



PowWow

Newsletter of the Pennsylvania Outdoor Writers Association

Fall 2010

Island life

***POWA members tour
Assateague seashore,
new visitor's center
during fall gathering***

by Tom Tatum
POWA President

*(Editor's note: This column appeared
in Chester County's Daily Local News.)*

I must confess – Assateague Island National Seashore holds a special place in my heart.

For one thing it's located just a stone's throw from Ocean City, Md., where I've spent parts of every summer of my life. When I was younger, I visited my paternal grandmother, affectionately nicknamed "Mitsy Margaret," who rented out rooms

See ISLAND, page 11



Tom Tatum Photo

Supporting member Joe Faux of Woodcock LTD admires, appropriately enough, a woodcock carving at the Ward Museum during the fall powwow in Ocean City, Md.

Ready submissions now for POWA's Craft Awards

***Deadline for entries
is January 22, 2011***

Please study the guidelines and category criteria published in this edition of PowWow before submitting entries. There are 16 Craft Awards this year – eight core awards and eight specialty awards.

In an effort to offset the cost of funding unsponsored Craft Awards, the Board of Directors at the spring conference in Wellsboro voted to implement a \$5 entry

fee per category.

Please fill out the "Craft Award Entry Form" located in this issue of PowWow, add up the total number of categories entered and multiply that number by \$5 to calculate the grand total.

Submit a single check or money order with the appropriate amount made payable to "POWA" and include it with your entry. Entries not accompanied by the required fee will be disqualified.

Contest entries must be postmarked

by January 22, 2010. Winners will be announced at the annual POWA Awards Banquet in May.

Entries should be mailed to: Timothy Flanigan; 221 Ritchey Ave.; Bedford, PA 15522.

Winners will receive \$150 and a plaque unless otherwise noted.

ENTRY GUIDELINES

1. All Active, Apprentice and Life members of POWA in good standing are

See AWARDS, page 7

Craft Improvement

Writing workshop provides valuable input, experience

by Ben Moyer
Craft Improvement

Since I first joined POWA in 1983, I have felt that the most valuable benefit of membership is the opportunity to know and interact with other professionals who write about nature and the outdoors. For me, association with similarly occupied peers I've known through POWA has been inspiring and motivating. Knowing the worth of sharing time and ideas with other writers, I applied, and was accepted, to participate in OWAA's 2010 Goldenrod Writing Workshop, held the first week of August on the University of Montana campus in Missoula, Montana.

I had some specific objectives in mind when I set aside the time and made the trip. My short introductory essay, required of all candidates as part of the application, sums up my aims:

"My primary goal at the workshop is to further develop my ability to craft the non-fiction essay. This genre has drawn my interest for some time and I would value the opportunity to benefit from the experience of others doing this work."

As the workshop drew near, OWAA asked all accepted applicants to choose their primary faculty mentor from among a selection of well-known and accomplished writers. I chose to attend the sessions led by Alan Liere, who writes back page essays for several publications including Northwest Fly Fishing, Upland Almanac and Wildfowl. Alan has also published several collections of outdoor humor as books.

Alan's sessions met in the comfortable confines of the School of Journalism on the U of M campus, surrounded by art depicting Native American culture of the Northern Plains. Four other writers from the states of Virginia, Washington, Ohio and Pennsylvania (New Wilmington), Alan and I shared a week of intense

reading, discussion, and "homework" writing assignments. Each of us read our assignments aloud, followed by rounds of response, suggestion and constructive critique.

Afternoons also featured a larger group session in which the approximately 30 participants heard presentations from outdoor-writing icons (and great instructors) like Joel Vance and Pat McManus. If you think reading McManus' work is funny, never pass by an opportunity to hear him speak. He is a master of setting a scene, understatement, establishing conflict and perfectly timing that hilarious punch.

During our more intimate small sessions, Liere boiled down his tenets about writing the non-fiction or humor essay to this short list: 1. Show! Don't Tell; 2. Organize; 3. Focus; 4. Write Tight and 5. People Like to Read About People.

No. 5 was particularly helpful to me. In my own work I've written about vultures, rattlesnakes, fungus, fish, acorns and more. But I've noticed that I generally get more appreciative feedback from readers when my essays include people, which they sometimes have done. Appreciative feedback need not be a writer's primary motivation but it does help to steer the writer toward more jobs and more frequent checks, certainly a worthwhile consideration in today's economy.

As an experiment, and to fulfill one of the workshop writing assignments, I applied Liere's rules to an essay I'd been working on erratically, and with some frustration, for months. The essay is about my reaction to having to dump the carefully butchered and wrapped venison from two deer at a landfill after my freezer shut off during my absence from home. I'd already written pages about the smell of the landfill, the wind-blown waste and the crows wheeling above it

See **WORKSHOP**, page 4

PowWow

Fall 2010

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www.paoutdoorwriters.com

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President's Message

by Tom Tatum



Guess you could say I come bearing both good news and bad news. First, the **GOOD** news. Despite the sparse turnout at the Fall powwow in Ocean City, Md., I think it's safe to say that those in attendance all had a terrific time. From Bob Clark's metal detecting beachcombing efforts to John and Cordy Swinton's excellent party boat fishing adventure, the grand opening of the new Assateague Island National Seashore's new Visitors Center and a voyage to Assateague aboard the Assateague Explorer, there was no shortage of things to do.

The meals were awesome. At Harrison's Harbor Watch Restaurant, we enjoyed a delicious dinner overlooking the Ocean City Inlet punctuated by the sight of a school of porpoises gracefully wending their way from ocean to bay at sunset. Dinner was complemented by an engaging presentation by Dave Wilson, executive director of the Maryland Coastal Bays Program.

The seminar on shark fishing presented by Ocean City's Mark Sampson was excellent. In addition to captaining his charter boat "Fish Finder" in search of sharks, and directing Ocean City's annual shark fishing tournament, Mark himself is also a well established outdoor writer whose work appears weekly in many Ocean City newspapers. Sampson is also a conservation pioneer whose presentation emphasized preserving the resource by using circle hooks and a device Sampson himself created called a "blocker rig" which prevents the shark from swallowing the hook – thus facilitating easier and injury-free releases. Sampson's thoughtful and spellbinding seminar was well received by all in attendance.

