

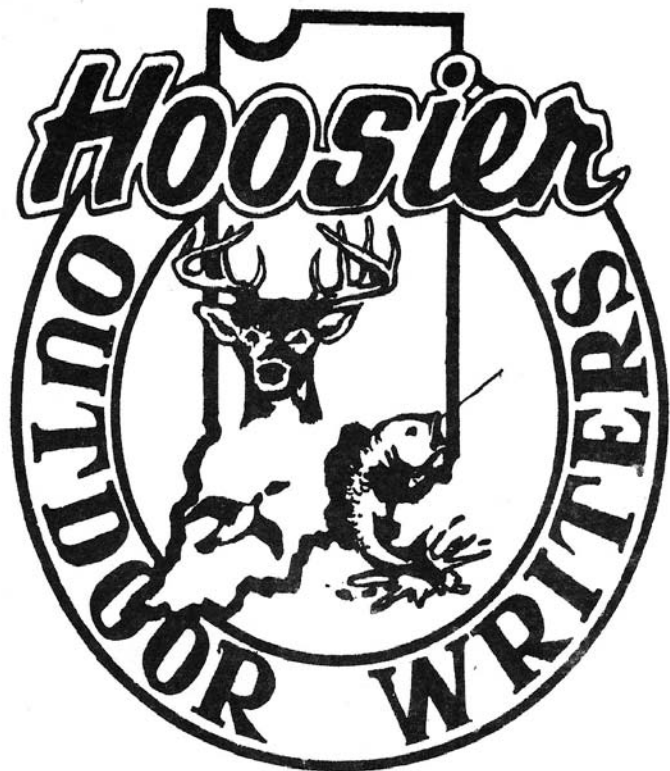
The Blade

July - August 2013

The Official Publication of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers



"Bright-Eyed Loon", 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: Loons sport some pretty striking plumage during the summer mating season. This loon was no exception, with its stark black/white wing feathers and black/white stripes on its neck. The teal-colored band on its neck and its bright red eye add even more interest! Photo by Tom Berg.



President's Message

by Ben Shadley

Share your successes and your failures

My last entry in the HOW newsletter was professional, hopefully informative but not particularly personal. This installment is different. I'm going to tell a story I'd rather not, because sometimes bad stories are the best stories.

Late last gun season I shot a big doe at 85 yards with a .44 magnum rifle. The shot felt good. She was broadside, bucked like she was hit and bounded off separately from the other deer.

Dad and I climbed down expecting to find the doe on a wooded hillside just beyond our vision in the shooting house. We didn't even take the rifle.

The deer wasn't there, or anywhere near where she should've been. Dusk was on us and night wasn't far behind. The temperature was somewhere in the teens and a foot and a ½ of new snow covered the ground.

We kept looking and I found fresh blood way up the hillside, but just a few specks. The clean snow nearly made it glow. Off we went, as fast as we could in our boots.

Franklin County is steep and rough. This property is hardly the exception. It's big and remote, all ridges and valleys. The only part of it I saw for the next hour was a continuous patch 10 yards in front of my nose. The blood trail was consistent with occasional gushes and pieces of what we took to be lung. She had to be just over the next ridge, but she never was.

I came up for air in a small valley. My Dad, who evidently has the stamina of a 30 year old hopped up on adrenaline, stood next to me. There hadn't been time for conversation as I dragged us far into territory I didn't recognize. Even the bright white snow couldn't hide the fact that it was officially dark, or minutes from it at best. He gave me the "what do you want to do here?" look.

"How long 'til you think we need to start walking out of here?" I asked. The answer was 45 minutes ago, and I knew it. "What are we going to do if we find the deer?" he responded.

We were nowhere near anything that could pass for a road, not even considering the snow. "Do you know where we are?" I asked in return, because I sure didn't. He looked around for a few seconds and said "sort of."

In total, between the two of us, we had two pocket knives, a pair of cellphones with no service and a nice Smith revolver. Be it motorcycles, boats on big water or a life that includes firearms and an affinity for remote areas, managing risk is the key to stacking the odds in your favor – and I'd pushed it far enough.

(continued next page)

We marked the blood trail with an X of large sticks and started the slog out. The hike back to the truck was long and uphill both ways, but thankfully uneventful. On the ride home we called the landowner. In the morning we would take his quads as close as possible to where we left off. He would go along, using his intimate knowledge of the property to help.

A late dinner and a few hours of sleep later we were back on the property in the morning. After a considerable ride to our X made of sticks, I again put my nose down in pursuit. The blood trail was still clear, and such a cold night gave hope my doe wouldn't spoil.

With the landowner keeping tabs on our overall position, we shot back into the hills dead set on finding this deer. Specks followed by pools of blood, then nothing for too long, followed by a fall where she'd bleed into the snow, and on and on we went.

By mid-day nothing had changed. The trail was consistent, no more or less blood, and it seemed to go on forever. Eventually the track crossed back over itself near where we'd left off the night before, and climbed a steep hill into thick second growth.

It was a bedding area. My doe's tracks intermingled with tens of others' and began circling and doubling back. I could still find blood but her direction of travel became near impossible to determine amidst the other deer.

I eventually found where she bedded for the night, blood still matted into the snow and earth. Dad and I walked bigger and bigger concentric circles looking for her exit from the area.

We never saw another sign of that doe, and another week of looking wasn't going to change it. I called the search later that afternoon. It was the first deer I'd ever lost, and one of the very few game animals of any size I've failed to find.

My Dad and I've talked about it at length, but until now I've shared the story with very few. Maybe I'm embarrassed, maybe I thought if you shot well (which I pride myself on) and refused to give up, this wouldn't happen. Or maybe deep down I thought I had enough experience and skill to control the variables.

But that philosophizing is largely self-important baloney. We all have a responsibility to be as proficient and committed as possible, but there are no guarantees. Experience and skill greatly increase your odds of success, but actual control is an illusion. My story is part of the wonderful and sometimes terrible experience we share in traditional outdoor sports. I knew it before, but now it's just a little more real – and I'm a better hunter for it.

When considering story ideas, I encourage you to share your successes and your failures. I'll be back in the field this fall with a new perspective. Giving the same to our readers is a gift we'd do well to provide.

The Hoosier Outdoor Writers

New Members, Past Presidents & Memorial Section

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

Valerie Gordon (Associate)
Kokomo, IN
Sponsor: Tom Berg

Larry LaGrange (Associate)
Jasper, IN
Sponsor: Brandon Butler

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

HOW Awards-In-Craft Winner

(1st Place in the Writing Contest – Under 1000 Words)

(General Outdoors category)

“Huffman Whittles Time Away”

by John Martino

To some degree, Mike Huffman is a throwback in time. Silver haired, his face lined with life, he sits focused with a block of wood in one hand and a razor sharp knife in another.

