

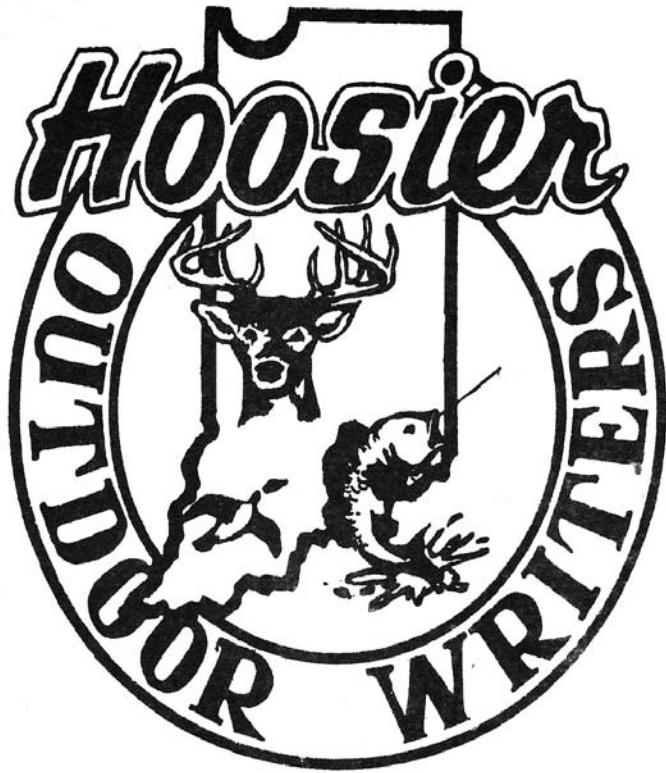
The Blade

July - August 2011

The Official Publication of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers



"Trumpet Vine Invader", photo by 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 media professionals who are keenly interested in the wise use of natural resources in the Hoosier State.

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On the cover: Trumpet vine flowers are well-known for attracting hummingbirds. But they also attract a host of insects, including bees, bumblebees, wasps and hornets. Look out! Tom Berg Photo.

President's Message

by Brandon Butler

Crossbow. What a touchy word in today's hunting world. Some love them, some hate them, but most just don't care. Most hunters just want to enjoy a little time in nature with hopes of tagging a decent deer with their preferred weapon of choice. Infighting and finger pointing leading to confusing rules and too many different seasons only deters the common hunter from taking part at all.



The Indiana DNR is once again finalizing plans to change our state's deer hunting regulations. It looks as if crossbows are going to become legal during the early archery season. Meaning, in the eyes of the law, a crossbow will be the same as a vertical bow. This has certain circles enraged. Organizations and individuals I greatly respect are beside themselves. Yet, in all honesty, I'm indifferent.

Last month, I was at a gathering hosted by a very well-known "celebrity" hunting couple. They have two television shows, one focusing on archery only, the other focusing on hunting with a variety of weapons. There were about 75 people (hunters) there. Also in attendance were a number of manufacturer representatives, including those from a bow company, a crossbow company and numerous firearms companies. The crazy thing was that just about everybody at the event was interested in all the gear. There were a few bow-only guys, but most people got a kick out the crossbows, muzzleloaders, shotguns and rifles, too.

The argument against crossbows by the archery diehards is justifiable by historic suffrage. It took great effort to establish archery seasons and special regulations in favor of bowhunting. Now, as crossbows crash the party, bowhunters aren't happy about sharing the spoils of what they worked so hard to accomplish. It makes sense. No one wants to give up what is believed to be theirs.

An argument archers often employ is that since you don't have to draw a crossbow, thereby not having to move in the presence of an animal, it's much easier to be successful. It's true. No question about it. Drawing a bow at the right time to avoid being seen is a crucial element of punching an archery tag. Honestly though, I believe that's the only crossbow advantage at this point. I watched people shoot bows and crossbows on the same range. If I were a buck within 40 yards of any fella holding a bow or a crossbow, I'd hurry up and kiss my butt goodbye. Yet, once beyond 40, if given a choice, I would much rather have the crossbow hunter taking a shot at me. At the recent event I attended, a few of the bowhunters were showing off by dropping arrows in the kill zone of a target at 100 yards. Bowhunting has changed quite a bit since Fred Bear hung up his quiver.

If adopted, the new Indiana rules will allow a crossbow to be used by any hunter during the archery season with a special crossbow license, unless the person has a resident youth consolidated hunting license, a comprehensive lifetime hunting license, or is exempt from needing a license. Crossbows will also be legal for all urban zone hunting.

Weapons that go bang and weapons that don't will be in separate seasons. Sort of makes sense. The addition of crossbows to bowhunting seasons doesn't diminish the efforts of archery icons, like Glen St. Charles and M.R. James, who worked so hard to fight for our rights. It just moves our tradition in another direction. In the end, if we recruit more hunters, get youngsters out earlier and keep more old-timers in the field, we win. Crossbows will help.

See you down the trail...

The Hoosier Outdoor Writers

New Members, Past Presidents & Memorial Section

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

See page 19 for a complete list
of HOW Supporting Members.

Memorial to Deceased HOW Members Those Who Have Gone Before Us:

Jack Alkire – President of HOW 1979
Bill Beeman – Executive Director
Ed Blann
Charlie Brown
Gary Carden
Jim “Moose” Carden – President 1982/83
George Carey
John Case
Bill Church – President of HOW 1972
Jack “Big Jake” Cooper
Mark Cottingham
Jerry Criss
Dick Forbes
Tom Glancy – President of HOW 1977
Dale Griffith
Fred Heckman
Jack Kerins
Mike Lyle – President of HOW 1981
Ralph “Cork” McHargue – President 1976
Dick Mercier
Bob Nesbit
Jack Parry
Harry Renfro
“Bayou” Bill Scifres – President of HOW
George Seketa
Al Spiers
Robert “Doc” Stunkard
Butch Tackett
Joe West

