

TOWA

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

TOWA PRESIDENT'S REPORT

TOWA Bylaws Changes Need to Follow Established Process, Involve All Members

David Sikes, TOWA President

Evidently the board of directors' efforts to update and improve the bylaws will have to wait.

Thanks are due to Larry LeBlanc and others who pointed out language in the bylaws that prohibits changing the bylaws without a vote at "the" annual meeting rather than "an" annual business meeting, as the Board of Directors had originally interpreted.

Not to worry, we are still on track.

BYLAWS NOT UPDATED SINCE ADVENT OF INTERNET

But first we must propose the necessary change in the bylaws that will allow TOWA to more expeditiously make changes to what I characterize as an archaic document that was well-meaning when composed but crafted well before advances in technology we use in everyday life were invented.

I see no reason why membership votes must occur only at the annual conference. Being able to act more swiftly than once a year will allow our organization to move ahead and more fully take advantage of the dramatic advances in communication technology since the bylaws were penned. If you disagree with this, you will have an opportunity to vote your conscience on this.

When this rule was adopted, TOWA had fewer members and communication technology moved much more slowly.

Satisfying the two-thirds requirement for a membership vote was easy then, as the organization was much smaller. Today, we have 100 active members.

A two-thirds majority at the annual conference is near impossible, based on attendance. Even among the members attending the conference, attendance at the annual business meeting is, well, to say the least, disappointing. We wish to create an easier way to get input from all TOWA members.

The Board believes it is necessary to allow some kind of proxy vote or electronic voting system to provide proper representation

on issues. At the very least, TOWA should be allowed to make changes by referendum through a mail-in ballot and not exclusively at the annual conference.

OPTION FOR MAIL-IN BALLOT OR CONFERENCE VOTE

Simplicity is our goal. But streamlining the process should by no means be misinterpreted as changing the rules of this institution by whim or without careful consideration.

Again, you may disagree. And you will have an opportunity to express this view by casting your vote. I cannot impress upon members enough the importance of this vote and subsequent votes. This is not a time for apathy. If you feel strongly about any of this, please tell us. But please do not choose to tell us nothing.

As part of this process, adoption or rejection of the proposed Executive Director duties also must be put on hold. It would be unfair to conduct an employment search when we do not know what the position looks like. So while we still must replace Larry LeBlanc at his request, we cannot hire his replacement until we have the Executive Director duties firmly written into the bylaws.

I apologize to the Executive Director candidates for this necessary inconvenience.

As always, if you have questions, concerns or suggestions about this process or any other TOWA issues, please do not hesitate to contact me or the other board members.

The TOWA Board serves at your pleasure and we welcome your guidance.

Toward the end of 2012, you will receive a ballot in the mail. The deadline for submitting mail-in ballots will be one month prior to the conference. If you elect not to vote by mail, please plan to attend the upcoming conference in Galveston, where we will conduct a formal vote at the annual business meeting. If you vote by mail-in ballot, please do not vote again at the conference. Let's make this as simple and fair as possible.

TOWA OFFICERS, BOARD

PRESIDENT
David Sikes (361) 886-3616
sikesd@caller.com

PRESIDENT-ELECT
TJ Greaney (512) 789-3838
tj@countrylinemagazine.com

TREASURER
Bill E. Mills (281) 448-5811
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

BOARD MEMBERS

BOARD CHAIRMAN
John Goodspeed (210) 573-7460
john@johngoodspeed.com

Susan Ebert (2013) (512) 431-2013
susanebertink@gmail.com

Cody Greaney (2014) (512) 576-2200
cody@texasoutdoorzone.com

Kendal Hemphill (2013) (325) 347-6440
jeep@verizon.net

Bob Hood (2015) (817) 228-5952
bobhoodoutdoors@yahoo.com

Judy Bishop Jurek (2014) (979) 541-7776
redhawkconsulting@yahoo.com

Peggy York (2012) (210) 647-7053
peggy.york@sbcglobal.net

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN
David Sikes (361) 886-3616
sikesd@caller.com

CONFERENCE PROGRAM CO-CHAIRMAN
TJ Greaney (512) 789-3838
tj@countrylinemagazine.com

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

MEMBERSHIP
Bob Hood (817) 228-5952
bobhoodoutdoors@yahoo.com

SITE SELECTION
Jonette Childs (361) 729-0239
saltex@pyramid3.net

AUCTIONS
TJ Greaney (512) 789-3838
tj@countrylinemagazine.com

EIC AWARDS
Kendal Hemphill (325) 347-6440
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 Susan L. Ebert. Layout by SusanEbertink, SusanEbertink@gmail.com. Contributors are urged to submit material by the 15th of each month. For advertising information, contact Susan L. Ebert at (512) 431-2013 or SusanEbertink@gmail.com. TOWA News is emailed to members and mailed first class, if requested, from Porter, Texas. 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.



