



The Blade

May – June 2009

The Official Publication of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers

"Sun-Burst Over The Lake" by HOW Member Tom Berg



Hoosier Outdoor Writers

The Hoosier Outdoor Writers was formed in 1969 and has brought together many diverse groups and individuals with shared interests. The Hoosier Outdoor Writers, known among its members as HOW, is a group of dedicated professionals who are keenly interested in the wise use of natural resources in the Hoosier State.

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President's Message

by Bryan Poynter

“Magical”... “Sensational”... “Awesome”! These are just a few of the words used to describe the opening night performance of “LINCOLN” at the remarkably renovated outdoor amphitheater at Lincoln State Park in the hills of Southern Indiana recently.

Summer should be a time for all sorts of outdoor recreation and there was no finer way to spend it than in this great park watching a truly awesome performance with my three kids. Our jobs as outdoor communicators is to tell the stories of our experiences, paint word pictures, express and share the emotions of what we see and hear.



This performance is worthy of such expression. After a national search for the finest acting, directing and writing talent along with a dedicated Board of Directors from around the state, this performance has brought magic back to the darkened and deteriorating building in the park. Now, this 1,500 seat world-class outdoor performance center is bringing history to life in dramatic fashion 6 out of 7 nights a week this summer.

Lincoln's 200th birthday celebration includes activities and ceremonies all over the state and being coordinated by the Indiana Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission. It might be tempting to dismiss the life and times he shared in our Hoosier hills as only passing moments in his early life. However, when you spend time at the National Park across the street from our State Park and go to the historic sites in the area and then...go to see “LINCOLN” in the amphitheatre you cannot help but swell with pride about our 16th President's time in Indiana. I invite you to check it out for yourselves and tell others about it as well. The website address is below: <http://www.lincolnamphitheatre.com/>

While in the area I visited with Fr. Damian Schmelz in his community of St. Henry, Indiana and bestowed the Distinguished Hoosier Award on him on behalf of the Governor. This award recognizes him for his life's contributions to natural resources, nature preserves and his work on the Natural Resources Commission as an appointee of the Academy of Sciences. Fr. Damian will also have a new section of Donaldson Woods Nature Preserve at Spring Mill State Park dedicated in his honor later this year.

I hope that you do all you can to highlight the great places to visit in Indiana and the great people and human interest stories that surround them in your writings and publications.

My best to you and I hope to see you in the great Indiana Outdoors this summer.

The Hoosier Outdoor Writers

New Members, Past Presidents & Memorial Section



Memorial to Deceased HOW Members

Those Who Have Gone Before Us

Jack Alkire – President of HOW 1979
Bill Beeman – Executive Director
Ed Blann
Charlie Brown
Jim “Moose” Carden – President 1982/83
Gary Carden
George Carey
John Case
Bill Church – President of HOW 1972
Jack “Big Jake” Cooper
Mark Cottingham
Dick Forbes
Dale Griffith
Fred Heckman
Jack Kerins
Mike Lyle – President of HOW 1981
Ralph “Cork” McHargue – President 1976
Bob Nesbit
Jack Parry
Harry Renfro
George Seketa
Al Spiers
Butch Tackett
Robert “Doc” Stunkard
Joe West

Presidents of HOW

Bill Scifres	1969
Bill Scifres	1970
Bill Scifres	1971
Bill Church	1972
Rick Bramwell	1973
Jack Ennis	1974
Phil Junker	1975
Ralph McHargue	1976
Tom Glancy	1977
Bob Rubin	1978
Jack Alkire	1979
Louie Stout	1980
Mike Lyle	1981
Jim “Moose” Carden	1982
Jim “Moose” Carden	1983
John Davis	1984
John Davis	1985
Ray Harper	1986
Ray Harper	1987
Ray Dickerson	1988
“Bayou” Bill Scifres	1989
“Bayou” Bill Scifres	1990
“Bayou” Bill Scifres	1991
Jack Spaulding	1992
Jack Spaulding	1993
John Rawlings	1994
Phil Bloom	1995
Martin (Marty) Jaranowski	1996
John Martino	1997
Mike Schoonveld	1998
Jack Spaulding	1999
Jack Spaulding	2000
Sharon Wiggins	2001
Phil Junker	2002
Larry Crecelius	2003
Bryan Poynter	2004
Phil Bloom	2005
Brian Smith	2006
Brian Smith	2007
Brent Wheat	2008
Bryan Poynter	2009

HOW History – A Look Back

by Tom Berg



Believe it or not, the Hoosier Outdoor Writers group has been around for 40 years. For some, that's a long time. For others, it probably seems like yesterday that this group was formed. As the years roll by, time does seem to speed up!

Earlier this year, long-time HOW member Phil Hawkins sent me a note and offered to send me his "HOW file" – a stack of papers, letters, old Directories, etc – dating back to the founding of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers. I was definitely interested. But rather than describe everything that Phil said in his letter, I'll let you read it yourself. It is printed below:

To: Tom Berg

February 1, 2009

I probably have every piece of correspondence that was ever sent out to HOW members since HOW was born. I've enclosed a few copies of the early newsletters, etc. You may already have all of the old correspondence and not be interested, but if you are I will gladly mail all or some of my file for the HOW history. The file is 6" thick.

I'm 77 years old and even though I've been on 71 hunting and fishing trips since squirrel season came in last fall, I thought it might be time to look into the above possibility. Let me know.

