

TOWA

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

TOWA PRESIDENT'S REPORT

TOWA Board Modernizing Organization

David Sikes, TOWA President

This may sound cliché, but I truly believe we are at a crossroads.

TOWA is in the best shape it's been in years. Financially our house is in order. We're square with the IRS and the state. And finally we can boast nonprofit status. Our membership is strong and we have made great strides in our annual scholarship program.

Without doubt, Executive Director Larry LeBlanc has left a glowing mark.

But there are several glaring issues I believe we must address to maintain this momentum.

First, we must make reasonable updates to our defining document. The bylaws were created by dedicated founders who could not have imagined the growth in technology ahead.

Along with technology, the face of the organization has evolved into something very different from the original. For these and other reasons, the board of directors feels it is necessary to modernize the bylaws in several key areas.

To begin with, we must create a list of duties for the executive director that is manageable and better reflects our needs.

Coupled with this we also propose to separate certain ED duties while emphasizing other responsibilities within the administration.

For example, the role our website plays demands that we create a more professional internet presence. I propose we pay for an overhaul and continued oversight of this crucial aspect of outreach to our members

and prospective members.

The board also proposes we modernize as well as streamline the methods for changing the bylaws.

We have not taken any of this lightly. And we are resolute in our position that these changes will create a more professional and dynamic organization while improving relationships with the public and within our membership.

Your vote on a most fundamental aspect of the bylaws will be the first step that this new direction requires. We are proposing to allow referendums on changes to the bylaws throughout the year rather than the current requirement that demands such votes be conducted only at the annual meeting during the winter conference.

For details on other proposed changes please read your ballot carefully.

We will make it as easy as possible to achieve the two-thirds majority necessary for this change by asking you to vote in one of three ways.

You will receive a ballot by mail. Please enter your vote and mail it back. For your convenience, you also will receive an emailed ballot through a secure service called Survey Monkey. If you prefer please enter your vote electronically this way. Or, if you plan to attend the annual conference in Galveston in mid-February, then simply make a point to vote in person during the general membership meeting. Please use only one of these voting methods.

Please cast your vote for progress.

TOWA MEMBERSHIP DRIVE ALLOWS YOU TO RECRUIT AWAY YOUR ANNUAL DUES

AT THE SEPTEMBER 30 TOWA BOARD MEETING, THE BOARD VOTED TO reward current members who recruit new Active, Associate and Supporting Members with discounted annual dues. Here's how it works:

- For every new active member a current member brings in, the member will receive a \$10 credit toward his or her annual dues.
- For every new associate member a current member brings in, he or she will receive a \$15 credit toward annual dues.
- For every supporting member brought into TOWA, the member will receive a \$25 credit toward 2013 annual dues.

Please ensure that your name is listed on the appropriate application as sponsoring member so that the Executive Director can give you the proper credit.

We have an awesome conference coming up in Galveston, and Program Chairs David Sikes and T.J. Greaney know that "the heat is on" to raise the bar on the wonderful program they delivered in New Braunfels this past spring.

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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.



Outdoors Halloween Events Scheduled at Texas State Parks

AUSTIN – If you're looking for a different and healthier way to help your youngsters celebrate Halloween, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department invites you to visit its state parks and fisheries centers for some special treats.

RAY ROBERTS LAKE STATE PARK in Valley View invites all little ghosts and goblins to the Johnson Branch unit of the park on Oct. 20 for the Spooky Critter Hike from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. The park will host a very special night of family fun, candy, surprises and educational talks about critters of the night! Each time you find a night critter with a ranger on our short hike, there will be a treat waiting for you! Participants are encouraged to dress up! Please RSVP if possible by calling (940) 637-2294. No pets are allowed on the hike.

For the sixth year in the row, **ESTERO LLANO GRANDE STATE PARK** in Weslaco will present the Spooky Science Fest – Protectors of the Park from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 20. Superheroes of all ages from across the universe will be in a battle to save Texas State Parks, as well as our natural and cultural resources, from the clutches of evil. There will be Superhero photos, a mad science lab, games, crafts, hay rides, live animals, costume contests, food, drinks and much, more. What can you do to save the park? The cost is \$6 for adults, \$4 for children 12 and under, and \$2 for those with a Texas State Parks Passport. Call (956) 565-3919 for more information or visit worldbirdingcenter.org.