One of the unforgettable highlights for my wife Patti and me was biking with Harry and Darla Guyer on a surrey built for four as we peddled the boardwalk in

flawless syncopation until we reached the end of the line at the Ocean City Inlet. Aided by a tailwind, the journey to the boardwalk's southernmost point was a breeze (occasionally interrupted by frequent stops as Darla scoured the boardwalk shops in search of Wonder Woman T-shirts). But on the return trip we had to fight a pesky headwind that required a herculean peddling effort to cover the many blocks back to breakfast – a task that helped build our appetites for the great buffet provided by the folks at Conner's Beach Café.

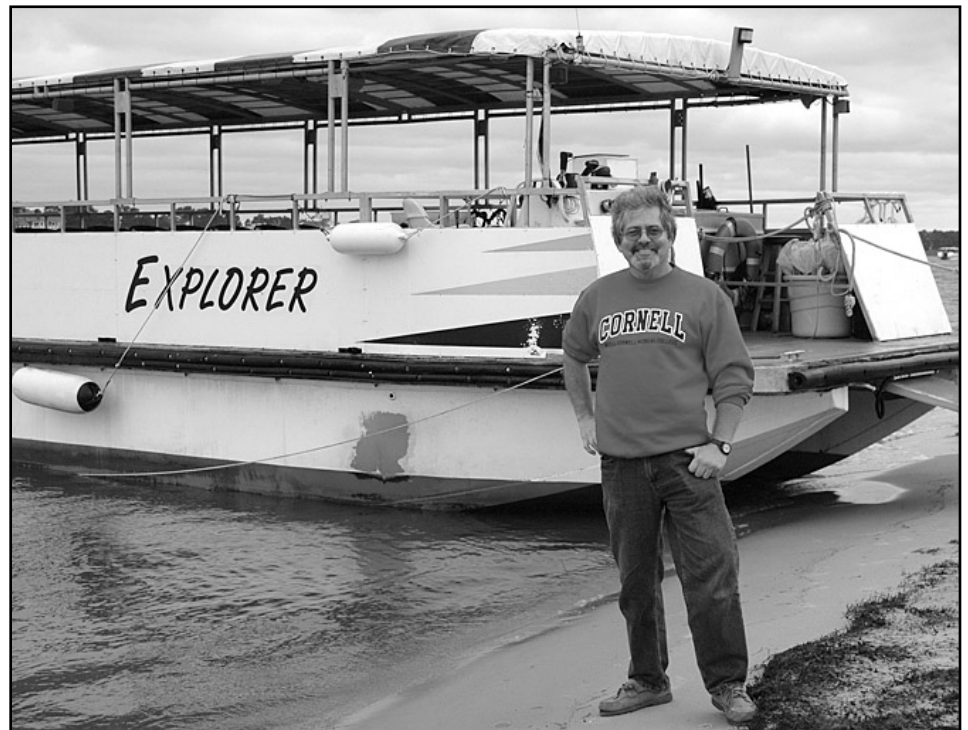
And although Friday's scheduled fishing trip aboard the Judith M was cancelled due to choppy seas and stormy weather, members were provided free passes good for future fishing forays aboard the craft. In fact, John and Cordy Swinton took their cruise the next day and reported that the fishing was excellent. Many thanks to the folks at Bahia Marina.

Despite cancellation of Friday's party boat trip, the reception and luncheon at Fish Tales went on as planned, courtesy of our always reliable supporting member the Maryland Office of Tourism, and a good time was had by all.

Once again I'd like to thank Connie Yingling for her boundless contributions to our informal fall conference and again acknowledge the wonderful folks in Ocean City whose unbridled hospitality made us all feel so welcome. These include Lisa Challenger, director of Worcester County Office of Tourism, Susan Jones, executive director of the Ocean City Hotel-Motel-Restaurant Association, Ruth Waters, director of sales for the Harrison Group Resort Hotels and Mark Sampson of Fish Finder Charters.

And now the **BAD** news: despite our best efforts to heavily promote the Ocean City event in the last issue of PowWow, only a miniscule handful of members actually attended. Reasons given by a sampling of no-shows included fiscal concerns in a slumping economy, the driving distance, the out-of-state venue and the fact that the timing of the meeting overlapped the opening day of Pennsylvania's archery season, among others.

See **TATUM**, page 5



Contributed Photo

POWA President Tom Tatum disembarks from the Assateague Explorer for the shores of Assateague Island during the fall powwow in Ocean City, Md.

Workshop

from page 2

all. But I could not make the work “come to life,” as writers like to say.

At Liere’s suggestion I added human characters — actually these were simply descriptions of people I’d met at the landfill; the woman greeter at the sign-in office, and the equipment operator who — not without empathy — squashed my venison into the muck under the spiked steel wheels of his CAT. I recalled and added details about their clothes, manner and speech, and reconstructed the dialog we’d actually shared.

Suddenly, the essay became almost “fun” to write. The paragraphs jumped onto the page and my classmates reacted with enthusiasm. “Sell it,” one wrote on his critique sheet.

I consider this a valuable lesson. Yes, fish and fungus are important parts of the natural world, but so are people. As outdoor writers, we have infinite opportunities to observe people in outdoor settings and to make them part of our stories, columns and books, to the satisfaction of readers and toward furthering our own professional success.

Workshops, of course, at least the best ones, are never all about work. At Goldenrod, with the help and guidance



Contributed Photo

The Goldenrod Writing Workshop in Missoula, Mont., held last August was not all work. Workshop participant Ben Moyer shows a nice rainbow trout he caught float-fishing the Missouri River near Craig, Mont. With Moyer is guide Brandon Henley of Five Valleys Fishing Company in Missoula.

of OWAA’s gracious staff, we had the privilege of fly-fishing the Big Blackfoot River, “tubing” down the Clark Fork, hiking and exploring around Missoula. And before my return I set up a float trip on the Missouri River and caught some beautiful big rainbow trout in stunning surroundings.

Working hard at your own desk is one

sure way to improve your writing, as is reading the words of others who produce good work. But to stimulate and exercise the muse within us, there is nothing like a gathering in a good place of good people who love the outdoors and writing. Look for writer’s workshops and attend them whenever feasible. Just being around other writers is reason to go.

