

NORTHWEST OUTDOOR WRITERS ASSOCIATION
NOWA FIELD NOTES

NOWA NEWS JANUARY 2016



...Keith Szafranski photo

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MONEY MAKER/CRAFT IMPROVEMENT
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CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM
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EXCELLENCE IN CRAFT ENTRY FORM AND RULES

NORTHWEST OUTDOOR WRITERS ASSOCIATION

NOWA NEWS JANUARY 2016

www.northwest-outdoor-writers-association.org

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The NOWA newsletter is published 10 times a year by the Northwest Outdoor Writers Association, a registered Washington State nonprofit, tax-exempt, public supported organization under IRS 501(c)(3) Code. Newsletter contributions in the form of craft improvement articles, photos, member photo galleries, news items, letters-to-the-editor, etc. are welcome. Manuscripts should be submitted on disc, in the body of email, or as a WORD or text attachment (please skip the funky formatting). Deadline: 20th of the month preceding month of publication.

NOWA HEADQUARTERS

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TBA

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE/QUESTION OF THE MONTH



HAPPY NEW YEAR

Hope all of you had a wonderful Christmas season and have a prosperous New Year! I am very excited to announce the hiring of our new executive director, Adela Jackson, from Fairbanks, AK. Adela comes with many years not only as a NOWA member but experience in serving NOWA from many positions. If you don't know Adela, be sure to read her column and get to know her. Please welcome her and give your support!

We're at the turning point in preparing for many things linking up to the conference and new year. If you haven't already, I hope you register soon for our 2016 conference being held at Diamond Lake Resort, OR. How often do we have a conference in a pristine natural setting? Needless to say, it will be a terrific change from being in a town or city. This conference is not one to miss!

The EIC contest due date (January 11) is just around the corner and I hope you have or intend to make a submission/s, eleven days left and counting!

Our Vice President, Craig Schuhmann, is preparing programs for the craft improvement workshop at the conference. Having performed this duty last year, it is very challenging to find speakers. Assistance from the membership can help expedite the process as well as creating opportunities that interest members. So, if you know of any talented individuals who could fit the niche of a craft improvement program, please contact Craig!



Three new board members will be needed and the election is on the horizon. Please keep an open mind to serve. NOWA is also in the need of a 2nd Vice President and the sooner the better as this position as been vacant since the last conference! I know I've said this before, but NOWA needs folks in the membership to step up and be involved in the various tasks of operating this organization.

As we go into 2016, we need new folks to take over vacant positions. The greatest advantage of being involved within NOWA is getting to work with some great people and forming personal friendships. For me, I can definitely say it has helped me out in networking and improving craft skills aside from the conference and newsletters!

On behalf of NOWA, I thank you all who are serving on committees, renewing your membership, participating in the EIC contest, and making plans to attend the conference as we embark into 2016 in supporting a great organization!

All the best in your outdoor adventures!

...Joe

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

What do you take for graphospasm?

Send answers to Gary Lewis at garylewisoutdoors@gmail.com
Assuming we get some responses, I will write another craft improvement piece to incorporate the answers.

...Gary



...Keith Szafranski photo

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE/MONEYMAKERS

My sincere thanks to the Board of Directors for selecting me as your new NOWA Executive Director. I'm excited to be part of NOWA in this capacity and look forward to serving you in the years ahead. Thanks to Kyla Merwin for her help making this an easy transition.

I've been an active NOWA member since **1984**, having served two separate terms as President and Chairman of the Board, with several terms on the Board of Directors. The past three years I opted out to deal with family issues.

As a kindred spirit I've always considered NOWA my family also. I understand and care about your needs and how it affects our success. I will use my organizational ability and dedication to make your professional needs a priority.

I know the financial history of NOWA and the effort it took to build what we have. I understand what it takes to maintain that. What lies at the heart of this organization is a group of talented and sincere people dedicated to the outdoors and those resources.



The strength of this organization lies in the success of its membership. Together we'll expand and build new connections with the outdoor industry, discover ways to establish new markets and encourage our peers to join us.

...Adela Jackson

QUICK REMINDER

Just a quick reminder that entries for NOWA's Excellence in Craft Contest is coming up: January 11, 2016. (Editor's note: See pages 11-16 for Entry Form and Rules).

So dig out those clips! The entry fee for NOWA Members is only \$5 per category.

Awards are given in 1st, 2nd and 3rd place and (sometimes) honorable mention. The top three prizes earn \$100, \$50 and \$25 respectively.

And, be sure your 2016 dues are paid up before you enter.

NOWA Conference 2016 will be held April 28-May 1 at Diamond Lake Resort, Oregon. (Editor's note: Room Rates and Reservation Information can be found on Page 5. G.I. and Jo Wilson's first hand report and resort information can be found on pages 6,7 and 8. Conference Registration Form on Page 9.)

I am wishing you and yours the best of the holiday season and all great things to come your way in the New Year.

...Kyla Merwin

WHY WAIT? AFFILIATE!

Would you like to earn more money from your website? Become an internet affiliate of a big online retailer.

Here's how it works at Cabelas and NOWA Supporting Member **Bass Pro Shops**. You place links on your website to these web retailers. A link can appear as a banner, a button, or within text.

When a visitor to your site clicks on the link, and then buys something at the retailer, you earn a commission on the sale. The commission is a small percentage, typically 5%, of the purchase price.

Another way: Impact Radius and AvantLink both provide widgets that let you show the retailers' products on your site. When a visitor buys the item, you get a commission.

Cabelas or Bass Pro handles all the paperwork. They ship and bill. All you do is collect the commission. The big retailers provide sales and earnings reports to you.

If you ask, when the retailers have a special sale, they will provide sales promotion blurbs to your site.

Your work is minimal. Your earnings are limitless. Why wait?

...Wayne Heinz

MAKE BIG \$\$\$\$\$\$ IN NOWA'S EIC CONTEST

You made it your New Year's resolution. Remember? Go back and look at your list. Can't find it? Trust me. You said you would enter NOWA's EIC contest and now is the time.

You know you published some of your best work in 2015. 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 (EIC) contest.

