Allen Morris Jones

Editorial Highlights

Acquisitions Editor
The duties of an acquisitions editor include the generation of ideas and commissioning of authors to fulfill; fielding proposals and judging their potential vis-à-vis sales; creating pitch packages for Publisher review, and negotiating contracts with authors.

Developmental Editor
The duties of a developmental editor include first-stage editorial reads for acceptability, collaboration with authors on big-picture rewrites, and the review and coordination of art programs, including the commissioning of photos and illustrations.

Sport and Outdoors

A Sportsman’s Library
by Stephen J. Bodio
Using the same sensibility that made his review column in Gray’s Sporting Journal such a success, Bodio creates a list of 100 essential sporting titles.

Gray’s Sporting Journal’s Noble Birds and Wiley Trout
by Will Ryan
A history of the early years of hunting and fishing, by one of the foremost writers on the sporting shelf.

What a Trout Sees
by Geoff Mueller
Geoff Mueller, Senior Editor at The Drake, created a modern take on the underwater world of trout. Tom Bie, Editor of The Drake, provided the introduction. Idea by Allen Jones.

Joan Wulff’s New Fly-Casting Techniques
by Joan Wulff
One of the preeminent fly fishers and casting instructors in the world, Joan Wulff worked with Jones to thoroughly revise and update her classic Fly-Casting Techniques.
Rivers of Sand
by Josh Greenburg
An exploration of the techniques needed to fish the waters of Michigan and the Great Lakes region, and a paean to the region itself.

The Orvis Guide to Family-Friendly Fly Fishing
by Tom Rosenbauer
Famed fly-fisherman Tom Rosenbauer drew on his relationship with his own son to write this accessible, highly-entertaining look at fly-fishing with your family.

The American Angler Guide to Fly Fishing for Trout
by Aaron Jasper
Allen Jones spearheaded branding scenarios between Lyons Press and other Morris properties, including Gray’s Sporting Journal, Fly Tyer Magazine, and American Angler Magazine.

Fly Tyer’s Guide to Tying Essential Bass and Panfish Flies
by Jerry Darkes
A warmwater primer for beginning and intermediated fly tyers.

Fly Tyer’s Guide to Tying Essential Trout Flies
by David Klausmeyer
An introduction to tying trout flies by the editor of Fly Tyer Magazine.

Everything You Always Wanted to Know about Fly Fishing
by Patrick Straub
Authority combined with accessibility for a truly unique approach to the typical how-to book. Idea by Allen Jones.

The Biggest Fish Ever Caught
by Andrew Vietze
The tales behind the International Game Fishing Association’s record-holding fish, including where they were bagged, what lines/lures the anglers used, and other tips and tricks. Idea by Allen Jones.

The American Angler Guide to Warmwater Fly Fishing
by Nathan Perkinson
A quick and succinct handbook, presenting the essentials of this growing aspect of the sport.
The industry’s best-selling fly-fishing titles are all general introductions. The challenge is creating a new spin on an old model. This idea was created by Allen Jones.

The Top Ten Guide to Fly Fishing
by Jay Zimmerman
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Modern Trout Fishing
by Boots Allen
Jackson Hole guide Boots Allen gave Lyons Press a top-shelf proposal, and fulfilled admirably on his initial vision.

The Master’s Fly Box
by Dave Klausmeyer
The Master’s Fly Box by Dave Klausmeyer

Stalking Trophy Brown Trout
by John Holt
Allen Jones and Holt collaborated on the idea for this title, bouncing notions back and forth until they hit upon the perfect pairing of author and subject matter.

Tenkara
by Kevin C. Kelleher
Tenkara by Kevin C. Kelleher

Naturally Artificial Signature Flies
by Vince Wilcox
A young phenomenon in the fly-tying community, Vince Wilcox gave Lyons Press the recipes for sixteen of his most popular flies.

Fly Tying with Common, Household Materials
by Jay “Fishy” Fullum
A stalwart of Fly Tyer magazine, Jay Fullum brought his entertaining and idiosyncratic vision to this popular tying manual.

