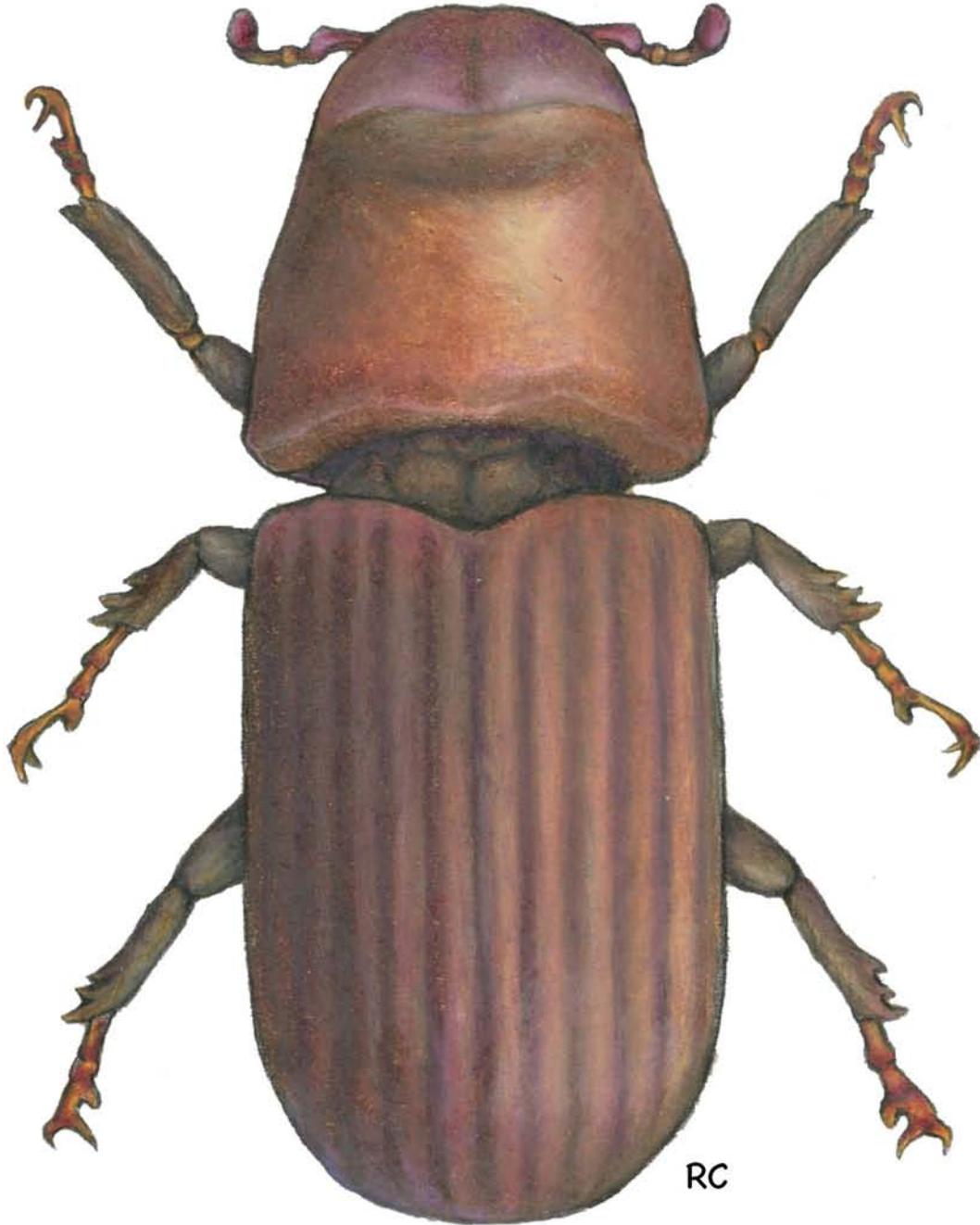
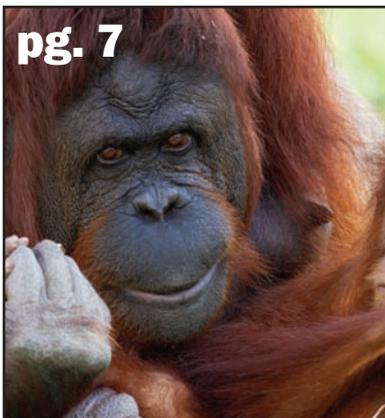


Outdoor Writers Association of America

OUTDOORS UNLIMITED

The Voice of the Outdoors December 2016/January 2017

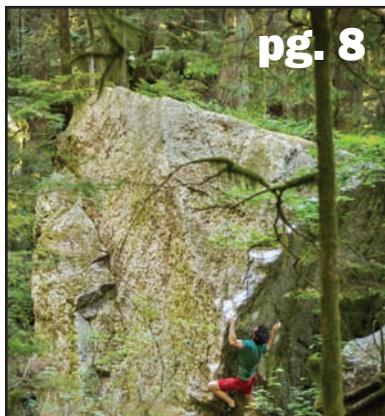




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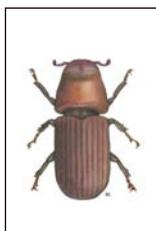
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ON THE COVER

By Rachel Cramer

Illustrator Rachel Cramer rendered this western pine beetle with water-color paints and colored pencils. See more of Cramer's work on page 14 or visit her website at <http://www.rcillustrations.com/>.

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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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

KEEP WRITING OUTDOOR ESSAYS

Chris Madson rings the bell for the long outdoor essay, or it is the death knell? I know. I used to write them. A lot of them. And I used to sell them to all kinds of outdoor and nature magazines, sometimes as back page pieces, or as a regular columns, or occasionally as a center piece essay, complete with a custom illustrations. One time I put a stack of rejected essays together and, with the help of an excellent editor, published a book, Pavlov's Trout, now something of a classic.

Back in the day, I made some pretty good money writing essays; you know, more than two figures for a single effort. And Chris is right, you can't query an essay. You can't query a poem. And you can't query humor. Not that anyone buys much humor anymore. Either all the funny people have died or humor has, take your pick. We have a few humor writers left in our ranks, and thank God for them, but finding anything funny to read anywhere else is pretty much impossible, if you don't count politics.

Anyone who doesn't drool for a living knows you can't make rent writing essays, unless you can make a very good living at it - which handful of jobs are already occupied by better writers than me, and most likely you. Except for a little project I was dared into last year by an artist pal (The Search for Elusive Trout - True Tales & Cocktails), I have laid off essay and humor writing entirely.

But I don't want you to. No, I want you to keep writing them. Pay or no pay. Save them. Pile them up. Think of your kids. Think of your grandkids. Someday someone will create an "expand your attention span" app. Someday people will wonder what our lives were like in the Great Outdoors. Why did we go fishing? Why did we hunt and kill things? Half of the world's population lives in a city now, and by mid-century it will be 60%, and beyond that who knows.

If you don't tell them about life the outdoors, who will? I

read and reread the journals kept by my pioneer ancestors from mid-1850s on, trying to feel what they felt, see Iowa and Colorado and the west as they saw it and lived it. My parents wrote out their life stories, which are treasures beyond compare. Writing ain't, after all, about the money. If it was only about the money, you wouldn't be reading this.

Don't shirk. Do your job. Do your duty. Don't bang out one more 300-worder and pretend you moved a reader.

Say what you need say from your heart, from that deep place only you can go. Because if you don't, you risk our never knowing who you really are, or were.

— Paul Quinnett
Cheney, Washington

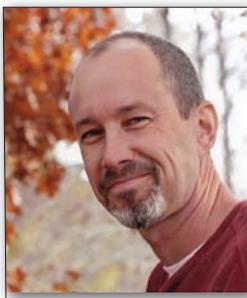
THANK YOU FOR SUPPORT

It is hard to put into words the thanks we (I and my children) would like to give you for all the help, thoughtfulness, and sympathy you have given us during this difficult time. We are very grateful for your support and friendship. Spence would have been very pleased to have the OWAA prayer used in his services. OWAA was very dear to his heart and mine.

— Joan Turner
Columbia, Missouri

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.



THE VOICE OF THE OUTDOORS®

There is a wise saying, "You get better competing against the best." My membership with OWAA has given me the chance to meet, learn, network and compete against the best writers and other professionals passionate about the outdoors. It has been a tremendous resource.

— ANDY WHITCOMB, St. Petersburg, Pennsylvania, member since 2012



Get involved to change OWAA

Criticism is only annoying when it goes unreported.

Some may argue my point, but unshared criticism serves no one. Those complaining just allow complaints to fester and those who can make a difference are never given the opportunity.

As president of OWAA I fully expect to hear the thoughts and concerns of our membership. Some are quite good at this — you know who you are.

Others bite their tongues and refrain from sharing their disapproval.

Several concerns recently came to my attention through a board member, who shared feedback she'd received from members.

While the board member properly addressed the criticism, it is possible others in our organization could have the same thoughts and I wanted to take time to discuss those complaints.

Complaint No. 1: OWAA's board is stacked with people from Western states.

The obvious response to this complaint is that people from the West are stepping up as board member candidates. Then our membership is electing them.

However, the current OWAA Board of Directors is geographically diverse with four members from the East, three from the West and two from Texas.

There have undoubtedly been times in the past 90 years when certain geographic

regions have dominated board positions. Since I've been a member of OWAA there have been two states so well represented that members became known as the Oregon and Missouri Mafias.

Since it came up, I would also like to point out how gender balanced our current board stands, with four women and five men representing the organization. This, at least to me, is more important than regional representation.

It is a different story when you look at the OWAA Executive Committee. Counting myself, there are four Westerners and one representative from the Midwest. There is also only one woman

among the five of us. In the same way the Board of Directors can become unbalanced, the executive committee is comprised of people who agreed to run and serve in their respective positions and then were elected by their peers.

Here comes the line everybody has been waiting to see: If you want to see changes on the board or executive committee, consider running or encouraging others to do so.

Finally, let me say, the current board has a wonderful balance of outdoor communicators and many are at the peak of their careers. This board is thoughtful, progressive and responsive to the needs of our members and I'm proud to be a part of our leadership.

Complaint No. 2: OWAA focuses too much on issues impacting the West.

It is true that we try to include regional issues at our annual conferences. We want to take advantage of area experts and we want to help those who attend conference find stories they can report and photograph in the area during their trip.

People should expect some regional tours and news about Midwestern issues at the 2017 conference June 24-26 in Duluth, Minnesota.

OWAA has covered a number of national issues and news at recent conferences including: climate change; the National Park Service centennial; ethical and legal use of drones; access for journalists on federal lands; impacts of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill; and invasive species.

The big issue we focused on in Billings, Montana, this past summer was the proposed public lands transfer. Some consider this a Western issue, but that is a tragic view. These are our lands and they belong to all Americans whether they live in New Hampshire, Arkansas, Alaska or Hawaii.

But if you aren't satisfied with conference topics, the solution is the same for our conference program as it is for our makeup of the board: Get involved. If any members have suggestions for possible sessions at our 2017 conference, share them with Paul Queneau, who as our second vice president is planning the event. You can email him at pqueneau@rmef.org. ■

— OWAA President Brett Prettyman
brettoutdoors@yahoo.com



BRETT PRETTYMAN

OWAA's 2017 Excellence in Craft contests are open

With 10 contests and 48 categories, you're sure to win in the OWAA 2017 Excellence in Craft contests.

Avoid late fees and submit your entries by Jan. 13, 2017.*

Contests include:

- Television/Video/Webcast
- Radio/Podcast
- Magazine/E-zine
- Newspaper/Website
- Blog
- Column
- Book/E-book
- Children's story

- Illustration/Graphic
- Photography

To enter the contests, go to www.owaa.org/eic. Rules and entry forms are available online.

