

TOWWA

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

Mark Your Calendar

TOWWA MEMBER TRIPS *in the Offing*

TOWWA Member Activity Trip Chairman
Jim Darnell has two excursions planned.

The first will be July 26-28 in Bay City Texas. Fish deep sea one day and bay fish the other out of Matagorda. All meals, hotel, guides provided. Sponsored by Randy and Judy Triplett of Third Coast Outfitters, fishing guide Patrick Simeon, Bay City Community Development Corporation and Bay City Convention and Visitors Bureau. This will be a first class fishing, eating, fun trip.



Arrive at Best Western Hotel by 5:00 p.m. Tuesday July 26. Will have supper together. Open to eight active writers.



The second trip is Sept 18 - 19. Don't miss this blast and cast trip with Bayflats Lodge and Capt. Chris Martin. Shoot teal at sunrise then head for San Antonio Bay to catch trout and redfish.

Arrive at Seadrift Sunday afternoon for a steak supper at Bayflats. Chris and Debbie cook the best steak on the Texas coast. Hunt and fish next day. Open to 10 active writers.

To reserve your spot on these trips, send a \$50 check payable to TOWWA Scholarship Fund to Darnell at 425 Bella Vista, Martindale, TX 78655. If you show for the trip, your check will be returned. If you're a no-show, thanks for the donation.

Former Outdoor Editor Brister Dies

by Doug Pike Copyright 2005 *Houston Chronicle*

Bob Brister, *Houston Chronicle* outdoors editor from 1954 to 1993, author and former shooting editor of *Field & Stream*, died of cancer June 14 at his home in Houston. He was 77.

Born in Kerens, between Corsicana and Athens, Brister was "ate up" — as he would say — with the outdoors as a youth and maintained an enthusiasm for hunting, fishing and all things wild throughout his career and life. He was grateful for the opportunities afforded him by his profession.

"The best part of outdoor writing is being outdoors, even having some fun," Brister wrote in 1993 in his final column as outdoors editor for the *Chronicle*, "and knowing all the time you're turning those pictures and experiences into gainful employment while all those other guys are just goofing off from work."

See Brister page 2



July 7—Predator Awareness Workshop July 7 in Glen Rose at the Somervell County Expo Center. For information, contact the Extension office in one of the four participating counties: Somervell County, (254) 897-2809; Bosque County, (254) 435-2331; Erath County, (254) 965-1460; and Hood County, (817) 579-3280.

July 14-16—Workshop on managing deer habitat and management, Texas Agricultural Experiment Station near Sonora. For information, go to <http://rangeland.tamu.edu/research/arm/> or call Ray Hinnant at (979) 845-5580.

July 17-21—Texas State Youth Water Camp in Monahans. Information about the camp can be found at <http://ward-tx.tamu.edu/> or by calling the Extension office in Ward County at (432) 943-2682 or 943-4112.

July 20-22—ICAST, the International Convention of Allied Sportfishing Trades, the Sportfishing Industry's Premier Fishing Tackle and Accessory Tradeshow, Las Vegas. Go to www.asafishing.org for information under the ICAST icon. The Press Room contains information about industry press conferences, credentials, housing and transportation and more.

July 21—Mann's Bait Company New Products Press Conference during the ICAST show. For information, contact **Suzanne Newsom** at (800) 841-8435.

July 23-24—Gamehunters Expo Hunting & Fishing Show. The event includes a Casi Chili Cook-off & Wild Pig Cook-off and a concert Featuring Deryl Dodd & Friends. Booth spaces are available. For information, contact Carolyn Moore at (940) 389-6071, (940) 683-3102 or gamehunters@earthlink.net

July 23-24—Cabela's and Safari Club International Foundation will host a Youth Education Seminars (YES) Outdoors, free to the public at Cabela's Ft. Worth store. For more information regarding YES Outdoors, call Mike Schwiebert at 520-620-1220, ext. 477, mschwiebert@safariclub.org or visit www.sci-foundation.org

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

Former Outdoor Editor Brister Dies

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Brister thoroughly enjoyed the research side of his work, and he took his writing seriously. He often reworked columns time and again right up to deadline.

Although better known for colorful, personal accounts of his hunting and fishing adventures around the world, Brister was equally skilled as a news journalist and photographer. Among his honors, Brister was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize for spot news coverage of Hurricane Carla in 1961.

