

NORTHWEST OUTDOOR WRITERS ASSOCIATION
NOWA FIELD NOTES

NOWA NEWS MARCH 2016



...Kyaking Diamond Lake, Photo Courtesy Discover Klamath CVB

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ATTEND NORTHWEST TRAVEL WRITERS CONFERENCE

NORTHWEST OUTDOOR WRITERS ASSOCIATION

NOWA NEWS MARCH 2016

www.northwest-outdoor-writers-association.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

THE OUTDOOR PHOTOGRAPHER

Time is flying by! The 43rd annual NOWA conference will be here very soon and I hope all you are making plans to attend. My only hope is that the lake is thawed out so I can fly fish for those big rainbows; that's where I'll be! By the way, keep your eyes and ears open for a potential big trout derby during the conference!

Well, I thought I would do something different this month for my column. Seems like I have given plenty of cheerleading up till now, so with that let's talk shop; photography that is. As a photographer, I am not one to go light. If you take the game seriously like I do, you probably pack at least 2 slr digital bodies (one FX and one DX), at least 4 to 7 lenses, a very sturdy tripod, maybe a gimbal head, various filters, extra batteries, extra memory cards, auxillary flash and extension arm, cable shutter release, and one or two teleconverters. If one of your lenses is a beefy, fast glass, 400-600mm that's a good 13-15 lbs right there! My other bag with accessories, one body and five lenses tops out about 25 lbs. Ever try to travel by air with this kind of equipment? I did it ONCE! Unless someone is paying me big bucks, I'll never do it again.

The next bright idea comes to me that I need to just find that perfect all-around lens for my outdoor shots matched to just one camera body and leave the rest behind. The array of super-duper telephoto lenses on the market is truly amazing with ranges as wide as 16mm-300mm (made by Tamron). I was almost sold for the all-round lens until another gadget caught my attention; the bridge camera! What's a bridge camera? The bridge camera is basically a fixed lens digital camera with great zoom capability and many bells and whistles. Many bridge camera brands (Panasonic, Olympus, Nikon, Canon, Sony and so on) sport vibration reduction, macro focusing, mega zoom out to 2000mm, video, decent size sensors, mirrorless, and so on and so forth. Whoa! All that for just about the same price as another lens! It was a no brainer.

After many hours of comparing features and reading umpteen reviews, I settled for the Panasonic Lumix DMC, FZ1000 camera (\$669 on Ebay, brand new). I won't go into all the features but the main ones that quickly grabbed my interest are, a 25mm-400mm f2.8-4.0 lens (35mm equivalent), mirror less, can shoot up to 50 frames/sec., 4K video (the first camera for under \$1K that has this feature), time lapse, true macro photography, image stabilization, hot shoe for ext. flash mount, a 20.1MP 1" high sensitivity MOS sensor, RAW imaging and a fold out view finder that rotates 3-60, and a ton more! Well, needless to say, the image quality is more



that satisfying for outdoor journalism. Now when I get into a boat for a fly fishing trip or travel afar on a plane, I have one, small-ish camera in a comfortable case that can slip into my day pack!

One of the best moments I had with this camera was on a fly fishing trip on a lake that had a crazy damsel hatch with beautiful brown trout going ballistic on them. At one point I was kneeling over the boat



A quick shot with the Panasonic FZ1000, the detail is amazing!

gunnel to shoot a marco image of blue damsels on a grass blade (hand held) when suddenly my partner is whooping it up with a feisty brown he just hooked after he waded over to a submerged weed patch. Macro button off, zoom button on and I caught my buddy with his fly rod doubled over as the brown cleared about 3 feet of water! All of this happened in less than a minute! Even with two cameras equipped with the appropriate lens, I couldn't have achieved the shots I got. Since then I am now learning to take still shots out of the video and find the quality to be amazing! So, no more heavy camera gear in limited space or travel for this photographer; it's a bridge camera all the way! If you're in the same boat looking for a one size fits all, take a good look at these style cameras.

Best wishes in your pursuits to the great outdoors,

...Joe Warren

NOWA PHOTO SHOOTOUT 2016

Once again it is time to start thinking about the annual Photo Shootout contest which is held at the NOWA conference each year. For several reasons, this years contest is going to be a bit different than past contests. There will be 3 fairly broad categories for which to shoot. Participants will have 24 hours (6pm Thursday to 6pm Friday) to complete their assignment. Prizes will be given for 1st place in each category. Diamond Lake looks like a beautiful place to take photographs so I am hoping that a lot of you will take advantage of this opportunity and sign up to participate.

To sign up, email me at keith_szafranski@msn.com. I look forward to seeing you at Diamond Lake!

...Keith Szafranski; www.mostlywildlifephotos.com

DIAMOND LAKE RESORT, OR
APRIL 29-MAY 1, 2016
BE THERE!

ED MESSAGE/PEOPLE'S CHOICE PHOTO CONTEST



...Redband Rainbow; courtesy Discover Klamath CVB

CHANGE OR TRANSITION?

When Obama ran for President his motto was “Change”. Hearing that made me nervous, because I thought, “Change in and of itself is not necessarily a good thing. Change can be good or bad. What does he really mean?” It seems that most folks are comfortable with the status quo until they are totally fed up with a situation, then they’ll do just about anything to change, sometimes too sudden. That sudden change can throw things into a tailspin.

I’m more comfortable with the concept of “Transition”. It has a positive connotation and implies control of the process. Nature transitions from winter to spring to summer to fall in an orderly fashion that someone far smarter than us designed.

The charter members of NOWA designed a great framework to build upon. Let’s not lose sight of this foundation. **Make it a priority to attend the annual conference** to renew friendships and discover ways to transition your career. At the conference we will learn from one another as well as from the excellent speakers who conference chairman Craig Schuhmann has lined up.

Volunteer to serve on the board and help make the financial decisions that drive NOWA. **Step in line to make the transition** from member to board member to second vice president and embrace the learning opportunity this affords. As I transition from NOWA member to Executive Director I need your feedback in order to provide the support our members need.

