A photograph of a winter scene. The foreground and middle ground are filled with trees and branches heavily laden with snow. A creek flows through the scene, its surface reflecting the surrounding white landscape. The background shows more snow-covered trees and a bright, overcast sky. The overall atmosphere is serene and cold.

# The Blade

January - February 2014

The Official Publication of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers

"Winter Adventure At The Creek", 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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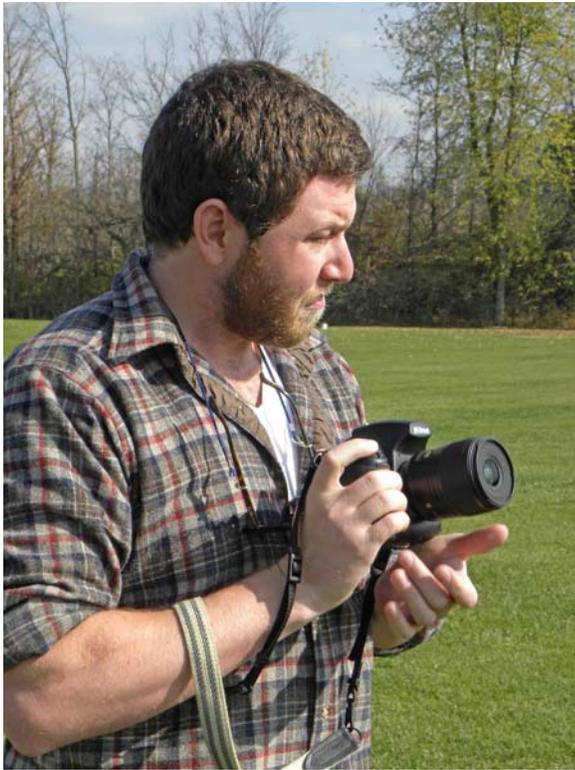
Region 1 – Ken McBroom  
2015  
Region 2 – Jon Marshall  
2014  
Region 3 – John Trout, Jr.  
2015  
Region 4 – Jack Spaulding  
2014

### At Large:

John Martino – 2014  
Gary Redmon – 2014  
Brent Wheat – 2014  
Don Cranfill – 2015  
Bryan Poynter – 2015  
Mike Schoonveld – 2015

All submissions and correspondence in regards to the newsletter should be directed to: Tom Berg (e-mail: [director@hoosieroutdoorwriters.org](mailto:director@hoosieroutdoorwriters.org)), or to Tom Berg, 2142 Nondorf St., Dyer, IN 46311. Portions of this newsletter may be reproduced only with the permission of the Hoosier Outdoor Writer's Executive Board and/or the permission of the original author or authors submitting the material. HOW website: [www.HoosierOutdoorWriters.org](http://www.HoosierOutdoorWriters.org).

**On the cover:** *New-fallen snow creates a beautiful winter scene down at the local creek. There is a mallard duck somewhere in this photo – can you spot it? Photo by Tom Berg.*



# President's Message

by Ben Shadley

## “Let's Talk About Guns”

I tried to come up with a topic more likely to illicit a strong reaction, but I just don't have the space to critique each individual HOW member's personal religious beliefs. And while the above statement is of course in jest, the notion that firearms and religion occupy a similar emotional and intellectual space for much of this country is not.

For those of us both for and against guns (to grossly oversimplify) the debate runs hot and is often devoid of common sense. But even when passions run deep, as outdoor communicators, we have a responsibility to bring a level of intelligence and reasonableness to the conversation befitting professional journalism. I believe this extends to our personal lives and interactions as well.

As evidenced by the recent and swift destruction of noted gun writer Dick Metcalf's career, my opinion may not be widely held in the industry (our own Brandon Butler covered this nicely: [driftwoodoutdoors.com/noted-gun-writer-fired-over-editorial](http://driftwoodoutdoors.com/noted-gun-writer-fired-over-editorial)). The short version is that Metcalf wrote a column critical of the opinion that *any* firearms regulation is an infringement of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment.

In no way was his argument anti-gun, or even close. It was, however, informed, thoughtful and unapologetic about offering a counter-opinion to what he deems an incorrect interpretation of the Constitution. But instead of inspiring a reasonable debate on the topic, he was proverbially ridden out of town on a rail for his heresy. This is a huge problem. We can't eat our own and expect anything good to follow. It also makes our professional community look ridiculous to anyone observing from afar.

Appropriately, the most concise remedy to this situation is found in a quote frequently seen on hybrid mini-car bumper stickers and falsely attributed to Ghandi: Be the change you wish to see in the world. In our case it's the firearms and sporting culture world.

Whether you're an editor in charge of procuring content, writing a column or having a conversation at dinner, it's crucial to represent our sporting and firearms culture with dignity and thoughtfulness. Let me be clear, I am not suggesting you adopt neutrality - quite the opposite, actually. Probably no surprise, but this is where I tip my hand and say I feel strongly, personally and politically, that guns remain an embraced, established and legally protected part of American culture. It's a fair assumption most readers of this column feel likewise.

(continued next page)

To tie this back to the non-Ghandi quote I trotted out, the change I'm suggesting is one of tone and approach when dealing with neutral and/or anti-gun people. The approach should focus on converting these folks to a positive stance on firearms. This means the tone should be polite, informed and not dismissive of the fears/opinions/misinformation you will encounter – no matter how ridiculous.

Listening is important because, at least in my experience, many of the reasons people have anti-gun sentiments are based on misinformation. Understanding where the negative feelings come from is key to debunking them. It's amazing how many people who consider themselves strongly anti-gun know virtually nothing about them. Taking the time to respectfully educate someone may just change his or her mind.

Of course there are always going to be people who can't be persuaded. Maybe they are informed but just don't believe, for example, in a right to self-defense. Not much you can do, but engaging with these folks in an intelligent, balanced way will be hard not to respect – and may change their opinion of what a "gun person" is. And it's a universal fact that hating someone you respect is really tough.