Electronic entries are \$10 per submission. For those who choose to send in their entries via postal mail (for example, magazine clips instead of PDFs submitted online), the fee will be \$20 per entry. This higher fee excludes books, CDs and DVDs. The fee increase covers admin costs for digitizing paper entries.

*The receive-by deadline for the Book/E-book contest entries at OWAA headquarters was Dec. 1, 2016.

Make tax season less painful Resolve to get organized

BY JOHN ALLEN

The beginning of a new year signifies the start of our resolutions to better ourselves. It also begins the three-and-a-half-month scramble to dig up all of our receipts, crunch the numbers and file our income tax returns on time. As we work to dig up proof for every expense, we realize we are not as organized as we thought. In order to make the year-end tax process painless, one needs to be organized year-round.

Recordkeeping

The first step to good recordkeeping is to open up checking and credit card accounts that are separate from your personal accounts. This will make it much easier to reconcile your expenses each month or at year-end. Plus, it is also a good business practice to keep things separate. One of the biggest things that the IRS will target during an audit is business versus personal expenses. If you are co-mingling accounts, it makes it that much harder to distinguish between business and personal.

The next step is to create a monthly financial log. You can do this by either creating a spreadsheet (if you are computer savvy enough to do so), creating a monthly journal or by using an accounting software to track your progress. I don't recommend using accounting software, such as Quickbooks, Quicken or Peachtree, unless you find yourself incurring business expenses several times a week year round. Using these types of software is best done by someone with an accounting background. Otherwise, you could find yourself doing more harm than good.

You can either create your own monthly journal using a notebook, or you can buy tax-return-specific journals at most office supply stores. You'll track your income, expenses and any other relevant information on a monthly basis in your journal. Then you can reconcile the amounts to your checking and credit card accounts. I would only recommend this way if you find computers to be inconvenient.

In creating a spreadsheet, you can tailor how you track your expenses to what works best for you. Start by downloading a copy of the IRS form 1040 schedule C from the IRS website. The form hardly, if ever, changes, so the year that you download is not critical. The form lists out all of the expenses that you are required to individually break out. You are also required to include a schedule of other expenses that do not fit into these categories. As an outdoor communicator, conference dues and membership dues usually fall into this "other" category. You should also create a line for "large purchases," which can be depreciated over several years. These are generally defined as anything that has a useful life that is greater

than one year such as camera equipment, computers and photo editing software.

In addition to financial information, I will also track my business-related mileage on the spreadsheet. I keep a reporter's notebook in my vehicle and whenever I am making a business-related trip, I write down the date, where I started my trip and my destination. At the end of the month I look up the distance via Google Maps and then log the mileage into my spreadsheet. This will take the guesswork out of trying to remember where you went throughout the year.

I reconcile my bank and credit card statements to my spreadsheet on a monthly basis to ensure that I have marked down everything work-related I did or purchased for that particular month. By using a spreadsheet instead of a handwritten monthly journal, you eliminate the chances for human error, but whichever way you decide to track your finances, make sure that you stick with it for the whole year.

Supporting Documentation

Just as important as good recordkeeping, having strong supporting documentation to back up your expenses is extremely crucial in case you are ever audited. You should keep documentation (generally in the form of a receipt) for every expense that you deduct for at least three years. At the end of three years, you can shred your receipts, but make sure that you hang on to any large purchase receipts that you are still depreciating as it is seen as a current expense if you are still receiving a tax benefit from it. Most equipment is depreciated for five or seven years depending on its use, so those receipts will need to be maintained for eight to 10 years.

I use an accordion folder sorted by month to track my receipts. As part of my monthly reconciliation process, I total up my receipts by expense category, then paper clip a note with the amount and category from my spreadsheet written on it and then place it into the corresponding month's folder.

It sounds like a lot of work, and by April it's easy to fall back into bad habits. But if you can tough it out, tax season next year will be much easier. So this year make your resolution to get, and stay, organized. ■



John Allen is a CPA and outdoor writer. He lives in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, with his wife, Maribeth, and daughter Claire.

Shooting shot shelling

BY LEFTY RAY CHAPA

A photo of a person shooting a shotgun into the sky looks pretty boring unless there is smoke and fire coming out of the barrel, or perhaps a shell caught in flight after it was ejected out of the shotgun. While not all shotguns emit smoke or fire on a regular basis, they do all eject the shell before another shot is fired. By following the next few steps, this action can be captured with a camera to make the shells more visible and the photo more interesting.

What you need

A semi-automatic shotgun is easier to capture as the shells are automatically ejected after firing, but a pump shotgun or an over-and-under shotgun will also work. You'll also need a camera with a setting to allow a high rate of continuous shooting and shotgun shells of various colors. Safety equipment should include safety glasses and hearing protection for both the shooter and the photographer. Any size of shotgun will do, but a 12-gauge gun is pretty common and the 12-gauge shell is bigger than the other sizes like 28-gauge, .410 and 20-gauge.

Camera Settings

Shutter speeds slower than 1/1000 are generally too slow to freeze a shell's motion in the air. Some blurring will occur, which might be acceptable in some instances. Speeds above 1/1000 will tend to freeze the shell in motion so well, it is possible to identify its manufacturer.

If the camera has more than one continuous shooting speed, use the highest frames per second. With a 10 frames per second speed or higher, it may be possible to capture more than one frame with a shell flying through the air. The key is to anticipate when the shooter is going to fire and hit the shutter button before that point and just hold it down until the shell is out of view.

While one or two frames may capture a shell in the air for each string of photos taken, the others can be easily erased. To avoid confusion between different strings, take a photograph of something completely different between image groupings. This will help in the editing session afterwards.

An aperture selection of f8.0 is a good starting point, but it depends on the light sensitivity range of the camera, or ISO, and how much light is available.

Selecting a focus point varies, as it depends on what you want to key in on. In most cases, try focusing on the gun where the shell ejects. Most cameras are able to switch focusing spots from one end of the view screen to the other. If you want to feature the shooter, focus on his or her face.



Pump shotguns can also be used to capture a shell ejecting. If a shooter fires two shots in quick succession, a photographer might also be able to capture some smoke in the image. Photo by Lefty Ray Chapa.

Position

There are three spots to shoot from. The first is behind the shooter. This is the easiest, as the shells come flying out perpendicular to the camera so it is possible to capture more than one frame with a shell in the air.

The second is behind, but slightly at an angle to the gun. In most cases this will be to the right side as most people are right-handed, but be aware if left-handed shooters are present and switch sides. This is probably the most interesting angle, as some portion of the shooter's face will be visible.

The third position is perpendicular to the gun. This is the hardest as the shell is coming almost directly toward the camera. Good contrast with the background could also be difficult to achieve as the gun usually takes up most of the background. As a safety factor, never stand in front of the shooter.

Angle

If possible, vary the angle by standing higher than the shooter and angle down. Another way is to crouch down and shoot upwards.

Contrast

While I am not a big fan of shooting level towards the shooter, it really depends on the background. It might be necessary to make adjustments on the fly to make the shell contrast against the background scene. This can be done by making minor movements up or

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

Draw viewers in with anthropomorphic photos



Viewers are drawn to an image by the direct eye contact with the subject. This emotional connection is enhanced by critical focus and shooting at eye level with the main subject. Photo by **Ann and Rob Simpson**.

BY ANN AND ROB SIMPSON

Perhaps you recall exchanges with Looney Tune characters Donald Duck, Bugs Bunny and Porky Pig in which the delineation between human and cartoon was blurred or even nonexistent. Who can forget the image of the tin man, cowardly lion and scarecrow skipping arm-in-arm with Dorothy down the yellow brick road toward Oz? Lewis Carroll's pen has led many people through the looking glass into a dream world of a tardy white rabbit, smoking blue caterpillar and crafty Cheshire cat. Modern audiences have grown up with Big Bird, Roger Rabbit and other talking animals that teach and entertain their sponge-like minds.

These anthropomorphized characters walked, danced and stumbled their way into our lives, solidifying forever the notion that animals indeed could have humanlike qualities.

For a cartoon animator or a writer, the ability to create humanlike characters from nonhuman animals and objects takes a playful imagination and the ability to convince the intended audience through words or drawings that the character has all of the emotions, feelings and reactions of a person.

Capturing a photo of an animal in the wild that portrays anthropomorphic characteristics is perhaps one of the most challenging of all photo assignments. No matter when, where or how you photograph animals, it is almost always just plain luck when you capture that one image that seems to say "I am human just like you."

Photographs that convey anthropomorphism in animals can be

some of the most captivating images created. Human emotions such as fear, happiness, surprise or anger appeal to audiences.

Studying animal behavior and anticipating movements and actions can be a key factor in stacking the odds in your favor for getting that perfect shot. If the deer walks away from you, keep your camera aimed, as it will often turn around for a quick, quizzical glance back. Also, watch for animals interacting with each other, especially the "greeting" nose touch, which looks quite similar to a "honey I'm home" kiss. Modern cameras and lenses have revolutionized photography with speed and image stabilization capabilities that allow you to get pictures that were next to impossible just 15 years ago.

Just as in writing, attention to detail is important with photography. Eyes are the single most important feature of any animal (or human). A tack-sharp eye, or lack thereof, can make or break the quality and effectiveness of your image. Place the camera's focusing square on one eye of your subject. If the eyes are not in the same plane, make sure to choose the closer eye on which to place the focusing square.

All cameras have different methods to control the focus. Besides the common (but often boring and confusing) task of "reading your camera manual," you can also go to YouTube and search the model of your camera and the words "auto focus." Continuous focus or AI Servo auto focus mode on your camera is useful for moving subjects, while the focus mode called "one shot" is best for recomposing portraits. Position yourself carefully so that highlights of the reflection of the sun catch the light in the animal's eye.

Sometimes it all comes together at the right time and right place but you have to be prepared. With nature photography, patience is not only a virtue, it is a necessity.

No reward is greater than capturing that perfect shot that says it all. Just as famous lines such as "Call me Mr. Ed", "What's up doc?" or "That's all folks!" will forever have nostalgic meaning for those of us who grew up with these humanized characters, you can create wildlife photos that imaginatively pluck loudly with recognition at the heartstrings of your audience. ■



Ann and Rob Simpson are nature photographers and authors of numerous books mostly about national parks. They have traveled extensively to photograph some of the earth's rarest animals, plants and habitats. Their photos have a sense of place and show how we as humans fit into the environment.

Using Instagram

For instant career success

BY PHILIP QUADE

For awhile, I resisted joining Instagram. My climbing partner insisted I check it out, saying it might help me in my recent foray into climbing photography, but I wasn't big into social media. I didn't get it. I joined in 2014, but it wasn't until I took a road trip last May that I finally learned how to harness the platform to help my photography business. In only a few months it helped me go from an unknown in the world of climbing photography, to publishing in national magazines and working with some of the industry's biggest brands and athletes.

I picked up my first digital camera when I was about 20 years old. Originally I wanted to shoot wildlife. I envisioned myself tracking snow leopards in the Himalayan mountains, or something equally as rare in a similarly exotic location.

I discovered climbing while working at the Calgary retail store Out There Adventure Centre in 2013. I was already used to carrying my camera with me everywhere outside, so without thinking, I started taking it on weekend climbing trips. The things I loved about climbing myself — the movement, environment, power and precision — also made me love photographing the sport.

I realized that climbing photography was its own niche in the outdoor world and people actually did it for work. That became my dream.

I hit the road in May with a plan to visit some of the best- and least- known climbing destinations in North America. My plan was to climb — a lot — but also build my climbing photography portfolio.

A newbie to the niche of climbing photography, I turned to Instagram for networking and the results were astounding.

