

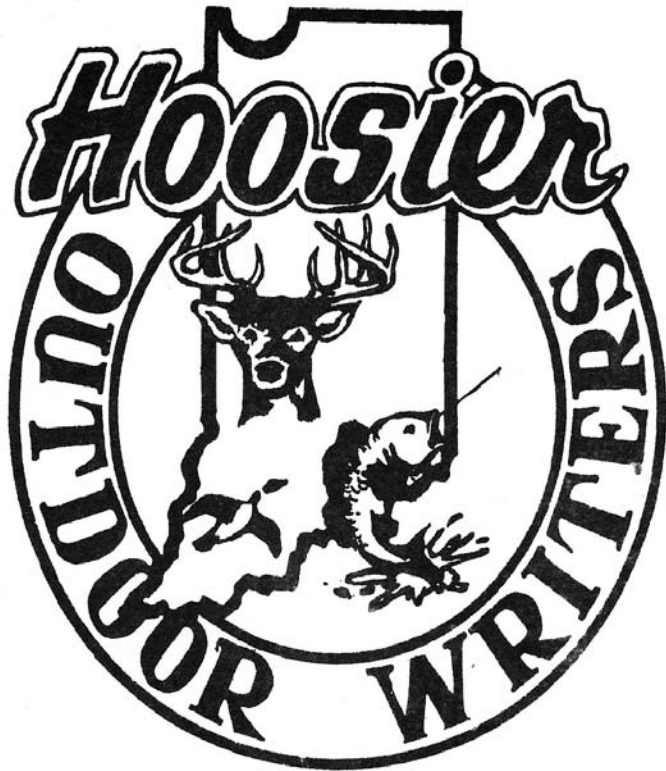
The Blade

July - August 2014

The Official Publication of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers



"Rock-Hopping For Trout", 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 photo titled "Rock-Hopping For Trout" was one of the winners in last year's HOW Photo Contest (Fishing Category). The photo was taken in Great Smoky Mountains National Park while fishing for trout. The original photo was horizontal, but was edited for our use here. Tom Berg photo.

President's Message

by "Ranger" Bob Sawtelle

"Crying Eyes and Smiling Faces"



1 + 1+ 2 + Many = A Community Conservation Ethic

It is Saturday morning and I am perched high on the screened porch of our family camp overlooking the Blue River in Harrison County, Indiana.

First thinking I ought to go fishing and then recalling the assignment given again to me from Mr. Tom Berg: "Write the HOW president's message for the next Blade issue – due this coming Sunday evening." For some of you, finding an outdoor topic to write about may come easy. For me it's always a chance discovery. It just has to appear, an idea that needs exploring, expanding and massaging. And most are message-driven. Call it outdoor evangelism.

Splash! The splash of a belted kingfisher taking a minnow in the river pool below me provided that defining theme for today's story and conservation message. The success story of the conservation, preservation and restoration of the Blue River is worth telling.

I was not in Indiana in 1975 when the grassroots citizen conservation movement pushed our Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and state government to designate the Blue as Indiana's first Natural and Scenic River. I arrived almost a decade later, in 1984, very thankful that my employment with Indiana DNR included a house on the riverbank and some responsibilities for river care and stewardship.

Like this morning, I sat sipping coffee, watching the river. On that November day, almost 30 years ago, the river was rising rapidly, beginning to flood and to expand beyond its banks. With those high brown waters came the trash and discarded items selfishly tossed along its banks and filling its feeder streams and gullies. Full trash bags, bottles, agricultural herbicide jugs and even refrigerators and appliances floated past me that day. All kinds of trash was in the river, and there was lots of it.

Bunched up, tangled and twisted islands of trash were actually cascading downstream. It was awful and it was disheartening. I shed a tear just like Iron Eyes Cody ("The Crying Indian") did when he overlooked his trash-filled river in that classic 1971 *Keep America Beautiful* Ad Council public service TV announcement: "People Start Pollution, People Can Stop It".

(continued next page)

I wondered then how you could approach or even begin cleaning a river of the amount of trash and domestic debris it contained. This river, which was just recently designated natural and scenic, in reality was this community's dump. Just a couple years after that flood, in 1986, I was approached by our one of our new District 8 Conservation Officers. He wanted help to organize and supervise our local high school agriculture students on their first school-sponsored Blue River clean-up. That individual conservation officer and his partner, the agriculture teacher, and the students of North Harrison High School were the true catalyst of the Blue River Conservation movement.

I joined their team and cause, as did many others. Our local school superintendents supported the cause with school bus transportation; the local canoe rental provided us with free canoes, paddles and life jackets for the organized clean-ups. The DNR staff at Wyandotte Woods SRA and Harrison Crawford State Forest helped load and properly dispose of the collected trash, discarded tires and appliances. Private landowners joined in by allowing river access and even paddling along, and local businesses sponsored after-event pizza and refreshments for those who helped.

Our local high schools and their agriculture students and FFA chapters completed as many as three major cleanups a year. Many other organizations joined and followed their example. Curbside trash pickup became available, even in rural areas. Soon the small towns and conservation organizations were partnering to eliminate raw sewage releases and properly treating waste water outflows. Farmers were participating vigorously in grass filter strip and river edge tree plantings. Our river looked cleaner and actually became cleaner.

Soon local church youth groups, Boy Scout troops, riverside landowners and individuals with their own canoes were joining the effort. That effort continues today. Those original high school students are today in 2014 in their mid-40s. Some return annually with their kids, their families and their youth groups to canoe the river. All have trash bags and continue to seek out and pick up the misplaced trash and litter in the river and on its banks. The father and teenage son's canoe clean-up I helped with just last week yielded only 12 aluminum cans and a few odd old pieces of trash. Nine of those cans were picked up at the access sites. Our first river clean-ups in the 1980s yielded 6 full overflowing pick-up truck beds full of trash and sometimes 30 tires pulled from the river each event. A remarkable difference in the amount of trash **not present** within the river today.

The determination of first one individual, then two, then more cleaned and cleared the Blue River of its accumulated trash and helped create our community conservation ethic.

The conservation lesson: *One individual can make a difference; two individuals can gain momentum and a group of people focused on a task can create real change.*

Our community has developed a conservation ethic and is beginning to see the ecologic benefit and beginning to realize the economic stimulus and growth a community can experience when it embraces good stewardship of its surrounding natural resources. It has been a 30 year journey.

Both these fellows and many others who contributed to creating the Blue River Community Conservation Ethic are now retired from their professional careers. Maybe it is time to have a reunion of all who helped. It is time to canoe, kayak and fish the river in celebration of what it the river has become: truly Natural and Scenic.

Maybe it is also time for HOW members to write about their own local community resource conservation ethic stories and to seek out their conservation heroes for some recognition and appreciation ink.

And maybe it is time for me to go wet a line. The smallmouth fishing in the Blue River can be fantastic.

Best,

Ranger Bob

The Hoosier Outdoor Writers

New Members, Past Presidents & Memorial Section

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

**See membership changes
and updated info on page 17.**

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

Meet The Vice President

by Alan Garbers

I still think it was a case of mistaken identity when I was voted-in as HOW Vice President at the last HOW conference. Other folks must have thought so, too, because I could have sworn I heard them whispering, “Who’s this Alan Garbers guy?” when it was announced.

That is a good question, and here’s my reply.

I was born and raised in Minnesota, leaving for a stint in the United States Coast Guard in 1979. During my rambling about the US in the Coast Guard I met the woman who became my wife while docked in the Bahamas. Dianna and I were literally on two ships that passed in the night.