But I need to revisit the Metcalf situation to fully make my point. He isn't one of the people I address above. He's neither neutral nor anti-gun. Rather, he's a member of our pro-gun community. What happened to him personally is a glaring problem, but the sentiment it represents is even worse.

As professional outdoor journalists we have to accept that reasonable internal debates make us stronger and more able to address external threats. The natural extensions of dialogue with each other are conversations with our critics that change their minds.

# **Save The Date!**

## **Conference:**

**HOW Conference: May 2-4, 2014**

**Annual Meeting: May 3, 2014**

## **Location:**

**Fort Harrison State Park  
Indianapolis, Indiana**

# The Hoosier Outdoor Writers

New Members, Past Presidents & Memorial Section

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

Virginia Anson (Associate)  
Concordia, KS  
Sponsor: Tom Berg

## 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
Ben Shadley	2013

# Annual HOW Conference

## Make Plans Now To Attend The 2014 Annual HOW Conference At Fort Harrison State Park!

The 45th meeting of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers will take place on the weekend of May 2-4, 2014 at Fort Harrison State Park in Indianapolis, IN. Have you been to a HOW conference lately? This is shaping-up to be another great conference, so make your plans to attend now!

The weekend conference activities will begin with the annual HOW Fun Shoot on Friday, May 2nd. All HOW members who enjoy the shooting sports should consider joining us this year! Fun Shoot coordinator Mike Schoonveld tells us we will be shooting sporting clays at the Indiana Gun Club in Fishers, IN. Their 10-station sporting clays course is always a lot of fun, for novice and expert shooters alike!

Everyone who arrives at Fort Harrison State Park on Friday evening will be invited to a special barbecue dinner that we are planning with the help of the Visit Indy tourism folks. We will meet at one of the park shelters (exact location to be announced later). There will be plenty to eat and drink, and it will be a great opportunity to see old friends and make some new ones. All HOW Conference attendees and their spouses are invited. The sign-up sheet is printed on page 9 of this newsletter.

The main meeting will occur on Saturday, May 3rd. As usual, you don't have to attend any of the events on Friday if your schedule only allows you to be present at the Saturday meeting. See page 8 for a copy of this year's conference registration form. We will have plenty of interesting speakers at the conference, featuring the following topics:

- **What's New In Indiana Tourism**

Mark Newman or another representative from the Indiana Department of Tourism will welcome the HOW members to Indy as our first speaker. He will tell us what has been happening lately with Indiana tourism, including new directions that the department is taking this year.

- **Snakes Alive! Presentation**

One of the top fears in the world is the fear of snakes! Naturalist Jarrett Manek from O'Bannon Woods State Park will present a multitude of native Indiana snakes. He will try to dispel the myths associated with many snakes. He will bring about a dozen different snakes, including the four venomous species native to Indiana. Just a few of the snakes presented include the black rat snake, king snake, hognose snake, milk snake, timber rattlesnake and cottonmouth.

- **Gold Prospecting In Indiana**

Jay Clawson and Tom Smith from the Southern Indiana Chapter of the Gold Prospectors Association of America will talk about finding gold right here in Indiana. They will give a demonstration on gold panning and they may even bring the portable sluicebox that they use on area creeks.

- **Dock Shooting For Reservoir Crappies**

Local crappie tournament fisherman Doug Sikora will discuss an intriguing technique for catching reservoir crappies called "Dock Shooting". Most crappie fishermen don't know about dock shooting for crappies or haven't tried it, so it should be interesting. He will put the technique into action on Sunday during our Fishing Outing.



HOW Nominating Chairman John Martino addresses the membership back in 2009 – the last time that our conference was held at **The Garrison** inside Fort Harrison State Park.



The HOW Board of Directors will convene during the course of the day to discuss the business of the association, and a slate of new officers will be elected during the meeting, also. Of course, we are planning another excellent HOW Raffle this year, too! The raffle at the 2013 meeting at Clifty Falls was probably the best yet, and we are hoping it will be even better in Indianapolis this year! We have already received a great variety of exceptional outdoors products for this year's raffle, including a Henry lever-action rifle, a Remington 9mm handgun, a Mossberg Duck Commander shotgun, a Mathews compound bow, a Vexilar Pro Pack icefishing sonar unit, fishing rods, reels and other fishing gear, rainwear, knives, optics, books, lights, hunting gear and accessories, shooting supplies, and much more. Additional items are coming in every day, too, so start saving your money for tickets now. You must be present to win, so don't miss it!

## Another Amazing HOW Raffle!

There will also be opportunities to explore Fort Harrison State Park throughout the conference weekend, where HOW members and spouses can do some horseback riding, hiking, fishing, bird watching, nature photography or simply spend some quality time outdoors. The park's Visitor Center and Museum of 20th Century Warfare may also be of interest to many family members. The Triton Brewery about two blocks from the Inn is appealing to many people, too. They offer tours on Saturdays, but reservations are required. Email them at [info@tritonbrewing.com](mailto:info@tritonbrewing.com) to make your reservation.



Don't forget about the HOW Fishing Outing on Sunday, too. We will offer two fishing options: Crappie fishing on one of the local reservoirs, and river fishing for smallmouth bass. Both trips will feature knowledgeable guides and fishing hosts. More details will follow in the coming weeks. Check out the sign-up sheet on page 9.

There are plenty of other things to do in and around Indianapolis, too. The Indiana State Museum and the Children's Museum are always popular. Spouses might be interested in shopping at the Castleton Mall or touring one of the many local art galleries.

The historic district of North Meridian Street reminds visitors of Indiana's past. Huge mansions dating back to the early twentieth-century line the streets, displaying the wealth of an earlier generation. The street is on the National Register of Historic Places, and includes architecture ranging from Tudor revival and Jacobean to Colonial revival and Neo-classical.

If you are looking for other attractions and things to do, check out the following websites:

<http://visitindy.com/>

<http://indianapolis-indiana.funcityfinder.com/indianapolis-things-to-do/>

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 not be printed here. It was already sent out via email. Contact HOW Executive Director Tom Berg if you missed it. We are not publicizing the code online because non-HOW members might access it (that actually happened at the 2012 conference).

