

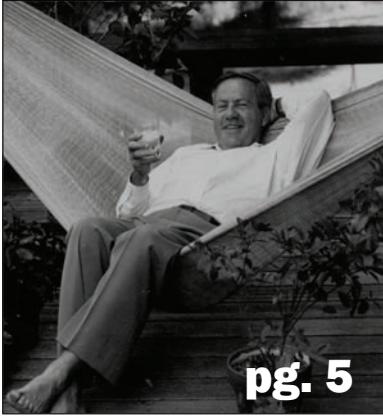
Outdoor Writers Association of America

# OUTDOORS UNLIMITED

The Voice of the Outdoors

June/July 2016

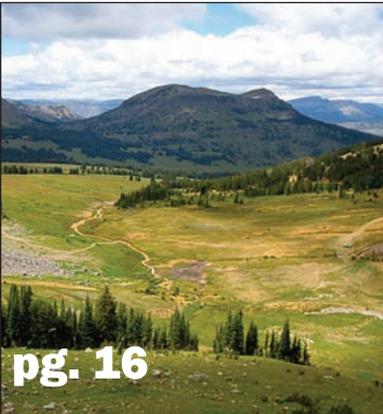




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# OUTDOORS UNLIMITED

June/July 2016, Vol. 77, No. 3

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## ON THE COVER

By Colleen Miniuk-Sperry

A faint, winter Milky Way appears above the illuminated shoreline (painted with a flashlight), along the western side of the Schoodic Peninsula in Acadia National Park in Maine.



## 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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### NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

615 Oak St., Ste. 201  
Missoula, MT 59801  
406-728-7434, Fax: 406-728-7445  
info@owaa.org, www.owaa.org

### STAFF

Executive Director: Tom Sadler  
Membership and Conference Services  
Director: Jessica Seitz  
Publications Editor: Kelsey Dayton  
Copy Editor: Bill Bowers

### PRESIDENT

Lisa Ballard, Montana

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# Writing a success story for OWAA

It seems every week there is another story about how media and communication is changing. Some of these are depressing, another article on layoffs at another esteemed newspaper. Some of these are inspiring, tales of innovation and surges in new ways people are consuming stories and news. At OWAA we try to stay malleable enough that we can move with the changes, while remaining rigid at our core, our values and focus on the importance of outdoor communication remains unchanged.

It isn't always easy, but as you can see by these graphs created by **Colleen Miniuk-Sperry**, our membership services committee chair, it seems to be working. We have more than 300 members who have been with us for 20 or more years. Think about how much media and communication has changed in those 20 years and yet there are people who found us valuable then and still today.

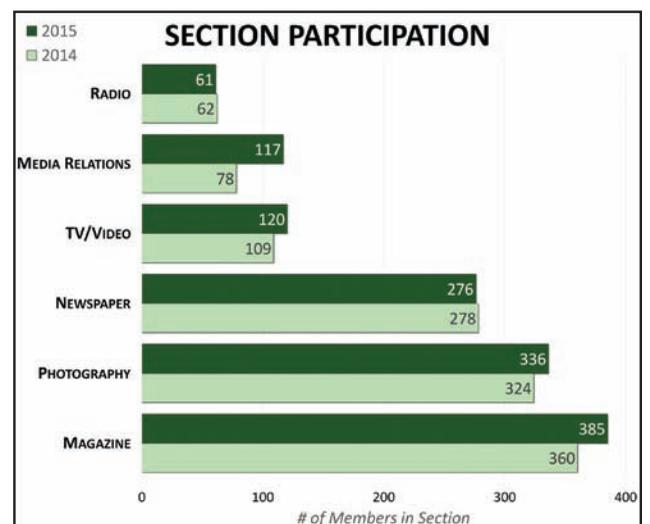
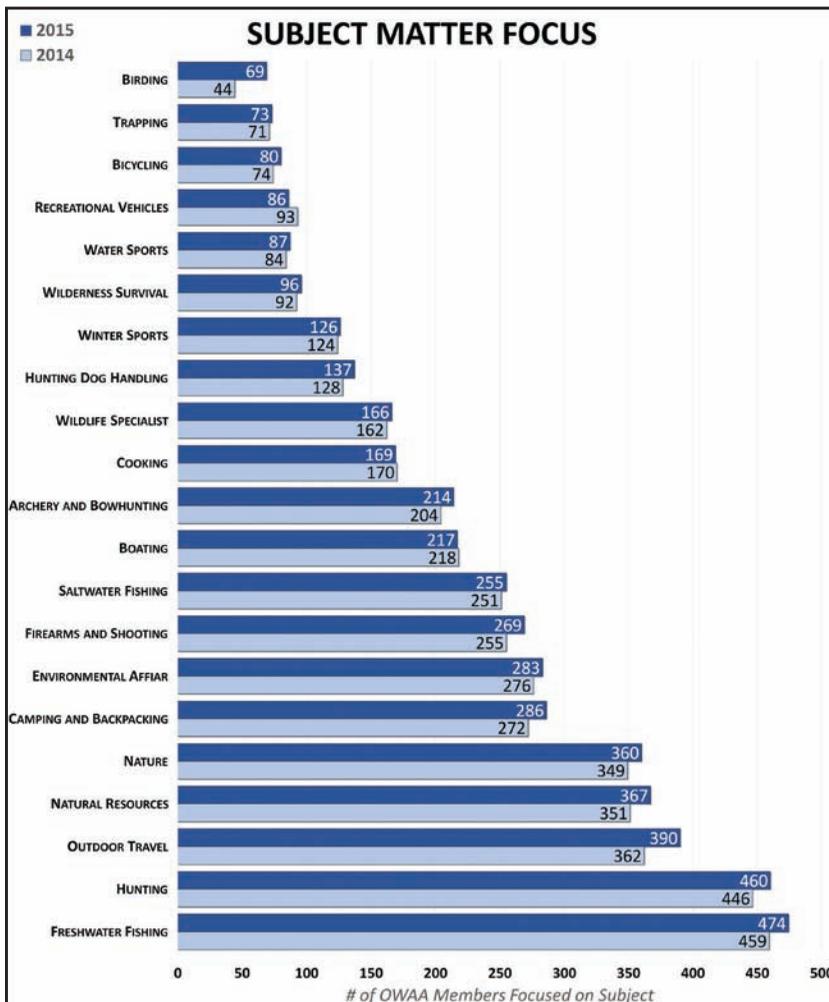
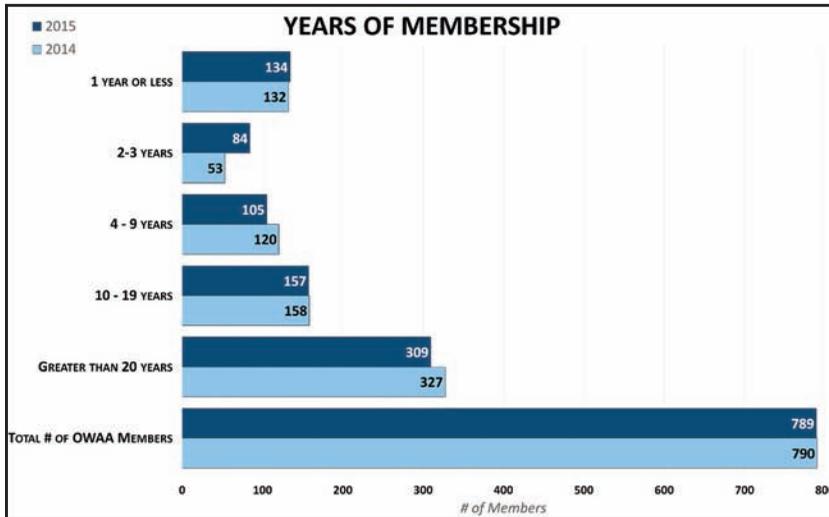
Our strength comes from our members, which is why we are always working, not just to serve those already joined, but recruit the best in outdoor communication to join our ranks.

As we prepare for our annual conference in July in Billings, Montana, this year, we hope you'll join us, not just at conference where you'll hone your skills for your craft and take home story ideas, but in inviting others to join our ranks. Conference is a great introduction to the organization and we hope you'll invite your colleagues to come. For whom the trip is too far, consider sending them a link to our new recruitment information, <http://owaa.org/file/individual-membership-brochure-2016.pdf>, created this year by **Tom Keer**. It's also a great resource for current members to peruse as a reminder of all OWAA offers.

We hope you'll join us in our recruitment efforts and helping our story become one of success, innovation and growth.

The more members we have, the more we can do for everyone, including you. ■

— Editor Kelsey Dayton  
editor@owaa.org



# Looking back while moving forward

OWAA celebrates its 90th birthday next year. With such a big birthday looming (celebration preparations are in the works now), and as my year serving as your president winds down, it's only natural to look back not only over the last year, but also over OWAA's history. I've come to appreciate how OWAA has stayed true to its mission throughout nearly a century of substantial changes in the field of outdoor communications, yet it modernized time and again to stay relevant. OWAA is not just a survivor. It's an industry leader, and remains the "voice of the outdoors," because of you and me, its members.



LISA BALLARD

OWAA was founded in 1927 at a time when bootleggers supplied whiskey and journalists who delved into outdoor topics probably drank too much of it. There were no standards in our craft, no ethics and few real jobs as outdoor content providers. That year, at the **Izaak Walton League of America's** fifth annual convention, 18 writers founded OWAA for "the purpose of bettering of our profession, to give more stability and standing to the same, and to eliminate untruths from stories of the outdoors." Morris Ackerman, who wrote the first ever outdoor column for the Cleveland Leader and then served as the first outdoor editor of the Cleveland Daily News, led the group. Outdoor columns and outdoor editors didn't exist before Ackerman. His efforts and those of his peers created the field in which you and I now earn our livelihoods.

Today, OWAA has about 700 members plus 200 supporter groups. Some of us still produce outdoor prose for newspapers, but as these opportunities have become fewer and as singular media outlets have turned into multi-media companies, we've become broadcasters, photographers, magazine and Internet content providers, videographers and filmmakers, artists and authors. We now cover a cross-section of outdoor activities, destinations and gear, as well as conservation stories.

Times have changed, and so has OWAA, which is why it's still a vibrant organization. As your president for the last year, I hope I have contributed to OWAA's ability to stay current in positive ways. As time and technology march forward, its OWAA's ability to change and help its members do the same that will keep it viable.

You should take advantage of all your OWAA membership offers, starting with the annual conference.

This year we'll gather in Billings, Montana, July 16-19. This year's conference is a life-list location for many. My husband, **Jack Ballard**, a native Montanan, is local chair. He has cherry-picked some of the best outdoor experiences in the Treasure State for your pre- and post-conference trips, and our second vice president **Phil Bloom** has put together an outstanding program. You can read about what we're offering by visiting <http://owaa.org/2016conference/agenda/>.

I'm looking forward to welcoming you to Montana and guarantee you'll leave with at least one new career-enhancing skill, a few

story ideas, a number of new contacts and many fond memories.

Shortly after I see you in Billings, I will pass the gavel to **Brett Prettyman**. As I look back over the last year, I'm proudest OWAA has accomplished the following under my watch:

- Our financials are in the black thanks to our executive director **Tom Sadler's** adroit management of our funds with the help of our treasurer **Ty Stockton**.

- Development chair **Rich Patterson** master-minded a plan for ongoing giving to our endowment, helped us take advantage of a generous matching gift and laid the groundwork for the Bob Smith Fund in honor of OWAA's first legal counsel and in celebration of OWAA's 90th anniversary.

You can donate by visiting <http://owaa.org/store/donation/>.

- We made a huge improvement in OWAA's member recruiting materials thanks to **Tom Keer**. You can find the new brochures at <http://owaa.org/file/individual-membership-brochure-2016.pdf>.

- We completed a member survey shepherded by **Colleen Miniuk-Sperry** to help headquarters and the board better understand your conference preferences.

- We steered through a nationally explosive situation between OWAA member **Don Thomas** and OWAA supporter **Ducks Unlimited**.

- We hosted OWAA's first three webinars covering Adobe Lightroom, how to make money as a nature photographer and on capturing and using audio from the field.

- We saved you annual permitting fees on federal lands, thanks largely to **Mark Freeman's** expertise and watchdogging. Freeman worked with U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell and then with the Congressional committee that drafted the language in the Sportsmen's Bill on the parts of the bill that pertains to editorial work on lands managed by the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture.

- We introduced a searchable on-line member directory, spearheaded by Ashley Chadwick and Jessica Seitz, to make it easier for us to find each other, whether member editors are looking for writers, or new members are looking for mentors, or just for members to stay in touch.

- With the help of our legal counsel, **Bill Powell**, we protected our magazine's trademark while avoiding potentially costly legal fees, a situation kept quiet until now due to its sensitive nature, but of substantial angst while it was in progress to me and the executive committee.

