



POW WOV

Newsletter of the Pennsylvania Outdoor Writers Association

Fall 2021

Tioga County countdown is on

Plans are well under way for the Tioga County 2022 conference, slated for May 18-21.

Committee Chair Don Knaus '06 and committee members Linda Stager '16, Chris Espenshade '18 and Lilace Melin Guignard '20 are planning a great slate of activities and craft improvement/news-

maker sessions.

You all know what a wonderful area Tioga County is, so we've added a day to this conference on the front end, with a full slate of activities on Thursday.

Given the excellent fishing and hunting in the area, as well as the many conservation-based activities, the committee has

opted to add another day, rather than make the members choose between so many things. In terms of the full conference agenda, it will still begin on Thursday evening as usual with a reception and dinner on your own.

Housing at Mansfield University will

See **TIOGA**, page 9



Steve Platt Photo

Excellence in Craft winners recognized at the POWA conference in Mercer County were: Front (l-r) – Ken Hunter, Tyler Frantz, Alex and JoAnne Zidock, Linda Stager, Gerald Putt; Back – Marshall Nych, Charlie Burchfield, Timothy Flanigan and Mark Nale.

POWA recognizes EIC winners

The Pennsylvania Outdoor Writers Association presented the annual Excellence in Craft Awards at its annual banquet meeting on Saturday, July 31. Awards Chair Brad Isles announced first-place awards to 16 individuals in 28 categories. Overall, 37 members submitted a total of 323 entries across a combined 203 categories.

POWA CORE AWARDS

Best Newspaper Column (sponsored by

Bob & Linda Steiner) – “Centre County’s drought leaves wildlife with no place to go” by Mark Nale, published in the Centre Daily Times, August 23, 2020.

Runner-Up: “Birding for the homebound” by Ben Moyer, published in the Uniontown Herald-Standard, April 3, 2020.

Best Newspaper Feature (sponsored by Pennsylvania Hunters Sharing the Harvest) – “Bittersweet Bear” by

See **WINNERS**, page 6

Excellence in Craft Award entry deadline set for Feb. 26

Please study all the category criteria and submission guidelines published in this edition of *PowWow* before submitting entries. There are 29 Craft Awards this year – eight core awards and 21 specialty awards.

There is a \$5 entry fee per category. Please fill out the “Craft Award Entry Form,” add up the total number of *categories* entered and multiply that number by \$5 to calculate the grand total. Submit a single check or money order with the appropriate amount made payable to “POWA” and include it with your entry. Entries not accompanied by the required fee will be disqualified.

Note, poetry will be considered as long as the published poem(s) meet the award requirements.

Contest entries must be postmarked by February 26, 2022. Winners will be announced at the annual POWA Awards Banquet in May.

Entries should be mailed to: Brad Isles, 147 Swain Hill Road, Harmony, PA 16037.

1. All Active, Associate and Life members of POWA in good standing are

See **CONTEST**, page 10

Now is the time to renew membership

This is a reminder that our 2022 membership renewal campaign is now under way. Both individual and supporting members are asked to return their membership renewal information before Dec. 31, 2021.

Next year promises to be another great year for our members, from our long list of member benefits to a great conference scheduled for Tioga County. But first, thank you for your continued support of the Pennsylvania Outdoor Writers Association. As the officers and board of directors worked tirelessly to navigate unprecedented times, it was our membership that kept us going. The emails, letters and phone calls of support were very much appreciated this year.

As we move forward, you can be assured that the POWA leadership is looking ahead. Committees are actively working to find new ways to bring new benefits to your membership, while others are working to bring in new members – both individual and supporting – which will not only keep our organization vibrant and viable, but will also give you more opportunities for networking and friendships.

More people than ever before are discovering the outdoors and all it has to offer. This is a tremendous opportunity for POWA and its members to inform and educate this new audience to enrich not only their lives, but the wildlife resources they are discovering. We cannot, however, do it without your support.

We offer so many benefits including one of the best Excellence in Craft Award programs in the country, our regular news-

letters (both print and email), an active Facebook page and private group with the latest information on members and possible story ideas, the monthly POWA Spotlight Series which highlights two Supporting Members each month via Zoom, our annual conference, set for Tioga County in 2022 and our Outdoor Press Outings program giving members the opportunity to travel up and down the East Coast.

Our annual individual dues remain at \$60 and \$100 for supporting members for 2022. (We've emailed and snail mailed the 2022 form, but if you need another, please contact the POWA office for another copy) You can scan it and email it to info@paoutdoorwriters.com or print it out and mail it to the office, PO Box 885, Sayre, PA 18840.

We can accept checks or money orders (made payable to POWA). We also accept credit cards, although we have had to institute a \$3 surcharge to cover ever-increasing processing cards. You can send your information on the renewal form, or call the POWA office (570-886-1609) to charge your membership over the phone. Please take some time and review your current directory listing and make any changes necessary. You may indicate the changes on your renewal form. Remember to participate in POWA Speaks, a new listing of educational seminars and lectures available from POWA members.

We are looking forward to another great year at POWA. Thank you for your continued support!

PowWow

Fall 2021

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www.paoutdoorwriters.com

PAULA PIATT

POWA Executive Director
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Member contributors to this issue:

John Allen, Peter Brookes, Jerry Bush, Doyle Dietz, Timothy Flanigan, Tyler Frantz, Ben Moyer, Marshall Nych, Paula Piatt, Steve Piatt, Jeff Wolesslagle.

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-or-

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President's Message

by Jeff Wolesslagle

I want to start this message by saying what a great conference we had in Mercer County! My hat is off to all who helped pull it together. I can't adequately express how fantastic it was to gather in person again. The sessions were excellent, and the comradery is always second to none.

I know there are members that I have not yet had the pleasure of spending time with so I thought a brief introduction might be in order. I reside in Perry County with my wife Jodi and our two dogs, Sawyer, and Buck. We have two grown children, Alayna, and Nathan, that we are enormously proud of and we are still not quite used to the empty nest. When not restricted by Covid, I make the daily commute to Harrisburg where I serve as the Chief of Communications for the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' Bureau of Forestry and have been with DCNR for the last 23 years.

When I had my very first article published in 1996, I had no idea that POWA existed. I had recently graduated from Penn State with a Wildlife degree and was working as a seasonal employee for the Pennsylvania Game Commission on the Sichuan pheasant project, which was the topic of the piece.

Though the Sichuan project would prove unsuccessful at returning abundant wild pheasants to the state, my writing did start to flourish. Eleven years ago, coworker, mentor, and close friend Terry Brady encouraged me to join POWA. I saw it as a good fit with my current work for DCNR and eagerly applied to become a member. As soon as I attended that first conference, I knew immediately that I had found a great group of like-minded outdoor communicators. I felt welcomed right from the start and recognized this was a place to learn how to broaden my skill set, not to mention create lifelong friendships.