Don't wait too long, though – our block of rooms will be released on April 2, 2014. If you prefer to camp or stay at another hotel instead of the Inn, there are several choices nearby if you look online or in the phone book.

### **FOR ROOM RESERVATIONS:**

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

**Group/Promotional Code:** Sent out via email (contact Tom Berg with questions).

**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

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# Hoosier Outdoor Writers Annual Conference Registration

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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](mailto:thomas.berg@comcast.net)

# Hoosier Outdoor Writers Conference Activities Registration

Please register for the Pre-Conference and Post-Conference activities listed below (Friday, May 2, 2014 and Sunday, May 4, 2014). The only activity that requires an advance payment is the Sunday fishing trip, but please indicate the number of people planning to attend each activity so we can plan accordingly. Note that activities are reserved for registered conference attendees only.

**Contact information:**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Spouse's name (if attending):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mailing Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City or Town:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

Activity Registration Fees for HOW members and their spouses (per person):

		Number Attending			
Friday Fun Shoot *:		X	_____	=	\$ <b>N/A</b>
Friday evening Barbecue:	FREE!	X	_____	=	\$ <b>N/A</b>
Sunday Fishing Outing **:	\$25.00 each	X	_____	=	\$ _____
<b>TOTAL:</b>				_____	\$ _____

\* The fee for the Fun Shoot will be payable at the Indiana Gun Club.

\* Ammunition will be supplied free of charge to HOW members.

**\*\* For Sunday fishing, please specify your choice of the following:**

Local reservoir crappie fishing \_\_\_\_\_ Local stream/river fishing or flyfishing \_\_\_\_\_

**Please print this registration form and mail it along with your check (if you are fishing) for each person attending (make checks payable to "Hoosier Outdoor Writers") to:**

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

**Registration forms and payment must be received by April 1st at the LATEST.**

Questions? Email all conference questions to Tom Berg: [thomas.berg@comcast.net](mailto:thomas.berg@comcast.net)

# 2014 HOW Conference

We would like to thank the following companies and organizations:



**Awards-in-Craft Sponsor**



**Friday Evening BBQ Sponsor**



**Conference Lunch Co-Sponsor**



**Conference Lunch Co-Sponsor**



**Conference Seminar Sponsor**

**Sponsors of the 2014 HOW Annual Conference**

# 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 the Writing contest, that means you may enter two articles in the Fishing Category in the "1000 words or less" Division and two articles in the Fishing Category in the "More than 1000 words" Division (for example).

**For all Article entries, send submissions to the Writing Contest Coordinator:**

John Trout, Jr., Email: [contest@hoosieroutdoorwriters.org](mailto:contest@hoosieroutdoorwriters.org)

US Mail: 6259 W 800 S, Holland, IN 47541

**For all Photography entries, send submissions to the Photo Contest Coordinator:**

John Martino, Email: [jmartinooutdoors@att.net](mailto: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](mailto: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**

# The Birthday Buck

by Ken McBroom

I awoke at 3:30am to the coffee maker brewing that great predawn medicine. It was my birthday and I have had some great hunts on my birthday in the past – but none as good as this one. I am usually in the woods on my birthday and my family understands.

The jonboat had a thin layer of frost on the seat. It was the first frost I had seen and there is nothing better than a frosty morning to a bowhunter in November. I was excited about hunting my new stand location. I had moved my stand about 75 yards to where I had spotted two real good shooters the day before. The wind was right and the stage was set. The new tree was one of those triple trunk trees that split about four feet above the ground. It was a pain getting into the climber but well worth it once I was up 20 feet. I positioned the stand in the middle of the three trunks to use them as cover. I love finding a tree like this one or a tree next to another tree that will break my outline and conceal my movements.

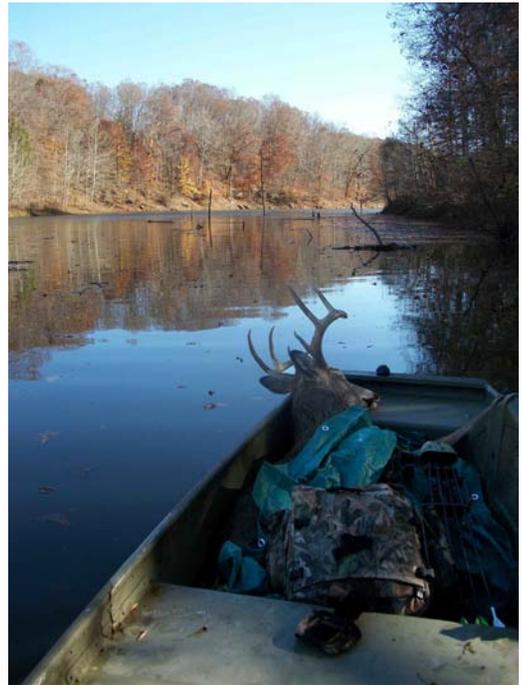
I had watched those bucks travel up a draw right by this tree, and with a steady breeze blowing my scent above their trail I was confident in the stand location. The bucks the day before had moved through around 9:00-10:00am, but I was alert. Even though this spot was just 75 yards from my last stand, I could see much more of the ridge above and the draw below. I was prepared for anything.

Day broke with that familiar “chill you to the bone” temperature drop as the sun’s rays slowly began to penetrate the trees. The squirrels started digging in the leaves and the birds were singing their songs. It was perfect and once again I wondered why everyone doesn’t bowhunt. It is mornings like this that makes those hikes in the dark, the thorns in your hands and the limbs smacking you in the face when your treestand or pack hangs a limb all worth it.

