

WYOMING OUTFITTERS & GUIDES ASSOCIATION

2013 Honorary Lifetime Member Award

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FIRST FOR HUNTERS

I was raised in three Latin American countries I was raised in three Latin American countries until I was eleven years old. It was while my family and I were living in Caracas, Venezuela that my father decided to explore the American west during a summer vacation in 1959. We landed for two weeks at the Triangle X Ranch, Moose, Wyoming. That experience changed my life.

After we moved to the United States I graduated from high school in Connecticut, from college in Maine, and worked all those summers at Triangle X. I moved to Kinnear in 1974 to take care of the Turner's winter place.

I left the Turner's Triangle X after the 1979 season. I was awarded Guide of the Year that year by the Jackson Hole Outfitters and Guides Association. Then I started my outfitting business in Dubois with summer permits to take pack-trips in the Wind River Range, the southern Absarokas, and in Yellowstone National Park. We led pack-strings through almost every drainage from the Wind River Indian Reservation boundary to Jackson and Lewis Lakes.

I joined the Wyoming Outfitters Association in 1982 after I bought Hudson Falls Ranch in Shell and two hunting camps at the heads of Beaver Creek and Whaley Creek in the northern Bighorns. I served as a delegate to Governor Mike Sullivan's Wyoming Futures Project, then as a delegate to the American Forest Congress. After

being elected to the WOA Board of Directors and serving as Chairman of WOA's National Forest Issues Committee I was elected Vice President in 1987. That was the year WOA converted to WYOGA. I was then elected President in 1988 and served through 1989.

The legislative session of 1989 culminated 16 years of trying to restore some reason within Wyoming's license system regarding license opportunities for outfitted nonresident hunters. The WYOGA Board and its hardworking members wrote the two-tier license fee bill, took it to the public, lobbied every legislator, and advocated for its common-sense approach. All the time, though, we thought the bill was actually second-rate to what we had been pushing unsuccessfully for so many years—a set-aside bill. With the change of two votes on third reading, the bill finally passed. We then began to demonstrate to dozens of Wyoming communities the true value of outfitted clients to their economies.



I was elected Board Chair of Yellowstone Outfitters and Guides, Inc. in 1993 and President of the Dubois Outfitters Association in 1999. All those experiences helping lead outfitter organizations were amazing times working with really great outfitters and guides who cared deeply about the businesses we ran, the people we hired, the wilderness we depended on, and the communities we supported. Those friendships are deep. I also served on several local nonprofit boards including nine years on the Fremont County Library Foundation and ten years as Troop Committee Chairman for Boy Scout Troop 534 in Dubois.

I owned Hudson Falls Ranch until 1995, the year I met Shirley. The "naturally-raised" cattle and sheep I was marketing as healthy beef and lamb to buyers largely on the east coast was just too difficult an effort. We married in 1996 and together we concentrated on outfitting, so I kept the hunting camps, sold the ranch, and expanded my Bridger-Teton NF and Shoshone NF businesses and my Yellowstone Park concession.

Nine years later Shirley woke up one day and said, "...you know... the two words "old" and "outfitter" don't go together..." After being in business for 24 years, we decided to sell the business at what was probably its peak in 2004.

The Wyoming Community Foundation hired me to be Development Director that same year. I traveled the state developing relationships with donors and nonprofit organizations trying to elevate the extent to which philanthropy makes positive change across Wyoming. I have now been hired by the Foundation for the Episcopal Diocese of Wyoming to grow its assets and make good grants through Episcopal churches who try very hard to address community issues to benefit people.

I live outside of Cody, Wyoming with my wife, Shirley, our daughter, Mariah, and Shirley's mother, Dot. We go to the mountains as much as we can.

I am enormously appreciative to Sy Gilliland and Jim Allen for nominating me for this award. We were Board members together in the late 1980s. They still, obviously, commit hours and hours of their time to help WYOGA succeed. I am totally impressed with what WYOGA has become and what it continues to represent to our state. 🌟