Let’s be smart about how we transition NOWA through this decade of change. We see where we started and where we are now. Let’s look where we want to go and plan accordingly. As an organization we have the opportunity to influence people’s lives in a positive way. Individually we do this for our readers. As an organization we can do this for each other and the outdoor community.

Yours in the outdoors,

...Adela Jackson

PEOPLE'S CHOICE PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

Get ready for the NOWA’s People’s Choice Photography contest! This is an opportunity for all photographer’s to showcase their work for a potential prize in either the “Pro” or “Amateur” class, which will be voted by all who attend the conference. The image with the most votes per class wins! One winner from the pro class, one winner from the amateur class. Please note, this year’s submissions will be PRINT, not digital!



Entry rules:

- Any subject photographed since the last conference, May 3, 2015.
- One entry per photographer
- Maxim print size not to exceed 8” x 12”
- Print must be mounted on matt board or card board (do not put your name on the back).
- At the conference, choose to enter either the pro (including semi-pro) class or amateur class (if you get paid for your photos then you are a pro).
- Turn in your print to Debbie Kerr on Thur-Friday, a number will be assigned to your print.
- Voting will begin on Saturday morning and close in the evening. Winners will be shown on Sunday morning as soon as possible.

Contact Joe Warren if you any questions and I look forward to seeing your entry!



...Crater Lake NP; courtesy roadtrippers.com

CHOOSING THE RIGHT DIGITAL CAMERA FOR FISHING PHOTOGRAPHY



A selection of digital cameras used by the author, from DSLR, pocket digital, iPhone, and GoPro, along with memory cards, waterproof protector, and backup hard drive. Each camera has its pros and cons.

Most outdoor writers new to the craft know how to handle a rod and reel to catch fish, but when it comes to taking award-winning fishing photos, they are often digitally skunked.

Crooked horizons, blurry fish, the tail of a fish cropped out, or a fishing rod sticking out from the back of the smiling face makes the angler resemble a Martian with a missing antennae. Such shots are amateurish.

With over 40 years of this business, I have seen my share of lousy photography, especially from the current crop of self-proclaimed “digital journalists.” I see them as opportunists, using technology to compensate for skill and experience. I’m sure you’ve scratched your head in wonderment at seeing some of these examples “published” online. The culprit? An insatiable need for content, selling at pennies per photo, if not free.

All I can say is God bless ‘em. If it wasn’t for these digital photographers, editors wouldn’t be coming to me and other NOWA members to purchase the good stuff.

The question begs to be asked: Armed with their smartphones, are these digital journalists producing the best material? Are today’s markets more opportunistic than quality based?

Could I have taken a better photo with a DSLR? Do I need to invest \$5,000 in a new camera body to remain competitive in today’s marketplace?

Those are the questions I asked when outlining this column.

Much of the instant news and blogs today merely require “adequate” or “snap-and-shoot” photography. If you shoot for this market, you know what you need and what you can do. Just keep this in mind: Don’t leave the complex equations of depth of field, exposure and saturation to a camera brain and sensor. Even the hack work we all do on occasion can benefit from adhering to basic rules of photo composition and exposure.

It seems many new outdoor communicators have lost the ability to think ahead of the photo. At the start of our careers, both Adela Jackson and I soaked in whatever photo lessons by Doug Wilson, Keith Szafranski, Lefty Kreh, Eric Hansen, Gary Christiansen and others gave at the NOWA and OWAA conventions. Of course, we shot film in the good ol’ days, in the Scavenger Hunt Photo Contest, where a photographer had only one shot of a subject. The contest helped us see the photo and think about it before taking the shot; much like a sculptor sees the final statue in a block of marble.

The contest developed critical photography skills that benefited our careers and allowed us to make the transition to digital. The rapid development in imaging technology, however, can make choosing cameras for fishing photography a complex task.

Here’s a digital camera primer to help you choose what might best for you and your budget this fishing season. Caveat: This combination works for me and how I work. Each person and job is different. Take from this and apply it to your specific discipline, style or work routine.

PHOTO TIPS



Remove sunglasses from anglers, so as not to detract from the angler or the silver salmon shown here.

Use Flash: A fill-in flash eliminates shadow on faces and can add pizzazz to the scene of an angler with fish against a bright water or sand backdrop.

Use Natural Light: Have your subjects face the source of ambient daylight for best exposures. People squint in bright sunlight, so use a flash or take photos when the sun is indirect, or at end of or beginning of the day, for that warm, alpenglow effect.

Photo Gremlins: You are the photographer, so take control. Remove hats with brims that cast shadows on faces. Fill-in flash or a reflector can handle the shadows, but not the sunglasses, so remove them. Also, watch for things like fishing rods and trees sticking out from behind your subject or fish. Angle fish slightly so the flash doesn’t wash out colors.

Review The Photo: Digital’s saving grace is instant review: Retake the photo if there is a problem with focus, slanted

...Continued

horizon, flopping fish or bad composition. Check for sharpness. Smartphones don't always focus properly, and you may need to touch the screen to force the camera to focus on your point of interest.



Compose properly, and remove sunglasses and hat, like the photo shown here of angler with pink salmon.

Protect Your Cameras: I've seen more cameras ruined due to water damage than any other cause. Anglers accidentally drop cameras, or cameras slip out of open pockets. If you are on or near any water, always waterproof the camera, even if you don't intend to take photos. I carry Zip-loc bags as a backup waterproof carrier, and have designated waterproof phone pouches with a neck lanyard that prevents dropping a smartphone camera. Waterproof cases—albeit bulky—allow you to wade into the water and take photos, without worry.

Memory: Purchase the fastest memory cards you can afford. I prefer a SanDisk Extreme Pro type of card, with a high megabyte-per-second transfer rate.

Batteries: Pack extra batteries, especially for GoPro cameras, as they are notorious for poor battery performance when cold.

Higher is Better: Always take photos at the highest resolution your camera can handle. The argument is if you only need basic resolution. Shooting at basic or normal settings can't compare with a detail of a fine or RAW image setting, especially if you're looking at print enlargements or photo enhancement, or a future assignment that requires the same photo, in high-res. You can always reduce but enhancing a basic j-peg to super-fine resolution is still beyond what photo software can accomplish.

