

NOWA FIELD NOTES



JUNE/JULY 2020



***ENOS BRADNER WINNER – CRAFT IMPROVEMENT (ADVERBS & ADJECTIVES)
– PHOTO PORTFOLIO - A VIRTUAL CONFERENCE OPPORTUNITY - MEMBER
UPDATES – SUPPORTING MEMBER NEWS - AND MORE!***

NOWA FIELD NOTES - JUNE/JULY 2020

NOWA FIELD NOTES

The NOWA newsletter is published six times a year by the Northwest Outdoor Writers Association, a registered nonprofit, tax-exempt, public supported organization under IRS 501 c3 Code. Newsletter contributions in the form of craft improvement articles, photos, member photo portfolios, news items, letters to the editor and more are welcome but cannot be compensated. Send submissions by email in Microsoft WORD format. Photos can be sent in JPEG Format. The Deadline for submissions is the 15th day of the month prior to the next edition being published. Send them to:

NOWA NEWSLETTER EDITOR - John Kruse

PO Box 4269, Wenatchee, WA 98807

Tel. 509-670-8826 - Email: john@northwesternoutdoors.com

NOWA OFFICERS, BOARD MEMBERS AND MORE

The NOWA website can be found at <http://nowaoutdoors.com>

Website Editor - Dave Kilhefner Email: Dave@kbi-ins.com

The NOWA Facebook Page can be found at www.facebook.com/NorthwestOutdoorWritersAssociation/



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NOWA FIELD NOTES - JUNE/JULY 2020

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



When we look at ourselves as an organization and what we represent as Outdoor Media Specialists we can be proud of the fact that each of us can, and does, have a significant impact on the people who read member books, articles, columns, blogs and view awe inspiring photography from some of the best in the field. It is those contributions that encourage others to enjoy the outdoors has much as we do.

As a result, there are always new people looking for a break to help them bridge the gap to professionalism. Each of you represents a plank on that bridge. I found, over the years, that it wasn't just the organization making the connection to each other possible, but more so the one-on-one conversations we have with other members, especially at our conferences. From my own experience I was amazed by the number of doors of opportunity opened over the years from people I met and conversations I had with conference attendees,

including supporting members.

This year we unfortunately had to cancel our annual conference, and for good reason. That said, as we move forward to duplicate our plans in 2021 for a great conference in The Dalles, Oregon, all of you can of course play a role in the success of the conference by contributing ideas to Board members on topics that can lead to articles, columns, blogs and photo opportunities, and by planning to attend. We will keep you posted as we move towards our goal.

I appreciate you all have other things on your mind, particularly with the impact Covid-19 has had on so many people's lives. At the same time when I think about our members and what they are involved in, they are once again setting the example. Any member, who researches material for articles, fishes, hunts, does photography and any number of other outdoor activities, has been setting the bar for social distancing for years. In keeping their distance, they still maintain a good relationship with others with the same interests. They share their experiences, anglers and hunters often share their bounty. If people want to live by example, they should follow people who love the outdoors.

On the business side of NOWA news, special recognition and appreciation for her dedication goes out to Risa Wyatt. Risa was named this year's recipient of the Enos Bradner award. This award is NOWA's most prestigious award. Congratulations Risa and on behalf of NOWA - "Thank you."

A "Special Get Well" (and stay that way) goes out to Jack McNeil. Jack recently suffered a heart attack, but is home after a few days in the hospital. I spoke with Jack after he got home and he said a number of well wishers had reached out to him, which he greatly appreciated. He says he is feeling okay. I know his wife, Jackie, has a list of no-no's that Jack will have to abide to. Jack is one of the remaining four or five NOWA Charter members.

Deadline for submitting ballots with respect to proposed Constitution and By-Law changes closed May 4th. The changes passed unanimously by all who voted. Thanks to all of you who voted. I appreciate that some members have other things to do besides vote, but if any member feels they did not receive a ballot please let me know as it may indicate an email address error.