I saw a fork-horn buck down below, working the same mock scrape I made a few days ago. I guess it was his scrape now. He wanted to go down into the same thicket as yesterday but he just kept staring in that direction and finally decided against it. He just meandered around above it, browsing on leaves and maybe an acorn here or there. I really think a buck ran him out of that thicket yesterday. I watched this young buck for several minutes before scanning the ridge above me for more deer. You have to be careful when bowhunting that you don’t get caught up watching deer that aren’t the intended target or you might have a shooter sneak by you. This is exactly what happened to me. I scanned the ridge and saw a shooter buck entering a stand of cedars about 80 yards from my stand. I’m not sure if he ever got within bow range, but I sure would have liked seeing if he had.

The bucks were moving and the shooter that went into the cedars was yet another deer that I had not seen before. The first shooter that first day had ghost-white antlers with nine points and I had not seen him again. The big 7-pointer had those same white antlers and was definitely a buck I would like to bag. Even though it only had seven points it was very wide and very tall; a great looking buck for sure. The buck in the cedars had chocolate brown antlers and eight nice points. Boy, I love big 8-pointers.

It was still early, and I knew with the rut getting serious there should be more deer moving. I settled in and hoped get a shot at that big 7-pointer or another buck I saw ghosting through the thicket yesterday. The stand move put me between both of these buck’s trails. I could see a few rubs below me and the trail that the big



7-pointer used was visible along the ground below me. There was a thicket below that trail that was so thick it would be difficult to see a deer walking through it, but with the leaves now dry I could hear every movement in there. The squirrels were driving me crazy! The one thing about squirrels digging in the leaves is it keeps you alert. Every sound makes you think a deer is coming.

I had been listening to these squirrels for half an hour or so and had pretty much tuned them out. Then I heard something in the thicket that sounded a little different and I started paying attention. It sounded like a deer walking in the thicket but I couldn't be sure. It definitely had more of a walking cadence, but I couldn't see anything. After several minutes of listening to this I decided to make a light grunt with my True Talker grunt call. This call is made by Hunter's Specialties and has sealed the deal for me on many whitetail bucks over the years. On this hunt the True Talker sealed the deal for yet another.

My intention was to attract whatever was walking around below me in the thicket, so my focus was in that direction when I made a low, short grunt. I had switched on the video camera and had it pointed at the thicket since I was sure I would get a response to the grunt. Well, I got a quick response, but it caught me off guard as I heard the sound of footsteps behind me from the direction of the cedars. There I was, turned around opposite of where the deer was coming. Isn't this how it usually happens? It all happened so fast. Before I knew it, the footsteps stopped right under my tree.

I could hear the deer below and behind me taking in long sniffs as it scent-checked for whatever had grunted in his living room. I still couldn't see it, but by the way it was acting I was sure it was a buck. I was hoping it was the big 8-pointer I had seen slip into the cedars earlier. I could see the base of my tree but the deer was under a limb that was still loaded with leaves. The deer continued scent-checking the air but he was standing still and I prayed he would come just a few more steps to investigate.

After what seemed like minutes (but I'm sure was only seconds), the deer emerged from behind me and I could see the chocolate antlers and eight points. It had to be the big 8-pointer from the cedars. The buck was sniffing the ground next to my tree and his antlers were actually scraping the tree where I was sitting. I couldn't get a shot because my bow limb was hitting my stand so I had to wait as the buck looked around for the grunter. I was afraid this was as far as he would come, but finally he walked to a mock scrape I had made before climbing the tree. I wondered if I had put it too close once I was up the tree and looking at it, but it proved to help me arrow a great 8-pointer. I had put some of the Code Blue Rack Rub Gel on the branch above the scrape and I have learned that it is a great scent.



The buck went straight to the licking branch and was inhaling it deep into its lungs and rubbing his antlers in the branch. Finally he turned, presenting me with a broadside shot at 12 yards. This buck had totally given up on the grunt now and was focused on leaving his pre-orbital scent on this licking branch to tell the stranger that he lived here, too.

I released the arrow and the shot looked good. The buck took off and after about 30 yards he went off the side of a bluff and hit the creek below. From there he ran up the creek and I could hear him crashing through the woods. Finally the woods went silent and I knew he was down.

I have been hunting public land for years and have had the privilege to hunt some great private lands, but this hunt was by far the best week of bowhunting of my life and it all happened on public land. I learned a lot about mock scrapes and calls and how important they can be for success during the rut. I also learned to do your research before ever getting to your hunting land. I found this spot on Google Earth and it ended up being a spot that I hope to return to year after year.

# HOW Member News

## Mike Schoonveld Rescued From Snow!

Active HOW Member Mike Schoonveld from Morocco, Indiana, was up to his elbows in snow in early January. Actually, the snow was a lot worse than elbow-deep. There were drifts more than five feet deep in some places around his pole barns. Mike lives in rural Newton County, and the prevailing west winds do a good job of piling the snow in huge drifts all around his property. The heavy snow that fell all over the northwest part of the state after the first of the year made a real mess.

“With all the snow in the driveway after the ground blizzard,” said Schoonveld, “I suited up in my Ice Team togs and fired-up the snow blower. I knew there was no way I was going to be able to get the whole driveway cleared. I only hoped I could remove enough to be able to get my wife Peggy’s SUV and my pickup truck free.”

“I hadn’t been going for more than five minutes when, over the sound of the snow-blower motor, I



heard the back-up alarm of heavy equipment. My neighbor to the south had dispatched his front loader and operator around the neighborhood to clear up where needed. Woo-Hoo! He moved more snow in 10 minutes than I could have moved in 10 days!”

“I’m thinking about starting a pool betting on what day next spring the last of the pile melts away!”

