

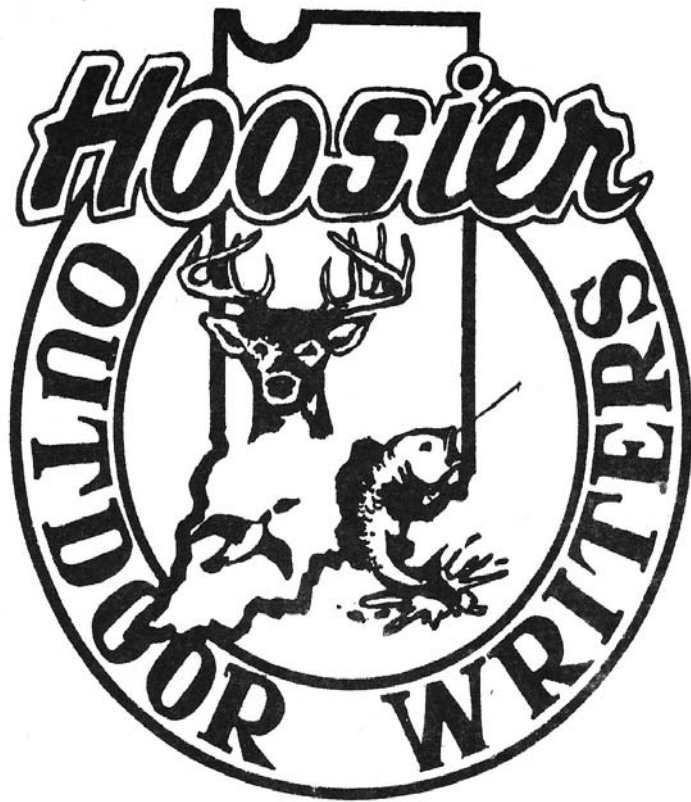
The Blade

July – August 2008

The official publication of the Hoosier
Outdoor Writers



Tom Berg proudly displays an Alaskan halibut caught aboard a Ninilchik Charter. Photo courtesy of Tom Berg



Hoosier Outdoor Writers

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

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President's Message

by Brent Wheat

Is the weekly columnist an endangered species?

In both surveys and personal experience, I know that the majority of HOW members have written, currently write, or will someday write a freelance outdoor column for a newspaper. As many of us have noted, it was that twice-weekly 20-column-inches from men like Bayou Bill in our local paper that inspired many of us to head down the path of outdoor journalism.

The weekly outdoor column is an American tradition that all of us have enjoyed and many of us depend upon for part of our livelihood.

Unfortunately, from where I'm sitting that tradition is/has become an endangered species.

After the golden age of newspapers in the last century, most writers would agree that editors and publishers are now running scared. Caught between increased costs, declining circulations, growing competition for advertising dollars and increasingly insane profit demands from corporate ownership, our most venerable form of media is taking a beating from all sides.

Management is constantly seeking to "trim the fat" and reduce overhead in order to improve the bottom line. Even important components of newspapers are being jettisoned in a quest for black ink on the financial ledger.

One of the first places they go to lighten the load are freelance columnists.

It has been my experience that unless an editor is either an avid outdoors enthusiast or has a strong personal bond with you, your column will be swept away in a frenzy of trimming. So, faced with the looming prospect of losing our happy home, is there anything we can do?

Maintaining that relationship is so important but there are two great mistakes that columnists commonly make: being "high maintenance" or being invisible.

A "high maintenance" writer is one who makes unreasonable demands on the editor's limited time. I can think of examples where columns were poorly written and required extensive editing or situations where the writer was demanding and difficult to work with, a literal "drama queen" who always turned simple conversations into an exhausting dispute.

Facing such a person, it is very easy for an editor to say, "Sorry, we can't afford it anymore."

Being invisible will also hurt you. If the editor doesn't know you by name and you only represent a weekly inbound email and a monthly outbound payment, it is also likely that you will disappear in the next round of budget tightening.

In a perfect world, I try to meet with my out of town editors at least twice a year. At the simplest, I make an appointment to just say hello. Often, it is a lunch date to get the editor out of the office and personally interested in what I am providing to the newspaper and its readers.

While the outdoor columnist isn't exactly extinct, we are being hunted to death by the evil beast of excessive profit margins. Our best weapon is to cultivate those personal relationships to help tip the balance to our favor.

Brent Wheat

From The Editors Desk

by Jack Spaulding

I offer my apologies to you for this issue being late. Each issue of *The Blade* is always a challenge; getting in the articles and columns, doing the type set, and coordinating the layout. The problem with this issue was Mother Nature apparently had other plans.

