

TOWA

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

TOWA PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Summer Membership Meeting, Mail-In Ballot, to Expedidite Business Practices

David Sikes, TOWA President

In many respects, I'm not a patient man. Oh sure, I can be when the situation calls for it. But when it comes to improving TOWA, clearing up old business and generally scratching stuff off our to-do list, I see little need to slow the pace.

This is not to suggest we make hasty, ill-advised decisions.

That's where a reasonable board of directors and our members provide the checks and balances needed to make prudent decisions.

In this case I'm referring to proposed changes to membership qualifications and executive director duties.

Both issues will be addressed in a referendum during a summer membership meeting. Details on when and where this meeting will occur have not yet been decided. But we expect it will be in late July or early August to give us time to craft a list of ballot issues.

The bylaws require that any such changes must be approved by a majority vote of active members. Historically, TOWA has scheduled a single membership meeting during the annual conference. Even so, only a fraction of members attend this meeting and vote.

We hope to offset this apathy with a mailed ballot. You will not be required to attend the summer meeting to participate in the referendum.

We will notify members of the meeting date by email and by letter through the U.S. Postal Service at least 30 days in advance, as required in the bylaws. This notice will coincide with a mailed ballot along with a meeting

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agenda. In the future, we may conduct such mid-year referendums by secure electronic means, such as Survey Monkey.

Composing precise ballot language could get tedious. Changing the bylaws should never be an easy process or taken lightly.

For example, we cannot simply add a membership category such as "Retired Member." We must also change a line

in the bylaws that currently indicates the organization shall have five classifications of membership.

In the case of a proposed volunteer membership category, I believe it best to simply rewrite the qualifications for active membership to include a former active member or new member who provides significant unpaid communication services to a nonprofit or other outdoor/conservation related organization. This category would enjoy all of the rights and privileges of full active membership. Perhaps we should fold "Volunteer Communicator" into the Information category, which is listed as No. 8 under Active Member criteria. The bylaws are listed on the TOWA website and on the final pages of your membership directory.

We'll try to make the ballot language as simple as possible.

As I've mentioned before, a major issue the board is wrestling with involves the duties of the Executive Director. This is a paid position ably executed by Larry LeBlanc, who has announced his retirement. Larry agreed to assume this post during a tumultuous time when the organization needed a shot of financial credibility and order. And he has accomplished this. Our books are in order, we are officially a nonprofit organization and he has created a

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transparent fiscal system, the likes of which we have not seen in many years.

However, in reading the Executive Director duties in the bylaws, we became aware that the scope of this job goes well beyond what should be expected of any one person. You might disagree.

But consider that when these rules were crafted, our needs were simpler. Laws have changed. Technology has changed. TOWA has changed.

Several proposals have been mentioned. As always, one is to change nothing. I don't see that happening. But this option will be on the ballot.

The second alternative is to separate some of the more technical, fiscal and conference responsibilities into a new management position possibly to be filled by an independent contractor or management firm. The remaining responsibilities, such as recruitment, communications and primary spokesperson and such could be combined into an ED position held by a member. The person filling this role would become a very public TOWA ambassador and the outreach face of the organization.

A third possibility could be simply to create a paid bookkeeping position.

This would involve contracting with a CPA whose sole responsibility would be to provide fiscal services, deal with the IRS and other government agencies, maintain insurance and provide quarterly financial reports to the Board. This would free up the Executive Director to take a more active role in recruitment, conference planning, media relations, supporting member relations, perhaps newsletter responsibilities, scout new ideas at conferences and generally assist the Board and President in organizational duties through a central office.

A committee comprising Board Chairman John Goodspeed, President Elect TJ Greaney and me is charged with making a recommendation on this issue. Our recommendation must pass a board vote before it reaches a general membership ballot. I have imposed a June 22 deadline on this decision.

There is much to consider. But the Board believes changes are necessary to keep TOWA relevant and viable. Most likely more changes in the bylaws are forthcoming, after further review.

Comments and suggestions should be submitted to john@johngoodspeed.com, tj@countrylinemagazine.com or sikesd@caller.com.