On that same Saturday, **WASHINGTON-ON-THE-BRAZOS STATE HISTORIC SITE** between Brenham and Navasota will be hosting a look at funerary practices of early Texas with a tour of the Old Washington Cemetery. The "Burying the Dead" program will be presented at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. and is open to all ages. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

The following day, costumed presenters will tell Revolutionary Ghost Stories about the spirits who haunted the Lone Star State in its early days. Presentations will take place at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Arrive 5 to 10 minutes early at the Visitors Center to stroll to a period setting for the 30 to 45-minute, chill-inducing storytelling about things that go bump in the Texas night. Fees are \$5 for adults, students \$5 and free for children 6 and younger. For additional details, please call (936) 878-2214, ext. 224.

Representatives of Athens businesses and organizations will hand out free candy treats during the **TEXAS FRESHWATER FISHERIES CENTER'S** annual Halloween at the Hatchery from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 25. For more information, call (903) 670-2266.

Bring your little ghouls and goblins to **FORT RICHARDSON STATE PARK & HISTORIC SITE** in Jacksboro after 5:30 p.m. on Oct. 27 and pay no entry fee during the Trunk or Treat and Ghost Walk. Let your youngsters trick or treat through the campsites from 5:30 p.m. to dusk, and then go for a Ghost Walk around the historic site. Call (940) 567-3506 for more information.

RAY ROBERTS LAKE STATE PARK (Johnson and Isle Du Bois units) in North Texas will be awarding prizes to the top three Jack O' Lanterns in the Great Pumpkin Carving Contest, from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Oct. 27. Halloween treats and a spooky campfire session await Halloween revelers. For more details, call (940) 637-2294.

Take a walk down the Haunted Trail at **MARTIN DIES, JR. STATE PARK** in Jasper and encounter scary monsters and frightening ghouls. The haunted hike takes place from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Cozy up to the campfire while roasting a hotdog and marshmallows provided by the Friends of Martin Dies Jr. State Park for a \$1 donation to the group. Get a temporary Halloween tattoo, play games and win prizes. Call (409) 384-5231 for details.

SEA CENTER TEXAS in Lake Jackson will host its 6th annual Halloween Spooktacular from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 28. Children and adults are encouraged to dress up in their favorite costume and participate in crafts, face painting, picture taking, games and trick-or-treating through the Visitor Center. The costume contest is scheduled for 2:30 p.m. Winners will receive a trophy and prizes. Admission is free, but there is a \$5 fee for participation in craft activities. For more information, call (979) 292-0100.

To see a complete listing of Halloween events at state parks, visit the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Web site at tpwd.state.tx.us.

— Rob McCorkle

Deadline for 2013 TOWA EIC Contest is December 1, 2012

By Kendal Hemphill, EIC Chairman

Once again it's time to start collecting your best work of the past year to submit for our annual Excellence in Craft contest. The rules and categories remain the same as they were last year, and Chevy has committed to sponsor the awards as they have in the past.

Dr. Manuel Flores of Kingsville will handle the judging for us again, and we are looking forward to some stiff competition from our members. We believe Texas is home to the best outdoor writers in the country, and the quality of our EIC contest bears this out; Good luck to one and all!

The 2013 EIC entry form is repeated below as a service to our members who are gathering up their entries.

Members should be aware that the streamlined entry categories will be used again this year in order to provide a better showcase for the best works of our members.

Members submitting entries are being asked to make sure that their forms are taped to the clasplless side of envelopes and that in most categories, two copies be included.

Feel free to contact Hemphill at (325) 347-4051 or by email at jeep@verizon.net if you have any questions about the contest.

EXCELLENCE IN CRAFT CONTEST RULES AND GUIDELINES

- 1. Entries must be postmarked by Dec. 1, 2012.** Entries postmarked after that date will be returned unopened.
- 2. Each member is limited to no more than two entries per category.** The same entry may be submitted in more than one category. The Over 25,000 circulation and Under 25,000 circulation division has been eliminated in all categories except for Outdoor Publications. See each category for details.
- 3. Entries must have been published, distributed or broadcast in Texas between Oct. 15, 2011, and Nov. 15, 2012.**
- 4. Each entry must be accompanied by an official 2013 TOWA EIC entry form.** Legible photocopies of the 2013 form are acceptable. Forms must be taped to the front side of the envelope.
- 5. EIC officials will take measures to ensure that all entries are available to be picked up at the conference, but will not be responsible for loss.** Those entries not picked up at the conference will be destroyed.
- 6. Judges will be knowledgeable in the field they are asked to judge; as professionals, there will be no reason to delete bylines or names.**
- 7. The EIC chairman will be the sole judge of any dispute or question concerning the competition.**
- 8. Winners will be announced at the annual conference. All judges' decisions are final.**
- 9. Each entry must be submitted in a separate manila envelope.** Two copies (one original and one photocopy is acceptable) of each entry in the writing categories must be submitted with one completed copy of the entry form. Send tear sheets, not complete publications. Note about Internet

