



Newsletter of the Pennsylvania Outdoor Writers Association

Spring/Summer 2019

POWA touts excellence

The Pennsylvania Outdoor Writers Association presented its annual Excellence in Craft Awards during the organization's Spring Conference banquet at the Quality Inn & Suite Conference Center, West Chester, on May 18, 2019.

This year POWA offered a total of eight Core Awards and 20 Specialty Awards. Overall, 40 members submitted 312 entries across a combined 200 categories.

Awards Chair Brad Isles distributed first-place awards to 17 individuals.

Winners are:

POWA CORE AWARDS

1. Best Newspaper Column (\$150 and plaque, sponsored by Bob & Linda Steiner) – “More than a hunting camp” by Charlie Burchfield, published in *The Bradford Era* on Nov. 22, 2018.

Runner-up – “Rare Trumpeter Swans visit area” by Mark Nale, published in *The Daily Herald* on April 26, 2018.

2. Best Newspaper Feature (\$150 and plaque, sponsored by Pennsylvania Hunters Sharing the Harvest) – “Love



Caleb Ritenour Photo

POWA Excellence in Craft Award winners who attended the Spring Conference in West Chester included, front (from left): Kyle Hey, Ralph Scherder, Alex & JoAnne Zidock, Linda Stager, Jeff Woelagle and Wade Robertson; back: Marshall Nych, Steve Sorensen, Bob Frye, Charlie Burchfield, Mark Nale, Dave Wolf and Gerald Putt.

Story” by Linda Stager, published in the *Williamsport Sun-Gazette* on April 15, 2018.

Runner-up – “Braving ‘Bear Island’” by Tyler Frantz, published in the *Pottsville*

Republican Herald on July 15, 2018.

3. Best Magazine or Regional Newspaper Column (\$150 and plaque, sponsored by POWA EIC entries) – “The

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Conference shows what West Chester has to offer

By Tom Tatum
Conference Chair

A passel of outdoor writers, photographers, artists and broadcasters descended upon West Chester May 16-19 when the Pennsylvania Outdoor Writers Association convened for their annual conference. These folks hailed from all over the state and were eager to sample every outdoorsy morsel Chester County has to offer. As conference chair, I was tasked with mak-

ing the Thursday through Sunday event happen as seamlessly as possible.

Needless to say, that assignment would entail its fair share of anxious, stressful moments.

The typical POWA conference includes an informal Dutch Treat dinner on Thursday evening when many of the members arrive, a slate of outdoor adventures offered on Friday, a roster of outdoor-oriented seminars and spouses' tours on Saturday, and a selection of optional activities on

Sunday.

The idea is to provide these writers, photographers, and radio and TV personalities with plenty of story ideas and subjects that will later appear on the air and in newspaper columns and magazine features throughout the state and beyond.

As a member of POWA since 1988 and president of the organization from 2009 through 2011, I figured it was high time that I volunteered to chair a conference

See CONFERENCE, page 8

In Memoriam



Bob Steiner Photo

Don Carey with a stringer of crappies caught at Lake Wilhelm in Goddard State Park during an outing with Bob Steiner.

Don Carey (1944-2019)

Donald David Carey, a POWA member since 1986, passed away peacefully Sunday morning, June 9, 2019, at the Meadows Nursing and Rehab Center after an illness. He was 75.

Born in Wilkes-Barre, he was the son of Dorothy S. Carey Maguire and the late David F. Carey.

He was a graduate of Sacred Heart High School, Plains Township, and attended Kings College and Wilkes University.

Early in his career, he was employed by Counsel House and went on to work for over 30 years as an award winning news and sports photographer for the Wilkes-Barre Times Leader. He retired from the paper several years ago and was known and admired by colleagues and the community for his skill as a photographer, and was known for his love of shooting nature and outdoor subjects.

Don was an avid sportsman who served as a Deputy Waterways Conservation Officer for 12 years and Deputy Information Officer for 18. He often assisted POWA by being the main photographer during conferences, often sending his work to be

published in PowWow and online for the organization's benefit.

Mary Therese Biebel, longtime Times Leader lifestyles reporter, said one of Don's favorite subjects to photograph was nature, and he liked to hike, go boating, ride a bicycle and go cross-country skiing.

Fellow photographer Charlotte Bartizek recalled Don as "the consummate photo perfectionist" who "won a heck of a lot of photojournalist prizes over the years."

"Don was one of the funniest persons to work with in the TL photo department and had us laughing through some sad situations. He was an inspiration to the disabled and anyone who saw him work, drive his car and ride his bike," Bartizek added.

Times Leader photographer Aimee Dilger said that Carey was well-liked and that people in the community frequently have asked how he was doing in retirement.

"Don was a great sports and wildlife photographer," Dilger said. "He always came back with a unique moment or great peak action shot."

Some information in this article previously ran in the Wilkes-Barre Times Leader.

PowWow

Spring/Summer 2019

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www.paoutdoorwriters.com

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Member contributors to this issue:

Brad Isles, Caleb Ritenour, Tom Tatum, Bob & Linda Steiner, Tyler Frantz, Paula Piatt, Doyle Dietz, Jeff Wolesslagle, John Allen, Marshall Nych, Tim Flanagan.

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President's Message

by Tyler Frantz

"Service with a smile" was a mantra I learned early in adolescence while working the checkout counter at Red Lion Café. Though I couldn't yet drive to work, the convenience of walking to this restaurant, for its proximity to my family's farm in Schuylkill County, made it a logical choice for a first job.

People skills, work ethic and the merits of providing quality performance in a respectful and courteous fashion were ingrained in my young mind in that workspace, and I'm thankful for those life lessons I still apply today.

Coincidentally, it was years later in that very café where Dennis Scharadin, our recently retired Executive Director, sipped coffee while generously discussing the blessings and challenges of outdoor journalism with an ambitious young freelancer hoping to break into the writing field. That budding greenhorn was yours truly.

One of the most critical pieces of wisdom Dennis conveyed – beyond not quitting my day job – was the importance of joining POWA, and upon doing so – being active.

"You'll get the most out of this organization if you put something back into it," he advised. "Attend the conferences, network and volunteer to do things. It'll pay off."

Heeding Dennis's sage words, I joined in 2013, and his advice proved fruitful time and time again. Relationships formed at POWA events developed into writing gigs in well-respected publications like PA Outdoor News, PA Angler & Boater and PA Game News. Experienced, talented writers I'd always admired shook my hand with words of encouragement and helped steer me in the right direction.

I gained new personal and professional friendships, acquired story material from knowledgeable Supporting Members and was able to hunt and fish new locations in the state I likely never would have experienced otherwise. In time, I even began to win a few awards for my determined efforts to make something of myself.

Following Dennis's exemplary model of service to POWA, I volunteered to join

some committees, helping wherever I could to give back to the amazing organization that provided so many opportunities for me.

Reciprocation also is why I agreed to run for 2nd VP a few years ago, a position which ultimately led to this current presidency – a great honor and capacity in which I am thrilled to serve.

