

# TOWA

The Official Publication of the **Texas Outdoor Writers Association**

## TOWA 2012 ANNUAL CONFERENCE RECAP



### *New Braunfels 2012 TOWA Annual Conference: To the Moon and Back All in Three Days*

Listening to stories from a moon-walking astronaut, hearing tales from an adventurer of the frozen Yukon and more technical and craft improvement advice than anyone thought possible were all part of the TOWA annual conference held in New Braunfels Feb. 23-26.

The event, based at the Courtyard by Marriott River Village, provided attendees with a wealth of entertainment, information and activities that offered something for everyone. Some of the highlights included:

TOWA's "Rusty Old Artist" Sam Caldwell being honored as the L.A. Wilke Award winner, the association's highest honor, for his years of excellence as an artist, illustrator, photographer writer and all-around outdoor communicator.

The annual Bass Pro Shop's "Pass It On Award" was presented to Andrew Sansom, executive director of the Texas Rivers Institute in San Marcos, for his extensive service in the area of conservation of the natural resources in Texas.

The board announced that based on recommendations from Site Selection Chairwoman Jonette Childs, the 2013 annual conference will be held Feb. 14-17, 2013, at the San Luis Hotel in Galveston.

Executive Director Larry LeBlanc informed the board and general membership that he will be stepping down from his post after the Galveston conference and will assist the board in the selection of his replacement. Interested individuals should contact TOWA President David Sikes at (361) 886-3616 or [sikesd@caller.com](mailto:sikesd@caller.com) for further information.

Further information and additional photographs of the New Braunfels conference will be published in future newsletters.



TOP: TOWA group photo ©DaveRedwineImages.com. Photographs from the New Braunfels Conference can be seen at [www.daveredwineimages.com](http://www.daveredwineimages.com) (click events). ABOVE: Offering their best "Three Amigos" pose during the Feb. 23 New Braunfels Chamber of Commerce mixer at Gruene Outfitters are, from left, Board Members John "Here's the Beer" Goodspeed, Kendal "Where Am I?" Hemphill and Supporting Member Craig "Big Hat" Epling of GM. Photo by Ralph Winingham.

## TOWA OFFICERS, BOARD

### PRESIDENT

David Sikes (361) 886-3616  
[sikesd@caller.com](mailto:sikesd@caller.com)

### PRESIDENT-ELECT

T.J. Greaney (512) 789-3838  
[tj@countrylinemagazine.com](mailto:tj@countrylinemagazine.com)

### TREASURER

Bill E. Mills (281) 448-5811  
[offtheroad.mills@earthlink.net](mailto:offtheroad.mills@earthlink.net)

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Larry J. LeBlanc (936) 445-9438  
904 W. Montgomery, Ste. 4 cell (936) 524-0761  
Willis, TX 77378

[towa@suddenlink.net](mailto:towa@suddenlink.net)

## BOARD MEMBERS

### BOARD CHAIRMAN

John Goodspeed (210) 573-7460  
[john@johngoodspeed.com](mailto:john@johngoodspeed.com)

Susan Ebert (2013) (512) 431-2013  
[susanebertink@gmail.com](mailto:susanebertink@gmail.com)

Cody Greaney (2014) (512) 576-2200  
[cody@texasoutdoorzone.com](mailto:cody@texasoutdoorzone.com)

Kendal Hemphill (2013) (325) 347-6440  
[jeep@verizon.net](mailto:jeep@verizon.net)

Bob Hood (2015) (512) 789-3838  
[tj@countrylinemagazine.com](mailto:tj@countrylinemagazine.com)

Judy Bishop Jurek (2014) (979) 541-7776  
[redhawkconsulting@yahoo.com](mailto:redhawkconsulting@yahoo.com)

Peggy York (2012) (210) 647-7053  
[peggy.york@sbcglobal.net](mailto:peggy.york@sbcglobal.net)

## COMMITTEE CHAIRS

### CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN

David Sikes (361) 886-3616  
[sikesd@caller.com](mailto:sikesd@caller.com)

### CONFERENCE PROGRAM CO-CHAIRMAN

T.J. Greaney (512) 789-3838  
[tj@countrylinemagazine.com](mailto:tj@countrylinemagazine.com)

### SCHOLARSHIP

Judy Mills, Marianne Odom (281) 448-5811  
[offtheroad.mills@earthlink.net](mailto:offtheroad.mills@earthlink.net);  
[marianneodom27@hotmail.com](mailto:marianneodom27@hotmail.com)

### MEMBERSHIP

David Sikes (361) 886-3616  
[sikesd@caller.com](mailto:sikesd@caller.com)

### SITE SELECTION

Jonette Childs (361) 729-0239  
[saltex@pyramid3.net](mailto:saltex@pyramid3.net)

### AUCTIONS

T.J. Greaney (512) 789-3838  
[tj@countrylinemagazine.com](mailto:tj@countrylinemagazine.com)

### EIC AWARDS

Kendal Hemphill (325) 347-6440  
[jeep@verizon.net](mailto:jeep@verizon.net)