work: If an article has not been published and paid for, or used as a paid-for image in an Internet publication, it does not qualify. If work appeared on an Internet site, a printout of the web page will suffice as a tear sheet.

Both copies of the printed material will be submitted in a clasp envelope, with the entry form taped to the front of the envelope. Clearly identify the category of each entry.

Photos, books, tapes, DVDs and CDs should also be placed in a clasp envelope with the entry form taped to the clasp less side of the envelope. Identify each entry so that it may be identified if it is separated from the form.

Only one copy of photography, radio and video entries is required. Photos should not be mounted. Photography entries must have a tear sheet attached showing the photo in print. Note about Internet work: If a photograph has not been published and paid for as a magazine image, or used as a paid-for image in an Internet publication, it does not qualify. The same qualification is true of illustrations. If work appeared on an Internet site, a printout of the web page will suffice as a tear sheet.

Send a \$10 entry fee for each individual submission.

Make all checks or money orders payable to TOWA. Do not send cash. You can include the fee for all entries on one check. If a check is not included with your entry package, the package will be returned to you marked, "Not valid for judging."

CASH AWARDS: A \$200 check will be awarded to first place winners in all categories; a \$50 check will be awarded to the second place winner; and a \$25 check will be awarded to the third place winner. Honorable mention recipients will continue to receive a certificate of their achievement.

TEXAS OUTDOOR WRITERS ASSOCIATION 2013 EXCELLENCE IN CRAFT ENTRY FORM

The Excellence In Craft Contest is an opportunity for active members to receive special recognition for journalism excellence. Submission must be outdoor-oriented and must have been published, broadcast or distributed in Texas. Associate members are not eligible.

The TOWA Excellence in Craft Contest is proudly sponsored by Chevrolet.

CATEGORY NUMBER: _____

CATEGORY: _____

TITLE: _____

Your Name: _____

Address: _____

Name Of Publication and Circulation: _____

Date of Publication: _____

Your Role In Production (Video/TV Radio ONLY): _____

Distribution/Further Information: _____

Certified Signature: _____

Date: _____

COMMENTS: (Purpose statement, technical data, etc. that might assist the judges in evaluating your entry)

Each entry in any category will require an entry fee of \$10. You may write one check for the total amount of all categories entered. All entries must be postmarked no later than Dec.1, 2012. Any entry received after this date will be returned unopened.

Send package and check (made out to TOWA) to: Kendal Hemphill
TOWA EIC Chairman
P.O. Box 1600
Mason, TX 76856

TEXAS OUTDOOR WRITERS ASSOCIATION

2013 EXCELLENCE IN CRAFT CATEGORIES

PHOTOS: Attach clipping or tear sheet showing photo in print. The distinction between color and black & white photos has been eliminated. Photos should not be mounted and cannot be more than 11x14 inches in total size. Tape a second copy of the entry form to the back of the photo. Entries should be mailed in a manila envelope. Tape entry form to flapless side of the envelope.

Category 1) Outdoor Photography, People - Photos with an outdoor-related theme. Members are allowed to enter two photos in each category. Include tear sheet or web printout and one print. A print of each photo is required for judging. No slides will be accepted.

Category 2) Outdoor Photography, Wildlife/Nature - Photos with an outdoor-related theme.

Members are allowed to enter two photos in each category. Include tear sheet or web printout and one print. A print of each photo is required for judging. No slides will be accepted.

Category 3) Outdoor Photography, Open - Photos on any outdoor-related subject. Members are allowed to enter two photos in each category. Include tear sheet or web printout and one print. A print of each photo is required for judging. No slides will be accepted.