POWA means a lot to me, and it's important (for all of us) that our beloved association continues to thrive.

That said – it's going to be a busy year. If our board hopes to get everything on our growing laundry list accomplished, we'll need your help. Committees are currently being revamped, and you may be asked to assist in various capacities with the exciting initiatives we hope to roll out by next spring. If you get that call, I ask you to seriously consider giving a little of your time and talents to serve.

Believe me, I know everyone is busy. Chairing a conference, earning a second master's degree, teaching full time, coaching soccer, welcoming a second child, meeting writing deadlines, and HOPEFULLY squeezing in some hunting and fishing time along the way will accompany my presidency this year, but I'm confident all will come together in the end. It always does.

If POWA has taught me anything, it's that good people can make a difference when contributing to a common cause. Paula is doing a tremendous job as our new Executive Director, we're replenishing our ranks with fresh, enthusiastic talent, and we have plans to expand.

We hope to make our supporting membership more valuable, create a new podcasting category to keep up with the



Contributed Photo

POWA President Tyler Frantz displays a beautiful Schuylkill County whitetail, taken on his family's farm not far from where he was first invited to join POWA.

times, and do a better job of honoring our elders. If you're eager to help see any of these ideas through, please shoot me an email, and I'll gladly add you to the list.

I'd like to thank all who have served in the past and continue to step up when they see a need for POWA. Our past presidents, board members, conference chairmen, and committee members all help make this organization what it is today, and I look forward to seeing it continue to grow.

Lastly, I wish to thank Dennis, specifically, for leading me to POWA, for picking up the café bill that day, and for all he has done for POWA throughout the years.

Like him, I will do my very best to provide service with a smile. Won't you join me?

POWA on the Web

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**Pennsylvania Outdoor
Writers Association**



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Executive Director's Report

by Paula Piatt,
Executive Director

I'm continuing to settle in to the position and learning about the year's calendar as it rolls along. Thank you to the officers, board members and members for reminding me and pointing out "what's next!"

Our 2019 membership renewal period closed and we stand at 141 members. During this period, we lost 14 members for various reasons – since the last report: William Bower, Jeff Buchheit, Jeff Hale, Glen Helgeland, Bob Lollo, John McGonigle and Freddie McKnight. We have added seven new members from September 2018 to present; since the last report: John Buffone (Paula Piatt, sponsor), Thomas Ham (Dave Ehrig, sponsor) and Peter Brookes (Paula Piatt, sponsor).

Membership for supporting members stands at 76). Lost members since September 2018 include: Browning/Winchester Repeating Arms, Gogal Publishing Company, Keystone Trails Association, Kodabow Crossbows, Classic Shotshell Co., RST and onX Hunt. New Supporting members since the last report include: Riversage Productions (Doyle Dietz, sponsor) and Henry Repeating Arms (Nick Sisley, sponsor).

I continue to speak with supporting members to find out how we can make their membership worthwhile. More and more companies are cutting back and in order to keep them involved, we have to make their membership in POWA profitable. The discussions have been good and sometimes our supporting members are simply looking for a little recognition of what they do for the organization. As a group, they bring in almost \$6,500 to this organization a year, but more importantly, they are tremendous resources there for stories. Tearsheets – electronic or good old fashion paper – go a long way in supporting our supporting members. We should all start there.

Email newsletters continue to go out every other month. Our open rate is between 55 and 60 percent for these, which is a little more than double national averages for nonprofits. News from

individual, as well as supporting members is welcome. It is especially useful to pass along web links and videos.

POWAPolo shirts: I'm working with a vendor local to my home on these. They will take individual orders and ship shirts to members.

Digital directories and PowWows: After surveying the membership during the renewal process, 27 individual members and 14 supporting members asked to receive the directory digitally. Last year, we printed 250 directories. This year, we will need 176 and can lower the run to 200. For *PowWow*, four members have requested digital editions; I will be canvassing supporting members in the future.

2019 Conference Recap: Tom Tatum did a great job as the local organizer for the Chester County conference, going above and beyond during contract negotiations with the venue. He also put together a wonderful program for both members and their spouses. Each of the three meals and the hospitality suite were sponsored this year, which will help defray some of the cost of the increased venue fees.

Registration at the conference, however, was disappointing, with only 35 members registered (including 2 supporting members). That has been the trend in the last three years – Franklin 2018 (first weekend in May) saw 41 registrations; Grantville 2017 (third weekend), 32 registrants; Sayre 2016 (second weekend), 57 registrants; and Seven Springs 2015 (third weekend), 58 registrants. Particularly disappointing is the lack of supporting member attendance in 2019, although overall support for the



conference from our supporting members is good. This year we had 32 supporting members either donate raffle items or sponsor awards.

I would like to form a working group to look at our supporting member program, suggesting that it include representation from the board, the active membership and the supporting members. The group would look primarily at retention of and services for current members. That will also help with recruitment of new members.

Upcoming conferences:

- 2020, Grantville – I will be getting in touch with a new representative at the Holiday Inn in Grantville to make sure we are set with venue and room contracts. I'll also be working with Chairman Tyler Frantz to help in the planning and organizing.
- 2021, Mercer County – Chairman Marshall Nych and I will be working to organize a site visit.
- 2022, Lehigh Valley – Chairman Mark Demko is organizing a fall 2019 site visit to the Bethlehem area to look in a venue for this conference.

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I will be working with a committee formed to look at possible ways to recognized long-time POWA members who no longer maintain their membership because of retirements, health issues, etc.

The Wildlife Leadership Academy is interested in working with POWA with regard to the young writers coming out of the various summer schools. There have been initial discussions on how we can best support those interested.

New Active Members

Peter Brookes

8044 Sleepy View Lane
Springfield, VA 22153
Phone: 202-437-7936
Email: brookesoutdoors@gmail.com
Sponsor: Paula Piatt

Joseph Faux

242 Baxter Rd.
Montoursville, PA 17754
Phone: 570-435-3487
Email: woodcockhunter@verizon.net
Sponsor: Doyle Dietz

Brian Kightlinger

21815 Zimmerman Rd.
Venango, PA 16440
Email: kighty7@gmail.com
Sponsor: Steve Sorensen

SPONSOR 2 NEW MEMBERS IN 1 YEAR ... AND YOUR NEXT YEAR'S DUES ARE FREE!

Help your professional outdoor media organization; help someone else to benefit from membership in POWA; and help yourself to a free year of membership ... on us.

Where to get applications? POWA individual and supporting member applications are available at www.paoutdoorwriters.com.

Information on the value and benefits of membership is on the website. For more information, contact the Executive Director.

Passing the gavel...



Doyle Dietz Photo

Brad Isles, right, passes the gavel to newly-elected POWA President Tyler Frantz during Saturday night's banquet at the spring conference in West Chester. Isles served as president of POWA from 2017-2019.

