



VOWA NEWS

Volume XXVI, Issue 1
Spring 2007

Virginia Outdoor Writers Association, Inc. Newsletter

www.vowa.com
Marika Byrd, Editor

OWAA Conference Dates Advancing Quickly



To Members of VOWA: -

This is an open invitation to all members of Virginia Outdoor Writers Association to join with the 700-plus members of Outdoor Writers Association of America to attend the OWAA 80th Annual Conference in Roanoke, June 16-19.

Our members [OWAA], The Voice of the Outdoors, look forward to four or more days in your magnificent state where we'll share numerous outdoors experiences, comradeship, skills enhancement, and, of course, fun.

All members of VOWA who are not members of OWAA are invited to attend our 2007 conference at the same low price that our members enjoy.

We hope you will take this exceptional opportunity to meet and visit with journalists and dedicated outdoorsmen and women from across the nation that communicate about hunting, fishing, outdoor recreation, environmental issues and other key topics related to the outdoors.

Respectfully,

Kevin Rhoades, Executive Director
Outdoor Writers Association of America
121 Hickory St., Ste. 1, Missoula, MT 59801 406-728-7434
krhoades@owaa.org www.owaa.org

Outdoor Writers Association of America

OWAA is one of the largest professional outdoor communicator organizations with 1200 members. The annual conference attracts more than 600 individuals representing the nation's top outdoor oriented writers, photographers, editors, videographers, radio and television and film makers. Outdoor product businesses, travel industry, conservation organizations and agency information and education professionals also participate in this annual event.



OWAA Conference in Roanoke Offers Many Opportunities for VOWA Members

by David Coffman and Terry Lewis

As a member of VOWA, you have an opportunity of a lifetime to attend the 80th Annual Conference of the Outdoor Writers of America (OWAA) in Roanoke June 16-19. You will be able to

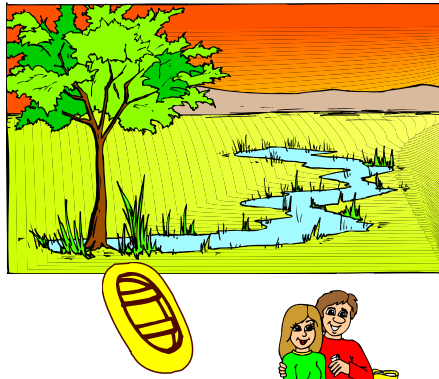
meet and network with over 600 journalists and dedicated outdoorsmen and women from across the nation who communicate about hunting, fishing, outdoor recreation, envi-

Table of Contents

About OWAA	1
July Board Meeting Notice	6
Member Update	4
New Member	4
Next newsletter deadline	6
Officers and Board (2006-07)	6
OWAA 2007 Conference Information	1-3
OWAA official invitation	1
Spring Fling information	6
Things to do and to Wear	3
VDGIF announces I&E Assistant Director	5

romental issues and other key topics related to the outdoors. The conference theme, “Tradition- It’s In Our Nature”, beckons us to showcase the many opportunities in Virginia to explore and experience outdoor adventures, history and a variety of landscapes and seasons throughout our *Common Wealth!*

And as a VOWA member, you are invited to attend at OWAA member rates—saving you half of the non-member registration costs. Day only or full conference registration packages are available. Since most meals are sponsored by supporting members, the price is a real bargain. Hotel Roanoke, the conference host hotel, has special member rates and overflow hotels in the area are



In addition to top Virginia officials, Congressional Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee leaders, conservation agency heads—BLM, USDA Forest Service, USFWS, NPS, etc.— will provide a truly national scope on this event.

“Tradition- It’s In Our Nature”

also available with discounted rates. All registration and program information can be found on the OWAA web site at www.owaa.org.

The conference program agenda features a technology showcase to help improve your skills with the tools of your trade. There are workshops featuring radio, TV/Video, newspaper and photo improvement workshops. A special effort has successfully been made to attract nationally prominent speakers and organizations due to the close proximity to Washington, DC.



The renewal of the Farm Bill and other environmental-conservation legislation will also be highlighted.

Virginia speakers have a key role in diverse topics including: Brook Trout Restoration, Black Bear Issues, Roadless Areas on Public Lands, National Park Upkeep, Sportsman’s Attitudes Research, Farm Bill Habitat Programs, Sportsman-Environmentalist Conflicts and the History and Future of Camo.

