

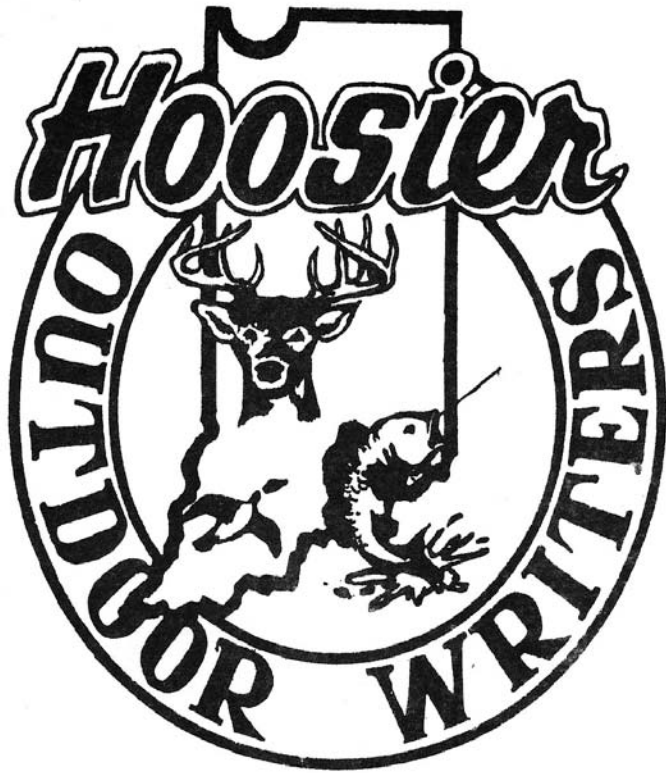
The Blade

November - December 2013

The Official Publication of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers



"Glorious Late Season Sunset", 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 sun sets after a magnificent early-winter day. Photo by Tom Berg.*



President's Message

by Ben Shadley

Making the Move: Transitioning from Amateur to Professional

HOW is comprised of a diverse group of outdoor communicators. Some have been in the business for years, and some are just getting started and learning the practices and personalities (of which we have a few) associated with the business.

But there's another category (which may be the majority) between the two ends of the spectrum. These are outdoor communicators looking to bridge the gap between amateur and professional, to move from passionate enthusiast to paid media producer. I don't think it's a stretch to say this can be a daunting transition, for reasons both practical and personal.

Daunting, however, is far from impossible. Unless born with a strong portfolio and incoming assignments or clients, every working professional has made the jump. The following are a few key ideas to consider along the way.

Don't give it away: This may seem overly simplistic, but especially as writing and photography become more of a commodity, giving away your work can seem like a good way to "get your foot in the door." It's also commonly done as many inexperienced writers/photographers just want to be published, and some editors/publishers will take advantage of that idea. But it's a bad idea. It drives down the value, both actual and perceived, of everyone's work and sets a poor standard. So what's the solution when confronted with this challenge? Be polite but firm and try to make deal.

If asked or "given the opportunity" to submit work without pay, talk to the editor/publisher (in person or on the phone, as opposed to an email, if possible) and make it clear you can't provide work without compensation. If you must have this conversation there's a good chance traditional payment still won't be offered, but you've set the stage to negotiate for something of value. Ask yourself what this editor/publisher has that you want. Ad space in said publication, website, etc., to promote yourself is a totally reasonable thing to ask for. No matter the agreement you reach, be sure to get it in writing. A simple email confirming the details is fine. Lastly, don't be afraid to walk away if it just doesn't work out. Conduct yourself professionally and that door will remain open for next time.

Don't take it personally: Easier said than done. Creative work is inherently personal and putting it out to be accepted or denied, critiqued and judged is hard. Anyone who tells you they don't care what others think of their work is either lying or devoid of standard human emotion (and therefore probably bad at creative work). The trick is to be as mentally disciplined about it as you can. Accept all input on your work with professional courtesy and (especially if it's negative) let your emotional gut reaction subside before really analyzing it – just table it until you can be somewhat dispassionate. Then ask yourself a couple of questions. Is this feedback valid in general? If no, do your best to act like it never happened. If

(continued next page)

yes, then decide what you're going to do – and just being hurt isn't an option. If an editor/publisher isn't into your style or subject matter then chalk it up to having different tastes, unfortunate but no big deal. If there is value in the feedback, use it to improve your work and you're a better writer, photographer, etc., for it. Taking and using feedback on your work is a skill, doing it well will undoubtedly make you a more effective creative professional.

High quality personal marketing materials: In this respect, perception is reality and you need to do everything reasonably possible to present yourself in the most professional, high-quality way to prospective editors/publishers/clients. This means your website is clean, modern and updated; your branding is consistent across platforms and any social media presence you have supports your persona as a working professional. As much as I hate to say it, you need to think of yourself as a brand and work toward establishing a look and feel that is most likely to garner the type of work you want to do. Don't shortchange this area in time or money, consider it an investment that will pay dividends when done well.

Define your goals: An overall goal of becoming, for example, an established outdoor writer is perfectly fine. But setting some specific goals along the way will help focus your efforts. Choose a couple lofty, but reasonably achievable goals, such as getting published in a couple regional publications, and work on them. Then accomplish and repeat – before you know it the overall goal will have achieved itself.

It's never really over: When starting out it's easy to look forward to the day when you've finally "succeeded." My take on this is that it's more of an incremental process and being anxious about reaching that moment when it all comes together is somewhat counter-productive. Good creative professionals at every stage are always striving for that next success – the moment you stop and think "I've really got it all figured out" is the moment you stop learning. So celebrate each success and use it as motivation for the next one, but avoid judging yourself against the one moment of career perfection.

Find a mentor: There's no substitute for this one. Find someone doing what you want to do, be humble and make it clear you want to learn from his or her experience. This will save you untold amounts of time and effort. There's no shame in not learning everything the hard way. We all stand on the shoulders of those that came before. And down the road when someone asks you for help, give it to him or her.

Make sure you still love it: Throughout all of the professional positioning and details that come with trying to build a business it's easy to lose sight of why you got into this line of work in the first place. Take a step back once in a while and ask yourself if you still love it. If your gut doesn't respond with a clear "yes," you're off track and your work will suffer for it. When you're on the right path there won't be a question that all the effort, heartache and time is well worth the value it brings to your life.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

The Hoosier Outdoor Writers

New Members, Past Presidents & Memorial Section

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

**Tom Smith (Associate)
Coal City, IN
Sponsor: Bob Jennings**

Memorial to Deceased HOW Members

Those Who Have Gone Before Us:

Jack Alkire – HOW President 1979
Bill Beeman – Executive Director
 Don Bickel
 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



Annual HOW Conference

Make Plans Now To Attend The 2014 Annual Conference!

