

TOWA

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

TOWA 2013 ANNUAL CONFERENCE REPORT

Galveston Conference Marks TOWA's Progress

*Informative and Entertaining Seminars, Updates to Bylaws Herald
Organization's Continued Pursuit of Excellence*

David Sikes, President

There is always a sense of relief following a conference such as we just experienced.

The program was in line with the new vision of the board of directors, designed more to educate and entertain. It looked less like an outdoor products showcase than many previous conferences.

This is only partly by design. The other reason is economics. Some of our supporting members have been forced to consolidate their outreach efforts toward more national venues rather than regional conferences such as ours.

I believe we have the power to change the outcome of this directive by making TOWA more relevant. The way to accomplish this is to assemble the most professional field of Texas outdoor communicators, old and new.

And the way to attract those members is by becoming the most professional organization possible. An enthusiastic executive director to continue what Larry LeBlanc has begun is a good start. Welcome, Lorraine Lawrence.

Our organizational finances much be beyond reproach and transparent. Hiring a financial consultant with nonprofit experience should provide this.

With these elements in place, the outdoor business community will take notice.

But there's more. We have some fundamental improvements to make of a housekeeping nature. This must be an administrative priority.

You have seen an indication of this attitude in the lengthy list of ballot items that passed at the conference. This is just the beginning.

Admittedly this administration — both individually and collectively — is not adequately familiar with the TOWA constitution and bylaws. We must do better. We are honor bound to uphold our own rules. And I have made it my goal, with your help, to create more reasonable and consistent guiding documents.

Some of the language within these documents is difficult to understand or interpret. Other parts are contradictory, depending on which version you reference. There is not a single accepted and indisputable copy enclosed in glass somewhere. In fact, even the documents we have are dubious as to their origins, following a tumultuous decade.

Trust that we will make every effort to sort this out. Our goal is honorable. You may not agree with each action or each interpretation. That's OK. Speak up. Some difficult decisions may be ahead. We'll put it to a vote.

I need input and advice. I want your guidance if not your support. I must have your goodwill.

I promise you have mine for the betterment of TOWA. — *David Sikes*



New TOWA Executive Director Lorraine Lawrence and member Tom Linton accept Galveston mayor Lewis S. Rosen's proclamation of city-wide "TOWA Appreciation Week."

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TOWA News is published monthly by the Texas Outdoor Writers Association and edited by Susan L. Ebert. Layout by SusanEbertLink, SusanEbertLink@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 SusanEbertLink@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.



TOWA 2013 EIC AWARD WINNERS

CATEGORY 1

OUTDOOR PHOTOGRAPHY, PEOPLE

First Place: **Shannon Tompkins**, "Waterfowler at Dawn," *Houston Chronicle*, Oct. 25, 2012.

Second Place: **John Goodspeed**, "A Trout and a Smile," *San Antonio Express-News*, June 22, 2012.

Third Place: **Ralph Winingham**, "Fishing for Cats with Charlie Brown," *San Antonio Express-News Racks and Reels*, Sept 2012.

Honorable Mention: **Bob Lusk**, "Boy Watching Catfish," *Pond Boss Magazine*, March 2012.

Honorable Mention: **Lefty Ray Chapa**, "Blind Brothers," *San Antonio Express-News Racks & Reels*, Sept. 2012.

Honorable Mention: **John Jefferson**, "Incoming," *Open Seasons*, Sept. 2012.

CATEGORY 2

OUTDOOR PHOTOGRAPHY, WILDLIFE/NATURE

First Place: (tie) **David Sikes**, "Green River Eagle," *Corpus Christi Caller-Times*, Aug. 26, 2012.

First Place: (tie) **Russell Smith**, "A White Jack Rabbit," "Step into God's Country," Oct. 2, 2012.

Second Place: **Shannon Tompkins**, "Feral Hog," *Houston Chronicle*, Aug. 26, 2012.

Third Place: **Ron Wooten**, "Galveston Icon," *Galveston Monthly*, May 2012.