Category 4) Outdoor Radio - Presentations and programs with an outdoor theme. Entries should be on cassette tape or CD and include no more than two programs. Date of broadcast will be certified on the entry form by station manager. Include two cassette tapes or CD copies of the program in a manila envelope. Tape entry form to flapless side of the envelope. Identify contest category on tape case in the event the tape becomes separated from entry envelope.

Category 5) Outdoor Television/Video - Presentations and programs with an outdoor theme. Entries can be instructional videos, commercial or non-commercial television programs, video news segments, for-profit productions, non-profit, agency, etc. Entering member's participation must be provided on entry form i.e., producer, narrator, camera operator, etc. Also, proof of distribution or airing must be certified on entry form by station manager for TV and producer for video. Include two VHS tapes or DVDs of the program in a manila envelope. Tape entry form to flapless side of the envelope. Identify contest category on tape case in the event the tape becomes separated from entry envelope.

Category 6) Outdoor Illustration/Graphic - Original artwork with an outdoor-related theme.

Artwork must have been published and be the sole work of the member. Include tear sheet showing publication or printout of web page showing art. IF SENDING ORIGINAL ART, mount on stock of appropriate size. Attach entry form to back of mounting stock.

Category 7) Outdoor Publication (Newspaper or Magazine) Under 25,000 - Publications with an outdoor-related theme. TWO copies of the entire, original publication are to be included in entry packet. The TOWA member submitting the entry must be responsible for overall production of the publication - editor, publisher, owner, etc. Role of the TOWA member must be included on the entry form. Place materials in a manila envelope. Tape entry form to flapless side of the envelope.

Category 8) Outdoor Publication (Newspaper or Magazine) Over 25,000 - Publications with an outdoor-related theme. TWO copies of the entire, original publication are to be included in entry packet. The TOWA member submitting the entry must be responsible for overall production of the publication - editor, publisher, owner, etc. Role of the TOWA member must be included on the entry form. Place materials in a manila envelope. Tape entry form to flapless side of the envelope.

Category 9) Outdoor Fiction/Humor - Fiction or Humor article with an outdoor-related theme. Can be from newspaper, magazine, Internet publication or newsletter. For individual articles/columns, submit only tear sheets. Do not send the entire publication. Entries should include two copies (one original tear sheet and one photocopy is acceptable). The copies should be submitted in manila envelope. Tape entry form to flapless side of the envelope.

Category 10) Outdoor Column/Opinion Writing - Bylined column on an outdoor-related topic. Can be from newspaper, magazine, Internet publication or newsletter. For individual articles/columns, submit only tear sheets. Do not send the entire publication.

Entries should include two copies (one original tear sheet and one photocopy is acceptable). The copies should be submitted in a manila envelope. Tape entry form to flapless side of the envelope.

Category 11) Newspaper Feature - Feature treatment of an outdoor-related topic in a newspaper of general circulation. Sidebars and graphics can be included. Submit one full-page tear sheet including byline, date and publication. Do not send the entire publication. Entries should include two copies (one original tear sheet and one photocopy is acceptable). The copies should be submitted in a manila envelope. Tape entry form to flapless side of the envelope.

Category 12) Magazine Feature - Feature treatment of an outdoor-related topic in a magazine of general circulation. Sidebars and graphics can be included. For individual articles/columns, submit only tear sheets. Do not send the entire publication. Entries should include two copies (one original tear sheet and one photocopy is acceptable). The copies should be submitted in a manila envelope. Tape entry form to flapless side of the envelope.

Category 13) Outdoor Feature, Open - Feature treatment of an outdoor-related topic in any publication of general circulation or other outdoor media venue. Sidebars and graphics can be included. For individual articles/columns, submit only tear sheets. Do not send the entire publication. Entries should include two copies (one original tear sheet and one photocopy is acceptable). The copies should be submitted in a manila envelope. Tape entry form to flapless side of the envelope. Radio and television/video entries must follow guidelines in Categories 4 and 5.

Category 14) Outdoor News Reporting - Reporting

of an outdoor-related issue. This is a category for articles generally considered to be objective reporting of facts and issues surrounding a topic or topics, and is to be judged by accepted standards of journalism. A series of articles on a single issue may be considered a single entry. Sidebars and graphics may be included. For individual articles/columns, submit only tear sheets. Do not send the entire publication. Entries should include two copies (one original tear sheet and one photocopy is acceptable). The copies should be submitted in a manila envelope. Tape entry form to flapless side of the envelope.