As announced in the September/October issue of *The Blade*, the 2014 HOW Conference will be held in Indianapolis, IN at Fort Harrison State Park. The conference will take place on the weekend of May 2-4, 2014, with the main meeting occurring on Saturday, May 3rd at The Garrison.

Those dates will be here before you know it, so it's time for you to start making plans to attend! See page 7 for a copy of the conference registration form. We will have plenty of interesting seminars and speakers at the conference, as usual, and there will be activities which everyone can enjoy, too. And don't forget about the super-duper HOW Raffle! The raffle at the meeting in Madison was absolutely great, and we are hoping it will be even better this year in Indianapolis!

For those who would like to arrive early for the conference, on Friday evening (May 2nd) we will have a special barbecue dinner featuring some of our own HOW BBQ masters! All conference attendees and their spouses are invited. More information will follow as the date gets closer. This promises to be another great conference; you won't want to miss it!

We have already reserved a block of discounted rooms at the Fort Harrison State Park Inn for HOW members interested in staying overnight or for the entire weekend, so go ahead and make your reservations now. The details are below, but our Group Code will be sent out via email. We are not publicizing the code online because non-HOW members might access it (that actually happened at the 2012 conference). If you prefer to stay at another hotel instead of the Inn, there are other choices nearby if you look online (or phone book).

FOR ROOM RESERVATIONS:

317-638-6000 or 877-LODGES-1 (HOW members must call to use Group Code).

Group/Promotional Code: To be emailed.

Main Lodge King Rooms:

(Friday night 5/2/14 and/or Saturday night 5/3/14): \$89.00 per night + tax.

**Fort Harrison
State Park Inn**
5830 N. Post Road
Indianapolis, IN 46216
317-638-6000
Reservations:
1-877-LODGES-1
1-877-563-4371

Hoosier Outdoor Writers Annual Conference Registration



The Garrison at Fort Harrison State Park, Indianapolis, IN – May 2-4, 2014

This registration form is for the Annual Meeting on Saturday, May 3rd
(8:00am – 4:30pm)

Information to appear on name badge:

Name: _____

Title: _____

Contact information:

Mailing Address: _____

City or Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Are you a first-time HOW conference attendee? _____

Early Bird Conference Registration Fees:

(Early Bird pricing good until March 15th only. After March 15, add \$5.00 each to register)

HOW Members (and spouses): \$25.00 each (\$25 X number attending) = _____

Non-HOW Members: \$30.00 each (\$30 X number attending) = _____

Conference fee includes continental breakfast and buffet lunch on May 3rd.

Please print this application and mail it along with your check for each person attending (make checks payable to “Hoosier Outdoor Writers”) to:

**Tom Berg
HOW Conference
2142 Nondorf Street
Dyer, IN 46311-1829**

Questions? Email all conference questions to Tom Berg: thomas.berg@comcast.net



HOW Awards-In-Craft Winner

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



“Briar Patch Rabbits”

by Tom Berg

When it comes to rabbit hunting, there is one place that serious hunters look for when searching for a good cottontail rabbit hotspot. That place is a nice, thick briar patch. Oh sure, rabbits can also be found around brush piles, thick stands of bushes, fallen trees, overgrown fencerows and other thickets, but they really love briar patches. Briar patches made up of raspberries, blackberries or multi-flora rose are the most common around here, and they are real bunny magnets.

Do you remember the old Uncle Remus children’s stories about Br’er Rabbit and Br’er Fox? Br’er Rabbit was always playing tricks on Br’er Fox until he was caught by him one day. “Oh please Br’er Fox, whatever you do, please don’t throw me into the briar patch,” said Br’er Rabbit. He pleaded and pleaded with Br’er Fox not to throw him into the briar patch, until Br’er Fox decided that was exactly what he would do. As soon as he threw him in, though, Br’er Rabbit laughed and hopped away, saying “I was born and bred in the briar patch!” It was exactly where he wanted to be!

Rabbits love briar patches for many reasons. The thorny plants are thick and hard for predators to get through, so they provide excellent cover for rabbits. Airborne predators like hawks and owls avoid flying into the thorny tangles, too. Other predators like foxes and coyotes will chase rabbits through the briars, but the nimble bunnies can usually run and get away.

Briar patches are a major food source for rabbits during the cold weather months, too. Since rabbits do not hibernate, they need to find food every day. Rabbits eat grasses and other vegetation until it becomes covered in snow, then they chew on and strip bark from briar shoots and small saplings. Briars are one of their favorite winter foods!

The thickest brambles and briar patches offer rabbits good protection from the wind and weather, as well. These thickets act as efficient windbreaks, and that’s important when the temperature plummets. They also shield the rabbits from the cold rain and snow, at least to some extent. Once the snow falls, rabbits crawl into the many open pockets under the snow and continue to eat the raspberry and blackberry shoots in comfort and safety.

Hunters need only look for thick stands of briars at the edges of woodlots or farmer’s fields to find some good rabbit territory. Having a good rabbit dog makes a big difference when hunting in and around briar patches, though. Beagles are great rabbit hunters, and they can usually follow the scent on a rabbit trail with surprising ease. They almost always get

excited when they smell or see a rabbit, and they start baying loudly to let you know they are hot on the trail!

Beagles are not afraid to go into the briars to chase the rabbits out, and when a rabbit comes bursting out of the thicket you had better be ready to take a shot quickly! Sometimes you get a good shot at a rabbit right on the edge of the briar patch, but then he crawls into the thick stuff before expiring. That’s when a beagle that can retrieve the rabbit for you is worth his weight in gold!

A good point to remember when hunting thick briar patches is that you won’t always get a clear shot at the bunny when he makes a break for it or when the dog jumps him. That’s OK. Let him run. The dog will chase him and follow his trail if he loses sight of him, barking and baying like mad. Most rabbits tend to circle back and return to the same general area where they were jumped, so if you stay in one spot and wait for the rabbit to come back you are likely to get a good shot. Be aware that they may try to circle in behind you, so keep a watchful eye out for that, too!

Another thing to keep in mind is that rabbits are nervous creatures, and they tend to panic if you approach them slowly. Their first instinct is to freeze and hope that you don’t see them hiding since they blend in very well with their surroundings. If you keep walking and pass them by, they know that their hiding strategy worked. But if you stop and watch, waiting for them to move, they can get very anxious. They often burst from the cover and make a run for it, thinking that you stopped because you saw them.

