

TOWA

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

TOWA 2013 ANNUAL CONFERENCE COUNTDOWN

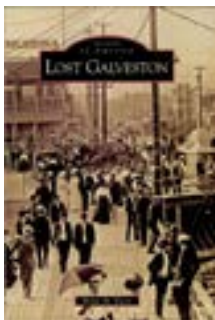
Amp Up Your Conference Experience with Advance Reading on Galveston

Galveston's Unique Heritage, Natural and Cultural History Make for an Intriguing Venue for TOWA's 2013 Annual Conference

This year's conference venue is literally aswarm with rich, vibrant history that can serve as a backdrop for a variety of outdoor stories. With a bit of advance reading, you can set a historical framework for an upcoming story, or simply add to your enjoyment of the conference with a deeper understanding of Galveston's unique heritage.

Please enjoy this curated reading list for TOWA members who would like to enrich their understanding of "Galveston: The Gateway on the Gulf."

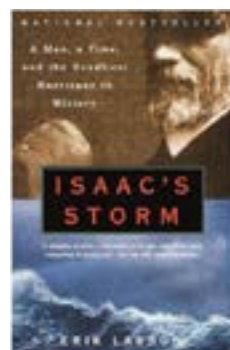
Gateway on the Gulf, Brian M. Davis, Arcadia Publishing, 2010. Between 1835 and 1935, more than 200,000 immigrants from all over the world entered the United States through Galveston, Texas. Their stories are as rich and diverse as their origins, and they gave the island a most unique cultural heritage which continues today.



For some, the city was their final destination, but for most it was merely a way-station on their journey to the interior of the country. By wagon train and rail they

would push on to the north and west to tame the land, start businesses, and build communities on the frontier. In the process, Galveston would grow and prosper, becoming the most important shipping and financial center in the Southwest. As the premier port of entry for the entire region, Galveston would rightfully come to be called America's Gateway on the Gulf.

Isaac's Storm, Erik Larson, Vintage Books, 1999. September 8, 1900,



began innocently in the seaside town of Galveston, Texas. Even Isaac Cline, resident meteorologist for the U.S. Weather Bureau failed to grasp the true meaning of the strange deep-sea swells and peculiar winds that greeted the city that morning. Mere hours later, Galveston found itself submerged in a monster hurricane that completely destroyed the town and killed more than 6,000 people in what remains the greatest natural disaster in American history — and Isaac Cline found himself the victim of a devastating personal tragedy.

Using Cline's own telegrams, letters, and reports, the testimony of scores of survivors, and our latest understanding of the science of hurricanes, Erik Larson builds a chronicle of one man's heroic struggle and fatal miscalculation in the face of a storm of unimaginable magnitude. Riveting, powerful, and unbearably suspenseful, Isaac's Storm is the story of what can happen when human arrogance meets the great uncontrollable force of nature.

A Weekend in September, John Edward Weems, Texas A&M Press, 1988. The hurricane that swept Galveston Island early in September, 1900, occupies a unique place in the reckoning of events of the Texas Gulf coast. Nearly a century after its passing, the storm remains the standard against which the ferocity and destructiveness of all others are measured.



Two-thirds of Galveston's buildings were washed away at a cost that was never fully calculated. More than 6,000 people were killed. And in the collective memory of a region where

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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.

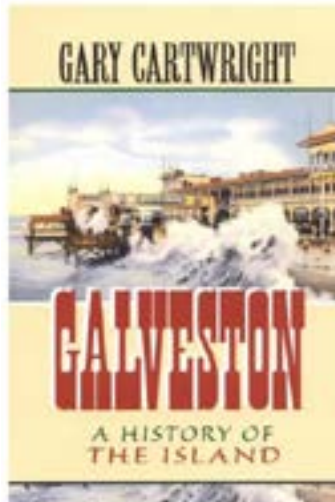


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depredations by wind and water are accepted as part of life, the weekend of September 8, 1900, is the ultimate example of the terror and violence a hurricane can bring.