POWA Events Calendar

Dec. 11 — Book signing: Moravian Gun Making of the American Revolution & The Hartley Horn Book, 2-4 p.m. at the Pennsylvania Longrifle Museum, 403 Henry Road, Nazareth, PA. Info: 610-759-9029.

Feb. 5-13, 2011 — 56th Eastern Sports & Outdoor Show, Harrisburg, Pa.

Feb. 11-14, 2011 — 74th Annual Cleveland Sport, Travel & Outdoor Show, Euclid, Ohio

Feb. 17-20, 2011 — ASA’s Greater Philadelphia Outdoor Sportshow, Oaks Pa.

Feb. 17-21, 2011 — 26th Annual Allegheny Sport, Travel & Outdoor Show, Monroeville, Pa.

May 12-15, 2011 — POWA Spring Conference, Bedford, Pa.

POWA on the Web

Find the

**Pennsylvania Outdoor Writers Association
on the Internet at
www.paoutdoorwriters.com**



**on Twitter at twitter.com/P_O_W_A
and on Facebook through the POWA homepage.**

POWA Committees

Committee Name	Chairman	Board Liaison
Awards	Tim Flanigan Tim-natureexposure@comcast.net	Tom Tatum
Awards Review	Bob Mitchell robmitchel@state.pa.us	Harry Guyer, Jr.
Constitution and Bylaws	Jim Fitser jfistsinacoma@enter.net	Tom Tatum
Craft Improvement	Ben Moyer bcmoyer@verizon.net	Harvey Bauer
Duties Manual	Bob Mitchell robmitchel@state.pa.us	Harvey Bauer
Editorial Review	Terry Brady tjbgetout@aol.com	Bud Cole
Ethics	John Swinton bteasel@hotmail.com	John Swinton
Finance and Budget	John Allen Fishin819@hotmail.com	Harry Guyer, Jr.
Financial Auditing	Freddie McKnight wmoutdoors@dishmail.net	Harry Guyer, Jr.
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Membership Audit	Harry Guyer, Jr. hguyer@yahoo.com	Freddie McKnight
Member Development	Bernie Fuller bandrf@windstream.net	Mark Nale
Member Screening	Dennis Scharadin Ringneck1@verizon.net	Jerry Hassinger
Nominating	Ralph Scherder ralphscherder@gmail.com	Ron Tussel
Outdoor Education	Kermit Henning kghenning@aol.com	Bob Lollo
Past Presidents Council	Ron Tussel rontussel@ltis.net	Harry Guyer, Jr.
Scholarship	Laurie Lee Dovey lld@lldovey.com	John Swinton
Sport Shows: Harrisburg	Kermit Henning kghenning@aol.com	Frank Felbaum
Supporting Mbr. Develop.	Bud Cole bbbcole@enter.net	Tom Tatum
Supporting Member Rep.	Connie Yingling cyingling@visitmaryland.org	Mark Nale
Supporting Mbr. Screening	Don Knaus dmknaus@epix.net	Harry Guyer, Jr.
Technology/Web Site	Brad Isles bcisles@zoominternet.net	Steve Sorensen
Ways and Means	Steve Sorensen SteveSorensen@verizon.net	Steve Sorensen

Tatum

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Understood, but regardless of the cause, the fact remains that the exceptionally sparse turnout at both the Pocono fall meeting and now at our most recent Powwow in Ocean City compels us to pose a simple question: Why? Why bother to go to all the time and trouble required to plan, schedule and execute these fall outings when such a tiny fraction of our membership actually participates? The phrase “exercise in futility” would seem to apply. So where do we go from here?

Albert Einstein famously defined insanity as “doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results.” Well, call us crazy (and I’m certainly no Einstein) but we’re apparently going to give this fall meeting thing one last try. While the pathetic turnout at both prior events certainly stamps the label “Endangered Species” on the critter, we’re not quite ready to move the informal Powwow into the “Extinct” column, at least not just yet.

The somewhat shaky consensus at our informal membership meeting in Ocean City was to give the fall meeting concept one last chance – although the final decision rests with whatever the board and membership decide at our Spring Conference in Bedford in May.

To that end (if I may mix my metaphors) although the fall meeting is clearly on life support, we will nonetheless apply the defibrillator to the patient’s faintly beating heart...CLEAR!... and attempt to resuscitate it next September at Benezette, Pa., for the festival of elk and a tour of the new Elk Country Visitor Center. At that point we’ll know if the third time’s really the charm or merely the third strike that forces us to finally pull the plug and put the patient out of its misery. Only time will tell.

In the meantime, folks, let’s all get geared up for a great turnout at the upcoming POWA Spring Conference set for Bedford, Pa. Hope to see ALL of you there.

Best regards until next time.

Awards

from page 1

.....
eligible to enter.

2. A maximum of two (2) entries per category is allowed, unless otherwise noted. Edit yourself and only submit your best work. Additional entries will be disqualified.

3. Four copies of each entry are required for each award, (both originals and exact photocopies of the entry, just as the entry appeared to the public in print are permissible). Exception: for the Best Published Photo, Best Published Art and the Best Book award contests, send one original each.

4. Joint bylines: Co-authored / photographed / produced entries may be entered only once. Joint bylines will be considered as an entry for each contributor. All entrants of co-authored entries must be POWA members.

5. A letter of verification from the editor/publisher must accompany materials not containing bylines, or containing pen names.

6. To be considered for an award, the published material must have been compensated for by cash, check, goods or services of value.

7. Members may submit an entry in only one Core Award* category, to eliminate the possibility of a person winning multiple core awards for a single piece. For example: an item published in a newspaper may not be entered in both the newspaper column and the newspaper feature categories. In nearly every instance, such a distinction is obvious. On the other hand, a member may submit an entry for a writing award, and the accompanying photo/art for a photo/art award. A member also may submit an entry in one Core Award, and in any number of Specialty Awards for which it meets the criteria. Entries submitted for the wrong award will not be considered.

8. Entries must cover nature, wildlife, conservation or outdoor field sports such as hunting, fishing, camping and boating. Topics such as swimming, diving, golf, hang gliding, etc., do not qualify.