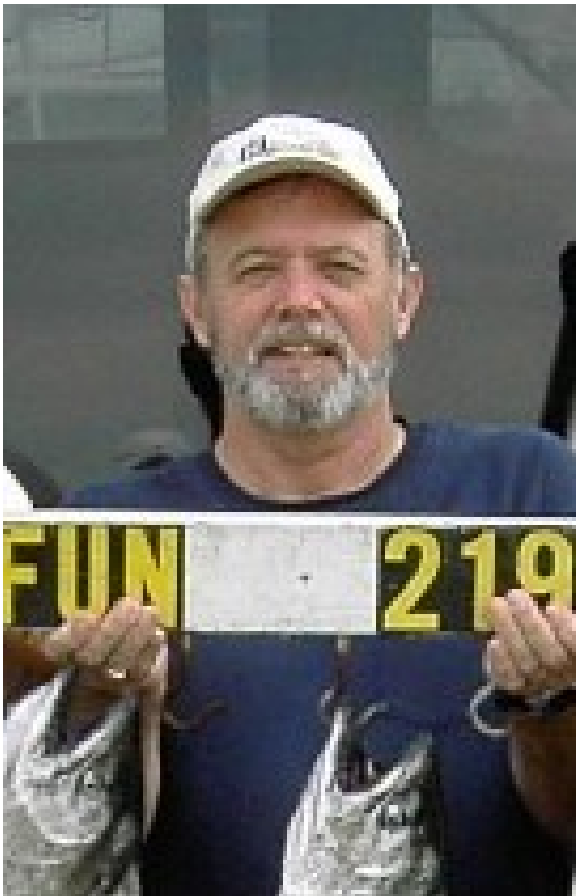
On June 3, 2008, our small town of Moscow was devastated by an F-3 tornado. Roads and power lines were cut, entire homes were swept away and the damage to a 6-mile stretch of small communities, farm homes and countryside amounted to millions of dollars. Even in this devastating storm, God's hand protected us as there were only a few serious injuries and most amazingly, no deaths. For the next three weeks, the roads were blockaded by Indiana State Police and Sheriff's Deputies keeping looters

at bay and turning back thousands of curious onlookers. Power was restored within three days, but telephone service was down for well over three weeks. We were lucky... our home was structurally undamaged, but we were covered in a sea of downed trees and limbs.

Following the storm, our Church at Moscow served as the command center for relief and the kitchen served a couple hundred people three meals a days. Individuals, volunteers and agencies worked day and night to restore a semblance of order to the community. Our Church served as a food pantry, emergency kitchen and relief center for the next six weeks.

Among the first responders were some very familiar green uniforms. Serving in leadership and support roles as the situation required, our conservation officers were some of the first on the scene. Only four days following the tornado, the massive floods of Southern Indiana hit and the green uniforms disappeared as our conservation officers moved on to protect and serve in what proved to be a greater need and a much wider disaster area.

It seemed Mother Nature wasn't done just yet. Five weeks following the tornado, our house took an almost direct lightning hit. The bolt tripped most of the breakers on the electric panel and instilled some impressive damage as the rogue levels of electricity played havoc throughout. The list read like a who's – who of electronic mother boards as the random jolts of electricity fried electric circuits, three way wall switches, dimmer switches,





thermostats, furnace, air conditioning, garage door opener, satellite television service, television, satellite Internet service, dehumidifier, and naturally one of the office computers.

The Blade has some good stuff in this issue... reports back from fabulous Alaska vacations, family trips, a rundown on one of our members who will now serve as President of the biggest outdoor writer group in the world (congratulations Phil Bloom), and the latest on the fading part of the written word.

I would like to express my appreciation to all of our contributors to *The Blade*. Everyone did a bang-up job getting in their articles, columns

and photos. For this issue, the last column submitted for copy set was from yours truly, the editor.



Editor Jack Spaulding's side yard following the June 3, 2008 F-3 tornado that hit Moscow, Indiana

The Hoosier Outdoor Writers

New Members, Past Presidents & Memorial Section

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

HOW would like to welcome Mr. Jim Bodine of LaPorte, Indiana as our newest Active Member

Sponsored by Tom Berg

Memorial to Deceased HOW Members

Those Who Have Gone Before Us

Jack Alkire – President of HOW 1979
William “Bill” Beeman
Ed Blann
Charlie Brown
Jim “Moose” Carden President 1982 & 83
Gary Carden
George Carey
John Case
Bill Church President of HOW 1972
Jack “Big Jake” Cooper
Mark Cottingham
Dick Forbes
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

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

North to Alaska!

by Tom Berg



Tom Berg with a nice sockeye salmon he caught while wading the Russian River. Photo courtesy of Tom Berg

As some HOW members may recall, I was the lucky winner of the fishing trip to Alaska at the HOW conference this past February (Note: make sure you attend the 2009 conference!). Ninilchik Charters on the shores of Cook Inlet donated the trip, and all I needed to do was get there. Well, the fishing is done and the adventure is behind me, so now it's time for the trip report!

My brother Mike and I made the trip during the last week in June, and we were scheduled to fish both freshwater and saltwater while we were there.

We flew into Anchorage and made the scenic drive to Ninilchik, where we planned to fish for bruiser halibut on Cook Inlet and trophy-sized king salmon on the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers.

Unfortunately, the famous writer's curse plagued us for much of the trip as the kings successfully eluded us each time we hit the river - and the wind howled whenever we were scheduled to go offshore for halibut. Fishing trips like this are never restful, because after getting up early and spending 8 or 9 hours pursuing kings on the river, Mike and I would then hop into the rental car and drive an hour or two to a small inland lake to stalk

rainbow trout - or the Russian River to chase sockeye salmon on our own. The sockeyes were fresh from the ocean and fought like crazy! These side trips saved the day when the kings refused to cooperate on the big rivers.

It had been nearly 20 years since the last time that I fished for halibut, so I was disappointed when the first two halibut trips were canceled due to gale warnings on the ocean. The third time was definitely the charm, though, and we were able to make it out to the halibut grounds on the last day that we fished out of Ninilchik. Launching the boats from the beach at Deep Creek with the help of tractors was a new and exciting experience for me, and even though the ocean was still a bit rough for the first couple of hours (4 to 6 foot waves!), it calmed down nicely before lunchtime.

The Captain of our boat (James) planned to put us on one of his "big fish" holes for the first few hours of the trip, in the hopes that we would catch one or more bragging size halibut (50-100 pounds or more!).

After that, we would head to another spot that was reportedly crammed with fish - but they were all smaller (10-20 pounds). It would be easy for everyone to fill-out their limit of 2 halibut in the "Chicken Hole" as they called it.

