

The Blade

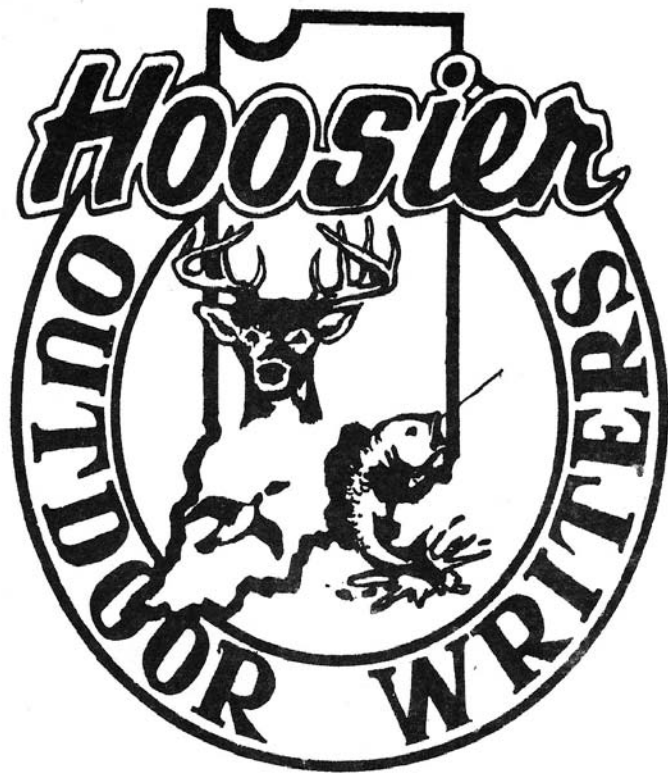
2013 Post-Conference Issue

May - June 2013

The Official Publication of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers



"HOW Conference Fishing Outing", 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: The HOW fishing outing was held on Sunday, April 21st following the 2013 HOW Conference at Clifty Falls State Park near Madison, IN. Here, local fly fisherman Kevin Watkins battles a feisty smallmouth bass in the east prong of Indian-Kentuck Creek. Photo by Tom Berg.



President's Message

by Ben Shadley

Same skills, new package: Keeping your balance on a shifting media landscape

First things first. In my inaugural message I'd like to thank the HOW membership for giving me the honor of serving as President of this diverse group of talented and dedicated outdoor communicators. I've been involved in this community for almost as long as I can remember. Serving as President is exciting and is a serious responsibility. I intend to do my level best to further this organization that's given me much in terms of knowledge and relationships.

Now on to an issue that's as broad as it is important: The shifting media landscape and what to do about it.

I don't need to tell any of you about the depth and breadth of changes that have overtaken print, and to some degree, broadcast communications. But I'm going to establish a baseline.

It's true that making a decent living as an outdoor communicator alone has gone from tough but doable to akin to playing in the NBA. It's true many of the media outlets that were once our bread and butter have gone from paying less for stories to fighting for their very existence. It's true being a skilled writer or photographer was once enough, but is now just one of a set of skills necessary to be broadly marketable.

So have we reached the end of an era? Should we hang up our spurs and wait for the world to come to its senses?

The answers are yes and no, respectively. First, the old way isn't ever coming back. Second, quitting is a moot point because many HOW members have buckled down and started adapting to continue practicing the craft they love – regardless of pay or prospects of celebrity.

The point is we're in a period of transition and it's time to re-tool. Now is the time to hone skills that are universally valuable and learn new ones that are important for succeeding today. I've got three specific suggestions, but before I pontificate I need to make a disclaimer.

Unlike a decade (or more) ago when one of a few strategies (if executed successfully) represented an attainable path to widespread publication, the current media situation isn't nearly as clear cut. Today there are a few ways to make a reasonable wage and expand your readership/viewership. There are also numerous ways to expend a lot of effort, get paid poorly if at all, and not gain much of anything. This is the nature of an environment in flux. For an eager and motivated outdoor communicator, opportunities and pitfalls abound.

Following are three strategies that don't ensure a golden ticket, but are necessary to compete in the modern media landscape. If you channel your passion for the sporting lifestyle in these directions I can't guarantee fame and fortune, but I'm confident you'll find an audience.

(continued next page)

1. Build a website: A website is absolutely key to being taken seriously as a professional communicator. It should feature your work as well as limited information about you. There's little need to learn to hard code a website or pay someone to set it up for you.

For example, platforms such as [WordPress](#) (some study required) and [tumblr](#) (really easy) are both acceptable for establishing a presence on the web. These options are free or cheap and easily customizable. The best thing about building a website is that unlike amateur gunsmithing, you can't do any harm that can't be undone. Be patient and experiment until you establish a home on the web that represents your brand and values.

2. Get involved in social media: At this point "social media" is a misnomer. By the numbers alone, social media is just media. Make an effort to sign up for different platforms and stick with the one(s) you like best. Facebook is the obvious choice, but consider branching out. Twitter is much like curating an AP feed you can contribute to – pretty exciting for traditional news junkies. For the photographers among us, Instagram favors the visually oriented and maintains a vibrant community.

Don't get caught up in agonizing over proper social media procedures. Consistently post about your interests and interact when reasonable. The rest will take care of itself.

3. Value your work: Regardless of the publication platform, you have to assign value to your work. Giving away your copy, images or expertise establishes a value of zero for your efforts. Do some research as well as critical thinking and decide your rates based on what you have to offer. Negotiate as necessary, but keep in mind that no one but you is going to advocate on your behalf. This is one principle no amount of technological advancement will change.

I'm available at ben.shadley@camerasmithphoto.com to discuss any of the above topics. Present and future Instagram users can find me at [brshadley](#).

Remember What The Hoosier Outdoor Writers Group Stands 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.



The Hoosier Outdoor Writers

New Members, Past Presidents & Memorial Section

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

Ray Dickerson
(Active – Returning Member)
Centerville, IN

Troy McCormick (Active)
Jeffersonville, IN
Sponsor: Alan Garbers

Memorial to Deceased HOW Members

Those Who Have Gone Before Us:

Jack Alkire – HOW President 1979
Bill Beeman – Executive Director
Ed Blann
Charlie Brown
Gary Carden
Jim “Moose” Carden – HOW President 1982/83
George Carey
John Case
Bill Church – HOW President 1972
Jack “Big Jake” Cooper
Mark Cottingham
Jerry Criss
Gary “Dox” Doxtater
Dick Forbes
Tom Glancy – HOW President 1977
Dale Griffith
Fred Heckman
Jack Kerins
Mike Lyle – HOW President 1981
Ralph “Cork” McHargue – HOW President 1976
Dick Mercier
Bob Nesbit
Hellen Ochs
Jack Parry
Harry Renfro
“Bayou” Bill Scifres – HOW President – 6 Terms
George Seketa
Hal Shymkus
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
Brandon Butler	2011
Josh Lantz	2012

The Annual HOW Fun Shoot Was A Blast!

Skeet in the Wind and Snow

by Tom Berg

The 2013 HOW Fun Shoot held prior to the conference at Clifty Falls was another success. A great group of HOW members attended and all had an enjoyable time as we shot a couple of rounds of skeet. The weather could have been a lot better, and since the event was held in the third week of April we were not expecting snow!



HOW Vice President Bob Sawtelle prepares for the next shot at the skeet range at the Atterbury Shooting Complex. Fun Shoot photos by Tammy McBroom.

The Atterbury Shooting Complex near Edinburgh, IN was the site of the Fun Shoot this year. Atterbury is located within a 1½ hour drive from Clifty Falls, and after the shoot most of the members headed for Clifty Falls State Park to get ready for our Friday Evening BBQ.

A few raindrops and a few snowflakes did fall while we were shooting, but the snow was probably just generated by the howling wind. The wind was blowing about 40mph, adding a new level of difficulty to the skeet course!

Even though the temperature was cold, everyone had a good time. The attendees were divided into groups of four or five shooters each before bundling-up and heading off to the skeet ranges.

As we mentioned, conditions were not very favorable for producing fabulous scores, but everyone

persevered. One person swears that he had a perfect bead on the clay target when he pulled the trigger, but just then a big gust of wind pushed the target out of the kill zone! Bill Keaton said that his score would have been better, but more than once his body was shaken by an involuntary shiver just as he was pulling the trigger!

After the shooting was done and the smoke cleared, it was time to tally the results. Mike Schoonveld had the best single-round score, so he was identified as one of our two champions. Phil Seng's best single-round score was only one target less than Mike's, but he had a higher overall score than Mike since he shot more consistently. So Phil was named our other champion. Bill Keaton had the next best score, followed by Tom Berg, Ken McBroom, Bob Jennings and the rest of the shooters.



Bill Keaton, Phil Seng & Bob Jennings (L-R)

HOW would like to extend a big thank-you to Jessica Kallam from Freedom Group - Remington for supplying the ammunition for the shooters again this year. Thanks also goes to Atterbury Shooting Complex for allowing us to use their facility.