9. Entries must have been published in the prior calendar year, unless indicated otherwise in the contest description. One entry copy must identify publication, date

of publication and author. The other three copies (see No. 3) must have all identifying marks, bylines, personal photos and references to you blacked out and rendered unreadable, with the exception of the book or video category.

10. Entries must NOT be bound, matted, changed in size, altered, edited, or submitted in any form other than exactly how they were published and viewed by the public. Such entries will be disqualified. Let the entry stand on its merits, rather than its "packaging." Photocopies are permissible.

11. Envelopes containing entries must be clearly marked on the front with the words "POWA 2010 Awards," followed by the name of the award for which the entry is being submitted. Do not combine entries for more than one award in a single package. All suitably marked separate envelopes may be sent in one package to: POWA Awards Chairman, Timothy Flanigan, 221 Ritchey Ave., Bedford, PA 15522.

12. Entries must be postmarked no later than January 22, 2010.

13. Contest materials will be returned by mail only if accompanied by a self-addressed envelope stamped with sufficient postage.

14. One copy of all entries will be available for pickup at the spring conference.

15. The winning entry in each category will be on display at the spring conference.

16. Winning entries constitutes a waiver of copyright restrictions on reprinting the entry by POWA for their website and printed publications.

17. The Excellence in Craft Awards Chairman will be the sole arbitrator on any dispute or question concerning the awards competition.

POWA CORE AWARDS*

1. BEST NEWSPAPER COLUMN (*sponsored by Pennsylvania Hunters Sharing the Harvest*) – Entries must have been published in a daily or weekly newspaper column. To meet the "column" requirement, the author's work must appear as a column in the same publication at least twelve times each year. Original tear sheets or exact photocopies as the column appeared when published are acceptable.

2. BEST NEWSPAPER FEATURE

(*sponsored by Safari Club International, PA Chapters, Region 25*) – Entries must deal with a single topic and be either a single article or a series of not more than five articles about a single topic. The publication frequency example for the Best Newspaper Column applies here as well. Original tear sheets or exact photocopies as the feature appeared when published are acceptable.

3. BEST MAGAZINE OR REGIONAL NEWSPAPER COLUMN (*sponsored by the Susquehanna River Trail Association*) – A "regional newspaper" is one such as Pennsylvania Outdoor News or Pennsylvania Outdoor Times, which publishes other than daily or weekly. The subject must be primarily of interest to Pennsylvanians or at least be applicable to Pennsylvania. For example, a column on buck hunting is appropriate even if it doesn't mention Pennsylvania, as long as it is about white-tailed deer and the reader can relate the article to a comparable experience in Pennsylvania. A similar column on mule deer, however, would not be acceptable. It need not be an outdoor publication, as long as the entry qualifies. To meet the "column" requirement, the author's work must appear in the same publication at least six times each year. Original tear sheets or exact photocopies as the column appeared when published are acceptable.

4. BEST MAGAZINE OR REGIONAL NEWSPAPER FEATURE (*sponsored by Reed Exhibitions*) – The above definition of a regional newspaper applies here as well. The subject must be of primary interest to Pennsylvanians or at least be applicable to Pennsylvania. The entry may be a single article or a series of not more than three articles dealing with a single subject. Original tear sheets or exact photocopies as the feature appeared when published are acceptable.

5. BEST PUBLISHED NEWSPAPER PHOTO, COLOR OR BLACK & WHITE (no sponsor) – This photography category is for best published newspaper, regional newspaper or other pulp-type photography award. Entries must be submitted as they appeared when published. The format the photograph was taken in — black & white or color —

See AWARDS, page 8

Awards

from page 7

does not matter, only the published form. The photo credit, caption or outline must also be included with the entry, exactly as it appeared when published. The entry must include the name of the publication and the title of the story (headline) which was used, if applicable. The entry must NOT be mounted, matted or changed in any way from how the public viewed it as published. Submit one original tear sheet or an exact photocopy. One award will be given for this category.

6. BEST PUBLISHED MAGAZINE PHOTO, COLOR OR BLACK & WHITE (no sponsor) – This photography category is for best published magazine or non pulp-type photography award. Photos published in pamphlets, brochures, on postcards, calendars, etc., are eligible, as long as they were published in the award year. Entries must be submitted as they appeared when published. The format the photograph was taken in – black & white or color – does not matter, only the published form. The photo credit, caption or outline must also be included with the entry, exactly as it appeared when published. The entry must include the name of the publication and the title of the story (headline) which was used, if applicable. In addition, an explanation of the use of the photograph to illustrate an article, column, etc., may be included, but is not mandatory. The entry must NOT be mounted, matted or changed in any way from how the public viewed it as published. Submit one original tear sheet or an exact photocopy. One award will be given for this category.

7. BEST BOOK AWARD (alternates with BEST RADIO / TV PROGRAM AWARD) (no sponsor) – These two awards alternate each year. Entries for each award, when offered, must have been published in the preceding two years. The theme in both cases must be outdoor oriented. Submit one copy of each entry.

8. *BEST PUBLISHED ART AWARD, COLOR OR BLACK & WHITE (sponsored by GATCO Sharpeners/ Timberline Knives) – * Published art work shall include magazines, newspapers, catalogues, brochures, or any other

publication available to the public to convey the outdoor message. Published work may include limited or unlimited editions of fine art works, as long as the published form of the work is submitted for judging, the artist was compensated for the publication, the entry submitted was not self-published and the entry appeared in publication during the prior calendar year. The published art entry must be submitted as it actually appeared when published and was viewed by the public. The entry must NOT be matted, framed, bound, or altered in any way from how it appeared as published. Such entries will be disqualified. The entry must include the name of the publication and the title of the story (headline) which was used, if applicable. In addition an explanation of the use of the art to illustrate an article, column, etc., may be included, but is not mandatory. Submit one original tear sheet or an exact photocopy. One award will be given for this category.

POWA SPECIALTY AWARDS

1. BASS PRO SHOPS PASS IT ON AWARD (\$300 and plaque, sponsored by Bass Pro Shops) – This award recognizes and praises a POWA Active member who has been responsible for introducing people (novice adults, children or a group, audience or readership) to the outdoors or enhancing their appreciation of the outdoors. The award shall be given for the best (1) published newspaper or magazine article, (2) broadcast radio or TV program, (3) commercially marketed video, OR (4) published black and white or color photo or art, which most effectively promotes passing on the love and appreciation of the outdoors, natural resources and pursuits such as hunting, fishing, trapping, hiking, camping, boating, bird-watching and nature appreciation.