2019/20 POWA Committees

Committee	Chair	Liaison
Awards	Brad Isles	Brad Isles
Constitution & Bylaws and Duties Manual...	Caleb Ritenour	Ralph Scherder
Craft Improvement.....	Ben Moyer	Tyler Frantz
Duties Manual.....	Caleb Ritenour	Ralph Scherder
Editorial Review	Terry Brady	Marshall Nych
Ethics.....	Mark Nale	Jeff Wolesslagle
Finance/Budget	John Allen	Jeff Wolesslagle
Financial Auditing.....	Doyle Dietz	Linda Stager
Historical Archives.....	Harry Guyer	Kyle Hey
Media (Technology/Website/Publicity).....	Brad Isles	Tyler Frantz
Membership Audit	Tom Tatum	Ben Moyer
Membership Development.....	John Negich	Ben Moyer
Member Screening	Doyle Dietz	Tyler Frantz
Nominating	Ralph Martone	Brad Isles
Outdoor Education	Kermit Henning	Marshall Nych
Outdoor Press Outings	Mark Demko	Mark Demko
Past Presidents Council.....	Ralph Martone	Brad Isles
Scholarship.....	Jeff Wolesslagle	John Allen
Sports Shows.....	Kermit Henning	Brad Isles
Supporting Member Recruitment	Alex Zidock	Jerry Bush
Supporting Member Rep.....	Randy Ferguson	Jerry Bush
Supporting Member Screening	Don Knaus	Kyle Hey
Ways and Means	Kyle Hey	Marshall Nych

Awards

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Special Worms” by Jeff Wolesslagle, published in Pennsylvania Outdoor Journal, May 2018.

Runner-up – “Ill wind blowing amid this season of change” by Terry Brady, published in Pennsylvania Outdoor News on Nov. 23, 2018.

4. Best Magazine or Regional Newspaper Feature (\$150 and plaque, sponsored by POWA EIC entries) – “Grouse Tracks” by Tim Flanigan, published in the Ruffed Grouse Society Magazine, Winter 2018.

Runner-up – “On the Trail of a Poconos Ghost” by Tyler Frantz, published in Pennsylvania Game News, January 2018.

5. Best Published Newspaper Photo, Color or Black & White (\$150 and plaque, sponsored by POWA Past Presidents) – “Pre-rut’ elk excursion” by Dave Wolf, published in The Dillsburg Banner Aug. 23, 2018.

Runner-up – “America’s bird” by Linda Stager, published in the Williamsport Sun-Gazette on June 1, 2018.

6. Best Published Magazine Photo, Color or Black & White (\$150 and plaque, sponsored by POWA EIC entries) – “Eastern Phoebe” by Mark Nale, published in Pennsylvania Wildlife, Spring 2018.

Runner-up – “Hiding fawn” by Ralph Scherder, published in Pennsylvania Outdoor Journal, October 2018.

7. Best Book Award (\$150 and plaque, sponsored by POWA EIC entries) – “Cable Restraints – The Art of Live-Catch Snares” by Rich Faler.

Runner up – “Why I Hunt & Fish” by John Alan Negich.

8. Best Published Art Award, Color or Black & White (\$150 and plaque, sponsored by the National Rifle Association) – “Spring Gobbler Classics” by Bob Sopchick, Pennsylvania Game News cover, May 2018.

Runner-up – “Close Encounters” by Gerald Putt, Pennsylvania Game News cover, June 2018.

POWA SPECIALTY AWARDS

1. NRA Best of the Best Award (\$500 and plaque, sponsored by the National Rifle Association) – “The Ultimate

Hunting Goal: Building Lifelong Hunters” by Steve Sorensen, published in Deer and Deer Hunting, September 2018.

2. POWA Pass it on Award (\$300 and plaque, sponsored by the National Rifle Association) – “The Ultimate Hunting Goal: Building Lifelong Hunters” by Steve Sorensen, published in Deer and Deer Hunting, September 2018.

Runner-up – “Give the Gift of Hunting” by Charlie Burchfield, published in The Bradford Era on Aug. 9, 2018.

3. Wildlife Conservation Partnership Award (\$250 and plaque, sponsored by the Pennsylvania Game Commission) – “US Fish & Wildlife / LWWD Restoration” by Alex & JoAnne Zidock, Out in the Open Broadcast, Oct. 11, 2018.

Runner-up – “Volunteers fuel stream stewardship in state” by Kyle Hey, published in Pennsylvania Outdoor News on May 25, 2018.

4. Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Raptor Conservation and Eco-Tourism Award (\$200 and a plaque, sponsored by Hawk Mountain Sanctuary) – “Hawk watching season a spectacle not to be missed” by Bob Frye, published at everybodyadventures.com on Sept. 13, 2018.

Runner-up – “The World is our Classroom” published by Cindy Ross in Hawk Mountain News, Autumn 2018.

5. The Pennsylvania Elk Resource Award (\$200 and plaque, sponsored by the Keystone Elk Country Alliance) – “Brawn and bugles – “Chasing Pennsylvania’s wild elk” by Linda Stager, published in the Williamsport Sun-Gazette on Sept. 30, 2018.

Runner-up – “Antler clash – Fall prime-time for Pennsylvania elk viewers” by Ben Moyer, published in the Uniontown Herald Standard on Dec. 21, 2018.

6. Best Action Hunting, Trapping or Fishing Photograph (\$150 and plaque, sponsored by POWA EIC entries) – **6. Best Action Hunting, Trapping or Fishing Photograph (\$150 and plaque, sponsored by POWA EIC entries)** – “Red fox in cable restraint” by Ralph Scherder, published in “Cable Restraints” book.” by Ralph Scherder, published in “Cable Restraints” book.

Runner-up – “Oil Creek Angler” by Tyler Frantz, published in the Pottsville

Republican Herald on May 27, 2018.

7. Best Conference-Related Material Award (\$150 and plaque, sponsored by POWA EIC entries) – “PA Outdoor Writers Conference” by Alex and JoAnne Zidock, Out in the Open TV, broadcast on June 28, 2018.

Runner-up – “Oil Region’s best: Bass” by Doyle Dietz, published in the Pottsville Republican Herald on June 3, 2018.

8. Best Published Pennsylvania Fishing Or Boating Related Newspaper Photo, Color Or Black & White (Framed Ned Smith “Sting of the Hook” art print with brass plate acknowledging the winning entry, sponsored by the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission) – “Spinning a plan for more trout” by Ralph Scherder, published in New York Outdoor News on March 9, 2018.

Runner-up – “A mental fishing panorama” by Jerry Bush, published in North East News Journal on April 20, 2018.

9. Don Heckman - Tell the Story Award (\$150 and plaque, sponsored the Pennsylvania Chapter of the NWF) – “Prescribed fire proves beneficial for turkey habitat” by Kyle Hey, published in Pennsylvania Outdoor News on June 22, 2018.

Runner-up – “Snap Count Toms” by Marshall Nych, published in Pennsylvania Outdoor News, April 2018.