## Seng Has Dream Deer Season



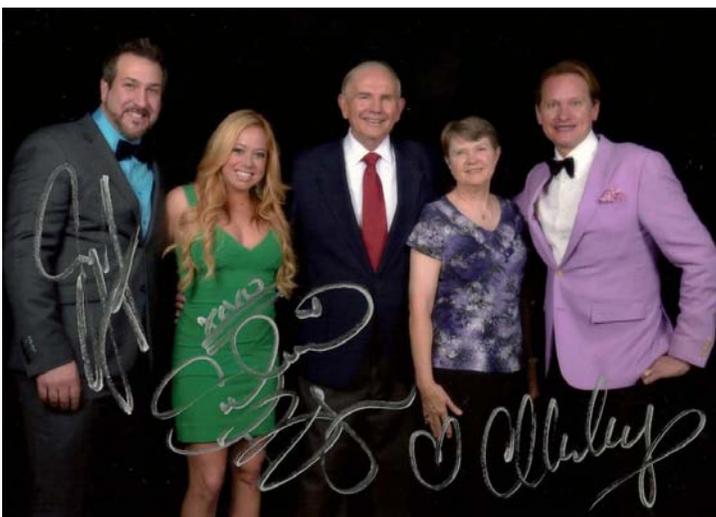
Back in late-October, HOW member Phil T. Seng took a nice nine-point buck on his annual bowhunt in southern Illinois. After shooting several does in Indiana (including one at the deer reduction hunt at Potato Creek State Park), Seng had only a couple days left to fill his buck tag in Indiana. Fellow HOW member and co-worker Jon Marshall had captured a fine ten-pointer on a trail camera on the farm they both hunt, but neither had seen it while hunting.

On November 23, Seng had to attend a Saturday morning meeting in Ft. Wayne, but threw his hunting gear in the truck and got out of the meeting early enough to do an evening hunt on his way back to South Bend. A gentle snow was falling when he arrived at his stand, but he didn't see anything but squirrels all afternoon. "I really thought I was going to be shut out, but with only twenty minutes of shooting light left, the buck from Jon's trail cam came trotting by out of nowhere."

Giving a quick shout to get the buck to stop, Seng did his part with a 50-caliber muzzleloader. "I doubt I'll ever have the chance to shoot two mature bucks again in the same season," Seng said. "I really want to thank Dave and Tracy Case and Robert and Barbara Reed and their family for allowing me the privilege to hunt their farm. LOVE that deer hunting!"

## Ellis Soaks Up The Sunshine

HOW member and retired DNR interpretive naturalist Michael Ellis has been enjoying life in sunny Florida. Especially this winter! "It's been a bit cool in Florida," said Ellis, "but it's so much better than what's been happening this winter in the Midwest."



"I've had a couple of friends from DNR tell me that since I've moved to Florida I've forgotten how to use a shovel. 'Not so,' I replied. 'Why, just yesterday morning I had to shovel four inches of sunshine off my front walk!'"

"We also just returned from a 'Dancing With The Stars' cruise aboard Holland American Line to the Caribbean. Here is a photo of some of the stars we met during the cruise (Michael Ellis is shown in the center, with wife Willie second from right). Life is good!"

## Berg Harvests Enormous Raccoon On Suburban Trapline



Berg lifts the finished raccoon pelt before setting it aside in the fur shed to dry (raccoons are dried fur-side in). Berg is 6'2" tall, so you can see it is a heck of a coon. If you include its tail, this raccoon was more than 4 feet long on the board!

HOW Executive Director Tom Berg enjoys running a fall/winter trapline in and around Dyer, IN. Raccoons are his primary target, and this year he caught a real giant.

"I caught him on a weekday," said Berg. "I was checking traps after work, alone as usual. I wish I would have snapped a photo of the big coon lying on the ground by my set site, but I didn't think of it. I also didn't realize just how big it was until I got it out of the trap and carried it the 50 yards back to the car. It took some effort!"

"By the time I got home it was dark, so there was no good opportunity for a backyard photo. I almost asked my wife to come out to the fur shed to photograph me and my "prize", but she always refuses to step foot in there. She says it stinks inside the shed. That's funny - I usually don't smell anything."

"He bottomed-out my 30-pound scale when I tried to weigh him. He was absolutely huge. A couple of weeks later I thawed the pelt and scraped the hide, then stretched it on a drying board to prepare it for shipping to the NAFA fur auction in Canada."

"It was so big that I went ahead and measured it: 43.5 inches from nose to base of tail. At the fur auction houses, they sell pelts by size: Small, Medium, Large, XL, 2XL, 3XL, etc. The biggest raccoon I've caught in the past was a 4XL. This one was a 6XL!!!! Up until a couple of years ago, the size charts only went up to 5XL. I guess they were getting enough really big raccoons that they decided to add the 6XL size. Bigger is always better!"

## Membership Changes and New Addresses

The following names include one new HOW member (Virginia Anson). Welcome to HOW!

**Virginia Anson:** [earthkeepers@gmail.com](mailto:earthkeepers@gmail.com) (new member)

The following HOW members have changed their address and/or membership classification. Please make a note of the changes:

**Larry LaGrange:** Classification changed from **Associate** to **Active Member**.

**Josh Lantz:** New address: 412 E. Buffalo St., New Buffalo, MI 49117.

**Kevin Lilly:** New address: 5781 E. 200 North, Franklin, IN 46131.

**Nate Mullendore:** Classification changed from **Associate** to **Active Member**.

Also new address: 722 N. Jefferson St, New Ulm, MN 56073.

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

## **Brent Wheat Joins The Throng At The 2014 SHOT Show**

In January, HOW Board Member Brent Wheat was in Las Vegas for the 36th annual Shooting, Hunting and Outdoor Trades (SHOT) Show at the Sands Convention Center.

The SHOT Show is the premier trade show for the hunting and shooting industry. Sponsored by the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF), the show has grown to nearly 70,000 attendees and thousands of exhibitors. There are also untold numbers of media, shooting instructors, celebrities and shooting organizations in attendance.

“I’ve been going to SHOT for almost 20 years and it’s the single most valuable week of my entire year,” Wheat said. “Going to Vegas can get a little expensive, but when you consider all those resources literally gathered under one roof, you can walk away with enough story ideas to keep you busy until the next SHOT show. You run into old friends, make new friends as you network with



HOW member Brent T. Wheat shoots the new Glock 42 at the SHOT Show Media Day at the Boulder Rifle and Pistol Club ranges near Boulder Dam. The Glock 42 was unveiled at SHOT and members of the gun press were the first to shoot the new subcompact .380. Photo courtesy of Brent Wheat.

people within the industry, get to see every kind of firearm product and then talk with those who design, manufacture, sell and use those products; anyone who writes about hunting or shooting absolutely must consider attending SHOT!”