John Edward Weems' account of the Galveston hurricane was written more than two decades ago, when many of the survivors were still living and available for interviews. This book is based on numerous conversations and correspondence with these survivors as well as a careful examination of contemporary documents and news reports. In direct, economical prose Weems recreates that fateful weekend as experienced by those who actually were there. The result is a narrative that develops a pace and force as irresistible as the hurricane that inspired it, and a work that is a model of historical reportage.

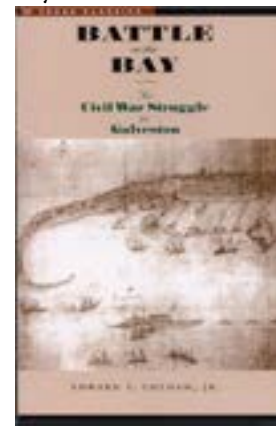


Galveston: A History of the Island, Gary Cartwright, Athenium Press, 1991. Galveston—a small, flat island off the Texas Gulf coast—has seen some of the state's most amazing history and fascinating people. First settled by the Karankawa Indians, long suspected of cannibalism, it was where the stranded Cabeza de Vaca came ashore in the 16th century. Pirate Jean Lafitte used it as a hideout in the early 1800s and both General Sam Houston and General James Long (with his wife, Jane, the “Mother of Texas”) stayed on its shores. More modern notable names on the island include Robert Kleberg and the Moody, Sealy and Kempner families who dominated commerce and society well into the twentieth century.

Captured by both sides during the Civil War and the scene of a devastating sea battle, the city flourished during

Reconstruction and became a leading port, an exporter of grain and cotton, a terminal for two major railroads, and site of fabulous Victorian buildings — homes, hotels, the Grand Opera House, the Galveston Pavilion (first building in Texas to have electric lights). It was, writes Cartwright, “the largest, bawdiest, and most important city between New Orleans and San Francisco.”

This country's worst natural disaster—the Galveston hurricane of 1900—left the city in shambles, with one sixth of its population dead. But Galveston recovered. During Prohibition rum-running and bootlegging flourished; after the repeal, a variety of shady activities earned the city the nickname “The Free State of Galveston.”



Battle on the Bay, Edward T. Cotham, University of Texas Press, 1998. The Civil War history of Galveston is one of the last untold stories from

America's bloodiest war, despite the fact that Galveston was a focal point of hostilities throughout the conflict. As other Southern ports fell to the Union, Galveston emerged as one of the Confederacy's only lifelines to the outside world. When the war ended in 1865, Galveston was the only major port still in Confederate hands.

In this beautifully written narrative history, Ed Cotham draws upon years of archival and on-site research, as well as rare historical photographs, drawings, and maps, to chronicle the Civil War years in Galveston. His story encompasses all the military engagements that took place in the city and on Galveston Bay, including the dramatic Battle of Galveston, in which Confederate forces retook the city on New Year's Day, 1863.

Cotham sets the events in Galveston within the overall conduct of the war, revealing how the city's loss was a great strategic impediment to the North. Through his pages pass major figures of the era, as well as ordinary soldiers, sailors, and citizens of Galveston, whose

courage in the face of privation and danger adds an inspiring dimension to the story.

Finding Birds on the Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail: Houston, Galveston, and the Upper Texas Coast, Ted Eubanks Jr., Robert A. Behrstock and Seth Davidson, Texas A&M University Press, 2008. The Texas coast offers rich avian treasures for expert birders and beginners alike, if only they know where to look. For



those familiar with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's maps to the Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail, this book on the Upper Texas Coast

offers more — more information, more convenient and detailed maps, more pictures, more finding tips, and more birding advice from one of the trail's creators, Ted Lee Eubanks Jr., and trail experts Robert A. Behrstock and Seth Davidson. For those new to the trail, the book is the perfect companion for learning where to find and how to bird the very best venues on this part of the Texas coast.