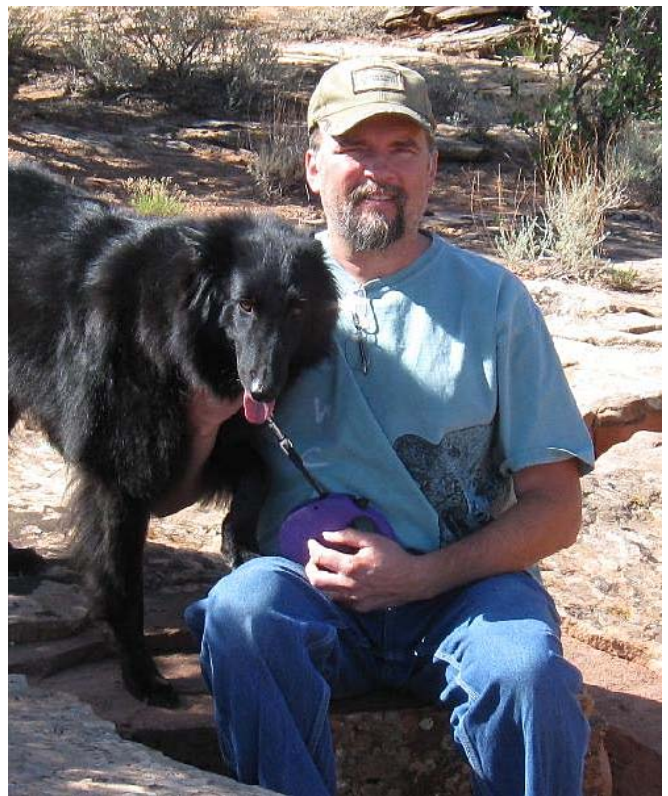
Dianna, a transplanted Hoosier who was living in Florida, had an immediate impact on my writing. She made me promise that I would write her every day. By the third day I had nothing left to say, so I started writing a story, using ourselves as characters, one page per day.

Several sappy stories and a wedding later, we were living in Arizona. It was there that I came to love rattlesnake hunting. I bet you didn’t know that Arizona has 21 varieties of rattlesnakes. During this same time I was trying my hand at writing fiction. After receiving dozens of rejection letters from Ellery Queen and Alfred Hitchcock magazines, I decided to write about something I knew well, skinning rattlesnakes. That sold instantly!

Going back to fiction I tried my hand at romance and children’s stories, only to increase my volume of rejection letters.

Fate led Dianna and I to Indiana and I had the bright idea that I could write screenplays. Again the rejection letters flooded my mailbox, many from some of the biggest names in the business. In desperation, I started writing again about rattlesnakes. To my amazement, almost all of the articles I wrote sold.

Emboldened by my success I tried fiction one last time. A friend encouraged me to enter a writing contest sponsored by Pocketbooks and Paramount’s *Star Trek*. Yes, that *Star Trek*. Even more amazingly, I won a spot in the *Star Trek* anthology, *Strange New Worlds IV*. The payout was the largest I had ever received, which encouraged me to enter again. Even more amazingly, I won a spot in *SNW V* the next year.



Here is HOW Vice President Alan Garbers, sitting with his faithful Belgian Sheepdog named Galena.

(continued next page)

Assuming that just a few people knew about the contest, I tried again the next year and lost. The same happened the following year. I was devastated. Up to that point I had made plans to become the next great *Star Trek* writer, and even wrote a spec screenplay for the TV series, *Star Trek Voyager*. Nothing.

I decided to make one last attempt. Actually it was several last attempts, as a person could submit as many *Star Trek* stories as they wanted each year. It was just before the contest deadline that one last story idea popped into my head and refused to leave. I knew I had to get it written, proofread, and submitted in two weeks. I worked feverishly and express mailed it just before the deadline.

After waiting on pins and needles for months I got the phone call. I had won a slot in the anthology one last time with that last rush story. When SNW 08 came out, I was both thrilled and sad. The rules stated that a writer was limited to three wins, so that market was done.

Success breeds more success and practice makes perfect, or mildly better in my case. Non-fiction was really starting to sell for me and the checks started outnumbering the rejection letters. It was one book that caused a life-changing “light bulb moment” to come. I had picked up a copy of *Poachers Caught*, a book by a Minnesota Game Warden about cases he had worked. I couldn’t put the book down. It was then that it dawned on me that I could do the same thing with Indiana’s Conservation Officers (ICO). With the help of ICO Dean Shadley and the enthusiastic response from *Indiana Outdoor News* editor Josh Lantz and publisher Brian Smith, I started writing *Behind the Badge* columns for *Indiana Outdoor News* in 2008. Dean introduced me to HOW that same year and Josh prodded me to join AGLOW in 2010. Both were game changers.

Behind the Badge was a hit. I received many positive comments from readers and ICOs alike. In 2012, I compiled all the *Behind the Badge* stories into an e-book for Amazon and other e-book sellers. I am proud to say that I won an award from AGLOW last year for my book.

At one time I kept close records on everything I sold; an easy task because it was so rare. Now, I have lost count of how many stories, articles and columns I have written. I doubt it would be possible without my friends and membership in HOW.

And, as Paul Harvey used to say, now you know the rest of the story.

Alan

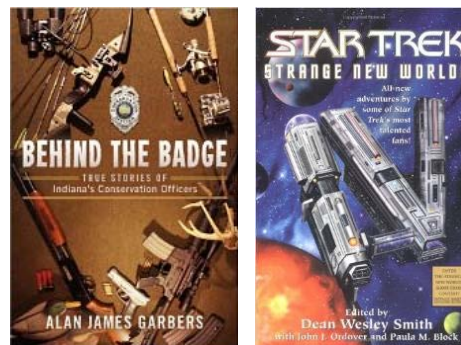
If you are interested in learning about the *Star Trek* anthologies or my *Behind the Badge* e-book, check them out at:

amazon.com/Star-Trek-Strange-New-Worlds/dp/0743437780

amazon.com/Star-Trek-Strange-New-Worlds/dp/0743411315

amazon.com/Star-Trek-Strange-Worlds-VIII/dp/1416503455

amazon.com/Behind-Badge-Indianas-Conservation-Officers-ebook/dp/B007FKLWLO/



HOW Awards-In-Craft Winner

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

“The Caviar Connection”

by Jack Spaulding

The refined taste of gourmets are sometimes reflected in a love of everything caviar. The intrigue and international descriptions of this delicacy dazzle the mind; Imperial Ossetra from the schrenckii sturgeon in China; Italian White Mountain Transmontanus; and select American Caviar from Tell City, IN paddlefish.

Did you say, “Tell City?”
Yes, I did!

As a result of the devastation of Hurricane Sandy, coupled with shifts in consumer tastes, Indiana is becoming more and more of a source for the gourmet’s black gold known as caviar.

With the increasing demand, Indiana Conservation Officers are observing a great increase in the number of Indiana commercial fishing licenses from past fishing seasons. More and more fishing vessels on the Ohio River are tending to commercial nets and gear to catch the much sought-after paddlefish.

The United States and France are the two largest consumers of caviar in the world. The decline of top of the line Beluga, Russian and Stellate sturgeons have increased the demand of North American paddlefish. According to local commercial fishermen, many east coast caviar facilities were destroyed by Hurricane Sandy which caused an increased paddlefish harvest to meet the worldwide demand for caviar.

After the destruction of East Coast facilities from Hurricane Sandy, the increased demand has now reached as far as the Ohio River basin in Indiana.

The caviar is known as “American Caviar” and it is derived from the North American Paddlefish (*Polydon spathula*) which inhabits the Ohio River and many other major rivers within the US.

The added pressure has caused paddlefish to be listed as endangered, threatened or as a species of special concern in 10 of 22 states within the species remaining range. Because of the great profit to be made from harvesting paddlefish eggs, there has been a noticeable decline in the size of individual fish and a decline in the populations. Attributing factors to the decline are habitat alterations and pollution, but the largest factor is overharvesting.