As a veteran of the show, Wheat added that any HOW member considering a first-time visit to SHOT should call or drop him an email and he’ll share a few tips for planning your visit. Credentials for the SHOT Show are free to members of the press. He also encourages members to take advantage of the \$25 media membership to the NSSF.

For more information about the SHOT Show, visit <http://www.shotshow.org>. The NSSF website is <http://www.nssf.org>

## **HOW Members Should Prepare For Awards-In-Crafts Contests**

All Active and Associate HOW members should be gathering their articles, photos and broadcasts for the annual Awards-In-Crafts contests. The deadline for sending entries is March 1st. All entries must be emailed or postmarked by that date. See pages 11-12 for more details.

Toyota Motor Sales, USA is once again sponsoring the contests this year, so cash prizes will be awarded for the top three entries in each category. Good luck!

## Keaton and Schoonveld Flee Snow For Florida

Bill Keaton and Mike Schoonveld made a recent trip to Florida to attend the AGLOW mid-winter Board meeting on Captiva Island. After the AGLOW business was done, they had time for a little fishing!

“Bill Keaton broke the first rule of vacation fishing, though,” quipped



Schoonveld. “You’re supposed to shut off the cell phone! (see photo above). You can see the mangroves in the background where we were fishing for redfish.”

“Later, we braved the rugged weather and ventured offshore several miles in search of snappers and groupers,” continued Schoonveld. “A variety of fish came to play. We released a red grouper and some lane snappers. Most of the fish we caught were white snappers (fish at left) and ocean sheepshead (fish at right). All are very tasty.”

“What should we do with the fish?” asked Bill. “Fish and eggs for breakfast,” I replied.

“Our rooms at South Seas Resort included a kitchen with pots and pans, so all we needed was a few extra ingredients. We were all set after a quick stop at an island shop to get eggs, bread and butter.”

“Bill put several slices of bread in the oven at 200 degrees to dry them out, the first step of making breadcrumbs. Once I had the fish filleted I preheated the oven to 500 degrees. Then I cracked an egg into a bowl, added a half eggshell of water to the egg and vigorously whisked it. Each fillet got a quick dunk into the egg wash, then a roll in the breadcrumbs and into a baking dish.”

“While the fish were baking, Bill cooked the eggs in some butter. We toasted more bread and set out glasses of orange juice.”

“Spectacular! If you think bacon, ham or sausage are the only meats that are great for breakfast, think again. Fish, light and flaky, is a perfect complement to your breakfast menu. They taste even better if you’ve caught them yourself.”



## Alan Garbers Uses Online Forums For Gear Reviews and More

As outdoor writers we are always looking for places to place our material. I for one appreciate the items we receive for the awesome HOW raffle and I want to give those companies all the press I can give them. However, sometimes it's tough to even give away reviews on guns and gear. One answer is to join forums like [www.ingunowners.com](http://www.ingunowners.com) and [www.indianasportsman.com](http://www.indianasportsman.com). Both have gear review forums that accept unlimited well-written reviews.



These reviews are available to tens of thousands of members of the forums as well as search engines that send even more readers looking for info on particular gear. Yes, they don't pay – unless you look at the long term effect it has for our corporate partners, HOW, and ultimately you. Our supporters are not the Red Cross or the Salvation Army. They don't receive donations to stay in business and they don't just hand out products without expectations. They want ink – advertising. If you can't show value in their contributions, the support stops.

Here's the cool thing about the Internet. Once posted, a review can reach folks world-wide and it will always be there to read 24/7, 365 days a year. Printed material often gets read once and trashed. Once you do post a review, send a link to the company representative that sent the item. They love it! If you don't know who to send it to, ask Tom Berg. He's the one that has to try and convince our supporters to send more gear each year. Make his job easy!

Here's another reason to join forums. If you're active, you get the late-breaking stories about the big bucks, wild hogs, trophy muskie, Indiana legal wildcat deer cartridges that are being developed before everyone else. Plus, you get to interact with folks on the front lines of doing what we write about.

There are forums about fishing, hunting, shooting, trapping, hiking, and just about any other outdoor related activity you are interested in, so step into the 21st Century and start haunting them now!



Alan Garbers

[www.openroadoutdoors.com](http://www.openroadoutdoors.com)

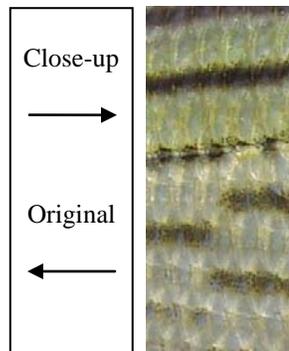
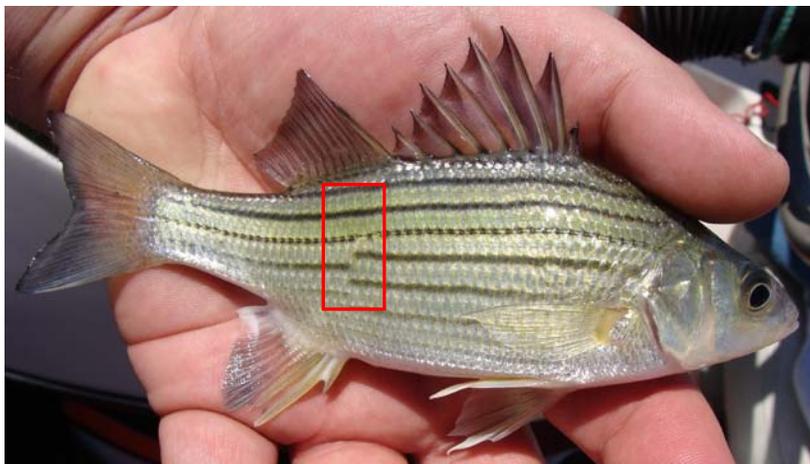
## HOW Conference Lodging

Any HOW member who is considering staying at the Fort Harrison State Park Inn on Friday night prior to the annual meeting (May 2, 2014) and might be interested in sharing a room should contact HOW member Gene Clifford. His email address is: [hoosierhunter@frontier.com](mailto:hoosierhunter@frontier.com).