Thank you all for your continued support.

Ron Kerr
NOWA President

FROM THE EDITOR



They say you don't appreciate what you have until it's gone. That was certainly true for any of us living in Washington State during the COVID-19 Pandemic. We had the unfortunate distinction of being the only state in the nation to have hunting and fishing shut down by order of the Governor from Late March until early May. Not only that, all state lands to include parks and wildlife areas, were closed. Washington State went a step further from there, asking the National Parks Service, National Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management to close developed sites and trailheads too.

I never thought I'd live in a world where I couldn't enjoy the passions I love on the public lands I've come to take for granted. It was a real wake up call and I hope we, as lovers of the outdoors, don't have to relive this nightmare again. Now that things are open once again, I'm getting out there more and advocating more for the protection of these public places we hold dear. Here's hoping you get out there too and use your platform as an outdoors media professional to promote outdoor recreation and public access to the lands where we fish, hike, hunt, camp, paddle and enjoy nature.

RISA WYATT - ENOS BRADNER AWARD WINNER!!



In her 20 years as an adventure travel journalist, Risa's assignments have taken her scuba diving in Palau, whitewater rafting on the Salmon River, on cattle drives across the Australian Outback, and skiing in destinations both famous and on the edge. Her articles have appeared in *Ski*, *Boat US*, *Modern Bride*, *Wine Enthusiast*, *Boston Herald*, *Miami Herald*, *Toronto Globe and Mail* and other publications. Risa currently serves as the Secretary for NOWA and has served several years as a valued Board member. She has earned deep respect from her fellow board members and officers over the years and the late Dennis Clay in particular championed Risa to be the recipient of this year's Enos Bradner Award.

In accepting the award Risa says, "Writing is a solitary pursuit.

Through NOWA, I can connect with journalist colleagues if I need to track down a research source or improve my Photoshop skills. I'm proud to serve on the Board of Directors as Secretary and am grateful to have received this year's Enos Bradner Award."

A VIRTUAL OUTDOOR WRITERS CONFERENCE FOR YOU FROM OWAA!

The *Outdoor Writers Association of America*, like us, had to cancel their onsite annual conference this year. However, they are hosting a virtual conference and NOWA members are invited!!

**OWAA
VIRTUAL
CONFERENCE
2020**

LIVE
JUNE 26 & 27

Members	\$75
<i>After June 15</i>	\$95
Members of State & Regional Outdoor Media Groups	\$95
<i>After June 15</i>	\$115
Soon-to-be-members	\$115
<i>After June 15</i>	\$135

Register today!

Early registration extended to June 15!

OWAA.ORG/2020CONFERENCE



CONTROLLING INVASIVE SPECIES

Chad Tokowicz, American Sportfishing Association; Shane Mahoney, Conservation Visions, Inc. (Moderator: Drew Youngedyke, National Wildlife Federation)

INNOVATIVE WAYS TO BUILD AN ONLINE AUDIENCE IN A POST COVID WORLD

Gary Arndt, Everything-Everywhere travel blog (Moderator: Chez Chesak)



TAKING VIDEO AND EDITING IT ON YOUR CELL PHONE

Karen Loke, Television News Producer, Texas Parks and Wildlife (Moderator: Ann Simpson)



WOMEN'S SUMMIT ON OUTDOOR COMMUNICATION

Christine Dell'Amore, Animals editor at National Geographic, author and co-founder of the DC Science Writers Association; Natalie Krebs, Senior editor at Outdoor Life; Katie McKalip, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers (Moderator: Christine Peterson)

While additional speakers and panels will continue to be announced, this is the most current list of confirmed presentations as of May, 2020. Times TBA and all speakers, panels, etc. are subject to change.

owaa.org/2020Conference

OWAA 2020 VIRTUAL CONFERENCE JUNE 26 & 27



Sessions!