Backup: Backup your photos to first your computer then to the Cloud or an external hard drive or home server. External storage is dirt cheap, and Cloud storage is usually free in limited amounts. It's not if you're memory card or hard drive will fail, it is when. Backup is cheap insurance. Buy lots of it and store one copy off site and another on site. How you do it is up to you. Just do it.

DSLR

As a professional outdoor photojournalist, I use a digital, single-lens reflex (DSLR) for obtaining most of my assignment photography. A DSLR is required for the best-of-the-best photos, over any other type of camera. End of argument. I like the DSLR because long-time experience with the same type of camera allows me to focus on the composition, rather than the controls. From years of experience, I know the best combination of ISO, F-stops, exposure compensations, shutter speeds and white balances for the photos I'm taking, often without thinking. The fine-tuning controls and interchangeable lenses of a DSLR, as well as the ability to take HD or 4K video, is what make the DSLR the king of digital cameras.

But every king has its challengers to the throne.

I personally dislike the DSLR as a personal fishing camera, which I define as a camera that is quick and easy to access, waterproof, and can fit in a vest pocket. You need one, as well as a DSLR, if you plan to be a decent fishing photographer,

But a fishing photographer does not survive on DSLR photos alone. A DSLR is heavy and bulky. It is uncomfortable to carry while fishing, is easily damaged by water, and the costly lenses get damaged from slight bumps against trees and boat railings. The DSLRs often require large accessories such as bounce cards, zoom lenses, memory cards, external flash, extra batteries, and a heavy tripod. A good prosumer version will cost \$1,200-plus for the body alone, and the pro versions, \$7,000.

A DSLR is only good if it's readily available, which it can't be when its packed away to protect it from sand, rain or if you're wading a river.

Of course, I have DSLRs that I take out on the water, and cameras like my Nikon 810 that I don't take out wading without it first being sealed and protected. I usually delegate the older digital DSLR cameras to take the difficult, in-the-water shots. If the camera gets soaked, or if my assistant drops the camera into the water, no big loss.

Smart Phone and Pocket Digital Cameras

I've captured many a good photo by whipping out a pocket digital or smartphone stored in my top pocket, because the DSLR was packed away in its waterproof backpack on shore.

For personal and backup professional use, I use a compact Lumix as my "quick draw" digital camera. Doug Wilson once advised me the Lumix was one of the best pocket cameras he's used, and I've been a convert ever since. The camera is easily accessible from most pockets and switches on quickly when I need it. These types of cameras can capture HD video footage and photos that can be posted online or used in print or electronic media. Cameras in this

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CRAFT IMPROVEMENT

group usually have exposure compensation, macro settings and fill-in flash options, much like the larger DSLRs. Realize they will work, but don't expect them to be up to taking the 5 to 10 percent of the photos that require the advanced "fine tuning" adjustments of a professional DSLR. How do you decide? It's a calculated risk. Consider each scenario. Sunsets, super-fast action shots or complex depth-of-field photos will need the necessary digital horsepower. If the shots will be in the grip-and-grin category, a compact camera will suffice. The best camera is the one you have ready to go when action takes place, which is always preferable to missing the shot completely. But again, the admonition here is don't be totally dependent on a pocket camera if you want the best of the best.

The smartphone is another great contender because it fits into a shirt pocket. It is as fast and ready to shoot as a six-shooter in the hands of a Wild West gunslinger. Zoom and wide-angle lens attachments, free apps and rechargeable power options for the smartphone can extend your time afield, which is why the smartphone camera is widely embraced. I've found the attachment accessories are of insufficient quality for my needs.

I keep all my old smartphones and use the latest retiree as an audio recorder or on-the-water camera after I insert it in a waterproof case. I don't use my primary smartphone in the field because of the potential for damage. It's main use is communication and business, and photography as secondary.

The smartphone vs. dedicated pocket digital boils down to a tradeoff in features and needs. Battery and storage limitations are addressed with aftermarket products. I use a solar charger with good results and a number of Mophie chargers or battery rechargers.

A smartphone is a good option if you adhere to a few guidelines. Don't use a smartphone as your only camera if you plan on taking hundreds of photos on a weekend trip, or plan on a 14-day wilderness float trip. Whatever camera you choose, ensure it can be recharged with a solar charger, or powered or recharged by AA batteries along with your headlamp, flashlight, flash, motor drive, and most everything else outdoors. Standardization is the key here for success in the Alaska outback or world-wide assignments.

Action Cameras

The GoPro is an all-purpose, durable compact camera with extensive accessories. The camera takes good HD video and images with its superb wide-angle lens. Despite its popularity, it's still a point-and-shoot camera with all the limited exposure adjustments and shortcomings such as limited battery life, no flash and low-light exposures issues.

A smartphone or a DSLR, however, can't match the GoPro as a compact, action camera. I like its burst-speed settings, time-lapse functions, light weight, and headband or chest strap accessories to

catch the fishing action as it takes place. The waterproof housing makes it a good choice for above and below-water use. If the camera gets lost, water damaged or shatters on impact, its faster to spend another \$399 for a replacement camera than endure the hassle of buying and setting up a replacement smartphone.

Action cameras like the GoPro take time to learn to use. Don't expect pro quality footage immediately, like you see at the point-of-sale stands, which are often the result of heavy, post-production work, perfect exposure settings and the distillation of gigabytes of footage. The GoPro can provide the opportunity to capture those images once you learn the intricacies of operating the camera. It's a great action or backup camera, if you keep its limitations in mind.

Whatever you do, remember these cameras are only tools that offer the potential to take great photos. Find time to learn how to operate each one and I promise the results won't disappoint.

BEFORE PRESSING THE SHUTTER

- Wipe blood off fish.
- Fill the frame with fish and angler. Take, far, medium and close up shots. Take photo of angler and part of fish, such as head and gills.
- Take photos while fighting the fish.
- Don't forget the surroundings: the boat, the water, the wildlife in the area, or hatches that may occur.
- Take photo of fish soon after catching. Fish will change color and look drab a few minutes out of the water.
- When catch and releasing fish, have angler kneel close to the water, and lift fish for a moment, before putting back in. This helps keep fish alive. Some regulations don't allow entire fish to be removed from water, so guide the angler to see what looks good, but still adhere to regulations.