Category 15) Outdoor Book - Published book on an outdoor-related subject. Book can be fiction or non-fiction. Book must have been published during contest year. One copy of the book should be included in the entry packet, with entry forms attached to the books. Book will be returned at conference.

Category 16) Outdoor Web Page - Web site with an outdoor-related theme. Sites should be judged on their usefulness to the public and/or outdoor communicators. Entrants should include web address on entry form, and contest chairman will pass these addresses along to judges. The copies should be submitted in a manila envelope. Tape entry form to flapless side of the envelope.

Category 17) Special Projects/Conservation - An article or broadcast that takes a conservation stand on a specific outdoor-related issue or educates and informs the public about conservation efforts. With videotape and radio entries, the entry must be the first and preferably only thing on the tape. A statement of the writer's/ broadcaster's purpose or background on the issue is encouraged on the entry form, as this could assist judges in gauging impact of the work. For individual articles/ columns, submit only tear sheets. Do not send the entire publication. Entries should include two copies (one original tear sheet and one photocopy is acceptable). For video entries, submit two video tapes or DVDs. For radio entries, submit two cassettes or CDs. The copies should be submitted in a manila envelope. Tape entry form to flapless side of the envelope.

Category 18) Original Internet Story/Blog - An article with an outdoor-related topic for which payment was received. Must be an original story and not a reprint. Entries should include two copies of the web page. The copies should be submitted in a manila envelope. Tape entry form to flapless side of the envelope.

TOWA Outstanding Outdoor Achievement Award: (Trophy Only) - Recognition of outstanding contribution or performance of a supporting member in assisting TOWA in achieving its efforts to increase public awareness, understanding and appreciation of our outdoor heritage in the use and enjoyment of our natural resources. Nominees and a short letter of recommendation may be submitted to any member of the board.

Professional Outdoor Media Association and Mossy Oak Present 2012 POMA Pinnacle Awards for Exceptional Journalistic Work

TOWA Member John Jefferson Garners Conservation Award

Tunica, Miss. — The Professional Outdoor Media Association's (POMA) 2012 Pinnacle Award honorees were announced by Ronnie "Cuz" Strickland, Sr. Vice President of Mossy Oak at POMA's Annual Business Conference in Tunica, Miss. Mossy Oak has been the presenting partner of the Pinnacle Awards since the program's inception.

The Pinnacle Awards honor journalists for exceptional achievement in traditional outdoor sports-focused communications, including writing, photography/illustration/art, broadcasting as well as content focused on wildlife conservation.

"The outdoor media played a key role in the early success of the Mossy Oak brand and our company," said Toxey Haas, founder of Mossy Oak, during the annual awards presentation. "The media's contribution to our success continues today — and for that, we will always be grateful. Journalists play the key role in informing the public about products, opportunities to enjoy the outdoors and conservation. They are critical to the health and growth of the outdoor industry."

"Because of the media's contribution to our industry, Mossy Oak is proud to have the opportunity to recognize outstanding outdoor communicators through the POMA Pinnacle Awards program," Strickland added. "Each of the top nominees and winners are at the top of their craft and truly the best of the best in their profession."

2012 POMA Pinnacle Award Winners & Outstanding Achievement Awards Conservation:

Winner — John Jefferson, "The Golden Age of Park Acquisitions", *Texas Parks & Wildlife* magazine

Outstanding Achievement — Karen Mehall, "Game Profiles: American Woodcock", *American Hunter* magazine

Magazine:

Winner — Tom Tatum, "The Fisherman's Father, The Fisherman's Son", *Outdoor Delaware* magazine

Outstanding Achievement — Tim Christie,

"Hunting for Memories", *Wyoming Wildlife* magazine

Newspaper/Web:

Winner — Darren Warner, "Will to Keep Hunting Helps Amputee Walk Again", NRA Hunters' Rights (nrahuntersrights.com)

Outstanding Achievement — Tom Tatum, "State Faces Tipping Point in New Year", Daily Local News (West Chester, PA)

Broadcast:

Winner — Jonathan Brunson, "Addicted to the Outdoors - Noodlin' Adventure", Outdoor Channel

Outstanding Achievement — Tom Gresham, "Gun Talk Television - New Shooters", Versus Network (NBC Sports)

Photography/Art:

Winner — Richard Bernier, "Two Fawns Feeding", *Deer & Deer Hunting* magazine.