He also made an impression on those who knew him outside of journalism.

"The shooting world has lost a great friend and advocate," said Shel Bascom, a family friend for 25 years. "Bob immersed himself as deeply into shooting sports as he did into writing, and he was always helping new shooters. We won't see the likes of him again."

Brister played a key role more than 25 years ago in forming the Gulf Coast Conservation Association, now the Coastal Conservation Association, which started in a Houston tackle shop and has grown into one of the nation's most powerful marine conservation organizations.

He also was instrumental in bringing "sporting clays" target shooting from Europe to the United States and was recognized as an expert hunter, marksman and shotgunner.

His book, *Shotgunning: The Art and the Science*, showcased Brister's technical expertise. In *The Golden Crescent*, which included dozens of paintings by Jack Cowan, Brister demonstrated his flair for storytelling.

Brister is survived by his wife, Sandy Payne Brister; his brother, Ben, and sister-in-law, Jo, of Dallas; and his brother-in-law, Jeff Otto of Albuquerque.

Editor's Note - Used with the author's permission.

ED HOLDER

Outdoors Legend, Dies

by Bob West - The News Sports Editor

Ed Holder, an icon among outdoors writers in Texas, and the guide to "The Great Outdoors" for generations of hunters and fishermen in Golden Triangle, passed away from cancer complications June 8 at age 72.

A Southeast Texas treasure since coming to the *Port Arthur News* in 1959, Holder was well known and highly respected across the Lone Star State and beyond through his writings for a variety of publications. His byline regularly turned up in such publications as *Southern Outdoors*, *Texas Outdoorsman*, *Outdoor Times*, *Texas Parks and Wildlife* and *Gulf Coast Fishermen*. For many years, his columns were syndicated to numerous daily and weekly newspapers across Texas.

Not only were his columns a must read for all who loved the outdoors, but his opinions as a staunch conservationist were treated with the highest regard. It was not unusual for those with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to seek his thoughts involving wildlife, the environment and other issues related to hunting and fishing.

Among the numerous honors bestowed on Holder were the Distinguished Public Service Award by the Sportsmen's Clubs of Texas, The Golden Key Conservation Award of the Sabine Neches Conservation Club and an award in his name for conserving Waterfowl Habitat for Texas by the Waterfowl Habitat Alliance of Texas, What Ducks!

During his distinguished career, Holder served on the Citizens Advisory Committee to the Texas Coastal Management Program, the U.S. Fish and Game Barrier Islands Commission and the Gulf States Marine Fishery Commission Blue Crab Technical Task Force. He was the fourth president of the Texas Outdoor Writers Association, serving in 1962.

He was instrumental in developing the Neches River Sportsmen's Club Fishing Division in Bridge City and the Lake Bayou Hunting Club. He was also one of the first outdoors writers to have his own radio show, which aired on KPAC in Port Arthur. He later had a show on KLVI in Beaumont.

USE PUNCTUATION TO CONTROL PACE AND SPACE

Some teach punctuation using technical distinctions, such as the difference between ‘restrictive’ and ‘non-restrictive’ clauses. Not here. I prefer tools, not rules. My preference shows no disrespect for the rules of punctuation. They help the writer and the reader, as long as we remember that such rules are arbitrary, determined by consensus, convention, and culture.

If you check the end of that last sentence, you will notice that I used a comma before ‘and’ to end a series. For a quarter century, we at The Poynter Institute have argued about that comma. Fans of Strunk & White <http://www.bartleby.com/141/> (that’s me!) put it in. Thrifty journalists take it out.

As an American, I spell the word ‘color,’ and I place the comma inside the quotation marks. My cheeky English friend spells it ‘colour’, and she leaves that poor little croissant out in the cold.

Most punctuation is required, but some of it is optional. That leaves the writer with many choices. My modest goal for the next 750 words or so is to highlight those choices, to transform the formal rules of punctuation into useful tools.

‘Punctuation’ comes from the Latin root ‘point.’ Those funny dots, lines, and squiggles help writers point the way. To help readers, we punctuate for two reasons:

- To set the pace of reading.
- To divide words, phrases, and ideas into convenient spaces.

You will punctuate with power and purpose when you begin to consider pace and space.