At last spring's conference, we watched as our members were honored for their work. NOWA members – longtime members and talented newcomers – were awarded certificates, plaques and prize money. YES, PRIZE MONEY!

But even as some members were celebrated for their work, we knew there was work that had not been submitted that was every bit as worthy as the features, images, books and DVDs that won first, second or third place.

Don't let the opportunity pass you by. Finish 2015 by taking an hour or two to comb through your archives and submit a few items to the contest. Let's see you bask in the reflected glow at our 2016 banquet and award ceremony at Diamond Lake, Oregon.

...Gary Lewis

ON WRITING

My 19-year-old daughter is one of my inspirations. I remember a couple of years ago when I read a story she wrote and realized she is a better writer than me. So when she talks about words, I listen.

“Dad, did you know that November is the month of the 50,000-word challenge?” Her timing was pretty good. It was the morning of the 2nd of November, a Monday, when she told me that. Then she left for work. She’s a full-time office manager for a landscaping company, which means that she has to write at the lunch hour and after dinner.

She is writing a novel, so this 50,000-word exercise will put her in good stead at the end of the month.

By my calculations, a person would have to write 1,667 words per day for 30 days to hit the mark. I decided to accept the challenge.

One of my rules is that I don’t write except for pay. I break that rule when I write for the NOWA newsletter, but that’s about it.

So far today, I’ve produced 1,800 words - the text of a feature article. Yesterday, I didn’t write anything, but I edited a bit. The day before, my total was 1,750 words which will fill four blog posts and a feature story. The day before that, I wrote 800 words.

Another principle that I try to write by is: It’s better to cut than to fill. On Tuesday, in a fit of creativity, I put 850 words into a 600-word piece. I let it sit overnight then went back and chopped out 250 to hit my number. The result, I think was a better article than if I had written to a spare 600.

The trick to writing 1,667 words per day and making it pay is to have multiple assignments and columns with recurring deadlines. At the moment, I have 8 articles under deadline and half-a-dozen blog posts to write. This will amount to about 170 newspaper and magazine articles in a year, and 20 blog posts. In addition, I write 50 radio shows and 13 TV shows and a book a year. Then there’s social media. I can’t afford to relax.

To keep creativity flowing requires time spent in the field - fishing, hunting, hiking, boating, camping, cooking outdoors - and note-taking. Today’s feature article I developed out of old notes, a recent interview and observations as the shadows grew longer in a Minnesota forest. At the computer, a cup of coffee close to hand, the words began to flow and the story began to come together.

One of my favorite ways to keep the creativity and the connectivity levels up is to mind-map the idea.

I start with a blank sheet of paper, turn it horizontal, and draw

a circle in the middle. In the middle of the circle I write the main theme and then I run the major elements away from the circle in smaller circles, with more ideas radiating away like spokes from wheels. When I’ve exhausted that exercise, which usually takes 10 minutes, I look for the elements that come together. My lead and my close often arise out of the mind-map.



It is important, when high word-count production is required, to keep the creator self away from the editor self. I like to bang out the story in one or two sittings if possible then let the document rest overnight. Then I’ll read and edit the next day. If I won’t have someone to pre-edit for me, I read the piece aloud and fix the errors.

In the back of my mind, on every project, is the amount of money the editor has agreed to pay. If I can’t see myself making at least \$50 per hour on an assignment, I won’t take it. The afore-mentioned story set in the Minnesota forest will return approximately \$200 per hour.

And now I have run a word count on this piece and find I’ve added another 688 to my daily tally. Every night I compare my word count with my daughter’s production.

Tonight, I think, I win.

...Gary Lewis; www.GaryLewisOutdoors.com

**Gary Lewis currently chairs NOWA’s
Craft Improvement Committee.**

**If you have an idea for a Craft Improvement piece
please contact Gary:**

garylewisoutdoors@gmail.com

SNEAK PREVIEW: 2016 NOWA CONFERENCE

**Diamond Lake Resort; www.diamondlake.net
April 29 - May 1**

**Wine Social & T-Shirt Exchange: Thursday evening,
April 28**

\$59 for motel rooms; 2 bedroom cabins start at \$139

Reservations: 541-793-3333

JEEP TEST DRIVE/DIAMOND LAKE RESORT

2015 JEEP RENEGADE TRAILHAWK

If you have been to the NOWA conferences in the last few years, you've probably met Scott Brown from Fiat, Chrysler Automobiles - the FCA Group. Usually Brown shows up at the conference with a couple of RAM trucks. And FCA, according to Brown, wants you to know that RAM and Jeep are good rigs for you to take on trips as you tell stories around the Northwest.

I contacted Brown regarding some stories we thought should be told behind the wheel of a RAM. And he arranged for a two-week loan. Then he sent out a Jeep on a second two-week loan.

When I first laid eyes on the new Jeep Renegade Trailhawk, it was buried under 15 inches of snow and the white stuff was still falling. The Jeep had been delivered earlier that day, and when I returned from a bird hunt in Washington, it waited in the driveway.

First thing I noticed was a little green light on the ceiling. Ah, dome light, I need a dome light. I pressed the button and was immediately connected with a 9-1-1 operator. After that bit of embarrassment, I never forgot where the emergency button was.

I wanted to know: what separates a Renegade from a Renegade Trailhawk? Simply, the Trailhawk is Jeep's trail-rated model with off-road capability. In Active Drive Low, it boasts a 20:1 crawl ratio. The ride height gives 8.7 inches of ground clearance and the wheels articulate within a range of 8.1 inches. It sports skid plates and front and rear tow hooks. Jeep claims the Trailhawk will water ford to 19 inches. I decided not to test that out.

With 15 inches of snow on the ground, though, the Trailhawk was put to the test. Just getting from one side of town to the other was an adventure those first couple of days, when it all turned to crust-ed ice, but the Trailhawk was equal to the task. More equal.

When the temperature was really cold, the Trailhawk's seats and steering wheel heaters activated automatically. Because of the remote start feature, I could start the vehicle from inside the house, wait a couple of minutes then walk out and slide right in. Into comfort. Like all Jeeps, you don't feel like you're sliding into a car, you feel like you're getting into a Jeep.

