



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

TOWA PRESIDENT'S REPORT

TOWA Nominating Committee To Propose Slate of Officers, Board Members

Jonette Childs, John Jefferson and Peggy York Appointed to Committee

In accordance with the TOWA Bylaws, ARTICLE III – DUTIES OF OFFICERS, all elected officials shall serve for one year with right to succeed themselves, with the exception of the president of this association, who may serve one additional term only.

To facilitate that this is achieved, the Bylaws provide that the TOWA President appoint a nominating committee. See ARTICLE IX - COMMITTEES AND FUNCTIONS, Section h) Nominating.

President David Sikes has appointed three members to serve as the Nomination Committee for the Officer Elections at the 2014 TOWA Annual Conference. The committee comprises Jonette Childs, John Jefferson and Peggy York; Peggy York will serve as nominating committee chair.

Section h) reads:

h) Nominating. Current officers may not serve as committee chair, unless they will not be seeking re-election. The committee shall volunteer nominations on its own and shall also seek nominees from the membership through the newsletter. Nominations shall also be taken from the floor during the annual business meeting of the membership. All nominees must be active members, in good standing, of the association and must agree to fulfill the duties of office. Those so nominated must also agree to uphold all provisions of the constitution and bylaws. Officers and board members shall take office at the annual business meeting as set forth in the order of business in these bylaws. No members shall hold more than one office at a time.

The other information concerning the election of officers can be found in the TOWA Constitution. See:

ARTICLE VI – OFFICIAL FAMILY:

The elected officers of this association shall be:

- a) President
- b) President Elect
- c) Treasurer
- d) Directors

ARTICLE VII – ELECTIONS:

Election of all officers and the board of directors shall be during the annual business meeting.

Immediately following the annual business meeting of the association, the board of directors will elect a board chair, vice chair and recording secretary from among its own number. The board chair, vice chair and recording secretary shall serve at the discretion of the board. All actions by the board are subject to the approval of the membership at any regular or special meeting.

ARTICLE VIII – TERMS OF OFFICE

The president of the association shall be elected to a one-year term but may succeed himself once to serve one additional term only. Should a vacancy occur in the office prior to the next election, the president elect shall serve out the president's term until the next regular election.

The nominating committee will propose a slate of officers for the three elected officer positions, and also for the two board members, Cody Greaney and Kendal Hemphill, whose terms expire at the 2014 Annual Conference. Members interested in running for an officer's position or one of the two vacant board positions should contact Peggy York at yorkp47@gmail.com.

TOWA OFFICERS, BOARD

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Kendal Hemphill (2014) (325) 347-4051
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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.

TOWA Mailing Address: Texas Outdoor Writers Association, P.O. Box 151293, Austin, TX 78715-1293



GAME WARDENS GRADE DOVE OPENER A-MINUS, BUT A FEW HUNTERS FLUNKED COMPLIANCE

AUSTIN – Judging by tweets from across the state received during the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Law Enforcement Division’s first virtual “ride-along” with a game warden, hunters enjoyed an A-minus mourning dove season opener.

“A lot of hunters were limiting out in the morning, and anyone who really wanted to get their limit Sunday if they hunted morning and evening,” reported Lt. Mike Mitchell, the division’s technology and special projects officer.

Mitchell spent Sunday riding with a game warden and reported their law enforcement activities real-time via Twitter. The wardens contacted scores of hunters, and Mitchell used a department smart phone to send 36 tweets, many accompanied by photographs and links to further information.

To join the ongoing conversation on Texas game and fish law enforcement, become a follower of the Law Enforcement Division’s twitter account at [Twitter.com/TexasGameWarden](https://twitter.com/TexasGameWarden)

While most of the bird hunters the wardens contacted Sunday were abiding by all applicable laws, Mitchell said he and his partner primarily saw three main violations.

Most prevalent was finding that a hunter had not taken a hunters education course, which is mandatory for anyone born after 1971.