### TOWA PHOTOGRAPHERS

Gerald Burleigh and David Redwine

### TOWA HISTORIAN

John Thompson

*TOWA News is published monthly by the Texas Outdoor Writers Association and edited by Ralph Winingham. Layout by SusanEbertink, [SusanEbertink@gmail.com](mailto:SusanEbertink@gmail.com). Contributors are urged to submit material by the 15th of each month. For advertising information, contact Ralph Winingham at (210) 240-6149 or [rwiningham@att.net](mailto:rwiningham@att.net). TOWA News is emailed to members and mailed first class, if requested, from San Antonio. TOWA was formed in 1958 as a professional/social organization for those who communicate about hunting, fishing and other outdoor pursuits, as well as those in business and industry connected with the outdoors.*



The TOWA Newsletter is proudly sponsored by Gulf States Toyota. For information, go to [www.buyatoyota.com](http://www.buyatoyota.com).



# 2012 TOWA Dan Klepper Memorial Scholarships Go to Abernathy, Wooten

By Judy Mills & Marianne Odom, Scholarship Co-Chairwomen

**M**atthew Abernathy and Ron Wooten, graduate students at Texas A&M-Galveston, have been selected as 2012 recipients of the TOWA Dan Klepper Memorial Scholarship. Each received a certificate, a student membership in the Texas Outdoor Writers Association and a check for \$1,500. The two winners were honored at the awards banquet Feb. 25 at the annual conference in New Braunfels.

Abernathy is working on a Master's degree in Marine Resource Management at TAMU-Galveston. He is employed at Jesse H. Jones Park and Nature Center as an education programmer and is actively involved in outdoor education. He leads guided tours and gives presentations on the wildlife and the unique ecosystems there at the Nature Center. He is a certified volunteer instructor with Texas Parks & Wildlife Department in Hunter Education, Boater Education, and Angler Education.

He has written articles and editorials published in local papers like the Galveston Daily News and the Cypress Log. One editorial examined the impact of a potential container port that is being considered on Pelican Island.

Wooten is also a graduate student in the Marine Resource Management program at Texas A&M-Galveston. A graduate of Texas A&M's Wildlife and Fisheries Science Department, Ron began an "interesting and diverse career path" as a research fisheries biologist with the National Marine Fisheries Service where he spent five years on the Gulf coast sampling marshes, caging shrimp for growth studies, and diving offshore for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

His career has included working as a high school teacher of marine and environmental sciences and chemistry and working offshore as a platform observer and endangered species biologist. A Galveston resident, Wooten writes monthly

articles on outdoor and nature topics for the Galveston Monthly, a local magazine.

"I felt compelled to continue to share and teach about the natural world," Wooten said. He uses his own photos with the articles on topics such as endangered species; local bird and mammal species; the value of area habitats; and ways to enjoy specific areas of Galveston Island.

Both scholarship recipients said they plan to continue outdoor writing and mass communication upon graduation.

"I feel that TOWA and other organizations like it are vital to the success in preserving our outdoor heritage because they provide so many different avenues for members to share their love and passion for the outdoors," Abernathy said.



Ron Wooten, shown here with Tom Linton as he accepts his scholarship, and Matthew Abernathy were this year's winners of the TOWA Dan Klepper Memorial Scholarship. Photo by David Redwine.

# *TOWA 2012 Excellence in Craft Competition Winners Recognized for Their Work*

**A tip of the hat to all the winners in the TOWA 2012 Excellence in Craft competition where the best of the best** photos, articles and other efforts of TOWA members were recognized at the conference awards banquet Feb. 25 in New Braunfels.

"Thanks to all TOWA members who entered the EIC contest this year," said Kendal Hemphill, chairman of the EIC committee. "The competition was stiff, proving once again that Texas is home to the best outdoor writers in the country.

"Congratulations to the winners, and to Chevrolet for their continued support," he added.

The following is a list of the top honorees as determined by Dr. Manuel Flores and his team at Texas A&M University – Kingsville. As noted in some of the judges' comments, the quality of entries this year was top notch and required some difficult choices in selecting the best submissions.

Many of the first place winners in the competition will be published in future newsletters to allow our members to view the writing, photography and communication skills of our members and as a reminder that it is never too early to start gathering up entries for the 2013 competition.

As an additional reminder, active members planning to enter the 2013 competition must have paid their annual dues no later than March 1 in order to be eligible. Only the works of paid, active members are passed along to the judges for review.

Here are this year's winners:

## **CATEGORY 1 (14 ENTRIES) OUTDOOR PHOTOGRAPHY, PEOPLE**

1. David Sikes, "Foggy Kenai Sunrise," *Corpus Christi Caller-Times*, July 31, 2011.
2. Lefty Ray Chapa, "Cast. . . Away," *Southwest Fly Fishing Magazine*, May/June 2011.
3. John Goodspeed, "The Smallest Fish," *San Antonio Express-News*, March 25, 2011.