I guess I've always been a "the glass is half full" kind of person but the weight of a global pandemic can take a toll on anyone's level of optimism. The last year was certainly a difficult one but POWA rose to every challenge and the leadership of past president Marshall Nych, Director of the Board Tyler Frantz, the board, the committees, and executive director Paula Piatt saw many things advance and cross the finish line. The 'Campfire Elders' program to recognize our long-time members, the updates and revisions to the Duties Manual, adding new categories to our awards recognition and categories for membership, and awarding Will Johns and Toyota scholarships are just some of the highlights.

Aside from testing our mettle, the pandemic also brought many new faces to outdoor pursuits and we are seeing a resurgence



that many never expected. Fishing and hunting license sales are increasing for the first time in a long time. Our state forests and state parks saw record levels of usage during the pandemic, and it is a trend that seems to be continuing. We should all work to capitalize on the newly found interest in the things many of us in the organization have always loved. If you know somebody who would be a good fit for POWA, now is the perfect time to reach out and ask them to join our ranks.

POWA is in a good place right now and through the hard work and dedication of our members it will continue to be. I look forward to working with all of you in the coming year.

Wishing you healthy and happy holidays!

**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.

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.

POWA on the Web

Online at www.paoutdoorwriters.com



or
facebook.com/paoutdoorwriters

Executive Director's Report

by Paula Piatt,
Executive Director

Let's welcome in 2022 with the hope that we can get "back to (a new) normal!"

I'm looking forward to another great year with POWA, with some new ideas and new ways to engage our members – both individual and supporting. Looking back at the last 21 months, there have no doubt been many challenges, but POWA's officers and board pulled together, worked hard, thought "outside the box," and I think the organization is better for some of the innovative ideas and changes we've made. My thanks to all who have helped us navigate these unprecedented times.

So we're now looking to 2022... we're back to our spring conference, this year in Tioga County. (More on that in this issue of *PowWow*). Our Press Outings Committee and Chair Mark Demko '89 is back to planning trips for the membership following the cancellations of 2020 and early 2021. The monthly POWA Spotlight will continue the first Thursday of each month, with our supporting members joining us on Zoom with the latest information, products and services. We've started POWA Speaks, a listing of our members who present and educate on all things outdoors.

Our 2022 membership drive is now under way! If you haven't yet returned your information and dues, please do so as soon as possible. As a recap, we went into the 2022 membership drive with 142 individual active, associate and life members; and 71 supporting members. Last fiscal year, we welcomed Todd Bromley, Ryan Furrer, Rick Hynick, George Konetes, Kory Slye and Brian Whipkey as new individual members. So far this year, Ray Hunt has joined us. Our new 2020-21 supporting members included Cutting Edge Game Calls, United Bowhunters of Pennsylvania, Camp Freedom and the Wellsboro Area Chamber of Commerce. This year so far, we've welcomed Visit Clearfield County.

We did lose several supporting members last year, most likely due to COVID and the financial uncertainty surrounding it. We are working with those members, hoping to bring them back to POWA, especially given the tremendous boost we've seen in outdoor activities. Now is a great time to partner with POWA and its members in getting the word (and pictures, video and pixels!) out to the public.

Remember that if you sponsor two or more new members in a fiscal year, your next year's dues are free! Congratulations to Doyle Dietz '88 for his sponsorships of Todd Bromley and Rick Hynick, which earned him free membership for 2022. All the information you need for new members is on our website; of course if you have any questions, let me know.

POWA's scholarship programs grew last year, with the addition of the Toyota Let's Go Places Scholarship. A \$1,000 scholarship from supporting member Toyota '18 can be split between two recipients and covers conference attendance costs; with any extra given to the recipient. Our first recipient, Krista White attended our Mercer County conference, joined in the activities and was



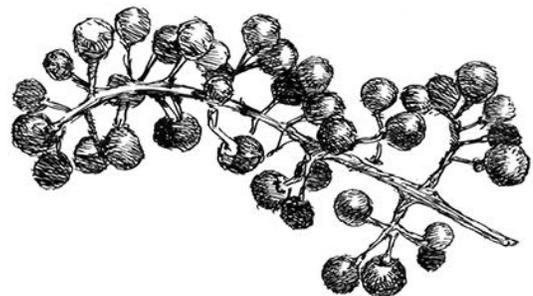
recognized at our annual banquet.

Funds have also been disbursed to our two 2021 Will Johns Scholarship winners, Isako Di Tomassi and Nathan Moyer, both from Penn State. The nomination process for the Will Johns Scholarship begins after the first of the year.

By all accounts, the Mercer County Conference was a success. There were over 40 registered members and we had 60 registered for the Saturday banquet (including guests). The Saturday raffles brought in over \$1,800, thanks to the hard work of Ways and Means Committee Chair Kyle Hey '17 and committee member Ralph Martone '01. It was great to get together again, see old friends and make some new ones!

In 2022, we'll be back at the Great American Outdoor Show in Harrisburg (Feb. 5-13) and the Allegheny Outdoor, Sport & Travel Show in Monroeville (Feb. 18-20). Look for more information in this issue about how you can help. And after a year hiatus, the annual Sportsmen's Auction will return on the final Sunday of the Great American Outdoor Show in Harrisburg.

As usual, we have a lot going on... but if there's something that we're missing, something that will help make your membership more meaningful, please reach out and let me know!



New Active Members



PENNSYLVANIA OUTDOOR WRITERS ASSOCIATION
SPORTING CLAYS & WOBBLE TRAP SHOOT

to benefit the Kermit Henning Youth Education Grant Program

Saturday, April 23
8:30 am – 3 pm

Hosted By
Martz's Gap View Hunting Preserve
Dalmatia, PA



Save the Date!

The POWA Sporting Clays and Wobble Trap shoot is returning in 2022.

Save Saturday, April 23 for a day of shooting, fun and fundraising to support the Kermit Henning Youth education Grant Program.

Once again, Mike Martz at Martz's Gap View Hunting Preserve, Inc. '08 is hosting our event as the main sponsor.

The committee will soon begin work on the day's events. If you'd like to be part of the planning process, contact the POWA office at info@paoutdoorwriters.com.

Changes/Corrections

Returning Member

Winners

from page 1

Tyler Frantz, published in the Pottsville Republican-Herald, March 1, 2020.

Runner-Up: “Mr. Blackpowder” by Doyle Dietz, published in the Pottsville Republican Herald, December 20, 2020.

Best Magazine or Regional Newspaper Column (sponsored by POWA EIC Entries) – “The Why” by Marshall Nych, published in International Game Warden Magazine, Fall 2020.

Runner-Up: “Gratitude for the good in 2020” by Ben Moyer, published in Pennsylvania Outdoor News, December 4, 2020.

Best Magazine or Regional Newspaper Feature (sponsored by Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen and Conservationists) – “High Stakes for Small Game” by Bob Frye, published in NBS Outdoors, Fall 2020.

Runner-Up: “A Peaceful Respite” by Don Feigert, published in Pittsburgh Quarterly, December 2020.