Be sure to wear proper clothing when you target bunnies in the briar patch. Briars have thorns, and thorns can take the fun out of a trip in a hurry. Protective clothing like pants or chaps with thorn-proof material on the front can be a life-saver. Hunting boots and a briar-resistant coat or jacket will make for a more pleasant day, also. Don’t forget to wear a fluorescent orange hat and vest, too. Thick cover hides hunters as well as rabbits, and you want to be able to see your hunting partners.

One last thought is to use some discretion when it comes to harvesting rabbits from your favorite hotspots. Rabbits are prolific breeders, but they can be overhunted, especially in small areas. A good rule of thumb is to harvest only one rabbit for each two or three acres of land you are hunting.

Rabbit hunting is a fun and exciting way to spend a beautiful November day, so get out there and enjoy the outdoors! With any luck, you will have a successful hunt and you and your hunting partners will soon be feasting on fried rabbit!

The 2014 HOW Awards-In-Craft Contest

**The Hoosier Outdoor Writers
would like to announce that:**

TOYOTA MOTOR SALES

**Will once again be sponsoring the 2014
HOW Awards-In-Craft Contests**



The 2014 HOW Awards-In-Craft Contest

HOW CRAFTS AWARD CONTEST RULES

The contest year shall be for material published or aired from January 1, 2013 to December 31, 2013. All submissions, including photography, must have been printed, aired, published or electronically posted during the contest year.

The author, photographer or broadcaster must be an Active or Associate member of HOW.

The author, photographer or broadcaster must have been paid a standard rate for any work entered in the contest. Photos or articles published on a private Website or a not-for-hire Website will not be accepted. Photos/articles that are published, or radio/TV programs that are broadcast in trade for advertising or other non-monetary remuneration or for gratuitous fees (such as \$1) are not permitted.

At this time, blogs will not be accepted as an article. Photo essays (where the only writing is in the captions) will also not be accepted as an article. These types of entries will be disqualified.

This year we will again allow electronic submissions only. We no longer accept paper entries. This has resulted in much less work for entrants, contest coordinators and judges. It also conserves valuable natural resources, which is something of which we can all be proud. Entries must be submitted via email or filed on a CD/DVD and mailed. The only exception is the broadcast division, where tapes are also allowed. See the rules below for more details.

RULES FOR SUBMISSION

- 1) Contest entries must be in an electronic form. Entries must be emailed (or postmarked if mailing a CD or DVD) no later than March 1, 2014. Entries emailed or postmarked after that date will be disqualified. Send all entries to the proper contest coordinator (to be announced later).
- 2) An official HOW contest entry form must accompany each entry. The entry form must also be sent electronically (after typing the entry details into the form).
- 3) Send no material that needs to be returned. No original material is required. As mentioned above, print contest entries and photo contest entries must be sent in an electronic form. In the broadcast contest, tapes, recordings and DVDs are welcome.
- 4) All submissions of print entries (either from traditional paper or electronic media) must consist of one electronic copy of each article with bylines removed. This file must be text only – do not scan tearsheets or newspaper/magazine pages. This electronic copy must be submitted as a Microsoft Word 97-2003 Document (.doc) or as a PDF file (.pdf). Entries not following these rules will be disqualified. As mentioned, print entry files must be emailed (or filed on a CD or DVD and mailed) by the deadline.
- 5) Entries into the broadcast category require only one tape or recording and may be sent by tape cassette, CD, VHS or DVD formats. Radio and television entries may carry the broadcast station's name and call letters if they are on "as aired" dubbed tapes. TV entries should be dubbed minus commercials if possible to facilitate judging.
- 6) Entries in the photography division must consist of one electronic (digital) copy of each photo. This electronic copy must be saved as a JPEG file (.jpg or .jpeg). Prints, slides and paper copies of photos will not be accepted. Please include a title for each photo entry. Digitally produced photos should not be substantially manipulated. Allowable photo enhancement is limited to standard shooting/darkroom techniques, such as color correction, contrast control and image cropping.
- 7) An individual article, photo or broadcast may only be entered in one category/division. Entering the same piece in multiple categories/divisions will result in the disqualification of duplicate entries.
- 8) There is a limit of two entries per category.

For all Article entries, send submissions to the Writing Contest Coordinator:
TO BE DETERMINED

For all Photography entries, send submissions to the Photo Contest Coordinator:
John Martino, Email: jmartinooutdoors@att.net
US Mail: 12825 W 100 N, Kokomo, IN 46901

For all Broadcast entries, send submissions to the Broadcast Contest Coordinator:
Tom Berg, Email: thomas.berg@comcast.net
US Mail: 2142 Nondorf Street, Dyer, IN 46311

CONTEST DIVISIONS

- 1) Writing articles published as 1,000 words or less (Magazine, Newspaper, E-zine).
- 2) Writing articles published as more than 1,000 words (Magazine, Newspaper, E-zine).
- 3) Photography
- 4) Broadcast (Radio-TV-Video)

WRITING ARTICLE CATEGORIES

- 1) Hunting/Trapping
- 2) Fishing
- 3) Conservation
- 4) General Outdoors (other than hunting, fishing, trapping)

BROADCAST CATEGORIES

- 9) Best Radio Broadcast
- 10) Best TV Broadcast
- 11) Best Video

PHOTOGRAPHY CATEGORIES

- 5) Hunting/Trapping
- 6) Fishing
- 7) Outdoor Scenic
- 8) Outdoor Recreation (other than hunting, fishing, trapping)

2014 HOW AWARDS-IN-CRAFT CONTEST ENTRY FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

Category _____ Division _____

Title: _____

Where published/aired: _____

Publication/air date: _____

Entries and forms must be emailed or postmarked no later than March 1, 2014

A Memorable Youth Duck Hunt

by Kenny Bayless

While my son Seth and I were kicked back enjoying a recent Ducks Unlimited Banquet, a smiling face greeted us with a hardy hand shake. Matt Kriebel of Migration Outfitters gave Seth and his friend Parker Thompson a warm welcome and invited them to join him on a youth duck hunt at the goose pond near Linton, Indiana.

Matt offers Duck and Goose hunts in Illinois as well as Indiana. After you travel through Blandford, IN going west and you cross the Illinois State line, Matt's clubhouse is about a mile on your left.