As a climbing photographer, if I have no climbers, I have no shoot. So my first steps were to line up subjects and areas to photograph. With a rough road map in



Graham McGrenere boulders in Squamish, Canada. Photographer **Philip Quade** spent almost four months traveling North America shooting climbing to bolster his portfolio. He used Instagram to network and expand his reach. Photo by Philip Quade.

place, I searched Instagram using hashtags and location tags to find climbers in the areas I traveled. I gradually sifted through photos and accounts — sometimes hundreds or thousands, sometimes barely a half dozen — and picked my top-choice candidates. I used Instagram's direct messaging system (which only allows 500 characters per message) to reach those with whom I wanted to connect. Thanks to push-notifications, which alert account users if they receive a new message, recipients often responded within minutes of my crafting a message.

I was a little shy and unsure about this tactic when I started, but it quickly proved its effectiveness. I was pleasantly surprised by how welcoming and excited many people, including elite athletes, were to connect and work together on projects.

This new style of cold-calling proved to

be the most effective method for me to land climbing subjects, tour guides and partners throughout my trip. In return for their time, I gave them a small portfolio of photos from our adventures. I built a name for myself much quicker than I imagined and soon had climbers, who had heard about me from friends or other athletes, reach out to me.

The domino effect had begun. Instagram became not just a networking tool, but also a type of live portfolio for my work. I used it to announce my agenda and let people know where I was currently and where I was headed next.

The more elite athletes I worked with who shared my work, the more comments and exposure I started to receive. I started paying close attention to who else was admiring my work — their sponsors. I understood the concept of shooting for a brand, but I had never chased the opportunity.

But while on a shoot with climber Claire Bukowski in Rifle, Colorado, that changed. I knew shooting sponsored climbers like Bukowski opened doors with companies that worked with her. I also knew shooting strictly editorial content is a hard way to make a living. Not only do brands usually pay well for images, it also provides you exposure to a larger audience. I also wanted to find my own sponsors for future trips and expeditions.

While working with Bukowski, I focused on getting images for social marketing and planned out shoots focused on branding and layout. I spent more time shooting from fixed ropes, instead of from the ground. We also planned our climbing around product placement, from what Bukowski wore to what gear we used. I also shot more lifestyle shots, like Bukowski drinking from her Sk-ratch Labs water bottle, or coiling her Blue Water rope at the end of the day, or packing her SoiLL backpack. While all of these images were designed to showcase the brands, I still tried to shoot them candidly instead of having her pose with the gear.

I researched her sponsors, as well as



Philip Quade photographs climber Claire Bukowski near Rifle, Colorado. Quade used Instagram to connect with climbers like Bukowski and to sell his images to magazines and brands. Photo by Todd Bukowski.

brands she hoped to work with one day beforehand, and after made some calls. Bukowski is a well-known and respected climber, as well as the daughter of accomplished climbing photographer Todd Bukowski. On several occasions the brands I called already knew what we had been doing, thanks to Instagram.

Several companies requested my portfolio. I sold images and even had one company seek me out requesting my work for two projects.

The new world of social media got me attention from these companies, but good old-fashioned phone calls got me the sales. On more than one occasion I had a brand representative thank me for making direct contact and taking the time and effort to make a phone call, or at least sending a personal email.

It's a changing world and an adapting market. But it doesn't mean the old tricks don't still work. Sometimes, you just need to take a different approach to the same ideas, and roll with the punches.

When I returned home after almost four months on the road, I had shot numerous assignments for Grippéd magazine.

I also had a chance to work with the editorial team at Rock and Ice magazine during its annual climbing photography camp, where



Paul Denzler boulders on Doven Island, Nova Scotia. Photographer **Philip Quade** used Instagram to connect with climbers to shoot and brands and magazines to buy his photos. Photo by Philip Quade.

I worked with some of the best climbing shooters in the business. The magazine published a half page of my work in an issue featuring images from the camp. It marked my first photo published in a major national magazine.

Now home, I've been regularly working with Butora, a company that makes climbing shoes and accessories. Within the last six months, companies I shot for, or sold images to, include Skratch Labs, The North Face and Icebreaker. I've also covered local competition climbing for the Calgary Climbing Center and attended the Go Pro Mountain Games in Vail, Colorado, as the official photographer for the Canadian Climbing Team.

Instagram completely redefined my approach to marketing. It also helped me launch the career of my dreams. ■



Philip Quade is a 28-year-old climber, photographer and writer from Calgary, Alberta. He is interested in climbing and expedition and exploration photography. He just completed a 3 1/2-month North American road trip where he explored some of the best- and least- known climbing destinations in Canada and the U.S. Follow him on Instagram at philip_quade, or on Twitter @_Quade and view more of his work at www.philipquade.com.

Shot shelling

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

down with the camera. Another way to make the shell stand out is to use different colored shells. Red and green colored shells are prevalent, but blue, gold, silver and other colors also exist.

Miscellaneous

Pump shotguns eject a shell manually

by the shooter doing the work rather than the gun. Have the shooter hold their aiming position after shooting while ejecting the shell. If the shooter fires two shots in quick succession you might also capture some smoke.

Over-and-under shotguns only eject after they are broken open. If done quickly after shooting, you might also capture some smoke in your image. ■



Lefty Ray Chapa is a San Antonio-based freelance outdoor photographer and writer specializing in anything having to do with a fly rod or a shotgun. He is also the president of Texas Outdoor Writers Association.

Make new media that makes money

Using journalism skills for a start-up

BY TAYLOR WYLLIE

We all know the story: newspapers are dying and working as a reporter is one of the worst jobs on every career list.

At the same time, millennials are starting more businesses at younger ages than their Baby Boomer counterparts.

Scorpio Partnership Consultancy surveyed 2,600 young entrepreneurs in 18 countries. It found an increasing number of individuals under 35 who have created their own companies — with higher profit ambitions than their elders.

David Detrick, 33, a student at the University of Montana, is one of those “millennipreneurs.” He started the online news publication IFlyFishMontana (ifyfishmontana.org) in the spring of 2016 as project for a journalism class on freelancing. The assignment was to create a mock-up of a “new media” publication, whether that be online or in print. As a self-identified fly-fisherman, he immediately went to an idea that’d been stirring in him for months: creating a digital space for those with the same passion.

The site is designed to act as a hub for the fly-fishing community, providing news, gear reviews and classifieds for selling products, as well as acting as a site to connect anglers to each other and businesses. Detrick solicits mostly student freelance writers and photographers to produce content for the website, oftentimes students, who write news articles, products reviews or even blog posts about fly-fishing trips.

After seeing the monetary possibilities, and loving the work involved in the upkeep, Detrick decided to sink his time into the business, with a long-term goal of turning it into his full-time job.

Here’s what he has to say about his tran-

sition from student to business owner:

Q: Why did you decide to create your own business, instead of pursuing a job at a daily paper, or other traditional news outlet?

I really like being in charge of it. I really like talking to fly-fishing businesses and companies and fly shops... I like trying to find reporters and photographers who can do this kind of work. It’s like being your own boss. I’m not making a lot of money from it, but it’s fun, it’s exciting, it’s what I love to do.

Q: How do you plan to make money?

We’re going to look for more sponsors ... clickable ads, things like that. But I don’t want to just throw up a bunch of Google ads, or Orvis ads all over the site.

That’s not the goal of the site. We want to give exposure to the little guys, the up-and-coming companies, the online companies. We’re also going to monetize it through fly-fishing shops ... by the time we have lots more traffic we can say ‘Hey, here’s how much traffic your website is getting from ours. The reason is you’re in this story, you’re here on the map-finder. If you want to keep that spot on our website we’re going to be charging this membership fee for you guys.’ We’ll base it on the traffic they’re getting and we’ll be fair. So we’re going to be charging membership to the fly shops and fly-fishing companies that are linked on our page, plus a membership to our readership. We will also monetize the garage sale feature on our website, which is coming soon.

Q: How important has social media been in building your brand?

Social media has been huge — Facebook, Twitter and Instagram have been key in guiding people to the website and getting

people to read what we have on the website.

Our biggest social media outlet right now is Instagram. We have over 4,400 followers right now and it grows every day. Every day we have 10 to 30 people adding. Most of the images we have there have anywhere from 150 to 500 likes. I’ve been looking this week, and this week we’ve made 13,500 impressions. That means one of our images on Instagram has popped up on somebody’s feed, they haven’t interacted with it, but they’ve seen it. Over 13,000 people have seen one of our images in their feed.

Q: How do you build that following?

I added people at first. It seems like other people are adding us because they’re interested in our content. Everybody loves fish porn. Well, at least fly-fishing people do.

I did a giveaway a few weeks ago for stickers, basically I said the first 10 people to repost this and tag us, would get stickers. We got a lot of attention from that, probably a lot of ads because people were seeing us pop up on other people’s feeds.

Q: How does studying journalism in college prepare you for this business?

The University of Montana school of journalism basically gave me everything I needed to start this business. Except the business side of it. I learned all about journalism in print, photo, online, etc. One of my last classes this year gave me the idea for this business in one of our final projects.

While this business is still very small I see the potential for unlimited growth. ■



DAVID DETRICK



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*.

On assignment with Peter Frick-Wright Covering the jogging ban in Burundi

BY TAYLOR WYLLIE

Peter Frick-Wright has nearly been in the wrong place at the wrong time on more than one occasion.

A freelance journalist based out of Portland, Oregon, Frick-Wright lived in Bosnia the year Kosovo declared independence from Serbia and left the country the day Serbians attacked U.S. embassies as a warning to Americans. He walked through a city square in Burundi, Africa the day before a shooting took place in the same area, and almost hired the one translator known to be, well, not so good.

But he continues to travel, searching for meaningful stories both domestically and abroad, which he often tells through the lens of an outdoorsman.

Frick-Wright traveled across the world to Burundi in the fall of 2015 for his second article for Outside magazine where he spent 10 days digging into the reasons current President Pierre Nkurunziza banned jogging, an activity that brought Hutus and Tutsis together after decades of bloodshed. He found a story that dates back 25 years, spanned an ethnic civil war and is one of the first signs the country might be on the brink of another.

Frick-Wright was able to tell the story in large part because of a man he met on his second day in Burundi, Ferdinand Nitunga. Nitunga became a stand-in for the joggers of the country who weren't political, a man who dealt with the difficulties of life through exercise. His sociable personality coupled with his natural athleticism made for a multifaceted, likable character that readers could connect with through all the political complexities of the story.

Frick-Wright talked with Outdoors Unlimited about the difficulties of reporting in a politically unstable environment, how to break down barriers with sources while abroad and the golden standard in journalism. Read the interview below and be sure to read his story at <https://www.outsideonline.com/2062806/worlds-most-dangerous-running-club-burundi>.

Outdoors Unlimited: How did you come up with the idea for this story?

Peter Frick-Wright: It came about in a sort of backwards way. I was out running with a friend of mine and it was a hot summer day in Portland. We got back to the apartment and were hanging out and we started bouncing around ideas of places we might be able to go.

We were looking at, I think, Wiki Travel, and he pulled up the entry to Burundi and he was like well we could go, but we couldn't go jogging there. He just read out a sentence that the president of Burundi banned jogging in March 2014 and we laughed about it at the time.

I went home that night and was like "how did this happen?" That was the driving question: what would make the country or the president ban jogging?

OU: How did the story develop from its conception to when

you actually sat down and wrote it?

Frick-Wright: I didn't know I was going to meet Ferdinand going there. Even after I got back, my first draft didn't have him as such a central character. I knew he was important. He was sort of a stand-in for the rest of the country and these nonmilitant joggers.

My editor [Jonah Ogles] really helped me understand what role he would play in this. He gave me the best single edit I've ever gotten, which was helping refine Ferdinand's place in the story.

OU: Ferdinand is quite the character. How did you know which people to approach, which people would make great characters?

Frick-Wright: Ferdinand, he just thrust himself into the front of my notebook and microphone.

The leader of the club, I was trying to talk to him and he was like, "you should talk to Ferdinand, this kid has a really incredible story." So how did I know? Someone told me and I believed them.

OU: How were you able to approach and connect with potential sources, especially coming in as an outsider to a country where people are uncomfortable talking to the press?