Past Presidents of HOW

“Bayou” Bill Scifres	1969
“Bayou” Bill Scifres	1970
“Bayou” Bill Scifres	1971
Bill Church	1972
Rick Bramwell	1973
Jack Ennis	1974
Phil Junker	1975
Ralph McHargue	1976
Tom Glancy	1977
Bob Rubin	1978
Jack Alkire	1979
Louie Stout	1980
Mike Lyle	1981
Jim “Moose” Carden	1982
Jim “Moose” Carden	1983
John Davis	1984
John Davis	1985
Ray Harper	1986
Ray Harper	1987
Ray Dickerson	1988
“Bayou” Bill Scifres	1989
“Bayou” Bill Scifres	1990
“Bayou” Bill Scifres	1991
Jack Spaulding	1992
Jack Spaulding	1993
John Rawlings	1994
Phil Bloom	1995
Marty Jaranowski	1996
John Martino	1997
Mike Schoonveld	1998
Jack Spaulding	1999
Jack Spaulding	2000
Sharon Wiggins	2001
Phil Junker	2002
Larry Crecelius	2003
Bryan Poynter	2004
Phil Bloom	2005
Brian Smith	2006
Brian Smith	2007
Brent Wheat	2008
Bryan Poynter	2009
John Maxwell	2010

1st Annual Bayou Bill Scifres Stewardship Award Delivered

As announced at the HOW Conference this spring and mentioned in the President's Report in the March/April issue of The Blade, the Hoosier Outdoor Writers has begun presenting an annual "Bayou Bill Scifres Stewardship Award" to a deserving group or organization. This cash award will be funded from a small part of the proceeds from our raffle and will go towards helping the conservation work of a worthy cause.

The 1st Annual Bayou Bill Scifres Stewardship Award was recently given to the Friends of Hardy Lake and the Dwight Chamberlain Raptor Rehab Center. This group does a remarkable job of rehabilitating birds like hawks, owls, vultures and eagles. They treat injured raptors and return most of them to the wild. Some of their patients are permanently injured, however, and those birds are housed at the Raptor Rehab Center. They are used for public education and special "school visits" where raptors are taken to an elementary school to show and educate the students. This "Adopt-A-Bird" program is very popular. You can be sure that when a full-sized live bald eagle or great horned owl (or other raptor) enters the room, every child snaps to attention and is very interested!

HOW designated this year's award to fund a school visit under their "Adopt-A-Bird" program. We should be able to get some nice photos during the visit and we'll print them in a future edition of The Blade. Here is a copy of the letter that we received back from the Friends of Hardy Lake:

June 19, 2011

Dear Hoosier Outdoor Writers,

The Friends Group of Hardy Lake thank you for the 2011 Conservation Gift Award to the Dwight Chamberlain Raptor Rehabilitation Center "Adopt-A-Bird" program. The money will be a great help in the care and feeding of the birds at the raptor center.

School is out for the summer; Leslie will contact you this fall about the school visit.

Thank you again for the honor of this award.

Jerry L. Williams

We will look forward to hearing when and where the school visit will take place, and HOW Board Chairman John Maxwell will likely be present to take photos. If any other HOW members are interested in attending, please let someone from the HOW Executive Committee know and we will provide you with the details.

For more information about the Friends Group of Hardy Lake or the Dwight Chamberlain Raptor Rehab Center, take a moment to check out their website at: www.friendsofhardylake.com.



Leslie Grow from the Hardy Lake Raptor Rehab Center with a bald eagle and a barred owl at an education program in Linton, IN. Photo by John Maxwell.

HOW Awards-In-Craft Winner

(1st Place in the Writing Contest – Under 1000 Words)
(Hunting/Trapping category)

“IT’S ALL IN THE ASKING”

by Gene Clifford

Getting permission to hunt private land is not all that hard. I myself have not hunted State Fish and Wildlife areas for almost 30 years, once I found that asking to hunt a farmer's ground will not get your head bit off, or have the farmer's dog sent after you.

Over the years much advice has been given about asking landowners permission to hunt their ground. Some of this advice is good and some is quite questionable, and even the good advice doesn't always apply to work 100% of the time. All we can do is play the odds, which are most often in our favor. You must remember that receiving permission in the past does not mean you have it for life. Come back every year well before the season opens and renew your permission and spend a little time renewing your acquaintances and visiting with the farmer.

Quite often when you approach the farmhouse, you'll find the landowner hard at work doing chores, etc. Try not to interrupt them. Offer to help without getting in the way, or getting cow pies on your Thom McCanns. Whatever you do, do not go up to the farmhouse in a group, as this may get the farmer's dog sent after you. Besides, it makes those in the house a little nervous. Also, make sure you do your pre-season permission hunting *well in advance* of opening day.

One common bit of advice I can give, is to offer to trade your labor---whatever it is worth---for the rights to hunt. Having worked as a bricklayer for over 40 years, you would be surprised how many chimneys I've tuck pointed in exchange for permission to hunt, or as a thank you for last year's permission. An offer to work or help, without being asked, sure opens doors and farm gates.

Nowadays, few hunters have the farm or ranch skills. The farmers have enough problems, and don't have the time to teach a shoe salesman or a burger flipper how to run a 4 wheel-drive tractor. So much farm work is done by machines these days, there's less need for human workers.

Help in finding the landowner is necessary. Sometimes they live on the property, and sometimes they don't. One thing I've found to be extremely helpful in knowing the farmer's name and his acreage is a plat book of the county. These plat books are often available for purchase in your county's courthouse or administration building. If not,

then you can call or write, Athentic Inc., P.O. Box 1663, LaPorte, IN 46352, 219-362-8508. This is where I buy mine; I get a new one about every 10 years. It will cost you between \$20 and \$30 for each county's book.

A few landowners try to make a cash crop from leasing or charging for the rights to hunt. If this is the case, then the landowner must have liability insurance covering you. But if YOU OFFER TO PAY the farmer without his asking, then it's a totally different story altogether. I myself, always offer to share the game I harvest on their land. Quite often they will turn it down if it isn't cleaned and ready to cook, so take this into consideration. If they don't like to eat the game you have offered, then you hunters, who fish also, should offer a couple dozen panfish fillets, ready to cook. You'd be surprised how this little offering helps grease the wheels and opens the doors. Being a pilot myself, I often offer to take them up flying to see, and take pictures, of their land.