...Article and Photos, Chris Batin

For over 40 years, Chris Batin has specialized in Alaska and worldwide outdoor and travel photojournalism with national, regional and worldwide photo credits. When he is not writing as the Alaska Editor for TravelAge West or Contributing Writer for Outdoor Life, he prefers to spend his time in Alaska on action and underwater fishing photography and shooting the aurora borealis.



...Diamond Lake 'bow, Chuck Robbins photo

ENOS BRADNER

ENOS BRADNER - A LOOK BACK

Enos Bradner was born in Powers, Michigan, and graduated from Michigan State University with a degree in English literature. He worked in a haberdashery for a while, then joined the Army in World War I. He and his brother both served in the Tenth Field Artillery during the War. His brother was gassed and although he survived the war, he died at a young age from the lingering effects of the gas. After the war, he made a fishing trip to the Pacific Northwest in 1928, liked what he saw, and returned for keeps the following year. He opened "Bradner's Bookshop" on Broadway, the main street on the west side of Seattle's Capital Hill. Dawn Holbrook, the bamboo rodbuilder, had a small fly shop in the same neighborhood and they became acquainted. He also got to know Ken McLeod, then outdoor editor of the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*.



*We flew to Alaska for Fabulous Trout and Salmon Fishing...
Enos Bradner...photo courtesy Alaska Airlines*

McLeod was a member of the Steelhead Trout Club of Washington, which still exists, and through him and others, Bradner became a member of the club. He and McLeod tried to persuade the club to start working for the interests of fly fishers, who were pretty rare in those days, but most of the Steelhead Trout Club members were bait flingers and paid no attention.

There was, however, a small informal group of fly fishers who liked to meet and fish at Lake Chaplain in Snohomish County (now long closed to fishing because it's part of the Everett water supply), and they began talking about forming a new club dedicated to fly fishing. The result was the Washington Fly Fishing Club, established in May, 1939, with Bradner as its first president. Its first major project was to establish fly-fishing only waters in Washington, and after an intense political campaign against entrenched groups of bait fishermen, the club succeeded in getting the North Fork of the Stillaguamish and Pass Lake set aside for fly fishing only, as they remain today.

In 1943, *The Times* asked Bradner to become the newspaper's outdoor editor and columnist. Once he settled into the position and found he liked it, he sold the bookstore. He remained *The Times'*

outdoor editor for 26 years. A highlight of his career at the paper came in 1946 when he was assigned to cover the atomic-bomb tests at Bikini Atoll. Ostensibly, he was part of the research team conducting the tests; his job was to catch fish and see if they were radioactive or suffered other effects from the tests. He also wrote about the tests for the paper.

While Bradner was on that assignment, a farmer on the North Fork of the Stillaguamish offered a series of lots for sale on the Elbow Hole, one of the best steelhead-fishing drifts on the river. Frank Headrick, one of the earliest members of the WFFC, bought one of the lots and somehow got word to Bradner that the lot next to his was still for sale and he would buy it for Bradner if Brad wanted him to do so. Brad did, and when he got back from the Pacific he teamed up with another WFFC member, Sanford (Sandy) Bacon, and they went in together to purchase the property. They built a wooden floor with a trapdoor in the middle and a pit underneath and when they came up to fish the river they'd set up a tent on the floor and store their food in the pit. Later, Bradner's nephew, Charlie Bradner, built a 15x15-foot cabin on the floor. They christened it Camp Bucktail.

Bradner also was a charter vice president of what's now known as the International Federation of Fly Fishers. Bradner was the author of three books: *Northwest Angling*, *Fish On!* and *The Inside on the Outdoors*. In addition to his *Times* column and his three books, he also wrote articles for a number of outdoor magazines and enjoyed a national reputation both as a fly fisher and a writer. He was a long-time member of the Outdoor Writers of America and appeared in several films made by his friend and fellow WFFC and OWAA member Howard Gray. In addition to his reputation as a fly fisher, he was also a skilled upland bird hunter, and co-starred with his Labrador retriever, Jet of Bikini, in one of Gray's films.

In 2003, the Evergreen Fly Fishing Club of Everett erected a large memorial to fly fishermen at Hazel on the North Fork of the Stillaguamish. The memorial consists of a billboard-sized wooden sign with photos and displays on both sides, mounted on rock foundations built by stonemason Bob Headrick, Frank Headrick's son. One side of the display tells the story of the river; the other tells the story of an individual who played an important part in the history of the North Fork. It is changed from time to time to honor different people. The first story was about Enos Bradner and was written by his friend Steve Raymond.



Enos Bradner...Friend of the River

...Continued

ENOS BRADNER/MEMBER NEWS

Some say the North Fork of the Stillaguamish flowed through Enos Bradner's veins. His ramrod-straight figure was a familiar sight on the river for more than 50 years, especially in the reaches below Deer Creek where his little cabin still stands. It was there, in the 1930s, that Bradner created the "Brad's Brat" fly pattern that became famous and is still a favorite of many North Fork anglers.

As founding president of the Washington Fly Fishing Club in 1939, Bradner became a leader in the campaign to establish the North Fork as the nation's first fly-fishing-only summer steelhead river. Later, as long-time outdoor editor of the *Seattle Times* and author of several books, his descriptions of the river and its fishing helped put the North Fork firmly on the fly-fishing map.

Those who knew him remember Bradner as a man with the character of legends--a commanding presence, endless energy and a forceful opinion on nearly every subject. But they also remember him as a gentleman in every sense of the word.

During his long life Bradner fished with many anglers, but he also had hundreds of thousands of friends he never met, people who knew him only through his newspaper columns, magazine articles and books. He looked after their interests, spoke their language and told them what they wanted and needed to know, and they sensed he was their friend.

Bradner was 91 years old when he passed away in 1984. His ashes were scattered in the North Fork, and now this long-time friend of the river is forever part of it.