It's easy to notice the many species of birds that adorn his house. They are lifelike in every exquisite detail and appear as if they could take flight in a moment's notice. But these fowl sit motionless, carved from a single block of wood.

“What do you think,” he asks, pointing to a Harris hawk sitting perched on a small table. “Wow!” was all I could muster as I marveled at its lifelike realism. The intricacy of every detail was amazing.

Huffman began his hobby of wood carving in 1994. “My friend, former Mayor Bob Sargent, started wood carving and I thought it was something I wanted to try,” said Huffman. Several days later he picked a branch from his back yard and with a small pocket knife shaped a rudimentary shorebird. That original piece still sits on a table in his basement. Today, his inaugural carving has given way to hundreds of other works of art.

In earlier years, Huffman has carved ornate flowers and human caricatures but found his true love in birds, especially birds of prey. “They are so beautiful and majestic,” he said, stroking the head of a bald eagle he is currently working on.

Huffman is also well known for his wildlife photography, again focusing on raptors. But he does it for a secondary reason. His photos are used for reference material. “I want my work to be accurate in every detail,” he explained. “Sometimes I need pictures of a bird's back or feet which you cannot find in books or on the internet.”

The basement, where most of his carving is done is a wood workers paradise. His original pocket knife has been replaced with dozens of knives of every conceivable shape and style. Many of his knives and gouges he fabricated himself, which are works of art in themselves. Dremel tools with different shaped bits hang from the wall and wood-burners with tips shaped like razor blades line a shelf.

Birds in various stages of completion sit perched on his work bench. “This one is junk,” he said, before

grabbing the small replica of a wren and throwing it on a scrap pile of wood chips and sawdust. “It's not anatomically correct.”

To the untrained eye it looked perfect. “I don't think anyone would ever notice it,” I added, trying to be respectful of his skill and talent. “I would!” he snapped back, in the brash and irreverent tone he is sometimes known for.

Huffman begins the process with a block of basswood or butternut. “That type of wood is close-grained and holds detail well,” he explained. Bit by bit, he whittles away with one of the dozen knives in various shapes, length and styles. Power carvers smooth away the rough edges and the wood-burners are used to impart the fine hair-like detail in the feathers. When the wood has taken on its final shape, the sculpture is then painted in life-like colors and patterns.

Even though there is a substantial market for this particular form of art, Huffman never sells any of his creations. “I've given a few away as gifts, but that's it,” he said. “I do it for peace of mind, not money.”

Huffman's love and patience for his time consuming hobby have earned him recognition among his peers. There is nothing factory made, all the way down to the ornate wooden platforms the birds rest on.

Each piece takes roughly 50 to 60 hours to complete. “Because of my job and many other projects, I only get eight to 10 hours a week to carve,” Huffman said. “I wish he would spend more time down there,” joked his wife Jeannette, “That keeps him out of my hair,” she added with a laugh.

Mankind has always had a dependence on wood. It is probably the most common substance we use, next to the earth itself. Since the beginning of time, it has been a potent source of comfort providing heat, shelter, tools, furniture and transportation. And even to this day there is hardly a field of activity in which wood does not play some part of. So what better material to express yourself in some tangible way?

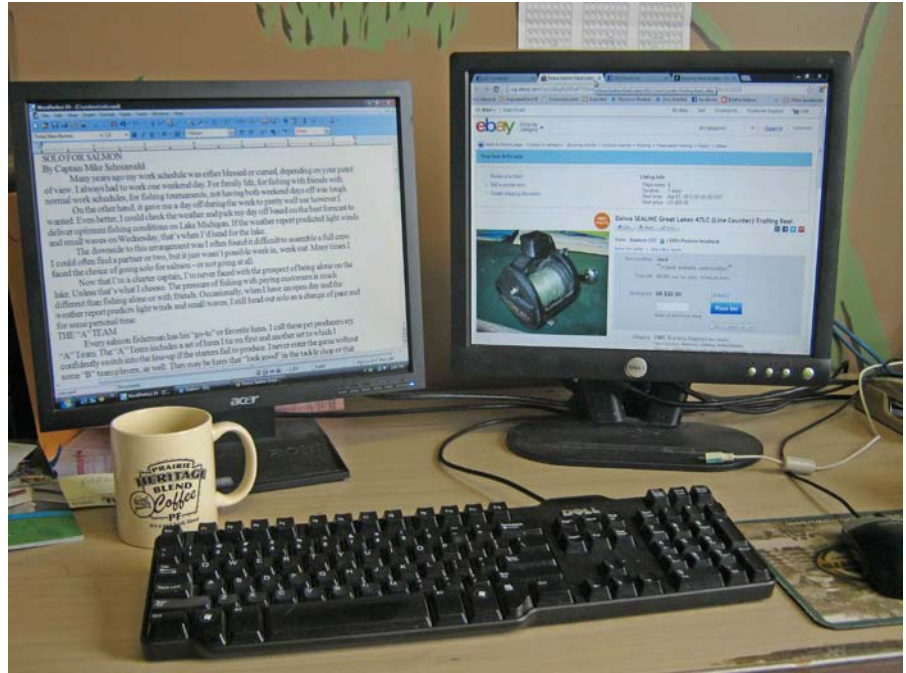
Wood is a living expression of beauty and what Huffman does with his own two hands is tinged with that same feeling. Just as nature's patient years went into its making, Huffman's time and patience expresses in wood what words fail to say.

CRAFT IMPROVEMENT

TWIN SENSE
by Mike Schoonveld

A few months ago I bought a new (reconditioned) computer. No sense for me going with a state-of-the-art wizzer, but I do need one that doesn't hiccup and refuse to play on a daily basis.

My computer guy (CG) came over and we made the switch from old to new, re-installing this, moving files, yadda, yadda. It was a process that seemed to go on forever and I didn't understand 10% of what the guy was explaining.



One thing that made sense, however, was to leave my old machine on standby for a time to see if there was anything forgotten, not properly packed up and sent to the new computer or just to clutter up my desk space. As a part of the change-over, the CG hauled a used monitor out of his back seat and for a time, I had two complete PCs on and around my desk.

One thing intrigued me. He mentioned the new computer had a cable and connector thing plugged into its nether-regions that would allow me to use two monitors at once.

I paid, he left and by now he probably has another used monitor riding around in his back seat. I, in the meantime, got used to having a spare PC cluttering up my desk.

Since it was springtime, I went into my always short-lived urge to do some spring cleaning. I also decided if I haven't had to turn on the old computer for 6 or 8 weeks, chances are I'd never need it and the time had arrived to tidy up.

Remember, however, I had been intrigued! So instead of hauling the backseat monitor back to CG's house I followed the cable to the old machine, unplugged it and plugged it into the dangly thing on the back of my new machine. Of course it didn't work properly at first, but with the help of Google, blind luck and a small amount of computer-fixing savvy learned from milking old computers along, years past their expiration date, I accomplished the task.