In an opening tutorial on habitat and seasonal strategies for birding the Upper Texas Coast, the authors include tips on how to take advantage of the famous (but elusive) fallouts of birds that happen here. They then discuss the basics of birding by ear and the rewards of passive birding before turning to more than 120 birding sites from the Louisiana-Texas border, through Galveston and Houston, to just south of Freeport.

Forest McNeir of Texas, Forest W. McNeir, Naylor Press, 1956. Forest McNeir, who won an Olympic Gold Medal on the American sporting clays team, and who in later years would become a successful Houston businessman, was the great-grandson of Cherokee chief Major Ridge, murdered after being forced to move from Georgia to Oklahoma Territory in the 1830s.

His autobiography is witness to the profound richness of wildlife populations

of Galveston Bay, and a fascinating glimpse into life in southeast Texas in the early 20th century.

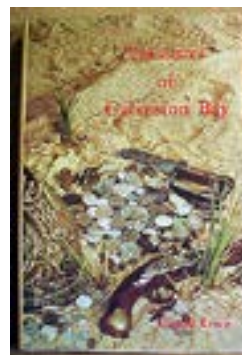
About 1886 when he was ten, Forest and his brother sailed their skiff to Red Fish Reef, the nesting ground for thousands of gulls, to gather eggs. They also found many diamondback terrapins, and they caught about ten dozen which they sold for \$4.00 per dozen in Galveston.

Always in the need of money, the brothers began oystering in 1893 when Forest was seventeen. Although oyster harvesting regulations had begun and privately owned beds were allowed by the state, McNeir did not mention restrictions in his memoir. Perhaps they were not enforced, or he ignored them. The pair used tongs to harvest their catch, putting them into the 55 barrels on board their sloop. They took their catch to Houston where prices were better than Galveston—\$1.25 per barrel. While sailing off of Round Point, a 6-foot-long grandicoy (tarpon) jumped out of the water and struck the boom before it cleared the boat on the other side, leaving “scales as large as a silver dollar”.

McNeir began hunting ducks for the Galveston market at an early age and once saw 500 pairs of picked and cleaned ducks thrown overboard in the harbor when headwinds delayed the entrepreneur and the catch spoiled. In 1897 Col. W. L. Moody of Galveston hired the McNeir brothers as guides and men-of-all-work for his duck hunting lodge at Lake Surprise on the north shore of East Bay about six miles from Smith Point. The four-foot-deep lake was full of wild celery and attracted canvasbacks, blacks,



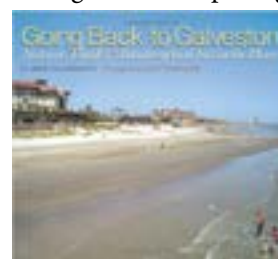
and some redheads. Writes McNeir about Lake Surprise, “I have seen that lake covered with countless multitudes of ducks ... they completely hid the water ... but they will never be seen again. They have vanished. ... When they rose all at once they shook the air, sounding like the roar of a freight train ... ”



The Treasures of Galveston Bay: Facts and legends of hidden, lost, and buried treasures located in the Galveston Bay area, Carroll Lewis, Texian Press, 1977. The first complete

collection of the facts and legends of every buried treasure known to be in the Galveston Bay area.

Going Back to Galveston: Nature, Funk, and Fantasy in a Favorite Place, Jimmie Killingsworth Ph.D. (Author), Geoff Winningham (Photographer), FCI Print Group, 2011. In this witty, thoughtful, and clear-eyed look at a place that has engaged the imaginations and energies of generations of Galvestonians, Texans, and others, writer M. Jimmie Killingsworth and photographer Geoff



Winningham reflect on the various Galvestons—virtual and real, natural and artificial—that

compete and overlap to create a location, a destination, and the defining experiences associated with “going to Galveston.”

