



NOWA Newsletter

Northwest Outdoor Writer's Association

October 2009

No. 08

Opportunity in NOWA's Excellence in Craft Contest

By Gary Lewis

EIC Contest Committee Chairman

Once again, it is time to think about the **NOWA** Excellence in Craft contest. But don't just think— Act! You know you created some of your best work last year. Share it with your peers in NOWA and submit your magazine articles, newspaper columns, humor pieces, artwork, DVDs, radio shows, TV programs and thought-provoking images in the Excellence in Craft contest.

Last year was my first turn as contest chairman and I was struck at the number of submissions in some categories. There were seven entries in the Book division, the most I have ever seen. They were all great books. I know there were books from our membership that weren't submitted (including two of mine). But I was surprised at the lack of entries in the DVD/Audio category. For the Artwork category there were no entries. This represents an opportunity for **NOWA's** artists.

It was interesting to see how the judges scored each category. Briefed with instructions, they took their tasks to heart. Some categories showed a wealth of talent and that showed with a few 'Honorable Mentions' garnered by entrants. Other categories, while well-subscribed, only were awarded to 1st and 2nd Place.

The judges were enthusiastic about the work submitted. A few wrote comments about winning entries. It was a pleasure to stand before the assembled **NOWA** members and award certificates, plaques and prize money to longtime members and talented relative newcomers, communicators all. But I knew that there was work that had not been submitted that was every bit as worthy as the features, photos, books and DVDs that won first, second or third place.

Finish 2009 by taking an hour or two to comb through your archives and let's see you bask in the reflected glow at our 2010 banquet and award ceremony.



NOWA NEWSLETTER



Mail editorial materials to

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of feature articles, news items, let-
ters-to-the-editor, etc. are welcome.
Manuscripts should be submitted
on disc, in the body of email, or as
a WORD or ASCII text attachment.

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Officers and Directors 2009-2010

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EARN \$50.00

NOWA will pay \$50 when you
sponsor three or more new mem-
bers who pay their dues and initia-
tion fee. Must be completed be-
tween April 1, 2009 and March 31,
2010.

Committees

Communications Director:
Greg Gulbrandsen

Conference Site Selection: John Kruse,
Debbie Kerr

Conference Program: Adela Jackson
Photo Shoot-out: TBD
Supporting Member Day:
Bill Mullins

Craft Improvement: TBD

Excellence in Craft Contest:
Gary Lewis

Pass it On Award: TBD - The com-
mittee will consist of a maximum of three
people - one member will be a board
member. The purpose of the committee
is to establish guidelines for the Award.

People's Choice Photography: TBD

Ethics: TBD

Finance: Natalie Bartley, Debbie Kerr

Fred L. Peterson Award: Dennis Clay,
Gwen Peterson, Debbie Kerr

Markets: Dave Kilhefner

Membership Recruitment:
Dave Kilhefner, Michelle Peters

Nominating: G.I. Wilson and Past Presi-
dents Council

Outreach & Public Relations: TBD

Raffle & Silent Auction: Jo Wilson, Deb-
bie Kerr, Pam Vedder

Supporting Member Liaison:
Karen Lundquist

Website: Bill Luscombe, Scott Richmond

Website:

[www.northwest-outdoor-
writers-association.org](http://www.northwest-outdoor-writers-association.org)

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President's Message

Fish Camp 2009

By Dave Kilhefner

Eat, drink, be merry and catch fish. Personally, that's enough for me to achieve a peaceful and contented state of mind. But the fish gods have a sense of humor and decided to throw a little adventure my way to point out some of my personal shortcomings.

One of the big fat benefits of being an outdoor communicator is being invited to attend Ed Iman's Fish Camp, which runs from Sunday to Thursday in late September each year.

Attendee's at Fish Camp are a mix of outdoor writers, sponsors and guides. As you can imagine, good food, good people and good fishing is a surefire recipe for a good time. In addition to Ed and Pam Iman's fine hospitality, we get plenty of material to publish some stories showing our guides and sponsors products in action, creating a win-win situation for all.