Best Published Newspaper Photo, Color or Black & White (sponsored by POWA Past Presidents) – “Trees” by Linda Stager, published in the Williamsport Sun-Gazette on Feb. 11, 2020.

Runner-Up: “Massive Bull Elk” by Mark Nale, published in the Centre Daily Times on Sept. 27, 2020.

Best Published Magazine Photo, Color or Black & White (sponsored by POWA EIC entries) – “Worm & Woodcock Tug of War” by Timothy Flanigan, published in Texas Wildlife, January 2020.

Runner-Up: “Mist Opportunities” by Christian Shane, Pennsylvania Angler & Boater cover, March/April 2020.

Best Book Award (sponsored by POWA EIC entries) – “Grouse & Woodcock, The Birds of My Life” by Tim Flanigan.

Runner-Up: “Penn’s Woods Passages” by Bob Sopchick.

8. Best Published Art Award, Color or Black & White (sponsored by POWA EIC entries) – “Moonlit Trail” by Bob Sopchick, Pennsylvania Game News cover, March 2020.

Runner-Up: “Bear Run Crossing” by Gerald Putt, Pennsylvania Game News cover, October 2020.

POWA SPECIALTY AWARDS

Pass it on Award (sponsored by PA Environment Digest) – “Oversized Waders and Screwdriver Samwiches” by Christian Shane, published in Fly Culture Magazine, Fall 2020.

Runner-Up: “Priceless Lessons Learned During the Pandemic” by Joe Byers, published at nrahlf.com, June 12, 2020.

Wildlife Conservation Partnership Award (sponsored by the Pennsylvania Game Commission) – “Return of the northern bobwhite quail” by Charlie Burchfield, published in The Bradford Era, March 19, 2020.

Runner-Up: “The Rehabilitation of Lake Julia” by Marilyn Black, published in Pennsylvania Angler & Boater, March/April 2020.

Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Raptor Conservation and Eco-Tourism Award (sponsored by Hawk Mountain Sanctuary) – “Soaring Survey” by Doyle Dietz, published in the Pottsville Republican Herald on July 26, 2020.

Runner-Up: “Idioms of Falconry” by Marshall Nych, published in American Falconry, Summer 2020.

The Pennsylvania Elk Resource Award (sponsored by the Keystone Elk Country Alliance) – “PA Elk Hunt: Hochreither” by Alex & JoAnne Zidock, Out in the Open TV, July 13, 2020.

Runner-Up: “Winter in Elk County” by Linda Stager, published in the Williamsport Sun-Gazette, January 14, 2020.

Best Action Hunting, Trapping Or Fishing Photograph (sponsored by POWA EIC entries) – “Memory Bird” by Timothy Flanigan, published in Shooting Sportsman, September-October, 2020.

Runner-Up: “The Skipper and his Mate” by Tyler Frantz, published in the Pottsville Republican Herald on August 9, 2020.

Best Published Pennsylvania Fishing Or Boating Related Newspaper Photo, Color Or Black & White (sponsored by the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission) – “Adrienne Jackson Stocking Trout” by Mark Nale, published in the Centre Daily Times, May 24, 2020.

Runner-Up: “COVID-19 Cancels Early Trout Season” by Alex Zidock, published in the Journal Herald on April 2, 2020.

Don Heckman - Tell the Story Award (sponsored the Pennsylvania Chapter of the NWTF) – “Three Grand Slams” by

Marshall Nych, published in Pennsylvania Game News, May 2020.

Runner-Up: “Out the Window” by Brian Kightlinger, published in Pennsylvania Game News, April 2020.

Handloading Promotion Award for Electronic Media (sponsored by Redding Reloading) – “Loading your own provides self-reliance” by Charlie Burchfield, published in the Bradford Era e-edition, July 30, 2020.

Runner-Up: None.

Handloading Promotion Award for Print Media (sponsored by Redding Reloading) – “Reloading for the Reluctant” by Mike Raykovicz, published in New York Outdoor News, June 12, 2020.

Runner-Up: “Handloading: Custom loads for every hunter” by Wade Robertson, published in The Bradford Era, December 19, 2020.

Outdoor Blog Entry Award (sponsored by POWA EIC entries) – “Priceless Lessons Learned During the Pandemic” by Joe Byers, published at nrahlf.com, June 12, 2020.

Runner-Up: “Sounds that Spook Deer the Most” by Ralph Scherder, published at bowhunting.com, November 18, 2020.

Pennsylvania Trappers Award (sponsored by the Pennsylvania Trappers Association) – “Beyond Trappers” by Ralph Scherder, published in American Trapper, May-June 2020.

Runner-Up: “Glen Dirk Trapper” by Alex & JoAnne Zidock, Out in the Open TV, June 1, 2020.

Trout and the Coldwater Resource Award (sponsored by Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited) – “Keepers of the Stream: Volunteers Breathe Life into Broken Trout Waters” by Tyler Frantz, published in Pennsylvania Angler & Boater, January/February 2020.

Runner-Up: “Upgrading Glade Run” by Ben Moyer, published in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, November 29, 2020.

Lantz Hoffman White-Tailed Deer Award (sponsored by Karen Wolf) – “Better Late” by Bob Sopchick, published in Pennsylvania Game News, December 2020.

Runner-Up: “Still the King” by Brian Kightlinger, published in Buckmasters Magazine, November 2020.

Continued on next page...

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Wildlife Art Award (sponsored by *Ned Smith Center for Nature and Art*) – “Gold on Gold” by Ken Hunter.

Runner-Up: “Wood Ducks” by Gerald Putt.

Young Trees Habitat Award (sponsored by the *Upland Bird Hunt Chapter of the Ruffed Grouse Society*) – “Out of Balance” by Timothy Flanigan, published in *Covers* magazine, Fall 2020.

Runner-Up: “Hemlocks: Redwoods of the East” by Dave Wolf, published in the *Dillsburg Banner*, June 4, 2020.

Youth Fishing Award (sponsored by *Expositions, Inc.*) – “Pure Gold” by Tyler Frantz, published in *Pennsylvania Angler & Boater*, March/April 2020.

Runner-Up: “Bluegills & Kids, A Fine Combination” by Jerry Bush, published in *New York Outdoor News*, July 10, 2020.

Youth and the Hunting/Shooting Sports Award (sponsored by the *National Shooting Sports Foundation*) – “Buck Fever – How a Youngster Can Beat It” by Steve Sorensen, published in *Deer & Deer Hunting Magazine*, September 2020.

Runner-Up: “Year of the Huntress” by Brian Kightlinger, published at *Global Outdoors*, December 2020.

Archery Award (sponsored by *United Bowhunters of Pennsylvania*) – “Ed Burgholzer, Primitive Bow Maker” by Alex & JoAnne Zidock, *Out in the Open TV*, September 24, 2020.

Runner-Up: “Disabled archers prevail using adaptive gear” by Mike Raykovicz, published in *New York Outdoor News*, August 21, 2020.