From the tepid, still waters and steamy beaches of the Texas Gulf Coast to the computerized, air-conditioned seductions of places like Moody Gardens and the Rainforest Café, Galveston offers a wide array of opportunities for observation of the frequently ironic interplay of human and natural history. Killingsworth's affectionate, wry prose and Winningham's distinctive, surprising images offer a unique tribute to Galveston's past, present, and future: a barrier island that once hosted native peoples, shipwrecked Spaniards, and buccaneers; a birding hotspot that draws nature watchers from all over the world to its estuarine and bay habitats; a hurricane-buffed city built for tourism, with a storied—sometimes shady—nightlife, a restored historic downtown district, and a trucked-in beach.

Reviews compiled from Amazon.com and other sources.

TOWA 2013 Conference

Feb. 14, 15 & 16, 2013

Hilton Galveston Island Resort – Galveston, Texas

Hotel Address: 5400 Seawall Blvd, Galveston, Texas 77551

Hotel rate & contact information: \$129.00 + taxes, per night. Contact Reservation Department, at (877) 425-4753. The main web site is www3.hilton.com/en/hotels/texas/hilton-galveston-island-resort-GLSGIHF/index.html. The deadline for TOWA rate is Jan. 29.

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION:

Member: \$125.00

Spouse: \$100.00

(Spouse cost has been increased due to increased meal cost. Guests other than a spouse will be required to pay for any meals they eat at the conference.)

EARLY BIRD SIGNUP: Pay both your annual TOWA dues and registration fee for the Galveston conference by Jan. 15 and become eligible for a "Pick of the Litter" drawing during the Saturday night silent auction. Drawing winner will be allowed to pick any silent auction item as their prize before the bidding process begins

**TO ATTEND THE CONFERENCE YOUR MEMBERSHIP MUST BE CURRENT & IN GOOD STANDING.
TO PARTICIPATE IN NEXT YEARS EIC COMPETITION YOUR 2013 DUES MUST BE PAID BY MARCH 1, 2013.**

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL & 55TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

PLEASE PRINT

_____ Active \$75 _____ Student \$10 _____ Supporting \$150 _____ Associate \$100

Name _____

Or Supporting Company Name _____

Current Email address: _____

REGISTRATION

Cost x Number of Persons = Fee

Membership fee \$ _____ (from above) \$ _____

Registration fee by February 5th: \$125.00 x _____ \$ _____

Registration fee after February 5th: \$150.00 x _____ \$ _____

Spouse \$100.00 x _____ \$ _____

Exhibitor fee \$75.00 x _____ \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT \$ _____

For payment information, please see page five.

TOWA 2013 Conference

Feb. 14, 15 & 16, 2013

Hilton Galveston Island Resort – 5400 Seawall Blvd, Galveston, Texas 77551

PAYMENT INFORMATION

CHECK: If paying by check, please make check payable to TOWA. Enter check number here: _____

CREDIT CARD: If paying by credit card, enter Mastercard, VISA, Discover, Credit or Debit Card Information Below

Credit Card Number _____ Month _____ Year _____ Expiration Date _____

Customer Name _____

BILLING INFORMATION:

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

MEAL INFORMATION FOR THE 53RD ANNUAL CONFERENCE

MEAL INFORMATION: (# of persons)

Thursday Reception (free) _____

Friday Breakfast _____

Friday Lunch _____

Friday Dinner _____

Saturday Breakfast _____

Saturday Lunch _____

Saturday Awards Banquet _____

Guest meal fee for other than a spouse is \$15.00 for breakfast, \$20.00 for lunch and \$40.00 per dinner for each additional person, payable at registration.

TOTAL MEALS _____

RETURN THIS FORM ALONG WITH YOUR PAYMENT TO:

Executive Director Larry J. LeBlanc, 904 W. Montgomery, Ste. 4, #363, Willis, TX 77378.
For more information, Office (936) 445-9348 (Cell) (936) 524-0761 or email towa@suddenlink.net.