COVERING TEXAS CONSERVATION HISTORY *Resources for Outdoor Writers*

In August, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department posted on its website a trove of historic photos, magazine articles, and research reports that yield a fascinating look at hunting, fishing and fish and wildlife conservation in the early-to-mid-1900s. For those willing to look back, these show how things have changed, but also how many of the same pressing issues are still with us today.

On the department's web home page, click the little News link in the middle of the page. Then on the left click News Roundups, then select the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration link. Here'll you find a narrative story or news release at the top, followed by links to historic photos and documents.

All this material was posted to help writers cover the 75th Anniversary of WSFR in 2013. This vital federal funding source has helped pay for almost every important conservation achievement in Texas, starting in 1937, when Congress passed the Pittman-Robertson Federal Aid to Wildlife Restoration Act. The law levies an 11 percent excise tax on rifles, shotguns, ammunition and archery equipment and a 10 percent tax on handguns. In 1950, Congress passed the Dingell-Johnson Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act, mandating a similar excise tax on fishing rods and related equipment.

On the News Roundup web page, note the 1940s and 50s articles from *Texas Fish and Game* magazine, precursor to today's *Texas Parks & Wildlife* magazine. Stories here about pronghorn, quail and Black Gap Wildlife Management Area reflect the earliest use of federal aid dollars in Texas.

Below the magazine articles, you'll see wildlife restoration reports. Files like "1938-1953 Wildlife Restoration Spending By Species" reveal how Texas first used what was then a brand new federal funding source. The file "1945-1953 WMA Land Acquisitions" shows early use of WSFR dollars to buy land to create WMAs for wildlife research, hunting and fishing.

The News Images link offers photos of Sierra Diablo, Texas' first WMA, plus images showing early pronghorn and deer restoration work and other topics.

These online resources are the tip of the iceberg. At TPWD headquarters, we've assembled more than 2,000 pages of historic reports from the Texas State Archives. The Wildlife Division also has cabinets full of early reports, some featuring original 8"x10" black and white photos, maps and charts.

Look through this, and you'll find people who did the early spade work to bring back fish and game in our state, some of whom have been called conservation heroes. One example is Dan Lay, one of the earliest Wildlife Restoration Program leaders in Texas, author of two magazine articles mentioned above, and of the award-winning book "Land of Bears and Honey." (See the Texas Legacy Project entry about Lay at <http://www.texaslegacy.org/bb/narrators/laydan.html>).

For help with any of this, feel free to contact Mike Cox at mike.cox@tpwd.state.tx.us or (512) 389-8046, or Tom Harvey at tom.harvey@tpwd.state.tx.us or (512) 389-4453. They will be happy to help you in your efforts to cover the 75th Anniversary of WSFR this fall, to shed light on our past, and to help ensure that current generations understand the role of hunters, anglers and boaters in keeping our outdoor heritage alive.



August 27, 2012

Welcome Conference Attendees.

As Executive Director of the Galveston Park Board of Trustees and the Galveston Island Convention & Visitors Bureau it is my pleasure to officially welcome the Texas Outdoor Writers Association to Galveston Island February 14-16, 2013.

On behalf of the Park Board and CVB we hope you have a memorable and enjoyable time on beautiful Galveston Island.

Galveston's attractions range from historic and intriguing to modern and adventurous. Visit one of the magnificent historic homes, or shop in the historic downtown and arts district. Spend time in our unique attractions like Moody Gardens and Schlitterbahn Waterpark, or visit the one-of-a-kind museums; Lone Star Flight Museum, Ocean Star Offshore Drilling Rig & Museum, 1877 Tall Ship Ellisa and The Texas Seaport Museum. We also have an array Eco-Tourism options that feature our birding, kayaking and nature trails on the Gulf Coast.

Please enjoy the Island's warm breezes and year-round temperate seas, bask in the sun on our renowned beaches, and absorb the rich history and unique beauty Galveston has to offer.

