

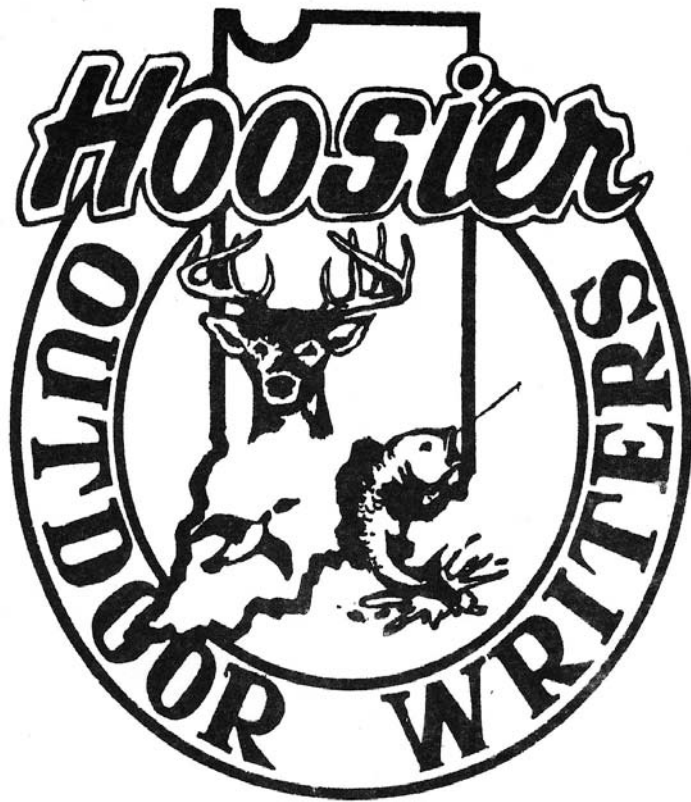


The Blade

September – October 2009

The Official Publication of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers

“Maple Leaves Aflame”, 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.

Hoosier Outdoor Writers Executive Council

Board Chairman

Brent Wheat
803½ N. Lebanon St.
Lebanon, IN 46052
btwheat@wildindiana.com

President

Bryan Poynter
17030 Newberry Lane
Westfield, IN 46074
bpoynter@ctmt.com

Vice President

John Maxwell
1136 E. Banta Rd.
Indianapolis, IN 46227
jmaxwell@dnr.IN.gov

Executive Director

Tom Berg
2142 Nondorf St.
Dyer, IN 46311
thomas.berg@comcast.net

Legal Counsel

Bill Keaton
126 West Second St.
Rushville, IN 46173
scrubby@hughes.net

Newsletter Editor

Tom Berg
2142 Nondorf St.
Dyer, IN 46311
thomas.berg@comcast.net

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President's Message

by Bryan Poynter

“Everyone must take time to sit and watch the leaves turn.” ~Elizabeth Lawrence

As communicators, this is the time of the year when our best efforts are made. There are endless opportunities for stories, photographs and events. I hope that you are able to watch the leaves turn and simply enjoy being...wherever you might find yourself in the outdoors this fall.

Indiana ushered in the fall with the inaugural *Hoosier Outdoor Experience* at Fort Harrison state park just a little over a month ago. Over 13,000 outdoor enthusiasts were treated to hands-on participation in nearly 50 outdoor activities. The events ranged from trap shooting and archery to mountain biking and kayaking hosted by hundreds of volunteers for men and women and boys and girls of all ages. As Director Rob Carter called it...“it was a slam dunk”.



As communicators, we get to tell those stories and share those experiences with readers, viewers and listeners every time we pick up our pen or talk into the camera or microphone. However, the arrows in the traditional communication quiver are certainly changing. In the case of the *Hoosier Outdoor Experience* you might have noticed their use of the latest communication tools such as Twitter, Facebook and other social networking media deployed as part of a much broader communication agenda by our DNR under the leadership of fellow HOW member Phil Bloom.

In a recent conversation with Phil he told me that the use of those outlets played a large role in the success they had in drawing more than 13,000 people to the event and will be used to a greater extent next year.

While I have been called a lot of names in my life...I don't recall “bleeding edge” or “early adopter” as being part of them. Regardless, times are changing and our communications should as well. It makes me chuckle to recall the stir created about the debate just a couple of years ago when “The Blade” started to be sent electronically and not in hard copy...are you kidding me? A debate...seems silly now.

Finally, a voice mail I received from John Martino just a couple of weeks ago was a pretty good summary on the passing of Bill Scifres...“we lost a good one!” He touched thousands with his stories and books, and more than a generation grew up on Bayou Bill's unique ability to convey a story or share an experience. Doesn't matter what media you use to communicate, Bayou probably made you better sometime along the way. His story could make you feel the cold of the early morning or hear the duck's whistling wings as it flew overhead. Please read his obituary on page 17 of this newsletter.

The Hoosier Outdoor Writers

New Members, Past Presidents & Memorial Section

Email Address Change:

Merrill Carrigan has a new email address:
flatrockhunting@wildblue.net

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
Jerry Criss
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
“Bayou” Bill Scifres – President of HOW
George Seketa
Al Spiers
Butch Tackett
Robert “Doc” Stunkard
Joe West

Past Presidents of HOW

“Bayou” Bill Scifres	1969
“Bayou” Bill Scifres	1970
“Bayou” 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
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 – Looking Back In Time

We are finally here! Since the first HOW meeting was held in October of 1969, the Hoosier Outdoor Writers organization is now officially 40 years old! That's pretty impressive, especially since our future looked a bit skeptical several years ago. Happily, things are looking up. We are back on track and the future looks brighter than ever.

But it's still fun to look back and see how far we have come. A lot has happened in the last 40 years. We have grown from a small association to one of the larger state media groups. Our professional members include newspaper and magazine writers, radio and TV broadcasters, photographers, internet media specialists and more. In the very beginning, our members couldn't have dreamed that we would be doing the things we are doing today. Internet reporting, digital photos, website development, emailing media – these were the things of science fiction not too long ago!