This year's record return of Steelhead over Bonneville Dam had my hopes running high for limit catches from the Deschutes and Klickitat Rivers. On Sunday, the first day of Fish Camp, steelhead fishing was very good. At least that's what I heard.

Unfortunately my work schedule demands that I'm in the office on Mondays, so my plan was to attend camp on Tuesday and Wednesday. While trapped in the office, record high temperatures triggered flows of glacial silt in the Klickitat River and the Deschutes River below the mouth of the White River, a silt-laden tributary and a real troublemaker.

Thinking I could outsmart the warm weather, I headed for the Deschutes River at Maupin. Maupin is located upstream from the mouth of the White River so the Deschutes River runs clear. Arriving at the Oak Springs hatchery, I admired ponds full of huge brood stock rainbow trout, fantasizing about hooking into a big fish myself as I got into my waders, pulled on my fly fishing vest and started walking up the railroad tracks with the smell of sage in the air.

The sky was blue, the wind was calm and the water flowed clear. Soon I had a perfect piece of water to myself and felt pretty darn smug about it. Eventually I hooked a small steelhead in a rocky riffle but it threw the hook.

The pull of a steelhead, especially when you've just lost one, cannot be forgotten. So instead of doing what I was supposed to do and head for Fish Camp in the early afternoon I decided to cast my orange and purple steelhead fly over one final stretch of water called "The Hole in the Wall" but this would delay my departure until early evening.

My hunch proved good and after ten minutes a steelhead grabbed my fly, then promptly threw the hook.



Continued on page 4

Kilhefner: Continued from page 3

Shaken, my fly-casting rhythm took a bad turn as I buried the fly in my arm. Taking the hint, I finally packed up and headed for Fish Camp.

Being an adventurous outdoor communicator, naturally I decided to take the scenic route. This idea was working out fine. I saw one of those sunsets in the rear view mirror that demanded I pull over and take a few photographs. Stopping at the first pull out with a good view, I jumped out of truck and grabbed my camera. This would only take a minute.

But I was not alone.

Hidden from view behind a hump of earth was another person enjoying the sunset too. Surprised, I waved hello and made a few adjustments to the camera to hopefully capture enough of mother nature's colors to make a saleable image.

Then the conversation started and I was powerless to stop it.

The sunset was a natural starting point to begin the flow of words, but like a trickle of pebbles that begins an avalanche it did not end there. It's safe to say I failed "conversation ending 101" because in spite of my best efforts to politely disengage, somehow my responses only served to tap a deep well of knowledge from this mysterious stranger about political corruption, a hidden native American heritage and how the Hebrew bible code dependably predicts of the future.

Finally I was able to break away, get in the truck, turn the key and drive, thinking to myself this is what a single woman at a bar must feel like after being subjected to an unsolicited life story from a love-starved stranger. Note to self: buy flowers for my wife "just because."

I arrived at Fish Camp well past dinnertime. Fortunately Pam took pity on me and served up a couple leftover brats and I was finally able to relax, have a beer face the fact that it's best to keep your commitments and be on time even though you think there might be one more fish out there with your name on it.

Getting the chow line ready with a load of Bratwurst at Ed Iman's Fish Camp





Winding down another great day at Ed Iman's Fish Camp

Ed Iman's Fish Camp

For the last few years, walleye guide extraordinaire Ed Iman has put together Fish Camp for outdoor writers, guides and businesses associated with the fishing industry.

Located at Peach Beach Campground on the banks of the Columbia River below John Day Dam, excellent angling opportunities abound for Salmon, Steelhead, Smallmouth Bass and Sturgeon Fishing. It's also a fantastic networking opportunity.

This year's camp ran from Sunday, September 20th to Thursday September 24th. Next years dates have not been set. If you'd like to get on the invite list for next year, send Ed an email at edimanpromo@netzero.net

MEMBER UPDATES:

Supporting Members:

Toyota Motor Sales, USA, Inc. – address for Media Contact, Michael Dobrin Public Relations: 1050 Marina Village Pkwy #101, Alameda, CA 94501



Members & Markets

Scott Linden's

Interactive Wingshooting TV Show Debuts



The chance to support conservation groups, hunting dogs and youth are part of the new "Wingshooting USA" television series, which debuts Wed. Sept. 30 at 7:30 p.m. (East) on In Country TV (Dish Network). The program launches on Sportsman Channel (DirecTV) Saturday Oct. 3 at 11 p.m. (East).