Outstanding Achievement — Tim Christie, "A Cackle in the Cold", *Field & Stream* magazine; and Tim Flanigan, "Reflected Woodcock Probing Lunch", Eastern Sports & Outdoor Show, Harrisburg, PA

Mossy Oak, one of just six POMA Diamond Cornerstone members, joined forces with POMA to promote excellence in communications at all levels and encourage members of the media to set the bar high — knowing the importance to the industry of a professional and dedicated media corps.

"Since POMA's launch, Mossy Oak's commitment to the organization and its journalists has been unwavering," said Tammy Sapp, POMA president. "The company's efforts are unsurpassed."

POMA Mission: *The Professional Outdoor Media Association is a group of individual communicators and Corporate Partners who believe in, defend, support and promote the heritage of hunting, fishing, shooting and traditional outdoor sports through writing, photography and other means. POMA's is committed to excellence in communications at all levels and to mentoring the next generation of traditional outdoor sports communicators. professionaloutdoormedia.org*

About Mossy Oak: *Haas Outdoors Inc. headquartered in West Point, Miss., was established in 1986 and is home of Mossy Oak. Mossy Oak specializes in developing and marketing modern camouflage designs for hunters and outdoorsmen. Mossy Oak patterns can be found on a multitude of products worldwide. Haas Outdoors Inc. is the outdoor industry leader in modern camouflage design, international licensing and marketing. Haas Outdoors Inc. markets its services and products under widely recognized brands including: Mossy Oak, BioLogic, Mossy Oak Productions, MOOSE Media, Nativ Nurseries, and Mossy Oak Properties.*



L to R: Back row: Toxey Haas, Tom Gresham, Karen Mehall, Jim Lewis, Ronnie "Cuz" Strickland. Front Row: John Jefferson, Tom Tatum, Darren Warner.

TOWA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

TOWA BOARD MEETING: SEPT 30, 2012

GALVESTON HILTON HOTEL

- 1.) The meeting was called to order at 1 p.m. by John Goodspeed, Chairman.
 - 2.) Roll Call: In attendance were John Goodspeed, David Sikes, Kendal Hemphill, T.J. Greaney, Jonette Childs, Susan Ebert, Bill Mills, Judy Mills, Larry LeBlanc and Pam LeBlanc. Bob Hood participated via speakerphone. Judy Jurek, Peggy York and Cody Greaney did not attend.
 - 3.) The Board voted to not read aloud the minutes of the previous meeting.
 - 4.) Larry LeBlanc gave the Executive Director's report, including the following handouts:
 - a. The Accountant's Compilation Report, prepared by Nicholas Grupa, C.P.A., for the year ended December 31, 2011
 - b. Year-to-Date Income and Expense Report, by category, through 9/27/12
 - c. List of Members Eligible for EIC Competition
 - d. List of Members who paid in 2011 but not in 2012
 - e. List of Paid Members as of 9/27/12
 - f. List of Supporting Members who have paid for 2012
 - g. List of Supporting Members who have not yet paid for 2012; Bob Hood offered to help call Supporting Members who have not yet paid.
- Discussions were held regarding some of the expense lines, including membership dues, credit card processing fees and newsletter expenses, and Larry LeBlanc will respond to the Board with clarification on those line items.
- 5.) David Sikes decided to skip the President's Report, as the items he wished to discuss were listed further down the agenda.
 - 6.) Bill Mills, Treasurer, concurred with the financial data presented in the Executive Director's Report.
 - 7.) Old Business:
 - a. The Board discussed the best way to address changing the bylaws to allow for a membership vote, other than once a year at the annual meeting, and acknowledged that, when the bylaws were written, the internet had not yet been invented and the organization was much smaller. In order to change the bylaws to allow voting at other times during the year, even electronic voting through such programs as Survey Monkey, the Board determined to adhere to the bylaws by having that vote at the General Membership Meeting at the Annual Conference. Several ballot items will be voted on at that time, as follows: 1.) To change the bylaws to allow voting at other times during the year other than the annual meeting so that the association may remain nimble; 2.) To change the duties in the bylaws of the Executive Director and of the Treasurer as outlined in the August 2012 newsletter; and 3.) To make membership classifications changes as outlined in the August 2012 newsletter.
 - b. Website updates: As Cody Greaney was not in attendance, the Board held a discussion of bidding out a revamped website to a minimum of three capable vendors, including TOWA member J.P. Greeson, Cedar Hills Media & Marketing (they do Russell Graves' website) and at least one other.
 - c. Website database updates: Discussions were held regarding the importance of keeping our online database current, and in a format that can be

downloaded cleanly for processing into the annual printed directory.