Frick-Wright: The first day I was there, and there's this scene in the story, Jean Baptiste my translator said

"Oh I know where there will be joggers today."

I came into that as a straight journalist. I have my notepad out, I've got my voice recorder, Jean Baptiste... is trying to get me what I came for and no one will talk to me.

The next morning, going and working out with the group, that just broke down every barrier that could be broken down. Once I spent an hour sweating with these guys everyone wanted to talk to me.

OU: Were you in good enough shape to keep up?

Frick-Wright: I thought I was in good shape until I tried to run with Ferdinand at the equator at 9 in the morning. He's really a phenomenal athlete.

OU: What was it like working in a politically unstable environment?

Frick-Wright: In some senses, it was a lot harder and more nerve-racking than anywhere I have ever been.

We never were shot at. We never had any real issues personally. We had a lot of people that were nervous to talk to us. When we went to the [Movement for Solidarity and Democracy] MSD headquarters building, the police kept circling it. When I say police, I mean a pickup truck full of guys in the back with guns. Everyone inside got really nervous about talking to us and we had to reschedule that interview.

We rescheduled the interview, but the rescheduling was "we'll call you at this time" and that phone call was "go to this church and



PETER FRICK-WRIGHT

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

100 years of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act

BY ASHLEY PETERS

You'll never see a heath hen, Labrador duck or great auk. These migratory birds went extinct by the early 1900s. Even the passenger pigeon, once plentiful in North America, saw its numbers dwindle as people overhunted it. The once abundant species went extinct in 1914 when the last of its kind died in the Cincinnati Zoo.

Wood ducks and snowy egrets almost disappeared as well, but thanks to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, their numbers have rebounded. There are now millions of wood ducks and more than 140,000 snowy egrets in North America.

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the United States and Canada signing the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. It was one of the first pieces of environmental legislation designed specifically to help birds and led the way for later laws like the Clean Water Act and the Endangered Species Act, which also addressed major threats to birds.

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act addressed the biggest, most immediate threat to our birds at the time: overharvesting. However, one of its lasting accomplishments was simply making people in North America think about how our birds are doing.

A century later while we celebrate the treaty's accomplishments and the birds it's benefited, we should still be asking this question as we try to understand the biggest threats birds face today and how we can help them thrive.

Background

During the late 1800s and early 1900s, feathers were en vogue, used for creating entire dresses and hats in the United States. The booming plume trade lasted for decades, causing birds to be overharvested to the brink of extinction. Americans started to see a marked decrease in the numbers of birds like wood ducks, snowy egrets and willets and more than 40 other North American species. Plume hunters killed nearly 95 percent of Florida's shore birds.

Various public campaigns tried to make feather fashion a faux pas. Audubon's



Wood ducks, like this one, almost disappeared into extinction. The Migratory Bird Treaty Act helped populations rebound to the millions. This year marks the 100th anniversary of the act. Photo courtesy Flickr Creative Commons.

Christmas Bird Count, started in 1900, encouraged people to switch from shooting as many birds as possible in a day to recording the greatest number of bird species seen. Yet these efforts weren't enough.

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act made it illegal for "anyone to take, possess, import, export, transport, sell, purchase, barter, or offer for sale, purchase, or barter, any migratory bird, or the parts, nests, or eggs of such a bird except under the terms of a valid permit issued pursuant to Federal regulations."

Birds still need help

A century later we can tout the successes of the act, as well as other laws like the North American Wetlands Conservation Act, which according to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, raised more than \$4 billion for 30 million acres of wetland conservation projects in the past 20 years, but certain bird species are still struggling.

According to The State of North America's Birds 2016 report, the last half century has seen a severe decline in quality habitat and 37 percent of North American bird species are "of high conservation concern and at risk." Seabirds, waterbirds and neotropical migrants have seen huge population crashes over the past 50 years, despite benefiting from the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, mostly due to habitat loss. Marine ecosystems are in crisis, tropical forests are disappearing and rising sea levels threaten

Tell the story

■ **Make it personal.** Find someone who can tell their personal story about helping birds. Emotion and the human element are the ever-important "spoonful of sugar" for stories about policy and natural resources management. When your audience sees how birds or bird conservation have inspired someone else, they are more likely to empathize and digest the meaning of the story.

■ **Make it local.** Depending on your outlet, focus on a bird or a destination in the region that inspires people. Recommend popular parks or public lands where people can go to see the birds you write about. Talk to local experts, from state bird biologists to area Audubon members.

■ **Make it actionable.** When someone can see how they fit into the big picture of conservation, they are more likely to be motivated to get involved. Tell readers about local groups they can join, a law they can vote on or a change they can make in their own backyard, like planting native plants. ■

coastlines.

Federal laws, like the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, need to be adjusted and viewed in conjunction with national and international habitat protection efforts.



Whooping cranes like this one benefit from the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, which helped protect birds from over-harvesting, but habitat loss still threatens many species. Photo courtesy John Noll, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Management of whooping cranes, an endangered species, exemplifies this.

Despite the protections afforded under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, the whooping crane population crashed to fewer than 30 birds by the 1940s due to habitat loss. The species narrowly escaped extinction and is still very much at risk with population estimates around 600. For these birds, habitat protection was, and still is, needed in addition to federal laws. The establishment of a national park in Canada and the Texas’s Aransas National Wildlife Refuge in the early part of the 20th century helped keep the birds from complete extinction.

Even after 100 years of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, there are still stories like this that need to be told, in addition to the success stories of the law. ■



Ashley Peters joined OWAA in 2014. She is the communications manager for Audubon Minnesota. For nearly a decade, she has worked to communicate and advocate for environmental conservation. She can be contacted at apeters@audubon.org.

On assignment

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

wait for another phone call” and from there it was “drive south on the street that you’re on until you see the place and you’ll know the place.”

OU: How did working with a translator change how you approached reporting?

Frick-Wright: My translator was a very big fan of the main opposition leader that I wrote about. He interrupted some interviewees to talk more about [Alexis] Sinduhije. That became a bit of a liability. He was a really good translator though, he made the story happen for sure, but it became another variable to filter through when you’re trying to get both sides of the story.

OU: After being there for 10 days you had a lot of information to work with. How did you decide what to keep and what to toss?

Frick-Wright: It was really a process of adding movement and a narrative arc in a way that you still got a sense of what the political problems really were without getting into the weeds too much.

We did many, many drafts back and forth on that. Probably 10 to 12 drafts overall just getting it right.

OU: How do you balance a first-person narrative with a more traditional reported piece?

Frick-Wright: There are certain things you need, like you need a character that encounters a problem that gets solved. When you can do that without using first person at all, that’s the gold standard.

When you can’t do that and you need the first person in order to make it happen, then you add it in a little bit at a time. That’s how I make it work.

Here’s a story about Burundi and a situation I had gone and seen. I needed it to be accessible for a reader who didn’t care about this, and I needed to hook them in some way. I didn’t think jumping straight into a civil war was going to do it. That’s a familiar story. That’s a story that people know and are tired of.



Peter Frick-Wright (left) stretches during a group workout in the Republic of Burundi. Frick-Wright traveled to the country in 2015 to write an article for Outside magazine on the country’s ban on jogging. Photo courtesy Dominic Nahr.

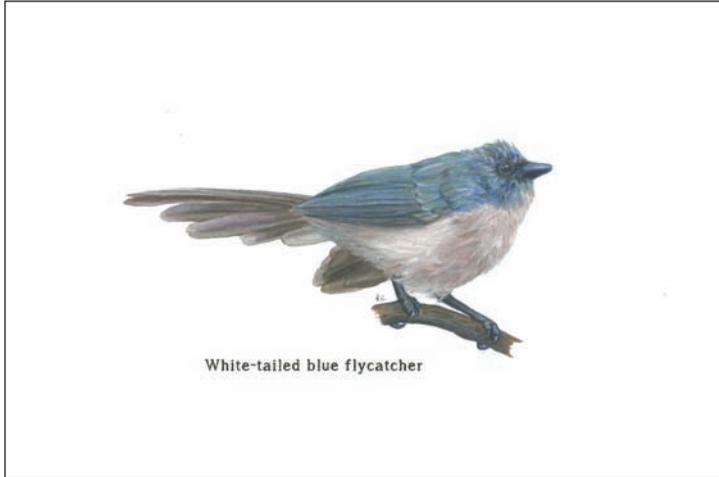
The reason we used the first person was I felt the strangeness, the novelty of the jogging ban, was the most immediately interesting part of the piece. That was going to be my hook. I could relate to readers by showing how weird I thought the situation was. ■



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*.

Portfolio

Rachel Cramer



White tailed blue flycatcher in watercolor and colored pencil.



African pygmy kingfisher in watercolor and colored pencil.



Red fox in colored pencil.



Landscape in ink.



Turtle in graphite.



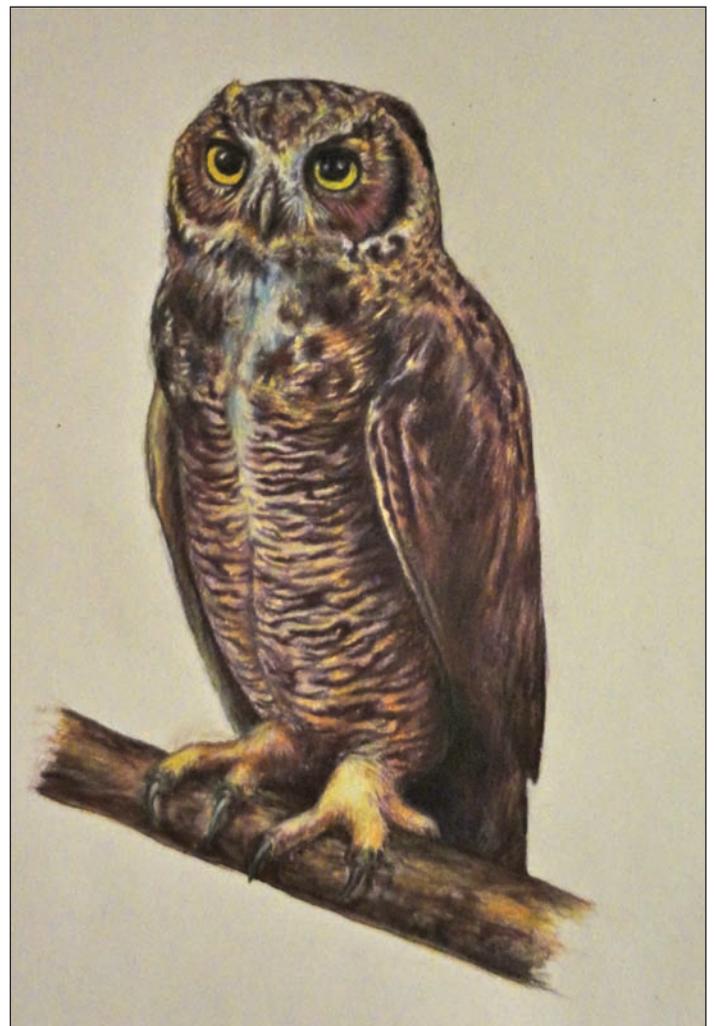
Purple grenadier in watercolor and colored pencil.



Little brown bat in colored pencil.



Opossum in colored pencil.



Great horned owl in colored pencil.



Raccoon in colored pencil.

From prospectors to cattlemen: Roots of the Sagebrush Rebellion

BY CHRIS MADSON

— *Second in a two-part series.*

The romantic image of pioneer miners as gray-bearded prospector leading burros into some lonesome mountain valley is no more accurate than our conception of the fur trade. Mineral deposits on the West's public domain were often discovered by individual prospectors, but the extraction of minerals took equipment and men, commodities the independent operator could seldom afford. Control of the gold, silver and copper quickly passed into the hands of well-financed companies.

