

NORTHWEST OUTDOOR WRITERS ASSOCIATION

NOWA FIELD NOTES

NOWA News | February 2018



SIGN UP NOW FOR THESE PRE AND POST CONFERENCE TRIPS!

HUMOR IN ART: Alaska's Infamous Sandy Jamieson

Nominees for Board of Directors

Report from the SHOT SHOW

REGISTER NOW FOR THE CHOTEAU CONFERENCE

To preview the conference click here: <https://spark.adobe.com/>



Photo Left: Ground Dove.

Right page

Top left: Heron with fish.

Top right: Little Green Heron.

Lower left: Common Grebe.

Lower right: New Moon 2017.

All photos by Jim Foster.

SITTING ON THE FENCE

BY JIM FOSTER, NOWA PRESIDENT

It is time for me to make plans for my trip to Montana for our 2018 Conference. Spring is also the time when outside activities are starting to take our time and it's easy to find an excuse for not attending the conference, whether its time or cost. Chris Batin has been burning the midnight oil making sure all the i's are dotted and the t's crossed. This should be one of the best conferences NOWA has had in a long time. There are an unlimited number of outdoors activities right out your back door. However, I hope you're not sitting on the fence about our conference. Make the NOWA conference a priority in your spring activities!

I have just returned from several sessions of teaching hungry students about the "joys" of wildlife photography. It is always a pleasure teaching students from the state of Texas and especially if they are from one of the areas covered in one of my books. Each of the two-day sessions were filled with interesting questions from the students. The session at the Birding and Nature Center was no exception. All present were long

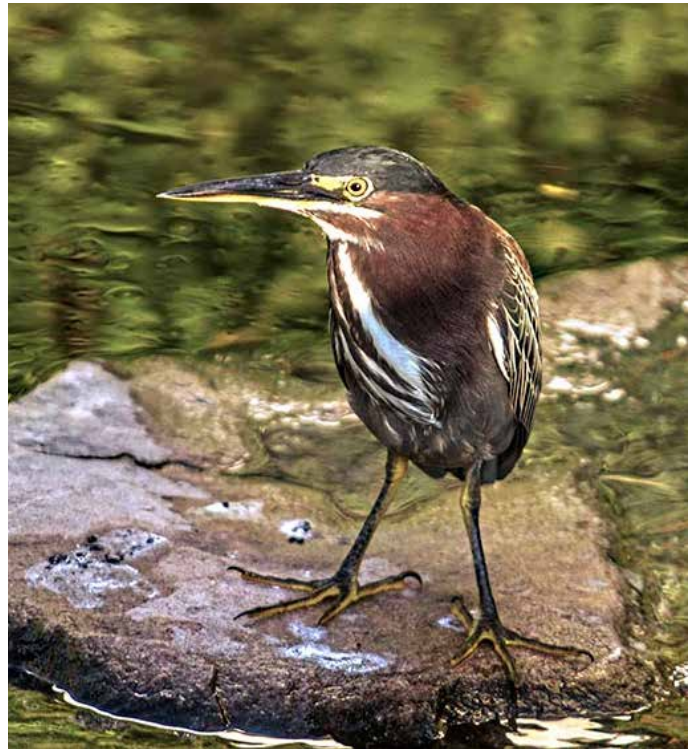
time visitors to the Center and familiar with the native wildlife and birds. One of the most commonly asked questions was about "how to get a super sharp image." There are several answers to this question. First, use a tripod, whenever you can. I even use one when I am shooting with a camera and lens I can hand hold with good results. My go to camera and lens is the Canon 7D and the Canon 2.8 70-200 zoom and I will add a Canon 2x doubter when I feel it may be needed. Second, is a remote cable release. Many of the newer cameras have places to plug in a release. What this will do is eliminate

the minor (but important) issue of camera shake when you click the shutter. The only better answer is to shoot in the mirror-up position. Check your camera manual for the how-to with your camera. Enough teaching for now, I look forward to seeing you all in Montana.



President Jim Foster

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



NORTHWEST OUTDOOR WRITERS ASSOCIATION

FEBRUARY 2018

www.NWoutdoorwriters.org



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COVER PHOTO

Lessor Scaup. Photo Copyright © 2018
Jim Foster



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SECRETARY/TREASURER

Adela Jackson, Fairbanks, AK

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Dennis Dauble, Richland, WA

TERMS EXPIRE MAY 2019

Jeremy Johnson, LaPine, OR
Risa Wyatt, Seattle, WA

TERMS EXPIRE MAY 2020

Harold Pfeiffer, Spokane, WA
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vacant

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Chris Batin

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Gary Lewis and the Board of Directors

ENOS BRADNER

Craig Schuhmann

EXCELLENCE IN CRAFT CONTEST

Chris Batin, Jim Foster

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Chris Batin, Bob Mottram

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Dennis Clay, Adela Jackson

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John Kruse, Duane Dungannon

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Dennis Dauble

NOMINATING

Craig Schuhmann and the Past Presidents Council

OUTREACH & PUBLIC RELATIONS

John Kruse, Duane Dungannon

PEOPLE'S CHOICE

Jackie McNeel

RAFFLE & SILENT AUCTION

Jo Wilson, Pam Vedder

STAN JONES SCHOLARSHIP

Bob Mottram

WEBSITE

Adela Jackson



Montana landscape with barbed wire. Photo copyright 2018 by Adela Jackson

NOWA IN THE HEART OF MONTANA

BY ADELA JACKSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As professional communicators we understand how powerful words are. The words we use in an article or presentation can motivate our audience to explore new adventures and give them guidance and confidence. Their success enhances our success. Words can also have a life-or-death consequence if we give readers wrong information. As writers we have a responsibility with the words we use, to not use them carelessly. Words can change lives, through the impact of others and the words they use. Words can crush someone's spirit. Words can destroy and words can create. We need to choose our words wisely. Well-chosen words can give us hope and change the course of our life. I'm sure all of us have had conversations with someone who had an impact on our lives, whether it was words of encouragement from a teacher that restored our confidence or gentle words from a friend that carried us through a difficult time.