Northwest Outdoor Writers Association

The Northwest Outdoor Writers Association (NOWA) founded the Enos Bradner Award as a memorial to Enos Bradner, a founding father of NOWA. The Enos Bradner award recipient is chosen by the three most recent, past chairmen of the NOWA Board of Directors. Criteria for selection includes long time outstanding support of NOWA and upholding the high professional standards of outdoor journalism practiced by Enos Bradner. The three immediate past chairmen of the board of directors are not allowed to name one of themselves as winner.

The recipient is given a perpetual plaque, donated by Fred L. Peterson, to hold for one year on which the yearly winners' names are engraved. The winner is also given a smaller plaque, suitably inscribed, to keep. The first recipient of the Enos Bradner Award, in 1985, was Howard Gray, former OWAA president, founding member of NOWA and a close friend of Enos Bradner.

...Written by Steve Raymond; Edited by Wade Foss and Gary Lewis

FRANCIS CALDWELL

Longtime NOWA member Francis Emerson Caldwell, 88, of Port Angeles, Washington passed away Feb. 2nd, 2016. He was born April 27, 1927. Francis had published 10 books and hundred of magazine articles during his career, many about commercial fishing in southeast Alaska where he lived for 17 years.

He was an Enos Bradner Award Winner from NOWA and won many first place awards in OWAA and NOWA competitions during his extensive career following a career as a commercial fisherman in Ketchikan and Sitka.

Francis and his wife Donna also owned a boutique stock photo agency, Affordable Stock, during his writing and photography years.

Francis served in the United States Navy during World War 11, resolving to never go to sea again and then spent 40 years on boats in Alaska and traveled almost everywhere in the state from Point Barrow to the Alaska Peninsula. Francis is survived by his wife Donna, who also was active in NOWA for many years.

...Doug Wilson



RALPH SHAW

Ralph Shaw, a long-time member of NOWA, died January 7, 2016, just days shy of his 90th birthday. Ralph was a NOWA member for more than 20 years. While a teacher and principal in Kamloops, BC, Ralph established the McQueen Lake Environmental Centre, leading him to receive the Order of Canada in 1984.

He was a Master Fly Fisherman and it is highly unlikely that his dedication to conservation will be surpassed any time in the near future. Another of the many awards to come his way was in 2007 when the B.C. Lieutenant-Governor invited him to a reception in Victoria to celebrate the 35th anniversary of the Nature Trust of BC – a group which he was instrumental in creating.

His retirement years provided him time to concentrate on his writing, with regular newspaper and magazine columns in Comox Valley Record, The Island Fishing Magazine and the Island Angler which garnered several awards including many from NOWA's Award Program.

MEMBER NEWS

Ralph specialized in articles on fishing, hunting, conservation, environment, seniors and children and was tireless in sharing his experience and knowledge with others. He co-authored several books and published two of his own – *Vancouver Island Adventures with Ralph Shaw* and *The Pleasure of his Company (The dairies of Jack Shaw)*.

There is an empty space where he stood that can't be filled. You are missed, Ralph.

...Ron Kerr



CHUCK ROBBINS/DAVE VEDDER



Chuck and Gale, Annie the Wirehair, Dave and Pam, Tye the Black Lab recently spent several weeks camping about the Arizona desert, gunning quail (excellent hunting and on occasion we even managed to hit one),. Naturally we enjoyed a sundowner or two and telling lies around the campfire. Of course Gale and Pam browsed a the farmers' markets and even managed to drag Dave and me to a Mexican eatery (or two).



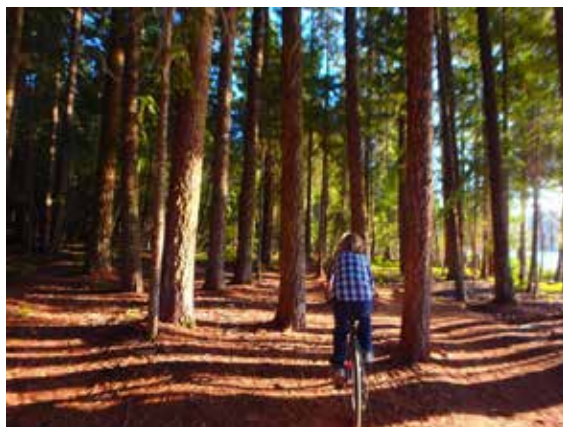
As always, thanks to **NOWA Supporting Member Camp Chef's Dutch Ovens and Mountain Man Grill**, we enjoyed many delicious campfire meals. FYI, that's ChucknGale's elk stew and DavenPam's, blackberry cobbler about to be devoured.

OK, as Gale puts it, "the Ol' Boy's done gone and lost his marbles"...Anyway y'all meet Ramblin' Maggie. Our now 10-weeks old wirehair pup picked up in Camp Verde, AZ on our way north. Assuming we survive the ordeal, she should be a big player in next year's desert quail odyssey...stay tuned.

G.I. WILSON



G.I. reports the "guppy"...ah, steelhead fishing has been "pretty darn good." He regrets having to make us inlanders drool with envy but adds, "Yes I know it's a tough life but, like they say, some-one's gotta do it."...Yeah right.



...Cycling Diamond Lake, Discover Klamath CVB photo

MACK'S LURE

If you've been reading these "Stan's Corner" columns recently, you know I've been stressing the importance of two major practices that most successful anglers always follow. One of those two practices is finding out every darn thing you can about the water you plan to fish. The second is to select lures that match the forage of the fish you're after. I also mentioned that sometimes this information isn't all that easy to come by. Some bait makers I've known over the 70 years I've been fishing and writing about it, tend to insist you can't go wrong with anything that has their name on it.

That's nonsense.

