checking, to name a few.

I spoke with a handful of colleagues about issues editors frequently encounter and how writers can step back and analyze a story to address many of these problems before ever submitting it. Those extra minutes spent are an investment in cleaner copy, which could pay off with more assignments. The less we have to do with what you send, the more we want to work with you again.

Ten ways to self-editing success:

1. Lede the way, fearlessly

It seems too few writers spend time crafting quality ledes. A good lede is a requirement. Shorter is usually better, full of strong verbs. Show conflict, irony, sentiment; but don't confuse ledes with nut grafs. Great ledes make your story human, help readers relate to your subject or pique interest. And they take practice. Myriad websites offer tips on this, but be careful not to get boxed in by formulas. Creativity is key.

2. Don't stash your nuts

Nut grafs are too often buried or don't exist. Don't make a reader wait 500 words to find it, and don't forget about it. Once you're done writing, highlight it. If it doesn't stand out clearly, that might be a good cue to restructure a sentence or two to make it shine.

3. Slay the zombies

While it's not a crime to write in passive voice, these sentences often fly to the top of an editor's radar to tweak. Grammarly.com retweeted from teacher Rebecca Johnson a memorable way to test whether you're writing structure is passive: If you can insert "by zombies" after the verb and it still makes sense, it's passive voice.

In these sentences, the subject is being acted upon. In an active-voice sentence, the subject is doing the acting. Active sentences make for stronger, compelling writing.

The zombie test in action:

- The town was attacked (by zombies). Yep, passive sentence.
- Zombies attacked (by zombies) the town. Doesn't make sense. It's an active sentence.

4. Follow the facts

Check your facts and know the position of the publication. Make sure your story doesn't convey misstatements of an agency's position or research that's already been published.

5. Get off the crutches

Therefore. Overall. Suddenly. Strangely. Additionally. We all have crutches — words or phrases that seem innocuous when used a couple times, but become downright annoying when sabotaged by repetitiveness. A host of online tools can help catch the catch phrases in your copy, including: wordcounter.com or autocrit.com (invented for fiction writers but, remarkably, it works on journalistic words). There also are macros for Microsoft Word that count repetitive words and phrases right in your Word doc, and (for a fee) ProWritingAid can analyze your Google Docs for redundancies, clichés and more. Leave the overalls for the ranch work.

6. Nail the style

Know the publication's style and use it, whether AP, Chicago or something else. And stick to the basics of journalism, like using only last names of subjects on second reference.

7. Do your quotes runneth over?

Quotes exist to further a storyline, not reiterate (sometimes verbatim) what the writer already stated. Choose quotes carefully. Don't overuse them to get out of writing your own story. Fabricated quotes can be quite obvious.

8. Get tense

Pick a tense and stay in it. Switching tenses is a very common issue and easily fixable through self-editing.

9. Sketch an outline

Many outdoor publications deal with complicated biological and environmental issues. An outline can help a story's flow and help the writer find a logical organization to the facts.

10. Put the words down and walk away

Allow for time to *not* look at a story. Build in time before deadline for this, it's crucial. Finish writing the piece in advance, print it out and put it away. A couple days before it's due to the editor, take it out and reread it. Lots of things will jump out at you. Give yourself a day to rework the piece without rushing it out the door. Trust me, your editor will notice. ■



Amy Bulger is a freelance writer by night, cloaked as the editor of *Wyoming Wildlife* during the day. And yes, she did self-edit this article.

As the trade winds blow

Is attending industry shows worth the cost?

BY LOU DZIERZAK

The trade winds start blowing at the start of the year. With the new year, January brings the SHOT Show in Las Vegas, the Outdoor Retailer Show in Salt Lake city and the SnowSports Industries America Show in Denver. These not only kick off the trade show season, but are considered must-attend events for freelance writers focusing on outdoor recreation. But as soon as the shows finish, many freelancers start thinking about next year and wondering if attending is worth it.

Commitment to the show circuit can keep you away from home for weeks and even for savvy travelers, rack up thousands of dollars in travel expenses.

Freelance pay rates are low and no one is covering your travel expenses. Access to key brand executives is limited even for those who schedule interviews in advance. If a brand's public relations agency contact can send the latest press releases and images, why endure the hassle of missed flights, excess baggage fees and catching the guaranteed 10-day cold that follows spending hours indoors with 5,000 other travelers. (Seems like half the people you talk to apologize for their runny noses and rumbling coughs. No one ever comes home virus-free.)

So travel is expensive, you don't great access to sources and you'll likely come home sick? It seems like an easy decision to stay home. But let's take a look at the other side of the ledger before making the final decision.

For Aspen, Colorado, freelancer Allison Patillo, trade shows are one of the few times she's able to leave the isolated world of working on her own. It's a way to connect with colleagues, as well as industry leaders and editors, she said.

Most freelance writers have experienced the frustration of sending a well-thought-

out, finely crafted article query to a magazine editor. Sadly, too many of those queries never reach the intended audience. Most editors aren't rude folk who care little about freelancers. They are just overworked journalists constantly surrounded by fire-breathing deadline dragons.

Attend one of the many media events hosted by major brands at any of the big shows, and you may find yourself sitting next to that elusive editor. After introductions, the conversations often turn to looking for opportunities. Editors are always looking for new content, and freelance writers never fail to jump in with an idea.

"Trade shows are one of the most important parts of my year," said Aaron Bible, a freelance writer from Nederland, Colorado. "It's a networking opportunity with my peers and my existing clients and dozens of potential clients. Every meeting, every interaction, every dinner is a potential interview and opportunity for getting new work, embarking on new creative projects, looking for contracts and full-time work, and meeting other writers and photographers who may expand your network and become valuable resources in the short and long term. I've met editors and gotten assignments just by hanging out in the press room and going up and talking to people."

Perhaps one of the freelance writers with whom you shared a beer goes home and finds themselves with a new job at a publication looking for contributors. They start thinking of the writers they know—and you are on the list.

Editors from established publications aren't the only source of assignments. In this crazy world of content marketing, startup businesses and ever-expanding outdoor-oriented websites, you might find work with a brand or company with an in-person introduction.

Regular attendance at trade shows also builds credibility in the industry. Despite the crowds, trade shows are actually small

communities. Writers who attend show after show, year after year, are often recognized as industry experts.

"Connecting in person is the best way to understand the vision and goals of gear manufacturers and travel companies," said James Dziezynski, an author and freelancer from Boulder, Colorado. "For veteran show attendees, those relationships morph into a sort of institutional knowledge that creates excellent working relationships based on an understanding of where all these brands want to live in a competitive outdoors market."

Remember how you wondered if you couldn't just get the same information you glean from the exhibit floor, from a press release in your email? Don't forget 100 other media contacts received the same information. It's hard to find a story angle from your house that will resonate with an editor who likely received the same email press release.

Networking is a buzzword, but it works. The relationships, friendships and nuggets of information found from roaming a trade show floor can lead to consistent assignments and steady income.

"Trade shows are going to have the best-connected people in the industry en masse and the aspiring professional would be foolish to pass up such the opportunity to engage with them," said Dziezynski.

So confirm those flights, pack your bags and hit the road. Trade shows are definitely worth the investment. ■



Lou Dzierzak has been a freelance writer since 1997. His trip to the 2017 Outdoor Retailer Winter Market will mark his 39th consecutive visit to the bi-annual Outdoor Retailer Show.

Making the most of media trips

BY JOHN KRUSE

One of the great things about working in outdoor media is that from time to time, you are invited to go on some really great trips where the travel, food and lodging are all taken care of. There are usually some great adventures in store for you as well during these familiarization trips, commonly called FAMs, including summits, camps or conferences. However, as much fun as they are, it is important to remember you are invited to attend because you are expected to provide coverage of the event, place, sponsor or organization.

I've been on trips where attendees had so much fun enjoying themselves that they forgot the real reason they were there. Others have failed to generate much or anything out of these events except for expenses for their hosts. These members of the media generally don't get invited back and may even see their invitations to these events dry up as word gets around the industry about their inability to produce. Don't be that person. You want to establish the reputation of someone who is going to give your host an excellent return on their investment into you. Here's a few ways you can do that:

BEFORE YOU GO

Find out from the host exactly what they want promoted. You may be surprised by the answer. I recently attended a FAM trip to a resort in Baja, Mexico, on the Sea of Cortez. This beautiful resort offered miles of hiking trails, a great beach and chances to kayak in a secluded bay full of tropical fish. An added bonus was the stingrays that jumped out of the water around your kayak as you paddled along.

That, however, was not what the organizers wanted us to cover. They wanted coverage of their first annual dorado fishing tournament and the top-notch golf course. Knowing this allowed me to prioritize my time to cover these two areas (though I did manage to kayak among the stingrays for a quick hour getaway).

Be honest with your host about what you can produce. At the resort, I told them I would produce a radio show and podcast while there. If you are a freelancer, obtain assignments before you go. If you have a web and social media presence, let organizers know how you can promote them or sponsors through those channels.

ONCE YOU ARE THERE

Enjoy the food, the sights and sounds. Get to know your fellow media members and develop relationships that can benefit both of you. But don't get lost in the adventures.

A case in point is a long-running opportunity that takes place in the Columbia River Gorge, bordering Washington and Oregon, every September. It's called Fish Camp and promoter Ed Iman brings

together members of the outdoors media, a number of tournament anglers and guides with boats, and sponsors who pay for the free camping, food and trips you enjoy on the water. It is really easy to lose yourself in the great fishing here. On any given day you can catch Chinook salmon, cast for summer steelhead, reel in dozens of smallmouth bass, jig for walleye or tussle with a sturgeon measuring up to 11 feet.

However, the way to get invited back to Fish Camp isn't to nab the most fish, it's to arrange interviews with the sponsors who are paying the bill. Many of these sponsors are fishing rod companies, fishing tackle manufacturers and sporting goods retailers. All of them are there because they have a story they want told. Some of these stories can be told while you are fishing. Do an on-the-water interview with a field recorder, snap some pictures of their rods or lures in action, but also plan to find a quiet place to talk after the fishing is done for the day to record that interview.

Don't forget the primary reason you are there. Going back to the Baja, Mexico trip, I knew that building a show around the fishing tournament would be more exciting if we could be at the daily weigh-ins, talk to the tournament coordinator and anglers and share that building excitement on the air — culminating with the awards ceremony.

However, the itinerary laid out for media was for half of us to fish and go to the weigh-in on one day, while the other half went golfing and then enjoyed lunch and a tequila tasting the other day of the tournament. Knowing in advance what the resort really wanted covered (the tournament and the golfing), that's what I focused on. I

arranged to get on a shuttle bus on day two of the tournament to the weigh-in location and covered that instead of partaking in the tequila tasting the resort was providing for the rest of my group. (Yes, sometimes sacrifices have to be made on a media trip.)

When you aren't reporting, take photos and share them on social media. This can create buzz for your piece, but also the sponsors or hosts.

Be gracious to your hosts, compliment them on the wonderful things they offer and don't complain. If there is a chance to get your host on the air or to tag them through social media when you post, make it a point to do so.

AFTER THE TRIP

Once you get home you'll have some fine memories of your latest adventure and you should also have photos or videos and audio if you need it.

