

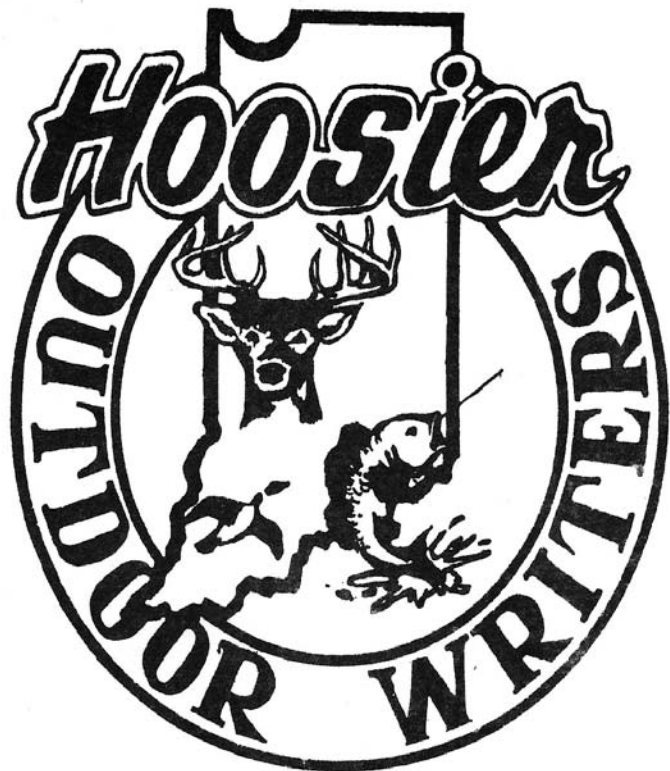
The Blade

November - December 2014

The Official Publication of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers



"Drake Mallard In Flight", 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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2016

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Mike Schoonveld – 2015
Gene Clifford – 2016
Tom Cranfill – 2016
Jarrett Manek – 2016

All submissions and correspondence in regards to the newsletter should be directed to: Tom Berg (e-mail: 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.

On the cover: Mallards are one of the most easily-identified duck species living in Indiana. Drakes like the one shown in this photo have a bright green head, so it's hard to mistake them for another type of duck. Unfortunately, this duck is silhouetted so his head looks almost black. Tom Berg photo.



President's Message

by "Ranger" Bob Sawtelle

"November's Harvest and Tomorrow's Need"

Thank goodness my article does not include another photo of me being an outdoor sport. This photo has much more value. It is fellow HOW member Jarrett Manek's 10-year old son Wyatt, after he successfully harvested his first buck during this past November's 2014 gun season. The buck is special; it is his first antlered deer – but not his first harvested deer of the season. Using a traditional bow, young Wyatt also stalked and harvested a doe during the early archery season. With the patience of a seasoned traditional archery hunter, Wyatt waited until the doe was less than 10 yards away when he made the sure shot with his arrow.

This is a wonderful story of a Dad and son sharing the outdoors, teaching and learning, and creating lifelong memories. Congratulations to both.

As a DNR employee, I manage one of Indiana's state parks and the recreational activities on our adjoining state forest (O'Bannon Woods State Park and Harrison-Crawford State Forest). This is not an official fish and wildlife agency surveyed conclusion but rather just my observation of the numbers (and age classes) of hunters and anglers using our public lands and waters.

The number of hunters and anglers seem to be in decline and those that are remaining seem to be getting older and older.

Why is this important to HOW? If we don't recruit our youth to join and participate in outdoor recreation activities we will soon lose our future readership. That's how important this is!

How do we recruit more youth to the outdoors? Maybe we need:

- More DNR youth hunting and fishing opportunities.
- More DNR and conservation group sponsored youth hunting, fishing, canoeing, camping and other outdoor activity hands-on learning events.
- More Outdoor Skills learning classes that include real experiences.
- Maybe another opportunity for our youth to purchase a "Lifetime Indiana Hunting and Fishing License".
- More published stories on youth participating and enjoying our natural resources.
- And don't forget that the most important action you personally can take to increase youth interest and participation in natural resource outdoor recreation is to invite and include a youth on your next hunting, fishing, trapping, hiking, canoeing, boating or camping outing.

Just my thoughts while I sat for endless hours in the deer stand this season. What do you think?

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:**

**Tommy Thornton (Active)
Jasper, IN
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
John Trout, Jr.
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 2015 Annual Conference!

As announced in the September/October issue of *The Blade*, the 2015 HOW Conference will be held near Fort Wayne, IN at Pokagon State Park. The conference will take place on the weekend of April 10-12, 2015, with the main meeting occurring on Saturday, April 11th at the conference center at the popular Potawatomi Inn.

Those dates will be here before you know it, so it's time for you to start making plans to attend! See page 6 for a copy of the conference registration form. We will have plenty of interesting seminars and speakers at the conference, as usual, and there will be activities which everyone can enjoy, too. And don't forget about the super-duper HOW Raffle! The raffle at last year's meeting in Indianapolis was absolutely great, and we are hoping it will be even better this year at Pokagon SP!

For those who would like to arrive early for the conference, on Friday evening (April 10) we will have a special barbecue dinner featuring some of our own HOW BBQ masters! All conference attendees and their spouses are invited. More information will follow as the date gets closer. This promises to be another great conference; you won't want to miss it!

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

FOR ROOM RESERVATIONS:

260-833-1077 or 877-LODGES-1 (HOW members must call to use Group Code).

Group/Promotional Code: To be emailed.

Potawatomi Inn Double-Queen Rooms:

(Friday night 4/10/15 and/or Saturday night 4/11/15): \$89.00 per night + tax.

Potawatomi Inn
6 Lane 100A Lake James
Angola, IN 46703
260-833-1077
Reservations:
1-877-LODGES-1
1-877-563-4371

Hoosier Outdoor Writers Annual Conference Registration



The Potawatomi Inn at Pokagon State Park, Ft. Wayne, IN – April 10-12, 2015

This registration form is for the Annual Meeting on Saturday, April 11th
(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 April 11, 2015.