Sincerely,
Phil Hawkins

After I read Phil's letter, I got on the phone and called him at home. I told him that I was very interested in receiving the HOW history file. I also mentioned to him that I was duly impressed with his recent outdoor pursuits. Anyone who has been hunting and fishing 71 times between last fall and the beginning of February is certainly an avid outdoorsman!

Please look at the next two pages from the HOW history file, courtesy of Phil Hawkins. I have scanned the pages so that everyone can see them. The first page is a letter written by Bill Beeman on Sept. 30, 1969 inviting Indiana's resident outdoor writers to HOW's organizational "Fling-Ding" meeting. The second page is the map that Bill made for the attendees.

Some of our newer members may be interested in seeing what HOW was like in the beginning. By "newer" members I mean those who have been with HOW for 20 years or less! Some of the old-timers may enjoy looking back and reminiscing about "the good old days". I plan to include some pages from the HOW history file in each subsequent issue of The Blade in 2009. It is fun to look back in history, especially in this our 40th year of existence!

Thanks again Phil – we all appreciate it!

Indiana Coal Association

632 CHERRY STREET - BOX 210
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA 47808

TELEPHONE 232-1353

September 30, 1969

Dear Hoosier O.W.:

You recently heard from our good Gary friend, Jack Parry, about the upcoming Fling-Ding organizational stag session of Hoosier Outdoor Writers.

I will reiterate Jack's statement of your most cordial welcome to our bivouac area where we hope you will enjoy our hospitality, food, and folly juice. We're limited to twelve overnight accommodations, but we could possibly stretch this figure out by other horizontal accommodations "up on the hill".

There have been a few who have indicated of bringing their bodies, but you are among the missing. If we are going to have a representative group of the known thirty-four outdoor writers in Hoosierland, then I think you should be among them.

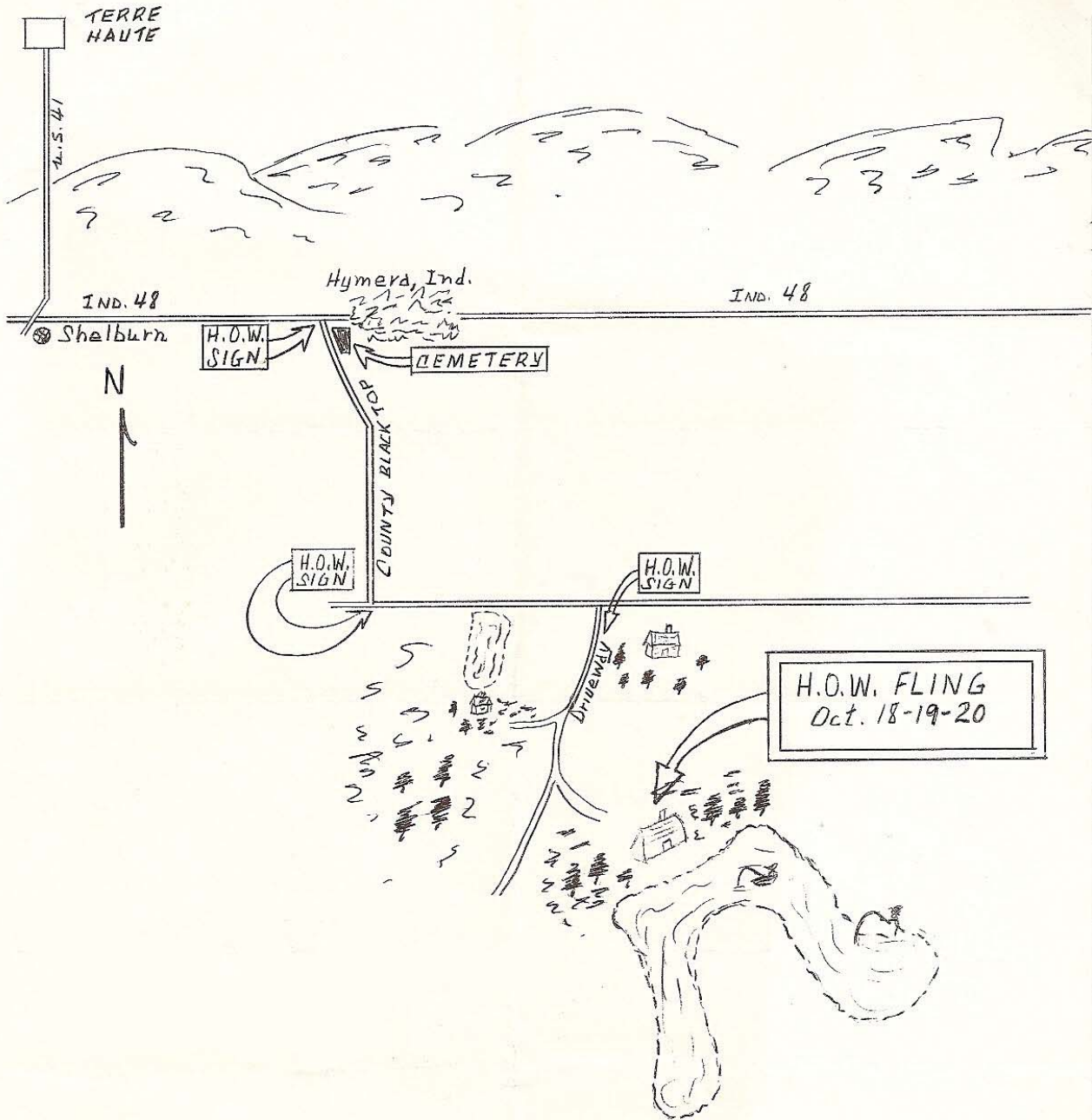
Once again, the dates are October 18-19-20; business session at 1:00 P.M. Sunday followed by a whoop-and-holler supper (those surviving Saturday night). Write me, Bill Beeman, Indiana Coal Association (host organization), 632 Cherry Street, Terre Haute, and I will confirm your reservation the same day. Please let me know your stay time for meals and lodging by sending the box-top coupon below.