Start producing as soon as you can, while everything is fresh. The great thing about radio and podcasting is how fast we can get something on the air. I can record and produce a show that can air in less than two weeks after I return.

I further promote the trip, the hosts and the sponsors through my website, previewing the show and do the same on my radio show's

Want to attend Fish Camp?

Promoter Ed Iman is always looking for new members of the outdoor media to attend Fish Camp in the Columbia River Gorge. It takes place every year from Sunday through Thursday in the middle of September. If you are interested in attending call Iman, let him know you are an OWAA member and tell him how you can help share the stories of Fish Camp and its sponsors.

Call 541-298-3753.

Recording audio on your iPhone

BY PAUL QUENEAU

Y*ou know there's an app for that?* Those seven words have become cliché in this age of do-everything smart phones.

Make that almost do-everything. One of the more fundamental telephone accessories for outdoor writers — the ability to record an interview — remains elusive even on the 10th anniversary of Steve Jobs' big 2007 unveiling of the first iPhone.

I have long employed Radio Shack's finest \$5 handset splitter to tape interviews on my office landline, first recording them to mini-cassette and now to MP3 tracks using my handheld digital recorder. Easy enough.

Unfortunately, my cutting-edge iPhone won't allow me to record a single phone call to its internal memory. I've researched the available "apps for that," but all seem to involve per-minute subscription fees and offloading of audio to a third-party site. Way more complicated than it seems to me it needs to be.

The hang-up may lie in the legality of recording calls, which I've got a hunch scares off app developers since in some states callers are required by law to notify anyone they wish to tape. (Always remember to ask!)

I instead devised a somewhat ludicrous hack using my Macbook. Since Apple introduced OS X "Yosemite," I've had the option to place calls on my computer using my iPhone's cell connection over a Wi-Fi network (phone has to be running iOS 8 or later).

I do this by entering any phone number I want to call into my computer's contacts app, which then displays a "call" button

over the listing. Once clicked, the calls begin, and I use a Mac screen-capture app called Screenflow that also allows me to record computer audio. I use my Apple headphones with a built-in microphone, and in the end get an audio file of the conversation that's about as high-fidelity as you could possibly get over a phone.

Granted, Screenflow costs \$99, but never fear: there is a free download called Soundflower that allows you to record computer audio using Apple's built-in Quicktime app. I use Screenflow because I already had it installed at the time, and Soundflower takes a couple more steps to get it to work, but it is a good option for an admittedly complex route.

Freelancer Aaron Teasdale has used a somewhat similar setup to record his interviews using Skype, his speakerphone and QuickTime's audio recording feature.

But wasn't the original goal of all this to keep it all within our smartphones? For that, a viable option is the Google Voice app, which allows one to record conversation with a simple key punch. The big caveat is it only works for incoming calls—a clumsy hurdle to have to ask every interviewee to call you right back, especially on a cold call.

From what I can gather, smartphone users on the Android side of things have an easier time recording calls using free apps such as Smart Voice Recorder.

On the iPhone side, though, the best in-phone option appears to currently be the \$10 TapeACall Pro app. It creates a three-way call between you, the caller and the TapeACall service. This creates a downloadable MP3 file, which your phone can grab off the company's servers after the conversation. That doesn't carry the same peace of mind as having a recorder there

right in front of you, but probably your best option at this point. After a year, TapeACall requires an annual \$8 fee.

Teasdale said he's used this app rather than his Skype workaround in recent months, and largely likes it.

"It works well, but the setup process for each call isn't exactly intuitive," he said. "I have to refresh myself on the procedure each time. But it does make quality recordings. I still wish there was something simpler, but it's the best I found."

Another iPhone option is the NoNotes, which is free for first the 20 minutes, but costs 25 cents per minute after that, or \$7 per month. One advantage, though, is that it includes a built-in competitively priced transcription service (\$0.75/minute or \$40/hour) to save you the task of putting words to text.

Whatever smartphone you use, it doesn't appear that the level of ease-of-use we've all become so accustomed to has yet made it to primetime. That could all change with the next version of any competing phone's operation system, but until then, we can rest assured that foreign governments and state intelligence agencies have long ago gotten this cell phone recording thing down pat, and like drones, perhaps it's only a matter of time before it makes the leap to the consumer side. ■



Paul Queneau is an editor for Bugle magazine at the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation in Missoula, Montana. He is also a freelance and photographer with credits in Outdoor Life, Montana Quarterly and other publications.

Facebook page. I also make it a point through all three venues to promote the host or sponsor multiple times. Most importantly, I share what I have done with the people who invited and hosted me. If you have a podcast or broadcast, deliver it in a form so they can share it and use it for promotional purposes (SoundCloud and YouTube are both great platforms for this). You might offer organizers great coverage, but they won't know it unless you tell them.

Media trips are fun and allow you to do things you probably couldn't afford to do otherwise. Do it right, and you'll probably be seeing invitations coming your way. ■



John Kruse is host and producer of two weekly radio shows, Northwestern Outdoors Radio and America Outdoors Radio. He is also an outdoor writer and the author of "Great Places Washington," published by Wilderness Adventures Press. He has attended a number of media FAM trips and summits or events put on by conservation organizations.

Shooting from the sky

A guide to drone photography

BY RUTH HOYT

I still remember how I felt as I launched my DJI Phantom 4 drone camera for the first time — eager, giddy, euphoric — but over these feelings lay a blanket of terror and anxiety. What if I hit something or hurt someone or something, what if a bird attacks it, or what if I crash it?

These feelings still flash through my mind with each liftoff, but I've trained myself to focus on operating my drone safely and smoothly, using good photographic techniques and being acutely aware of the responsibilities associated with piloting a small unmanned aircraft system, often called a drone.

Whether you're a professional photographer or an enthusiast, setting yourself apart from all the others is an important aspect for successful imagery, and using a drone camera can provide your work with a new perspective. But there are a few things you should know before you make your purchase.

Registration and Licenses

All drones must be registered with the Federal Aviation Administration at www.faa.gov/uas, before they take to the air. If you plan to operate your craft according to model aircraft rules, the FAA provides you with one identification number to apply to all of your drones. If you plan to use your drone for activities such as inspecting roofs, or in my case, taking aerial photos to generate income, you'll need a commercial pilot's license, which I'm currently working on. Once I earn that license, I'll change the status of my drone from recreational.

The requirements to become a licensed commercial pilot are short but very specific. You must be at least 16 years old, pass an aeronautical knowledge test at an FAA-approved testing center, and pass a vetting by the Transportation Safety Administration.

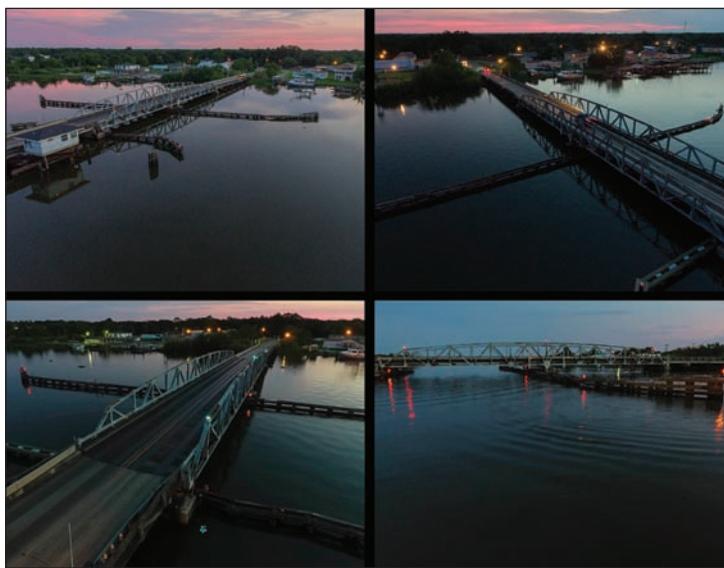
The testing process is daunting and many people don't pass the test the first time around. I belong to an online study group, as well several networks of drone camera operators to help me prepare.

The Rules

Rules are evolving when it comes to drones. It's your job to stay current and know where you are allowed to fly. (It is illegal to fly over national parks.) You can download the free app "B4UFLY" at the App Store or Google Play Store. The app provides awareness of your current or planned operational area and additional reference resources.

On August 29, 2016, the FAA put into effect the NEW Small UAS Rule (Part 107), including all pilot and operating rules. In summary the three-page document states that:

- Unmanned aircraft must weigh less than 55 pounds.



Ruth Hoyt photographed this drawbridge in Louisiana from various heights. Photos by Hoyt.



The two images on the left were taken from a bird's-eye view, while the photos on the right were taken at an angle. A drone allows you to play around with different angles to create unusual images.

- Pilots are required to fly using only visual line-of-sight unaided by any device other than corrective lenses.
- Pilots may not operate a drone over people, under a covered structure or inside a covered stationary vehicle.

- Pilots may not operate drones at night (from 30 minutes after sunset to 30 minutes before sunrise).
- Pilots must yield right-of-way to manned aircraft.
- Pilots may not fly an unmanned aircraft system faster than 100 mph or 87 knots.
- Pilots may not fly more than 400 feet above ground level.

Working your Drone

■ Pre-flight Safety

Always make sure it's a safe day to fly — dry, no or low wind conditions, with good visibility and nowhere near an airport. I usually fly in the early morning around sunrise, when the air is calm and the resulting long shadows complement my compositions. Before departing make sure your firmware is up to date and all of your batteries are fully charged, including the one in your aircraft, your remote and your First Person Viewer (FPV). This can be a smartphone, tablet or other device for viewing what the aircraft sees.

Upon arrival to your takeoff location, turn your phone to vibrate or off, and don't look at it until you are finished flying. Make sure your propellers are free from damage and are tightly secured. Look for cracks or loose parts on your aircraft. Inspect your takeoff area for obstructions such as buildings, power poles and wires, people and animals. Calibrate your compass on a regular basis (weekly or monthly, depending on how often you fly).

■ In-flight Safety

Stand upwind from your aircraft so that it would blow away from you if a gust of wind kicked up. You don't need lift like a bird or a fixed-wing plane because your craft uses vertical takeoff and landing.

Once it is airborne, check your controls by making small movements. Keep watch for potential hazards and obstacles and notice your surroundings.

If you hear or see emergency vehicles or helicopters, land immediately. You can only get in the way, so don't be tempted to "help."

Remember your craft has spinning parts that can inflict damage to whatever it hits, even if you have propeller guards. Watch out for birds, especially gulls and hawks. If you see one is following or chasing your craft, the easiest way to escape is to climb



The Yellowstone River in Billings, Montana, as seen from above.

to a higher altitude.

Flying Basics

To control the images you will produce, you must learn the craft's controls. My remote control has two joysticks and I chose to leave them configured in the default settings. Each joystick controls different movements: left controls altitude (ascend, descend) and yaw (rotate or spin) and right controls roll (side-to-side) and pitch (forward and backward).

The more you push on a joystick in any direction, the faster the craft moves. Aim to take it slow and easy, especially when you first start flying. Once you reach a safe altitude above people and other obstacles, you can move around.