2013 HOW Conference

We would like to thank the following companies and organizations:



Awards-in-Craft Sponsor



Friday Evening BBQ Sponsor



Conference Lunch Sponsor



Conference Meal Sponsor

as the official sponsors of the
2013 HOW Annual Conference

HOW Raffle Donors - 2013

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Clam Corporation
Cocoons Eyewear
Coleman
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Shimano American Corporation
Shur-Set Releases
Snag Proof Manufacturing
Solution Products Inc.
Speedy Sharp
St. Croix Rods
Streamlight
T-REIGN Outdoor Products
Thundermist Lures
Tink's
TTI-Blakemore Fishing
Umarex USA
Vexilar, Inc.
W.R. Case
WaveSpin Reels
White Flyer Targets
Winchester Ammunition
Wrangler Rugged Wear
Wright & McGill Company



2013 HOW Conference Convenes In Southern Indiana!

Last year, the HOW conference was held in northern Indiana for the first time ever. This year, the conference planners decided that moving to the other end of the state would be an equally good idea. The location at the top of our list was Madison, IN, right on the shores of the Ohio River. The 2013 HOW Conference was held at Clifty Falls State Park just minutes from downtown Madison. What a great venue! We had great attendance again this year, excellent speakers and plenty of opportunities for fun! If you didn't attend this conference you really missed a great time! If you're not sure what you missed, check out the next few pages of the newsletter to get a glimpse of the fun we had!

The Clifty Inn at Clifty Falls State Park has excellent conference facilities and a terrific staff, and our event was another great success. Many HOW members took advantage of the lodging and restaurant at the inn and stayed the entire weekend, while others just came in for the day to attend the HOW meeting. Our meeting room was spacious and well-appointed, the catered food was very good and the conference provided another great opportunity to learn new things and reconnect with old friends.



Phil Seng (L) and Rick Bramwell (R) at the HOW Fun Shoot on Friday.

Traditionally, the HOW Conference actually starts on the Friday afternoon preceding the annual meeting on Saturday. This year's conference was no different, and at 12:30pm on Friday, April 19th, a group of HOW members met at the Atterbury Shooting Complex near Edinburgh for the annual HOW Fun Shoot. The weather was cold and windy, but the camaraderie was still excellent. Details can be found on the previous page. After the shooting was done, we drove to Clifty Falls and joined other HOW members who were already gathering for the Friday evening barbecue!

At 6:00pm on Friday evening, more than 30 HOW members, spouses and guests met at the Clifty Shelter House near the north end of the state park for a special barbecue and get-together. Marci Jones and Ann Mulligan from the

Madison Visitors Center enlisted the aid of “The Pig-Pak BBQ Team” from Madison to prepare an outstanding barbecue dinner for us. The barbecue was wonderful in spite of the cold weather and everyone had a good time. Jarrett Manek and John Maxwell obtained some firewood from the park office and soon a warm fire was burning in the shelter’s large stone fireplace. A big thank-you goes to the Madison Visitors Center and the Pig-Pak BBQ Team for their hospitality!

The annual meeting began at 8:00am on Saturday morning, and 45 HOW members and guests assembled in the main meeting room. As usual, the first hour of the meeting was set aside for registration and social time, and a continental breakfast with coffee and juice was available for all present. At the registration table, conference attendees were provided with welcome bags compliments of the Madison Visitors Center.



HOW members and their spouses enjoy themselves at the barbecue on Friday evening inside Clifty Falls State Park.

During the social hour, members talked and got ready for the day’s events while the HOW Board of Directors and Executive Committee conducted their annual board meeting. Among other things, it was agreed that HOW would present the 2013 Bayou Bill Scifres Stewardship Award to the Jim “Moose” Carden Kokomo Kids Fishing Clinic. HOW Board member John Martino, one of the co-founders of the event, was present to accept the award.



Joe Robb from Big Oaks NWR speaks to the conference attendees.

Outgoing President Josh Lantz called the meeting to order and provided opening remarks at 9:00am, then briefed the meeting attendees on the day’s schedule. Marci Jones and Ann Mulligan from the Madison Visitors Center also greeted the membership and welcomed them to Madison. They talked about some of the interesting things to see and do around Madison, including many of the festivals held throughout the year and visiting many of Madison’s historic buildings that were built in the 1800’s.

The first seminar speaker was Joe Robb, the refuge manager at Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuge. He gave a very interesting presentation on the nearby 50,000-acre Big Oaks NWR and the diversity of wildlife species living there. Besides mammals like bobcats, coyotes and otters, the refuge also supports more than 200 species of birds, including bald eagles, blue grosbeaks, quail, ruffed grouse, woodcock, warblers and more. He also discussed special hunts and other programs that take place on the property.

The second speaker was our very own HOW member Ben Shadley. Ben is a media and photography expert, and his seminar provided information to help the photographers in the group produce high quality images consistently. He also gave tips on purchasing new equipment, choosing post-production software, selling photos and promoting your own work.

Before breaking for lunch, outgoing President Lantz called the HOW Business Meeting to order. HOW Nominating Chairman John Martino presented the proposed slate of new officers for the coming year. Ben Shadley was elected President, Bob Sawtelle was elected Vice-President and Josh Lantz will become the Board Chairman. Our new Board members (terms expiring in 2015) include: Ken McBroom, John Trout, Jr., Don Cranfill, Bryan Poynter and Mike Schoonveld. Thank you to all of our new volunteers!

Before the Business Meeting was concluded, incoming President Ben Shadley took the podium and gave a short speech. Then he made a formal presentation of the Bass Pro Shops “Pass It On” Award. This year’s recipient was Garry Burch from Valparaiso. Ben presented an award plaque to Garry, along with a specially-engraved knife to commemorate the occasion. The knife was generously provided and engraved by our friends at Bear and Sons Cutlery.

Garry has been volunteering his time helping local kids who are troubled, disabled or sick experience hunting and the great outdoors. Garry has been very involved in the annual Turkey Tracks Hunt for disabled youth and he works with Hunt of a Lifetime (hunts for seriously sick children). He is also a certified Hunter Education instructor. A special thank-you goes to Katie Mitchell and Bass Pro Shops for sponsoring the Pass It On award.



HOW President Ben Shadley (R) presented Garry Burch (L) with the Bass Pro Shops “Pass It On” Award for his work with sick and disabled kids through the Hunt of a Lifetime program and other programs.

An excellent buffet lunch was served by the Clifty Inn staff, and everyone relaxed and socialized for an hour before the afternoon activities began. The lunch included beef tips with mushrooms, lemon herb chicken, herb baked whitefish, sage dressing, scalloped potatoes with bacon, green beans, asparagus spears and three different salads. For dessert there was Clifty Creek cake with sauce and fruit cobbler. It was a real feast!!

At 12:30pm, the next seminar speaker was scheduled to be Brian Schoenung, Southern Fisheries Supervisor for the DNR. Brian gave a very interesting presentation on “Fishes of the Ohio River”,



focusing on the “roe fisheries” (paddlefish and shovelnose sturgeon eggs). He described the commercial fishing efforts on the Ohio for fish eggs (caviar), and also discussed invasive species in the river like the Asian carp and zebra mussels.

Following Brian Schoenung’s presentation, Ben Shadley and Tom Berg made the 2013 HOW Awards-In-Craft presentation. Cash prizes and certificates were awarded to the best of the best in the annual Writing Contest, the

Photography Contest and the Broadcast Contest. Many thanks go to Toyota Motor Sales for once again sponsoring our contests and recognizing the achievements of our members. Check the contest results on pages 18-19 to see who submitted the best work this year.

Before our final seminar, an announcement was made for everyone who had signed-up for the Sunday Catfish Outing on the Ohio River. Unfortunately, the river was at flood stage due to recent heavy rains, so the Ohio River outing was cancelled. However, the flyfishing outing on the local streams was still available, so the catfish anglers were offered the chance to switch trips if they were interested. Be sure to check out pages 16-17 to see if they caught anything!

The final conference presentation of the day was led by Dan Carnahan, one of the DNR fisheries biologist for southern Indiana. Dan talked about the statewide bass tournament monitoring program and provided us with a wealth of information concerning catch & release data, big fish data and which lakes consistently produce the biggest bass in the state. HOW members who are interested in receiving a copy of the bass tournament annual report can send Dan an email at dcarnahan@dnr.IN.gov.

As usual, the final activity of the day was the annual HOW Raffle. This is the favorite part of the meeting for many HOW members! Raffle chairman Tom Berg organized an amazing event again this year, easily filling several banquet tables with tremendous outdoor products from our loyal Supporting Members (and many new Supporting Members).

This year he and his helpers secured donations from a record-breaking **105** companies, organizations and individuals, easily surpassing the previous record of 94. Tom would like to thank John Galambos and Rich Creason for their help in securing many of the items this year. Thanks also goes to Gene Clifford for volunteering his truck and helping to transport many of the items to the conference site.



Don Cranfill helps veteran ticket-seller Jack Spaulding by holding one of the raffle ticket rolls as Jack peels off 100 tickets!