Darn few brand new items of fishing tackle have attracted more attention in recent years than the Mack's Lure Smile Blades®. I'm proud to say that some of the material I've had an opportunity to write about include these wondrous little spinner blades, which have now helped anglers out fish in the boat all over the world. I remember some of the conversations I had with Bob Schmidt, the president of Mack's Lure, prior to doing some of the many different columns I've written about Smile Blades. I'm going to get together with Bob

again soon and ask him to share some of his current thoughts about Smile Blades. It will be interesting to see if any of his thoughts have changed. Here are some of the things Bob shared with



me after Smile Blades had been added to Mack's Lure a decade earlier. "Ten years ago," Bob said, "we talked about selling hundreds of Smile Blades. Today we're talking about selling hundreds of thousands. It's ridiculous to compare present day sales numbers to what they were when we started. The increase in sales of our Mylar plastic spinner blades has been substantial every year for the past decade." Early on, the questions I usually got from newcomers who wanted to try the then new Smile Blades

often were: "What size and color would you recommend I get?" I suggested that while it's impossible to guarantee that this color or that size is "always" the best way to go, those colors and sizes that are selling best, do provide a darn good basis from which to work."

To read the rest of NOWA Member and Hall of Fame fisherman Stan Fagerstrom's article and much more please visit:

<http://www.mackslure.com/mackattack/mackattackmar16.pdf>



BACK COUNTRY HUNTERS AND ANGLERS

Washington (D.C) Politicians Continue to Steal Our Public Lands

During a House of Representatives subcommittee hearing recently, lawmakers' priorities and allegiances were on full display as several potentially damaging public lands bills were discussed and deliberated.



The House Committee on Natural Resources [Federal Lands Subcommittee](#) met to consider legislation that would divest the public of millions of acres of public lands. Two of the bills are particularly egregious. Rep. Raul Labrador of Idaho introduced [H.R. 2316](#), which would enable state and county governments to take possession of national forests and manage them without regard to conservation and public access laws. And Rep. Don Young of Alaska is responsible for [H.R. 3650](#), which would permit individual states to seize - and subsequently sell to private interests - millions of acres of national forest lands that lie within that state's borders.

Other harmful measures considered by the subcommittee today were introduced by [Rep. Jared Polis of Colorado](#), [Rep. Chris Stewart of Utah](#) and [Rep. Greg Walden of Oregon](#).

Backcountry Hunters & Anglers said that the bills take a reckless course that jeopardizes sustainable rural economies that depend on income from outdoor recreation like hunting and fishing.

"Despite the fact that land transfer bills are going down in flames in Western state legislatures, some members of Congress remain blind to the will of the American people," said BHA President and CEO Land Tawney. "These bills confirm how out of touch they are with their constituents, most of whom overwhelmingly support keeping our public lands public.

"Instead of wasting taxpayer dollars, they should be working with solution-oriented groups like Backcountry Hunters & Anglers to improve the management of our public lands and wildlife and ensure that federal and state resource agencies are adequately funded, Tawney continued. "Elected officials motivated by special interest money have been starving the BLM and Forest Service into failure - and attacking popular, successful programs like the Land and Water Conservation Fund that get kids outside, increase public access, facilitate development of local parks and recreational opportunities, and strengthen our outdoors-dependent economy."

"Sportsmen demand more from our leaders than this," said BHA Conservation Director John Gale. "We expect them to work with us to resolve real problems that can improve management, create greater economic efficiencies, enhance important habitat, increase access and compound our children's inheritance by leav-

SUPPORTING MEMBER NEWS

ing it better than we found it. Instead, these bills would erode our public lands and diminish their value to fish and wildlife, as well as American citizens.»

BHA is encouraging sportsmen to tell members of Congress in their states that they are public lands owners and want to see legislation like this rejected.

Contact: Katie McKalip, mckalip@backcountryhunters.org

BOATUS

E0 Gas is Going Away for Boaters

When gasoline containing ethanol and boats mix, boat owners lose. That's because of something called "phase separation" – think oil and vinegar – that can turn fuel stored in a boat's gas tank into corrosive, water-soaked ethanol mixture, unusable in any engine. Half of those who responded to a recent informal national survey by the Boat Owners Association of The United States (BoatUS) said they have had to replace or repair boat engine or fuel system parts because of suspected ethanol-related damage. The average cost for these repairs was \$1,000.



The federal ethanol mandate requires increasing amounts of bio-fuels – primarily corn ethanol – to be blended into America's gasoline supply every year. In part because of the mandate, more than 90 percent of American fuel today is E10, or 10 percent ethanol. In addition, higher ethanol-blend fuels such as E15 are becoming more prevalent in the marketplace, even though federal law prohibits the use of 15 percent ethanol in marine engines, ATVs, motorcycles, lawnmowers or any cars made before 2001.

Boaters have long preferred ethanol-free gasoline to other fuels, so much so that many refer to E0 as "marine fuel." However, our country's supply of E0 is projected to be reduced dramatically from over 8 billion gallons in 2014 to just 200 million, possibly as early as this summer's boating season. E0 is in effect being pushed out of boat fuel market to make room for the RFS' mandated E15 and other higher ethanol blends. The prospect of this disappearing act has the boating community in South Carolina and around the country extremely concerned.

Correcting the RFS before it wipes out the availability of E0 for boating families and wreaks additional havoc on marine engines is the responsibility of our next president—perhaps Secretary Clinton or Senator Sanders—and Congress. Ted Cruz, by becoming the first candidate to win Iowa while opposed to the mandate, shows that supporting the RFS is not a political necessity. It is now time to fix this broken law. Thankfully, there are bipartisan ideas to fix the ethanol mandate in Congress, but the question remains whether our elected leaders will act and solve the problem. America's boaters, and certainly those in South Carolina, hope they will.

Contact: Scott Croft; mailto:scroft@boatus.com

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ROCKY MOUNTAIN ELK FOUNDATION

The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation's #HuntingIsConservation campaign reached more than 1.9 million* people through social media channels in its first month.



Launched at SHOT Show in mid-January, the campaign uses infographics, videos and other informational links to highlight hunting's vital link to conservation.

"We're off to a good start," said Steve Decker, RMEF vice president of Marketing. "We believe this educational campaign can be a real difference-maker in helping people better understand that hunters provide the lion's share of funding and support for North America's wildlife, habitat and resource conservation efforts."