Several VOWA members have served on the inter-agency Virginia Conference Host Planning Team led by Virginian Tourism Corp. and the Roanoke Valley Convention & Visitors Bureau. Prominent Virginia journalists Bill Cochran and Mark Taylor are serving as co- chairs for the conference.

Terry Lewis, VOWA Board Chairman, is leading the OWAA journalism student mentoring program. OWAA will provide up to eight journalism students the opportunity to attend the conference on scholarship. If you know of a student who may be interested in this mentoring/ internship opportunity, please contact Terry. These students will work with OWAA members throughout the conference assisting with workshops, staffing the press room and other great learning experiences.

David Coffman has arranged for our VOWA Annual Meeting to be held in conjunction with the OWAA Conference. We are scheduled for Tuesday, June 19, from 9:30- 11:00 a.m.

for our Annual Meeting and present the Excellence-in-



Craft, Undergraduate Writing and Youth Writing awards. The Youth and Undergraduate award winners will be introduced at the day’s awards luncheon to be recognized by the entire national audience.

Bob Gooch served as the Honorary Chairman for the conference until his passing last year. Bob’s prominence and leadership among the nation’s elite outdoor communicators was instrumental in Virginia winning the proposal for hosting the 2007 OWAA Conference.

Ginny Gooch and her daughters will participate in a special Father’s Day Tribute to Bob by OWAA at the Sunday morning breakfast. The event will honor and remember all members’ fathers and their influence on their children and the passing on of our precious outdoor heritage.

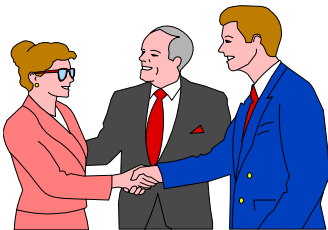
For conference registration and program information visit the OWAA website at www.owaa.org. Use credit card to pay by PayPal or print the registration form and mail with payment to OWAA.

Highlights and What To Wear

Registration includes all meals. Hospitality suites and other events, where finger foods will be provided, helps minimize the food cost outlay.

All meetings will be held on-site at the Hotel Roanoke. Transportation will be provided from the Holiday Inn Express (across Williamson Road/Orange Avenue near Hotel Roanoke) and the Richmond Civic Center to the conference center.

VOWA members who are attending their first OWAA conference should identify one's self as a first-timer and be assigned a Mentor (if desired). The first day (Saturday) newcomers are invited to their own session to learn more about OWAA.



VOWA will hold its **business meeting on Tuesday morning, June 19, from 9:30—11:00 a.m.** in a separate meeting room following a sponsored breakfast. See note under Tuesday, below, for details on the Virginia delegations sitting together for the

Tuesday morning sponsored breakfast.

At most of the sessions you are free to wear comfortable work clothes (in good taste).

Highlighted events:

Saturday, June 16:

- Conference registration starts.
- A trade show which provides opportunities for attendees to visit, talk with supporting members and view their displays;
- Concurrent sessions during registration day and some well known speakers will be featured, and
- Opening Reception is business casual.

Sunday, June 17:

- Father's Day morning, a slide presentation on the life of the late Bob Gooch.

Monday, June 18:

- Breakout and Shooting Day. Where manufacturers, supporting members, etc. rent space. They have hands-on-events and contests for prizes, and
- Evening event is a Nutty Irishman Bash. Dress is casual and dancing is encouraged.

Tuesday, June 19:

- Sponsored breakfast;
- 9:30—11:00 a.m. (check your program for the room assignment. VOWA will hold its **business meeting and present awards**; this event follows the sponsored breakfast; David will try to reserve tables for VOWA members to sit together and visit during breakfast and before our business meeting. Those planning to attend the breakfast need to let Marika Byrd know so we can develop a list and have an accurate tally to determine how many reserved tables will be need

for the Virginia delegation and their "guests" (spouse, significant other, etc.);

- There will be an awards luncheon where one might like to dress in a little less casual attire for the day, and
- The final dinner is more formal—mostly business suits with ties for men and cocktail to more formal attire for the ladies. This event goes late into evening.



Check the OWAA.org web site for programing featured during the conference.



**VOWA 2007
Annual Meeting**

**Tuesday, June 19
9:30—11:00 a.m.**

**Hotel Roanoke
Roanoke, Virginia.**

**Room to be
announced.**

NEW MEMBER

Marie Majarov, a freelance photographer/ writer, and her husband Milan, are nature and outdoor enthusiasts who reside in Frederick County, Virginia, near the city of Winchester. Both are Ph.D. Licensed Clinical Psychologists, Milan newly retired from the Virginia Department of Health and Marie continuing work in part-time private practice evaluating and treating children and adults.