As is typical for the raffle, some companies donated major products and others contributed smaller items, but all were much-appreciated. Thanks also goes to the many HOW members that helped unpack and display the raffle items on the tables on the morning of the meeting. The HOW Raffle entails hours and hours of work - it really is a huge job!

The moment the raffle tickets went on sale, a long line formed behind the ticket sales table. Long-time ticket hawker and professional number-caller Jack Spaulding was in rare form as he stripped tickets off the ticket rolls 100 at a time. It was amazing to watch! Jack and several of his helpers were hard-pressed to keep up with demand. In the end, a lot of tickets were sold! The raffle was a huge success again this year, bringing in a record amount for HOW's coffers.

The fact that we had lots of good items to raffle off made it downright easy to sell tickets. Some members bought more than 200 tickets in an effort to win the best prizes, prompting us to think about raising ticket prices next year. We are burning through a lot of raffle tickets!



This year's raffle featured quality as well as quantity when it came to the items to be raffled-off. Firearms enthusiasts were especially happy with this year's raffle prizes, as we had a Mossberg Mariner shotgun, a Remington Model 783 rifle chambered in 30-06, a CVA .50 caliber muzzleloader, a Crosman Nitro .22 air rifle with scope and a Umarex .177 air rifle with scope. There was also an abundance of shooting supplies, riflescopes and a great assortment of ammunition.



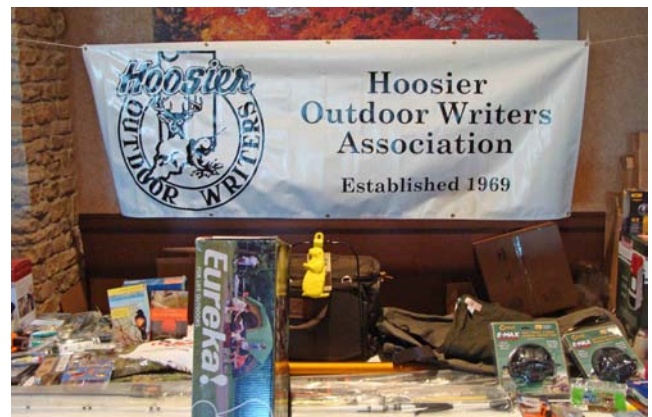
Fishermen in the crowd were wowed by a dazzling array of fishing rods, fishing reels, tackle boxes, Great Lakes trolling gear and lures of all shapes, sizes and colors. There was also lots of icefishing tackle, including icefishing rod/reel combos, tipups and icefishing lures. There was also a fabulous Mathews Drenalin compound bow, gun cases, targets, backpacks, coolers, camp stoves, lights, premium sunglasses, camera gear, hunting gear, hats, gloves, waterproof binoculars, spotting scopes, knives, boat-care products, tents, camping gear, gift certificates, tackle boxes, a lure-making kit and a top-quality gun cleaning system. There was also hunting calls, turkey hunting gear, outdoor apparel for both summer and winter, a hand-carved walking stick from the master carvers at Bundy & Company, bird feeders, sharpeners, outdoors books, mapping software, cast iron cookware, and lots of other outdoor gear.



There was also hunting calls, turkey hunting gear, outdoor apparel for both summer and winter, a hand-carved walking stick from the master carvers at Bundy & Company, bird feeders, sharpeners, outdoors books, mapping software, cast iron cookware, and lots of other outdoor gear.

Our Raffle Chairman did a great job securing and storing the raffle items over the past few months, but Jack really outdid himself selling tickets this year. The 2013 raffle was another huge success!

Of course, without the support and generosity of our Supporting Members the raffle would not happen at all. For a complete list of this year's raffle donors, please see page 8. Please support them in your work whenever possible, and send them a thank-you note when you get a chance.



Clifty Falls Comparison

When the first HOW members arrived at Clifty Falls State Park on April 19th for the Friday evening barbecue, Clifty Creek was muddy and flowing fast and furious. The waterfalls in the park, including the ever-popular Clifty Falls, were really roaring. Since the barbecue was held at the Clifty Shelter at the north end of the park, it was a very short walk to see what the falls look like right after a good rain. HOW members who took the time were rewarded with a breath-taking view!

Take a look at the two photos below. The photo at left was taken while the food was being prepared at the barbecue on Friday evening. The rain had stopped, but it was still cloudy and it was COLD! A bitter wind was blowing, too. By Sunday afternoon, the sun was shining and the temperature has risen enough to put away the sweatshirts!

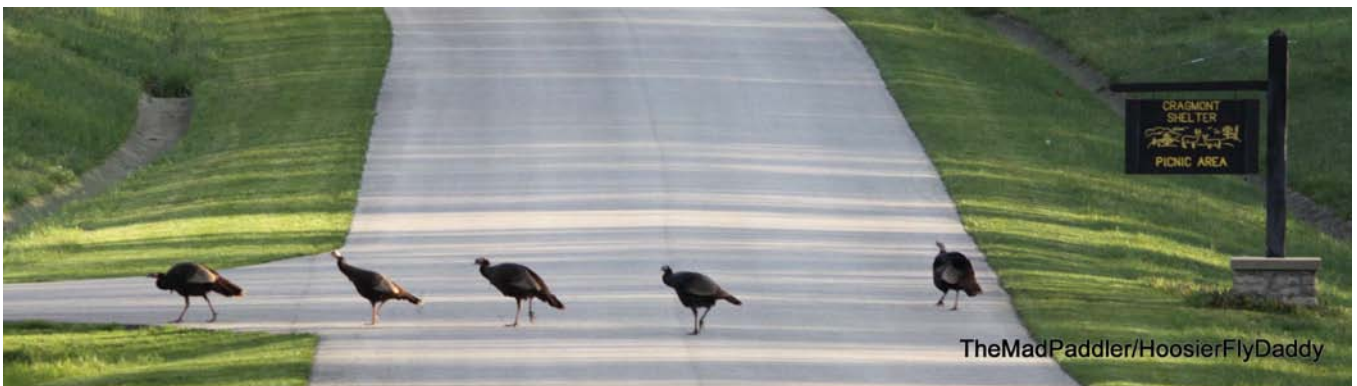
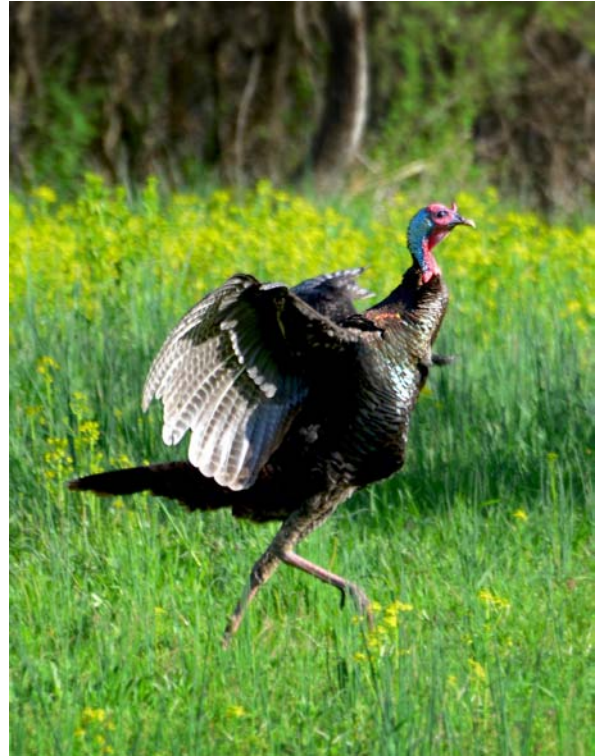
The amount of water flowing over the rocks at the waterfall had decreased pretty dramatically by Sunday afternoon, and much of the silt and mud being carried by the water was gone. Clifty Falls was very picturesque!



Clifty Falls inside the park is seen on Friday (left) and another shot at the same location on Sunday afternoon (right). The rain-swollen creek was rushing over the falls during the Friday evening barbecue, but by Sunday the flow had already been reduced to a more normal flow. As you can see, two days made quite a difference! Photos by Tom Berg.

Turkeys Galore At Clifty Falls

While some HOW members were fishing on Sunday morning following the conference, others were out taking photos of the beauty of Clifty Falls State Park and some of the wildlife in the park. John Maxwell and Don Cranfill sent in the following images from their morning photo session.



A beautiful wild turkey struts his stuff inside Clifty Falls State Park on Sunday, April 21, 2013 (top left). A young jake wild turkey appears to be teaching himself a new strut in Jefferson County this morning. "He had moves like Mick Jagger in the wild yellow mustard," said photographer John Maxwell (top right). The bottom photo shows a group of five wild turkeys crossing the road inside the park. "They were huge fat gobblers," continued Maxwell. "They walked like old fat guys." Top left photo and bottom photo by Don Cranfill. Top right photo by John Maxwell.



The HOW Fishing Outing Was Fun, Despite Flood Waters

by Tom Berg

The HOW Fishing Outing that followed the 2013 conference in Madison was disappointing to the anglers who had signed up for the blue catfish outing on the Ohio River. Unfortunately, the days leading up to the conference featured heavy rains and thunderstorms, and the Ohio River was already extremely high due to earlier spring rains. The additional rain and runoff simply pushed the mighty Ohio River over its banks, making fishing on the river impossible (and very dangerous).