**Judges' Comments:** *David Sikes captured the perfect moment at the Kenai River – early morning, foggy and just enough people fishing to capture a surreal silhouette. The photo would have worked well in either color or black-and-white, but the color makes it even more special. Lefty Ray Chapa's "Cast . . . Away" is equally as surreal and shows how a person prepares for a day of fishing. Goodspeed's "The Smallest Fish" shows how good friends act when out fishing. It is always a contest. This time two old NFL pals could brag about their catches – from the biggest to the smallest.*

## **CATEGORY 2 (17 ENTRIES) OUTDOOR PHOTOGRAPHY, WILDLIFE**

1. David Sikes, "Tree Top Baldy," *Corpus Christi Caller-Times*, July 31, 2011.
2. John Jefferson, "King of the Sendero," *Open Seasons*, October 30, 2011.
3. Jim Steiert, "Grey Ghosts of Dawn," *The Hereford Brand*, October 2011.

HM. Bob Zaiglin, "Lion," *African Hunter*, Vol. 17, No. 2.

HM. Shannon Tompkins, "Flaps Down," *Houston Chronicle*, Oct. 13, 2011.

**Judges' Comments:** *Sikes: magnificent photo. Few get a chance to see a bald eagle. Even fewer get a close-up photo that shows the stately eagle with such dignity. Throw in the green foliage of the tree and you have a winner. Jefferson's "King of the Sendero" is equally impressive. It takes patience to get this shot and Jefferson got it and got it good. Steiert's "Ghosts" is perfect for the old print media and he must have this in mind while he waited patiently for this shot. Zaiglin and Tompkins photos also very nice and tell a story.*

## **CATEGORY 3 (NINE ENTRIES) OUTDOOR PHOTOGRAPHY, OPEN**

1. Shannon Tompkins, "Waterfowler and Dog at Dawn," *Houston Chronicle*, Oct. 28, 2011.
2. Lefty Ray Chapa, "Lining the Guadalupe River," *Southwest Fly Fishing Magazine*, November 2011.
3. Jim Steiert, "Let 'em Down Easy," *The Hereford Brand*, March 6, 2011.

HM. David Sikes, "Flight of the Sockeye," *Corpus Christi Caller-Times*, July 31, 2011.

**Judges' Comments:** *What a wonderful photo Shannon Tompkins gave us with the silhouette of the "Waterfowler and Dog at Dawn." From a print media point of view, it translated beautifully into black-and-white for the newspaper and it was used brilliantly as a layout device for the Houston Chronicle's Outdoors Section. Nice, very nice. Lefty Ray Chapa's "Lining the Guadalupe River" is simple and belies the difficulty of getting the shot. Steiert's shot is, well, just different. Point is, he got it. Sikes gets honorable mention for getting the drama and passion of fishing all in the face of an angle. Well done.*

## **CATEGORY 4 (FOUR ENTRIES) OUTDOOR RADIO**

1. TJ Greaney, *The Outdoor Zone*, May 16, 2009.
2. Bill Olson and Harold Gunn, *Texas Outdoor News*, Nov. 27, 2010

**Judge's Comments:** *Outdoors radio has been a Texas staple since the ol' music box started banging out news in the early 20th century from the plains of West Texas, to the Rio Grande Valley and Laredo areas and the coast. TJ Greaney and his pal Cody Rhyne from "The Bunkhouse" certainly do a great job, and to boot, they are syndicated. They have nice radio shows, they fit their moniker of "the huntingest and fishingest radio show in the world" very well, they're humorous, informative and creative. Good job. Can't wait for an invitation to the "Bunkhouse." Bill Olson and Harold Gunn are Texas Outdoors staples and their show with Ted Nugent certainly did not disappoint.*

## CATEGORY 5 (NONE) OUTDOOR TELEVISION

No winners.

## CATEGORY 6 (ONE ENTRY) ILLUSTRATION/GRAPHIC

1. Lefty Ray Chapa, "Fly Fishing the San Antonio Riverwalk," Gulf Coast Council, website, wall banner, brochure, etc.

**Judges' Comments:** Beautiful work. Simple. Creative and certainly gets the message across.

## CATEGORY 7 (SIX ENTRIES) OUTDOOR PUBLICATION

1. *Saltwater Texas*, Jonette W. Childs, August 2011.
2. *Saltwater Angler*; Ron Behnke, Sept. 16, 2011.
3. *Kids Outdoor Zone*, TJ Greaney, Oct.-Dec. 2011.

**Judges' Comments:** *Saltwater Texas* is like that old dependable fishing buddy you can count on to pick you up early in the morning and bring tacos and hot coffee for the morning and other refreshments for later in the day. *Saltwater Texas* is newsy, folksy, informative and entertaining. It has great columnist experts and good art work and photos and a list of events going on in the area. What else could one ask for? Good job. *Saltwater Angler* is another comprehensive publication which I'm sure is addictive to those who read it religiously. *Kids Outdoor Zone* is just a good idea and a good effort. This was a very competitive category.

