

The Blade

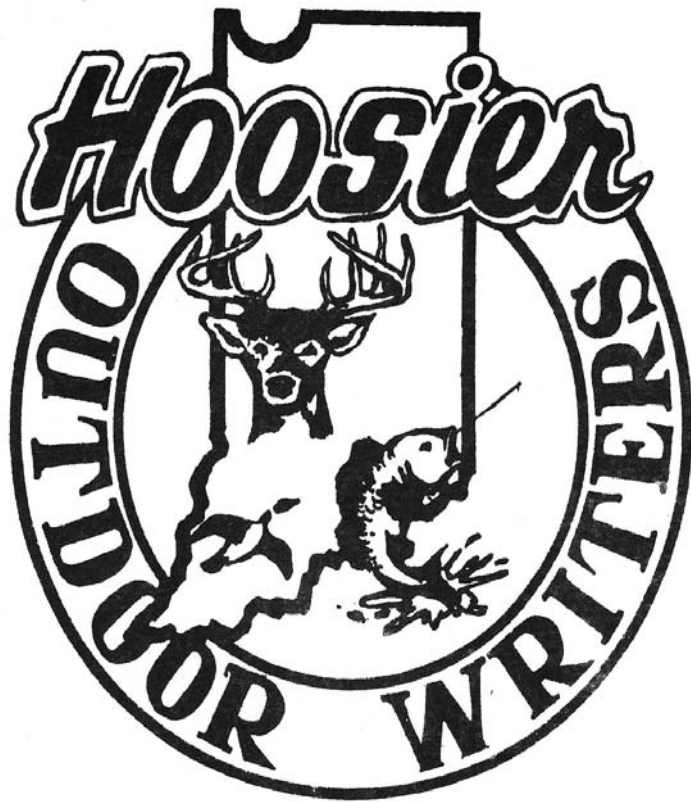
2008 Post-Conference Edition

March – April 2008

The Official Publication of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers



The Waiting Room – Awards In Craft 1st Place Scenic – P. J. Perea



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

Brian Smith
16828 Barryknoll Way
Granger, IN 46530
publisher@raghorn.com

President

Brent Wheat
1353 W. 300 N.
Lebanon, IN 46052
btwheat@wildindiana.com

Vice President

Bryan Poynter
6757 E. 171st St.
Noblesville, IN 46062
bpoynter@ctmt.com

Secretary/Treasurer

Tom Berg
2142 Nondorf St.
Dyer, IN 46311
tom.berg@gossinternational.com

Legal Counsel

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

Newsletter Editor

Jack Spaulding
8966 S. 650 W.
Milroy, IN 46156
icaeditor@hughes.net

Board Members

Region 1 – Mike Schoonveld
2009
Region 2 – Ray McCune
2010
Region 3 – Brian Sorrells
2009
Region 4 – Dean Shadley
2010

At Large:

Brandon Butler - 2010
Evie Kirkwood - 2010
Lisa Metheny - 2010
Marty Jaranowski – 2009
Josh Lantz – 2009
Don Mulligan - 2009

All submissions and correspondence in regards to the newsletter should be directed to: Jack Spaulding, 8966 S. 650 W., Milroy, IN 46156, or by e-mail to: icaeditor@hughes.net
Portions of this newsletter can be reproduced only with the permission of the Hoosier Outdoor Writer's Executive Board and/or the permission of the original author or authors submitting the material.



President's Message

by Brent Wheat

Greetings!

This is my first President's report and there are so many things to say. More importantly, there are so many things to DO!

At the annual conference a few weeks ago, I gave a speech outlining plans for the future of HOW as we approach our 40th anniversary. This speech was the result of discussions going back several years as various members of our organization realized we needed a coherent strategy to guide HOW in the coming years.

I think we have a good plan.

The goal of this plan is to make HOW a

respected, relevant organization within our state, our region and within our profession. Some of the changes might cause moments of uneasiness among members because change always causes a bit of anxiety. However, I can assure the membership while my goal is to make this a professional, respected and active organization, I don't want to lose sight of the fellowship and social activities which are an important part of our group.

As I said in my speech, I feel all members are important, and I hope I do not hear of any communicators leaving the group because they are dissatisfied.

In reality, I'm sure it will happen. But I also hope once we have reached some of our goals, those former members will reconsider and rejoin. They will be welcomed back with open arms.

On the same note, I know of several former members who have drifted away over the years. To those people, I would like to reach out and ask them to rejoin and help us move into the future with their knowledge, energy and enthusiasm.

One thing I find annoying is the petty bickering that occasionally happens within every organization. I'm sure you won't agree with every decision made by the leadership. However, I would ask any discussion about such topics remain cordial, professional and rational. I am a big fan of the "we'll have to agree to disagree"-model of conflict resolution.

I truly want to hear what the membership has to say about the future of our group. But, I also ask you honestly listen to the leadership and try to make informed decisions about any changes. If you don't agree, please have good, specific reasons to disagree. Moreover, offer a constructive alternative instead of simple criticism.

If you vehemently disagree with something, call me and we'll talk. It might not change the course of events, but I want to clear the air as much as possible. There is nothing more counterproductive and harmful to group dynamics than a silent grudge.

In the end, I want everyone to remember we are members of this group because of our common ground, not our differences.