2. PENNSYLVANIA TRAPPERS AWARD (sponsored by the Pennsylvania Trappers Association) – This award will be given to the best published piece that promotes interest in or education about trapping.

3. TROUT & THE COLDWATER RESOURCE AWARD (sponsored by Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited) – this award will be made for the published magazine or newspaper story which best shows the importance of protecting and /

or promoting our cold-water resource. The article may or may not include trout and other salmonids.

4. YOUTH FISHING AWARD (sponsored by Expositions, Inc.) – This award will be given for the best published piece, magazine or newspaper, devoted to encouraging readers to introduce, or to further the involvement of children in fishing.

5. YOUTH AND THE HUNTING/ SHOOTING SPORTS AWARD, (sponsored by the National Shooting Sports Foundation) – This award is given to the best published piece that furthers the participation of young people in the shooting/hunting sports.

6. YOUNG TREES HABITAT AWARD (sponsored by the Allegheny Chapter of the Ruffed Grouse Society) – This award will be given to the best published piece that showcases the declining wildlife species of conservation concern and how to create “young tree” habitat for these species of conservation concern. (The creation of habitat for grouse will benefit more than one species.)

7. CROSSBOW AWARD (sponsored by the Pennsylvania Crossbow Federation) – This award will be given to the best article that promotes crossbow hunting or education.

8. WILDLIFE ART AWARD (sponsored by the Ned Smith Center for Nature and Art) – Artwork may be original and in any media (i.e. oil, watercolor, pastel, etc.) Three-dimensional work such as carvings and sculptures are also eligible. Reproductions or lithographs of an artist’s original work may be entered. No size restrictions. Entries must have been completed in the preceding two years. The subject may be any North American wildlife other than fish. Birds of prey, songbirds, non-game species and game birds, and animals are all suitable subjects. Previous winning entries in this category are not eligible. Artists may submit one entry and it must be present at the spring conference. Each artist is responsible for getting his/her work to and from the conference. Artists would be wise to have their entries insured. Arrangements will be made to collect all artwork at a common meeting spot for judging. Winners will be announced at the banquet.

POWA Craft Award Entry Form

Member Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail: _____

Cost to enter is \$5 per award category. You may enter up to TWO pieces per category. Please check the line next to each award entered and fill in the total amount on the back side of this form. Submit a check or money order made out to "POWA" when submitting the entry form and materials to Tim Flanigan, awards chairman. Submit four copies of each entry unless noted.

CORE AWARDS

Winners receive \$150 and a plaque unless otherwise noted.

1. Best Newspaper Column, (sponsored by Pennsylvania Hunters Sharing the Harvest) _____

Title: _____ Publication: _____ Date: _____
Title: _____ Publication: _____ Date: _____

2. Best Newspaper Feature, (sponsored by Safari Club International, PA Chapters, Region 25) _____

Title: _____ Publication: _____ Date: _____
Title: _____ Publication: _____ Date: _____

3. Best Magazine or Regional Newspaper Column, (sponsored by Susquehanna River Trail Association) _____

Title: _____ Publication: _____ Date: _____
Title: _____ Publication: _____ Date: _____

4. Best Magazine or Regional Newspaper Feature, (sponsored by Reed Exhibitions) _____

Title: _____ Publication: _____ Date: _____
Title: _____ Publication: _____ Date: _____

5. Best Published Newspaper Photo, Color or B&W, (no sponsor) _____

(Submit one original tear sheet or an exact photocopy.)

Title: _____ Publication: _____ Date: _____
Title: _____ Publication: _____ Date: _____

6. Best Published Magazine Photo, Color or B&W, (no sponsor) _____

(Submit one original tear sheet or an exact photocopy.)

Title: _____ Publication: _____ Date: _____
Title: _____ Publication: _____ Date: _____

7. Best Book Award, (no sponsor) _____

(Submit one copy of the book.)

Title: _____ Date: _____
Title: _____ Date: _____

8. Best Published Art Award, Color or B&W, (sponsored by GATCO Sharpeners/Timberline Knives)..... _____

(Submit one original tear sheet or an exact photocopy.)

Title: _____ Publication: _____ Date: _____
Title: _____ Publication: _____ Date: _____

See reverse side for more...

POWA Craft Award Entry Form

SPECIALTY AWARDS

Winners receive \$150 and a plaque unless otherwise noted.

1. Bass Pro Shops Pass it On Award, (sponsored by Bass Pro Shops).....
(Winner receives \$300 and a plaque.)

Title: _____ Publication: _____ Date: _____
Title: _____ Publication: _____ Date: _____

2. Pennsylvania Trappers Award, (sponsored by the Pa. Trappers Association).....

Title: _____ Publication: _____ Date: _____
Title: _____ Publication: _____ Date: _____

3. Trout & The Coldwater Resource Award, (sponsored by Pa. Council of Trout Unlimited).....

Title: _____ Publication: _____ Date: _____
Title: _____ Publication: _____ Date: _____

4. Youth Fishing Award, (sponsored by Expositions, Inc.).....

Title: _____ Publication: _____ Date: _____
Title: _____ Publication: _____ Date: _____

5. Youth and the Hunting/Shooting Sports Award, (sponsored by the National Shooting Sports Foundation) ..

Title: _____ Publication: _____ Date: _____
Title: _____ Publication: _____ Date: _____

6. Young Trees Habitat Award, (sponsored by the Allegheny Chapter of the Ruffed Grouse Society).....

Title: _____ Publication: _____ Date: _____
Title: _____ Publication: _____ Date: _____

7. Crossbow Award, (sponsored by the Pennsylvania Crossbow Federation).....

Title: _____ Publication: _____ Date: _____
Title: _____ Publication: _____ Date: _____

8. Wildlife Art Award, (sponsored by the Ned Smith Center for Nature and Art)
(Submit one entry and it must be present at the spring conference.)