Regrettably, we were forced to cancel the Ohio River catfish outing since the river was at flood stage. The launch ramps in Madison were completely underwater and entire trees were reportedly floating downstream on the flood!

Instead, HOW members who had signed-up for the fishing outing were offered the chance to flyfish one of the local streams or lakes in the Madison vicinity. Two HOW members (including myself) decided to give the flyfishing a try, even though we weren't sure any of the nearby streams would be fishable due to the high water. I'm glad I did! **[Read on to find out a little more about our trip.](#)**

On Sunday morning, April 21st, I met local fly fisherman Kevin Watkins from Madison at the Clifty Inn. He explained that he knew a few places where we could wet a line, and high water would not be a problem. He lives nearby and knows which waters clear-up quickly, especially in the upper reaches of the streams. He also knows many of the landowners that have creek access, and is able to secure permission from them to gain admittance to the upstream areas. After a short drive, we arrived at our destination: the east prong of Indian-Kentuck Creek just outside of Madison.

We donned our waders, and as I stepped into the water and slowly waded away from the rocky shoreline, I was amazed that we had found such a good place to fish. The creek was in great shape. I was also very surprised at how clear the water had become in just the past three days. Most other creeks and streams in the area were high and muddy, just like the Ohio River.

Kevin and I spread out and started working the deeper runs. Much of the creek was only a foot or two deep, but towards the middle the depth increased to three or four feet. In some spots, a rocky shelf dropped-off from less than a foot of water down to three feet or more. Perfect smallmouth-holding water! Both of us probed those runs with sinking flies that resembled small darters, but we couldn't draw a strike.

The morning air began to warm and wildlife activity along the creek picked-up. A large school of minnows swam past me, winding their way along the shoreline rocks. As we slowly worked our way downstream, a kingfisher flew overhead and landed in a tree overhanging the creek. It wasn't long before he stopped chattering and dove into the water to catch a minnow. Smallmouth bass are usually not far behind minnows, so my hopes were rising!

A pair of wood ducks also flew by, heading downstream until they passed out of sight. Blue jays squawked in the distance. Fresh turkey tracks in the shoreline mud told me that at least one wild turkey had passed this way earlier in the day, probably shortly after daybreak. The fishing might have been slow, but I was enjoying the outdoors.

(continued next page)



A quick movement along the opposite bank suddenly caught my attention. A dark brown animal swam along the shoreline and climbed out onto the muddy bank. It was a river otter; the first one I have seen in Indiana. A moment later another otter climbed out of the water and joined the first one. They climbed the bank and frolicked in the grass for a few minutes, then slid down the muddy bank and disappeared downstream. It was a very cool sight!

Once they were gone, I got back to fishing. A series of shallow rapids were just ahead, and I could see the current breaking on the rocks sticking out of the water from one bank to the other. Kevin told me that a deep hole was situated just upstream from the rapids, so I headed for it.

The hole was probably five feet deep, and the water had just enough color to keep me from seeing all the way to the bottom in the middle of the pool. Hopefully a big smallmouth bass was finning in the current near the bottom. I worked one side of the pool, and after several minutes Kevin joined me and fished the other side.



A southern Indiana river otter.



Suddenly, Kevin reared back and set the hook on an unseen fish. His rod was bent like a wet noodle and I could see that he had hooked a good fish. I pulled out my camera and took a few shots as he fought a spunky smallmouth. The fish jumped and splashed on the surface, and after a short fight Kevin grabbed him by the lower lip. A very nice spring smallmouth bass! After another photo or two, Kevin released him.

I checked the time and it was after 11:00am, which meant it was time to head back to Madison. Kevin commented that the action would probably get better in the afternoon after the water had a chance to warm up even more, but we couldn't stay. After a few more drifts with our darter imitators, we packed it in and headed for the car.

Smallmouth bass fishing can be tough when streams and rivers are swollen with spring rains, but with a little planning you can almost always find a place to fish! Many thanks go to Kevin Watkins and the Madison Convention and Visitor's Bureau for their help with the HOW conference and the post-conference fishing outing. For more information about Madison and the area where we fished, visit www.visitmadison.org.

The HOW 2013 Awards-In-Craft Contest

The results are in! The winners of the 2013 Awards-In-Craft contest were announced at this year's annual conference in Madison, IN, and we had a huge number of excellent entries. As usual, the writing portion of the contest garnered the most interest, as HOW members submitted a total of 91 entries from 16 different HOW members. Twice as many members submitted writing entries this year when compared to 2012. The photography contest included 36 entries from six HOW members, and the Broadcast contest featured four entries from two members. Writing and Photo entries were required to be submitted electronically again this year, and it went very well. Next year we hope to have even more members participate!

Most of the competitions were very, very close. In the Writing Contest, only one point often separated a first place entry from a second place entry, etc. Many articles landed in 4th place by a mere point or two, also. Considering that each article could receive up to 200 points (100 from each of two judges), those were some close races!

Once again this year the Awards-In-Craft contest was sponsored by Toyota Motor Sales, so the winners were awarded checks along with certificates to commemorate their achievements. We would like to thank Toyota for their generous sponsorship in 2013. HOW members are encouraged to logon to the Toyota website (www.toyotanewsroom.com) to find out more about their products and recent news releases.

A special thank-you also goes to our contest coordinators who donated their time and energy to secure judges and get each of the entries reviewed and scored in time for the annual conference. Dealing with a large number of submissions which are typically sent right before the deadline always makes coordinating the entries/judges difficult, but the electronic entries really helped. The 2013 Awards-In-Craft coordinators were: Eric Stallsmith (Writing), John Martino (Photography) and Tom Berg (Broadcast).

Here is a complete list of the winners (along with the number of entries for each contest):

WRITING (total of 91 entries from 16 HOW members)

Less Than 1000 Words

Hunting/Trapping

- 1st: Tom Berg, "Briar Patch Rabbits"
- 2nd: Tom Berg, "Coyote Triple Play!"
- 3rd: John Martino, "Waite Carries On Great Grandfather's Legacy"

Fishing

- 1st: John Martino, "New Angler Poses Intriguing Question"
- 2nd: John Martino, "Rough Fish Nothing To Carp About"
- 3rd: Tom Berg, "Red-Hot Trolling Action For Spring Cohos"

More Than 1000 Words

Hunting/Trapping

- 1st: Brandon Butler, "Summer is the Time to Maintain Treestands"
- 2nd: P.J. Perea, "Small Blocks For Big Birds"
- 3rd: Brandon Butler, "Barnyard Bucks"

Fishing

- 1st: Tom Berg, "Drifting For Ohio River Blue Cats"
- 2nd: Tom Berg, "Hot Action For Ohio River Wipers"
- 3rd: Alan Garbers, "Small Ponds But Largemouths"

(Continued on next page)

Less Than 1000 Words

Conservation

- 1st: Jack Spaulding, "Whooping Crane Killed"
In Southern Indiana"
- 2nd: Tom Berg, "Invasive Plants Kill Bats & Birds"
- 3rd: Jack Spaulding, "The Good Old Days of
Indiana's Wildlife"

General Outdoors

- 1st: John Martino, "Huffman Whittles
Time Away"
- 2nd: John Martino, "Paddlers Provide
Virtuousness Deed"
- 3rd: Alan Garbers, "12 Steps To Get The Most
Out of Wild Game"

More Than 1000 Words

Conservation

- 1st: Paul Moore, "Pittman-Robertson
Celebrates 75 Years"
- 2nd: Brandon Butler, "A Lady's Love of Ducks"
- 3rd: Paul Moore, "Being A Good Steward"

General Outdoors

- 1st: Tom Berg, "Unusual Uses For Our Wild Fur" - **TIE** -
- 1st: Tom Berg, "Wildlife Encounters After Dark" - **TIE** -
- 2nd: Phil Bloom, "Canine Cops: Law Enforcement
Going to the Dogs"
- 3rd: Alan Garbers, "Going the Distance With High
Energy Foods"

PHOTOGRAPHY (total of 36 entries from 6 HOW members)

Hunting/Trapping

- 1st: Tom Berg, "Pheasant Memories"
- 2nd: John Maxwell, "Hunting Wild Turkey at
Mississinewa Lake"
- 3rd: Brent Wheat, "Rabbit Hunter"

Outdoor Scenic

- 1st: John Maxwell, "Early Morning at Dunes
State Park Beach"
- 2nd: P.J. Perea, "New Hampshire Stream Scene"
- 3rd: John Maxwell, "Bald Eagle Fishing Over
Starve Hollow Lake"

Fishing

- 1st: Tom Berg, "Early Season Trophy Brown Trout"
- 2nd: Ken McBroom, "Trolling For Crappie"
- 3rd: John Maxwell, "Fly Casting Along the
Wabash River"

Outdoor Recreation

- 1st: Brent Wheat, "Sunlight Hiker"
- 2nd: Brent Wheat, "Raft Splash"
- 3rd: Tom Berg, "Sporting Clays Fun"

BROADCAST (total of 4 entries from 2 HOW members)

Best TV Broadcast

- 1st: P.J. Perea, "Pigeon Traps, Pursuit Channel"
- 2nd: P.J. Perea, "Leasing Hunting Properties,
Pursuit Channel"
- 3rd: -- No Entry --

Best Video

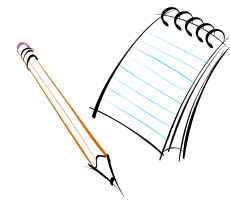
- 1st: John Maxwell, "Ouabache State Park"
- 2nd: John Maxwell, "Roosevelt - Ouabache State
Park's Baby Bison"
- 3rd: -- No Entry --



CRAFT IMPROVEMENT

“How To Be A Good Writer And Write Good”

by Jack Spaulding



In my editing days, I have seen equally poor examples as the title of this piece. Often, I invested more time editing and rewriting a poorly crafted article than the author spent in creating the piece. The proper use of the English language is constantly under attack, and leading the charge it sometimes appears is our outdoor communicator community.