Another item to have along when you step to the landowner's door, asking permission to hunt, is your wife or girlfriend if not married, because most people feel that women have a civilizing influence on men. They tend to feel that if you take your wife or significant other with you during the pre-season, then you must not be too bad after all.

Sometimes you have to ask to thin out the varmints on the property in order to get permission to hunt deer or other game of your choice, next year.

It also helps tremendously, to look presentable, when asking permission. You certainly don't want to look like a criminal, or like you just crawled out from under your pickup truck, after working on it. Your vehicle should be clean and presentable too. Muddy 4X4's etc, lead the landowner to think you'll drive anywhere on his land, tearing up his roads and pastures.

Asking permission takes time and effort, without being a pest about it. If the landowner says he's had a bad experience with hunters in the past, then side with him, in that you don't like slob hunters, and don't associate with them either. Promise to close all gates you open and not climb fences if at all possible, and you're likely to end up with a long term relationship with the landowner.

Two Days, Two Birds

by Rich Creason

I sat quietly, camouflaged from head to foot, watching as two jakes (young, male turkeys) slowly walked toward our decoy. As they approached what I thought was 20 yards, I put the sights of my 12 gauge Mossberg 835 on the neck of the first bird. While the gun shook slightly (this was my first shot at a turkey), I knew I couldn't miss at this range. But, I did!

Both turkeys jumped in the air, flew a short distance, and landed. They began slowly walking away. Unfortunately, a small tree was now between me and them. Finally, I had a clear shot. Sighting carefully this time, I pulled the trigger.

I started preparing for this moment about three months ago. My lodging would be at Winghaven Lodge, between Providence and Marion, Kentucky. Russell and Michele Edwards, owners of this lodge specialize in hunting quail and other upland birds. I was rooming with another outdoor writer in a room bigger than those in most hotels I have stayed at, and very comfortable. A covered wooden deck overlooking two ponds was just outside the back door to our room.

Anticipating warm weather, my outfit consisted of a camo hat, Super Mesh Long Sleeve Mossy Oak Camo T-shirt with matching Six Pocket Pants and a new pair of Cabela's Gore-Tex boots. To finish my ensemble, I added a Cabela's Tactical Tat'R II Kickstand Turkey Vest. This vest has at least 13 pockets, plus numerous straps, loops, a padded seat, padded back, and much more! I started walking two miles a day and lost eight pounds to get in shape. I was ready for my hunt, but it turned out cold and damp. I had to cover all my new lightweight clothes with my camouflage Frogg Toggs raingear to stay warm and dry.

My guide was Philip Sharp, a biologist with KY Fish & Wildlife. I was told he was the best turkey guide in the county. He took me and my hunting partner, Josh Fleming with the National Wild Turkey Federation, to a local farm and placed us in position in a piece of woods bordering an open field. Shortly after daylight, we heard turkeys flying down off their roost. Two, three, four birds, then more, landed in the field. Finally, about eight or nine hens and three jakes had landed when a huge gobbler joined them. Unfortunately, they were about a hundred yards away. Philip tried every calling trick he knew, but the big bird was not going to leave his flock to join us. Eventually, they all wandered off into the woods. After over an hour of trying to coax some other birds to enter our area, we decided to change spots.

Our new location yielded eight box turtles, and a few big birds which we heard but wouldn't come to our calls. We sat in this spot long enough I was glad my turkey vest had a padded seat attached to it. We knew turkeys were all around the area that we were hunting, but cold, damp, and windy



conditions are not conducive to turkey hunting. Josh and Philip both checked their fancy, do-it-all phones and said afternoon would bring warmer, drier conditions. Maybe the birds would cooperate then.

Since some of the other hunters had been complaining about mosquitoes, I had put my new ThermaCELL Mosquito Repellent unit in another vest pocket. This cordless, portable device provides a 15 foot diameter protection from mosquitoes and black flies.

After lunch, we returned to our original spot to try again. This was when the two jakes walked by. After missing the first shot, the birds moved further away and I pulled the trigger again. This time, the turkey went down, flapping his wings, but not getting up. I was shooting Winchester Xtended Range Turkey Loads in 3 inch, size 6 shot. Our guide was very surprised I had put the bird down at that distance. We paced it off (twice) at 62 yards. My first turkey was in the bag.

That evening, a group of us from Winghaven drove about 30 miles to Lake Barkley and had dinner at Echo Charlie's Restaurant at Eddy Creek Marina Resort. It was well worth the drive.

I stayed up late again, too excited to sleep. The alarm went off at three AM. An early breakfast and I was off to meet our guide. He took Josh and me to the same field where I had gotten my bird the previous day. This time we went farther to the end of the woods where the birds had flown down before. We relaxed in the woods until daybreak. We heard turkey noises all around us and again the big birds started flying out to land in the field, this time about 20 yards directly in front of us. A dozen or so birds were feeding, but the big tom was still behind us in a tree gobbling every few minutes. We knew he would be joining the flock soon.

Several jakes walked by very close, but Josh didn't shoot. We were waiting for the huge bird we had seen before to fly down. After a couple hours, we gave up. Philip was going to take us to another farm he hadn't hunted before.

We walked a trail for a hundred yards, called a few minutes to see if we got an answer, then moved on. We suddenly got a gobble nearby and we quickly positioned ourselves in the nearby trees. After some calling and waiting, more calling and waiting, three jakes walked up. Josh decided not to wait any longer for a bigger bird and nailed one at 20 yards. Immediately, instead of flying away at the sound of the gunshot, the two remaining birds began attacking their recent friend who was dead on the ground. I had to wait several minutes before they stopped jumping around so I could get my sights on one. Another loud shot and my second bird went down at 25 yards.

I drove a little over five hours from central Indiana, stayed at an outstanding place, ate great food, and bagged my first (and second) turkey. It was a memorable trip and I plan on returning soon to take some southern quail with Russell at Winghaven. Check out their website at www.winghavenlodge.com for complete details on this fine operation.