Title: _____ Publication: _____ Date: _____

Send entry form, materials
and check/money order to:

Tim Flanigan
POWA Awards Chairman
221 Ritchey Ave.
Bedford, PA 15522

No. Categories Entered: _____

X \$5.00

Make check or money order payable to POWA
for this amount:

GRAND TOTAL: \$ _____

Island

from page 1

to tourists at her “Forks Apartments,” so named for its location in West Ocean City where Route 707 branches from Route 50. Later, when my parents retired, they moved from their home in Oxford and settled in West Ocean City.

For many seasons thereafter, before he passed away two years ago, my father served as a volunteer at the Assateague Island National Seashore Visitor Center. There he manned the counter, all the while cheerfully chatting with visitors about Assateague’s natural treasures with its herds of wild horses and its myriad of marine and bird life. I visited him there many times, and his boundless enthusiasm for all things Assateague made it crystal clear how much he loved this place.

So last month, when I returned to Assateague accompanied by an entourage of members from the Pennsylvania Outdoor Writers Association for the ribbon cutting ceremony that marked the grand opening of the park’s brand new visitor center, my tour of the new facility was part sentimental journey. The spacious new visitor center boasts countless displays – many of them interactive – documenting the natural history of the area. Most of them feature the native wildlife and local ecology. Visitors to the center can spend time outside on the deck from which they can view Assateague Bay and the Island itself at their leisure.

This place has come a long way since 1962 when Assateague Island National Seashore was established for the purpose of protecting Assateague Island in the states of Virginia and Maryland. As noted by their website, the National Park Service and Fish and Wildlife Service are charged with the task of protecting Assateague Island’s splendor while at the same time managing Assateague Island National Seashore to provide for recreational use and enjoyment consistent with the perpetuation and maintenance of the seashore’s natural environment.

Assateague is vital for resting and feeding migratory shorebirds and other abundant bird species. Over 320 species of birds can be found here on this fragile but fertile seashore ecosystem.

Recreational opportunities on Assateague Island include sightseeing cruises, kayak tours, crabbing, bird watching, fishing, hunting, biking and other activities that make this a prime destination for visitors who enjoy outdoor recreation. Assateague Island’s 37 miles of pristine beaches make it ideal for beachcombing for seashells, swimming, surf fishing, or photographing the plentiful wild horses and other wildlife. The Assateague Lighthouse is on the way to the beach and it is one of the most famous in the nation. You will find nearby amenities at Chincoteague Island and Ocean City such as seafood restaurants and lodging at hotels, cottages, beach houses and campgrounds. All this is topped off by a state-of-the-art visitor center. It’s too bad my dad didn’t live to see it, but I know he would have been pleased.

He would also have been pleased to know that many other people share his solemn respect for this island paradise and some of them are following in his public service footsteps. These include a West Chester, Pa. couple, Fred and Sandy Eckfeldt, who began serving as Assateague Visitor Center volunteers this spring. The Eckfeldts, who also maintain a vacation home near Fenwick, Del., had been regular visitors to Assateague for more than 30 years and were first attracted to it by the beautiful beach, the great fishing and hiking experience. “We enjoy taking our grandkids, Bailey and Logan Reigel of Kennett Square, to the island to see the ponies,” says Sandy. “The kids love making Granddad stop for every pony, so Bailey and Grandma can take lots of pictures.”

This spring the Eckfeldts decided to give something back in return. Now you’ll find Fred, age 62, working at the center every Thursday. Sandy especially enjoys her time there during special events such as when youngsters in school groups visit. “I like the touch tank,” she

says referencing the interactive open aquarium display full of sea creatures like mollusks and horseshoe crabs, “maybe even more than the kids do.”

Those who prefer to get out on the waters of Assateague Bay itself and get up-close and personal with the island’s natural treasures might want to hop aboard the Assateague Explorer, an oversized pontoon boat available for interactive narrated nature cruises that provides exploratory forays to the less accessible Assateague beaches after departing from the dock on Talbot Street.

A few of my writing colleagues and I toured the shores of the island via the Assateague Explorer and were not disappointed. In addition to the ubiquitous wild horses, we were treated to the sights of numerous ospreys, flocks of pelicans and skimmers, a mature bald eagle scavenging on the beach, and a host of other wildlife. The craft was skillfully piloted by our captain who went only by “Jack” while our very animated and gifted young tour guide, Ryan Conkle of Ocean City, shared extensive information and insights throughout the trip. Conkle also circulated various living sea creatures (housed in an on board aquarium) among the participants for our examination.

At one point we slid onto the bayside beach where Conkle secured our anchor and deployed a ramp from the bow of the boat which permitted us to disembark and stroll along the shoreline. Conkle provided each of us with a net with which we could attempt to snag some of the unwary marine critters that might be lurking in the surf. Likely targets included fiddler crabs, an assortment of shellfish, grass shrimp, minnows and mole crabs. This facet of the trip is particularly appealing to kids, but the adults enjoyed it too.

To learn more about Assateague Island National Seashore check their website at <http://www.assateagueisland.com>. For more information about the Assateague Adventure eco-tour aboard the Assateague Explorer, go to www.talbotstreetwatersports.com or call 410-289-3500.

Scenes from Ocean City, Md.



Connie Yingling Photos

Above, a ribbon-cutting for the new Assateague Island National Seashore Visitor Center takes place, with local dignitaries and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources staff which will also be stationed there. Right, the formal flag raising.



Tom Tatum Photos

At left, POWA Executive Director Bob Lollo admires a duck carving at the Ward Museum. Below left, Cordy and John Swinton get ready to head out aboard the Judith M for a day of saltwater fishing. Below, shark expert Mark Sampson conducts a seminar on his favorite subject – shark fishing.



Member News

Tussel inducted into sports hall

Pennsylvania outdoor writer Ron Tussel Jr. was recently recognized for his efforts to promote the enjoyment of our outdoor heritages through media and youth involvement by being inducted into the Wayne Area Sports Hall of Fame. Tussel was nominated for the induction by Rod Adams of Hawley, Pa., a member of the nominating committee for the hall.

Tussel has spent a lifetime pursuing the outdoor sports such as hunting, fishing, trapping, shooting and much more. He began writing about his experiences in 1993 with a weekly column appearing in *The News Eagle* which was later included in other regional newspapers such as *The Wayne Independent*, *Pocono Record* and *Scranton Sunday Times*.