Work with one joystick at a time until you clearly know what to expect when you use either one. I imagine myself as a miniature pilot sitting at the front of my craft, to keep me oriented as to which direction I'm facing and moving. I first practiced flying in square, circle and figure-eight patterns, all with the craft facing forward. Once I mastered those, I learned to face the craft in the direction it was moving, which required also using the left joystick for yaw.

Photography

My remote and tablet's flying app, have buttons for choosing still photography or video. My remote has easy-to-find buttons on the front and bottom of the device so I don't have to take my hands off of the joysticks to take photos. When shooting video, I must touch my iPad's screen to start and stop, so I am careful when choosing when to switch from stills to video.

The Phantom 4's camera is capable of photographing stills in Digital Negative,

commonly referred to as "RAW" and JPG, as well as video in various increments up to 4K. Most of my work is stills and I like the flexibility afforded when shooting in RAW format, but I also enjoy the convenience of seeing smaller, camera-processed JPG images. For this reason I chose to set the still format to shoot both digital negative and JPG.

When I purchased my system, I immediately set my video format to 4K, thinking I wanted to capture the highest possible quality. However, I quickly discovered that I didn't have software that was sophisticated enough to handle the massive 4K files, or a computer with a 4K monitor. Rather than adding yet another learning curve to my new system, I decided I would be less frustrated by choosing the next lower video setting until I saw reason to change.

Extra Tips

Unless the sky is particularly dramatic, I aim the camera downward and include a small portion of sky. Higher isn't often better and usually a lower camera angle provides more drama than a straight-down, bird's-eye view. Normally I fly the camera to have the sun off to one side and behind the camera. This prevents lens flare, white skies and aircraft shadows in your photos.

Processing the still images is not a lot different from the workflow I use when processing my digital single lens reflex camera images. I import everything using Adobe Lightroom, view all the images, choose key images, make corrections and adjustments and export images appropriate for the purpose. Video is another matter; I am not a videographer and am not well-versed on the best software applications to employ. I feel the need to educate myself first through video tutorials from one or more of the masters of this craft, then, if necessary, follow up by taking a workshop. ■



Ruth Hoyt is a full-time nature photographer, writer, public speaker and consultant. She is best known for her Texas bird photography and professional guiding services on private south Texas ranches, but she also pursues landscape, flora, macro, night and more subjects. Her headshot was taken by Richard Wise

How to cover the outdoors like a crime reporter and find better stories

BY MARK FREEMAN

An Oregon police chief in my newspaper's circulation area was arrested for illegally guiding would-be cougar and bobcat poachers, who happened to be undercover police officers. After I, and every other news outlet, immediately reported the ironic case as it broke, I followed up the next day by going online to the state court website and downloading the arrest warrant affidavit — the police's outlining of some of the evidence against the chief to get a judge to sign the warrant.

The 38-page document was loaded with juicy details about how willing the chief was to help poach cougars, how he bragged about his past crimes and how he apologized for his "old dogs" when they failed to tree a cat. Great stuff, for sure. But not as good as the telephone call to the chief, who said he was told not to talk to me by his attorney.

"Well, I was wondering why you think the cops wrote a 38-page affidavit in a misdemeanor case?" I asked him.

"These guys wanted to hang a police chief's head on their lodge pole," the chief said. "They wanted my scalp. I think they're going to get it."

Too often outdoor writers miss opportunities for telling in-depth and just plain interesting wildlife crime stories, not because they are unwilling, but because the skills set that propels most of us into the outdoor genre doesn't include stints as a crime reporter.

I spent two years on the crime beat before I talked my way into the outdoor gig I've held at my newspaper the past 28 years. I often rely on knowledge of how the criminal system works to tell interesting outdoor stories, while showing readers, fellow news hacks and bosses that their outdoor guy's stones still clink a little.

First, a little myth-busting.

Writing about poachers does not make legit hunters and anglers look bad. It doesn't hamper investigations or lead to difficulties empaneling juries. The cops know the in-

formation is there if you know how to get it. And most importantly, the "wait until after the sentencing" to do the story you could do today cheats your readers — the people you really answer to.

The trick is mining public records.

Indictments are public records. So are citations. Most of the stuff nowadays is online. Each state has its own electronic version of the case filings, which are easily searchable. If you can, make sure you get the defendant's full name and birthdate to ensure you are looking up the right guy.

Most affidavits are public record once the indictments or arrest warrants they lead to are executed. Use that information to leverage interviews with defendants. Most investigators won't talk but are more than happy to see their police work come out in articles based on these affidavits.

If the case involves a search warrant of, say, a hunting lodge or house, go back a few days after the search and get what's called the "return," which is a document detailing what was seized in the raid. These are often very interesting and help fill in gaps in the story about things like the alleged firearms involved and the numbers of potential poached animals.

Also, search for prior arrests and convictions. They are almost always there, but make sure you scroll through the entire case to find out the disposition. Often they end in dismissals, and I rarely mention those.

Most courthouses now have online public access to these records. Ask a clerk to walk you through their system. Then go to the county clerk's office to look up property records to see who owns the searched house. If you don't have the defendant's telephone number, saunter over to the elections office to get it off his voter registration card.

Federal wildlife cases are even easier, thanks to the feds' online PACER system, where court proceedings are logged, including judges' rulings. But the best are the initial affidavits filed by federal officers, who write the most detailed affidavits that basically lay out the entire case against the defendant and are usually available right after the arrest. PACER has even allowed me

to write about a massive cougar-poaching ring in Colorado that included a guy from my city as if I was there.

PACER requires an account, and there are fees for printing documents. If you work in a newsroom, your court reporter will have access to it. Have him or her help you out in the first few searches you attempt. If you work independently, you can purchase your own subscription to PACER.

Once you have all your documents, don't soft-peddle anything. Write your toughest *defensible* lead supported by information from your public records.

Once you get the hang of using PACER, run every new source you use to make sure you know who you're dealing with. Sometimes, you'll be surprised at what you find.

As a rule, I file public-records requests for the names and dates of birth of everyone who buys Oregon's governor's hunting tags in auctions, then I run background checks to see if they have past wildlife violations. Once I discovered a statewide, long-season governor's elk tag was bought by a guy who had two past violations — hunting elk out of season one year, hunting elk in a closed area another.

I called him and asked why he bought the tag. He replied that he doesn't like to be constrained by hunt lengths and areas.

"I see you've had a problem with those before," I said.

I asked him about the violations and was half expecting a mea culpa about making up for past wrongs. He just blathered on about how he's rich enough to do this legally now.

Sure beats writing that lame press-release story about an unnamed tag buyer. ■



Having reached the apex of his incompetency very early in his career, Mark Freeman has covered the environment and anchors the weekly Oregon Outdoors section for the Mail Tribune newspaper for 28 years.

When, how to tag on social media

BY TAYLOR WYLLIE

It used to be that all it took to maximize social media was knowing how and when to post something. Since then we have entered an era where mastering social media is a profession within itself. Posts likely show up in your feed that have been carefully crafted in phrasing, timing and subject matter.

And they can look complex too — with seemingly random highlighted names of both people and companies.

This is tagging. It's impactful, will keep you relevant and is surprisingly easy to master.

Think of tagging as bringing relevant people or companies into a conversation, like cc'ing someone on an e-mail that concerns them, or talking about someone while they're in the room.

To get into specifics, you should absolutely tag:

When you mention a person, or company.

Don't overthink social media. When you have a main subject that's tagable, tag them! But don't be too liberal — aim for one main subject and one tag in any given post. As journalists, you already know to keep your writing as concise and simple as possible. The same applies to social media.

When you're citing your source.

Think of this as the social media form

of attribution. Tag someone if you quote or paraphrase them in any way.

When you want to grow your social media account:

Any person or business you tag will see your post in their notifications. There's a good possibility they will retweet or favorite that post, which makes it available to all of their followers. The more people exposed to your account, the more replies, followers, comments and likes you'll receive.

This becomes truer when the person you tag has a large following. That's often why people choose to tag businesses or companies with a substantial fan base.

When you are being paid to.

There are people who are paid to promote products or brands. Usually it's apparent when a post is sponsored. There will be a coupon code, a glowing review or other obvious indicators. These people, too, are usually professionals or semi-professionals in their fields: athletes, models or social media personalities.

How to tag:

■ **On Facebook:**

Tagging people on Facebook is as straightforward as social media gets. Start typing in the name of whoever it is you would like to tag. Their account will pop up in a little gray box beneath your cursor. Click on the pop-up or hit enter and you're done.

■ **On Twitter, Instagram and most other social media:**

Type in the @ sign and their handle. Voilà, they're tagged.

Know the difference between a reply and a mention:

Twitter has very specific lingo. In the Twitterverse, a mention is when you tag someone in the body of your Tweet (after at least one character, whether it be a space, period, letter or word). It's called a reply if you tag someone at the beginning of a tweet. A reply is directed specifically toward that person or business. Essentially it's a digital conversation between two people. Only the sender, recipient and people who follow both accounts will be able to see a reply.

The same applies on Instagram.

■ **If a person doesn't have a social media account on the platform you're using:**

You have two options. You can turn their name into a hashtag or use their name without a tag.

Not everything concerning the digital age has to be complicated. So go forth and tag away. Then maybe we can talk about analytics. ■



Taylor Wyllie was an OWAA intern and is a student at the University of Montana, studying journalism and environmental studies. She's worked for the independent student newspaper, The Montana Kaimin and her work has appeared on Montana PBS, Montana Public Radio and in the Missoulian.

Six candidates chosen to run for OWAA board

Board Nominating Committee Chairman **Chris Madson** announced six candidates who will compete for three seats on the Outdoor Writers Association of America's Board of Directors.

They will replace **Sam Caldwell**, **Kris Millgate** and **Mike Zlotnicki**, whose terms end in 2017.

Three elected candidates will begin serving three-year terms on OWAA's board starting on June 26, 2017.

Candidate profiles and responses to questions will be published in the April/May issue of Outdoors Unlimited, and an online election will take place in April.

Active, senior-active and

life members are strongly encouraged to vote.

Here is the slate in alphabetical order:

Carol Lynde
Phoenix, Arizona

Mike McKenna
Hailey, Idaho

John Kruse
Wenatchee, Washington

Ann Simpson
Stephens City, Virginia

Matt Soberg
Baxter, Minnesota

Danielle Taylor
Summerville, Pennsylvania

Portfolio

By Colleen Miniuk-Sperry



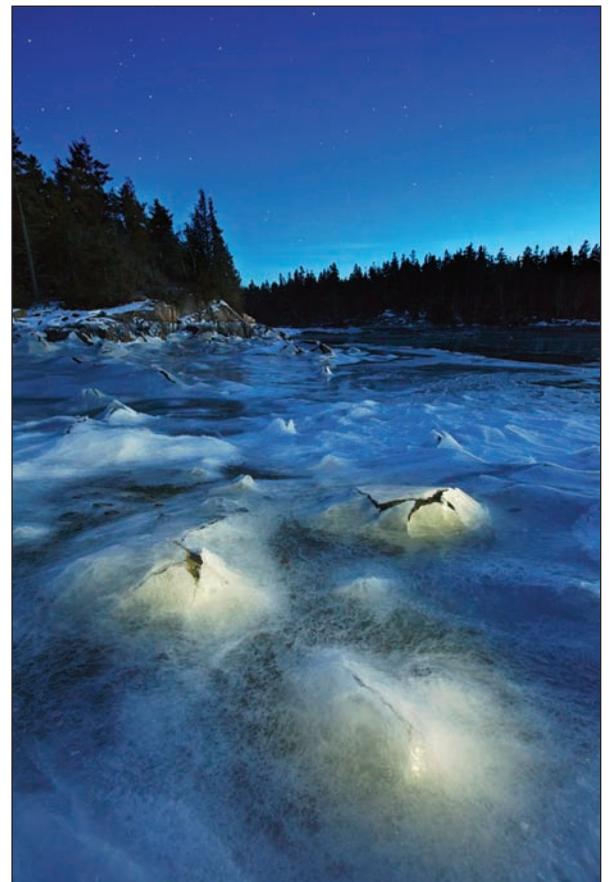
Sunrise hits ice hoodoos along Ocean Drive after the blizzard Nemo hit Acadia National Park in Maine.