The Quest for a 30-inch Walleye

by Dave Hoffman

We were determined to catch one! We haven't come close to the big 3-0 after fishing some mighty good walleye waters for decades. The situation called for a serious plan of attack to fill that elusive hole in the ol' bucket list.

Analyzing data from the Manitoba Master Angler Award Program provided the critical answer to where the big ones are caught. It takes a 28" marble-eye to earn the Award, and last year a whopping 349 such critters were hauled from the number one lake. We found ourselves heading in that direction along with several other walleye fanatics. You could see on their faces, except for one very attractive angler who stood out in the crowd so to speak. She was a native Hoosier but resided in Arkansas thus earning her the title of the "Dixie Chick-en". Okay, there goes a couple hundred demerits for sexism, but she was obviously in over her head. It was her first ever North Country adventure.

The destination was Gunisao Lake. Situated about 250 miles north of Winnipeg and, dotted with seventy-five islands, the 16-mile lake hosts only one lodge. Revised nightly, the lodge scoreboard tallied the number of notable fish caught each day. As we dined on what truly was the best lodge chow we have ever encountered, we determined that we weren't doing very well initially.

Like a story book, things began to go our way and I eventually hooked into the fairy godmother of all lunkers on my medium-light St. Croix rod armed with a ¼ ounce jig. Run after run left me weak-kneed and fearing the barbless hook demons would surely ruin the day. Could it be a massive northern pike instead of a walleye? No, it bulldogged the entire time with throbbing determination, and as our guide stabbed the net into the water up splashed a monster walleye. "No, wait!" My partner exclaimed, "It's a lake trout!" At least it was a 30-incher...a 35-incher to be exact, and it qualified as a Master Angler Award, too.



John Heino proudly displays that elusive 30" walleye. Photo by Dave Hoffman.



Hoffman's trophy lake trout landed on light tackle. Photo courtesy of John Heino.

How about the walleyes? We caught a lot of big, healthy fish, and I did manage to finally land a Master Angler Award walleye. My fishing partner was the hero of the storybook tale by hoisting in a princely 30-inch walleye during the afternoon of our last day. After all those decades and thousands of walleyes we had a 30-inch walleye. Success!

Oh, yeah! That rookie "Dixie Chick-en" who was in over her head? She strutted away with five walleye Master Angler Awards. Cluck! Cluck! Cluck!



THOSE WHO HAVE GONE BEFORE US



Richard G. (Dick) Mercier
November 19, 1925 – July 31, 2011

Indianapolis, IN – Richard G. (Dick) Mercier, age 85, passed away on Sunday, July 31, 2011.

Dick was born on November 19, 1925 to Mary and George Mercier. He was a lifelong resident of Indianapolis and a 1943 graduate of Shortridge High School. He attended Texas A&M and Purdue. After graduating from the U.S. Army Air Corps School of Aerial Navigation, he served in World War II as an instructor for Air Corps navigation cadets.

Mercier is best known in conservation circles for helping incorporate the Indiana Sportsmen's Roundtable in 1993. As Roundtable president for 16 years, he promoted legislation favorable to sportsmen and women and was instrumental in passage of the Landowner Liability Bill and the Senior Fishing License. The former opened the door for hunters, anglers and trappers to access private land while lifting the threat of liability to the landowner in the event of an accident. The latter established a low-cost license that helps the DNR capture federal excise tax dollars that were being lost.

He also worked to advance hunter education and apprentice licenses to get more youth outdoors, and was a strong advocate for the expansion and funding of venison donation programs to food banks. "Dick was a true champion for outdoor enthusiasts and the cause of conservation," said Rob Carter, director of the Department of Natural Resources. "His tireless efforts, especially in the legislative arena, not only benefit today's hunters and anglers but will do so for generations to come."

In 1995, Mercier accepted the DNR's Conservation Organization of the Year award on behalf of the Indiana Sportsmen's Roundtable. He was named Conservationist of the Year by the Indiana Wildlife Federation in 1998 and by the DNR in 2002. In 2004, the Indiana Bowhunters Association created the Dick Mercier Conservationist of the Year award, presented annually to a deserving individual.

One of Mercier's proudest moments came when he was inducted to the Indiana Conservation Hall of Fame in 2010. An avid hunter and angler, Mercier raised and trained champion hunting dogs. He was also a Sagamore of the Wabash and was a member of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers for many years.

He is survived by his wife Mary Em (Mamie), sons Richard M. Mercier of New Albany, IN and David G. Mercier, Indianapolis, three grandchildren, a great grandchild and sister Marilyn Wetzler, of Boca Raton, FL.



A memorial service was held on August 4th at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Indianapolis. Dick will be greatly missed by his fellow HOW members and by all Hoosier sportsmen and conservationists.

HOW Member News



Valparaiso's Gene Clifford Finds Excellent Walleye Fishing in Ohio

Gene Clifford and five other fishermen from northwest Indiana went to Lake Erie over Memorial Day weekend to pursue walleyes. They fished on the charter boat "Unreel" from Lake Station, IN, and did very well.

"We caught 88 pounds of walleye over the 2 days of fishing," said Clifford. "We got 55 lbs the first day and 30 lbs the second, with the largest weighing 8½ lbs and measuring 28½ inches long. We fished 15 miles offshore in 27 feet of water. There were 9 miles of mocha-colored water before we found clear water to fish in. Prior to our arrival, there had been very heavy rains for days with farm fields flooded in many spots." Photo courtesy of Gene Clifford.

Poynter and Bloom Hike Isle Royale

Phil Bloom and Bryan Poynter recently returned from a 40+ mile trek around Isle Royale National Park in Lake Superior. According to Poynter, "This is notably one of the least attended of the national parks. It is rugged, primitive, challenging and stunning. Access to the island is via a 3 hour ferry ride from Copper Harbor, MI and there is no motorized traffic on the island."

"There is a Hoosier connection to the noted history of the island," continued Poynter. "The study of Isle Royale's wolf and moose populations, launched in 1958 by Purdue University ecologist Durward Allen, brought this little-known national park a measure of fame, especially among wilderness lovers. 98% of the land on the island is designated wilderness."