## CATEGORY 8 (EIGHT ENTRIES) OUTDOOR PUBLICATION – UNDER 25,000

1. "Texas Fish and Game, Sept. 2011" – submitted by Roy Neves, publisher.
2. "The Journal of the Texas Trophy Hunters Association Magazine, Vol. 36, No. 6" – submitted by Texas Trophy Hungers Association, Jerry Johnson, founder; Joe Betar, president and publisher.
3. "Texas Outdoors, Vol. 20, No. 8" – submitted by Diane Parks, associate editor.

HM. "Texas Outdoors, Vol. 20, No. 3" – submitted by Bill Olson, editor and publisher.

**Judges' Comments:** "Texas Fish and Game," (Sept. 2011) zoomed to the top with excellent content, photography and design. The writing and information are especially well done in this issue. The cover shot and index page are also excellent. The compartmentalization of information also makes this issue a winner. The stories and columns are excellent. Overall quality is excellent. The Journal of the Texas Trophy Hunters Association is just a feast for the eyes and senses. It opens up with "Spotlight on Texas Trophy Hunters" and then it tells the tales of the hunt. Wow. It's what every deer hunter wants to read and see – a story and a photo on someone's big hunt. It also has an academic section – "The Kleberg Report" out of Texas A&M-Kingsville. All very nice. "Texas Outdoors" is also excellent. Very good work. Very enjoyable.

## CATEGORY 9 (SEVEN ENTRIES) OUTDOOR FICTION/HUMOR

1. Kendal Hemphill, "Butt Feathers," *Mason County News*, June 15, 2011.

2. David Sikes, "For love of ducks," *Corpus Christi Caller-Times*, Jan. 30, 2011.
3. Russell S. Smith, "Hunt for Elk Bags Heaps of Trouble," *San Angelo Standard-Times*, Jan. 20, 2011.

**Judges' Comments:** Kendal Hemphill's "Butt Feathers" is enjoyable and only a real outdoors person will see the humor in his favorite fishing and hunting tools being used in the wrong way. It's so wrong, you all. David Sikes and Russell Smith also had excellent tales of the woe that sometimes accompanies and good hunting or fishing trip. Good category.

## CATEGORY 10 (17 ENTRIES) OUTDOOR COLUMN/OPINION

1. Kendal Hemphill, "Throwing the Good Book at PETA," *Texas Fish & Game*, September 2011.
  2. Jim Steiert, "Feast for the Soul," *West Texas Rural Telephone Co-Op Connection*, Nov. 1, 2011.
  3. Bill Olson, "Old-fashioned social networking," *Texas Outdoors Journal*, January 2011.
- HM. Russell Smith, "Silent Invaders," *San Angelo Standard-Times*, Oct. 23, 2011.
- HM. Shannon Tompkins, "An unforgettable duck season," *Houston Chronicle*, Jan. 23, 2011

**Judges' Comments:** A column and opinion writer must have a point and must explain his point with poise, dignity, respect and, sometimes, a little humor. Kendal Hemphill certainly did that in his column "Throwing the Good Book at PETA." The passion behind the writing is obvious and the dignity and respect he showed came through...albeit with a little anger and tinge of rage. Well done, Kendal. Steiert, Olson, Smith and Tompkins also had excellent piece in a very difficult category to judge. Hemphill won out because of the combination of satire, metaphor and good ol' fashioned "now let me tell you how it really is" type writing.

## CATEGORY 11 (12 ENTRIES) NEWSPAPER FEATURE

1. John Goodspeed, "Buddy Rivalry," *San Antonio Express-News*, March 25, 2011.
2. Shannon Tompkins, "Rising from the Ashes," *Houston Chronicle*, Sept. 15, 2011
3. Ralph Winingham, "Right on Target," *San Antonio Express-News*, Aug. 5, 2011.

**Judges' Comments:** A newspaper feature should entertain and/or inform. John Goodspeed's "Buddy Rivalry" piece about two former National Football League Hall of Famers going at it as anglers certainly meets the criteria of entertaining. A newspaper feature like this is a good change of pace from the depressing news articles that appear every day in newspapers throughout the nation. Goodspeed does the right thing by letting the characters in the story – Kenny Houston and Elvin Bethea – speak freely. The quotes are abundant and so are the humor and the fun. Well done. Shannon Tompkins' "Rising from the Ashes" is a very well done piece on how nature is impacted by wildfires. As Texas suffers through its worst drought in decades, this is an important and informative story. It informs. Winingham's "Right on Target" shows how women have a spot in the outdoors as well. Nice work.

## CATEGORY 12 (11 ENTRIES) MAGAZINE FEATURE

1. John Goodspeed, "Rendezvous With the Past," *Texas Parks and Wildlife*, September 2011.
  2. Ralph Winingham, "Handguns of the Old West," *Texas Wildlife Association Magazine*, July 2011.
  3. John Jefferson, "Rare River, Rare Fish," *Texas Parks and Wildlife*, February 2011.
- HM. Lefty Ray Chapa, "Guadalupe River, TX," *Southwest Fly Fishing Magazine*. Nov. 1, 2011.