In fact words are so important NOWA emphasizes it in Canon I of our Code of Ethics. CANON I "In dealing with the public and fellow outdoor communicators, we shall strive for honesty, accuracy and truth at all times. Accuracy in reporting, fairness in controversy and objectivity will be our first goals. Facts and opinion will be separate, clearly indicated and attributed." What does this mean? A man is only as good as his word. Honesty and integrity

define a person's character. Editors come to rely on those writers who keep their word, check their facts and meet deadlines. Our word becomes us. And what about how we deal with fellow communicators? Words can also be a source of misunderstanding. It's in relationships with others that we discover how difficult communication can be. A wrong word spoken might never be erased in that person's mind. We strive to learn to write and speak to our audience with the words we hope are most effective. It's what I strive to do every time I write this column. Even though I am a member of NOWA, in my position as Executive Director I look at the organization from the outside in. I always focus on our mission to make sure the organization is staying true to its word. Former President Bob Mottram has been true to his word. He once said, "The reason NOWA exists is to work for its members. From craft improvement articles in our excellent newsletter, to technical workshops and seminars at our annual meetings, to opportunities to build rewarding relationships with colleagues, NOWA provides us with lots of valuable paybacks. My goal as a member is to make sure that this wonderful tradition continues, specifically to make sure that NOWA's mentoring function grows even stronger, and to make sure that our organization never loses its focus on providing the services that benefit us so much." Thanks for those well-chosen words Bob.



Adela Jackson bringing in her Alaska halibut.

ELECTIONS

There are three NOWA Director positions to be filled, as well as the 2nd Vice President position. Ballots were mailed to Active, Retired Active and Life Members. The ballots should arrive in the mail in early February. Even though there are three candidates for the three director positions we still need a marked ballot to ratify these candidates. Nominated and on the ballot for Director positions are: Dennis Dauble, Alan Liere and Sharon Wilson.

The 2nd Vice President position will be voted on at the conference.

Nominee for 2nd VICE PRESIDENT



Ron Kerr

ron.kerr@telus.net

As a Charter/Life Member for 45 years; Executive Director for 10 years (1998-2008), including the responsibilities of Secretary/Treasurer and Newsletter Editor, I was awarded the status of Executive Director Emeritus upon retirement. Continuing my dedication to NOWA I served on the board and committees. In 2011 received NOWA's Outstanding Board member award.

Although now retired with part time activities in photography, for 40 years, columns, articles and photographs were published in local, provincial, national and international publications and received numerous awards.

With the help and dedication of the NOWA membership, supporting members and the foresight of the executive at that time we moved conferences between the four states and BC. As ED I had a personal challenge to take the organization's finances from \$300 in 1998 to over \$40,000 when I retired.

Commitments to other organizations included the Rocky Mountain Outdoor Writers & Photographers for a decade and an active member of the Outdoor Writers of America for three decades.

As a BC Parks employee for almost 30 years I still have a love for the outdoors and continue as an active hunter, angler and trap & skeet shooter.

By filling the position of 2nd vice president, I promise to devote time and effort to improve services and benefits to the membership and ensure a sound financial plan to cement the future of NOWA for generations of members like you.

BOARD OF DIRECTOR Nominees

Dennis Dauble

dennisdauble@charter.net

I am a retired fisheries scientist and part-time consultant who served as a NOWA Board member from 2015 to 2018. I write newspaper and magazine articles, have three books under my belt and lecture for local conservation and civic groups. My vision is for NOWA to become financially and philosophically whole.



Alan Liere

alanliere@yahoo.com

Former high school English teacher, NOWA member since 1995 and conference speaker. Alan writes the weekly Hunting and Fishing Report for the Spokesman Review. Full-time humor contributor to Upland Almanac and Northwest Fly Fishing. Alan recently sponsored son Matt Liere as a new member.



Sharon Wilson

Sk9wilson@gmail.com

Sharon Wilson worked for the Fairbanks Native Association and the Young Adult Conservation Corps before joining the Bureau of Land Management & Alaska Fire Service as a public affairs specialist & writer-editor for 23 years. Spent 6 years in the BLM-Washington, D.C., headquarters office as a public affairs specialist in the Communications department, then returned to Alaska as Chief of Communications for BLM-Alaska, headquartered in the Alaska State Office in Anchorage. Moved to Homer, Alaska, after retirement in 2009. Currently involved in the Homer Birding group, the annual Kachemak Bay Writers Conference and serves on the Board of the Homer Senior Citizens, Inc. Serves as the Alaska Representative on the board of the national Public Lands Foundation. Travels: New Zealand and Ecuador/Galapagos Islands. Former OWAA member.



Member Address Changes:



Candi Weitzel, Apprentice member sponsored by John McFarland.
New address: **PO Box 326, Keno, OR, 97627**

"I am a avid person of the outdoors. I love hunting, hiking, fishing, horseback riding, packing goats and photography. If

I have the option to be outside, I'm there! I am here in hopes to advance my skills and find the motivation to do more."