It sounds like it was a great trip, gentlemen!



Phil Bloom (left) and Bryan Poynter (right) take a short break during their hike around beautiful Isle Royale National Park. Photo courtesy of Bryan Poynter.

HOW President Wins Pinnacle Award at POMA Conference

HOW President Brandon Butler was honored recently at the Professional Outdoor Media Association's (POMA) annual conference in Ogden, Utah. He received the Pinnacle Award in the Magazine Writing category.

The Pinnacle Awards are sponsored by Mossy Oak, and they recognize exceptional achievement in traditional outdoor sports-focused communications, including writing, photography/illustration/art, broadcasting and conservation journalism.

Butler's winning article was titled *The Bear's Den* and described his visit to archery legend Fred Bear's old house. It was published in Traditional Bowhunter magazine.

"I am incredibly humbled and honored to have received a Pinnacle Award from POMA," said Butler. "To be recognized by my peers is especially gratifying. Fred Bear will forever remain an icon of our industry, and to have paid him this small tribute means the world to me. I must also thank Mossy Oak for sponsoring these awards. The generosity of the entire Mossy Oak family is overwhelming."



Brandon Butler poses with the Pinnacle Award he received at the POMA conference in August. Photo courtesy of Brandon Butler.



A sphinx moth gets ready to take flight from the side of a tree. Nature photos by Tom Berg.

Wisconsin Is Perfect Locale For Nature Photo Ops

Tom Berg and his family have made a trip to the northwoods of Wisconsin a regular part of their summer routine over the past several years. Besides overdosing on fishing during these trips, Tom also spends a fair amount of time photographing the abundant local wildlife.

This year was no different. Some of the photo subjects included black bears, moths, butterflies, fish, bald eagles, ospreys, loons, geese and a variety of wildflowers.



A barred owl also made an appearance, but he was too quick for Tom to get a photo. Maybe next year!

HOW Director Goes Looney

HOW Executive Director Tom Berg has gone to the birds again. As a matter of fact, he may even be getting a bit looney. But that's only because he likes loons. These large, secretive birds are beautiful and very interesting, but they are somewhat difficult to approach since they usually like to keep their distance from humans.



Berg photographed a pair of loons at Patoka Lake earlier this spring, and they were still sporting their winter plumage (see photo above right). This summer while vacationing in northern Wisconsin, he watched several different loons that were living on Red Cedar Lake, and these loons were all decked-out in their familiar breeding colors (black and white – see below).



Loons are excellent swimmers, and they can catch fish underwater with ease. They don't just go after small minnows, either. Bass, bluegills and other fish are all considered fair game. Berg saw one loon catch a good-sized bluegill, and after quite a bit of manipulation, down the hatch it went! That was a real mouthful!



Loons are also well-known for their lonely call

that sounds mournful and even eerie late in the evening. One loon often calls to another across the bay or across the lake in the dim twilight before dark. It has become known

as the sound of the northwoods since these birds spend their summers in our northern states.

HOW Legal Counsel Floats The Flatrock River



HOW Legal Counsel Bill Keaton likes to fish the Flatrock River near his home when he gets the chance, and as you can see from the photo to the left, one of his recent trips turned out pretty well.

In early July, Bill paddled along for a mile or so of the Flatrock in search of bass and other species willing to take his bait. He had a beautiful day for fishing and the water was quiet and calm.

“I caught 4 smallmouth bass (including the one pictured), 2 rock bass and 7 pumpkinseed sunfish,” said Keaton. That's not a bad tally, especially when the smallmouth are pretty good-sized!

Schoonveld's Road Trips Usually Involve Boats and Fishing Lures

Mike Schoonveld took time for another road trip recently and (go figure) stopped along the way to go fishing!

Stop one was in Marquette, Michigan where he traveled 45 miles out into Lake Superior to the location called the "loneliest place in the world." The spot is named Stannard Rock for the car-sized rock which juts out of the water there. It is a remnant of a mile-long prehistoric coral reef, and it is famous for its lake trout fishing. A working lighthouse is built on the reef and wild lake trout abound in the area.

For more information on the area, check this website: www.marquettecountry.org.



Mike Schoonveld displays a wild lake trout that he caught off the Stannard Rock reef. The famous lighthouse can even be seen in the background. Photo courtesy of Mike Schoonveld.



The Stannard Rock lighthouse was built way back in 1883! Photo by Mike Schoonveld.

On the way home, Schoonveld stopped by Lake Winnebago at Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. His goal was to catch some "shore lunch" for dinner. Fishing guide Jim Hughes took Mike to one of his favorite walleye holes and they caught enough fresh fish for dinner that evening, skillfully prepared at Wendt's on the Lake Restaurant. The walleye fishing is usually excellent on Lake Winnebago!

For more information, please contact the Fond du Lac CVB at: www.fdl.com.

Save-The-Date For 2012 HOW Conference

Don't forget to mark your calendars now for the 2012 HOW Conference. It will be held over the weekend of May 4-6, 2012. The main meeting will be on Saturday, May 5th, and we will announce the location soon. So be sure to **Save The Date!**

**HOW 2012
Conference**

Unusual Nature Photos From The Hoosier Outdoors

Sponsored by LaCrosse Footwear

Common Map Turtle Has Unique Skin Markings!

The “What is it?” question from the last newsletter was supposed to be very difficult, but there always seems to be some HOW members who get the right answer. We had a total of four HOW members who identified it this time. PJ Perea, Mike Schoonveld, Mike Berg and John Maxwell all guessed the right answer, and PJ Perea was the lucky winner when we drew names for the Hunter’s Specialties “i-Kam Xtreme” video eyewear.

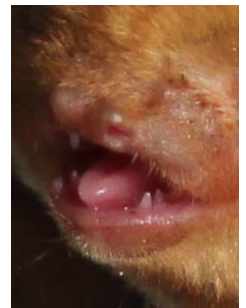


As you can see, the mystery creature was a small Map Turtle. Several HOW members guessed it was a painted turtle, and although that was an excellent guess, it wasn’t quite right. Map Turtles are sometimes called “sawback turtles” because they have a well-defined keel or ridge running down the middle of their shells. The skin on their necks and legs is also covered by thin yellow lines that resemble the contours on a map (thus the name map turtle). Many painted turtles have yellow lines on their necks, but they are typically straight lines, not wavy contour lines like this.