In this installment of HOW History, we will reminisce about the old days and think about some of the members who have gone before us. They were our friends, and they helped lay the groundwork for the rest of us.

HOW Past-President Jack Spaulding sent in the info below about Bill Beeman and Al Spiers, so please read on and think back to the “the old days”...

Memories of two beloved HOW Founding Fathers

(Thoughts and photos submitted by Jack Spaulding)



The late Bill Beeman (left) and the late Al Spiers (right) were the absolute best of friends. They attributed it to their names, as the one was named Albert William Spiers while the other was William Albert Beeman.



At HOW and AGLOW fishing tournaments, they would bet the princely sum of \$1.00 for biggest fish. As the years passed, they would pull faded and weathered dollar bills from their wallets and

harass one another over past victories and defeats. Each bill was signed by the winner and the loser, documenting the coup of the day.

As far as I know, they both carried their treasured dollar bills until they died.

They are greatly missed.

Here is a tidbit from the January, 1990 issue of *HOW News*. It is a “Letter To The Editor” from one of our late members, Jack “Big Jake” Cooper, and it fits him perfectly (especially the comment about computers!). He loved *HOW* and he is greatly missed, too. Here is his letter:

Letter To The Editor

I’ve given a lot of thought to the programming for the annual meeting. I’m the new kid on the block and ain’t got any business trying to tell you how to run things, but when someone asks, I try.

I guess everyone else knows all about photography. I’m completely ignorant, but recognize that I need to learn and get a decent camera. Bill Scifres said he’d get with me and show me his stuff one of these days. Do you suppose others would benefit from instruction?

I’ll probably never get one since I just recently graduated to an electric IBM, but I’d like to see someone demonstrate a word processor and maybe one of those computer things.

It would be interesting to hear from an outdoor editor. I’d like to know how others handle requests for permission to reprint. I have received a few, but they all want to get it for nothing. I figure if it is worthy of print it’s worth something. Maybe I’m wrong.

I think someone like Jim Thom, who lives in a log cabin in Owen County, is supposedly a real outdoorsman and goes out and lives on the trail when he’s researching his stories. He would hold everyone’s interest, but I don’t know the guy and don’t know if he would address the group.

I would like to hear how and why and under what circumstances some of you who have been at it for years became outdoor writers.

If there’s some way I can do something constructive, let me know.

Jack C. Cooper, Indianapolis

Anyone with old photos of *HOW* members or other information from “The Early Days of *HOW*” is encouraged to email them to newsletter editor Tom Berg at thomas.berg@comcast.net or mail them to 2142 Nondorf Street, Dyer, IN 46311. We will continue to reminisce with the November/December 2009 issue of *The Blade*.

Craft Improvement

“That Is The Question”

by Jack Spaulding

As an up-and-coming, wet-behind-the-ears, struggling young writer, I had the benefit of a fantastic tutor and beloved friend in the man named Al Spiers.

When I first met Al, I was surprised when he said he had read some of my material. Taking his comment as a compliment, I was unprepared for Al’s loudly stated observation; “It was damn rough and needed a lot of work.” Beaming a grin at me, he said, “Writing is some of the hardest damn work you will ever do. You need to work harder at it.”

The short conversation across the table during a Hoosier Outdoor Writer function was the beginning of a friendship lasting for many years.

For some reason, Al took a shine to me and offered to help me by editing some of my material. He was as tough a critic as you would ever find, and my returned manuscripts were bleeding with red ink accompanied by large lettered comments concerning my shortcomings.

One of the pitfalls of good writing for which Al had no tolerance was the use of the word “that.”

His loudly stated, rough language still rings in my ears, “That is a crutch, a G**d***** non-word idiots use to limp about in text they haven’t the intelligence to write properly. Kill every that you see. Clean up the copy for God’s sake. Read it through and delete the damn things... it will most likely read better. If it doesn’t, rewrite the sentence.

Al should know about good writing. During his career, he worked special assignments for *Look* and *Life* magazines. During the early 1950’s he was paid an astronomical amount of \$1.00 per word for crime and crime scene related articles as long as 12,000 words.

For Al... that was that.

Overt example:

Following **that** condemnation by Al, I learned **that** the word *that* used in **that** sentence structure is not all **that** is needed for the article to have **that** clarity and **that** conciseness **that** you want it to have for the reader **that** is trying to follow **that** meaning **that** is so important **that** you are trying to make.

With an edited rewrite:

With Al’s condemnation, I learned using the word *that* isn’t needed for the sentence to have the clarity and conciseness you want for the reader.

One of the great common carriers of the non-word *that* is press releases. Federal, state, conservation group and fund raiser releases often have a plethora of unneeded *that’s* muddying up the text.

Following the sage advice of my beloved old curmudgeon scribe, I now word-search my work to highlight any *that’s* which have wandered into my material and hum Taps as I delete the little buggers.

HOW Member News



John Martino Jumps Out Of Perfectly Good Airplane

Who says Kokomo's John Martino is afraid of heights? Well, he may have been afraid, but he didn't show it.

He proved his mettle earlier this summer when he went skydiving with his family and jumped out of an airplane at more than 10,000 feet. That's not something that you do every day!

To find out more about John's recent adventure, take a look at his story on page 14.

It just goes to show that although someone you know may seem completely normal, you just never know when they are going to do something crazy!

At Left: John freefalling with his instructor.
Below: Skydivers on the ground (for those who don't know, John is the one wearing a hat).





Josh Lantz Becomes AGLOW's New Executive Director

HOW member Josh Lantz from Chesterton was hired as the new Executive Director of AGLOW at the organization's annual conference in Gaylord, MI last month.