10. Handloading Promotion Award for Broadcast Media (\$150 and plaque, sponsored by Redding Reloading) – No award.

11. Handloading Promotion Award for Electronic Media (\$150 and plaque, sponsored by Redding Reloading) – “Tinkering” by Marshall Nych, published at bucktailoutdoors.com, Summer 2018.

12. Handloading Promotion Award for Print Media (\$150 and plaque, sponsored by Redding Reloading) – “The advantages of handloading” by Wade Robertson, published in The Bradford Era on Oct. 27, 2018.

Runner-up – “Copper: Breaking with tradition” by Charlie Burchfield, published in The Bradford Era on Sept. 27, 2018.

13. Outdoor Blog Entry Award (\$150 and a plaque, sponsored by POWA EIC entries) – “Gift of a Mentor” by Kyle Hey, published at bucktailoutdoors.com,

Continued on next page...

Chautauqua winners...



Brad Isles Photo

Dave Barus, center, presents Wade Robertson, left, and Tyler Frantz, right, with awards from the Chautauqua County Visitors Bureau 2018 Outdoor Media Writing Contest. Frantz won first place for his piece "Endless Opportunities" while Robertson collected second and third place honors for "Big Bucks of the Southern Tier" and "Fishing Adventure on Lake Erie," respectively.

Continued from previous page...

May 2018.

Runner-up – "Good run" by Bob Ford, published at Lion Country Supply on Aug. 23, 2018.

14. Pennsylvania Trappers Award (\$150 and plaque, sponsored by the Pennsylvania Trappers Association) – "Cable Restraints – The Art of Live-Catch Snares" by Rich Faler.

Runner-up – "The value of modern day trapping" by Charlie Burchfield, published in The Bradford Era on Oct. 4, 2018.

15. Trout and the Coldwater Resource Award (\$150 and plaque, sponsored by Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited) – "PF&BC's stream surveys expose wild trout populations" by Ralph Scherder, published in Pennsylvania Outdoor News on Aug. 31, 2018.

Runner-up – "Place of Two Streams" by Marshall Nych, published in Pennsylvania Angler & Boater, March/April 2018.

16. Lantz Hoffman White-Tailed Deer Award (\$150 and plaque, sponsored by Karen Wolf) – "Curtain Call" by Bob Sopchick, published in Pennsylvania Game News, November 2018.

Runner-up – "Deer herds aided by selective antlerless harvests," by Tim Flanagan, published at nrhlf.org on Jan. 7, 2018.

17. Wildlife Art Award (\$150 and plaque, sponsored by Ned Smith Center for Nature and Art) – "Not breakfast at Tiffany's" by Gerald Putt.

18. Young Trees Habitat Award (\$150 and plaque, sponsored by the Allegheny Chapter of the Ruffed Grouse Society) – "Managing Habitat for Grouse" by Ralph Scherder, published in Ohio Valley Outdoors, July 2018.

Runner-up – "West Nile Virus affects ruffed grouse decline" by Tyler Frantz, published in the Pottsville Republican Herald on April 29, 2018.

19. Youth Fishing Award (\$150 and plaque, sponsored by Expositions, Inc.) – "What one small fish can mean..." by Ben Moyer, published in Pennsylvania Outdoor News on Oct. 26, 2018.

Runner-up – "Memories of fishing with Uncle Bud" by Don Feigert, published in The (Sharon) Herald on May 5, 2018.

20. Youth and the Hunting/Shooting Sports Award (\$150 and plaque, sponsored by the National Shooting Sports Foundation) – "Through the Smoke – Flintlock Lessons Learned" by Marshall Nych, published in Pennsylvania Game News, January 2018.

Runner-up – "Youth trap prospers" by Doyle Dietz, published in the Pottsville Republican Herald on April 29, 2018.

POWA members claim OWAA craft awards

The Outdoor Writers Association of America recognized the good work presented by fellow POWA members during its recent annual conference held in Little Rock, AR in June.

Winning OWAA Excellence in Craft awards were:

Newspaper/News Website Contest

Fishing Category

First place: Ben Moyer, "Cutthroat Adventure: Packhorse and saddle reach remote fishing," Uniontown Herald-Standard

Third place: Terry Brady, "Surfside: Introducing the old to new ways," Pennsylvania Outdoors News

Blog Contest

Conservation or Nature Category

Third place: Bob Frye, "Green herons fascinating, tool-wielding water birds," EverybodyAdventures

Gear/Technical Category

Third place: Bob Ford, "Chilling," Beagle Bard blog

Hunting or Shooting Sports Category

First place: Bob Ford, "Black Powder Bunnies," Beagle Bard blog

Second place: Bob Ford, "Good Run," Lion Country Supply blog

Third place: Bob Frye, "Blind hunter takes his first deer on a memorable opening day," EverybodyAdventures

Column Contest

Overall Category

Second place: Terry Brady, Pennsylvania Outdoors News

OPT-IN TO RECEIVE NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL

If you are interested in receiving PowWow electronically as a downloadable file rather than a printed copy via postal service, please inform Executive Director Paula Piatt.

She can be reached at
ppiatt@paoutdoorwriters.com.

Conference

from page 1

right here in Chesco, so I did just that.

More often than not, the location of these conferences tends to be more centrally located in the middle of the state to facilitate folks travelling from the Commonwealth's hinterlands, Maryland, Ohio and New York (next year's conference is in Harrisburg/Hershey). One concern in deciding to hold the conference here was our location deep in the state's southeastern corner which might discourage folks from places like Erie and Pymatuning from attending. Nonetheless, the event drew almost 50 POWA members which was about average.

As I soon learned, putting together a conference like ours can be a daunting task with a bushel of pieces to squeeze into the puzzle.

Fortunately, I received critical help along the way starting with Bradford County's Paula Piatt, POWA's freshly minted Executive Director who spent weeks wrangling the details of our contract with the West Chester Quality Inn which served as home base for the conference.

Courtney Babcock and Nina Kelly of Brandywine Valley Tourism (aka Chester County Conference and Visitors Bureau), were also vital components in planning and executing the conference.

Like them, another cog in the conference wheel was Chester County Waterway's Conservation Officer Bob Bonney of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission. Officer Bonney helped arrange a number of fishing excursions for our folks on Friday. Many thanks to Bob for his contributions.

Thursday afternoon I helped man the registration desk as about half the participating members arrived. That evening we hopped over to Timothy's Restaurant where we discovered that Manager Christine Eck had just initiated the Thursday night special, all you can eat snow crab legs, a meal enthusiastically enjoyed by many members.

When the outdoors activities kicked in Friday morning, one writer went bass fishing on the Susquehanna Flats hosted by tournament fisherman Derick Olson.