DIFFERENT ROUTES TO BOOK PUBLISHING

Colleen Miniuk, CMS-Photo and Matthew Dickerson (Moderator: Christine Peterson)



DSLR VS. MIRRORLESS CAMERAS FOR THE OUTDOOR PHOTOGRAPHER

Noah Buchanan, Hunts Photo and Video



MEET THE EDITORS

Alex Robinson, Outdoor Life
Christine Dell'Amore, National Geographic
Amy Kapp, Rails to Trails
Janice Stillman, The Old Farmer's Almanac (Moderator: Christine Peterson)



ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE PROGRAM; IS IT RIGHT FOR YOU?

Colleen Miniuk, CMS-Photo and Matthew Dickerson (Moderator: Chris Madson)

CRAFT IMPROVEMENT

LABORING (WORKING REALLY, REALLY HARD) AT ENGLISH

by Bob Mottram

If you've ever had the good fortune to work with a competent writing coach, you know how valuable that can be.

Eventually, virtually all such coaches get around to talking about adverbs, and invariably they urge you to scroll through your manuscript and root them out. What are adverbs? They are words that often – but not always – end in *ly*, and that modify, or describe, a verb the way an adjective modifies a noun. Simply put, adverbs are to verbs what adjectives are to nouns.

So, what's wrong with adverbs? From a grammatical standpoint, nothing is wrong with them. They're a legitimate part of the language. From a good-writing standpoint, however, they're an alarm bell.

Adverbs always show up in conjunction with verbs, which are action words that constitute the soul of a sentence. Strong verbs make strong sentences, and strong sentences make strong manuscripts.

Now let's see how adverbs work.

We'll pick a sentence at random from the manuscript of your soon-to-be-best-selling adventure novel. Oh, here's one from the first draft of one of your spellbinding action scenes (and you know what Hemingway said about all first drafts).

"Our hero held his weapon close to his chest, and ran across the courtyard."

Okay, so far so good. It describes the idea you are trying to get across, and does so grammatically. But as a description of mid-gunfight action, it's pretty sleep-inducing. So, let's add a couple of adverbs to jazz it up, like this:

"Our hero held his weapon *tightly* against his chest, and ran *quickly* across the courtyard."

That's better. But, as a breathless account of a gunfight in progress, it still looks pretty blah to me. So, what should we do? Should we search for better adverbs?

Actually, no. We should search for better verbs. Let's try this:

"Our hero *clutched* his weapon to his chest, and *sprinted* across the courtyard." (Ah, yes. You almost can hear the hostile bullets ricocheting off the cobblestones now.)

Let's try another scenario from the same manuscript.

“Our hero jumped out of the closet and punched the bad guy in the face. (An accurate account, but awful writing). We add a couple of adverbs and we have:

Our hero jumped *unexpectedly* out of the closet and punched the bad guy *hard* in the face. (Better? Only marginally. You’ll never sell this manuscript.)

So, let’s look at some stronger verbs, like this:

“Our hero *erupted* from the closet and *smashed* his fist into the bad guy’s startled face.” (Hey, no adverbs needed!)

The moral of our story – our real-life story – is, when you see an adverb in your manuscript it is sending you a frantic message. And the message is, YOU HAVE SELECTED THE WRONG VERB.

The right one is out there, and when you find it you won’t need an adverb. Go find it.

“I believe the road to hell is paved with adverbs”
Stephen King

WE WANT YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR NOWA FIELD NOTES!

- Craft improvement articles
- Member and Supporting Member news
- Member stories
- Photos and/or photo essays
- And more!!!
- Plus...We need help on committees too and Dennis Dauble could use assistance from you in putting together our 2021 conference in The Dalles! Contact Newsletter Editor John Kruse for contributions at john@northwesternoutdoors.com. If you are willing to serve on a committee contact President Ron Kerr at rcgkerr@gmail.com

CRAFT IMPROVEMENT

ABOUT ADJECTIVES AND MESSAGES

by Alan Liere

Twenty-eight years ago, having already taught junior high for 12 years, I walked out of the classroom at mid-semester, determined never to go back. My writing career was in its infancy, and though I aspired to go it full-time, I knew I'd never keep up with child support and toothpaste expenses on what I was making freelancing. I started a yard service business, which is a fancy way of admitting that at age 35 I was again mowing lawns for my money.