It didn't take long for one of my fellow fishermen to hook up with something really huge at the big fish hole. Unfortunately, it wasn't the giant halibut that we were all hoping for. After a 45 minute tug-of-war, a huge 500-pound shark appeared behind the boat! At first, Capt. James thought that it was a salmon shark - which are very good to eat. But after a closer look, he realized that it was actually a Pacific sleeper shark. Sleeper sharks are not good to eat, so he brought it up to the back of the boat (another 10 minutes) and released it.

While the first shark was being fought, another big fish hit. I cranked on that fish for a good 15 or 20 minutes, and again we all thought that it was a big halibut. But shortly after the first shark was released, my fish surfaced behind the boat - and it was another big shark! It could have been a twin to the first



After turning up its nose at a small spinnerbait, this arctic grayling couldn't resist the temptation of a fly.
Photo courtesy of Tom Berg

we had a great time catching black rockfish up to 7 pounds. The action was fast and furious! After we had our limits, we mooched for silver and pink salmon. The salmon action was slow, but we did catch a couple silver fish.

On the drive back to Ninilchik, we made a stop at a small mountain lake that my brother Mike had researched before leaving for Alaska. It is one of the few lakes on the Kenai Peninsula that is inhabited by arctic grayling, and we were both interested in catching a grayling. The hike up to the lake took us at least an hour, and the mosquitoes were relentless! Of course, it was 9:00 or 10:00pm, even though it was still sunny, so the mosquitoes probably figured it was time for dinner!

When we arrived at the lake I took several casts with my spinning rod and a tiny spinner. I've read that grayling can be caught on small spinners. Fish were dimpling the surface, but they absolutely refused to hit my spinner. Mike was busy rigging his flyrod while I was casting, and when he had it ready,

shark, as Capt. James estimated it to be in the 500-pound range, too. So for a while, we had two 500-pound sharks on at the same time! I was impressed!

The second shark was released just like the first, and afterwards we couldn't buy a strike in the big fish hole. Those two sharks probably chased everything else out of the area, so Capt. James headed for the Chicken Hole. It was exactly as he described it, too. As soon as you dropped a bait to within a few feet of the bottom, a halibut would pounce on it! It didn't take long for everyone to catch their limit of flatfish, and they ranged in size from 10 to almost 30 pounds.

My last day of fishing was actually scheduled to be out of Seward rather than Ninilchik. I had booked an extra charter for rockfish/silver salmon with a charter company recommended by Ninilchik Charters, because the rockfish bite is much better in the Seward area. We made the 2 ½ hour drive to Seward and got on the afternoon rockfish boat. The rockfish grounds were about a 20-mile run from the harbor, but it was fairly protected water since we were motoring along huge rocky fjords. We passed big groups of puffins, gulls and even a large humpbacked whale. When we arrived at the fishing grounds



I convinced him to let me try it first (after all, I was wearing the only pair of hip boots!). I took one cast with the flyrod and hooked a nice grayling! I landed it and we took a few photos before releasing it. Mike then took the rod, and he also hooked a grayling on his first cast! It was amazing! We caught and released several grayling on the flyrod before calling it quits. After all, we were alone in bear country and it was getting late!

Oh - what was the name of that mountain lake? Grayling Lake, of course!



Save A Side Ditch

This is a great time to get behind an Indiana habitat effort! Help get the word out and fill out the simple survey, it won't take two minutes. Everyone needs to access this poll and vote for more roadside habitat: <http://www.in.gov/indot/div/forms/roadsideheritagesurvey.html>

Thanx Dox

Gary "Dox" Doxtater, 13559 Kensington Place, Certified Wildlife Friendly Neighborhood, Carmel, IN 46032 TX -317-575-8818



Poynter Family On Wildlife Patrol

A Howling Good Time

The Poynter Family took a road trip to Wolf Park in Battleground, IN this past spring (picture shows Grace 11, Will 6).

This was a fantastic trip for the entire family. At the park, they have Howl Night - every Saturday. Wolf

Park is a nonprofit education and research facility which was established in 1972 by Dr. Erich Klinghammer. Along with research and seminars on wolf behavior, particularly reproductive and inter-pack social behavior, Wolf Park provides interpretive programs and is also open to the general public from May through November and Saturday evening for Howl Nights. The park is home to several packs of gray wolves, plus foxes and bison. www.wolfpark.org



Cikana Fish Hatchery

Bryan Poynter recently took his three kids (Grace, 11 Ed, 9 and Will, 7) on a field trip to the Cikana Fish Hatchery in Martinsville. The hatchery is where walleye eggs are brought once they are harvested from Brookville Lake.

Phil Bloom Elected As President of OWAA

Missoula, Mont. – The Outdoor Writers Association of America (OWAA) at its recent annual conference elected Phil Bloom as president of the association for 2008-2009. Bloom will serve one year as president of OWAA.

A native of Fort Wayne, Ind., and graduate of Indiana University, Bloom is the former outdoors editor for the Fort Wayne Journal Gazette. After 33 years in the newspaper business, Bloom was hired last year by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources to become its director of communications.

“Bloom is a seasoned outdoors communicator, and he brings solid leadership skills to OWAA,” said Kevin Rhoades, OWAA executive director. “Phil is a gentleman who will greatly aid our association in changing with the times to keep OWAA as the nation’s best-known outdoors media group.”

Besides writing some 700 outdoors columns and hundreds more features over the years, Bloom also penned the book, “Hiking Indiana,” published by Falcon Press.

“OWAA’s membership faces the same challenges as all media do in coping with fast-paced technological advances and a changing marketplace for print, TV, radio, photography and the Internet,” Bloom said. “But our diversity and deep talent pool, coupled with a renewed focus on helping each other improve our craft and nurture new outdoor communicators, has OWAA well positioned and well equipped to carry us forward and get the job done.”