I leave my year as president with both regret and relief. Regret because there's much more to accomplish. A year is too short. Relief because leading OWAA can be all-consuming at times. I often found myself putting OWAA ahead of my day job as a freelance writer and photographer. It didn't help pay the bills, but rewarded me in many invaluable ways, including the chance to work with so many bright, enthusiastic board and committee members.

Thank you for allowing me to lead OWAA. Time for me to spend more time outdoors! ■

— OWAA President Lisa Ballard  
[densmore1@aol.com](mailto:densmore1@aol.com)

# Bob Smith

## OWAA's former legal counsel died March 8

BY BILL POWELL

A framed map of the world, criss-crossed with lines of varying colors showing his travels hung in his study at home.

**Bob Smith** loved a good adventure.

His home and the office he kept until his death on March 8, 2016, are filled with mementos from his wide-ranging travels through space, time, careers and hobbies. Even the office itself reflected its owner's passion — it served as OWAA's headquarters from 1963 to 1972.

Robert C. (Bob) Smith served as OWAA's legal counsel from 1978 to 1998. He received the Ham Brown Award, OWAA's "most prestigious recognition of a member for devoted past service to the organization over a period of continuous years," in 1989. He gave 10 more years after that to the organization.

Bob was always busy, in a hurry, sometimes too much so. When I was fresh out of law school, he once assigned me a jury trial the day before it was scheduled to begin, because he realized he'd also scheduled himself for something else the next day. After working all night, I managed to win it, but feared that might open me to more such assignments. I invited him to lunch and explained that I didn't think I functioned well without adequate preparation time, and asked that I get more warning for things like trials. I, the whippersnapper, asked him, the senior partner, former state representative, former mayor, decorated World War II and Korean War veteran where he served as an artillery spotter pilot, world traveler, leading trial lawyer, member and president of multiple boards: "Bob, how can you stand



Bob Smith, who served as OWAA's legal counsel from 1978 to 1998, died March 8. Photo courtesy of the Smith family.

to live your life like this?" His reply made a kind of sense for the life he chose to live: "I can't seem to get much done unless I have too much to do."

Bob and I practiced law together for about 10 years until the end of 1991, when he retired from all practice except for one client: OWAA. He and I teamed up on much of that work until 1998, when I became OWAA's legal counsel. I married his daughter Jeanne in 1984. Bob's wife, Jean, died in 1995. His four children and his six grandchildren survive.

Bob's last few weeks were spent in a skilled nursing facility, on hospice care. Despite physical weakness and frailty, Bob maintained a quick wit and kept track of things, complained if he didn't get his daily paper or if he didn't have lots of visitors with whom he could converse. He watched sports, outdoors and travel shows on TV and bantered with the staff. When one of his favorite staff members was upset after

another patient yelled and berated her, very frail Bob asked if she wanted him to go beat up the other patient.

Bob's death prompted an outpouring of news stories, editorials, public gratitude and storytelling. He was praised as "an old-fashioned lawyer" and "an old-fashioned politician" whose military, legal and political careers, as well as his life, were focused on service. He is remembered as someone who had unflinching good will toward others.

At the end of his life, 92 and with a failing body but still with a courageous, adventurous spirit, Bob had fewer regrets for things undone than almost anyone I've known. His service to OWAA was great, varied and long. When asked a few weeks before his death about the idea of OWAA naming a permanent endowment fund after him, he liked it. Capturing any life in words, or in dollars, is impossible. The newly created Bob Smith Fund is intended to give both him and OWAA a little bite of immortality.

You can donate to the Bob Smith fund by visiting <http://owaa.org/store/donation/voluntary-contribution/>.

An obituary may be found at [http://www.columbiatribune.com/obituaries/bob-smith/article\\_8693b524-e5d7-50c7-9b67-26d517aad47c.html](http://www.columbiatribune.com/obituaries/bob-smith/article_8693b524-e5d7-50c7-9b67-26d517aad47c.html). ■



Bill Powell is OWAA's legal counsel, succeeding his former law partner and father-in-law Bob Smith in that position. He is author of the "Legal Handbook for Freelancers," and is a life member of OWAA, receiving its Ham Brown Award in 2005.

# Pitch perfect

## Getting in at new publications

BY ERIC ARNOLD

In the world of publishing, editors and writers have a symbiotic relationship. Writers need an outlet — and to make a living — and editors need fresh content. But in a world of constant deadlines and distractions, it can be hard for writers to garner the attention of editors and for editors to find the writers who don't waste their valuable time.

The following are tips for writers' pitching publications.

### Research First

Research the publication and its audience before contacting the editor. That way there is no misunderstanding about the type of content the editor is seeking, requirements, pay scales and rights. This information can usually be found on the publication's website within submission or writers guidelines; however, there will be times when you will have to reach out to the editor for it. Look through the publication's media kit as well. Although produced for advertisers, most media kits give a good snapshot regarding distribution, frequency, editorial calendars and audience demographics.

### Submissions

When contacting an editor to inquire about writing opportunities, some writers include links to, or attachments of, articles they have published for review. Some editors like this approach, while other editors, like myself, do not.

I am not clicking on any links in an email

from most of my friends, let alone a person whom I do not know. Also, editors know what is published is not always what was submitted. Determining ability from an edited article may only show how good the editor is, not how well the author can write. But the main reason I don't like writing samples is that the introductory email has already provided me insight to the writer's ability. Spelling errors, incomplete thoughts and sales pitches paint a better picture than any attached article could.

A better way to get noticed is to start by sending a personalized email to the editor introducing yourself and expressing an interest in submitting work. The letter should show you have researched the publication and that you not only understand the type of work it is looking for, but its audience. Often overlooked, a good understanding for whom the article is being written can be especially important for publications targeting a specific audience. It tends to be obvious if the writer actually did any research before contacting the editor. At this time, the writer's goal should be to establish rapport with the editor and work on developing a longtime relationship rather than trying to sell an individual story.

Sending an introductory email asking for an all-expense-paid, 10-day trip to the summer Olympics, preset interviews with the committee members and a starting expenses account of \$10,000, most likely won't get you too far with many publications. Likewise, trying to sell work by talking bad about other writers the publication chooses

to use isn't the smartest thing to do either.

### Assignments

Some editors prefer writers to submit finished articles on their own, while others like to assign and consult on the story before the writer begins work. Understand if you have a paying assignment, which often comes with specific direction from an editor, or if you are writing on spec, meaning you'll get paid if the article is what the editor wants. You can also choose to write about whatever is on your mind and try to sell the finished article after it's written.

### Consideration

Just because an article is submitted doesn't mean it will be printed, especially if you wrote it on spec or without an assignment. It's arrogant to assume whatever you write is print worthy as is, and editors hate that attitude so much, it could impact you working with them again.

Don't take rejection personally. The timing may be off for the topic, or the story might need more details.

Learn from the experience and act like a professional. It will keep your relationship with the editor intact and the door open for future submissions. ■



Eric Arnold is the editor of *Wildlife Control Technology* magazine.



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

[www.owaa.org/ou/category/market](http://www.owaa.org/ou/category/market)

# Just add water

## Photographing below the surface

BY CHRIS PAPARO

**M**y fascination with marine life started when I was 6 years old on my first fishing trip. I spent hours watching fish in home aquariums, trying to glean the secrets that would allow me to outsmart them with my rod.

From fascination grew a deep appreciation, and at 16 I became scuba certified in an effort to enter the underwater world. Shortly after my first plunge into the ocean, I bought my first underwater camera. I've been documenting marine life from under the surface ever since.

I tend to scuba dive, but sometimes I leave the bulky gear at home and enter the water with only a mask, snorkel and fins (and of course my camera). Without lugging my scuba equipment, the water feels serene and I feel a part of the aquatic world. Without the sounds of heavy breathing through my scuba gear, I can hear the natural sounds of the sea. The quiet calms the marine life and allows me closer access without forcing them to change their behavior.

Unfortunately I do not have gills, and my time spent beneath the waves minus my scuba equipment is limited to how long I can hold my breath. Try holding your breath for 30 seconds. It might feel like an eternity, but when trying to create photographs, it's incredibly short. I have to find a subject, move into position to capture the best angle and press the shutter before returning to the surface for a gasp of air. I often get multiple chances for stationary or slow-moving subjects such as a sea star, but fish on the move are a challenge and often result in the picture of its tail as it swims away.

Proper planning is key to capturing a printable image of a moving creature while free diving.



With careful planning and patience, Chris Paparo positioned himself among a group of pilings to photograph this school of banded rudderfish as they swam past him while he was free diving. Photos by Chris Paparo.

First, I try and pattern my subject. Are the fish staying in a particular area? Are they consistently swimming by a specific point?

Once I get a feel for where I am most likely to encounter my subject, I scout the surrounding area, looking for locations that will allow me to get out of the current, such as behind a bridge embankment or large boulder. At these locations, I am able to stay in the water column without expending too much energy and hopefully my subject will come to me.

While free diving has its advantages, I prefer using scuba gear while shooting underwater. While the gear is bulky, heavy, noisy and rather expensive, it allows me more time underwater to explore and

photograph. With scuba equipment, I can slowly swim along the bottom, peering within the crevices of rocks looking for an oyster toadfish or exploring eelgrass meadows for the elusive seahorse.

Having an extended bottom time makes it possible to photograph very skittish animals such as bay scallops. With 18 pairs of eyes, they are constantly looking for danger. They quickly close their shells if approached, and only open them again when the coast is clear.

By not having to regularly return to the surface for a breath, I can slowly close the distance between the scallop and me. If it should shut before I get an opportunity to squeeze the shutter, I can wait until it reopens its shell.

Even with more time, there are still challenges to shooting underwater.

Suspended particles are the nemesis of every underwater photographer. They decrease visibility, reduce available light and create image noise known as backscatter. Backscatter occurs when the light from a flash strobe bounces off floating specks of debris in the water column. The resulting image is often overexposed

and the intended subject is smudged with white spots.

Diving in close proximity to the bottom often stirs sediment into the water column. Perfecting the art of neutral buoyancy while scuba diving is crucial to capturing clear underwater images. Remaining neutrally buoyant grants me the freedom to hover in one location without coming in contact with the bottom. This is extremely important when photographing benthic organisms such as flounders. With the low profile of the fish, my camera needs to be just inches from the bottom when photographing them. The slightest extraneous movement causes sediment to lift into the water, destroying any opportunity I might have had to get a

# Gift giving guide

## Ways to invest in OWAA while harvesting a tax deduction

**T**he Outdoor Writers Association of America exists not only to serve you, but because of you. We couldn't survive without the generous donations our members give each year. This money allows us to publish *Outdoors Unlimited*, watchdog First Amendment issues and provides security for the organization to ensure it will be around to help the next generation of outdoor communicators.

Likely OWAA helped you advance your professional career and you've helped the organization through dues payments and giving of your time. We so appreciate it. For those wanting and able to give more, gifts to our endowment help create long-term financial stability for OWAA so it can continue to help communicators, like yourself, forever.

Here's a guide to ways to give to OWAA.

**Operating Fund:** Contributions directly support current year operations and are not endowed.

**Endowed Funds:** Contributions to any of OWAA's endowed funds are invested by the Endowment Trustees. Gifts are invested and each year a portion of the investment earnings is distributed to OWAA and used as directed by the following funds.

■ **Bodie McDowell Scholarship Fund.** Provides scholarships for college students.

■ **John Madson Fellowship Fund.** Provides grants to outdoor communicators to help them attend skill improvement functions. Often recipients use this money to attend the OWAA conference.

■ **The new Bob Smith Fund.** A gift to this fund honors long time OWAA attorney Bob Smith. Annual distributions will support operations.

■ **Restricted (general) Endowment.** Annual distributions support operations.

To give to any of these funds, visit <http://owaa.org/store/donation/>. We are thankful for any amount you can give.

OWAA is honored to accept gifts of cash, stocks and IRA distributions. It may consider gifts of real estate and other property on a case-by-case basis. You can also honor someone by setting up an OWAA fund bearing his or her name. (There is a \$10,000 minimum). For more information, contact Executive Director Tom Sadler at [tsadler@owaa.org](mailto:tsadler@owaa.org). ■

— Rich Patterson, Development Committee chair  
[richapatterson@gmail.com](mailto:richapatterson@gmail.com)

quality photo.

The saying “just add water” might sound like an easy set of instructions, but when added to the field of photography it only creates numerous challenges never experienced by the terrestrial photographer.

But mastering these skills can be its own adventure and allow you to show viewers an underwater world so few people experience themselves. ■

— Editor's note: See more of Chris Paparo's work in the portfolio on page 14.