Waves swirl around the rocks at Sand Beach in winter on Mount Desert Island in Acadia National Park.



(Above) A sheet of ice covers the boulders in West Pond Cove in frigid weather under a fiery sunset on the Schoodic Peninsula in Acadia National Park. (Right) Ice formations remain after low tide beneath the stars at West Pond Cove on Schoodic Peninsula in Acadia National Park.





Pine trees weather winter storm Nemo in 2013 on Schoodic Point on Schoodic Peninsula in Acadia National Park.



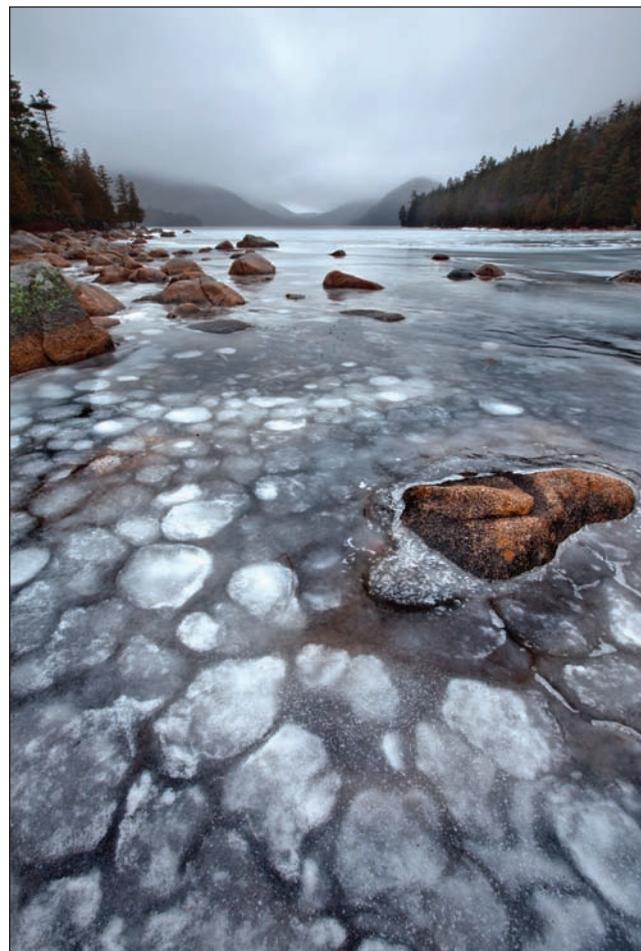
Fog on Frenchman Bay surrounds the Mark Island lighthouse near Schoodic Peninsula in Acadia National Park.



(Above) Ice formations swirl in West Pond Cove on Schoodic Peninsula in Acadia National Park in Maine.
(Right) Frozen ice sits atop Jordan pond on Mount Desert Island in Acadia National Park.



Ice bubbles form an abstract pattern in Acadia National Park.



Member discounts and deals

Check out the 2017 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 individual members, allowing for increased access to products and services. This list is posted in the members-only section of OWAA's website at www.owaa.org/members-area/discounts/. Additional discounts are being added all the time and you'll also find discounts for car rentals, hotels and health insurance.

If you offer a benefit or discount to members that is not included on this list, please contact OWAA headquarters at membership@owaa.org or 406-728-7434.



The Aberdeen Area Convention and Visitors Bureau offers to arrange film and media tours for members of OWAA. We work directly with guides, outfitters, land owners 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.

Absolute Outdoor Inc. offers a 20 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.

Aqua-Vu has extended their VIP program to OWAA members. The VIP program entitles members to purchase Aqua-Vu temperature and depth technology products at a discounted price. OWAA members are eligible for one VIP order per calendar year. Find the VIP order form at www.owaa.org/discounts/aqua-vu-VIP-order-form-2015-2016.xlsx. Contact Leslie Sundahl at leslie@traditionsmedia.com or 612-839-4322 to complete an order or with questions.

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.

Brownells offers editorial discounts to writers, videographers, broadcasters and other media. Requests are handled on a case-by-case basis. To take advantage of this

opportunity, contact Roy Hill at roy.hill@brownells.com.

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.

Eppinger Mfg. Co., makers of the world-famous Dardevle spoon, offers writers traveling on assignment a loaner tackle box program: we send a tackle pack loaded with the appropriate lures for the location being fished and written about. Contact John Cleveland, marketing director, and he will set up a custom tackle pack and ship it in exchange for a mention or feature in an article. We require a copy of the finished story when it is published. When the project is completed we request return of the tackle box minus any tackle kept 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, 313-582-3205.

Flying Fisherman is pleased to offer OWAA members a 40 percent discount off manufacturer's suggested retail price on direct purchases of Flying Fisherman polarized sunglasses and angler accessories. To receive the media discount, contact Bobby Vaughn at bobby@flyingfisherman.com or 800-335-9347, and mention OWAA membership. Prepayment is required, please have billing and shipping address and credit

card details available.

OWAA members can purchase rods from **G. Loomis Inc.** at 50 percent off list price. Pre-payment by credit card is required. To take advantage of this offer, contact Bruce Holt at holt@gloomis.com or call 800-662-8818, ext. 231.

Gogal Publishing Company provides free copies of any iPhone, iPad or Android app in our catalogue to OWAA members including supporters. We know writers need to try it. A press release is not enough. To request the download code, simply email michael.gogal@gogalpublishing.com. View our catalogue at <http://www.gogalpublishing.com>.

Use the offer code OWAA25 for 25 percent off **GRABBER Inc./HEATMAX Inc.** at www.warmerwarehouse.com and www.coolingwarehouse.com.

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For **Hunt's Photo & Video** discounts, contact Nick Sabia at 860-304-9319, or Nsabia@huntsphoto.com. Feel free to contact him for all video needs and stay tuned for his monthly video newsletter, featuring buying guides, technical tips and general video knowledge.

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 (Monday through Friday 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 an 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 any specific projects at news@martinflory.com or 847-662-9070.

Mepps (Sheldons', Inc.) offers a 50 percent writer's discount on all lures and lure kits. Mister Twister offers a 40 percent discount on all soft plastics, kits and electric knives. For more information, contact the Mepps communications coordinator at 800-237-9877.

MyTopo, A Trimble Company, offers OWAA members 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 for the United States or Canada, game management unit maps for the Western United States and Eastern public land maps. For more than a decade, MyTopo has generously provided one complimentary map a year to every OWAA member. Use the promotional code "OWAA" during checkout at www.mytopo.com to order your free map, or contact Paige Darden, paige@mytopo.com, or 877-587-9004 to take advantage of this offer.

O. Mustad & Son America Inc. offers a 20 percent discount off the Mustad wholesale

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PhotoShelter offers OWAA members a discount on both standard and pro annual accounts at www.photoshelter.com. OWAA members can save \$55 a year on standard accounts and \$70 a year on pro accounts using the 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 their complete solution to display, market, sell, deliver and manage their photography online.

Porta-Bote Folding Boats offers OWAA writers a 50 percent discount and free delivery to the Lower 48 states for its 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 the 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 30hp.

Seaguar has extended its VIP program to OWAA members. Seaguar's VIP program entitles members to purchase Seaguar products for personal use directly at a discounted price. Send an email to support@seaguar.com with the subject line "Seaguar VIP Request — OWAA Member." A Seaguar VIP representative will be in contact to verify OWAA membership and provide the instructions to register. Once registered, members can purchase Seaguar products. Whether battling a bluefin tuna or a perch, Seaguar has the best lines and leaders for all fishing needs.

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OWAA has joined the **Staples Advantage Premium** program so members can receive cost-saving benefits including free next business day delivery, 3 percent off orders over \$250, \$29.99 cases of copy paper (sku # 324791) and more. Contact Lauren Hemphill at lauren.hemphill@staples.com to set up shipping and billing profiles and start saving money.

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Join **The Orvis Company Inc.** "Orvis Friends in the Field" program designed to provide 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 and enter "OWAA" in the sponsor field.

Visit Central Florida offers media editorial trips for OWAA members looking to cover the region. We would be glad to help members explore 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 U.S. to see wildlife" or assist in hauling in some trophy class bass in the Largemouth Bass Capital of the World. Contact Al Snow at al@visitcentralflorida.org, for more information.

Yo-Zuri Inc. is pleased to offer OWAA members dealer pricing, which offers a substantial savings, on all products that they offer in the U.S. For price inquiries and orders, please contact the sales department, 772-336-2280, Ray.Gardner@Yo-Zuri.com.

Mountain bikes in wilderness?

Proposed bill changes management of wild places

BY KATIE MCKALIP

A new Congress and a new presidential administration may be underway, but heated debates over natural resources management in America continue.

Some things never change.

Outdoor recreationists of all stripes, however, are keeping a close eye on legislation introduced last year in the 114th Congress that could drastically change public access to, and the use of, federally designated wilderness, among the nation's most important public lands.

The Human-Powered Travel in Wilderness Areas Act, sponsored by Sens. Orrin Hatch and Mike Lee of Utah, would open wilderness areas to mountain biking by leaving this decision in the hands of individual land managers. Following its introduction the bill elicited a negative response from many public-lands users, even those who enjoy mountain biking and advocate on its behalf, due to precedents it would set and the potential impacts of unleashing millions of bikers on these special landscapes.

Under the 1964 Wilderness Act, bikes and other forms of “mechanical transport” are explicitly banned in wilderness areas, which are set aside to preserve their pristine waters, fish and wildlife habitat and opportunities for solitude. Today, hikers, anglers and hunters on foot and with traditional pack stock treasure wilderness areas for those same values.

Access opportunities to both private and publicly owned lands are a critical issue for recreationists in the United States. Inadequate public access has emerged as a defining factor in our ability — or inability — to enjoy the outdoors, and sportsmen cite declining public access as the No. 1 reason why we stop pursuing our passions.

Given the priority many of us place on expanding access to our lands and waters, why shouldn't we support an effort that would introduce a degree of flexibility in the ability of managers to open up places currently designated off limits to “mechanical” recreation?