The 1,300-member Outdoor Writers Association of America is the oldest and largest association of professional outdoor communicators in the United States. It was organized in 1927 by members of the Izaak Walton League of America and includes professional communicators dedicated to sharing the outdoor experience. OWAA’s professionals include writers, photographers, outdoors radio- and television show hosts, book authors, videographers, lecturers and artists. The association is headquartered in Missoula, Mont. For more information, go to www.owaa.org.



Some Of The Nation's Best Saltwater Fishing Takes Place In NJ!

by Ken Freel

It's a funny thing how most people think they know what New Jersey is like, though most of their information may come from late night TV hosts' jokes about the state or from viewing the Sopranos—but not from actually ever going there. So who would think of New Jersey as a top destination for saltwater fishing? I do! I can hear the laughter already, or the smirks. Yet, I've gotten skunked far fewer times while saltwater fishing in the Garden State than in Florida. No kidding!

Venerable Hoosier scribe Bill Scifres called me some 10 years ago after visiting his daughter in New Jersey (she married a Jersey boy) and asked: "Why didn't you ever tell me how great the saltwater fishing is up there?" Bill had just come back from catching his fill of Great Bay stripers, some over 40 pounds, plus bluefish and summer flounder. My answer: "I've told hundreds of people, but I can tell by the look in their eyes that they don't quite believe me."

This past June, Mike Schoonveld and I went up to tussle with bluefish and stripers on a press trip. He enjoyed a fine day of fishing before I arrived. Unfortunately, our half-day trip (Mike had to catch a plane) resulted in lots of huge baitfish schools, but no fish. It must have been the writers' curse (when two or more show up, no one catches)! That afternoon, though, I caught several summer flounder to salvage the day's fishing.

The next day, aboard Captain John Cole's "Golden Touch" out of Point Pleasant Beach, there was bait everywhere like the day before. Only this time, big stripers lurked below. Everyone onboard caught stripers up to 45 pounds—and later we enjoyed excellent flounder fishing as well.

Thank goodness for cook Frank Florio! I had skipped breakfast and forgot to bring lunch—but Frank cooked up omelets on the way out that kept me (and the rest of the crew) fueled up for the rest of the day. He doesn't know how glad I was to smell fresh eggs...it saved my day from the misery of an empty stomach. And when the fishing turned on, I was ready!

Captain Cole and his crew come highly recommended! He can be reached at (732) 822-4343; or on the Web at: www.goldencharters.com. Ah, New Jersey stripers in the spring and summer—it really doesn't get much better!

(P.S. The world record striper is from N.J. and was caught off an Atlantic City jetty back in 1982. It weighed in at 78 pounds, 8 ounces!)

Indiana company debuts new outdoor production



GRANGER, IN

Granger based outdoor media company, Raghorn, Inc., announced today the national premier of its newest television production, *Wild Adventures*.

“*Wild Adventures* represents the evolution of all of our previous series”, says Raghorn, Inc. co-founder and the series’ executive producer Brian Smith. “It is produced with top-quality videography and post-production in order to appeal to anyone who appreciates the grand spectacle of nature and our country’s outdoor traditions”, he adds. “The buzz in the industry is that we’ve got another award-winner on our hands”.

Raghorn, Inc., which also publishes a variety of outdoor publications, principally, *Indiana Outdoor News Magazine*, has enjoyed unbroken, national broadcast of their television programs for the past five years. “We’ve produced with quality in order to earn our longevity”, says Smith. Previous Raghorn television productions such as *Raghorn News Outdoors*, *Angling the Great Lakes* and *Raghorn Adventures* have all won national awards for writing, videography, or excellence in outdoor education.

Wild Adventures series editor, Josh Lantz, says the premier season of the program highlights some exciting moments and incredible destinations. “In addition to a healthy dose of Indiana whitetails and wild turkeys, this season includes some incredible footage from Alaska and the Upper Midwest”, says Lantz. “And the stories are full of camaraderie, family interaction and youth participation in the outdoor pursuits “.

The season lineup kicks off this month with a two-part production focusing on black bears in Alaska’s breathtaking Prince William Sound. Additional episodes focus on Indiana’s exceptional whitetail deer and wild turkey populations, Northwest Indiana’s historic wild pheasant range, angling for giant fish on and around Alaska’s storied Kenai Peninsula, and the use of modern equipment to view and catch large panfish beneath the ice.

The new 30-minute outdoor adventure series, *Wild Adventures*, airs nationally on The Sportsman Channel at 6:00 PM EST Sundays, with additional airings throughout the week. Check local listings for information on The Sportsman Channel on your particular cable or satellite TV system. Local affiliate stations include SBT2 at 9:30 AM and WHMB at 3:30 PM Saturdays. Please check your local listings and keep checking our web site as we will be loading our new season soon. www.WildAdventuresTV.com

Become a registered user of www.IndianaOutdoorNews.net to read ION online and receive special outdoor alerts, news and invitations!

The Impending Roasting and Honoring of the Beloved Gary Doxtater



**PLEASE HELP US
HONOR OUR GOOD
FRIEND AND
COLLEAGUE WITH
THE IWF LIFETIME
ACHIEVEMENT
AWARD**

We need your memories, pictures, funny stories and comments about Dox to include in a presentation!

BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, WE NEED YOU TO BE THERE!

September 25, 5:30 p.m. at the Garrison, Fort Harrison State Park for the 2nd Annual Wild Food Feast and Conservation Awards Presentation.