Betsy McGreer New email: betsymcgreer@live.com

Gary Christenson: I have moved from Florence, Oregon to Poulsbo, Washington. I will keep the same cell phone number after my move: (541) 801-6400. My email address will remain the same: stlhdr@toast.net. My new snail-mail address is: **21648 Vetter Road NE, Poulsbo, WA 98370**

Jeremy Johnson New email: jeremy@bowhuntingssuccess.com

Dave Vedder New address: **2010 Edgewood Lane, Wenatchee, WA 98801**

Joe Warren New email: jojo@wavecable.com

Jim Goerg New address: **P.O. Box 261, Auburn, WA 98071, office phone: 253-545-0933**

Tom Knight "Thanks for the mention in the newsletter. I lost all my contacts when Yahoo canceled, due to lack of use, due to hospital stay. Did get a nice email from Jack McNeel yesterday, thanks to mention in Newsletter. Anyone interested in coming down here...email me. (87F on the beach right now..surf is up and no rain till end of May.)" Snail mail address: **Tom Knight, c/o Jamie Pelegrio Bookstore Edificio Las Olas...#4 Tamarindo, Guanacaste Costa Rica, 50309 Home phone: (506) 8685-5784**

THANKS to these Supporting Members who renewed this month:

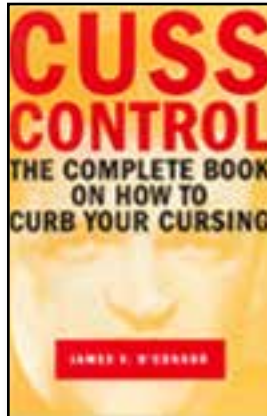
Bass Pro Shops
Brownells
Camp Chef
Central Montana
Idaho Tourism
National Shooting Sports Foundation
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
State of Montana
Washington Department of Fish & Game

O'Connor Communications, Inc. BOOK MARKETING



O'Connor Communications develops comprehensive campaigns based on the author's time and budget. Every project involves pitching magazines, newspapers, radio and TV, and bloggers who review books. They also do media training and arrange booksignings, speeches, and special

events. O'Connor Communications sponsored the Book category of the Excellence in Craft contest.



CUSS CONTROL, The Complete Book on How to Curb Your Cursing by Jim O'Connor

The real problem with profanity is not the words, but the negative or hostile tone the usually accompanies them. The book focuses on how to communicate effectively and with civility. CUSS CONTROL was a media sensation, and Jim and Lynda O'Connor won three awards for the best book publicity for 2000, the year it was published. Over a period of several years, Jim appeared on more than 100 TV shows and news programs. He was featured in more than 500 newspapers and magazines, and interviewed on more than 700 radio stations in seven countries.



"I swear, and it's the one thing that I really don't like about myself. Jim O'Connor teaches people how to stop swearing. I agree that swearing is terrible and I'm going to quit."
--Oprah Winfrey

<http://www.oconnorpr.com/>

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

VIDEOGRAPHER FOR HORNADY!

If you have got mad "video" skills and you love the shooting sports this may be a great fit for you. Our thanks to our friends at the National Shooting Sports Foundation for letting us know about this! <http://jobs.nssf.org/jobs/10597340/videographer>

ASSISTANT EDITOR (DIGITAL) - AmmoLand News

A great full-time, work from home gig for those who follow firearms, the shooting sports and the politics related to them.
<http://jobs.nssf.org/jobs/10535053/assistant-editor-digital>



NOWA booth at the TriCity Sportsman show. Dennis Dauble and Wayne Heinz talked to several candidates about membership. Kudos to Wayne Heinz for his yeoman efforts. He donated his speaker's fees (i.e. gave 3 seminars for no pay in exchange for the booth). Dennis spelled him on and off over the course of 3 days, but Wayne set up the booth and took it down. Thanks for all your efforts!

The Arithmetic Of Writing

BY WAYNE HEINZ

Discouraged by editors' changes to your story? You can brush their pens off your text. Follow a simple rule: "No story goes out until it passes Microsoft Word's reading test." The test includes – and goes far beyond – Spell-Check. Need a word count? Done. Want to uncover sentences that conceal passive voice? Done. Wary of long, convoluted sentences you wrote late last night? Find them. Untangle them.

Want 70% of your readers to understand what you wrote? Word will tell you if you succeeded. Want your story to read at the educational level that most newspapers and magazines target (grade 8)? Word will grade your story. You can set up this proofreading in one minute. Open Microsoft Word. Click, "File > Options > Proofing > Show readability."

Next day, when you finish a story, highlight the text. Then click the, "ABC," tab. Word will do the math for you. Like the stats? Send your story off. Unhappy with a few sentences? Rewrite. Two notes: Microsoft Word's math employs the Flesch Reading Ease test and the Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level test. Editors have employed both for decades. Flesch uses average sentence length and syllables per 100 words. The higher the Flesch score, the easier to read. Kincaid converts a Flesch score to school grade level. Curious about the math? Google the formulae. You can paste your text into other formulae, online:

- The SMOG Index (Simple Measure Of Gobbledygook) estimates the years of education required to easily understand a story. Wordscount.info calculates SMOG.
- The Gunning Fog Index also estimates education needed. It counts the average words per sentence and words with 3 or more syllables.
- The Dale-Chall Score uses the number of hard words in a story (not on a list of 3,000 commonly understood words)

- to predict ease of reading. Other readability websites:
- CountWordsworth.com yields several readability scores. This site also flags passives and clichés.
- Datayze.com > Readability Analyzer detects reading grade level and passives.
- Readable.io scores text; flags passives, clichés, and adverbs; estimates reading/speaking times; analyzes a story for tone and sentiment.
- WritingTester.com scores ease of reading and assigns a grade level.

A critic might say, "Apply arithmetic to writing? No. I won't dumb-down my stories!" The reply: "This approach isn't about your readers' perception of how smart you are. It just insures that most folks will read what you write."

The critic then retorts, "This math stuff stifles creative writing!" Wrong. Arithmetic can't write. It just shows us how reader-friendly our writing is. Our story's rhythm, mood, clever word play, witty metaphors ... remain.