The bygone days of proofing editors and research editors are gone for publications. Spelling and word misuse are more and more prevalent in even the finest publications. Verbal misuse and slipups are now a common occurrence and are often heard or seen in the headings and captions of high-end commercial and cable television productions.

Technology in producing the written word has gone ballistic, but do not consider technology to always be your friend. One of the great mistakes is relying on computerized word processing systems to do the editing of a piece. Nothing beats your own two eyes, or better yet, someone else's own two eyes.

Many years ago, my good friend the late Jack Cooper produced a well researched and drafted article on the emerging use in fishery operations of the white amur or the grass carp. Going to great lengths in his research, Jack consulted a fishery biologist and fishery geneticist and had great quotes about the pairing and altering of genes to produce a sterile, grass eating machine like the white amur. The legal to own, sterile, white amur has been genetically altered to have three pairs of genes, known by the ichthyology crowd as a triploid.

Jack just purchased a computer system with an automatic spell check and correction feature in the word processing software. When Jack's piece went to press, the auto spell check highlighted the genetic advancements in fishery biology as producing the “tripod” or “three-legged” carp. The publication did not catch the spelling switcheroo, and Jack Cooper unveiled to the outdoor lovers' world the development of the three-legged carp.

Jack was so mad, he told me he felt like trashing his computer and buying a box of #2 pencils.

While we are on the subject of carp and spell check, be advised that spell check will not pick out a misused or improper word if it is correctly spelled. Point in fact was a well written piece sent in by a correspondent to a publication where I have worked for years. The well written, thousand-word-plus article purported the culinary possibilities posed by the Asian carp invasion. In the edit review, a glaring error went undetected, and the piece went to print.

Early in the well-researched report it read as follows: “*China consumes the most Asian carp, a large bony fish that has a mild flavor and texture falling between that of a crap and a scallop.*”

I consider myself somewhat a budding gourmet, but apparently, I do not possess the gastronomic experiences necessary to properly describe the flavor of an Asian carp, nor will I.

In short, we have to be careful about what we write, or intend to write. A six-year-old philosopher was given the first half of a famous proverb and asked to finish it in his own words. The youngster finished it by saying, “*The pen is mightier... than the pigs.*”

How true!!



For immediate release: June 24, 2013

Exotic catfish catch in Indiana's portion of Lake Michigan puts the spotlight on illegal aquarium releases

A Lake Michigan angler caught more than he bargained for earlier this month when he reeled in a large 8-pound, exotic Amazonian catfish commonly known as a redbtail catfish.

The redbtail catfish was caught at Portage Lakefront Park by Mike Durfee. It is native to South America's Amazon River system and is a popular aquarium fish in the United States. The fish would not have survived the cold water of Lake Michigan during Indiana's winter.

Like many other aquarium species, the redbtail catfish can grow large. The International Game Fish Association world record was caught in 2010 on the Amazon River and weighed over 123 pounds.

The fish Durfee caught likely was purchased when it was 2 to 4 inches long and raised in an aquarium until it outgrew the aquarium, according to Eric Fischer, aquatic invasive species coordinator in the DNR Division of Fish & Wildlife.

"The first response of some owners may be to release unwanted fish into the closest natural water body thinking they are helping their pets out by setting them free," Fischer said. However, it is illegal in Indiana to release any fish (including aquarium fish) into public waters without a fish stocking permit.

Snakehead, an aggressive and invasive fish from Asia, and hydrilla, an aquarium and water garden plant that forms dense mats, are examples of species that have become established in the U.S. in large part due to aquarium releases. "Some aquarium fish, exotic snails, and aquarium plants can permanently disrupt the natural environment," Fischer said. "Exotic species impact our native wildlife by increasing competition for aquatic resources and introducing diseases."

A person who has an unwanted aquarium pet should pursue an alternative to illegally releasing it into the wild. Many retailers will allow you to return unwanted aquarium pets or will put you in contact with another aquarium enthusiast or local aquarium society that is capable of caring for them. If you are unable to find an alternative, the most humane disposal method is to place the plant or animal in the freezer and then dispose of them in the trash.

Sightings and reports of exotic species should be reported to the DNR through the online reporting system dnr.IN.gov/dnr/6373.htm or by calling 1-866-NO EXOTIC (1-866-663-9684). For more info on the dangers and risks of releasing aquarium pets and plants into the wild, visit habitattitude.net.

Media contact: Eric Fischer, DNR Fish & Wildlife, (317) 234-3883.

HOW Member News

Kenny Bayless Returns To South Africa

In May, HOW member Kenny Bayless and four of his friends made another memorable trip to South Africa. Readers of The Blade may remember that about a year ago, Kenny traveled to Africa's bushland to do some serious hunting with his son Seth. The allure of Africa must have been strong, because Kenny didn't stay away for long! Once again he teamed-up with veteran safari outfitter Cobus Van Vuuren, and he had another great trip. Read on for some of the details.

"My adventure started when five rednecks decided to venture into the heart of the dark continent, Africa," said Kenny. "Max Winchell, Dan Farmer, Greg Boyd, Mack Adams and myself were those rednecks! Dan Farmer was the late comer, making the decision to join us only two weeks before leaving."

The Bayless party hunted a variety of game, including doves, guinea fowl, wart hog, kudu, impala, hartebeest, bush buck, njala and monkeys.

"The doves and guinea fowl were calling with the sun warming the morning chill," continued Bayless, "and we had a blast. Yesterday, four of us harvested a feed sack full of birds. Our African helper, Alec, was running trying to keep up with fetching the birds. I watched Greg make the shot of a lifetime. He was setting in a chair from shooting so much, and with gun in hand, a dove flew over the top of his head going behind him. He looked back over his left shoulder, pointed the gun backwards behind him without shouldering it, and made a direct hit on the bird."

"Yours truly had a great day yesterday stalking a Red Hartebeest. Cobus spotted them early in the day, knowing I wanted one. They like the open grasslands, and as soon as we got into the open we spotted one watching us. They are a dark red color with horns going straight up and then curving to point straight back; kind of prehistoric-looking. I was packing a 375 caliber rifle with a scope big enough to take a bath in the end bell on it. Guides are handy when hunting hartebeest, because bulls and cows look identical. Cobus glassed the herd for quite a while to point out the bull. With me being a poor shot, 150 yards with shooting sticks was my only option. The first shot was a total miss, but the bull stopped to see what was going on and after the fourth shot in him he finally went down. I got a trophy of a lifetime, because the hartebeest will make the Safari Club International record books." Check out Van Vuuren African Safaris at www.javavusafaris.com.



Kenny Bayless (center) and friends with the results of a day of wingshooting.

HOW Members Share Turkey Success Stories



John Martino: HOW Nominating Chairman John Martino harvested a very nice gobbler this spring, but it wasn't easy. Floods ravaged the Kokomo area right before turkey season, and John's responsibilities at work kept him busy from before sunup until well after dark every day.

"I was at work from Saturday night after I left the HOW conference until Wednesday at 5:30pm," reported Martino. "I only went home to sleep. When I got home on Wednesday I was worn out, and literally forced myself to go hunting for a few hours. I only did it because it was opening day and I knew it may be my only chance to go."

"I actually had to work for this bird, too. He came out about 400 yards away and I probably worked him for 30 minutes or more. He hung up twice and the second time, when he was about 80

yards away, he actually went back into the woods and I thought for sure I lost him. I made some really soft clucks and purrs and luckily called him back out."

"I have probably taken 15 or 16 birds in my life and all of them, with the exception of one, were killed in the morning. So I really didn't expect to get one that evening. It was sometime after 6:00pm when I first saw him and I ended up taking him right at 7:00pm. The bird weighed 28 pounds and sported an 11¼ inch beard."

Bill Keaton: HOW Legal Counsel Bill Keaton and his son Will also had another successful turkey hunting season this spring. Of course, it doesn't hurt that Bill has some excellent turkey habitat virtually right outside his back door! But there are no guarantees when it comes to turkey hunting!