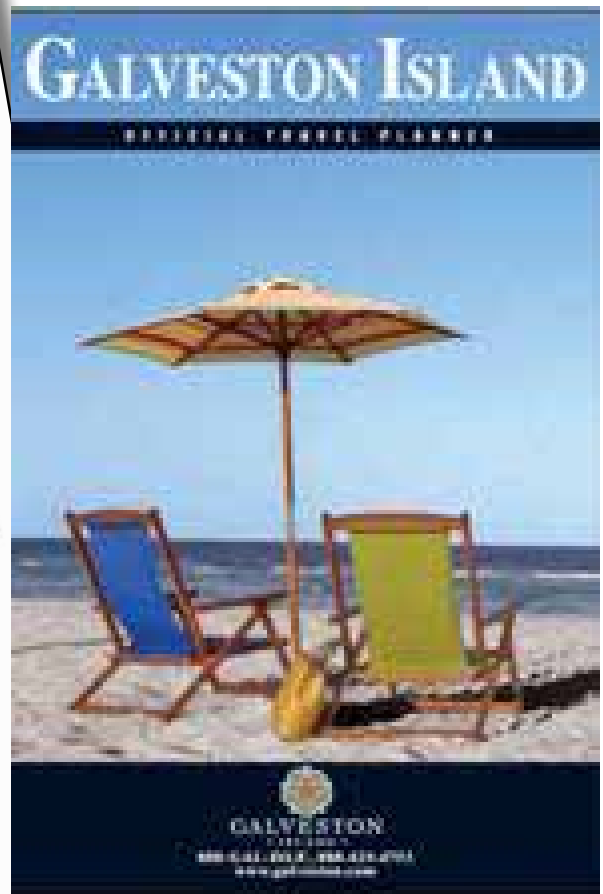
We look forward to having you here in February.

Sincerely,

Kelly de Shain

Executive Director

Galveston Park Board of Trustees and Convention & Visitors Bureau



Mark Your Calendar for Galveston!



The 2013 TOWA Annual Conference, to be held Feb. 14 - 16 in Galveston, promises to be productive, educational and replete with plenty of outdoor activities and fun.

The Hilton at the San Luis Resort is going to be a fantastic host hotel. Honored with the prestigious AAA Four Diamond Award in 2009, the hotel presents first-class accommodations and excellent service. In addition to ample meeting room, there is an outdoor Jacuzzi, a pool with a seasonal swim-up bar, an on-site fitness facility and a variety of dining options. The sleeping rooms are well-appointed, clean and comfortable.

At the Great Storm Theater you can see showings of The Pirate Island of Jean Lafitte, as well as an unforgettable film about the great storm of 1900. Harbor tours, carriage rides, ghost hunting and ample opportunities to shop 'til you drop provide something for everyone. Last, but not least, everyone should plan to visit the new Galveston Island Historic Pleasure Pier.

Fishing, birding, wildlife and scenic photo opps abound for TOWA photographers, and the restaurants and shops around the city will beckon those who wish to indulge in more "citized" activities.

The San Luis Pass is not far south of the city. Be sure to bring a rod and reel and set aside some time to get out on the water.

2013 TOWA ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN GALVESTON



BREAKING WAVES



1900 STORM MEMORIAL



BISHOP'S PALACE



THE COLONEL STEAMBOAT



BLACK SKIMMERS IN FLIGHT



SEAFOOD CUISINE

2013 TOWA ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN GALVESTON



MOODY MANSION



TALL SHIP ELISSA



SMOOTH TONY'S



PIER 21



THE STRAND



DOLPHIN STATUE ON SEAWALL



PLEASURE PIER AT NIGHT

OUTDOOR INDUSTRY GIANT, OWAA PRESIDENT MIKE WALKER DIES AT 64

Beloved Friend, Leader and Innovator

It is with heavy heart that the Outdoor Writers Association of America shares the news of OWAA President Mike Walker's passing. A member of the Outdoor Writers Association of America since 1989, Walker was a leader and innovator in the outdoors field. Walker died the morning of Aug. 16, surrounded by his family at a hospice facility near his home in Scottsdale, Ariz. He was 64.

"The [non-alcoholic cirrhosis of the liver] just got to be too much to battle," Walker's wife Mary wrote on the family's CaringBridge website. "As if everyone knew last night would be his last, the whole family came over to have a family dinner and to be with him ... Everyone knew the end was in sight and were able to say their goodbyes."