It took me all of 15 minutes to absolutely love having two monitors. Now, when I click on an email to open a webpage, it opens on the other monitor. I can have original and edited versions of articles going at the same time. I can...well, I'm not sure I can tell you all I can do because I'm still learning.

I checked on eBay and a used backseat monitor of the model I'm borrowing is selling for around \$20. I've just sent CG an email with a firm offer attached - \$20 or two used 'coon traps.



I enjoyed the Chase

by Gene Clifford

I enjoyed the chase this year, even though I was skunked for the 4th time in 16 years of hunting the wily turkey. I chose to hold out for a mature longbeard, but the good Lord thought otherwise. One of the good things is that I had the chance to mentor a younger fellow hunter in the ins-and-outs of wild turkey hunting. We got to hunt together about eight times during the 19-day Indiana season, as it seemed to rain just about every other day during that time. With my age (nearing 75), I found that my legs needed the day between to rest up from the long walks (a half-mile out and back) involved with the area we were hunting.

The first two days of the season were rainy, so I chose not to hunt until it cleared up a bit. The first day's hunt found us sitting side by side in a very small, 4'X5' log blind I had hastily built last year in the woods, on the edge of a 40-acre soybean field. We saw at least 8 or 10 birds, mostly hens, but there were also two mature toms. For some unknown reason, the toms were not the least interested in our calling or decoy placement.

This is quite unusual in the first week of the season. In the past seasons I've hunted, the birds were always either curious or wanted to socialize with my decoys. Later on in the season the live birds seem to get decoy and call-shy the more they are hunted in a certain area. But we were the only ones with permission to hunt these woods and fields, and we didn't see another turkey hunter during the entire season.

After three unproductive hours at this location, we picked up and went about 1¼ miles to the west side of this very large woods, to hunt out of another log blind of mine. This blind was on the edge of another 40-acre soybean field, where I got my bird last year on the third day of the season. Over the next two hours, no birds were seen or heard at this location, either, so we called it a day about 11 AM.

The next time out, we decided to dig mini-foxholes beneath a couple of trees alongside a creek running through the first field we hunted. This way we would have the sun to our backs, which would be to our advantage. Our reason for doing this was because we saw the birds two days earlier leaving the woods some 100 yards south of our location, crossing the picked soybean field. It seemed to us that they going directly to the creek for a morning drink. With this new location we felt we would be able to see the birds as they came out of the woods they were roosting in and waylay them as they came to the creek.

With two hens and a full-fan tom decoy in place, we sat and watched some 15 or more birds come out of the woods 150 yards west of us. Unfortunately, they never came more than halfway across the field. With so many birds in the field at one time or another, we couldn't pull up stakes and leave until there were no visible birds feeding. So there we sat until almost noon.

The third time out we went back to our foxholes alongside the creek and watched again as another dozen birds came out into the soybean field to pick, scratch and even dust awhile. But they did not come any closer than 65 yards according to my rangefinder. Close counts in horseshoes, hand grenades and Napalm, but not in turkey hunting.

(continued next page)

The next time I went out alone, to the base of a large tree in the woods, directly across the field from the foxhole location. The problem with this location was that I didn't have the time to clear out sighting and shooting lanes in the undergrowth of blackberry and multi-flora rose. So I could only see my decoys, some 25 yards directly in front of me, and less than 20 yards to my left and right.

After about two hours of only seeing two hens come out of the woods near my location, I became drowsy because of boredom and from early morning rising. I slid down onto one elbow and rested my eyes. You know what's coming, don't you? Little did I know that some 20 minutes later when I tried to get up and lean back against the large tree, there was a two-year old jake and a hen between me and my decoys. My movement sent them scurrying out of sight. This was a fitting example of "IF YOU SNOOZE YOU LOSE".

On the next to the last day of the 19-day season, my turkey hunting student and I decided to split up and each take a spot about 100 yards apart on the west side of the soybean field where we had been seeing turkeys every day. We both heard some gobbling that morning, so the anticipation was on the rise.

After about an hour, I heard a tom gobble some 20 yards away or less, behind me in the woods. This makes the hair on the back of your neck rise significantly. As I slowly turned to my right to get a possible sighting of this gobbling tom, I saw something out of the corner of my eye to the left. At the edge of the field, not more than 15 yards from where I was seated, a mature tom silently appeared along with a one-year old jake. I reached for my 20 gauge shotgun and the tom took off flying to my left in the direction of my hunting buddy. He later stated that he could hear the wing beats of the tom flying towards him, but didn't have time to shoulder his gun.

Right after the tom flew past him, the one-year old jake came running along. The jake stopped to look back at where he came from, and that was his undoing. My turkey hunting student with an itchy trigger finger could not wait any longer.

It was not a very big bird at 14 pounds, with only a 3" beard, but the ear-to-ear smile on my friend's face made up for it all.

All this hop-scotching around trying to find a better location to intercept these turkeys is the honest-to-Gods truth about this past year's turkey hunting season.



HOW Member News

Louie Stout Honored With POMA/ASA Homer Circle Fishing Communicator Award

In early July, long-time HOW member Louie Stout was honored by the Professional Outdoor Media Association (POMA) and the American Sportfishing Association (ASA) when they presented him the prestigious Homer Circle Fishing Communicator Award.

The POMA/ASA Homer Circle Fishing Communicator Award recognizes a journalist who exemplifies the spirit, dedication to fishing, extraordinary talent, and commitment to mentoring the next generation of sportfishing communicators as displayed by outdoor journalist legend Homer Circle during his storied career.

The award was presented during the International Convention of Allied Sportfishing Trades (ICAST), which is produced by ASA, the sportfishing industry's trade association. POMA is one of the premier professional associations representing traditional outdoor sports media.

"It goes without saying that I wouldn't be here were it not for the likes of many who took me under their wings," said Stout. "Not surprisingly, Homer Circle was one of them. As he did with so many, Homer invested in me and encouraged me to pursue my dreams of being a fulltime outdoors writer. I would call him for advice and his insight was always enlightening."



Louie Stout was recently recognized for his contributions to ensure the future of recreational fishing.

Since 1986, Stout has been a fixture among the outdoor community through his full-time, freelance writing career. Louie has won more than 50 state, regional and national writing and photography awards. In 2005 he was also inducted into the National Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame as a "Legendary Journalist." Stout's writings have appeared in *Outdoor Life*, *Field & Stream*, *Sports Afield*, *Fishing Tackle Retailer* and many other publications. Stout has also covered the Bassmaster tournaments for over 30 years as well as a longtime outdoors columnist for the *South Bend Tribune*.

He has co-authored three of the nation's best-selling, bass fishing books with six-time Bassmaster Angler of the Year Kevin VanDam. Currently, he serves as the boating columnist for *Bassmaster Magazine*. Like Circle, Stout has been a mentor to many anglers and writers. "I won't take credit for anyone's success, but I've always made myself available to anyone who has sought my advice over the years," he said.