Lawn mowing was much more lucrative in 1980 than it was in 1955, but then I decided to go back to school and I needed to hire some help. My retired father said he'd like the job, so I hired him at \$5 an hour—the best move I ever made, for Dad taught me how to “massage.”

With his help, we could zip through a lawn in 15 minutes. Had it been up to me, we would have then jumped in the truck and barreled down the street to the next client. Dad, however, was from a different era. As we dumped the last catcher of grass clippings, Dad would lean briefly against the truck, take a big drink of water, and say “Now for the massage.”

The “massage” he referred to did not take a lot of time. Essentially, it was a walk-through, a slow stroll through the yard with a hoe or pruning shears or weed whacker, touching up here and there, straightening an edge, getting rid of a weed in a flower bed. The clients took note of this extra attention and they loved it. They were standing on the porch waving a check on payday; they recommended us to friends and relatives. Business boomed. I learned there that it is good business to give people a little extra, perhaps a bit more than they think they're paying for. The same concept has carried over to my writing.

If I'm “on,” I can sometimes finish a thousand-word piece in an hour and a half. If I'm being paid \$900, that isn't bad money—\$600 an hour. I don't get anywhere close to \$600 an hour, though, because once the story is finished, it must be “massaged.” This involved putting it away, coming back to it, putting it away, coming back to it again—massage, massage, massage. Scrutinize the punctuation. Find the perfect word. Adjust the adverbs. Perpetuate the mood. One of the last things I do is mess around with adjectives. I do this with a sense of guilt because a college professor once told my class “adjectives are a lazy man's tool.” I disagree, however. I feel an adjective has the power to alter the emphasis and often the meaning of a sentence.

Here are three examples of what I'm talking about. The sentences are taken from an essay I wrote about my first attempts to make bread. I have numbered and italicized the sentences. My comments follow in regular type: (1.) *In a burst of uncharacteristic energy fueled by boredom, I woke up the other morning determined to accomplish something.*

Omitting the adjective “uncharacteristic” suggests I have had other bursts of energy. By adding it, the reader pictures a more sluggish individual inspired somehow, perhaps for the first time, to do something with the day. Yeah, yeah, it's a small addition, but it somehow gives the reader more insight about the character. I didn't add the word until my third re-reading.

Here's another: (2.) *For a single man whose idea of spring house cleaning is closing the laundry room door, cleaning the pantry was a major undertaking.*

In this sentence, there are numerous adjectives, but the one that changes the sentence is “single.” Without it, the reader might assume the man has a spouse. Therefore, his views of spring house cleaning are perhaps formed as a non-participant—merely an observation of what he sees. At worst, he has taken on the task of cleaning the pantry to help out. Thus, if he screws up or is overwhelmed, help is nearby. By making sure the reader knows he is single, the writer has automatically garnered their sympathy. It makes his every mistake or miscalculation seem more pathetic

And another: (3) *The machine had not been used since my wife passed away, and I had never paid any attention to the magical process of turning flour and water and other secret ingredients into a food for the gods*