**Judges' Comments:** *This was a very competitive field where writing talent and story development play a key role in successful feature writing. John Goodspeed does just that in a wonderful piece titled "Rendezvous with the Past." The characters in his story seem to come to life with his curious descriptions and use of words. Those Texas free trappers not only relive the days of the mountain me by camping out and competing in period clothes and tools, they seem to be telling you "See, it wasn't that bad for us after all." The article is pure escapism and well done. Winingham, too, crafts his magic in "Handguns of the Old West." Jefferson and Chapa also had excellent pieces with research and pertinent information to support their subject.*

## CATEGORY 13 (21 ENTRIES) OUTDOORS FEATURE OPEN

1. David Sikes, "Bottlenose Dolphin: Journey from harpoon target to darling of the sea," *Corpus Christi Caller-Times*, April 10, 2011
  2. Shannon Tompkins, "Unwanted Guests," *Houston Chronicle*, June 23, 2011.
  3. Ralph Winingham, "Not Your Typical Shooting Instructor," *Racks and Reels*, June 2011.
- HM. Russell Smith, "The Case of the Missing Hunter," *San Angelo Standard-Times*, Oct. 17, 2010.

**Judges' Comments:** *David Sikes saga of the journey the bottlenose dolphin has taken while thriving on the Texas Gulf Coast is intriguing, informative and, at the same time, tragic. Few Gulf Coast residents know of the ugly past this beautiful sea creature endured in our own backyard. More importantly, Sikes backs up his story with facts, first-person anecdotes, newspaper clippings and other research. Plus, he writes well. Good job. Tompkins' "Unwanted Guests" is just as well done and Winingham is up to his usual writing tricks in Racks and Reels. Smith's "Case of the Missing Hunter" is also very well done; a good and easy read.*

## CATEGORY 14 (17 ENTRIES) NEWS REPORTING

1. Shannon Tompkins, "Laws of the Land," *Houston Chronicle*, Feb. 3, 2011.
2. Ralph Winingham, "Ecotourism," *Texas Wildlife Association Magazine*, April 2011.
3. John Goodspeed, "Quail Quandary," *San Antonio Express-News*, Oct. 28, 2011.

**Judges' Comments:** *Shannon Tompkins simply had a great news report with quotes and facts that every outdoors enthusiast would welcome. The article is informative and comprehensive. Solid. Winingham has several sources and several excellent*

*quotes sprinkled with just enough investigative reporting to make this piece one of the best. Goodspeed has the best lead (opening paragraph) and excellent format for news writing.*

## CATEGORY 15 (ONE ENTRY) OUTDOOR BOOK

1. Jim Pepper – "Not your ordinary snake stories."

## CATEGORY 16 (SIX ENTRIES) WEBSITES

1. Texas Fish and Game Web Page, [www.fishgame.com](http://www.fishgame.com), submitted by Roy Neves.
  2. Texas Outdoors Journal Web Page, [www.texasoutdoorsjournal.com](http://www.texasoutdoorsjournal.com), submitted by Bill Olson.
  3. The Outdoor Zone Web Page, [www.theoutdoorzone.com](http://www.theoutdoorzone.com), submitted by TJ Greaney.
- HM. Salt Water Angler Web Page, [www.saltywater.com](http://www.saltywater.com), submitted by Ron Behnke.

**Judges' Comments:** *Each website has its highlights and each is catered to its specific audience. All are winners. The Texas Fish and Game website is excellent with a variety of features and activities in almost every area of Texas outdoors. It's inviting, well-designed and pleasing to the eye. Texas Outdoors Journal is similar, with plenty of links to satisfy the outdoorsman or outdoorswoman curiosity, radio links and lots of chances to get your photo posted. T.J. Greaney's Outdoor Zone is always good. Design not as fancy, but great links to every outdoors site imaginable and wonderful information.*

## CATEGORY 17 (EIGHT ENTRIES) SPECIAL PROJECTS - CONSERVATION

1. TJ Greaney, "Force Feeding the Outdoors," *Texas Fish & Game Magazine*, September 2011
2. Jim Steiert, "Endangered Species Status...Lesser Prairie Chicken," *Hereford Brand*, Dec. 12, 2010.
3. Art Morris, "Spotted Seatrout Dilemma," *Texas Parks and Wildlife Outdoor Annual*, 2011-2012.

**Judges' Comments:** *All were very ambitious and genuine projects. It's hard not to get emotionally involved. TJ Greaney's effort should be lauded. He continues to keep the fun of the outdoors alive by reaching out to the next generation. Good job, TJ.*

## CATEGORY 18 (NINE ENTRIES) ORIGINAL INTERNET STORY

1. Will Leschper, "Texas' Most Dangerous Game" [caller.com](http://caller.com) *Corpus Christi Caller-Times*, posted Sept. 18, 2011.
  2. Shannon Tompkins, "Poisoning Pigs – The Final Solution," [chron.com](http://chron.com) *Houston Chronicle*, posted Feb. 17, 2011.
  3. Ralph Winingham, "Texans Take on Nebraska Ringnecks," [isonews.com](http://isonews.com), posted Jan. 18, 2011.
- HM. Will Leschper, "This Mother's Day, Give Thanks," [caller.com](http://caller.com) *Corpus Christi Caller-Times*, posted May 8, 2011.