The conflict over federal land is far older than the recent movement for states to take control of acreage within their borders, it is older than the occupation at Malheur National Wildlife Refuge and older than the face-off at Cliven Bundy's ranch. It is a story that goes back to when Lewis and Clark opened the West and stretches through the eras of fur trading, mining and massive cattle companies.

Underground mines required huge quantities of timber to guard against cave-ins. In 1897, the General Land Office reported that the steady loss of forest to mining operations "fully demonstrated the want of wisdom in placing the public timber thus free of cost at the disposal of the public. It is also unjust in granting exceptional privileges to the residents of the States, Territories."

The problem was that the trees weren't going to the average citizen. "Large corporations and companies have secured permits at different times to cut many millions of feet," the 1897 report observed. And sometimes, the big operators didn't bother with permits.

In 1853, Edward Matteson, a California miner, updated an ancient technique to expedite the extraction of placer gold — he built dams uphill from his diggings, then brought the water through a ditch and then a hose and nozzle, generating a high-pressure stream that washed tons of gravel into his sluices. It was called hydraulic mining, and it was quickly adopted anywhere mine companies had a source of uphill water. Tons of silt from these operations choked rivers and streams, exacerbating floods and, after particularly heavy runoff, depositing thick layers of mud in the floodplains and crop fields below. Often, the silt carried heavy metals and acids that killed fish and other aquatic life for miles. Once again, the public's interest suffered while the profit from the public's land found its way into the coffers of big companies.

Out on the prairie, the situation wasn't much better.

Starting even a small ranch took capital. The cattleman needed a

good remuda of horseflesh, the tack to saddle them and the money or equipment to keep them shod. He needed to prove up a claim on a piece of land for headquarters. And he needed some cows. The price of a Texas longhorn at the northern railheads varied between \$3 and \$8 a head, and that investment wouldn't begin paying dividends until this spring's calves had grown into 2- to 4-year-old steers. A cattleman, as opposed to a cowboy, was a man of property who might have to wait years to see a return on his investment.

In the years after the Civil War, the appetite for beef in America and Europe far outstripped the supply, and the producers made quick fortunes. It didn't take long for investors on both sides of the Atlantic to take advantage of the situation.

The first British cattle corporation to operate in the United States formed in 1879, raising capital of \$350,000 with which it bought up ranches in South Dakota and Wyoming. Over the next 20 years, 36 more British corporations invested \$34 million in the Western cattle business. At the same time British capitalists were making their presence felt, well-heeled Americans from the East and Midwest were buying into the business. What had been a family-run, hand-to-mouth calling became an industry, and as was the case with most other industries of the time, the big money took complete control.

In the years of the open range on public land, the big conglomerates played the system to gain control of key tracts of land. In 1884, The New York Times reported on the General Land Office's investigation of illegal claims on the public domain. According to the newspaper, inspectors from the Land Office had found millions of acres of illegally fenced land and claims.

In 1880, the governor of Wyoming estimated that the ranching operations in the state ran 540,000 head of cattle and about 375,000 head of sheep. Over the next three years, the number of cattle in the state rose to about 800,000, where it plateaued, and the number of sheep continued to climb, reaching more than 6 million by 1909.

The condition of pastureland across the West was essentially the same — 30 years of intense grazing had done damage to grasses and broad-leafed forage plants that would last for decades or even longer. At the same time, invasive plants like cheatgrass had been imported with contaminated seed, which would damage the rangeland in the Great Basin forever. The dreaded cattle disease brucellosis was brought to North America with infected livestock and was probably introduced into Yellowstone bison shortly after 1900 when domestic cows were used to foster young buffalo in an effort to preserve the species.

After less than a century, this is what Jefferson's dream for his beloved Western territory looked like: a land controlled and operated by millionaires and conglomerates, many of whom had connived or simply flouted the law to control the economy and politics

OWAA offers financial assistance

MADSON FELLOWSHIP

OWAA members, as well as nonmembers, are invited to apply for the 2017 John Madson Fellowship.

Applications must be sent to OWAA headquarters, postmarked no later than March 1, 2017.

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

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

For more information about the fellowship, visit www.owaa.org/programs/scholarships-fellowships/madson-fellowship.

BODIE MCDOWELL SCHOLARSHIP

OWAA is accepting applications for its Bodie McDowell scholarship program. Scholarships are for the 2017-2018 academic year.

Applications must be sent to the OWAA headquarters, postmarked no later than March 1, 2017.

Established in 1966, more than \$138,000 in scholarships have been awarded since 2002. Approximately \$22,000 in scholarships will be awarded in 2017. Each scholarship includes a one-year student membership with OWAA.

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

Applications for the 2017 award are now available. For more information about the scholarship, visit www.owaa.org/programs/scholarships-fellowships/bodie-mcdowell-scholarship. ■

of the public domain. A land stripped of its pristine promise: the range overgrazed; the forests over-cut; mountainsides raw and bleeding from the pitiless extraction of precious metals; streams polluted; the great herds of game, the beaver, the sage grouse all but extinct.

The entire nation was appalled. Faced with the ruin wrought by an unfettered market and a moneyed elite, a generation of Americans began looking for a different way to realize the democratic ideal in the arid West. It began in 1872 with the creation of the world's first national park, continued in 1890 with the protection of our first national forest, and culminated in the Taylor Grazing Act of 1934 and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, two laws that mandated better management of Bureau of Land Management lands.

The movement proceeded from the notion that our common interest is sometimes best served when we own things together. The idea of places and resources held in the public trust gained traction with wildlife in the 1840s and was extended over the next century to the great open spaces of the West's public domain.

The form and function of the consensus has been hammered out over 100 years. It

has changed with time, and it will continue to change as the people who care about the public domain change, and as the land itself changes. Finding consensus among 300 million citizens is always a challenge, and it is especially difficult when we look for consensus on managing public land in the West.

But neither history nor recent experience supports the notion that these lands would better serve America if they were in private hands. The demands big business continues to make on the public domain in the West haven't changed; they've been held in check only by federal regulations that seek to control the management of national forests and BLM holdings. If these lands were to be given to the states, or sold to private interests, these smaller governing entities or owners would not have the power to resist the influence the corporations wield. Even the federal government struggles to resist that influence. Land use would quickly return to the patterns that developed in the nineteenth century. The resources on the public domain, renewable and nonrenewable, would be sacrificed to enhance profits and the public would lose its right to visit what was left.

These days, Americans are dispossessed,

confined in our apartments, on our quarter-acre lots, estranged from the land that, in large part, has defined our character as a people and a nation. We are held prisoner by economics. Perhaps the only physical expression of freedom we have left is the public domain. Together, we can use it without destroying it; we can enjoy it without dividing it.

We should never give it up. ■

— *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.



Chris Madson is a freelance writer specializing in conservation and hunting subjects. He lives in Cheyenne, Wyoming.

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

Pre- and post-conference trips await



The sun sets in the Northwest Angle near Lake of the Woods, Minnesota. You'll find beautiful scenery and fish in the northernmost point in the lower 48 states on a pre-conference trip. Photos courtesy Lake of the Woods Tourism.



Fishermen try to catch walleyes on Lake of the Woods. The area is known as the "Walleye Capital of the World," and you can try to reel in your own catch during a pre-conference trip to Lake of the Woods, Minnesota.

Explore the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. Fish for walleyes in the "Walleye Capital of the World." Or view Canada's wilderness from the air.

This year's pre- and post-conference trips offer incredible adventures to inspire stories, videos and photographs. Here is a sampling of some of the opportunities for those attending OWAA's annual conference in Duluth, Minnesota. For more trips and information, visit <http://owaa.org/2017conference/pre-post-conference-trips/>. OWAA members with confirmed outlets or on assignment will receive preference for all pre- and post-conference trips.

Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness Outfitted Trip

Trip Dates: June 20-23 or June 27-30 (flexible)

Cost: Complimentary guided trip. USFS permit fees apply.

Known as the gateway to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, Ely, Minnesota, is an outdoor recreation paradise that beckons outdoor enthusiasts, artists and photographers. Ely outfitters will help you plan and guide you on a trip that meets your needs and interests.

Explore Lake Vermilion

Trip Dates: June 27-29

Cost: Complimentary cabin and fishing/touring boat. Additional people, gratuities and Minnesota fishing licenses not included.

White Eagle Resort, Minnesota, is a boutique family destination with lakeside cabins and fishing and touring boats. Lake Vermilion is known for its natural beauty and wildlife. It is located near the Superior National Forest and is the southernmost lake in Minnesota with the exposed rock of the ancient Canadian Shield. Fish for walleyes, bass, muskies and panfish.

Walleye Madness on Lake of the Woods

Trip Dates: June 20-22

Cost: Complimentary lodging, fishing and meals. Transportation to Lake of the Woods, Minnesota, tips, licenses and alcohol not included.

Welcome to the "Walleye Capital of the World." With more than 65,000 miles of shoreline, 14,552 islands and 1 million acres of water, Lake of the Woods is a world class fishing, hunting and outdoor destination. Fish for walleyes on a charter boat from the south shore of Rainy River Resort on Lake of the Woods. Fishing is typically jig or drifting with spinners and live bait.

Experiencing the Northwest Angle

Trip Dates: June 20-22

Cost: Complimentary lodging, fishing and meals. Transportation to Lake of the Woods, Minnesota, tips, licenses and alcohol on your own. Must have passport, passport card or enhanced driver's license. (You'll cross through Canada for this trip).

Explore the northernmost point of the lower 48 states. Fish the 14,552 islands and discover the beauty and culture of this incredible wilderness area.

Canadian Fly In Angling

Trip Dates: June 27-30

Costs: Complimentary except tips

Wilderness North will fly you low and slow over the world's largest contiguous boreal forest in one of its turbo Otter or Beaver aircraft. You'll leave out of Thunder Bay in Ontario, Canada. You'll leave the Lake Superior shoreline and within 90 minutes, arrive at your lodge. It is certainly all about the fish here, but there's a lot more. Learn about our thousands of years of indigenous culture on the land, paddle a canoe and savor exceptional cuisine courtesy of hosts Alan and Krista Cheeseman. This four-day adventure begins and ends in Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada, Lake Superior's largest city and a scenic 3.5-hour drive northeast of Duluth. ■

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

Planning your Boundary Waters adventure



There are hundreds of trip options in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. While some are more popular, others provide solitude. Photo by **Michael Furtman**.

A thousand sun-kissed lakes. Hundreds of miles of rivers and streams. One million acres of boreal forest. Moose, wolves, ospreys and loons. Superb fishing. And arguably the best flatwater paddling in the United States.

With all this going for it, it is easy to see why so many OWAA conference attendees have already asked me about Minnesota's Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness and why it is the most popular wilderness in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Each year, some 200,000 visitors sample this canoeing Mecca's maze of waters, angle for fish, paddle until tired and sleep beneath the souging boughs of pines.

Located about two hours north of the 2017 conference site in Duluth, Minnesota, the Boundary Waters is on the southern edge of the Canadian Shield, a vast sweeping exposure of Precambrian stone that runs from eastern Manitoba to the shore of the Atlantic. With the frigid waters of Lake Superior just to the south generating a chilly microclimate, the forest and plants are more typical of those found farther north with vast stretches of black spruce, balsam fir

and jack pine. But owing to its position on the edge of several ecotypes, the southern part of the wilderness area also displays trees of the northern hardwood forest such as birch, aspens, maples, and Norway and white pines.

There are hundreds of possible routes to canoe with 74 access points scattered around the periphery of the area. Where the water runs out, paddlers use paths known as portages to carry their gear overland. Locally measured in rods (16.5 feet – about the length of a canoe), a long portage is one that approaches a mile in length, but the majority rarely exceed 40 rods.

Where to go

With so many entry points to choose from, visitors might well be confused as to where to begin. Where you'll start depends largely upon exactly what you'll want to do or see when you get there.

Do you want to travel daily and see lots of wilderness? Is your desire to spend a lot of time fishing? Is solitude your most important criterion?