Humor Award (sponsored by *POWA EIC entries*) – “Jimbo and Marshall’s Outdoor Adventure” by Marshall Nych, published in *American Falconry*, Fall 2020.

Runner-Up: “Corn Teen” by Rev. Bob Ford, published in *HARK-N*, April 2020. Tyler Frantz, published in the *Pottsville Republican-Herald*, March 1, 2020.

From 2020

Wildlife Art Award (sponsored by *Ned Smith Center for Nature and Art*) – “Turkeys” by Gerald Putt.

Supporting Member News



Contributed Photo

Please join the Pennsylvania Game Commission in congratulating POWA member and Northeast Region Information and Education Supervisor, William Williams '14 (left), who was recently presented with the Pennsylvania Trappers Association's (PTA) 2021 Conservationist of the Year Award for his contributions to wildlife management and support of Pennsylvania trappers.

Chautauqua Visitors Bureau continues contest

The Chautauqua County Visitors Bureau is pleased to remind our supporting outdoor media groups that we are looking for your published work about Chautauqua County Outdoors for our 2021 Outdoor Media Contest. We plan to continue the contest again, as well, for FY2022.

We look for creative outdoor stories about Chautauqua County, NY, that are compelling and can include fishing, hunting, camping, hiking, kayaking, boating, skiing, or anything outdoors, including our grape country – wine tasting, hops farming (microbrews). Submissions are accepted for blogs, printed articles, and/or radio/TV shows published or aired during the contest timeframe.

For 2021, the Chautauqua County

Visitors Bureau Outdoor Media Contest is looking for your published, documented, or aired communications provided to the public between Jan. 1, 2021, and Dec. 31, 2021. The deadline for FY2021 submissions is March 1, 2022. The deadline for the 2022 contest will be March 2023. 2021 Winners will receive cash awards as follows: 1st Place - \$500, 2nd Place - \$250, 3rd Place - \$125.

Email your submissions to Andrew Nixon, nixon@tourchautauqua.com or send by US Mail to Chautauqua County Visitors Bureau, PO Box 1441, Main Gate, Chautauqua, NY, 14722. Call for more info: 716-357-4569

Visit: www.tourchautauqua.com.

Mercer County conference a wild success

By Marshall Nych
2021 Conference Chair

Whether December finds you reaching for rifle and rod or busting out the binocular and boots, POWA has arrived at the closing of another calendar.

As this outdoor-oriented group knows, opportunity abounds! As the 2021 year ends, the wintery words of its concluding chapter fill the final pages. I wanted to take a moment to express the sincerest gratitude for those responsible for a wildly successful and successfully wild conference.

First, the POWA conference in Mercer County would have never been without the organization's fine leadership. From Executive Director Paula Piatt and President Jeff Wolesslagle to the POWA Board and its fearless leader Tyler Frantz, every turn during the conference process was met with kindness, understanding, and flexibility.

Next, POWA would be remiss not to thank its many Supporting members. As the name accurately suggests, their support to sponsor meals and awards at the conference did not go unnoticed. POWA is fortunate to have an active supporting membership at the heart of our organization. Among the list for those who sponsored the conference are National Shooting Sports Foundation and Henry Repeating Arms.

Gratitude should also be extended to POWA's Past President Council and Visit Mercer County (Peggy Mazyck) for sponsoring a meal. The hospitality room, arguably the headquarters for event, would not have run so smoothly without Ryan Nych. The room was sponsored by Expositions Inc and the Allegheny Outdoor Show. Thank you.

I would be remiss not to recognize those brave individuals who took on a leadership role during activities and offered their expertise during presentations. PGC's Larry Hergenroeder's K-9 demonstration with Storm was top notch. Chris Espenshade and Matthew Hutchison not only led a session during craft improvement, they offered a hands-on artifact hunting experience. Though some may say his form of captaining and leadership bordered on kidnapping, I would like to thank my father John Nych for the Shenango adventure/



Brad Isles Photo

Tyler Frantz (right) captures a photograph of Ben Moyer and his dandy smallmouth bass along the banks of the Shenango River, the 2021 River of the Year, as part of a trip guided by Carried Away Outfitters and Shenango River Watchers.



Jerry Bush Photos

Above, John Nych leads a crew of POWAers searching for walleye and more on Shenango River Reservoir. At right, Gerry Putt gives Wade Robertson a "lift" to show off his fine crappie.

abduction. Jerry Bush also fearlessly and selflessly guided a group. Thanks guys!

The Shenango River (the 2021 River of the Year), weaved its way through much of our conference. From the generous folks of Carried Away Outfitters who graciously donated canoes, kayaks, and transportation for the river float to all of those representing the Shenango River Watchers for the enlightening, informative presentation – a heartfelt thanks.

Continued on next page...





Jeanne Harper Photo

Participants in the Friday arrowhead hunting activity. From left are Krista White, Don Knaus, Chris Espenshade, John Mahn, Marshall Nych and Matthew Hutchison.

Continued from previous page...

Also leading phenomenal craft improvement seminars was Ben Moyer and Randy Ferguson. The duo added so much to the conference—considering non-consumptive audiences and advising those who do consume how to give back. I would also like to tip our hat to the many cooperating landowners who opened up their backyards for groundhog hunting, fishing and arrowhead hunting.

Finally, I would like to thank and acknowledge the many POWA members who took the time and effort to attend the Mercer County Conference. Many donated or contributed to the raffle. As always, the POWAIC awards are the highest caliber thanks to Brad Isles. Thank you.

As one story ends, another begins. Similarly, when one conference is remembered, another is imagined. I am looking forward to seeing all of you in Tioga County come May 2022!

Volunteers needed for GAOS

We're back with a booth at the Great American Outdoor Show in Harrisburg, Feb 5-13. Now that you've had a year to rest up, how about joining us for a morning or afternoon to help get the word out about POWA and our annual Sportsmen's Auction?

As always, we're looking for members who are willing to give some time to staff the booth (Booth No. 4618 in the Hunting Outfitter Hall). If you're going to travel to the show at any time, please consider signing up for a shift at the booth. Sport show committee chairman Dennis Schradin will be there, but most of his time is spent finding and transporting items for

the annual Sportsman's Auction (slated for Sunday, Feb. 13 at 1 p.m.) Of course, you're welcome to help gather items for the auction, as well!

Over the course of nine days, it's difficult to staff the booth. But if you're heading to the show anyway, consider helping out by taking a break and sitting at the booth. If you've got a book, DVD, or video you're selling, by all means, bring it with you and set up shop.

When you've looked at your schedule and decided when you can join us, contact Paula Piatt at ppiatt@paoutdoorwriters.com or 570-886-1609 and she'll add you to the schedule.

Tioga

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also begin Thursday. Those coming in Wednesday evening for Thursday activities will be offered a list of lodging properties in the area.