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

The 2015 HOW Awards-In-Craft Contest

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

TOYOTA MOTOR SALES

**Will once again be sponsoring the 2015
HOW Awards-In-Craft Contests**



The 2015 HOW Awards-In-Craft Contest

HOW CRAFTS AWARD CONTEST RULES

The contest year shall be for material published or aired from January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014. 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 (preferred) 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 February 28, 2015. 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. Please type entry details into the form (an electronic copy of the form will be emailed).
- 3) Send no material that needs to be returned. No original material is required. As mentioned above, print contest entries and photo contest entries must be sent in an electronic form. In the broadcast contest, tapes, recordings and DVDs are welcome.
- 4) All submissions of print entries (either from traditional paper or electronic media) must consist of one electronic copy of each article with bylines removed. This file must be text only – do not scan tearsheets or newspaper/magazine pages. This electronic copy must be submitted as a Microsoft Word 97-2003 Document (.doc) or as a PDF file (.pdf). Entries not following these rules will be disqualified. As mentioned, print entry files must be emailed (or filed on a CD or DVD and mailed) by the deadline.
- 5) Entries into the broadcast category require only one tape or recording and may be sent by tape cassette, CD, VHS or DVD formats. Radio and television entries may carry the broadcast station's name and call letters if they are on "as aired" dubbed tapes. TV entries should be dubbed minus commercials if possible to facilitate judging.
- 6) Entries in the photography division must consist of one electronic (digital) copy of each photo. This electronic copy must be saved as a JPEG file (.jpg or .jpeg). Prints, slides and paper copies of photos will not be accepted. Please include a title for each photo entry. Digitally produced photos should not be substantially manipulated. Allowable photo enhancement is limited to standard shooting/darkroom techniques, such as color correction, contrast control and image cropping.
- 7) An individual article, photo or broadcast may only be entered in one category/division. Entering the same piece in multiple categories/divisions will result in the disqualification of duplicate entries.
- 8) There is a limit of two entries per category.

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

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

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

CONTEST DIVISIONS

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

WRITING ARTICLE CATEGORIES

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

BROADCAST CATEGORIES

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

PHOTOGRAPHY CATEGORIES

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

2015 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 February 28, 2015

CRAFT IMPROVEMENT

WHAT'S YOUR TRIPLE DUB?

by Mike Schoonveld

If you are an active member of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers, you need your own “Triple Dub”, otherwise known as a Domain name or URL (Universal Resource Locator).

I'm sure many of you already have one, complete with your own website and email address. Others may ask, “Why do I need one? I don't plan on ever having a website of my own.”

I do have websites associated with my domains, but should I decide to close the website, I would keep the domain name “bronature.com” just for the email addresses that come with it.



I got my first email address 20 years ago. It was schoonveld@juno.com. That was before I could even get Internet service at my residence. Then my phone company added dial-up service at my house and I became bnature@netnitco.com. I had business cards printed listing my email address. A few weeks later netnitco.com changed to netnitco.net. Throw out those cards and order some new ones.

Long story, shortened, I went through a series of email address changes as I changed providers or providers changed names. Each time I changed, I needed a new set of business cards, the information in the HOW Directory became dated and I had to ask dozens of contacts (as if I could remember all of them) to update their address book to reflect the new address.

When I bought the URL, www.bronature.com, to point people to one of my blogs, GoDaddy offered 100 email addresses with each domain name. At the time, I was getting my internet service through Hughes.net via satellite. But my business card listed my email as mike@bronature.com. When someone types that address in their “To:” box on their email software and clicks send, the email first goes to GoDaddy, then instantly forwards to my current email address. When I switched from Hughes to another provider, it was a simple task to change the forwarding address to my current “real” email address. No new business cards needed, no asking people to change their address book. I'll be mike@bronature.com forever.



The cost for a domain name varies from a few dollars per year to thousands. GoDaddy has an easy domain-finder feature on their website. Domains are first come/first served. Currently, I could purchase the domain “schoonveld.info” for \$2.99 per year. Schoonveld.expert would cost \$49.99 annually.

DNR News

Division of State Parks & Reservoirs

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



Indiana Dunes State Park receives tree planting grant for campground

The camping experience at Indiana Dunes State Park will improve thanks to a Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) grant that will pay to reforest the campground with about 80 new trees. The new trees will vary in age and species. All will be native species, including red, white and black oaks.

In recent years, a large die-off of trees has occurred in the campground as trees of roughly the same age simultaneously reached their life expectancy.

Replacing dying trees with healthy ones will:

- Help stabilize the near-shore habitat along Dunes Creek;
- Reduce erosion and resulting sedimentation into waterways, including Lake Michigan;
- Provide wildlife habitat;
- Help regulate temperatures in the campground;
- Enhance the visitor experience.

Providing the best experience possible at the park is crucial in attracting and maintaining visitors. A comfortable, secluded, and aesthetically pleasing campground is an important component of visitor experience.

This GLRI grant was secured as a collaborative effort between Save the Dunes, a northwest Indiana conservation group, and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

“This is yet another great example of a natural resource conservation and management project that will be achieved through partnerships at Indiana Dunes State Park, and we appreciate the cooperation and support provided by GLRI and Save the Dunes,” said Ginger Murphy, deputy director for stewardship of Indiana State Parks & Reservoirs.

Cathy Martin, parks program coordinator at Save the Dunes, called Indiana Dunes State Park an “ecological and recreational asset to northwest Indiana.”

“Save the Dunes is happy to see the park receiving the funding and care it deserves,” she said. Planting will likely take place in spring 2015.



Media contact: Brandt Baughman, property manager, Indiana Dunes State Park, (219) 926-1952. The park (stateparks.IN.gov/2980.htm) is located at 1600 N 25 E, Chesterton, 46304.



Wild **INDIANA**
EVERYTHING IN THE HOOSIER OUTDOORS

Signal 10 Media LLC
Post Office Box 794
Lebanon, Indiana 46052
Tel. (317) 370-3442
btwheat@wildindiana.com

For Immediate Release: 12/15/2014

WildIndiana Magazine
Signal 10 Media LLC
P.O. Box 794
Lebanon, Indiana 46052
(317) 370-3442
Brent T. Wheat
btwheat@wildindiana.com

New Indiana-focused outdoor magazine set for release

Lebanon, IN: Signal 10 Media LLC is pleased to announce a new bi-monthly print magazine focused on the central Indiana outdoor scene.

WildIndiana Magazine is set for launch in February 2015. The advertiser-supported publication will be available for free in many locations throughout central Indiana and on the internet.

The magazine, based on the well-established WildIndiana brand, will cover the rich variety of outdoor activities available in Indiana. While the publication will strongly feature hunting and fishing articles, coverage will span the breadth of the Hoosier outdoor experience. Along with expert advice on “how-to” and “where-to” across the state, the magazine will tackle conservation issues, news and other topics using a journalistic yet lighthearted and sometimes humorous approach.

“I’m very excited about this project,” said Publisher Brent T. Wheat. “As a long-time writer and outdoors enthusiast in central Indiana, I’ve known there is a huge gap in outdoor coverage within the heart of our state. Now, with *WildIndiana Magazine* and its related properties, our goal is to serve this hungry audience and become the leading publication for Hoosiers who love the outdoors.”

“Speaking of hungry,” Wheat added, “I think readers will be excited about our wild food gathering/preparation column that is written by a nationally known chef who is an avid hunter!”