The Walker Agency, which Walker formed in 1982, specialized in representing outdoor recreation clients including long-time OWAA supporters Toyota Motor Sales, Safari Club International, Yamaha Motor Corp., BoatU.S. and many others. Walker produced and wrote for two nationally syndicated radio programs, "The World of Ducks Unlimited," and "Toyota Outdoors." He also wrote a monthly marketing column for Soundings Trade Only magazine, the leading marine industry publication, plus freelance articles in Boat and Motor Dealer and Boating World magazines.

"Mike was a true pro who worked his heart out for his clients," said Mark Taylor, OWAA first vice president. "This is a guy who, when he was working with Toyota, showed up at an OWAA conference with a Prius, and that was the car all those truck-driving outdoorsmen ended up talking about. He was that good."

"Mike was one of the most honest men I knew. And he knew his products extremely well," said Jim Foster, OWAA colleague and friend.

Walker was elected OWAA vice president and joined OWAA's executive committee in 2008. In 2011, the OWAA board of directors unanimously elected him president, a position he held at the time of his death. Walker previously served two terms on OWAA's board in addition to serving many OWAA committees over the years. He also received numerous OWAA Excellence in Craft contest awards.

Walker was involved in communications his entire life. In high school, he hosted a weekly radio report and wrote for the student newspaper. He then became sports editor for the Kansas University Daily Kansan and a stringer for the Topeka Capital-Journal and Kansas City Star. After graduating from The University of Kansas's journalism school in 1969, he did two overseas tours as a Naval officer before earning a master's degree and teaching journalism at Fort Hays State University in Kansas. In his post-academic life, Walker held positions as editorial services manager for Johnson Outboards and public relations manager for Armour-Dial before launching his own firm.

"From the moment I joined OWAA, Mike offered me mentorship and friendship and shared his inimitable sense



Walker Agency Founder/President and OWAA President Mike Walker

of humor," said OWAA Executive Committee member Katie McKalip, director of media relations with the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, an OWAA supporter. "He left this world far too soon, but his influence and legacy will be long remembered and widely respected."

Walker's professional affiliations were far-reaching. He received several industry awards, including the Crystal Award of Excellence in The Communicator Awards 2007 International Print Media competition. He was a life member and past president of the Southeastern Outdoor Press Association, and member of Boating Writers International, the Automotive Press Association, and the Phoenix Automotive Press Association. He also served as secretary of the Outdoor Journalism Education Foundation of America.

"He taught me more about producing radio shows in a few short years than I'd have learned on my own in twice that amount of time, and he was always quick to respond to any questions I had," said Ty Stockton, a fellow radio host and OWAA member. "He was a mentor, for sure, but more than that, he was a friend."

"As a member of the OWAA Board of Directors and later as an officer, Mike was always there to lend a hand and provided sage advice and sound counsel," said OWAA Past President Tony Dolle. "As OWAA president, I often called on Mike for advice because of his vast experience in all things media related and he never hesitated to provide well-thought-out answer."

"It's a sad day for OWAA and the other media organizations Mike belonged to, but a sadder day for those of us whose lives he touched," Dolle said. "I can truly say I am a better person for having known Mike and a lucky one to have called him friend."

HUNTER NUMBERS UP 9 PERCENT BETWEEN 2006 AND 2011, PRELIMINARY NATIONAL REPORT SHOWS

NEWTOWN, Conn. — The number of hunters age 16 and older in the United States increased 9 percent between 2006 and 2011, reversing a previous downward trend, a preliminary report from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and Department of the Interior shows.

Preliminary figures show an increase from 12.5 million hunters in 2006 to 13.7 million in 2011. Final data will be included in the upcoming USFWS 2011 National Survey Report. USFWS has conducted a national survey every five years since 1955, with the last being the 2006 National Survey, released in 2007.