The clubhouse welcomes the most seasoned hunters with its wood-burning stove and overstuffed chairs. Hunters can tell stories there and the warmth of the wood fire can make it difficult to stay awake. You could say it is redneck heaven. You will be met at the door by a very special female that owns Matt's heart and soul. Her name is Bell, and yes, she may nibble on your ear a little and get the entire side of your face wet from one of her special kisses. Maybe I should mention she can retrieve a duck with the best of them. Yes, she is a Labrador retriever!

On October 19th, the alarm went off at 3:30am with two youngsters looking like zombies from the show *The Walking Dead*. Camo and chest waders were carefully chosen ahead of time with Matt furnishing practically everything for these young hunters.

We were the first team of sixteen to choose our hunting spot at the Goose pond near Linton, IN. Seth even won a box of shotgun shells.

Parker is a medium sized 12-year old fellow that eats, sleeps and breathes hunting and fishing. As we were walking the half mile through the swamp in the dark, Parker would often find a deep spot and he looked like a fishing bobber until his feet hit pay dirt again.



Matt pulled a sled of decoys to charm those mallards into stopping for a visit. We sat in foldout chairs in waist deep water appreciating the long underwear we had on under our chest waders.

At first signs of light on that rainy morning, the ducks and geese were everywhere. Matt had ducks practically landing on our shoulders. He can make that duck call sound like an accomplished musician. We set up with our backs to the wind because when ducks land, they are facing into the wind, so it can slow their descent even more once they set their wings for landing. We not only had mallards, but blue wing teal, blue heron, geese, diving ducks, sandhill cranes and many other species to keep our attention.

Seth ended up with about five gallons of water in each leg and Parker could not see over the water weeds we were sitting in, so it was hard for either of them to get their sights on anything with feathers.

After about three hours of 'duck watching', Matt said "What is that noise? Is that your teeth chattering?" Both boys said they would not be ready to go until the other gave in, so Matt stood up and said there will be another day.

As we pulled up to the drive through window at Starbucks for hot chocolate and coffee, the lady looked like she was going to swell up like a toad with laughter because we forgot to remove our camo makeup!

HOW Member News

Hunting Season Finds Many HOW Members Afield

Brian Sorrells

Active HOW Member Brian Sorrells from Bedford, Indiana, is an avid bow hunter. Specifically, he likes to use traditional archery equipment like the long bow to hunt deer. This year, his patience in the woods paid off in a big way.

“I finally got one of the big ones I was after,” he said. “I shot him on the ground with my 68-pound longbow at 12 yards. It took five hours to get him to my truck as he weighed 235 pounds field dressed. He green scored 140 2/8 P&Y.”

“He went about 75 yards after I shot him, and as I was following the blood trail I saw a 190-class 12-pointer that I've been hunting for three years!”

“I hope your season has been a good one and that you have safe and happy holidays!”



Chip Hart

Active HOW Member Chip Hart from Batavia, Ohio, has dreamed of hunting for elk out west for a long time. His dream became reality recently when he made the trip to the small town of Kremmling, Colorado. Way back during the silver-boom days of the 1880s, Kremmling was bustling. But today there are more hunters than miners there!



“I killed this beautiful elk while hunting out of Kremmling,” said Hart. “It was near the headwaters of the Colorado River. This was my first elk and the result of a 30-year endeavor.”

What an awesome trophy!

Phil Seng

Every year, HOW member Phil Seng bowhunts with his two high school buddies Steve Mudd and Randy Morris in White County, Illinois. The hunting is generally excellent, but this year, three straight days of hard hunting had failed to produce any results. Seng had not seen a single deer during that time, which was extremely unusual for that area.

But on his last morning in the field, this dandy 9-pointer showed up. “It was a really foggy morning,” Seng said. “I was hunting along a cut cornfield, and this buck came out of the woods across the field in late morning. He was majestic with the sun behind him and the fog rolling all around.” The buck eventually came in and presented a 20-yard broadside shot, and Seng did his part with his bow.

“One of my buddies took another buck the same day I got mine that was at least as big. It was a good end to the trip!”

“I really want to thank Jack and Chase Sailer and Steve Mudd for giving me the opportunity to hunt some really special farms in Southern Illinois. It’s tough to beat time in the field with friends. It’s also tough to beat cornfed venison!”



Mike Schoonveld and Bill Keaton: “THE DEADLY DUO”

On December 19th, HOW Legal Counsel Bill Keaton traveled to HOW Past-President Mike Schoonveld’s house and they continued on to Deer Creek Hunt Club in Three Oaks, Michigan. They had scheduled a ten-bird pheasant hunting trip at a Pheasants Forever banquet last spring.



When the last shot of the hunt was fired, Max, the guide/dog handler, had a smile on his face. “You guys are in a rare group,” said the seven-year veteran at Deer Creek. He continued, “Since I started working here I’ve taken out hundreds and hundreds of groups. This is only the third time the hunters downed every bird flushed in range.”

“I’ve hunted all my life and have shot a lot of pheasants,” Bill told the guide. Schoonveld, shooting the same Remington 870 he’s carried since 1974 said simply, “I have a well-trained shotgun.”

Alan Garbers

“Certain hunts haunt me over the years, like movies that play over and over,” said Garbers. “Two trophy mule deer that eluded me when I lived in Colorado in 1985 was one such hunt. The Canadian black bear I shot in 2011 that ran into the woods, never to be found was another. The list goes on.”

“Never have I had a trophy-size whitetail deer step into range, until this season.”

“During the last weekend before firearm season, the biggest whitetail buck I have seen alive stepped out of the brush in front of me at 50-yards. He posed broadside as I quickly but quietly rested the crossbow across the safety rail of my tree stand and settled on a point right behind his shoulder. The massive buck jumped like my heart as my bolt struck home. He tucked his tail and leapt away into the brush, turning as he went. My elation turned to shock as I saw a large portion of the bolt sticking out of his shoulder.”



“I waited a full hour before starting after the buck, hoping that the broadhead had done its job. But as the image of the bolt replayed in my mind, my gut told me this would be another haunting.”

“Starting where the buck had leapt, I began tracking him, following the disturbed leaves. After twenty feet I found the bolt. There was blood, but the broadhead and insert were missing. The trail of disturbed leaves continued through heavy brush and down into our creek bottom. Finally, after fifty yards I found the first drops of blood. It took considerable effort to follow the faint trail. As Dianna and I cast about for blood, Mike Cullison, a friend and pro staff member of G5 Archery offered to come over and assist in our tracking. Mike has incredible tracking skill, so I was quick to agree.”

“Eight hours, several creek crossings, and multiple ridges later the faint blood trail thinned and then faded away all together. In frustration, we turned back to the house. As we trudged back home, Mike decided we should check the action of my crossbow.”