RMEF is also excited to announce that Under Armor and ALPS OutdoorZ are the newest charter sponsors joining Cabela's Outdoor Fund, Federal Premium Ammunition, Leupold, Realtree and Yeti Coolers.

"These conservation partners not only provide us the support to assist the campaign with its viral outreach but they believe in our conservation mission. We are grateful for them and are also appreciative to all the sportsmen, women and members of the outdoor industry who are sharing and spreading this content," added Decker.

Primary posts take place every Monday and Thursday evening on RMEF's Facebook, Instagram and Twitter social media platforms.

Once the campaign covers RMEF's 25 Reasons Why Hunting Is Conservation, it will break down and feature hunting-related research and highlight hunting's positive economic impact on a state-by-state basis.

Contact: Mark Holyoak, mholyoak@rmef.org

THEODORE ROOSEVELT CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP

America's public lands system is fundamental to our hunting and fishing traditions, and public access to outdoor recreation is an asset to each and every citizen of our country. Still some decision-makers are promoting the idea that America's public lands should be seized by individual states or sold off to private interests.



Recently, the House Natural Resources Committee met to discuss a handful of bills that could close the gates to your public hunting and fishing areas forever. Two of these bills in particular, Rep. Don Young's [H.R. 3650](#) and Rep. Raul Labrador's [H.R. 2316](#), are overt attempts to undermine public land ownership.

Let your lawmakers know that sportsmen will not stand for this or any move to dismantle America's public lands legacy.

Contact: Kristyn Brady; kbrady@trcp.org

CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS SCHEDULE

NORTHWEST OUTDOOR WRITER'S 2016 CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

7:45 – 8:00	Announcements	
8:00 – 10:30	Henry Hughes	Style and Voice Workshop Max Attendance: 15
8:00 – 9:15	Session I	
Workshop:	Lee Juillerat	Lava Beds National Monument: The Land of Burnt Out Fire
Workshop:	Jim Foster	Photography for Writers in the Field
9:15 – 10:30	Session II	
Workshop:	Thom Powell	Applying Field Research Technique to Effective Outdoor Writing
Workshop:	Dennis Dauble	Benefits and Perils of Self-Publishing
10:30 – 10:45	Break / Book Sale: Meet the Visiting Authors (Hughes, Juillerat, and Powell)	
10:45 – 12:15	Newsmakers: Crater Lake, Lava Beds	
12:15 – 1:00	Lunch	
1:00 – 3:30	Henry Hughes	Style and Voice Workshop Max Attendance: 15
1:00 – 2:15	Session III	
Workshop:	Thom Powell	Applying Field Research Technique to Effective Outdoor Writing
Workshop:	Larry Whalon	Lava Beds National Park
2:15 – 3:30	Session IV	
Workshop:	John Kruse	Better Interviews = Better Content - Tips and Equipment for Writers on Assignment
Workshop:	Peter Schroeder	10 Keys to Successful Freelancing (Including 10 Reasons Why You Shouldn't Write for the Internet)
3:30 – 3:45	Break	
3:45 – 5:00	Session V	
Workshop:	Greg Gulbrandsen	Professional Video with Point and Shoot or DSLR
Workshop:	Jim Foster	Copyright Complications
5:00	Adjourn	



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

Guest or Spouse Name(s) _____

1st Conference

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, 2016: _____ Late Fee/s x \$ 10.00 = _\$ _____

If you are registering for the conference after April 1, 2016

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 adelajackson@hotmail.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 82222 • Fairbanks, AK 99708

907-322-8000 • adelajackson@hotmail.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

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

2016 WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

Style and Voice--A Writers' Workshop - Henry Hughes

Style and voice can make you a writer distinct from all others. Do you sound folksy or formal, questioning or authoritative, tough or sweet? Or perhaps your voice is one of a kind. Is that good or bad? This workshop will explore the language, sentence structures and literary techniques that give your writing a particular style and voice. We will also learn how to modulate our narration and reporting to meet the needs of different publications and markets. These are 2.5 hour workshops limited to 15 people each. Come prepared with writing materials.

Henry Hughes grew up on Long Island, New York, and he has lived in Oregon since 2002 working as a professor of English at Western Oregon University. His poems have appeared numerous literary periodicals. His first collection, Men Holding Eggs, received the 2004 Oregon Book Award.

Henry Hughes is the editor of the anthologies The Art of Angling: Poems about Fishing (Knopf, 2011) and Fishing Stories (Knopf, 2013). His newest book, Back Seat With Fish (Sky Horse Publications, 2016), is a memoir about growing up and the role of fishing in his life.

Lava Beds National Monument: Why it's called The Land of Burnt Out Fire - Lee Juillerat

Lava Beds National Monument, located just south of the Oregon-California border, is a lesser known National Park Service site that deserves more visitors. It's fascinating for many reasons, from the turbulent geology that created a region with more than 700 lava tube caves to the Modoc Indian War of 1862-1863, the costliest war in American history, to stories of how ice caves were used to store bootleg whiskey during Prohibition to ongoing research on bats, lichen and other topics. Lee Juillerat, who lives in the house that once belonged to J.D. "Judd" Howard, the person credited with having Lava Beds preserved as a national monument, will provide snippets about Howard, the park's human history and other little known factoids about the "Land of Burnt Out Fire."

Lee Juillerat is a longtime regional editor for the Herald and News, co-owner of the website: High On Adventure: an adventure travel magazine with Feature stories and photo essays for the Adventurous Traveler. Lee is also a freelance writer-photographer for various publications, including Northwest Travel and Range. His most recent book is Lava Beds National Monument (Arcadia Press, 2015).

Photography for Writers in the Field - Jim Foster

Workshop Description: Good photography is often an essential way to support your articles and will endure you to editors very quickly. Yet, for most of us photography is an afterthought and

often suffers as a result. This workshop will teach you how to simplify the photography process and with a little planning help you get professional photos for your stories.

Biography: Jim Foster, a native Texan now living in Salmon, Idaho, is a full-time photographer / writer specializing in writing about and photographing nature, the environment, lifestyles, travel, and adventure travel. His photographic images have appeared in national as well as regional magazines, newspapers and books in this country, Great Britain, and Europe. He maintains an extensive stock photo file and sells to publications as well as the advertising community. You can see more of Jim's work on his blog: jimfosteroutdoorsphoto.com.