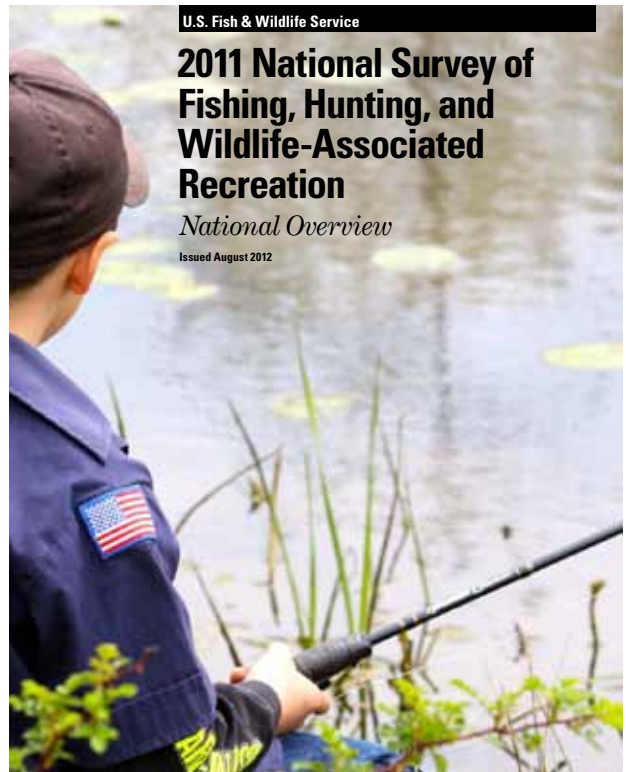
“This increase in hunters mirrors what our members are telling us — strong sales to an expanding consumer base,” said Steve Sanetti, president of the National Shooting Sports Foundation, the trade association for the firearms, ammunition, hunting and shooting sports industry. “There is increased interest in firearm ownership — from customers new to the market to existing customers looking for the newest products. Purchases are being made for the enjoyment of recreational target shooting sports — such as sporting clays, IDPA and 3-gun competitions — as well as for personal protection, and, as these figures show us, for hunting.”

The preliminary report also shows that hunters spent an average of 21 days pursuing wild game in 2011. Additionally, the report shows that hunters spent \$34 billion on trips, firearms and equipment, licenses and other items to support their hunting activities in 2011.

The national survey is paid for by sportsmen through the use of Pittman-Robertson Federal Aid dollars. This year is significant as it is the 75th anniversary of the Pittman-Robertson Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act.

Read the complete report at <http://www.doi.gov/news/pressreleases/upload/FWS-National-Preliminary-Report-2011.pdf>.

About NSSF: *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.*



Mossy Oak® Selected a Winner in the 33rd Annual Telly Awards



WEST POINT, Miss. — The Telly Awards has named Mossy Oak as a Bronze winner in the 33rd Annual Telly Awards for their commercial titled *Hometown*. With nearly 11,000 entries from all 50 states and numerous countries, this is truly an honor.

Mossy Oak was founded in West Point, Miss., in 1986 and its corporate headquarters are still located there today. *Hometown* pays homage to the small Southern town and how it is indicative of the Mossy Oak lifestyle. Local landmarks and businesses are featured in the commercial helping to tell the everyday story of Mossy Oak and its place in the town where it all started.

The Telly Awards was founded in 1979 and is the premier award honoring outstanding local, regional, and cable TV commercials and programs, the finest video and film productions, and online commercials, video and films. Winners represent the best work of the most respected advertising agencies, production companies, television stations, cable operators, and corporate video departments in the world.

A prestigious judging panel of more than 500 accomplished

industry professionals, each a past winner of a Silver Telly and a member of The Silver Telly Council, judged the competition, upholding the historical standard of excellence that Telly represents. The Silver Council evaluated entries to recognize distinction in creative work — entries do not compete against each other — rather entries are judged against a high standard of merit. Fewer than 10 percent of entries are chosen as Winners of the Silver Telly, the highest honor. Approximately 25 percent of entries are chosen as Winners of the Bronze Telly.

“The Telly Awards has a mission to honor the very best in film and video,” said Linda Day, Executive Director of the Telly Awards. “Mossy Oak’s accomplishment illustrates their creativity, skill, and dedication to their craft and serves as a testament to great film and video production.”

See the award-winning commercial at facebook.com/mossyoak. To find out more about the Telly Awards visit tellyawards.com. For more information on Mossy Oak, visit mossyoak.com.

TOWA JOB OPENINGS

All TOWA positions are open to all members in good standing, plus qualified nonmembers. Candidates are subject to a criminal background check and must provide employment history and references.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Qualifications include computer literacy in bookkeeping software, Excel, Internet skills, writing and editing proficiency, conflict resolution skills, public relations and organizational skills.

Please read carefully the proposed ED duties, published in the August 2012 TOWA newsletter, which represent a proposed change in the bylaws. To be adopted, the proposal must be passed by majority vote of the general membership.