The part-time position will become effective on January 1, 2010. Lantz will replace Curt Hicken of Benld, IL, who served as AGLOW's E.D. for the past ten years.

"AGLOW is filled with fantastic, hard-working people", says Lantz, who has served on the organization's board of directors, as an officer, and chaired many of the group's committees over the past several years. "I am excited about the position and won't take the responsibility lightly", he says.

Lisa Metheny Heads West To Hunt Trophy Elk

HOW member Lisa Metheny from Terre Haute recently made a trip out west to indulge her passion for hunting. "This hunt was filmed for RMEF Elk Chronicles TV and took place in Raton, New Mexico at the NRA Whittington Center," she said.

"I had my new Browning 325 WSM all ready to take a shot at 100, 200, 300, 400 and maybe even a potential 500 yard shot if needed. However, I was totally surprised when I was forced to take a shot of this bull when he came charging in to my cow call."

"The first time he came in, the camera made a noise and spooked him. So back down across the canyon he went. I hit the HS cow call and he could not resist and came charging back up to find the lost cow. This time he was not taking NO for an answer. When a bull in rut is coming straight at you and is looking for love, sometimes you have to make a quick decision. I shot this bull at 20-25 yards! My only regret is that I didn't have my bow!"



Mike Schoonveld Charters For Salmon and Sheephead!



HOW member Mike Schoonveld from Morocco, IN (shown at left with a coho salmon), has been a charterboat skipper for many years on Lake Michigan. Although he advertises that he likes to catch salmon and trout, he secretly likes to catch sheephead even better!

Sheepshead are known by many names: freshwater drum, silver bass, grunt, croaker and gaspergoo. The really big ones are good fighters, often making strong runs and testing your

reel's drag system by doggedly peeling off lots of line.

Contrary to popular belief, these fish are quite good to eat. Whenever Mike makes a trip to Lake Erie, he is sure to bring back a few packages of freshwater drum fillets!

Mike has guided friends and clients to many trophy-sized sheephead, both in Lake Michigan and Lake Erie. The largest one that he has brought to the net so far weighed a whopping 17½ pounds! Last month he helped Mike Berg (shown at right) land a personal best 15-pounder on Lake Michigan.

So if you have always wanted to catch a giant gaspergoo, give Mike a call (219-819-0000). He is a real expert!



HOW Members Win Prizes In Recent AGLOW Awards-In-Craft Competition

TV/Video - Best of Fishing

Brian Smith/Josh Lantz, First Place, Late Ice 'Gills

TV/Video - Best of Hunting

Brian Smith/Josh Lantz, First Place, Prince W. Sound Bear

Brian Smith/Josh Lantz, Second Place, Opener Gone Wild

TV/Video - Best of Open

PJ Perea, First Place, Trapping & LED Lights

Photography – Hunting

PJ Perea, Second Place, TC

Photography - Fishing

Tom Berg, Third Place, Reservoir Crappie

Photography - Outdoor Scenic

PJ Perea, First Place, Big River CohoFly-In

Magazine - Best of Hunting

PJ Perea, Second Place, Gater Done

Magazine - Best of Open

Richard Creason, Third Place, The Real
Amazing Race

Photography - Outdoor Recreation

PJ Perea, Third Place, Pedal Pusher

"Pete Czura" Best of Show Photography

PJ Perea, Best of Show, Big River Coho Fly-In

HOW Members Attend AGLOW Conference

by PJ Perea

Several HOW members attended the recent AGLOW Conference (Association of Great Lakes Outdoor Writers) in Gaylord, Michigan. The conference ran from September 21st through the 25th, and was headquartered at the Treetops Resort in Gaylord. HOW members in attendance included Rich Creason, Bill Keaton, Josh Lantz, PJ Perea, Mike Schoonveld and Brian Smith.



Trolling for salmon at sunset at the AGLOW conference. Photo by PJ Perea.

Everyone attending the conference was treated to all the great things Michigan has to offer the outdoor and travel enthusiast. Whether it was battling a trophy king salmon on Lake Michigan, stalking grouse and woodcock in the forests, sampling exquisite wines at rustic vineyards or simply relaxing under the rainbow of ever-changing fall colors, Michigan did not disappoint. The site proved to be fertile grounds for story ideas, networking and professional development.

Pre- and post-conference trips featured the sights and sounds of Michigan thanks to the generosity of the Traverse City Convention and Visitor's Bureau, Grand Traverse Resort and Spa, Warrior Lures, Alpena Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, Thunder Bay Golf Resort and Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Writers were treated to fine dining, golf, fishing, moose kissing, sightseeing, wine tasting, SCUBA diving and elk viewing.

(continued)

Paul Beachnau, Executive Director of the Gaylord Area Convention and Visitors Bureau and Treetops Resort and Conference Center provided countless opportunities for the media professionals to assimilate themselves into Michigan’s great outdoors. A gourmet wild game dinner accentuated the opening day featuring venison, elk and local salmon.

On day two, experts from Ducks Unlimited, Howard Communications, Wildlife Research Center, Jay’s Sporting Goods and the Michigan DNR offered sage advice and great ideas for articles. The NSSF honored the top AGLOW outdoor communicators over lunch and defined the term “modern sporting rifles” for the media. Kevin Howard led the way on shooting afternoon with shotgun sports, rifles and various small-caliber firearm stations. The NWTF provided a good lesson in knowing your shotgun pattern. Participants also got a hands-on demonstration of a new crossbow design from Horton. General Motors finished day two with a gala dinner at the beautiful Otsego club and the opportunity to see the newest innovations from Hummer.

On day three, Chevrolet unveiled a prototype Silverado for the fishing enthusiast and showed off the whisper-quiet but powerful Chevy Hybrid Silverado. The ABC Breakout afternoon featured camping, hunting and fishing products and the ever-popular Coleman Alpine Cooking Challenge. Contestants Brent Lawrence and Chris Young wowed the judges and hungry writers with top-notch German and Polish cuisine— all cooked on Coleman outdoor appliances. The exciting day ended with the AGLOW Golden Glow banquet honoring the nation’s top outdoor companies, conservationists and leaders.