Paddlefish eggs/caviar are used as a replacement for sturgeon caviar. The commercial fishermen sell their caviar to middlemen, who in turn, sell to wholesalers. This season’s prices on caviar appear to have started at about a third of the

price as last year but are projected to reach \$85 to \$120 per pound.

One large female paddlefish can produce as much as 10 pounds of finished caviar. The fish will be from six to eight feet long. Unlike some species where the eggs can be harvested without killing the fish, paddlefish are killed in order to harvest the eggs. Additionally, it is impossible to tell the difference between a large male and a female, and the males are killed as well.

Two Indiana commercial fishermen reported harvests of 5,000 to 8,000 pounds of caviar last fishing season.

“With the demand for paddlefish caviar, Indiana Conservation Officers are seeing more commercial fishermen trying their hand at the business” stated Officer Steve Kinne.

Retail prices for the American Caviar or processed paddlefish eggs are available from many Internet sources for around \$23.00 an ounce, or about \$340 a pound in larger containers.

In the late 1980’s and early 1990’s, an international black market emerged in paddlefish egg harvest and distribution. Indiana conservation officers were faced with over-seas black market buyers purchasing the paddlefish eggs from local fishermen for extremely high prices. The eggs were sent to Russia to be canned and falsely labeled as fine Russian Caviar and re-imported back to the United States and sold at astronomical prices.

There are many rules and regulations commercial fishermen must abide by. Without the regulations, the paddlefish specie could suffer greatly. “We are observing commercial fishermen setting more nets than they can possibly check, attempting to harvest as many fish as they can. We are observing violations such as fishing in restricted areas, setting more nets than they are licensed for and not checking their nets within 24 hours,” Officer Kinne added.

Indiana Conservation Officers want the public and sportsmen to know, if they see any suspicious activity on the waters of the Ohio River or any tributaries to call 1-800-TIP-IDNR or 1-812-837-9536.

How the impact of increased fishing for paddlefish will play out in the future is the big question. All indications point toward fish management policies bringing increased regulations and reduced harvest limits to protect the remaining paddlefish population.

All for something I don’t care for, even on a good cracker.



IWF Wildlife and Habitat Conference

Indiana Wildlife Federation

*Updates on Current Issues, Discussion and Input,
Building Consensus on Priorities and Actions*



Sept. 12, 2014

9:00 am – 4:00 pm

IWF Office, 708 East Michigan St., Indianapolis, IN

The Conference is FREE and open to the public but

YOU MUST PRE-REGISTER AT:

https://iwf.memberclicks.net/index.php?option=com_mc&view=mc&mcid=form_173263

Please RSVP by Sept. 9, 2014

Membership in IWF is encouraged and will be available at the door.

Lunch will be provided with a donation basket to cover the cost.

AGENDA

9 am - Noon

- **Commercialization of Wildlife Threat** and the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation.
 - Catfish: commercial fishing along the Ohio River.
 - Captive Deer: Summer Study Committee, Court of Appeals, IWF Resolution on import/export ban.
- **Wildlife and Habitat Conservation Strategies:** State Wildlife Action Plan, Grouse Management Plan, Deer baiting for urban deer zones.
- **Pollinators – What’s the Issue?**
- **Connecting Children and Families with Nature:** “What’s in Your WILD Backyard” Programs.
- **Wildlife Friendly Backyards –** Simple ways to help wildlife at home.

Noon – Lunch from Subway with contributions basket for donations.

1 pm – 4:00 pm

- **Water Resources** - Availability and Future Demand: Water Resources IN Chamber Report, Proposed Mounds Reservoir, Summer Study Committee.
- **Asian Carp Update** - What’s happening in Indiana Streams and Rivers and what can we do.
- **Understanding the State Legislative Processes** - What it takes to get the laws and rules you want.
- **Tour of the Indiana Statehouse** - How to find your way around and where to park when you want to speak at a committee hearing or talk to your legislator.

CRAFT IMPROVEMENT

This information was compiled by Daniel McElrath, former editor of Indiana Game & Fish magazine. He assembled this group of common errors to help some of his writers improve their writing skills. Read through the list and see if you are guilty of any of these errors. This is a continuation from the last two newsletters, and this issue's entry marks the end of this particular craft improvement series. We hope you learned something from it!

COMMON WRITING ERRORS & CORRECTIVE TIPS *

When referring to a fish or game animal in an article, keep the pronoun gender-neutral. Use “it,” not “he” or “she.” You can alternate “it” with some other term (the deer, the buck, the fish, the lunger, etc). Here are a few more fishing terms that can be confusing: It’s “muskie,” not “musky.” These are also the proper spellings of common outdoors terms: “ice-fishing,” “ice-angler,” “fly-fishing,” “fly rod” and “fly-angler.”

AP style is not to use the serial comma. What that means is when you are listing things in a sentence, you do not use a comma just prior to the word “and.” For example, “My knapsack contains my binoculars, compass, hunting knife, waterproof matches, windbreaker and guide book.”

The term “website” is now one word and lower case in AP style. It wasn’t always. Capitalize the word “Internet.” Always use “www.” to indicate a webpage, but you don’t need the “http//” stuff.

As a matter of style, you can use “that” or “which,” but if you use the latter, always insert a comma after it. Do not put “st” or “th” after the numerals for dates (June 1, not June 1st; April 15, not April 15th).

The apostrophe trick: When you use an apostrophe in place of a missing letter or letters, it must curve towards where the missing letters are supposed to be. Who cares, right? Well, the poor sap who has to change it all the time (the editor) cares. The problem is the computer program automatically curves it towards the previous letter, so you have to trick the computer to get the apostrophe curving to the missing letter. The way you do this is, if the apostrophe is going to point in the wrong direction, deliberately type the apostrophe at the end of the previous word. Then insert a space between that previous word and the apostrophe. You then remove the space between apostrophe and the next word (where you want the apostrophe).

For example, if you want to make the sentence “Let me at them” folksier as “Let me at ’em,” type an apostrophe after the “t” in “at.” “Let me at’ em.” Then put a space in-between the “t” and the apostrophe. “Let me at ’ em.” Close up the space between the apostrophe and “em.” “Let me at ’em.” The sentence is now folksier, but is written correctly in that the apostrophe curves towards the missing letter(s).

A frequent case where this trick is needed among outdoor writers is when referring to the common firearm chambering .30-’06 Spr. This one is especially annoying because if you try to put the hyphen in first and then the apostrophe, the apostrophe will point the wrong way.

**Be aware, Game & Fish follows AP style (the AP Stylebook is available in most bookstores or online), with some exceptions and modifications. There are many terms peculiar to the outdoor market, so G&F has made its own rules in such cases and they are not universal to publishing or even to the outdoor press.*

DNR News

Indiana Department of Natural Resources
402 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2748

For immediate release: Aug. 19, 2014



Ford Hoosier Outdoor Experience VI, Sept. 20-21

The sixth annual Ford Hoosier Outdoor Experience, which is free to all participants, returns to Indianapolis' Fort Harrison State Park, September 20-21, 2014.

If you were one of the estimated 32,000 men, women or children who reveled in the more than 50 hands-on outdoor activities last year, you've probably had these dates circled for a long time.

Plenty of room for more participants awaits in the state park's spacious 1,700 acres.

As in previous years, there will be activities for almost everyone, from archery and target shooting to mountain biking, fishing, canoeing, kayaking, and much more, all free.

You may bring your own food, although food will be available for purchase at reasonable prices.

The Ford Hoosier Outdoor Experience, which runs 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. each day that weekend, is presented by the DNR and the Indiana Natural Resources Foundation. The goal is to introduce people to outdoor activities they may have never tried.

Online advance registration at hoosieroutdoorexperience.IN.gov is requested to assist the presenters and activity providers with staffing and planning. Watch for event updates there or at [Facebook.com/HoosierOutdoorExperience](https://www.facebook.com/HoosierOutdoorExperience).

