

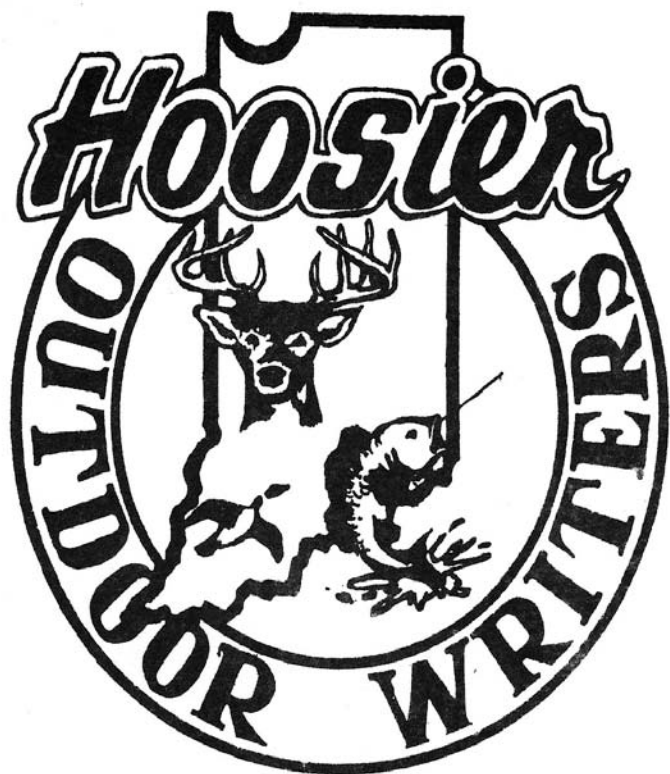
A photograph of a snowy winter landscape. In the foreground, a path of footprints leads from the bottom left towards the center. The ground is covered in a thick layer of snow. In the background, there are snow-covered trees and a dark, possibly frozen body of water or a path. The sky is not visible. The overall scene is peaceful and serene.

The Blade

January - February 2015

The Official Publication of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers

"Tracks in the Snow", 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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2015
Region 2 – Kreig Adkins
2016
Region 3 – OPEN
2015
Region 4 – Jack Spaulding
2016

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Bryan Poynter – 2015
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: *This winter has been another cold one! Lots of snow and more than enough cold weather. This photo shows a classic "animal highway" during the winter: a frozen creek. Tracks are everywhere, but the main path passes underneath a fallen tree spanning the creek. Tom Berg photo.*



President's Message

by "Ranger" Bob Sawtelle

"Preparing for the Coming Season in Many Ways"

Winter is either all about taking care of last fall's outdoor gear or getting gear ready for the upcoming spring season.

Fishing is on my mind. I am tying trout flies and crappie jigs at the moment.

As I gaze about my man cave it seems that I still have unattended chores and gear caches, from not only last year, but possibly many seasons past. I must be more about and always more excited about preparing for the coming adventures and outings rather than taking care of immediate business.

HOW members have been taking care of business. See page 14 for info on the new Indiana Parks Alliance. Recent articles and public comments from our membership on the current poor condition of and the need for more support for our public lands and programs have garnered some attention from readers.

That's good, of course, but we need to do more.

As we all prepare for the 2015 recreation season, I would like all of us to try and send some message of support for Indiana's Natural Resource public lands. We should also support our Indiana Department of Natural Resource programs as often as possible. It would not be difficult to show this support in the articles we write and to convey it to the audiences we address. It can have a big impact.

Indiana citizens and our Hoosier culture need a strong boost of Natural Resource and Outdoor Recreation interest and commitment. Our public lands, waters and programs need attention.

We can help.

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:**

Vikki Trout (Active)
Holland, 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
Bob Sawtelle	2014

Annual HOW Conference

Make Plans Now To Attend The 2015 Annual HOW Conference At Pokagon State Park!

The 46th meeting of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers will take place on the weekend of April 10-12, 2015 at Pokagon State Park near Fort Wayne, IN. Have you been to a HOW conference lately? This is shaping-up to be another great conference, so make your plans to attend now!

The weekend conference activities will begin with the annual HOW Fun Shoot on Friday, April 10. All HOW members who enjoy the shooting sports should consider joining us this year! Fun Shoot coordinator Mike Schoonveld tells us we will be shooting sporting clays at the Young Guns shooting range in nearby Wolcottville, IN. Their 10-station sporting clays course should be a lot of fun, for novice and expert shooters alike!