A successful salmon outing for HOW members Bill Keaton and Mike Schoonveld. Photo courtesy of Bill Keaton.

In their free time, hunters and their dogs pursued grouse and woodcock in the well-managed forests surrounding Gaylord, while local angling guides Kevin Drummond, Mark Copeland and Tony Petrella led anglers on once-in-a-lifetime fishing experiences for lake trout and king salmon up to 15-pounds. Jay’s Sporting Goods in Gaylord covered the licenses for all writers, so there was no excuse to hide in the hotel room and not spend time outside.

Day four was all about fishing, as the experts from Clam Corporation, Frabill, Northland Tackle, Ice Team and Fenwick taught the writers how to stick a hook in anything that swims. The conference concluded with a relaxing pizza dinner and auction that raised thousands of dollars for the AGLOW Scholarship Fund and a very interesting shirt raffle thanks to AGLOW’s new President, Berdette Zastrow.

HOW Awards-In-Craft Winner

“How To Make An Easy Kabin Kamp Shower”

or

“Showers Are Not Just For The Finicky Outdoorsman”

by Ray McCune

I've heard that 'REAL' men don't take baths in deer camp or trout camp or squirrel camp or whatever they call their sojourns into the wilderness to hunt or fish or to get away from everything for an extended period of time.

I've often gone a good week without a shower or a bath in deer camp BUT, every night I would take a pan of warm soapy water and head for the outhouse with a towel, wash cloth, and some clean skivvies and do my personal toil(ay) in private – sometimes with cat calls from the other members who wish they'd thought of it before I used up all the hot water.

Call me a prude but I have a dislike for wearing dirty underwear or having sweaty armpits. And wearing an insulated hunting cap all day will cause my head to itch so I have to keep it clean. My thought is: If I can smell myself; the deer can too. I wish certain other members of the group felt the same about their own personal hygiene. Some I know do but they just won't admit it. I've noticed a few of them sneaking around behind the cabin to do their own personal clean-up when they think no one is looking.

Of course no one uses their wife's soap for obvious reasons; #1 - They don't want to be teased by the other he-men in the group. And #2 - of course is, your chance of getting a deer is nil if you smell like a bottle of foo-foo juice (a military term for high-smelling shaving lotion, hair tonic, underarm deodorant perfumed soap, etc.). It might be better if you used plain hot water and sand rock. There are no-scent soaps on the market now if you want to go to the extra expense.

My nephew-in-law Terry Jensen (he married my sister's daughter Susan) is one hunter that readily admits he doesn't like to stink in deer camp or at any time and is not afraid to admit it in front of the other guys in the group. He went about designing and assembling his own portable shower

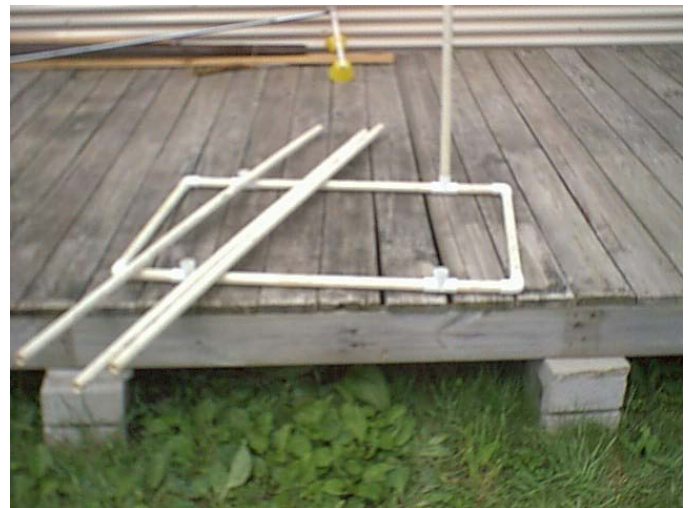
stall complete with 110-volt hot water heater and all the hardware to operate it from scrap he had around the house.

He can set it up anywhere within a garden hose reach of the well faucet. He's had it set up in the cabin (when everyone was still out in the woods hunting), in the wood shed, in the outhouse, and even on the porch.

He can haul it out of his truck and assemble it in less time than it takes to read this article. It stows away just as quick and easy but he said you should drain all the water and let the parts dry before stowing it away for any length of time.

I'll admit Terry is a whiz with anything mechanical or plumbical (is that a word?) and isn't afraid to tackle any job and can make or repair just about anything, whereas I do well to be able to tell you the difference between a crescent wrench and a Phillips screwdriver.

I tried to keep up with him when he rattled off the instructions and parts needed for building my own portable shower. I remember he said that it was made out of 3/4" PVC and I think he said that it was an inside diameter measurement.



He said that I would need 8 T's, 8 elbows, and the lengths of the rest of the pipe pieces would

depend on the size of the tub I would buy (and to get that first) and how high I wanted the curtain to be. Since I'm short I figured I could save on the cost of pipe there.

The tub/base you stand in (so the water doesn't run all over the floor) is a plastic tub that is sold to mix cement/mortar in for small jobs. He said that it takes two shower curtains and two sets of shower rings if you want privacy and to contain



the spray to inside the tub and so it doesn't get everything around you all wet.

The water heater operates on 110 volts and takes about 30 minutes to heat. It also requires a hose from the well pump faucet. My well pump pressure tank is set at about 40 pounds in case you need to know that fact.

He said that you'll need 2 water valves (one hot (red)/one cold (blue) and a shower head. From the water heater up he used copper tubing. I think you could probably use PVC and save some money but he said he already had the copper so he used what he had.

Study the pictures and then go forth and design your own set-up before you go to your next deer camp. The other guys just might take the hint that cleanliness is right next to possible and smells a whole lot better.