Sincerely,



WILLIAM A. BEEMAN

(Clip and Mail)



NAME _____

Great! Certainly glad you can be with us. We will be staying at the lovely cottage of Sherwood-Templeton Coal Company located on a surface mine lake and amid several other good bass lakes created by surface mining. To reach the cottage: From Terre Haute take U.S. 41 south to the intersection of U.S. 41 and Ind. 48 near Shelburn, Ind.; turn east on Ind. 48 and go about 5 miles where at the west edge of Hymera you will see an "H.O.W." sign pointing south on a county black-top road. Then, follow the signs to the H.O.W. FLING!! We'll be expecting you October 19th.

INDIANA COAL ASSOCIATION
Bill Beeman

HOW Member News

Members Pursue Salmon and Trout During Spring Lake Michigan Outing

HOW members Tom Berg, Don Bickel, Bryan Poynter and Mike Schoonveld (pictured below, left to right) met on the shores of Lake Michigan in early May for the first HOW Lake Michigan outing in several years. This

outing actually had a dual purpose; it provided an opportunity for members to fish Lake Michigan on one day, then participate in an outing for disabled and disadvantaged kids the next day.

The lake was calm when we hit the water on Friday afternoon, and the weather was quite warm. The fishing was a little slow out on the offshore fishing grounds, but that's what often happens when a group of writers and broadcasters gathers!

On Saturday morning, the weather had taken a major change for the worse. The winds were strong and cold from the northwest, and dark clouds hung low over the lake. The children and their families



that showed up for the disadvantaged kids outing were not discouraged, though, and four charterboats put them on the fish within minutes of leaving the marina.

The salmon had moved close to shore overnight, and the kids had a ball reeling in one fish after another. By noon, the clouds had cleared, the sun came out and nearly every one of the participating kids had caught their limit of salmon/trout. It was an awesome day!

See pages 14-17 for more detailed reports on this year's Lake Michigan outing from the attendees.

PHOTOS:

The photo above shows the attending HOW members posing with some of the fish caught by the disabled kids on Saturday morning. The photo at right shows Bryan Poynter with a coho salmon and Don Bickel with a lake trout caught on the Friday afternoon HOW fishing outing.



Bill Scifres Hospitalized

As most of you have heard, long-time HOW member Bill Scifres is in the hospital. He had a stroke while driving his car and ended up in a 1-car accident. Luckily no one else was involved. Although he was in a coma at first, he has already emerged from that and is improving. He is still paralyzed on one side and continues to need your prayers.

His wife Nancy would undoubtedly appreciate receiving any cards or letters that we can send to Bill during his recovery. Although Bill cannot read them himself right now, she can read them to him. Please keep both Bill and Nancy in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

Brandon Butler Breaks Record With Michigan Dogfish

One of Brandon Butler's recent trips to Michigan paid off unexpectedly when he landed a new world record fish. Brandon caught a 30 inch bowfin (dogfish) on a fly rod. He was fishing Pere Marquette Lake with Kevin Morlock of Indigo Guide Service. The National Fresh Water Fishing Hall of Fame in Hayward, WI has recognized Brandon's dogfish as the Fly Fishing 20 lb. tippet catch-and-release world record. Congrats!



Garry Burch Bags A Mother's Day Gobbler

Garry Burch from Valpo tells us that his last-minute turkey hunt this year was a success, although it went down to the wire.

He spent most of his turkey season helping others. First it was the Turkey Tracks hunt for ill and disabled youths in Knox, Indiana. "I called in a hen for one of the kids but no toms," he said. "The toms were heard but not seen. Then a friend that never really turkey hunted asked me to go with him. It was a fun hunt and a jake was called in but no turkey taken."

"Then finally I made a quick try for a tom early on the morning of Mother's Day – the last day of the season. Well, I walked right into two toms in the field I had to cross. When they left I headed for my spot and tried to call them back but they went farther away. Then I tried everything I had in my book of tricks. They were coming back gobbling, and when I called they called. I got ready. I was using the single-shot shotgun I received when I was 13 years old – my first gun. There he was, he came out into the field and saw my hen decoy and went into a full strut. I pulled back the hammer and then pulled the trigger. CLICK! OOPS! I forgot to load the gun after seeing the turkeys in the field! I was more distracted than I thought. Lucky for me the tom was looking at the decoy and not me. I opened the gun slowly and reloaded it. This time all went well and there was a boom! The 20 lb tom was mine. He had a 9¼ inch beard and 14cm spurs (about ¾ inch). A Mother's Day with something for Dad."



Lisa Metheny Harvests Multiple Kansas Gobblers

Lisa Metheny from Terre Haute stays busy during the various hunting seasons, and turkey season this spring was no exception.