The Frugal Fly Fisherman
by Patrick Straub
Outfitter, guide, and shop owner in Bozeman, Montana, Pat Straub shows us how to pursue our passion in a slow economy. Idea by Allen Jones.
One of the foremost authorities on the flats, Aaron J. Adams draws on his work as a fisheries biologist to produce the definitive guide to coastal fly fishing.

The Orvis Guide to Fly Fishing for Coastal Gamefish
by Aaron Adams

The Complete Book of Rod Building and Tackle Making
by C. Boyd Pfeiffer

The Bass Angler’s Almanac
by John Weiss

Bonefish Fly Patterns
by Dick Brown

The Hatch is On!
by Chris Santella

Fly-Fishing the Seasons in Colorado
by Ron Baird

Quick Casts: Portland
by Jim Yuskavitch

Outfitter and guide Taylor Streit worked with us on revising, expanding, and updating his classic work, Instinctive Fly Fishing.

At more than 700 pages and well over 500 photos, the most recent edition of Pfeiffer’s encyclopedic work was a mammoth undertaking, for all involved.

Chris Santella is possibly the best-selling fly fishing author alive today, having penned the popular, Fifty Places to Fly Fish Before you Die titles.

Of the various elements that impact a day’s fishing, the time of the year in which you’re fishing is perhaps the most profound. Idea by Allen Jones.

The quality of fishing available within just a few minutes drive from downtown Portland is astonishing. This guide points the way. Idea by Allen Jones.
### Conservation

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Last Stand</td>
<td>Todd Wilkinson</td>
<td>For this authorized “eco-biography” of Ted Turner, the author was given access to Turner’s personal life. Blurbs by Tom Brokaw, E. O. Wilson, and Terry Tempest Williams helped spring this one on the marketplace.</td>
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<tr>
<td>How Sportsmen Saved the World</td>
<td>E. Donnall Thomas, Jr.</td>
<td>Few sporting writers are as well respected as Don Thomas, Jr., or as well positioned to write a history of sport and conservation. Idea by Allen Jones.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blue Man in a Red State</td>
<td>Greg Lemon</td>
<td>At the time of this book’s publication, Brian Schweitzer was Montana’s wildly popular new governor, and on the rise in the Democratic party. Idea by Allen Jones.</td>
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<tr>
<td>An Eternity of Eagles</td>
<td>Stephen J. Bodio</td>
<td>With a foreword by Annie Proulx, Steve Bodio draws upon his authorial curiosity and scientific expertise to give us a natural history of this fascinating bird.</td>
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### Miscellaneous

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<tr>
<th>Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>The New Montana Cabin</td>
<td>Seabring Davis</td>
<td>A coffee table book in the tradition of Town &amp; Country, a branding partnership with Big Sky Journal helped open up new markets.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hunter S. Thompson</td>
<td>Jay Cowan</td>
<td>Among the many biographies of Hunter Thompson, this is perhaps the most original. From the onetime caretaker of Thompson’s ranch.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bear Viewing in Alaska</td>
<td>Stephen F. Stringham</td>
<td>Where-to and how-to safely photograph coastal grizzly bears in the wilds of Alaska.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prophet’s Daughter</td>
<td>Erin Prophet</td>
<td>The daughter of Elizabeth Clare Prophet discloses some of the most tightly held secrets of the Church Universal and Triumphant. Chosen by B&amp;N as a “Discover Great New Writers” pick.</td>
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Americana

Cowboys, Mountain Men, and Grizzly Bears by Matt Mayo
A member of the sales staff said, “I want anything that has cowboys, mountain men, or grizzly bears in it.” Allen Jones borrowed the phrase as a title for this idea.

Jesse James by Harold Dellinger
Jesse James is a character in novels, a presence in newspaper profiles, a metaphor in poetry, and a subject in plays and biographies. This anthology brings together the best of these pieces. Idea created by Allen Jones.

Billy the Kid by Harold Dellinger
On the same model as Jesse James, an anthology of disparate pieces surrounding the life and legend of Billy the Kid. Idea by Allen Jones.

