

The Fossil

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Boys Awarded 2018 Gold Composing Stick

by Ken Faig, Jr.

ON BEHALF OF The Fossils Board of Trustees, I am pleased to announce to our membership that William E. Boys is the 2018 recipient of The Fossils' coveted Gold Composing Stick award. The award was presented to Bill at NAPA's July convention.

Including Bill, there have been only thirteen recipients of the Gold Composing Stick award since it was first awarded to Edward H. Cole in 1953. Stan Oliner was the last recipient before Bill, in 2010. Bill is a dual Paxton/Gold Composing Stick winner, having won the Paxton award in 2008. To date, only seven amateur journalists have won both awards, including Harold Segal, Vic Moitoret, Stan Oliner, Lee Hawes, Ralph Babcock and Dave Tribby in addition to Bill.

Bill joined The Fossils in 2016 and you can find Dave Tribby's admirable new member's profile "Bill Boys, NAPA Stalwart" in THE FOSSIL for July 2016 (available on our website). Bill is a fifty-plus-year veteran of NAPA, having joined in 1964. The first number of his *Boys's Berries* appeared in the February 1965 NAPA bundle. Bill published many titles for NAPA over the years, his most recent being *Pennant Bravo*, which he began in 2003. Bill has served in just about every office NAPA has to offer: secretary-treasurer in 1968, president in 1971 and 1972, and official editor in 1975 and 1976. In addition, he was convention chairman in 1983, 1990 and 2015. Since 2003 he has served continuously as NAPA secretary-treasurer and in addition has been responsible for the *NAPA Email News*. Bill was a strong supporter of the 2016 Amateur Journalism Conference at University of Wisconsin in Madison, and has been one of the largest individual donors to the Hawes Memorial Endowment Fund for the Library of Amateur Journalism Collection at the university.

Bill has also led a busy life outside the amateur journalism hobby. Bill was born into a family of three



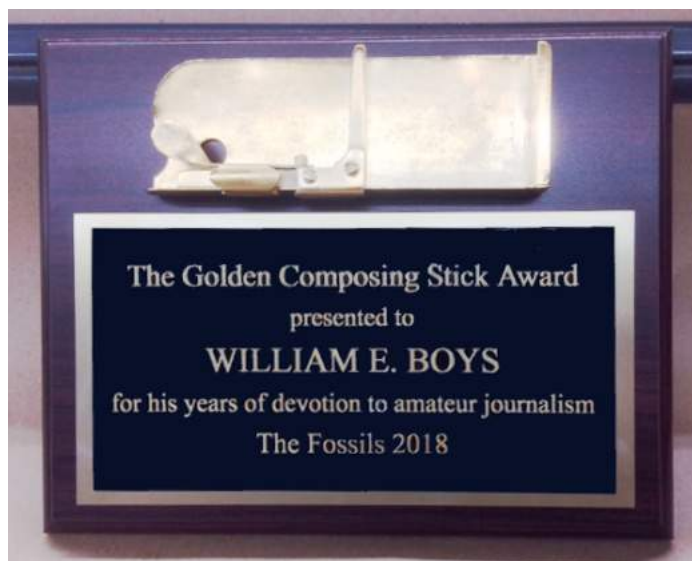
Fossil Trustee Gary Bossler presents the 2018 Gold Composing Stick award to Bill Boys.

brothers in Columbus, Ohio, where he presently resides. Following graduation from Concordia College, he served as a Naval Reserve chaplain beginning in 1961, retiring as a captain in 1993. He married Ruth Benck in 1963 and was ordained a minister in the Lutheran Church. He and his wife served as missionaries in Nigeria in 1966-67. He earned a Ph.D. in Linguistics from Ohio State University in 1979, but was unable to return to Nigeria to pursue his study of the Ekret language. Bill served in various pastorates until his retirement in 2008. In recent years, he has continued to maintain a vigorous hobby presence while battling a serious kidney condition which required transplant surgery.

The Gold Composing Stick Award provides appropriate recognition of Bill's lifetime of devotion to the amateur journalism hobby. His *Pennant Bravo* provides a fine example of everything to which an amateur magazine should aspire, including beautiful layout and

design and quality content. I personally remember Bill's and Ruth's kindness toward a novice when I attended my first amateur journalists' conventions in the mid-1990s. I had the good fortune to renew my acquaintance with Bill and Ruth at Amateur Journalism Conference 2016 in Madison. I hope that we will continue to benefit from their many contributions to the amateur journalism hobby for years to come.

Please join me and my fellow Fossils Board members in congratulating Bill Boys on winning the 2018 Gold Composing Stick Award. Bill, your amazing amateur journalism career has been everything that the amateur journalists attending the first NAPA convention in Philadelphia in 1876 might have hoped for. ♦



From *THE FOSSIL* for July 1953

The First Gold Composing Stick Award

(Excerpts from *Minutes of the Fiftieth Reunion*)

by Edna Hyde McDonald

PRESIDENT PORTER CALLED upon Mrs. McDonald, as Chairman of the Award Committee, to tell about the Fossil Award, initiated this year, and to make the presentation. Mrs. McDonald explained that the award was a gold-plated composing-stick, suitably engraved which The Fossils would award from time to time to a Fossil, or to a member of amateur journalism, for outstanding merit—not a single feat of accomplishment, nor particularly an amateur activity, however. The award will not be made annually or at any stated intervals. It will be presented only for outstanding accomplishment in the furtherance of The Fossils as an organization, or for unusual endeavor on behalf of amateur journalism, or it may be that some Fossil or amateur journalist in a capacity outside the hobby achieves significance which redounds to his credit as a Fossil or an amateur journalist and thus puts him in position for this award. There will be no contest for the award. The Award committee (Edna McDonald, Chm.; Edward H. Cole, Harry T. Cook, Hyman Bradofsky, Anthony F. Moitoret, and Fred F. Thomas, Jr.) will be the arbiters selectors, and judges of those eligible for the award from time to time and will make the award as situations indicate it is deserved. In this way true virtue will be repaid, years of earnest striving will be noticed, and those who endeavor to achieve only for the love of their art will be made to feel that such striving is not all selfish and in vain.

Gold Composing Stick Awards

- 1953: Edward H. Cole
- 1955: Sheldon & Helen Wesson
- 1957: Harry L. Lindquist
- 1958: Edna Hyde McDonald
- 1966: William F. & Matilda S. Haywood
- 1981: Leland M. Hawes, Jr.
- 1989: Ralph W. Babcock
- 1994: Harold Segal
- 2000: Elaine J. Peck
- 2004: Victor A. Moitoret
- 2007: David M. Tribby
- 2010: Stanley Oliner
- 2018: William E. Boys

Mrs. McDonald reported further that several persons were designated by the committee as deserving consideration for the first award but as accomplishments were analyzed, the list dwindled to three persons upon which the committee took ballots. The award went almost unanimously to *Edward H. Cole*. Almost unanimously because, it must be recorded, Mr. Cole was given no opportunity to consider himself eligible or to cast a ballot in his own favor. The award, ornamental perhaps rather than useful in a busy hobby-shop, was then presented to Mr. Cole. And was he surprised! Words actually failed him for a space; he showed considerable emotion. But the applause following the presentation left no doubt that the decision of the committee was fair, and that Mr. Cole deserved this signal honor. "Cole Stuck With Fancy Stick," says the *A. P. C. News*, but so long as Cole sticks with the Fossils that body will never be stuck for want of an advocate, a proselyte, and a devotee. ♦