Producer/host Scott Linden surveyed hundreds of bird hunters and hunting dog owners to create what he calls "a good show that does good." Highly educa-

tional and interactive, the program, sponsored by the National Shooting Sports Foundation, offers viewers multiple chances to vote a la' "American Idol" on everything from favorite dog breeds to a "most valuable dog" in each episode. They can also enter to "win a shot on the show" for a viewer and child at NSSF's website, www.wingshootingusa.org. Also featured is Linden's popular "Buddy & Me" training feature, where he learns as much as his dog does.

Highest vote-getters mean cash awards for one conservation group, a ton of Native performance dog food for breed rescue clubs, and merchandise prizes for viewers. A list of over two dozen beneficiary groups includes: American Kennel Club, North American Grouse Partnership, SCI's American Wilderness Leadership School, Pheasants Forever and breed rescue groups for virtually every hunting dog, among others.

"Access is a key issue and a major influencer on hunting participation. Without easy access to quality hunting many people choose to hunt less or give up hunting all together. In response, the NSSF launched the WingshootingUSA.org Web site to help hunters find the easy access to the quality hunting available at today's hunting preserves," said Dave Miles, NSSF Director of Marketing and Broadcast Media. "We are very excited about the Wingshooting USA television show and its ability to drive traffic to our web site, and more importantly, to drive enthusiastic participants afield."

"There's something for everyone on the show. Whether you're a novice or seasoned bird hunting veteran, you'll find something, from great dog work to training tips, to plenty of

birds. You might even become a better shooter," Linden added.

Specific air times and days are listed at www.scottlindenoutdoors.com. In addition to NSSF, major sponsors include Happy Jack dog products, Native performance dog food, ESP hearing protection, Black's Wing & Clay Waterfowl directory, the state of South Dakota, TriTronics training collars and Cabela's.

Bend, Oregon-based Scott Linden also hosts and produces two nationally-syndicated radio shows, has authored a book and magazine column, produces online video and audio content and Clay Target Shootout, official TV series of the National Sporting Clays and National Skeet Shooting Associations.

Catch More Fish with a "Tacklebox" in Your Inbox



ALEXANDRIA, Va., Sept. 30, 2009 - Having the right gear in the tacklebox helps ensure the big one won't get away. But even more importantly, it's an angler's knowledge that will consistently land the lunkers. The no-cost *Tacklebox Newsletter* from BoatU.S. Angler aims to help fishermen improve their game and give them information to ensure every day on the water ends with a full livewell.

Delivered electronically 10 times a year right to your e-mail inbox, the newsletter is a fast read covering a range of topics such as salt and freshwater fishing tips from experts, do-it-yourself projects, fishing destinations and conservation tips. In addition, a "featured" fishing Web site of the month is reviewed and an "Ask the Experts" section takes questions from readers on bass fishing, Florida Gulf Coast fishing, and trailering topics. Lastly, one freshwater and one saltwater fishing guide or charter service that offers discounts to BoatU.S. members is featured.

"You don't have to be a BoatU.S. Angler member to sign up for an online subscription to *Tacklebox*," said BoatU.S. Angler Director Mike Pellerin. "And it's great to print out the latest issue and tuck it in your tacklebox so you can enjoy a little light reading when you're out on the water."

To sign up for a no-cost subscription, go to <http://www.BoatUSAngler.com/tacklebox>. To view the current *Tacklebox Newsletter* anytime, go to: <http://www.BoatUSAngler.com/tacklebox>.

Member Marketing Invite

Merle and Bev Shuyler, owners of Shuyler Productions and **NOWA** Members, would like other **NOWA** members to be aware that they have a free booth available for **NOWA** members to share at their 2010 shows in the Tri-Cities (Jan 15 - Jan 17), Yakima (Feb 19 - 21) and Spokane (Mar 5 - Mar 7).