Please note this is a one-year trial position. At the end of a year the ED duties could change after review by the board of directors, with suggestions from the membership welcome.

Contractor's fee: negotiable

TOWA TREASURER

Qualifications include computer literacy in bookkeeping software, Excel, Internet skills and organizational skills.

Please read carefully the proposed Treasurer duties, published in the August 2012 TOWA newsletter, which represent a proposed change in the bylaws. To be adopted the proposal must be passed by majority vote of the general membership.

Please note this is a one-year trial position. At the end of a year the Treasurer duties could change after review by the board of directors, with suggestions from the membership welcome.

Contractor's fee: negotiable

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Qualifications include proficiency in newsletter design software, writing/editing skills, newsletter experience a plus.

Please read the newsletter editor duties.

Contractor's fee: negotiable

Applicants for any of the above positions should submit a cover letter and a résumé to:

John Goodspeed
2226 Encino Loop
San Antonio, TX 78259

Or via email to:
john@johngoodspeed.com

SECOND BOOK IN REAVIS Z. WORTHAM'S "RED RIVER" SERIES PUBLISHED TO CRITICAL ACCLAIM



Burrows, the second Red River Mystery by TOWA member Reavis Z. Wortham, is available from Poisoned Pen Press.

"Some people just need killing."

— Ned Parker, *The Rock Hole*

Lyndon B. Johnson is President, Beatlemania is in overdrive and gasoline costs 30 cents a gallon when Ned Parker retires as constable in Center Springs, Texas. But his plan to live a quiet life as a cotton farmer will soon change. A phone call leads Ned to a body in the Red River and the discovery rips him out of retirement to help his nephew, the newly elected constable Cody Parker. Together they work to head off a multi-state killing spree that sets northeast Texas on fire.

"The pacing is like riding a wily bronco... Read it for unremittingly good writing, memorable characters, and a kick-ass plot. But whatever you do, Don't Miss It"

—Georgette Spelvin, *Read Me Deadly*

"With atmosphere so thick you can breathe it, and characters so real you can touch them, Reavis Z.

Wortham's *Burrows* is a book worth putting all others aside to read. Clear a space on your bookshelves, folks, because the real deal has arrived."

—John Gilstrap, author of *Threat Warning* and *Damage Control*

"Wortham's outstanding sequel to *The Rock Hole* (2011)... combines the gonzo sensibility of Joe R. Lansdale and the elegiac mood of *To Kill a Mockingbird* to strike just the right balance between childhood innocence and adult horror."

—Starred Review, *Publishers Weekly*

"In *Burrows*, Reavis Wortham juxtaposes gruesome crimes with a bucolic sixties landscape. It's a surprisingly intense combination that kept me awake nights after not being able to put the book down. Wortham's writing makes scenes and characters come to life."

—Charlotte Rains Dixon, author of *Emma Jean's Bad Behavior* and Director Emeritus of the Writer's Loft

"An excellent read filled with tension-filled action scenes."

—*Mysteries Etc.*

"A ripping good tale."

—Jan Reid, author of *Comanche Sundown*

**2014 TOWA CONFERENCE
LOCATION TO BE DECIDED**

TOWA members are asked to submit their location choices for the 2014 TOWA Annual Conference to Conference Chair Jonette Childs at saltex@pyramid3.net prior to **Sept. 30, 2012**, so the Board can use your input to select the best possible location.

Jonette has narrowed the possibilities down to four regions: 1.) the Dallas area; 2.) Central Texas; 3.) the Texas Coast; and 4.) the Conroe area.

CALENDAR

Sept. 1-Oct. 24 and Dec. 22 -Jan. 6, 2013
— Dove Seasons in the North and Central Zones

Sept. 15-30 — September Teal Season

Sept. 21-Oct. 28 and Dec. 22-Jan. 22, 2013
— Dove Season in the South Zone

Sept. 28-30 — Toyota Texas Bass Classic at the Lone Star Convention & Expo Center, Conroe

Sept. 29-Nov. 2 — Archery season for white-tailed deer.

Oct. 27-28 — Special youth season for quail, white-tailed deer.

Sept. 30 — TOWA Board of Directors meeting, Galveston, Texas.

Feb. 14 -16, 2013 — Mark your calendars and plan to join in the fun for the 2013 TOWA Annual Conference, at the Hilton San Luis Resort in Galveston.