- 8.) New business: Chairman of the Board John Goodspeed made a motion to reaffirm the Board's unanimous approval for the changes in the bylaws to reflect the new position descriptions for Executive Director and Treasurer, as outlined in the August 2012 newsletter. The motion was seconded by David Sikes, with all present voting in the affirmative.
 - a. President David Sikes outlined his proposal to update and change the bylaws, as follows:

ARTICLE XIII — AMENDMENTS

These bylaws may be amended from time to time as needs arise and may be passed at any annual business meeting of the association provided the following criteria has been met:

That the proposed amendment/bylaws change(s) have been approved by the board of directors.

That the proposed amendment/bylaws change(s) have been submitted in writing to the executive director at least 60 days prior to the annual meeting. (change this to 60 days prior to gen membership vote)

That the executive director has notified all active members in writing of the proposed change(s) at least 30 days prior to the annual meeting. (Change this to 30 days before vote)

That proposed amendments change(s) will be considered passed only if approved by a two-thirds majority vote, a quorum being present, at the annual business meeting.

(Change this to simple majority and eliminate the requirement for a quorum at the annual business meeting)

A motion was made to accept Sikes' proposal, was seconded and passed with no dissenting votes.

- b. Scholarship winners: The Board reviewed the scholarship requirements, and discussed if anything in the guidelines prevented a former scholarship winner from applying for the scholarship again. All were in agreement that nothing in the guidelines prevented this. The Board also agreed that scholarship winners who were deemed worthy could be awarded the additional gift of a one-year active membership, at the pleasure of the Board.

- c. A recruitment/membership drive incentive was proposed by Ebert, who suggested following the POMA model and awarding reductions of membership fees for bringing in new members. A monetary credit for signups in the amounts of \$10 for an active member, \$15 for an associate member and \$25 for a supporting member was proposed. A motion was made by Ebert, seconded by Goodspeed and passed with no dissenting votes.

- d. A discussion was held on whether or not to include TOWA members' money-making events as news items in the newsletter. The Board suggested a policy of 100 words plus a photo, but agreed there might be extenuating circumstances, and deemed to trust the newsletter editor's discretion. Ebert welcomed any feedback on the newsletter, and said she would use the Board's thoughts as her guideline.

9.) Reports from Standing Committees:

- a. Site Selection Chair Jonette Childs briefed the Board on the facilities at the Hilton Galveston Island Resort, which the Board found to be impressive. The Board discussed the higher room rate at this hotel vs. others in smaller cities, and deemed

that holding the conference in Galveston, with Tom Linton's help and facilitation, was worthwhile, but that "dialing it back" to a smaller, less costly venue might serve us well for 2014. Childs reported that only three people responded to the request in the September newsletter for suggestions for conference venues. T.J. Greaney expressed his wishes to have a Dallas-area conference, but so far, both the Bass Pro Shops locations in Grapevine and at Lake Ray Hubbard are too costly to fit our budget. Childs informed the Board that the Flying L Ranch in Bandera is willing to work with us and host us in 2014. As all meals are included in their per-guest fee, some felt it is punitive to those who bring their spouses. Ebert suggested the possibility of the Hyatt Lost Pines Resort in Bastrop, which Childs will also research.

- b. Hemphill informed the Board that he already has one EIC entry! The forms will be printed again in the October and November newsletters.
- c. As Marianne Odom was not in attendance, Judy Mills briefed the Board on the processes of the scholarship committee. The entire Board agreed that Mills and Odom are doing a tremendous job, and that they have made the scholarship a coveted and integral component of the TOWA mission.
- d. Discussions on internet media and the website were passed over, as Cody Greaney was not in attendance.
- e. Membership: Membership Chair Bob Hood presented the following new members to the Board:

ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP

Billy Olson, Houston, Texas
Editorial and photography, Texas Outdoor Journal
Heather Peterek, Friendswood, Texas
Communications Coordinator, Coastal Conservation Association; Consulting Editor, Tide Magazine; designer and production, Rising Tide Magazine
Glen Adams, Portland, Texas
Columnist and freelance reporter, The Portland News

STUDENT MEMBERSHIP

J. Todd Hawkins, Crowley, Texas
Master of Arts in Technical Communications student at Texas Tech University
Writer/Editor at KAMICO Industrial Media

The Board voted to accept all of the above members.