Honorable Mention: **John Goodspeed**, "A Sip of Nectar," *San Antonio Express-News*, May 11, 2012.

Honorable Mention: **Shannon Tompkins**, "Doe and Fawn," *Houston Chronicle*, July 12, 2012.

Honorable Mention: **John Jefferson**, "Turkey Time in Texas," *Open Seasons*, March 2012.

Honorable Mention: **Bob Hood**, "Honker Madness," *Texas Sporting Journal*, Nov./Dec 2012.

CATEGORY 3

OUTDOOR PHOTOGRAPHY, OPEN

First Place: **Shannon Tompkins**, "Hard-charging Lab," *Houston Chronicle*, Oct. 25, 2012.

Second Place: **John Goodspeed**, "An Arrow Flies," *San Antonio Express-News*, Aug. 3, 2012.

Third Place: **Lefty Ray Chapa**, "Sun are set, some are not," *Southwest Fly Fishing Magazine*, May/June 2012.

Honorable Mention: **Shannon Tompkins**, "River White Bass," *Houston Chronicle*, Jan. 19, 2012.

Honorable Mention: **Lefty Ray Chapa**, "Still Life," *American Waterfowl Magazine*, August 2012.

Honorable Mention: **Nate Skinner**, "Retrievers at Work," *Texas Outdoors Journal*, Nov. 2012.

CATEGORY 4

OUTDOOR RADIO

First Place: **T.J. Greaney**, "On Site @NHFD," 104.9 FM, Austin, Sept. 22, 2012.

Second Place: **Cody Ryan Greaney**, "Opening Day," 104.0 FM. Austin, Nov. 30, 2012.

Third Place: **Harold Gunn** and **Bill Olson**, "Texas Outdoor News – Guest Linda Campbell," Sept. 1, 2012.

CATEGORY 5

OUTDOOR TELEVISION

First Place: **Alan Fisher**, "The Pronghorn Problem," Texas PBS TV Station, April 8-14, 2012. Fisher was writer, producer, editor and photographer.

Second Place: **Karen Loke**, "9-Year Boating Fatality Case Ends," Texas Parks and Wildlife YouTube," March 2012. Locke was producer, writer, editor, videographer and researcher.

Third Place: **Karen Loke**, producer/writer/editor/camera, "Women's Goose Hunt," YNN (Your News Now), March 9, 2012. Loke served as producer, writer, editor and videographer for this project.

CATEGORY 6

OUTDOORS ILLUSTRATION

First Place: **Sam Caldwell**, "Deep Reds," *Currents* Newsletter, Aug./Sept 2012.

Second Place: **Sam Caldwell**, "Game Warden Frank Dickerson," *Currents* Newsletter, Dec. 2011/Jan. 2012.

CATEGORY 7

OUTDOORS PUBLICATION – UNDER 25,000

First Place: *Pond Boss* Jan./Feb. 2012, submitted by **Bob Lusk**.

Second Place: *Country Line Magazine* Nov. 2012, submitted by **T.J. Greaney**.

Third Place: *Texas Lakes & Bays* 2012-2013, submitted by **Roy Neves**.

CATEGORY 8

OUTDOORS PUBLICATION – OVER 25,000

First Place: *Texas Outdoors Journal*, Nov. 2012, submitted by **Bill Olson**, editor.

Second Place: *TIDE Magazine*, Sept./Oct. 2012 – submitted by **Ted Venker**.

Third Place: *Texas Fish & Game*, Oct. 2012 – submitted by **Roy Neves**.

Honorable Mention: *Currents*, Aug./Sept. 2012 – submitted by **Sam Caldwell**

CATEGORY 9

OUTDOOR FICTION/HUMOR

First Place: **David Sikes**, "Griffith was a great piece of Americana," *Corpus Christi Caller-Times*, July 12, 2012.

Second Place: **Kendal Hemphill**, "Shoot to annoy," *Mason County News*, March 7, 2012.

Third Place: **Judy Jurek Bishop**, "A Christmas Homecoming," *Texas Bowhunters Journal*, November 2012.