The Potawatomi Inn Resort and Conference center at Pokagon State Park will host the 2015 HOW Conference. We will meet at the famous Lake James Ball Room on Saturday, April 11, 2015.

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

The main meeting will occur on Saturday, April 11 at the Potawatomi Inn. As usual, you don't have to attend any of the events on Friday if your schedule only allows you to be present at the Saturday meeting. See page 8 for a copy of this year's conference registration form. We will have plenty of interesting speakers at the conference, featuring the following presentations:

- **National Muzzle Loading Rifle Association**

Terri Trowbridge from the National Muzzle Loading Rifle Association (NMLRA) will be our first speaker. She is the Director of Publications for the NMLRA and she is responsible for all association publications including the monthly magazine, Muzzle Blasts, and The Longhunter Society Muzzleloading Big Game Record Book.



Terri will give us some insight on exactly what the NMLRA is all about, and she will tell us about the two NMLRA National Shoots held each year in June and September at their home range in Friendship, Indiana. They also hold a National Youth Shoot where the focus is on safety, education, and fun; and a Western National Shoot at the Ben Avery Shooting Facility in Phoenix, AZ in March (among other things!).

- **Birds of Prey Presentation**

Volunteers from Fort Wayne's Soarin' Hawk Raptor Rehab (SHRR) group will bring some of their live birds of prey for a special demonstration at the HOW meeting. SHRR focuses on the rescue, treatment, flight conditioning and release of rehabilitated birds. They also host educational programs for young people, families and other members of the community, teaching the important relationship between raptors and humans, and efforts to support habitat and species preservation.

(Birds of Prey - continued on next page)





The SHRR bird handlers will present a variety of native Indiana raptors for us to see, up close and personal. They usually bring a kestrel, a screech owl, a barred owl, a great horned owl, a red-tailed hawk and maybe even a bald eagle. These majestic birds are impressive to see!

The goal of SHRR is to rescue and rehabilitate birds of prey, but not every bird is releasable. Those with serious injuries that hamper flight or hunting ability are often used for educational purposes. They are a great teaching tool! (Raptor photos courtesy of Soarin' Hawk Raptor Rehab).

- **Indiana DNR Canine Unit**

Officers from the DNR Division of Law Enforcement's Canine Unit will be on-hand with their four-legged partners. They will give an interesting demonstration with their dogs and explain some of the things they do to help solve crimes in the Indiana Outdoors.

Besides protecting our natural resources, conservation officers and their canine partners also provide a great service to Hoosier outdoorsmen in need of help. They often help find and assist lost hunters, lost children, and support police and other law enforcement agencies.



- **Champion Turkey Caller Carl Drake**

Hunter's Specialties and Realtree Pro Staff member Carl Drake will be our final speaker of the day. Carl is a lifelong outdoorsman, hunter and conservationist. He is a champion turkey caller and is a 3-time Illinois, Ohio, and Indiana State Owl Calling Champ.

Carl plans to talk about the "language of love" in the spring woods. He will discuss everything from locating turkeys to closing the distance to that big old tom. He will also talk about each call that a turkey makes, what it means, and how to imitate it with various calls – including mouth calls, box calls and friction calls.

According to Carl, "I am going to make this fun for all!" We might even persuade him to demonstrate some of his award-winning owl calls.



CONFERENCE ROOM RESERVATIONS:

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

Potawatomi Inn

6 Lane 100A Lake James
Angola, IN 46703
260-833-1077

Reservations:

1-877-LODGES-1
1-877-563-4371

Group/Promotional Code: Previously provided via email. Contact Tom Berg if you need the group code again.

Potawatomi Inn Double-Queen Rooms:

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

Don't wait to make your room reservation if you will be staying overnight at the Potawatomi Inn. Our block of discounted rooms will only be available until **March 9, 2015** or until they are all reserved. If you have any questions or if you have any difficulty reserving a room, please Contact Tom Berg (thomas.berg@comcast.net).

In addition to the speakers and seminars on Saturday, the HOW Board of Directors will convene to discuss the business of the association. Before our traditional buffet lunch, a slate of new officers will be elected during the meeting, also. Of course, we are planning another excellent HOW Raffle this year, too! The raffle at the 2014 meeting at Fort Harrison State Park was one of the best in recent years, and we are hoping it will be even better at Pokagon this year! We have already received a great variety of exceptional outdoors products for this year's raffle, including a stunning Henry American Beauty lever-action rifle, two Marlin rifles, a Mossberg 5.56mm MVP Varmint rifle, fishing rods, reels and other fishing gear, rainwear, knives, optics, turkey calls, lights, hunting gear and accessories, shooting supplies, and much more. Additional items are coming in every day, too, so start saving your money for tickets now. You must be present to win, so don't miss it!