It's worth considering the relative rarity of our wilderness lands. Designated wilderness in the Lower 48 encompasses less than 3 percent of our land mass. Yet it comprises the last bastions of pristine fish and wildlife habitat in the United States. These areas are highly vulnerable to human disturbance and encroachment, and bikes can affect fish and wildlife habitat in ways that are by no means insignificant. Numerous studies, for example, demonstrate the outsize impact of mountain bikes on areas frequented by big game.

“Mountain biking is an increasingly popular form of quiet and healthy recreation — one that has a place on public lands,” said Jay Banta, a sportsman and biologist from St. George, Utah, who serves on the national board of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers, which focuses on public-lands issues. “But wilderness designations work

well as currently stipulated in the Wilderness Act. “Furthermore, wilderness encompasses some of our rarest, most precious lands and waters. Their existence prevents the fragmentation of irreplaceable areas of fish and wildlife habitat.”

Mountain biking has a large and growing following, and it can be enjoyed in appropriate places that often can be easily accessed by members of the public. Wilderness management should minimize the impacts of mountain biking and other growing recreational demands. Opening our wilderness areas to bikes would disrespect the very tradition of wilderness.

While the Hatch-Lee bill failed to gain traction in the last Congress, those of us who care about the responsible management of public lands must be alert to future attempts to dilute the spirit of the Wilderness Act. We should carefully consider the motives and values of a bill's proponents. While Sens. Hatch and Lee insist that they introduced their legislation simply to open up more public lands for enjoyment by Americans, we can't ignore the fact that their decisions are frequently influenced by special interests such as the oil and gas industry. How would this segment benefit from increased access to and permissiveness in the management of lands that have traditionally been strictly off limits to development?

From Alaska to Florida, wilderness areas provide us with unmatched backcountry adventures that are part of the fabric of the American experience. While a range of interests, including the mountain biking community, energy companies and non-motorized users such as hikers and hunters, deserves to have a voice in helping determine and shape future wilderness area proposals, the bottom line is that bikes and wilderness don't really go together.

Luckily we have plenty of public lands that are open to mountain bikes —and to motorized use, industrial development and other uses, both competing and complementary. This gives all of us places to experience and enjoy the outdoors. Ultimately, however, management of our wilderness areas should be closely guarded and rigorously defended. The spirit and letter of the Wilderness Act as currently drafted must be upheld. ■

— *National Affairs and the Environment* articles and opinion pieces address issues impacting the outdoors and recreation. To join the conversation, submit a letter to the editor at editor@owaa.org.



Katie McKalip is national communications director of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers. BHA, a national sportsmen's group focused on conservation, access and fair chase issues, is committed to defending traditional use of wilderness areas. Visit www.backcountryhunters.org.

Acidification threatens oceans

BY PAULA DEL GIUDICE

Most of the news surrounding too much carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is aimed at our changing climate. But there's another issue when it comes to carbon in the atmosphere that threatens to harm the oceans and disrupt the food chain. It's ocean acidification.

The oceans cover 71 percent of the Earth's surface. They act as huge "sinks" for carbon dioxide, but when carbon dioxide is absorbed by seawater, chemical reactions occur that reduce the potential for hydrogen, carbonate ion concentration and the saturation state of biologically important calcium carbonate minerals which are essential for forming shells and bones for many ocean organisms. This is ocean acidification.

Our oceans are 30 percent more acidic since the Industrial Revolution began. If trends continue, by the end of this century our oceans will be 100-150 percent more acidic, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

That will create a chemical imbalance the oceans haven't experienced in 20 million years.

Some plants in the ocean, such as algae and seagrasses, can make use of that extra carbon dioxide to accomplish photosynthesis, similar to plants on land.

However, the dramatic effect increasing acidity can have on calcifying organisms, such as oysters, clams, sea urchins, corals, calcareous plankton and pteropods is devastating.

Pteropods are tiny mollusks that are eaten by a wide variety of ocean creatures from krill to whales. They are a major source of food for Pacific salmon. When placed in ocean water with the predicted acidity for the year 2100, their shells dissolve after 45 days. According to Richard Feely, a senior scientist with NOAA's Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory a 10 percent decrease in pteropod production leads to a 20 percent drop in mature salmon body weight.

No one knows the evolving situation of ocean acidification better than Bill Dewey, director of public affairs for Taylor Shellfish Farms in Shelton, Washington. In 2006,

oyster seed hatcheries on the West Coast began experiencing massive die-offs of their stock.

In 2009, Taylor Shellfish had a major die-off of the wild oyster larvae in its facility. Down in Netarts, Oregon, a major die-off occurred at the Whiskey Creek Hatchery the previous year. It was at first, attributed to larvae-eating bacterium called *Vibrio tubiashii* raging through their tanks, but the die-offs continued, even when *Vibrio tubiashii* wasn't present any longer.

The shellfish industry is responsible for a combined \$110 million of income to the states of California, Oregon and Washington. In some places, shellfish aquaculture is the No. 1 employer.

Oyster farmers throughout the country depend on seed stocks from hatcheries to begin their growing cycle. With this massive die-off, not only were seed farmers and their businesses devastated, but so were the hundreds of farms they supply. While this was happening scientists noticed that the water entering the hatcheries was more acidic than normal. A strong ocean upwelling was the culprit.

Upwelling is when more carbon dioxide fills the air and it is absorbed by phytoplankton on the surface.

As those phytoplankton die and begin to decompose, they release carbon dioxide into the water column. This is when the carbonic acid develops. Cold water can hold more carbon dioxide so it sinks to the bottom of the ocean. It might not be so bad if the carbon dioxide-filled water remained at the bottom of the ocean, but it doesn't. Particularly along the West Coast it rolls back to the surface. The water that wells up from the bottom of the ocean today was actually absorbed about 30 to 50 years ago, when increased industrialization began pushing more carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. Just think about what will happen in 30 to 50 years from now since we've pushed past 400 parts of carbon dioxide per million in the atmosphere.

In 2007, Feely and an international team of scientists conducted the first large-scale carbon dioxide survey of waters along the West Coast from Canada to Mexico. Their work showed what occurs when the winds blow from the north causing the upwell-

ing of cold, carbon dioxide-laden waters to reach very near the shore.

Those studies allowed hatchery managers, who operate in controlled environments, to experiment with adaptive management strategies.

At Taylor Shellfish, when they see the weather shifting to more northerly winds, staff hurries to fill their tanks and then shut off the intake. They know they have about 24 hours before the upwelling brings acidic waters through their intake pipes.

They also wait to fill the tanks until the afternoon when the phytoplankton and eel grasses have had a chance to complete photosynthesis, pulling some of the carbon out of the water. Taylor Shellfish is experimenting with growing seagrass refuges near the hatchery to pull additional carbon out of the water.

The company also injects calcium carbonate into the hatchery water system to assist in reducing the acidity. Some of the seed production has been shifted to Hawaii where production is easier during the winter and waters are not impacted by upwelling.

While adaptive management strategies can assist the production of shellfish in controlled situations short-term, they do little to address the long-term health of our oceans.

"Ocean acidification is a big deal," Dewey said. "Sea water chemistry is going to change in dramatic ways in our lifetime. We are going to watch all the organisms shift in the ocean in ways we can't fully understand." ■

— *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* are considered OWAA's conservation council. The article reflects the opinion of the author. If you'd like to add to the discussion, please send a letter to the editor.



Paula J. Del Giudice is the executive director of the nonprofit Pacific Northwest Pollution Prevention Resource Center. Her articles have appeared on GreenBiz.com. She has been a member of OWAA since 1980 and is a member of OWAA's Circle of Chiefs.

Public lands in jeopardy

BY JIM LOW

I spent last Father's Day visiting my son, David, who works as an interpretive ranger at a state park just outside Las Vegas. I was excited when he and his girlfriend, Jenn, suggested we hike at Gold Butte, a 350,000-acre cultural heritage site administered by the Bureau of Land Management. I worried a little about midsummer hiking in the desert, without suspecting that I was entering landscape embroiled in one of the hottest public-lands debates of my lifetime.

My first clue came when we pulled over for a selfie at the gates of Cliven Bundy's ranch. The man himself was in jail, awaiting trial in connection with his 2014 standoff with federal officials over illegal cattle grazing. But his aura hung in the air above the ugly compound, and it did nothing to make me feel safer.

A few miles down a gravel road and a bit farther down a rugged two-track brought us to a parking lot within sight of a modest rock outcropping. I thought, "We came all this way into a godforsaken landscape for this?" But I trusted David had brought me here for a reason, so I loaded my lumbar pack with camera gear and lots of water.

Scrambling over slick rock with natural bridges and pinnacles was fun, but I could have done something similar within two hours of home in Missouri. Things grew more interesting as we worked our way farther into the area, where the sandstone bore fantastic designs in burgundy, mauve, apricot and other, indescribable, colors. The Midwest had nothing to compare with this.

Then the petroglyphs began appearing. A few at first, a smattering that might have been Neolithic graffiti. Then a sentence here, a paragraph there, and finally, whole chapters of Southern Paiute history, unintelligible yet eloquent in its variety and visual ingenuity. I was enthralled. "Come on," David urged, "The best is yet to come."

Down into a gulch and back up the other side we hiked. At the foot of an 80-foot sandstone overhang, carved into desert varnish on a small rock facet hung a human figure, suspended in perpetual free-fall — Falling Man. Disarmingly simple, yet powerfully evocative, this gestural masterpiece ranks in my mind with the cave paintings of Lascaux. I was momentarily stunned, then captivated.

How would you assign a monetary value to this treasure trove of human and natural artworks? In a way, the United States has already done so. If you believe that actions speak louder than words, they you would be forced to conclude that Americans consider these things worthless.

Gold Butte's 350,000 acres, along with the similar but more spectacular treasures in the Bears Ears area of southeastern Utah, were unprotected until President Barack Obama set aside 1.65 million acres as national monuments on Dec. 28.

Gold Butte is an area of critical environmental concern because it harbors the endangered desert tortoise and desert bighorn sheep, not to mention historic mining sites and pioneer-era artifacts, while the Bears Ears' 1.9 million acres house tens of thousands of cliff dwellings, granaries, ceremonial kivas and other ancient structures.



Bears Ears National Monument is one of two areas of public land recently protected with national monument status. Photo by Josh Ewing.

Despite strong support from Indian tribes and the non-Indian public for protecting the Bears Ears area, Republican lawmakers did all they could to discourage President Obama from designating the area a national monument. Republican lawmakers already are agitating for President Elect Donald Trump to reverse this and other similar protections extended to select federally owned lands under the 1906 Antiquities Act going back two decades.

Even more concerning are pronouncements by President Elect Donald Trump and a plank in the Republican Party's national platform calling for privatization of public lands.

Trump suggested paying off the national debt, partly by selling off \$16 trillion in federal assets. The Washington Post's fact checker called Trump's proposal "nonsensical," and gave it his worst rating — "Four Pinocchios." According to the Government Accountability Office, even if the federal government sold off all its landholdings (including military bases, national parks and national forests) the proceeds would be \$3 trillion, a fraction of the national debt. But senior Trump campaign advisor Barry Bennett was unimpressed by these facts and stuck by the lie that selling federal assets could erase the national debt.

"Oh, my goodness," Bennett said in a Washington Post interview. "Do you know how much land we have? You know how much oil is off shore? And in government lands? Easily."