With the professional angler coaching him, our writer caught about 20 bass with a few stretching to six pounds. Three of



Brad Isles Photos

Above, Deborah Milliron details the good work being accomplished by Hunters Sharing the Harvest across Pennsylvania during Saturday's Breakout at the Lenfest Center at ChesLen Preserve in West Chester. Below left, Nina Kelly and Courtney Babcock of Brandywine Valley Tourism greet POWA members and welcome them to Chester County. Below right, Randy Ferguson speaks about Ernst Seeds' offerings.



our writers fished for wild brown trout on Valley Creek hosted by folks from the Valley Forge Chapter of Trout Unlimited (thank you, Joe Armstrong), and each one caught fish. The most ambitious anglers were six writers who tried for the elusive muskie on Marsh Creek Lake, courtesy of Tom Long of Chapter 50 of Muskies Inc.

The hard-working Long hosted one excursion in the morning and another that afternoon, taking along three writers on each foray. Muskies are challenging and tough, and although no one hooked up with a fish that day, they still had a few follows

and glimpsed a muskie or two before the fish shied away.

Spring gobbler hunting is normally on the outdoors agenda at any POWA conference, but after checking with our local Game Warden Keith Mullin, I learned that talking turkey at this conference (due to the lengthy drive to good turkey habitat on public lands) just wouldn't be practical. But if our guys wanted to hunt birds I could still make it happen via a birding expedition to Longwood Gardens where they could stalk our feathered friends

See CONFERENCE, page 10

High dose of healthy bass on the menu

By Jeff Woleslagle
POWA 2nd Vice President

Another POWA spring conference has come to pass and as always, it was a great one. For me, the conference kicked off on Thursday night with the Dutch Treat dinner at Timothy's. It was great to reconnect with everyone and the all-you-can-eat snow crab legs were the main feature for many of us.

Feeling more than satiated, it was time to head back to the hotel and continue fishing conversations at the hospitality suite. I had the opportunity to chat at length with Dave Barus of the Chautauqua Lake region of New York and it was soon apparent that he had much to share and knows his way around the water.

In the morning I was off to fish the Susquehanna Flats with FLW Costa Series angler Derick Olson. I was more than thrilled to find out I had gotten my selected trip on Thursday while at the registration table. He arrived early, and the morning weather was perfect.

As we made our way from West Chester to those fabled Maryland waters, I knew beyond a doubt it was going to be a great day. We stopped for ice and sandwiches and then it was off to the launch. There was an FLW BFL tournament scheduled for the flats on Saturday so many anglers were on the water and the launch was busy, but it wasn't long until we were skimming across the water in Derick's Ranger bass boat at well over 70 miles-per-hour.

When we arrived at the first spot he wanted to try, there was already another boat in front of us fishing along the sea wall. Derick just said, "Doesn't matter really, we'll catch 'em." It is that kind of cool confidence that has led Derick to the tournament winner's circle before.

I started with a black jig, but we didn't get too far before he slammed his rod back into a solid three-pound largemouth. "Ever fish a drop-shot?" he asked. I was a little embarrassed to admit that I had not yet added the technique to my bass fishing arsenal, but he soon had me rigged up and it didn't take long to get a feel for it. I caught a solid two-pounder almost immediately.

As we worked our way along the sea walls Derick picked up another solid bass



Contributed Photos

Above, FLW Costa Series angler Derick Olson shows off one of the fine bass he caught while fishing with POWA 2nd Vice President Jeff Woleslagle on the Susquehanna Flats. Below, Woleslagle displays a dandy of his own.

and I landed a channel catfish. As we continued along that stretch of seawall, I pitched my rig to the edge of some brush protruding from the edge and saw my line move sideways. I reeled frantically to catch up and was unable to get a solid hook set. A giant bass surged beside the boat and Derick said, "I'm going to get the net for that one." I knew this one was easily six pounds plus and might have been my personal best, but it wasn't to be. A good headshake on the surface and just like that, he came unbuttoned.

I didn't lick my wounds long though, as I went on to land a solid four pounder and then one close to five. We caught fish in many of the places we stopped, and Derick topped off the day with a five and half pounder before we had to head back to the launch. It was awesome to spend time on the water with someone who fishes at that level and to say I learned a tremendous amount would truly be an understatement. I hope to return the favor and take Derick fishing on the Juniata River this summer.

The Friday night barbecue at the Brandywine Red Clay Alliance Myrick Conservation Center was outstanding and provided some fun in the form of knife and tomahawk throwing.

As always, the craft improvement sessions Saturday morning were excellent. Derek Stoner of the PA Game Commission and Tim Schaeffer, the new Executive Director of the PA Fish & Boat Commission, both provided our group with valu-



able insight into the current work of both agencies. The panel discussion on outdoor writing secrets of success featuring Tyler Frantz, Steve Sorensen, Joe Byers and Marshall Nych was packed with relevant information that will aid any outdoor communicator. Joe Byers session on crossbow hunting explained a great deal about the different bows on the market and how to hunt with them effectively.

From there it was off to lunch, a hayride, and the membership meeting at the beautiful Natural Lands' ChesLen Preserve. The awards banquet back at the hotel on Saturday evening was fantastic as always.

The conference was certainly one to be remembered and my hat is off to Tom Tatum and Paula Piatt and everyone else involved in conference planning for a great time in wonderful West Chester.

Conference

from page 8

with cameras rather than shotguns. About half a dozen members did just that. One highlight of their excursion was watching (and photographing) their naturalist guide catch and band a bluebird.

Friday night featured a barbecue (sponsored by the NRA) at the Brandywine Red Clay Alliance (BRCA) Myrick Conservation Center, and graciously hosted by BRCA President and CEO Jim Jordan. Jordan shared extensive information about the important work his organization does in preserving waterways and promoting educational programs and summer camps. A fantastic dinner provided by the Northbrook Market Caterer was followed by a friendly knife and ax throwing competition. Thankfully everyone lived to tell about it.

Following the barbecue, members made a short drive over to our Northbrook home to hold their POWA Board of Directors Meeting while my wife Patti and I hosted a reception with drinks and snacks. A few members also took advantage of our backyard pond and hooked up with a few largemouth bass.

On Saturday morning the group got down to business with a series of seminars starting with Pennsylvania Game Commission Hunter Outreach Coordinator Derek Stoner whose presentation "Mentoring: Making the Most of First Outdoors Experiences" was well received. Next up, with a focus on craft improvement, a panel of top notch outdoor writers shared their secrets of success. They were followed by archery enthusiast Joe Byers whose program, "Crossbow Hunting – Expanding Your Horizons" included some exciting video of a hunt for dangerous game in Africa. The seminar sessions concluded with an appearance by recently installed Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission Executive Director Tim Schaeffer who took questions throughout his presentation concerning the many challenges his agency faces. Many who didn't attend the seminar sessions engaged in spouses' tours of QVC, the Brandywine River Museum, Longwood Gardens and King of Prussia Mall.

That afternoon we travelled to the Lenfest Center at Natural Lands' ChesLen Preserve for a delicious luncheon again



Brad Isles Photos

Kirsten Werner, Natural Lands' senior director of communications, presents a comprehensive program detailing her organization's history and its mission to preserve open space in southeastern Pennsylvania at the Lenfest Center at ChesLen Preserve during Saturday's Breakout. Below, Dave Barus of the Chautauqua County Visitors Bureau details the myriad outdoor opportunities available in New York's Southern Tier.



provided by Northbrook Market and sponsored by the Chester County Conference and Visitors Bureau.