2012/13 YOUTH OUTDOOR WRITING CONTEST IS OPEN TO STUDENTS

Texas Outdoor Writers Association Teams With Dallas Safari Club
to Promote Youth Outdoor Writing Contest



The Texas Outdoor Writers Association has teamed up with the Dallas Safari Club's Dallas Ecological Foundation to again promote the outdoors with good storytelling through a writing contest for middle school and high school students of Texas.

The Dallas Ecological Foundation will promote the contest through its Outdoor Adventures Education Program. The Galveston Island Convention & Visitors Bureau has agreed to help recruit contestants within the host community for the 2013 TOWA conference. The TOWA board of directors is also asking association members to promote the contest at campuses in their respective communities.

Below are the contest rules and entry form. There is no entry fee. Cash prizes will be awarded for the top three stories from each age division, middle school and high school. A laptop computer will be given to the author of the overall best story in each age group chosen by a panel of judges. The overall winners will also be recognized at the February 2013 TOWA Conference in Galveston.

Questions should be directed to Board Member TJ Greaney at (512) 292-1113 or tj@kidsoutdoorzone.com.

TEXAS OUTDOOR WRITERS ASSOCIATION JUNIOR OUTDOOR JOURNALIST ADVENTURE STORY WRITING COMPETITION

Sponsored in part by Dallas Safari Club's Dallas Ecological Foundation's Outdoor Adventures Education program

The Texas Outdoor Writers Association and Dallas Ecological Foundation are pleased to announce our First Outdoor Experience Story Writing Contest for students. The contest opens Dec. 1, 2012. There will be two divisions: Middle School grades 6-8 and High School grades 9-12.

First Place winners in each division will receive a new laptop computer, Second Place winners will receive a \$100 cash prize, and Honorable Mentions will receive \$25 cash prize. The winners will also receive an invitation to the 2013 TOWA Conference in Galveston, Texas on Feb. 16, 2012.

Stories will be judged on originality, creativity, proper grammar, punctuation and writing style. Each contestant should submit her/his story to TOWA, attention TJ Greaney; 9508 Chisholm Trail, Austin, Texas 78748. All entries, whether delivered in person or by mail, must be received by 4 pm on Feb. 1, 2013.

Winning entries will be featured at the TOWA 2013 conference in Galveston where members and guests may read and enjoy them. All entries become property of TOWA and may be published in full or part in the TOWA and DSC newsletter, web site or brochures. Winners will be notified by telephone or email, and a list of winners will also be posted in the April 2013 edition of the TOWA newsletter.

RULES:

1. Your story must be your own original work on the topic "My Best Outdoor Adventure."
2. Type your story (minimum 12-point font) on 8.5" x 11" paper.
3. Maximum word count should not exceed 500 words.
4. Do not include any artwork.
5. Only one story may be submitted per person.

Stories will not be returned. Stories not following these rules will not be accepted. No exceptions will be made.



CUT AND CLIP TO YOUR STORY

TOWA JUNIOR OUTDOOR JOURNALIST ADVENTURE STORY WRITING COMPETITION

Title of Story: _____ Grade Level: _____ Number of Pages: _____ Word count: _____

Student's Name: _____ Parent's Name: _____

Street Address/P.O. Box: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Primary Phone Number: _____ Secondary Phone Number: _____

Teacher: _____ Teacher email: _____

School Name: _____

Street Address/P.O. Box: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

More Texas Hunters Could Mean Bigger Crowds at Dallas Expo

DALLAS (Jan. 2013)— Mirroring a national trend, Texas is seeing a surprising increase in hunters. An additional 46,000 Texans have taken up hunting in the past few years, representing 4 percent growth in the total number of hunters in the Lone Star State.

A group of Dallas-area hunters are hoping the additional popularity of their sport will translate to record attendance at the Dallas Safari Club (DSC) annual convention and expo, Jan. 3-6.

The event is the first major hunting show of the year in the US. The 2013 edition is expected to draw 40,000 to 50,000 hunters from across Texas and around the world. Daily admission fees (\$20 per person, under 12 free) help DSC award grants for wildlife conservation, youth education and other worthy projects locally as well as abroad.