"Louie's an exceptional communicator as well as a good friend and mentor to many in the sportfishing industry," said Laurie Lee Dovey, CEO of POMA. "He's also one of a limited number of writers who has made his career as a freelance writer – a challenging task he's mastered. POMA and ASA are proud to shine the spotlight on Louie. The recognition of his writing career is not only well deserved, it's hard earned."

"The POMA/ASA award recognizes the important role all outdoor communicators play in educating and informing the public about fishing, boating and wildlife conservation," said ASA President and CEO Mike Nussman. "Louie is a strong conservation and recreational fishing advocate. This is a well-deserved honor."



Ray McCune Pens New Children's Book

HOW member and former *Waynedale News* associate editor Ray McCune has just released his most recent book, titled: *A Christmas Story Many Years Ago*. This latest work is an illustrated children's book, and it is about a ten-year old boy who became the 'man of the house' after his father died. "He is trying to solve the dilemma of providing Christmas presents for his widowed mother (a pair of slippers), for his smaller sister (a little golden-curl'd mama doll), and for himself (a shiny red fire engine with a little silver bell)," said Ray. "He doesn't have enough money for all three presents and he is running out of time since it is now the day before Christmas. When he finally has the problem solved, life hands him another financial crisis. This is not only a heart-warming story because of the way the

crisis is solved, but it's also a study in arithmetic and provides older children with a chance to think of the solution. All characters are fictitious, but each is a composite of persons I've known. It takes place in a mid-sized West Virginia town in the forties."

Ray McCune, a Gassaway, West Virginia native, grew up in the 40's and 50's with a vivid imagination and a desire to write. After a hitch in the Navy, he attended Santa Ana College, got married and moved to Fort Wayne, Indiana. He had five children, finished college, volunteered as a Scoutmaster, and worked for GTE and for *The Waynedale News*.

After taking early retirement, Ray followed his dream and became a freelance outdoor writer and book author. *A Christmas Story Many Years Ago* is the second of several new books planned by the author. His first book, *How To Eat A Wild Green Pancake and other humorous tales*, is also available at Publish America, Amazon, and Barnes & Noble.

Come meet Ray at the Allen County Public Library's 2013 AUTHOR FAIR, Saturday, November 9, 2013 from 12 noon until 4 pm, Main Library, 900 Library Plaza, Fort Wayne, IN 46802. Limited, signed copies of both of his books will be available to purchase.

Alan Garbers Creates New Outdoors Website

Alan Garbers has started a new outdoor-related website called Open Road Outdoors. "I would like to extend an open invitation to all HOW members to send me any outdoor-related material such as articles, gear reviews, destination pieces, etc," said Alan. "This site will give writers another outlet to showcase their work and promote the outdoors." HOW members should look for an email in their inboxes very soon with more details about this website.

Send your material to Alan Garbers at alanjamesgarbers@yahoo.com and he will post it as he gets time. "Once the piece is posted I would encourage the contributor to like/share it on Facebook, if possible," he said. Please visit the website at: www.openroadoutdoors.com

John Martino Receives Prestigious Sagamore of the Wabash Award

Long-time HOW member, Past President and current Board member John Martino was surprised at the end of July when he was presented with Indiana's prestigious Sagamore of the Wabash award.



Former Kokomo mayor Steve Dailey (left) brings a smile to the face of John Martino (right) as he talks about “the old days”. Representative Mike Karickhoff (center) watches and smiles. Photos courtesy of John Martino.

The award was presented by former Kokomo mayors Jim Trobaugh and Steve Dailey, along with Representative Mike Karickhoff at the 30th annual Jim “Moose” Carden Kids Fishing Clinic in Kokomo.

It was appropriate that the award was presented at the annual kids fishing clinic, since John has been volunteering his time and helping to coordinate this event since the day it began. That was in 1984. Along with Jim “Moose” Carden (another Past President of HOW), John helped to organize the kids fishing clinic to teach the youth of Kokomo some of the basics of fishing,

boating and the great outdoors. The experience has left a permanent and positive impression on the lives of those children.

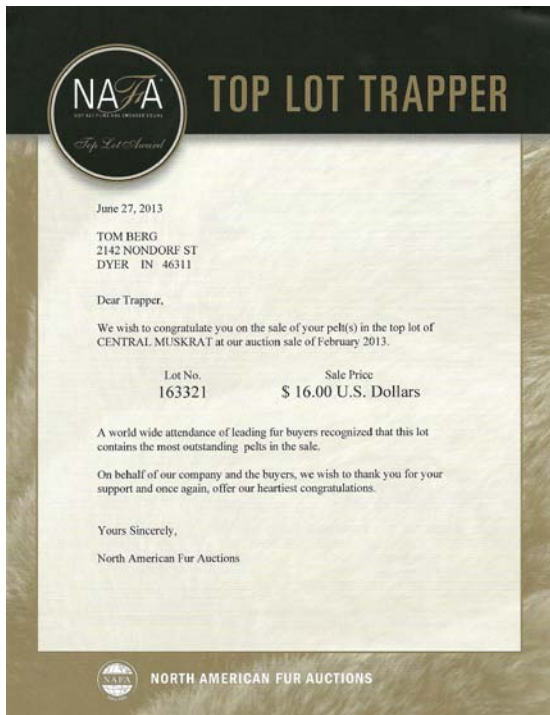
“This has been a good thing for the community and for the kids,” Martino said. “And it’s the only fishing clinic of this size in the United States.” Over the years, more than 4,000 kids have learned to cast a fishing lure and wet a line through their involvement with the clinic. Many of those kids are now adults, returning to help the next generation. Through it all, John has been there, providing guidance and direction.

As the superintendent of the Kokomo Parks and Recreation Department, John Martino has devoted a large part of his adult life to the city of Kokomo, the surrounding community and the youth of the area.

At the end of July, John officially retired from his work with Kokomo’s Parks Department and accepted a job with Ivy Tech. But he will be back next year to help with the kids fishing clinic again. He can’t help it. It’s in his blood!



John Martino pauses for a moment to pose for a photo with his Sagamore of the Wabash award.



Berg Awarded “Top Lot” Status For Muskrat Fur

HOW Executive Director Tom Berg was recently notified by *North American Fur Auctions* (NAFA) that some of the fur pelts he harvested during last fall’s trapping season were chosen as “Top Lot” pelts in the international fur sale this past May.

Fur pelts are sold in lots (lots of 100, or 500, or whatever is most convenient). The “Top Lot” from each grade of each individual furbearing species is the lot that sells for the highest price based on quality of the fur. Top Lots always contain flawless pelts of the best color and quality.

HOW member Mike Schoonveld has also garnered Top Lot awards in recent years. “I’ve received several over the years,” said Schoonveld, “for raccoon, coyotes and probably possum. The most memorable was my ‘Top

Lot Flat Coyote’. I showed it to my wife Peggy and she said, ‘What was that one for, a road kill?’”