If you want to target young readers, you can. If you want to target a grad school audience, you can. The math lets you know your aim is true. This piece you just read – 500 words – averages 7.8 words per sentence. No passive sentences. It had one. Word caught it. I killed it. The piece reads at 5th grade level. About 70% of readers will understand it. You read it in less than 4 minutes – minimum time, maximum info. Math and manuscripts – worth thinking about, wouldn't you say?



Wayne Heinz

Guide to \$\$\$\$

BY GI WILSON

Learning to network with hunting and fishing guides can become a money maker. When I sat down to interview the river guide, I was hoping to come up with enough for my newspaper column.

It had all started with a friend showing off a photo of a 30# chinook he had landed with this guide. Never would have believed, 15 years later, I would be selling articles built around this guy, his clients and his skills. I liked everything about the guy: his personality, experiences, attitude and professionalism. So, I booked a trip and the ideas and articles came. Before long we were collaborating without knowing it. He would call or email, "Hey, what do you think about this idea?" Or, "I was talking to Joe Blow (another guide) and he is doing something really clever."

Before long I was doing this with other guides, fishing rivers, bays and ocean. If I'm impressed with a guide, I book a trip. After I book, I share with them I'm looking for story ideas, something different, something that hasn't been written about, at least recently.

A hunting buddy drew a coveted Rocky Mountain sheep tag. He invited me to go along to do photos, maybe a story. He killed the largest Rocky Mountain sheep that year; I sold the article to Sports Afield. But, most important, I became good friends with one of the top guides in the Northwest. Ten years later I was selling hunting stories about him and his clients. I had never hunted turkeys. He invited me for a hunt. I shot my first gobbler, sold a story.

I was working with an editor that liked, "big horns." My guy consistently had clients that had either bought, or won, the Governor's tags. I had a great supply of "big horns" articles. He called me. "I have a father and son that want the boy to shoot a spring bear," he explains. "The boy has lost one eye and is danger of losing the other one. Maybe this can be an article."

The 14-year-old shot a 400-pound boar. He lives 50 miles from me. I drove down for an interview, sold the piece to Wheelin' Sportsman.

I worked with deaf people for 30 years. A deaf friend contacted me about a deaf river guide. He thought it would be a good story. He set up the trip, loaned me his driftboat. Jo and I followed the guide and his clients down the Rogue. I rowed while she took photos. Another Wheelin' article.

I ran into a deaf guy I had not seen since he was a teenager. He had been guiding wilderness elk hunts in Idaho for years. He competes in elk bugling competition. OK skeptics.



GI Wilson

He is deaf. He guides hearing hunters. Only thing he needs: someone to tell him where the response comes from and 'how far.' Another Wheelin' piece.

I belong to three fishing clubs. They invite guides to give presentations. A gold mine for ideas on successful techniques, gear and hot spots. One of the top guides in the area was giving a presentation. A lady asked, "What is the one thing you do that makes you so successful?" He explains, "It's not the one thing I do, but it's the 100 things I do repeatedly."

This gave me an idea. I soon had a Salmon Trout Steelhead article, "The Devil Is in The Details." My lead was 'I once heard a guide say, 'It's not the one thing....''

Getting your facts right is crucial to developing a trusting relationship with guides. Always double check any questionable facts and figures. It is key to building that trust relationship. I sold all my boats. I will continue fishing. Going with a guide just may give me something to write about.

Developing a working--and personal relationship--with guides can add \$\$\$ to your bottomline.

Truckin' to Choteau

Spring is just around the corner and you need to clean out that closet, garage, shop, etc. Those treasures you no longer need could be of interest to someone else!

NOWA's raffle and silent auction are always so much fun at the annual conference. Fun because of these treasures you no longer want. Filling up the truck and bringing us those items you can donate will help us create a "fantastic collection." (And, since you are bringing so many things, please make us a list--thanks.)



This is our major fundraiser, so come prepared to buy lots of tickets! (Cash or check only.)

Contact Jo Wilson, 503-390-4557 or gijowilson@q.com

Jackie McNeel with her raffle treasure: a photograph donated by Keith Szafranski

The Power of Shows and Conferences

CHRIS BATIN, CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN, VICE PRESIDENT

I recently attended the 2018 SHOT show, held in Las Vegas, where I not only represented NOWA, but also checked out the “state of the industry” exhibits in shooting, hunting, and outdoor trade. I was one of over 2,500 invited journalists in attendance, walking the 12.5 miles of aisles filled with industry reps. These businesses help support writers and photographers by loaning products for review, sponsoring contests and events, and a few become supporting members. It has been my belief that NOWA has been absent for too long from these events, another reason why I changed my schedule to attend. I was invited to attend a meeting held by the Professional Outdoor Media Association, which held a standing-room only event, complete with snacks, finger food and drinks. It lasted less than an hour, but they had a powerful message, with lots of new faces and potential members in attendance. People are looking to belong and interact. I talked with Executive Director Kevin Orthman, and considered joining the organization to show an act of reciprocal cohesiveness that outdoor writing organizations need to have in order to survive

That interaction, by the way, is currently being provided to us by SEOPA, who agreed to handle the judging for our Excellence in Craft contest. This has been a project in the works for several months now, in which our Executive Director helped spearhead this effort. Lisa Snuggs, SEOPA’s Executive Director, is leaning toward an interactive relationship with other organizations in providing volunteer services like judging, which we hope will be reciprocal in the future. I responded in my visits with her that NOWA is willing and able to assist in any way. SEOPA has a lot going on, but like us, they are likewise trying to figure out how to solicit new members. They are planning a Super Conference in 2020 that I plan to attend. I believe it will be a major convention that will help set the direction of future of outdoor conferences.