Think of a long, long, well-written sentence with no punctuation except the period. Such a sentence is a long straight road with a stop sign at the end. The period is the stop sign. Now think of a winding road with lots of stop signs. That analogy describes a paragraph with lots of periods, an effect that will slow the pace of the story. The writer may desire such a pace for strategic reasons: to achieve clarity, convey emotion, or create suspense.

If a period is a stop sign, then what kind of traffic flow is created by other marks? The comma is a signal to keep going — but with caution; the semicolon is a speed bump; the parenthetical expression is a barricade; the colon announces a crossroads; the dash is a tree branch in the road.

A writer once told me that he knew it was time to hand in a story when he had reached this stage: “I would take out all the commas. Then I would put them all back.” The comma may be the most versatile of marks and the one most closely associated with the writer’s voice. A well-placed comma points to where the writer would pause if he were to read the passage aloud. “He may have been a genius, as mutations sometimes are.” The author of that line is Kurt Vonnegut. I have heard him speak, and that central comma is his voice.

The semicolon is what we called in driver education a “rolling stop.” More muscular than the comma, it is most useful for dividing and

organizing big chunks of information. Here Robert Louis Stevenson describes an adventure game in which boys wore cheap tin lanterns — called bulls-eyes — under their coats:

“We wore them buckled to the waist upon a cricket belt, and over them, such was the rigour of the game, a buttoned top-coat. They smelled noisomely of blistered tin; they never burned aright, though they would always burn our fingers; their use was naught; the pleasure of them merely fanciful; and yet a boy with a bull’s-eye under his top-coat asked for nothing more.”

The parentheses introduce a play within a play. Like a barricade in the middle of a street, the parenthesis forces the reader to drive around it to regain the original direction. Parenthetical expressions are best kept short and (Pray for us, St. John of Belushi) witty.

My great friend Don Fry has undertaken a quixotic quest to eliminate the dash. “Avoid the dash,” he insists as often as William Strunk begged his students to “Omit needless words.” Don’s crusade was inspired by his observation — with which I agree — that the dash has become the default mark for writers who never mastered the formal rules — namely me. But the dash has two brilliant uses. A pair of dashes can set off an idea contained within a sentence. A dash near the end can deliver a punch line.

Edward Bernays uses both kinds of dashes in describing the purposes of propaganda:

“We are proud of our diminishing infant death rate — and that too is the work of propaganda.

“Propaganda does exist on all sides of us, and it does change our mental pictures of the world. Even if this be unduly pessimistic — and that remains to be proved — the opinion reflects a tendency that is undoubtedly real.”

That leaves the colon, and here’s what it does: It announces a word, phrase, or clause the way a trumpet flourish in a Shakespeare play sounds the arrival of the royal procession. More from Vonnegut:

“I am often asked to give advice to young writers who wish to be famous and fabulously well-to-do. This is the best I have to offer:

“While looking as much like a bloodhound as possible, announce that you are working twelve hours a day on a masterpiece. Warning: All is lost if you crack a smile.”

When it comes to punctuation, all writers develop habits that buttress their styles. Mine include wearing out the comma and using more periods than average. I abhor unsightly blemishes so I avoid semicolons and parentheses. I overuse the colon. I prefer the comma to the dash but sometimes use one — if only to pluck Don Fry’s beard.

Workbench:

1. Make sure you have a good basic reference to guide you through the rules of punctuation. I favor “A Writer’s Reference” by Diana Hacker. For fun, read “Eats, Shoots & Leaves,” a humorous if crusty attack by Lynne Truss against faulty punctuation, especially in public texts.

EIC WINNERS *Spotlight*

TOWA brings you the winning articles from the 2005 Excellence in Craft Contest. Here is the winning entry from Category 9, Newspaper Feature, Over 25,000 circulation.

Wild West Shootout

by John Goodspeed

Express-News Staff Writer

Backed into a corner of the powder house by the bad guys, Tombstone Mary clenched her teeth as she prepared to spring into action like a savage mountain cat.

There was no one left to defend the frontier town, and she was not about to let them get away without giving an accounting punctuated with lead.

Whirling around and drawing her six-shooter, she cried out, "I'm good with my hands, good with a gun, you can't win so you better run!"

With that, she unleashed volleys from two revolvers until they were spent. She fired both barrels of her shotgun and reloaded a couple of times before turning to her trusty lever-action rifle and emptying it at the fleeing bandits.

Her aim was true for all but one.

Still, Tombstone Mary was a little disappointed.