**Judge's Comments:** *The Internet is about immediacy and important information. All of the winners accomplished that and had well-written articles which could have been updated in actual print newspaper or magazine or on the net. Good job.*

## MOSSBERG INTRODUCES ZMB SERIES OF GUNS TO PREPARE FOR ZOMBIE APOCALYPSE

NORTH HAVEN, CT – The latest craze in the realm of shooting competitions, zombie-themed fun shoots, has a new player on the field in 2012 – the Mossberg ZMB Series including a specialty lever-action .30-30 Win rifle and 12-gauge pump-action shotguns.

Selections in the Zombie line include a Model 464 ZMB lever-action rifle, Model 500 ZMB 8-Shot pump-action shotgun and a Model 500 Chainsaw ZMB 6-Shot pump-action shotgun. All three have the lime green “ZMB” logo emblazoned on the receiver and boast the most highly-desired zombie-slaying features.

Based on the time-proven, the Mossberg Model 464 lever-action platform, the ZMB rifle features a quick-adjusting, tactical-style 6-position synthetic stock; Picatinny tri-rail forend with rubber ladder rail covers; durable black oxide receiver; compact 16¼-inch barrel with removable A-2 style flash suppressor; adjustable 3-dot fiber optic sights; front and rear sling swivel studs; 6-round total capacity; matte blued metal finishes; and a drilled/tapped receiver with scope rail included. The manufacturer’s suggested retail price is \$563.

At the core of the Model 500 ZMB 8-shot, pump-action shotgun is the Model 500 Persuader. This 12 gauge, 3-inch chamber pump-action has a standard full-length black synthetic stock; tactical Picatinny-compatible tri-rail forend; extended magazine tube for 8-round total capacity; 20-inch cylinder bore barrel with bead sight; matte black metal finishes; drilled and tapped receiver; sling swivel studs; and handy black padded sling. Suggested retail price is \$447.

The 500 Chainsaw ZMB Series 6-shot pump-action is a 12 gauge, 3-inch chamber shotgun based on the Model 500 Cruiser. It has a distinctive, chainsaw-style forend grip; ergonomic pistol grip stock and tactical tri-rail forend with integral full-length bottom rail and removable side rails. Pistol grip and forend are molded of durable synthetic with matte black finish. Better balance and ease of maneuverability are achieved with the compact 18½ inch stand-off barrel with single white dot sight. Other standard features on the 500 Chainsaw ZMB include matte black metal finishes; drilled and tapped receiver; sling swivel studs; padded sling; and 6-round total capacity. The manufacturer’s suggested retail price is \$614.

The media contact for further information is Linda Powell, director of media relations, at (336) 441-2923 or LPowell@mossberg.com.



## Inshore Fishing Association Kayak Tour Headed for Texas Coast

**T**exas anglers interested in testing their kayaking and fishing skills in the hope of earning big money and prizes will be offered the opportunity at two Texas Division qualifying events of the Inshore Fishing Association Kayak Tour set for Port Aransas and Rockport.

The first Texas competition of the tour sponsored by Hobie Fishing, will be held at Port Aransas on April 14, followed by a June 9 tour event at Rockport. First place in the competition will earn the winner a Hobie Mirage Pro Angler kayak.

Both the events are part of the qualifying round to be conducted March 11 through June 24 across the country, which will be followed by three regional events including one on Sept 16 in Port Aransas.

The championship event of the tour will be held Oct. 19-20 at a location that is yet to be determined.

Further information about the tour is available at [www.redfishtour.com](http://www.redfishtour.com). The media contact is Ingrid Niehaus at (949) 499-2225 or [ingridn2@mindspring.com](mailto:ingridn2@mindspring.com).



## Birchwood Casey Expands Dirty Bird Line to Include Game Targets

The new line of Dirty Bird Game Targets from Birchwood Casey offer shooters four great new fun shooting opportunities.

Dirty Bird Game Targets produce a white “halo” around each shot, making it easy to see your score. Shooters can use the targets for fun practice, or several shooters can compete against one another for high score. There are no official rules, so shooters can designate their own.

Dirty Bird Game Targets come in four colorful styles. With Battle at Sea shooters take turns trying to “sink” each other’s ships. Shot Board is a variation of the popular dart board game. Saloon Shootout takes you back to the old west for a chance to take down some mean hombres. For the avid golfer there is Chip Shot, a great way to combine target shooting with golf.

Dirty Bird Game Targets are 12”x18” and come in packs of eight. They sell for a suggested retail price of \$12.50

For more information, log onto the Birchwood Casey website at [www.birchwoodcasey.com](http://www.birchwoodcasey.com), write to 7900 Fuller Road, Eden Prairie, MN 55344-2195 or call (800) 328-6156, extension 7933.