Another Amazing HOW Raffle!

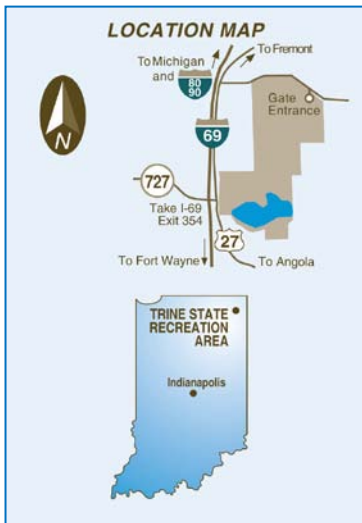
There will also be opportunities to explore Pokagon State Park throughout the entire conference weekend, where HOW members and spouses can do some boating, hiking, fishing, bird watching, nature photography or simply spend quality time outdoors. The park's Nature Center may also be of interest to family members.

On Saturday during the meeting, some spouses may want to participate in the "Big Bird Nest Search" which will start at Pokagon's Spring Shelter at 10:30am. Participants will spend an hour and a half hiking trails and searching for some of the local birds of prey that will be setting up housekeeping in the park's woods. At 2:00pm, spouses may also participate in the "Vernal Pond Patrol". This includes a nice walk down into the Nature Preserve and over much of Trail 6. Hikers will search the temporary spring ponds along the way for songs of frogs, salamanders, and other forms of life. Again, the hike will last for about an hour and a half. Meet at the main entrance to the Inn.

HOW Fishing Outing

Don't forget about the HOW Fishing Outing on Sunday, April 12, too. We will offer two fishing options: Guided fishing on one of Steuben County's many natural lakes, and "Do-it-yourself" fishing on one of the lakes at Trine State Recreation Area.

The guided fishing option will feature local diehard fishermen who will act as our guides. They will take us to some of their favorite lakes to fish for walleye, primarily. The walleye fishery at Crooked Lake has been excellent in recent years, so that's where many of the boats will go. One or two of the guides may opt for largemouth bass and northern pike at other lakes, so be sure to let us know which species you prefer to fish for.



The guided fishing trips will be limited to 10 HOW members, so sign-up will be first-come, first-served. If more than 10 people want to fish, there is always the "Do-it-yourself" option at Trine SRA.

The "Do-it-yourself" fishing option entails using one of the "Deep-V" aluminum rental boats at Trine SRA. The boats are equipped with trolling motors, and this is a very good option for those who may want to fish without a guide, or who want to fish but we don't have enough guides. The lake is a near-wilderness setting, except that I69 runs by it.

The lake has largemouth bass, panfish and resident cisco present in it.

Keep in mind the fact that this fishing trip will take place in mid-April in northern Indiana, so there is a very good possibility that the weather will be cold. The water will certainly be very cold. Make sure you bring proper clothing.

More details will follow in the coming weeks. Check out the signup sheet on page 9 and return it to Tom Berg ASAP.



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

Hoosier Outdoor Writers Conference Activities Registration

Please register for the Pre-Conference and Post-Conference activities listed below (Friday, April 10, 2015 and Sunday, April 12, 2015). The only activity that requires an advance payment is the guided Sunday fishing trip, but please indicate the number of people planning to attend each activity so we can plan accordingly. Note that activities are reserved for registered conference attendees only.

Contact information:

Name: _____ **Spouse's name (if attending):** _____

Mailing Address: _____

City or Town: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Email Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

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

		Number Attending			
Friday Fun Shoot *:		X	_____	=	\$ <u>N/A</u>
Friday evening Barbecue:	FREE!	X	_____	=	\$ <u>N/A</u>
Sunday On-Your-Own Fishing:	FREE!	X	_____	=	\$ <u>N/A</u>
Sunday Guided Fishing **: \$25.00 each		X	_____	=	\$ _____
TOTAL:			_____		\$ _____

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

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

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

Local guided fishing _____ Do-it-yourself fishing at Trine SRA _____

Please print this registration form and mail it along with your check (if you choose guided fishing) for each person attending (make checks payable to "HOW") to:

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

Registration forms and payment must be received by March 20, 2015 at the LATEST.