Honorable Mention: **Kendal Hemphill**, "His Fate

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TOWA 2013 CONFERENCE AWARD-WINNING STANDOUTS



ABOVE: Ron Wooten (middle) and Matthew Abernathy (right), both graduate students at Texas A&M at Galveston, accept their \$1,500 TOWA scholarships from award ceremony emcee, Kendal Hemphill.

BELOW: First Place Winner, Middle School: "A Buck for Another Day." Berkley McClure, an 8th-Grader from Argyle Middle School, won a Gateway laptop computer courtesy of the Dallas Safari Club and TOWA Youth Outdoor Writing Contest.



RIGHT: 2013 L.A. Wilke Award winner Jonette Childs accepts her award from the 2012 L.A. Wilke Award winner, Sam Caldwell. The L.A. Wilke Award is given in recognition of a communicator who has contributed outstanding service to TOWA.
 FAR RIGHT: Cody Greaney (right), accepts the "Pass It On" Award from TJ Greaney. The award is given to a TOWA member for his or her contributions to passing on to others the love, appreciation, and conservation of the fisheries, wildlife, natural resources, and outdoor environment of Texas.



ABOVE: First Place Winner, High School: "My Best Outdoor Adventure." Seth Deese, an 11th-grader at Allen High School, shown here with teacher Mr. Anderson, won a Toshiba laptop computer, thanks to the Dallas Safari Club and TOWA Youth Outdoor Writing Contest.



ABOVE: Three Galveston Central Middle School students each won \$50 from the Dallas Safari Club and TOWA Youth Outdoor Writing Contest. Shown here are Kira Johnson (left), who wrote "The Summer Adventure" and Carmen Gonzalez (right), who wrote "The Camping Trip." Not shown is Logan Geiger, who wrote "My Adventure to Destin, Florida." Accompanying the students in the back row, from left to right are TJ Greaney, TOWA; Mary Mahoney, teacher; and Annette Dailey, principal.





SHANNON TOMPKINS



SHANNON TOMPKINS

Imagery to Inspire

ABOVE: Outdoor Photography, People – First Place: Shannon Tompkins, “Waterfowler at Dawn,” *Houston Chronicle*, Oct. 25, 2012.

LEFT: Outdoor Photography, Open – First Place: Shannon Tompkins, “Hard-charging Lab,” *Houston Chronicle*, Oct. 25, 2012.

RIGHT: Outdoor Photography, Wildlife/Nature (tie)

First Place: **David Sikes**, “Green River Eagle,” *Corpus Christi Caller-Times*, Aug. 26, 2012.

First Place: **Russell Smith**, “A White Jackrabbit,” *Step into God’s Country*, Oct. 2, 2012.

TOWA 2013 EIC PHOTOGRAPHY CATEGORY WINNERS



DAVID SIKES



RUSSELL SMITH

**February 14, 2013
Texas Outdoor Writers
Association Board Meeting
Hilton Galveston Island Hotel
Galveston, Texas**

1. The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by John Goodspeed, Chairman of the Board.
2. The following officers, board members and committee chairs were present:
 - David Sikes, President
 - T.J. Greaney, President-Elect
 - Larry LeBlanc, Executive Director
 - Lorraine Lawrence, New Executive Director (Board Approved)
 - Bill Mills, Treasurer
 - Peggy York (2015), Recording Secretary
 - Cody Greaney (2014), Internet Media
 - Bob Hood (2014), Membership
 - Kendal Hemphill (2013), EIC
 - Susan Ebert (2013), Newsletter
 - Jonette Childs, Site Chairman
 - Judy Mills, Scholarship
3. Kendal Hemphill made a motion and it was seconded by Cody Greaney to approve minutes of the last meeting that were distributed by email. Motion carried.
4. Executive Directors Report: Larry LeBlanc distributed all records on a two compact discs to David Sikes and John Goodspeed. 2012 Financial reports will be forwarded to each board member. He reported on the number of paid and supporting members. Larry also reported on working with Burney Brown and Associates on the auditing of the books. Burney Brown and Associates was hired to audit the books for transition to the new Executive Director. Lorraine Lawrence was introduced as his successor. Changes to the Bylaws were emailed to the membership. Electronic voting via Survey Monkey responses were given to John Goodspeed to tally. Fifty-four responses were received via the electronic process and 11 ballots were brought to the conference. Results will be reported at the general business meeting. There will also be elections to fill three board positions during the meeting. Ballots will be provided with the names of nominees listed.
5. Old Business: None
6. New Business:
 - a. David Sikes reports TOWA being refined over the past years and is a smooth running machine. Bylaws still need some changes but board members need to review them and advise.