So, it's time to roll up our sleeves and drive hard into the future. I need your help and support. Together we can make HOW an even more respected, valuable and fun organization of which to be a part.

Thank you for this opportunity to serve.

As HOW Approaches Its 40th Anniversary Our Roadmap For The Future

by HOW President, Brent Wheat

For an organization to be successful there must be plans and goals to help move forward into tomorrow. As mentioned in this month's President's message and my speech at the annual conference, the Executive Committee and far-sighted leaders within HOW have worked to develop a roadmap for our future as we reach the 40th anniversary of HOW in 2009.

The goal of this plan is to make HOW a more professional organization that will bring great value to the membership. In the near future, when a communicator says they belong to HOW, I want the listener's ears to perk up.

Moreover, I want an active organization that gives back tenfold to the membership. Being a member should be a valuable experience, regardless if you are looking for craft improvement, networking opportunities or simply a good social time with other writers. By implementing and tweaking this master plan, we can accomplish all these goals and more.

In keeping with this plan, here is a brief rundown of the five main points I would like to see accomplished within the next year:

1. Leadership

One of the greatest challenges of our organization is the actual nuts-and-bolts of day-to-day operations. Even with committed volunteer leadership, it is difficult to plan and implement the programs we wish to achieve with the real-world pressures of work, families and the general hubris of modern life.

Therefore, the Executive Committee recognizes that NOW is the time to hire an Executive Director (E.D.) for our organization. That person will be responsible for handling the tasks associated with managing HOW, improving consistency in all aspects of our operations as well as enhancing member communications.

A complete job description will be written and approved by the Board following this conference. The goal is to fill this position by the end of 2nd quarter, therefore we have appointed a search committee consisting of Louie Stout, Brian Smith and Bryan Poynter to organize and implement this search.

2. Membership dues

In the past, there has been talk of "raising the dues." But why? What would we get for our money? We did not have a plan.

Now, we have that plan and good reasons for a modest dues increase. According to our most recent survey, most of you agree.

I am not in support of a dues increase simply for the sake of raising more money, but it is long past the time when the costs of being a member of HOW should have increased. We have a good plan, starting with the hiring of an Executive Director, that will bring more value to the members of HOW. However, we will need an increased budget to make those things happen.

To implement this step, a dues committee will be appointed to decide upon a reasonable membership dues increase for 2009.

3. Membership

New members are audited before joining HOW but current members have never been audited on an ongoing basis. Over the years, this has led to some members retaining Active status even though they might not still qualify as Active members. If we are to be taken seriously as an organization, we

need to represent ourselves as working outdoor communicators. This really should be self-evident...it is the basic reason for our organization.

As a result of these audits, no one will be "kicked out of the boat." Each and every member of this group is important. However, if you carry the status of "Active member," everyone has the reasonable expectation that you are indeed a working, producing communicator. That will be the case very soon.

To this end, we have therefore appointed Tom Berg as the chair of the Auditing Committee. He will be developing the procedures for our audits and will be sending out the criteria and formats after this conference.

4. Annual Conference:

The annual conference is the most important event for members of HOW. However, it has become obvious that holding the event during this time of year presents many different problems.

Recent surveys show great support for expanding the annual conference and making it a weekend-long event. Our goal would be to have craft improvement opportunities, increased corporate member participation and the chance to spend time in the field during the conference. In a sense, we would like to see the HOW conference a smaller version of the AGLOW or OWAA annual conferences.

One of the major duties of our new Executive Director will be to take care of conference planning, logistics, content and solicitation of bids from Convention and Visitors Bureaus from around the state. The conference site can and should be moved around the state, and be held during warmer weather so that more outdoor activities can be enjoyed. This is our goal for the 2009 Annual Conference – a meaningful conference with real content that holds great value for our members as well as corporate sponsors.

This conference, as mentioned, will be in addition to the annual meeting in February. The tradition of gathering in Indianapolis will continue – fun and fellowship will still be a part of this tradition. The current conference will become the Mid-Winter HOW meeting and will be kept at the fairgrounds in February in conjunction with the Indianapolis Boat, Sport & Travel Show

We have appointed Dean Shadley as Chair of the Site Selection Committee.

5. Communications

This is what we should do best – right? Effectively immediately, we have launched a HOW website which will become our portal for external and internal communications.

I have been appointed as the Chair of the Web Site Committee. You will be seeing much more on this particular topic in the near future.

The Blade has grown into a valuable tool under the stewardship of Jack Spaulding. We thank him for all his work for HOW and most importantly for the Blade. This has become the benchmark for our communications. If we do nothing else...we should publish "The Blade" on time, with meaningful content for the members. This will eventually be another primary duty of our ED.

To that end we have appointed Mike Schoonveld as Chair of the Blade Committee to explore and refine our expectations for The Blade.

In Conclusion

This is the plan. It is my hope that we can implement most, if not all, of the suggestions by this time next year. We have talked, cussed, discussed and pondered the future of HOW and the time for conversation is concluded. Now is the time to act.

Talk is cheap. The people of HOW are not the type of folks who sit around thinking about what should be done; instead, they go outside and DO IT!! Now is the time to do the same for our organization!

From The Editors Desk

by Jack Spaulding

Probably I will take some grief about my headshot. Mike Schoonveld and Tom Berg will probably say it was taken as a mug shot from a police lineup and the fish heads were photo-shopped into the frame.