At the SHOT show, I chatted with Bill Brassard, our point person with the **National Shooting Sports Foundation**. NSSF is a longtime sponsor and supporter of NOWA and our conferences. He said NSSF would continue to be of assistance to NOWA for as long as they are able. They have ample programs and services, fact checks and other tools for outdoor writers to use, free of charge. Check out their website www.nssf.org

Of course, in order for me to get material for my SHOT Show feature on new products, I have to try out new products. While NSSF prohibits anyone from soliciting anything from exhibitors, (that includes asking them to be supporting members of NOWA) I never miss an opportunity to introduce myself, the publications I own and/or write for, as well as inform them I am NOWA’s incoming president. This introduction has not only opened doors for me I wouldn’t have had otherwise, but also with some exhibitors, prompted discussion on things other than product, such as the future of outdoor writing, and how to better get out the message to the public. I spent ample time looking at the great



Above: Chris Batin trying his hand at shooting a Blaser rifle.



Right: Dennis Clay hoping to stick the bullseye for a third time at Shot Show’s Industry Day at the “Range” which is open to outdoor writers to attend by special invitation from an exhibiting member.

new Ram trucks on display and available for a test drive, and took many photos. I looked for Scott Brown with supporting member **Ram Trucks**, but our paths didn’t cross. It’s a big show. We have since touched bases via email and phone. I hope that we’ll all have a chance to see him at the NOWA conference, where he’ll give us the rundown on the new line of Ram trucks.

I mentioned in last month’s NOWA newsletter that I would be attending SHOT show, and that if any other members had planned to do so, they should contact me so we could get together. Receiving no response, I was surprised, yet glad, to see Dennis Clay in front of me at the knife-throwing event at Buck Knives. Dennis was as deadly at knife throwing as he is at winning items at our NOWA raffle. Dennis’ support goes back as far as the early 80s, when he was one of the first NOWA members to review the first book that Adela and I published. Dennis is a long-time supporter of NOWA, and I asked him if I could count on him to assist with the various committees during my presidency; committees which I am about to assemble. I was overjoyed when he nodded yes, as I knew he would. He is like the many members we are blessed in having and does whatever he can to help keep NOWA alive and running.

I also had long visits with friends, fellow pundits, and mentors I have known since my entry into outdoor writing in the early 70s. For about an hour, I sat down with Jay Cassell, editorial director at Skyhorse Publishing, and we caught up on events in our personal and professional lives. Jay was a mentoring editor for me when I started writing for Sports Afield in the 70s. He fished with me in Alaska, and we shared an Alaska hunting tent camp, where we crawled and eased out way to Jay’s 12-yard shot of a



From far left, Chris Batin, Jay Cassell and Jim Zumbo in the official SHOT Show Press Room, sponsored by NSSF. All Chris Batin photos

huge caribou bull on the Alaska tundra. Our discussion on the state of the industry, however, is for another time.

I also visited with Jim Zumbo, and at length with Bob Robb, both longtime experts in their fields and friends in the outdoor writing business. What I learned talking to these and other outdoor writers was more than worth the cost of the Vegas trip. This information helped me make marketing and professional goals decisions that I would have been perplexed in making otherwise.

This is the power of conference. In a few days, I was able to get my story material and something more: Insider information. For me, Vegas is out of the way, noisy, overpriced and too people-

centric. But it has magic where you can find it, and I found it at the SHOT Show, my several days hiking and photography in nearby Death Valley, and in the camaraderie of other writers like myself, all of us who are making the journey together in this era of outdoor writing.

A few members believe our Choteau conference is also out of the way in proximity to where they live. Compared to Vegas, it's a bargain, I assure you. But I guarantee that if you ask the right questions of the writers attending the Choteau conference this April, you will benefit in ways that are priceless, and that's just from your personal interaction with members.

On an educational front, our seminars are going through the final facelift that Executive Director Adela Jackson and I have been diligently been working on for days each week, along with operational input from President Jim Foster. Jeremy Johnson is helping NOWA transition through the operational software that is right for our organization. I can personally assure you, NOWA officers are busy at work for you. The last few weeks, I have spent more time on NOWA matters than my own business, but then again, I anticipated this, which is why I am excited in helping Jim Foster continue his presidency, and humbly take over the helm in April. Yet it's a job I can't do alone.

I hope that every member reading this, and even those who are not, will respond with the same zest that Dennis Clay exhibited in chipping in to help with upcoming committee assignments. If you have a committee preference or special skillset, and would like to spend a couple of hours each month to help us out, please contact me, or if you wish to help now, we need onsite volunteers at the conference. Please contact Adela for more details.

I'm wrapping up the final seminars for our conference, and I ask that you look forward to the next issue for a detailed outline of what you can expect in Choteau! I guarantee, you won't be disappointed!

NOWA Pre & Post Offerings Sign up now! Space is limited

To register contact Gayle Fisher by phone 406-761-5036 or gfisher@bresnan.net

Thursday all day

"History of Conservation along the Rocky Mountain Front"

10 people maximum, trip length from Choteau 5 ½ hours

Join Dropstone Outfitting and several local experts for a hike exploring the Rocky Mountain Front and delving into the rich conservation history of the area. This hike will take you up Clary Coulee, sitting as the transition zone between the Northern Great Plains and the Sawtooth Mountains along the Front. The vista from the bench above the coulee offers the perfect location to see the vast landscape unfold while discussing its history of conservation and collaboration. The outing will be around 6 miles long with a 1,500 foot elevation gain. We will leave Choteau at 9 AM Thursday and return between 2:30 and 3 PM. Please bring water, snacks, camera and layers.