Born and raised on Long Island, New York, Chris Paparo has been exploring the wilds of the island for over 30 years. As a wildlife photographer, writer and lecturer, he enjoys bringing public awareness to the diverse wildlife that calls the island home. His passion for coastal ecology, fishing and the outdoors led him to obtain a degree in marine science from LIU/Southampton. He manages the Marine Sciences Center at the Southampton campus of Stony Brook University. You can follow Paparo by visiting his website [www.fishguyphotos.com](http://www.fishguyphotos.com) or on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube and Twitter @fishguyphotos.



A short bigeye fish is one of the many brightly colored tropical fish that arrive in New York via the Gulf Stream.

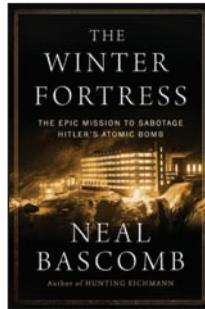
# BOOKSHELF

## The Winter Fortress: The Epic Mission to Sabotage Hitler's Atomic Bomb

By **Neal Bascomb**, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, [www.hmhc.com/at-home](http://www.hmhc.com/at-home); hardcover; 400 pp.; \$28.

From the internationally acclaimed, best-selling author of “Hunting Eichmann” and “The Perfect Mile,” an epic adventure and spy story about the greatest act of sabotage in all of World War II.

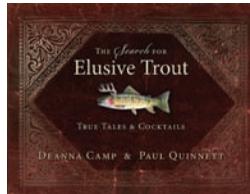
Based on a trove of top secret documents and never-before-seen diaries and letters of the saboteurs, “The Winter Fortress” is an arresting chronicle of a brilliant scientist, a band of spies on skis, perilous survival in the wild, sacrifice for one’s country, Gestapo manhunts, soul-crushing setbacks and a last-minute operation that would end any chance Hitler could obtain the atomic bomb — and alter the course of the war.



## The Search For Elusive Trout: True Tales & Cocktails

By **Deanna Camp and Paul Quinnett**; Camp Creative Publisher; hardcover; 120 pp.; \$39.95.

“The Search for Elusive Trout; True Tales & Cocktails” is lushly illustrated with Deanna Camp’s fanciful trout studies. Each is accompanied by Paul Quinnett’s uproarious tales and instructions on how to pursue these mythical fish. Every story concludes with a tasty, thoroughly tested original cocktail recipes and photos, tailored to the trout at hand. The book is the perfect accompaniment for winter nights by the fire or summer evenings at the cabin.

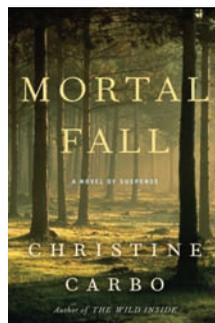


## Mortal Fall

By **Christine Carbo**; Atria Books; softcover and e-book; 416 pp.; \$16.

Glacier National Park police officer Monty Harris knows that each summer at least one person, be it a reckless climber or a distracted hiker, will meet tragedy in the park. But Paul “Wolfie” Sedgewick’s fatal fall from the sheer cliffs near Going-To-the-Sun Road is incomprehensible.

Leading his first investigation, Monty discovers that Wolfie’s studies of Glacier’s mysterious, embattled wolverine population, so vital to park ecology, had met resistance. To muddy the water further, a wilderness facility for rehabilitating troubled teens — one that Monty’s older brother attended — may have a disturbing connection to the case.



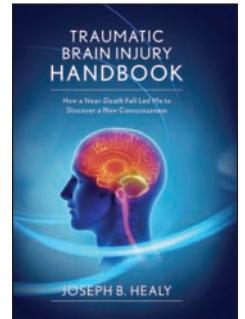
## The Traumatic Brain Injury Handbook: How a Near-Death Fall Led Me to Discover a New Consciousness

By **Joseph B. Healy**; Skyhorse Publishing; hardcover and e-book; 192 pp.; \$24.99.

This book is the ultimate brain injury recovery handbook. Inside, acclaimed author and traumatic brain injury survivor, Joseph B. Healy comprehensively discusses what leads to brain injuries, how to heal from them and how to manage them during the process.

With Healy’s guidance, support networks will learn how to lead sufferers on their journey back to “normalcy,” working and socializing as the person did before the traumatic event.

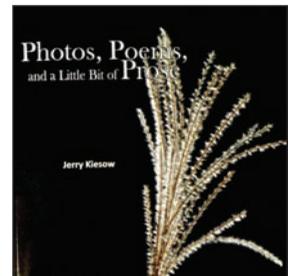
This unique book is distinctive in its scope, with an easy-to-follow nature, making the science of the brain and brain trauma accessible to all readers. This book will encourage readers that they can recover and will motivate them to not settle for an “accept-it-and-cope” attitude.



## Photos, Poems, and a Little Bit of Prose

By **Jerry Kiesow**; Orange Hat Publishing; softcover; 58 pp.; 59 color photographs; \$15.

This book combines three forms of artistry — photography, poetry and prose. Every poem, from the epic “A Story of a River,” which is 1,400 words, to the short, “A Cow, WOW!” which is only 13 words, has at least one image to accompany it. At the end of each composition, there are a few words of prose to explain the poem.

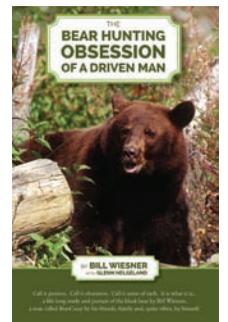


## The Bear Hunting Obsession of a Driven Man

By **Bill Wiesner with Glenn Helgeland**; Target Communications Outdoor Books; softcover; 162 pp.; \$24.99.

Bill Wiesner is a man often called “Bear-Crazy” by his friends, family and, quite often, by himself. For 40 years he ate, slept, thought, dreamed about hunting black bear. He has taken 57 bears and acquired a wealth of bear hunting knowledge.

This book is a memoir and in-depth, fact-filled “how to hunt black bears successfully and love every minute of it” effort to inform and entertain you, whether you already are a bear hunter or want to become a bear hunter. ■



## WELCOME TO OWAA



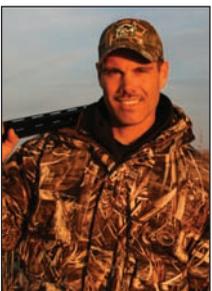
**Robert Banfelder** is the author of “The Fishing Smart Anywhere Handbook for Salt Water & Fresh Water” and “The North American Small & Big Game Hunting Smart Handbook: Bonus Feature: Hunting Africa’s & Australia’s Most Dangerous Game.” Banfelder is also an award-winning crime and thriller novelist, with nine books to date. He has written well over 200 articles for periodicals such as New York Game & Fish, Deer & Deer Hunting, Fur-Fish-Game, Big Game Fishing Journal, The Fisherman Magazine, On the Water, Hana Hou!, Boating Times Long Island and more. Banfelder is a regular contributor to Nor’east Saltwater online magazine and co-hosts “Special Interests with Bob & Donna” on Cablevision TV public access. Having been a “gifted” college instructor, he is presently working on a simplified grammar handbook for writers. Banfelder lives in Riverhead, Long Island, New York with his partner, Donna. Visit Banfelder at [www.robertbanfelder.com](http://www.robertbanfelder.com).



**Sharon Brodin** is a freelance copywriter with a focus on the outdoor industry. She writes website content and marketing materials for small and medium businesses and nonprofits. She especially loves relationship marketing — connecting businesses with prospects and customers in a friendly way that builds trust and likeability. She loves to help outdoor organizations maintain professional and effective websites. She has over 20 years experience in graphic design, and has designed some of her writing projects, too. Brodin lives in beautiful Minnesota with her husband Nick and their family. She spent a couple decades raising and homeschooling their three children. Now that they’re adults, she recently re-entered the marketplace as a freelancer. Besides her copywriting website at [www.sharonbrodin.com](http://www.sharonbrodin.com), Brodin maintains a blog called Active Outdoor Women, [www.activeoutdoorwomen.com](http://www.activeoutdoorwomen.com), that focuses on encouraging women over 40 to get outside for their health and enjoyment.



**Myron Brubaker** grew up in western Virginia and remains there with his wife and a few of their children. He holds a master’s degree in writing for children from Vermont College. When he’s not teaching school, he’s out in the woods or on a stream “gathering material.” He writes a column for Woods & Waters magazine called “Feather & Stone,” which features his fiction and essays. His new book “What Friends Are For,” recently won third place in the Virginia Outdoor Writers Association’s Excellence in Craft Contest. Brubaker is currently working on a how-to book on Eastern mountain whitetails and a humorous sequel to “What Friends Are For.”



**Bucky D’Agostino** has been lucky enough to call New Jersey home his entire life. It is the ultimate place to fall in love with the outdoors. His love of freshwater fishing started with sunfish in the family pond and has taken him as far as the Bassmaster tournament trail as a writer. In addition to his freshwater addiction, he is equally obsessed with the numerous saltwater species found along the coast of the great Garden State. However, his passion for the outdoors also involves bowhunting whitetails and world-class waterfowling on Barnegat Bay. He will be embarking on his 22nd year as a special education teacher next year. He has spent most of those years mentoring students with behavioral disabilities. He believes the opportunity to introduce a child to the outdoors should never be missed.



**Robert Deen** is a writer, history buff and photographer. He and his English springer spaniel, Star, divide their time between Boise, Idaho, and a cabin in California’s Sierra Nevada mountains near Mount Lassen. Deen has fished and hunted throughout the United States, and in the Amazon, New Zealand, Mexico, Belize, Guatemala and Costa Rica. He is a former U.S. Marine officer, and was a co-owner of the largest independent public relations agency in California before becoming an outdoor writer. He is the author of three books and a regular contributor to [LiveOutdoors.com](http://LiveOutdoors.com) and Anglers Club Magazine where he wrote the “most read article of 2015.” Last year he published a historical book about Idaho’s Owyhee Mountain region, as well as “War Under the Mountain” for True West magazine. He is a journalism graduate of Oregon State University and holds a master’s degree in communications from California State University, Chico.

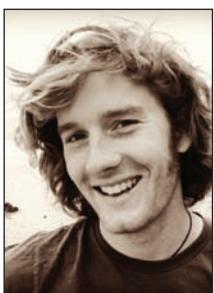
## WELCOME TO OWAA



**Spencer Durrant** is the author of the upcoming young adult novel, “Learning to Fly” and of several regular fly-fishing columns. His columns can be found in the (Ogden) Standard-Examiner, [Fishwest.com](http://Fishwest.com), [KSL.com](http://KSL.com) and [TheTroutLife.com](http://TheTroutLife.com). He’s also a contributor to Hatch Magazine, On The Fly Magazine and the Orvis Fly Fishing Blog. Durrant is an accomplished writer outside the outdoors world as well. He initially worked for the NBA before becoming a fly-fishing writer. He’s interviewed LeBron James, Kevin Durant and other NBA stars, and still covers Salt Lake City-based sports on a freelance basis. His most recent work was covering the World Cup skiing and moguls events in Park City, Utah, for [TeamUSA.org](http://TeamUSA.org). You can connect with Durrant on Instagram and Twitter, [@Spencer\\_Durrant](https://twitter.com/Spencer_Durrant). He’s on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/spencerdurrantauthor](http://www.facebook.com/spencerdurrantauthor), and also on [www.thetroutlife.com](http://www.thetroutlife.com).



**Glenn Helgeland** has published, edited or written 21 books, covering subjects such as deer and bear hunting, bow-hunting, tuning and shooting targets, hunting bows, mental control in all bow shooting, plus two wild game cook-books with his wife Judy. All are part of his company’s “On Target” series of outdoor books, under his new business name of Target Communications Outdoor Books LLC. He is working on two more titles. For 30 years his former company, Target Communications Corp., owned and produced four of the largest deer and turkey hunting expos in the U.S. He sold it in 2011 to Bonnier Corp in a good business move but a failed attempt to retire. He kept the Target Communications part of the name for continuity of book publishing efforts, which began in 1983.



**James Stout** is a former professional cyclist who recently graduated with a doctorate in modern European history. He helps run a nonprofit providing exercise and education to Native Americans living with diabetes. His freelance writing has appeared in major cycling publications, and he’s keen to expand his writing and go on more adventures.



**William M. Williams** is a wildlife conservation officer and the information and education supervisor for the Pennsylvania Game Commission’s Northeast Region. He is responsible for administering the hunter and trapper education program for the 13-county region, crafting regional press releases, presenting educational programs and serving as a media liaison for the agency. He regularly contributes wildlife-related articles to Pennsylvania Game News magazine, newspapers and social media. He is an active member of the Pennsylvania Outdoor Writers Association and known for his love of the outdoors and his quirky sense of humor. Prior to working for the game commission, Williams worked as an environmental education specialist for the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and served in the U.S. Navy as a hospital corpsman. He enjoys spending time on his hobby farm with his wife Michelle, Chesapeake Bay retriever Rocco, alpacas, goats and chickens.