Even though they are a couple of scallywags, I would like to thank Tom and Mike for taking over the solicitation of the writer's raffle and the storage of the prizes and donations. They did a great job this year. I haven't entirely disappeared from the raffle scene as I have volunteered to stay on as chief ticket seller and Master of Ceremonies of the drawing.

I wanted to take a minute to mention what was great about this year's meeting. That's just it... it was all great!!

There was a lot of planning and preparation going into this year's gathering, and it showed. HOW has a great slate of

new officers coming on board and the future of our group looks sound and is gaining speed and direction.

This past year, we lost a couple of our outdoor friends. Gary Carden and George Seketa both passed away early this year. As a former HOW member, Gary was well known for his involvement in the Kokomo Kids Fishing Clinic. Though not a HOW member, George was a legacy among Indiana game managers. They both will be missed.

Our newly elected Vice President, Bryan Poynter missed this year's meeting due to a stint in the hospital. Tom Berg had this update on Bryan: *Some of you know that our outgoing Chairman of the Board, Bryan Poynter, was recently injured while helping with the move of a family member. He was admitted to the hospital last Thursday and had surgery on his leg, and spent the weekend in the hospital recovering. He is doing well, and when I spoke to him on the phone following the HOW meeting, he was in great spirits. Bryan is the new Vice President of HOW for 2008, so please send him a note wishing him well and telling him to heal-up quickly - he has a lot of work to do! In all seriousness, please keep Bryan in your thoughts and prayers as he heals and gets back to normal.*



A great concern at this time is the well-being of Rita Keaton. Rita is the beloved wife of our legal advisor and fellow HOW member, Bill Keaton. Rita was very seriously injured in a horse accident, airlifted to Indianapolis, and is in the Critical Care Unit of Methodist Hospital. She suffered a fractured skull and severe head injuries. Following surgery, she is in a drug induced coma.

I would ask all HOW members to keep Bill and Rita and their family in their thoughts, and especially in their prayers. Updates on Rita's daily progress are constantly being posted and can be viewed on-line at: www.caringbridge.org/visit/ritakeaton Rita has made it through the very critical three days following the accident and she continues to improve.

Through Christ Jesus, all things are possible. We wish her well.

The Hoosier Outdoor Writers

New Members, Past Presidents & Memorial Section

HOW extends a warm welcome to our growing ranks of outdoor communicators.

John Goss (Associate), Indianapolis, IN
Sponsor: Tom Berg

Brandon Carpenter (Associate Student), Salem, IN
Sponsor: Larry Crecelius

Jason Boer (Associate), Rensselaer, IN
Sponsor: Joe Martino

RETURNING MEMBERS:

Mike Graves (Associate), Valparaiso, IN

CHANGE IN MEMBERSHIP STATUS:

Lisa Metheny (changed to Active), Terre Haute, IN

Memorial to Deceased HOW Members

Those Who Have Gone Before Us

Jack Alkire – President of HOW 1979
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
Mike Cottingham
Dick Forbes
Fred Heckman
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

Past 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



39th Annual HOW Conference Draws Members

by Tom Berg



Indiana Deer Biologist Chad Stewart

The 2008 annual conference has come and gone – and it was another good one. Nearly 50 HOW members and guests gathered at Fort Benjamin Harrison state park on the east side of Indianapolis on Saturday, February 16th to renew old friendships, create new ones, and maybe even learn a thing or two.

The day started with registration and a continental breakfast at The Garrison. The early-birds socialized over a cup of coffee while others arrived, and at 8:30am the general membership meeting started. Incoming President Brent Wheat was the Master of Ceremonies, and he greeted the conference attendees. Secretary/Treasurer Tom Berg gave a brief treasurer's report, notifying the membership that HOW's finances are still in good shape. The full treasurer's report is printed elsewhere in this issue of The Blade so that the entire membership can view it.

Nominating Chairman John Martino then presented the new slate of Officers and Directors for 2008. Outgoing President Brian Smith will become the new Chairman of the Board, and Brent Wheat will take over as the new President. Bryan Poynter was nominated to be the new Vice-President. Berg will remain as Secretary/Treasurer. New members of the Board of Directors include: Ray McCune (Region 2), Dean Shadley (Region 4), and At-Large Members Lisa Metheny, Brandon Butler and Evie Kirkwood.



Chief of Fisheries - Bill James

After the slate of Officers and Board Members was approved, Brent Wheat gave a presentation on the future direction of HOW. A large part of his presentation is also printed elsewhere in this issue, so please take a look.

The first seminar of the day was a special Newsmaker's Forum with knowledgeable DNR speakers (moderated by Phil Bloom). Chad Stewart presented information and trends on deer and deer hunting in Indiana; Bill James discussed fisheries and Indiana's Fish of the Year contest; and Steve Backs offered-up a wealth of information on Indiana's turkey population. All three speakers did an excellent job and provided fodder for many columns.

HOW member and professional photographer Jeff Hammond was in charge of the Craft Improvement Session for the day with his digital photography seminar titled: "Flash Considerations – Don't Be In The Dark!"



Pro-Photographer and HOW member Jeff Hammond

Hammond used a projector to show numerous examples of photos taken with and without proper flash. He also discussed fill flash, flash intensity, red-eye reduction and several other aspects of flash photography. He even brought along one of his long-range lenses with a flash unit that is effective out to 100 yards or more. As usual, the photos that he used in his examples were stunningly beautiful and quite unusual!