“Mike is an archery expert and adept at tuning bows, so I was excited to show him the Horton crossbow I had won the year before at the HOW conference. After showing him the crossbow Mike asked that I shoot it while he watched the arrow flight. We did and the bolt struck home in the bullseye of the target. Mike asked to see the crossbow and warned me that the bolt was kicking point up before straightening out. He said the bolt looked like it was losing much of its energy as it left the crossbow. He looked the crossbow over with an experienced eye and then pointed to the right limb and the crack that ran through it. There was the problem. There was the reason my buck had limped into the movies that play over and over in my mind, tormenting me with the dreams that have never been fulfilled.”

“To add insult to injury, I discovered that Horton recently closed its doors. So for the thousands of Horton crossbow shooters out there, there is no warranty.”

“Since that day I have sat in my stand watching for a monster buck that walks with a limp. Knowing my luck, I will have a long wait.”

Rick Bramwell

“Opening day of the Indiana deer gun season has been a ‘No miss’ for me since I was 16 years old,” said HOW Past-President Rick Bramwell. “This year, I was excited to hunt a new woods in Henry County. But my hunt almost got off to a very bad start.”

“While leaving the truck, I checked the wind. It was moderate and from the southeast. I decided to set a fencerow where I could watch the southwest corner of the Indian mounds woods.”

“As I unfolded my hunting chair, something caught my eye. I had scared a varmint out of the fencerow cover and was watching it waddle out across the picked corn. It was black with a white stripe down the back. For whatever reason, the skunk did not feel threatened enough to spray. That would have been bad.”

“I readied my shooting sticks and waited for the sun. Daylight came with a mist of rain and fog. Still, it was a pleasant morning full of promise. By 9:00am the wind was howling and a light rain began to fall. I decided the conditions would give me cover to begin still-hunting the south edge of the woods. I had seen a nice buck there three days earlier, but his fresh tracks were not to be found this morning. I gave up an hour later.”

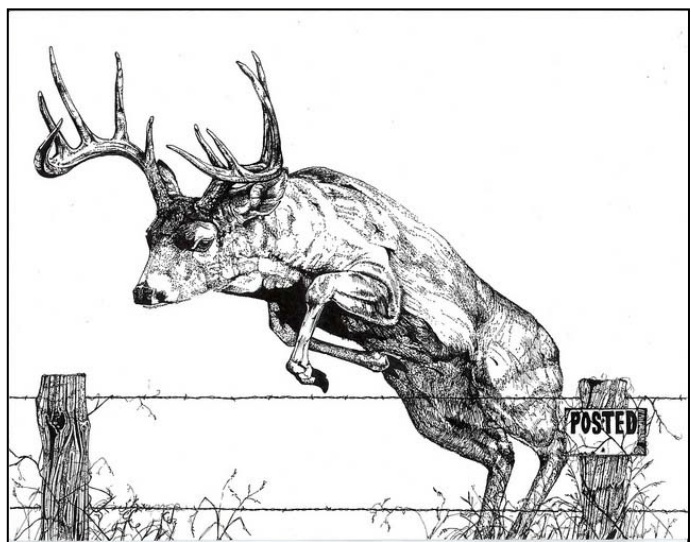
“Sunday was a wash and on Monday, my young friend Evan Shuey and I were to hunt Brown County State Park. A park employee took us along a muddy ridge fire lane and dropped us off. It didn’t take long for Evan to see a buck and miss it. This was his first deer hunt. We looked for blood, but found none.”

“Evan disappeared down a draw while I followed a bridle trail. I had just passed a small pond when I saw the back of a deer. Four steps off the trail and I could see the entire deer. I put the scope of my Optima muzzleloader on its chest and squeezed. A cloud of black powder smoke momentarily obstructed my view, but the deer died in its tracks.”

“Meanwhile, Evan saw 10 deer, four of them bucks chasing a doe. He never had an opportunity for a good shot, though. The flurry of deer and shooting all but stopped by late morning. Evan and I decided to swap guns as we walked to the trailhead. ‘There are two deer on that far hillside,’ Evan whispered. He anchored the Optima on a tree as the deer stopped. I waited, but he never fired. When the lead doe entered the fire trail, I dropped her with a .44 magnum.”

“In switching guns, Evan did not know there was a difference between the Marlin and the Optima. The .44 mag has a safety with the hammer back. You have to cock the muzzleloader. He was feeling for the safety and failed to cock the hammer.”

“The hills of Brown were relatively quiet Tuesday morning. I saw three deer and Evan one. We will continue our quest for his first deer later this season.”



Brandon Butler Experiences Onslaught of Missouri Ducks!

HOW Past-President Brandon Butler likes duck hunting. As waterfowl hunters know, epic, public land duck hunts are few and far between. Brandon and his dog Junior just lucked into one at Grand Pass Conservation Area just north of Marshall, Missouri.

“A cold front moved through and pushed a massive amount of ducks into Grand Pass,” said Butler. “The luck started with my friend Brad Kircher drawing the number one spot in the Quick Draw Lottery. Grand Pass is one of the conservation areas operating under the Missouri Department of Conservation’s (MDC) Quick Draw. The Quick Draw assigns 80 percent of the total spots on the CA to those lucky enough to be drawn in the computerized lottery. Spots are assigned in numerical order, so the first pill gives you first pick and so on. Those in the poor-line are drawing for 20 percent of the spots and any vacated by quick draw no-shows.”

“In four years of trying, I’ve yet to receive a coveted quick draw. Thankfully, a few of friends have and I’ve been able to tag along. This was my first hunt on the first pill though, and it was more than I could have imagined. Proving once again, it’s good to have friends!”



Brandon Butler and Junior with a limit of public land ducks from Grand Pass Conservation Area in north-central Missouri. Photo courtesy of Brandon Butler.



Bryan Poynter’s Radio Show Now Available Via Podcast

HOW Past-President Bryan Poynter is the host of the Saturday morning Indiana Outdoors radio show on 1070 The Fan and Network Indiana from 5-6am. He brings to that show more than 20 years of experience hunting, fishing, and exploring the four corners of the state. Bryan is an avid deer and duck hunter and is an entertaining host.

Happily, the Indiana Outdoors Show is now available via podcast. For those of you who don’t want to get up at 5:00am to listen to the show in real time, you can go online and listen to the latest episode – or any of his recent episodes. As Bryan recently said, “There are no excuses for not listening anymore!”