The magazine is working with top designers to bring a fresh look to the outdoor media scene, combining top-notch writing, great photography and innovative layout. “We are busy hand-crafting something that is informative, relevant and visually appealing,” said Wheat. “When I decided to embark on this project, the primary goal was to build a vibrant community of enthusiasts using a vehicle that the audience, advertisers, writers, photographers and publisher will be proud to embrace. We’ve not yet gone to print on the first issue but I think we will hit the mark- and more!”

WildIndiana Magazine will also support and be complemented by a redesigned website, Youtube channel, streaming internet radio station and social media.

Searching for History

by Rich Creason

The sound of the battle was deafening. Distant cannon roared over the hillsides. Closer in to the fighting, muzzleloaders of many calibers sounded their booms while leaving the smoke and smell of gunpowder in the air. Yells of the soldiers and screams of the wounded could be heard everywhere. This was a common scene played out almost daily in the southeastern part of our country 150 years ago. This was the Civil War.

Imagine if you will, after the soldiers were gone and the dead and injured carried away, what was left behind on the battlefield. The remnants of those great battles still could tell the story of each conflict. Broken pieces of swords and sword scabbards, bayonets, pieces of saddles, stirrups, and spurs, buttons torn from uniforms and shattered guns littered the ground. And bullets. Thousands of bullets. All shapes and sizes. Some in perfect condition from being dropped in the haste to reload the weapon. Some slightly damaged from hitting a tree, or maybe even a soldier. And many, flattened into lumps of just lead after hitting a rock or other hard object.

To begin with, the lead bullets were round musket and pistol balls, formed in a mold to fit the barrel of the soldier's weapon. Later came the Minnie ball, a conical shaped hunk of lead named for the man who designed this piece to be more accurate and fly further.



And then, there were other bullets which began as instruments of death, only to end up with other uses. Since lead is soft, some were carved into chess pieces to give the young soldier something to do when he wasn't on the battleground. Some were shaped into charms or other items which were carried by the owner for whatever reason. And then, there were some which are covered with teeth marks left when a soldier would hold it between his teeth to help contain the pain of a wound or battlefield surgery. Hence the term, "bite the bullet".

Susie and I traveled to the state of Virginia, a few miles north of Richmond recently to try to locate some of these items. We were actually at a "seeded" or "paid" hunt where an entry fee is paid, and the participants get a chance to use a metal detector to find these historical items which are buried in a field by members of the club who put on this hunt.

This was our third trip to enjoy this hunt. The bullets, buttons, buckles, and other objects were buried in two large bean fields. The participants line up around the area and begin the hunt when the gun sounds. We had 150 minutes to find everything we could in the first field.

When the time was up, we slowly walked off the field and headed towards our truck to examine our finds. I had 17 lead bullets in various conditions, from "drops" to severely damaged. All could still be identified as Civil War era pieces. I also had three complete buttons with an eagle design on the front and two button "backs", which is just the back half of a uniform button. As I looked at these items, I always wonder the history behind what the piece had seen a century and a half ago.

As usual, Susie beat me on the field. She had 22 assorted bullets, nine buttons, and several buckles from knapsacks, harness, or something else. She also found a 1904 Indianhead penny which was not buried for the hunt, but was an actual remnant in the ground from a century ago.

(continued next page)

After a barbeque lunch and a short rest, we lined up for the second hunt of the day. Two hours later, shoulders, back, knees, and hands hurting, we sorted our finds. Not as good as the first hunt, but almost. I had 16 bullets, three buttons, an old spoon, and a jawbone from a deer skeleton I found in the field.

Susie was way down on bullets, only finding eight, but dug 11 buttons, a couple more buckles, and a cap with holes in the top which resembled a salt or pepper shaker lid. It looked old and wasn't threaded, so it has probably been around a while. She also found a large chunk of rusted looking metal which was identified as a shell fragment from a 12 pound cannonball.

Why do we enjoy these hunts? One reason is the thrill of the hunt, looking for something buried like young kids digging pirate treasure or something. Another is the fun of competing with friends, comparing equipment, and teaching newcomers the fun of the hobby.

What do we do with the finds? We bring them home, arrange them in display cases, try to identify each item (different bullets can be identified by shape, size, markings, etc.), and see if we can determine anything else about where the item was found or used.



This photo shows some of the assorted Civil War era buttons that Rich and Susan Creason found on this metal detector hunt. Some are round dome tops, some are just button backs and others are flat buttons. All of them tell a story! Photo by Rich Creason.

Then, we take the displays to nursing homes, schools and club meetings, and explain about the Civil War and how our artifacts played a part in the conflict.

At the nursing homes, we often have someone who tells us stories about their distant relatives who were in the war. Kids in the schools will sit mesmerized when they can actually see and hold pieces of history instead of just seeing pictures in a book.

These items are all found on private property or bought from the owner. Some people (i.e. the Federal Government) think the history of these conflicts should remain buried forever rather than be recovered and learned about. That's why metal detectors are forbidden on most government land. Even most states follow this same idea.

Would you rather see and hold a piece of the past, or look at it in a picture?

HOW Member News

HOW Members Enjoy The 2014 Deer Season

Phil Hawkins (Franklin, IN)

The following is from long-time HOW member and skilled deer hunter Phil Hawkins:

“Just a note on my crossbow deer hunting for this year. I think this is deer number 43 for me, all bucks. This old maple tree made a perfect spot for my ladder stand and as I told my son, John, the deer will never see us in this stand.”

“My shot was at about 12 yards on the 26th of October, at 9:50am. John had to do most of the preliminary work getting the stand set up, and also retrieving the deer after I shot it. At 83 years old, I just can’t do everything anymore.”

“Early this season I looked up at the sky and thought, ‘Just one more time’. Wish granted.”



Photos of Phil Hawkins (above and left) during and after his successful crossbow hunt in October. Phil has been a HOW member since 1969. That’s 45 years!

Dianna Garbers (Martinsville, IN)

Here is a note from HOW member Dianna Garbers:

“I got a small doe on our property in the late afternoon (my first deer!). I played hide and seek with a buck for three days with no opportunity to shoot before taking the doe before the season ended.”

“We butchered it ourselves (we meaning Alan, lol), which was a first for us. No photo of my deer, unfortunately.”

“Alan did see a bobcat from his treestand and got a very fuzzy picture of it!” That’s cool!

2014 Deer Season Continued

Nate Mullendore (New Ulm, MN)

The following is part of a late-November note from HOW member Nate Mullendore who recently relocated to Minnesota:

“I have done a fair amount of bowhunting in MN and I was in Indiana all of last week attempting to fill my \$300 nonresident license bundle,” he said. “I did successfully heart-shoot a doe with my bow last Wednesday in Indiana.”

