

# Nathaniel Samsel Honored With the 2013 Lindsay Sale-Tinney Award

By Paul Moore

Nathaniel Samsel, SEOPA's youngest and only student member, has been selected by the OJEFA committee to receive the third annual Lindsay Sale-Tinney Award. The award was established by Stu Tinney to honor his late wife, Lindsay Sale-Tinney, and her love of the outdoors, animals, children, photography and education.

The scholarship provides registration, lodging and up to \$750 toward travel expenses for Samsel to attend the 2013 SEOPA conference in Lake Charles in October. Seasoned SEOPA members are encouraged to mentor Samsel throughout the conference to ensure his experience is educational, fun and productive.

Samsel is the son of Jeff Samsel, a longtime member and past president of SEOPA. The younger Samsel was very excited to learn he would be attending the SEOPA conference this fall in Lake Charles, La. He said, "I have heard so many good things about past SEOPA conferences held at Lake Charles, and I can't wait to experience that for myself! I think there are a lot of ways I will benefit from the conference, but probably the thing that I see myself benefiting from the most is the opportunity to meet and build relationships with so many people in the industry."

Samsel is not a stranger to SEOPA or the annual conferences. He has been a student member of SEOPA since 2011 and has been a full participant at two previous conferences and also visited another several years ago when his father was a corporate representative.

At only 15 years of age, Samsel has already seen his work appear in two publications. He also maintains two blogs, one on the outdoors and one on music. He also has a YouTube channel where he offers instructional fishing videos.

Samsel is also making quite an impression in the field of music. Along with his music blog, he has been published in Dulcimer Player News and has released a music CD. He primarily plays mountain dulcimer and guitar. In 2011, at age 12, Samsel won the Southern Regional Mountain Dulcimer Championship.

OJEFA Committee Chairman Paul Moore said, "Nathaniel is a very intelligent and personable young man. It has been a pleasure seeing him involved with SEOPA and outdoor media. He has already built quite a resume and seems destined to follow in the footsteps of his father's prolific media career. Attending the conference this fall should provide another stepping stone toward a very bright future."

Stu Tinney, founder of the original Striper magazine and tournament series, is the benefactor of the Lindsay Sale-Tinney Award. He will make a presentation to Samsel during the SEOPA Annual Awards banquet at the conference.

"The SEOPA conference provides a super venue for networking, learning and enjoying fellowship with like-minded individuals," Tinney said. "I can't imagine a more fitting tribute to Lindsay than to send young outdoor communicators to a SEOPA conference."

Samsel's scholarship application essay follows and you can visit his blog at <http://nathanielsamsel-outdoors.blogspot.com/>

## • Scholarship Application Essay •

By Nathaniel Samsel

### Cajun Country & Real-Life Education

Selecting a scholarship recipient is no simple task. This I recognize. The best I can do, therefore, is to explain why I believe I am qualified, what I would expect to gain from this year's conference and why I hope to be chosen for the Lindsay Sale-Tinney SEOPA Conference Scholarship.



Photo Courtesy  
of Stu Tinney

Dr. Lindsay Sale-Tinney

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## Qualifications

I love the outdoors and outdoors communication, and as a SEOPA Student Member, I have attended the past two SEOPA conferences. I am also very dedicated to making outdoors communication a part of my living. Even though I am only 15 years old, I still have had a fair amount of experience in this field. Since I am home-schooled, my education is largely built around my interests and career hopes, and I have been able to make outdoors communication a major part of my learning.

Much of what I have learned about outdoors communication has come from joining my dad, Jeff Samsel, on media trips, which have taken me all around the country. On these trips I have gotten the chance to not only learn from my dad but also to learn from some of the greatest outdoors communicators in the business. Along with that, I have been able to build great relationships with many people in the industry. In recent years I have been invited to be an official media guest on some of these outdoors media trips. While on these trips I have had the chance to spend a lot of time on both sides of the camera.

I have learned that no matter what kind of outdoors communications you are interested in doing, knowing how to take good photos can be a very valuable asset for anyone in the industry. I think it is very helpful for me that I have already had a lot of experience doing outdoors photography. I have had a handful of my pictures published with my dad's articles both in magazines and on some websites that he writes for.