**This article won First Place
in the General Outdoors Category
(Less Than 1000 Words)**



Supporting Member Websites

3M Scientific Anglers - www.scientificanglers.com
Alpen Optics - www.alpenoutdoor.com
ATK Ammunition – www.atk.com
B'n'M Pole Company - www.bnmpoles.com
Bass Pro Shops - www.basspro.com
Bill Lewis Lures – www.Rat-L-Trap.com
Birchwood Casey - www.birchwoodcasey.com
Blackpowder Products, Inc. - www.bpiguns.com
Buck Knives - www.buckknives.com
Bundy Ducks – www.bundyducks.com
Bushnell – www.bushnell.com
Cabela's, Inc. – www.cabelas.com
Camp Chef – www.campchef.com
Clam Corporation – www.clamcorp.com
Coleman Company - www.coleman.com
Creative Outdoor Products - www.hunterdan.com
Crimson Trace - www.crimsontrace.com
CTI Industries – www.ctiindustries.com
Danner Boots - www.danner.com
DeLorme, Inc. - www.delorme.com
Eagle Claw – www.eagleclaw.com
Edgecraft Corp – www.edgecraft.com
Environ-Metal, Inc. – www.hevishot.com
Flambeau – www.flambeauoutdoors.com
Flatrock Hunting Preserve - www.flatrockhunting.com
Flying Fisherman – www.flyingfisherman.com
Frabill – www.frabill.com
Freedom Group - www.freedom-group.com
G.Loomis - www.gloomis.com
Great American Tool Co. – www.greatamericantool.com
Hart Productions - www.hartproductions.com
Heatmax – www.heatmax.com
Hoosier Trapper Supply - www.hoosiertrappersupply.com
Horton Mfg Company - www.crossbow.com
HT Enterprises – www.icefish.com
Hunter's Specialties – www.hunterspec.com
Indiana Conservation Afield - www.icoo.com
Kwikee Kwiver Co. - www.kwikeekwiver.com
L&S Bait Co. – www.mirrolure.com
LaCrosse Footwear - www.lacrossefootwear.com
Lamiglas – www.lamiglas.com
Leupold - www.leupold.com
Lightfield Ammunition – www.lightfieldslugs.com
Lodge Manufacturing – www.lodgemfg.com
Maptech - www.maptech.com
Mathews – www.mathews.com
Midway USA - www.midwayusa.com
Mossy Oak – www.mossyoak.com
Muzzy Products Corp. – www.muzzy.com
Off Shore Tackle Co. – www.offshoretackle.com
Optronics, Inc. – www.optronicsinc.com
Orange County - www.historicsouthernindiana.com
Otis Technology – www.otisgun.com
Outdoor Promotions - www.crappieusa.com
Plano Molding Company - www.planomolding.com
Poor Boy's/Lurecraft – www.lurecraft.com
Pradco Fishing – www.lurenet.com
Primos Hunting Calls – www.primos.com
Pure Fishing - www.purefishing.com
Quaker Boy, Inc. - www.quakerboygamecalls.com
Ranger Boat Company - www.rangerboats.com
Reef Runner Lures - www.reefrunner.com
Renfro Productions – www.renfroproductions.com
Rocky Brands – www.rockyboots.com
Sebile Lures – www.sebileusa.com
Shimano - www.shimano.com
Snosuit – www.snosuit.com
South Shore CVA - www.southshorecva.com
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ThermaCELL – www.thermacell.com
Tri-Tronics, Inc. – www.tritronics.com
TTI-Blakemore Fishing – www.ttiblakemore.com
Vexilar – www.vexilar.com
Vortex Optics – www.vortexoptics.com
W.R. Case & Sons Cutlery – www.wrcase.com
WaveSpin Reels – www.wavespinreel.com
Wildlife Research Center – www.wildlife.com

HOW members are encouraged to contact our supporting members' websites for general information and answers to product and service questions.

HOW Supporting Member News

This page is devoted to the loyal supporting members of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers. Brief descriptions of new products, award-winning products and press releases are listed here. HOW members interested in reading more can visit the supporting member websites or call or email the company contact for more information.

Frabill's New Excursion is the Ideal Multi-Species Ice Shelter

For most of the era known as the “ice fishing revolution,” portable flip-over style shelters were either poorly constructed or overly expensive - sometimes both. Thanks to the ice pioneers at Frabill, though, a new shelter design has simultaneously coupled luxury accommodations with a price that Joe Angler can appreciate.



“For the money, the Excursion offers anglers optimal comfort in a premium piece of real estate,” notes Frabill Product Manager, Andy Schmelzer. “With a fishable area that’s nearly six feet wide by over four feet deep, you can really stretch out and set the hook. There’s a lot of space for electronics and other gear, too. For less money than any competing product, it’s the best featured three-person shelter you can buy.”

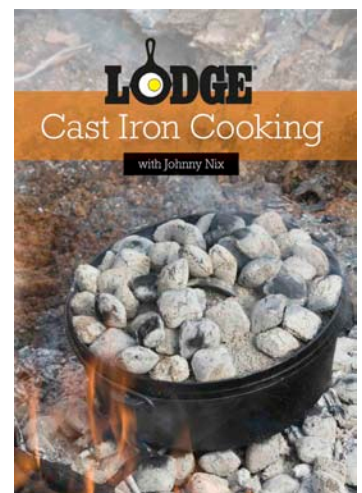
For more information about the new Frabill Excursion ice shelters, please contact Noel Vick at Traditions Media noel@traditionsmedia.com or check the Frabill website: www.frabill.com.

Lodge Manufacturing Goes Green

Lodge Manufacturing Company has been very busy with its efforts to be a more environmentally-friendly company. They have a successful on-site recycling program where they recycle cardboard and steel, and they have also converted to using recycled and biodegradable packing materials for their products.