GAME TRAILS, DSC PUBLICATIONS WIN COMMUNICATOR AWARDS

DALLAS (May 3, 2012) — Dallas Safari Club (DSC) publications have earned special recognition from The Communicator Awards, a marketing and advertising industry association.

In its annual competition, The Communicator Awards receives thousands of entries from across the U.S. and around the world, making it the largest and most competitive awards program honoring creative excellence of communications professionals.

DSC entered four publications in the 2012 competition.

Game Trails, DSC's quarterly full-color magazine, received the highest honor, Award of Excellence, as well as Awards of Distinction in two categories. The submitted issue, the DSC Convention 2012 edition with Craig Bone's striking leopard painting "Camo" on its cover, was judged by a panel of leading visual arts, media and marketing professionals and received the Award of Excellence for overall design.

The DSC newsletter, Camp Talk, garnered an Award of Distinction. The submitted December 2011 edition with "Jeremy's Hunt" as the cover story, merited an Award of Distinction in the non-profit newsletter category.

Two "Out of the Wild" 2012 convention marketing and registration pieces received Awards of Distinction.

The full list of winners is available at www.communicatorawards.com.

Game Trails and Camp Talk are DSC membership publications. To receive these award-winning publications, join DSC at www.biggame.org.

The trophy for the Award of Excellence, along with the Award of Distinction certificates, will be displayed in the DSC headquarters.

Kendal Hemphill, winner of EIC Category Nine, continued his winning ways with a First Place in Category 10, Outdoor Column/Opinion Writing. Here's his winning submission — which is anything but submissive — as published in the September 2011 issue of Texas Fish & Game.

Throwing the Good Book at PETA

Kendal Hemphill

A PETA MEMBER came across one of my old columns recently, got his socks in a wad, and decided to set me straight. He called me and let me know what a Horrible Person I am because I said Jesus wasn't a vegetarian. I think he got so much spittle in his phone, he will have to replace it.

This episode started because PETA has a section on their website that claims Jesus was a vegetarian. When I saw that I began emailing the PETA people, asking them to explain. They would not, but they referred me back to their site, where they had a lot of 'evidence' they had collected from people like rabbis and 'religious scholars' who claimed that when God said, in Genesis 9, that He was giving man the animals to use for food, He did not intend for that to be permanent. The reasoning was vague, but that was the gist of it.

So, I wrote a column about how there is no evidence to back up their claims, and how Jesus was a Jew who perfectly followed the Law of Moses all His life, and to do that He had to eat meat at some of the Jewish feasts, including the Passover. Which is all true, but PETA never responded. One person wrote to tell me that Jesus did not eat any of the fish He miraculously provided for thousands of people on at least two occasions. That may be true, but since I didn't bring it up, I didn't find it particularly relevant.

But the guy who called recently was livid. He said Jesus cared for all the creatures. He said Jesus was compassionate. He said Jesus could not have eaten meat, since He cared and was compassionate. At least I think that was what he said. I had to hold the phone away from my head, to keep his vehemence from damaging my eardrums.

So I tried to talk to the guy about the incident in Acts 10, where Peter was shown a vision from heaven, including animals that Jews were not allowed to eat, and he was told to kill and eat them. That didn't work, either. The guy said that was just an example to let Peter know it was OK to offer the gospel to the Gentiles. Which is true. But God was using something Peter would understand to illustrate His point, and Peter understood killing and eating.

The guy on the phone didn't agree. He said that was just a vi-

sion, not actual killing and eating, so it didn't count. So I decided to try one more time, before the FCC got wind of this guy's language and cut our connection.

I asked the guy if he had read I Timothy Chapter 4 recently. He had not. So I pointed out that at the beginning of that chapter, Paul warned Timothy about PETA. The guy didn't like that, not one little bit. It was a good five minutes before he quieted down enough for me to go on.

Paul didn't mention PETA specifically, but he did warn about people "speaking lies in hypocrisy," and "commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. For every creature of God is good, and nothing is to be refused if it is received with thanksgiving."

Well, that went over like a lead balloon, too. I guess people just don't appreciate it when you prove to them their opinions are 100 percent wrong. The guy claimed I was trying to twist the Bible around and make it say something it doesn't. I'm still unclear on what he meant, but there you go.