# Renewable energy working in Iowa

**BY RICH PATTERSON**

The windmill graphic on my Iowa driver's license is a fitting symbol for the energy revolution sweeping the state.

When conventional fuel prices spiked years ago, Iowa leaders became concerned that vast amounts of money were leaving the state to buy oil, natural gas and coal.

Iowa may lack petroleum, but it has incessant wind and plenty of sunshine. Harnessing these limitless resources seemed prudent and governments, utilities, environmentalists, manufacturers and nonprofits converged to position Iowa into its current leadership role in renewable energy.

"We had strong public policy and leaders like then-governor Tom Vilsack (now U.S. Secretary of Agriculture) who were interested in making it happen and worked with people to get it done," said Rob Hogg, an Iowa State Senator. "Wind manufacturing was a target for economic development. We added renewable energy training at community colleges and passed production tax credits to encourage small-scale, locally owned wind and solar projects."

Today 31 percent of Iowa's electricity comes from the wind and sun. It will likely reach 40 percent by 2020, propelled in part by declining costs of renewable installations. In 1983 it cost 55 cents to produce a kilowatt of wind electricity. Today it's a nickel. Photovoltaic costs, although higher than wind, are also tumbling.

Iowa's renewable energy boom arrived with little controversy. Farmers receive royalty payments for each turbine on their property and about 6,000 Iowans are now employed in the wind industry assembling turbines, constructing and maintaining wind farms, and providing equipment to support the industry. So strong has employment grown that Kirkwood Community College in Cedar Rapids erected a massive turbine that produces 24 percent of its electric consumption and offers an associate degree of applied wind maintenance.

"Our graduates have been hired by many utilities and are now maintaining turbines all over the world," said Tom Kaldenberg, associate vice president of the school.

Van Meter Industrial is a wholesale electrical supply distributor.

"Five years ago we had one employee serving the photovoltaic market," said Brad Duggan, Van Meter's Renewable Energy Product Manager. "Now we have five. At least 47 Iowa companies are involved in the solar energy supply chain and at least 680 Iowans are employed in installing, marketing and supplying the solar industry."

Renewable energy isn't perfect and won't completely replace conventional power generation. Calm occasionally envelops usually gusty Iowa and the sun refuses to shine at night. Wind turbines kill birds and bats, but this threat has diminished. Some people



Apartments with solar panels are a common site in Iowa.  
Photo by Rich Patterson.

simply don't like windmills, although I've heard few Iowans express this.

Wind and solar reduce the negative impact of burning fossil fuels. Once in place these renewables release no emissions to the atmosphere and don't pull water from rivers or the ground. There's no need for dams to block fish movement and no concern about a nuclear catastrophe or mercury and acid raining down into lakes and the oceans.

There are significant economic and legal differences between wind and solar electricity. Massive wind farms are owned by utilities and, like coal or nuclear plants, the utility produces and sells the power.

To a consumer there isn't any difference between buying electricity produced at a coal plant or wind farm. In contrast, photovoltaics and the electricity they produce are owned by individuals.

Wind often blows all day and night, while the sun only works the day shift. To completely rely on solar electricity a homeowner needs a stand-alone system to charge batteries when the sun's shining and yield electricity when it's not. Battery systems are expensive and normally only cost effective if a home is a long distance from the grid.

Increasingly common are grid intertie net metered systems where electricity flows both ways through a meter. There is no power storage. Essentially the grid acts as a battery. When a home is producing more electricity than is being used, power flows outward to the grid, running the meter backward. At night electricity is pulled in and the meter runs forward. At the end of the month the utility bills the customer for the net amount used.

Over 20 years ago, while director of the Indian Creek Nature Center, I acquired photovoltaic panels that Jimmy Carter erected on the White House and Ronald Reagan later removed and put in storage. I wanted to create Iowa's first net metered photovoltaic system, but there was no legal mechanism for a grid intertie. Fortunately my utility, Alliant Energy, was cooperative and helped legally and technically connect the system with their grid. This led to a permanent legal mechanism that enables property owners to net meter either wind or solar generated electricity.

Although small, our system cut the electric bill by 41 percent and the Nature Center is now constructing, with Alliant's help, a new building that will produce more electricity than it consumes, a concept that can be incorporated into many structures.

Because utilities don't produce home or business generated solar electricity, they face a dilemma somewhat akin to electric cars, where the owner uses roads but does not pay gasoline taxes needed to maintain them. Utilities must sustain their grid but can't sell electricity they don't produce. Essentially net meter customers have free access to the grid. Utilities are likely to eventually charge a grid access fee.

## OWAA elects three new board members

OWAA members elected three members to the board of directors in the 2016 elections. **Bob Ford** of Pennsylvania, **Karen Loke** of Texas and **Christine Peterson** of Wyoming will take their board seats on July 18 in conjunction with the 2016 OWAA annual conference in Billings, Montana.

The membership also approved two amendments to the bylaws reducing the number of nominees the nominating committee has to find for Board of Directors candidates from seven to six and combining the Norm Strung Youth Writing Committee with the Education Committee and the Technology Committee with the Craft Improvement Committee. ■



BOB FORD



KAREN LOKE

CHRISTINE  
PETERSON

## Three interns join OWAA for summer

Three interns are joining OWAA headquarters this summer. Katy Spence and Taylor Wyllie are editorial interns who will be working on Outdoors Unlimited and Joe Lesar is a video intern. He'll be putting together the Excellence in Craft Contests awards video this year. All three will join us at the annual conference July 16-18 in Billings, Montana. Read on to learn more about these talented journalism students and be sure to welcome them if you see them at conference.

Joe Lesar, 22, is a May graduate from the University of Montana School of Journalism. Born and raised in Reno, Nevada, Lesar moved to Missoula, Montana, to pursue a degree in journalism and run for the school's track team. During school he focused on broadcast journalism. He and his classmates have produced work that aired locally and around the state of Montana.



JOE LESAR



KATY SPENCE



TAYLOR WYLLIE

In his free time Lesar enjoys running, photography, traveling and eating.

Katy Spence has nurtured a love of native prairie plants, fantasy novels and photography since elementary school. At Truman State University, she combined those interests to visually and textually explore the relationship between humans and nature. She also wrote and copy edited for *Detours*, the university's award-winning travel magazine. When she's not work-

ing on her Environmental Science and Natural Resources Journalism graduate degree at the University of Montana, you can find her exploring stories in the *Crown of the Continent* and marveling at the contrast between the mountains of Montana and the flat mile-sections of her Kansas hometown.

Taylor Wyllie is a senior at the University of Montana, double majoring in journalism and environmental studies, pursuing a career in environmental communication. Throughout her time at the university, she's written and edited for the student newspaper, worked with Montana Public Radio, Montana PBS and the *Missoulian*. She hails from southeastern Michigan and has room in her heart for both the rugged terrain of the West and the gentle beauty of the Great Lakes. In her free time, she enjoys hiking, swimming and trying new coffee drinks. ■

Economics is driving renewable energy expansion, at least in Iowa. Cedar Rapids-based Paulson Electric recently prepared a bid to place a photovoltaic system on our home. For a cost of \$13,150 a new system will produce 93 percent of our electric consumption. We will receive state and federal tax credits of about \$6,312, reducing our cash cost to \$6,838. The payback on investment is about 11.2 percent. That's far more impressive than the microscopic interest we receive from our traditional investments.

Renewable energy isn't pie-in-the-sky. In Iowa it has created significant employment while reducing environmental threats caused by hydro, nuclear and fossil fuel. It is a model that is expanding across the country and holds great promise for a cleaner future. ■

— 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 and policy spokesmen. The article reflects the opinion of the author. If you'd like to add to the discussion, please send a letter to the editor.



For the past four decades Rich Patterson has pioneered techniques of energy efficiency and renewable energy generation at the Indian Creek Nature Center and his home. He is a past OWAA board president and can be reached through his website [www.windingpathways.com](http://www.windingpathways.com).

# Portfolio

By Christopher Paparo



A hermit crab makes its home in an empty snail shell. Lacking a hard shell to protect its abdomen, this crab species commandeers shells for protection.



The lined seahorse is a fascinating, nontropical fish found in New York waters.



A predatory northern moon snail burrows through the substrate in search of bivalves.



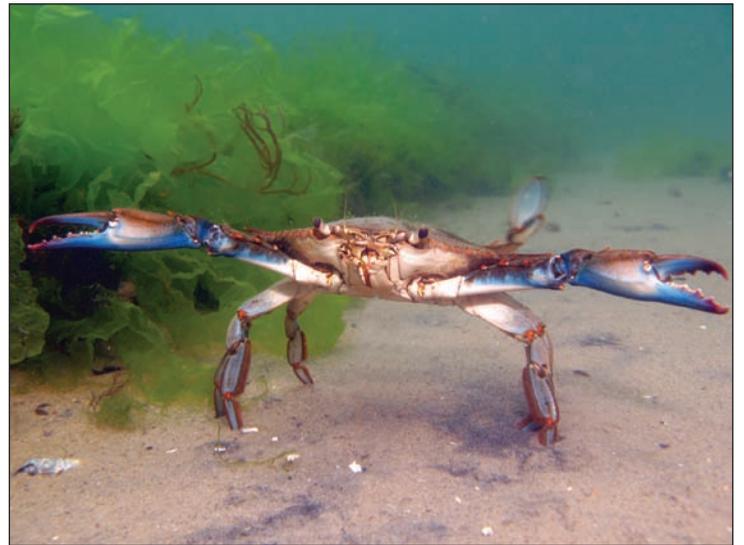
This juvenile lion's mane jellyfish could grow to a diameter of 8 feet and more than 100 feet long.



Windowpane flounders are named due to the fact they are as thin as a pane of glass.



A male lady crab dances in hopes of attracting a mate.



Blue crabs like this one are aggressive and highly sought after by seafood lovers.



(Left) A summer flounder waits for unsuspecting baitfish to swim within reach of its large, toothy mouth. (Above) Forbes sea stars are not actually fish, despite being called starfish.

OWAA's annual conference: Billings, Montana, July 16-18, 2016

## Hiking the high country

### Bring your boots (and bear spray) to Billings

BY ROBERT STONE

The Billings, Montana, area is rich with hiking opportunities, from trails along the Yellowstone River, to paths taking you above the city on the weather-sculpted cliffs known as the Rimrocks.

An hour outside of Billings sits the historic ski town Red Lodge, Montana, situated at the base of the Beartooth Mountains.

The 3 billion-year-old Beartooth Mountains are the highest range in the state and contain glaciers, deep canyons, streams, waterfalls, lush forests, abundant wildlife and more than 1,000 lakes. The Beartooth Plateau, shaped by alpine glaciers, is the largest continuous area above 10,000 feet and the largest alpine tundra region in North America.

I have been hiking in, and writing about, the Beartooths and the Billings area for decades. Here are a few of my favorite hikes.

#### Billings — Pictograph Cave State Park

**Distance:** 0.3-mile loop

Pictograph Cave State Park is a national historic landmark located 6 miles south of Billings. Nestled at the base of sandstone cliffs in the Bitter Creek Valley, the archaeological treasure is a prehistoric habitation site dating back 10,000 years. Three large caves are tucked into a semicircle of eroding cliffs with overhanging rocks. The caves served as a shelter for the ancient people who left their mark with over 30,000 pottery, tool, jewelry and weapon artifacts. More than 100 pictographs adorn the cave walls. Painted images were used to record spiritual topics and meaningful events, including animal images, human-like figures and shield-bearing warriors. A paved path with interpretive plaques loops around the base of the cliffs to Ghost Cave, Middle Cave and Pictograph Cave. Near the trailhead is a picnic area with box elder, Russian olive and cottonwood groves.

**Driving directions:** From Interstate 90 on the east side of Billings, exit on Lockwood (Exit 452). Head east, away from downtown Billings, and quickly turn right on Coburn Road. Drive 5 miles to the trailhead parking area on the left.

#### Billings — Swords Park Black Otter Trail to Yellowstone Kelly's Grave and Boothill Cemetery

**Distance:** 6.5 miles round-trip

Sword Park is a long, narrow undeveloped park perched atop the distinctive Rimrocks near the airport. The Black Otter Trail, named for a Crow Indian chief buried atop the cliffs, snakes along the elevated sandstone skyline overlooking the Yellowstone Valley. Yellowstone Kelly's grave sits on Kelly Mountain within the park. He was a scout, guide, explorer and trapper who was instrumental in the exploration of the Yellowstone River in the 1870s and 1880s.



If you like to hike, the Billings, Montana, area has a trail for you to tackle. There are options in town, or in the nearby Beartooth Mountains. Photo by Robert Stone.

