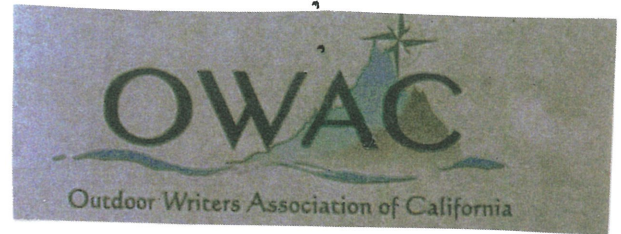


The Original OWAC Logo



The Current OWAC Logo

Composed of active and qualified members of the media, including writers, editors, book authors, photographers, artists, lecturers, broadcasters and public information specialists, the Outdoor Writers Association of California (OWAC) had its origin during its first annual conference, held May 19-20, 1986 in Monterey.

While networking with fellow members, craft improvement and pledging support to the conservation of natural resources were the main goals, the motto, "To Share With Others," was adopted to be the guiding theme.

Initial OWAC Officers elected at the Monterey conference were:

President: Tom Stienstra

Vice-President: Dan Blanton (Northern California)

Vice-President: Bob Robb (Southern California)

Secretary/Treasurer: John Reginato

Other conference attendees at the inaugural gathering included Bill Beebe, Abe and Angelo Cuanang, Michael and Christine Fong, Phil Ford, Buzz Hodges, Kathie Morgan, Dick Murdock, Pete Otteson, Ed Ow, Ray Rychnovsky and Don Vachini.

The highlight of the conference outing was a firsthand viewing of the Monterey Bay Aquarium before it was opened to the public.

In 1990, OWAC commenced sponsorship of a wide range of writing and photography awards. Intended to allow participation among as many members as possible, the contest is comprised of Newspaper Feature, Magazine Feature, Column, News Report, Series of Stories on One Subject, Black & White Photograph, Color Photograph, Radio Show, Book and Video categories.

For the past 30-years, this highly prestigious event, now known as the Excellence in Craft Awards (EIC), allows OWAC members to showcase and be recognized for their best works among their professional peers throughout the entire West Region.

Judges from a cache of the most respected writers and editors across the country lend validity to the EIC.

In addition to serving as president of OWAC (1999-2000) and a 16-year board member, I am proud to have claimed several photography and writing awards as a member of this fine organization.

Outdoor Writers Association of California

Excellence in Craft Awards

Don Vachini

1990: Black & White Photo, First Place: Topwater Trout at Lake Berryessa Now.

1992: Color Photo, First Place: Martis Lake Jumper.

1994: Color Photo, First Place: Martis Lake Inlet Action.

1997: Best Photo Series, Second Place: Techniques for World Class Brookies.

1998: Best News Report, Honorable Mention: IGFA Opens Junior World Records.

1999: Best News Report, Honorable Mention: Brood Stock Goldens.

1999: John Reginato Award, Honorable Mention: Rainbows of the Sac.

1999-2000: OWAC President Plaque and OWAC Gavel.

2003: Best Book, Honorable Mention: A Journey Through John Muir Country.

2004: Best Feature Photo, Honorable Mention: Creekin' for Trout in Siskiyou.

2013: Best Outdoor Medium, First Place: Falconry, Krill Seekers and Eating Crow.

2014: Best Conference-Related Work, First Place: Mammoth's Enormous Opps.

2017: Best Photo Series, First Place: Gold in the Clouds.

2017: Best Conference-Related Work, Second Place: Little Lakes Valley, CA.

2020: Best Feature Photo, Third Place: Backcountry Boot.

DON VACHINI



1st PLACE

Best B&W Photo

Outdoor Writers Association
of California

1990

DON VACHINI



First Place

Best Color Photo



1992

Outdoor Writers Association
of California

DON VACHINI



First Place

Best Color Photo



1994

Outdoor Writers Association
of California

To Share with Others



OWAC

OUTDOOR WRITERS ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA

DON VACHINI

2nd Place



Photo Series

1997

OUTDOOR WRITERS ASSOCIATION
OF CALIFORNIA

"To Share with Others"



OWAC

OUTDOOR WRITERS ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA

DON VACHINI



Honorable Mention
Best News Report



1998

OUTDOOR WRITERS ASSOCIATION
OF CALIFORNIA

"To Share with Others"



OWAC

OUTDOOR WRITERS ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA

DON VACHINI



*Honorable Mention
Reginato Award*



1999

OUTDOOR WRITERS
ASSOCIATION OF
CALIFORNIA

To Share with Others



OWAC

OUTDOOR WRITERS ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA

DON VACHINI



Honorable Mention
News Report



1999

OUTDOOR WRITERS
ASSOCIATION OF
CALIFORNIA

"To Share with Others"



OWAC

OUTDOOR WRITERS ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA

DON VACHINI

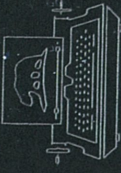


Past President
1999 - 2000

*In appreciation for
all your hard work
and dedication*

OUTDOOR WRITERS ASSOCIATION
OF CALIFORNIA

"To Share with Others"



OWAC

OUTDOOR WRITERS ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA

DON VACHINI

President 1999 - 2000

*In appreciation for your dedication
and service*

**Outdoor Writers Association
Of California**

owac



Outdoor Writers
Association of California
"To Share with Others"

DON VACHINI



Honorable Mention
Book
2003



Outdoor Writers Association
of California



Outdoor Writers
Association of California
"It Starts with Ours"

DON VACHINI



Honorable Mention
Feature Photo
2004



Outdoor Writers Association
of California

Outdoor Writers Association of California 2013
Craft Awards

First Place
Outdoor Medium
California Game and Fish
Submitted by
Don Vachini

This 15th Day of September 2013

Maude Fisher
Signature

Outdoor Writers Association of California
2014

Craft Awards First Place
Best Conference
Related Work
Mammoth Lakes,
Enormous Opportunity

Donald Vachini

This 27th Day of April 2014

Maude Foxworth
President
Signature

Outdoor Writers Association of California
2017 Craft Awards
Second Place
Conference Related Material
Little Lakes Valley, CA
Don Vachini



Outdoor Writers Association of California

This 26th Day of April 2017

Tom Ventura

Outdoor Writers Association of California

2017 Craft Awards

First Place

Best Outdoor Photograph Series
California Gold in the Clouds

Don Vachini



Outdoor Writers Association of California

This 26th Day of April 2017

Lowbentura

Outdoor Writers Association of California
2020 Excellence in Craft Awards

Third Place
Best Outdoor
Feature Photograph
Backcountry Boot
Don Vachini



Outdoor Writers Association of California

This 1st Day of October 2020

Carrie Wilson

Signature