DSC granted more than \$1 million in 2012 thanks to a record convention and expo last January.

"Growth in hunter numbers is potentially good news for our event, but it's definitely good news for conservation overall because most funding for wildlife and habitat programs in the US comes from hunters," says Ben Carter, DSC executive director.

An estimated 1,147,000 Texans now are active hunters, the most of any state. Five years ago, Texas hunters numbered 1,101,000. Nationally, the 13.6 million hunters counted in 2011 is up from 12.5 million in 2006.

The DSC convention and expo is a hunter's extravaganza with more than nine football fields' worth of opportunities for outfitted hunts and other adventures, gear, firearms, art, collectibles, entertainment, seminars and more.

Sponsors for the 2013 DSC convention and expo include Orion, Sports Afield, Midway USA, Trijicon, The Hunting Consortium, Capital Farm Credit, Zeiss, The Wildlife Gallery, Ruger, Rock Island Auction Co., Sovereign Bank, EuroOptics, Rungwa Game Safaris, RBC Wealth Management, Yamaha, Blaser, Boyt Harness and others.

Weatherby Foundation International will award its prestigious Weatherby Award in conjunction with the DSC convention and expo beginning in 2014. Visit biggame.org for more information.

Two Winter Classics: Jerkbait and Finesse Crankbaits

Understanding the when, where and why

Story and Photo by Shaye Baker, FLW Outdoors

If you've ever picked ice from your rod guides, pried Vienna sausages from juice that was more solid than liquid, or ignored the warning on a package of hand warmers and put them in creative places for fear you might lose life or limb, then you've probably spent a cold day or two in a bass boat. And if you've bass fished in the extreme cold, then you've likely thrown a couple of wintertime classics – jerkbaits and finesse crankbaits. Few lures have the ability to tempt lethargic bass in the dead of winter to open up and say aah like these two. But there are some subtle differences that set these techniques apart from one another.

One angler well versed with both jerkbaits and finesse cranks is Straight Talk pro Scott Canterbury. Fishing all over the country, and especially on his home water of Logan Martin in Alabama, Canterbury knows the ins and outs of these baits better than most anglers.

WHEN: "It all starts with water temp," said Canterbury. "I like to throw a jerkbait year round but a finesse crankbait like a Shad Rap or Soul Shad doesn't work that well when the water temp gets below 52."

"I've caught them down to 48-degree water but the conditions have to be right. If the water is really cold, you've got to have a little cloud cover or some wind blowing. Those fish have to have some reason to be up near the bank feeding."

Once the water drops below 48, Canterbury almost always picks the jerkbait of the two. And his rule of thumb for jerkbait fishing is "the colder the water, the longer the pause and the slower the retrieve."

WHERE: The where is the second determinant in choosing one or the other. Even when water temps are above 52 degrees, a Shad Rap doesn't work everywhere all the time.

"You need to always keep contact with the bottom," said Canterbury. "If I'm fishing a Shad

Rap, I'm bumping it off rocks or shallow wood."

The cutoff on water depth is about 4 to 6 feet since that's as deep as most finesse crankbaits will dive. If you're fishing a shallow pocket, go with the crankbait. If you're paralleling a bluff wall, pick up the jerkbait.

"Sometimes if you're fishing a 45-degree bank, you might find the fish right on the bank early in the morning and catch them on a crankbait. Then when you come back later in the afternoon they're out off the bank suspended in 15 feet of water. That's when you have to change up and catch them on a jerkbait."

WHY: As with many techniques, matching the hatch is exceedingly important. Realism proves to be one of the main reasons both of these baits work so well in the winter. With water temps so cold, reaction strikes are hard to come by. Fish move slower in cold water and thus get a much better look at what you're presenting. "You can pause a jerkbait and let it sit right in the strike zone," said Canterbury. "The shad move really slow in the winter and that's one reason they'll eat a jerkbait. It just sits there like a struggling shad. That's also what makes a finesse crankbait so good. It has a really tight wiggle that looks just like a shad swimming off real slow."