This column is not a religious platform, but when people try to use God to advance their attacks on hunting and fishing, they need to be corrected. It needs to be done calmly and nicely, but it needs to be done. And we all need to know exactly where to find the proof that will refute the false claims of the antis.

Whether we believe in God is our own business, but those who try to use our beliefs against us have an obligation to tell the truth. The PETA agenda is ludicrous in its entirety, but using false religious claims to defraud the public is reprehensible. That kind of propaganda is inexcusable.

The folks at PETA don't really believe Jesus was a vegetarian, or that God doesn't want us to eat meat. They just lie about it, to try to control the rest of us. They are The Bad Guys, not because there's anything wrong with vegetarianism - there isn't. What's wrong is spreading false information to force people into an erroneous conclusion.

The truth (John 8:32) will set you free. But it won't set you free from getting angry calls from people who don't know the truth.

Whether we believe in God is our own business, but those who try to use our beliefs against us have an obligation to tell the truth. The PETA agenda is ludicrous in its entirety, but using false religious claims to defraud the public is reprehensible. That kind of propaganda is inexcusable.

INITIATIVE MAKES AN ADDITIONAL 2,000 RODS AND REELS AVAILABLE FOR U.S. MILITARY FAMILIES

Take Me Fishing, Sierra Club Water Sentinels, Military Fish & Wildlife Association, and Zebco Launch Distribution Program

ALEXANDRIA, Va., (May 16, 2012) — Military families across the United States are now eligible to receive more than 2,000 additional free rods and reels thanks to a national program for those interested in engaging in the sport of fishing.

The Rods and Reels Program is made possible by the Recreational Boating & Fishing Foundation's (RBFF) Take Me Fishing campaign, the Sierra Club Water Sentinels, the National Military Fish & Wildlife Association (NMFWA) and Zebco, America's largest manufacturer of rods and reels. Program sponsors encourage all interested military installations to submit a request to take part in the latest distribution, which is available now.

Since the program's launch, more than 120,000 youth on 90 military bases have benefitted from the distribution of nearly 3,000 refurbished rods and reels. The Sentinels and NMFWA first teamed up to distribute fishing gear to select military bases in 2009. The partnership was enhanced in 2010 when RBFF connected the Sentinels with Zebco's refurbished rods and reels program.

"Fishing, more than any other water-related activity, has the most lasting effect on future outdoor and healthy lifestyle activities," said Tim Guilfoile, Deputy Director, Sierra Club Water Sentinels. "We are happy to assist in providing recreational opportunities to children who reside with their families on military installations throughout the U.S."

"It's a pleasure to partner with the Sentinels, NMFWA and Zebco each year to support military families nationwide," said RBFF President and CEO Frank Peterson. "Our goal is to get youth outdoors and on the water by giving them the tools they need to experience fishing first-hand."

Since 2007, RBFF's Take Me Fishing campaign has played a critical role in introducing 3.6 million youth and newcomers to boating and fishing as well as helping generate nearly \$30 million for state conservation efforts. The campaign increases awareness of the need to protect, conserve and restore the nation's aquatic resources by encouraging participation in recreational boating and fishing.

Military bases interested in receiving rods and reels donations may contact Tim Guilfoile, Deputy Director, Sierra Club Water Sentinels, directly at tim.guilfoile@sierraclub.org. The request should include the number of rods and reels needed and details regarding how the equipment will be used. Shipping address and contact information are also required.

To see photos from Rods and Reels events throughout the country, visit www.Facebook.com/TakeMeFishing. To learn more about the program or to donate your own rods and reels, visit www.sierraclub.org/watersentinels.

RBFF is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to increase participation in recreational angling and boating, thereby

protecting and restoring the nation's aquatic natural resources. RBFF helps people discover, share and protect the legacy of boating and fishing through national outreach programs including the Take Me Fishing campaign and Anglers' Legacy™.

For further information on the Rods and Reels Program, contact Stephanie Vatalaro, RBFF at (703) 778-5156 or via email at svatalaro@rbff.org, or contact Tim Guilfoile, Sierra Club, at (859) 426-1978 or via email at tim.guilfoile@sierraclub.org.