Contact John Goss at the IWF office at 317 875-9453 or goss@indianawildlife.org

Indiana Wildlife Federation 2nd Annual Wild Food Feast & Conservation Awards

Thursday, September 25, 2008 5:30 p.m.
The Garrison, Fort Harrison State Park
6200 North Post Road, Indianapolis, IN

Lifetime Conservation Achievement
Gary "Dox" Doxtater

Conservation Legislators of the Year
Senator Beverly Gard
Representative Scott Pelath

DNR Staff Person of the Year
John Castralle

Cost:

IWF Members

\$35

New Members

\$50 (includes 1 year membership)

Corporate and Individual Sponsorship Opportunities:

Eagle Patron \$1,000 *includes 8 tickets and program recognition*

Blue Heron \$ 500 *includes 4 tickets and program recognition*

I would like to attend. Please send me _____ IWF Member Tickets at \$35 each \$ _____
_____ New Member Tickets at \$50 each \$ _____

I would like to contribute by donating the following auction item: _____

Please include me as an **Eagle Patron** Sponsor at \$1,000 _____

Please include me as a **Blue Heron** Sponsor at \$500 _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

___ Check ___ Visa ___ M/C

Credit Card # _____ Exp. Date: _____

Free Trips & Tips For Writers!

by Ken Freel

Aruba, Jamaica, ooh I want to take ya. Bermuda, Bahama, come on pretty momma... Remember those lyrics from the Beach Boys' last hit song Kokomo? I certainly do. And like the Beach Boys' ode to exotic places and fun times, I don't know an outdoor writer worth his/her salt who doesn't enjoy traveling. Until recently, however, I always thought: How does an outdoor writer (or editor) afford to travel and write about it without going broke in the process?

The answer is quite simple and straightforward: Convention and Visitors' Bureaus (CVBs) and tourism departments of your favorite destinations. Back in the day, this may have involved phone calls and snail mail—or a letter written from a typewriter. Nowadays, it's so much simpler with the Internet. Just type in "convention visitor's bureau" and whatever states you're looking to visit. Like a snowball rolling down a hill, you may have an avalanche of information coming your way in just mere seconds. These days, it's all at your fingertips!

So far, I've been able to travel to the end of the Baja Peninsula (for marlin/tuna), Matagorda Bay in Texas (for specks, reds and flounder), the Bahamas (for tuna and bonefish) and Delaware Bay (for big black drum)—on trips that have been wholly or predominantly sponsored. But as Bruce Springsteen says in one of his most famous ballads Thunder Road: The door's open but the ride ain't free.... There is a catch, if you will. The catch is that you must produce what you said you would to take this "free" trip.

Therein lies one of the problems facing both those who shell out dough for writers to travel—and for the writers who need to produce once they do get invited. As the writer, it is your duty to have a serious game plan before you even think about becoming a guest of the local CVB. This plan involves having a clear-cut goal concerning what you're going to produce for the area you'll be visiting. You also need to have primary and secondary markets where you're sure you'll be able to sell what you write. In my case this almost always involves fishing, particularly saltwater fishing.

You need to spell out for the CVB what you're interested in writing about so they can put you where you need to be to produce. You have to let them know that sometimes Mother Nature has a way of ruining the best of plans, but that you're willing to come back if something doesn't pan out as planned. You may even have to think about writing a travel piece rather than a hunting/fishing piece, something that may salvage a trip gone badly. Unfortunately, travel pieces are often harder for us outdoor types to sell.

Say that everything goes as planned; the fishing and/or hunting is as expected or better. You sell the piece and all is right with the world, correct? Not exactly. My personal experience is that many writers assume that if they get the promised story in print, they've done what they said they'd do. And this is true; however, did the folks who were gracious enough to fly you somewhere, feed you and house you ever actually see your piece? How about the guide who took you fishing/hunting? What about anyone else who was involved in helping you to get the story? All of these people need to be sent a copy and a thank you note. This part of the program may be the hardest thing to remember to do.

After all, in my case, most of my stories end up in four-color monthly magazines. This means months, even a year, may pass by before the article hits the newsstands. When it does, though, I find a way to get copies of the story to everyone who helped me to make it happen. That's probably why a friend at one of the tourism agencies I deal with said I'm on their "A" list. It's the first "A" I can remember being associated with my name in a long time!

I'd be remiss if I didn't mention that most of these trips will involve doing other things, like eating in nice restaurants, nature walks, visiting historical sites, etc. You may or may not write specific articles about these activities, but you may have to tag along as part of the total trip package. Personally, I've almost always enjoyed these diversions—as long as I've already got my story in the bag as far as notes and pictures go. And, sometimes they can provide information either for sidebars or for stories in new markets for you.

If you do your job, it's a win-win situation. I look forward to bumping into you on one of these adventures.

(Note: Ken Freel is the editor of Indiana Game & Fish, West Virginia Game & Fish, , Kentucky Game & Fish, and Mid-Atlantic Game & Fish magazines, as well as being a free-lance writer.)



For Immediate Release Mary Jane Williamson, Communications director,
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Las Vegas Press Room 702-943-3501

The Top 10 Products That Transformed an American Pastime *Survey results announced as ASA Celebrates 75 Years of Serving the Sportfishing Industry*

July 16, 2008 - Las Vegas, NV— Ten influential fishing products created over the past 75 years — from rods to reels to electronics — have helped make fishing the great sport it is today, according to a new survey from the [American Sportfishing Association](http://www.asafishing.org) (ASA).