The origins of NAFA date back to the foundation of the Hudson’s Bay Company. The Hudson’s Bay Company, the oldest incorporated company in North America, received its Charter in the year 1670 from the King of England. They have been selling and trading fur for 343 years! Today’s fur buyers come from China, Russia, Greece, Korea, Germany, Italy, England, Canada, the USA and others.

The Fabulous and Famous Indiana State Fair Fish

The Indiana DNR stocked the 2013 Indiana State Fair fish aquariums and display ponds with 20 varieties of native fish and non-native trout and wipers in August. The largest fish in the aquariums was a 60-pound flathead catfish. Several of the 17 tanks stretching along the fair's Natural Resources Building's east wall hold more than 1,000 gallons of water.

“The DNR also poured 2,750 channel catfish and hybrid sunfish into the 312,000-gallon State Fair Fishing Pond during the fair,” said HOW Past President and DNR employee John Maxwell. “Kids ages 5 to 17 can fish for free during the fair at the pond. Most of the aquarium fish and display pond fish spend the rest of the year living in a pond at Cikana State Fish Hatchery near Martinsville.”

Story Idea: HOW members who would like to help recapture the fair fish during the week before next year’s fair can email John Maxwell at jmaxwell@dnr.in.gov for details.



DNR biologist Jeff Malwitz places one of two big lake sturgeon, named Bob & Tom, into a pond outside the fair's Natural Resources Building. The two rare fish weigh about 50 lbs each, and have returned to every state fair since 1979.

Jack Spaulding Is Not JUST Another Famous Outdoor Writer

As many of us know, Jack Spaulding has been a HOW member for a long time. He is also a 4-time Past President and current Board member. He has been an outdoor writer, photographer and editor for many years, too. But the outdoors is not the only pursuit that interests Jack, and he's more than just another pretty face. Read a few excerpts from the story below by Ann Hinch, Associate Editor of *Farm World* (reprinted with permission) to learn something new about our friend Jack Spaulding!

Building churches in Haiti sacred mission for columnist

By ANN HINCH
Associate Editor

PORT-AU-PRINCE — Those who believe all Jack Spaulding does is bird-watch out of his bathroom window and keep the latest tabs on frozen gopher-foot heists up North, only know a part of the man. A former Conservation Afield editor and state transportation department lab manager and currently a concrete building materials salesman, he is best known to *Farm World* readers for “Spaulding Outdoors,” the latest in Indiana hunting and fishing with dashes of humor and political commentary. But another important role in his life is volunteering as missions elder with the Moscow Christian Church in Moscow, IN, to help fund-raise for Haiti.

Haiti is a nation with a tumultuous political and cultural history going back at least five centuries – founded by the Spanish, changing hands to the French and then, at the turn of the 19th century, taken over by slaves who revolted. In the past few years, natural disasters have added more challenges to the daily lives of many Haitians. In January 2010 a 7.0-magnitude earthquake killed more than 200,000 people and left hundreds of thousands homeless; later a cholera epidemic killed thousands.

And last October, before reaching the United States, Hurricane Sandy unleashed on Haiti. The death toll was far smaller than in 2010, but there was still great damage. Longer-term damage includes it being the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, according to Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) data, with 80 percent of the population living below the poverty line and 56 percent in “abject poverty.”



Spaulding enjoys a refreshing drink from a green coconut while visiting Haiti. Photos here and on next page courtesy of Jack Spaulding.

Need for schooling

The CIA concludes much of the poverty results from the nation's vulnerability to frequent natural disasters, in addition to the political influence of corruption and low levels of education. Spaulding, 63, who first visited the small country of just under 10 million residents in 2006, went back this February. He'd been there twice more between those visits, but his last trip was before the earthquake and its devastation.

“A lot of people don't realize how desperate life really is in Haiti,” he said, adding armed guards are a common sight to protect money, goods and services. Population density makes things tough too, he said, explaining there are 900 people per square mile and only one doctor or nurse practitioner for every 10,000 residents.

Despite all this, he said, “Things are much better now” thanks to changes in the nation's leadership, notably President Michel Martelly, elected two years ago. As happens in any democracy, some elected leaders are not as good as others. “Haiti is an example of what bad leadership can do for you,” Spaulding said of those in charge up until a few years ago.

(continued next page)

Positive changes he observed between his last trip and his February visit were a remodeled, modernized airport in Port-Au-Prince – upgraded from having to exit a plane on the tarmac, to terminal walkways seen at any major airport, for example – paved roads, better sanitation and two new hospitals under construction. One auto trip that used to take up to 13 hours because of potholes, for example, is down to under four hours.

Another improvement particular to his church's wheelhouse is the growing effort to educate local children. Years ago, Moscow Christian pledged to help build 10 churches and, so far, there are six in Carrefour, Fonfrede, Saut-d'Eau, Tom Gato, Cambry and Delmas 75. Spaulding said less than 500 children attend school in two of those, studying French (one of Haiti's languages), math, social studies and Christian Bible lessons.

Under normal circumstances, he said maybe half the children around Port-Au-Prince have the opportunity of formal education; in rural areas, the percentage is even lower. For many, their meal of rice and beans during school may be the only food they eat all day, he said. "They still show the lean look of being undernourished and are far from 'fat,' but you can see they are all in relatively good health," he observed, showing a lunchtime photo from the Tom Gato classroom.



He said Haiti used to be an exporter of food, but then leaders conscripted farmers to act as guardsmen and agriculture suffered. Still, "Yvon said 'there's three things we do better than anyone else in the world,'" Spaulding quoted Haitian native Yvon Selin: "coffee, rum and vanilla."

A person of resolve

Selin is a minister who works in Haiti for Global Christian Mission Outreach (GCMO), the organization through which Moscow Christian aids the children in his communities. He and Spaulding met when Selin was a seminary student living in Indiana with Don (former Moscow missions elder) and Sue Miller in 1990, attending what is now Cincinnati Christian University.

Spaulding praises Selin's leadership, observing Haiti's "difficult" and it takes "a resolved person" to move to the comparable luxury of the United States and then go back to help his countrymen. He stayed with Selin while visiting in February and touring the church schools.

"For now we are a small mission organization and we concentrate on the priority of all priorities, which is planting churches and developing those churches," Selin explained of the GCMO, "but we give some sporadic assistance to farmers (as well as other residents) whenever there is a major catastrophe, like the earthquake of January 12 (2010), or more recently, after the devastations caused by Hurricane Sandy."

Spaulding said his church raised \$2,400 after Sandy's damage, combined with \$18,000 the International Disasters Emergency Services (IDES) gave, to provide food through the churches as distribution points, until locals could replant and cultivate their gardens.