Adventures in Yellowstone by M. Mark Miller
First-person accounts of the early years of America’s most beloved national park. Acquired by Allen Jones.

Massachusetts Troublemakers by Paul Della Valle
Twenty short biographies of Massachusetts bandits, politicians, and creative personalities, developed by Allen Jones.

Deadwood by T. D. Griffith
Adhering to the same template as Billy the Kid and Jesse James, a collection of compelling pieces having to do with the wildest town in the West. Idea by Allen Jones.

Tiger of the Wild Bunch by Gary Wilson
A biography of Harvey “Kid Curry” Logan. Developed by Allen Jones.

Famous Firearms of the Old West by Hal Herring
Hal Herring has made a name for himself as an environmental journalist. But the storytelling ability on display in this title is astonishing.
Globe Pequot Press, like a number of other mid-sized publishers, finds a good portion of its success in the volume production of small, regional titles. Travel guides to cookbooks, this business model necessitates low author advances, which in turn means that the authors, while specialists in their fields, usually aren’t professional writers. Each title needs aggressive developmental editing and fact checking, as well as tactful author management.

Working from GPP’s Helena office for three years, Allen Jones specialized in local interest titles, including the “It Happened In” series. Recouching local history as a series of sequential, episodic scenes, this series has proven to be one of the most popular of its kind, and a tent pole of the company. Highlights include It Happened in Montana, It Happened on the Underground Railroad, and It Happened in Denver.
The Outlaw Tales line takes regional history and popularizes it through some of the most common and appealing characters of all—guntlingers and bank robbers, sheriff’s deputies and damsels in distress. Turns out, there is an entire subculture of regional historians, often amateurs, who specialize in the study of western outlaws. Authors were chosen not only for their expertise in the subject matter but also for their ability to help promote their books.

A guidebook series, GPP’s Curiosities line takes the notion of regional travelogues and turns it on its ear, focusing on the more unusual destinations that a curious tourist might like to experience.

The Mysteries and Legends brand, not unlike “Outlaw Tales,” attempts to popularize local histories through the use of an original point of view. Not surprisingly, almost everyone likes to read the occasional ghost story or tale of buried treasure.
Allen Jones began his career in publishing as Distribution Director of the magazine *Big Sky Journal*. This position gave him the opportunity to occasionally appear in the magazine as a contributor and to receive a basic tutorial in how print magazines are assembled. In 1995, he was asked to take over as Editor. For the next five years, he published nearly every major writer and photographer in the American West, increasing the subscription base by 300 percent and pulling the business back from bankruptcy. By the time he left in 2000, the magazine was turning a profit.

Editorial highlights from his work at BSJ include appearances by Jim Harrison and Thomas McGuane, William Kittredge and Annick Smith, Russell Chatham and James Welch, Mary Clearman Blew and David James Duncan. He worked with photographers the caliber of Kurt Markus and Bruce Weber, and a story by Rick Bass was selected for the “Best American Short Stories” series.

Author of an acclaimed novel, *Last Year’s River* (Houghton Mifflin), a highly influential consideration of the ethics of hunting, *A Quiet Place of Violence*, and coeditor, with William Kittredge, of *The Best of Montana’s Short Fiction*, Allen Jones is also the author of more than one hundred published short stories, articles, essays, and poems. He has appeared on Jim Lehrer’s “PBS NewsHour” as a guest essayist, lectured to the Outdoor Writer’s Association of America, and seen reviews of his work appear on the “Today” show and in the *LA Times, People magazine, Publisher’s Weekly, Booklist*, and many others. His magazine work has appeared in publications as varied as *Town & Country* and *Men’s Journal, Gray’s Sporting Journal* and *Sports Afield*. 
As owner and Publisher, Allen Jones designs, edits, and markets each title released by Bangtail Press. From negotiated contract to cover copy, these books are direct reflections of his sensibilities as editor and designer.

**El Paso Twilight**
by Rick DeMarinis

“...one of the most talented and versatile writers of my generation...”