## Additional Endowment Money Available for 2012 National Clay Target Championships

The Association of College Unions International (ACUI) has announced that an additional \$134,000 in endowment money will be given away at the 2012 National Clay Target Championships held at the National Shooting Complex in San Antonio.

The money comes from a generous donation by Larry and Brenda Potterfield from Midway USA. The endowment funds will be deposited to the institution's account at the Midway USA Foundation/Scholastic Shooting Trust (SST). The purpose of the SST endowment is to provide perpetual funding for high school and college shooting teams.

"We are very excited about the support that the Potterfields give to the college shooting program. They have no idea how much their generosity means and how much it is appreciated by students and their programs," said ACUI Director of Meetings Michelle Smith.

Funds will be paid to the High Overall School Champions in all three divisions. Each division will receive endowment money for the top five places. The champion will receive \$15,000, runner up \$10,000, third place \$5,000, fourth place \$4,000, and fifth place \$2,000.

Additionally, placing participant schools in the National Rifle Association (NRA) All American Shoot Out will receive money.

The NRA All American Shoot Out is a head-to-head, made-for-television competition held during the championship. There is a men's and women's category. Each semi-finalist will receive \$1,000 for their school's endowment account; each finalist will receive an additional \$2,000, and the champions will receive an additional \$5,000.

ACUI has organized the Collegiate Clay Target Championships for 44 years. For the last 25 years, the event has been held at the National Shooting Complex in San Antonio. To learn more about ACUI, call 442.ACUI.CT (442.222.8428) or visit their website at <http://www.ACUI.org/claytargets>.

For ACUI media inquiries, please contact Michelle Smith, director of meetings, at 812.245.8055 or [mjsmith1@acui.org](mailto:mjsmith1@acui.org) or Russ Arnold at 817.690.6194 or [rga@ss-consulting.org](mailto:rga@ss-consulting.org).

Founded in 1914, ACUI is a nonprofit educational organization that brings together college union and student activities professionals from hundreds of schools in seven countries. Its members work on urban and rural campuses, in two-year and four-year institutions, and at large and small schools. They are students and administrators whose mission is to build campus community. ACUI enriches them all through education, advocacy, and the delivery of services.

## TEXAS TECH PROFESSOR AWARDED NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION'S HIGHEST HONOR



Heather Whitlaw accepts the Henry S. Mosby Award on behalf of Warren Ballard, Ph.D.

**NASHVILLE, TN** – Warren Ballard, Ph.D., of Texas Tech University, was honored with the prestigious Henry S. Mosby Award at the NWTF's 36th annual National Convention and Sport Show in Nashville, Tenn. Unfortunately, Ballard passed away January 12 before he could receive the award. Accepting on his behalf was his wife Heather Whitlaw.

"Warren Ballard has shown unequalled dedication to conservation, wild turkeys and other species of wildlife throughout his career. His groundbreaking research in land use and the effects on habitat added greatly to our understanding of wildlife management," said James Earl Kennamer, Ph.D., NWTF's chief conservation officer. "His recent passing was a truly sad note for his family and many colleagues, but the researchers and graduate students Ballard mentored and supported will carry on his conservation legacy for generations to come."

For more than 40 years, Warren Ballard dedicated his career to conservation. He was a Horn Professor and Bricker Chair at Texas Tech University in the Wildlife Management Department. A Horn professorship is the highest honor a faculty member can receive from Texas Tech University. He also served as editor-in-chief of *The Wildlife Society Bulletin*, an international scientific journal for wildlife scientists.

In 2009, Ballard received the Outstanding Research Award from Texas Tech's College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, and the Outstanding Achievement Award from the Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society in 2007.

Ballard was named a Wildlife Society Fellow by the National Wildlife Society in 2005, and was presented the Chancellor's Council Distinguished Research Award at Texas Tech University in 2002. He was presented a special service recognition award from the Wildlife Society that same year.

The Mosby Award is named for Henry S. Mosby, Ph.D., whose research during the mid-1900s set the standard for wild turkey management. He also helped found The Wildlife Society and won its highest honor — the Aldo Leopold Medal. Each year at the NWTF National Convention and Sport Show, the NWTF presents many awards to dedicated conservationists from all over North America. MidwayUSA was this year's official convention sponsor.

Visit the NWTF website for more information about the Henry S. Mosby Award or other convention highlights.

## SURVEYS SHOW CAMOUFLAGE PRODUCTS FIND FAVOR WITH MOST HUNTERS

FERNANDINA BEACH, FL – From clothing and firearms to wallets, flashlights and even furniture, hunter-styled camouflage has become an essential feature of the products hunters buy for use in the field and at home.

Asked by HunterSurvey.com and ShooterSurvey.com what percentage of their hunting equipment purchases were in camouflage patterns a whopping 94 percent of the sportsmen surveyed said they had purchased at least one camouflage item in 2011.