Take some time to consider your wishes. I strongly advise that all in your party have similar expectations as well. And if traveling far and hard is in the cards, remember that you can only travel as far and hard as the weakest member of your party can manage.

The entry points on the east end of the Boundary Waters lead paddlers into areas of dramatic topographic relief, where ridges rise hundreds of feet on each side of this region's long, narrow lakes. It is also at this far eastern terminus that many begin their journey along the famous Border Route, which ends nearly 150 miles to the west at Crane Lake, and follows the U.S.- Canadian boundary.

On the Border Route, many lakes like Saganaga, Basswood, Crooked and La Croix, are huge (Crooked Lake alone is 26 miles long). This is the route of scenic waterfalls and stunning vistas. It is also a challenging paddle, since these large lakes can be whipped to a frenzy by the prevailing west winds. Portages, however, are infrequent, which is why the fur traders loved this route.

For those who want to wander and enjoy the tranquillity of small to medium-size lakes, the central part of the wilderness area — bounded on the east by the Gunflint Trail and on the west by the town of Ely, Minnesota — offers untold opportunities for exploration, albeit with more portaging. About midway between these two landmarks is the Sawbill Trail, a gravel highway that pokes north to the Boundary Waters' southern edge. Dozens of entry points provide paddlers with many choices of both loop routes and linear trips to hundreds of lakes. Those who are seeking solitude can find remote areas off the well-traveled routes in this region.

The western end of the Boundary Waters offers exceptional routes as well. West of Ely and north of the Echo Trail are routes to the large border lakes of Crooked Lake or Lac La Croix. South of the Echo Trail is a portion of the wilderness area separated

CONTINUED ON PAGE 20

Boundary Waters adventure

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

from the remainder by a good gravel road. A lovely route here begins and ends at Crab Lake, and takes one through Cummings, Buck, Schlamm and other small lakes.

Base camping can offer an alternative to loop trips, and will give you more time for fishing. By venturing in a full day's journey, then setting up a base camp, one is free to explore unencumbered by heavy packs to nearby areas on subsequent day trips.

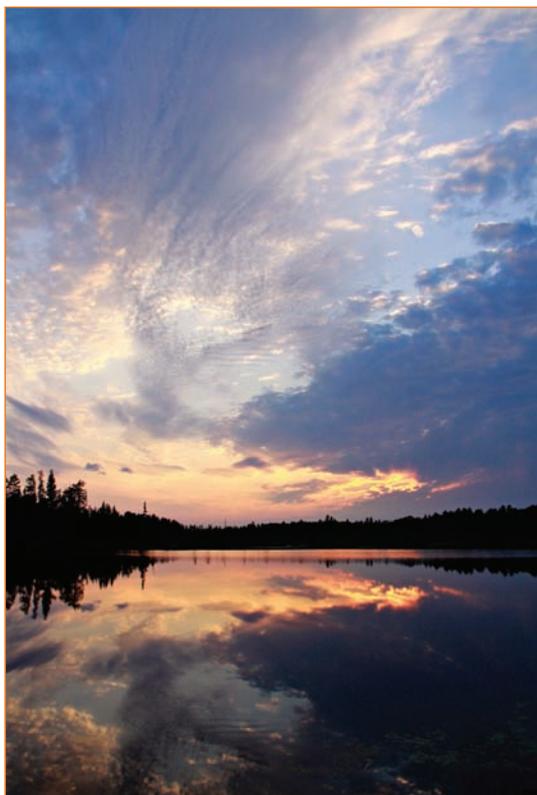
As a general rule, the nearer you stay to a road, entry point or major route, the more people you'll likely see. Also, several large wildfires have recently denuded some areas of the Boundary Waters. Consult with an outfitter, or give me a shout, if you want to avoid these places.

Know before you go

The Boundary Waters is administered by the U.S. Forest Service and is part of the Superior National Forest. In order to keep some semblance of solitude, visitor quotas for each entry point have been established, and in order to enter, you must have a travel permit for overnight trips. Although you can stop and pick one up at any Forest Service office and most outfitters, I *strongly recommend* reserving one as soon as you know the date of your trip. Permits for popular entry points can vanish quickly.

Permits become available in late January. The number of permits available per entry point varies dramatically depending upon the ability of the area beyond to absorb visitors. There is a \$6.00 online fee to reserve one, and each adult is charged \$16.00 per trip. Full information and online ordering can be had at www.recreation.gov.

You must enter on the date and at the location specified on your permit, but once in the wilderness you are free to roam and remain as long as you wish. Campers must stay at one of the 2,000 designated campsites, which are available first come, first served. On busier routes, choose one by midafternoon. Maximum party size is nine, but you'll see more wildlife and have



It's easy to see why the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness is a popular destination for those visiting Northern Minnesota. Photo by Michael Furtman.

less impact on the campsites' fragile soils if you keep your party smaller.

If you plan on fishing, don't forget a Minnesota angling license.

Day Trips

If you'd like to see the Boundary Waters, but have limited time or no desire to camp, many lakes are easily accessed on a day trip. While day-trippers will still need a permit, they are free and unlimited. Self-issuing kiosks are at each entry point. You can rent canoes by the day at many places.

Good Gear

The Boundary Waters is served by exceptional outfitters who will supply you with as little or as much gear – including meals – as you need. Major hubs for outfitting are Ely, Gunflint Trail and Sawbill Trail. Outfitters in these areas are already preparing for OWAA members. For more information on pre- and post-conference Boundary Waters trips visit <http://owaa.org/2017conference-preview/>.

Tips for a Better Trip

- Pack as if backpacking. Choose lightweight tents, sleeping bags and stoves. Rent a lightweight canoe.

- Kayaks are nuisance to carry on portages, and require elaborate packing and unpacking each time. If going alone, rent a solo canoe and canoe packs.

- Good raingear is a blessing.

- Wear sturdy boots on portages.

Rafting sandals and neoprene paddler boots offer no support on these rugged portages. Ankle injuries will ruin your trip.

- “Hopscotch” your gear across longer portages — carry a load part way, set it down, and rest as you return for the next load.

- Pick campsites with potential for a good breeze to minimize annoyance by insects.

- Dusk is peak mosquito time. Eat dinner earlier. Slip into the tent or go for a paddle when the bugs get bad. An hour later, they'll diminish. Build a fire and enjoy the night sky.

- Expect daytime temperatures in the high 70s, dipping to low 50s at night.

- Yes, you can drink directly from the lakes. That said, there is always the risk (although very low) of giardia. Never take water from a moving source, or near shore, to minimize that risk. Filter water if you're uneasy.

Suggested Reading and Information

- “The New Boundary Waters and Quetico Fishing Guide” and “Canoe Country Camping” by Michael Furtman

- Superior National Forest BWCAW information: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/superior/specialplaces/?cid=stelprdb5202169>

- Permit info and Reservations: <http://www.recreation.gov/wildernessAreaDetails.do?contractCode=NRSO&parkId=72600>

- MN Fishing License information: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/licenses/fishing/index.html?type=fishing>.

— Michael Furtman
2017 conference local chair
Mmfurtman@michaelfurtman.com

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

Mine threatens famous Boundary Waters wilderness

The 2017 OWAA conference will take place in June at the doorstep of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness in Duluth, Minnesota. The Boundary Waters is one of the most spectacular places in America, a wild landscape of lakes, streams, forests, wetlands and wildlife covering 1.1 million acres along the Canadian border. More than 250,000 visitors from all over the world are drawn each year by its silence and solitude. Wolves, loons, walleyes, towering pines and eagles abound. Water is the essence of this ruggedly beautiful roadless labyrinth.

Below is a piece written by Dave and Amy Freeman, who returned from an entire year in the Boundary Waters. Their goal:

to raise awareness of the risks from proposed sulfide-ore copper mining on the edge of this unique ecosystem.

— Editor's note: This article first ran on MinnPost's Community Voices on Sept. 30, 2016.

We just finished spending an entire year in this wild treasure to raise awareness of a major threat to the health of the Boundary Waters — a Chilean mining company wants to build a massive sulfide-ore copper mine nearby. The proposed mine site is along the South Kawishiwi River, which is adjacent to, and upstream of, wilderness.

Numerous scientific studies show that a mine in this location would mean the end of this priceless wilderness as we know it. The clearest and most present danger of a sulfide-ore copper mine is water pollution called acid mine drainage, a toxic combination of sulfuric acid, heavy metals such as arsenic and mercury and sulfates, that will leach into surrounding lakes, rivers, streams and groundwater, killing fish and plants. A recent study demonstrated that even under normal mining operations, acid mine drainage would flow into the Boundary Waters and spread throughout its countless waterways.

The true value of this area is hard to quantify, but government studies show that it helps support 17,000 outdoor and recreation jobs and drives more than \$850 million in economic activity each year. But even more than that, we see the less tangible, but in many ways more powerful, effects these waters have on people, through the letters, postcards, emails, petition signatures, photos, paintings and songs we have received from tens of thousands of people who are speaking loudly in defense of the world's greatest canoe country wilderness.

Fortunately, the federal agencies that manage our public lands



Amy Freeman paddles in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. Freeman and her husband Dave Freeman spent a year canoeing the area to raise awareness about a proposed mine in the area. Photo courtesy Dave Freeman.

are hearing from people who live throughout the country. The U.S. Forest Service has the authority to stop this dangerous mining proposal by withholding consent to federal mineral leases in the Superior National Forest. The Forest Service said it has “grave concerns” about sulfide-ore copper mining in close proximity to the wilderness and is considering withholding its consent.

We urge the Forest Service to follow the scientific evidence of harm and end the immediate threat. But the specter of future mining projects hangs over the area. That is why we are urging the federal government, specifically the Bureau of Land Management (which manages federal mineral leases) to withdraw all

public lands in the Boundary Waters watershed from the federal mining program.

During our yearlong journey we visited over 450 different bodies of water in our quest to protect this national treasure. When we left after an entire year, there was still several hundred interconnected streams and lakes that we did not have the time or energy to visit. The Boundary Waters are that vast.

During this journey we missed birthdays and funerals, weddings and graduations, precious time with friends and family, endured months of frigid temperatures, rain, sleet, snow, bugs and many discomforts that are typically easily avoided outside the wilderness. We did this because we knew it is critical that we draw attention to the imminent threat of sulfide-ore copper mining to our beloved canoe country wilderness. To some, this could be seen as a sacrifice, but as is often the case with places as special as this one, the Boundary Waters has given us far more than we lost. It's why people from around the country and the world flock here.

Last week we sat at the water's edge with a mother watching her children play in a wilderness lake. One of her sons is battling leukemia. She explained that her son's wilderness experiences have fostered resilience and taught him that pain and discomfort are temporary — lessons she says are helping him fight for his life.

This special area will continue to make impacts like this on the lives of millions of people, if we have the foresight to protect it.

For more information on this issue, contact Jeremy Drucker with the Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters (jeremy@savetheboundarywaters.org).

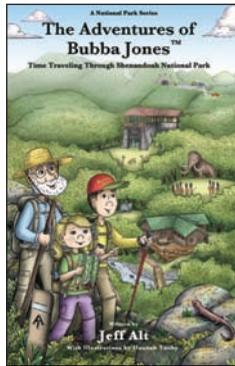
— By Dave and Amy Freeman, courtesy of Sportsmen for the Boundary Waters

BOOKSHELF

The Adventures of Bubba Jones: Time Traveling Through Shenandoah National Park (A National Park Series Book)

By **Jeff Alt**; Beaufort Books; www.bubbajones.com; softcover; 200 pp.; \$9.99.

After inheriting legendary time travel skills from their Papa Lewis, Tommy “Bubba Jones,” and his sister Jenny “Hug-a-Bug” embark on a Shenandoah National Park adventure to solve a family mystery. From the moment they reach the park entrance, the excitement begins. They travel back in time millions of years and come face-to-face with extinct creatures, past presidents and park founders. They travel deep into mountain hollows, up onto talus mountain slopes, and discover more about Shenandoah than they ever imagined. Explore Shenandoah National Park with Bubba Jones and family in a whole new way.