"Once again I was blessed to hunt with Hunter Specialties in Kansas," she said. "This hunt was filmed for TV, but I am not sure when it will air just yet. I harvested a really nice gobbler with an 11 inch beard, plus I took a beautiful bearded hen that had a 6 inch beard."

Way to go, Lisa!

Conservation Communicator of the Year Award Goes To Crawfordsville Writer Don Bickel



Congratulations to HOW member Don Bickel from Crawfordsville. On June 5th, Don was honored at the Indiana Wildlife Federation's 2009 Conservation Awards Banquet where he received the Conservation Communicator of the Year award. The presentation was made at the Garrison at Fort Harrison State Park on the east side of Indianapolis.

According to Don, he was nominated for the award by members of the Coal Creek Chapter of Pheasants Forever - Montgomery, Fountain, and Warren Counties. As usual, Don was very humble about the honor: "Hopefully I wasn't the only nomination, but this award has been in the back of my mind from the time I started writing. My Dad, who taught some high school senior English and my high school English teacher, Mrs. Elam, would be amazed. And truthfully, so am I."

Please take a look at the Pheasants Forever Press Release submitted by Dean Farr on pages 18-19.

HOW Legend Jack Kerins Passes Away At Age 87

Long-time HOW member Jack Kerins from Terre Haute died on May 12, 2009. Jack was a member of HOW since the beginning in 1969, and was a successful writer, photographer, TV Host and book author. He was also enshrined in the Fresh Water Fishing Hall of Fame (Hayward, WI) as a Legendary Communicator.

See page 20 for the full obituary listing.



HOW Members Help Make Turkey Tracks Outing A Success

by Garry Burch

On the opening weekend of this year's turkey season, history was made in Knox, Indiana. The dream of a hunt for sick and disabled kids became a reality for 23 year-old Eric Corey. Eric is confined to a wheelchair with ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease) and has participated in Hunt of a Lifetime hunts and many other hunts offered by friends and organizations.

Late last winter Eric told his Mom that he wanted to set up a turkey hunt for his friends and others that had disabilities so they could share in the fun of hunting. With his Mom Carol and Dad Doug's help to get it organized, the wheels started turning.

With a little help, Carol was able to identify several youths for the hunt. Eric also added some past hunting buddies, some Indiana Hunt of a Lifetime youths and some new kids he learned of. Eric's dream hunt was starting to come together.



Carol called a meeting at her home and expected about 6-8 people that would volunteer as guides and callers. What she got was 16-18 people chomping at the bit to help so that the kids could have a great time hunting. Even more volunteers followed. The Corey family was amazed at the tremendous outpouring of support; it seemed like the whole community of Knox was pitching in.

A total of 10 youths were chosen for this first-time hunt. Each participant had a guide, a caller and also a video/camera person to save the moment for them and their family.



A week before the hunt, it seemed like the event was going to fall apart. Carol was in a panic. They were depending on a nearby chain store to pay for the kids' hunting licenses so that the burden was not on the parents. The store called and said they could not pay for the licenses. One frantic call to a man in Valparaiso that owned a bait shop took care of that and the licenses were purchased.

The Friday before the hunt was a day of meeting old friends and making new ones. There was also plenty of talk about turkey hunting, firearms safety and the upcoming hunt, followed by a round of practicing with the shotguns.

(Continued)

Later that evening it was time for supper at the Knox Fire department building. Conservation officers from the Indiana DNR talked about safety, and Landon Turner, a past IU basketball player under Bobby Knight, spoke of his challenges after an accident that took away his ability to walk. He discussed how he is overcoming those challenges by trusting God to help him through it all.



At about 9am on the first day of the hunt, the first hunter came in with his turkey. It was Josh Wittimer with a good sized jake. His entire hunt was caught on film as Dan Gooden, videographer for an outdoor TV show, filmed every minute and captured a great moment in time for Josh. He also got some outstanding footage of a first-time hunter getting their first bird.

One videographer drove all the way from Mississippi to do some filming of the kids hunting for another TV show. He said he got 1½ hours of some of the best footage he has ever shot. His time was well spent, and he's from Mississippi – one of the top turkey states in the USA!

All in all, six turkeys were taken and the hunter with the largest bird received a wooden display mount of his bird's tail, beard and spurs, including the shotgun shell he got the bird with. The mount went to Zack Lorenze. All of the kid's turkeys were put on mounts also and given to them to remember their special day afield.

One guide told Doug Corey (Eric's Dad) with tears in his eyes that he would give up his own turkey season just to guide those kids – it was that much fun. Hunting is more than just getting your game; it's a gathering of family and friends and this was a group of many friends. Because of the huge success of this hunt, plans are underway for a hunt next year as well. It will be bigger and better, I'm sure.



A note of thanks goes to all the guides, hunters, the Knox Fire Department and volunteers, and the Corey family for making this day happen. Thanks Eric, for sharing with others your love for our great outdoors.

Editor's note: HOW member Garry Burch attended the Turkey Tracks Hunt as Indiana Ambassador for Hunt of a Lifetime, and to take pictures and assist. HOW member Gene Clifford also covered the event with an article and photos for the Gad-a-bout. Great job, guys!

HOW Lake Michigan Outing and Disadvantaged Kids Excursion

(All fishing outing photos by Tom Berg)



Although this year's HOW Lake Michigan outing was not attended by a large number of members, those who did make the trip had a great time.

The excellent lodging that was arranged by Erika Scheeringa at the South Shore CVA and provided by the Ameristar Hotel was absolutely first-rate.