Our friends at LaCrosse Footwear have agreed to provide a very nice prize (valued at up to \$190) to the HOW member that guesses the right answer to this issue’s “What Is It?” question (see below). This time the prize will be a gift certificate for a pair of LaCrosse boots (hunting, hiking or rubber boots) that the winner can choose from the Lacrosse Footwear website. See below.

Berg Poses Another Nature Photo “What Is It?” Question

Here’s another Nature Photo mystery. The photograph shown to the right is a close-up of a common creature that lives right here in Indiana. It might live in your back yard, and it can be found throughout the state. Have you ever seen it? Can you guess what it is? **Hint:** This creature is a mammal, and as you can see it has teeth.



This creature might be a little easier to identify than some of the previous ones, but we’ll see. Do you know of any Hoosier creatures that look like this? Take a guess! If you think you know, send the answer to me via email at thomas.berg@comcast.net. If you’re right, you will be in the running for the LaCrosse boots. For everyone who doesn’t know, you’ll just have to wait for the next issue of The Blade to find out!



As mentioned above, LaCrosse will be donating a gift certificate for a pair of LaCrosse boots as a prize for the HOW member who guesses the right answer to this issue’s “What Is It?” nature question. You will be able to choose from hunting boots, hiking boots or even top-of-the-line rubber boots. If multiple people guess the right answer to this question, we will draw one winner at random from the group of correct entries. Good luck and have fun!

All photos on this page (except the boot photo!) by Tom Berg.

HOW Supporting Member News

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



The traditional Wood Duck from the Bundy Classics collection. This carved decoy is 14" long.

Bundy Duck Decoys Are Hand-Crafted Works of Art

Noblesville, IN: Bundy Duck decoys are well-known to just about every HOW member that attends the annual HOW conference. That's because John Bundy has been kind enough to donate one of his hand-crafted wooden duck decoys to the HOW Raffle for many years now.

These beautifully carved ducks are created by John and Valerie Bundy from Noblesville, along with their son Jason. They take pride in their work and they produce some of the most beautiful wooden decoys in the world. They are interested in sharing their love of nature with others through their carved birds, and they have been doing just that for more than 25 years.

No two Bundy Decoys are alike, which is partly why they are so collectable. HOW members interested in purchasing a Bundy Duck or doing a story on this family-owned business should get in touch with John Bundy (see contact info below). Each decoy goes through a 28-step manufacturing process by the Bundy team and requires many hours of hand labor. While there are all kinds of gift items in today's world, very few are still made from real wood and even fewer are made right here in Indiana!

For more information on Bundy Ducks and some of the other one-of-a-kind products they make, contact John Bundy (info@bundyducks.com) at Bundy & Company, 16506 Strawtown Ave, Noblesville, IN 46060. You may also call them at 800-387-3831 or view their website at www.bundyducks.com.



Ruger Announces New Single-Ten Pistol

Newport, NH: Ruger is proud to announce the Single-Ten™, a ten-shot single-action revolver chambered in .22 Long Rifle. The Single-Ten features a ten-shot cylinder and is constructed from durable and handsome satin-finished stainless steel. With a 5.5" barrel and smooth, walnut

"Gunfighter" grips, the Single-Ten is well balanced and points easily.

"The Single-Six has always been a fun gun to shoot," remarked Mike Fifer, Ruger's CEO. "The additional cylinder capacity, along with the trim Gunfighter grips and fiber optic sights, make shooting the Single-Ten even more enjoyable," he said. Its fiber optic sights are also click-adjustable for both windage and elevation.

For more information on the Ruger Single-Ten, or to learn more about the extensive, award-winning line of Ruger firearms, visit www.RUGER.com or Facebook.com/Ruger. To find accessories for the Ruger Single-Ten or other Ruger firearms, visit www.ShopRuger.com.

HOW Supporting Member News



ZipVac Introduces More Storage Options

Barrington, IL: ZipVac now offers even more versatility in vacuum storage with its new King Fillet vacuum packing bags (made in the USA!). These 14"x30" bags will protect big fish fillets from freezer burn, but they can also be used to keep the elements away from a wide variety of hunting and fishing gear. They are also a great way to freeze trophy-sized fish that are destined for the taxidermist.

The new ZipVac bags were designed to hold large gamefish fillets, but they are actually big enough to store hunting and sporting rifles when broken down into two pieces.

Of course, ZipVac bags still come in a variety of sizes – quart, gallon, filet and jumbo – to accommodate almost any need. Each bag is vacuumed using a rechargeable or manual pump, and the patented one-way valve keeps food fresh and the elements out.

For more information on ZipVac bags, pumps or kits, contact Chris Paulson (cpaulsen@ctiindustries.com) or Rose Sutherland (rsutherland@ctiindustries.com) at CTI Industries, 847-620-1371. Or see the ZipVac website: www.zipvac.net.



Castalia Outdoors Launches Bombshell Turtle Lure

Frostproof, FL: New HOW Supporting Member Castalia Outdoors announces a bombshell - Bombshell Turtle™ that is. This new soft plastic fishing lure has a unique shape that is irresistible to fish. Why a turtle fishing lure? Throughout the history of evolution, bass and even saltwater species have aggressively attacked turtles in the wild. Gamefish despise egg-raiding turtles and attack juvenile turtles aggressively year-round.

Aggressiveness by largemouth bass toward immature turtles has been well-documented for more than 35 years in films featuring largemouth bass behavior, bringing many to ask “What took so long to make the lure?”



Simply put, this patented new lure shape fills a missing link in the standard soft-plastic lure offering. Fully 95% of the hits on this Bombshell Turtle are on the drop, so a tantalizingly slow descent with its automatic leg action will draw more strikes. It can be rigged like many other soft plastic lures, and anglers can "pop" the lure for

multiple descents during the retrieve near underwater structure to lure big fish out of cover. Let the lure do the work. Pop and retrieve it s-l-o-w-l-y.