If you would like to sell a book, promote a show, or otherwise highlight one of your activities contact NOWA board member John Kruse (e-mail: john@northwesternoutdoors.com - Tel. 509-664-6633) who will be at all three shows and is the liaison with the Shuylers for this generous offer. Additional information about the three Eastern Washington shows put on by the Shuylers can be found at www.shuylerproductions.com.

John Kruse

Wenatchee, Washington USA

Northwestern Outdoors Radio and E-zine

web site: www.northwesternoutdoors.com

e-mail: ncwmallard@yahoo.com

Marketing Updates:

Boat U.S. Angler Magazine

Preferred word count for features: 1,200-1,500 (includes any sidebars)

Average pay scale for features: \$400 for story/photo package; columns pay \$250 for story/photos.

Average pay scale for cover photo: \$150

Average pay scale for inside photo: \$50 per inside shot. Photos are most often purchased as package, with story. We want fresh photos, a good selection, and we want photos that, like the story should instruct anglers in "where-to" and how-to, NOT just grip and grin shots. Photos of anglers wearing PFD are a big plus

Illustrations: We also buy some detailed how-to illustrations. In such cases price is negotiable.

Payment: On publication.

Deadline: At least four weeks after notice of assignment.

Writer & Query Guidelines: email taylorwilson@billdancefishing.com Taylor Wilson, PO Box 198, Brownsville, Tenn. 38012.

Comments: Three issues per year, Spring, Summer and Fall. This is a magazine about freshwater and inshore saltwater fishing. Readers fish a wide variety of regions for various species and features should be painted with a broad brush; in other words the more anglers it interests, the better. Columns can be species specific. The use of boats, tactics, strategy and/or maybe even design or type, should figure into all of our how-to, where-to fishing editorial.

Bass Anglers Guide Magazine

Preferred word count for features: 1000 to 1500

Average pay scale for features: \$0 to \$50 with photo support.

Average pay scale for cover photo: 0

Average pay scale for inside photo: 0

Payment: On publication

Deadline: One month or longer from query acceptance.

Writer & Query Guidelines: Please limit queries to 30 words. Include info about photo support. Email Mark Lassagne if you'd like to get on the article & photo needs email list.

Email queries to: Mark Lassagne mark@bassanglersguide.com

Comments: Bass Anglers Guide Magazine is written by anglers, for anglers. Please email Mark for writers guidelines and more info.

The Sportsman Channel Magazine

The Sportsman Channel is no longer publishing a magazine.

2009 NOWA Excellence in Craft Contest Rules

INTRODUCTION

Judges will be professional writers, editors, photographers, and broadcasters, recruited outside NOWA to judge categories appropriate to their expertise. Judges may select 1st, 2nd, and 3rd winners. Ties are prohibited. If a judge determines that no entry merits a 1st, 2nd or 3rd place award they may choose not to name a winner. Awards will be presented at the NOWA Annual Awards Banquet.

ALL ENTRIES

All entries must have been published between January 1, 2009 and December 31, 2009.

A total of **two** entries may be entered per category. An article with sidebars may be entered as one body of work in writing categories.

Special Note: Entry Fee is \$5 for each **ENTRY**. Maximum two submissions per category, EXCEPT Category 1, when four columns may be entered. Total all entry fees and make check payable to NOWA (US funds).

- Articles/photos with two by-lines are only accepted as one entry.
- All identifying names and visual identities in all photos and illustrations must be removed.
- NOWA membership dues for 2010 must be paid prior to submitting entries in the Excellence in Craft Contest.
- Only articles/photos for which the entrant was paid are eligible.
- Judges will accept standard, high quality, copy machine entries. Original tear sheets are not required.

The rules are to accommodate the judging; the same people do not judge all categories. Judging will be under "blind" judging conditions, so names and publications will not appear on the actual entry to be judged.

Entries must be submitted in the following format. Each entry submitted may be an original or a high-quality photocopy. Submit in a manila file folder, with a completed entry form for each entry. **Print the last 4 digits of your telephone number on the back of each entry in case entries are separated from an entry form** (preferably on removable tape for Books and Video and Audiotapes).