ASA, the sportfishing industry's trade association, today released the country's first top ten list of the items that have changed the way people fish, as determined by a survey of the nation's most avid anglers. The Anglers' Legacy Innovations Awards were unveiled at the [International Convention of Allied Sportfishing Trades](http://www.icast.com) (ICAST), the world's largest annual sportfishing trade show. More than 7,000 members of the sportfishing community are gathered in Las Vegas to see the latest innovations in gear and accessories.

"We're thrilled to be commemorating the way that fishing has endured as one of America's favorite pastimes," said ASA President and CEO Mike Nussman. "The sport has touched the lives of so many people, thanks to the number of great inventions that have revolutionized angling over the past seven and a half decades."

ASA partnered with the [Recreational Boating & Fishing Foundation](http://www.recreationalboating.org) to survey the foundation's thousands of [Anglers' Legacy Ambassadors](http://www.asafishing.org), the country's most avid anglers, who voted for the products they feel have been most instrumental in shaping the sport over the past seven and a half decades.

The final top ten list including accessories, electronics, lines, lures, reels and rods:

- **Original Floater Minnow (1936)** remains one of the most successful and widely copied hard lures in sportfishing's history.
Original and current manufacturer: Rapala
- **Spring loaded Bobber (1947)** made suspending a baited hook at a desired depth simpler and easier. Even today this item is virtually in every angler's tackle box.

Original manufacturer: Nibble Nabber
Current: Various companies

- **Mitchell 300 (1949)** was the first commercially successful spinning reel, and is still one of the most common reels used today.
Original manufacturer: Mitchell
Current manufacturer: Pure Fishing
- **Creme Plastic Worm (1949)** changed the sport forever as the first — and still famous — long-lasting artificial worm that both looked and felt real.
Original and current manufacturer: Creme Lure Company
- **Closed Face Spincast Reel (1949)** made fishing easy and affordable to everyone regardless of age, size, gender and expertise.
Original manufacturer: Zero Hour Bomb Company
Current Manufacturer: ZEBCO Brands
- **Lowrance Fish Lo-K-Tor (1957)**, the “Little Green Box” introduced anglers to the use of sonar in locating individual fish.
Original Manufacturer: Lowrance Electronics
Current: Lowrance/Navico
- **Monofilament Line (1958)** improved the durability, affordability and casting ability of fishing line while reducing its visibility to fish
Original manufacturer: DuPont Stren
Current manufacturer: Pure Fishing
- **Minn Kota Trolling Motor (1958)** was the first electric gear-driven trolling motor gave anglers the ability to quietly maneuver and position their boats.
Original manufacturer: Minn Kota
Current manufacturer: Johnson Outdoors
- **Fenwick High Modulus Graphite Rod (1972)**, with its super-sensitive carbon (graphite) fibers, revolutionized the method of making fishing rods and how anglers fished.
Original Manufacturer: Fenwick
Current Manufacturer: Pure Fishing
- **Shakespeare Ugly Stick (1976)**, with its special construction, created an affordable, unbreakable and dynamic fishing rod still in use today.
Original and current manufacturer: Shakespeare

“We couldn’t think of a better way to celebrate a milestone anniversary than to pay tribute to the landmark innovations that have helped shape fishing,” said RBFF President and CEO Frank Peterson. “What makes this list so great is the fact that it was determined by anglers themselves.”

Hunter's Specialties

"For Sportsmen, by Sportsmen"



***Hunter's Specialties Pro Staff Member
Alex Rutledge to Appear at Gander Mountain
in Bowling Green, Kentucky***

**Archery Deer Seminar
Gander Mountain
725 Bluegrass Farms Blvd. Ste. 1
Bowling Green, Kentucky
August 16th - 17th, 2008**

Hunter's Specialties Pro Staff Member Alex Rutledge will be conducting an archery deer seminar at Gander Mountain in Bowling Green, Kentucky on August 16th - 17th.

For more information, or if you would like to meet with him while he is in the area for interviews or photos, please contact us at Howard Communications.

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MEDIA INQUIRIES:

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khoward@howardcommunications.com

Media Website: www.howardcommunications.com



**Alex Rutledge
Hunter's Specialties
Pro Staff Member**

Images and Alex's biography are downloadable by clicking on the above image or by going to www.howardcommunications.com

**Hunter's Specialties
6000 Huntington Court NE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402
www.hunterspec.com**

Watch Hunter's Specialties Outdoors on the Outdoor Channel

Supporting Members' Websites

3M Scientific Anglers - www.scientificanglers.com
Alpen Optics - www.alpenoutdoor.com
B&M Pole Company - www.bnmpoles.com
Bass Pro Shops - www.basspro.com
Birchwood Casey - www.birchwoodcasey.com
Blackpowder Products, Inc. - www.bpiguns.com
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Cabela's, Inc. - www.cabelas.com
Clam Corporation - www.clamcorp.com
Coleman Company - www.coleman.com
Creative Outdoor Products - www.hunterdan.com
Crimson Trace - www.crimsontrace.com
Danner Boot Company - www.danner.com
DeLorme, Inc. - www.delorme.com
Environ-Metal, Inc. - www.hevishot.com
Flatrock Hunting Preserve - www.flatrockhunting.com
G.Loomis - www.gloomis.com
Gaston's White River Resort - www.gastons.com
Godfrey Marine - www.godfreymarine.com
Great American Tool Co. - www.greatamericantool.com
Hart Productions - www.hartproductions.com
Horton Mfg Company - www.crossbow.com
Hunter's Specialties - www.hunterspec.com
Indiana Conservation Afield - www.ico.com/Conservation-Afield/order-form.html
Indiana Outdoor News - www.raghorn.com
Kwikee Kwiver Company - www.kwikeekwiver.com
L&S Bait Co. - www.mirrolure.com
Lacrosse - www.lacrossefootwear.com
Lake County CVB - www.lakecountycvb.com
Leupold - www.leupold.com
Lightfield Ammunition Corp. - www.lightfieldslugs.com
Maptech - www.maptech.com
Midway USA - www.midwayusa.com
Muzzy Products Corp. - www.muzzy.com
Ninilchik Charters - www.ninilchik.com
Off Shore Tackle Co. - www.offshoretackle.com
Optronics, Inc. - www.optronicsinc.com
Orange County CVB - www.historicsouthernindiana.com
Outdoor Promotions - www.crappieusa.com and www.kingkatusa.com
Plano Molding Company - www.planomolding.com
Pure Fishing - www.purefishing.com
Quaker Boy, Inc. - www.quakerboygamecalls.com
Ranger Boat Company - www.rangerboats.com
Reef Runner Lures - www.reefrunner.com
Remington Arms - www.remington.com
Renfro Productions - www.renfroproductions.com
Shakespeare Fishing Tackle - www.shakespeare-fishing.com
Shimano American Corporation - www.shimano.com
ThermaCELL - www.thermacell.com
Tri-Tronics, Inc. - www.tritronics.com
WaveSpin Reels - www.wavespinreel.com
W.R. Case & Sons Cutlery - www.wrcase.com
Wright & McGill Co. - www.eagleclaw.com
U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance - www.ussportsmen.org