TOP: A Camp Pendleton Marine and two girls enjoy an outing made possible by the Rods and Reels Program. ABOVE: A Marine and two youngsters pause to say thanks during a Lake O'Neill Recreational Park Fishing Derby held at Camp Pendleton. Since the Rods and Reels program's launch, more than 120,000 youth on 90 military bases have benefitted from the distribution of nearly 3,000 refurbished rods and reels. Photos courtesy of the Recreational Boating & Fishing Foundation.

Free Videos for Schools on Firearm Safety and Conservation from NSSF

NEWTOWN, Conn. — The National Shooting Sports Foundation is offering schools the opportunity to receive — free of charge — educational videos about firearm safety and wildlife conservation.

The firearm safety videos help teach students how to react when encountering a firearm in an unsupervised situation. The conservation titles educate students on how wildlife and wild lands are protected, and how hunters support this effort with contributions amounting to more than \$1 billion annually.

NSSF believes all teachers and their students, whether in public, private or home schools, can benefit from the important messages in the videos, which are contained on two DVDs. Both the Firearm Safety DVD and Conservation DVD can be ordered online. The three separate videos contained on each DVD can be previewed online as well.

The Firearm Safety DVD offers these three videos: “McGruff the Crime Dog on Gun Safety” for students in kindergarten through grade 6, “It’s Your Call: Playing It Safe Around Guns” for students in grades 6 through 9 and “Firearms Safety Depends on You,” which covers the ten commandments of gun safety and is for audiences of all ages. The first two titles help teach students how to respond if should they encounter a firearm in an unsupervised situation at school, at home or at a friend’s home.



The Conservation DVD contains “Wildlife for Tomorrow,” which is designed for students in grades 4 through 7, and two other videos, “The Unendangered Species” and “What They Say About Hunting,” which are for students in grades 7 through 12. “Wildlife for Tomorrow” and “The Unendangered Species” tell the story of how game animals such as the wild turkey, white-tailed deer and Rocky Mountain elk were once endangered and have been restored to abundance. “What They Say About Hunting” takes a close look at hunting and its relevance today through a pro-and-con debate.

Teachers in more than 100,000 schools nationwide have shown these videos to students in their classrooms and praised them for handling the topics with sensitivity.

Order or preview the free videos online at <http://www.nssf.org/education/video.cfm>.

The National Shooting Sports Foundation is the trade association for the firearms industry. Its mission is to promote, protect and preserve hunting and the shooting sports. Formed in 1961, NSSF has a membership of more than 7,000 manufacturers, distributors, firearms retailers, shooting ranges, sportsmen’s organizations and publishers. For more information, visit nssf.org or contact Bill Brassard, Jr. at (203) 426-1320.

Abu Garcia Low Profile Max Series Gets Serious Upgrade

Abu Garcia’s MAX family of reels — a favorite enjoyed by many anglers — have been upgraded with a smoother feel and improved performance. The series includes the Pro Max, the Silver Max and the Black Max, shown here.

All redesigns feature more compact ergonomic design, new cosmetics and updated gear ratios.

Upgrades to the 7.9-ounce Black Max include the compact bent handle, star drag and recessed reel foot. Retained features include 4+1 stainless steel bearings, MagTrax brake system and Power Disk drag. The gear ratio is now 6.4:1.

The Black Max retails for \$49.95.

For more information, contact Matt Rice at Blue Heron Communications at matt@blueheroncomm.com.



ABU GARCIA LOW PROFILE BLACK MAX



Chevy, FLW and NASCAR Join Forces to Launch “Fish Like a Winner” Sweepstakes

In conjunction with FLW and NASCAR champion Tony Stewart, Chevy has launched the “Fish Like a Winner” sweepstakes for bass-fishing and racing fans. The contest, which runs through Aug. 31, is free to enter and features three fantastic prizes for the Grand Prize winner.

The winning entrant will receive a brand new 2013 4-Wheel Drive Chevy Silverado LTZ Crew Cab valued at more than \$50,000, a fishing trip with Tony Stewart on Oct. 3 at Stewart’s home in Columbus, Ind., and a trip to the FLW Tour Open in Lake Wheeler in Decatur, Ala., from Sept. 21-24 to fish with one of the FLW Tour Chevy pro team anglers. Entrants can register at ChevyOutdoors.com, at participating FLW Tour events, or via mail-in.