If you already enjoy outdoor sports and recreation and want to help others learn to enjoy them as much as you do, sign up to volunteer at <https://2014outdoorexperiencevolunteer.eventbrite.com>. For questions about volunteering, contact volunteer coordinator Cheryl Hampton, email: champton@dnr.IN.gov, phone: 317-233-1002.

Fort Harrison State Park (stateparks.IN.gov/2982.htm) is at 5753 Glenn Road, Indianapolis, IN 46216.

Media contact: Marty Benson, DNR assistant director of communications, phone: 317-233-3853, email: mbenson@dnr.IN.gov.



Hunting Deer Sheds Can Lead To A New Job

Story and photos by Nate Mullendore

I've been a serious shed hunter for a while now, starting with a giant five-point side I found by chance on a New Year's Day hike six years ago. The activity is a great way to scout your hunting ground, take inventory of your local deer herd, and overcome mid-winter cabin fever. This year my effort resulted in a pile of antlers and the added bonus of a new full-time job.

That statement requires some explanation. Last summer my wife accepted a position with the Minnesota DNR. It was the right move for her career, but it meant that I would be giving up all of my favorite Indiana deer stand locations, mushroom patches and fishing holes. While I was excited to explore new places, I knew it would take time to find success in the woods and on the water.

I should have been more concerned about finding a new job. While I was able to work remotely for a few months, my projects eventually ended, along with the paychecks. By February I was snowed in and unemployed. Depression quickly set in, deepening alongside the drifts blocking our cars and doors. I began to question the timing of my layoff. It would have been easier to withstand at any other time, during a year without a move, a wedding, and a major financial loss on the sale of our home. Better yet, it could have happened during the whitetail rut or the smallmouth pre-spawn.

Despite its many drawbacks, unemployment provides one obvious benefit: an abundance of free time. You can only spend so many hours revising your resume and refreshing internet job postings before



saying enough is enough and going outside. I soon realized I had been presented with the perfect opportunity to become acquainted with my new surroundings and to conquer my anxiety about living in a new place by learning the land. I did the only thing that made sense for the season: I started shed hunting.

My trips were not the casual spring-time ventures of failed turkey and mushroom hunters. This was serious. I loaded property boundary files into Google Earth and set out to visit every public parcel within 60 miles of our house. Later, I extended that radius to 100 miles. Even in southern Minnesota, where access to public land is limited compared to the rest of the state, I was presented with an overwhelming number of options. I narrowed my search online, looking for food plots next to bedding areas where the deer could eat and feel safe. I planned search routes between the cover and the food, as well as travel routes from property to property so I could minimize drive time. I crossed out highly-populated areas where hunting pressure reduces the number of wintering bucks. I started early and went often, noting areas with heavy deer traffic while rabbit hunting in December and returning to them regularly once I knew antlers would be dropping.

This strategy worked. Over the course of the next two months, I picked up more than 30 antlers, including 3 matched sets, all on public land. I visited more than a hundred different management areas, many of them more than once. I found myself grinning through frozen facial hair at the site of brown tines sticking up through the snow. I learned to laugh when my car got stuck on the shoulder (after the third time) and when I stepped into powder so deep I had to use my arms to crawl out. I had a blast.

Just as the thaw began, a few promising jobs were posted in my area. I applied for all of them and accepted interview requests for two, including one at the DNR office where my wife works. At the interview for this position, I was asked several questions about my knowledge of the public land system and the challenges facing managers of the state's public hunting areas. Months earlier this question would have given me pause, but after shed hunting nearly every day for weeks, I could confidently respond. My answer drew on hundreds of hours in the field, allowing me to name specific issues at specific properties, along with generalizations about our region as a whole. I left the interview with a good feeling.

Three weeks later I graciously accepted an offer to become a contract administrator for Region 4, which covers the southwestern third of the state. I serve as the middleman between area wildlife managers and the private contractors we hire to remove trees, conduct prescribed burns, eradicate invasive plants, and complete other management activities, primarily on grassland sites managed for pheasant production. I couldn't be more excited to have a job, and to have this job in particular.

I use Avery shipping tags (Product 11004) attached with 3-ply twisted jute twine to label all of my antlers with the date and location where they were found. This is a great way to capture the memory and associated scouting information without permanently altering the antler.

If you're looking for a DIY pheasant hunt, feel free to send me an email whenever you like (nathan.mullendore@gmail.com) and I will try to point you in the right direction. Southern Minnesota may lack the reputation of Kansas or South Dakota, but there are plenty of birds and some beautiful public land options.

If you're looking for antlers, you'll have to do that work yourself.

But I promise it will be worth it.

DNR News

Indiana Department of Natural Resources
402 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2748

For immediate release: Aug. 19, 2014

Share outdoor experiences with DNR social media contest

A new DNR social media contest encourages Hoosiers to stay connected with the online world even as they unwind in the great outdoors.

The contest asks people to share their outdoor experiences on the Instagram photo-sharing service (www.instagram.com) and follow DNR at indianadnr. To participate, post a photo and use the hashtag #getINoutdoors. Make sure to identify the subjects and locations in the photo and tag indianadnr.

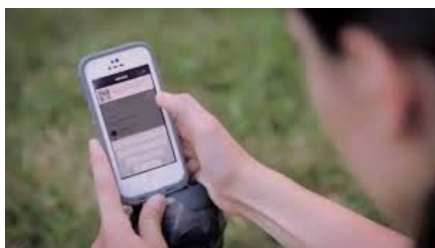
Participants will be entered for a random chance to win a 2015 Annual Entrance Pass for Indiana State Parks and Reservoirs. The contest ends Sept. 19. The DNR may use the photo entries for promotional purposes.

A series of videos promoting the contest is at <http://bit.ly/1p9GBup>.

Media contact: Michael Carney, DNR Communications, (317) 697-5075, mcarney@dnr.IN.gov.



Instagram



HOW Member News

John Maxwell Has Recovered From Heart Surgery and Is Back On The Job

As most HOW members know, HOW Past-President John Maxwell went in for heart surgery back in early May. Happily, he pulled through with flying colors and was soon on the road to recovery. Of course, a major surgery like his required an extensive healing period, so he is still working on that.

Here is what he said towards the end of July:

“I’m back on the job at the DNR. I’d say I’m running at 80 percent of optimal strength and stamina, working on getting back to 100 percent.”

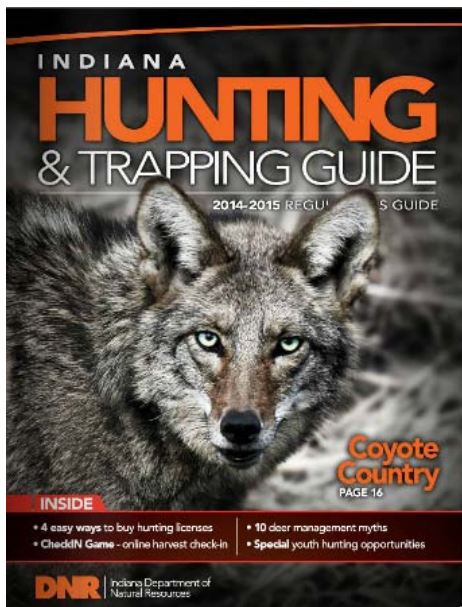
“After surgery, when I recovered enough to think again, I enjoyed the opportunity to read several books by HOW members: *The Great Buck Caper: And Other Tales From The North Country* (by Dave Hoffman); and *How to Enjoy your Surgery* (by John Davis). I also took the opportunity to finally read *Moby Dick* or *The Whale*, by Herman Melville. I should point out that of the three aforementioned books, only Melville’s book received early terrible reviews.”