ARTICLES (ALL CATEGORIES):

1. Submit one original clip or high quality photocopy showing by-line or credit line, plus one photocopy trimmed to eliminate by-line, photos, and other illustrations (headlines and quote boxes may be left in). Judging will be done with the trimmed photocopy.
2. Entries are to be mounted or photocopied on 8 1/2" x 11" white paper.

ARTWORK OR ILLUSTRATION:

1. Entries may be from the printed piece or copies thereof. Send no original art.
2. Entries must be mounted on 8 1/2" x 11" or 11" x 17" white paper. (Use same entry process for photos). Credit line must be removed from entry. Captions and titles are permitted.

BOOKS:

1. Submit the entire book as published. Please cover the author's name with a removable tape or label. SASE enclosed with the entry.
3. Entry form and book should be placed in a manila folder or envelope.

PHOTOGRAPHS OR ARTWORK:

1. Submit one original or a high-quality photocopy of published work, showing credit line and caption plus one photocopy with credit lines and caption removed. The entry must be mounted on 8 1/2" x 11" white paper, although 11" x 17" paper may be used to accommodate double truck photos, folded to fit a manila file folder.
2. In the event the entrant feels the reproduction of an entry is not of sufficient quality, a print not larger than 8 1/2" x 11", or a duplicate transparency may be submitted with the entry.
3. **Original photographs or slides should not be included with the entry.**
4. Computer-enhanced photography will not be accepted.

VIDEO AND AUDIOTAPES:

1. Enter copies only.
2. Video and audiotape entries will be judged on "production" values. This encompasses all aspects of the entry, including writing, directing, music, and other features.
3. Entry form and video should be placed in a manila folder or envelope.

Official Entry Form 2009 NOWA Excellence in Craft Contest

Complete a copy of this form for each entry. All entries must in be delivered to the contest chairman by January 15, 2010 (no exceptions). Send all entries and entry fee(s) to Contest Chairman, Gary Lewis, PO Box 1364, Bend OR 97709 [or 19885 Robinwood Place, Bend, OR 97702]; Phone: 541-317-0116. Entries will not be returned (unless accompanied by a SASE).

Entrant's Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: () _____ Fax: () _____

E-mail address for confirmation of receipt of entry: _____

If you are a FIRST place winner in a Sponsored Category, do you wish to receive a plaque or an additional \$25 in prize money? _____

Publication: _____ Date of Publication: _____

Title of Entry: _____

Circle Only One Contest Category for This Entry

2010 Dues paid:

Category 1: Column of the Year – maximum four columns from any one publication (from any written media).

Category 2: Fishing article, in any media other than newspaper, on any and all aspects of fishing. Must be predominately fishing, not highlighting travel or destination.

Category 2B: Fishing article (Newspaper) covers any and all aspects of fishing. Must be predominately fishing, not highlighting travel or destination.

Category 3: Hunting/shooting article, in any media other than newspaper, on any and all aspects of hunting/shooting. Must be predominately hunting/shooting, not highlighting travel or destination.

Category 3B: Hunting/shooting article (Newspaper) on any and all aspects of hunting/shooting. Must be predominately hunting/shooting, not highlighting travel or destination.

Category 4: Travel or camping article on any outdoor subject (from any written media), backpacking, RV's, canoeing, general boating, backcountry skiing, snow shoeing, dog sledding, mountaineering, or similar outdoor travel adventure.

Category 5: Managing our world. Article on park, wildlife, land use, fisheries, oceans, water and environmental concerns, plants, management, education, ethics, and use (from any written media).

Category 6A: Photography People – Subject of photo is any human in an outdoor setting or engaged in outdoor recreation.

Category 6B: Photography Fauna - Subject of photo is any living creature (animal, bird, fish, etc.) in an outdoor setting.

Category 6C: Photography Outdoors - Subject of photo is any non-living subject (plant, tree, landscape) in an outdoor setting.

(By entering work in category 6 the entrant is granting NOWA one time use of winning photos in the NOWA newsletter or NOWA Directory.)