For details, contact TOWA Supporting Member Liaison Chad Gay of FLW Outdoors at cgay@flwoutdoors.com or visit flwoutdoors.com.



Brownells-sponsored Noveske Shooting Team members Rob Romero, Janson Jones and substitute Clint Upchurch.

BROWNELLS-SPONSORED SHOOTERS WIN MATCH ONE OF COLT 3 MAN 3-GUN SERIES

THE NOVESKE SHOOTING TEAM, sponsored by Brownells, claimed the top spot in the first match of the prestigious, Colt 3 Man 3-Gun Championship Series. Team members Rob Romero, Jansen Jones, and substitute Clint Upchurch, out-shot more than 65 teams from across North America.

Held in Topton, Penn., on May 20, 2012, match one was the opener of the prestigious, two-match series, which crowns the Nation's top 3-gun shooting team.

The team now sets their sights on July 14-15, 2012 and the Peacemaker National Training Center in West Virginia — the site of the final round. The winners, who will receive a \$6,000 cash prize courtesy of Colt Manufacturing, will be determined by the highest combined point total.

"We're incredibly proud of the Noveske Shooting Team," said Pete Brownell, President/CEO of Brownells. "They're great competitors and sportsmen. Congratulations to them on their outstanding performance in match one, and we wish them the best of luck in West Virginia."

Upchurch, a professional shooter for Colt, is filling in for Team Noveske's Katie Harris, who was unable to attend.

At Brownells everything is guaranteed period! ... Forever, 100 percent, with no restocking fees. Founded in 1939, Brownells supplies more than 75,000 firearms parts, accessories, reloading components, gunsmithing tools, and ammunition to armors, gunsmiths, and shooters worldwide. Brownells provides free tech help and there's no minimum order size or small order fees. To place an order, or for more information, call (800) 741-0015 or visit www.brownells.com.

Extreme Wildlife Day Coming to Bass Pro Shops Pearland

ARE THERE COUGARS IN THE HOUSTON AREA AND IN THE PINEYWOODS OF EAST TEXAS?

What about the mysterious "black panthers" so frequently reported to wildlife officials?

These questions and others will be addressed at Extreme Wildlife Day a free event to be held at Bass Pro Shops in Pearland 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Sat June 30.

"I'm a wildlife extremist which means my interest leans toward creatures that are dangerous, large and mysterious. My partner Terri Werner and I are putting together a special event to celebrate our new Web radio program, 'Extreme Wildlife Radio' and to celebrate the most exciting representatives of the animal kingdom," said award-winning author/lecturer Chester Moore.

The event will feature seminars on the aforementioned mystery cats as well as a special one on a legendary nature film.

"The Legend of Boggy Creek scared moviegoers 40 years ago and to celebrate this quasi-documentary's anniversary, we have Jerry Hestand of the Texas Bigfoot Research Conservancy coming to talk about the facts behind the film," Moore said.

The event will also feature real life wild creatures from TWRC Wildlife Center and Pets-A-Plenty: Ultimate Reptile Shop along with other educational displays.

"This is an event for the whole family and whether you are someone who wants more information about a cougar encounter or you are a kid who wants to see a snake or another animal up close, this is the event for you," Werner said.

Known for starring in Animal Planet's "Growing up Tiger", Werner is facility director for Tiger Creek Wildlife Refuge and is excited about reaching out to others with an interest in wildlife.

"We're so excited about this new Web radio show which airs at www.extremewildlife.com beginning June 30 that we wanted to kick it off in a special way. Every kid who comes by our booth will get a big cat photo print and we will put everyone who comes in and signs up for our mailing list in a special drawing for a wild cat research trip with Chester and I and an exclusive behind the scenes tour of Tiger Creek. But you must be present to win," she said.

Moore said sharks, snakes and big cats reach across demographic lines and are a big draw for youth.

"It is super hard to get a kid in a deer blind these days but you can definitely get them interested in these extreme animals. I have taught classes on this subject during college summer youth outreach and at my church and I know the impact it makes. Extreme Wildlife Day and Extreme Wildlife Radio is for kids and kids at heart," Moore said.