Check it out at: <http://www.1070thefan.com/podcast/>





Larry LaGrange Holds Squirrel Hunting Class

New HOW member Larry LaGrange from Jasper, IN had the opportunity recently to pass along some of his hunting knowledge to the younger generation.

“My grandson Carter, a twelve-year-old from Indy, stayed with us in Jasper after the smoke cleared from our Thanksgiving get-together,” remembered LaGrange. “It was his turn to squirrel hunt with me since I had taken his older brother Connor last year. He was as pumped about it as I was when I was that age. I recall strapping my Remington 870 20-gauge pump to my bike and pedaling out to the woods near my St. Croix home (northern Perry County) all of those years ago. Hunting bushytails was a big deal back then. I couldn’t wait until August 15th for the start. I even had trails smoothed-out in the woods behind our house. Some of my cousins and other guys in the area were tremendous hunters. They frequently limited-out, while I was happy to get two or three at a time.”

“We first tried our farm near Leopold. Pickings were slim. A couple of hawks were circling around, so that might have been a problem. Our ground renter had beans and not corn, so there was less to eat for the squirrels. Carter was good company. He was patient, but he only had one chance. A fox squirrel went right over my head, moving quickly. It would have been a fairly easy shotgun kill, but Carter’s scoped rifle made aiming a challenge. He got off one shot, but it didn’t connect. The squirrel quickly found his den tree and disappeared. It was OK, though. We did some target shooting, and he was accurate with the 22. He tried some target shots with my 20-gauge, but the kick and the noise was a little scary to him. I should have brought ear plugs. He preferred the easy shooting of the 22.”

“The next day was about the same story. We tried a friend’s farm near Jasper but only saw a single gray squirrel. Nests were everywhere; I couldn’t understand why we didn’t see more squirrels. We spooked a couple of bedded deer, and we saw a rabbit and some quail. Carter wanted to shoot the rabbit. It hunkered down about 20 feet away from us near the top of a mine bank. I told him not to shoot as I wasn’t sure of the background. He obeyed, and the rabbit escaped. There’s always next season. I told him the local quail club has a youth hunt next fall. I’ll bring ear plugs to that hunt!”

Membership Changes and New Email Addresses

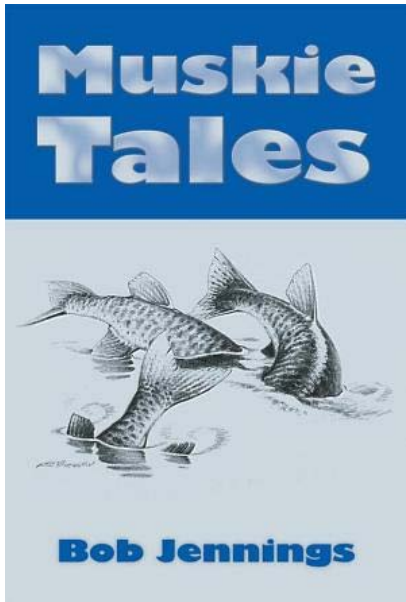
The following names include one new HOW member (Tom Smith). Welcome to HOW, Tom! Please make a note of his email address:

Tom Smith: tjsmith@iendeavor.com (new member)

The following HOW member has a new email address. Please make a note of it:

Dan Graves: grumman.dan@aol.com

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.



Bob Jennings' Muskie Book Back In Print

Active HOW member Bob Jennings from Worthington, IN reports that his book *Muskie Tales* is now back in print through the publishing company AuthorHouse.

The book contains many pages of enjoyable reading about the humor, fiction, and true adventures of muskie fishing. It also includes the ongoing saga of Lonesome Lodge, a place up north in muskie country. The adventures that take place there are from an earlier time. Do you remember Heddon Fiberglass Musky Specials, Shakespeare Howald Process Fiberglass Rods, Pflueger Rocket Reels, Wexford line, Globe Muskie lures and Walton Grip Loc tackleboxes? You will hear about them in Bob Jennings' *Muskie Tales*.

The Forward for this book was written by muskie fishing legend, Larry Ramsell, so you won't want to miss it. It is available in softcover or hardcover at www.authorhouse.com. It is also for sale as a Kindle Edition e-book or hardcover on www.amazon.com.

Bob also said he has several copies of *Muskie Tales* available in both softcover and hardcover if anyone would like to buy them directly from him. If so, he will sign and personalize them for free!

Brandon Butler Joins Dominator 365



DOMINATOR 365

Active HOW member Brandon Butler has joined Dominator 365 as Director of Sales and Marketing. In this role, Butler is focusing on establishing a sales network for D365 products, overseeing all marketing initiatives and increasing brand recognition.

Dominator 365 is a product development company specializing in odor elimination technologies. The Domin-Odor toothbrush is a unique, disposable toothbrush sportsmen can pack into the backcountry or use before heading to their stand after having morning coffee.

The Dominator 365 television show, hosted by Phillip Vanderpool on The Sportsman Channel, has been nominated for five Sportsman's Choice Awards. Through D365 television, Vanderpool shares the tips and tactics that have helped him become one of the most successful deer and turkey hunters in the industry. Butler is now managing the business aspects of the television show.

"Brandon brings valuable outdoor industry experience to Dominator 365. His sales, marketing and communications skills are going to help us reach the next level in this industry," said Bob Harrison, owner of Dominator 365.

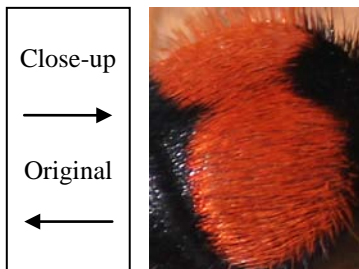
Butler was previously Director of Outdoor Markets for Callis Integrated Marketing and Marketing Manager at Battenfeld Technologies. He has worked with numerous industry leading brands, including Walther Arms, Caldwell Shooting Supplies, Wheeler Engineering, GamePlan Gear, Tipton Gun Cleaning Supplies, Sierra Bullets, Starline Brass and Buffer Technologies.

To learn more about Dominator 365, visit www.dominator365.com.

Contact: Brandon Butler, Brandon@Dominator365.com, (660) 281-9804.

Unusual Nature Photos From The Hoosier Outdoors Sponsored by Crosman

Meet The Velvet Ant, Also Known As “The Cow Killer”



The “What is it?” photo from the most recent issue was much easier than we thought it would be! Ten HOW members correctly identified it this time. Ken McBroom, Alan Garbers, Troy McCormick, John

Maxwell, Bill Keaton, PJ Perea, Jack Spaulding, Phil Seng, Bob Jennings and Laura Evans from Crosman each had the right answer. When we drew a name at random for the **Redfield** tactical riflescope, **Phil Seng** was the winner. Congrats, Phil! We’ll send the prize to you.