It is no surprise that the second most deciding factor is brand loyalty itself, which was the second most selected factor on HunterSurvey.com (56 percent) and AnglerSurvey.com (57 percent). In breaking down the larger numbers, 18 percent of sportsmen said between 71 to 80 percent of the items they bought were in camouflage, 11 percent said between 81 and 90 percent were camo and 15 percent said at least half of their purchases were camo. Just over 7 percent reported everything they purchased for hunting had some camouflage on it.

Professional endorsements by sporting and other celebrities were only chosen by 9 percent of sportsmen as having an impact in their purchase of a particular brand.

“Since its initial development in the 1980s, camouflage can be found on virtually every product a hunter wishes to own,” said Rob Southwick, president of Southwick Associates, which designs and conducts the surveys at HunterSurvey.com and ShooterSurvey.com.

“Wearing or displaying camo is a lifestyle choice, announcing to others they are a proud hunter or closely associate with the hunting lifestyle,” Southwick said.

Launched in 2006, AnglerSurvey.com, ShooterSurvey.com and HunterSurvey.com help the outdoor equipment industry, government fisheries and wildlife officials and conservation organizations track consumer activities and expenditure trends. Participants who complete the surveys are entered into a drawing for one of five \$100 gift certificates to the sporting goods retailer of their choice.

The data collected from the complete survey results is made available to government agencies, businesses, the media and other interested parties. Results are scientifically analyzed to reflect the attitudes and habits of anglers and hunters across the United States.

Survey information is available at <http://facebook.com/huntersurvey> and <http://facebook.com/anglersurvey>.

## Coleman Launches Online Newsroom for Working Media

**Outdoor media members looking for the quickest access to information about** Coleman and its products now have an online newsroom through which they can download images, spec sheets and other pertinent materials. The newsroom, which recently went live, can be found at [news.coleman.com](http://news.coleman.com). The online newsroom does not require registration and all materials are available for editorial use without charge.

In addition to Coleman’s extensive outdoor product offerings, the newsroom is also the place to find information on and images of products from Stearns, Sevylor and Aerobed. Product fact sheets and images are all cataloged by product name with an easy-to-use search function built into the site. All product information and print-quality images can be downloaded from within the site.

The newsroom gives members of the outdoor media more than just an easy portal through which they can access information about product offerings from the Coleman family of brands. In addition, users of the newsroom can subscribe to updates posted to the newsroom or the newsroom’s RSS feed as well as share things within the newsroom with others.

The newsroom also allows users to interact with Coleman via social media sites Twitter, Facebook and YouTube. From the newsroom, visitors can click to follow Coleman on Twitter, like the brand on Facebook or go directly to the Coleman Channel on YouTube.

More information is available at [www.coleman.com](http://www.coleman.com).

## Candidates Sought to Serve as TOWA Newsletter Editor

**TOWA President David Sikes is seeking** applicants from the membership who are interested in taking over the duties of TOWA newsletter editor.

After serving as newsletter editor for the past five years, Ralph Winingham is stepping down from the post and is passing on the duty of disseminating information on board activities and other items of interest to the membership. The March edition will be his last as editor.

The editor’s duties include collecting about 5,000 words of copy, plus photos, by the middle of each month; and working with Board Member Susan L. Ebert, who does the newsletter layout. After approving the final version, the editor distributes the newsletter to all members via email and posts it on the TOWA website.

The editor receives \$200 per month for undertaking this information service for the membership.

Ebert has volunteered to take over as interim editor, but any interested individuals may contact Sikes at [sikesd@caller.com](mailto:sikesd@caller.com) or by calling (361) 886-3616 for further information or to apply for the position.

## CALENDAR

**March 9-10** – The second annual Texas Trophy Hunters Association Bucks and BBQ State Championship Barbecue Cook-Off and Food Drive will be conducted at the National Shooting Complex in San Antonio. Additional information is available at [www.ttha.com](http://www.ttha.com).

**March 15** – The 15th annual Alamo Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation banquet will be held at the Alzafar Shrine Temple in San Antonio. Call Charlie Klein at (210) 213-5339 or visit [www.alamochapternwtf.org](http://www.alamochapternwtf.org) for further information.

**April -22-23** – Annual Spring Fling and TOWA Board Meeting in Rockport-Fulton, hosted by the Rockport-Fulton Chamber of Commerce.

**Aug. 3-5** – The Texas Trophy Hunters Association’s annual Hunters Extravaganza will be held at Houston’s Reliant Center. Further information is available at [www.ttha.com](http://www.ttha.com).

**Aug. 17-19** – The Texas Trophy Hunters Association’s annual Hunters Extravaganza will be held at Fort Worth’s Will Rogers Center. Further information is available at [www.ttha.com](http://www.ttha.com).

**Aug. 24-26** – The Texas Trophy Hunters Association’s annual Hunters Extravaganza will be held at San Antonio’s Alamodome. Further information is available at [www.ttha.com](http://www.ttha.com).