Since I have developed an interest in outdoor video, my dad and I have started an outdoors YouTube channel. We have produced 28 videos. They are mostly how-to fishing videos done by professional

fishermen that my dad and I fish with on our trips. We have also posted several how-to tips done by dad and me. Since October, the channel has slowly been gaining momentum and now has more than 8,400 video views and 24 subscribers. The channel, by the way, was inspired by a conversation with a SEOPA member at last year's conference.



Photo by Jeff Samsel

Nathaniel Samsel

I can see that much of mainstream media and even the outdoor media is trending more and more toward websites and social media. One of the main ways I can see that people are doing that is through video. I have also really enjoyed the production of the videos for our YouTube channel and for various other projects. For those reasons I have gained an interest in learning everything that I can about the production of outdoors videos. I could see myself down the road producing outdoors videos as a part of my living. Honestly, I don't really know that much at all about the market or the production aspect of videos at this point because my dad's work focuses on the writing side, but it is something that very much intrigues me and something I intend to continue pursuing. I also could see myself selling articles and

photos to magazines and websites like my dad does.

## Expected Gain

At the conference, one specific thing that I would love to learn about is the building of a website. I do currently have an outdoors blog that I post on regularly. But I would love to learn more about how I could possibly build a bigger and more successful website and possibly create something I could use to

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generate income in future years. It is something that I have almost no knowledge about, but it is something that I would like to at least learn more about and possibly something that I would like to pursue in the future. I am positive that there are many people who could teach me an enormous amount about that at the SEOPA conference.

I also think that the SEOPA would also be a perfect opportunity for me to begin learning more about how video can work with outdoors communication. I would love to learn about the kind of markets that outdoors video can be sold to. I would also be very interested in learning about general process of outdoors video production. I know that there are many SEOPA members who will be attending the conference who do work with video, and I think that I could gain an enormous amount of knowledge from some of them.

From the past couple of conferences that I have attended, I have come to realize more and more the value of Breakout Day. I have seen how much can be gained by stopping by all of the tables there and talking to the people running the tables. It is one of the best possible ways to make friends and build good relationships with people in the industry. I know that having strong relationships with those sorts of people can be a huge asset for an outdoors career.

### **Reasons for Applying**

With my dad being an outdoors writer and me being an aspiring outdoors communicator I have gotten the chance to spend a lot of time with people in the outdoors industry. When you are spending time with people in the industry, chances are good that you will get to hear a lot of stories about their adventures. And since Louisiana is one of the best places in the country to have an outdoors adventure, I have heard a tremendous amount about the state over the years. I have only gotten the chance to visit Louisiana once. My visit to Louisiana came last October for a fishing trip in Venice. That one trip, combined with all of the stories I have heard, has been enough to make me long to spend a lot more time in the state!

I was not only impressed by the fishing in southern Louisiana but also very intrigued by the whole culture. That is why I was extremely excited when I

learned that the 2013 SEOPA conference was going to be held in Lake Charles! Unfortunately Lake Charles, Louisiana is an extremely long ways from Clarkesville, Georgia (734 miles to be exact). The combination of it being so far away from home and it being such a big investment, it is very possible that my dad and I being able to attend the conference could depend on me receiving the conference scholarship. That is a major reason why I would be extra thrilled to receive the scholarship this specific year.

Another big reason that I would love to attend the conference this year is simply because of the opportunity to be around all of the people at the conference. The thing that I have gained the most from during two SEOPA conferences that I have attended has been simply being around and learning from so many different people in the industry and soaking up everything that I can from them while I am around them. I think that while at the SEOPA conference, whether you are sitting and talking to people around the dinner table, attending breakout, or whatever else, there is always an opportunity to learn something new from someone. Really, any time that you are around that many people that are experienced in a certain field there is always something to learn from them.

### **Final Thoughts**

Finally, I would like to finish by saying thank you to Mr. Stu Tinney, the scholarship committee and everyone else who helps make this conference scholarship possible. Thank you for your consideration.



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OJEFA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to the education and support of outdoor journalists and their efforts to promote the wise and ethical use of our wildlife and natural resources.