Gene has reserved one of the few rooms with two beds (most of the rooms in the HOW Block have a single King bed), and he would not mind sharing the room with another HOW member. Each person would pay half of the cost. He has only reserved the room for Friday night.

## Unusual Nature Photos From The Hoosier Outdoors Sponsored by Cabela's

### Yellow Bass Are Prolific Breeders and Capable Predators



The “What is it?” photo from the most recent issue was tougher than usual, mainly because the fish in question often looks like other closely related species. A total of eight HOW members correctly identified it this time. Mike Berg, Don Cranfill, John

Maxwell, PJ Perea, Alan Garbers, Dianna Garbers, Mike Schoonveld and Bill Keaton each had the right answer. When we drew a name

at random for the **Crosman** air rifle, Mike Schoonveld was the winner. Congrats! We’ll make sure it is sent to you.

As you can see in the photo (above left), the mystery creature for this issue was a Yellow Bass (*Morone mississippiensis*). Yellow bass are one of the temperate basses (morone family), but they are often confused with white bass, striped bass and hybrid striped bass (wipers). They can be identified by their yellow coloration and the broken pattern in their lowermost stripes. The two dorsal fins on yellow bass are connected, while on white bass and hybrid striped bass they are separated. These prolific fish often travel in large schools and can quickly become abundant in new watersheds.

Yellow bass are predators. They eat small fish, crustaceans, insects and any invertebrates they can catch. They are often considered nuisance fish by anglers, however, since they are usually too small to eat. They can reach lengths of 9-11 inches, though, and they are excellent table fare when large enough.

For this issue, our friends at **Cabela's** have agreed to provide a very nice prize for the HOW member that guesses the right answer to this issue’s “What Is It?” question (see below). This time the prize will be a gift card for merchandise that the winner can choose from one of the Cabela’s stores, catalogs or website. See the bottom of the page 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. You might see it in your back yard, and it can be found throughout 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](mailto:thomas.berg@comcast.net). If you are right, you will be eligible for this issue’s prize.



As mentioned above, **Cabela's** will be donating a \$100 gift card for merchandise from their stores or catalogs as a prize for the HOW member who guesses the right answer to this issue’s “What Is It?” question. The winner may also shop at [www.cabelas.com](http://www.cabelas.com). If multiple people guess the right answer, we’ll draw one winner at random from the group of correct entries. Good luck! All nature photos on this page by Tom Berg.

## HOW Supporting Member News

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

### **Mathews® Unveils The New Creed XS™ And Monster® Chill R™**

**Sparta, WI:** New for 2014, the Mathews Creed XS features a compact profile with the forgiveness and accuracy serious bowhunters demand. Powered by the industry leading SimPlex Single Cam Technology, the Creed XS not only has a super smooth draw cycle, but provides tack driving accuracy and a rock solid back-wall for shot-to-shot consistency. Engineered with Mathews dependability, the Creed XS is smoother, lighter and even quieter than its predecessor. Learn more at [www.mathewsinc.com](http://www.mathewsinc.com) and shoot the new Creed XS today at your authorized Mathews retailer.

#### **Creed XS Specs:**

- Brace Height: 7 1/2"
- Draw Weights: 50-70 lbs
- Draw Lengths: 26-30"
- Physical Weight: 3.80
- IBO rating: up to 321 fps
- Axle to Axle: 28"
- Let off: 80%
- Half sizes: 26.5-29.5"
- Finishes available: Lost Camo, Black Tactical, Black, Desert Tactical and Black Crimson

The Monster Chill R is the latest offering in the dynamic McPherson Series bows from Mathews. Centered on the AVS DYAD cam system, the Chill R offers the smoothest speed in all of archery. With Dual Perimeter Weighted Cams you'll experience minimal post shot vibration at blazing speeds, all in a lightweight, compact package.

#### **Chill R Specs:**

- Brace Height: 6 1/8"
- Draw Weights: 50-70 lbs
- Draw Lengths: 23-30"
- Physical Weight: 3.95
- IBO rating: up to 342 fps
- Axle to Axle: 33"
- Let off: 80%
- Half sizes: 23.5-29.5"
- Finishes available: Lost Camo, Black Tactical, Black, Desert Tactical and Blue Ice

For more information on Mathews products, visit [www.mathewsinc.com](http://www.mathewsinc.com). HOW members may also contact Bob Ohm at Mathews, phone: 608-269-2728 or by email at: [boh@mathewsinc.com](mailto:boh@mathewsinc.com).



## HOW Supporting Member News

### LureCraft Helps Anglers Make Their Own Custom Fishing Lures!

**LaGrange, IN:** Ever wonder what it would be like to be able to make your own soft plastic baits? Create your own designs or improve your favorite lure? Well, thanks to LureCraft's Worm Making Kit, now you can!

LureCraft, Inc. supplies a wide variety of fishing lure components, lure molds, plastic products, accessories, fly tying supplies, tools and more.

One of their specialties, however, is in the making of soft plastic lures. They sell everything that is needed for making your own lures: special molds, soft plastic, glitter, plastic dye, etc.



Do-it-yourself worm making is extremely easy, especially with a kit like the one from Lurecraft! It comes with everything you need to get started creating your own lures.

Soft baits are made from a liquid plastic called Plastisol. Plastisol is available in a variety of formulations, which will create softer or harder lures. If your worms are too soft, they will tear apart easily, and if they are too hard, fish will let them go very quickly. Luckily,

LureCraft has this all figured out for you! The Lurecraft kit comes with two pints of Plastisol, one softer and one harder. Two pints is enough Plastisol for you to make a lot of worms.

In addition, what softbait would be complete without some color? The kit contains 3 bottles of coloring, which can be added to the Plastisol to make worms of many different colors. The included color wheel allows you to mix colors together to create a truly unique design.