- b. The two-thirds vote needs to be clarified and was determined that it should be understood by the spirit of the law instead of the letter of the law.
7. Report of Standing Committees:
 - a. Site Committee – Jonette Childs reported the 2014 Conference will be held in Fredericksburg, Texas. The dates decided are February 27, 28 & March 1.
 - b. EIC – Kendal Hemphill reported 176 total entries in the crafts contest.
 - c. Conference Program – T. J. Greaney and David Sikes have worked very hard and feel the conference program is good and complete. T. J. also reported that the student essay contest that was sponsored by the Dallas Safari Club was a success. He went to the middle school in Galveston to award the certificates and checks. The 2 high school recipients will receive laptops. Thank you Dallas Safari Club for awarding the grant to make this possible.
 - d. Scholarship – Judy Mills reported 7 entries with 3 having entered previously. Two winners have been selected. Pam LeBlanc assisted in the judging. Judy also requested the word Professional be removed from the application. The board agreed.
 - e. Internet Media – Cody Greaney reported the website needs reworked and has for some time. A one time cost of less than \$1,000 would be a start, and Cody suggested a contact. Susan Ebert suggested we get samples of his work. Cody requested he offer \$200 for 3 examples. The board gave their approval to begin the search.
 - f. Applicant Screening – Bob Hood read a list of applicants for membership. He asked that the board approve the applications as they arrive and not hold them until the annual conference. A motion made by Susan Ebert and was 2nd by Kendal Hemphill that the board could vote via email on each individual as they are received. Motion carried.
8. A motion was made by Kendal Hemphill and seconded by Bob Hood to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Peggy York, Recording Secretary*

**February 16, 2013
Texas Outdoor Writers
Association General
Membership Meeting
Hilton Galveston Island Hotel
Galveston, Texas**

1. The meeting was called to order at 2:55 p.m. by John Goodspeed, Chairman of the Board.
2. The following officers, board members and committee chairs were present:
 - David Sikes, President
 - T.J. Greaney, President-Elect
 - Larry LeBlanc, Executive Director
 - Bill Mills, Treasurer
 - Peggy York (2015), Recording Secretary
 - Cody Greaney (2014), Internet Media
 - Bob Hood (2014), Membership
 - Kendal Hemphill (2013), EIC
 - Susan Ebert (2013), Newsletter
 - Jonette Childs, Site Chairman
 - Judy Mills, Scholarship
3. Russell Smith made a motion and it was seconded by T.J. Greaney to approve minutes of the previous meeting that were distributed. Motion carried.
4. Executive Directors Report: Larry LeBlanc distributed financial reports. He reported the Dirty Dozen auction resulted in \$2,205. 2012 Financial reports were discussed and details explained. There are 85 paid members for 2013 and 38 unpaid. There are 26 paid supporting members with 67 unpaid. Larry introduced his successor; Lorraine Lawrence. Lorraine gave a brief overview of her qualifications. David Sikes described her as the new “face of the organization.” Many of the financial duties of the ED position have been removed to allow her to promote the organization.
5. Old Business: By-Law changes were distributed to the members via Survey Monkey. Results will be provided later in the meeting.
6. New Business: None.
7. Report of Standing Committees:
 - a. Site Committee – Jonette Childs reported the 2014 Conference will be held in Fredericksburg, Texas. The dates decided are February 27, 28 & March 1.
 - b. EIC – Kendal Hemphill reported 176 total entries in the crafts contest. Kendal reminded everyone of the entry process and encouraged all to follow the rules. A discussion of adding another category for E-Books to the EIC but was tabled for further research. It will be reviewed and finalized by

Kendal and Left Ray Chapa.