Friday afternoon and Sunday afternoon

"Trail Ride with A Lazy H Outfitters"

6 people maximum, trip length from Choteau 3-4 hours

Take an afternoon horseback trail ride along Montana's majestic Rocky Mountain front. The Front is unmatched in scenery, scale, and grandeur. We will ride through the jackpine covered foothills and up to ridges with spectacular views of the Great Plains to the east and the Rockies to the west. This is an excursion you and your camera won't want to miss!

Friday afternoon and Sunday afternoon

"Can you dig it?"

10 people maximum, trip length from Choteau 4 hours

Step into a world of giants for an afternoon with Two Medicine Dinosaur Center. In the shadow of Pine Butte we will investigate the rich, paleontological history of the area; searching for dinosaur eggs, fossilized bones, ancient plants, and everything in between. This will be our first time into this area since last summer, so who knows what 75-million year old fossils the winter storms uncovered. We'll bring the water, you bring hiking shoes, warm clothes, and a camera!"



NOWA Fishing Derby

To register contact Gary Lewis garylewisoutdoors@gmail.com

At this year's conference in Choteau, Montana, NOWA will hold a fishing derby open to anglers who are either NOWA members or guests of NOWA members.

The site of the derby is Eureka Reservoir, about 8 miles from Choteau.



Access: Fishing dock, boat launch, shoreline

Derby start 12:30pm
Derby end 4:30pm

(angler and fish must be present at the boat launch)

To qualify for the derby, the angler must be registered for attendance at the Saturday night banquet. The derby starts at 12:30pm on Friday, April 27.

Entry fee: \$10 check payable to NOWA

(due at conference registration by Friday morning)

There will be four categories as follows:

1. Fly-fishing Brown trout*
2. Spinning Gear Brown trout
3. Fly-fishing Rainbow trout*
4. Spinning Gear Rainbow trout

To qualify, the fish must have been caught between 12:30pm and 4:30pm on the day of the derby. All legal sport fishing methods are legal for this derby. The angler must have a Montana fishing license valid for the day of the derby.

Judges will be NOWA members selected in advance. Judges may also compete in the derby.

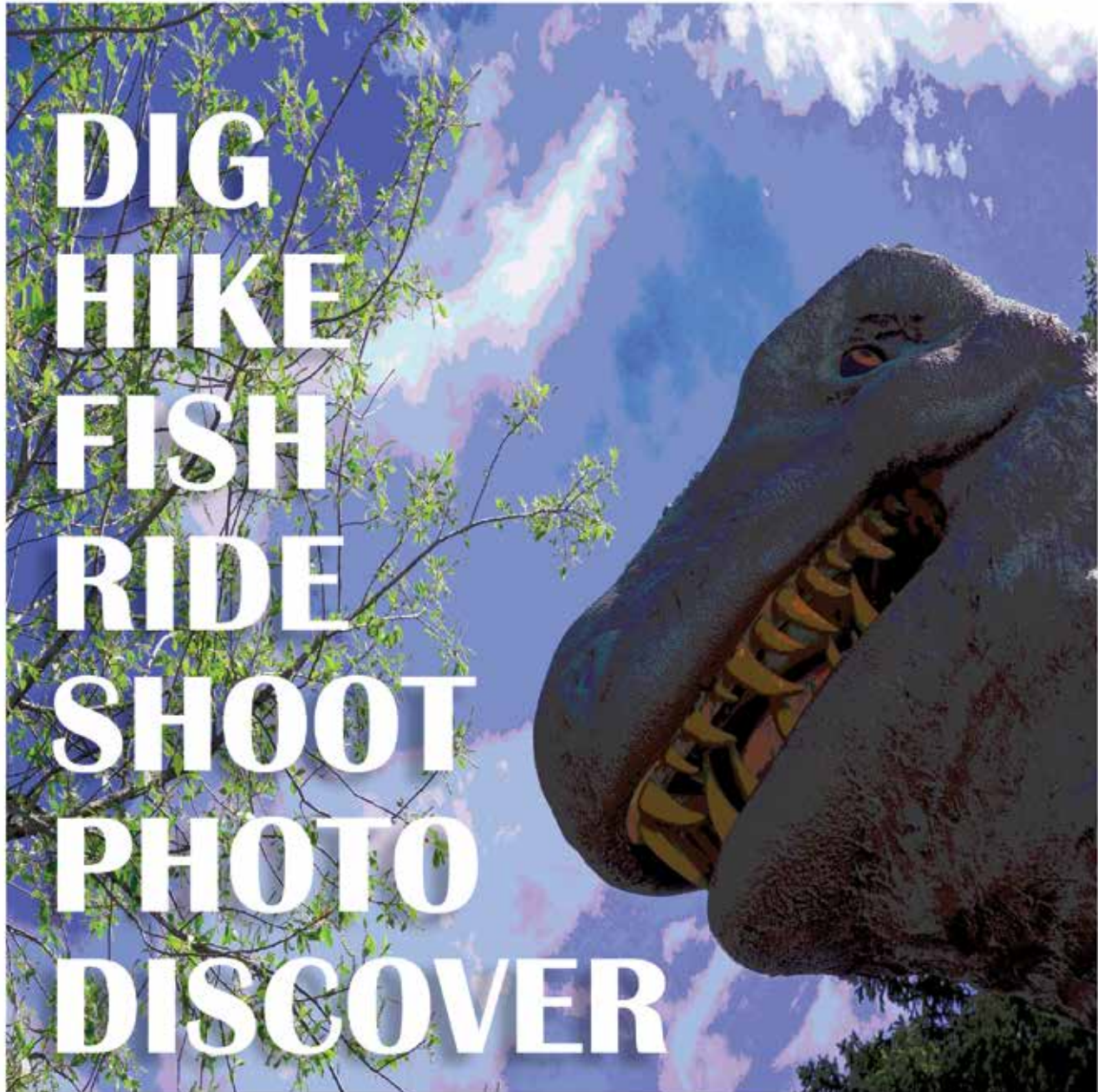
We will recognize one winner each from the above categories. In the Conventional categories, the fish must be retained for judging. Also, the fish must be cleaned, with the head left on. If a fly-caught fish is released, to be eligible in the fly-fishing category, the fish must have a length and girth measurement and the angler must submit a digital image with a measuring device in the photo.