FOR BEST RESULTS: use a weighted jig hook, or 1/16 - 1/8 oz. weight pegged at the turtle's head and 3/0 worm hook Texas-rigged up into the hook pocket. The patented Bombshell Turtle™ is available in 3-inch size, 6-ct. packs, and in 8 color selections: Black/Silver, Black/Red, Juvenile Green, Cooter, June Bug, Slider, Snapper and Softshell.

For more information, go to www.BombshellTurtle.com.

Media Contact: Pam Richards, 800-558-5541 or email: pam@castaliaoutdoors.com.



HOW Supporting Members Win Awards At 2011 ICAST Show

Las Vegas, NV: The 2011 ICAST show (International Convention of Allied Sportfishing Trades) in mid-July showcased the products of some of the premier companies in the fishing tackle industry, and just like last year, many of the top new product awards were won by our innovative HOW Supporting Members. Here is the list of winners from our corporate members:

Best of Show

[Pure Fishing, Inc.](#)
Berkley Nanofil line

Apparel

[Frabill, Inc.](#)
Frabill Suit

Kids' Tackle

[Pure Fishing, Inc.](#)
Casting Game & Sound Fishing Kit

Hard Lure

[Pure Fishing, Inc.](#)
Sebile D&S Crank

Soft Lure

[Koppers Fishing & Tackle Corporation](#)
LIVE TARGET Hollow Body Mouse

Electronics

[Johnson Outdoors, Inc. - Marine Electronics](#)
Humminbird 1158c DI Combo

Freshwater Reel

[Pure Fishing, Inc.](#)
Abu Garcia Revo MGX

Fly Rod

[G. Loomis](#)
Pro4x

Freshwater Rod

[G. Loomis](#)
GL2

Saltwater Rod

[Shimano American Corp.](#)
Terez Rail Rod

Fishing Line

[Pure Fishing, Inc.](#)
Berkley Nanofil line

Tackle Management

[Plano Molding Company](#)
4674 Hydro-Flo Tackle Bag

Eyewear

[Costa](#)
Costa Women's Collection

Congratulations to all of the winners!

For more info on ICAST, check their website: www.icastfishing.org.



Plano's 4674 Hydro-Flo Tackle Bag

HOW's Supporting Member Websites

Alpen Optics - www.alpenoutdoor.com
Aquateko International - www.aquateko.com
B'n'M Pole Company - www.bnmpoles.com
Back Mountain Outdoors - www.bmoproducts.com
Bass Pro Shops - www.basspro.com
Battenfeld Technologies - www.battenfeldtechnologies.com
Bill Lewis Lures - www.Rat-L-Trap.com
Birchwood Casey - www.birchwoodcasey.com
Blackpowder Products, Inc. - www.bpiguns.com
BoatUS - www.boatus.com
Brownells, Inc. - www.brownells.com
Buck Knives - www.buckknives.com
Bundy Ducks - www.bundyducks.com
Cabela's, Inc. - www.cabelas.com
Camp Chef - www.campchef.com
Carbon Express - www.carbonexpressarrows.com
Castalia Outdoors - www.castaliaoutdoors.com
Church Tackle Company - www.churchtackle.com
Clam Corporation - www.clamcorp.com
Coleman Company - www.coleman.com
Costa Del Mar - www.costadelmar.com
Creative Outdoor Products - www.hunterdan.com
Crosman Corporation - www.crosman.com
CTI Industries - www.zipvac.net
DeLorme, Inc. - www.delorme.com
Dreamweaver Lures - www.dreamweaverlures.com
Eagle Claw - www.eagleclaw.com
Environ-Metal, Inc. - www.hevishot.com
Federal Premium Ammunition - www.federalpremium.com
Flambeau Products Corp. - www.flambeauoutdoors.com
Flatrock Hunting Preserve - www.flatrockhunting.com
FLW Outdoors - www.flwoutdoors.com
Flying Fisherman - www.flyingfisherman.com
Frabill - www.frabill.com
Freedom Group Companies - www.freedom-group.com
Frogg Toggs - www.froggtoggsraingear.com
G.Loomis - www.gloomis.com
Gamo USA - www.gamoussa.com
Gerber Legendary Blades - www.gerbergear.com
Hart Productions - www.hartproductions.com
Henry Repeating Arms Co. - www.henryrepeating.com
Hoosier Trapper Supply - www.hoosiertrappersupply.com
Hoppe's - www.hoppes.com
Horton Archery - www.crossbow.com
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt - www.hmhco.com
Howard Communications - www.howardcommunications.com
HT Enterprises - www.icefish.com
Hunt's Photo & Video - www.huntsphotoandvideo.com
Hunter's Specialties - www.hunterspec.com
Indiana Conservation Officer Magazine - www.icoo.com
Indiana Outdoor News - www.indianaoutdoornews.net
Ind. Smallmouth Alliance - www.indianasmallmouthalliance.org
Jewel Bait Company - www.jewelbait.com
Johnson Outdoors, Inc. - www.johnsonoutdoors.com
KG Enterprise, Inc. - www.kgenterprise.com
Koppers Fishing & Tackle - www.livetargetlures.com
Kruger Optical - www.krugeroptical.com
Kwikee Kwiver Co. - www.kwikeekwiver.com
L&S Bait Co. - www.mirrolure.com
LaCrosse Footwear - www.lacrossefootwear.com
Lamiglas, Inc. - www.lamiglas.com
Leupold - www.leupold.com
Lightfield Ammunition - www.lightfieldslugs.com
Lodge Manufacturing - www.lodgemfg.com
Mathews - www.mathewsinc.com
Mossy Oak - www.mossyoak.com
Muzzy Products Corp. - www.muzzy.com
MyTopo - www.mytopo.com
National Shooting Sports Foundation - www.nssf.org
Normark Corporation - www.rapala.com
O.F. Mossberg & Sons, Inc. - www.mossberg.com
Off Shore Tackle Co. - www.offshoretackle.com
Okuma Fishing Tackle - www.okumafishingteam.com
Ono's Trading Co. - www.onostradingcompany.com
Orange County CVB - www.historicsouthernindiana.com
Otis Technology - www.otistec.com
Outdoor Promotions - www.crappieusa.com
Plano Molding Company - www.planomolding.com
Poor Boy's Baits/Lurecraft - www.lurecraft.com
Pradco Fishing - www.lurenet.com
Predator Innovations - www.hanganobuddy.com
Primos Hunting Calls - www.primos.com
Princeton University Press - www.press.princeton.edu
Proline Fishing, Inc. - www.prolinefishing.com
Pure Fishing - www.purefishing.com
Quaker Boy, Inc. - www.quakerboygamecalls.com
Reef Runner Lures - www.reefrunner.com
Renfro Productions - www.renfroproductions.com
Rocky Brands - www.rockyboots.com
Savage Arms - www.savagearms.com
SHE Outdoor Apparel - www.shesafari.com
Shimano American Corp. - www.shimano.com
Slammer Hunting Innovations - www.slammerhi.com
Snag Proof Manufacturing - www.snagproof.com
Solar Bat Sunglasses - www.solarbat.com
South Shore CVA - www.southshorecva.com
Sportsman Channel - www.thesportsmanchannel.com
Sportsman's Connection - www.sportsmansconnection.com
Star Brite Distributing - www.starbrite.com
Strikemaster Corporation - www.strikemaster.com
Sturm, Ruger & Co. - www.ruger.com
Taylor Brands - www.taylorbrandsllc.com
ThermaCELL - www.thermacell.com
Thundermist Lure Co. - www.thundermistlures.com
TomBob Outdoors - www.tomboboutdoors.com
Toyota Motor Sales - www.toyotanewsroom.com
Tri-Tronics, Inc. - www.tritronics.com
TTI-Blakemore Fishing - www.ttiblakemore.com
Uncle Josh Bait Co. - www.unclejosh.com
Vexilar, Inc. - www.vexilar.com
W.R. Case & Sons Cutlery - www.wrcase.com
WaveSpin Reels - www.wavespinreel.com
Winchester Ammunition - www.winchester.com
Wrangler Rugged Wear - www.wrangleruggedwear.com
Yakima Bait Co. - www.yakimabait.com
Z-Man Fishing Products - www.zmanfishing.com