The fishing on Friday afternoon wasn't bad, either, but it could have been better. Luckily, it did get a lot better – and just in time

for the disabled kids who arrived Saturday morning for a sample of what Lake Michigan has to offer. Take a look below and at the following 3 pages for first-hand accounts of the festivities.

HOW Members and Kids Enjoy Great Event

by Tom Berg

I was stationed on Mike Schoonveld's boat "Brother Nature", and the special-needs youth assigned to us was Jonathan Satkowski from Merrillville, IN. Jonathan and his care-giver Chuck Blanchard had a great time, and although Jonathan could not fight the fish while standing, he did a fantastic job of cranking the fish into netting range while sitting in the back seat of the boat. He was definitely impressed by the size of the fish he caught and by the sheer numbers that ended up in the cooler. He had a blast!



After the fishing was done, everyone had lunch and got prepared for the awards ceremony. Each participating youth received a plaque to commemorate the day's events, and they also each received a rod/reel combo and a bag of fishing lures and other goodies.

A special thank-you goes to all of the sponsors of the event (like Cabelas, Izaak Walton, Salmon

Unlimited and many others), but especially to the charter captains from Indiana's North Coast Charter Association who donated their time along with the chartered fishing trips. They were Mike Orr (Five Orrs Charters), Mike Evano (Lakeside Charters), Mike Schoonveld (Brother Nature Fishing Adventures) and Doug Iliff (Anglers Adventure Fishing Charters).

Outing With Kids Provides Inspiration For "Sure-Sellers"

by Mike Schoonveld

I'm always amazed when someone offers something for nothing, how few people avail themselves of the offer. I'm doubly amazed when someone offers something for nothing which will surely turn into a money-making deal, still how few people will avail themselves. So when I learned there were only two "out-of-towners" coming to the HOW Lake Michigan outing (besides Tom Berg and myself), I wasn't surprised.

What I wasn't surprised about was the stories I got from the outing. Those stories will be sure-sellers for newspapers and magazines, too.

What I wasn't surprised about was the great dinner the Southshore CVA treated us to and the great accommodations we were given at the Ameristar Hotel, adjacent to Pastrick Marina. I don't often select 5-star rooms when I'm on the road.

What I wasn't surprised about was the poor fishing (of course, poor on Lake Michigan is better than great most other places). There's the writers' curse that shuts down fishing when us scribes come to town with notebooks to scribble and cameras to snap. Still, each writer had the opportunity to tangle with a few salmon in the 4 to 5 pound range, along with the opportunity to be out on Lake Michigan on a glorious afternoon.

What I was surprised at was how quickly the sun and gentle breezes of late afternoon changed to a cold, dank dawn overnight. None of the guests that morning failed to show up, though. They were all people with special needs and afflictions, from brain cancer and mental handicaps to being wheelchair-bound. There were only a few acres of calm water just outside the marina comfortable enough to fish. Captains from Indiana's North Coast Charter Association volunteered to take the youngsters and their parent or care-giver out to see what could be done in this little section of the lake.

(continued)



Apparently the fish moved into the calm area after the storm, as well, as each youngster got the trip of their life, as well as plenty of exercise cranking coho, kings and brown trout. There was no talk of cold, no lack of cheers, laughs and fun on each boat as the focus was on the fishing and away from the individual debilitation normally lurking in their reality.

Thank you to the HOW members who ventured to the northwest corner of our state to make the outing a success.

Rod-Grabbers Become Salmon Experts

by Don Bickel

They say, if you don't like Indiana weather, just wait a day and it will change. I think it changes faster than that on Lake Michigan. Shorts and T-shirts in the afternoon and insulated jackets and gloves the next morning. So it was with Friday afternoon, May 8 and Saturday morning, May 9.



We, Bryan Poynter and I were fishing with Capt. Doug Iliff from Anglers Adventure Charters, on the aforementioned Friday PM. Schoonveld and Berg were doing a paying charter. However, we four would be present for the charity event on Saturday when the Indiana North Coast Charter Association would host a number of “disadvantaged young people”.

On the bluebird day (Friday), the salmon and trout were also taking advantage of the weather and having a picnic somewhere other than the area where we were fishing. About 5 miles out from Pastrick Marina was our fishing destination for the afternoon. That water was as flat as that inside the marina breakwalls. Four fish came on board after an hour out, but the next 3 plus hours was an enjoyable boat ride. But, hey, they call it fishing, not catching.

Saturday morning - 40 degrees or maybe the high 40's and the wind from a northerly direction made little impression on these young people who were ready to fish. I would be with Capt. Mike Evano from Lakeside Charters. Two young men from Merrillville, Ben Hulsey, 14 and Jimmy Aikens, 13 would be the rod-grabbers when the fish hit. And hit they did, out at 7:00am and in at 11:30 for lunch, with 14 eating size cohos in the box. Jimmy and Ben spent the lulls between strikes deciding whose turn would be next.

As the 11:30 time approached, my mind centered on the hope that this would not be the first and last time Jimmy and Ben would experience fishing on Lake Michigan.

Disabled Kids Had No Complaints

by Bryan Poynter

As with most things, I am not sure who enjoyed the day more, me or Kyle, Gloria or Lee who were on my boat. Although they were thrilled beyond words to catch big fish for the first time...I couldn't help but be moved with emotion to be with these very special young people. Any selfish motivation of my own fish was immediately tossed overboard. It was truly about those kids.