As you can see in the photo (above left), the mystery creature for this issue was a female Velvet Ant (*Dasymutilla occidentalis*). Actually, these solitary insects are not ants at all – they are wasps! Male velvet ants have wings and can

fly, while females are wingless. Females, however, are armed with a tremendously painful sting. They are sometimes called “Cow Killers”, because their sting is reportedly so painful that it can kill a cow. This is not really true, because their venom is not particularly toxic. If you are unfortunate enough to be stung, however, you might argue the point!

Despite their ability to sting, female velvet ants are not very aggressive. They are often so docile that they will emit an audible, high-pitched squeak when provoked to warn anyone harassing them that they will sting. So be careful. Adult velvet ants feed on nectar and water. Females seek out the underground nests of bumblebees and wasps to lay her eggs. The larval velvet ants are parasitic and eat the immature bees and wasps. Who knew velvet ants were so interesting?

For this issue, our friends at **Crosman** have offered to provide an extremely 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 Crosman Nitro Venom Dusk air rifle. This air rifle is very powerful and is loaded with features. 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 not likely to be living in your back yard, but it can be found in many parts of the state. Have you ever seen a creature that looks like this? Can you guess what it is?

This creature may not 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 duck, for example, go ahead and guess “Wood Duck”. 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.



As mentioned, **Crosman** will donate a Nitro Venom Dusk .22 air rifle (complete with scope) to the HOW member who guesses the right answer to this issue’s “What Is It?” question. To learn more about Crosman, check out their website at www.crosman.com. If multiple people guess correctly, we’ll draw a winner at random from the group. Good luck! Nature photos on this page by Tom Berg.





THOSE WHO HAVE GONE BEFORE US



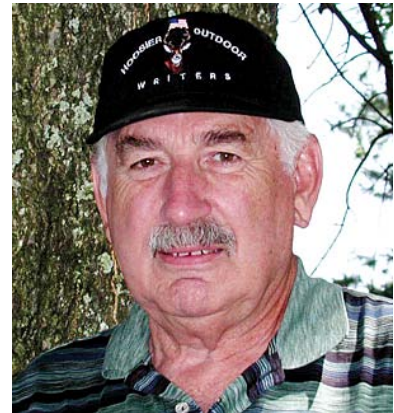
Don Bickel

March 14, 1933 – December 27, 2013

Crawfordsville, IN – Donald Robert Bickel, age 80, passed away at home in his sleep on Friday, December 27, 2013. He had battled cancer and other illnesses for many years, but never let those problems get him down or dampen his love of the outdoors.

Don was born March 14, 1933, in Harrison County, Indiana. He married his sweetheart Mary Alice Mitchell on August 7, 1955, in Crawfordsville.

He is survived by his loving wife, Mary Alice; three children, Jeff (Barb) Bickel of Crawfordsville, Kris Shireman of St. Petersburg, FL, and Mark (Missie) Bickel of Crawfordsville; five grandchildren, George Shireman, Lauren Bickel, Elizabeth Bickel, Dietrich Shireman and Gus Bickel; as well as a sister, Barbara (Sam) Lander of Corydon.



Don graduated from Purdue University in 1956, earning his degree in forestry. He served in the US Army at Belvoir, VA, from 1956 to 1958. After his service in the Army, he moved to Bluffton, IN, where he was a district forester and owner of The Toll Gate Nursery and Greenhouse until 1969. He then moved to Crawfordsville, where he worked for the Indiana Department of Transportation as Landscape Supervisor until he retired in 1995.

During his life, Don enjoyed many outdoor activities, including hunting, fishing, trapping, making maple syrup and spending time in the great out-of-doors. He was a long-time member of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers, and served as a member of the HOW Board of Directors several times. He made every effort to attend as many HOW meetings as possible, often bringing a quart of his precious homemade maple syrup as one of the prizes for the HOW raffle.

Don wrote a weekly outdoors column for *The Journal Review* newspaper in Crawfordsville and the *Montgomery County Weekly Review*. He wrote a regular column for *The Gad-a-bout* for many years, as well. Don was active in many outdoor organizations, including the Coal Creek chapter of Pheasants Forever, where he received the “Aldo Leopold Conservation Award” in 1998. He taught the outdoor conservation program for local fourth graders for many years, too. Don was also a member of Master Gardeners and the Montgomery County Historical Society. He was one of the founding members of the NICHES Land Trust and was a local and state judge for Indiana 4-H for many years. As an outdoor writer, Don received the Indiana Wildlife Federation’s prestigious “Conservation Communicator of the Year” award in 2009.

Don was preceded in death by his parents, George and Gertrude Bickel; daughter Susan Bickel; and son-in-law Richard Shireman.

A celebration of his life was held on Tuesday, December 31, 2013, at Christ Lutheran Church, 300 W. South Blvd., Crawfordsville, IN. Don was a special man and he will never be forgotten.

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.

Frogg Toggs Introduces New *Pilot Series* Ultra-Performance Rainwear in 2014 Lineup

Arab, AL: Constructed from similar materials and using the same technology as our breathable waders, the all new Pilot Guide Jacket and Bibs from frogg toggs® are what all other rainwear wishes it could be. The Pilot Series from frogg toggs is utterly dry in any weather, crafted for years of dependable use, lightweight, comfortable, and is absolutely the best value in high performance rainwear on the market today.

Using proven materials and technology from our line of breathable wadewear products, the Pilot jacket and Bibs are guaranteed to be dry and comfortable on the inside, no matter what is going on outside. Available in Black/Charcoal with Red zips and Stone/Taupe with Orange zips (shown below). With a list of features that will warm the heart of any serious outdoors enthusiast, the Pilot Series should definitely be on your list of must-have items. Here are the details:

Jacket:

- frogg toggs DriPore™ waterproof, breathable technology
- Constructed from 3-layer submersible breathable wader material
- 100% seam sealed and waterproof
- Water resistant zippers on front closure and all external pockets
- 3 way adjustable hood with visor
- Shock cord adjustable waist
- 4 accessory D-Rings
- Interior storage pocket
- Internal, adjustable neoprene cuff and hook and loop adjustable outer cuff for a perfect seal against the elements



Bibs:

- frogg toggs DriPore™ waterproof, breathable technology
- Constructed from 3-layer submersible breathable wader material
- 100% seam sealed and waterproof
- Water resistant zippers on front closure, leg zips, and external chest pocket
- Large, expandable cargo pockets on legs
- Zip down front and thigh length leg zippers for easy on and off
- Adjustable waist
- Comfortable, adjustable Y-Back suspenders



For more information on frogg toggs products, visit www.froggtoggs.com.