One worrisome note about my surgery:

“When they turned off my brain for 15 minutes, I did not see a great white light welcoming me upward. On the positive side, though, I also did not see HOW member Jack Spaulding’s near-death-experience ghosts trying to trip me and shove me down into a burning pit, either!”



HOW Past-President John Maxwell. This photo was taken about a week before his surgery. “I look pretty much the same now,” he said, “after regaining 25 pounds that I lost during the recovery.”



Berg’s Coyote Photo Makes Cover Of Hunting & Trapping Guide

First, HOW member and DNR Naturalist Jarrett Manek was featured on the cover of the 2014-2015 **Indiana Fishing Guide**. Now, one of HOW Executive Director Tom Berg’s wildlife photos has made it on the cover of the 2014-2015 **Indiana Hunting & Trapping Guide**.

Berg’s photo captured the haunting yellow eyes of a coyote while out on a trapping excursion with fellow HOW member Mike Schoonveld in Newton County. This coyote was seen at the edge of a recently picked cornfield.

HOW members may remember that this photo was also used as the cover shot for *The Blade* in the Jan/Feb 2013 issue. The Outdoor Writers Association of America (OWAA) liked it enough to use it on the cover of their Aug/Sep 2014 issue of *Outdoors Unlimited* as well.



Here's Captain Mike with just a couple of the nice eastern basin Lake Erie walleyes he caught near Dunkirk, NY.

Mike Schoonveld Breaks Writer's Curse

Most writers have experienced the “writer’s curse”. You head for a hunting, hiking or fishing destination and Mother Nature and Lady Luck team up to cast aside the best laid plans or make the hot bite as cold as ice. So it was for many of the anglers who headed for Chautauqua County, New York for the Association of Great Lakes Outdoor Writers annual “Cast and Blast” last May.

“The prime fishing destination for the trip was to be Lake Erie with great fishing for abundant walleye, smallmouth bass and other fish,” said Schoonveld. “Unfortunately, Lake Erie looked more like a frozen daiquiri than a fishing destination when we arrived in May. There were ice chunks the size of basketballs covering the surface, so that fishing trip was scrapped. Lake Chautauqua, westernmost of New York’s famed Finger Lakes, provided a great substitute - but only a substitute - for those of us wanting to fish Lake Erie.”

“So the Chautauqua County Tourism people invited us back this summer and I took them up on the offer. You know you are off to a good day of fishing when one of the group boats a mega-walleye in the first few minutes of fishing. Using trolling tactics familiar to me (as a Lake Michigan troller) we boated walleye after walleye, with lake trout, white bass and sheepheads in the mix, as well.”

Chautauqua County CVB welcomes visiting outdoor communicators and will do their best to set you up with the experiences you want and need to get your stories. Craig Robbins (a fishing guide by summer and hunting guide by winter) is their go-to “outdoorsman”, and he really knows where to find the fish. Contact him at: crobbs60@gmail.com.

Brent Wheat Overcomes Deathly Fear of Snakes

We forgot to print this photo of HOW Past-President in the Post Conference issue of The Blade, so here it is now. For those who don’t know Brent very well, he is a veteran police officer and writes for a variety of newspapers and magazines, including SWAT Magazine. He deals with dangerous situations almost every day, so he is not a timid person.

That is, until someone brings out a **live snake!** At the recent conference in Indianapolis, Jarrett Manek presented a very interesting seminar featuring a dozen or so live snakes. Brent was mortified and kept a very close eye on all of the snakes as Jarrett walked around the room giving everyone a close-up look at the slithering reptiles. Brent quickly broke out in a cold sweat!

The really cool thing was that after the conference was over, Brent went outside with Jarrett and Tom Berg to take some snake photos in the nearby rock garden. After he steeled himself for what was coming next, Brent faced his fears and actually held a live snake. It was only a small milk snake, but to Brent it must have seemed like a 20-foot python! Great job, Brent! We are very proud of you!



Brent Wheat smiles nervously as a tiny milk snake slithers across his hands. Kudos to Brent for facing his fears!

Gary Redmon Remembers 2014 Squirrel Hunt

“In the early morning hours of August 15, I found myself in the damp Hoosier woods for opening day of the squirrel season,” said Redmon. “The morning sunlight was beaming through the trees, crows were squawking, woodpeckers hammering and birds were singing. It was a beautiful morning to be in the awakening Indiana woods, making getting up early completely worthwhile.”



“Slipping down a deer trail, I searched the tall canopy above for movement and tuned my ears for the sounds of a squirrel cutting on a fresh crop of acorn and hickory nuts. It was not long before the sounds of the cuttings came, falling down through the oaks. My head and neck stretched far back on my shoulders as I searched through the thick foliage, finally locating the bushy tail jumping around in search of nuts. Minutes later I had my first squirrel of the season.”

“Several hours pass and the scenario repeated itself three more times. I just had to return for a late afternoon hunt to get one more for my daily limit.”

“I always look forward to a fry pan full of fried squirrel, with freshly baked biscuits and a pan of gravy while reflecting on a good day in the Hoosier woods.”

Membership Changes and New Email Addresses

The following names include two new HOW members. Welcome to HOW, Doug and Terri! Please make a note of their email addresses:

Doug Sikora: ds7969@yahoo.com (new member)

Terri Trowbridge: trowbridge@nmlra.org (new member)

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

Ken Barnes: kenedbarnes51@yahoo.com

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

Schoonveld Loves It When BoatUS Comes To The Rescue

As many HOW members know, Captain Mike Schoonveld runs a charter fishing business on Lake Michigan from spring through fall. His specialty is catching salmon and trout, and he is good at it. Here is a report from him about a recent day of fishing that started great, then took a turn for the worse, and finally ended up being not too bad. Some of this probably sounds familiar to a few HOW members.

“After a perfect day in early August and a few cooperative fishes,” said Schoonveld, “I was headed home with my boat in tow. The weather on the lake had been great, and my customers had caught plenty of salmon and trout. As I headed southbound on I-65 in heavy traffic (near Hobart, IN), a car pulled up next to me, slowed down and started honking. I glanced over at him and the driver was yelling and pointing back towards my trailer. It wasn’t the ‘hey, how are you doing’ friendly greeting that occasionally happens. It was something serious.”

“This was not the way I like to get home from the lake. But thanks to BoatUS, the price of the repair will be more than the price of the tow truck.”

“I glanced in the side view mirror and immediately noticed I could see much more of the rear tire on the trailer than is normal. Immediately, I pulled over to the berm lane as far as possible, but since there’s a guard rail, I couldn’t pull over as far as I would have liked.”

“With cars and trucks whizzing by only a few feet away, I snuck back to see if my instant diagnosis was correct. Yep - bearing failure on the boat trailer.”

“I always carry a spare wheel hub and tools with me when trailering my boat. However, dragging the wounded trailer to the next exit without doing permanent damage to the spindle was unlikely, and I’d have been killed trying to make the repair along the road.”

“Luckily, when I renew my BoatUS membership each year, I select the “Trailer Club” option. It’s a sort of AAA for trailer boaters. I called the 800 number, relayed the information to the BoatUS lady who answered, and to make a long story short, it wasn’t long before a flatbed tow truck arrived to load up the boat and trailer. Forty-five minutes later we were unloading at my house, worse for wear, but home where better tools and cold beer resides! As the boat and trailer were lowered off the flatbed on my property, the BoatUS dispatcher called. Perfect timing! I handed my phone to the driver and in minutes, the deal was sealed. BoatUS paid him with a credit card and I owed zero!”

“The BoatUS Trailering Club costs \$14 in addition to the regular membership dues. I asked the driver what the bill would have been. Over \$300. Money well spent!”

“Even if you only live a few miles from the marina, think about the most inconvenient spot for you to have bearing problems, a flat tire, or some other mishap. Would \$14 for help seem like a wise investment? I think so!”