The day started with 40 degree temps and wind gusts 20-30 mph. If you have ever been on this big water you know what you are in for...and it usually isn't pretty and most probably involves someone throwing a little Lake Michigan Chowder into the water. However, the kids' guardian angels and the fish gods were good to us...no puke and lots of fish for such a crappy day. It was a little nerve-wracking for me as the action was decent and Captain Mike Orr and his mate had their hands full helping the kids with each "fish on". So what does he do? He tells me to drive his 30 footer with 15 lines in the water in 3-4 foot chop!



I was particularly struck with Kyle. He had accidentally shot himself in the chest when he was three and has spent the past 6 years with severe spinal cord trauma. Kyle was one of the sweetest, soft spoken, polite little guys I have met. Despite the cold, the wind, the chop...he just wanted to be on that boat and catch fish. He never complained one time...even when he lost his first fish. He worked his little butt off cranking those fish in. He said that his arms hurt from reeling in those big fish.

I was drawn to him and didn't really know why. I asked myself if I would have the same attitude about life if I was in a chair and had to be lifted in and out of the boat. What if I couldn't shoulder a gun on a deer, what if I couldn't swing through on a flushing pheasant, what if I couldn't see out of one eye or had to live with chronic debilitating pain like my Dad?

My dad was a lot like Kyle and the others who were dealt a crappy hand. Never complained, never made excuses, always positive.



Indiana State Council
"The Habitat Organization"

PRESS RELEASE

Don Bickel Recognized as the Conservation Communicator of the Year by the Indiana Wildlife Federation

Indianapolis, IN: At its 2009 annual awards banquet, the Indiana Wildlife Federation awarded Don Bickel its "Conservation Communicator of the Year" award for his over 25 years of outdoor contributions to Crawfordsville Journal and Review, Montgomery County Weekly Review, and the Gadabout. Don was recognized for his many years of conservation work not only in writing for publications, but also for his outreach to school children.

As a member of the Coal Creek Chapter of Pheasants Forever, Don has been instrumental in outreach and habitat planting. An avid sportsman, Don will ensure his legacy as a sporting conservationist.

"There is no person that deserves the award for Conservation Communicator of the Year more than Don," states Tim Fuesting, President of Coal Creek Chapter. "Throughout the years, Don has participated in every possible way to teach and inform people about wildlife and environmental conservation. During his career, Don has written articles for many different publications ranging from daily and weekly newspapers to magazines. His articles are always intended to educate the general public by grabbing their interest through stories about a particular topic while including education as part of the story. Besides the weekly publications, Don also actively participates in organizing and conducting educational programs every year that include such things as: annual fourth grade conservation field day; prairie tours; earth day classes; agriculture seminars; wildlife habitat management

(Continued)

seminars; in-school programs; class field trips and large sportsmen's shows. For many years, he was the sole habitat chair of our PF chapter and provided consultation and planting of thousands of acres of native grasses for wildlife habitat."

"It's gratifying to have dedicated members such as Don," comments Rick Lopez, President of Pheasants Forever State Council. "Don exemplifies our mission of habitat and really supports national's outdoor education program of 'no child left indoors'. He really helps youth better appreciate conservation and the out of doors."

Don began his career with the Indiana Department of Conservation, and retired after 27 years from the Indiana Department of Transportation. In his last job as Landscape Supervisor, Don was instrumental in the early beginnings of habitat restoration along Indiana highways. Early on, Don saw the potential and the need to change highway maintenance practices to not only save money, but create much-needed wildlife habitat as well. In some areas, 40% of the annual pheasant hatch occurs in un-mowed roadside ditches. Please join us in congratulating Don on this achievement.

Websites:

Pheasants Forever:

<http://www.pheasantsforever.org/>

Indiana Wildlife Federation:

<http://www.indianawildlife.org/>

Contact:

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THOSE WHO HAVE GONE BEFORE US



HOW Member Jack Kerins – Age 87
August 30, 1921 – May 12, 2009

John J. “Jack” Kerins, Jr., 87, of Terre Haute passed away May 12, 2009 in Cobblestone Crossing Health Campus. Jack was the former president of McMillan Sports. He was born August 30, 1921 in Terre Haute to John J. Kerins, Sr. and Ola Hickman Kerins. His wife of 52 years, Elynore “Pet” Petyo Kerins, preceded him in death in 2003.

Survivors include a son, John Michael Kerins of Kirkwood, Mo.; and two daughters, Kathy Neal and her husband Robert of Queretaro, Mexico, and Connie Whiteman and her husband Lynn of Bardstown, Ky.; seven grandchildren, Tracey Lockhart and her husband Nathan, Lindsey Whiteman, David Kerins, Jeff Neal, Sean Kerins, Sarah Kerins and Jonathan Whiteman; and a sister-in-law, Irene Petyo Henderson and her husband Wayne of Clearwater, Florida. He was also preceded in death by his parents; and a daughter-in-law Shiela Kerins.

Jack was well-known locally and probably best-remembered for co-hosting the “TV Sportsman’s Show” with Jack Ennis that ran for 21 years on both WTHI and WTWO.

During World War II, Jack served with the United States Marine Corps participating in combat at Guadalcanal, Bougainville, Guam and Iwo Jima earning several awards including the Purple Heart. After 40 years with McMillan Sporting Goods, he retired and began a writing career having published articles about fishing and hunting adventures in the great outdoors he loved so much. His love for writing developed his membership in the Hoosier Outdoor Writers, the Outdoor Writers Association of America and the Association of Great Lakes Outdoor Writers.