Skeleton Cliff (also in Swords Park) is a tree-dotted knoll overlooking East Billings and Coulson Park. Across from Skeleton Cliff is a maze of dirt paths winding through the rolling hills. Near the east end of the park is the historic Boot Hill Cemetery, dating back to the 1880s. The trail follows the edge of the rims and leads to Kelly Mountain, Skeleton Cliff and to Boot Hill Cemetery. The entire trail is 6.5 miles, but the magnificent vistas begin from the trailhead.

**Driving directions:** Swords Park is located along Airport Road (Highway 318) between North 27th Street and Main Street. From the north end of North 27th Street, drive 0.2 mile to the parking lot on the right.

#### Red Lodge — Ingles Creek-Silver Run Loop

**Distance:** 7 miles round-trip

The Ingles Creek drainage is a lush, forested draw between the West Fork of Rock Creek and the 10,000-foot-high Silver Run Plateau. This hike begins along the edge of the West Fork and follows the cascading creek for the first 1.5 miles. The trail then climbs up the Ingles Creek Canyon, crossing the creek seven times and passes three historic miner's cabins. The 7-mile loop trail returns via the Silver Run drainage.

**Driving directions:** From the south end of Red Lodge, turn west on the West Fork Road, which heads to the Red Lodge Mountain Resort. At 2.8 miles, stay straight (left) on West Fork Road as Ski Run Road curves uphill to the right. Continue 1.6 miles to Silver Run Road and turn left. Drive 0.2 mile, crossing the West Fork of Rock Creek, and park in the Silver Run Ski Trails parking area on the left.

## OWAA's annual conference: Billings, Montana, July 16-18, 2016

*Prepare to enter bear country*

**Y**ellowstone National Park is only a short drive away from Billings, Montana, where OWAA hosts its conference in July. Those visiting the area should make sure to visit our nation's first national park, but you should come prepared.

Yellowstone is grizzly country. It is up to us as photographers, writers and tourists to take responsibility for our own safety. Remember, wildlife, plus distance, equals safety. This is especially true for bears. You should always pay attention, whether watching wildlife roadside, or out on the trails.

Here are a few other tips for hiking in Yellowstone and the surrounding area.

- Hike in groups of three or more.
- Make noise. You don't need to yell, but keep the conversation flowing to avoid accidentally sneaking up on a bear on the trail.
- Carry bear spray. Counter Assault is offering OWAA mem-

bers bear spray for \$25, compared to the \$55 it costs in stores. Stop by the Be Bear Aware booth at Breakout Day to buy yours, as well as a box to mail it home.

- Know how to use your bear spray. Before venturing into bear country, practice removing the safety and spraying it. Make sure you are upwind and no one is near where you spray. Chuck Bartlebaugh with Be Bear Aware will also offer bear spray demonstrations at the Breakout Day booth.

- Avoid hiking near sunrise or sunset. This is when wildlife, including bears, are most active.

- Pay attention to your surroundings and look for signs of bear activity like scat, claw marks on trees, or paw prints. ■

— By Chuck Bartlebaugh  
Be Bear Aware

**Red Lodge — Lake Fork Trail to Lost Lake**

**Distance:** 10 miles round-trip

Located south of Red Lodge in Lake Fork Canyon, the Lake Fork Trail follows the beautiful mountain creek through a lodgepole pine forest to a series of lakes. The trail closely follows the raging white-water of the Lake Fork of Rock Creek all the way up the canyon. Silver Falls, a long, thin waterfall, can be seen flowing down the mountain on the far left near the beginning of the trail. The trail leads 5 miles, passing small waterfalls and pools to Lost Lake, Black Canyon Lake and Keyser Brown Lake. This trail may be combined with the West Fork Trail for a 19-mile shuttle hike that crosses Sundance Pass between the two canyons.

**Driving directions:** From Red Lodge, drive 10 miles south on Highway 212 to mile marker 59. Turn right (west) at the signed Lake Fork Road. Drive 2 miles to the trailhead parking lot at the end of the road.

**Beartooth Plateau — Beauty Lake and Crane Lake from Island Lake**

**Distance:** 7.5 miles round-trip

Located in the high lakes area of the Beartooth Mountains, this extremely scenic hike follows the shores of both Island Lake and Night Lake. These alpine lakes sit at 9,500 feet, and are surrounded by snowy peaks. Beauty Lake sits in a bowl of forested rock cliffs. Majestic mountains, sloping

**Tips for Montana hiking**

- Remember altitude affects your stamina.

- Weather conditions change throughout the day. What may start out as a warm sunny day, can quickly change into a dangerous thunderstorm. Bring clothing layers, a hat and watch the sky when on the trail.

- Always be prepared. Wear good shoes and carry snacks, water and a basic first aid kit.

- This is bear country. Carry bear spray and hike in groups.

alpine meadows, pockets of evergreens and several sandy beaches surround the sinuous 90-acre lake. Smaller Crane Lake is fed by Beauty Lake.

**Driving directions:** From Red Lodge, drive 38 miles south on Highway 212 to the Island Lake turnoff. Turn right and go 0.2 mile to the posted trailhead parking area on the right, by the Island Lake Campground. Turn right and continue 0.2 mile to the lot at the end of the road.

**Beartooth Highway — Crazy Creek Falls**

**Distance:** 1 mile round-trip

Crazy Creek, a tributary of the Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone River, is formed by a string of lakes that include Fox Lake,

Widewater Lake, Big Moose Lake and Ivy Lake. Crazy Creek Falls, located near the confluence with the Clarks Fork, is a short 15-minute hike, but it is hard not to spend a few hours here. The falls are a show-stopping, massive cascade, plunging over slabs of granite rock. Along the edge of the thunderous cascade are flat terraced rocks for exploring or sunbathing. Besides the cascades and waterfalls are cold soaking pools and even a bubble-filled "Jacuzzi." This natural water park is a favorite spot for those who know about it. In the many times I have been there, I have only run into other people once. The hike follows the first section of the Crazy Lakes Trail, a pack route to Ivy Lake and Crazy Mountain.

**Driving directions:** The trailhead is located on Highway 212, 53 miles south from Red Lodge and 11 miles east from Cooke City. Pull into the parking turnout on the north, directly across from the Crazy Creek Campground. ■



Robert Stone is the author of "Day Hikes in the Beartooth Mountains," as well as more than 20 other guide books with multiple editions. He started Day Hike Books in 1991. He summers in the Rocky Mountains of Montana and winters on the California Central Coast.

OWAA's annual conference: Billings, Montana, July 16-18, 2016

# Photo scavenger hunt and all-comers contest Creatively compose images to win money

BY PAT WRAY

It's time to prepare yourselves for the photography contests at this year's OWAA conference in Billings, Montana. There are great prizes, as well as a cash bonus for winners of the photo scavenger hunt and a \$300 cash prize for the second annual all comers, Essence of the Conference Contest.

First, the photo scavenger hunt. All the photos must be taken between July 14 and 5 p.m. July 17 when you must turn in your images, but I'm providing the subjects now so you'll have time to let your creative juices marinate. The subjects are purposefully vague, have fun with them.

■ **Gear.** This is an annual standard. Create an image suitable for an advertising layout for one of our supporting members' products.

■ **Beer.** Billings has tons of breweries, which you should scope out July 15 when OWAA offers buses downtown for dinner. You'll also see plenty of it at the hospitality suites.

■ **The Yellowstone River.** How could we not do this? You'll be within walking distance during Water Day.

■ **Center.** There are a million ways to deal with this concept. Pick one.

■ **Shiny.** This may be the most fun of all.

Now for the second annual all-comers, Essence of the Conference Contest, where you'll capture conference in a single photo and 15-second video. Here's what you need to know:

■ **Eligibility:** Anyone registered at conference is eligible including spouses, partners, children, representatives of supporting businesses, speakers, etc.

■ **Authorized equipment:** Any equipment is acceptable, from pro gear to cell phones.

■ **Deadline:** 8 a.m. July 18. Confirm successful upload at the registration desk.

■ **Requirements:** One photo and a 15-second video that encapsulate the conference in some creative fashion.

■ **Submissions:** Upload your submissions onto Facebook, using the identifier #owaa2016. You will probably have to upload them separately. If you are unsure how, our office staff will assist you at the registration table.

■ **Limitations:** None. The only sideboards for this contest are your own creative limits and common decency. However, if the judges don't want to show a submission to the banquet audience it will not be considered for the prize.

■ **Prize:** \$300 cash to be awarded at the Honorary Awards Banquet.

The most critical issue in this contest is providing a creative video. There are dozens of applications for your cell phone but if you are new to this process you might consider SPLICE, a free ap-



(Top left) **Ann Simpson** found flowers for the "orange" category in the photo scavenger hunt in Knoxville, Tennessee. (Top right) **Ruth Hoyt** turned in this image last year for the "gear" category. (Bottom left) **Joseph Dits** had another take for "orange." (Bottom right) **Pat Wray** photographed a **Case** knife for the "gear" category last year.

plication that Mark Freeman has successfully used in his newspaper business for several years. After all, if Mark can do it...

Regardless of your application choice, spend some time working with it prior to the conference.

For those new to shooting and uploading video on their phones, allow me to provide the bare bones, paint-by-numbers approach to your preparation.

■ Download an app for your smart phone. If you have an iPhone or something Apple-related, get SPLICE. It's free and easy to use. For Androids, get Power Director. Also free and easy. For a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 20

OWAA's annual conference: Billings, Montana, July 16-18, 2016

# Bring on Billings

## Your guide to the Magic City

**H**iking through alpine meadows by day, dancing beneath a canopy of stars at night — life in Billings, Montana is measured not by a timepiece, but in magical moments.

Visitors quickly discover Billings brims with things to see and do every day of the week. From micro-breweries, to Broadway entertainment, to outdoor adventure, to Western history, the only difficulty will be deciding what to do first. To help you get started, we've rounded up a few local favorites for your Billings bucket list, and we've included a few under-the-radar gems you won't find in any guidebook.

### Get out and explore

Never been to Billings? A great way to acquaint yourself with the city is to run, bike or walk along the Heritage Trail. Nearly 26 miles of trails encircle the city, looping from the Yellowstone River to the top of the Rimrocks, down Zimmerman Trail and bisecting the Yellowstone Valley.

The views from atop the Rimrocks are magnificent, stretching more than 60 miles west to the Beartooth Mountain Range. Formed some 85 million years ago when the region was covered by an ancient sea, the sandstone cliffs known now as the Rimrocks rise 500 vertical feet above the valley floor framing the north edge of the city. They provide hiking, mountain biking and stunning views.

**Local gem:** Stairway to heaven? Not quite, but there is a stone stairway leading up the Rimrocks. Carved by the Billings Chamber of Commerce in 1910 to encourage sightseeing from the top of the cliffs, the stairway is still there if you know where to look. Hint: You'll find the bottom stair located north of the Montana State University-Billings Alterowitz Gym.

### A river runs through it

The Yellowstone River is mere minutes from downtown. Don a pair of waders and discover legendary fishing in the longest



Be sure to take in the view from the top of the Rimrocks. Photo courtesy Visit Billings.

free-flowing river in the Lower 48. Public fishing access points are plentiful. We suggest Itch-Kep-Pe Park outside of Columbus, Montana, about a 30-minute drive from Billings. If you like a livelier river, drive 2 miles south of Columbus on Montana Highway 78 to Fireman's Point, where you can access the Stillwater River. For a complete listing of public fishing access points, refer to the Montana Fishing Access Sites Field Guide.

**Local gem:** Magic City Fly Fishers is a nonprofit advocacy group supporting management, preservation and access to Montana fisheries. Friend them on Facebook and plug in to a wealth of knowledge plus the latest river conditions and where the fish are striking.

### Walk on the wild side

You've seen the Beartooth Mountains from a distance, now it's time to explore them firsthand. For an enjoyable day hike, take Highway 212 to Red Lodge, Montana,

and continue about 8 miles to the "Lake Fork Trail" sign. Turn right and drive 2 miles to the trailhead. The Lake Fork of Rock Creek trail leads to Lost Lake, a 5-mile hike with a gentle grade. Thick stands of pine and aspen trees envelop the trail. Walk past spectacular waterfalls and across lush meadows carpeted with wildflowers. Be on the lookout for elk, deer, moose and bears. (**Lisa Ballard** will also lead a group on this hike the day after conference. For more information visit <http://owaa.org/2016conference/2016/02/29/lowa-beartooth-mountains-day-hike/>.)