Thanks to these types of lies Americans have come to accept several ridiculous notions about federal lands, including the notion that federal agencies are depriving American taxpayers of their birthright by holding onto public-trust lands. The suggested remedy is turning these lands over to the states.

There are several things wrong with this idea. First, federal ownership is the only thing preserving Americans' right to use their public lands. Assume for a moment that states came into possession of the 435 million acres owned by the BLM and the Forest Service. Since states already lack the resources needed to administer their own meager landholdings, and since states don't have the luxury of running budgetary deficits year after year, they would be forced to sell or lease these lands to the highest bidders. Overall, Western states have sold 31 million acres of their original public lands.

A report in Salon noted the two-pronged approach that the American Legislative Exchange Council and Americans for Prosperity use to run this confidence game on America's public landowners — you and me. First they lobby Congress to pass bills, often written by the council and other groups backed by the Koch brothers to enable them to get their hands on federal lands. Then they generate mountains of disinformation about how the federal government is violating their right to land owned by the American people.

Here is an excerpt from the Americans for Prosperity brochure on federal land management:

“Obviously, federal agencies need sufficient land to exercise their constitutional functions, like military bases for national security and interstate highways for commerce. However, the vast majority of this land is not used for such purposes, but rather sits idle with little access given to American citizens. Washington's hoarding of inactive federal lands is legally questionable and economically destructive, necessitating these lands to be speedily transferred to their rightful owners, We the People.”

The American Legislative Exchange apparently considers national forests and land administered by the BLM — the infrastructure for \$656 billion-dollar-a-year outdoor recreation industry — idle. Add to this figure the value of timber and minerals extracted from Forest Service and BLM ;and and you have a more than \$1 trillion annual boost to America's economy and 9.4 million jobs. Idle? It would be laughable if it weren't so outrageous.

You have to give the land grabbers credit for the boldness of their lies, though. Telling gullible Americans like Amon and Ryan Bundy that they must take back land they already own so it can be pillaged by extractive industries in the guise of “We the People” is a stroke of propaganda genius that Machiavelli would admire.

Idaho has sold or traded away 41 percent of the federal land it received when it became a state. Nevada's record is even worse. It has jettisoned 99 percent of its original landholdings. In the bidding way, that would ensue if more federal lands were given to states, extractive industries would be able to pay the highest prices, and our treasured national parks, forests and other wild lands would quickly be replaced by vast scars on the landscape.



Ancient art abounds in Gold Butte National Monument. Photo by **Jim Low**.

A few pieces of prime federal land might end up as nature-based theme parks and luxury resorts where well-heeled visitors could spend the night in the Tower House at Mesa Verde National Park, enjoy zip-lining from the top of Half Dome or take log-flume rides in the Bob Marshall Wilderness. Think of all the geothermal energy we could tap if we sold Yellowstone National Park to Exxon. Whatever else happens if federal lands go on the auction block, you can be sure that the Koch brothers and other millionaires will snap up the choicest tracts of national forest and turn them into hunting, fishing and golf resorts for themselves and their cronies.

These prospects would cause Teddy Roosevelt to spin in his grave and should be repugnant to anyone who has ever hunted, fished, hiked, camped or simply watched Nature Channel shows filmed on public lands. It should be similarly horrifying to outdoor communicators whose stock in trade is working on and communicating about these lands. Yet, the Republican Party's national platform proposes removing unspecified federal lands from federal protection. In a masterpiece of hiding malign intent in fuzzy language, the platform says that “certain” federally controlled lands should be given to states. It doesn't specify which lands, nor does it say that states could

not sell, give away or develop the newly severed federal lands however they choose. President Elect Trump denied wanting to sell or give away federal lands, but he did not oppose the Republican platform plank proposing the raid on federal lands. Given the many policy reversals Trump has made since his election, it's impossible to say what he might do in this regard.

Before President Obama protected Bears Ears, Utah's representatives designed legislation to undermine the designation.

Situations like this are exactly why Congress created the Antiquities Act. This is why nearly every president of both parties since 1906 has used the act when Congress failed to do its job.

So far, President Obama has granted federal protection to more than 260,000 acres of land and water.

Will President Elect Trump break with precedent and negate this and other previous presidential actions protecting public lands? Was Trump's proposal to sell off federal land only a campaign talking point, or did he mean it?

I can't answer these questions, so I will pose another one. Can we afford to wait and see? To me, it seems the prudent thing to do is to tell our local, state and federal elected officials not to sell our public lands.

Eighteenth-century philosopher Joseph de Maistre said that in a democracy, people get the government they deserve.

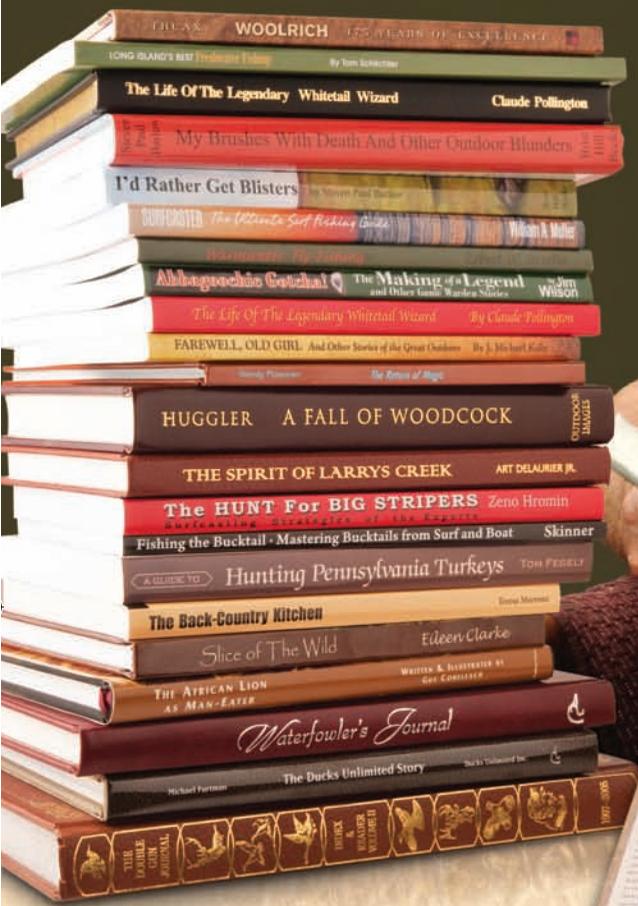
If you think that you don't deserve to keep your public-land birthright, your choice is easy. Do nothing at all. ■

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Jim Low has worked as a photographic officer in the army, reporter for the *West Plains Daily Quill*, editor of *Illinois, Indiana and Ohio Game & Fish* magazines and public information officer for the *Arkansas Game & Fish Commission* and the *Missouri Department of Conservation*.

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OWAA's annual conference: Duluth, Minnesota, June 24-26, 2017

Rinella named conference keynote



Outdoor writer and television host Steve Rinella will open OWAA's 90th conference with a keynote address June 24, in Duluth, Minnesota. Photo courtesy Steve Rinella.

Aclaimed outdoor writer and television personality Steven Rinella will open the 90th annual Outdoor Writers Association of America conference in Duluth, Minnesota. Rinella will open conference with a keynote presentation the morning of June 24. He will talk about finding common ground for

conservation between hunters, anglers and nonconsumptive users of America's public lands. The **Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation** is sponsoring the event. Rinella is well-known for translating America's hunter-conservationist traditions to a wide variety of audiences.

Rinella is author of "The Scavenger's Guide to Haute Cuisine," "American Buffalo: In Search of a Lost Icon," and most recently, "Meat Eater: Adventures from the Life of an American Hunter." He is a contributing editor to Outside magazine, and his features, essays and reporting have appeared in many other publications including The New York Times, the New Yorker, Men's Journal, Field & Stream, Salon.com, O the Oprah Magazine, Petersen's Hunting, Fly Fisherman, Bowhunter, and the anthologies "Best American Travel Writing" (2003 and 2010) and "Best Food Writing" (2005). He has spoken about hunting on multiple occasions to National Public Radio's "All Things Considered" as well as CNN's "American Morning" and the Sunday broadcast "Fox and Friends" on Fox News.

Rinella also hosts the top-rated television series "MeatEater" on The Sportsman Channel and a popular podcast by the same name. He is a highly respected, well-spoken and bold advocate for hunting and conservation who has addressed a wide range of audiences about his life as a modern-day hunter-gatherer. He uses both humor and irreverence to talk about the hunting lifestyle, wild game, the ethics of hunting and the spiritual need for wilderness. ■

— Paul Queneau, OWAA Conference Program Chair
pqueneau@rmef.org

Find stories on pre- and post-conference trips

You'll find tips to improve your craft and learn about important outdoor issues at OWAA's annual conference in Duluth, Minnesota. And if you come early, or stay late, you can also stock up on story ideas and images to sell. Check out the pre- and post-conference trips below and be sure to check out <http://owaa.org/2017conference/pre-post-conference-trips/> for even more.

Boat tour of Rainy Lake in Voyageurs National Park

Location: Voyageurs National Park is approximately a three-hour drive from Duluth.

Trip date: 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. on Friday, June 23. Only open to OWAA attendees.

Cost: Complimentary

Description: Voyageurs National Park

was established because of the spectacular scenery, rich natural resources and vibrant history and you can take it in via the Voyageur, an all-weather tour boat plying Rainy Lake within the park. You'll stop at Little American Island to hike around what remains of the largest and most productive gold mine on Rainy Lake. You'll cruise past the ghost town of Rainy Lake City, peer into a horizontal mine shaft on Bushyhead Island and see a 1950s-era commercial fish camp.

St. Louis River Restoration Tour

Location: Spirit Lake Marina in Duluth

Trip Date: June 23

Cost: Complimentary

Description: Some 85,000 cubic yards of wood waste were removed from Radio Tower Bay in Duluth in 2015 as part of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative to help

restore the bay for fish and wildlife habitat. Join the St. Louis River Experience on its specially equipped pontoon boat for a half-day trip up the river to see the restoration work being done. For more information on restoration of the river, see page 27.

Fishing in Ely

Location: Ely, Minnesota, approximately two hours from Duluth

Trip Date: June 22-23 or June 27-28

Cost: Complimentary

Description: With access to more than 5,000 lakes, streams and rivers, Ely is pretty much ground zero for fishing. It is relatively effortless to go after the northerns, walleyes, bass and panfish that make the area famous for angling. Package includes overnight lodging and guided fishing trip. ■

OWAA's annual conference: Duluth, Minnesota, June 24-26, 2017

From steel to stoke

How Duluth became a recreation Mecca

BY HANSI JOHNSON

There is down on your knees and then there is kicked while you are down on your knees.

Picture this: a city so down on its luck, so down on its self-image, that even the people who lived there believed the stereotypes the outside world had branded it with.

This isn't the Duluth, Minnesota, you think of now. Visitors come to ride mountain bikes and explore the miles of city trails. It's a regional recreation destination, with its national prominence growing steadily. People think of Duluth and they think biking, hiking and skiing. But that wasn't always Duluth's reputation. It once was a king of industry and then a busted, forgotten wasteland until the people of Duluth changed the narrative and their city.