"You see, I am still very much the little boy that looked at the Gulf of Mexico off the 61st St. Pier in Galveston and was blown away at the possibilities of what might be out there," he continued.

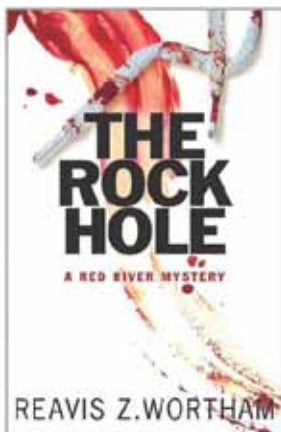
"To this day I ponder the same thing every time I drive by a set of woods or fish in the Gulf. If growing up means losing that level of enthusiasm and curiosity then I plan on staying a kid forever."

For more information on Extreme Wildlife Day go to www.extremewildlife.com.



TOWA member Chester Moore, left, with a 13-foot alligator and Terri Werner, facility director for Tiger Creek Wildlife Refuge, are hosting the Bass Pro Shops event to promote their new Web-based radio program, "Extreme Wildlife Radio."

The Rock Hole by Reavis Z. Wortham Named as Finalist for Prestigious National Benjamin Franklin Award



Scottsdale, Ariz. – Poisoned Pen Press announced that *The Rock Hole* by TOWA member Reavis Z. Wortham has been named one of three finalists for the 2012 Benjamin Franklin Award™—Mystery/Suspense category.

Named for America's most cherished publisher, the Benjamin Franklin Awards is a national juried awards program now in its 24th year. Sponsored by the Independent Book Publishers Association (IBPA), the Benjamin Franklin Awards program recognizes excellence in independent

publishing. Judges include librarians, book critics, retail and wholesale buyers, and other industry experts.

The 2012 Benjamin Franklin Awards will be presented during a ceremony on Monday evening, June 4, 2012 at the Marriott Marquis Hotel in New York City.

The Rock Hole, the first release in the Red River Mystery Series, was chosen as one of the 12 best novels of 2011 by Kirkus Reviews and hailed as "a series to watch" by Publishers Weekly. Poisoned Pen Press will release *Burrows*, the second Red River Mystery by Reavis Z. Wortham, in July.

Jessica Tribble, Publisher at Poisoned Pen Press commented, "We are thrilled to have *The Rock Hole* selected as one of three finalists for the coveted Benjamin Franklin Award. As an independent publisher, it is an honor to be recognized by the Benjamin Franklin Awards, an award that celebrates excellence in independent publishing. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Reavis Wortham and all of the other finalists."

A native of Texas, Reavis Z. Wortham is an award-winning writer and photographer, a humor editor and frequent contributor to *Texas Fish & Game Magazine*. Reavis writes on everything from fishing to deer hunting and his work has appeared in *American Cowboy* and *Texas Sporting Journal*. A retired educator of 35 years, he and wife Shana live in Frisco, Texas. He is also the author of *Doreen's 24 HR Eat Gas Now Café*. Visit Reavis Z. Wortham online at: www.reaviszwortham.com.

Founded in 1997, Poisoned Pen Press is one of the country's leading independent mystery book publishers. Poisoned Pen Press is an independent publisher specializing in the highest quality mystery books. Based in Scottsdale, Arizona, Poisoned Pen Press is one of the largest publishers of hardcover mysteries in the world. Visit the new Poisoned Pen Press author blog and "Discover Mystery™" at www.poisonedpenpress.com.

Members of the news media wishing to request additional information may contact Maryglenn McCombs at (615) 297-9875 or via email at maryglenn@maryglenn.com.

Two-Time TOWA Scholarship Winner and New Active Member Abernathy Published in *Texas Parks & Wildlife*

Congratulations to Matthew Abernathy, whose article "The Saga of the Heartbreak Turtle" was published in the "Scout" section of *Texas Parks & Wildlife* magazine's April 2012 issue.

Abernathy, who is working on a Master's degree in Marine Resource Management at TAMU-Galveston, 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.