POWA supporting members Ernst Conservation Seeds, Chautauqua County Visitors Bureau and PA Hunters Sharing the Harvest were also on hand to offer information about the great work they do. After lunch, Natural Lands' Senior Director of Communications Kirsten Werner, who hosted the event, presented a comprehensive PowerPoint program detailing her organization's history and its mission to preserve open space in southeastern Pennsylvania. She also arranged an awesome hayride tour of the property which was followed by POWA's Annual Business Meeting. A social hour

and awards banquet where members were recognized in a number of categories with Excellence in Craft Awards capped off the conference on Saturday night. A tasty dinner provided by The Meat House Caterers and sponsored by the National Shooting Sports Foundation was followed by our traditional fundraising raffle.

In the end, our conference weekend was blessed with spectacular weather, great food, and comfortable collegiality. Writers, artists, photographers and broadcasters who attended were set to return home with a boatload of story ideas profiling all the wonderful outdoorsy activities available right here in the Brandywine Valley.

In the interest of full disclosure, yours truly got shut out in each and every awards category Saturday night. But the fact that the entire event went off seamlessly and without a hitch and received high marks from all who attended was really all the reward I needed.

My unbridled gratitude goes out to the legion of folks who pitched in to make this conference such a rousing success. Many thanks to all.

A version of this column originally appeared in West Chester's Daily Local News.

PGC uses R3 model to boost hunter ranks

By Tyler Frantz
POWA President

“Pennsylvania is a hunting powerhouse.”

Those were the words of PGC Hunter Outreach Coordinator Derek Stoner while recently describing hunting in the Keystone state to members of the Pennsylvania Outdoor Writers Association during the organization’s annual conference in West Chester.

He had the stats to back it up, too: highest overall turkey harvest; highest number of turkey hunters; highest number of bear hunters; highest number of bowhunters; top five for total antlered buck harvest; number two for antlerless harvest; second highest total number of hunters overall; and the list goes on.

Despite the PGC graduating 40,000-plus hunter education students per year, hunter ranks continue to dwindle to a shadow of what they once were, not only here, but nationwide. So the Game Commission is getting creative with how it plans to engage lapsed hunters, as well as bring new hunters to the fold.

The agency adopted the national R3 model of recruitment, retention, and reactivation and is trying some new approaches to garner the attention of former and potential hunters in an effort to boost license sales.

It recently hired well-known TV personality, turkey calling champion, and Pennsylvania native Matt Morrett as marketing director, and is launching a video campaign to highlight the work of the Commission both to hunters and non-hunters alike.

“We’re really putting an intentional focus on mentoring new, first-generation adult hunters,” Stoner said. “The millennial generation (22 to 37 years-old) comprises more than 95 million individuals, making it the largest generation in US history. Great interest in the “Locavore Movement” means



Brad Isles Photo

Pennsylvania Game Commission Hunter Outreach Coordinator Derek Stoner speaks to POWA members about the PGC’s efforts to recruit, retain and reactivate hunters in Saturday’s seminar session during the spring conference.

that wild game meat is highly desired by a large audience of potential new hunters, and we want to tap into that interest pool.”

He mentioned that while the Commission puts a lot of effort into recruiting youth hunters, especially through its popular mentor program, less than 15 percent of youth hunter education class graduates are still purchasing a license five years later.

“Kids have a lot of obstacles to get into hunting, especially if they don’t have a hunting parent. Sports and other extra-curriculars, time, money and transportation all can hold them back from getting afield,” Stoner said.

“But those obstacles aren’t as restrictive to 22 year-old college grads with newly discovered time and money on their hands. They can drive, they are interested, and they might want to give hunting a try. We’re keying in on this population.”

He also explained that 12 percent of Pennsylvania hunters are women, and this number continues to grow.

“There are a lot of different ways to bring new hunters into the fold rather than the traditional family approach. There are instances where female hunters are mentoring other female friends. One of our turkey photo contest participants from

last year made mention that she recruited her husband as a new hunter, so it’s not always a father or grandfather teaching their children or grandchildren how to hunt,” Stoner explained.

In partnership with Quality Deer Management Association, the PGC plans to offer a new Mentor Training Program modeled after the national QDMA Field to Fork program, in which existing hunters can be trained and certified to bring other hunters to the field.

It also is exploring a digital mentoring program with the Powderhook app, where hunters can sign up to be mentored or become a mentor, offering suggestions, answering questions and serving as an on-line sounding board for those just breaking into the sport for the first time.

“It’s really a matter of engagement,” Stoner said. “Hunters really are blessed here in the state of Pennsylvania with some really exceptional opportunities, and we just need more people to continue to take advantage of those offerings by joining or returning to our hunting ranks.”

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A version of this article can also be read on www.outdoornews.com/Pennsylvania-Keystone-State-of-Mind-Blog.

Supporting Member News

Bald Eagle Creek restoration kickstarts proposed Wildlife Center

The Wildlife for Everyone Foundation will initiate the first enhancement to its proposed Wildlife Center, slated for construction in the Tom Ridge Wetlands along old Route 220 South in Huston Township, Centre County.

The restoration project had been delayed for one year due to high water levels caused by record rainfall throughout the summer and fall of 2018.

Movement of big construction equipment was impossible due to the excessive water and deep mud. The restoration of 600 feet of Bald Eagle Creek began the week of July 22.

"This long-awaited project will set the wheels in motion for the development of the Wildlife Center," said Susan Hawthorne, executive director of the Wildlife for Everyone Foundation. The first phase will include the development of a one-mile ADA-compliant walking trail, observation/viewing areas, accessible fishing platform and education pavilion. The restoration will improve fish habitat by creating deep water and cover for the fish and reduce the bank erosion where the accessible fishing platform will be constructed."

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's program, *Partners for Fish and Wildlife*, is funding the effort that will eliminate stream bank erosion and improve the quality of fish habitat.

Bald Eagle Creek is stocked with trout and is a very popular fishing destination. In addition to trout, the creek supports small mouth bass, rock bass, white suckers, catfish and other fishable species.

Contact the Wildlife for Everyone Foundation office by calling 814-238-8138 or visit www.wildlifeforeveryone.org.