Applying Field Research Technique to Effective Outdoor Writing - Thom Powell

Synopsis: "The basis of non-fiction outdoor writing is utilizing an effective combination of academic and field-based research of the writing topic. Authors such as Rick Bass, David Quammen and Barry Lopez are masters of this craft. But since none of them could make it, you'll have to settle for listening to author Thom Powell explain how he melds time in the library, on the internet, and in the outdoors to produce effective writing for periodicals and books."

Thom Powell has been a science teacher in Portland Public Schools for thirty one years and seasonally whitewater guide and kayaking instructor for twenty years. He has been writing outdoor articles about rivers and boating for travel magazines since 1980. He began a protracted period of researching and writing about Bigfoot, culminating in the publication of his first book, The Locals, in 2003. That book went on to revolutionize the thinking on the Bigfoot subject so profoundly that it is often described as "the best book ever written on the Bigfoot/Sasquatch subject." In 2012, Thom published, Shady Neighbors, a novel about a rural family that inadvertently interacts with a Sasquatch family. This past year, Thom published his third book, Edges of Science; a compendium of scientific and paranormal mysteries.

Lava Beds National Park - Larry Whalon

Workshop Description: A talk detailing the history and attraction at Lava Beds National Park by Superintendent Larry Whalon. Larry will also present some of this material in the Newsmakers session.

Benefits and Perils of Self-Publishing - Dennis Dauble

Have you experienced the challenges associated with finding a traditional publisher for your non-fiction book? Have you considered the alternatives such as self-publication or other options? We will discuss the business behind successful books, market trends, marketing strategy and the demographics of book readers (and buyers).

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS/NW TRAVEL WRITERS CONFERENCE

Dennis teaches Fish Ecology at WSU-TriCities, writes on natural history of fishes for local newspapers and contribute articles to regional magazines. He has published a guidebook Fishes of the Columbia Basin (KeokeeBooks, 2009) and a book of short stories The Barbless Hook (FishHead Press, 2013). Dennis was a public lecturer in the Humanities Washington, Inquiring Minds Program (2009-2012) and speaks regularly on contemporary fish issues to local conservation and civic groups.

Copyright Complications – Jim Foster

Can we afford to remain ignorant of copyright laws? Let Jim help clarify the sometimes difficult and confusing details surrounding this legal issue.

Better Interviews = Better Content - Tips and Equipment for Writers on Assignment – John Kruse

John Kruse, host of *Northwestern Outdoors Radio* and a retired police investigator, shares interview techniques and equipment ideas for writers. John will help you capture compelling quotes and draw out information to make your next article, blog or book stand out from the crowd!

John Kruse is the host of "Northwestern Outdoors Radio," which broadcasts weekends on stations throughout the Northwest. John's first book, Great Places – Washington, was published in 2009 by Wilderness Adventures Press. Check John's web site at www.northwesternoutdoors.com for further updates.

10 Keys to Successful Freelancing (10 Reasons You Shouldn't Write for the Internet) - Peter Schroeder

During my early years working as a freelance writer, I made mistakes that taught me invaluable lessons the hard way. Now, several decades later, I have distilled my experience into 10 keys to financial success. And you won't find any of them in the how-to books.

Freelance writer/photographer. Specialize in boating, marine environment, scuba diving, snow skiing, and adventure travel. Available as conference speaker on "Successful Freelancing," "How to Make More Money Writing," "The Empowered Writer," "The Write Stuff: 10 Tips for More Successful Freelancing."

More workshops to be announced

2016 NORTHWEST TRAVEL WRITERS CONFERENCE

Northwest Outdoor Writers Association members are invited to attend **Travel & Words 2016**, the Northwest's premier conference for travel and lifestyle writers. Travel & Words 2016 will be held in Walla Walla, Washington, on May 16 and 17 at The Marcus Whitman, one of the Northwest's historic grand hotels.

Sign up for the conference and find out about special lodging rates at The Marcus Whitman [here](#). Register today, before avail-

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able spots fill up.

PROGRAM:

1. Keynote Speaker, Peter Fish, Travel Editor, SUNSET MAGAZINE

What makes a good travel writer (and how to become one)?

For thirty years a travel writer and editor for Sunset Magazine, Peter Fish will share a few secrets of his success and also a few of his most humiliating failures.

2. Editors Panel: Discover current travel publishing trends and what editors are looking for from freelance writers.

- Robert Stieve, Editor in Chief, ARIZONA HIGHWAYS
- Teresa Kenney, Editor, NORTHWEST MEETINGS & EVENTS
- Dale Miller, Editor in Chief, BRITISH COLUMBIA MAGAZINE, CANADIAN TRAVELER & EXPLORER MAGAZINE

3. Destination Marketers Panel: Destination Marketing Organizations (DMO) and Convention & Visitors Bureaus are a freelancers allies. Learn what they can do for you and what they expect from you.

4. Destination Exhibits and Presentations: by 20 key CVBs & DMO's from the

Northwest (U.S. and Canada), with opportunities for writers to network, discuss familiarization (FAM) trips and gain dozens of story ideas.

5. WORKSHOP INTENSIVES: Your choice of two workshops presented by industry pros (sign up at conference registration, no additional fee). Full descriptions of the 2016 Workshop Intensives are [here](#).

The Networking Mixer: Unwind with editors and destination marketers in an informal setting while sampling Walla Walla wines and gourmet bites by the culinary team at The Marc. The mixer will be held off site at the Gesa Power House Theatre.

FAM: An opportunity to be selected for a post-conference all-expenses-paid familiarization tour hosted by Visit Walla Walla. Choose from 3 FAM tracks: culinary, wine or recreation. Instructions for applying are [here](#).

Door Prizes: Bring your business cards to toss in the bowl for fabulous door prizes.

2016 NOWA CONFERENCE
DIAMOND LAKE RESORT, OR
April 29-May 1, 2016