Duluth was once a place the native Sioux and Chippewa considered the land of milk and honey. The St. Louis River, which flows through the city and is one of North America's only freshwater estuaries, was also one of the largest continuous beds of wild rice in the country which fed waterfowl and fish like walleye, smallmouth bass and the legendary Lake Superior sturgeon, which grew to more than 6 feet in length.

The estuary fed into Lake Superior with its own flourishing ecosystem. The hilly forest surrounding all of this was dense in ancient white pine and oak savanna.

Within 100 years of European settlement that had all changed. They displaced the Chippewa. They harvested the timber. And they used the St. Louis River as a highway to move millions of feet to lumber mills, destroying nearly all the wild rice.

Heavy industry followed, taking ore from the Iron Range to the river to create ships and steel.

World War II and its lust for machinery soon sucked the range dry of its pure ore, and by the 1970s the whole mad cycle came crashing to a halt. The river and the lake had



A mountain biker rides one of the many trails in Duluth, Minnesota. An effort by the bike community to build more trails helped revitalize Duluth and launch its journey to becoming a recreation destination. Photo by Hansi Johnson.

provided for people for thousands of years but could no longer sustain it.

Duluth went from a hero of industry to an industrial graveyard nearly overnight.

The community of Duluth, once one of the wealthiest in North America, if not the world, became the story of the Rust Belt. The outside world called Duluth busted, an industrial wasteland and an Arctic no-go zone full of polka and hockey.

So how long does an epic hangover of this magnitude last?

Until the good people who are part of the community stand up and shake it off.

I have lived in Duluth on and off since the late 1980s. In that time frame I witnessed the massive change in Duluth. People look at a city now known as an outdoor recreation paradise and often ask how it happened.

People expect answers like the number of dollars invested or other technical or strategic information, but the reason Duluth has

rebounded is because Duluth finally started valuing what it has versus what it doesn't.

Much like the child in Dr. Seuss' "The Lorax," holding the last truffula tree seed, local Duluthians have gone back to what has been left of the land of milk and honey and started to revitalize and restore it.

Duluth's once explosive growth dictated its city limits should be set 27 miles wide. When growth halted, the city was left with more than 11,000 acres of open space, much of it continuous and hilly.

A segment of the Duluth population always understood Duluth's natural amenities. These are hardcore paddlers, cyclists, climbers and skiers. While the rest of the community lamented the failing industrial infrastructure and the voids it was leaving, these people surfed the waves at Stoney Point and climbed the ice at the abandoned

CONTINUED ON PAGE 29

OWAA's annual conference: Duluth, Minnesota, June 24-26, 2017

Return of rice on the St. Louis River



A weed harvester removes reeds and lily pads from Duck Hunter Bay on the St. Louis River estuary so wild rice can be planted. Photo courtesy Duluth News Tribune.

BY JOHN MYERS

Tom Howes explained in Anishinaabe, then in English, why restoring wild rice to the St. Louis River is so important to the Fond du Lac Indian people.

It's here, along the 26-mile estuary just upstream of Lake Superior that his ancestors settled after a long journey from the east. There was plentiful food — especially manoomin, wild rice, which they believe is a sacred gift from the creator who led them here.

Fond du Lac, he noted, is the French phrase for his people's location at the end of waters, or end of Lake Superior.

"This is a very important place to us as Fond du Lac people. And this rice is a very important resource," said Howes, the Fond du Lac band of Lake Superior Chippewa's natural resources program manager. "That's why we're doing this."

The band is playing a key role in the first major wild rice restoration project now underway on the St. Louis River estuary. The project is one of many aimed at cleaning up the St. Louis River, one of the Environmental Protection Agency's "areas of concern," degraded by development and pollution along the Great Lakes. Because of rice's cultural importance and its value as a food for humans and wildlife, restoring rice beds is a key element of the larger St. Louis River estuary restoration effort.

For the past 125 years, the river's rice was neglected. Minnesota's great north woods loggers used the St. Louis as a log flume in the late 1800s, floating trees in the water that thrashed wild rice beds.

Then in the early 1900s, harborside industry — sawmills, steel mills and factories, along with docks and dredged slips for grain elevators and iron ore loading facilities — destroyed habitat. Meanwhile, upstream paper mills fouled the water to the point rice (and many fish) couldn't thrive.

By the end of the 20th century only a few pockets of wild rice remained in the 12,000-acre estuary that spills into Lake Superior at Duluth-Superior.

"This was at one time the single largest wild rice area in the region," said Daryl Peterson of the Minnesota Land Trust, which is coordinating a wild rice restoration project on the river. "Nobody really knows, but we think there were probably about 3,000 acres of wild rice in the estuary before it was degraded. ... We think we can bring back maybe a third of that. Maybe 1,000 acres is realistic."

Howes and Peterson are helping oversee the \$200,000 effort. Work began in 2015 with a giant weed-harvesting machine chewing away at lily pads, reeds, sedges and other plants that have filled in where rice once thrived.

Wild rice planting occurred last year and earlier this year. The band will try to use rice harvested from nearby areas, said Terry Perrault, a Fond du Lac Natural Resources Program technician.

"It's a lot of work. It might take three or four seedings to get it going," Perrault said, noting the tribe has done similar rice restoration efforts on several lakes within the Fond du Lac Reservation.

In addition to the nonprofit land trust and the Fond du Lac band, the Wisconsin and Minnesota Departments of Natural Resources, the 1854 Treaty Authority and the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission are helping the effort to bring back the rice. Funding comes from the Minnesota Outdoor Heritage Fund, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Sustain Our Great Lakes and the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

Congress has been appropriating hundreds of millions of dollars in recent years to pay for the cleanups, under the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

Progress has already been made. Giant, prehistoric sturgeon have returned to spawn for the first time in decades. Walleyes, musky, pike, smallmouth bass and crappies continue to thrive in the river estuary, offering excellent angling for local residents and tourists alike.

Canoe and kayak landings are being developed for better access.

The wild rice effort is just one of 60 specific projects either completed, underway or planned for the St. Louis River estuary-Duluth harbor area with the goal of getting the estuary off the areas of concern list by 2020. ■

— *Editor's note: Information in this story was originally reported for articles for the Duluth News Tribune.*



John Myers reports on the environment, natural resources, mining and other outdoor news for the Duluth News Tribune newspaper (duluthnews.com). He's been an OWAA member since 1985. He can be reached at jmyers@duluthnews.com.

WELCOME TO OWAA



Will Cooper was born and raised near the sandy beaches of Southern California. At a young age he developed a passion for exploration — from hiking into storm tunnels as a child to running 100-mile mountain races around the world. Cooper earned his bachelor's degree from American University's School of International Service. He is the CEO of a national real estate company and serves as board member for several trade organizations dealing with legislation and federal policy affecting the environment. An avid runner and writer, he has completed over 30 ultra-marathons, including the Grand Slam of ultra-running — four 100-mile races over the course of one summer. He narrates his journey as an ultra-runner and outdoorsman in his unabashed running blog, willrunlonger.com. Cooper's work has been published in print and digital media and includes inspirational articles, interviews with best-selling authors and his candid opinion on all things running and beyond.



Keith Crowley is a full-time outdoor writer and photographer based in western Wisconsin. He travels extensively each year and you're as likely to find him on an Alaskan salmon stream as you are a mountainside in Wyoming, or in a mangrove swamp in Florida. You can find his work in *Field & Stream*, *Sports Afield*, *Sporting Classics*, *Pheasants Forever*, *Ducks Unlimited* magazine, *Bugle*, *Petersen's Hunting*, *American Hunter*, *Defenders of Wildlife* magazine, the *Wall Street Journal*, the *New York Post*, *Newsweek*, the *London Times*, *Paris Match*, the *Daily Mail*, the *Telegraph*, the *Daily Register* and many other national and international publications. He has authored two books: the award-winning "Gordon MacQuarrie: The Story of an Old Duck Hunter" and "Wildlife in the Badlands." His work is also in several anthologies, including "A Passion for Grouse." His primary website is <http://www.lodgetrail.com>.



Joel M. Herrling is a freelance writer and lifelong outdoorsman, from upstate New York. He got his start writing about college lacrosse for a school paper in 2002. After obtaining a bachelor's degree in biological sciences, he went into sportswriting at a local newspaper. Recently, he rediscovered his passion for writing and has been focusing on the outdoors and writing ever since. His articles have appeared in *North American Whitetail*, *American Waterfowler* and other magazines. He also enjoys composing poetry about waterfowl hunting. When he isn't writing or working, he is teaching his young children about the importance of agriculture and respect for the outdoors. Herrling is completing his debut novel, which he hopes to have published in 2017.



Bruce Ingram of Troutville, Virginia, has been an outdoor writer and photographer since 1983. Ingram regularly writes for *Turkey Country*, *Quality Whitetails*, *Whitetail Times*, *Virginia Wildlife*, *Game and Fish* publications, *Wildlife in North Carolina* and other publications. Ingram and his wife Elaine also have a cooking column, celebrating venison, for *Whitetail Times*. Besides hunting and fishing stories, Ingram often writes about conservation, wildlife habitat and destinations. Ingram has written seven books, including four on floating and fishing such rivers as the James, New, Shenandoah, Rappahannock and Potomac, as well as a how-to book on fly and spin fishing for river smallmouths, and his latest book, co-written with his wife, "Living the Locavore Lifestyle." His seventh book, "Ninth Grade Blues," is a young adult story that will debut in September. Ingram is also a high school English teacher. For more information, <https://sites.google.com/site/bruceingramoutdoors>.



Mark Lassagne, from San Ramon, California, is a popular professional bass angler, former United States Marine, outdoor writer, guide, promoter and top competitor. He is also the editor-in-chief of *Bass Angler Magazine*. Throughout his career as an angler, he's qualified for numerous regional and national events and won several. Lassagne has published articles on websites and in numerous magazines, including *Game & Fish* magazines, *BassWestUSA*, *Bassin'*, *American Bass Angler* magazine, *FLW Outdoors*, *Rabid Angler*, *Fish Sniffer*, *Field & Stream*, *Western Bass*, *Tackle Tour* and others.



Lukas Leaf is an avid, passionate outdoorsman and chef born and raised in Minnesota. He graduated from the University of Minnesota in 2005 with a bachelor's of science in graphic design. Leaf was formerly executive chef at Al Vento restaurant in south Minneapolis and is now the chef for Modern Carnivore and a board member of the Minnesota Chapter for Backcountry Hunters & Anglers. His father first introduced him to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness when Leaf was 13. Since that first trip he has had the privilege to introduce many people to the beauty of the Boundary Waters through numerous camping and fishing trips. He spends his free time fishing, foraging, hunting, camping and cooking his way through the great Minnesota outdoors. Leaf now works as the sporting outreach coordinator for Sportsmen for the Boundary Waters and has appeared in its two films, "Fish Out of Water" and "Flush in the Wild."