“The morning of the IN gun opener I shot a nice buck, but unfortunately we were unable to recover it. We had good blood, a solid trail, etc, but it dried up at a road and we couldn't reach the third landowner where it walked to seek permission to search the CRP and ravine bottoms. We also had seen two guys in a truck pull up, hoist something into the bed, and drive off before we realized the deer had gone to the road. So we lost that one, a mile-plus from where it was shot, either because someone got to it before us or because blood clotted it and died without a trace.”

“That evening I saw another really nice buck, but did not get a shot at it. It has been an interesting season so far, but I still have two buck tags to fill and a brand new CVA Optima V2 to try out. I will be going out later today and will be back in Indiana for Thanksgiving, too.”



Tom Berg (Dyer, IN)

The following comes from HOW Executive Director Tom Berg: “I finally tried deer hunting for the first time this fall. I was always afraid to try deer hunting – afraid that if I tried it I would like it! Then I would have to do it all the time. And who has time for another hobby?!”

“Anyway, I hunted during shotgun season. The first two outings were evening hunts for a couple of hours before dark. I never saw a deer. The third time I moved to a different stand and saw one deer just before dark, but it was too far away. The 4th time was the charm, as I went for a morning hunt and at 7:00am a group of five deer appeared out of the woods to the east. One by one, they silently hopped the fence at the edge of the field I was watching and slowly came within range.”

“When they crossed the fence and first started walking towards me, the adrenaline started pumping and I could really feel the blood pounding in the vein on my neck! I was worried that my hands would be shaking uncontrollably when it came time to shoot. Fortunately, it took the nearest deer so long to get close and offer a good shot that the adrenaline rush was long gone!”

“The deer I shot was a button-buck and he only ran about 25 yards before going down. Not a trophy, but it was my first deer and I have fresh venison in the freezer! The memories of that first successful deer hunt are permanently etched in my mind, and I'm sure they won't fade anytime soon.”

2014 Deer Season Continued

Ken McBroom (Indianapolis, IN)

The following is from HOW Board member Ken McBroom:

“This deer season has been a good one so far. I was successful the first two weekends of the season and had some venison in the freezer before November rolled around. I was able to enjoy several encounters with mature whitetails including a great 10-pointer. I encountered him six times in as many days but never had a shot. It was the last weekend I could hunt before gun season and with my limited hunting time, I decided to purchase a slug gun. Unfortunately, on opening morning of gun season I found the ridge that I bowhunt was loaded with hunters and I was discouraged to the point of nearly giving up.”

“I launched my jonboat well before daylight and had to wait for a couple boats to launch. I hoped they were duck hunters. I worked my way through the standing timber and knew a shortcut because of the many trips through the gauntlet during bow season. I could see the boats were heading into the same cove and my heart sank. It got worse as I rounded the point and saw many boats already along the shoreline and even a few lights meandering throughout the woods above. The worst thing was a couple hunters at the head of the cove flashing their spotlights to let us all know they were there. I honored their flashes because I didn’t want to park my boat in a decoy spread or mess up their hunt, so I pulled into another cove short of their position.”

“I was getting my gear out of the jonboat when a boat pulled up to within 10 feet of me and three hunters quickly moved into the pine thicket I had hoped to hunt. I was greeted with flashing lights every direction I tried to go. This was very discouraging. It was a perfect morning and I took up position where I thought it was safe but soon was ready to go.”

“I was heading back to the ramp by 9:30 am, discouraged that I was unable to get back to my spot. I have only bowhunted most of my adult life and of course have heard stories of how many hunters are in the woods on opening morning of gun season.”

“It didn’t take me long to change my mind on that cold opening day. I told my wife I was heading back out and that it was too nice of a day not to hunt. She smiled and said “I knew you would” and I was back in a tree that afternoon in an area I had never been. There was a huge cedar thicket to the south, surrounded by white oaks dropping acorns. I knew there was a good chance I might get a shot.”

“It was a perfect evening and I was confident that a buck would cruise through the area. I rely on terrain features when I hunt a new area and my favorite is the ends of coves. A buck will cruise thickets searching for does and will walk the lake's edge, following the shoreline to get to the other side. This was a perfect cove with the thick cover for bedding and the acorns for food.”

“I was facing the cedar thicket and fully expected a deer from that direction. I was surprised when I heard a deer walking up behind me. It was a 7-pointer and he was a few yards behind me when I turned to take a peek and he busted me. I was able to get the Mossberg shouldered as he moved away through the cover. I placed the



(continued next page)

2014 Deer Season Continued

crosshairs on the front shoulder at 75 yards and squeezed the trigger. The slug hit its mark and the buck dropped within sight of my stand. A great ending to an otherwise dismal beginning and I could not have been happier with my successful harvest and the venison it would bring me and my family.”

“I would like to voice my great appreciation for our wonderful public lands. One of the best things about public land is the massive amounts of land available and the ability to go somewhere else to get away from the pressure. I have had bad experiences on public land a few times but have been fortunate enough to turn it around, like on this hunt. I am thankful for all the hard work that goes into making these properties available and I ask that anyone who struggles to find land to hunt should not take our public lands for granted. The hunting can be awesome and keep this in mind: if we don’t use it, we will lose it.”

Doug Sikora (Noblesville, IN)

The following is from HOW member Doug Sikora:

“My father, brother and I recently planned to spend a day together enjoying one of the best aspects of life...the outdoors. We decided to start off the day drawing for a duck blind at the Kankakee Fish and Wildlife area, which happened to be unsuccessful. Plan B entailed heading out to the woods for the opening day of firearm season.”

“We quickly forgot about the ducks, as the morning hunt was loaded with excitement. We saw a handful of does, followed by a good buck, a red fox, owls, and a ton of squirrels. However, another great aspect of life was calling...food, so we decided to head for the local diner.”



The Sikora men pose with the trophy buck taken by the senior member of the family, Doug’s father (left). HOW member Doug Sikora is shown in the center, along with his brother (right).



“Over breakfast, it was brought up that it’s been a long time since my father shot a buck, so I guided him over to the best evening stand on the property.”

“The weather was perfect, a little chill in the air, overcast, and a slight breeze. Then, as I was having a staring contest with a squirrel, a shot rang out in my father’s direction. Thankfully, with the addition of “texting”, you no longer have to sit there like a kid on Christmas morning waiting to open presents. I texted “Dad, was that you? Did you shoot a good buck?” He replied, “It’s good enough for me.”

“My brother and I quickly agreed when we recovered the deer the next morning!”

My Friend, Parker Thompson

by Kenny Bayless

A couple of years ago I met a young man at the Clay County Jakes event (a National Wild Turkey Federation event), which involves many outdoor activities like archery or shooting a BB gun. It's meant to introduce kids to the great outdoors.

When Parker Thompson came walking up with a BB gun that had a scope on it, I knew this young man was serious about shooting. Two years later, I was privileged to witness the shot of a lifetime.