- c. Scholarship – Judy Mills reported seven entries with two winners being selected. Pam LeBlanc assisted in the judging. Judy said the winners were absolutely superior.
- d. Internet Media – Cody Greaney reported potential funds could be awarded for the reworking of the website.
- e. Applicant Screening – Bob Hood reported all applications received for new membership this year were approved. David Sikes further stated the changes to the By Laws would allow for the approval of new members would be approved in a timelier manner.

8. Presidents Report – David Sikes reported the changes to the By laws would make the organization operate more smoothly. Duties were removed from the Executive Director position and the Treasurer position would be a contract position. David turned the meeting to John Goodspeed for a report of the results from the electronic ballot and hard-copy ballot. John reported 54 electronic ballots with a total of 65 ballots collected. There are 43 needed for a two-thirds vote to pass. All changes passed.

Elections of two positions on the board are scheduled to keep continuity for the board of officers. Judy Jurek resigned her position due to not being able to make the required meetings therefore making a third position available. There were four nominations. Results of the election are: Kendal Hemphill (2015), Lefty Ray Chapa (2016) and Shane Townsend (2016). Susan Ebert agreed to continue preparing the newsletter. Thank you, Susan, for your past work as a board member.

8. A motion made by John Thompson and it was seconded by Burke Elliot to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Peggy York, Recording Secretary*

February 17, 2013 Texas Outdoor Writers Association Board Meeting Hilton Galveston Island Hotel Galveston, Texas

- 1.** The meeting was called to order at 9:20 a.m. by John Goodspeed, Chairman of the Board. John welcomed Valerie and Burney Brown, Professional Association Management Services.
- 2.** The following officers, board members and committee chairs were present:

David Sikes, President
T.J. Greaney, President-Elect
Larry LeBlanc, Past-Executive Director
Lorraine Lawrence, Executive Director
Bill Mills, Treasurer
Peggy York (2015), Recording Secretary
Bob Hood (2014), Membership
Kendal Hemphill (2015), EIC
Lefty Ray Chapa (2016), Newsletter
Judy Mills, Scholarship
Pam LeBlanc, Scholarship
Tom Hewitt, Insurance Representative

3. David Sikes made a motion and it was seconded by T.J. Greaney to dispense with the reading of the minutes. Motion carried.

4. Executive Directors Report: Larry LeBlanc reported on the success of the conference. The hotel cost was less than last year's conference. A full report of the conference activities will be finalized before turning the books to the accountant for closeout.

5. Treasures Report: Bill Mills thanked everyone for their support. He said he would be available for the transition of the accounts.

6. Presidents Report: David Sikes reported the changes to the Bylaws passed and would make the organization become more current with the times.

7. Old Business: The board discussed pros and cons of the conference. The program needs more information regarding the whereabouts of the seminars and meals. Biographies of the speakers need to be shorter. There were positive reviews of the seminar topics and speakers. The speakers were complimentary of the organization and many of the speakers have now become members. David Sikes reported the conference was a great success.

8. New Business: Many of our supporting members offer discounts that are not often known. Lorraine Lawrence has been tasked with contacting the sponsors not only to introduce herself but to learn what discounts they provide.

9. Report of Standing Committees:

- a. Site Committee – David Sikes reminded everyone that the 2014 Conference will be held in Fredericksburg, Texas and the dates are February 27, 28 & March 1.
- b. EIC – Kendal Hemphill introduced a possible new category for E-Books. After much discussion it was determined that Lefty Ray Chapa and Kendal will work out the details and present their proposal at the next meeting.

c. Scholarship – Judy Mills requested a change

in wording on next year's applications. It will make the understanding of eligibility clearer. All agreed that this should be done. She also announced that the two winners this year will be graduating in May and will no longer be eligible to apply.

e. Internet Media – T.J. Greaney reported for Cody that Ducks Unlimited has donated \$1,000 toward redeveloping the website. Thank you to Ducks Unlimited.

f. Applicant Screening – Bob Hood requested TOWA stationery to use when responding to new member applicants. All TOWA stationery will have to be reprinted. When this has been accomplished, Bob will be provided with what he needs.