Mike Schoonveld’s boat “Brother Nature” is ready to be unloaded from the flatbed tow truck in his driveway, more than 40 miles from Lake Michigan. BoatUS saved the day!



Mike Berg and Son Battle Alligator Gar in Texas!

HOW member Mike Berg recently made a trip to Texas to visit his son Steve and Steve's wife Amanda. Steve is in the U.S. Army, stationed at Fort Hood. Mike also wanted to see his first grandchild who was born there recently.

Once the visiting was accomplished, it was time to go fishing! Mike has always wanted to catch an alligator gar, and the Trinity River outside of Dallas is known for excellent alligator gar fishing.

Steve set up a chartered fishing trip, and the two headed for Dallas to meet their guide. "We met the guide at 8am," said Mike, "then drove to the river and started setting lines. The guide set three different rods in rod-holders on the bank, spread out over 100 yards or so along the shore. He wanted to spread the baits out to give us a better chance of connecting with a big alligator gar."

"For bait, we used large pieces of cut fish: big chunks of carp that had been filleted off of the backbone. The guide had also removed the scales to make it easier for the gar to eat the bait. We found that the gar also liked the whole carp heads (cut in half length-wise), but when we used the head for bait we had to let them have it longer before setting the hook. It wasn't easy to get that big bait in their mouth!"

"There were gar everywhere," continued Berg, "both long-nosed gar and alligator gar. They were swirling all over the river. Once the guide set the rods along the shore, we would go sit in the boat in the shade and wait for a bite. It was unbelievably hot! It was probably about 100 degrees with super high humidity. If I would have had to sit there in the sun the whole day, I probably would have died from heat stroke! It was just brutal."

"Luckily, it didn't take long for the first fish to bite. As a matter of fact, another gar would take the bait about every 10 or 15 minutes. The fish fought really hard until you got them up to the boat. Our heavy equipment helped subdue them a little faster. We were using 130-lb test line and big-game rods. Once the fish was beside the boat, the guide would slip a rope over its head (just past their pectoral fins) and swing them into the boat."



Mike Berg from Cedar Lake, IN holds one of the hefty alligator gar that he caught on the Trinity River near Dallas, Texas. Gar photos courtesy of Mike Berg.

"The steady action continued all day. Steve and I caught three alligator gar apiece, and each of us probably lost at least than many as well. It wasn't easy to hook the fish because of their hard, bony mouths. Our gar measured from 54-64 inches long each. The guide estimated the weights to be about 35-45 lbs for each of the smaller gar, with the biggest one weighing about 60 lbs. Steve caught the big one!"

(continued next page)

“While we were out there fishing, we saw another boat float by that was bowfishing for gar. That fisherman shot a big gar with his bow, so we went over to see it. It was a really big a 7-footer! It probably weighed over 100 lbs and the angler said he was going to have it mounted. Since you are only allowed to keep one alligator gar per day, that fisherman was done for the day.”



“When a gar was in the bottom of the boat, it would flop back and forth and sound like a sledgehammer banging the side of the boat! You had to be careful because their teeth stick out from their mouth like a crocodile, and if their head hits your leg as they thrash around, their needle-sharp teeth will rip your leg open. One of the guide’s legs was all chewed up from a trip the previous week. He had a big, nasty-looking gash about 8 inches long. Wearing long pants would be a good idea – but only if it wasn’t so darned hot!”

“The guide also had a 1” diameter PVC pipe that was about 24” long (with a slit cut in it) to help get the hook out of the fish’s mouth. He would slide it past the fish’s teeth and use it as a hook disgorger. Only one of the fish we caught was hooked badly, so we decided to keep it. The guide practices catch and release fishing, although you may keep a gar if it is going to die anyway. Gar meat is good to eat, but most people that want to keep a fish try for a really big one to have it mounted.”

“We had a double going at the end of the trip, and that’s when Steve caught the biggest gar. It was exciting. We took a photo of both of us together with our fish right at the end. The gar were very hardy and allowed several photos to be taken without hurting them. It didn’t take long at all to revive them once we got them back in the water. And then they took off like a freight train!”

“When we cleaned the one gar that we kept, we realized it would have been a lot easier with a pair of tin snips. Their sides were like armor plate with the heavy scales. Steve was working on it with his fillet knife, and he stuck the knife in all the way so the thickest part of the blade was doing the cutting. He was putting so much pressure on the knife to get it to cut, that the knife blade snapped about 2 inches from the handle! So he had to finish cleaning it with a snapped-off fillet knife with a 2” blade! That was a real chore! The gar had really white meat, though, and afterwards Steve said it tasted good.”

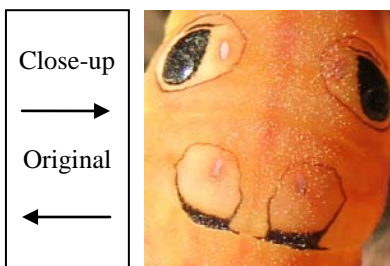


Mike Berg (left) and Steve Berg (right) hold the two alligator gar that they caught at the same time just before their fishing trip ended.

It sounds like that trip was a lot of fun. Alligator gar fishing is a real adventure!

Unusual Nature Photos From The Hoosier Outdoors Sponsored by Irish Setter Boots

Spicebush Swallowtail Caterpillars Turn Orange Before Pupating



The “What is it?” photo from the most recent issue was a real mystery, and this time only four HOW members correctly identified it. Phil Seng, John Maxwell, Bill Keaton and Mike Berg each had the right answer. When we drew a name at random for the **Hunter’s Specialties** Scent-Safe

Travel Bags, Bill Keaton was the winner. Congrats, Bill! We’ll make sure they are sent to you.

As you can see in the photo (at left), the mystery creature for this issue was a spicebush swallowtail caterpillar (*Papilio troilus*). The spicebush swallowtail butterfly is one of eastern North America’s common black swallowtails. They lay their eggs primarily on spicebush leaves, hence the name. They also frequent sassafras trees.

The spicebush swallowtail caterpillar is very distinctive-looking, and it goes through three different “looks”. After hatching, the tiny larvae are brown in color and look a bit like bird droppings. This makes most predators leave them alone. They are dark brown in their first three “instar” phases (molts), and they get larger with each succeeding molt. In their final two instars, they are bright green with large eyespots that make them look like small green snakes. Since the caterpillars spend all of their time feeding among the leaves of their host trees, mimicking a common green snake helps ward off predators like insect-eating birds. Immediately before pupating, the caterpillar turns yellow or bright orange as seen in the photo above. This is the final stage before forming a chrysalis.

For this issue, our friends at **Irish Setter Boots** have agreed to provide a very nice prize package 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 pair of high quality boots from Irish Setter Boots. See below for more info.

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



Here’s another Nature Photo mystery. The photo shown at the left is a close-up of part of a common creature that lives right here in Indiana. You will not see it in your back yard, and it is only found in specific areas in the northern part of the state. Have you ever seen this color pattern before? Can you guess what it is?

This creature may be difficult for some to identify, but probably pretty easy for others. 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 snake, for example, go ahead and guess “Copperhead”. Of course, it’s not a copperhead, but if you think you know what it is, send the answer via email to thomas.berg@comcast.net. If you’re right, you will be eligible for this issue’s prize.

As mentioned above, **Irish Setter Boots** will be donating a great pair of boots of the winner’s choice as a prize for the HOW member who guesses the right answer to this issue’s “What Is It?” question. 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.



HHA Sports Wins *Bowhunting World* Reader's Choice Award for Best Moveable Sight for 10 Straight Years



Wisconsin Rapids, WI: A full 20 years after its introduction, the Optimizer Lite remains the #1 selling single pin adjustable sight on the market. Voted top single pin by *Bowhunting World* for 10 years running, the Optimizer Lite is loaded with features that set it apart from the competition.