While HOW members enjoyed a first-rate buffet lunch, Rick Story from the U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance gave a short presentation on the modern animal rights movement and how they threaten sportsmen and outdoorsmen

everywhere – including Indiana. These people are against hunting, trapping, fishing, and animal use of any kind. Are you a dog owner? They want to target you, too! They are organized and well-funded, so we need to band together to fight them. We must protect our outdoor heritage and our rights as sportsmen.

After lunch, Brent Wheat presented the Excellence in Craft awards for writing and photography in 2007. He used an overhead projector to show the winning photographs, some of which will be used as cover shots for The Blade (starting with this issue!). Most of the winners were present to claim their certificates and prize

checks. A full list of the winners is printed elsewhere in this issue. A word of thanks needs to be said for the co-sponsors of this year's craft contest: Bass Pro Shops (Portage, IN) and the U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance. Thank you very much!



Rick Story from the U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance

Brent Wheat also presented the final seminar of the day: "Portable GPS Units And You." This was an in-depth look at personal GPS units and how to use them to keep from getting lost (among other things). It was very informative!

The final activity of the day was the much-anticipated HOW raffle.

Raffle Co-Chairmen Tom Berg and Mike Schoonveld took over responsibility of soliciting, securing and storing the raffle items this year. HOW members Rich Creason and Larry Crecelius also solicited items through some of their contacts.

Although long-time raffle Chairman Jack Spaulding retired from the job last year, he was gracious enough to volunteer to sell the tickets and call the numbers again this year. He did a fantastic job as usual, too!

Thanks to the generosity of a near-record number of contributing companies and organizations, the raffle this year was a huge success. Thanks again to all of the donors!

If you didn't make it to the conference this year, you'd better start making plans now to attend next year. You won't want to miss it!



Master GPS Operator Brent Wheat

Treasurer's Report

Hoosier Outdoor Writers

January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2007

Balance beginning January 1, 2007:	\$8,345.15
<u>Income:</u>	
Dues (Member renewals & new members)	\$1,755.00
Annual Meeting Fees (Members)	\$875.00
Annual Meeting Fees (Non-members)	\$125.00
Annual Meeting Lunch Sponsor (U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance)	\$600.00
Awards-in-Craft Sponsor (Safari Club International)	\$1,000.00
HOW Raffle	\$1,133.00
Total Income:	\$5,488.00
<u>Expenses:</u>	
2007 Annual Meeting (Conference Center Rental & Meals):	\$1,236.38
2007 Awards-in-Craft contest:	\$1,290.00
2007 Directory (Printing/Mailing):	\$233.50
HOW Skeet Shoot reimbursements:	\$ 75.00
Conference Calls (Board of Directors):	\$184.68
HOW Newsletter:	\$708.00
Office Supplies:	\$ 70.42
Postage:	\$186.57
Total Expenses:	\$3,984.55
Balance ending December 31, 2007:	\$9,848.60

The 2008 HOW Awards In Craft Contest



The Hoosier Outdoor Writers

would like to thank

**Bass Pro Shops – Portage Indiana
&
The U. S. Sportsmen's Alliance**

as the official sponsors of the

2008 Awards In Craft Contests

HOW Craft Improvement Contest

Under 1000 Words

Fishing

- 1 Bundle up! Time to go ice fishing - John Martino
- 2 Fall Bluegill Binge - Tom Berg
- 3 Hunting for fish - Joe Martino

Hunting

- 1 Conversation with son still a special memory - John Martino
- 2 What's wrong with Squirrels? - Joe Martino
- 3 What a difference a year makes - Lisa Metheny

General Outdoors

- 1 It happened on an afternoon drive - Mark Crowley
- 2 Hudson, Parker giving back to outdoors - John Martino
- 3 The monarch butterfly- a migratory marvel - Gene Clifford

Conservation

- 1 Bauer needs your advice - Louie Stout
- 2 DNR owes an apology - Louie Stout
- 3 One more time; don't feed the geese - John Martino

Over 1000 Words

Fishing

- 1 Casting Jigs, the lost art - Louie Stout
- 2 Great, great lake springtime smallie action - Tom Berg
- 3 Going high and low for coho - Tom Berg

Hunting

- 1 A long day in the woods - P.J. Perea
- 2 Another Hoosier buck for the books - Lisa Metheny
- 3 Trip to Alaska- Inspiring! - John Martino

General Outdoors

- 1 Her journey to experience - Michael Ellis
- 2 Wabash Valley family sports complex - Lisa Metheny
- 3 Discovering more than fossils - Mark Crowley

Conservation

- 1 So why aren't you a member - Mark Crowley
- 2 A visit from the Congressman - Mark Crowley
- 3 No entry

Photography

Photo - Fishing

- 1 The reel deal - P.J. Perea
- 2 Fishing in the Flatrock river - John Maxwell
- 3 Tube float fishing = Mark Crowley

Photo - Hunting

- 1 Smoky Mountain high five - P.J. Perea
- 2 Pheasant hunt lesson - John Maxwell
- 3 Jakes at the decoy = Mark Crowley

Photo - Outdoor Scenic

- 1 Waiting room - P.J. Perea
- 2 Migrating blackbirds and full moon - John Maxwell
- 3 Green frog in T.C. Steele garden = John Maxwell

Photo - Outdoor Recreation

- 1 Swarming swallows - Mark Crowley
- 2 Jake in the box = P.J. Perea
- 3 Chopper chains = P.J. Perea

Broadcast

- 1 Get in the Game TV, #188 - P.J. Perea
- 2 Cane Ridge - Tri-State Outdoor News TV - Mark Crowley
- 3 Coyote controversy - Tri-State Outdoor News TV - Mark Crowley

Awards In Crafts -1st Place - Conservation

by Louie Stout

Bauer Needs Your Advice

I'll admit that government was never one of my best subjects in school. If only it had been taught in PE class.