The facilities at Mansfield University are top notch and we will be staying at Hickory Hall for the duration of the conference. The suite-style dorm will allow us to hold all of our Saturday activities in one location – from breakfast through our annual membership meeting. The Excellence in Craft Awards banquet is in nearby Manser Hall. Hickory Hall is not the college dorm you remember. Rather, it has suite-style rooms, private baths and open congregation areas to sit and visit. Some members may be looking for more traditional housing, however. We'll have links and pricing information for nearby hotels. (The rate per person per night at Mansfield is \$40. We have not secured any special group rates at nearby hotels.)

A full list of activities will be coming in the new year, but rest assured there will be turkey hunting and fishing available. We've also secured the Mill Cove Environmental Area and Education Center for our Friday activities. In addition to the barbeque Friday night, the Center is open for our activities throughout the day Friday.

We will continue our new tradition of welcoming "anniversary" members to the conference. In 2022, there are 22 individuals and 10 supporting members celebrating anniversaries. Be on the lookout for your invitation! And although our inaugural Campfire Elders celebration was a resounding success, the calendar tells us that there are no members reaching the magical 30-year mark in 2022.

We'll have more information and the registration form in the next *PowWow*.



Contest

from page 1

eligible to enter.

2. A maximum of two (2) entries per award category is allowed.

3. Unless noted, submit three copies of each entry for each award. One entry copy must be an original or exact photocopy and include the name of publication, date of publication and author. If an original or exact photocopy is not available, a website URL must be provided with this copy. The other two copies must have all identifying marks, bylines, personal photos and references blacked out and rendered unreadable, with the exception of the TV/Radio Program category. Copies downloaded and printed from the publication’s website are permissible as long as an original with identifying marks is also provided.

4. Joint bylines: Co-authored/photographed/produced entries may be entered only once. Joint bylines will be considered as an entry for each contributor. All entrants of co-authored entries must be POWA members.

5. A letter of verification from the editor/publisher must accompany materials not containing bylines, or containing pen names.

6. To be considered for an award, the published material must have been compensated for by cash, check, goods or services of value. This includes the Best Blog Entry Award.

7. Members may submit an entry in only one Core Award* category, to eliminate the possibility of a person winning multiple core awards for a single piece. For example: an item published in a newspaper may not be entered in both the newspaper column and the newspaper feature categories. In nearly every instance, such a distinction is obvious. On the other hand, a member may submit an entry for a writing award, and the accompanying photo/art for a photo/art award. A member also may submit an entry in one Core Award, and in any number of Specialty Awards for which it meets the criteria. Entries submitted for the wrong award will not be considered.

8. Entries must cover nature, wildlife, conservation or outdoor field sports such as hunting, fishing, camping and boating.

9. Entries must have been published in the prior calendar year, unless indicated otherwise in the contest description.

10. Entries must NOT be bound, matted, changed in size, altered, edited, or submitted in any form other than exactly how they were published and viewed by the public. Entries altered from their published form will be disqualified. Let the entry stand on its merits, rather than its “packaging.” Photocopies are permissible.

11. Envelopes or folders containing entries must be clearly marked on the front with the name of the award for which the entry is being submitted. Please mail all separated entries in one master envelope.

12. Entries must be postmarked no later than February 26, 2022.

13. Contest materials will be returned by mail only if accompanied by a self-addressed envelope stamped with sufficient postage.

14. Winning entries constitutes a waiver

of copyright restrictions on reprinting the entry by POWA.

15. The Awards Chairman is not responsible for determining the validity of entries. Any questions concerning the validity of an entry will be forwarded to the President, and if he/she deems it necessary, to the Board for a decision. Further, if the President has any questions, doubts or concerns about an entry, the person submitting it will be notified immediately and given the opportunity to address whatever the question or concern might be, before any other steps are taken.

POWA CORE AWARDS*

1. Best Newspaper Column (\$150 and plaque, sponsored by Bob & Linda Steiner)—Entries must have been published in a daily or weekly newspaper column. To meet the “column” requirement, the author’s work must appear as a column in the same publication at least 12 times each year.

Continued on next page...

2021/22 POWA Committees

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

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2. Best Newspaper Feature (\$150 and plaque, sponsored by Pennsylvania Hunters Sharing the Harvest) – Entries must deal with a single topic and be either a single article or a series of not more than five articles about a single topic.

3. Best Magazine or Regional Newspaper Column (\$150 and plaque, sponsored by POWA EIC Entries) – A “regional newspaper” is one such as Pennsylvania Outdoor News, which publishes other than daily or weekly. The subject must be primarily of interest to Pennsylvanians or at least be applicable to Pennsylvania. It need not be an outdoor publication, as long as the entry qualifies. To meet the “column” requirement, the author’s work must appear in the same publication at least six times each year.

4. Best Magazine or Regional Newspaper Feature (\$150 and plaque, sponsored by POWA EIC Entries) – The above definition of a regional newspaper applies here as well. The subject must be of primary interest to Pennsylvanians or at least be applicable to Pennsylvania. The entry may be a single article or a series of not more than three articles dealing with a single subject.

5. Best Published Newspaper Photo, Color or Black & White (\$150 and plaque, sponsored by POWA Past Presidents) – This photography category is for best published newspaper, regional newspaper or other pulp-type photography award. Entries must be submitted as they appeared when published. The format the photograph was taken in – black & white or color – does not matter, only the published form. The photo credit, caption or cutline must also be included with the entry, exactly as it appeared when published. The entry must include the name of the publication and the title of the story (headline) which was used, if applicable. The entry must NOT be mounted, matted or changed in any way from how the public viewed it as published. Submit one original tear sheet or an exact photocopy.

6. Best Published Magazine Photo, Color or Black & White (\$150 and plaque, sponsored by POWA EIC entries) – This photography category is for best published magazine or non-pulp-type photography award. Photos published

in pamphlets, brochures, on postcards, calendars, etc., are eligible, as long as they were published in the award year. Entry requirements are the same as for the Best Published Newspaper Photo Award.

7. Broadcast Media Award (alternates with Best Book Award) (\$150 and plaque, sponsored by POWA EIC entries) – These two awards alternate each year. Entries for each award, when offered, must have been published in the preceding two years. The theme in both cases must be outdoor oriented. Submit one copy of each entry.

8. *Best Published Art Award, Color or Black & White (\$150 and plaque, sponsored by POWA EIC entries) – *Published art work shall include magazines, newspapers, catalogues, brochures, or any other publication available to the public to convey the outdoor message. Published work may include limited or unlimited editions of fine art works, as long as the published form of the work is submitted for judging, the artist was compensated for the publication, the entry submitted was not self-published and the entry appeared in publication during the prior calendar year. The published art entry must be submitted as it actually appeared when published and was viewed by the public. The entry must NOT be matted, framed, bound, or altered in any way from how it appeared as published. Such entries will be disqualified. The entry must include the name of the publication and the title of the story (headline) which was used, if applicable. In addition an explanation of the use of the art to illustrate an article, column, etc., may be included, but is not mandatory. Submit one original tear sheet or an exact photocopy.