POWA Budget

By John Allen, POWA Treasurer

<u>Account Description</u>	<u>Approved 18-19</u>	<u>Proposed 19-20</u>
Active Members' Dues	8,240	8,160
Supporting Members' Dues	6,500	7,400
Merchandise Sales	50	400
Awards Income	5,000	5,000
General Contribution	-	-
Conferences (Net)	2,310	3,020
Miscellaneous	-	-
REVENUES	\$22,810	\$23,270
Member Awards	5,100	4,600
Executive Dir. Stipend	10,200	10,500
Plaque Expenses	1,000	1,200
Pow Wow (Print/Edit)	3,500	3,300
Website Expenses	50	50
Membership Directory	850	850
Postage, General	700	600
Office Expenses	650	650
Marketing	-	-
Merchandise Expense	-	250
Insurance	505	540
Professional Fees	100	100
Credit Card Fees	155	180
Interim Board Meeting	-	-
Travel	-	450
Miscellaneous	-	-
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$22,810	\$23,70
Net Increase/(Deficit)	-	-

Treasurer's Report

By John Allen, POWA Treasurer / Expenditures as of April 30, 2019

<u>Income Accounts</u>	<u>Budget 18-19</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>
Active Members' Dues	8,240	8,010	97
Supporting Members' Dues	6,500	7,100	109
Merchandise Sales	50	153	306
Craft Award Income	5,000	4,330	87
General Contribution	-	345	-
Spring Conference Income (Net)	3,020	-	-
TOTAL INCOME	\$22,810	\$22,354	98%
<u>Expense Accounts</u>	<u>Budget 18-19</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>
Executive Dir. Stipend	10,200	5,950	58
Pow Wow (Print/Edit)	3,500	2,189	63
Member Awards	5,100	-	-
Membership Directory	850	-	-
Plaque Expenses	1,000	1,066	107
Office Expenses	650	609	94
Postage, General	700	425	61
Insurance	505	540	107
Credit Card Fees	155	169	109
Professional Fees	100	-	-
Website Expenses	50	-	-
Miscellaneous	-	334	-
Travel	-	77	-
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$22,810	\$11,451	50%
Net Income	0	\$10,995	

Cash Accounts as of April 30, 2019: General Fund, \$45,720; Youth Education Fund, \$2,425; Scholarship Fund, \$53,518; Jacquelin Knight CD, \$14,436; Emergency Fund, \$9,193; Northwest CD, \$20,000. Total Cash Accounts: \$145,292.

Market News

Strung Magazine is a quarterly print magazine with distribution throughout North America and beyond. Strung is dedicated to mindful outdoor living with a focus on responsible fly-fishing, hunting, adventure sports, yoga, conservation and food/drink. Submissions for both print features and online-only blog/social media content are acceptable. Compensation depends on quality/quantity of the submission and type of licensing allowed. All submissions should be sent to editor@StrungMag.com; www.strungmag.com.

Game News magazine is accepting queries now for “Me-and-Joe”-type spring gobbler hunting stories for spring 2019 issues of the magazine. Photo support is important and writers can query the Game Commission at rdangelo@pa.gov.

Bowhunter is a bimonthly magazine that covers hunting big and small game with bow and arrow. The editors say, “We are a special-interest publication, produced by bowhunters for bowhunters, covering all aspects of the sport. Material included in each issue is designed to entertain and inform readers, making them better bowhunters.” The magazine pays \$100-\$500 for nonfiction pieces of 250-2,000 words. Potential writers should query first.

The editorial goal of **Trapper & Predator Caller** magazine is to inform, educate and entertain readers with articles, photographs and illustrations that promote trapping and predator calling. Highest consideration will be given to stories focused on methods and equipment used in trapping, calling or hunting. Historical pieces, personality profiles and unusual experience stories are also acceptable. Feature stories should be between 1,500 and 2,500 words. Content is scheduled six months to a year in advance, so please take that into consideration, especially for stories where the time of year is important to the relevance of the article.

Email queries are preferred. Photographs are required with submissions and good photography can mean the difference between acceptance and rejection. Send queries, manuscripts and photos to: Jared

Blohm, managing editor, at jared.blohm@fwmedia.com.

Northern Woodlands’ audience consists of conservation-minded people with an interest in all aspects of the forests of the Northeast. Articles and columns range in scope, and may include subjects such as woodlot management, wildlife species, scat, chainsaw maintenance, woodworking and reflections on natural landscapes.

The first step is to submit a query. Send a short email to introduce yourself and briefly summarize the topic you are interested in covering. Please submit clips (no more than three) if you have them. The magazine will email you back if interested. Once you know the magazine is interested in your topic, email your pitch with a clear idea of what your story will cover, including an outline for covering this subject. Once your pitch is reviewed and accepted, you’ll write your story with a deadline, word count and any other necessary parameters.

“Knots and Bolts” (200-700 words) covers a wide range of subjects. Feature articles run from 1,000 to 3,000 words. The magazine is published on March 1, June 1, September 1, and December 1. Be aware of the seasonal aspect of your material.

Email Patrick at patrick@northernwoodlands.com or learn more at www.northernwoodlands.org/issues/writers-photographers.

The Contemporary Sportsman is a quarterly online magazine devoted to people who share a serious passion for fly-fishing and wingshooting. Feature articles have the foundation of a fly-fishing and/or wingshooting experience, but the copy and photographs exhibit the adventure in a three dimensional level. The reader should feel the experience, hear, see and taste peripheral issues like food, wine, art, history, ecology, friendship, humor and culture. Emphasis is not on techniques or technologies or product reviews.

Each quarterly publication has at least three feature articles about fly-fishing (fresh or salt) and/or wingshooting. An average feature contains 2,500 to 3,000 words. Short sidebars can be used to provide additional details. Feature articles

should be heavily supported with photos.

Please submit an email to query. Prospective authors and photographers are contacted once the year’s editorial outline is tentatively scheduled. The editor will send a feature proposal to reiterate exactly what is expected in terms of substance, style, length, sidebars, deadlines and request a response in outline form. Contact Jim Stenson, publisher/managing editor, The Contemporary Sportsman, 4362 Byron Avenue North, Mobile, AL 36609; jim@integrateddigitalpublishing.com.

Sierra is a bimonthly national magazine publishing writing, photography and art about the natural world. Sierra seeks articles on significant environmental and conservation issues, adventure travel, nature, self-propelled sports and trends in green living. Feature lengths range from 2,000 words to 4,000 words.

The following sections of the magazine are open to freelancers. Articles are 250 to 1,000 words in length: “Enjoy” is organized according to these sections: “Mixed Media” offers readers approximately 600-word reviews of feature films, documentaries, television shows, pop music and books with some sort of environmental bent, including short 250-word book reviews; “Taste Test” is a palate-clearing survey in which a writer tries out a handful of foods/beverages and reports on both the appeal and ecofriendliness of each.

Articles for the “Explore” department evocatively and succinctly describe superlative wild places while delving into the many ways in which anyone can enjoy them. “Explore” is organized according to these sections: “Trailhead,” a short vignette of approximately 750 words about a meaningful experience in the outdoors; “Survive,” a graphically illustrated retelling of outdoor adventures gone wrong; and “Gear,” product reviews for adventure travelers and the outdoor enthusiast. “Protect” focuses on environmental issues of national or international concern. Regional issues are considered when they have national implications. Learn more at <https://www.sierraclub.org/sierra/about-us>.

Color correction of hunter orange clothing

By Tim Flanigan
Craft Improvement

When photographing any licensed outdoor activity, it is vitally important that human subjects be clad in the proper amount of lawfully-required clothing, handling their gear correctly and safely and if on a watercraft, wearing a life preserver.