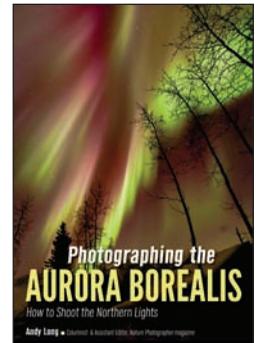


features of the national parks to life. Inside you’ll also find Ranger Rick’s favorite things to do in each park. With Ranger Rick as your trusted guide, there is no better way to experience the national parks – other than being there! Expertly researched, “Ranger Rick’s Travels: National Parks!” is sure to delight and inspire any young explorer.

Photographing the Aurora Borealis

By **Andy Long**; Amherst Media, PO Box 538, Buffalo, NY 14213, 716-860-1662, kneaverth@amherstmedia.com; softcover; 135 pp.; 120 photographs; \$37.95; pre-order at www.amazon.com/Aurora-Borealis-Andy-Long/dp/1682032086/.

Take a journey to see beautiful photographs of the aurora borealis and learn how to take amazing shots when offered the chance to visit an area where the sky comes alive with color. The book is divided into four sections: understanding the aurora; getting you and your camera ready; shooting the aurora; and image processing. Each section is a primer to help you understand everything needed to take great northern lights photos.



Ski Faster! Guide to Ski Racing and High Performance Skiing, 2nd Edition

By **Lisa Ballard**; Rocky Fork Media; www.LisaDensmore.com; softcover; 220 pp.; \$29.95.

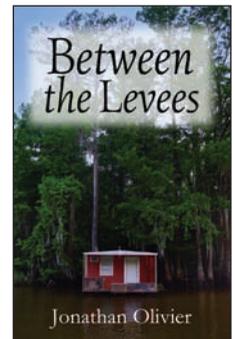
This long-awaited second edition of Lisa Ballard’s ski racing primer is 85 percent rewritten with more than 150 new photos and illustrations. For anyone wishing to carve better turns, ski like a pro through gates or simply gain a better understanding of the sport, this book can help. Ballard is one of the most decorated masters racers ever, with almost 100 national titles and four world championships. “Ski Faster!” reveals her secrets.



Between the Levees

By **Jonathan Olivier**; self-published; 225-287-0998, jonathanolivier1990@gmail.com, JonathanOlivier.com; softcover; 216 pp.; \$12.99.

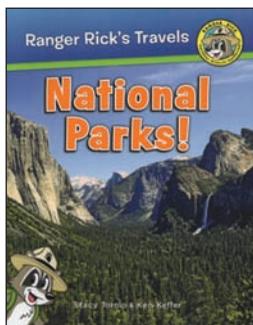
For Sam Miller, family is what he wants most in the world. But with his parents deceased since he was a boy, and no way of uncovering who they were, finding a sense of family seems impossible until he goes to Louisiana’s Cajun Country with hopes of finding a man who perhaps knew them. After venturing into backwater swamps and fending off alligators, snakes and a few sinister locals, Sam finds what he sought all his life. He’s also given a chance to leave behind a pained past he would rather forget. But finding what he wants most means he’ll eventually have to lose it.



Ranger Rick’s Travels: National Parks!

By **Ken Keffer** and Stacy Tornio; Globe Pequot Press/Muddy Boots, 414-399-2972; kckeffer@gmail.com, www.kenkeffer.net; softcover; 144 pp.; more than 400 color photographs; \$14.95.

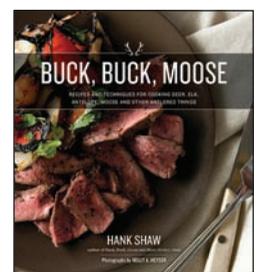
“Ranger Rick’s Travels: National Parks!” takes readers on a tour of America’s most beautiful protected landscapes. Join Ranger Rick as he leads this cross-country adventure and provides his favorite facts, and introduces you to his favorite animals and plants along the way. Beautiful photography and fascinating information bring the most unique



Buck, Buck, Moose

By **Hank Shaw**; H&H Books; 916-792-8197, scrblbr@hotmail.com; hardcover; 304 pp.; 120 photographs; \$29.95.

“Buck, Buck, Moose” is the first comprehensive, lushly photographed, full-color guide to working with and cooking all forms of venison, including deer, elk, moose, antelope and caribou. It will take you around the world, featuring



Hearing aids designed for the outdoor life

BY RICH PATTERSON

It was the sound of birds, or the absence of it, I noticed most. Military noise augmented by youthful years in small planes, using power saws and hunting eventually caught up with me. By my 40th birthday my ears started buzzing. Called tinnitus, increased ringing has been part of my life for decades. Gradually it became harder to hear high-pitch sounds. Conversing in a crowd became maddening as I could hear background conversation but not the person in front of me.

Eventually wood thrushes convinced me to shun procrastination and seek help. No sound in nature is as magical as the spring-time notes of this woodland bird. Several years ago I heard my last thrush. Either they were avoiding my woods or my progressive hearing loss blocked their music.

Studies link hearing loss with depression, dementia, falling, high blood pressure and anxiety but, it was the inability to hear birdsongs that launched my search for a solution. I'm not alone. At least one in three people over age 60 suffers hearing loss.

Advertisers know this, and when my

60th birthday passed, advertisers started bombarding me with information on hearing aids. Some claimed cures for tinnitus and most offered better hearing at bargain prices. Most sounded too good to be true. I decided to seek a certified audiologist and within a week, I was sitting in a quiet booth as Jennifer Reekers tested my ability to hear.

She patiently answered questions and convinced me that I was not just about to buy hearing aids, but was beginning a long-term relationship with professionals committed to improving my hearing. They fitted me with a trial pair of hearing aids appropriate for my unusual lifestyle.

I'm outside in wind, rain, blizzards and other quirks of nature. Sometimes I need to amplify sound, then suppress a saw's roar or a rifle's bark with ear protection.

Reekers adjusted the aids to fit my needs. They aren't merely amplifiers. They are computers enabling aids to fit varied needs. Mine are designed to dampen background noise, while increasing my ability to hear high-pitched sounds.

An important feature of my new aids is a tiny mute button. Just before I pick up my power saw, I mute the aids and slip quality

muffs over them. The mute function eliminates the hassle of removing hearing aids before noise exposure.

I spent a week trying everything I could think of to frustrate the new hearing aids before I decided to buy them. I went out in the rain and wind. The aids stayed in place and kept working. I couldn't shake them out. They were comfortable, even after 14 hours. One afternoon I rowed to the middle of a smallish lake and could clearly hear anglers on the bank conversing.

The hearing aids are expensive, but one day shortly after getting fitted with my custom devices I hiked seven miles in the Effigy Mounds National Monument in Iowa, amid calling orioles. As I sat on a bluff over the Mississippi, the song of a wood thrush filled my ears. ■

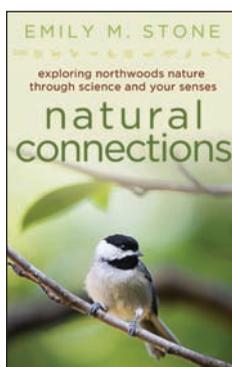


Rich Patterson is a member of the Circle of Conservation Chiefs and a past president of OWAA's board. He and his wife, Marion Patterson, both OWAA members, own Winding Pathways, a business devoted to encouraging people to create wondrous yards. For information check www.windingpathways.com.

more than 100 recipes ranging from traditional dishes from six continents, to original recipes never before seen. You'll also get thorough instructions on how to butcher, age and store your venison, as well as how to use virtually every part of the animal. "Buck, Buck, Moose" also includes a lengthy section on curing venison and sausage-making. Peppered throughout are stories of the hunt and essays on why venison holds such a special place in human society.

Natural Connections: Exploring Northwoods Nature through Science and Your Senses

By **Emily M. Stone**; Green Darner Media P.O. Box 416, Cable,



WI, 54821; Deb Malesevich, 715-798-3890, deb@cablemuseum.org; softcover; 293 p.p.; 72 illustrations; \$18.96.

Join Emily Stone on a hike, paddle or ski, and you'll soon be captivated by her animated style. In stories about the smell of rain, cheating ants, photosynthesizing salamanders and more, she delves deeply into the surprising science behind our Northwoods neighbors. These tales will leave you with a more complex understanding of their beauty. While this book contains many of your familiar friends, through the research and unique perspective of this award-winning writer you will discover something new on every page and around every bend in the trail. Whimsically illustrated by kids and adults. ■



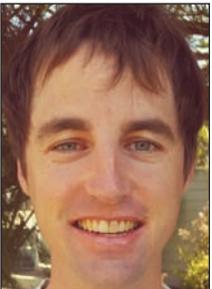
Jobs and editorial-needs listings are updated frequently. Don't miss an opportunity; sign up for daily updates!

www.owaa.org/ou/category/market

WELCOME TO OWAA



Unable to choose between art and science, **Rachel Cramer** pursued a degree in biological and pre-medical illustration at Iowa State University. She trained in traditional illustration mediums like graphite, ink and oil paint, but an internship in the exhibition department at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City introduced her to a variety of materials and techniques to create three-dimensional figures. Her professional experience has focused on sustainable agriculture and science communication and she continues to produce art. While working at the Science Center of Iowa, she created a series of wildlife illustrations for an educational dome theater program called Bump in the Night, and during her Princeton in Asia Fellowship in Sri Lanka, she designed numerous infographics and posters for the International Water Management Institute. She is currently working on a master's degree in environmental studies and freelancing on the side.



As a National Park Service ranger, **Mark Kaufman** educated a curious public about natural wonders and culturally significant places like Katmai National Park, where brown bears outnumber people, or Alcatraz Island, where a century-old prison sits atop a Civil War fortress. Ensuring that masses of humans did not collide with summer bears was certainly an important duty, however, Kaufman's interest in natural education graduated to journalism, and today he finds himself in New York University's science, health and environmental reporting program. He writes about planetary science, space, culture and evolution. Kept busy by a world burgeoning with scientific novelty and an Earth that refuses to stop evolving, Kaufman plans to develop stories and documentaries about these topics for many more rotations around our star.



Andy Long is an award-winning photographer and writer with more than 35 years of experience. Having started shooting sports at newspapers and magazines, he has concentrated on wildlife and outdoors for about 27 years. He is a columnist for Nature Photographer magazine and a featured writer for apogeephoto.com. He has written several e-books and currently has a book on the northern lights in the printing process. His photography has graced the pages of many magazines, books and calendars covering a wide range of topics and locations around the world. As a leader of international photo workshops since 1992, he likes to introduce photographers to new and interesting places, passing on what makes the place so special and what challenges it faces. His programs stress wildlife and landscape diversity and how people can help protect these special areas.



Skip Stover is a newcomer to the outdoor writing community. He recently enrolled in The North American School of Outdoor Writing. Stover holds degrees in administration of justice and parks and recreation. He's worked as a salmon charter boat deckhand and as an elk field rehabilitation specialist, experiences which add to his writing. While spending 36 years as an adult probation officer, Stover cultivated his love of the outdoors by spending many hours on the water, in the field and applying his knowledge to valuable endeavors. Stover wrote the first court-implemented probation conditions for big game violators and videotaped night deer decoy surveillance for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. He's guided hunting trips for 12 years for Hidden Ranch Outfitters.

ASSOCIATION UPDATE

DONORS

August, September and 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.