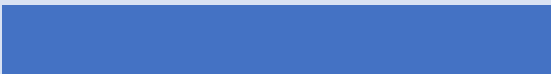
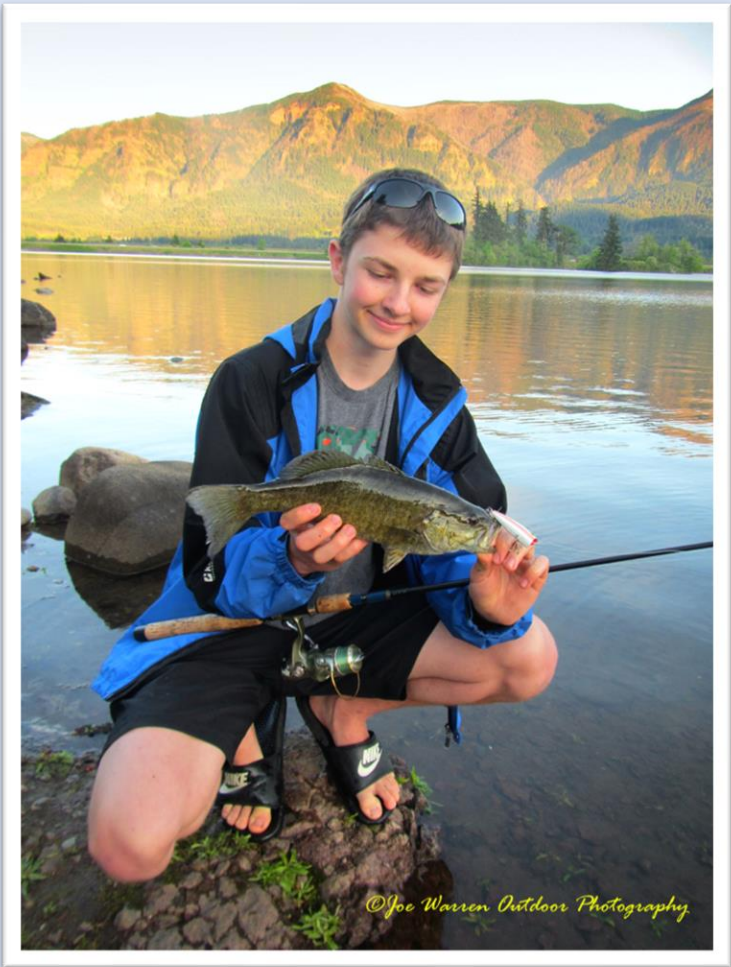
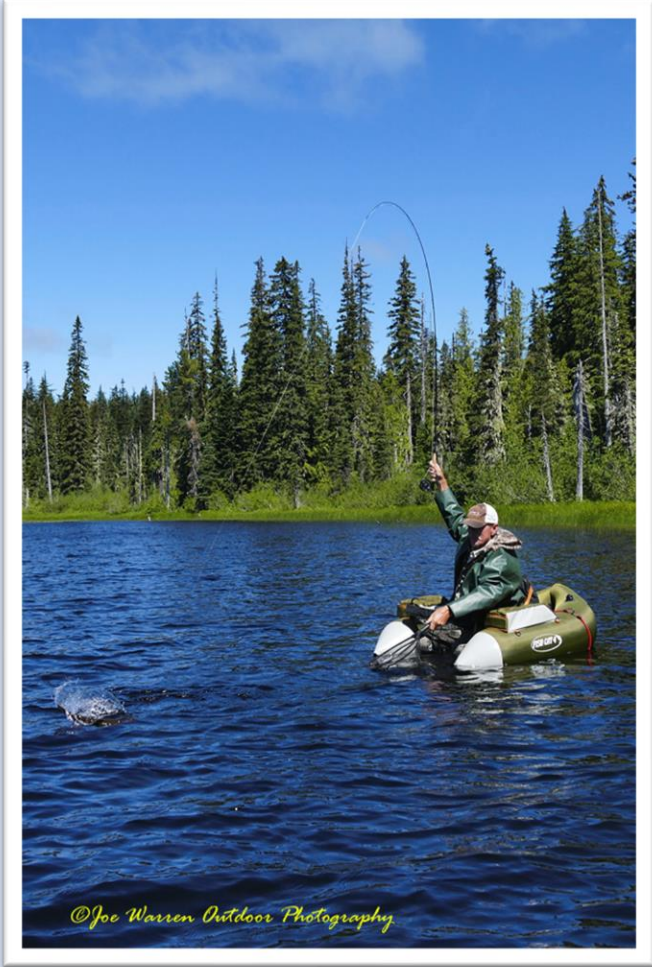
Two adjectives do the work in this sentence— “magical” and “secret.” Before the “massage,” they were not present. Both adjectives help to accomplish the same thing—reinforce the author’s belief that the making of anything as wonderful as loaf of bread has mystical properties, that there is no way a mortal single man, especially one as pathetic as he, could duplicate the efforts of his wife. He is already doomed to failure. The stage is set and the audience anticipates the havoc which will ensue.