Now that we've established my ignorance about legislative matters, perhaps you'll excuse my confusion as to why South Bend's Rep. B. Patrick Bauer has not acted on Joint Resolution 0014.

I'm not alone. Dick Mercier of the Indiana Sportsmen Roundtable, which represents 70 conservation and sportsmen groups, is wondering the same thing.

You see, Rep. Bauer is the Speaker of the Indiana House of Representatives. He has the power to determine which issues are in play and which ones die on the vine.

With Rep. Bauer's support, Resolution 0014 could move forward and perhaps someday make hunting and fishing a constitutional right.

"In this day and age of anti-hunting groups attacking sportsmen from all angles, we need this protection," said Mercier.

Mercier acknowledges that constitutional amendments shouldn't be taken lightly or become law at the request of a few special interest groups.

But this resolution has had enormous support from just about everyone who matters -- 'cept South Bend Rep. Bauer.

To become a constitutional amendment, the resolution must pass the house and senate in two sessions (with a general election in between) then go before a public referendum in the next general election.

Well, it flew through the last General Assembly and passed the Senate this year by a convincing 46-3 vote. It lacks only House approval, which many believe it will get -- if Bauer moves it out of the House Rules and Legislative Procedures Committee.

"That is where bills and resolutions go to die," warned Mercier.

Pete Nemeth, Rep. Bauer's chief of staff, said last week the Speaker hasn't yet determined 0014's fate, nor is he prepared to commit one way or another.

"There are a lot of big issues facing the state right now," said Nemeth. "If this resolution doesn't get done this year, there's always 2008."

True. But then, it would have to go back through the General Assembly -- again -- and that's what concerns Mercier.

"It's not like we're asking him to take a position," said Mercier. "We just want him to let it get before the House and let others decide. Ultimately, it will be the Indiana residents (through a 2008 referendum) who will have the final decision."

For that reason, the Roundtable is requesting sportsmen contact Rep. Bauer's office and express support of the resolution.

"We really need folks in South Bend to let him know how they feel," said Mercier. "After all, they are his constituents."

OK, I know what you're thinking. Why do we need a constitutional amendment for hunting and fishing rights that already exist?

"Just ask Michigan, where the antis spent millions of dollars on propaganda to defeat a dove hunting season," said Mercier. "Had there been a constitutional right, we think there would be a dove season in Michigan."

Mercier said about 11 states have made hunting and fishing a constitutional right. While such a move won't prevent antis from trying harder, it would at least handcuff them in Indiana.

"The antis have a lot of money and are manipulating the legislative system to get their way on a lot of fronts throughout the country," he added. "That's why we need this protection."

And your support is needed fast. Mercier said that if the bill doesn't get moving before April 1, it could be too late.

"You can bet he's heard from the antis," he cautioned.

You can contact Rep. Bauer by calling (800) 382-9842.

Hoosier Outdoor Writer's Raffle



The Outdoor Writer's Raffle... Look at all the stuff!! - Photos by John Maxwell

HOW members who didn't attend the conference this year missed out on some spectacular prizes. Besides scores of great prizes like waterproof binoculars, fishing rods/reels, turkey calls, hunting knives, muzzleloaders, camp stoves, tents, tackleboxes, archery equipment, fishing lures and spotting scopes (just to name a few items), we had a couple of extra-special prizes. Top prizes included a Remington Model 700 SPS Varmint .223 rifle and a 4-night, 3-day fishing trip for two to Ninilchik, Alaska!

Of course, you have to attend the conference and buy your tickets to have a chance to win! Raffle Chairman Tom Berg promises next year's raffle will be even bigger and better than this year's!

Jack Spaulding has pledged to be on hand to reprise his never-ending role as "Chief Ticket Puller."

So make sure you attend next year's meeting!! You won't want to miss it!

Thanks to all of our Supporting Members who donated products or services to the raffle this year!



Raffle Donors – 2008

3M Scientific Anglers
Alpen Outdoor Corporation
B&M Pole Company
Bass Pro Shops
Birchwood Casey
Blackpowder Products, Inc.
Buck Knives
Bundy & Co., Inc.
Cabela's, Inc.
Clam Corporation
Coleman Company
Creative Outdoor Products
Crimson Trace Corporation
Danner, Inc.
DeLorme
Environ-Metal, Inc.
Flatrock Hunting Preserve
G. Loomis
Gaston's White River Resort
Godfrey Marine
Great American Tool
Company
Hunter's Specialties

Kwikee Kwiver Company
L&S Bait Company
LaCrosse Footwear
Leupold
Lightfield Ammunition Corp
Midway USA
Muzzy Products Corporation
Ninilchik Charters
Off Shore Tackle Company
Optronics, Inc.
Outdoor Promotions
Plano Molding Company
Pure Fishing
Quaker Boy Game Calls
Reef Runner Tackle
Remington Arms Co.
Shakespeare Fishing Tackle
Shimano
ThermaCELL
Tri-Tronics, Inc.
WaveSpin Reels
W.R. Case & Sons Cutlery
Wright & McGill Co.