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

FAET - The Firearms and Ammunition Excise Tax

Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus (CSC) leaders recently introduced legislation to change the way American firearms and ammunition manufacturers pay their federal excise taxes.

Representatives Ron Kind (D-WI), Paul Ryan (R-WI), Dan Boren (D-OK) and Steve Pearce (R-NM), leadership of the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus, have introduced legislation, H.R. 6310, seeking to rectify a longstanding inequity in the collection of the firearms and ammunition excise tax; a major source of wildlife conservation funding.

H.R. 6310 will allow the firearms and ammunition industry to pay the FAET on a quarterly basis; the same payment schedule as every other industry that supports conservation through dedicated excise taxes. Currently firearms and ammunition manufacturers must pay the FAET bi-weekly. This payment schedule forces many manufacturers to borrow money to ensure on-time payment, and industry members spend thousands of man-hours administering the necessary paperwork to successfully complete the bi-weekly payments - monies that are due long before manufacturers are paid by their customers. Changing the schedules could free as much as \$22 million annually for manufacturers to invest and contribute to industry growth, which in turn, would expand the FAET base.

In a letter to their House colleagues, the CSC leaders illustrated how a similar tax scheduling change in 2004 for the archery industry resulted in an increase in revenue to the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Trust Fund of nearly \$15-million; an increase of more than 50 percent. A similar increase could be expected after this change is made for the firearms and ammunition industry.

H.R. 6310 is supported by conservation groups such as Ducks Unlimited, the National Wild Turkey Federation, Pheasants Forever, the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation as well as the National Rifle Association.



How It Works - The Firearms and Ammunition Excise Tax flows from the IRS through the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to the state wildlife agencies and is the major source of funding for the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Trust Fund.

In 2007, the firearms and ammunition industry contributed a total of \$303.2 million in excise taxes, up 21.2 percent from the \$250.1 million in 2006.

Earlier this year, the industry marked an important milestone in its longstanding support of wildlife conservation. Since 1991 manufacturers have contributed more than \$3 billion dollars to the Pittman-Robertson Trust Fund. Since the inception of the excise tax in 1937, more than \$5 billion dollars has been collected.

NAWCA Funding - *The North American Wetlands Conservation Act of 1989 (NAWCA) provides matching grants to organizations and individuals who have developed partnerships to carry out wetlands conservation projects in the United States, Canada, and Mexico for the benefit of wetlands-associated migratory birds and other wildlife.*

Congress annually appropriates funding for the NAWCA Grants Program. In FY2008, \$84.4 million in total is available to fund grants. One of several sources of funding is from interest accrued on the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Trust Fund.

According to estimates from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), a 'cost' to make the FAET payment schedule change would be a loss of not more than \$2.6 million over 20 years in interest payments to the NAWCA account.

A proposal from NSSF to help rectify the shortfall in NAWCA funding is supported by North American Wetlands Conservation Council (NAWCC). The proposal asserts that the NSSF and its allies will supply monetary contributions to fund certain NAWCA projects and provide educational outreach about NAWCA for the next five years.

Without a doubt, the hunting and shooting sports industry are the largest financial supporters of conservation efforts in every state in the United States.

CSF is working with the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) – the trade association for the firearms, ammunition, hunting and shooting sports industry – and other conservation organizations to identify options for covering any shortfall in interest payments to NAWCA.

CSF President Jeff Crane said “The highly successful American system of funding wildlife conservation can benefit from the remedy this legislation would afford. It would be a big win for the firearms industry that would ultimately provide a bigger win for wildlife conservation and the sportsmen’s community.”

“Shifting to quarterly payments would allow manufacturers to invest in new equipment and product designs and enhance their marketing efforts,” said Steve Sanetti, president of the NSSF. “This in turn could lead to greater participation in hunting and the shooting sports – something that would benefit everyone.”

“We appreciate the strong support of the Congressional Sportsmen’s Caucus,” said Lawrence G. Keane, NSSF senior vice president and general counsel. “The Congressional Sportsmen’s Foundation was particularly helpful in educating caucus members about the benefits this bill will have on conservation efforts.”



A stronger industry relieved of an unfair tax payment schedule will be able to reinvest resources in areas that will make them more competitive. Increases in firearm sales will pour additional money into the Pittman-Robertson Fund, thereby providing even more tax dollars for states to protect their natural resources.



