

## 1998 Annual Banquet

### JIM CASADA



Jim Casada is a son of North Carolina's Great Smoky Mountains who enjoyed a marvelously misspent childhood thanks to growing up in a fly fishing family. He has enjoyed the pleasures of having a fly rod in hand for 50 of his 56 years. Along the way he earned his B. A. in history at King College (Bristol, TN) in 1960, an M. A. in British history at Virginia Tech (1968), and a PhD in British imperial history at Vanderbilt University (1972). He was Professor of History at Winthrop University in Rock Hill, S. C. for 25 years before taking early retirement to become a full-time writer. As a scholar he produced several books and upwards of 100 scholarly articles on African exploration.

He has been writing on the outdoors for almost two decades. Currently Casada serves on the staffs of a number of regional or national magazines. These include *Sporting Classics* (Senior Editor), *Turkey & Turkey Hunting* (Editor-at-Large), *Deer & Deer Hunting* (Contributing Editor), *Southern Outdoors* (Regional Editor), *TroutSouth* (Senior Contributor), *Southern Sporting Journal* (Fly Fishing Columnist), *Tennessee Valley Outdoors* (Fly Fishing Columnist), and *Turkey Call* (Book Review columnist). He has written upwards of 2,000 feature articles for magazines. Casada also covers the outdoors for two newspapers, *The News & Record* (Greensboro, N. C.) and *The Herald* (Rock Hill, S. C.).

He is the author or editor of some 15 books, including the award-Winning *Modern Fly Fishing*. Currently Casada has three books in press and is completing work on a volume near and dear to his heart which will cover fly fishing in the Great Smokies. He has won upwards of 80 regional and national awards for his writing and photography. Among these is a Lifetime Membership in the Federation of Fly Fishers as a recipient of the organization's Arnold Gingrich Memorial Award for contributions to the literature of fly fishing in a series of biographical profiles he wrote for *The Fly Fisher*. He annually teaches fly fishing classes in the University of Tennessee's non-credit program, The Smoky Mountain Field School, with Classic Sports International in Montana, and in "The Great Montana Fly Fishing Getaway."

Long active in writer's organizations, Casada is a past president and board chair of the Southeastern Outdoor Press Association, and he currently serves as Second Vice President of the Outdoor Writers Association of America.

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## **Education and Professional Background**

B. A. in history, King College, Bristol, TN (1964); M. A. in British history, Virginia Tech (1967); Ph. D. in British imperial history, Vanderbilt University (1972). Taught history at Winthrop University in Rock Hill, SC from 1972-1996 before taking early retirement to work as a full-time freelance writer/photographer. While at Winthrop rose to the rank of full professor, was recognized as the institution's Distinguished Professor (in 1983), and served two terms as chairman of the graduate faculty. Member and past president of the South Carolina Outdoor Press Association and Southeastern Outdoor Press Association. Past president of Outdoor Writers Association of America (OWAA).

## **Background Writing Experience**

Author of more than 3,500 magazine and newspaper articles and columns on hunting, fishing, firearms, conservation and other outdoor-related topics. Author of a number of academic books and more than 100 articles in scholarly journals.

## **Books Written as a Freelancer**

*Modern Fly Fishing* (1993)

*From Campsite to Kitchen* (1994)

*The Complete Venison Cookbook* (with Ann Casada, 1996)

*Wild Bounty* (with Ann Casada – 2000)

*Innovative Turkey Hunting* (2001)

*The Ultimate Venison Cookbook* (with Ann Casada, 2004)

*Backyard Grilling* (with Ann Casada, Kate Fiduccia and Teresa Marrone, 2004)

## **Books Edited as a Freelancer**

*Hunting and Home in the Southern Heartland: The Best of Archibald Rutledge* (1992)

*Tales of Whitetail: Archibald Rutledge's Great Deer Hunting Stories* (1992)

*Last Casts and Stolen Hunts* (with Chuck Wechsler – 1993)

*America's Greatest Game Bird: Archibald Rutledge's Great Turkey-Hunting Tales* (1994)

*The Best of Horatio Bigelow* (1994)

*The Lost Classics of Robert Ruark* (1995)

*Bird Dog Days, Wingshooting Ways* (1998)

*Africa's Greatest Hunter: The Lost Writings of Fred Selous* (1999)

*Selous: A Hunting Legend* (2000)

*Forgotten Tales and Vanished Trails* (2001)

*The Marksmanship Manual* (2004)

## **Other**

Forewords or Introductions for scores of books (mostly reprints of classics) in *The African Collection* (Live Oak Press); *The Firearms Classics* (Palladium Press); *The Premier Collection* (Premier Press); *The Outdoor Tennessee Series* (University of Tennessee Press); and many others. Lead researcher (and ghost wrote the latter half) of *NRA: An American Legend* (2002).

Seminar speaker on fly fishing and turkey hunting. Instructor in the University of Tennessee's Smoky Mountain Field School offering classes in fly fishing, backpacking and writing on nature.

## **Honors and Awards**

Recipient of the J. Hammond Brown Memorial Award at the 2004 Outdoor Writers Association of America (OWAA) annual conference, which was held June 2004 in Spokane, Wash.

Won numerous excellence in teaching awards as a university professor. Honorary Life Member and winner of the Federation of Fly Fishermen's Arnold Gingrich Memorial Award (for contributions to the literature of the sport). Winner of more than 125 regional and national awards for writing and photography. Among the most recent of these was first place in the Association for Conservation Information's Izaak Walton League contest for writing on outdoor ethics and first place for the outstanding outdoor book of 2001 published by a writer in the South. Recognized by the S. C. Wildlife Federation as the state's outstanding conservation communicator. Listed in numerous biographical directories including *Who's Who in the Southeast*.

## **Current Activities**

Senior Editor and Book Columnist for *Sporting Classics* magazine; Editor-at-large for *Turkey & Turkey Hunting* magazine; Contributing Editor for *Petersen's Hunting*, *Sporting Clays*, *Whitetail News*, *The Hunting Magazine* and *Tennessee Valley Outdoors* magazines; Outdoor Editor for *Smoky Mountain Living*; Outdoor Correspondent for *The Herald* (Rock Hill, SC) and the *Spartanburg Herald-Journal*; Field Editor for *Cabela's Outfitter Journal*; Editor of the *Outdoor Tennessee Series* (University of Tennessee Press) and the *Firearms Classics Series* (Palladium Press).

Regular contributor to regional and national magazines, with credits in *Outdoor Life*, *Field & Stream*, *Sports Afield*, *American Hunter*, *American Rifleman*, *Deer & Deer Hunting*, *Turkey Call*, *Wildlife in North Carolina*, *Tennessee Wildlife*, *South Carolina Wildlife*, *Crappie*, *Bassin'*, *Bassmaster*, *Grouse Point Almanac*, *Trout*, *The Flyfisher*, *Pointing Dog Journal*, *Southern Sporting Journal*, *Cabela's Outfitter Journal*, *Outdoor World*, *North American Hunter*, *North American Fisherman*, *Hunting the Country* and many others.

## **Works in Progress**

Books on fly fishing in the Great Smokies, Africa's greatest hunters, the Eddie Salter story, the life of Archibald Rutledge, anthology of Archibald Rutledge Christmas stories,

and a life of Horace Kephart. Writes 125-150 magazine feature articles and 104 newspaper columns each year.