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

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:

Jarrett Manek, Email: contest@hoosieroutdoorwriters.org

US Mail: O'Bannon Woods SP, Attn: Jarrett Manek, 7234 Old Forest Rd., Corydon, IN 47112

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: _____

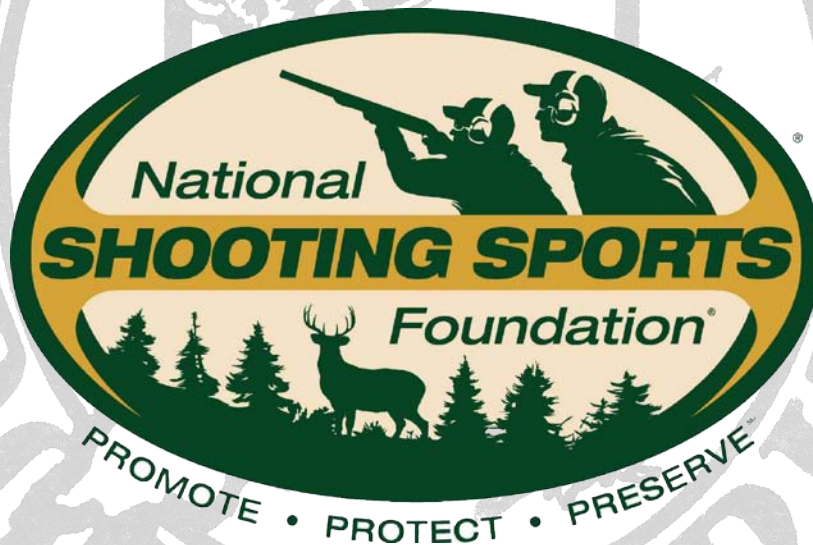
Entries and forms must be emailed or postmarked no later than February 28, 2015

2015 HOW Conference

We would like to thank the following
companies and organizations:



Awards-in-Craft Sponsor



Conference Lunch Sponsor

Sponsors of the 2015 HOW Annual Conference

DNR News

Division of State Parks & Reservoirs

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



Late winter is time for wildlife habitat projects

Beat cabin fever and help wildlife by tackling habitat improvement projects this winter.

Late winter is the best time to pursue many wildlife habitat projects. The ground is often dry or frozen, the timing prevents conflicts with nesting wildlife in spring, and managing wooded and shrubby areas is easier to do before leaves emerge and sap flows.

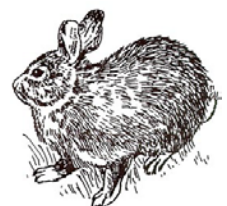
Some winter habitat management suggestions follow.

- Conduct woodland edge enhancement and fencerow rejuvenation. Winter is the best time to cut brush, limbs and trees for “feathering” edges between mature woodlands and grasslands, wetlands or agricultural areas.
- Create forest openings. Forest openings benefit numerous wildlife species, and now is the best time to make such openings.
- Make brush piles. Brush piles create escape-cover for game birds, songbirds, small mammals, and many other forms of wildlife. Piles placed close to transitional areas between habitat types provide increased benefits.
- Build and hang nesting boxes. Winter is a great time of year to buy or build nesting boxes and strategically place them.
- Clean and maintain nesting boxes. If you already have nesting boxes, clean them to prepare them for spring use.
- Frost seed. Winter soil conditions are optimal for planting small seeds. Common frost-seeding species include introduced legumes such as clovers, alfalfa and birdsfoot trefoil. Frost seeding also can be effective for warm-season grasses, wildflowers and food plots.
- Employ sodium supplementation: Rabbits are one of many mammals that benefit from sodium supplementation. Crush salt blocks and distribute the fragments along field borders and habitat edges. Late winter and early spring is when mammals benefit most from sodium supplementation. Sodium supplementation is not to be confused with using baits, lures or attractants while hunting, which is illegal.

Further information on species and habit is at www.wildlife.IN.gov/2352.htm under “Landowner Assistance.” You may also contact your district wildlife biologist, listed at: www.wildlife.IN.gov/fishwild/2716.htm.

Media contact:

Josh Griffin, DNR Division of Fish & Wildlife, (812) 526-8475, jgriffin@dnr.IN.gov.