Jack was a founding member of the Wabash Valley Chapter of Ducks Unlimited and the Strawberry Hill Cannoneers and was a Life Member of The Marine Corps League, Veterans of Foreign Wars, The Third Marine Division Association and The Iwo Jima Survivors Association.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held Saturday, May 16, 2009 in St. Patrick Catholic Church with Father Rick Ginther officiating. Burial was in Roselawn Memorial Park with Military Honors by the Marine Corps League, Joseph A. Bray Detachment 471. If friends so desire, memorial contributions may be made to the Richard L. Roudebush Veterans Administration Medical Center, 1481 West 10th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46202.

Jack was one of the few remaining original members of HOW, and he will be missed.



OUTDOOR MEDIA MEMBERS: You're invited to attend the QDMA National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky – FREE!

QDMA is rolling out the red carpet for members of the outdoor media at our 9th annual National Convention (July 23-26). Register and attend all meals and functions of the Convention at *no charge*. You are certain to leave with **multiple story ideas and new sources**. Your Media Badge gets you into *all* of the events shown below.

Thursday, July 23

Think Tank (1-5 p.m.)

Whitetail Habitat Workshop featuring four expert panelists.

Welcome Reception (6 p.m. - 9 p.m.)

Join Convention speakers, celebrity guests and QDMA's hunting industry friends for a special kick-off reception.

Friday, July 24

Friday Seminars (8-11 a.m. and 2-5 p.m.)

Eight presentations by top experts give you quotes, story ideas and facts from the newest deer research.

Hunt Auction Luncheon (11 a.m. - 2 p.m.)

★ MEDIA/VIP RECEPTION (5:15 - 6 p.m.)

Join celebrity and guest speakers at this exclusive reception with live entertainment to thank and honor our media attendees.

REACH Celebration Banquet (6:30 p.m. - 9 p.m.)

This Friday night celebration, featuring dinner and entertainment, will kick off the weekend on a high note.

Saturday, July 25

Awards Breakfast (7:30 - 9:30 a.m.)

Meet the winners of QDMA's 2009 Conservation Awards.

Whitetail Expo and Seminars (9 a.m. - 5 p.m.)

Enjoy the only deer hunting and *management* show in the nation, featuring manufacturers of habitat tools, food plot equipment, deer management supplies, trail cameras, and more, as well as optics, firearms, bows and apparel. Sit in on seminars by celebrity speakers, including Lee & Tiffany Lakosky and others.

Grand Banquet & Auction (6 p.m. to 10 p.m.)

Sunday, July 26

Whitetail Expo and Seminars (9 a.m. - 4 p.m.)



Seminars by leading deer experts.



Interviews and story leads.



Evening events and entertainment!



Celebrities!



Photo Opportunities



Interactive learning.



QDMA's Whitetail Expo



Speaker Schedule

THURSDAY THINK TANK:

- Dr. Dave Hewitt** (Texas A&M-Kingsville) The importance of forage diversity in whitetail diets.
- Dr. Craig Harper** (Univ. Tennessee) Maximizing forage availability in woodlands.
- David Osborn** (Univ. Georgia) New ideas in soft-mast species and management techniques.
- Dr. Karl Miller** (Univ. Georgia) Maximizing hard mast production.

FRIDAY SESSIONS:

- Roger Sigler** (Antler Dogs) Finding shed antlers with a trained dog.
- Brad Mormann** (Woods & Associates) Advanced trail-camera setups to capture mature bucks.
- Dr. Randy DeYoung** (Texas A&M-Kingsville) Buck movements during the rut. Where are they going?
- Kip Adams** (QDMA) Trends in harvest and distribution of record-book bucks.
- Dr. Grant Woods** (Woods & Associates) Advancing beyond the basics of QDM.
- Dr. Mickey Hellickson** (King Ranch) Habitat management to produce harvest success.
- Cory Van Gilder** (Big Horn Ranch) Fawn survival after predator control (a case study).
- Brian Murphy** (QDMA) Key issues and trends from QDMA's Whitetail Report.

WEEKEND SPEAKERS (Whitetail Expo):

Leigh & Tiffany Lakosky of The Crush; Alex Rutledge, Eddie Salter and Rodney Dyer of Hunter's Specialties, Dan Perez of Whitetail Properties; Kelsey Konrad of Bass Pro Shops' Next Generation; plus, archery exhibition shooter Randy Oitker.

RSVP To register for your free Media Badge, complete the registration form and return to QDMA by June 30. To reserve meals, event tickets and a media gift package, *you must let us know by June 30 that you will be attending the Convention.*



QDMA NATIONAL CONVENTION MEDIA REGISTRATION FORM

Fax or mail to QDMA by June 30

Please Note: Media Badges and event passes are available only to individual members of the professional outdoor media. Spouses, children or guests of media members must register separately and purchase event tickets. For registration forms and pricing, visit www.QDMA.com.

Name _____

Company _____

Address _____

City, State _____

Zip _____

Office Phone _____

Cell Phone _____

E-mail Address _____

Have you attended a QDMA Convention before? yes no

Profession (check all that apply):

freelance writer editor photographer

newspaper columnist radio television

Please list publications or programs which you will be representing: _____

Please indicate the events you plan to attend. Your response will determine the tickets and meals that will be prepared in your name.