POWA SPECIALTY AWARDS

1. POWA Pass it on Award (\$300 and plaque, sponsored by PA Environment Digest) – This award recognizes and praises a POWA Active member who has been responsible for introducing people (novice adults, children or a group, audience or readership) to the outdoors or enhancing their appreciation of the outdoors. The award shall be given for the best (1) published newspaper or magazine article, (2) broadcast radio, podcast or TV program, (3) commercially marketed video, OR (4) published black and white or color photo or art, which most

effectively promotes passing on the love and appreciation of the outdoors, natural resources and pursuits such as hunting, fishing, trapping, hiking, camping, boating, bird-watching and nature appreciation.

2. Wildlife Conservation Partnership Award (\$250 and plaque, sponsored by the Pennsylvania Game Commission) – The award will go to the best entry from any and all media that recognizes difference-making partnerships among conservation organizations –including state or federal agencies. The partnership must demonstrate that together resources and talents can be leveraged to better accomplish conservation goals and initiatives. All entries must be about Pennsylvania projects and must have been published in the preceding year.

3. Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Raptor Conservation and Eco-Tourism Award (\$200 and a plaque, sponsored by Hawk Mountain Sanctuary) – This award goes to the POWA member with the best published piece in any media that promotes the mission of Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, its programs and services, or the Sanctuary as a raptor conservation organization and outdoor eco-tourist destination. All entries must have been published or aired within the past 12 months. Articles may include: subjects featuring the science of raptor migration; features on studies of raptors in Pennsylvania or northeastern North America and using Hawk Mountain scientists as a source expert; any feature on a special programs or service offered at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary; features on the history of Hawk Mountain Sanctuary; or an outdoor travel pieces on the Sanctuary as a destination in any season. The mission of Hawk Mountain Sanctuary is to conserve birds of prey worldwide by providing leadership in raptor conservation science and education, and by maintaining Hawk Mountain Sanctuary as a model observation, research and education facility. www.hawkmountain.org.

4. The Pennsylvania Elk Resource Award (\$200 and plaque, sponsored by the Keystone Elk Country Alliance) – This award recognizes a POWA member who has best communicated to the public the principals of conservation, education, hunting, hunting heritage, and

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the value of habitat to the Elk Resource in Pennsylvania. Entry categories for the award are broad and include any art, article, column, or photograph published (on paper or digitally), as well as any radio, podcast or TV broadcast, blog, or any commercially marketed video. The winning entry will be the best example of promoting the elk resource in the Commonwealth. Those applying must grant the Keystone Elk Country Alliance permission to have the winning entry (blog, column, article, photo or art) reprinted in their publication Tracks & Racks.

5. Best Action Hunting, Trapping Or Fishing Photograph (\$100 and plaque, sponsored by POWA EIC entries) – This award goes to the best published color or black and white photograph that depicts action directly involving hunting or fishing. The photo must include a person, as well as a game fish, bird or mammal. Examples – a hunter shooting at a flushing grouse or an angler landing or playing a bass. Static trophy or hero shots or photos of a just dog pointing would NOT qualify. Submit one copy of the photograph exactly as it appeared in the publication, or an exact photocopy. Magazine, newspaper, calendar, book or digital publication is acceptable as long as the photographer received remuneration for his or her work or if the photo was donated to a non-profit organization.

6. Best Conference-Related Material Award (\$100 and plaque, sponsored by POWA EIC entries) – This award recognizes the best material that directly relates to the POWA Spring Conference. It can be an article, blog entry, photograph, artwork or Broadcast Media program that is generated as a specific result of an activity during or the location of the conference.

7. 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) – This photography category is for the best published local or regional newspaper photograph (printed on newsprint paper) that features Pennsylvania fishing, sport fish, boating or fishing tackle. All entries

must have been taken within the Keystone State and published during the previous calendar year. If the winning entry meets the Pennsylvania Angler & Boater photo submission guidelines, the PFBC would like the option of reprinting the winning photograph in their publication with acknowledgement of the photographer’s award. If so used, the PFBC will pay their going rate for their use of that photo. (This is not a condition for applying, just a possible added benefit.) Submit one copy of the photograph exactly as it appeared in the publication, or an exact photocopy.

8. Don Heckman - Tell the Story Award (\$150 and plaque, sponsored the Pennsylvania Chapter of the NWTF) – This award recognizes the top stories on wild turkey management.

9. Handloading Promotion Award for Broadcast Media (\$150 and plaque, sponsored by Redding Reloading) – The purpose of this award is to assist in the promotion of the benefits of metallic cartridge reloading or handloading. It must be a broadcast work on either commercial television or radio format, not webcast. It will be awarded on the basis of the best communication of the inherent benefits to shooters and hunters presented by the practice of reloading their own ammunition for any shooting sports activity using a metallic cartridge. How-to, general educational and hunting success stories where reloading is a major theme are acceptable.

10. Handloading Promotion Award for Electronic Media (\$150 and plaque, sponsored by Redding Reloading) – The purpose of this award is to assist in the promotion of the benefits of metallic cartridge reloading or handloading. It must be a published work in electronic format (blog, e-zine, etc.). It will be awarded on the basis of the best communication of the inherent benefits to shooters and hunters presented by the practice of reloading their own ammunition for any shooting sports activity using a metallic cartridge. How-to, general educational and hunting success stories where reloading is a major theme are acceptable.

11. Handloading Promotion Award for Print Media (\$150 and plaque, sponsored by Redding Reloading) – The purpose of this award is to assist in the

promotion of the benefits of metallic cartridge reloading or handloading. It must be a published work in either magazine or newspaper format. It will be awarded on the basis of the best communication of the inherent benefits to shooters and hunters presented by the practice of reloading their own ammunition for any shooting sports activity using a metallic cartridge. How-to, general educational and hunting success stories where reloading is a major theme are acceptable.

12. Outdoor Blog Entry Award (\$100 and a plaque, sponsored by POWA EIC entries) – This award goes to the best blog entry about anything that falls under our umbrella of “outdoors.” This includes hunting, fishing, trapping, canoeing, camping, natural history, conservation, or environmental issues. Submit entry as a .pdf file (no photographs) with a web address that links to the original source. If public access to the original source is no longer available, the entrant should also provide two additional PDF or screen photographs of the blog on the original web page.

13. Pennsylvania Trappers Award (\$150 and plaque, sponsored by the Pennsylvania Trappers Association) – This award will be given to the best published piece that promotes interest in or education about trapping.

14. Trout and the Coldwater Resource Award (\$150 and plaque, sponsored by Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited) – This award will be made for the published magazine or newspaper story which best shows the importance of protecting and / or promoting our cold-water resource. The article may or may not include trout and other salmonids.

15. Lantz Hoffman White-Tailed Deer Award (\$150 and plaque, sponsored by Karen Wolf) – This award goes to the best published newspaper article, column or magazine article that captures the spirit of the white-tailed deer, hunting whitetails, deer management or deer habitat in Pennsylvania. The topic could be as far-ranging as deer habitat improvement, natural history, rattling or even a nostalgic piece about a deer hunting camp.