Tussel

Statewide his articles and columns appeared in *The Pennsylvania Sportsman*, *Pennsylvania Outdoor News*, *Pennsylvania Outdoor Times* and *Pennsylvania Outdoor Journal*. Tussel's writing also appeared in national publications such as *North America Hunter*, *Bowhunting*, *Bowhunting Digest* and *Fur-Fish-Game*.

He became a member of the Pennsylvania Outdoor Writer's Association in 1993 and during this same time began producing an outdoor television show for a local station in Hazleton, Pa. which quickly went national via The Outdoor Channel on satellite distribution. Tussel won the prestigious "Best Outdoor Television Show" in 2002 from The Pennsylvania Outdoor Writer's Association for a production centered on a young boy's first deer hunt. In 2010 Tussel walked away with an award from the Pennsylvania Outdoor Writer's Association sponsored by The Pennsylvania Trappers Association for an article he penned titled "Trapping is Like Christmas Every Morning."

Tussel has worked over the years to promote the outdoor sports, especially to the youth of our society, relating to them that an interest in the outdoors is one that can pay back over a lifetime. He has been a volunteer Hunter-Trapper-Education instructor for the Pennsylvania

See TUSSEL, page 14

Herd honored with leadership award

POWA member Tim Herd of Bath was presented with the 16th Annual Thomas P. Shelburne Environmental Leadership Award for his dedication to providing environmental education and promoting community collaboration for the benefit of the environment in northeastern Pennsylvania over the last 30 years at the 20th Annual Northeast Pennsylvania Environmental Partners anniversary dinner at the Woodlands Inn and Resort, Wilkes-Barre.

Herd has been engaged in environmental leadership, education and developing partnerships to help reconnect people to the land for the past 32 years. He began his career at the Somerset County New Jersey Environmental Education Center as an interpretive naturalist teaching environmental stewardship and continued his career by founding the Roving Nature Center which brought the staffing, equipment and resources of a traveling environmental education facility to any indoor or outdoor venue.

Through this program, Herd helped

hundreds of Pennsylvania schools meet the state educational standards for Environment and Ecology. He served as the Recycling Coordinator for the City of Bethlehem. During his tenure he organized and implemented the public recycling program for the city which included mandatory and voluntary operations, facilities, public education, recycling markets and compliance, and also founded the Professional Recyclers of Pennsylvania.

Currently, Herd is the executive director of the Stroud Region Open Space and Recreation Commission, where he is responsible for developing and managing all open space, greenways, parks, a community center and other recreation properties of the municipal commission, as well as, he provides direction and leadership in short and long range planning to the board and officers of the commission.

While his specific job responsibilities have varied over the years, Herd has applied the same leadership principles and



Doyle Dietz Photo

POWA member Tim Herd received the Thomas P. Shelburne Environmental Leadership Award from the Northeast Pennsylvania Environmental Partners.

methods of environmental education and developing community partnerships to make a positive impact on environmental stewardship.

Supporting Member News

by Supporting Member Representative
CONNIE YINGLING, PR Coordinator,
Maryland Office of Tourism Development



Online and back again

Last Christmas my husband gifted me an antique revolver that was handed down through his family. Included in the package was a padded carry case and fresh ammunition. We went to our local shooting range recently, and I toted along my circa 1886 revolver to shoot some targets while Jack was sighting in his rifle in preparation for deer season. I was unable to shoot that afternoon, but that's another story.

When I returned to the office, I was telling my co-workers about our weekend adventures. One gentleman asked me a question about my firearm which I was sadly unable to answer. Determined to redeem myself in his eyes, that evening I went online to do some quick research. I walked away with two lessons after this exercise, both which might be helpful to POWA supporting members.

While looking for the technical information, I learned some fascinating history associated with the company that manufactured my gun. The company operated under the name of Forehand & Wadsworth from 1871 to 1890. Both founders Sullivan Forehand and Henry C. Wadsworth worked for (then married daughters of) noted New England

gunsmith Ethan Allen. Wadsworth married his bride in 1860 and served as a Union officer during the Civil War before re-entering the family business. In a brush with notoriety, one F&W model was the American version of a British Bulldog revolver; the .44 Webley British Bulldog was the type of gun used by the assassin of President James A. Garfield.

But between picking up these fascinating bits of history, I also noticed that some of the online information was contradictory. For example, one site claimed that Ethan Allen was the famed New England furniture maker (not true according to Wikipedia – the furniture company was named after Revolutionary War hero Ethan Allen, not a local woodworker). Another claimed that in 1890 F&W became Forehand Arms Company when Wadsworth died; still another said the name changed when Wadsworth retired.

Lesson number one is that the Internet is *filled with false information and misleading facts*. When doing online research for business, consider your source. Web sites with a .gov or .edu might be better places to gather data on firearm statistics than sites like goobersgunplace.com (fictional page

address). Look for sites that are well referenced and that contain current postings.

During my online search, I also clicked onto more than several forums that were discussing modern firearms and ammunition. It struck me that many of these sites contained damaging claims against several products, some manufacturers whom are POWA supporting members (company names removed from the following quotes).

- “Never buy _____ ammunition – it misfired 90% of the time for me!”
- “I generally like _____ ammunition, but HATE their _____ ammo.”
- “I am NOT pleased with the ejection of spent shells with this _____ gun.”

Lesson number two here is that *your company's reputation can easily be damaged by negative customer comments*. Granted, the majority of these negative reviews and nasty comments were authored by people using screen names, so many should be taken with a grain of salt. But it would still be well worth the investment of time to browse the Internet to see what is being said about your products and your company – positive or negative – and engage your customers in a dialog. Who knows, maybe the misfires were a result of a damaged firing pin and had nothing to do with the bullets!

So back to the Internet I go to learn more about my antique firearm, and I do so with my eyes wide open and a slightly skeptical attitude.

Tussel

from page 13

Game Commission for many years, and an instructor's instructor for Bowhunter and Successful Furtaker Education.

He has conducted hundreds of seminars around Pennsylvania about topics that include bowhunting, predator hunting, trapping and youth involvement in the wise use and conservation of our natural, renewable resources.