HOW members are encouraged to check these websites for general info and answers to product and service questions.

Hoosier Outdoor Writers

Application For New Membership

(Check Desired Classification below)

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

Personal Information:

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

Professional Information:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Signature: _____

Sponsor: _____

Who We Are

The Hoosier Outdoor Writers was formed in 1969 and has brought together many diverse groups and individuals with shared interests. The Hoosier Outdoor Writers, known among its members as HOW, is a group of dedicated media 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 ensure the wisest and best conservation of Indiana's resources, and the most wide-spread fair use of Indiana's recreational potential.
3. To provide a vehicle for bringing together and joining in common cause all Hoosiers who by profession, hobby or interest are devoted to the outdoors.
4. Conduct an annual Awards-In-Craft Contest among its members. The award winners are announced each year at HOW's annual conference.

What We Stand For

These are what we strive to accomplish:

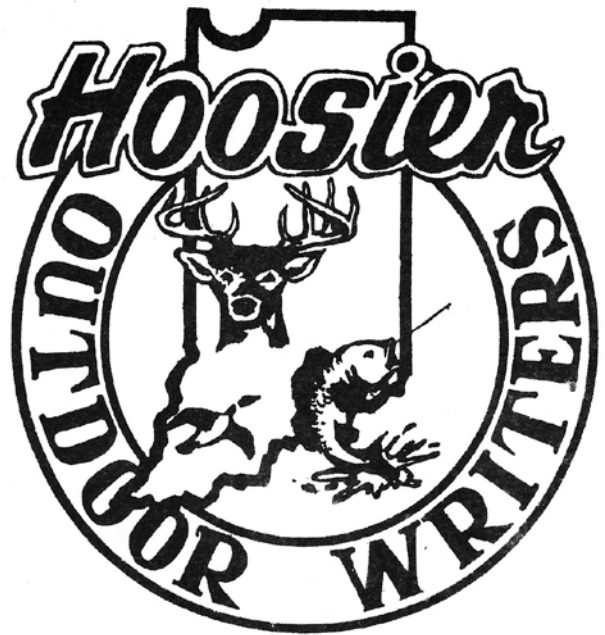
1. To give the profession of outdoor writing/reporting greater recognition and understanding, even higher standards and enlarged scope.
2. To encourage and enforce high standards of professional ethics.
3. To strive always for the truth, accuracy, clarity and completeness in the dissemination of outdoor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

Membership Requirements

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

1. Active

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



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

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

2. Associate

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

3. Supporting

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

4. Active Student

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

5. Associate Student

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

Calendar of Events

- OWAA 2011 Annual Conference:** July 9-11, 2011
(www.owaa.org)
Salt Lake City, UT
- POMA 2011 Annual Conference:** August 10-13, 2011
(www.professionalooutdoormedia.org)
Ogden, UT
- AGLOW 2011 Annual Conference:** September 19-22, 2011
(www.aglowinfo.org/)
Honey Creek Resort State Park
Rathbun Lake, IA
- Fur Takers Chapter 7B Fall Rendezvous:** September 24, 2011
(www.hoosiertrappersupply.com)
Held at Hoosier Trapper Supply
Greenwood, IN
- Cincinnati Travel, Sports & Boat Show:** January 20-22 & 25-29, 2012
(www.hartproductions.com)
Cincinnati, OH
- Indianapolis Boat, Sport & Travel Show:** February 17-26, 2012
(www.renfroproductions.com)
Indianapolis, IN
- NRA 2012 Annual Meeting:** April 13-15, 2012
(www.nra.org)
St. Louis, MO
- HOW 2012 Annual Conference:** May 4-6, 2012
(www.HoosierOutdoorWriters.org)
Site to be announced
- AGLOW 2012 Spring Cast & Blast Event:** May 14-17, 2012
(www.aglowinfo.org/)
Niagara County, NY

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