On the exterior, the Trailhawk was treated in Anvil. Inside it was



black, trimmed with luxury leather buckets and red accents around the electronics. Under the hood, a 2.4-liter I4 engine provided all the power I needed and then some, hooked to the pavement with a 9-speed automatic.

Quick and agile is how I'd describe the Trailhawk. Negotiating city streets in the storm, I was able to drive around people that were sliding into ditches and careening into medians.

Toward the end of the two-week loan, I had to drive over the mountains on a fall turkey hunt. On the ice, in the freezing rain, the Trailhawk held tight to the road. No slipping, no issues.

South from Albany, I over-nighted in Junction City with Troy Rodakowski. Fueled on black coffee, bacon and eggs, we hit Yoncalla at daylight. The turkeys were spread out in a canyon, right where we wanted them.

Using an old barn for cover, I eased into range. Thirty-five yards, I guessed it, and held the bead on a good-size gobbler. I squeezed the trigger. Click. The muzzleloader missed fire. It clicked again on the second try. Now the turkeys were strung out, heading for cover.

I swapped caps and picked out a different bird. Maybe 42 yards now, moving. I squeezed and . . . Boom. A white curtain of smoke hung between me and my prize.

I might be the first person to tote home a turkey in a Trailhawk, but I bet I won't be the last. This is a great rig for the trail, whether the road goes across town or over the mountains and through the snow.

www.jeep.com/en/renegade



...Gary Lewis, www.garylewisoutdoors.com

RUSTIC?

When the conference location committee announced Diamond Lake conference site is rustic, I wondered what their definition of "rustic" was. I decided to check out the place for



...Continued

DIAMOND LAKE RESORT



...Diamond Lake, OR, Diamond Lake Resort photo

myself. I talked G.I. into driving down to the lake and he soon had a writing assignment for fishing the lake.

We stayed in a motel unit. It was old but clean. It had one queen bed, couch, private bathroom with shower only, cable TV, electric heat, air conditioning and a 4-cup coffee maker. There was no microwave, no refrigerator, no hair dryer and no facial tissue. Complimentary cocktail ice is available at the café counter. Bed linens are changed after the 3rd night, with fresh towels daily.

There are other housing options, you just need to ask what is included.

There is limited complimentary Wifi in the main lodge lobby only and it is really slow. You need to get a password at the registration desk. If your cell phone is Verizon, you are in luck. You should have coverage there. If you have Sprint, AT&T or some other carrier, don't count on it.

The Resort Store, located by the marina, has a nice variety of items, though limited brands: fishing gear, t-shirts, paper products, cheese, chips, OJ, milk, soft drinks, beer and wine.

This is high mountain lake country. We were there in June and the weather was nice. Of course, 2015 was a warm, dry year. Marina manager told us they, at times, have ice on the lake in May. I'm just saying, watch the weather forecasts and come prepared with layers; on the other hand don't forget the insect repellent.

So, rustic? Maybe. But if you are prepared, this should be really fun.

When we were there in June several four pounders had been checked in. The marina manager said, "Last year produced a 12 pounder and lots of 4 and 5 pounders." The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife reports, "when season opens there will be 250,000 rainbows in the lake."

A diet of aquatic insects produces fat, pink-meated fish. Daily limit is eight, one of which can be 20 inches or larger.

...G.I. and Jo Wilson

THE RESORT

Diamond Lake Resort has evolved from a small fishing lodge built in the 1920s, to a modern family resort that offers year-round service. It is a favorite summer spot for fishing (rainbow trout), hiking, bicycling, and horseback riding. In the winter it is famous for skiing, snowboarding and tubing, snowmobiling, and snowshoeing. All year round it is a wonderful place to take in the beauty of nature and of Crater Lake National Park.

We offer **38 two bedroom guest cabins; one deluxe four bedroom family cabin; one super deluxe 7 bedroom lakefront retreat cabin.**

We also have **38 motel rooms, 10 house keeping studios and one deluxe Jacuzzi suite.**

The marina rents from a fleet of "**Diamond Back**" mountain bikes. There is a paved 12 mile USFS bike path around the lake. For the more advanced back country dirt roads



and single track trails, ask the marina staff for directions to the best riding conditions.

Helmets are provided with each bike.

Aluminum fishing boats—16 feet/8 hp outboard and 18 feet/15 hp outboard—are available for rent by the hour, ½ day or full day.

Please call 1-541-793-3333 for rates and reservations. Be sure to let them know you are attending NOWA Conference.

Last season anglers caught "lots" of 4 pounders.

...Courtesy Diamond Lake Resort



2016 NOWA Conference

April 29 – May 1, 2016

Registration Form

Diamond Lake Resort • 350 Resort Drive • Diamond Lake, Oregon 97731
NOWA's Conference Rate: \$59 for motel rooms; 2 bedroom cabins start at \$139

Please book your room by March 20, 2016 • <http://www.diamondlake.net>

Wine Social & T-Shirt Exchange: Thursday evening, April 28

Reservations: 541-793-3333

Your Name(s) _____

New Member

1st Conference

Guest or Spouse Name(s) _____

Banquet Only: Guest or Spouse Name(s) _____

Conference Registration – Member: _____ people x \$ 99.00 = \$ _____

Conference Registration – Guest or Spouse: _____ people x \$ 99.00 = \$ _____

Banquet Only (see Notes) – Guest or Spouse: _____ people x \$ 50.00 = \$ _____

Non-member Registration: _____ people x \$150.00 = \$ _____

When a non-member joins NOWA within 30 days of the conference the membership dues will be waived for the current year.

Registration After April 1, 2014: _____ Late Fee/s x \$ 10.00 = \$ _____

If you are registering for the conference after April 1, 2014

Please add a \$10 late fee per person.

TOTAL (US funds) \$ _____

Notes:

Banquet only applies to guests and/or spouses who are not attending any other function than the Banquet on Saturday evening. All supporting members are subject to the Registration Fee. Full Registration Fee includes the banquet *plus* break refreshments *plus* hosted meals.