The second most common offense was not having a hunting license, followed by having more than the legal limit of 15 birds. (The possession limit was increased to 45 birds this year, but that only works on the third day of the season or later.)

Each of these violations is a Class C misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of from \$25 to \$500 plus court costs. Also, when resources are seized, the department can seek civil restitution for the value of any game confiscated.

“By far most of the hunters we contacted were in compliance and enjoying a great outdoor experience,” Mitchell said.

Texas had an estimated 393,975 dove hunters contributing \$177,467,664 to retail sales, according to a 2006 Economic Benefits study by Southwick Associates.

The average dove hunter is 43.7 years old, and only 6.8 percent of the hunters are female, but Mitchell said he and the other warden were heartened to see several father-son and father-daughter hunters, and some shotgun-toting moms as well.

During the middle of the day, when most dove are keeping cool in trees or on electrical and telephone lines, the wardens spent some time on the water doing boater safety and fishing checks.

Not long after resuming patrol of dove hunting areas, Mitchell got a tweet from a hunter wanting to know when the evening flight began.

The tweet came in at 3:14 p.m. so with tongue in cheek, Mitchell declared that the birds would begin flying at 3:15 p.m.

“No one knows when dove are going to fly,” he said, “but I did remind the hunter that legal shooting ended at sundown, and how to locate that official time.”



The TOWA Newsletter is proudly sponsored by Gulf States Toyota. For information, go to www.buyatoyota.com.



Honored American Veterans Afield Invites TOWA Members to Oct. 26th Event

ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26TH 2013, HONORED AMERICAN VETERANS AFIELD (HAVA) will host their the 6th Annual HAVA Family Day at the San Antonio Police Department Training Academy, which is located at 12200 Loop 410 SE San Antonio, TX 78221-4100. Some 600 disabled veterans, wounded active duty service members, and family members are expected. "Gunny" R. Lee Ermey and a handful of high level pro shooters will also participate.

HAVA is inviting TOWA members to join that day. They are also looking for volunteers to help run the 600 or so participants through the shooting range. For more information, media credentials, or to volunteer, please send HAVA a message at www.honoredveterans.org/contact-us.

HAVA is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization formed by companies in the shooting and outdoor industry with the purpose of raising awareness and further assisting disabled veterans and wounded active duty military with their healing process through hunts, shooting sports and other active outdoor activities.

HAVA highlights:

HAVA has served thousands of disabled veterans and wounded/disabled active duty military personnel at hunts and shooting events in 15 states.

The HAVA National Family Day hosted by the National Shooting Complex in San Antonio, TX is the flagship event.

HAVA has 17 sustaining sponsors and more than 30 contributing sponsors

More than 80% of all financial resources go directly to veteran/active duty benefit

100% of all goods in kind go directly to veteran/active duty benefit

Find HAVA online at <http://www.honoredveterans.org/> and <https://www.facebook.com/honoredveterans>



GUN RIGHTS POLICY CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN HOUSTON, SEPT. 27 - 29, 2013

Dear Friends:

Below you will find a link to the camera-ready announcement flier for the 28th annual Gun Rights Policy Conference (GRPC), which will be taking place at the Houston Airport Marriott at George Bush Intercontinental Airport in Houston, Texas September 27, 28 and 29, 2013. This conference is always one of the top pro-gun events of the year and it just keeps getting better! Sponsored by the Second Amendment Foundation and the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms, GRPC 2013 will be the premier event of the year for pro-gun activists who want to make a difference.

Please click on this link:

<http://saf.org/images/grpc2013flyer.pdf>

On behalf of the participating organizations, I would like to extend to a personal invitation to you, your friends and /or your staff to attend this important event.

It is very important to the future of our gun rights to have as many people as possible attend this free event!

Because we put the conference on at no charge to all who attend, we must rely on your help to get the word out.

If you need any more information about this year's Gun Rights Policy Conference, please do not hesitate to call me 800-426-4302. Thanks for being a part of GRPC 2013. Together we can make this a great event!