8. David Sikes introduced Valerie and Burney Brown. They gave a brief overview of the services they provide. They specialize in association management for non-profit organizations. The board hired them to make the transition between Executive Directors go smoothly. In addition, they will ensure our organization complies with the state laws. They promote compliance, completeness and accuracy.

9. A motion made by T.J. Greaney and it was seconded by Bob Hood to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Peggy York, Recording Secretary*

ADDENDUM FROM CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD JOHN GOODSPEED:

After the general membership meeting, we realized there was a breach in procedures. The ballot did not include nominees for the officers, who were running unopposed. They are President, David Sikes; President Elect, T.J. Greaney; and Treasurer, Shane Townsend, replacing long-time treasurer Bill Mills, who declined to run again. To formalize the vote and abide by the bylaws, attendees at the conference will receive an email from Board Chairman John Goodspeed to vote on the officers. Also, four members ran for three board positions. Because the Treasurer is a voting position, the position for the sixth at-large member became open as Shane had been elected to become an officer, thus his move to Treasurer created a vacancy. That means that Susan Ebert, with the next largest votes behind Kendal Hemphill, will retain her position for another three-year term on the board.

— John Goodspeed

Continued from Page 2

Was Sealed," *Mason County News*, Jan. 25 2012.

**CATEGORY 10
OUTDOOR COLUMN**

- First Place: **Judy Jurek Bishop**, "Emergency - Do You Know What To Do?," *The Journal of Texas Trophy Hunters*, Nov. 2012.
- Second Place: **David Sikes**, "Response to Gar Catch," *Corpus Christi Caller-Times*, June 28, 2012. Third Place: **Ted Venker**, "Idle Iron," *Tide Magazine*, July/August 2012.
- Honorable Mention: **Chris O'Shea and Dr. Tom Linton**, "A New Management Paradigm for Texas Beaches," *The Daily News of Galveston County*, June-November 2012.

**CATEGORY 11
NEWSPAPER FEATURE**

- First Place: **John Gill**, "Near-death experience teaches man life lesson," *San Angelo Standard-Times*, May 10, 2012.
- Second Place: **Shannon Tompkins** "A Microscopic Menace," *Houston Chronicle*, June 28, 2012.
- Third Place: **John Goodspeed**, "Working Day and Night," *San Antonio Express-News*, Nov. 18, 2011

**CATEGORY 12
MAGAZINE FEATURE**

- First Place: **Ted Venker**, "Man on a Mission," *Tide Magazine*, May/June 2012.
- Second Place: **John Goodspeed**, "Once Upon A Time In The West," *Texas Parks & Wildlife Magazine*, November 2011.
- Third Place: **Lefty Ray Chapa**, "Reds at the End of the Road," *Southwest Fly Fishing Magazine*, May/June 2012.
- Honorable Mention: **Judy Jurek Bishop**, "The Other Hunter. . .," *The Journal of Texas Trophy Hunters*, March 2012.
- Honorable Mention: **Mike Holmes**, "Lease Larceny," *Texas Fish & Game*, February 2012.

**CATEGORY 13
OUTDOORS FEATURE**

- First Place: **Shannon Tompkins**, "Snows falls along coast," *Houston Chronicle*, June 12, 2012.
- Second Place: **David Sikes**, "Gar-gantuan," *Corpus Christi Caller-Times*, June 17, 2012.
- Third Place: **Ralph Winingham**, "Autumn Wingshooting," *The Journal of Texas Trophy Hunters*, Nov. 1, 2012.
- Honorable Mention: **David Sikes**, "Riding with the Sheriff," *Corpus Christi Caller-Times*, Nov. 4, 2012.
- Honorable Mention: **John Goodspeed**, "Holding Up A Big Red Target," *San Antonio Express-News*, Oct. 5. 2012.