The silky smooth elevation arm pairs with the industry's most accurate sight tapes to deliver unmatched performance to hunters and 3D shooters alike. Simply sight in at 20 and 60 yards to determine which of the preprinted sight tapes works on your set up and you are ready to shoot from 20 to 80 yards in 5-yard increments. Tool-free adjustments, fully protected fiber optics and rock solid construction make it the toughest, most dependable single pin adjustable sight available today.



“Fully Protected Fiber” is accomplished with A.R.M.O.R. Pin Technology. A.R.M.O.R. Pin is an indestructible, CNC machined aluminum pin guard that encapsulates the fiber optic on each and every Optimizer single pin adjustable sight. Whether scaling some of the world's toughest terrain on the hunt of a lifetime or going for gold in the championship round, the HHA Sports A.R.M.O.R. pin will always have you hitting your mark.

Confidence is everything in the field and on the range. While we have plenty of imitators, no tape system offers the accuracy of our

patented R.D.S. technology (Range. Dial. Shoot). No gimmicks or smoke and mirrors here, just basic mathematics. A simple two-distance calibration method provides unmatched accuracy on all of our archery, crossbow and gun sighting systems and it will boost your success in any arena.

Outdoorsmen will also appreciate the fact that these bow sights are made in the USA and they have a 100% lifetime warranty.

For more information on HHA Sports products, contact National Sales Manager Chris Hamm at 800-548-7812 or by email at hhasport@wctc.net. Also, please check out the HHA Sports website at: www.HHASports.com. Facebook fans can find them at www.facebook.com/HHASports.



HOW Supporting Member News

Tales End Tackle Creates Custom Muskie Lures and More

Dyer, IN: Tales End Tackle Co., the makers of the original Tawnter Magnum inline spinner for big muskies – is quickly becoming well-known to muskie fishermen from Indiana all the way to Wisconsin and beyond.

The Tawnter is the ultimate muskie and northern pike bait, with bonus big bass action, too. This is the lure that started it all! The Tawnter will stand the test of time with a stainless steel, double twisted solid wire shaft, nickel-plated components and a triple-strong blood red hook. The innovative blade design results in an instant response from fish. The quick-change tube design ensures that your hook won't be out of the water for long. With eight different color tube tails, fish are sure to find your lure no matter the weather or time of day.

Besides the original Tawnter spinner, Tales End Tackle also makes the 10" Tawnter Magnum (weighs 2.3 oz!), twin-blade versions, and two smaller models (Lil Tawnter and Mini Tawnter) that are dynamite for bass, walleye, pike and nearly every species of panfish.

Check out the lures from Tales End Tackle. Their website can be found at: www.talesendtackle.com.



They even have two different promotional fishing contests going on until the end of October. For more information, HOW members may contact Mike Roth, phone: 219-669-5911, email: mike@talesendtackle.com.



The Incredible Telescoping Magnetic Flashlight From Impeltronics



Lewisberry, PA: The new Impeltronics flashlight is very unique in the fact that it is like having three products in one. The device is an LED flashlight that extends to nearly two feet long with a magnet on both ends of the unit. The magnet on the bottom can lift up to 8 pounds and there is also a magnet on the light head that is very convenient for retrieving metal objects in hard to reach places. This original Impeltronics Telescoping flashlight can only be found on its website and at current distributors.

Yes, you read correctly, this 3-LED Flashlight can be extended to almost 22" just like a telescope. This capability allows light to be shown in hard to reach areas so objects can be retrieved with ease. The Flashlight also has two magnets, one at each end. The product includes:

- 3 LED flashlight helps find your object
- Telescopes 6" to over 21" long for reaching
- Flexible LED head for 360° directional rotation
- Magnetic head for retrieving your object
- Magnetic tail for retrieving up to 8 lb objects
- Includes (4) LR44 batteries to get you started
- Pocket or belt clip for quick action



For more details on Impeltronics products, contact Vice President of Sales & Marketing Michael Pastal at 717-440-1680 or by email at mpastal@impeltronics.com. Also, please check the Impeltronics website at: www.Impeltronics.com.

HOW Supporting Member News



Bubba Blade: A Knife Designed by Fishermen for Fishermen!

Oro Valley, AZ: As fishermen, we were sick and tired of our fillet knives going dull, rusting, pitting, slipping out of our hand and not being able to hold up in a harsh saltwater environment. We wanted a knife that could handle a rigorous life at sea. After searching for this perfect knife, we found that one did not exist anywhere, for any price. That's when we set out to make the best fillet knife possible.

After trying multiple prototypes over the course of a year, production began on what we think is the Ultimate Fillet Knife™.

The end result is a set of fillet knives that stay sharper longer, resist rusting, and hold up under the harsh environment of saltwater fishing. The Bubba Blade also has a handle that is safer and easier to grip. This new patented no-slip grip handle was created so there is protection from the blade and protection from the spines of fish. It won't get slippery, even when wet and covered with fish slime and blood. When filleting fish on the back of the boat, hands covered in blood and fish slime, you need to be able to bear down on the knife without the fear of your hand slipping off the handle.



These are all very basic wants and needs in any kind of knife, which is why hunters love the knives also. We believe that we have created the Ultimate Sportsman's Knife™ and believe you will too. We call it the **Bubba Blade™**

The Steel

We looked into what kind of metal is used on the most expensive knives and discovered not all stainless steel is created equally. There are many factors involved in steel-making, and you need high-end steel to keep a sharp edge on a knife.

After months of research, we went with 8CR13MOV. We feel that it is the best steel on the planet for what fishermen and hunters want. This is a high carbon stainless steel with a Rockwell rating for hardness of 56-58, which is typically found in much more expensive knives. Simply put, this steel is the best we could find that would hold a razor sharp edge longer and take an edge when re-sharpening it.

All Bubba Blades are sharpened by hand at the factory to razor sharpness. For good measure we coated the blade with a non-stick surface that is bonded with Titanium that will help prevent rust and let the meat slide off the blade effortlessly.



The Big Red No-Slip-Grip Handle™

We started with a full tang blade construction for better balance and weight distribution, added a thermoplastic polymer handle and wrapped that with a special synthetic rubber made of the strongest compounds on the market today. The handle is big enough so you have outstanding grip security, and it feels great in your hand. The handle has multiple thumb and finger positions so you can apply pressure when you need to cut through the tough part of a fish.

This wrapped handle is engineered to stay sticky as it gets wetter for total grip security and safety. The non-slip thumb pads, finger pads, and guards help prevent your hand from slipping onto the blade or the spines of a fish you are cleaning.

Being fishermen ourselves we knew what fishermen wanted: a high quality fillet knife at a reasonable price that is safer to use, holds its sharpness, and resists pitting and corrosion. We believe that we have built a fillet knife that will do all this for years to come in a harsh saltwater environment.

For more information on the Bubba Blade, contact Jon Grass via email: jongrass@earthlink.net or by phone (877-890-0115). You may also visit their website at: www.bubbablade.com.

HOW Supporting Member News



HOW Supporting Members Win Awards At 2014 ICAST Show

Orlando, FL: The 2014 ICAST show (International Convention of Allied Sportfishing Trades) in mid-July was another great one, showcasing the products of some of the premier companies in the fishing tackle industry. More than 11,000 industry representatives from around the world, including nearly 1,000 media outlets, attended the show to see the latest innovations in tackle, gear, accessories and apparel. And just like last year, many of the top new product awards were won by our innovative **HOW Supporting Members**. Here is the list of winners from our corporate members:

Overall Best of Show

Johnson Outdoors Watercraft, Inc.
Predator XL Kayak

Boating Accessory

Johnson Outdoors Watercraft, Inc.
Minn Kota Ulterra Trolling Motor

Boats

Johnson Outdoors Watercraft, Inc.
Predator XL Kayak

Electronics

Johnson Outdoors, Inc.
Humminbird ONIX 8SI

Eyewear

Costa
Hamlin - 580P Mirror Lenses

Fishing Line

Pure Fishing, Inc.
Berkley IronSilk

Fly Fishing Rod

G. Loomis
PRO4x Short Stix

Freshwater Reel

Pure Fishing, Inc.
Abu-Revo Beast

Terminal Tackle

Eagle Claw Fishing Tackle
TroKar TK619

Saltwater Reel

Pure Fishing, Inc.
PENN Battle II Spinning

Saltwater Rod

Shimano American Corporation
Terez Stand Up

Soft Lure

Okuma Fishing Tackle Corporation
Savage Gear 3D PVC Crab



Best New Eyewear: Costa
Hamlin 580P Mirror Lenses

Congratulations to all of the winners!