*James Lee Burke*

**Grow: Stories from the Urban Food Movement**
by Stephen Grace

“...I absolutely loved this book. A must-read—for everyone...”

*Laura Pritchett*

**Steering with my Knees**
by Paul Zarzyski

“...[his] diction is as rich as his internal rhymes and alliteration are extravagant.”

*The Washington Post*

**The Snow Leopard’s Tale**
by Thomas McIntyre

“a story...that is un-human, inhuman, and super-human all at once...”

*P.J. O’Rourke*

**High and Inside**
by Russell Rowland

“I found myself laughing, cringing, and knuckling down.”

*Kim Barnes*

**Extremophilia**
by Fred Haefele

“...fantastic, intelligent writing about a life well-lived...”

*Rick Bass*
120 Songs by Tom Russell

“Tom Russell is an original, a brilliant songwriter with a restless curiosity and an almost violent imagination.”

Annie Proulx

A Country Bookshelf Reader: Bozeman Area Authors

A Fact & Fiction Reader: Missoula Area Authors

An Elk River Books Reader: Livingston Area Authors

More than 95 Montana writers contributed to these unique collections.

Blue Horse, Red Desert by Tom Russell

“Tom Russell is Johnny Cash, Jim Harrison, and Charles Bukowski rolled into one.”

Lawrence Ferlinghetti

Riding the Rough String by Toby Thompson

“...a fine sport and an all-day pleasure.”

William Kittredge

51: 30 Poems, 20 Lyrics, 1 Self-Interview by Paul Zarzyski

“...poems and lyrics as exquisite and heartfelt as any I’ve read...”

Judy Blunt

Tom Connor’s Gift by David Allan Cates

“...the gift we all seek...”

Annick Smith

Metroliner by Toby Thompson

“an intrepid tripper... and an urban Thoreau.”

Tom Wolfe

Tom Connor’s Gift by David Allan Cates

“...the gift we all seek...”

Annick Smith
Endorsements

I have worked with Allen Jones for nearly fifteen years now, first when Allen was running Big Sky Journal and then when he served as Acquisitions Editor for Globe Pequot Press. Although I have worked with dozens of editors in the field, I can’t think of any I would rather collaborate with on a writing project....

E. Donnall Thomas Jr.
How Sportsmen Saved the World

Allen’s editorial skills are first rate. His close reading of my manuscript and the comments he gave me show that he can untangle the knottiest of sentences. But Allen’s true gift is his ability to see the big picture, to move the story in directions I didn’t even know were there. Allen’s insight was invaluable to me and he made me a better writer. He is well-organized, efficient, and as honest as they come....

Tom Groneberg
One Good Horse and The Secret Life of Cowboys

As a writer himself, Allen Jones understands the difficulties of the writing process. As an editor, he has a finely honed ability to pick up the scent of a story and follow it to the end, leaving nonessentials behind. Any writer lucky enough to have Allen on the trail should count it a privilege.

Erin Prophet
Prophet’s Daughter
2008 Barnes and Noble ‘Discover Great New Writers’ Pick

I’ve found Allen Jones to be one of the best editors I’ve ever worked with in both magazines and books…He has a light and graceful touch, has always been good at keeping me on track and never interfering with whatever voice I may have....I cannot recommend his services highly enough.

Jay Cowan
Editor in Chief, Aspen Sojourner Magazine

In a competitive publishing world, an honest, thoughtful and skilled editor is essential for any writer. Allen Jones worked hard for me in helping me craft my book out of a rambling manuscript. Without him, the book writing process for me would have been much longer and harder. I learned a great deal from Allen and will certainly seek him out for my next book.

Greg Lemon
Editor, the Helena Independent Record

In addition to acquiring and developing more than one hundred titles over the course of his editorial career, Allen Jones has published a novel set in 1920’s Wyoming (Last Year’s River), a consideration on the ethics of hunting (A Quiet Place of Violence), and numerous magazine pieces, essays, and works of poetry. He currently lives with his wife and young son in Bozeman, Montana.