"Opening day of turkey season was terrible weather," said Bill. "We had heavy rain all day with rapidly falling temperatures. I didn't hear or see a turkey all day. Will had a tom coming to him when the rain cut loose right after sunrise, but the rain ended the tom's amorous intentions. On Thursday the weather was cold, but sunny with no wind, and it warmed up pretty fast. Will killed a tom at 8:30am, and I shot a jake at 10:00. I'm not proud. I don't have to have the biggest tom in the woods! As a bonus, we found 46 grey morels in the woods, too."



Bill (left) and Will (right) with their turkeys.

HOW Members Attend AGLOW Cast & Blast

HOW Past-President Brandon Butler was among the group of HOW members who attended the recent AGLOW Cast & Blast event (see photo at right). By all accounts, it was another great success. This year the spring Cast & Blast extravaganza was held in Deadwood, South Dakota.

The HOW members who participated included Brandon Butler, Josh Lantz, PJ Perea, Brian Smith, Mark Smith, D. Lori Smith and Brent Wheat.

“The Black Hills of South Dakota is a region of the country every sportsman should visit multiple times in their lives,” said Butler. “There is just way too much to see in one trip.



Brandon Butler (left) and Jonathan Harling (right) with their turkeys.

HOW Supporting Member Jonathan Harling from Chevalier Advertising and I were successful killing our turkeys, as were many other AGLOW members. A lot of fish were caught throughout the week, too!”



Cast & Blast attendee Brent Wheat. Chicken wings. Beer. ‘Nuff said.



One of the old saloons in Deadwood.

HOW members who are interested in joining AGLOW and learning more about future Cast & Blast events can check out the AGLOW website at www.aglowinfo.org.

Better yet, for first-hand info, contact one of the HOW members who attended this year and ask them a few questions! They will be more than happy to tell you everything you want to know!



Dave Hoffman Heads North For Ice-Cold Walleye



HOW member Dave Hoffman loves fishing and traveling in Canada, and this spring was no exception. Here is the trip report from his 2013 walleye excursion north of the border:



Dave Hoffman with a hefty early season Canadian walleye.

“Spring was tardy in the North Country. Our annual pilgrimage to Lac Seul Outposts was threatened by a late ice-out, and the lodge owner was getting nervous about getting our group into camp. We could cancel the trip, but each of our crew of 13 voted to take the risk and depart for Sioux Lookout, Ontario. Our spring walleye ritual was underway.”

“Lac Seul can be a monster to fish, all 640 square miles of it, but its extensive islands and bays usually offer at least a partial refuge from brutal winds and waves. However, one needs to pile on layers of quality clothing to keep ‘warm’ in springtime. We were ready for anything.”

“Fortunately, the ice relented three days ahead of our arrival, although the cold winds and freezing temperatures persisted. Initially, the walleyes were finicky and hard to pattern.”

Normally we start fishing in 6-8 feet of water, but this year we found the walleyes from 6 to 22 feet deep. Interestingly, the smallest fish were the deepest.”

“Each day was better than the previous for weather and for the walleye bite. By mid-trip we were experiencing ‘jig elbow’ from hauling in and releasing lots of 23 to 27-inch walleyes, but keeping some 16-inchers for the fish fryer.”

“Fierce competition to win our group’s fabled ‘Mr. Walleye’ jacket, and all accompanying bragging rights, required a 29½-inch walleye this year. While early walleye fishing in Canada can be a tough trip, everyone is already committed to next year’s spring walleye ritual.”



One of Dave’s fishing companions, bundled-up against the weather!

Mike Berg Attends 2013 NANFA Native Fish Convention



HOW member Mike Berg from Cedar Lake has been very interested in native fish species for many years, so when he discovered the NANFA organization (North American Native Fishes Association), he was quick to join. He loves attending their annual conventions, and this year it was held at Cumberland Falls State Park near Corbin, Kentucky.

“NANFA conventions are a lot of fun,” said Berg. “Everyone is very friendly and there is plenty to do. Besides the interesting convention speakers, there are always some excellent field trips afterwards where attendees can get out and see (and catch) a wide variety of native fish species that live in the local waterways.”

The 2013 convention in early May was no exception, and meeting participants were able to visit several streams and rivers in the local Cumberland River area. According to Mike Berg, the streams were fished with rod/reel, seine nets and dip nets. A small sampling of the species collected included more than a dozen species of darters, various species of shiners, stonerollers, suckers, sunfish, bass and even gar. During the spring spawn, many of these darters and other small fish exhibit stunning colors. A good example is the full-color drawing of the Kentucky Arrow Darter in the NANFA 2013 convention logo shown at left. Some species are even more colorful!



NANFA strives to increase and disseminate knowledge about North America's native fishes and their habitats among aquarium hobbyists, biologists, fish and wildlife officials, anglers, educators, conservationists, students and others. For more info, check out the official NANFA website at www.nanfa.org.

Keaton Family Bluegill Outing

Fishing report from Bill Keaton:

“I took my adult daughter, Abigail, bluegill fishing on Brookville Lake on May 13th. We caught 16 nice Bluegills which was just the right amount for a fish fry that night for Rita, Abigail and me.

Abigail was fishing with crickets and a white Rooster Tail, and I was using the very nice 5-weight G.Loomis fly rod I won in the “What is it?” contest last year (thanks for your support John Mazurkiewicz!). Most of the fish came on the flyrod!”



Phil Seng and Friends Fish Lake Michigan

HOW member Phil Seng moved from Kansas to Evansville, Indiana, when he was starting the 8th grade. “I left all my friends and everything I knew behind when we moved,” says Seng. “Little did I know it would be one of the best things that ever happened to me.”

It turned out so well because three of the very first people Seng met on the first day of 8th grade became lifelong friends and sporting companions. Seng,

along with Steve Mudd, Randy Morris, and Kenny Happe (though spread across the state now) still get together at least once a year to pursue their common outdoor interests and their deep friendship.



Lifelong buddies (from left) Randy Morris, Kenny Happe, Steve Mudd and Phil Seng pose with part of their catch of Lake Michigan coho salmon while fishing on Mike Schoonveld’s charter boat. Photo by Mike Schoonveld.

Recently, the “Fearsome Foursome,” as they were affectionately known in high school, got together on fellow HOW member Capt. Mike Schoonveld’s *Brother Nature* charterboat for some salmon fishing on Lake Michigan. The weather was perfect, the coho salmon were cooperative, and kindred spirits were reunited once more. “Those guys mean the world to me,” says Seng. “There’s nothing I wouldn’t do for any of them. But as usual, I caught the biggest fish!”



Schoonveld Shocks Friends And Fishes From Shore!

HOW member Mike Schoonveld loves trolling for salmon on Lake Michigan (see above), and some of his friends have joked that he thinks he’s not fishing unless he’s trolling. Shore fishing? It’s OK for other people, but not him. Well, he was forced to be a landlubber earlier this year. See why:

“I host a group of fishing friends from Iowa every year, and the weather is usually bad. We’ve only stayed off Lake Michigan a few times for safety reasons. The forecast this year was for rain, north winds and 20-foot waves, so I used my Captain’s prerogative and cancelled the first scheduled day on the big lake. Instead, we drove to Monticello, IN to fish the Tippecanoe River below Norway dam. When we arrived, the water was gushing through the dam because of the heavy rains. I doubted the fishing would be good. Maybe we could give up early and not fish in the rain all day?”

“No such luck! After a few casts, the first of many white bass bit my Roadrunner jig. Then someone caught a catfish. We even caught some hybrid stripers! Well, okay, we had some luck after all; we just had to endure the rain and drizzle to prevail!” (Read the entire story in Mike Schoonveld’s blog at *Mike’s Outdoor World* - www.bronature.com).

Bud Fields Hosts Air Force Serviceman For Bass Outing

HOW member Bud Fields is pictured with Tech Sgt. Foy Cox USAF (photo at right) during a special “Military Appreciation” segment for his “OUTDOORS WITH BUD” program. The program can be viewed online at: www.kokomoperspective.com. There are also links on FACEBOOK and YOUTUBE.

Fields had Mr. Cox as a guest spending the day “on the water, in the boat” with him as Fields expressed his appreciation, admiration and respect for the sacrifices he and the many men and women of the United States military are making to allow us the freedoms we have. Mr. Cox was also presented with items that were donated by Fields’ fishing sponsors.



“That segment was really a lot of fun to do,” said Fields. “I wish the fishing had been better for my guest, but we had a great time. I probably caught 30 largemouth bass and he had three, but the reception at the lake was UNBELIEVABLE. We had many people following us around the lake and when we concluded the segment, there was a full crowd clapping their hands and saluting my guest.”

Kevin Lilly Finds Wildlife Via Kayak

HOW member Bud Kevin Lilly got out of the newspaper office recently to do a little kayaking on Salt Creek in Brown County near Nashville, IN. “My boss told me to go kayaking and document the adventure with lots of photos,” said Lilly. Sounds like a great day at work!