Room Share: Are you interested in sharing accommodations/cost? YES

Book Display: Do you have a book/s to bring to the conference for display? YES

Registration due date: Conference registration forms must be **RECEIVED at NOWA HQ by April 1, 2016.**

After April 1: Your registration fee is \$109. If registering after April 1, please email nowa@kmc-media.com to indicate you will be attending. Bring your registration form and payment to the conference.

Make check payable, in US funds, to NOWA and send with this form to:

NOWA HQ • PO Box 1420 • Beaverton, OR 97075

541-977-7116 • nowa@kmc-media.com

Cancellation / refund policy: Refunds of conference registration fees will be made on the following basis:

| | |
|--|-------------|
| 30 days prior to the conference date of April 29, 2016 | Full refund |
| 15 days prior to the conference date of April 29, 2016 | 50% refund |
| 7 days prior to the conference date of April 29, 2016 | No refund |

Conference registration **late fees are non-refundable.**

Rev: 12/8/15

MEMBER NEWS

KEITH SZAFRANSKI



...Dave Vedder photo

As some of you know, Mary and I have been working on moving to WA for about a year now. This effort increased noticeably when Mary took a new job with the Nisqually Indian Tribe as their Elders Public Health Nurse. She has been living with our daughter and son-in-law in Tacoma and commuting to her job east of Olympia since the end of August. I stayed in Livingston working on getting the house that we lived in for 32 years ready to sell (painting, minor repairs, packing, cleaning, etc.) We had quite the time finding a house we liked but finally did it. As of December 24, we have our Washington home only 4 blocks from where Mary works. It is not our ideal property (it is quite nice, however) but being that close to work and not having to deal with the western Washington commute every day is HUGE!

Our new address is:

Keith and Mary Szafranski
2231 Sa Sada Wa St. SE
Olympia, WA 98513

CHUCK ROBBINS

New Phone Number: 406-925-3081.

Please delete all previous phone numbers: 406-683-9785; 406-660-1411 and 406-660-1325.



WELCOME ZACK MANSFIELD (AP)

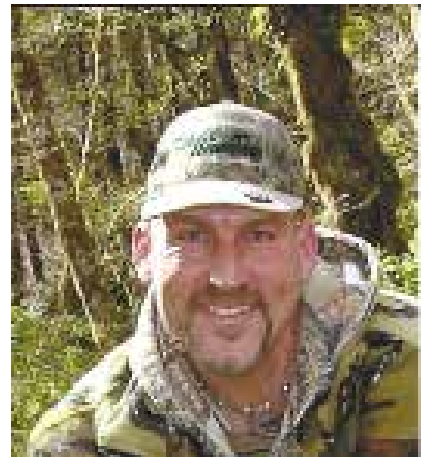


516 N. Bellwood, Union, OR 97883; 541-604-6299
z_mansfield@hotmail.com

Aspiring writer, “professionally amateur” photographer with photos published in Catch magazine, OHA and Western Hunter magazine. Raised among the sagebrush flats of Central Oregon; His love for the wild places and adventure is only matched for his appetite for a vividly lived life and the written word.

Sponsor: Duane Dungannon

MAX ZELLER (AC)



24828 Alsea Highway; Alsea, OR 97324; 541-487-4504
mzeller@casco.net

I graduated with a BS in Wildlife Science from Oregon State University and worked as a Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Officer in both Oregon and Washington (retired). I have had three articles published in Oregon Hunter magazine.

Sponsor: Duane Dungannon

SUPPORTING MEMBER NEWS

ROCKY MOUNTAIN ELK FOUNDATION CONSERVATION FUNDING: MORE WORK TO DO

The Rocky Mountain Foundation calls on the full Congress to vote in favor of critical conservation and sportsmen issues just approved by Congressional leadership in the latest omnibus budget agreement.



The legislation, which is mandatory to avoid a government shutdown, reauthorized the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) through 2018. It also permanently authorized an incentive toward the creation of conservation easements on privately owned land which will assist farmers and ranchers to permanently protect important wildlife habitat.

A bipartisan effort of western congressional leaders worked together to secure this legislation for wildlife, sportsmen and landowners; all critical elements to healthy elk country.

“We are grateful to Senators Bennet, Crapo, Daines, Gardner, Heller, Risch, Tester and Wyden as well as Representatives Simpson (Idaho) and Zinke who all had key roles in negotiating and overseeing the approval of these two extremely vital and essential conservation programs,” said David Allen, RMEF president and CEO. “We now urge RMEF members across the nation to contact their Congressional representatives to vote in favor of these issues as part of the current budget agreement vote set for Friday. And we call on the president to sign it into law.”

Congressional leaders appropriated \$450 million for LWCF in FY2016, a \$100 million increase from FY2015 levels. Since 1990, RMEF has utilized more than \$85 million in LWCF funding across 62 projects in ten different states in partnership with federal agencies to protect, conserve and open access to some of the most vital elk country in the United States.

On the downside, Congress came up short on several fronts including permanently fixing the wildfire funding dilemma which continues to drain federal budgets, modest and much-needed forestry reform, and delisting gray wolves in Wyoming and the Great Lakes states—a common sense approach that would have ensured consistency in their management.

Contact: Katie McKalip, 406-240-9262, mckalip@backcountryhunters.org

BACKCOUNTRY HUNTERS AND ANGLERS CONGRESS INCREASES AGENCY FUNDING, PASSES STOP-GAP LWCF MEASURE

An omnibus budget deal released by Congress increases agency funding and includes a measure that reauthorizes the Land and Water Conservation Fund - but for only three years.

10_NOWA FIELD NOTES

The spending bill for Fiscal Year 2016 represents a hard-won - and at times bitterly contested - agreement that funds the federal government in the coming year while narrowly averting another shutdown. While acknowledging the hard work by Congress, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers reiterated the need for LWCF legislation that permanently reauthorizes and fully funds the highly successful conservation program.



Congress passed a budget deal that not only avoided a government shutdown but also includes a provision to reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund for three years at \$450 million.