Editors notice things, and editors make a difference when the checks are written. A quick trip around a manuscript on four or five occasions once you think you’ve finished, will get their attention. Go back and look at your “perfect” story again. Chances are it would benefit from a quick massage.

When you catch an adjective, kill it. No, I don't mean utterly, but kill most of them – Then the rest will be valuable. They weaken when they are close together. They give strength when they are far apart.”

Samuel Clemens....aka...Mark Twain

MEMBER PHOTO PORTFOLIO – SUMMER FISHING



JOE WARREN IS A LONG TIME NOWA MEMBER, CURRENT BOARD MEMBER AND WELL KNOWN FLY ANGLER. HE IS THE AUTHOR OF “TYING GLASS BEAD FLIES” AND “FLY TYING WITH POLY YARN”. YOU CAN FIND OUT MORE ABOUT JOE AND HIS WORK AT [HTTP://COLUMBIARIVERFLYFISH.COM](http://columbiariverflyfish.com)

NOWA FIELD NOTES – JUNE/JULY 2020



MEMBER UPDATES

GI Wilson is still hunting elk with a little help from his friends. Here's a photo of a bull elk he took in Tillamook County, Oregon last October hunting with Doug Wright and Donald Koskela (pictured).

Do you have member news or updates you want to share with your friends at NOWA? Send them to NOWA Field Notes Editor John Kruse at john@northwesternoutdoors.com

NOWA FIELD NOTES – JUNE/JULY 2020

SUPPORTING MEMBER NEWS



NSSF-AFSP-VA WEBCAST ON 'PROTECTING MENTAL HEALTH AND PREVENTING SUICIDE DURING COVID-19' CONTINUES STREAMING ON USCCA YOUTUBE CHANNEL

NEWTOWN, Conn. — If you missed the premiere of the webcast "Protecting Mental Health and Preventing Suicide During COVID-19," the National Shooting Sports Foundation® reminds everyone that the webcast is available for viewing at your convenience on the U.S. Concealed Carry Association's YouTube channel.

SUPPORTING MEMBER NEWS



NSSF® joined with the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to develop the program, which premiered the evening of May 14. The webcast was produced by USCCA, one of the largest firearm-owner groups in the country. NSSF greatly appreciates USCCA’s support for the project and for helping to deliver the webcast’s important messages about mental health and suicide prevention to the firearm-owning community.

“We were very pleased with the webcast’s premiere showing,” said NSSF President and CEO Joe Bartozzi, who served as host of the program. “The information provided empowers people to protect their mental health and to better understand suicide, prevention and how lives can be saved. It’s such an important topic that we remind everyone the webcast can be viewed anytime on the USCCA YouTube channel.”

The webcast can be viewed here. For smart TV users, within the YouTube app search for “USCCA” to locate the webcast premiere.

Bartozzi was joined on the 44-minute webcast by Dr. Christine Moutier, Chief Medical Officer of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, the nation’s largest suicide prevention organization, and Dr. Matthew Miller, Director of Suicide Prevention for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

A core message of the webcast is that securely storing firearms and other methods of harming oneself can play a huge role in deterring suicide. Creating time and space between a person with suicidal thoughts and access to a means of self-harm, such as a firearm, can create a moment of pause, allowing the period of heightened risk to pass. Suicide is not inevitable, said the experts, and reaching out to someone to have a “brave conversation” can be lifesaving.