The miss cost her five seconds, and that's a lot of time in cowboy action shooting, the fastest growing firearm sport in the world. The bad guys were steel targets, about 16 inches across, in a variety of shapes - squares, diamonds, spades and cowboys.

"It's all fantasy and all fun, and that's what makes it such a blast. A lot of people want to win, but for me it's the silliness," said Tombstone Mary, whose real name is Mary Neumann.

The 46-year-old housewife from San Antonio had never fired a gun until about six years ago, when she joined the Alamo Area Moderators, one of four San Antonio area clubs sanctioned by the Single Action Shooting Society.

Along with about 20 other San Antonio club members, Neumann competed in the SASS Southwestern Regional Finals,

which drew more than 300 shooters from across the country in September to the Old West range/town of the Comanche Valley Vigilantes near Glen Rose, about 50 miles southwest of Fort Worth.

A film crew captured the action at the finals for a segment for "Cowboy Action Shooter," a 13-part series that premiered Sept. 26 on the Outdoor Life Network.

The TV show validates the explosive growth of cowboy action shooting and SASS, which has more than 60,000 members and 500 chapters in all 50 states - with more than 20 clubs and several thousand shooters in Texas - and in England, Germany, Italy, Australia and New Zealand.

Members come from all walks of life and include basketball great Kareem Abdul Jabar; New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson; the three Carradine brothers, actors David, Keith and Robert; actor Ben Cooper; cowboy singer Michael Martin Murphey; and Roy Rogers Jr., son of the famed singer/actor.

The Comanche Valley Vigilantes' range is one of the most elaborate and detailed in the nation, although you would not guess it by cruising down County Road 404. But you'd know that something big was afoot by the farm-turned-parking lot filled with scores of cars, SUVs, pickups, trailers, tents and recreational vehicles, from fifth wheels to massive motor coaches.

It's a step back in time once you get past the roar of the generators and modern air-conditioned comfort of the settlement on wheels.

Just behind the modest farm house, the continuous barrage of gunfire and lead

cracking on steel makes it sound like you might have stumbled upon a Civil War battle, complete with the acrid smell of gunpowder wafting through the trees. A Union soldier with a rifle even trudged toward the noise of the "battle" just beyond the frontier town.

The dozen or so weathered buildings - including a cantina, hotel, emporium, undertaker's shop, lawyer's office and the Brazos Weekly News, all fronted by boardwalks - are so detailed and authentic they have been used as a film set, and some are in operation for vendors of period clothing.

A hundred yards past the town are the 12 shooting stations, some building fronts, others complete replicas, of Wild West icons such as the bank or the jail.

The scene unfolding in and around them was a surreal blend of movies, Western mythology and personal fantasies. Hundreds of shooters and those waiting their turns ran the gamut from outlaw to sheriff, saloon girl to lady, and dusty cowpoke to Gunzilla, the alias of an outlandish, cartoon-like character in garish garb, right down to his scrunched up black hat, big wig and six-shooters painted green.

"Everybody is a closet cowboy," said Judge Roy Bean, who sports SASS badge No. 1, proudly announcing to all that he is the founder of the organization - and the sport. "We're all cowboy fantasy shooters.

"We could do it for any time period, any era, but we want to go back one weekend a month to when a handshake was better than a contract, when you were responsible for your actions, and kids were treated like adults.

"Plus, it's exciting - it's escapism from the stresses of modern life."

EXCELLENCE IN CRAFT EXCELLENCE IN CRAFT

The white-bearded Bean, whose appearance favors his famous namesake, sat in the SASS membership tent across from a shooting stage modeled after the judge's bar/courtroom in Langtry, the Jersey Lilly, complete with the sign saying, "Law West of the Pecos."

Instead of justice, the modern-day Bean dispensed pearls of wisdom and friendly greetings to a steady stream of people paying their respects, men and women who looked like they just walked off a movie set - a cowboy, a dude and a "soiled dove" in a gown, bustier and feathered hat who today would be called a prostitute.

* * *

Bean was born in Houston as Harper Creigh, nephew of the late Red Adair, the famed oil rig firefighter. The ex-Marine ended up making architectural scale models in California and shooting in a variety of competitive firearm disciplines.

"I used to watch a lot of Westerns and got to thinking, there are clubs for knights in armor, mountain men and Civil War shooters," Bean said. "But there's a big blank for the cowboy era, the most exciting and colorful part of American history."