While he doesn't like the living conditions in Haiti, he is clearly happy talking about the people he met there. He's especially glad to relate the story of a woman named Gisele, who lost a leg to the earthquake in 2010. GCMO sponsored her trip to the United States to receive an artificial leg; when Spaulding went to her home in February, he said she literally ran from her front door to welcome him. "When I go down there, it's all the good they do for me," he said, explaining it's more than he feels he's doing for them. "They will share what they have, joyous in the Lord."

As for building up local agriculture, Selin said, "One area I am looking to get involved in the future is in the production of chicken." However, "one of the major needs (immediately) is to recruit supporters to help support more children to go to school.

GCMO does accept individual donations. For \$25 a month, tax-deductible, Spaulding said one child can attend classes and have supplies, books, a daily hot meal and a uniform. It also helps pay teachers. To learn more, email jackspaulding@hughes.net or write to: Global Christian Mission Outreach, Attn: Jack Spaulding, 8966 S. 650 W., Milroy, IN 46156-9727, and he will send a profile of a child needing a sponsor.



Michael Ellis Was Hoping For A Quiet Retirement In Tavares, Florida

Former DNR interpretive naturalist and current HOW member Michael Ellis thought that retiring to a sleepy little town in Florida would be a great idea. Plenty of time to relax and lots of peace and quiet. It was true, too, until the night sky lit up recently when the local propane plant exploded! People from around the country saw it on the TV news stations and wondered where in the world Tavares, Florida was located!

“Tavares is a lovely little town,” said Michael. “Nothing really big happens here

and that’s one of the reasons we like it. Well, at least it was quiet until the Blue Rhino propane plant caught fire and exploded, and then all hell seemed to break loose. Blue Rhino is a subsidiary of Ferrellgas, and the plant here is one of their major propane refurbishing and refilling plants in the United States. The Tavares plant refurbishes and refills 2.5 million gas-grill tanks, every year.”

“It was 10:30 p.m. on a Monday night. We had just finished watching the early news. You know the kind of newscast where the news anchor gives you a story, a teaser and then tells you to tune in at 11:00 p.m. for the rest of the story. Anyway, just as the news ended, we felt our home shake, and I mean really shake. We went outside to see if we could find out what happened. The eastern night sky was aglow followed by what seemed to be several boom-boom-boom sounds from fireworks, but these booms were much louder than fireworks.”

“We went back inside and saw Breaking News crawls running across our television – there had been a huge explosion in Lake County. We watched as the crawls gave way to newscasters breaking in to regular programming saying they had reporters on the way to a big explosion and fire in Tavares. We began to hear lots of emergency vehicle sirens and the sound of helicopters flying over our home. By this time it had sunk in that this was a major disaster unfolding.”



An aerial view of the Tavares propane plant showing thousands of propane tanks littering the ground after the explosion. These photos were taken by Michael Ellis, and this view was being shown on the local TV station when he snapped a photo of the TV screen!

(continued next page)

“We listened to the news that night until after 1:30 a.m. Emergency personnel gave evacuation orders for homes within a one-mile radius of the fire and ongoing explosions. The emergency spokespeople came on and said further evacuations might be necessary.”

“The rockets people saw in the night sky were gas-grill propane tanks catching fire and taking flight. Some of them exploded in the air. The bad news was there were more than 53,000 gas-grill propane tanks at the plant and they were full. The really bad news was there were also three big fill-tanks that held a total of 90,000 pounds of propane onsite. Later, we found out as employees evacuated the plant, no one had flipped the emergency switch or manually turned on the water sprays that were supposed to keep the three big tanks cool in such an emergency!”

“A police spokesperson came on and said a 2-mile area might have to be evacuated. Now that’s getting really close to our home. The police alerted viewers that if the three big propane tanks blew up it would be devastating, so more people needed to be ready to evacuate at a moment’s notice. According to the Tavares Fire Chief, if the three big tanks blew up, it would send out a huge shock wave and fireball.”

“Canisters were shooting up in the sky as well as sideways. One of the first police vehicles on the scene was hit by one of the small propane tanks. Water is not very effective on propane fires, so the firefighters were using foam. But since foam can’t be sprayed as far as you can spray water, they had to get closer to the fire. Twice, the firefighters were told to pull back. The intense fire and explosions of the canisters put them in too much danger.”

“The next morning, lots of questions were being asked. The plant had undergone an inspection just 11 days before and had passed with no violations.”



Huge piles of burnt and ruined propane tanks lie stacked on the Blue Rhino property in Tavares, Florida. Photo by Michael Ellis.

“The ATF is investigating to see if they can pinpoint what happened. The plant has surveillance cameras, but so far, preliminary reports show nothing to give the investigators a clue as to what might have started the fire. All plant employees have been accounted for, but there are five employees who are very badly burned and will require numerous skin grafts. There were also stories of incredible heroism that night, as well.”

“A couple of days after the fire and explosions, the roads were back open that go by the propane plant and we went over to see the aftermath. It was surreal. The main road (448) was now clear, but propane tanks and burned pieces of the exploded tanks still littered the roadsides and nearby businesses. One of the propane tanks went through the roof and ceiling of one of the nearby homes.”

“According to Florida’s Fish and Wildlife personnel, outside of the burned area around the plant, they don’t feel there will be any problems to fish and wildlife in the surrounding area.”

John Maxwell Scores With ACI Eagle Photo, Phil Bloom Elected To ACI Board of Directors

HOW member John Maxwell recently received a third-place award in the Photography category for the Association for Conservation Information (ACI) annual contest. John's award-winning entry was a photo of a bald eagle, which was published with an *Outdoor Indiana* article on the 40th anniversary of the Endangered Species Act. ACI is a non-profit association of information and education professionals from state, federal and Canadian wildlife, conservation, parks and natural resource agencies.

If you look at the photo closely, you will see that the eagle has a fish in its talons. It's a great shot!

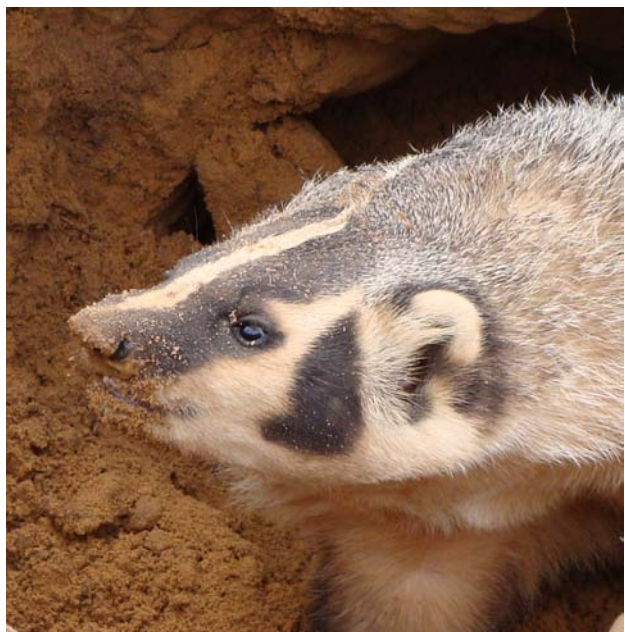
Congrats on the award, John!