Mark Neuzil is a professor of communication and journalism at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota. He is the author or co-author of seven books, including "Canoes: A Natural History in North America" and a frequent writer and speaker on environmental themes. He has worked as a reporter for the Star Tribune of Minneapolis, the Associated Press and several daily newspapers. A former summer state park ranger and licensed U.S. Forest Service guide, he has reported from across the globe, including Cuba, Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, the United Kingdom, New Zealand and Costa Rica. He lives in St. Paul.



Omelets and ducks — those were the two staples every winter for **Garrett Turner** growing up in Osceola, Missouri. His father taught him the importance of hunting waterfowl, and folded eggs. That passion grew and branched out to all things outdoors. Turner now resides in Roanoke, Virginia where he is an anchor and reporter for WDBJ-TV. His "work" takes him into the Appalachian Mountains covering hunting, fishing and hiking. Before coming to Virginia, he was in Alaska for three years, a wild place where, among other things, Turner worked on the Iditarod Race and witnessed the largest caribou migration in North America in a small cabin in the middle of the Arctic Circle. Turner is always up for an adventure, especially if it's wife and dog friendly.

From steel to stoke

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 26

quarry in the city. Historically these recreation enthusiasts were disparate groups, more concerned with catching the next wave than entering the noisy political discourse surrounding community revitalization. But local cyclists and biking groups sparked a change.

Through vision, planning and good old-fashioned sweat, the local Duluth mountain bike community came up with an idea for a 100-mile trail system interconnecting those thousands of acres of parks and open space along with nearly every neighborhood of the city. Efforts for what would be called the Duluth Traverse started in about 2008. To date this project has raised over \$1.5 million and constructed more than 70 miles of purpose-built, professionally designed single track. This effort has been so successful that Duluth was recently awarded the International Mountain Biking Association Gold-Level Ride Center designation, the only one in the Midwest and one of five in the world.

As this effort gained success and worldwide accolades, the leadership in Duluth took notice. Soon Don Ness, mayor at the time, realized that this project was building a new sense of pride in the city and because of that, in about 2009, he decided not only to invest city funds and staff time into it, he also decided to invest in other destination-quality outdoor recreational projects as well. He saw outdoor recreation as another means or revitalization for the community.

That effort has borne fruit in the fact that Duluth was given Outside Magazine's Best Outdoor Town in 2014. More importantly, the suite of outdoor experiences the user groups envisioned were so powerful that the City of Duluth, by a unanimous vote of the City Council, decided to bond \$20 million to implement them.

Now in addition to the Duluth Traverse there is an effort at creating a new park with ice climbing in the once abandoned quarry, as well as a new Nordic center with state-of-the-art snowmaking and lights. A National Water Trail is also planned on the now rebounding St. Louis River and more hiking loops are being added to the legendary Superior Hiking Trail.

Today, along with the rise in craft beer (Duluth has 10 breweries in a city of 95,000) and what by all accounts is a booming economy, the community of Duluth, instead of apologizing for its lack of steel production, is seeing the export of "stoke" as one the main reasons people choose to live and spend their tourism dollars here. ■



Hansi Johnson was one of the International Mountain Biking Association's first regional directors. He worked in that position for five and half years in the Upper Midwest Region. Johnson was recently hired by the Minnesota Land Trust to serve as its director of recreational lands. He consults with the city of Duluth, Minnesota, to increase its quality of life and tourism economy through destination quality outdoor recreation. He lives in Thomson, Minnesota, with his wife Margaret and 8-year-old son Tae.

ASSOCIATION UPDATE

DONORS

October 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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**Donations made in memory of Spencer Turner.*

NEW MEMBERS

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

Nancy Cowan, New Hampshire School of Falconry, 183 Deering Center Rd., Deering, NH 03244. (H) 603-464-6213, falconers@comcast.net, <http://www.nhschooloffalconry.com>. Author, "Peregrine Spring," recently named to the New York Times best-selling e-books list. Owner and operator, New Hampshire School of Falconry. Longtime speaker on and demonstrator of the hunting sport of falconry. Freelance sports writer and author of six self-published books on sled dog racing. (Jim) Skills: BILOW; Subject Matter: CEMQS. Approved for Active membership; sponsored by **Randy Julius**.

Sandra Friend, Florida Hikes, P.O. Box 10046, Cocoa, FL 32927. (H) 407-314-8712, (C) 407-314-8712, (W) 407-314-8712, hike@floridahikes.com, <http://floridahikes.com>. Author or co-author of 33 books, most of them about the outdoors. Founder, co-owner, editor and publisher of FloridaHikes.com, one of Florida's most visited websites on outdoor recreation, now in its 10th year; editorial duties shared with my husband John Keatley. Co-owner, editor and publisher, Watula Press, a small press for outdoors and nature books. Active outdoor and travel writer and photographer with magazine and photography sales. Known as Florida's hiking expert. Past

board member for Society of American Travel Writers and Florida Outdoor Writers Association. Life member and 16-year volunteer with the Florida Trail Association. (John Keatley) Skills: BCDELOPS; Subject Matter: GLOS; Sections: MP. Approved for Active membership; sponsored by **Carey M. Kish**.

Joel Herrling, 8461 Ball Rd., Weedsport, NY 13166. (H) 315-246-1654, (C) 315-246-1654, (W) 315-246-1654, jmherrling@gmail.com. Credits, Wildlife Management News magazine, North American Whitetail magazine, Take 'Em Waterfowl Journal, American Waterfowler magazine, DairyBusiness East. Former sportswriter, SUNY Brockport student newspaper, The Citizen newspaper. Skills: O; Subject Matter: CFGO; Sections: MN. Approved for Active membership; sponsored by **Mike Zlotnicki**.

Doug Kelly, Florida Sportsman, 1451 Sandy Ln., Clearwater, FL 33755. (H) 727-724-4949, (W) 727-724-4949, doug7kelly@yahoo.com. Author, "Florida's Fishing Legends and Pioneers," "Alaska's Greatest Outdoor Legends." Freelance travel and outdoor writer, Tampa Bay Times, Miami Herald, Sport Fishing magazine, Florida Sportsman magazine and many other outlets; author of hundreds of articles about the outdoors. Field editor, Florida Sportsman magazine, providing how-to and where-to features. Former editor-in-chief, Traveling Sportsman magazine. Former executive director, Florida Outdoor Writers Association and Bonefish & Tarpon Trust. Former editor, Sport Fishing magazine. Former managing editor, Florida Sportsman magazine. (Kelly) Skills: BELNOPRSTVW; Subject Matter: ABCL; Sections: MNPRV. Approved for Active membership; sponsored by **Chris Batin**.

Mark Lassagne, Bass Angler Magazine, 2500 Shadow Mountain Ct., San Ramon, CA 94583. (C) 925-787-3474, (W) 925-362-3190, mark@ezbass.com, <http://www.marklassagne.com>. Popular pro bass angler, former U.S. marine, outdoor writer, guide, promoter and top competitor. Editor-in-chief, Bass Angler Magazine. In his career he has qualified for the Bassmaster tour, four West Coast Bass Classics, three FLW

Stren Championships, three Redman Regionals, three BASS Federation Regionals and 10 team championships. Has competed in hundreds of events, cashing a check in almost 50 percent of each event fished. He has appeared on TV and in videos including on Informative Fisherman, Western Bass, Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World, West Coast Bass, Bassmasters, Angler West, True Bass and others. Along with performing seminars across the Western states, he is a regular guest speaker on various radio shows including: Fish Talk Radio, Bass Radio weekly, Mighty 690, 1150 Extra sports, Shake Rattle & Troll, Ultimate Bass, ESPN Radio and Fish Bait Radio. Credits in Game and Fish magazine, BassWestUSA, Bassin' magazine, FLW Outdoors magazine, The Fish Sniffer newspaper, Field & Stream, Western Bass magazine, Tackle Tour and others. (Gina) Skills: CEOPSW; Subject Matter: A; Sections: CMPRV. Approved for Active membership; sponsored by **Andy Whitcomb**.

Lukas Leaf, Sportsmen for the Boundary Waters, 4601 Clinton Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55419. (C) 612-270-6805, lukas@sportsmenfortheboundarywaters.org. Sporting outreach coordinator, Sportsmen for the Boundary Waters. Chef with Modern Carnivore. Owner, The Swede Outdoors. Board member, Minnesota chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers. Skills: ACOQS; Subject Matter: ACDGLMOPR; Sections: CMNP. Approved for Active membership; sponsored by **Shawn Perich**.

Daniel McKinley, Let's Go Fishing Productions, 21308 S. Mill Rd., Spangle, WA 99031. (H) 509-995-0819, d.mckinley@mensministrycatalyst.org, <http://mensministrycatalyst.org>. Contributor, Mule Deer Foundation magazine. Script writer for Outdoor Channel shows and various outdoor equipment manufac-

turer advertisements. Curriculum writer for outdoor classes and seminars. Content editor for outdoor TV show scripts. (Carrie) Skills: EIOQWX; Subject Matter: ACFOP; Sections: CMR. Approved for Active membership; sponsored by **James Edward Grassi**.

Garrett Turner, WDBJ-TV, 1807 Avon Rd., Roanoke, VA 24015. (C) 417-840-1495, garrettsteventurner@gmail.com. News anchor and reporter for the CBS affiliate in Roanoke, Virginia — WDBJ. Reported a multi-part series for southwest Virginia, covering topics including Appalachian Trail by county, fishing, Virginia's elk, trail mix and hunting. Skills: DSTV; Subject Matter: ABCDGLMS; Sections: C. Approved for Active membership; sponsored by **Mark S. Taylor**.

REINSTATED MEMBERS

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

Bruce Ingram, (Active) 1009 Brunswick Forge Rd., Troutville, VA 24175. (H) 540-992-6214, (W) 540-992-6214,

bruceingramoutdoors@gmail.com, <https://sites.google.com/site/bruceingramoutdoors/>. Has written over 2,200 magazine articles and six books on the outdoors. Field editor, Izaak Walton League. Staff writer and venison cooking columnist, Whitetail Times. Regular contributor to Turkey Country magazine, Quality Whitetails magazine, Bassmaster Magazine, Virginia Wildlife magazine, Wildlife in North Carolina magazine, Game and Fish publications and others. (Elaine) Skills: BLOSW; Subject Matter: ACFLOSTU; Sections: MP.

CREDENTIAL REVIEWS

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

James E. Sharpe

REINSTATED SUPPORTING GROUPS, AGENCIES AND BUSINESSES

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

Continuous Metal Technology Inc., 83 Salada Rd, Du Bois, PA 15801. Contact: Timothy Smith, president. (W) 814-772-9274, (F) 814-772-4345, tsmith@tomboboutdoors.com, www.tomboboutdoors.com. Secondary contact: Brad Clinton, director of marketing, bclinton@powdered-metal.com. Bringing advanced technology to the outdoor market, from fishing lures and ammunition components to outdoor body wash and pet care products.

NEW SUPPORTING GROUPS, AGENCIES AND BUSINESSES

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

Fishing Hot Spots Inc., P.O. Box 1165, Rhinelander, WI 54501. Contact: Steve Swierczynski, president. (W) 715-365-5555, (F) 715-365-5575, steves@fishinghotspots.com, <http://www.fishinghotspots.com>. Extensive offering of detailed fishing maps and books in various mediums, including print, digital, online and mobile. Supporter Resources: IOP. ■



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