In the winter of 1979, he suggested to his fellow shooters that they ditch their Colt 1911s for cowboy guns at the next match.

Seven did.

The next time, they wore cowboy hats and boots.

Then someone brought an old shotgun and a vintage lever-action rifle, and the game grew faster than a hero galloping after a runaway stagecoach.

In 1982, they conducted their first End of Trail, the world championship that drew about 65 shooters.

Word spread. Bean got calls from Arizona to Maine about how to do cowboy action shooting.

So many people became involved in the sport that by 1987 he founded SASS to standardize the rules.

Stories in gun magazines led to spreads in the mainstream media and TV exposure.

"Ten years ago it just exploded," Bean said.

SASS went from a garage office to a 10,000-square-foot building in Yorba Linda, Calif., and began publishing a monthly newspaper.

In 1995, Bean sold his business and began working full-time as ambassador for SASS, which became a corporation with six owners.

Membership doubled every year for the next three years, he said. SASS recently bought a 460-acre ranch near Albuquerque, N.M., to hold the End of Trail championship, which drew upward of 25,000 people this year in California.

Plans call for construction of one of the finest and largest shooting facilities in the nation with permanent buildings for vendors and a Western town big enough for a movie set.

A SASS museum and hall of fame are in operation in Yorba Linda, and the scholarship foundation, in its sixth year, awarded 30 \$2,000 scholarships last year.

* * *

The phenomenon has spawned tens of millions of dollars in related businesses, from firearms giant Ruger with the surge in sales of its single-action, cowboy-style Vaquero and Blackhawk revolvers to Italian firms making replicas of the West's famous guns for a fraction of what the original antiques would cost.

That's not all.

Clothing is big as well as accessories and ammunition reloading supplies, with dozens of mom-and-pop operations springing up across the country and growing into major players in the world of cowboy action shooting.

Gaining worldwide fame are Fredericksburg firms Cimarron Firearms and Texas Jack's Wild West Outfitter, a clothing store, and Kirkpatrick Leather in Laredo, which makes holsters and belts.

"This really amazes me how it took off," Bean said. "We didn't try to force anything; we just let it run wild and free."

SASS members did the rest.

As a whole, cowboy action shooters are some of the most outgoing and friendliest people around. Their attire and firearms

naturally draw attention, and the curious are encouraged to take part.

Shooters are eager to loan guns and ammunition.

"That's the philosophy everywhere. I was hooked the first time," said Dusty Lonestar, 48, president of the Alamo Area Moderators, territorial governor of the South Texas Pistoleros and secretary of the San Antonio Area Rough Riders. The retired Army major's real name is Donald Hathorne.

"There are lots of shooting and competition, but above all that there is a camaraderie you can find nowhere else," said Lonestar, who dresses like a cowboy from the trail drive era. "This is so much fun they'll probably make it illegal."

Members look out for each other, too, like one big family, and it goes beyond helping someone who runs out of ammo or breaks a revolver at a shoot.

A few years back, a San Antonio shooter was returning from a state match and backing his travel trailer into a storage unit when it caught fire and burned trailer and truck, along with all his cowboy firearms and clothing.

"He wound up with all new guns, new clothes and a new truck without spending a dime. Everyone helped him out to keep him in the sport," said Rough Riders president Moses Austin (63-year-old retired mechanic Merv Jordan).

Shooters also go out of their way to make everyone feel welcome, from children to octogenarians and people with disabilities. Categories keep growing, too, so men and women in their 70s and 80s can challenge each other and not the young whippersnappers.

The main reason for such a friendly competition is that the world champion wins the same amount of money as the guy who comes in last - zero.

At every match, local or championship, the top shooter only earns bragging rights and maybe a belt buckle.

"When you take the money out of it, it's a much more friendly atmosphere. Before, during and after each stage they're still your friends - they're not waiting for you

EXCELLENCE IN CRAFT EXCELLENCE IN CRAFT

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to fall down,” said A.D. Texaz, Tombstone Mary ‘s husband.

In his Monday-Friday personae, Texaz is Joe Neumann, 48, South Texas sales representative for Ping Golf Clubs whose hobby used to be golf and modern competitive shooting. But that was before he came upon a SASS match at Cedar Ridge Range near Bulverde.

“Those cowboy action shooting guys were having a lot more fun than I was,” Texaz said. “I never owned a pair of boots or a cowboy hat in my life, and I came home and told Mary I need to go buy some.