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

HOW's Supporting Member Websites

A&C Air Pellets - www.air-pellets.com
Alpen Optics - www.alpenoutdoor.com
Aquateko International - www.aquateko.com
Arctic Ice - www.arcticcellc.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
Better Bank Anglers - www.betterbankanglers.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
Buckeye Shad Baits - www.buckeyeshad.com
Burford Books - www.burfordbooks.com
Bushnell - www.bushnell.com
Cabela's - www.cabelas.com
Camp Chef - www.campchef.com
Church Tackle Company - www.churchtackle.com
Clam Outdoors - www.clamoutdoors.com
Cocoons Eyewear - www.cocooneyewear.com
Cortland Line Co. - www.cortlandline.com
Costa Sunglasses - www.costadelmar.com
Cotton Carrier - www.cottoncarrier.com
Crappie Pro - www.crappiepro.com
Crosman Corporation - www.crosman.com
Cyclops Solutions - www.cycloppsolutions.com
Eagle Claw - www.eagleclaw.com
Environ-Metal, Inc. - www.hevishot.com
E/T Lights - www.triagelights.com
Federal Premium Ammunition - www.federalpremium.com
Field & Stream Outdoor Life Deer & Turkey Expos - www.deerinfo.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
Gamo USA - www.gamoussa.com
Gerber Legendary Blades - www.gerbergear.com
Gun Protect - www.mygunprotect.com
Hart Productions - www.hartproductions.com
Hawke Sport Optics - www.hawkeoptics.com
Henry Repeating Arms Co. - www.henryrepeating.com
HHA Sports - www.HHAsports.com
Hickory Glen Creations - www.g-p-a-s.com
High Roller Lures - www.highrollerlures.com
Hodgdon Powder Co. - www.hodgdon.com
Hoosier Trapper Supply - www.hoosiertrappersupply.com
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt - www.hmhc.com
Howard Communications - www.howardcommunications.com
HT Enterprises - www.icefish.com
Hunter's Specialties - www.hunterspec.com
IMPELtronics - www.impeltronics.com
Indiana Office of Tourism Development - www.VisitIndiana.com
Indiana Outdoor News - www.IndianaOutdoorNews.net
Irish Setter Boots - www.irishsetterboots.com
JB Lures - www.jblures.com
Johnson Outdoors, Inc. - www.johnsonoutdoors.com
Koppers Fishing & Tackle - www.livetargetlures.com
Kruger Optical - www.krugeroptical.com
LensPen - www.lenspen.com
Leupold - www.leupold.com
Lodge Manufacturing - www.lodgemfg.com
Lurecraft Industries - www.lurecraft.com
Mack's Lure - www.mackslure.com
Mathews - www.mathewsinc.com
Mercury Marine - www.mercurymarine.com
Mossy Oak - www.mossyoak.com
MyTopo - www.mytopo.com
National Shooting Sports Foundation - www.nssf.org
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
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
R.L. Winston Rod Co. - www.winstonrods.com
Reef Runner Lures - www.reefrunner.com
Renfro Productions - www.renfroproductions.com
RIO Products - www.rioproducts.com
Savage Arms - www.savagearms.com
Shimano American Corp. - www.shimano.com
Shurhold Industries - www.shurhold.com
Snag Proof Manufacturing - www.snagproof.com
South Shore CVA - www.southshorecva.com
Speedhook Specialists - www.speedhook.com
Speedy Sharp - www.fetznerspeedysharp.net
SportDOG - www.sportdog.com
St. Croix Rods - www.stcroixrods.com
Streamlight - www.streamlight.com
Tales End Tackle - www.talesendtackle.com
Tenzing - www.tenzingoutdoors.com
ThermaCELL - www.thermacell.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
Visit Indy - www.VisitIndy.com
W.R. Case & Sons Cutlery - www.wrcase.com
WaveSpin Reels - www.wavespinreel.com
Weatherby - www.weatherby.com
White Flyer Targets - www.whiteflyer.com
Winchester Ammunition - www.winchester.com
Wrangler Rugged Wear - www.wrangleruggedwear.com
Xtreme Hardcore Gear - www.extremehardcoregear.com
Yo-Zuri America - www.yo-zuri.com
Z-Man Fishing Products - www.zmanfishing.com
Zippo Manufacturing - www.zippo.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:

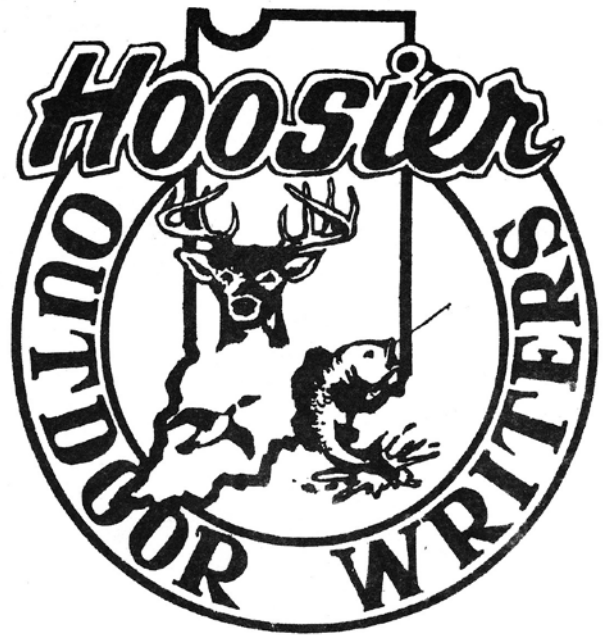
1. To give the profession of outdoor writing/reporting greater recognition and understanding, even higher standards and enlarged scope.
2. To encourage and enforce high standards of professional ethics.
3. To strive always for the truth, accuracy, clarity and completeness in the dissemination of outdoor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

AGLOW 2014 Annual Conference: (www.aglowinfo.org) Marshall County, KY	September 15-18, 2014
Indianapolis Fall Boat & RV Show: (www.renfroproductions.com) Indianapolis, IN	September 26-28, 2014
SEOPA 2014 Annual Conference: (www.seopa.org) Fontana Village, NC	October 8-11, 2014
Cincinnati Travel, Sports & Boat Show: (www.hartproductions.com) Cincinnati, OH	January 16-18 & 21-25, 2015
SHOT Show 2015: (http://shotshow.org) Las Vegas, NV	January 20-23, 2015
Louisville Deer & Turkey Expo: (www.deerinfo.com) Louisville, KY	January 30-February 1, 2015
Indianapolis Boat, Sport & Travel Show: (www.renfroproductions.com) Indianapolis, IN	February 20-March 1, 2015
POMA 2015 Annual Conference: (www.professionalooutdoormedia.org) Springfield, MO	March 18-21, 2015
HOW 2015 Annual Conference: (www.HoosierOutdoorWriters.org) Potawatomi Inn, Pokagon State Park Angola, IN	April 10-12, 2015
OWAA 2015 Annual Conference: (www.aglowinfo.org) Knoxville, TN	June 26-28, 2015

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.