Parker and I became instant friends. I believe he will accomplish anything in life that he takes on. Tonya, Parker's Mom, said "Just tell me what he needs to hunt or fish with and I will see that he gets it." That's a dedicated Mother!

Parker and I were shooting some trap at Terre Haute Sporting Clays one day when Dan Zurner, one of the top sporting clay shooters in the U.S., stepped up and offered a helping hand. Parker called for a bird and busted it instantly. Dan, turning to walk away, said "He doesn't need any help!"

Here we are in the second week of deer season with Parker and me on our way to the hunting cabin in Parke County to meet up with my friend Bill Klass. I told Parker to soak up all the information he could get from Bill. Bill is a vet that has traveled the world with a high power rifle and a long scope on it. He was a Marine Special Forces Sniper that could hit his target at 1.36 miles, and he was a record holder for many years. Parker was like a sponge while listening to Bill.

Bill knew Parker was dreaming of taking his first deer and said "You guys should sit in the frog pond stand; you can't go wrong there."

Parker loaded his rifle with 45 long colt shells and checked the scope to make sure the eye relief fit him. We slowly pieced our way through the hardwoods along the steep hillsides, finally reaching a flat spot near the ladder stand. Just as we approached the tree stand, two does that were bedded on the flat area jumped up to wave goodbye with their white tails.

As we climbed the ladder, the clock read 3:00 PM. Parker was like radar scanning the horizon for his first deer. I was watching the trail on our backside while he was watching the bedding area and the deep woods.

When I tapped Parker on the knee to get his gun ready for the doe that appeared from nowhere, he was like a bird dog on point. The doe was feeding on acorns with a patch of sassafras saplings between her and the hunter. I could feel Parker's heart thumping as well as mine. Yes, we had deer fever!

He knelt on one knee, using the safety bar to steady his shot. He watched the doe through the scope for over 10 minutes. Finally, I whispered "Only take your shot if you feel good about it." You would have thought he was already a sniper in Special Forces.



When the deer stepped into a four-inch window through the trees, Parker took his shot with me just about jumping out of my skin. Yes, you guessed it, a perfect shot through the heart with the deer going about 50 yards. I felt privileged to be with Parker while making a lifetime memory.



Mullendore Finds MN Pheasants

HOW member Nate Mullendore is not only a successful deer hunter, he also enjoys small game hunting. In early December he had an opportunity to go pheasant hunting in southwest Minnesota, so he jumped at the chance.

“I shot a limit of pheasants yesterday while hunting on private land with my boss over his two Deutsch Drahthaar hunting dogs,” he said. “These were my first Minnesota pheasants.”

For those who are unfamiliar with the name of those hunting dogs, the Deutsch Drahthaar is also called the

German Wirehair Pointer. These are excellent hunting dogs: tough, courageous, loyal and affectionate. They are great pointers and they can retrieve equally well on land and in water. What could be better?

Don Cranfill Dreams of Flyfishing And Smallmouth Bass, Even In Winter

It may be wintertime, but that doesn't stop HOW Board member Don Cranfill from thinking about one of his favorite pastimes: flyfishing. Don enjoys spending time at the FlyMasters of Indianapolis shop (Allisonville Rd), and recently showed-off a new fly that he created.

“The customer appreciation day went well at FlyMasters of Indy,” he said, “and I have been asked to be one of their featured fly tiers for this year. I have also gotten my first original fly published in this year's FlyMasters magazine. It is a realistic crawdad fly called the RealDad. Look for a tutorial in this year's magazine.”

We asked Don for a description of the fly, and he obliged with a list of the materials and a beautiful photo of the finished product.

“I use an offset shank bass hook and a little lead-free to make it track right-side up,” he explained. “Then I add two layers of chenille, a bit of EP brush for legs, ball bearing chain eyes, vinyl rib material for antennae, and a Fishskull felt pre-cut body with a UV coating on it.”



Don Cranfill's new RealDad fly. It looks great, and should catch plenty of smallmouth bass once the crawdads become active again in the spring!

“The original bodies were made of felt with a rough texture and they worked great! The newer bodies I have since acquired are a smoother felt that soaks up the UV and turns very dark. I am communicating with Fishskull regarding that.”

The Seng Family Daredevils Soar Through The Sky!



HOW member Phil Seng found some excitement this summer. Probably more excitement than most of us can handle! He fulfilled the lifelong dream of jumping out of a perfectly good airplane! It sounds like the same mental lapse that HOW member John Martino experienced a few years ago! Phil explains it a little differently, however:

“Well, it's not really timely news anymore,” he said, “but my daughter and I went skydiving this summer! I really wanted to go skydiving when I was in college, but it cost \$99 back then. That might as well have been a million, so I had to put it off.”

“Then I had kids and I figured that even though the chances of anything bad happening were extremely low, it still would be a very crappy thing to do to your family if it did. So I put it off again, and kind of forgot about it. Then it occurred to me that I should do it as a 50th birthday present to myself. My daughter Jenny (20) heard me talk about it and she, er, jumped at the idea of us jumping together. She actually gave me tickets as a Father’s Day present!”

“So I finally checked that one off my bucket list. Only 30 years later! By the way, I highly recommend it!”



Upper left: Phil Seng and his daughter Jenny are suited-up and ready for their jump. Above, Phil and his jump instructor prepare to leave the plane.



Above left: Phil smiles as he admires the amazing sights during his descent. He is also undoubtedly smiling because he is happy that the parachute opened! Above right: Phil gives the thumbs-up signal once he is back on the ground with his jump instructor. He’s probably also thinking “Can we do that again?”





Screech Owls Seem To Be Attracted To Keaton Family

HOW Legal Counsel Bill Keaton recently sent this note describing a close encounter between his son Will and a hungry screech owl:

“We had a screech owl trapped in our chicken coop last night,” reported Will Keaton. “I’m glad I was wearing my thick gloves, because that small owl had a very strong grip. He flew off silently after the photo op!”

The sight of his son’s owl sparked memories for Bill from one of his own owl encounters in the past. “For a number of years we had a rufous-colored screech owl living right behind our house in a wood duck house,” he said. “It would show up in early November and stay into spring. We named it ‘Rufus’. I love their whistling call.”

Heartfelt Condolences To HOW Members

The following HOW members/family members have recently suffered the loss of a loved one. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers in the new year:

Dan Anderson II, age 53, passed away Nov. 14, 2014. Son of HOW member Dan Anderson, Sr.

Sophia Anderson, age 89, passed away Dec. 12, 2014. Wife of HOW member Dan Anderson, Sr. for 54 years, Sophia also attended many HOW conferences with Dan, including the most recent 2014 conference.

John Trout, Jr., age 68, passed away Dec. 22, 2014. HOW member and member of the HOW Board of Directors. Please see John’s obituary on page 25.