“I dragged my kayak across the soccer field at Deer Run Park and slid it down the steep bank to the rain-risen water below. As I glided along following the deepest channel, I encountered an unidentified mother duck and her yellow babies. She guided them to a hiding spot among exposed tree roots on the bank before turning to me. The mamma duck took to flying, but not away from me as I had expected. With wings stretched straight, she took aim at my face. She circled the green boat while violently slapping her wings in the water and squawking.”

“The rock outcroppings, towering Brown County hills and array of wildlife impressed me. Besides an owl, a coyote, ducks and fish, I observed three different snakes, including what I believe is my first-ever copperhead sighting in the wild. There was also a colony of nesting blue herons in a series of sycamore trees lining the bank.”

“I would recommend exploring Salt Creek in a kayak!”



Tom Berg Studies Patoka Lake Ospreys

HOW Executive Director Tom Berg enjoyed his annual fishing trip to Patoka Lake this spring, and the crappie fishing was pretty good. The bird watching wasn't bad, either!

One pair of ospreys, or fish hawks, was particularly interesting. They built their nest of sticks and dead branches on a stump in one of Patoka's many coves, but this stump was unusually close to the water. Most osprey nests are situated high above the water to avoid predators, fluctuations in lake water levels, and contact with people.

Berg kept his distance to take a few photos of one of the birds on the nest, and within a few minutes the bird's mate suddenly appeared and landed on the nest, also. It was a perfect photo op! Both birds stood on the nest for several minutes and surveyed the lake around them. Then the mate took off again and headed out to the main lake in search of a meal. Probably a crappie!



Membership Changes and New Email Addresses

The following names include one new HOW member (Troy McCormick) and one member who is returning after a short absence (Ray Dickerson). Welcome back, Ray! And welcome to HOW, Troy! Please make a note of their email addresses:

Ray Dickerson: ray@thegadabout.com (returning member)

Troy McCormick: troy@naturalconcepts.net (new member)

The following HOW members have new email addresses. Please make a note of them:

John Martino: jmartinooutdoors@att.net

Ben Shadley: ben.shadley@camerasmithphoto.com or bshadley@gmail.com

Dean Shadley: shadleyds@gmail.com

The following member has been suspended from HOW: **Mike Ratter**

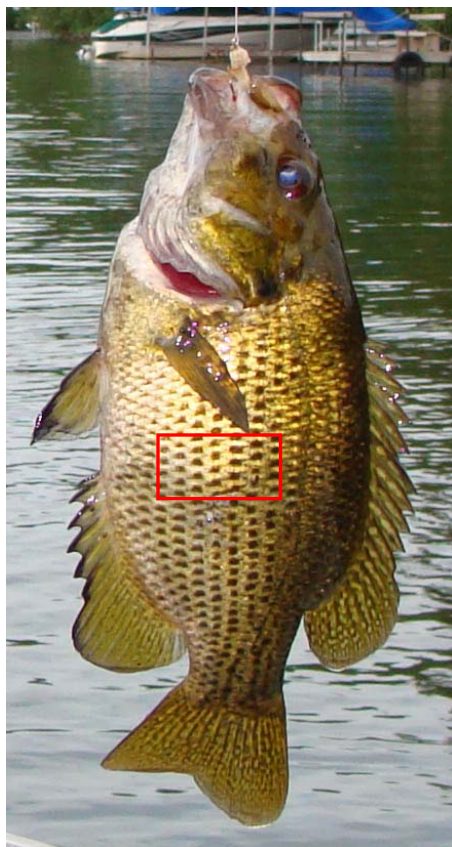
Because of a recent ethics violation involving fish and wildlife laws, Mr. Ratter has been suspended from HOW pending a criminal case against him. If Mr. Ratter is found innocent, he will be reinstated as an Active HOW member. If there is any other outcome (other than innocent), Mr. Ratter will remain suspended from HOW for a period of five (5) years, after which he may apply for membership again.

If your email address or other contact information changes, please notify HOW Executive Director Tom Berg at thomas.berg@comcast.net or by mail at 2142 Nondorf Street, Dyer, IN 46311.

Unusual Nature Photos From The Hoosier Outdoors

Sponsored by Snag Proof

The Fearless Rockbass Will Attack Anything



Close-up
→
Original
←



The “What is it?” question from the last newsletter turned out to be pretty difficult! Only three HOW members correctly identified it this time (and we had lots of wrong guesses for a change).

I think the problem was that the photo looked too generic. Even so, PJ Perea, Alan Garbers and John Maxwell each had the right answer. When we drew a name at random for the **Buck** knife, PJ Perea was the winner. Congrats, PJ! We’ll make sure the knife is sent to you.

As you can see in the photo at left, the mystery creature for this issue was a common rockbass (*Ambloplites rupestris*). These members of the sunfish family are aggressive and will eagerly take most small baits presented to them. That makes them the perfect target for young anglers, and since they are found near the shoreline rocks of most Indiana lakes and streams, they are available to almost everyone.

Rockbass are known by many names, including goggle-eye and redeye bass. They are not large fish, usually measuring 7-10 inches long. They have a mottled yellowish-brown coloration and distinct rows of black spots. Their eye is a bright red or orange color that is hard to forget. Since they have a large mouth, they have no trouble eating large prey, including other fish nearly as large as themselves! They also eat crayfish, insects, minnows and just about any other aquatic creature they can fit in their mouths.

For this issue, our friends at **Snag Proof** have offered to provide a very nice prize for the HOW member that guesses the right answer to the new “What Is It?” question (see photo below). The prize will be a package of the famous Snag Proof floating frog lures and maybe even a hat and t-shirt. See below for more info.

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 part of a creature that lives right here in Indiana. It is unlikely that it lives in your back yard, but it is not uncommon in north/central Indiana. Have you ever seen this color pattern? Can you guess what it is?

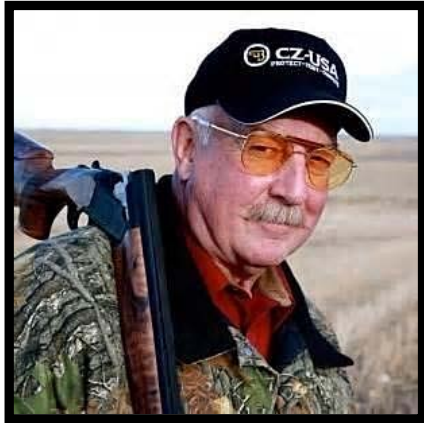


This creature shouldn’t be too difficult to identify, but we’ll see. Do you know of any Hoosier creatures that look like this? This time you **must** identify the exact species. If you think it’s a particular species of bird, for example, don’t just guess “Duck”. Give the actual species, like “Mallard Duck”. Of course, it’s not a Mallard! If you know what it is, send the answer via email to thomas.berg@comcast.net. If you’re right, you’ll be eligible for this issue’s prize. If not, you will just have to wait for the next issue to find out!



As mentioned, **Snag Proof** will donate a handful of their legendary floating frog fishing lures (and a hat/t-shirt) to the HOW member who guesses the right answer to this issue’s “What Is It?” question. To learn more about Snag Proof, check their website at www.snagproof.com. If multiple people guess correctly, we’ll draw one winner at random from the group. Good luck! Nature photos on this page by Tom Berg.





THOSE WHO HAVE GONE BEFORE US

Tom Knapp, Legendary Exhibition Shooter
September 30, 1950 – April 26, 2013

Elk River, MN – Legendary shooter Tom Knapp, age 62, died on April 26, 2013 from pulmonary fibrosis. He will be remembered as one of the finest exhibition shooters of all time, and arguably the best in the past 50 years.

Thomas Knapp was born to Howard and Virginia Knapp on September 30, 1950, in Maple Plain, Minnesota. He was the youngest of five children. His father gave him his first gun, a Daisy Red Ryder BB gun, when he was nine years old. When he was ten, he saw famed exhibition shooter Herb Parsons performing on TV and he knew that's what he wanted to do one day. And that's exactly what he did, because in time Tom became a great shooter and showman as well.

Tom worked for Benelli as a promoter and exhibition shooter for many years, shooting a variety of Benelli shotguns and setting some very impressive world records along the way. Tom knew that trick shots were not really tricks. They required skill and lots of practice. "If you can do it once, you know it's possible, so you should be able to do it every time," he said. In recent years, Tom worked for shotgun and sporting arms maker CZ-USA.

Check out Tom Knapp's website at www.tomknapp.net to view a 15-minute tribute to Tom and his life. The video includes footage of the three world records that Tom set while shooting hand-thrown clay targets. The first world record shows Tom throwing nine clay targets in the air at once and breaking each one individually (in 2.3 seconds) before they hit the ground. His second world record shows him throwing eight clay targets in the air and breaking each one individually with a pump shotgun. You think you can shoot your pump shotgun fast? He set his third world record by throwing ten (10!) clay targets in the air at once and breaking each one individually before any of them hit the ground. Although the marksmanship of this feat was incredible, it also took a lot of strength. The stack of 10 clay targets weighed over three pounds, and he had to throw them high enough (60 feet up in the air) to give him enough time to shoot each one separately. It took only 2.2 seconds. Truly amazing!