For a different wildlife experience, visit ZooMontana, Montana's only zoo and botanical park. Covering more than 70 acres, the park is home to grizzly bears, Canada lynx, bighorn sheep and wolves. Interspersed between the exhibits you'll find exquisitely tended botanical gardens. You'll get to see the zoo at the welcome dinner July 16, but you might want to allot more

## OWAA's annual conference: Billings, Montana, July 16-18, 2016

### Meet the editors



**WILL HARMON**  
FARCOUNTRY PRESS



**SAM LUNGREN**  
BACKCOUNTRY  
JOURNAL



**ANDREW MCKEAN**  
OUTDOOR LIFE



**ERIC SEEGER**  
NATURE CONSERVAN-  
CY MAGAZINE



**MATT SOBERG**  
RUFFED GROUSE  
SOCIETY MAGAZINE



**ALEX TENENBAUM**  
SITKA INSIGHT

A conference tradition, Meet the Editors allows writers and photographers access to editors at national publications looking to pay for content.

The panel, which starts at 3:15 p.m., July 18 during OWAA's annual conference in Billings, Montana, allows editors to talk about what type of content they need, how to successfully pitch their publications and what they pay. A question-and-answer session is followed by an informal meet-and-greet where you can introduce yourself and leave clips. ■

time for exploring on your own.

If your idea of wildlife includes adult beverages, head downtown to the city's Brewery District where six micro-breweries and two local distilleries are within walking distance. Sample a pint or two and afterward, dine at one of the many downtown eateries where you can find everything from Pad Thai, to Creole, to dry-aged Montana ribeye, to fresh mahi-mahi.

**Local gem:** Take in the bloody mary bar Sunday mornings at Trailhead Spirits. Hand-crafted vodka made with Montana-grown grain is the centerpiece of this drink. Top yours with pickles, pickled asparagus, hot peppers, blue cheese-stuffed olives, celery sticks and a host of other fresh garnishes.

#### Travel back in time

Billings and the surrounding area is steeped in history. Long before Montana was a territory, prehistoric hunters roamed

these lands. Archeological evidence of their existence can still be seen at Pictograph Cave State Park where more than 100 images of animals and warriors are visible in the three largest caves.

Seventy years after the Corps of Discovery passed through Montana, one of the most famous battles in frontier history occurred near Crow Agency. Each year, nearly half a million people visit the Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument, memorializing the defeat of the U. S. Army's 7th Cavalry, including Lt. Col. George A. Custer, by Lakota and Cheyenne warriors on June 25 and 26, 1876.

As civilization pushed west, settlers arrived in Montana determined to tame the land. The history of Billings and these early pioneers unfolds at the Western Heritage Center, where interactive exhibits and oral histories of Native Americans help tell the story of the last frontier.

**Local gem:** Built in 1901 and listed on the National Register of Historic Places, The Western Heritage Center is said to be haunted by three ghosts: a child named Priscilla who haunts the attic, an elderly man in the basement and an older woman on the first floor. Visitors frequently report eerie happenings to staff members who nod sympathetically, having experienced the same events themselves.

#### Plug in — chill out

Whatever your taste in entertainment, Billings delivers. And if you think the options for things to see and do are incredible, just wait until you experience our warm Western hospitality. It's our way of saying, "Welcome to Billings. We're glad you're here." ■

— Story by Allyn Hulteng  
courtesy Visit Billings

### Photo contests

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

Windows phone, download MovieEditTouch. Also, free and easy.

■ Check out the tutorials, either on the manufacturer's website or on YouTube.

■ Practice.

■ There you have it. Easy. See?

You might consider mixing still photos with short videos. You've only got 15 seconds to work with. Good luck. ■



Pat Wray is the recipient of the 2015 Jade of Chiefs award. He is a freelance writer and book author residing in Corvallis, Oregon, with his wife and two hunting dogs. His most recent book is "Corvallis Reflections."

# Conference survey results

Last fall, OWAA distributed a conference survey to all its individual members. Through 54 pointed questions, we aimed to gain insight into our members' preferences on conference timing location, travel, programs and pre- and post-trips.

Thanks to the 119 individual members who offered their insightful feedback, we learned more about what our fellow communicators expect from OWAA's most important annual event. Some of the notable survey results included:

- **78 percent** said they have attended an OWAA conference. Cost, travel distance and timing factored equally as reasons why members do not attend the annual event.
- The average member budget is approximately \$948. Only **13 percent** said their employer covers any costs associated with conference such as conference fees, lodging, transportation or meals.
- **86 percent** said conference should continue to take place in a new place each year.
- **48 percent** felt the summer season offered the best time to host the conference while **25 percent** said they didn't care when it took place. However, responses showed people liked conference taking place in the same season each year (**36 percent**) or during the best time to visit the location to take advantage of outdoor activities (**38 percent**).
- **80 percent** indicated they would be very likely to attend conference if the location required a half-day or less. If the location necessitated a one-day drive, the number of respondents who were very likely to attend the event dropped to **51 percent**. If getting to conference demanded a non-stop airline flight, those very likely to attend dropped to **29 percent**.
- Even though costs are a concern, staying in a "business-style hotel" (what we utilize today) appeared as the preference over other options like economy hotels with basic services and upscale resorts. Some respondents said they would like to see unique lodging options like cabins, cottages and rustic wilderness lodges.

- **66 percent** said our current three-day conference schedule is ideal. However, about **58 percent** said they would pay up to \$100 more in conference registration fees to lengthen the event to four days.

- Members attend conference to get story ideas/new work (**55 percent**), network with other OWAA members (**53 percent**), learn new media-related skills (**52 percent**) and have fun (**51 percent**).

- **72 percent** have not attended a pre- or post-conference trip in the last five years, with **70 percent** saying it was because they didn't have time. Trip offerings and logistics did not factor greatly into the decision to participate.

People who said they attended conference at least once said they received tremendous value worth the time, cost and effort it takes to participate. We understand limited budgets and faraway locations deter attendance. While those are out of our control, we will continue to focus on keeping our annual conference costs as economical as possible and reminding members of ways they can save money. (Check out the article below for a few ideas.)

We can't host conference in a location easy for everyone to attend every year, so we'll continue to move it around the country, hopefully bringing it near each member every few years.

As the organization works to deliver the most productive, valuable and exciting annual conference possible, we welcome your thoughts and ideas at any time. Please contact our executive director, Tom Sadler at [tsadler@owaa.org](mailto:tsadler@owaa.org); our membership services director, Jessica Seitz at [jseitz@owaa.org](mailto:jseitz@owaa.org); or me, our member services chair at [cms@cms-photo.com](mailto:cms@cms-photo.com).

Or better yet, join us at this year's 89th annual conference July 16-18 in Billings, Montana, to experience conference for yourself and continue this discussion. ■

— Colleen Miniuk-Sperry  
Member services committee chair

## Conference money-saving tips

We know the cost of conference is one of the most important factors for members when deciding whether or not to attend, so consider these options to make the experience more affordable:

- **First-timer discount:** Never been to an OWAA conference? Active and Associate members can apply 50 percent of their annual dues towards their first conference registration to get a \$75 discount.
- **Roommate list:** If you want to save some money on your hotel room, let

OWAA help connect you with a roommate to split costs. Email Jessica at [jseitz@owaa.org](mailto:jseitz@owaa.org) to get on the list.

- **Airline discounts:** Discount codes are available through Delta and United. Codes can be found on the Travel & Lodging page of the conference website: <http://owaa.org/2016conference/travel-lodging/#discounts>.

- **Pre- and post-conference trips:** Generate story material to help offset conference costs. Many of our trips this year even include overnight lodging or

camping, so you can extend your stay at little or no cost.

- It's too late for this year, but keep in mind for 2017 yjys OWAA's John Madison Fellowship provides funding to attend educational opportunities, including the OWAA annual conference.

- Student scholarships are available to college students. The deadline passed for this year, but don't forget for 2017. Scholarships include meals and all conference sessions and activities. They do not include transportation or lodging. ■

## SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHTS

# The National Marine Manufacturers Association Your recreational boating resource

**T**he National Marine Manufacturers Association is the leading trade association for the North American recreational boating industry. Its member companies produce more than 80 percent of the boats, engines, trailers, accessories and gear used by boaters throughout the U.S. and Canada. The association is dedicated to helping to drive industry growth through programs in public policy advocacy, market statistics and research, product quality assurance and promotion of the boating lifestyle. It is also one of the world's largest producers of consumer boat and sport shows, producing more than 20 in the U.S. and partnering with international associations on U.S. pavilions in countries around the globe. Visit [NMMA.org](http://NMMA.org) for more information.

One of our ventures, Discover Boating, is the national nonprofit program on behalf of the North American recreational boating industry to help people get on the water to experience the fun of boating. For your readers who may be looking to get started in boating, [DiscoverBoating.com](http://DiscoverBoating.com) is an unbiased online resource packed

with easy, interactive features on all things boating, including a boat selector tool, boat loan calculator, a go boating near you tool, cost comparison guide, youth boating programs, education courses, nautical lingo and how-to videos. Visit [DiscoverBoating.com](http://DiscoverBoating.com) to access boating tools, videos and resources.

Looking for national, regional or local boating statistics and trends? Interested in learning more about boating and fishing advocacy efforts? Need information on Discover Boating or upcoming National Marine Manufacturers Association boat and sport shows? Contact Kelly Kaylor at [kkaylor@nmma.org](mailto:kkaylor@nmma.org) or Ellen Hopkins at [ehopkins@nmma.org](mailto:ehopkins@nmma.org) in the communications department.

Want to keep up with the latest recreational boating industry news? Sign up to receive Currents, a daily newsletter put out by the association, with insights on boat shows, government issues, the economy, boat certification and more. Currents is the best way to stay informed on all things boating. Contact Currents editor Maria Blevins ([mblevins@nmma.org](mailto:mblevins@nmma.org)) to get signed up today. ■

## Gogal Publishing Company A new vision for mapping America's waters

**W**hy is every river, lake and stream on a map blue? As an outdoorsman who studies streams, I find myself endlessly following the blue lines and reading labels to identify a particular stream. Once I find it, I follow that blue line upstream to the next intersection and have to guess which direction my stream flows. It's back to checking the labels again. I finally end up tracing the stream in colored pen so I can actually see it on the map. Sound familiar? No wonder they call me a "blueliner."

As a mapmaker, I've spent a lot of time trying to find a better way. If streams were colored differently from their tributaries, you could easily follow any stream's flow from headwaters to mouth. A map like that would give you a unique vision of Amer-

ica's watersheds. That realization started a two-year odyssey culminating with the introduction of Stream Map USA, a series of searchable river, lake and stream maps for smartphones.

Using Stream Map USA, I simply choose my state and county, then enter the stream's name. The app does the rest, dropping a color-coded pin right on my stream. I follow the matching colored stream, panning and zooming as necessary to find my access point. Once that's found, I add a destination waypoint, tap the "go" button and my phone gives me turn-by-turn driving directions to the stream. I can view this colored stream over roadmaps, satellite images and topo maps and even store these maps for offline use.

When I park, I add a waypoint named

"My Car" and start wading up the stream. The map tracks my progress as I travel so I always know where I am and the color coding lets me know which way to go at every stream intersection. I even add more waypoints along the way, recording notes for the spots I want to remember. When I'm ready to head back, I simply "target" the "My Car" waypoint and use a built-in navigation compass to point the way and count down the distance. This compass navigation works just like geocaching on a handheld GPS. Now with Stream Map USA, finding and navigating any stream has become easy and I can finally say, "I'm not a blueliner."

Mike Gogal is the owner of **Gogal Publishing Company** and will be on hand at this year's OWAA conference to talk about Stream Map USA. ■

## SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHTS

# Hobie Cat Company Pedal boards provide easy fun



Hobie's Mirage stand-up pedal board is as easy as walking. You can check out the boards at Water Day at OWAA's annual conference in Billings, Montana. Photo courtesy Hobie.

**H**obie has done it again. The company has married its renowned MirageDrive pedal system with 65 years of board sports expertise to create a totally new kind of Hobie fun. Introducing the world's first Mirage stand-up pedal boards: Hobie Mirage Eclipse 10.5 and Hobie Mirage Eclipse 12. It will now be just as easy for fun seekers to stand on the board and pedal with the new MirageDrive as it has been for Hobie kayakers

to pedal the original MirageDrive. Using these boards is as intuitive and stable as walking. Step on and go — no seat, paddle or over-board splashes required. They are perfect for anyone seeking a fun and easy way to play on the water, those who enjoy fitness outside the gym and resort and tour operators who wish to offer their guests a great new experience. And the Eclipse is sized right for storage and portability on cars, sailboats and powerboats.

The steering controls on the graceful aluminum alloy handlebar could not be simpler. Squeeze the right caliper, go right. Squeeze the left caliper, go left. The handlebar adjusts from 36 to 43 inches high to accommodate a range of rider statures from kids to tall adults.