Note: All fish caught and retained for the derby must be cleaned with the head on prior to judging.

Prizes: Cash awards to be determined

* Fly-fishing trout, okay to release. Must have digital picture and length and girth measurements. Use a cloth measuring tape or yardstick.

** Derby rules are subject to change based on conditions and other variables



Do it all in Choteau

Montana

NOWA Conference, April 26-29, 2018
Register today: www.NWoutdoorwriters.org



45TH ANNUAL NORTHWEST OUTDOOR WRITERS ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

Pre/Post Conference Trips - Thursday, April 27, 28, 30
See page 12 for trip descriptions and sign up info.

Thursday, April 27

- 7 am Free Breakfast at hotel
- 8-9:30 am Board Orientation
- 9:30-4 pm **Board Meeting**
- 5-7 pm Registration for Conference - Lobby area of Hotel
- 6 pm Photo Shootout Contest - *Pick up contest rules at registration desk*
- 7-9 pm **Wine Social and T-Shirt Swap** - Two Medicine Dinosaur Center. *Transportation will be provided from Stage Stop Inn. Members and Guests need to wear name badges.*

Friday, April 28 - Supporting Member Day

- 7 am Free Breakfast at hotel
- 8-11 am Registration for Conference – Conference Center
- 8 am-1 pm Raffle Room
People's Choice Photos on display for voting
- 8 am Welcome by President Jim Foster
- 8:15 am Announcements by Chris Batin, Conference Chairman
- 8:30 am Field Trips and Activities Preview and Sign-Up
- 9-11 am **Presentations by Supporting Members**
Supporting Member displays and press materials in Conference Center Friday and Saturday all day
- 11:30 - 12:30 Lunch sponsored by the National Shooting Sports Foundation
- 1 - 5 pm **Field Trips and Activities**
 1. Shooting Event (Outdoor Shooting Range) sponsored by NSSF and Lone Wolf
 2. Fishing Derby at Reservoir: Sponsored by Macks Lure
 3. Off-Road Test Drives with Ram Trucks
 4. Spouse Shopping Tour at Lattigo and Lace, Augusta
 5. "Can You Dig It?" dinosaur fossil tour
 6. "Trail Ride with Lazy H Outfitters"
- 6 - 8 pm **Welcome to Montana! Community Night Dinner**
sponsored by Central Montana Tourism, featuring local community businesses, US Forest Service, Fish & Game, Local artists/writers/authors
Program: NOWA's Legacy Awards

Don't miss this rare opportunity to meet and interview Alaska's famous wildlife artist Sandy Jamieson at the Chateau conference. A Montana boy, Sandy graduated from Great Falls, Montana highschool and then migrated to Alaska where he spent the next forty years exploring the state as a bush pilot and Alaska brown bear guide. Sandy is well-known for his humorous 'Wild' life art and is donating one of his signed prints to NOWA's Silent Auction. Visit his website at <https://sandyjamieson.com/>



Tentative Schedule

Saturday, April 28 - Seminars

- 7 am Free Breakfast at hotel
- 7:45 am Announcements by Chris Batin, Conference Chairman
- 8-4 pm Raffle Room open all day
- 8-9 am Turn in Photo Shootout entries - *Hotel registration desk*
- 8-noon **Grizzlies at your Doorstep:** *Bert Gildart, National Park Service, Montana Fish and Game Guest Speakers, Sandy Jamison*
Creative Use of Aperture and Shutter Speed: *Keith Szafranski*
How to Write Profitable, Award-Winning Sentences: *Chris Batin*
- 12 - 1 pm Lunch: On Your Own
- 1-5 pm **Good Editing Starts in the Camera:** *Keith Szafranski*
Diving Down the Social Media Rabbit Hole: Exploring the Philosophy of Social Networking and How these Hidden Secrets Will Help You: *Heather Batin, Doctoral Candidate, Ohio University, Scripps College of Communication*
Make Money from Your Life's Work: Panel
NOWA Symposium
- 6-9 pm **Awards Banquet** sponsored by RAM Trucks
"What the Heck is This?", Photo Shootout Winners, People's Choice Photo Winners, Silent Auction, Excellence in Craft Awards

Sunday, April 29

- 7 am Free Breakfast at hotel
- 8-9:30 am **Membership Meeting**
Mid-morning coffee/tea/cookie break, provided by NOWA
- 10-11:30am Raffle: *Coordinator Jo Wilson*
- Noon Hotel Check Out
- 1 pm **Post Conference Trips**
"Can You Dig It"
"Trail Ride with Lazy H Outfitters"

COORDINATOR CONTACT INFORMATION

- Conference:** Chris Batin, 907.707.9846, <http://batinchr@gmail.com>
- Conference Hotel:** Stage Stop Inn, Manager Beth Barlow, 406-466-5900, <http://www.stagestopinn.com>
- Central Montana Tourism:** Gayle Fisher, 406.761.5036, <http://gfisher@bresnan.net>
- Fishing Derby:** Gary Lewis, 541.420.1371, <http://garylewisoutdoors@gmail.com>
- Grizzly Bear Panel:** Bert Gildart, 406.249.9058, <http://bertgil@cyberport.net>
- People's Choice Photo Contest:** Jackie McNeel, 509.939.2661, http://tita_48@msn.com
- Photo Shootout Contest:** Need volunteer coordinator
- Raffle and Silent Auction:** Jo Wilson, 503.390.4557, <http://gijowilson@g.com>
- Shooting Event:** Greg Gulbrandsen, 541.280.3035, <http://cascade@bendcable.com>
- Supporting Member Displays:** Adela Jackson, 907.322.8000, <http://executivedirector@NWoutdoorwriters.org>

Grizzlies at your Doorstep

Bert Gildart, National Park Service, Montana Fish and Game Guest Speakers

In 1967 as a Ranger Bert Gildart was involved with one of the first fatal bear maulings in Glacier National Park and he will begin with a brief summation of the twin tragedies. One occurred at Trout Lake and resulted because of a garbage-habituated bear. Sadly events are now occurring in GNP that seem to be creating more human habituated bears, though the underlying conditions are different. Gildart will explain the conditions. Gildart has written dozens of stories about bears to include one for Smithsonian Magazine.