Of course, Tom made a lot of amazing shots in his shows over the years, shooting everything from eggs to golf balls to melons. He even included a shot in many of his shows where he threw an aspirin pill in the air and shot it with a .22 rifle. Tom was a great showman and a great man. He was also a staunch advocate of gun safety and always stressed safety to his audiences.

According to Tom's wishes, no funeral was held. Instead, friends and family were invited to gather at the Del-Tone/Luth Gun Club in St. Cloud, MN in May for a special time of remembrance. Tom Knapp is survived by his wife Colleen, one brother (John), two stepchildren, four grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews. He will be deeply missed by his family and friends. Tom Knapp was not a HOW member, but he was well-known in the outdoors community and was a great ambassador for the shooting sports.

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.

Buck Introduces New Knives

Post Falls, ID: Buck has recently introduced two our new camping knives and one new survival knife for outdoorsmen. Here are the details:

Camping/Hiking

Stowaway Kit – USA Made

When Buck's customers talk, Buck listens. With the popularity and demand of the Travelmate Kit surpassing expectations last year, it is no wonder that the famous slicing and dicing spreader would find its way into yet another design for those on the go. Available in two separate sizes, the Stowaway kit includes a durable cutting board made from Paperstone® and the famous spreader. For easy and convenient storage, the cutting board contains a small cutout on the backside with a strong magnet to securely hold the spreader in place. MSRP: \$75-\$80



Endeavor – USA Made

Designed for camping and hiking, the Endeavor is an essential must-have for outdoor adventures. With a 9½” overall length and weighing in at only 6.6 oz., this knife is light enough to carry everywhere and strong enough to withstand extreme tasks. The 420HC steel serrated blade is sharp and precise. MSRP: \$70



Survival

Buck/Hood Thug – USA Made

Buck launched another Buck/Hood creation, based off the designs of the late Ron Hood. Adding another survival knife will serve to complement the highly-demanded designs. The Thug features the integrated Shock Mitigation System (SMS) to minimize wasted energy during use, has a removable CNC textured Micarta® handle scale and includes a heavy-duty nylon, M.O.L.L.E compatible sheath with front storage carry pouch. Measuring 13” in overall length and with a weight of 11.6 oz., this rugged midsize survival knife was built to withstand extreme conditions. MSRP: \$200



For more information on Buck knives, go to www.buckknives.com or contact Marketing Project Manager Stephanie Young at 208-262-0500 (extension 209) or by email at: SCorley@buckknives.com.

HOW's Supporting Member Websites

Alpen Optics - www.alpenoutdoor.com
Aquateko International - www.aquateko.com
Arctic Ice - www.arcticicell.com
B'n'M Pole Company - www.bnmpoles.com
Barnes Bullets - www.barnesbullets.com
Bass Assassin Lures - www.bassassassin.com
Bass Pro Shops - www.basspro.com
Battenfeld Technologies - www.battenfeldtechnologies.com
Bear & Son Cutlery - www.bearandson.com
Birchwood Casey - www.birchwoodcasey.com
Black River Tools - www.blackrivertools.com
Blackpowder Products, Inc. - www.bpiguns.com
BoatUS - www.boatus.com
Brownells, Inc. - www.brownells.com
Bubba Blade Knives - www.bubblade.com
Buck Knives - www.buckknives.com
Bundy Ducks - www.bundyducks.com
Bushnell Outdoor Products- www.bushnell.com
Cabela's - www.cabelas.com
Camp Chef - www.campchef.com
Castalia Outdoors - www.castaliaoutdoors.com
Church Tackle Company - www.churchtackle.com
Clam Outdoors - www.clamoutdoors.com
Cocoons Eyewear - www.cocoonseyewear.com
Coleman Company - www.coleman.com
Columbia Sportswear - www.columbia.com
Costa Sunglasses - www.costadelmar.com
Crappie Pro - www.crappiepro.com
Creative Outdoor Products - www.hunterdan.com
Crosman Corporation - www.crosman.com
Cyclops Solutions - www.cyclopsolutions.com
Eagle Claw - www.eagleclaw.com
Environ-Metal, Inc. - www.hevishot.com
Eppinger Manufacturing Co. - www.eppinger.net
E/T Lights - www.triagelights.com
Federal Premium Ammunition - www.federalpremium.com
Filson Corporation - www.filson.com
Flying Fisherman - www.flyingfisherman.com
FOXPRO - www.gofoxpro.com
Frabill - www.frabill.com
Freedom Group Companies - www.freedom-group.com
Frogg Toggs - www.froggtoggs.com
G.Loomis - www.gloomis.com
Gerber Legendary Blades - www.gerbergear.com
Hart Productions - www.hartproductions.com
Hawke Sport Optics - www.hawkeoptics.com
Henry Repeating Arms Co. - www.henryrepeating.com
Hickory Glen Creations - www.g-p-a-s.com
Hodgdon Powder Co. - www.hodgdon.com
Hoosier Trapper Supply - www.hoosiertrappersupply.com
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt - www.hmhco.com
Howard Communications - www.howardcommunications.com
HT Enterprises - www.icefish.com
Hunter's Specialties - www.hunterspec.com
Indiana Conservation Officer Magazine - www.icoo.com
Johnson Outdoors, Inc. - www.johnsonoutdoors.com
Knight Sleeping Bags - www.knightsleepingbags.com
Koppers Fishing & Tackle - www.livetargetlures.com
Kruger Optical - www.krugeroptical.com
Kwikee Kwitter Co. - www.kwikeekwiver.com
LensPen - www.lenspen.com
Leupold - www.leupold.com
Lightfield Ammunition - www.lightfieldslugs.com
Lodge Manufacturing - www.lodgemfg.com
Mathews - www.mathewsinc.com
Mossy Oak - www.mossoak.com
Muzzy Products Corp. - www.muzzy.com
MyTopo - www.mytopo.com
National Shooting Sports Foundation - www.nssf.org
Nautic Global Group - www.nauticglobalgroup.com
Nikon Sport Optics - www.nikonssportoptics.com
O.F. Mossberg & Sons, Inc. - www.mossberg.com
Off Shore Tackle Co. - www.offshoretackle.com
Okuma Fishing Tackle - www.okumafishingteam.com
Otis Technology - www.otistec.com
Outdoor Promotions - www.crappieusa.com
Pelican Products - www.pelican.com
Plano Molding Company - www.planomolding.com
Poor Boy's Baits/Lurecraft - www.lurecraft.com
Pradco Fishing - www.lurenet.com
Princeton University Press - www.press.princeton.edu
Pro-Cure, Inc. - www.pro-cure.com
Pure Fishing - www.purefishing.com
Quaker Boy, Inc. - www.quakerboygamecalls.com
Real Avid - www.realavid.com
Reef Runner Lures - www.reefrunner.com
Renfro Productions - www.renfroproductions.com
RESTOP - www.restop.com
Rocky Brands - www.rockyboots.com
Run Off Lure Co. - www.runofflures.com
Savage Arms - www.savagearms.com
Scent-Lok Technologies - www.scentlok.com
Secret Weapon Lures - www.swlure.com
Shimano American Corp. - www.shimano.com
Snag Proof Manufacturing - www.snagproof.com
Solution Products, Inc. - www.solutionproducts.net
South Shore CVA - www.southshorcva.com
Speedy Sharp - www.speedysharp.net
Sportsman Channel - www.thesportsmanchannel.com
St. Croix Rods - www.stcroixrods.com
Streamlight - www.streamlight.com
Sturm, Ruger & Co. - www.ruger.com
T-REIGN Outdoor Products - www.t-reignoutdoor.com
ThermaCELL - www.thermacell.com
Thundermist Lure Co. - www.thundermistlures.com
Tink's - www.tinks.com
Toyota Motor Sales - www.toyotanewsroom.com
TTI-Blakemore Fishing - www.ttiblakemore.com
Umarex USA - www.umarexUSA.com
Vexilar, Inc. - www.vexilar.com
W.R. Case & Sons Cutlery - www.wrcase.com
WaveSpin Reels - www.wavespinreel.com
White Flyer Targets - www.whiteflyer.com
Winchester Ammunition - www.winchester.com
Wrangler Rugged Wear - www.wrangleruggedwear.com
Yakima Bait Co. - www.yakimabait.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

ICAST Show 2013: (www.ICASTfishing.org) Las Vegas, NV	July 10-12, 2013
OWAA 2013 Annual Conference: (www.owaa.org) Lake Placid, NY	September 14-16, 2013
AGLOW 2013 Annual Conference: (www.aglowinfo.org) Fond du Lac, WI	September 23-26, 2013
SEOPA 2013 Annual Conference: (www.seopa.org) Lake Charles, LA	October 9-12, 2013
SHOT Show 2014: (http://shotshow.org) Las Vegas, NV	January 14-17, 2014
POMA 2014 Annual Conference: (www.professionalooutdoormedia.org) Knoxville, TN	March 19-22, 2014
HOW 2014 Annual Conference: (www.HoosierOutdoorWriters.org) Site to be announced	May, 2014 (Exact date to be announced)
OWAA 2014 Annual Conference: (www.owaa.org) McAllen, TX	May 23-25, 2014

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.