Previously, Abernathy has written articles and editorials published in local newspapers such as the *Galveston Daily News* and the *Cypress Log*. In this article, Abernathy reports on a documentary, *The Heartbreak Turtle Today*, about Kemp's ridley sea turtles, the most endangered species of sea turtle, and conservation efforts spanning the 30 years since the original documentary, *The Heartbreak Turtle*.

The article can be found in the magazine's archives at http://www.tpwmagazine.com/archive/2012/apr/scout1_turtle/.



Matthew Abernathy conducts a presentation at Jesse H. Jones Park and Nature Center.



CALENDAR

May 19, 2012 – Beginning on this date, active duty military personnel and dependents with proper identification (CAC Card or DD Form 1173) are eligible to receive the Free Annual Pass for Military to all national parks and federal recreational lands.

June 1- July 10 – The 2012 Gulf of Mexico red snapper federal recreational harvest season opens June 1 and is scheduled to close July 10 in federal waters. In Texas — the only Gulf Coast state with an open season to date — the season remains open year round within nine nautical miles, with a four-fish limit per person and a 15-inch minimum.

June 2-10 – National Fishing and Boating Week. Further information is available at takemefishing.org and at rbff.mediaroom.com.

June 28-July 1 – Texas Wildlife Association's Annual Convention – WildLife 2012, San Antonio, Texas. For information about WildLife 2012, contact David Brimager at (210) 826-2904 or dbrimager@texas-wildlife.org.

July 11-13 – ICAST 2012 in Orlando, Fla. Obtain media credentials by registering at icastfishing.org/icast-press-room. Contact Mary Jane Williamson, Communications Director, at (703) 519-9691, x227 for more information.

TOWA MEMBER ZAIGLIN GARNERS 2012 DEER MANAGEMENT CAREER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Bob Zaiglin, Department Chair of the Wildlife Management program at Southwest Texas Junior College, was recently awarded the prestigious Deer Management Career Achievement Award at the 35th Annual Southeast Deer Group Meeting held in Sandestin, Florida earlier this year.

Zaiglin was recognized for his outstanding contributions to the understanding of white-tailed deer ecology and management in the southeastern United States.

The award is given for activities conducted within the member states of the SE Section of The Wildlife Society and the states of Missouri, Texas, Delaware, Maryland, and West Virginia.

In the previous year, Zaiglin was awarded the 2011 Outstanding achievement award by The Texas Chapter Of The Wildlife Society.



TOWA Team Represents Our Organization at Operation Game Thief Clay Stoppers Fundraiser

A team of elite scattergunners from the ranks of the Texas Outdoor Writers Association clawed their way to the top of the Media category (despite being the only entry in the Media category) at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Operation Game Thief Clay Stoppers Fundraiser held May 18 at the Capital City Skeet and Trap Club in Austin. The event was hosted by Joe McBride, a loyal and long-standing supporter of OGT and TPWD's Law Enforcement Division.

Racking up a score of 155 out of 250 targets, the crackerjack TOWA team comprised Board Chairman John Goodspeed; President-Elect TJ Greaney; Board Member Bob Hood; and TOWA Members James Stewart and Ralph Winingham. Three hundred and twenty-five people attended the fundraising event, with 233 shooters competing. In the University & College category, retired UT Austin coach David McWilliams' team was bested (as in previous years) by the R.C. Slocum-led Texas A&M shooters, to the delight of Governor Rick Perry, who attended the event.

The day's efforts raised more than \$50,000 to further the mission of Operation Game Thief, according to TPWD's Louis Rather.

Future Clay Stoppers Shoutouts will be held on October 5 at Jake's Clays in Midland, Texas, and on October 12 at the National Shooting Complex in San Antonio. Visit ogttx.com for further details.



Besting the competition in a category with no other competitors, members of the top team in the Media Category at the Operation Game Thief Clay Stoppers Fundraising Event held on May 18 at the Capital City Skeet and Trap Club in Austin are, from left, President-Elect TJ Greaney, Board Chairman John Goodspeed, members James Stewart and Ralph Winingham, and Board Member Bob Hood (demonstrating that, when donned with the appropriate élan, a Home Depot canvas nail sack makes a dashing fashion statement as a shell bag).