Strong bipartisan support for the LWCF overcame fringe elements in the Senate and House Natural Resources Chair Rob Bishop to do the right thing for conservation and public access. **Unfortunately Congress had the opportunity to do the right thing for LWCF once and for all but failed to move language already developed that would permanently reauthorize one of our nation's most historic, successful conservation programs.**

BHA applauded key increases in the spending bill for agencies responsible for managing public fish and wildlife habitat, public trails, campgrounds and much more. The sportsmen's group also noted the absence of attack riders that would have impacted the greater sage-grouse, fish, waterfowl and species that rely on clean wetlands and streams. Highlights include the following:

Bureau of Land Management: \$1.2 billion overall (an increase of \$117 million from enacted levels); the BLM also received \$60 million for sage steppe habitat restoration and improvement, benefiting species including sage-grouse, mule deer, pronghorn and elk

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: \$1.5 billion (an increase of \$69 million from enacted levels)

U.S. Forest Service: \$2.5 billion (an increase of \$35 million from enacted levels)

In addition, the LWCF was reauthorized at \$450 million - an increase of \$100 million from enacted levels.

“Tenacious efforts by hunters and anglers helped stave off attack riders on the Clean Water Act and sage grouse conservation - measures that would have diminished our ability to responsibly manage and conserve fish and wildlife populations and important areas of habitat,” stated Tawney. “But we cannot rest easy. These attacks will continue.

«Sportsmen and the citizenry at large have made abundantly clear our support of the Land and Water Conservation Fund,» he concluded. «It's time for Congress to fulfill the will of the American people. We'll celebrate this moment - but we'll be doubling down on our efforts in the New Year.»

Contact: Krystin Brady, kbrady@backcountryhunters.org

2015 NOWA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

(Editor's Note: For whatever reasons the Board Meeting Minutes were not sent to me until a couple days ago; so for the record here ya go. Better late than never, eh?)

NOWA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

May 4, 2015

Richland, Washington

Gary Lewis called the meeting to order.

Introductions.

Roll Call: Dave Jones

Present: Greg Gulbrandsen, Joe Warren, Gary Lewis, John Kruse, Bob Mottram, Dennis Kirkland, Jason Haley, Peter Schroeder, Nicole Lewis, Dave Jones.

Absent: Mike McKenna, Scott Marchant, Duane Dungannon, Craig Schuhmann.

Gary Christianson sitting in to present EIC Contest change proposal.

Review Minutes:

2014 Board meeting minutes were provided via email to board. Not printed for meeting. Motion to approve by Greg Gulbrandsen. Seconded by Peter Schroeder. Approved.

President's Report: Greg Gulbrandsen

Greg noted a year of tranquility in NOWA and enjoyed preparing his monthly messages to membership in NOWA Field Notes. He welcomed and thanked incoming Executive Director Dave Jones and noted his hire came at a difficult time of year.

Executive Director Report: Dave Jones

Dave noted that he is honored and excited to be a part of NOWA. He pointed to the great foundation built by previous ED's; Ron and Debbie Kerr and Kyla Merwin. Dave explained the difficult ramp-up period at a crucial time of the year in terms of membership renewals and conference planning. Dave offered specific thanks to Kyla Merwin for her assistance in training and transitioning. Dave explained that he was unaware that to do the ED job one had to purchase two software programs (Quicken and Filemaker Pro) and provide a computer. The board voted to purchase a laptop and up-to-date computer software that is property of NOWA. Board approved a motion to reimburse Dave mileage to/from Portland three trips and lodging for training with Kyla Merwin.

Gary Lewis thanked Dave for his work and gave special thanks to Kyla Merwin for her availability and support during the transition and in the planning and execution of the annual conference.

Treasurer's Report: Dave Jones

We spent \$2891.44 more than we raised in 2015. Dave's main concerns are with membership and attendance at annual conference. We spent approximately \$1500 less than we did in 2014 but there was a decrease in membership renewals and conference attendance this year. Dave stressed that there needs to be an effort to increase conference registration and build upon established sponsor relationships. This effort will need to include involvement of the board.

New member recruitment and member retention will be a top priority of the NOWA leadership beginning now.

Greg Gulbrandsen noted that Kyla's work on retaining sponsorships prevented us from going \$6K in the red.

Peter Schroeder stressed that the ED must negotiate hard with the conference venue to get the best deals. Dave and Greg G. noted that we did just that this year; all session rooms and raffle rooms were donated at no charge, only setup fee.

A discussion regarding the proposed budgeted ensued. Nicole Lewis suggested that the proposed web design changes will be substantial and could be expensive. The board chose to add \$500 to the expense budget for web development design. The board elected to add \$1000 to the expense budget for the purchase of a laptop and software to be used by the executive director. The board approved \$500 for mileage and lodging costs incurred by Dave for NOWA ED training in Portland. The board approved \$1000 for lodging for the board for the first night of the 2015 conference. The board approved \$450 for the coordination of executing the proposed changes to the Excellence In Craft contest. These additional expenditures will come from the NOWA Endowment Fund.

John Kruse moved to approve these expenditures. Nicole Lewis Seconded. It passed unanimously.

Peter Schroeder requested that Dave provide a cash flow projection for the rest of 2015. Dave will do so and provide to the board. The amended proposed budget will

By-Laws Report: Bob Mottram

The question of how by-laws can be changed was asked. Bob reported that by-laws can be changed only at the end of the conference by a majority of the members present.

We did not change the membership screening requirements in Article 1, Section 4 of the by-laws. We did discuss the advisability of dropping the requirement that prospective members submit samples of their work, but we did not present that question to the membership.

The board created an honorary category of membership, and created a process to allow the Board to bestow such a membership (by majority vote of the Board) upon anyone it sees fit for the balance of the current membership year, at no charge to the recipient (or to the Board). Such a recipient would have all of the rights and

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responsibilities of a regular member except for the right to vote. (The proposal to create such an Honorary Member category is the one that the Board brought before the membership at Sunday morning's business meeting and which the membership passed overwhelmingly by a show of hands.)

Conference Report: Joe Warren

Joe Warren gave the lineup of sessions and presenters. He gave thanks to Dennis Dauble. Joe stated that there was feedback on the original session lineup that it was too photography-heavy. Dave Jones added that he lined up the two social media sessions, taught by Gary Lewis and Kyla Merwin.