In addition to John's winning photo, HOW member and Past President Phil Bloom was elected to a three-year term on the ACI board of directors. Congratulations to you, too, Phil!

Unusual Nature Photos From The Hoosier Outdoors Sponsored by Aquateko

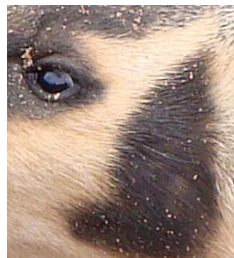
The Badger Can Dig Circles Around Rodents!



Close-up



Original



The “What is it?” question from the last newsletter was much easier than the previous one! Nine (9) HOW members correctly identified it this time, and there were no wrong guesses! John Martino, Mike Schoonveld, John Maxwell, Alan Garbers, PJ Perea, Dianna Garbers, Troy McCormick, Phil Bloom and Jack Spaulding each had the right answer. When we drew a name at random for the **Snag Proof** frog prize package, Dianna Garbers was the winner. Congrats, Dianna! We’ll make sure the prize is sent to you.

As you can see in the photo at left, the mystery creature for this issue was an American Badger (*Taxidea taxus*). These members of the weasel family are built for digging. They have short, muscular legs and long claws that allow them to dig with ease. Their fur is silvery gray or tan-colored, and they have a bright white stripe across the top of their head, from their nose to the back of their neck. They also have distinctive black and white markings on their faces. They typically weigh up to 30 pounds.

Badgers prefer to live in areas with sandy, well-drained soil. It allows easy digging and makes for a dry, comfortable underground den. Some of their favorite foods are mice, gophers, chipmunks and ground squirrels, and they can dig them out of their burrows with very little trouble. The next time a family of gophers starts digging up your lawn, you might just wish you had a badger living nearby!

For this issue, our friends at **Aquateko** 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 an assortment of Aquateko products for your next fishing adventure (including a can cooler for your favorite beverage). 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 left is a close-up of part of a creature that lives right here in Indiana. It might be quietly living in your own back yard, although it is not extremely common. Have you ever seen a creature that looks like this? Can you guess what it is?

This creature may be tough to identify, but we’ll see. Do you know of any Hoosier creatures that look like this? This time you don’t have to identify the exact species. If you think it’s a particular species of bird, for example, go ahead and guess “Heron”. Of course, it’s not a Heron! 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, **Aquateko** will donate an assortment of their innovative new InvisaSwivels and Knot-2-Kinky nickel-titanium leaders to the HOW member who guesses the right answer to this issue’s “What Is It?” question. To learn more about Aquateko, check their website at www.aquateko.com. If multiple people guess correctly, we’ll draw one winner at random from the group. Good luck!





HOW Supporting Members Win Awards At 2013 ICAST Show

Las Vegas, NV: The 2013 ICAST show (International Convention of Allied Sportfishing Trades) in mid-July was another great one, showcasing the products of some of the premier companies in the fishing tackle industry. More than 9,000 thousand industry representatives from around the world attended the show to see the latest innovations in tackle, gear, accessories and apparel. 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:

Apparel

[Shimano American Corporation](#)
Dryfender Insulated Raingear

Boats

[Johnson Outdoors Watercraft, Inc.](#)
Predator 13

Electronics

[Johnson Outdoors, Inc.](#)
Humminbird Bow Mount 360 Imaging

Eyewear

[Costa](#)
Tuna Alley

Fishing Line

[PowerPro](#)
PowerPro Zero-Impact

Fly Fishing Accessory

[Columbia Sportswear](#)
Henry's Fork V Vest

Fly Fishing Rod

[G. Loomis](#)
PRO4x

Freshwater Reel

[Shimano American Corporation](#)
CHRONARCH C14+

Freshwater Rod

[G. Loomis](#)
NRX Umbrella Rig

Hard Lure

[Koppers Fishing & Tackle Corporation](#)
LIVETARGET Baitball

Kids' Tackle

[Pure Fishing, Inc.](#)
Shakespeare Ugly Stik GX2 Youth Combo

Saltwater Reel

[Shimano American Corporation](#)
Stella SW 30000

Saltwater Rod

[St. Croix Rods](#)
Legend Xtreme Inshore

Tackle Management

[Plano Molding Company](#)
3700 Guide Series Tackle Bag

Congratulations to all of the winners!

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



Best Saltwater Rod: St. Croix
Legend Xtreme Inshore rod

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.

B'n'M Poles Introduces New Duck Commander Crappie Rods

West Point, MS: The good people at B'n'M Poles have announced a new partnership for 2014. They have teamed-up with the Robertson family from the popular television show Duck Dynasty to create an iconic new series of fishing rods: The Duck Commander Crappie Rods.

According to Jack Wells, President of B'n'M Poles, it is a perfect fit. "Most folks don't realize just how much these guys love crappie fishing, and they have developed a great series of crappie rods." Although the Duck Commander rod series will be new for 2014, they are slated to hit store shelves early. "I'm already getting requests from chains and dealers about getting them in for Christmas," said Wells.

HOW members who would like to talk to the designers of the new rod series can talk to Jack Wells to set up a meeting. "I can arrange a telephone interview with Jay Stone and John Godwin, who are the primary designers of the rod series," he said. "They are good people and they're just crazy about catching crappie!"

For more information on the Duck Commander line of crappie poles, or for other info on B'n'M products, go to www.bnmpoles.com or contact Jack Wells at: jack@bnmpoles.com.

Duck Commander ULTRALIGHT CRAPPIE ROD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 40 Million Modulus, IM6 Graphite • Dyna-Flow Spinning Guides • Portuguese Cork Handle • Chartreuse Depth-Monitoring Wraps 	Duck Commander TROLLING CRAPPIE ROD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 40 Million Modulus IM6 Graphite Blank • Extra-Long Hi-Vis Painted Tip • Stiff Action! • Dyna-Flow Guides • Chartreuse Depth-Monitoring Wraps 	Duck Commander DOUBLE-TOUCH CRAPPIE ROD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 40 Million Modulus IM6 Graphite • Unique "Double-Touch" System • Genuine Portuguese Cork Handle. • Dyna-Flow Stainless Steel Guides • Chartreuse Depth-Monitoring Wraps 	Duck Commander TELESCOPIC PANFISH POLE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High Quality Fiberglass Blanks • Chartreuse Depth Monitoring Wraps • Leatherette Handle • Buggy-Whip Action! • Chartreuse Depth-Monitoring Wraps
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DUCK COMMANDER

All Duck Commander Rods Feature B'n'M's EXCLUSIVE "CHARTREUSE DEPTH-MONITOR WRAPS" At 12-Inch Intervals To Instantly Check Your Line Length.