Thank You



HOW Sporting Clays Shoot Another Success

by Tom Berg

The annual HOW Fun Shoot was held this year on Friday, February 15th just one day before the HOW Conference at the Fort Harrison State Park. As usual, we met at the Indiana Gun Club on the north side of Indianapolis for a morning of good camaraderie (and to break a few clay pigeons!).

While driving to the gun club this year, Mike Schoonveld (the event organizer) and I figured that we would have really good shooting conditions for a change. After all, the temperature was in the upper teens when we left his house at 6:30am, and we were confident that by the time we started shooting at 10:00am the temperature would be a balmy 25 degrees or so. It would definitely be better than last year when the temperature was -4 degrees. At least, that's what we thought.

When we arrived, the temperature hadn't budged a degree. If anything, it had dropped a couple of degrees. It wouldn't have been bad, though, if the wind would have just died down a little! A strong west wind blew along the course all morning, numbing fingers and noses and anything else that wasn't covered by several layers of clothes! Some shooters said that it felt even colder than last year!

Everyone persevered, though, and we divided the shooters into two groups so that we could get through the sporting clays course by about noon. This was a new course that had been erected since our visit last year, and it included elevated shots from a tower, ground shots at running "clay rabbits", high overhead shots and lightning fast cross-over shots. The sporting clays course is always a lot of fun.

Tom Berg used a Remington 1100 to break a few more clay birds than the other HOW members in attendance, but the tough weather conditions and cold fingers kept everyone from getting a spectacular score. The scores will undoubtedly be a little higher next year if the wind cooperates and the temperature isn't so frigid!

A big thank-you goes out to Linda Powell from Remington Arms again this year for supplying all of the ammunition for the shooters. The writers definitely appreciated it. Thanks again!

The Sportsman Channel Announces 4th Annual Sportsman Awards Winners



Raghorn Is ShotShow Winner

Television - Mark Smith, Brian Smith & Josh Lantz

Hosted by HOW members Brian Smith, Mark Smith and Josh Lantz. *Raghorn Adventures* represents a unique response to the growing adventure outdoor travel, hunting and fishing markets. *Raghorn Adventures TV* is currently aired nationally on The Sportsman Channel and the My Outdoor TV Network, as well as in over 20 different Mid-western markets. The show is broadcast in 47 states and Puerto Rico to over 2,900 cities and towns. You should have no problem finding it on your local listings. If you do, please call and ask for it. *Raghorn Adventures* is produced by Raghorn, Inc. founded by brothers Mark and Brian Smith and is the parent company to "Indiana Outdoor News" magazine, "Angling the Great Lakes" television, Anchor Media Productions and Raghorn Productions.

Las Vegas, NV-The Sportsman Channel is proud to announce the winners from their fourth Annual Sportsman Awards held during the Shooting, Hunting, and Outdoor Trade (SHOT) Show. The winners were awarded in front of their peers of over 400 people during The Sportsman Channel's annual Producer Appreciation Event on Saturday, February 2 at the House of Blues in Mandalay Hotel and Casino hosted by legendary outdoorsman, Tom Knapp.

"Every year we throw a great party to honor and appreciate our producers who make The Sportsman Channel what it is today," said C. Michael Cooley, President of TSC. "It is always a difficult decision on the winner in each category as each program gives 100 percent every time they turn on the camera."

Best Writing

Hunting Across America
IGFA Anger's Digest
Raghorn Adventures

Best Info/Educational

Taxidermy for the Sportsman
Episode HuntFishCook
Raghorn Adventures

Best Combo Episode

Raghorn Adventures
Evolved Habitat's Outdoor Addict
HuntFishCook

TSC's Director of Programming, James D. Seeley, explained the process for finding the winners is an all-company directive. "I sift through the hundreds of entries and whittle it down to the top five in each category. Then I ask Sportsman Channel Executives, staff and our peers to rate their top three picks." The "viewer favorite" awards are chosen via voting on TSC's website a few months prior. "We had thousands of people voting on our website for their favorite show. Producers send out blast emails and newsletters to their fans requesting they vote their show as their favorite - it is a very exciting process! Producers love winning the viewer favorite awards because it is their fans speaking up," said Seeley.

Those Who Have Gone Before Us

Former Member of HOW

Gary R. Carden, 63

Aug. 6, 1944 - Jan. 15, 2008

Kokomo Tribune- Gary R. Carden, 63, Galveston, passed away at 11:50 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 15, 2008, at Caring Hands Health Care Center, Peru. He was born Aug. 6, 1944, in Long Beach, Calif., to James T. and Helen (Lamb) Carden. On June 25, 1970, in Kokomo, he married Sharon (Thomas) Carden, and she survives.