Bob Smith Fund

- * John Coats
- * **Tom and Kay Morton Ellerhoff**
- * Pat & Barbara Fitzgerald
- * John Hinshaw

Tom Keer

- * Ed and Holly Kuykendall
- * Vickie Mallicoat

Vicki J. Mountz

- * Jessica Trites Rolle
- * Darrell G Taylor
- * Mary M. Tribble
- * Sheryl Turner

* Joel Vance

Michael S. Zlotnicki

Operating Fund

- * Dana Ford

* Denotes donation 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/>

Emily Louina Cook, 1183 Gore Rd., Alfred, ME 04002. (C) 207-651-3666, emilylouinacook@gmail.com. Graduate teaching assistant and graduate student at Prescott College focused on environmental education through storytelling. Approved for Student membership.

Will Cooper, 1441 Sandcastle Dr., Corona del Mar, CA 92625. (H) 714-307-7462, (C) 714-307-7462, (W) 949-236-8115, (F) 714-662-4412, wcooperjr@cox.net, <http://willrunlonger.com>. Creator of "An Ultra Runners Blog," established in 2008. Spends a considerable amount of time outdoors as

an ultra runner, mainly in the mountains and wherever he can find trails. Has published over 350 posts on a wide range of outdoor topics, many of which have been republished in paid online and print media. One of his favorite quotes summarizing what he feels about his writing, the outdoors and the inextricable connection to the human spirit: "You think wisdom is a flower for you to pluck. It is a mountain, and it must be climbed." — Kwai Chang Caine. Skills: C; Subject Matter: R; Sections: C. Approved for Active membership; sponsored by **Kris Millgate**.

Rachel Cramer, 1105 Worden Ave., Missoula, MT 59802. (C) 515-664-0082, rcramer641@gmail.com, <http://www.RCillustrations.com>. Drawn to both the natural world and art, her educational and professional background is based in science communication and illustration. Working towards a master's degree in environmental studies at the University of Montana. Works for Montana Public Radio as a web helper and freelances wildlife illustrations. Skills: ADOQ; Subject Matter: ORST; Sections: C. Approved for Student membership.

Keith Crowley, Lodge Trail Media, 507 Country View Rd., Hudson, WI 54016. (C) 612-751-9953, (W) 612-751-9953, kcrowley@lodgetrail.com, <http://lodgetrail.com>. Writer and photographer with credits in publications worldwide including Sporting Classics, Ducks Unlimited magazine, American Hunter, New York Post, Wall Street Journal, Telegraph (UK), Times of London, Daily Mail (UK), Newsweek, Petersen's Hunting, Paris Match and others. Author of "Gordon MacQuarrie: The Story of an Old Duck Hunter" and "Wildlife in the Badlands." Contributing author to several anthologies including "A Passion for Grouse." (Annette) Skills: BEOSW; Subject Matter: ACDEGMOS; Sections: MNP. Approved for Active membership; sponsored by **Michael Furtman**.

Sam Dean, Sam Dean Photography LLC, 1032 Jeanette Ave., Vinton, VA 24179. (H) 540-309-7761, (C) 540-309-7761, (W) 540-309-7761, (F) 540-309-7761, samdeanphotography@gmail.com, <http://www.samdeanphotography.com>. Photogra-

pher and filmmaker based out of Roanoke, Virginia. Staff photographer at the Roanoke Times prior to starting a freelance career in 2012. Clients range from tourism agencies to members of the outdoor industry, such as Orvis. (Niki) Skills: MOSV; Subject Matter: ABCDGJLMNS; Sections: MNPV. Approved for Active membership; sponsored by **Mark S. Taylor**.

Derek Eberly, Keystone Fly Guides, 2065 Graystone Rd., East Petersburg, PA 18530. (H) 717-575-8743, (C) 717-575-8743, (W) 717-575-8743, keystoneflyguides@gmail.com, <http://www.keystoneflyguides.com>. Content creator for Keystone Fly Guides including podcasts, reviews, videos, etc. Skills: ACDSX; Subject Matter: ADGHKLNOPRSU; Sections: CPRV. Approved for Student membership.

Mark David Kaufman, 375 Vernon Ave., Apt. 2, Brooklyn, NY 11206. (C) 310-977-5073, markdkaufman@gmail.com. A graduate science journalism student at New York University. Previously communicated topics in science for both NASA and the National Park Service. Skills: NOWX; Subject Matter: ORS; Sections: CMNR. Approved for Student membership.

Andy Long, First Light Photography LLC, P.O. Box 280952, Lakewood, CO 80228. (C) 303-601-2828, firstlightphotoworkshops@gmail.com, www.firstlighttours.com. Has led photo workshops around the globe since 1994. Columnist, featured writer and assistant editor for Nature Photographer print magazine and featured writer for online photo magazine apogeephoto.com. Writing credits in Outdoor Photographer magazine and images in more than 50 different publications. E-book "Photographing the Aurora Borealis" is in process of being published by Amherst Media. Author of a number of other e-books in the process of finishing, one of which may go to print. Previously a sports and outdoor writer, but switched to outdoors and nature in the early 1990s. (Rhonda) Skills: BDOSW; Subject Matter: LS; Sections: MP. Approved for Active membership; sponsored by **Colleen Miniuk-Sperry**.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 30

ASSOCIATION UPDATE

Association update

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 29

Mark Neuzil, University of St. Thomas, Box 4249, 2115 Summit Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105. (C) 651-238-1376, (W) 651-962-5267, mrneuzil@stthomas.edu, <http://markneuzil.com>. Professor in the department of communication and journalism at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota, where he teaches environmental journalism, nature writing and other courses. Author, co-author or editor of seven books, including "Canoe: A Natural History in North America." Past board member of the Society of Environmental Journalists, Friends of the Mississippi River, the State of Minnesota timber wolf roundtable and his local Ducks Unlimited chapter. Former reporter and editor for the Associated Press, the (Minneapolis) Star Tribune and several other daily newspapers. Active freelance writer on environmental themes. (Amy Kuebelbeck) Skills: BELOS; Subject Matter: ACGKRS; Sections: CM. Approved for Active membership; sponsored by **S. Chris Hunt**.

Katy Spence, 234 Edith St., Missoula, MT 59801. (C) 620-704-5978, katynspence@gmail.com. Graduate student in the environmental science and natural resources journalism program at the University of Montana. Received the 2016 Crown Reporting Fellowship. Her work has appeared in the Montana Kaimin and Truman State University's Detours Magazine. She has a long history of working and volunteering outdoors, most recently at Thousand Hills State Park in Missouri. Skills: EIOS; Subject Matter: OR; Sections: MNP. Approved for Student membership.

Ralph "Skip" Stover, 3350 Briarpatch Place, Colorado Springs, CO 80918. (H) 509-885-5607, rastover54@gmail.com. Retired adult probation officer. Holds degrees in criminal justice and parks and recreation. Student, North American School of Outdoor Writing. Approved for Student membership; sponsored by **Roger M. Brunt**.

Taylor Wyllie, 439 University Ave.,

Apt. 8, Missoula, MT 59801. (C) 248-252-7286, taylor.wyllie@umontana.edu. Senior at the University of Montana, studying journalism and environmental studies. Spent summer 2016 interning at OWAA. Loves spending time on the water, no matter what she is doing, and trying new hiking trails around Montana. Skills: O; Subject Matter: GJKLORT; Sections: MN. Approved for Student membership.

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

Eva Shockey, Shockey Enterprises (Active) 2663 Brighton Bluff Dr., Apex, NC 27539. (W) 604-762-4181, evashockey@gmail.com, www.jimshockey.com. Co-host, "Jim Shockey's Hunting Adventures" TV show on Outdoor Channel and WILD TV. Writer, Hunting Illustrated magazine. Public relations and communications director, online media publisher, Shockey Enterprises.

CREDENTIAL REVIEW

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

Dan Anderson
Jack Ballard
Christopher M. Batin
Joseph Bilby
Bill Brassard Jr.
Roger M. Brunt
Rob Burbank
Charles Burchfield
Brandon Butler
Donald M. Causey
Chip Hart
David Hawkins
F. Eugene Hester
Raymond "Spider Rybaak"

Hrynyk

Brian Irwin
Brian J. Kahn
Rob Kesselring

Jerry Kiesow
Larry L. Kruckenberg
Real Larose
Russ Lowthian
Steve Maanum
Sandy Macys
Bill Marchel
Mike McKenna
Tim D. Mead
King Montgomery
Robert E. Rich
Tom Sadler
Mark Sampson
David Sefton
Mathew A. Soberg
Ron Steffe
Robert Stone
C. John Sullivan
James A. Swan
Lou Tabory
Danielle Taylor
Stan Tekiela
Dan Thomas
Brian Thurston
Thomas J. Ulrich
Chandler Van Voorhis
Mike Wintroath

NEW SUPPORTING GROUPS, AGENCIES AND BUSINESSES

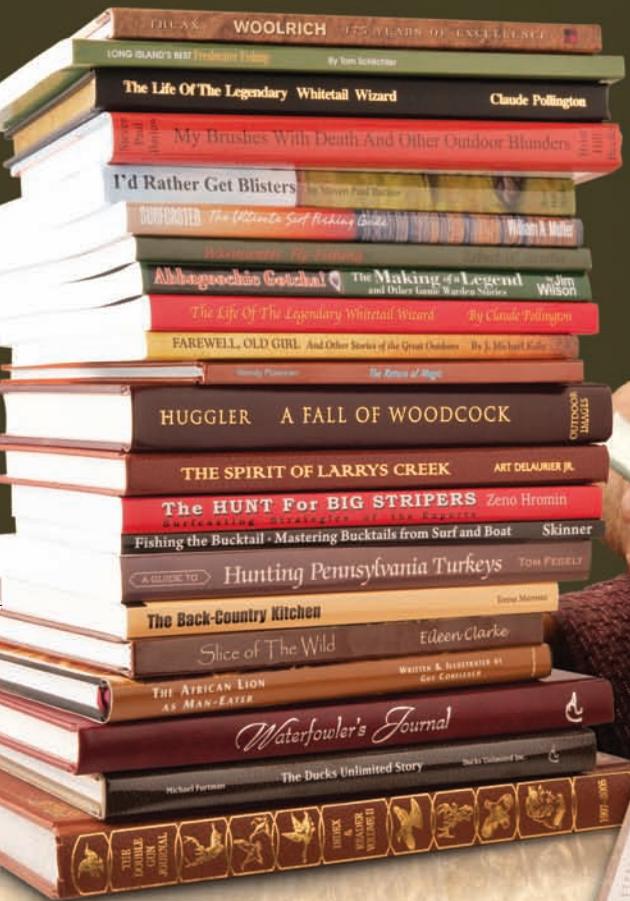
Supporting Group listings include references to acronyms that relate to resources they provide. A key for those acronyms can be found at <http://owaa.org/ow/about-owaa-supporter-resources/>.

Trees for Tomorrow, 519 E. Sheridan St. P.O. Box 609, Eagle River, WI 54521. Contact: Robin Ginner, executive director. (W) 715-479-6456, rginner@treesfortomorrow.com, <http://www.treesfortomorrow.com>. Trees for Tomorrow promotes sustainable management of our resources through transformative educational experiences. We are preparing today's youth to be tomorrow's stewards of our natural world. Supporter Resources: C.

DECEASED MEMBERS

Michael Frome
Spencer E. Turner ■

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Looking for more? Go online to read past issues of OU. PDFs are available for printing, too.
Visit: www.owaa.org/ou/category/departments/table-of-contents.

YOUR OWAA END-OF-YEAR CHECKLIST

OWAA office closed Dec. 24-Jan. 2.

In observance of the Christmas and New Year's holidays, the OWAA office will be closed Dec. 24, 2016, through Jan. 2, 2017. Headquarters will reopen on Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2017.

Questions about EIC contests? Call today!

If you have questions on your EIC submissions, we urge you to call or email OWAA headquarters prior to Dec. 24, as we will be slow to address concerns until our offices reopen on Jan. 3.

Renew dues

The deadline for paying your annual dues is Jan. 16, 2017, to avoid a disruption in your membership. You can pay online at www.owaa.org/store, or mail your payment to 615 Oak Street, Suite 201, Missoula, MT 59801.