HOW members may also contact Will Fowler, Director of Marketing at: 800-349-1835 or by email at: will@froggtoggs.com.



HOW Supporting Member News



The *Speedy Sharp* Universal Sharpener Will Sharpen Almost Anything

Cora, WY: Outdoorsmen use a variety of knives while pursuing their favorite activities. Hunters usually have numerous knives for skinning, boning and cutting. Fishermen use long, thin fillet knives for preparing their catch for the table, but they also use smaller knives while fishing from shore and from a boat. Hikers, backpackers, campers, boaters and other outdoors people use knives on a daily basis to cut everything from rope to beef jerky.

One thing they have in common is that they all need to sharpen their knives from time to time. But where can you find the perfect knife sharpener? One that is small enough to fit in your pocket, tacklebox or hunting pack? How about one that not only sharpens knives, but also sharpens scissors, hatchets, scrapers, archery broadheads and more? Look no further!

The *Speedy Sharp* knife sharpener is the most universal sharpener ever made. It is fast, durable, compact and can be stored almost anywhere. It is made of MICRO 100 Super Carbide, and it will never wear out. It also comes in six different colors.

The *Speedy Sharp* will literally sharpen anything with an edge from knives to lawn mower blades. Here are just some of the items it will sharpen: Hunting knives, fillet knives, serrated-blade knives, scissors, chisels, carpet knives, axes, hatchets, razor blades, scrapers, broadheads, fish hooks, router bits, planer blades, gardening tools, snow skis and more.

The *Speedy Sharp* can sharpen virtually everything and has a lifetime warranty. See packaging for instructions.

For more information, contact Pam Fetzner at *Speedy Sharp* by phone (307-367-3572) or via email: speedy1@speedysharp.net. You may also visit their website at: www.speedysharp.net.



HOW Supporting Member News



Kwikee Kwiver Buys TRS/SRT Assets

Williamsburg, MI: Kwikee Kwiver Company, longtime manufacturer of archery accessories, announces the purchase of assets from Therapeutic Recreation Systems (TRS), previously marketed under the name Sports and Recreations Technology (SRT). Two of the products that Kwikee Kwiver will market are the **Sidewinder** and the **X-Block**.

The **Sidewinder** is a hip mount for detachable quivers. With the advent of lighter, smaller bows, carrying a quiver on the hip is appealing to many archers, yet crossbow companies continue to offer proprietary mounting solutions that restrict available quiver choices. **Sidewinder** works with any AMO standard quiver mounting bracket. The **X-Block**, a broadhead sharpening device, will help bow hunters extend the life of expensive broadheads by providing a tool to sharpen their existing inventory.

TRS/SRT is a Boulder, Colorado company headed by Bob Radocy. “Bob’s primary business and focus is in a different market,” said Leo Grant from Kwikee Kwiver. “It was felt that a greater reach for these products could be accomplished through the Kwikee Kwiver Company.”

Images can be found at: www.kwikeekwiver.com/downloads.

For additional info, contact Leo Grant at Kwikee Kwiver by phone (231-267-5685) or by email: Leo@KwikeeKwiver.com.



Introducing The Pelican ProGear™ Sport Elite Laptop/Camera Pro Pack

Torrance, CA: Pelican Products, Inc., the global leader in the design and manufacture of high-performance protective case solutions and advanced portable lighting systems, recently introduced the Pelican ProGear™ S115 Sport Elite Laptop/Camera Pro Pack.

The S115 is a camera pack that features a legendarily tough Pelican laptop case integrated with a water resistant front compartment with padded dividers that hold and protect multiple camera bodies, lenses, flashes and other camera equipment. Its built-in laptop case is a watertight, crushproof and impact resistant compartment that can fit an Ultrabook® or any 15” notebook up to 1” thickness or any 17” MacBook®.

To secure accessories, the S115 features several compartments including air mesh lid organizer pockets for fragile accessories, internal organizer pouches for cables and memory cards, and three external side pockets for water bottles and other accessories.

This multi-functional Pro Pack has a rigid front plate to protect camera gear from impact and quick-clip side straps.



The S115 laptop compartment is rated IP67 (watertight to 3.3 feet for 30 minutes) and the automatic pressure equalization valve prevents vacuum lock within the case. It also features a chest clip and removable waist belt to distribute pack weight evenly and a SureGrip handle for easy transport. To ensure comfort when worn, the S115 has a ventilated back panel pad system and comfortable floating ergonomic shoulder straps.

The Pelican ProGear S115 Sport Elite Laptop/Camera Pro Pack has an MSRP of \$329.95 and it can be viewed/purchased directly from the Pelican ProGear website, www.PelicanProGear.com.

For more information, contact Kiersten Moffatt at BLASTmedia, phone: 317-806-1900 (ext.106), or email: kiersten@blastmedia.com.



HOW's Supporting Member Websites

Alpen Optics - www.alpenoutdoor.com
Aquateko International - www.aquateko.com
Arctic Ice - www.arcticicellc.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.cva.com
BoatUS - www.boatus.com
Brownells, Inc. - www.brownells.com
Bubba Blade Knives - www.bubbablade.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.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.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.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

SHOT Show 2014: (http://shotshow.org) Las Vegas, NV	January 14-17, 2014
Cincinnati Travel, Sports & Boat Show: (www.hartproductions.com) Cincinnati, OH	January 17-19 & 22-26, 2014
Indianapolis Boat, Sport & Travel Show: (www.renfroproductions.com) Indianapolis, IN	February 14-23, 2014
POMA 2014 Annual Conference: (www.professionalooutdoormedia.org) Knoxville, TN	March 19-22, 2014
NRA 2014 Annual Meeting: (www.nra.org) Indianapolis, IN	April 25-27, 2014
HOW 2014 Annual Conference: (www.HoosierOutdoorWriters.org) The Garrison, Fort Harrison State Park Indianapolis, IN	May 2-4, 2014
AGLOW 2014 Cast & Blast: (www.aglowinfo.org) Chautauqua County, NY	May 5-8, 2014
OWAA 2014 Annual Conference: (www.owaa.org) McAllen, TX	May 23-25, 2014
ICAST Show 2014: (www.ICASTfishing.org) Orlando, FL	July 15-18, 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.