Marie and Milan have always enjoyed numerous creative and outdoor activities with their family: grandson, daughter and two sons.

Photographing her various sweaters, quilts, garden crops and family led Marie to pursue the art of photography itself and eventually a Certificate in Nature and Outdoor Photography from Lord Fairfax Community College.

With the development of her photography came a passionate interest in natural history, the environment and writing. To her surprise insects became an intriguing subject matter for her and Milan. Beginning with Honey Bees, The Girls of Summer, *Virginia Wildlife* May 2004, Marie moved on to lessons from a black-legged tick, Bull's Eye! Aim for Prevention, *Virginia Wildlife* May



© Marie Majarov

2006. Monarch butterflies were next with an ongoing official Monarch Waystation in the Majarov yard, participation in the *Chincoteague Monarch Monitoring Project*, a manuscript Featherweight Flyers about Monarch research in Virginia and a PowerPoint presentation on the life cycle and natural history of this incredible summer visitor.

Marie's work has also appeared in *Zoogoer*, a Smithsonian magazine, *Art at the Mill*, Millbrook Virginia, and her photographs are regularly used on publicity materials for *New Life Styles* a nationally recognized Transition Program for Emerging Adults. Her images have been winners in the *Virginia Wildlife* Annual Photography contest, and she received a 2nd place award in the 2006 Hatteras Island Cancer Foundation Photography contest. Marie & Milan look forward to traveling and developing their work thru *Majarov Photography*, majarov@visuallink.com.

Being new members of VOWA is exciting as they hope to meet people, learn about the field and expand their horizons.

Editor's note: The Majarov's submitted a monarch butterfly photo (see left) for our web site. Anyone else want to contribute pictures? You retain the ability to use the submission as you wish.

MEMBER UPDATE

Curtis Badger says, "This [Spring Fling] sounds like a great outing. Someone has done a lot of work to set all this up. We're leaving on April 18 to go to Scotland so I won't be able to make it, but congratulations on

organizing a wonderful trip. Maybe next year...

Marika Byrd recently returned from a week trip to Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, on the Bay of Bandaras, off the Pacific Ocean. Unless you are an avid beachcomber you might want to choose another location. The town itself is rather small; the hotels and tourists vastly swell their population.

We learned from one couple that there is some life preserve near by. They had pictures of turtle hatching the night before, about ½ mile from our hotel. There were a lot of birds around our complex. Some of them sure know where their bread is buttered. They gourmet dined along with the guests all day long.

One evening my friend and I had dinner overlooking the bay and the wonderful sunset. This sure was more comfortable than being on the boat, out of the marina, where I had a more upsetting event while on the bay. Yes, I got seasick.

Tee Clarkson and his wife welcomed their daughter, Lila, on December 20th, 2006. Everyone is happy and healthy. With two children under two, to say that things around the house are hectic is the understatement of the century.

Jennifer Hensley says Thurman, her husband is "doing good for the shape he's in." Thurman was attacked and seriously mauled by a 600+ pound black bear while hunting on their property last November.

While he's no where near back to 100%, he is the co-host the VOWA Spring Fling and as this was being written, he and Jennifer had just gotten back in from putting ribbons on "bear marking"

on trees so members could shoot photos and see how bears mark their territory.

Jennifer and Thurman send their thanks for all your thoughts and prayers and hope to see you April 19. This should prove to be a fascinating outing in many ways!

Ken Perrotte says, "I had hoped to make it to this year's event, but the Army fiendishly had other plans and is directing me to an conference in Kansas City, Mo., at the same time (April 16-20). Since I will be there, I will be forced to stay an extra three days and try my luck with Show-Me State turkeys. I hope Spring Fling goes well and the weather is nice.

All my best to the folks in the organization.

Lynda Richardson--Well, I'm about to complete my very first book project. The University of Mary Washington commissioned me to photograph their coffee table book celebrating the upcoming centennial year for the university. I had free reign to shoot whatever I chose, and my mission was to capture the character of the university, not necessarily every event and so forth. It has been really fun and I'm just finishing it up in the next few months--over a year's worth of work and all shot digitally!