Category 7: A book on any outdoor subject.

Category 8: Humor on any outdoor subject, either an article or column.

Category 9: Artwork, line drawing, watercolor, or similar used to illustrate any outdoor subject (from any media).

Category 10: A video or audiotape on any outdoor topic.

ALL ENTRANTS PLEASE NOTE - DEADLINE for all submission is January 15, 2010 - no exceptions.

See 2009 Entrant Rules for additional information.

Craft Improvement

THE DIGITAL ARTIST

Copyright 2006 by Gary Christenson



When digital was at the nadir of taking over the processing of press-ready images, I took some files to a digital art company for my significant other to have fancy layout stuff added. The woman at the counter said she'd give them to their "digital artist" right away. At the time, that title struck me as pretentious. But now that I've spent hundreds of hours with the likes of PhotoShop, it strikes me as a justified title indeed!

It takes a lot of time and skill to produce a top-notch digital image.

Having the ABILITY to do something isn't the same as accomplishing it.

In the "good old days" you had to do your creative stuff when you took the shot; it was prohibitively expensive to modify a film shot afterwards, and much of the time the effect wasn't convincing. In digital photography, it doesn't matter nearly so much.

And I can do things I simply couldn't do before.

Prior to the digital revolution, I took some 35mm shots of a jazz musician wearing an all-white outfit, holding his shiny brass saxophone, and resting his foot on the front bumper of his white Bentley.

One of the photos was just marvelous! His pose and expression were perfect. The composition was right on. Exposure was spot-on, the fill flash just right. As good a shot as I could have hoped for. Except for one detail: A dark, cloudy sky in the background; the kind of sky Seattle is justifiably famous for.

Prior to digital photography, it would have been difficult -- and expensive -- to change that sky.

Though it has some problems of its own, digital photography provides the ability to do what impossible before, providing unparalleled creative freedom and control.

Excellence in Craft changes

Your Rules and Entry Forms for the Excellence in Craft contest are enclosed with this newsletter.

There are **three changes** of note on the new forms.

On the Rules page – the **entry fee** is \$5 per entry, not the previous \$5 per category.

On the Entry Form – for *sponsored* categories, if you are the First Place winner, you have the option of receiving a plaque to commemorate the event, or you can opt to receive an **additional \$25** in prize money. You must indicate this preference on each entry form – if no preference is listed, you will receive the plaque.

Also on the Entry Form – there is a space for your e-mail address. You will receive an e-mail to **confirm your entry** was received by the committee. If you do not receive this notice, please contact the Chairman.

Those are the changes. Quoting from the Board Meeting: Gary Lewis (Contest Chairman) noted a continuing trend of NOWA members not reading the instructions and admitted he was lenient this year, but warned members to "Read the Instructions!" **Gary Lewis** is the Chairman of the Excellence in Craft committee again this year. He may not be so lenient this year, so please **READ THE INSTRUCTIONS!** If you have questions, I suggest you contact Gary *before* sending in your submissions, rather than risk them being rejected for an error.

Good luck to you all!

Debbie Kerr

NOWA 2010: The Seeley-Swan Valley

Sitting at about 80 miles long and cradled between the Mission Mountains and Swan Range, the Seeley-Swan Valley has plentiful opportunities for recreation in its surrounding great outdoors and two national forests—Lolo and Flathead.

The two valleys—Seeley and Swan—are split by the Flathead Divide near Lindbergh Lake, with rainfall in the southern Seeley Valley flowing to the Blackfoot River, while rainfall in the northern Swan Valley makes its way to Flathead Lake. Because of its quick accessibility to forests and wilderness, camping is a favorite activity in the valley. Plus, many of the campgrounds here are located on or near some of the lakes in the valley, including Alva, Inez, Holland, Seeley, Swan and Salmon lakes.

A popular recreation area and ideal for group camping is Holland Lake Campground. Open Memorial Day through Labor Day, this is a wonderful location for those looking for modern amenities and plentiful water activities.