**CATEGORY 14
OUTDOORS NEWS REPORTING**

- First Place: **David Sikes**, "King Ranch Trial," *Corpus Christi Caller-Times*, March 18, 2012.

Second Place: **John Goodspeed**, "Angling Knows No Gender Limits," *San Antonio Express-News*, June 22, 2012.

Third Place: **Shannon Tompkins**, "Popular Channel May Not Get A Pass," *Houston Chronicle*, Feb. 16, 2012.

Honorable Mention: **John Gill**, "Worms Are Getting the Birds," *San Angelo Standard-Times*, Feb. 13, 2012.

Honorable Mention: **Ralph Winingham**, "Building a Dove Database," *San Antonio Express-News*, June 29, 2012.

**CATEGORY 15
OUTDOORS BOOK**

- First Place: **Russell S. Smith**, "Step in to God's Country - Outdoor memoirs from Russell S. Smith."
- Second Place: **Morris Gresham**, "Then the Country Boy Wrote - A Collection of Mostly Outdoor Tales."

**CATEGORY 16
WEBPAGE**

- First Place: **Roy Neves**, www.fishgame.com.
- Second Place: **Bob Lusk**, www.pondboss.com.
- Third Place: **Mike Holmes**, mikestexashunt-fish.com.
- Honorable Mention: **T.J. Greaney**, kidsoutdoorzone.com.

**CATEGORY 17
SPECIAL PROJECTS/CONSERVATION**

- First Place: **Bob Lusk**, "The Majesty of Water," *Pond Boss*, July/August, p. 30.
- Second Place: **Kendal Hemphill**, "Killed With Kindness," *Texas Fish & Game Magazine*, April 2012, p. 21.
- Third Place: **Jim Steiert**, "Texas has conservation problems . . .," *The Hereford Brand*, Sept. 30, 2012, p. 7A.
- Honorable Mention: **Ron Wooten**, "A Tangled Mess We Weave," *Galveston Monthly*, February 2012.

**CATEGORY 18
ORIGINAL INTERNET STORY/BLOG**

- First Place: **Shannon Tompkins**, "Gobbling Gators - They'll Eat Anything, Really," HoustonChronicle.com, June 7, 2012.
- Second Place: **T.J. Greaney**, "Mountain Top Spartan's Journal Page," <http://tjgreaney.blogspot.com/2012/05/normal>.
- Third Place: **Shane Townsend**, "The Secret Message Behind Baby Turtle Lures," <http://matagordanetwork.com/goods/the-secret-message-behind-baby-turtle-lures/>
- Honorable Mention: **Shannon Tompkins**, "It's a Shark!," HoustonChronicle.com, July 12, 2012.



TOWA Conference's Dirty Dozen, Silent Auction Successfully Raise Scholarship Funds

Outgoing Executive Director Larry LeBlanc reports that Friday evening's Dirty Dozen Live Auction and the Saturday evening Silent Auction raised a total of \$3,645.01, with \$2,205 of the proceeds coming from the Dirty Dozen and the remaining \$1,440.01 coming from the Silent Auction.

A hearty "thank-you" to all who participated, such as Bob and Debbie Lusk, shown above with their newly acquired Sam Caldwell original watercolor and the artist himself.



ABOVE: TOWA member T.J. Greaney's name was drawn randomly from those of TOWA writers who wrote and submitted articles that were printed about the New Braunfels area after the 2012 TOWA conference in New Braunfels. He won a new iPad, presented here by Nina Eastman of the Greater New Braunfels Chamber of Commerce/CVB.

CALENDAR

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.

Mar. 9 - 10 and May 4 - 5 — Spring Turkey Season, South Zone Special Youth Season (in all counties that have an open season for those species)

Mar. 16 - April 28 — Spring Turkey Season, South Zone (54 counties)

Mar. 23 - 24 and May 18 - 19 — Spring Turkey Season, North Zone Special Youth Season (in all counties that have an open season for those species)

Mar. 30 - May 12 — Spring Turkey Season, North Zone (101 counties)