Membership Changes and New Contact Info

The following name represents our newest HOW member. Welcome to HOW, Tommy! Please make a note of his email address:

Tommy Thornton: tommy@crappiecrazy.com (new member)

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.

Membership Reminders:

Conference

Don’t forget to mark your calendars for the 2015 HOW conference. The dates will be April 10-12, 2015 (Friday-Sunday), with the main meeting taking place on Saturday, as usual. You may attend the Saturday meeting only, the entire weekend or any portion of the weekend. It’s up to you!

Website

Remember to check out and use the HOW website. The web address is: www.HoosierOutdoorWriters.org (not case-sensitive).

My Favorite Christmas Tree: The American Century Plant

by Alan Garbers



Having lived in Indiana now for over twenty years I think it's safe to say that my wife Dianna and I are Hoosiers. We call Indianapolis "Indy". We hunt for yellows, blacks, and grays every spring (sponge mushrooms). And we know when folks say they like stuffed "mangos" they're talking about green bell peppers and not a tropical fruit.

While Dianna is a native and I'm not, I do identify myself as a Hoosier, but I also consider myself a "westerner". For nine years we lived in Arizona and Colorado. We fished, hunted, hiked, and even worked on a dude ranch. I would not trade any of those experiences for the world. We enjoyed many of the customs, especially those around Christmas. We agree that there are few sights more beautiful than Tlaquepaque in Sedona during the Festival of Lights (see www.tlaq.com/event/detail/id/5). If you don't know what I'm talking about, I feel sympathy for you. The memories of 6,000 luminarias lighting the old-world Mexican walkways, courtyards and balconies as the scent of spiced cider wafted through the air and carolers sang haunts me to this day.



Much of Arizona is desert, and in that desert, at just the right elevation, thrives the American century plant. This plant is in the same family as the ornamental yuccas we have here in Indiana. Like yuccas, the century plant puts out a tall flower stalk, but with a few differences. First, a century plant flower can be almost twenty-feet tall. Second, the century plant doesn't flower until its last year of life. So, for about twenty years the plant gets bigger and bigger, until everything is right and it sends up a huge stalk with hundreds of blossoms, even as the plant is dying. After the flowers bloom, the stalk and seed pods dry out. The stalk is often stout enough to use as a light-weight hiking stick. But, many westerners have another use for it. We use them as a Christmas tree, usually decorated with southwestern-themed ornaments.

Twenty years ago, our moving truck to Indiana was so packed we had to leave a clothes dryer behind, so we really didn't have room to pack a huge but fragile century plant blossom. So, for the past 20 years I've had a small box of southwestern Christmas ornaments that I refused to unpack until I had a century plant to hang them on. Yes, I know that's called pouting.

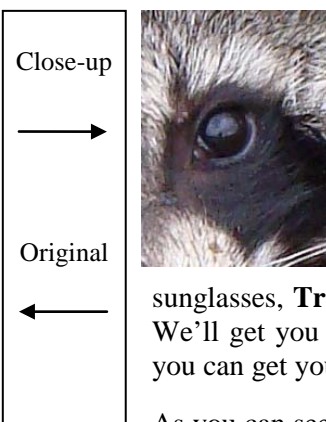
This last summer we went back to Arizona for the first time since 1994. We went to our old stomping grounds and saw all the favorite sights. As luck would have it, someone had cut a century plant blossom last fall and it was waiting just for me. Since I was driving a 30-foot RV, room was not an issue this time!



Now, once again I have a century plant blossom, probably the only one in Indiana. Once again it is decked with chili pepper lights and dozens of southwestern ornaments, some that have been packed away for twenty years, and some that are new to us. All make my heart glad. And since Christmas is for sharing memories, I extend a welcome to anyone that would like to come by and see it.

Unusual Nature Photos From The Hoosier Outdoors Sponsored by Shimano American Corporation

Raccoons Are Masters Of Survival – They Can Live Anywhere!



The “What is it?” photo from the most recent issue was easier than normal, and nine (9) HOW members correctly identified it. Troy McCormick, Mike Schoonveld, Mike Berg, Jack Spaulding, John Maxwell, Jarrett Manek, Nate Mullendore, Ken McBroom and Rich Creason each had the right answer. When we drew a name at random for the **Cocoons** sunglasses, **Troy McCormick** was the winner. Congrats, Troy! We’ll get you in touch with our friends at Cocoons Eyewear so you can get your free pair of sunglasses.

As you can see in the photo (at left), the mystery creature for this issue was a common raccoon (*Procyon lotor*). Raccoons are medium-sized mammals that can be easily identified by their ringed tail and the black mask on their face. They are equally at home in the forest, around lakes and rivers, around rural farms and even in the heart of the city. They often live in tree cavities, hollow logs, inside old barns and under sheds. They have extremely dexterous front paws that they use to forage for a wide range of prey. Insects are a common food source, as are frogs, mice, birds, crayfish and a host of other creatures. Raccoons found near humans often raid garbage cans, vegetable gardens and pet food containers. They can eat almost anything and live almost anywhere.

Raccoons are nocturnal animals, and at this time of the year they will be on the prowl nightly, searching for food to build up their fat reserves. They gorge themselves in preparation for the colder weather to come. Once the temperature dips into the teens or single digits, they will stay in their dens and enter a pseudo-hibernation state. Then they sleep until the weather warms back up – temps in the 20s or 30s will encourage them to come back out and look for food again.

For this issue, John Mazurkiewicz at Catalyst Marketing will be donating a great prize from **Shimano** for the HOW member that guesses the right answer to this issue’s “What Is It?” question. This time the prize will be an awesome **Shimano Clarus** fishing rod of the winner’s choice. 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 right is a close-up of part of a common creature that lives right here in Indiana. You might see it in your own back yard, and it is found throughout the state. Have you ever seen this color pattern before? Can you guess what it is?



This creature may not be too difficult for some 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 turtle, for example, go ahead and guess “Painted Turtle”. Of course, it’s not a turtle, 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, **Shimano** will be donating a new Clarus fishing rod 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. The winner can check out the new **Shimano** web site to see all of the available models. 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.

THOSE WHO HAVE GONE BEFORE US

John F. Trout, Jr.

October 18, 1946 – December 22, 2014

Holland, IN – John F. Trout Jr., age 68, passed away Monday, December 22, 2014 at his residence after a short battle with lung cancer. He was preceded in death by his parents John Sr. and Marilyn Shelton Trout; sister, Carol Swiertz and son Mark Trout.

John is survived by his wife of 31 years Vikki L. Trout; children, Alisa Webster, Tammy Hardy, Kathy (Khris) Seger & John (Annette) Trout III; grandchildren, Brittaney Keene, Mary & Jessica Webster, Allyson Harlow, Robert & Bradley Williams, Sydney & Emily Seger, Erin Cook & Luke Trout; six great-grandchildren; brother, Wes (Faith) Trout; nieces, Heather Shekell & Heather Black; nephews, Bret Swiertz & Derek Trout.