Upland hunters and big-game hunters are commonly required to be clad in a certain amount of “Daylight Fluorescent Orange” clothing such as a vest and a hat.

For some strange reason, (unknown to me), digital cameras render “hunter

orange” or “fluorescent orange” as *yellow* when it is in direct sunlight, yet record it correctly when the orange clothing is shaded from the sun.

It’s not uncommon to see photos of hunters wearing an orange vest that appears to be half yellow and half orange.

The yellow side was exposed to direct sunlight when the camera’s shutter was tripped.

Such images are commonly published in outdoor magazines. Oddly, we seem to overlook this quirk, but a corrected image is so much more pleasing to the eye than the off-color photo.

Although there exists no available camera setting that will avoid or correct this discoloration quirk. There is, though, a Photoshop remedy technique.

Here’s how:

Select the “Quick Selection Tool” (W) with a single, left-mouse click on the tool icon and set the brush to a very small size using your { } bracket keys. The Quick Selection tool makes a selection by following the edges of the area that you desire to select. In this case, we want to select only the Yellow areas of what should be an orange vest or hat.

Continued on next page...

Of one write stands and one writ wonders

By Marshall Nych
POWA 1st Vice President

At the Spring 2019 POWA Conference, I was honored when asked to present on a “Top Notch Writers Panel.”

Outlined below is most of the writing advice covered that day.

Passion & Conviction – I work three jobs and, far more importantly, am a husband and father. During my limited time allotted for writing, ink is as precious as blood. It should be shed only on topics of the heart. Would my two hours be better spent relaying a hunt with my now-deceased grandfather or bragging how bubbly the state-of-the-art aerator for a minnow bucket? Priorities.

One Write Stands & One Writ Wonders – Avoid them. For a publisher to be one and done with your work, your voice, and your soul is rock bottom. Readership longs for friendship and to recognize a familiar author. Audience craves a long-term relationship with a regular feature or column. To share our work, our art, writers require a platform. The best story in the world would drearily fade to oblivion if it remains unpublished. Do everything you can to connect with publishers and your audience. If the publisher severs the tie, it’s on them.

Rejection – One of the hardest, yet greatest lessons I have learned from writing. A beautiful humbling. A young man, I feared nothing more than that pretty girl laughing in my face. As a writer, I got over that pretty quick. I have found most editors aren’t all that pretty anyway. Send your stuff everywhere to everyone. Eventually, someone will like it. The worst one can do is say no or respond with silence. The nut eventually finds that squirrel.

Hard Work – It is nice to be the smartest one in the room. However, it’s far better to be the hardest worker in the room. Editors want the latter. Icing on the cake if the writer happens to be both. Such authors inspire future generations and offer humanity a refreshing, deep breadth of work. The writer displaying unparalleled work ethic is the one with a job and regular column.

Use Dialogue – It can literally and figuratively give your writing a voice. Dialogue offers a delightful diversion from proper grammar. Play with accents, slang, and popular culture. Personally, though I have heard otherwise in writing workshops, I favor experimenting with words of dialogue other than just “said.”

Stuffing his size two wriggling foot into his boots, my son *stammered*, “Are these proof of mud?”

Witness to the classic hop and

awkward shuffle, I *chuckled*, “Do you mean mud proof?”

Grinning, my son *snapped*, “That’s what I said Dad.”

Deadlines – Treat these creatures with respect, as if they are as severe as their name suggests. As if life depends on it, don’t miss a deadline...EVER!

Writers are Editors – A work should be revised and redacted repeatedly. Some great writers argue a story is never finished. At the very least, do not allow a finished piece to retire until it has stood the test of time and has been read nearly enough to be memorized.

Perspective – Bounce story ideas off of family, friends, loved ones, and complete strangers. I have gained helpful perspective by simply asking for it. It is extraordinary how different stories resonate with different people.

The Craft – Attend conferences, writing workshops, trainings, and other ways to sharpen your skillset. Learning never ceases, the same can be said of craft improvement. Research the rule of 10,000 hours.

Read! – The best writers are avid, voracious readers. Pay attention to anything that forbids you to put the book down – style, sentence structure, vocabulary,

Continued on next page...

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Place the tool's cursor on the various off-color, yellow areas of the vest or coat and the hat. Simply click and drag the cursor generally along the outlines of the area that you desire to correct. NOTE: if the tool's brush size is set quite small, it will readily jump to select the entire outline of the yellow area. Repeat this selection process by clicking and dragging the cursor along the edges of all yellow areas.

With the selections made, click on "Image" on the upper taskbar and select "Adjustments" in the dropdown menu that appears and then select "Hue/Saturation" in the menu that pops out of that menu.

The "Hue/Saturation" dialog box will appear, and you will notice a small icon of a hand with one raised a finger and two opposing arrows icon in the lower left corner of that box. Clicking on that small icon will cause an "eyedropper" symbol to appear. Slide it onto any/all of the selected yellow areas and click the left mouse button one time to select each area.

That click will cause the word "yellows" to appear in the menu box's small upper left window. This indicated that any adjustments that you make with the Hue – Saturation – Lightness sliders will only affect the selected yellow areas.

Now, slide the "Hue" adjustment slider to the left until the proper color/shade of orange returns to the image. Sliding the adjustment to the left causes the numerical indicator to show digits in the minus range. Most yellow corrections are sufficient at about -25 or less.

Click "OK" in the "Hue/Saturation" dialog box, and your image is corrected. Save it and smile.

See more of Tim Flanigan's work at www.NatureExposure.com.



Tim Flanigan Photos

As illustrated in the photos on the left above, it's not uncommon to see images of hunters wearing a vest that appears to be half yellow and half orange. There is a Photoshop remedy technique to fix the discoloration quirk and make the images more accurate and pleasing to the eye, as shown in the images to the right.

Continued from previous page...

well-developed characters, etc.

Carve Out Time – There is truth to the motto, "We make time for what we love." Though I'm unwilling to free up some more time by selling my children to gypsies, I do sacrifice social time during lunch breaks and precious sleep to scratch

the itch to write.

Get Out There – Hunt! Fish! Camp! Travel! To write of the outdoors, one should find themselves out of doors.

Let Others In – Each Christmas, I present my year of writing in a bound collection to family and friends. Be it a library, bookstore, local school or coffee

shop, find an avenue to share.

Show Don't Tell – Unlike the Kindergarten Show & Tell where little Billy holds a Teddy Bear and says, "This is Teddy Bear." Our writing should not waste our reader's time. Use senses to introduce setting and action to relay character traits. Take the audience there!

Scharadin's Service...



Retired Pennsylvania Outdoor Writers Association Executive Director Dennis Scharadin, right, is presented with a plaque signifying his years of service to the organization and a gift certificate for a pheasant hunt at Martz's Gap View Hunting Preserve by POWA President Tyler Frantz. (Photo by Doyle Dietz)



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