**PLASTIC IS 340 DEGREES WHEN READY TO POUR. WEAR PROTECTIVE GLOVES AND EYEWEAR WHEN WORKING WITH HOT PLASTIC AND RESEARCH THE MANY DIFFERENT WAYS TO POUR BEFORE TRYING IT.**

For more information, contact Kim Straley at LureCraft by phone (260-463-2687) or via email: [lurecraft@clickanerd.com](mailto:lurecraft@clickanerd.com). You may also visit their website at: [www.lurecraft.com](http://www.lurecraft.com).

## HOW Supporting Member News

### Secret Weapon Lures Introduces Buzz Kill'R Lines To Make Good Lures Even More Effective

**Brentwood, TN:** Secret Weapon Lures equips anglers to maximize their performance with advanced fishing tackle engineered to adapt to changing conditions. We provide our customers with an uncommon approach to fishing and are dedicated to making a positive difference in their lives.



Joe Haubenreich, President of Secret Weapon Lures, explains one of their newest innovations: “The hottest thing that we’ve introduced lately has been our Buzz Kill’R, Buzz Kill’R II, and Buzz Kill’R Master Pack,” he said. “Like our popular Recoil Rig, it isn’t a lure... it just makes the lures anglers already have much more lifelike and effective.”

“The Buzz Kill’R is a blade assembly we’ve been making on request for bass anglers in Louisiana who have been using them in front of lizards during the spawn. It consists of a 0.030” wire frame with a line-tie loop in the front, a

medium (C) or large (A) delta blade, and then a quick clip in the rear to which a hook can be attached. Many anglers figured out that putting a buzz blade in front of a frog is a good way to trigger strikes when a frog alone isn’t making it happen.”

“As our pro staff members started experimenting with the Buzz Kill’R, putting it in front of lizards, worms, toads and swim baits, they discovered that putting a stiff wire leader of about 10 inches between the sputtering prop and swim bait produced good numbers of big fish. The stiff wire (0.030”) causes a swim bait to dart back and forth behind the buzzing blade, looking for all the world like a small predator stalking some little critter skittering across the surface. That’s one of the secrets of this rig’s success. Another is the slow retrieve speed. This comes across the water at about half the speed of a conventional buzzbait, and on some days that’s the trick. Most of our customers rig a five-inch or bigger swim bait on a weighted 5/0 hook. Others go weightless for an even slower retrieve.”

“These are effective on bass, of course, but they are also good for hybrid stripers, northern pike and muskie. They’re available as individual blades (size A or C, in 24-carat gold plate, black powder coat, or polished aluminum), in



three-packs, and in a Master Pack that includes six different blade assemblies and two 10-inch wire leaders.”

For additional information, please contact Joe Haubenreich at Secret Weapon Lures by phone (615-469-5710) or by email: [joe@swlure.com](mailto:joe@swlure.com). You may also visit the Secret Weapon Lures website at: [www.swlure.com](http://www.swlure.com).

## HOW's Supporting Member Websites

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

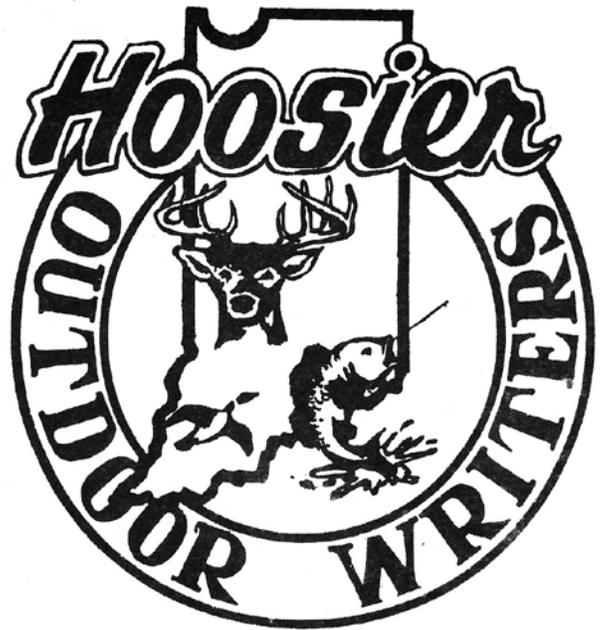
1. To give the profession of outdoor writing/reporting greater recognition and understanding, even higher standards and enlarged scope.
2. To encourage and enforce high standards of professional ethics.
3. To strive always for the truth, accuracy, clarity and completeness in the dissemination of outdoor 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

<b>Indianapolis Boat, Sport &amp; Travel Show:</b> ( <a href="http://www.renfroproductions.com">www.renfroproductions.com</a> ) Indianapolis, IN	February 14-23, 2014
<b>POMA 2014 Annual Conference:</b> ( <a href="http://www.professionalooutdoormedia.org">www.professionalooutdoormedia.org</a> ) Knoxville, TN	March 19-22, 2014
<b>NRA 2014 Annual Meeting:</b> ( <a href="http://www.nra.org">www.nra.org</a> ) Indianapolis, IN	April 25-27, 2014
<b>HOW 2014 Annual Conference:</b> ( <a href="http://www.HoosierOutdoorWriters.org">www.HoosierOutdoorWriters.org</a> ) The Garrison, Fort Harrison State Park Indianapolis, IN	May 2-4, 2014
<b>AGLOW 2014 Cast &amp; Blast:</b> ( <a href="http://www.aglowinfo.org">www.aglowinfo.org</a> ) Chautauqua County, NY	May 5-8, 2014
<b>OWAA 2014 Annual Conference:</b> ( <a href="http://www.owaa.org">www.owaa.org</a> ) McAllen, TX	May 23-25, 2014
<b>ICAST Show 2014:</b> ( <a href="http://www.ICASTfishing.org">www.ICASTfishing.org</a> ) 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](mailto:director@hoosieroutdoorwriters.org) for possible inclusion in future issues of The Blade.