Joe Warren offered the feedback that some want fewer and longer Craft Improvement Sessions. Joe said hands-on sessions are better. Gary Lewis stated that is up to the conference planner. Gary said he tried the longer/fewer approach at the Wallace, Idaho conference and it turned into a popularity contest, in terms of attendance.

Nicole Lewis suggested we make people choose their sessions long before the conference. Dave Jones suggested that people wait to make those decisions. (Unless it is a choice of chicken or beef.)

Peter Schroeder suggested a good format for CIS is, 1/3 newsmakers, 1/3 Craft Improvement, 1/3 conference location.

Regarding spurring conference attendance, Joe suggested a big name speaker. Gary again reminded the board that is up to the conference planners.

Greg Gulbrandsen suggested we offer keynote speaker Bruce Bjornstad a complementary membership to NOWA. Peter Schroeder offered that membership should be paid from the investment portfolio. The "honorary member" discussion ensued. (See notes in BY-LAWS report above.)

Conference Site Selection Report: Greg Gulbrandsen

Greg presented that we have three bids from the 2016 conference in Oregon: Lane County, The Dalles and Diamond Lake. Greg said Gary Lewis, Dave Jones and he visited Diamond Lake and believe it offers the best opportunity for a successful conference. Nicole Lewis said the conference location can be a selling tool or marketing feature for attendance and recruiting new members.

Peter Schroeder moved to approve Diamond Lake as our choice, with specific instruction for the E.D. to negotiate the best deal. John Kruse seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Supporting Member Day: Dave Jones

Dave Jones listed the Supporting Members in attendance at this year's conference:

- Visit Lewis Clark Valley
- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (new SM, thanks to John Kruse)
- Visit Tri-Cities

- Alpen Optics (not in attendance until Saturday night)
- RAM Trucks
- National Shooting Sports Foundation (not attending but supporting)

Dave stated NSSF sponsored Friday's lunch and an EIC award.

The board talked about increasing SM involvement in the conference and in terms of NOWA membership. Peter Schroeder suggested the E.D. send an EIC and renewal invoice prior to asking them. Dave Jones replied that he did that.

Jason Haley recommended a sort of 'media kit' for potential and existing SM's outlining how their NOWA membership benefits them and what they get out of it,

Craft Improvement Report: Bob Mottram

Bob Solicited Craft Improvement articles from the winners of 2014 EIC Awards. Seven members submitted nine articles for Field Notes.

Awards Committee Report: Gary Lewis

Enos Bradner Award

2014 Recipient: Stan Fagerstrom

Stan Jones Scholarship:

No applications filed.

Fred L. Peterson Award

2014 Recipient: Mack's Lures

Past President's Award

2014 Recipient: Greg Gulbrandsen

NOWA Conference Fellowship:

Offer two scholarships of \$250 each for first time conference attendees.

Offer three scholarships to pay conference registration fees. Two of the latter come from the NOWA Fellowship and one from the Stan Jones Scholarship Fund.

Total Scholarships = \$797.00

\$698 is funded from the NOWA Fellowship and \$99 from the Stan Jones Fund.

Ethics Report: Greg Gulbrandsen

Greg reported no ethics issues for the past year.

There was discussion of a background check and 60-day probation period for new members during which comments may be made on people nominated for NOWA membership.

Markets Report:

John Kruse reported that he posted as number of market opportunities on the NOWA Facebook page and in the NOWA Newsletter; photo contests, full time jobs, freelance writing. John encourages NOWA members to post similar opportunities on

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the NOWA Facebook page. Dave Jones added that the NOWA Facebook page has over 300 followers and is growing in terms of its reach.

Membership & Recruiting Committee

John Kruse reported that we have 112 Active Members and 19 Supporting Members; these numbers compare with 152 Active Members in 2012 and 52 Supporting Members in 2008. "The declining status of our membership remains the elephant in the room..." John said we must address the problem of declining membership immediately and in earnest. The incentive pay to increase Supporting Membership offered to former ED Kyla Merwin did not pan out, as NOWA transitioned to a new ED.

Kruse reported that similar organizations are growing and NOWA is still relevant.

Active members need a reason to belong and renew. Gary and Greg offered that FAM trips and the conference are the best advantages to membership. John shared that he cannot lead this effort. Nicole Lewis wants to be a part of any effort to retain and renew Active Members.

With regard to Supporting Members, Gary Lewis asked what if the SM liaison was NOT a SM, as it now stands? Joe Warren asked what SM's expect from us. John K. said his SM clients ask what they get from NOWA membership. He said there needs to be a relationship between NOWA and the SM. Joe Warren says SM's need a return on their investment.

Greg G. suggested a "tear sheet repository" with a copy of the article written highlighting a SM. Peter Schroeder suggested the ED call SM's and AM's who have not renewed and ask them why? Peter said SM do NOT want PR, but are in it for the long-term investment. Peter suggested non-traditional SM; Hewlett Packard (printers), Staples/Office Supply (writing materials), banks, etc.

Gary Lewis stated that Kyla Merwin worked very hard on SM issue and in fact raised new significant award money from SM's.

There are now "**Tackle Boxes**" for new active and supporting members, as well as new NOW Board members. These tackle boxes are designed to help NOWA members become more informed and engaged with NOWA and get the most out of their membership. Tackle boxes created by Kyla Merwin.

Mentoring Committee:

Gary Lewis called this a well-intentioned program that doesn't get enough attention. Duane suggested a help blog on the NOWA website; log on and ask a question and NOWA members could reply online. Bob Mottram stated when he administered it he could get no mentees to volunteer. Dennis Dauble said 'mentoring' should be mentioned for new members as a required activity. Peter Schroeder said a "sponsor" should be a mentor and give more

weight to that responsibility. Peter suggested ED personally contact each "sponsor" before the conference to remind him or her who they sponsored. (Editor's Note: Mentoring Program has since been scrapped.)

Nominating Committee:

Gary Lewis reported three new board members were elected by NOWA membership to fill three-year terms. Troy Rodakowski, Dennis Dauble and Date Zuniga-West. The one-year board position held by Laurel Brauns was filled when Nicole Lewis moved to elect Risa Wyatt. Bob Mottram seconded and the vote was unanimous.