“But they could be wearing petticoats instead of cowboy duds, and I still would’ve joined them.”

Aliases also add to the mystique.

The reigning world champion is Holy Terror, a 17-year-old girl. Her grandfather is former world champion Evil Roy, and her grandmother is Wicked Felina.

Some San Antonio area shooters took the names of famous Texas Rangers or tequila - such as A.Y. Allee and Jose Cuervo. Then there are Teddy Roosevelt, Cactus Weed, Fox Muledeer, Lady Rico, Three Legged Dog, Two Shot Tex and Shooting Bull.

Moses Austin says he knows practically all 300 of the San Antonio area club members by their aliases but hardly any by their real names. That goes for shooters in clubs across the country, and it levels the social playing field.

Shooters include doctors, lawyers, judges, police officers, airline pilots, bank presidents, professors, engineers, electricians and shipping clerks. But no one knows - or cares.

“No matter what you’ve done in your life, when you join SASS and take on an alias, you start with a clean slate and you can re-create your life, become Black Bart or Wyatt Earp,” said The Chiz, or the Chiseler.

He also is known as Ken Amorosano, one of the owners of SASS, its marketing director and a host of OLN’s “Cowboy Action Shooter.”

“We’re covering the seven regional events, the national finals, the convention in Las Vegas and the world championship,” Amorosano said. “We’ll

follow the competition and cover different aspects of the sport. In the evenings, we put on concerts, dances, barbecues and costume contests, and the show covers the entire spectrum.”

The series also touches on lifestyle, such as people who plan vacations and trips around the shooting schedules of SASS clubs and the dozen or so retirees who RV across the country from match to match.

“A lot of people have made this their life,” The Chiz said.

He hopes the TV show exposes more people not only to SASS but to America’s Western heritage and, at the same time, encourages historic preservation.

“It’s great to discover that America does have Western culture, and it’s important to not let it fade away,” said The Chiz, who owns about 25 antique firearms that continue to appreciate in value, including a 1892 Winchester rifle with serial No. 150.

“It could be in a museum, but it’s wonderful to hold and shoot,” he said.

The phenomenon of cowboy action shooting drew interest from the academic world, serving as a major portion of anthropologist Abigail A. Kohn’s dissertation on America’s gun culture that

became a book, “Shooters” (2004, Oxford University Press).

She spent months shooting alongside members of a California club to try to understand their fondness for firearms in a time when gun control is a hot political topic that drives a polarizing wedge between the two camps.

She writes: “Cowboy shooters are united in their love of a romanticized vision of a Wild West past, where everybody knew where everybody else stood. The bad guy got what was coming to him, and the good guy rode off into the sunset, secure in the knowledge that his actions were justified by the legitimacy and consistency of his moral code.”

Strolling through the Old West town, one member of the Comanche Valley Vigilantes paused on the boardwalk just outside the saloon to describe what cowboy action shooting means to him.

“I like to shoot black powder so I can see the flash and the smoke and watch people duck and cough. I like to wear a pocket watch with a chain and spurs that jingle when I stride down this street.

“I’m somewhere else. I’m somebody else. I’m not Richard Peck, air conditioning contractor; I’m Whiskey Shanegan in the Old West.”

Craft Improvement

Continued from page 3

2. Take one of your old stories and re-punctuate it. Add some optional commas, or take some out. Read both versions aloud. See if you can hear a difference.
3. In your next story make conscious decisions on how fast you’d like the reader to move. Perhaps you want readers to zoom across some physical landscape. Or maybe you want them to tiptoe through some technical explanation. Punctuate accordingly.
4. Read the essay above and discuss the uses of punctuation. Feel free to challenge my choices.
5. When you gain confidence, use all your tools to have some fun, not only the punctuation marks described above, but also ellipses, brackets, and capital letters. Here is some inspiration from James McBride describing a preacher in “The Color of Water:”
“We...[silence]...know...today...arrhh...um...I said WEEEE... know..THAT [silence] ahhh...JESUS [church: “Amen!”]...ahhh, CAME DOWN...[Yes! Amen!] I said CAME DOWWWNNNN! [“Go on!”] He CAME-DOWN-AND -LED-THE -PEOPLE-OF-JERU-SALEM-AMEN!”