John owned Trout's Jewelers in Boonville. As an outdoor writer/photographer, he authored seven outdoor books and countless articles and photos. John loved the sport of hunting, and he enjoyed 22 years of bear hunting in Idaho. He was also an avid deer and turkey hunter. He was a member of Central Christian Church, the National Wild Turkey Federation and the Hoosier Outdoor Writers.

John was a HOW member for many years and was currently serving as a member of the HOW Board of Directors. He graciously agreed to be the HOW Writing Contest Coordinator last year and spent a lot of time completing that project. John will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

Funeral services were held on December 27, 2014 at Bradley's Colonial Chapel, 1005 E. Main St., Boonville, IN 47601. Interment at Plainview Cemetery near Boonville. Condolences to the family may be sent to www.bradleyscc.com.



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.

Mossberg Wins Another NASGW “Innovator of the Year” Award

North Haven, CT: O.F. Mossberg & Sons, Inc., America’s oldest family-owned and operated firearms manufacturer, was presented with the “2014 Innovator of the Year” Award during the opening night festivities at the 2014 National Association of Sporting Goods Wholesaler (NASGW) Expo & 41st Annual Meeting in Little Rock, Arkansas. During the annual Awards Reception and Dinner, NASGW recognizes those manufacturers who contribute significantly to the successful business climate of its wholesale members. This is the second time that Mossberg has been recognized as Innovator of the Year, since the inception of this prestigious award in the 2012.



“Recognition for developing the most innovative products is a tremendous honor, particularly when this acknowledgement comes from our customers,” commented Tom Taylor, Senior Vice President of Sales and Marketing. “And in such a competitive market, Mossberg is extremely proud, and humbled, to be a two-time recipient of the innovator award. Developing, manufacturing and marketing the highest-quality, leading-edge firearms are the focus of our entire team.”

Mossberg recently announced increased manufacturing capabilities with the expansion of their Texas-based facility and bolstered several of their most-innovative firearm platforms in 2014, including 7.62mm (308 Win) chamberings in their ground-breaking MVP™ Series of bolt-action rifles and new 20-gauge and 22LR offerings to their FLEX™ System of shotguns and rifles. Joining forces with other family-focused partners, such as the Duck Commanders and pro-shooters, Jerry, Kay and Lena Miculek, brings higher visibility to the company’s product lines and increases product demand for distribution partners.

The NASGW Expo & Annual Meeting provides educational, marketing and communications opportunities for hunting, sporting goods and shooting sports wholesalers and manufacturers. This year’s event was held at the Statehouse Convention Center in Little Rock, Arkansas, in October.

About O.F. Mossberg & Sons, Inc.

Founded in 1919, O.F. Mossberg & Sons, Inc. is the oldest family-owned and operated firearms manufacturer in America, and is the largest pump-action shotgun manufacturer in the world. Leading the way with over 100 design and utility patents to its credit, and standing as the first ISO 9001 Certified long-gun manufacturer, Mossberg is considered to be one of the most innovative firearms manufacturers in U.S. History. For more information on commercial, special purpose, law enforcement and military shotguns, rifles and accessories, please visit their website at www.mossberg.com.

Contact Linda Powell, Director of Media Relations at Mossberg for more info.
Email: LPowell@mossberg.com or call 336-441-2923 (press only).



HOW Supporting Member News

Mercury Marine Promotes Boating and Fishing To Youth

Fond Du Lac, WI: Mercury Marine, the world leader in commercial and recreational marine propulsion and technology, has partnered with Bill Dance, host of Bill Dance Outdoors, and Fox Sports Outdoors host Barry Stokes to create videos that promote the value of boating and the importance of getting kids to experience life on the water.

"I've never seen a child who didn't like to fish and I've never seen one that didn't enjoy it twice as much when it was done from a boat," said Dance. "It was sure that way for me when I was a child."

According to new statistics released by the NMMA, fishing is the number one boating activity, followed by tubing and waterskiing. Both Stokes and Dance, with the help of Mercury Marine, encourage families to experience the water and teach kids the importance of family time at an early age.

"My dad lit my fishing fuse when I was only six years old," said Stokes. "I still vividly remember trout fishing in small streams in Colorado and fishing for bass from our aluminum fishing boat all over Texas. I looked forward to him tugging on my big toe to wake me up at 5 a.m. to go fishing almost every weekend. Those snapshots are forever freeze-framed in my memory and I still call them up frequently."

Both Dance and Stokes have released videos promoting the boating and fishing lifestyle for kids. You can view those videos on the Mercury Marine YouTube page:

Dance video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zhjGEG5jIkU&feature=youtu.be>

Stokes video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jOR-1Ndwjzg&feature=youtu.be>

For additional information about how to make fishing and boating fun for kids, log on to the Take Me Fishing website, which features safety information and other ways to encourage the boating and fishing lifestyle for young kids.

About Mercury Marine:

Headquartered in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, Mercury Marine is the world's leading manufacturer of recreational marine propulsion engines. A \$2 billion division of Brunswick Corporation, Mercury provides engines, boats, services and parts for recreational, commercial and government marine applications, empowering boaters with products that are easy to use, extremely reliable and backed by the most dedicated customer support in the world. Mercury's industry-leading brand portfolio includes Mercury and Mariner outboard engines; Mercury MerCruiser sterndrive and inboard packages; MotorGuide trolling motors; Mercury propellers; Mercury inflatable boats; Mercury SmartCraft electronics; Attwood marine parts; Land 'N' Sea marine parts distribution; and Mercury and Quicksilver parts and oils. More information is available at www.mercurymarine.com.

For more information on Mercury Marine products, contact Lee Gordon, Director of Public Relations (phone: 920-924-1808, email: Lee.Gordon@mercmarine.com) or Steve Fleming, Communications Director (phone: 920-979-7626, email: Steve.Fleming@mercmarine.com).



HOW Supporting Member News

HOW Members Should Prepare For Upcoming Sport Shows

First up:

Cincinnati, OH: The 58th annual Cincinnati Travel, Sports & Boat Show, presented by RAM sails into downtown Cincinnati January 16-18 and January 21-25, 2015. It's THE SOURCE for everything outdoors, with more than 700 displays and exhibits including: boating, water skiing, wakeboarding, fishing, hunting, camping, golf and travel destinations near and far where you can do it all. Experts in all areas will offer expert one-on-one consultation to help you buy the boat, equipment and gear or book the perfect customized trip – at the best early-season prices!

Visit www.hartproductions.com for complete information regarding Show features and ticket prices. HOW members may contact Chip Hart (chip@hartproductions.com) or Vicki Hart (vicki@hartproductions.com) for more info.