**Congressional Sportsmen’s Foundation
110 North Carolina Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20003
202-543-6850
www.sportsmenslink.org**



**National Shooting Sports Foundation
Flintlock Ridge Office Center
11 Mile Hill Road
Newtown, CT 06470-2359
203-426-1320
www.nssf.org**

NEWS From BoatU.S.
Boat Owners Association of The United States
880 S. Pickett St., Alexandria, VA 22304
BoatU.S. News Room at <http://www.BoatUS.com/news/releases.asp>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Alanna Keating, AKeating@BoatUS.com, 800-245-2628 ext. 8354

NOTE to EDITORS: PHOTOS AVAILABLE of children wearing life jackets.

AWARD WINNING LIFE JACKET LOANER PROGRAM FROM BOATU.S. FOUNDATION SEEKS NEW LOANER LOCATIONS

Would You Like to Help Kids Stay Safe on the Water?

ALEXANDRIA, VA, July 9, 2008 -- The easiest way to ensure a child's safety on the water is to make sure they wear a properly-fitting life jacket. But children's growth spurts or last minute changes to the roster of invited guests don't always make wearing a life jacket easy. Your marina, bait shop, fuel dock or boat club may be able to help next season as the BoatU.S. Foundation for Boating Safety and Clean Water is looking for new locations to become lending sites for its free Life Jacket Loaner Program.

Since the program was launched in 1997, at least three children's lives have been saved as a result of wearing a BoatU.S. Foundation life jacket. Over 90,000 life jackets are loaned out each year through the program, with demand up 22% in the last two years. The program was recently honored by the Partnership for a Safer Maryland as one of six leading injury prevention programs in the state.

There is no cost to become a loaner site and presently over 350 clubs and businesses participate as Life Jacket Loaner Program sites. The loaner life jacket kit consists of 12 life jackets in a protective container, signage and easy-to-use sign-out sheets to track usage. Various sizes of jackets are included.

To download an application to become a Life Jacket Loaner Program site or for more information on the program and the life jacket laws in your state, please visit <http://www.BoatUS.com/Foundation/LJLP> Applications will be accepted until September 30, 2008.

If hosting a loaner site isn't for you, a tax-deductible donation can help. "The need for this program continues to grow each year and your donation will help parents keep their kids safe," said BoatU.S. Foundation President Ruth Wood. Ten dollars will buy one vest-style life jacket and \$250 will create a completely new, fully stocked loaner site. Go to <http://www.BoatUS.com/Foundation> to make your donation online or mail your donation to: Kids Jackets, BoatU.S. Foundation, 880 South Pickett St., Alexandria, VA 22304.

The BoatU.S. Foundation for Boating Safety and Clean Water is a national 501(c)(3) nonprofit education and research organization primarily funded by the voluntary contributions of the 650,000 members of BoatU.S. The Foundation operates more than a dozen programs including the only accredited, free, online general boating safety course, a low-cost EPIRB rental program, the "Help Stop the Drops" national clean fueling campaign and has awarded hundreds of thousands of dollars in grants for nonprofit groups for boating safety and environmental projects.



For Immediate Release
Bob St.Pierre (877)773-2070

Stop your Engines: Save Fuel and Turn off Roadside Mowing

Be a positive influence on wildlife by delaying roadside mowing till August 1st

St. Paul, Minn. - June 22, 2006 - Pheasants Forever (PF) encourage land owners and counties to protect wildlife populations by waiting till August 1st to mow grasses in and along road ditches. A vast array of wildlife including pheasants, quail, ducks, songbirds, grouse and gray partridge utilize roadside cover as nesting ground during the summer months.

"Roadsides are extremely important for ground nesting birds. Nesting, brood rearing and escape cover are provided by the vegetation in roadsides," says Dan Hare, PF's regional wildlife biologist in North Dakota. "Pheasants are not the only type of wildlife that benefit from delaying mowing of roadsides. Waterfowl and a vast array of other grassland nesting birds use the existing vegetation especially in with a high concentration of cropland. These ribbons of vegetation often are the best choice for hens looking to renest after their initial nest has been destroyed by predators or haying operations."

With increased urban sprawl and intensified farming practices, prairies and grasslands continue to diminish all across North America. Roadsides are becoming more important in forming an extensive network of grassy corridors for wildlife. Mowing of roadsides is extremely harmful to incubating birds close to hatching. Adults are reluctant to leave the nest even if approached by a tractor or mower. A wildlife research study on pheasants found that more than 70 percent of all hens killed or injured on the nest were hit between June 10 and July 1. Delaying the mowing till August 1st will allow these adults and their broods to reach a state where they are able to escape such threats.

"A variety of government agencies manage roadsides around the country," said Dave Nomsen, PF's vice president of governmental affairs. "PF supports state and county policies that delay or eliminate mowing of road ditches as a means of preserving wildlife habitat. People who are concerned about local wildlife should contact their local government division in charge of roadside mowing and ask them to delay or stop activities that will reduce habitat and harm wildlife."

Some mowing cannot be avoided, but the majority of roadsides should be left alone to fulfill their potential as wildlife habitat. Spot spraying for noxious weeds is the best alternative to mowing.

PF is a national non-profit conservation organizations dedicated to the protection and enhancement of pheasant, quail and other wildlife populations in North America through habitat improvement, land management, public awareness and education. Such efforts benefit landowners and wildlife alike. Unlike all other national conservation organizations, PF empower local chapters with the responsibility to determine how 100 percent of their locally raised conservation funds will be spent. This local control allows members to see the fruits of their chapter efforts in their own communities, while belonging to a national organization with a voice on federal conservation policy in Washington D.C.

For more information www.PheasantsForever.org

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.