According to Tom Jenkins, a former all-star athlete at Lake Ariel, a much-respected PIAA official, teacher and administrator, “There's enough bad news out there right now. I think it's important to set aside one night to honor people who have tried to make our community a little bit better.”

One of the unique aspects of this particular Hall of Fame is its diverse membership. From the very beginning, the founders wanted to create an entity that

honored athletes and those who promoted athletics. “We feel very strongly about that,” Jenkins said. “We're proud of the fact that the Wayne Area Sports Hall of Fame includes coaches, officials, sponsors ... people who are just as important in the bigger picture.”

Tussel's involvement in the outdoors has earned him a place in the Wayne Area Sports Hall of Fame's Class of 2010. The hall was founded in 1993 and the first induction dinner took place in 1994.

Market News by Freddie McKnight



Sports Afield is America's original outdoor magazine, founded in 1887. The magazine is devoted to people who share a passion for high-end sporting pursuits, especially North American and African big-game hunting. The magazine's focus is on adventure hunts for species such as sheep, elk, caribou, moose, trophy white-tails and mule deer, bears, African plains game and dangerous species such as Cape buffalo, lion and leopard. Coverage of fine guns, optics, clothing and equipment is an essential part of the magazine. To a more limited extent, the magazine features stories on upland hunting and big-game hunts outside North America and Africa. Contact: SportsAfield, 15621 Chemical Lane, Huntington Beach, CA 92649-1506, Attn: Editor in Chief, letters@sportsafield.com.

Outside is a monthly national magazine dedicated to covering the people, sports and activities, politics, art, literature, and hardware of the outdoors. Although our features are usually assigned to a regular stable of experienced and proven writers, we're always interested in new authors and their ideas. In particular, we look for articles on outdoor events, regions, and activities; informative seasonal service pieces;

sports and adventure travel pieces; profiles of engaging outdoor characters; and investigative stories on environmental issues. Contact: Outside Magazine, 400 Market St., Santa Fe, New Mexico, 87501.

Trapper and Predator Caller has an editorial goal to inform, educate and entertain its readers with articles, photographs and illustrations that promote trapping, predator calling and muzzle-loader hunting. Highest consideration will be given to stories focused on methods and equipment used in trapping, calling or hunting. Also accepted are historical pieces, personality profiles and unusual experience stories. Feature stories should be between 1,500 and 2,500 words. Please submit stories as Microsoft Word documents. Contact: Jared Blohm, Managing Editor, jared.blohm@fwpubs.com.

Deer and Deer Hunting focuses on white-tailed deer biology and behavior, management principles and practices, habitat requirements, natural history of deer, hunting techniques and hunt-

ing ethics. Also published are a wide range of "how-to" articles designed to help hunters locate and get close to deer at all times of the year. Most of the magazine's readership consists of three-season hunters (bow, centerfire/shotgun and muzzleloader) and about one-third camera hunt. Feature articles dealing with deer biology or behavior should be documented by scientific research (the author or that of others) as opposed to a limited number of personal observations. Contact: Daniel E. Schmidt, Editor, danschmidt@fwpubs.com.

Hunters Sharing the Harvest has a new website under development – www.sharedeer.org – and needs to illustrate its primary meat source in the best-possible manner on the home page and throughout the site. Hunters Sharing the Harvest is looking for photo submissions of either live bucks or does, and images of single or multiple deer doing what deer do year-round. No pictures of fences in background should be sent. High-quality, well-composed images of hunters with tagged deer are also plus, along with any food bank, meat distribution or show and promotion events involving Hunters Sharing the Harvest. Selected pictures will be acknowledged with credits on the website. Do not e-mail photos. Either transfer them to a CD or send high-quality prints to HSH, 6780 Hickory Lane, Harrisburg, PA 17112.

Changes & Corrections

Tom Venesky has a new work number: 570-829-7230

Joe Byers has a Web site: www.huntingwithjoebyers.com

Will Elliot's street address is: 9777 Bernd Road, Pavilion, NY 14525

Gary Wert has a new street address of 3176 Jackson Run Road, Warren, PA 16365

SPONSOR 3 NEW POWA MEMBERS IN 1 YEAR ... AND YOUR NEXT YEAR'S DUES ARE FREE!

What a deal! Help your professional outdoor media organization to grow; help someone else to benefit from membership in POWA; and help yourself to a free year of membership ... on us.

This special "1 GET 3; YOURS IS FREE" membership offer applies to all POWA membership types – active, apprentice and supporting. You may sponsor three in one membership category or mix categories.

Who can sponsor a new member? POWA active members and supporting members (the latter with an active member co-signer).

Where to get applications? POWA individual and supporting member applications can be printed from the POWA Web site, www.paoutdoorwriters.com. Information on the value and benefits of membership is on the Web site, too. For more information, contact Executive Director Bob Lollo.

Stamp of approval...



Contributed Photo

Pennsylvania Outdoor Writers Association members Bob Ballantyne, left, and Gerry Putt had an unplanned meeting in early November when Gerry was an exhibitor at the Holiday Show of the Reading-Berks Guild of Craftsman held at Kutztown University. Bob's wife, Nancy, was also a participant in the event.

Enrollment open for youth conservation, fishing camp

Applications are now being accepted for the 17th annual Rivers Conservation and Fly Fishing Youth Camp held June 19-24, 2011 at the Allenberry Resort in Boiling Springs, Pa. Purpose of the camp is to educate students in the importance of coldwater conservation.

Classes include principles of ecology, geology, aquatic vertebrate and invertebrate sampling, riparian buffers, hydrology, trout behavior, trout stream entomology, the biology of pollution and the politics of conservation. The camp also provides hands-on classes in fly tying, fly casting, streamside ethics, the evolution of an angler, wader safety and survival, and streamside botany. The students will also participate in a watershed project to repair stream habitat. Plenty of time is set aside for the students to fish the world famous Yellow Breeches Creek.

The camp is limited to 32 selected, qualified students, age 14 to 17. The cost to attend the event is \$350. Tuition assistance is available for qualified students. For more information or an application go to www.riverscamp.com. You may also contact Mike Klimkos via e-mail at klimkos@embarqmail.com.



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