Thursday, July 23:

- Think Tank
- Welcome Reception

Friday, July 24:

- Friday Seminars
- Hunt Auction Luncheon
- Media/VIP Social
- REACH Celebration Banquet

Saturday, July 25:

- Awards Breakfast
- Whitetail Expo & Seminars
- Grand Banquet & Auction

Sunday, July 26:

- Whitetail Expo & Seminars

Note: the only meals not covered by your media badge during the event are breakfast on Friday, lunch on Saturday, all meals on Sunday, or any meal you choose to take on your own.

You are responsible for your travel and lodging expenses.

Convention Hotel:

Louisville Marriott Downtown (headquarters hotel)
(800) 533-0127

Request the QDMA National Convention group rate

For more options, visit <http://www.gotolouisville.com>.

Fax completed form to:
(706) 353-0223

Or mail to:
QDMA
Convention Registration
PO Box 160
Bogart, GA 30622

For more information about the Convention, visit www.QDMA.com or call (800) 209-3337.

A confirmation notice will be mailed to you. Pick up your tickets at the Registration booth upon arrival.

Hoosier Outdoor Writers

Application For New Membership

(Check Desired Classification below)

- \$30 _____ Active
- \$25 _____ Associate
- \$50 _____ Supporting
- \$15 _____ Active Student
- \$10 _____ Associate Student

Personal Information:

Name: _____
Company (Supporting members only): _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____

Professional Information:

Employer (if outdoor-related): _____ Position: _____
Business Address: _____
Business Phone: _____

1. Describe your work in the outdoor field: Full Time _____ Part Time _____

2. Check your field(s) of outdoor work:

_____ Newspapers	_____ Magazine	_____ Photography
_____ Books	_____ Radio	_____ Lectures
_____ Television	_____ Teaching	_____ Trade Journals
_____ Artist	_____ Public relations	_____ Government Info - Ed
_____ Other (Specify): _____		

3. Are you paid for your outdoor work? Yes _____ No _____

4. Your work is published or disseminated: Daily ____; Weekly ____; Monthly ____; ____ times a year

Attach samples or other proof of your work in the outdoor field: newspaper clips, letters from station managers attesting to frequency of radio or TV broadcasts, lecture schedule or publicity clips, photo clips or artistic prints, title of latest book, masthead of trade journal showing your position, etc.

Send completed application and article copies to: **Tom Berg, 2142 Nondorf Street, Dyer, IN 46311.**

I have read the principles and membership requirements of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers and would like to enroll in the classification checked above.

Signature: _____

Sponsor: _____

Who We Are

The Hoosier Outdoor Writers was formed in 1969 and has brought together many diverse groups and individuals with shared interests. The Hoosier Outdoor Writers, known among its members as HOW, is a group of dedicated professionals who are keenly interested in the wise use of natural resources in the Hoosier State.

What We Do

These are the purposes of HOW:

1. To improve ourselves in the art, skill and effectiveness of our craft, and to increase knowledge and understanding of the whole State.
2. To help insure the wisest and best conservation of Indiana's resources, and the most wide-spread fair use of Indiana's recreational potential.
3. To provide a vehicle for bringing together and joining in common cause all Hoosiers who by profession, hobby or interest are devoted to the outdoors.
4. Conduct an annual Awards-In-Craft Contest among its members. The award winners are announced each year at HOW's annual meeting held in Indianapolis.

What We Stand For

These are what we strive to accomplish:

1. To give the profession of outdoor writing/reporting greater recognition and understanding, even higher standards and enlarged scope.
2. To encourage and enforce high standards of professional ethics.
3. To strive always for the truth, accuracy, clarity and completeness in the dissemination of outdoor information.
4. To help friends and fight the foes of wisely conserved Indiana resources.

Membership Requirements

Membership is open to anyone who meets one of the following:

1. Active

Members are those regularly engaged in the paid dissemination of outdoor-oriented information via newspapers, radio, television, magazines, trade journals, books, photographs, art, lectures, or other fitting media. (Basic guidelines of "regularity" of dissemination are: 20 newspaper articles, photos or broadcasts a year; two national or four regional



magazines or specialty journal articles a year, or one book, 10 lectures, or 20 bona fide outdoor news releases a year.)

The legal advisor for the association shall be an active member without meeting the basic guidelines.

2. Associate

Members are those who have a strong direct interest in the outdoors, either professional or personal, such as conservationists of all kinds; public employees in outdoor fields; educators teaching related subjects; certain sportsmen and retail-level dealers in outdoor goods, equipment or facilities.

3. Supporting

Members are those engaged in major commercial efforts directly related to the outdoors, such as manufacturers, distributors, manufacturers' representatives, or advertising agencies serving any of these.

4. Active Student

Members are those between the ages of 18 and 24 years who are bona fide college students with a major in journalism, communications, or natural resources sciences.

5. Associate Student

Members are those who are students who have an active interest in the outdoors in the areas of hunting, fishing, ecology, or in preserving the environment in general.

Calendar of Events

Quality Deer Management Association National Convention: July 23-26, 2009
Louisville, KY

AGLOW Annual Conference: September 21-25, 2009
Gaylord, MI

AGLOW Spring Mega Media Event: May 4-7, 2010
Details to follow...

HOW Annual Conference: Summer, 2010
Details to follow...

HOW members may submit upcoming events, along with dates, locations and other details to the newsletter editor at: tberg@netnitco.net for possible inclusion in future issues of The Blade.