Louisville, KY: The Louisville Deer & Turkey Expo presented by Field & Stream and Outdoor Life will take place at the Kentucky Exposition Center (State Fairgrounds) from January 30-February 1, 2015. There will be celebrity appearances, shooting activities (including airguns and archery), interactive displays, informative guest speakers and interesting demonstrations. There will also be plenty of trophy deer mounts to see and lots of deer and turkey hunting products available for purchase.

Visit www.deerinfo.com for complete information regarding Show features, ticket prices and more.

HOW members may contact Thomas Schug (thomas@deerinfo.com) for more info.



HOW Supporting Member News



Indianapolis, IN: The 61st annual Indianapolis Boat, Sport & Travel Show, presented by Ford will take place at the Indiana State Fairgrounds from February 20-March 1, 2015. From camping gear to extreme sports, the Indianapolis Boat, Sport & Travel Show has everything imaginable! You can enjoy fishing seminars, popular speakers, special features, rock climbing, interactive games, the 70,000 square-foot Tackle Town USA, the 4,000 gallon Hawg Trough, travel and tourism information, RVs and boats galore, plus much more.

Besides the regular features that everyone knows and loves, there will be other special features this year, too. Here are a few of them:

Rail Jam Wakeboarding

The Rail Jam is an incredible entertainment spectacle that will delight both young and old alike. It uses two pools holding more than 50,000 gallons of water, and will showcase both jaw-dropping wakeboarding demonstrations, as well as top-level sanctioned competition.

Chics With Axes

Timber Tina's "World Champion Lumberjills" is a group of female, logging sports athletes that compete in the 'Olympics of the Forest' including Underhand Chopping, Cross-Cut Sawing, Axe Throwing, Stihl Power 'Hot' Sawing and Log Rolling!

Dock Diving Dogs

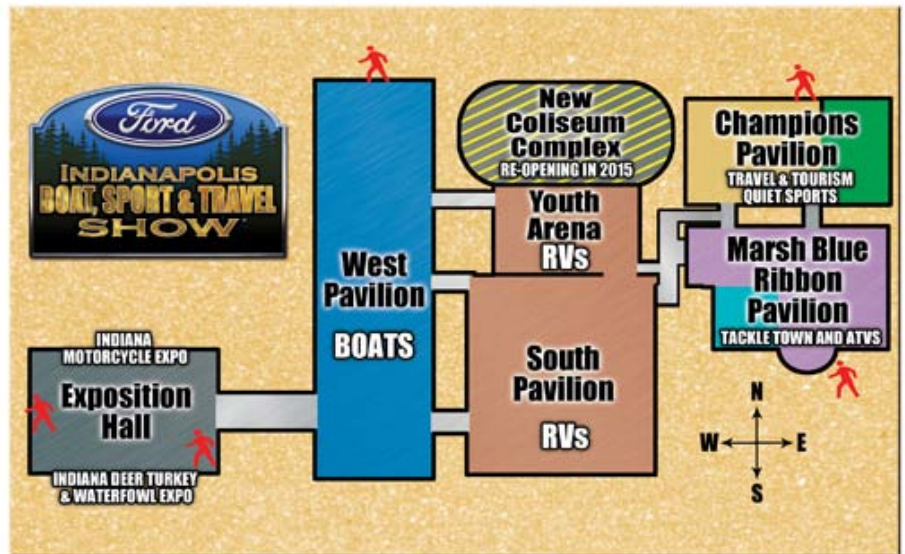
The Dock Diving Dogs are back with never before seen tricks! "Alpha K9 U" will be conducting workshops, demonstrations and friendly big air-wave competitions – as always, representatives will be there to answer any questions you have about the fastest growing dog sport!

All New Travel Cafe

The all-new Travel Café rolls into the Champions Pavilion this year with exciting travel destination presentations and videos. Along with the fresh new travel ideas presented by the exhibitors within the Travel & Tourism section of the show, there will be a new and unique in-show dining options.

And that's just the beginning. Visit www.renfroproductions.com for other info regarding Show features & ticket prices.

HOW members may contact Kevin Renfro (kevin@renfroproductions.com) or Dan Forst (dan.forst@yahoo.com) for more information.



BUILDING LEGEND

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| | Travel & Tourism | | Recreational Vehicles |
| | Quiet Sports | | INDIANA MOTORCYCLE EXPO Feb. 14th-16th (1st Weekend) |
| | Tackle Town | | DEER, TURKEY & WATERFOWL EXPO Feb. 20th-23rd (2nd Weekend) |
| | ATV's | | Under renovation – Reopening at the 2015 Sport Show |
| | Boats, Docks & Lifts, Water Ski Accessories | | Box Office |

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.arcticicellc.com
B'n'M Pole Company - www.bnmpoles.com
Barnes Bullets - www.barnesbullets.com
Bass Assassin Lures - www.bassassassin.com
Bass Pro Shops - www.basspro.com
Battenfeld Technologies - www.battenfeldtechnologies.com
Bear & Son Cutlery - www.bearandson.com
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.cyclopssolutions.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:

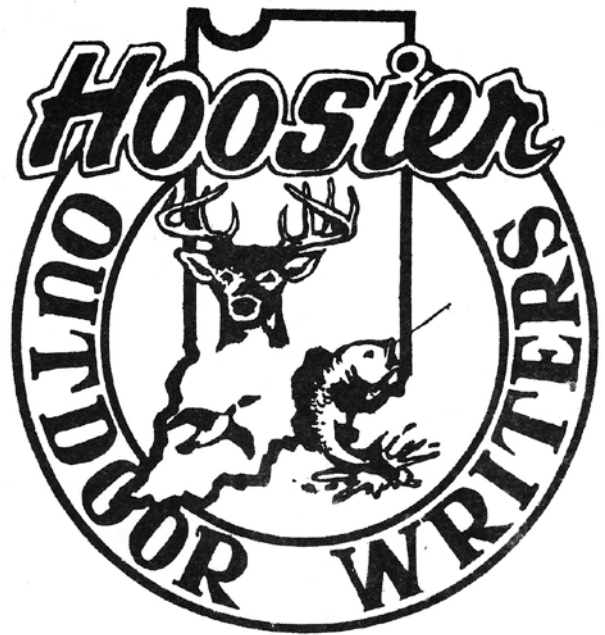
1. To give the profession of outdoor writing/reporting greater recognition and understanding, even higher standards and enlarged scope.
2. To encourage and enforce high standards of professional ethics.
3. To strive always for the truth, accuracy, clarity and completeness in the dissemination of outdoor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

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
AGLOW 2015 Cast & Blast: (www.aglowinfo.org) Labette County, KS	May 11-14, 2015
OWAA 2015 Annual Conference: (www.aglowinfo.org) Knoxville, TN	June 26-28, 2015
AGLOW 2015 Annual Conference: (www.aglowinfo.org) Minneapolis, MN	September 28-October 1, 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.