Applicant Screening: This item including discussion of changes of outdated requirements that would require a change in the bylaws, suggested by Membership Chair Bob Hood. Hood recommended a change in the supporting member category to include anyone who has an outdoor website that includes monthly postings of outdoor information, whether they make money at it or not. The thinking is that ultimately these folks might someday make money from advertisers, which would qualify them for active membership. As the language for qualification for a Supporting Member currently includes this, in broad interpretation, the Board determined to table this for the General Membership Ballot, and amend outdoor products to "outdoor products and/or services."

- f. David Sikes, John Goodspeed and T.J. Greaney, comprising the Executive Director Search Committee, informed the Board that they have three candidates at this time and are actively seeking other qualified applicants.

10.) The Board adjourned at 4:20 p.m.



HOUSTON
SAFARI CLUB

HOUSTON SAFARI CLUB ANNOUNCES NEW WEBSITE

New website offers users enhanced performance and ease-of-use

Houston, Texas – Houston Safari Club has officially launched its new official website, houstonsafariclub.org. The new website was created from the ground up to provide users with easy access to club information in an elegant, minimalistic design. The new website also offers users the ability to purchase or renew memberships, RSVP for meetings and events, register for convention tables and packages, and download visitor passes and information (when available). Convention exhibitors may also use the website to download applications, rules, donation forms, and other information. The new website was conceptualized by Marketing Director, Travis Martin, under the direction of Executive Director, Chris Susilovich.

The advanced software powering the website will allow HSC staff to quickly add or modify content as needed, as well as offer additional features in the future, such as blogs, forums, online store and more. An interactive issue of HSC's publication Hunter's Horn magazine is in the development phase, but not yet available as of the date of this release. HSC anticipates a high volume of site traffic as the convention season draws near, and has equipped the website with the latest security and encryption technology to protect user privacy. The dynamic new website was designed to grow and evolve with the club, eliminating the need to redesign every few years.

For more information on houstonsafariclub.org, Houston Safari Club, or Hunter's Horn magazine, contact Travis Martin at travis@houstonsafariclub.org, or 713-623-8844.

TOWA MEMBER NEWS



TOWA and CCA members journeyed to Chena Hot Springs in Alaska for the 2012 Outdoor Writers Association of America (OWAA) conference. Pictured are Marty Malin, Shane Townsend, Karen Loke and Sam Caldwell. Chena Hot Springs owner Bernie Karl has made the complex an important national center for conservation, geothermal energy and recycling research. For more information and photos, visit samcaldwell.com and chenahot-springs.com.

PBR BULL RIDERS AT BASS PRO SHOPS OCT. 13-14

Springfield, MO — The Professional Bull Riders, Inc. (PBR) and Bass Pro Shops are bringing family fun to the Bass Pro Shops nearest you! PBR's popular event features FREE family activities, giveaways and the opportunity to meet a Professional Bull Riding Expert. PBR fans are invited to Bass Pro Shops October 13th and 14th from noon to 4pm to take part in all the fun. For more information about the PBR, please visit pbr.com or contact Jack Carnefix at jcarnefix@pbr.com or 719-242-2800. Join the PBR on Facebook at facebook.com/TeamPBR or on Twitter at [@teamnbr](https://twitter.com/teamnbr).



CALENDAR

- Sept. 1-Oct. 24 and Dec. 22-Jan. 6, 2013**
— Dove Seasons, North and Central Zones.
- Sept. 21-Oct. 28 and Dec. 22-Jan. 22, 2013**
— Dove Season, South Zone.
- Oct. 27-28** — Special youth season for quail, white-tailed deer.
- Oct. 27 - 28, Nov. 2 - Jan. 27** — Duck Season, High Plains Mallard Management Unit.
- Nov. 3 - 25, Dec. 8 - Jan. 27** — Duck Season, North Zone.
- Nov. 3 - 25, Dec. 8 - Jan. 27** — Duck Season, South Zone.
- Nov. 3 - Jan. 20** — General white-tailed deer season, South Zone.
- Nov. 3 - Jan. 6** — General white-tailed deer season, North Zone.
- 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.