16. Wildlife Art Award (\$150 and plaque, sponsored by Ned Smith Center

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for Nature and Art) – Artwork may be original and in any media (i.e. oil, watercolor, pastel, etc.) Three-dimensional work such as carvings and sculptures are also eligible. Reproductions or lithographs of an artist’s original work may be entered. No size restrictions. Entries must have been completed in the preceding two years. The subject may be any North American wildlife other than fish. Birds of prey, songbirds, non-game species and game birds, and animals are all suitable subjects. Previous winning entries in this category are not eligible. Artists may submit one entry and it must be present at the spring conference. Each artist is responsible for getting his/her work to and from the conference.

17. Young Trees Habitat Award (\$150 and plaque, sponsored by the Upland Bird Hunt Chapter of the Ruffed Grouse Society) – This award will be given to the best published piece that focuses on creating young forests through wood harvest, non-commercial harvest or supplemental plantings. Prescribed fire stories will not be considered.

18. Youth Fishing Award (\$150 and plaque, sponsored by Expositions, Inc.) – This award will be given for the best published piece, magazine or newspaper, devoted to encouraging readers to introduce, or to further the involvement of children in fishing.

19. Youth and the Hunting/Shooting Sports Award (\$150 and plaque, sponsored by the National Shooting Sports Foundation) – This award is given to the best published piece that furthers the participation of young people in the shooting/hunting sports.

20. Archery Award (\$150 and a plaque, sponsored by United Bowhunters of Pennsylvania) – This award is given to the best written or Broadcast Media piece that focuses on the method of or use of archery to tell the story.

21. Humor Award (\$100 and a plaque, sponsored by POWA EIC entries) – This award is given to the best written or Broadcast Media (TV, radio, podcast) piece that utilizes humor or satire as an integral way to tell the story.

Be sure to respect supporting members

By Jerry Bush
POWA 2nd Vice President

Your POWA board was recently proactive in tackling a potential issue that may result in “accidental” disrespect of supporting members.

After a member posted a “plug” for gear on the POWA Facebook page, it was noted that equipment was not represented by one of our supporting members. Research revealed the equipment endorsed was not a competitor of any current supporting member, but we realized that could unintentionally occur in the future.

After presentation to the ethics committee, it was decided this is not an ethics issue, but it was agreed common sense dictates our members should not push products and services on official POWA sites that compete with supporting members.

Please be careful when endorsing products on our sites and elsewhere. We are certain no member would intentionally upset a supporter, but we (your board) must reserve the right to remove endorsements

of products and services from POWA sites that disrespect any member.

We may have competing supporting members, and endorsing any of them is understandable! It is also understood that some members benefit personally by sponsorships from businesses that may compete with organizational sponsors, but please avoid endorsing them on POWA sites.

Here’s an idea! Why not approach your personal sponsors and ask if they would also help support POWA? Few potential supporters are aware of how economical their membership in POWA would cost, and they may not be aware of benefits. If you find they are interested but you are not certain what to do next; put them in contact with your Supporting Member Recruitment Committee. That committee is currently headed by Robert Ford and assisted by yours truly.

We will make sure you are credited with sponsoring their membership. Remember, if you sponsor a couple new members who are approved into the organization, you will be eligible for a free year of membership.

Treasurer’s Report

By John Allen, POWA Treasurer / Expenditures as of November 30, 2021

Income Accounts	Budget 21-22	Actual	% of Budget
Active Members’ Dues	7,620	2,430	32
Supporting Members’ Dues	6,800	700	10
Merchandise Sales	20	-	-
Craft Award Income	5,000	90	2
General Contribution	100	270	-
Spr. Conference (Mercer) Net	2,730	1,380	-
Spr. Conference (Wellsboro) Net	-	-	-
TOTAL INCOME	\$22,270	\$4,870	85%
Expense Accounts	Budget 20-21	Actual	% of Budget
Executive Dir. Stipend	10,800	2,675	25
Pow Wow (Print/Edit)	3,300	1	0
Member Awards	4,200	-	-
Membership Directory	850	-	-
Plaque Expenses Prior Fiscal Year	-	975	-
Plaque Expenses	1,000	86	9
Office Expenses	500	141	28
General Postage	575	252	44
Insurance	545	-	-
Credit Card Fees	50	10	20
Professional Fees	100	-	-
Website Expenses	50	191	382
Miscellaneous	100	-	-
Travel	200	35	18
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$22,270	\$3,391	15%
Net Income	0	\$1,479	

Cash Accounts as of November 30, 2021: General Fund, \$60,033; Youth Education Fund, \$3,143; Scholarship Fund, \$47,568; Jacquelin Knight CD, \$14,436; Emergency Fund, \$9,193. Total Cash Accounts: \$134,373.

Market News

Pennsylvania Outdoor News '19 – Editor Jeff Mulhollem will consider any Pennsylvania-specific story, and especially news stories. PON is not accepting first-person tales or anything related to businesses such as call-makers, guides or events such as outdoor shows or youth field days. Please send queries and not finished stories.

Crossbow Magazine is looking for speculative manuscripts detailing successful crossbow hunts (primarily deer). Contact Todd R. Bromley at tbrom@live.com for writer's guidelines. Learn more at www.crossbowmagazine.com.

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation '09 – Bugle magazine, the flagship publication of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation is calling for stories on elk and elk hunting. To learn more about RMEF, submission guidelines and writing tips for Bugle, visit the RMEF website, www.rmef.org and click on Bugle Magazine under the Our World tab. Unless otherwise noted, word counts range from 1,000 to 3,000 words. Deadlines are rolling unless specified.

The Drake magazine wants its fishing stories to be educational and entertaining, not instructional. They don't publish "how-to, where-to" pieces. Check out one of the back issues if you have questions. Good writing is paramount. If you want it published, write it well. Think literary and tell a story. Write about your dog. Make the editors laugh. As for photography, please be creative. No "grip and grins." Editors are also looking for artwork, cartoons, illustrations, etc. All payments are negotiable. Send submissions to: The Drake Magazine, PO Box 11546, Denver, CO 80211, info@drakemag.com. Visit www.drakemag.com.

Strung Magazine is a quarterly print magazine with international 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. While the majority of the content comes from established, experienced writers and photographers,

submissions from all interested parties is welcome. 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; Dr. Joseph Ballarini, publisher, Strung Magazine, www.strungmag.com.

Since 1925, **Fur-Fish-Game** has been highly acclaimed as the magazine for practical outdoorsmen. Articles are written to instruct and entertain, by real life, everyday outdoorsmen who hunt, trap and fish year-round. Fur-Fish-Game covers a wider variety of outdoor pursuits than any other magazine. It is the only national outdoor magazine that still publishes a new issue each and every month of the year. Query 2878 East Main Street, Columbus, Ohio 43209.