Pass It On Award

Four nominees. Winner to be announced at Saturday Conference Banquet.

Public Relations and Outreach Committee

John Kruse reported no requests from board or staff to reach out to external businesses or non-profits. Mike did attempt to get media coverage for NOWA. Stumbling blocks are website (looks dated and neglected) and uninteresting conference locations. There was agreement on the board regarding the antiquated website. Mike McKenna feels there could be better communication between board members, perhaps in monthly or quarterly phone conference calls.

People's Choice Awards:

Nicole Lewis reported this year was all digital. Three categories; Master, Pro, Amateur.

Photo Shootout Committee:

Visit Tri-Cities offered prizes and judging. Six entries.

Excellence In Craft Contest:

Gary reported that after administering the contest for this year's conference he believes the complexity of the contest and administration of it needs modification and simplification. His proposal was discussed in detail in New Business.

Raffle & Silent Auction Committee

Jo Wilson Last year the conference raffle brought in &570. Silent Auction brought in \$629 for a total of \$1199.

Website

Scott Richmond reported that the website was upgraded as needed. Online payment of dues and registration was added last year. Scott suggests the website move to a new delivery technology such as Wordpress templates. This would allow easier updates and allow the ED to make changes. The board agrees the website is a stumbling block to new members and needs to be updated. The board approved \$500 toward updating the NOWA website in 2015.

...Continued

2015 NOWA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Financial Committee:

Dave Kilhefner reported another stellar year for the NOWA investment team.

The Finance Committee is pleased to announce the following results from the NOWA investments since the last conference:

Total Income Earned: \$3,081. The Stan Jones Fund contains \$363.

Unrealized Capital Gains: \$7,962.

Basic statistics of our portfolio:

Total deposits: \$ 42,160

Acct Value on 2/28/2015: \$ 66,675

Net Increase: \$ 24,515 (+58% over 3 yrs)

Current cash/dividend balance: \$ 1,112* (1,951 last yr)

Annual dividend going forward: \$ 3,259 (2,796 last yr)

*Dividends not part of the Stan Jones Scholarship fund were reinvested in stock purchases this year, maintaining a goal of having a cash balance of at least \$1,000 prior to the 2015 NOWA Conference.

OLD BUSINESS:

Strategic Plan

The board addressed the updated 2015-18 NOWA Strategic Plan and made the following changes:

Membership Section #3

Work samples not required for new members. Sponsor's opinion should be enough.

Membership section #7

Eliminate "made up of current Supporting members"

Newsletter section; make *Field Notes* more accessible.

Discussion about transitioning to "Constant Contact", embed content on the website. More modern delivery. PDF is old school. Gary Lewis says it is better than it used to be. It was agreed the newsletter is one of the most important touch points NOWA has with existing and potential members.

Outreach section

Push social media and encourage membership to "post" and Like" Facebook page.

John Kruse moved to approve the amended plan as outlined above. Greg Gulbrandsen seconded. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Gary Lewis offered a moment of silence in honor of former NOWA member, the late Chub Eastman.

Stan Jones Scholarship

Peter Schroeder suggested moving the Stan Jones Scholarship into the NOWA Endowment. Greg Gulbrandsen moved to com-

bine the accounts. Dennis Dauble seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Bob Mottram abstained.

Budget

Dave Jones presented 2015 budget. Changes to the proposed budget included adding the following:

- \$500 for web development design
- \$1000 for laptop/software for ED (owned by NOWA)
- \$500 reimbursement for ED training; lodging/mileage
- \$1000 for board lodging first night at 2015 conference
- \$450 for EIC contest administration

Money to come from Endowment fund

John Kruse moves to approve budget. Nicole Lewis seconded.

Passed unanimously.

Destroy Election ballots:

Dave Jones destroyed board election ballots.

Conference Date

April 30-May 1, 2016

Vote for Outstanding Board Member

Board elected Peter Schroeder

EIC Proposed changes

Gary Christanson presented a detailed critique of his recommendations to simplify the EIC contest for entrants and the administrator. Gary C. suggested combining print and digital into one group. Bob Mottram asked if the proposed changes would reduce categories. Gary C. replied that it would. Gary Lewis reminded the board that we need to provide recognition of the good work of our members; that we need to respect the board's wishes and the needs of our members. Peter Schroeder suggested letting non-NOWA members enter at higher fees and pay someone to administer the contest. An earlier entry deadline was suggested.

Gary Lewis stated that Gary C.'s report had some great parts and other parts need fine-tuning. Gary C. agreed to refine his proposal and resubmit to the board at a later date.

NOWA Name Change

Gary Lewis stated that some members feel the name, NOWA, is not inclusive and does not represent the makeup of the organization. One suggestion is "NW Outdoor Media Association". Bob Mottram suggested the word "communicator" should be in the name. The topic will be brought before the membership at the Sunday meeting.

Bruce Bjornstad Honorary Membership

Greg Gulbrandsen moved to offer an honorary membership to 2015 keynote speaker Bruce Bjornstad, to be paid out of endowment fund. John Kruse seconded. Board passed the motion.

...Meeting Adjourned

Official Entry Form

2015 NOWA Excellence in Craft Contest

Entries for 1/1/2015 – 12/31/2015

Awards to be announced at NOWA Annual Meeting May 2016

Contest Entry Deadline: Entry must be **POSTMARKED** on or before January **11**, 2016

Entry Fee: NOWA Member: \$5.00 USD

NON-Member: \$10.00 USD

Complete a copy of this form for **each entry**. One item per entry form. Total all entry fees and make one payment payable to NOWA by check, money order, or Paypal in U.S. Dollars. Make your PayPal payment on NOWA's website (<http://northwest-outdoor-writers-association.org/awards.php>). Include your PayPal receipt with your entry.

Send your **entry** and **entry fee** to:

Gary Christenson, NOWA EIC Contest, 489 Sherwood Loop, Florence, OR 97439.