They also designed and use a vegetable oil recycler for seasoning their cast iron products. Last year alone, this resulted in the diversion of over 1,100 gallons of vegetable oil from disposal and reduced the need to purchase new oil.

For more information about Lodge’s “Go Green” efforts, please contact Mark Kelly at Lodge Manufacturing mkelly@lodgemfg.com or log onto their website at: www.lodgemfg.com. All Lodge products are proudly made in the USA.





THOSE WHO HAVE GONE BEFORE US



HOW Member Billy “Bayou Bill” Scifres – Age 84
February 16, 1925 – October 12, 2009

Fishers, Indiana – Billy N. Scifres, 84, of Fishers, passed away on Monday, October 12th at Maple Park Village nursing home in Westfield, Indiana.

Bill was born February 16, 1925 to the late Jacob and Laura Scifres in Crothersville, Indiana. He married Nancy C. Wellington on September 4, 1954. He is survived by his wife and their three daughters: Donna Riedel (Fred) of Cape May, New Jersey; Joan Kendall (Adam) of Greenwood, Indiana; Patty Rosini (Mauro) of Bahia, Mexico; and 5 grandchildren.

Bill was active in the U.S. Navy during World War II, right out of high school. He attended Hanover College and Indiana University. He worked at the Indianapolis Star newspaper for 37 years as Outdoor Editor and wrote the column “Lines and Shots”. He freelanced for outdoor magazines and published two books: “Indiana Outdoors” and “Bayou Bill’s Best Stories”. After retiring, he continued his column for several of Indiana’s local papers.

He received many awards for his writing and conservation work during his life: Hanover’s Lifetime Achievement Award, Sagamore of the Wabash from Purdue, Conservation Communications Award from the National Wildlife Federation and Conservationist of the Year from the Indiana Wildlife Federation. He was also elected to the Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame in Hayward, WI as a Legendary Communicator.

Bill was one of the founding members of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers, and he served as the association’s first President in 1969. He held the office of HOW President for more terms than any other member (six!). He remained active in HOW for a total of 40 years, and made every attempt to attend HOW’s annual conferences.

He was also very active in conservation issues and he dearly loved the outdoors. Fishing, hunting, mushroom hunting and photography were some of his favorite activities, and he liked to do them simultaneously whenever possible. He loved to cook, make wine, and plant vegetable gardens. He also enjoyed staying fit by playing tennis and lifting weights.

Bill’s story telling, knowledge and love of the outdoors will be deeply missed. A celebration of his life was held at Shirley Brothers Fishers-Castleton Chapel at 9900 Allisonville Road. Visitation was held Friday, October 16, 2009 and a funeral service was held Saturday, October 17, 2009 at the Shirley Brothers Fishers-Castleton Chapel.

Memorial contributions in Bill’s honor may still be made to the Indiana Wildlife Federation in lieu of flowers.

“Columnist Falls For a Wild Outdoor Adventure” by John Martino

The high-pitched drone of the Cessna’s motor did nothing to drown out my nervousness. Last weekend I fell for another outdoor activity. Literally. To be exact, a two mile fall reaching speeds of 145 miles-per-hour!

As far as outdoor pursuits go, I have always enjoyed the extreme side of things. From sliding down steep snow-covered slopes in the Montana Rockies in pursuit of elk to unguided bear hunts in the wilds of Alaska. But last weekend’s experience was more than I have ever experienced, or expected. Check another one off my personal “Bucket List.”

Over the past several years my three children Emily, Joseph and Anthony have talked about skydiving. It started out as a nice idea but didn’t develop much past that, until last weekend. I had promised my daughter Emily, now 24, that I would take her on her 18th birthday. Six years had passed and that idea had passed by the wayside like many well-laid plans.

“Dad, you have talked about skydiving for years,” Joseph said,” “We are going to do it and want you to go with us.” He explained how he had already purchased a tandem jump for his younger brother Anthony as a high school graduation gift.

A twinge of fear coursed through my body because I knew he was serious. “Let’s talk about it,” I said. “Talk is over,” he replied, “I have already scheduled it.” “But you don’t have to go if you’re scared,” he added. “Say what?” I fired back. “I can still roll with you young boys and you can count me in,” I said defiantly.

To be quite honest, I wasn’t overly enamored with the thought of jumping out of a perfectly good airplane. But I wasn’t going to show my own kids my weaker side.

The short drive to the Flora Municipal airport went way too fast. The kids were giddy with excitement. I, on the other hand, sat in quiet contemplation.

Walking into the hanger we were greeted by George Capitanio and Terry Plank, co-owners of Air Indiana Skydiving Center. “Are you ready for

this?” Capitanio asked before laying out the day’s events.

In reality I wasn’t – but I wouldn’t be able to live with the constant ribbing I would take from my children if I bowed out now.

After a short briefing, Emily and Anthony strapped on harnesses designed to securely attach them to the instructor. Capitanio would serve as our personal jumpmaster for the day and accompany all of us on our initial plunge into space. We mutually agreed Anthony would go first since he was the youngest.

As the Cessna 182 taxied down the neatly mowed grass airstrip with Anthony I couldn’t help but feel a sense of nervousness. After all, this was my child.

It took almost 25 minutes for the plane to reach the two-mile high altitude. “They are jumping in two minutes,” said Plank as the pilot’s voice crackled over the radio. The plane was so high it could not even be seen.

“There they are!” Joseph soon yelled as we watched what looked like a speck of pepper against the hazy sky as they continued their freefall. “Thank God,” I thought after seeing the multi-colored parachute open.

“How was it?” I asked running up to them after the landing. “Indescribable!” was all Anthony could say.

It was now Emily’s turn. Although she is the oldest, I still and always will consider her my baby. Calling me an overprotective father is in most cases an understatement. But yet I willingly encouraged her to jump from an airplane. Go figure.