MEMBER NEWS

Russell Graves was the featured photographer in the June *Outdoors Unlimited*, published by OWAA.

John Goodspeed took a first place and \$1,000 in the “Good Shots, Great Stories” contest sponsored by the National Shooting Sports Foundation for his article “Wild West Shotgun,” published in the *San Antonio Express News*. The article won in the General Consumer Media—Newspaper (Over 50K).

Keith Warren took first place and \$1,000 in the “Good Shots, Great Stories” contest for his article “Hunt With My Daughter Didn’t Net Any Game, But Strengthened Our Bond,” published in the *New Braunfels Herald-Zeitung*. Warren’s article won in the Newspaper (Under 50K) category.

Bass Pro Shops founder John L. Morris is one of five men who will be inducted into the International Game Fish Association Fishing Hall of Fame this fall. The enshrinement ceremony and dinner will be held Tuesday, October 25, at 6 p.m. at the IGFA Fishing Hall of Fame & Museum in Dania Beach, Fla. The public is invited. Morris, best known as the founder of Bass Pro Shops, one of the world’s leading suppliers of fishing tackle, is a five-time qualifier for the Bassmaster Classic, an ardent conservationist and an IGFA Trustee Emeritus.

Battenfield Technologies received The National Rifle Association’s Golden Bullseye for their Caldwell Lead Sled rifle rest.

Kevin Howard with Howard Communications announces new e-mail contact information: khoward@howardcommunications.com and **Mike Capps** can be contacted at mcapps@howardcommunications.com

Learning to read and understand a nautical chart can be a frustrating task. **Maptech’s** new “Chart Symbols” is not only a handy visual guide with the most common chart symbols explained, but it also shows how to read a chart that results in safer, more intelligent navigation. For some it will be a refresher of what they learned way back when. For others it will be a perfect start to a lifetime of enjoying the water. “Chart Symbols and On-The-Water Guide” is a handy, durable, on-board reference and perfect compliment to Maptech’s well received “How to Use a GPS with a Chart” that follows a similar format and price. For information, contact **Martin Fox** at (888) 433-8500 (media only) or see www.maptech.com for full details.

The National Wild Turkey Federation, along with the National Shooting Sports Foundation and the U.S. Sportsmen’s Alliance, has released a report that gives America a “C” grade in sustaining the hunting culture. The report indicates that hunting will be most relevant—environmentally, economically,

socially, politically—in states where parents have freedom to introduce the sport to their sons and daughters at an early age. Titled “Families Afield,” the report is available on the Web site of the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF), at <http://www.nssf.org/programs/FamiliesAfield.cfm> For more information contact Steve Wagner, swagner@nssf.org or (203) 426-1320.

Walker’s Game Ear Inc. announces the addition of the new Walker’s Digital HD-2 to their line of sound amplification/hearing protection products. The Walker’s Digital HD-2 is the most advanced Behind The Ear (BTE) unit available and will take outdoor enthusiasts hearing and protection to an entirely new level. Check out the new Walker’s Game Ear HD-2 and the full line of Walker’s Game Ear products at www.WalkersGameEar.com or call 1-(800) 424-1069. For high resolution images, contact Denny Snyder at (717) 560-3877 or e-mail paoutback@aol.com

Smith & Wesson Holding Corp., parent company of Smith & Wesson Corp., opened the Smith & Wesson Museum with a ribbon cutting ceremony at its Springfield, Massachusetts headquarters. Smith & Wesson President and CEO, Michael Golden, said, “We are very proud of our rich heritage that spans 153 years and several generations of families, many of whom are still part of Smith & Wesson today. The creation of the Trust and the establishment of the Smith & Wesson Museum will preserve that heritage for our employees, our Club 1852 members, and the public. It will also serve as an important account of the company’s history and its contributions to our community and our country.” The museum will be available for group tours scheduled in advance, by appointment only. For information contact: 1-800-331-0852, Ext. 259. For information, contact Gary Giudice at Blue Heron Communications, (800) 654-3766 or gary@blueheroncomm.com

Winchester Ammunition’s new 325 WSM rifle cartridge has received an Editor’s Choice Award in the May/June issue of *On Target Magazine*.

TOWA member **Susan L. Ebert** recently joined the staff of *Cowboys & Indians Publishing*, where she is associate publisher of *Western & English Today*, the nation’s leading equine trade magazine, and feature writer for the award-winning consumer title *Cowboys & Indians*. She’ll also be working on custom publishing ventures, and would love to hear from TOWA members who are interesting in writing about horses.