Gildart will also include the projection of a few images from the 1967 tragedy and then introduce his good friend David Shea who was involved in the other 1967 fatal tragedy, the one at Granite Park Chalet. As most realize, these two tragedies represent the first fatal maulings in the park's history, and they occurred within nine linear miles of one another. Both maulings occurred about the same time and by two different bears.

David Shea was partially responsible for disposing of any and all bears that frequented the park's remote Granite Park Chalet. Subsequently Shea was promoted and became the park's first Park Bear Manager. He believes that although the deaths were indeed tragic that some good came from "Night of the Grizzlies." Backcountry campgrounds were cleaned, rules were implemented that stipulated how food would be stored, and at times whole systems of trails were closed. In summary, the park with Shea's help created its first real Bear Management Program and in short its objective was to separate bears and people.

Like Gildart, Shea believes conditions are changing in Glacier and that the park may have to implement more control over people using the trails in order to prevent new tragedies. Yes, other fatal maulings in GNP have occurred subsequent to those of 1967 but most resulted from people hiking silently and then surprising a sow with cubs. The most recent mauling occurred when a man riding a mountain bike rounded a corner and literally rammed into a grizzly, which then proceeded to "defend" herself.

Fish Wildlife and Park Biologist Mike Madel will be the last speaker and his portion will constitute the majority of this "news making" seminar. Madel lives in Choteau which is not only ideal bear country but also cattle country. When bears wander from "The Front" onto ranch land he is responsible to mitigate the conflicts that invariably arise. Madel also collars bears and can so follow bears from their dens and to the areas through which they roam when not hibernating. Madel provides advice to government agencies on the delisting of bears. Madel has proven to be an excellent speaker and as a result, much of his work comes under the mantle of PR.

NOWA is lucky he has agreed to participate in this program.



Spring "Break-Up"

Spring "Break-Up" by Sandy Jamieson

What is the "People's Choice" Photo Contest?

Do you have an awesome photo you took this year, but it wasn't published? This contest is for you, whether you are an amateur or professional, the opportunity to share your special image with conference attendees.

Some members are not professional photographers but like taking pictures. It's nice to see what the pros have to say about their photos and just maybe it might inspire them to take the next step.

Anyone can enter just **be in attendance and registered for the conference**. Plus you could win a neat prize at the banquet dinner. So please consider taking part in this year's "People choice". Just follow a few guidelines and see what happens.

1. Photo must have been taken since the last NOWA conference.
2. Print may be in color or B&W. ONE photo only please! No digital, only prints will be accepted.
3. Photo must be mounted on poster board, (no frames please) No larger than 8"x10".
4. Two categories: Amateur and Professional. Any subject matter. Definition of professional: you get paid for any photos.
5. Turn it in to Jackie McNeel Saturday morning by 9 am. Everyone who attends the conference will receive two ballots to vote.

Jackie McNeel
See you in Choteau, Montana



2018 NOWA Conference Registration April 26 – April 29, 2018, Choteau, Montana

- Wine Social & T-Shirt and Cap Exchange: Thursday evening, April 26
- Supporting Member Day, Friday, April 27
- Seminars & Awards Banquet, Saturday, April 28
- Raffle & General Meeting, Sunday, April 29

Stage Stop Inn • 1005 Main Avenue North, Choteau, Montana 59422

NOWA's Conference Rate: \$65 for single/double, additional person in room \$4.50

Please book your room by March 20, 2018

Reservations: 406-466-5900 • Manager: Beth Barlow <http://www.stagestopinn.com>

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

Phone number to contact: _____

Book Display: Do you have a book(s) to bring to the conference for display? _____

Your Name(s) _____

New Member

Address/City/State/Zip _____

1st Conference

Guest or Spouse Name(s) _____

Guest Name(s) _____

Conference Registration — Member: _____ people x \$ 115. = \$ _____

Conference Registration — Guest and/or Spouse: _____ people x \$ 115. = \$ _____

Saturday Banquet Only (see Notes) — Guest and/or Spouse _____ people x \$ 60. = \$ _____

Non-member Registration: _____ people x \$ 175. = \$ _____

If 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, 2018: _____ Late Fee x \$ 10. = \$ _____

Please add a \$10 late fee per person

Credit Card # _____ **TOTAL (US funds) \$** _____

Name on Card _____ Exp. _____ CV _____

Signature _____ **Enclosed CHECK #** _____

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

Registration Deadline: Conference Registration must be received at NOWA headquarters by **April 1, 2018.**

After April 1: Your registration fee is \$125. If registering after April 1, email adelajackson@hotmail.com to indicate you will be attending. Please bring your registration form and payment to the conference.

Cancellation / Refund Policy: Refunds of conference registration fees will be made on the following basis:

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| 30 days prior to the conference date of April 26, 2018 | Full refund |
| 15 days prior to the conference date of April 26, 2018 | 50% refund |
| 7 days prior to the conference date of April 26, 2018 | No refund |

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

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