Gary was a pipefitter by trade and member of Local 440 Indianapolis and served in the U.S. Army in Vietnam. He was a member of Galveston First Baptist Church, American Legion Post 415, Galveston, and a life member of the VFW. He enjoyed music and especially fishing. He was very involved with the Jim "Moose" Carden Kids Fishing Clinic. He was a former member of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers.

He is survived by his wife, Sharon Carden, Galveston; son, C. Ty and Julie Carden, Galveston; daughter, Layne Carden, Galveston; granddaughters, Micah Carden, Galveston, and Loran Kemp, Kokomo; grandsons, Ethan and Garrett Zell, Galveston, and Taylor Carden, Galveston; four brothers, Jim and Linda Carden, Galveston, Joe and Jackie Carden, Logansport, Craig and Sandy Carden, Kokomo, and Chuck and Mary Carden, Kokomo; four sisters, Sharon and Bob Yockey, Galveston, Vickie and Dick Village, Longwood, Fla., Connie and Bobbie Jones, Galveston, and Diane Turner, Galveston; and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Services are 11 a.m. Saturday at Murray Weaver Funeral Home, 401 S. California St., Galveston, with the Rev. Aaron Webb officiating. Burial will be in Galveston Cemetery. Friends may call from 5 to 9 p.m. Friday at the funeral home.

Memorial contributions can be made to the Jim "Moose" Carden Kids Fishing Clinic. Envelopes will be provided at the funeral home. Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.murrayweaverfuneralhome.com.

Public Servant

George Seketa, 76

Aug. 8, 1931 – Feb. 27, 2008

George Seketa, 76, died February 27, 2008 at the Putnam County Hospital, Greencastle, Indiana. Mr. Seketa was born August 8, 1931, in Benld, Illinois, to

Joseph Seketa and Margaret (Arlesic) Seketa. He graduated from Benld High School in 1950, served in the U.S. Navy from 1951-55 and in 1962 earned a Bachelor of Science in Biology from Southern Illinois University.

In 1957 George and Delores "Dee" Hughes married. They recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Delores currently teaches Biological Diversity at DePauw University.

George and Dee moved to Indiana in 1963, and George became the manager of Glendale Fish & Wildlife area near Washington, Indiana. Delores started teaching biology at Barr Reeve High School in Montgomery, Indiana. The family moved to Greencastle in 1971 after George was appointed Chief of Properties of the Division of Fish & Wildlife for the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

During his more than 33 years with Division, George played a major role in developing Indiana's Fish & Wildlife Areas and Public Access Sites throughout the State. George was particularly proud of his role in acquiring properties for the Department including through the Heritage Trust and for the Game Bird Habitat program.

In 1996, George was awarded the Professional Excellence Award for his work with the Grand Kankakee Marsh Restoration Project.

He was known widely for his work with many conservation organizations throughout the State and, in addition to helping establish local chapters of Ducks Unlimited and the National Wild Turkey Federation, he served as president of the local Quail Unlimited chapter, president of the state organization, and as a member the National Board of Trustees of Quail Unlimited.

George is survived by wife, his son and daughter-in-law, Steven and Carol Seketa of Greencastle; his son and daughter-in-law, Gregory and Karen Seketa of Carmel, Indiana; and his son Mark Seketa and fiancée Stephanie Wheeler of Edwardsville, Illinois. Surviving grandchildren include Stephen, Nicole, and George of Greencastle, Andrew and Nathan of Carmel, Indiana, Erik of Edwardsville, Illinois, and great-granddaughter Makayla of Greencastle.

Additionally, Mr. Seketa is survived by brothers Joseph, Jr., James, and Philip Seketa and sisters Mary Vojas, Dorothy Sies, and Frances "Bibby" Seketa each a resident of Illinois. George was preceded in death by his parents, his brothers Paul, Barney "Steve", Peter, and Matthew; and sisters Helen Marlot, Barbara Seketa, and Phyllis Seketa.

The family will host a Celebration of Life gathering in the Galleria at the Walden Inn in Greencastle on Saturday, March 8, 2008. Family and friends are invited to attend and share their "George Stories" in an informal setting between the hours of 2 and 5 P.M.

Because of George's life-long interest in wildlife conservation, the family suggests that in lieu of flowers a memorial contribution be made either to Quail Unlimited c/o the West Central Indiana Chapter, P.O. Box 487, Greencastle, Indiana 46135 or to The Nature Conservancy, 1505 N. Delaware Street, Suite 200, Indianapolis, Indiana 46202.

Wildlife Friendly Development Certification Workshop

Indiana Wildlife Federation in partnership with the Holladay Properties, AmeriPlex Indianapolis is hosting a one day workshop designed to provide Landscape Architects, Environmental Engineers and Land Use Specialists with the information necessary to obtain certification for Wildlife Friendly Developments.

Proposed Topics Include:

- IWF Overview and Certification Process**
- Progress with Planning**
- Urban Wildlife Management**
- Pond Management**
- Stormwater Management**
- Landscaping and Native Species**
- AmeriPlex Environmental Philosophy**
- Easement Management**
- Bus Tour of the AmeriPlex complex**

When:

April 2, 2008 8:30 a.m.—3:30 p.m.