Located just north of the town of Swan Lake is Swan Lake Campground. Providing both day use and overnight camping areas, this site includes picnic units, swimming beaches, footpaths and developed water. It's also popular as a fishing destination. Offering close proximity to Seeley Lake is Seeley Lake Campground, located 3.5 miles from town on Boy Scout Road on the lake's western shore. Open Memorial Day through Labor Day, it boasts camping units, picnic areas, water play area and a boat launch. Plus, it has handicapped facilities, making it usable by many ages and levels.

For a state park camping experience, travel a few miles south of Seeley Lake to Placid Lake State Park. Placid Lake campground has traditional tent camping spots, as well as sites for RVs. In addition, there is a horseshow pit and volleyball court, as well as easy access to good fishing and water sports on the lake.

While some sites in the Seeley-Swan Valley are open only during the summer season, Big Larch Campground is open year-round. Located north of the community of Seeley Lake, Big Larch has 50 camping units, a water play area, boat launch, well-maintained beach, telephone and year-round no-freeze water hydrants. It's also handicap accessible.

If you're a camper looking to get off the beaten path and pitch your tent at an undeveloped camping location, travel on Fatty Creek Road to Cedar Creek Campground. Tucked between Fatty Creek and the Swan River, Cedar Creek is an undeveloped campground often used by fishermen.

Additional developed and undeveloped campgrounds can be found throughout the valley, including Point Pleasant Campground and Soup Creek Campground. For more information on camping in the Seeley-Swan Valley, visit www.fs.fed.us/r1/lolo/index/shtml, www.fs.fed.us/r1/flathead or <http://fwp.mt.gov/parks/default.html>.

Visitors to Seeley are well-advised to paddle the Clearwater River Canoe Trail—one of the area's most beautiful and peaceful attractions. Located a short drive north (about five minutes) of the town of Seeley Lake, the canoe trail is closed to motorized boats, making it ideal for canoes and kayaks—whether you may be a novice or advanced.

The canoe trail gently meanders its way about three miles to where the Clearwater River enters the northern end of Seeley Lake. Canoeists can take out just past the Forest Service ranger station on the eastern shore of the lake. And, if you don't have your own canoe or kayak, no worries. Rentals—with pick-up and drop-off service—are available from Seeley Sport Rental (<http://www.seeleysportrentals.com>) or Seeley Lake Recreation Rentals (<http://seeleylakerecrentals.com>).

After taking out, recreationists can follow the wooded nature trail back to the put-in point to pick up their vehicle. Plus, the Forest Service has been making improvements on the foot path, making it even more user friendly.

Continued on last page

Election Process Underway

The nominating committee is looking for members who are willing to serve on the NOWA board. Newly elected members will start their duties after the Annual General Meeting in Seeley Lake, MT, May 2, 2010.

There are three Director positions available, plus the 2nd Vice President position. The Director positions are all for a three year term. The 2nd Vice President would continue on to fill the Vice President, President, and Board Chairman positions – all one year terms.

NOWA is **your** organization and I encourage you to become involved by taking on one of these positions. Though we all have a common purpose in belonging to NOWA, we also have quite a variety of interests and needs, and NOWA will benefit by having those represented on the Board.

The tasks placed on Directors are not onerous – this is a good place to get involved.

The Chairman of the Nominating Committee is **G. I. Wilson**. Please let him know you are ready to participate – or let him know the name of someone you would like to represent you on the Board. Contact G.I. by phone at 503-390-4557 or e-mail him at gijowilson@msn.com. Nominations will close **November 15, 2009**.

I encourage you to become involved.

Debbie Kerr

Executive Director

The Northwest Travel Writers Conference is taking place in Vancouver, Washington on October 16 & 17, 2009. **Travel & Words 2009** provides a forum for freelance writers, staff writers, journalists, editors, and travel & hospitality industry professionals to explore the greater Northwest and expand their markets in new ways in a changing world.

Please visit www.travelandwords.com for more information.

Your **NOWA** Newsletter is looking for submissions. Professional, Corporate, and Supporting members are encouraged to submit articles on Craft Improvement, Reviews, Experiences, and other Musings. Please submit to NOWA@bendcable.com

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