Entrant's Name: _____ Phone: (_____) _____

Street Address: _____ If NOWA member, **2016 Dues paid:** [____]

City: _____ State/Prov: _____ ZIP: _____

E-mail address to send entry confirmation: _____

ENTRY: Publication Name: _____ **Date:** _____

ENTRY: Title of Entry: _____

Contest Categories: Check Only ONE Category for This Entry Form

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

[____] **Category 2: Fishing article, (not 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, (not 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, camping or recreation article on any outdoor subject (from any written media), backpacking, RV's, canoeing, general boating, backcountry skiing, snow shoeing, dog sledding, mountaineering, boating, hiking, biking, 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/Artwork: People – Subject is any human in an outdoor setting or engaged in outdoor recreation.

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

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

(Note re Category 6: Artwork includes line drawing, watercolor, or similar used to illustrate any outdoor subject. By entering work in Category 6 the entrant is granting NOWA one-time use of winning photos in the NOWA newsletter and NOWA Directory.)

Category 7A: A book in print format on any outdoor subject.

Category 7B: A book in digital format on any outdoor subject.

Category 8: Humor on any outdoor subject, in any medium.

Category 9: A video on any outdoor topic.

Category 10: An audiotape on any outdoor topic.

Category 11: Digital Media

Category 11A: Fishing and/or Hunting Articles published in Websites, E-Zines, Blogs

Category 11B: Other than Fishing and/or Hunting Articles published in Websites, E-Zines, Blogs

Category 11C: Video appearing on Websites, E-Zines, Blogs

[___] Category **11D: Audio** appearing on Websites, E-zines, Blogs

[___] Category **11E: Photography/Art** published in Websites, E-zines, Blogs

[___] Category **11F: Apps and Other** Multi-Media

If entrant wishes to submit an entry into a digital media category, the same entry cannot be entered into a non-digital media category.

See the EIC Contest Rules for additional information.

- End of Entry Form -

- Start Contest Rules -

Official Contest Rules

2015 NOWA Excellence in Craft Contest

ALL ENTRIES

Contest is open to NOWA members who have paid their NOWA membership dues for 2016 prior to the Excellence in Craft Contest entry deadline. Contest is also open to non-members who live in NOWA's membership area of five western states (WA, OR, MT, ID, AK) and four Canadian provinces (BC, AB, YK, NT).

All entries (except books) must have been published between January 1, 2015 and December 31, 2015.

Books must have been published between January 1, 2014 and December 31, 2015.

Note: A book can only be entered in the EIC Contest one time.

Only articles or photos for which the entrant was paid are eligible.

A total of **two** entries may be entered per category (exception: Category 1, in which up to four columns may be entered. (i.e., 1, 2, 3, or 4 columns = 1 entry).

An article with sidebars may be entered as one body of work in writing categories.

Articles or photos with two by-lines are only accepted as one entry.

The rules are designed for "blind" judging; the same people do not judge all categories. Judging will be under "blind" judging conditions, so names and publications cannot appear on the actual entry to be judged. Therefore, all identifying names and visual identities in all photos and illustrations must be removed.

Entries will NOT be returned. Suitable items (e.g., a book) will be donated to NOWA Raffle.

Original tear sheets are not required and will not be returned. Standard, high-quality, copy-machine entries are acceptable; they will not be returned.

ENTRY FORMATS

Entries must be submitted in the applicable format shown below. Each entry submitted may be an original or a high-quality photocopy. Entries will NOT be returned. For each entry include a completed entry form and submit in a manila file folder. E-mail entries will not be accepted.

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).

Submit **one original with bylines** plus **two judging copies without bylines.**

Articles (All Categories)

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

Artwork Or Illustration

1. Submit one original printed piece or a high-quality photocopy of published work, showing credit line and caption PLUS two judging copies with credit lines removed. Captions and titles are permitted.
2. Entries must be mounted or photocopied on 8 1/2" x 11" or 11" x 17" white paper.
3. Do not send original art with the entry.

Books

1. Submit the entire printed book (two copies) as published. Please cover the author's name with a removable tape or label.
2. Entry form and book should be placed in a manila folder or envelope.
3. Digital books may be submitted by providing two judging copies of a document, without your name, that includes a link to the published book.

Photographs Or Artwork

1. Submit one original or a high-quality photocopy of published work, showing credit line and caption PLUS two judging tear sheets of the original publication (or photocopies) 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, two prints not larger than 8 1/2" x 11", or two duplicate transparencies may be included with the entry (*in addition to item 1 requirements*).
3. Do not send original photographs or slides with the entry.

Video And Audio Tapes

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 two judging copies of video or audiotape should be placed in a manila folder or envelope.

Digital Media

1. Submit Entry Form and two judging documents, without your name, providing the title of your submission, category, and viewable link, URL or instructions to view app.

JUDGING

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 place winners, and must select at least one 1st place award for each category in which entries are submitted. Ties are prohibited. Judges may award Honorable Mention at their discretion.

ENTRY SUBMISSION

All Excellence in Craft Contest entries must be **postmarked** on or before **January 11, 2016**.

Complete a copy of this form for **each entry**. Total all entry fees and make one payment payable to NOWA by check, money order, or Paypal in U.S. Dollars. Make your PayPal payment on NOWA's website (<http://northwest-outdoor-writers-association.org/awards.php>). Include your PayPal receipt with your entry.

Submit your entry form(s) and check, money order, or PayPal receipt to:

Gary Christenson, NOWA EIC Contest
489 Sherwood Loop
Florence, OR 97439

The "Pass It On Award" (Not part of the Excellence in Craft Contest)

Sponsored annually by Bass Pro Shops, the **Pass It On Award** presents \$300 to the NOWA member who has – through writing, video, audio, photography, education, mentoring, etc. – best demonstrated the idea of passing on to others a passion for the great outdoors, and has demonstrated this passion through their craft. The Pass It On Award will be judged by a committee chaired by the previous year's recipient. Submit only one copy of your submission. All identifying names and visual identities must be removed. Put the last 4 digits of your phone number on the back of your entry. Send your entry from work produced in 2015 to: Jason Haley, 4036 Independence School Road, Medford, OR 97501. **Entries for the Pass It On Award must be postmarked by January 31, 2016.**

End of EIC Contest Entry Form and Rules :: 26NOWA 44.RTF : REV: 10/28/15