The Contemporary Sportsman is a quarterly online magazine devoted to people who share a serious passion for fly-fishing and wing shooting. Feature articles have the foundation of a fly-fishing and/or wing shooting experience, but the copy and photographs exhibit the adventure in a three dimensional level. Articles aren't the predictable stories or portfolio of pretty pictures, rather 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 wing shooting. 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 to relay the total experience of "being there." Submit your text as Word Documents and photos as high resolution (300 dpi) .jpps. Photographs for publication must be a minimum of 150 dpi but it is preferred they be 300dpi. Maximum dimensions are 17 x 11 but can be smaller. Photos need to be as realistic as possible.

Please submit an email to query. Pro-

spective 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.

Trapper & Predator Caller accepts stories focused on methods and equipment used in trapping, calling or hunting. 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 accepted. Feature stories should be between 1,500 and 2,500 words. Pays up to \$250 for assigned articles. Payment is made within 45 days of publication. The amount is based on the quality of writing and photography as a package. Learn more at www.trappermag.com/writers-guidelines.

Northern Woodlands' audience consists of stewardship-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. Editors like to surprise readers with stories they won't find anywhere else. Submissions from writers with varying backgrounds are welcomed, but all should be familiar with the magazine, its contents and audience before pitching. Editors do accept unsolicited manuscripts but strongly prefer receiving a pitch first. Send a short email to pitch@northernwoodlands.org to introduce yourself and briefly summarize the topic you are interested in covering. Please submit clips (no more than three) if you have them. Editors will email you back if interested. Book reviews, features, poems and photographs may be accepted. Visit www.northernwoodlands.org.

The vertical pronoun: Wh-/ not?

By Timothy Flanigan
Craft Improvements

One concern, that several writers and I have discussed, is the preponderance of articles that come in simply as personal narratives and how, if we are to improve as writers and as a magazine presenting those writers to the public, we need to grow out of that tendency.

To begin with, I'm not the first writer or editor to strongly advise writers to "beware the Vertical Pronoun." Strunk and White do so in a roundabout manner.

This is not to suggest it should never be used but rather that writers should evaluate its use, checking to see if it's necessary or if it draws the reader's attention away from the topic and towards the writer him/herself.

What's wrong with such stories?

The focus on "the outdoor writer as hunting/fishing hero" has become a rusted cliché.

When stories continually arrive with "I went hunting and had a good time" as their main theme, it's time to see what we can do about it if the delivery of high-quality writing to the readers remains our primary goal. And those, in the end, are the people whose needs the writer must focus on serving, the readers', not his own.

How does an over-dependence on self-references reduce the quality of the writing we're producing?

In the first place, it's monotonous. Even though a writer works in a relative vacuum, his works do not appear in one. If a reader sees "I ... I ... I" on every page of a magazine, he'll find it easy to turn to another publication whose writers speak more about topics than about themselves.

Secondly, such references establish a speed bump in the story's ability to "come alive" for the reader. Instead of seeing/living the experience, the reader watches the writer have the experience. Consider the following example:

My dog Scout ran into the aspen stands ahead of me. By the time I had walked in four steps, he was on point about 20

yards ahead of me. I walked up and tried to keep as quiet as I could. Before I could get to the dog, I saw a grouse fly off to my right. I fired off two shots, but I missed. (11 references to self in 4 sentences. 11 out of 66 words, 17% — and don't laugh. I've edited pieces in which the percentage was this high.)

The reader just sits there watching the writer go hunting. An unsolicited response from an unbiased source: "It was irritating." What if we reword it?

Scout dashed into the aspen stand and about 30 yards in slammed onto point. As I made a quiet approach, he turned his head to the right and stared at a spruce scrub at the edge of the swamp. From the tree's base a slight flicker of movement, then the *whirr* of grouse wings. Despite the two quick shots I offered, the bird disappeared untouched into the depths and darkness of the swamp. (2 references to self in 4 sentences. 2 out of 73 words, about 3%)

I took about two minutes to write the first sample and about three to write the second, so I'm not suggesting it's print worthy. Notice, however, how focusing on reducing details about self also tends to get the writer to deliver more details about other elements in the scene — dog, bird, setting — and gives the reader a better chance of feeling the experience.

How do you know if you've got too many "I ... me ... myself" references?

1. Be honest here: when someone finishes reading a passage or an article will he have read more about the subject matter or you?

2. Count the words. If you're self-references go much above 5%, it's probably too much.

3. Compare the self-references to the number of times you mention the topic. If you say you're writing about woodcock hunting in northern Wisconsin and you have 63 references to yourself and 13 to "woodcock," "bird," or "birds," you've got yourself a problem with the writer as the subject of the story.

Methods for avoiding too many self-references:

1. Start by making sure the word *I* is not

in the first paragraph.

Does this mean that the word *I* should never appear in the first paragraph? Of course not. But those articles that tend to be "*I* heavy" usually have it in there.

2. When you rewrite, give serious consideration to the places where you've mentioned yourself. Are the self-references necessary or, once again, do they take the focus from your subject and put it onto you instead? (Subject could be a firearm, dogs, another individual, a bird species, a hunt destination, a hunt experience, and so on.)

3. Print a copy of your story and use a highlighter on all the self-referencing words. If there's a bevy of highlighted spots, go back and see if you need to be referring to yourself so much.

4. "If I'm writing about my hunt experience, then I have to write about myself." — Not 100% correct. Write about the elements of the experience and not about you having the experience.

Concentrate on the details that will bring the hunt experience alive for the reader. Show. Don't tell. Imagine your story as if you had filmed it with a camera that can register all sensory input. Tell the story as if the camera had been on your shoulder and had moved through the scene. The camera (thus, the story) will convey what you saw, smelled, heard, etc. but won't need to refer to you. Don't leave the camera on a tripod so the reader just watches you watch things. (From the examples above: "My dog ran in ahead of me" vs. "the dog dashed into the woods.")

5. "I have to refer to myself because I was there." If the article is not about you, you don't need to "prove" you were there. If you write it well enough, the reader will understand you were there without your inserting yourself into the scene.

6. The above five tips have to do with the actual composing of the stories. The real effort begins, of course, in the field. Try training yourself to take more notes about the scenes and actions than about your own reactions to them. That way, you'll have more to write about than just memories of your personal experiences.

Niagara bounty...



Contributed Photos

Above, Peter Brookes handles a nice lake trout caught during one of POWA's recent outdoor press outings. Ben Moyer (top right) caught this king salmon during the same trip. At right, Wade Robertson and Doyle Dietz also connected on these two lakers within seconds of each other.

The four and other members enjoyed a three-day trip to the Niagara region of New York, courtesy of supporting member Destination Niagara '14 and our contact Frank Campbell. Learn more at www.niagarausa.com.

Committee Chairman Mark Demko '98 is working on possible trips to Luzerne County, the Erie area and Virginia for 2022. (He's also looking for some help with the committee. Email him at mдемко@ptd.net to find out more.)

Our supporting members are interested in hosting you for trips, but we need some help putting them together!



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