The rudder offers pinpoint stand-up control unique to the Eclipse. It kicks up in shallow water and can also lock into place for improved tracking when the Eclipse is used as a traditional stand-up paddleboard.

Large EVA deckpads provide carefree, high-traction footing and enhanced comfort for all-day rides. There is plenty of room for extra gear or the family dog to perch on the stern. Cargo bungees on the aft deck secure gear.

The Hobie Mirage Eclipse 10.5 sells for \$2,499 and the Hobie Mirage Eclipse 12 retails for \$2,599. Each size comes in two colors: Solar (yellow) and Lunar (blue). Learn more by visiting <http://www.hobiecat.com/xen/blog/step-and-go-introducing-hobie-mirage-eclipse,457/>. Or, try them out at Water Day during OWAA's annual conference in Billings, Montana. ■

## ASSOCIATION UPDATE

## DONORS

February, March and April 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**

**Tom and Kay Morton Ellerhoff**  
Overton T. Harris  
**Jim Low**  
**Robert C. Smith**

Nancy T. Tipton  
Ruth Rose Welliver

**Bodie McDowell Scholarship Fund**

**Dan Small**  
**Galen Geer**

**John Madson Fellowship Fund**

**Larry Kruckenberg**  
**Operating Fund**  
**Ed Schmidt**  
**Peter Schroeder**

**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/>*

**Robert Annis**, 10812 Tanbark Dr., Indianapolis, IN 46235. (H) 317-250-8433, (C) 317-250-8433, (W) 317-250-8433, [rob@robertannis.com](mailto:rob@robertannis.com), <http://robertannis.contently.com>. After spending nearly a decade as a reporter for The Indianapolis Star, he finally broke free of the shackles of gainful employment and now freelances full-time, specializing in cycling and outdoor

## ASSOCIATION UPDATE

travel journalism. Over the years, his byline has appeared in numerous publications and websites, including *Outside*, *National Geographic Traveler*, *Bicycling*, *Men's Journal*, *Popular Mechanics*, *Bike*, *Midwest Living*, *Dirt Rag* and *Velo News*. When he's not hunched over a keyboard, you'll likely find him either pedaling the backroads and trails of the Midwest on his bicycle, or hopping around the globe with his beautiful wife, Dee. (Dee) Skills: W; Subject Matter: GLN; Sections: M. Approved for Active membership; sponsored by **Phil Bloom**.

**Robert Baldwin**, 1414 Plum Valley Rd., Mancelona, MI 49659. (H) 231-218-1937, (C) 231-218-1937, (W) 231-218-1937, bob@redtailsoftware.com, <http://bowhuntinginfo.com>. Creator and manager of [bowhuntinginfo.com](http://bowhuntinginfo.com), online since 1998. Co-author of a series of humorous hunting and outdoor stories, in the process of trying to get published. (Suzanne) Skills: DLSW; Subject Matter: CDEFS; Sections: MP. Approved for Associate membership; sponsored by **Mike Zlotnicki**.

**Robert Banfelder**, 141 Riverside Dr., Riverhead, NY 11901. (H) 631-369-3192, robertbanfelder@gmail.com, <http://www.robertbanfelder.com>. Author, "The Fishing Smart Anywhere Handbook for Salt Water & Fresh Water" and "The North American Small & Big Game Hunting Smart Handbook," as well as nine award-winning mystery-thriller novels. Contributor, *Northeast Saltwater Credits*, *New York Game & Fish, Deer & Deer Hunting*, *Fur-Fish-Game*, *Big Game Fishing Journal*, *The Fisherman*, *On the Water*, *Hana Hou!*, *Boating Times Long Island*, others. Host, "Special Interests with Bob Banfelder & Donna Derasmo" on Cablevision TV public access. (Donna Derasmo) Skills: BELOPW; Subject Matter: ABCDFRT; Sections: MV. Approved for Active membership; sponsored by **Angelo Peluso**.

**Sharon Brodin**, 3067 166th Ave. NE, Ham Lake, MN 55304. (H) 763-434-9105, (C) 952-222-0620, (W) 952-222-0620, sharon@sharonbrodin.com, <http://sharonbrodin.com>, <http://activeoutdoorwomen.com>. Pursuing a freelance copywriting and marketing support busi-

ness from her home office in Ham Lake, Minnesota. Also experienced in graphic design. She has had ties to the Gunflint Trail/Boundary Waters region of northern Minnesota since the 1980s, in both volunteer and paid positions as writer, designer and website designer. Started a blog, *Active Outdoor Women*, in March of 2015 — her audience is middle-age, outdoor-loving women like herself. Her goal is to develop relationships with outdoor clients around the U.S. and beyond that need help growing their business or nonprofit. Her favorite outdoor activities are running, camping, canoeing, hiking, cross-country skiing and horseback riding. (Nick) Skills: CDIO; Subject Matter: GJLMS; Sections: C. Approved for Associate membership; sponsored by **Kris Millgate**.

**Myron Brubaker**, 4922 Sky Rd., Rockingham, VA 22802. (H) 540-476-5393, (C) 540-476-5393, (W) 540-476-5393, m22brubaker@gmail.com, <http://bruwriter.com>. Author, "What Friends are For," which took third place in the book category of Virginia Outdoor Writers Association Excellence In Craft Contests. The book is illustrated by Richard Stubler and takes a lighter look at what really happens to hunters and anglers afield. Monthly columnist, "Feather & Stone," for *Woods & Waters Magazine*, where he contributes both fiction and nonfiction pieces on hunting and fishing. (Regina) Skills: BCEOW; Subject Matter: CFORS; Sections: MN. Approved for Active membership; sponsored by **Vicki J. Mountz**.

**Candice Davis**, Missouri Department of Conservation, 2302 County Park Dr. Southeast Regional Office, Cape Girardeau, MO 63701. (H) 573-204-3497, (C) 573-837-5665, (W) 573-290-5730, (F) 573-290-5736, candice.davis@mdc.mo.gov, <http://krcu.org/topic/discover-nature>. Media specialist for the Missouri Department of Conservation's Southeast Region since 2008. In this role, writes an average of three press releases per week and posts an average of two blogs per month at [www.krcu.org/discovernature](http://www.krcu.org/discovernature). (Greg) Skills: INORW; Subject Matter: S; Sections: CMR. Approved for Active membership; sponsored

by **Bill Graham**.

**Mark Coleman**, 1017 Fourmile Branch Rd., Spartanburg, SC 29302. (C) 864-327-7704, spentcartridge@gmail.com, <http://wingshot.blogspot.com>. Wing shooting blogger, freelance outdoor writer published in *Gray's Sporting Journal* and the *Pointing Dog Journal*. Outreach committee chair for the South Carolina Bobwhite Initiative. Former columnist for *Quail Unlimited*. Skills: COQSW; Subject Matter: ABCDEO; Sections: CP. Approved for Active membership; sponsored by **Tom Keer**.

**Andrew Cox**, Marlin Magazine, 747 Halifax Ave., Winter Park, FL 32792. (H) 407-571-4511, (C) 407-257-8323, (W) 407-571-4511, andrew.cox@bonniercorp.com, <http://marlinmag.com>. Editor-in-chief, *Marlin Magazine*. Skills: ESW; Subject Matter: B; Sections: M. Approved for Active membership; sponsored by **Glenn Law**.

**Bucky D'Agostino**, 147 Sloop Rd., Manahawkin, NJ 08050. (H) 609-698-0417, (C) 609-713-3933, (W) 609-713-3933, giacinto400@hotmail.com. Owes a great deal of thanks to his father for introducing him to the outdoors. It has been 40 years since his father allowed him to tag along on a hunt and he allowed him to take the helm of a boat before most kids attempt a two-wheel bike. His obsession with the outdoors and the outdoor lifestyle is constantly growing. The enthusiasm he felt as a youngster is equally matched every time he heads out on an adventure these days. Whether he is sitting in a tree stand looking for his second record-book whitetail with a bow, or heading out on the legendary Barnegat Inlet in search of trophy stripers, his enthusiasm is unmatched. Has been a full-time special education teacher for 21 years in New Jersey's public school system, teaching students with behavioral disabilities and running an enrichment program to introduce freshwater fishing to young students. This will be his 30th summer working as a carpenter and stone mason. When not working in those careers, he can be found outdoors with a camera and notepad. His work has appeared in *Petersen's Bowhunting*, *The Asbury Park Press' Hook, Line & Sinker*, *The Fisherman's Mid-Atlantic* edition, *Bassmas-*

## ASSOCIATION UPDATE

ter Magazine, Ducks Unlimited magazine, American Waterfowler and on [Bassmaster.com](#). (Amy) Skills: NOSW; Subject Matter: ABCDEFKNT; Sections: MP. Approved for Associate membership; sponsored by **Lisa Densmore Ballard**.

**Robert Deen**, 3719 W. Quail Heights Ct., Boise, ID 83703. (H) 208-830-8045, (C) 208-830-8045, (W) 208-830-8045, robertdeen@mac.com. Writer, history buff and photographer. He and his English springer spaniel Star divide their time between Boise, Idaho, and a cabin in California's Sierra Nevada mountains near Mount Lassen. He has fished and hunted throughout the U.S. as well as the Peruvian Amazon, New Zealand, Mexico, Belize, Guatemala and Costa Rica. A former U.S. Marine officer, before setting out to become an outdoor writer, he was co-owner of the largest independent public relations agency in California. Author of three books and a regular contributor to [LiveOutdoors.com](#) and *Anglers Club Magazine* where he was acknowledged for the most read article in 2015. He is also a member of the International Game Fish Association, the National Rifle Association, the Idaho Second Amendment Alliance, the Mule Deer Foundation and Quail Forever. Recently published a historical book about Idaho's Owyhee Mountain region, as well as "War Under the Mountain" for *True West* magazine. Skills: BOQW; Subject Matter: ACDLP; Sections: M. Approved for Active membership; sponsored by **Ty Stockton**.

**Albert DeRosa Jr.**, Dangerous Cow Publishing, 148 Main St., Apt. C338, North Andover, MA 01845. (H) 978-314-5193, (C) 978-314-5193, (W) 978-314-5193, aj.derosa@dangerouscow.com, <http://dangerouscow.com>. Founder and creative director, Dangerous Cow Publishing. Executive producer of the widely popular "Project Upland" film series and author of the critically acclaimed book "The Urban Deer Complex." Behind the scenes his work has included successful marketing, branding, social media, content creation, advertising and SEO campaigns for major outdoor companies. Skills: BCDLPSVW; Subject Matter: CDF; Sections: MPV. Approved

for Active membership; sponsored by **Tom Keer**.

**Spencer Durrant**, 519 E. 100 N., American Fork, UT 84003. (H) 385-207-5640, (C) 385-207-5640, (W) 385-207-5640, spencersdurrant@gmail.com. Writes the monthly Trout Bum column for the (Ogden) Standard-Examiner, the bi-weekly Cutthroat Chronicles for Utah-based fishing retailer Fishwest and just recently signed a deal to contribute weekly columns to Trout Life, a Colorado-based startup fly-fishing lifestyle brand. Contributor, Hatch magazine, On the Fly Magazine, Orvis Fly Fishing blog and the outdoors section of [KSL.com](#), Utah's No. 2 rated news outlet. Skills: CNOW; Subject Matter: AOR; Sections: MN. Approved for Active membership; sponsored by **Brett Prettyman**.

**Sarabeth Baxter Henne**, 120 E. Taylor St. Box #2496, Phoenix, AZ 85004. (C) 484-354-2351, sarabeth.henne@gmail.com, <http://sarabethsstoryshelf.wordpress.com>. Aspiring outdoor journalist with an emphasis in print and multimedia. Student, Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communications, Arizona State University. Skills: CDNOSWX; Subject Matter: GJP; Sections: MNP. Approved for Student membership; sponsored by Sean Holstege.

**Glenn Rieker**, Silentsports.guru, 1341 Terminal Rd., Grafton, WI 53024. (C) 262-385-5805, silentsportsguru@gmail.com, <http://silentsports.guru>, <https://silentsports-guru.wordpress.com/>. Creator, silentsports.guru. The main social platform is a live streaming interactive audio magazine (podcast), but they recently added Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and a WordPress outdoor journal. Developed a silent sports app for iPhone and Android which launched about two months ago. Podcasts of the live streaming audio magazine are available on iTunes. (Cheryl) Skills: CDX; Subject Matter: JLMNS. Approved for Associate membership; sponsored by **Paul Vang**.