“Make sure nothing happens to her,” I told Capitanio. “Don’t worry,” he said. “I’ll be right there with her.”

Safety is taken very seriously. It has to be. Capitanio and Plank leave nothing to chance. Instructions are repeated over and over until known by heart. Equipment is checked, double checked and checked again.

(continued)

Once again the Cessna sped down the green runway. Although the plane was not visible, we could hear the pilot throttle back on the motor signaling they were exiting the aircraft. Again seeing the chute deploy provided visual comfort. Emily's screams would have made a school girl proud! "That's my baby," I said out loud, laughing.

After another perfect landing Joseph and I made our way to the hanger to be strapped into our harnesses.

"Are you ready for some fun?" he asked, as we made our way to the waiting plane. "Heck yes," I said sticking my chest out in typical macho fashion. In reality, anxiety was setting in and I could feel my knees getting shaky.

It seemed like forever for the Cessna to make its way to the 11,500 feet ceiling. Clouds began obstructing our view of the ground. "Can we jump if there is cloud cover?" I asked Capitanio over the roar of the plane's motor. "We can't jump through solid cover for safety reasons," he explained. "Yes!" I quickly thought, I may get out of this yet. "Don't worry though John, we have plenty of holes we can jump through," he added.

It wasn't long before the door opened and cool rushing air flooded the cockpit. I found myself wondering if this would be as close to heaven as I would ever get. We inched our way closer to the opened door eventually placing one foot outside on a step on the wing's strut.

"Here we go!" my jumpmaster said and at the count of three we launched ourselves into mid-air. After several forward flips we stabilized into the standard free-fall position. It was a sensory overload felt by mind, body and soul.

The wind was deafening which is to be expected when rocketing towards earth at 145 miles-per-hour. After dropping several thousand feet Capitanio pulled the ripcord.

"We have a beautiful chute opening John," he said, which was his way of saying everything was okay. The rest of the drop was nothing short of beautiful, even though we were still falling at a rate of 15 feet per second. I felt as if the sky was our very own. We did several spirals swinging out from the canopy on our descent, first turning hard left, then right and left again. We also practiced the landing procedure several times.

As the green cornfields and the open expanse of the airport grew closer and closer I found myself wishing the descent would go on forever. I also realized if there was any greater thrill than skydiving, I have yet to find it. Already living past my first half century, I know I am too old for most advertisers target market, too old for a mid-life crisis, but I felt like I was born again.

"Feet up," Capitanio said jolting me from my trance, "now pull," he added as we both worked together in controlling the parachute. Within seconds we landed softly on the finely mowed grass.

"So what do you think?" Capitanio asked. "Like Anthony said the whole experience was totally indescribable."

Joseph is without a doubt the true adrenaline junkie of the family and even his experience left him breathless. After it was over the kids and I found ourselves wishing we could do it again. Plans have already been made for a return trip.

For those who may be interested in trying this exciting outdoor activity, there are three ways to make that first jump. Tandem jumping offers an indescribable sense of freedom and exhilaration while securely harnessed to a certified instructor. All we had to do was watch a short video and undergo 30 minutes of instruction. This is the option my kids had decided on.

If you want more of a do-it-yourself program you can choose the Instructor Aided Deployment (IAD). This requires six to eight hours of specialized ground training before making that first jump. The freefall is shorter as your chute deploys almost immediately after exiting the aircraft, but the rest is up to you.

If you want a fast track into the world of skydiving then the Accelerated Free Fall (AFF) program is the route to go. After eight hours of training you board the plane wearing your own chute. You exit the plane with two instructors holding on to you providing stability and guidance. You pull your own ripcord while your instructors guide you through hand signals and radio communication through the entire descent.

If you are interested in finding out for yourself the true joy of an adrenaline packed experience provided through the sport of skydiving, contact Air Indiana Skydiving Center (765) 379-2707.

Indiana sportsmen

822,000 hunters & anglers spending \$3 million a day



TOTAL SPENDING \$1 billion

Casting
benefits
throughout
the economy.

- Sportsmen support more jobs in Indiana than U.S. Steel Corp. and Delphi Electronics and Safety combined (19,000 jobs vs. 16,500).
- Annual spending by Indiana sportsmen is more than the revenues of Haynes International, PacVan, and GasAmerica Services - the fastest growing companies in the state (\$1 billion vs. \$969 million).
- Indiana sportsmen annually spend more than combined cash receipts for hogs and cattle - two of the state's most valuable agricultural commodities (\$1 billion vs. \$993 million).
- Twice as many people hunt and fish in Indiana than attend Indiana Pacers games (822,000 vs. 630,000).

Lots of bang. Even more bucks.

Jobs	19,000
Salaries and wages	\$533 million
Federal Taxes	\$123 million
State and Local Taxes	\$106 million
Ripple Effect	\$1.8 billion