Recognizing that 50 percent of all suicides are by firearm and that among veterans the figure is 70 percent, NSSF has in recent years helped develop a program with AFSP and a program with VA to educate industry, gun owners including veterans, and their families about caring for their mental health and preventing suicide.

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is 1-800-273-TALK, or text TALK to 741741.

SUPPORTING MEMBER NEWS

The Perfect Kit for all your Hunting Needs —The Jaeger Pak™



DENVER, CO - Everything you need to field dress and breakdown game of any size is in Outdoor Edge's new Jaeger Pak knife set. In this compact lightweight kit, you will find a skinning, gutting and boning knife, a rib cage spreader, wood/bone saw and a two stage ceramic/carbide sharpener. All items fit neatly into a hard case for easy storage.

With three knives in the Jaeger Pak, preparing your game is easier than ever. The lightweight and durable 5" boning/fillet knife featured in this set allows you to get into the tightest spaces between bone and meat with little to no waste. This blade shape is also the perfect design for separating primary muscles and slicing steaks. The 4.0 skinner knife features a drop-point blade which allows you to sweep through the skinning job and get through the thick layers with ease while the downward angle-point assists in preventing any accidental slices through the hide. This knife also lends itself perfectly for choking up on the blade for capping out a trophy head and detail cutting. The third knife is a 3.7-inch blunt-tipped gutting knife that runs underneath the skin to provide a seamless effortless cut without piercing vital organs.

SUPPORTING MEMBER NEWS

Featuring full-tang design, all three knives in the new Jaeger Pak are exceptionally strong and reliable. High quality 420J2 stainless steel blades are precisely heat treated and hand finished to a shaving-sharp final edge to debone carcass after carcass without dulling. Perfectly balanced, the knives feature blaze-orange handles to prevent loss with an antlered texture molded into the rubberized TPR handle for a comfortable fit in your hand and a secure, non-slip grip even when the handle becomes wet with fat and blood.

Additional tools include a T-handle wood/bone saw that allows straight wrist butting from any angle with triple ground saw teeth that cut aggressively through both tough bone and wood. The ribcage spreader is a pivoting stainless steel bar that spreads the chest fully open to allow better air flow for faster cooling of fresh game meat.

The Jaeger Pak is the perfect companion for your next hunting adventure and will be available July 2020 at retailers nationwide and conveniently online for a suggested retail of \$69.95. To order [CLICK HERE](#)



About Outdoor Edge

Founded in 1988 and headquartered in Denver, Outdoor Edge is a leading designer and manufacturer of knives and tools. Today, Outdoor Edge continues to innovate and develop state-of-the-art products for outdoor enthusiasts, game processors, survivalists, handymen and others who require the very best knives and tools available for leisure, work and everyday-carry needs. The company prides itself in offering a variety of products that undergo extensive field-testing in harsh, rugged environments resulting in durable, long-lasting products that come with a lifetime guarantee. For additional information on Outdoor Edge and its full line of products write to: Outdoor Edge, 5000 Osage Street, Suite 800, Denver, CO 80221; call toll-free 800-477-3343; email moreinfo@outdooredge.com; or visit www.outdooredge.com.

Editorial Contact: Karen Lutto 210-451-9113 (office) 804-539-6699 (cell)

karen@hunteroc.com HOC Website: www.hunteroc.com

FINAL SHOT



Dave Kilhefner shares this photo of three men around a campfire. It's a photo that resonates in a year where few of us have been able to enjoy the company of others outdoors and where the simple pleasure of staring into the flames of a fire surrounded by friends can be appreciated now more than ever.

Until next time, stay well, enjoy the outdoors, and share it with people who need to hear about. – JK