Contact Susan at sebert@cowboysindians.com (214) 239-6966 or at *Cowboys & Indians Publishing*, 6688 N. Central Expressway, Dallas TX 75206.

TOWA ON THE GROW

TOWA is proud to welcome the following new members:

PULLIG, Chris, P.O. Box 60167, San Angelo, TX 76906. San Angelo Standard-Times, Tournamenttime.net. Active. 325-944-7346 (O); 325-651-5726 (H); 325-944-7346 (F); 325-656-9346 (M). news@tournamenttime.net Spouse Annissa. Outdoor writer, San Angelo Standard-Times. Internet coordinator, Tournamenttime.net and TexasBassFederation.com.

HOBIE CAT CO., 4925 Oceanside Blvd., Oceanside, CA 92056, 760-758-9100.

MCALLEN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, 1200 Ash Avenue, McAllen, TX 78501. Nancy Millar. Vice President. 956-682-2871, ext. 3013 or 877-622-5536 (O); 956-631-8571 (F) nmillar@mcallencvb.com

XS SIGHT SYSTEMS INC., 2401 Ludelle St., Fort Worth, TX 76105. David Biggers. 888-774-4880 (O) dbiggers@xssights.com



Texas Outdoor Writers Association
P.O. Box 22533
Juneau, AK 99802

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ED HOLDER - Outdoors Legend, Dies

Holder, in 1965, was saluted by the citizens of Port Arthur and surrounding areas for his "relentless efforts in promoting a far better understanding of the Wonders of Nature, Wildlife Conservation and Outdoor Recreation."

A native of Wichita Falls and a graduate of Wichita Falls Senior High School and Texas A&M, Holder was hired as outdoors editor of the Port Arthur News in 1959. At the time he was hired by News sports editor Dick Oliver, the only newspapers in Texas with a full time outdoors writer were in Dallas, San Antonio and Corpus Christi.

Holder's Great Outdoors column graced the pages of the Port Arthur News from 1959-71. He then became outdoors editor at the Beaumont Enterprise for three years, before being promoted to assistant publisher and vice president of The Enterprise Company in 1973.

Holder served in that capacity until 1975, then joined Hartman Newspapers, Inc. as a vice president. Later, after acquiring a pilot's license, he became a corporate pilot for Doc Ritter and Walter Umphrey. He returned to the Port Arthur News as outdoors editor in 1985 and also served in that capacity for The News' sister paper, The Orange Leader.

In 1997 Holder retired as full time outdoors writer, but agreed to contribute a Sunday column to the Port Arthur News and help school his hand-picked replacement, Chester Moore Jr. Holder continued to write his column while being ravaged by brain cancer, with the last one appearing in the May 29 editions.

Holder is survived by his wife Trudy, son Fred, daughter Carol Ann and brother Jerrell.

Calendar — *Continued from page 1*

August 22-23—"Understanding the Quail Equation" workshop at the Taylor County Extension office in Abilene. For information, contact Dr. Dale Rollins at (325) 653-4576 or d-rollins@tamu.edu

Sept. 11-16—International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (IAFWA) 95th Annual Meeting at the Opryland Hotel in Nashville. Visit <http://www.iafwa.org/> for more information.

Jan. 5-7, 2006—Archery Trade Association (ATA) Trade Show, at the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta, Georgia. For information, contact Cindy Brophy (801) 261-2380, Ext. 13 or cindybrophy@archerytrade.org

Feb. 9-12, 2006—SHOT Show in Las Vegas. Pre-register at www.shotshow.org.

Feb. 23-26, 2006—TOWA Annual Conference in Bandera. For information, contact Lee Leschper at l.leschper@worldnet.att.net or (907) 723-9001.

March 22-25, 2006—North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference in Columbus, Ohio. Information at www.wildlifemanagementinstitute.org as the sessions are further developed.

MAKE A NOTE OF TOWA'S BUSINESS

The business address for TOWA is
c/o Lee Leschper, P.O. Box 22533, Juneau, AK 99802
cell phone: 907-723-9001 • work phone: 907-586-3740
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lee.leschper@juneauempire.com (work)

Please use this address for correspondence on memberships, dues and other questions related to TOWA business.

The password for the TOWA website (www.towa.org) is corpus.