Where:

**AmeriPlex, Indianapolis
5125 Decatur Blvd.
Indianapolis, IN**

Registration Fee:

\$150.00

(Includes information materials, box lunch and one year IWF Individual or Corporate Membership with 4 issues of *Hoosier Conservation* magazine)

Visit www.indianawildlife.org for registration forms

Maximizing Your Habitat Workshops



IWF is hosting several one day habitat workshops around the state. Designed to help property owners get the most out of their wildlife habitat areas,

Choose a location near you, and sign up today by visiting www.indianawildlife.org or call 800 347-3445.

Lafayette: Saturday, March 22, 9:30 - 4:00
Lilly Nature Center, Celery Bog Nature Area
West Lafayette, IN

Terre Haute: Saturday, April 5, 9:30 - 4:00
Dobbs Park, Native American Museum
Terre Haute, IN

Warsaw/North Webster: Saturday May 3, 9:30 - 4:00
North Webster Community Center
North Webster, IN

Workshops are free to IWF members
Non-members pay only \$35.00 which includes a 1-year IWF membership.

Habitat Stewards™ Training

The Denver Siekman Environmental Park, Rising Sun, IN is offering National Wildlife Federation's Habitat Steward™ Training

9:00 – 3:00 Saturday Mar 29 9:00 – 3:00 Saturday Apr 12

9:00 – 3:00 Saturday April 26 9:00 – 3:00 Saturday May 10th

9:00 – 3:00 Saturday May 17th For additional Information Contact: Janie Eldridge, denversiekmanep@yahoo.com or 812 438-1230



INDIANA Wildlife Federation

AFFILIATE OF NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION





Indiana Wildlife Federation

AFFILIATE OF NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION

January 28, 2008

Dear Scholarship Applicant:

Attached is an application form for a scholarship to be awarded by the Indiana Wildlife Federation Endowment. All applications must be completed and all must be received by April 30, 2008. Send all applications with required forms to:

Indiana Wildlife Federation Endowment
Scholarship Committee
4715 W. 106th Street
Zionsville, IN 46077

Applicants must be Indiana residents accepted for study or already enrolled for the fall 2008 semester as a full time student at the undergraduate level as a sophomore or above in an accredited college or university. Applicants should be taking coursework to major or minor in a field related to resource conservation or environmental education.

One scholarship will be awarded in the amount of \$1000, \$500 per semester. The recipient will be notified by May 15, 2008. Announcement of the award will be made at the Indiana Wildlife Federation Annual Meeting at Brown County State Park, Nashville, Indiana June 7, 2008.

Scholarship money will be forwarded to the college or university and must be used during the 2008-2009 academic year. The money can be used to help pay tuition, room and board, books or academic fees that are payable to the college or university. The funds may not be used to pay late charges or fines.

Be certain your application is complete. Make copies of your materials before mailing them to the Scholarship Committee. Additional application forms are available on our web site at www.indianawildlife.org.

Good luck,

George Vargo
President, IWFE

Enclosure

INDIANA WILDLIFE FEDERATION ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

NAME _____

HOME ADDRESS _____ PHONE(____) _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATED FROM _____

ADDRESS _____

GPA _____ SAT: VERBAL _____ MATH _____ TOTAL _____

RANK IN CLASS _____ OF _____ DATE OF BIRTH _____

COLLEGE ATTENDING OR ACCEPTED TO _____

ADDRESS _____

COLLEGE GPA _____

FATHER'S NAME _____ EMPLOYER _____

MOTHER'S NAME _____ EMPLOYER _____

OR

SPOUSE NAME _____ EMPLOYER _____

HAVE YOU EVER APPLIED FOR OR RECEIVED ANY OTHER FINANCIAL
ASSISTANCE? _____ EXPLAIN _____

LIST THE EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS OF WHICH YOU WERE
AN ACTIVE PARTICIPANT DURING HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE:

LIST ACTIVITIES OR ORGANIZATIONS YOU PARTICIPATE IN OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL

LIST ANY EMPLOYMENT IN THE PAST TWO YEARS _____

WHAT SIGNIFICANT AWARDS OR HONORS HAVE YOU RECEIVED _____

ON ANOTHER SHEET OF PAPER, PLEASE WRITE A BRIEF SUMMARY OF YOUR DEFINITION OF THE WORD CONSERVATION.

ON A SEPARATE SHEET, PLEASE WRITE ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:

- 1.) WHY DO YOU WISH TO BE CONSIDERED FOR THIS SCHOLARSHIP?
- 2.) HOW WOULD THIS SCHOLARSHIP HELP YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD?
- 3.) WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS AFTER GRADUATING FROM COLLEGE?

PLEASE ATTATCH A COPY OF YOUR TRANSCRIPT(S) FROM HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE.

PLEASE ATTATCH TWO LETTERS OF REFERENCE; ONE FROM A FORMER TEACHER OR PRESENT TEACHER AND ONE FROM ANOTHER ADULT WHO IS NOT A RELATIVE WHO HAS KNOWN YOU FOR AT LEAST TWO YEARS.

Hoosier Outdoor Writers

Application For New Membership

(Check Desired Classification below)

- \$15 _____ Active
- \$20 _____ Associate
- \$35 _____ Supporting
- \$10 _____ Active Student
- \$5 _____ 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 Writing 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. Dues: \$15.00 per year. (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. Dues: \$20 per year.

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. Dues: \$35.00 per year.

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. Dues: \$10.00 per year.

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. Dues: \$5.00 per year.