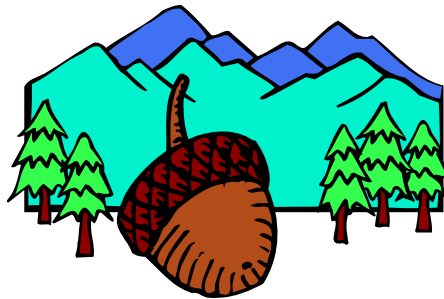
The book will be designed and printed here in Virginia and will come out this fall. I'll have a small exhibit of the work at the Melcher's Gallery at Belmont, in Fredericksburg, and will give a lecture on October 21 in relation to it. (I can't remember what time but it will be over the Homecoming Weekend) There will be a book signing afterward.

This project has made me start looking at book publishing more closely, and my fishing guide

husband, Mike Ostrander, will be helping me with the creation of new book projects in between his trips.

Speaking of Mike, he just recently made a fantastic catch, a 51 lb blue catfish on 6 lb test line caught in the James River. The world record is 58 lb on 6 lb test line! Mike is also taking out some of the visiting OWAA members during their visit to Virginia.

I'm thinking about going to the conference. Lynda



VDGIF ASST. DIR. FOR INFORMATION AND EDUCATION HIRED

The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries announced an offer of employment was extended to Ms. Gweneth Dean for the Assistant Director of Information and Education position, and she formally accepted the offer on March 26th.

Gwen comes from the state of Vermont, where she worked as the Director of Marketing and Sales for the Vermont Lottery. In that role, she managed the lottery's marketing and sales division and its activities including the development, management, and implementation of the lottery's marketing, communications, and sales programs. She was also responsible for all public relations efforts, research, product development, contract administration and compliance, gaming system oversight, security and inventory management. She has over twenty years experience in marketing, over ten years experience in sales and project management, and worked five years with the Vermont tourism agency.

She will initiate her career with our Department on April 25th.

David K. Whitehurst, Director Wildlife Diversity Division, VDGIF

SPRING FLING

April 19—20, 2007

Grottoes—Waynesboro area of Shenandoah Valley

Base camp: Biting Bear Lodge
100 Spring Oak Lane
Grottoes, VA. 24441
540/476-1789, (F) 249-4495
trayfoot@verizon.net

Tentative schedule:

Thursday afternoon and evening:

1:00 p.m. Tour wildlife feeding and watering areas, mountain roadways and woodland management.

5:30 p.m. Gourmet picnic dinner at camp (fee \$20 each covers meal)

7:00 p.m. River and river ecosystem by DGIF

8:00 p.m. Fireside social (BYOB)

Friday

8:00 a.m. Breakfast at Lynne's Pancake House in Waynesboro

9:30a.m. Grand Caverns Regional Park for presentation and tour

12:00 Lunch at Wood Fired Grill, Grottoes

2:00 p.m. Activity of your choice:

Shooting clays Birdwatching
Fishing Sit or swim at the pond
(bring own swim clothes)

Wild Edible Excursion

5:00 p.m. Farewells.

Those who staying on will have dinner together somewhere or order pizza.

Lodging:

Holiday Inn Express **540/932-7170**
20 Windigrove Drive (go right off I-64/Rte 340)
Waynesboro, VA 22980 Exit 94
\$84.95 AARP/AAA rate; ask for VOWA

Days Inn **540/943-1101**
2060 Rosser Avenue (go right at I-64 & Rte 340)
Waynesboro, VA 22980 Exit 94
VOWA rate \$59.00

Iris Inn B&B **540/943-7770**
191 Chinquapin Drive Waynesboro, VA 22980
\$90 rate; space Thursday night only
From I-64, take Exit 96(Waynesboro-Lyndhurst), turn south on Route 624 toward Lyndhurst, then make an immediate left on Chinquapin Drive. The iris-lined entrance to the inn is approximately 3/10 of a mile on the left.

VOWA Board Meeting

**Wednesday, July 18, 2007
at 10:00 a.m.**

**Va. Dept. of Forestry
Charlottesville**

Phone: 434/977-6555

Fax 434/296-2369

**Meeting is in first floor Resource
Protection Conference Room.**

OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS 2006-2007

Spike Knuth	President
David Coffman	Vice President
Vacant	1st. Vice President
Marika Byrd, CPS	Secretary
Jim Crosby	Treasurer
Terry Lewis	Board Chair
Steve Richardson, Jr.	Board Member 2008
Jennifer Hensley	Board Member 2008
Dan Genest	Board Member 2007

VOWA NEWS

Next deadline is July 20

Mark your calendar now so you do not forget.

Better yet, send it now unless the information is time sensitive.

Early submissions are always welcome.

Submit to: byrdm@vcu.org