**Daniel Silverberg**, 3312 94th Ave. SE, Mercer Island, WA 98040. (H) 213-247-6637, (C) 213-247-6637, (W) 213-247-6637, daniel@danielsilverberg.com, <http://www.danielsilverberg.com>. Recent photography intern at Cascade Designs, Seattle

Met Magazine and Harper Studios. Soon to start as a digital marketing coordinator at Cascade Designs, as well as an independent freelancer. Current student, Seattle Central Creative Academy's commercial photography program. Recent publications include Fly Fisherman magazine, The Flyfish Journal, This is Fly magazine, Stay Wild Magazine, Women's Adventure Magazine, Tenkara Magazine and Seattle Met magazine. Skills: MSV; Subject Matter: AGHLMNR; Sections: P. Approved for Student membership.

**William Williams**, Pennsylvania Game Commission - NE Region, 3917 Memorial Hwy., Dallas, PA 18612. (H) 570-925-8666, (C) 570-690-2661, (W) 570-675-1143, (F) 570-674-0556, williwilli@pa.gov. Information and education supervisor, Pennsylvania Game Commission Northeast Region. Responsible for the dissemination of wildlife, habitat management and agency-related information to print, Web and broadcast media in the 13 counties that make up the northeast region. Member, Pennsylvania Outdoor Writers Association. (Michelle) Skills: ILOQW; Subject Matter: CDFIO-QSU; Sections: C. Approved for Active membership; sponsored by **Vicki Mountz**.

**Scott Willoughby**, P.O. Box 4838, Eagle, CO 81631. (C) 970-390-3676, (W) 970-390-3676, scottwilloughby@gmail.com. Former outdoor editor, columnist and 11-year staff writer, The Denver Post. Freelance writer, editor and photographer for outlets including Colorado Outdoors magazine, Trout Unlimited magazine, Elevation Outdoors, Outdoor Industry Association, Vail Daily and others. Contract work in public relations, content marketing and consulting focused on outdoor recreation and related issues. (Jenn) Skills: CENOQRSW; Subject Matter: ABCDEFGHJKLMNORS; Sections: CMNPRV. Approved for Active membership; sponsored by **Chris Hunt**.

### REINSTATED MEMBERS

**Rory Aikens**, (Senior-Active) 3313 W. Lucia Dr., Phoenix, AZ 85083. (H) 623-869-8409, (C) 623-221-2664, rkaikens@cox.net. (Cindy Winters) Skills: BEIO-QSW; Subject Matter: ACDFGHJKLO-

## ASSOCIATION UPDATE

QRST; Sections: MP.

**Christine Carbo**, (Active) 106 Kiniknik Circle, Whitefish, MT 59937. (H) 406-253-3027, (C) 406-253-3027, (W) 406-253-3027, [esm@cyberport.net](mailto:esm@cyberport.net), <http://christinecarbo.com>. Master's in English and has taught writing, literature and linguistics courses at the community college level for over a decade and worked as a technical writer. Currently teaches in a very different realm as the owner of a Pilates studio. Her first psychological mystery set in Glacier National Park was contracted by Atria Books/Simon and Schuster and released in May 2015. When not teaching, she's plotting and writing or enjoying the Montana wilderness and lifestyle. Second psychological mystery is set in the same milieu of Glacier National Park. (Jamie) Skills: BO; Subject Matter: EGKMNRS.

**Glenn Helgeland**, Target Communications, (Senior-Active) 10459 N. Wauwatosa Rd., Mequon, WI 53097. (H) 262-242-3530, (C) 262-402-7668, (F) 262-518-0341, [glenn.helgeland@gmail.com](mailto:glenn.helgeland@gmail.com), <http://www.targetcommbooks.com>. Owner, Target Communications. Former owner and producer of four Midwestern Deer & Turkey Expos. Published or written and published 17 hunting, archery and wild game cookbooks. Credits, Bowhunting World and Deer & Deer Hunting. Most recent book "The Bear Hunting Obsessions of a Driven Man," 2015. (Judy).

**Kevin Wright**, (Active) 1720 N. Main St., Canton, IL 61520. (C) 309-645-3514, (W) 309-645-3514, [wrightsrca@prodigy.net](mailto:wrightsrca@prodigy.net). Freelance outdoor writer and wildlife photographer. Weekly outdoor columnist, Canton Daily Ledger. (Laurie) Skills: LNOW; Subject Matter: AGNOSU; Sections: MNP.

### CREDENTIAL REVIEWS

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

**Tovar Cerulli**  
**Dawn M. Faught**  
**Bob Ford**  
**David Hendee**  
**Karen Loke**  
**Becky Jones Mahlum**  
**Christine Peterson**  
**Paul Queneau**  
**Ty Stockton**  
**Jonathan Stumpf**

### NEW SUPPORTING GROUPS, AGENCIES AND BUSINESSES

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

**Brite Strike Technologies Inc.**, 11 Raffaele Rd., Plymouth, MA 02360. Contact: Sarah Bushee, vice president of operations. (W) 508-746-8701, (F) 508-746-8701, [s.bushee@brite-strike.com](mailto:s.bushee@brite-strike.com), <http://www.brite-strike.com>. Manufacturer of high-end lighting solutions for law enforcement, military, hunting and fishing. Supporter Resources: GI.

**Lake-Link Inc.**, P.O. Box 145, Princeton, WI 54968. Contact: Darin Novak, vice president. (W) 262-244-0430, [darin@lake-link.com](mailto:darin@lake-link.com), <http://lake-link.com>. Online fishing and outdoor resource. Supporter Resources: O.

**Springfield, Missouri Convention & Visitors Bureau**, 815 E. St. Louis St., Springfield, MO 65806. Contact: Susan Wade, public relations manager. (W) 417-881-5300, (Toll Free) 800-678-8767, (F) 417-881-2231, [swade@springfieldmo.org](mailto:swade@springfieldmo.org), <http://springfieldmo.org>. The CVB promotes the Springfield, Missouri, area as a travel destination. Supporter Resources: CO.

**Visit Sarasota County**, 1777 Main St., Sarasota, FL 34236. Contact: Lynn Hobeck Bates, public relations/communications manager. (W) 941-955-0991, [lhobeck@visitsarasota.org](mailto:lhobeck@visitsarasota.org), <http://visitsarasota.org>. Visit Sarasota County is the official tour-

ism marketing organization for Sarasota County on Florida's Gulf Coast. Supporter Resources: IO.

**Yamaha Motor Corp. USA**, 4872 Topanga Canyon Blvd. Ste. 113, Woodland Hills, CA 91364. Contact: Van Holmes, consultant. (W) 310-902-9457, [van.holmes@specpr.com](mailto:van.holmes@specpr.com), <http://yamahaoutdoors.com>. Yamaha Outdoors builds real-world tough ATVs and side-by-side vehicles that are assembled in the U.S. Based in Kennesaw, Georgia, Yamaha Outdoors is a leading supporter of the outdoors industry through our support of conservation partners and our ongoing relationships with many industry friends and partners. In 2008 Yamaha launched the Yamaha Outdoor Access Initiative dedicated to those who work and play outdoors including those who rely on our vehicles to ride, camp, hunt, fish or farm. Yamaha's thousands of employees throughout the U.S. are proud to support the outdoors. Supporter Resources: CIOP.

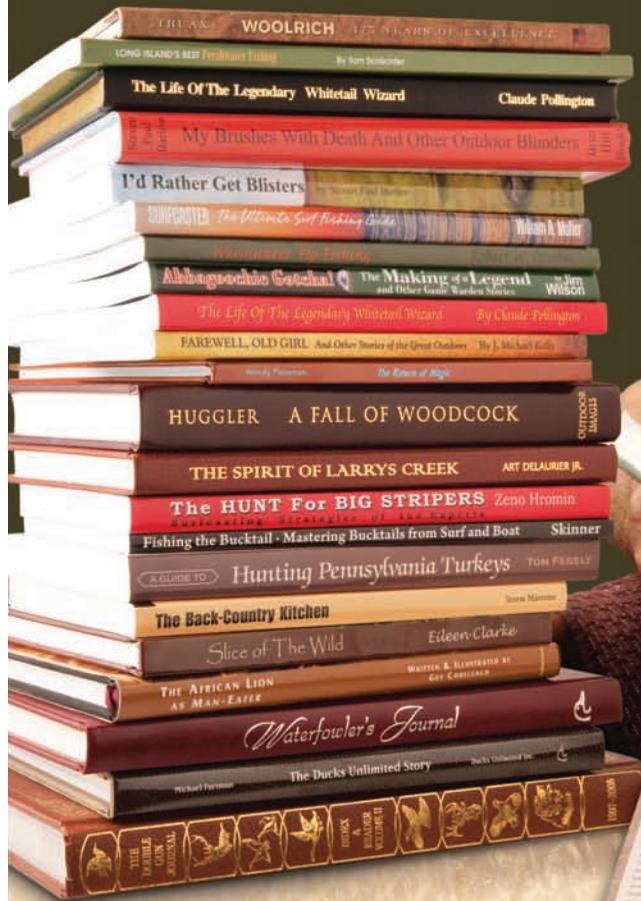
### REINSTATED SUPPORTING GROUPS

**Hunters Specialties Inc.**, c/o Howard Communications 289 Hwy CC, Elsberry, MO 63343. Contact: Mike Capps, senior account executive. (W) 573-898-3422, (F) 573-898-3407, [mcapps@howardcommunications.com](mailto:mcapps@howardcommunications.com), [www.hunterspec.com](http://www.hunterspec.com). Hunters Specialties is the world's largest manufacturer of hunting accessories and has been producing quality products since 1977. Manufacturer of camouflage accessories: gloves, face masks, headnets, blind material, camo makeup and paint. Turkey, deer, elk and predator calls including Johnny Stewart Wildlife Calls and Wayne Carlton calls. PrimeTime scents and lures and Scent-A-Way products. Archery accessories, videos, Vita Rack 26 mineral and food plot blends. Press releases and downloadable images found at [www.howardcommunications.com](http://www.howardcommunications.com).

### DECEASED MEMBERS

**John Kronfeld** ■

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## Thank you to our Excellence in Craft Contest judges

### **BLOG**

\***Tony Dolle**  
Kathryn Chamberlain  
**Susan Ebert**  
**Bill Hilts Jr.**  
Allison Gregg  
**Ryck Lydecker**  
Rodger Lyons

### **BOOK/E-BOOK**

\* **Brandon Shuler**  
**Chip Gross**  
**Tim Mead**  
**Bill Powell**

### **CHILDREN'S BOOK**

\***Mary Nickum**  
**John Nickum**  
Catherine Reynolds  
Elaine Westphal

### **COLUMN**

\* **Mike McKenna**  
Patti Murphy  
**Monica Prella**  
**Russell Roe**

### **ILLUSTRATION/GRAPHIC**

\***Colleen Miniuk-Sperry**  
Lindsay Brown

Erin Hiatt  
Blair Jones

### **MAGAZINE/E-ZINE**

\* **Paula DelGuidice**  
**Phil Bloom**  
**Bruce Cochran**  
**Tony Dolle**  
**Dawn Faught**  
**Brent Frazee**  
**Mark Freeman**  
**Bill Graham**  
Kerry Hecker  
**Kermit Henning**  
**Tim Mead**  
**Bill Monroe**  
**Rich Patterson**  
**Shawn Perich**  
**Christine Peterson**  
**Kevin Rhoades**  
**Marcus Schneck**  
**Ty Stockton**  
**Art Weber**  
**Tom Wharton**  
**David Zumbaugh**

### **NEWSPAPER/ NEWS WEBSITE**

\* **Mark Taylor**  
Larry Barrigar

### **Phil Bloom**

Ron Bowman  
**Jesse Bussard**  
**Holly Endersby**  
**Julie Hammonds**  
**Mark Herwig**  
**Ellen Horowitz**  
**Gail Jokerst**  
Marlo Kirkpatrick  
**Jim Low**  
**Kris Millgate**  
**Brett Prettyman**  
**Paul Queneau**  
**Trey Reid**  
**Jodi Applegate Stemler**  
**Bobby Whitehead**  
**Mike Zlotnicki**

### **PHOTOGRAPHY**

\* **Sam Caldwell**  
**Tom Berg**  
**Guy Coheleach**  
Brent Drinkut  
**Jim Foster**  
Carol Kugler  
John Maxwell  
**Kim Ogonosky**  
Frank Oliver  
Heather Peterek  
**Brent Wheat**

### **RADIO/PODCAST**

\* **Marty Malin**  
Art Malin  
Phil Taunton  
Albino Walker

### **TELEVISION/VIDEO/ WEBCAST**

\***Lisa Ballard**  
**Chris Batin**  
**Lucas Bond**  
**Dave Carlson**  
**Walter Dinkins**  
Robert J. Koenke  
**Brian Jennings**  
Cindy Jones  
Scott Jones  
**Andy Ray Lightbody**  
**Carol Lynde**  
**Grant McOmie**  
**Vicki Mountz**  
**Brett Prettyman**  
**Adam Stielstra**  
Jim Wedlake  
**Brad Zahar**

\* Indicates chief judge. ■