HOW Supporting Member News

Hickory Glen Creations Introduces Global Position Anchor Stabilizer

Columbus, WI: Hickory Glen Creations, have recently introduced a new product for boaters called the GPAS (Global Position Anchor Stabilizer).

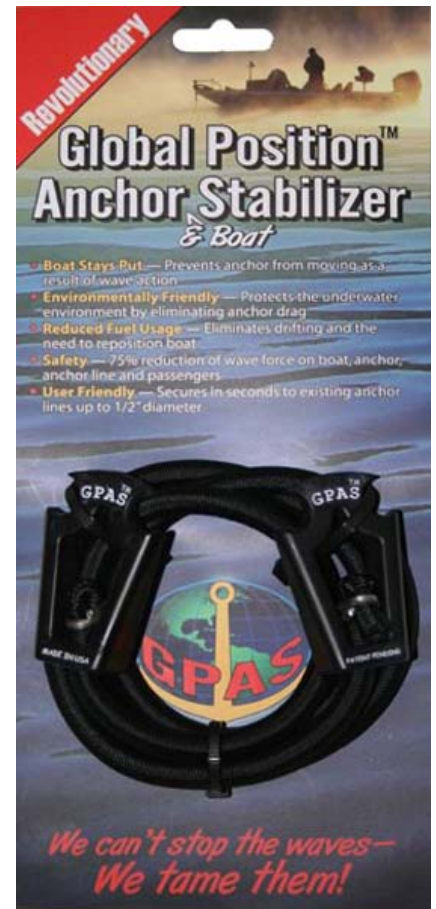


This anchor stabilizer is designed to prevent anchor drag for boaters due to wave action. It is attached to the anchor rope and reduces wave force by up to 75%. Since it absorbs much of the force of the waves, it allows boaters to reduce anchor rope length and stay on productive spots longer.

One of the nicest things about the GPAS is that it attaches to the anchor rope quickly and easily. It can be secured in seconds since no knots are required. Just loop the anchor rope into each of the two brackets and you're done.

The GPAS not only stabilizes the anchor, but it maintains the boat-to-water surface tension. This allows the boat to ride the wave up and down, preventing the boat from being lifted and dropped. The boat then becomes more comfortable for the occupants, and more importantly it becomes safer, too.

For more information, contact Don Niedermair at Hickory Glen Creations via email: info@hickoryglencreations.com or by phone: 920-887-3818. You can also check out their website: www.G-P-A-S.com for an animated view of how the product works.



LensPen Removes Fingerprints From Camera Equipment and Optics



Vancouver, BC, Canada: It has been more than 20 years since Parkside Optical introduced the original LensPen, and a generation of photographers and outdoor enthusiasts have counted on it to keep their cameras, binoculars and other fine optics clean and images sharp.

Now it's even better. Parkside has introduced a new line of LensPen cleaning products with a high-class stylish design and state-of-the-art packaging. A completely new look, but with the same unmatched features that have made LensPen an optics necessity, not just an accessory. It's completely safe for all lens and filter surfaces. The secret to LensPen's unique cleaning ability and amazing long life – more than 500 cleanings – is found in its special carbon compound.

There's never any messy liquids to spray on and then wipe off, and there's no need for dirty optical tissues or microfiber cloths, that often do nothing more than smear the fingerprint oil around. For more information on LensPen products, go to www.lenspen.com or contact Ken Ables at Venture (kenables09@gmail.com).



HOW Supporting Member News

E/T Lights Provide Safety, Fun and Cost Savings In The Outdoors

San Antonio, TX: E/T Lights are the newest, most versatile and toughest illuminated marking and signaling device. Combining four colors into one illuminated signaling device, E/T Lights are perfect for the fisherman, hunter, trapper, boater, hiker, caver, diver, boy scout, and more. Combat proven in Iraq and Afghanistan, E/T Lights are tough and reliable. They are also reusable and the batteries can be replaced. All in all, they are a superior alternative to bulky and expensive chemical lights sticks.

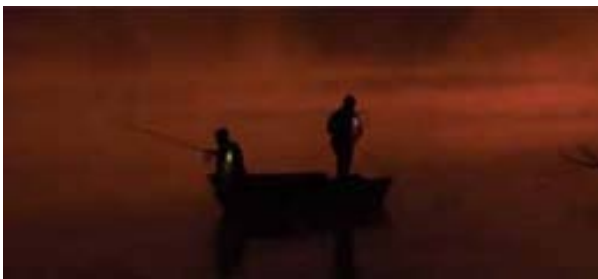
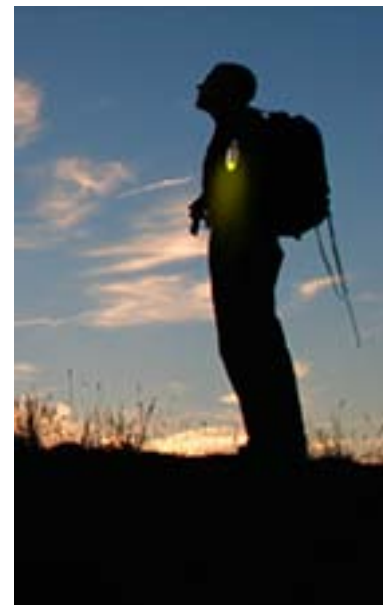


E/T Lights can be seen in the fog, underwater and in other low-light situations, making it easy to locate a person or animal from a distance. E/T Lights are also a great safety device when out boating and/or fishing. Their Emergency Off feature means there is no need to scroll through all the colors to turn them off. Simply hold the switch down for three seconds and the E/T Light turns off.

Lasting up to six days on a constant selection or up to 12 days on a flashing selection, you can always count on having night's worth of illumination/marketing capabilities. If used sporadically, the included replaceable battery can last over four years. Stop throwing away money every time you crack a chemical stick and save the landfill space. Following are just a few of the light's uses:

- Hiking
- Biking
- SCUBA Diving
- Fishing
- Camp Member Marking
- Tent Illumination
- Trail Marking
- Back-Up Directional Lights For Boats or Kayaks
- Caving

- Red light** – Night Vision Preservation
- Yellow light** – Low Light Animal Watching
- Green light** – Map Reading
- Blue light** – Blood Trail Illumination



For more information contact Juan Cienfuegos, the President/Inventor of E/T Lights. He can be reached by phone at 956-645-5265 and via email at: jc@triagelights.com. Check out the website, too: www.triagelights.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.cocooneyewear.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.trigelights.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.nikonsportoptics.com
O.F. Mossberg & Sons, Inc. - www.mossberg.com
Off Shore Tackle Co. - www.offshoretackle.com
Okuma Fishing Tackle - www.okumafishing.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.southshorecva.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

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
Fur Takers Chapter 7B Fall Rendezvous: (www.hoosiertrappersupply.com) Held at Hoosier Trapper Supply Greenwood, IN	September 28, 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.