As long as shad are the predominant forage in your fishery, shad patterns are the best bet. If the water is really clear or really muddy, Canterbury will move away from shad patterns – using bright-colored jerkbaits in muddy water and crawfish-pattern crankbaits in clearer water.

"A crawfish scurrying along the bottom is going to get a reaction strike really quick," added Canterbury.

And anything "really quick" when fishing in the cold is a good thing.

For more tips, visit flwoutdoors.com.



Scott Canterbury uses finesse crankbaits and jerkbaits when the water gets cold.

Voting on Proposed TOWA Bylaws Changes to Occur Over Next Two Months

David Sikes, TOWA President

Now is the time to 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 believes it is necessary to modernize the bylaws in several key areas.

Over the next two months, all active TOWA members are being asked to vote on proposed changes to the organization's bylaws. 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.

The board also proposes we modernize as well as streamline the methods for changing the bylaws. 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, as a high level of voter turnout is crucial to this referendum because of a nearly 80-year rule that requires two-thirds of eligible voters to participate for the vote to be valid. Because of this we have taken measures to make voting as convenient as possible.

Most of you will receive a ballot by three means:

- **ONE METHOD INVOLVES A SERVICE CALLED SURVEY MONKEY**, which is an simple electronic way to vote by computer.

Everyone who has submitted a valid email address should see a ballot attached to an email in their inbox soon.

- **IF WE HAVE YOUR CURRENT MAILING ADDRESS YOU SHOULD RECEIVE A WRITTEN BALLOT** via the U.S.P.S.

- **LASTLY, YOU MAY VOTE DURING THE ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING** at the TOWA Conference in Galveston (Feb. 14-16).

Measures will be taken to ensure that members vote only once. Ballot issues include proposed changes to the duties of the executive director and treasurer, along with new member categories and most importantly, the proposal to streamline the process of changing and updating the bylaws to reflect a changing world, an evolving organization and new technology.

Please vote.

WILL YOU BE AN EIC WINNER?

TOWA EIC Chairman Kendal Hemphill reports that there are 178 entries for the 2013 EIC Awards competition at this year's annual TOWA Conference. Following are the number of entries in each category:

Category 1	14
Category 2	15
Category 3	14
Category 4	6
Category 5	3
Category 6	3
Category 7	6
Category 8	6
Category 9	7
Category 10	20
Category 11	12
Category 12	15
Category 13	19
Category 14	15
Category 15	3
Category 16	7
Category 17	7
Category 18	6
TOTAL	178

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.

CALENDAR

Jan. 3 - 6 — Dallas Safari Club Convention: 2013 DSC Journeys, Dallas Convention Center, Dallas, biggame.org.

Jan. 4 - 13 — Houston Boat Show, Reliant Center, Houston (Show closed on Jan. 5 for Houston Texans game), houstonboatshows.com.

Jan. 11 - 13 — Houston Safari Club Annual Worldwide Sporting Expo, The Woodlands Waterway Marriott, The Woodlands, houstonsafariclub.org.

Jan. 12 & Feb. 9 — Expert fly-fisher Bob Cappallo of Corsicana will teach fly-fishing for beginners at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens. Reservations are required, and the class is limited to 20 persons. Checks should be made payable to "Friends of TFFC" and may be mailed to Craig Brooks at 5550 F.M. 2495, Athens, TX 75752. For more information or to register by telephone for the class, call Brooks at (903) 670-2222.

Jan. 15 - 18 — SHOT Show, Sands Expo & Convention Center, Las Vegas, NV, shotshow.org.

Jan. 23 - 24 — Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Commission Meeting, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, tpwd.state.tx.us.

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

Mar. 6 - 9 — POMA Annual Business Conference, Lake Murray Country, Columbia, S.C., professionaloutdoormedia.org.

Mar. 6 - 10 — 38th Annual Houston Fishing Show, George R. Brown Convention Center, Houston, houstonfishingshow.org.