Sincerely Yours,
Alan Gottlieb
SAF Founder

CanCooker Increases Production to Fill Orders and Restock Shelves



FREMONT, Neb. (Aug. 1, 2013) — CanCooker™, the company that re-invented the old-fashioned-creamery-style can as a portable convection oven that steam-cooks a complete high-quality meal in just an hour, is pleased to announce that both the original 4-gallon CanCooker and the new 2-gallon CanCooker Jr. are in stock once again.

“Demand for the CanCooker and the CanCooker Jr. has been absolutely overwhelming, and orders have far outpaced our initial production projections,” said David Langston, vice president of sales & marketing. “We did not anticipate the sales that we have had in the first half of this year, and we deeply apologize for anyone that has been patiently waiting for their CanCooker. I am happy to report that we have increased

production dramatically, and the wait is over.”

To make the CanCooker experience even easier than ever, CanCooker is now offering a downloadable recipe book, *A Collection of Great Ideas*, free of charge. Filled with delicious, easy-to-follow recipes that the whole family will enjoy, the CanCooker recipe book offers everything from breakfast to dinner to dessert. There is nothing you can't make easy and delicious in your CanCooker. Download your free CanCooker *A Collection of Great Ideas* recipe book at www.cancooker.com.

CanCookers can be purchased at retailers nationwide or conveniently online at www.cancooker.com.

Headquartered in Fremont, NE, CanCooker was originally introduced in 2009. It is a new, unique outdoor cooking device that allows you to cook a lot of food without a lot of work. CanCooker makes a complete meal for large groups in about an hour and can work with any heat source, inside or out—from the stovetop to the grill to the campfire. For additional information, write to Seth McGinn's CanCooker, 925 West 6th St., Fremont, NE 68025; call toll-free (877) 844-2772; or visit www.cancooker.com. Visit us on Facebook www.facebook.com/CanCooker.com.

DANVILLE, Ala. – Hunter Safety System, the industry leader in treestand safety equipment announced the appointment of Darrin Durham to the position of production manager. He will report directly to Jim Barta, vice president of production. The position is effective today.



DARRIN DURHAM

In his new position, Durham will be responsible for overseeing material sourcing, inventory and shipping of the products. He will also coordinate production timelines to meet customer schedules, oversee the writing and distribution of purchase orders, and study custom's laws to ensure compliance with any changes in duties and regulations.

Prior to joining the HSS team, Durham held the position of assortment item planner at Cabela's Inc. A graduate of Auburn University with a Bachelor of Science degree, Durham has relocated to Alabama to assume his new position.

Founded in 2001 and headquartered in Danville, Ala., Hunter Safety System is a leading designer and manufacturer of innovative deer hunting gear and hunting equipment for the serious hunter. For additional information, write to: The Hunter Safety System, 8237 Danville Road, Danville, AL 35619; call toll-free 877-296-3528; or visit www.huntersafetysystem.com.

PLEASE NOTE TOWA'S NEW CONTACT INFORMATION

We're please to welcome the services of Burney and Valerie Brown of Professional Association Management Services (PAMS) to serve as TOWA Executive Director. Burney welcomes calls and emails from members, so we encourage you to do so.

The primary contact information for TOWA is:

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TOWA MEMBER NEWS



“BIG BILLY KINDER OUTDOORS”

has been picked up by the Salem Broadcasting Network and is now delivered nationwide each week. If any TOWA members know of a local station in need of a weekly two-hour outdoors show, please contact Billy at billkinder@bigbillykinderoutdoors.com or (817) 360-8090.

CALENDAR

Sept. 14 - 16: OWAA Annual Conference, Lake Placid, N.Y. For more information, visit owaa.org.

Sept. 14 - 29: Teal Season, statewide; 6-bird bag limit.

Sept. 20 - Oct. 23: Special White-Winged Dove Area.

Sept. 20 - Oct. 29: South Zone Dove Season.

Sept. 28 - Nov. 1: Archery Only; All Counties with an Open Season.