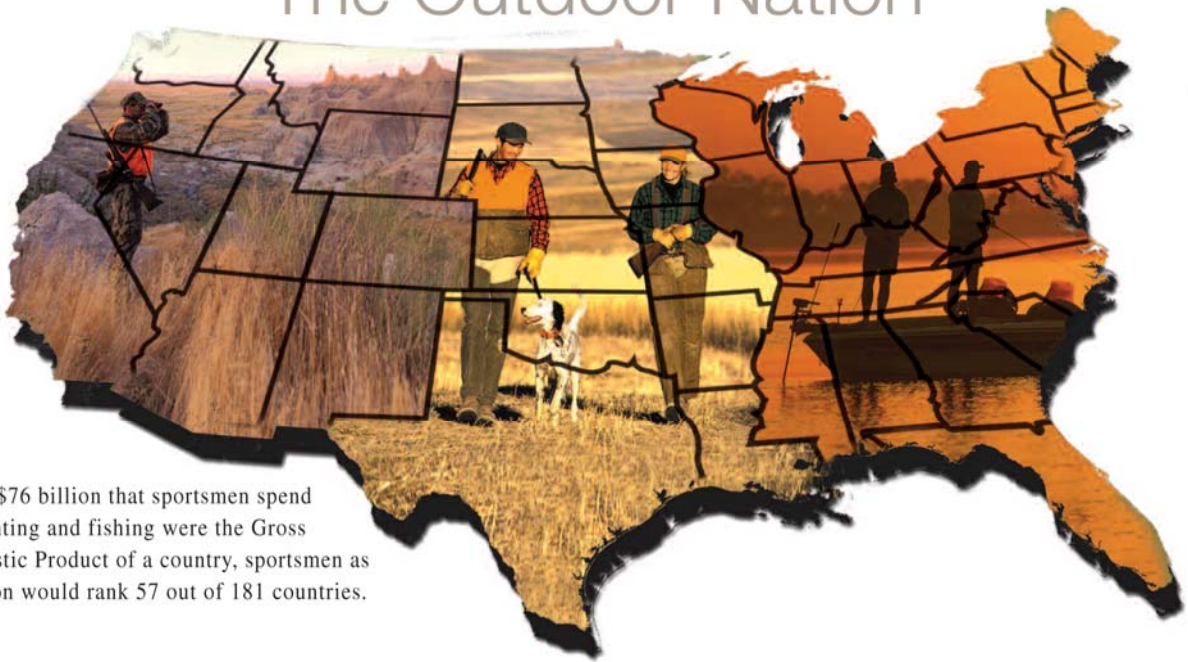
CSF and NASC are the most respected and trusted hunting and fishing organizations in the political arena. With support from every major hunting and fishing organization, we are the leader in promoting sportsmen's issues with elected officials. CSF works directly with the bi-partisan Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus in the U.S. Congress; NASC works with affiliated state sportsmen's caucuses in state legislatures around the country.

Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation 202-543-6850 www.sportsmenslink.org

In partnership with



The Outdoor Nation



If the \$76 billion that sportsmen spend on hunting and fishing were the Gross Domestic Product of a country, sportsmen as a nation would rank 57 out of 181 countries.

PARTICIPATION	SPENDING	JOBS	SALARIES/WAGES	FEDERAL STATE & LOCAL TAXES
Sportsmen 34 million	\$76 billion	1.6 million	\$60 billion	\$25.6 billion
Anglers 30 million	\$42 billion	1 million	\$38 million	\$16.4 billion
Hunters 12.5 million	\$23 billion	600,000	\$21 billion	\$9.2 billion

Every single state makes a contribution through revenue, taxes, and jobs. Here are the facts on Indiana's anglers and hunters.

PARTICIPATION			SPENDING		
		RANK			RANK
Resident sportsmen	822,000	# 15	Sportsmen	\$1 billion	# 26
Resident anglers	663,000	# 14	Fishing	\$800 million	# 24
Resident hunters	237,000	# 20	Hunting	\$265 million	# 34
Out of state hunters	35,000	# 24	JOBS		
Out of state anglers	106,000	# 30	Sportsmen	19,000	# 27
Days afield	4.1 million	# 20	Fishing	14,000	# 20
Days on the water	9 million	# 20	Hunting	5,000	# 34



The majority of all sportsmen consider themselves "likely voters" and 8 in 10 say that a candidate's position on sportsmen's issues is important in determining for whom they will vote.

If all hunters and anglers living in Indiana voted in the 2004 presidential election, they would have equaled 43% of the entire vote.

1 out of 6 residents hunt or fish.

www.sportsmenslink.org

*A respondent who is both a hunter and an angler is counted in each category, but only once for total participation numbers.

**Money spent on an item for both hunting and fishing is only counted for in the total spending category.

***Sample size too small to be reliable.

Statistics come from the U.S.F.W.S. 2006 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation, Southwick and Associates, American Sportfishing Association, and Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. For further information, contact CSF at 202-543-6850.

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:

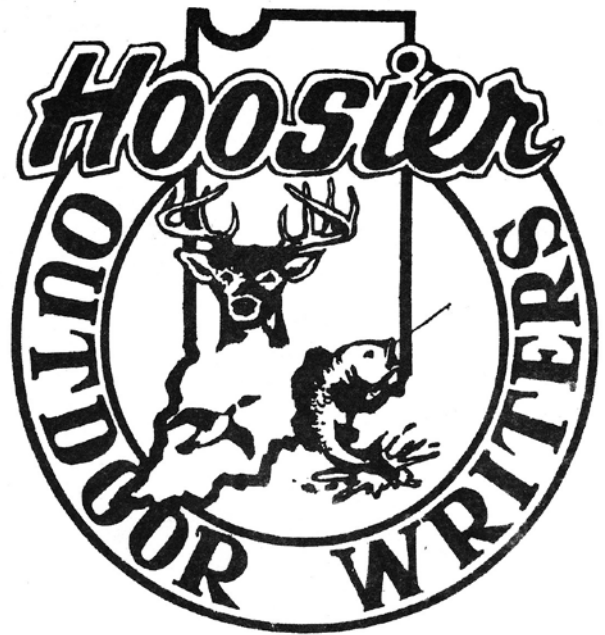
1. To give the profession of outdoor writing/reporting greater recognition and understanding, even higher standards and enlarged scope.
2. To encourage and enforce high standards of professional ethics.
3. To strive always for the truth, accuracy, clarity and completeness in the dissemination of outdoor 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

SHOT Show: Las Vegas, NV	January 19-22, 2010
Indianapolis Boat, Sport & Travel Show: Indianapolis, IN	February 19-28, 2010
AGLOW Spring Mega Media Event: Branson, MO	May 4-7, 2010
HOW Annual Conference: Details to follow...	Summer, 2010
POMA Annual Conference: LaPorte, IN	August 11-14, 2010
AGLOW Annual Conference: Ashland, WI	September 12-16, 2010

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