Conservation Organization Formed to Support Indiana State Parks and State-Owned Nature Preserves

Indiana Parks Alliance has broad support from state's environmental leadership

INDIANAPOLIS—A newly formed, broad-based organization is seeking Hoosier support to help Indiana's highly regarded state parks and nature preserves. The Indiana Parks Alliance (IPA) will provide financial support for Indiana State Parks and for Indiana's State-Owned Nature Preserves and will serve as an advocate on issues confronting these parks and preserves.

Conservation leaders, past DNR employees, and private sector individuals are taking on this important responsibility as state budgets shrink and environmental challenges grow.

"We fully understand there is an abundance of excellent environmental and conservation entities in the state," says Tom Hohman, one of the founders and president of the Indiana Parks Alliance. "But our full focus is on state parks and state-owned nature preserves, ensuring that future generations may enjoy our premiere park system."

Indiana's state parks and nature preserves encompass over 170,000 acres, and contain more than 700 miles of trails and 2000 buildings, many dating back to the Civilian Conservation Corps era. With the aging of park facilities and increased use by guests, the IPA wants to ensure these ecologically significant areas are not only maintained but enhanced.

"Indiana's state parks and nature preserves are nationally recognized for their significance to preservation and conservation as well as the high quality of facilities and programs," states Jim Ridenour, who served as DNR director during Gov. Robert Orr's administration and Director of the National Park Service under President George H.W. Bush. "As evidenced in many states, state funding has either remained flat or declined. This is something we want to avoid in Indiana."

IPA wants to support state parks, nature preserves and the Indiana Natural Resources Foundation by providing help in scientific research, employee training, local property friends group support, key project assistance and interpretation/education. "We've developed a very good list of possible projects," stated Hohman. "Now, we are reaching out to Hoosiers to play a part in the long-term viability of our prized park system. By joining our ranks, individuals and organizations can see their contributions help protect our parks' and preserves' natural and cultural resources for their children and all future generations."

Donations are tax-deductible, and memberships can include state park annual passes and other gifts. Founder's Circle memberships are available to build a strong foundation for the organization. Visit www.indianaparksalliance.org for details and membership information.



Indiana Wildlife Federation

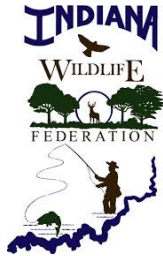
Spring Conservation Conference and Annual Meeting

The 2015 IWF Spring Conservation Conference and Annual Business meeting is scheduled for March 21, 9am-2:30 pm at the IWF Office in Indianapolis.

Please join fellow conservationists for this informative conference on current topics impacting wildlife and natural resources. The IWF annual business meeting precedes the conference, where important bylaws changes to member and affiliate voting privileges will be decided. The entire conference is open to all but you must be an IWF member to vote during the business meeting.

The conference agenda is below. Please register online by March 16. Cost is \$20 per person. Nominations for Outstanding Conservationist awards are being accepted through March 1. The award descriptions and nomination form can be found on the IWF website. The proposed bylaws changes can also be found on the IWF website.

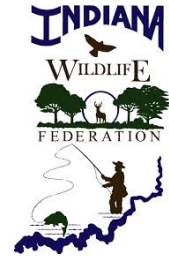
AGENDA



March 21, 2015, 9am - 2:30pm
IN Wildlife Federation Offices, 708 East Michigan Street, Indianapolis

IWF Annual Business Meeting

*Share your conservation interests with like minded people
and strengthen the conservation network*



2015 Spring IWF Conservation Conference

Silent Auction - Free Raffle

Wildlife art by Indiana Artist Bruce Neckar, a beautiful set of wildlife dishes, and more.

Please join us for the IWF Spring Conservation Conference to discuss issues impacting wildlife in Indiana. Featured speakers Suzie Ronk and Emma Brinson, students at Linton Stockton Middle School, will share their Miner Monarchs story and their work to save this wonderful butterfly, the only insect that migrates. Their inspiring leadership and commitment is an example for all.

9:00 am – 10:15 am **IWF Annual Business Meeting – open to all conference attendees.**

10:15 am – 10:30 am **Break**

10:30 am – 2:30 pm **Conservation Conference and Awards Luncheon**

10:30 am – 12:30 pm **Conservation Topics**

- **Welcome and Introductions:** Steve Cecil, IWF President
- **Goose Pond – A Hoosier Wetland Wonder:** Travis Stoelting, Property Manager, Goose Pond Fish and Wildlife Area
- **Monarch Miners – Tomorrow's leaders making a difference:** Suzie Ronk and Emma Brinson, Linton Stockton Middle School Students
- **Wild Pigs in Indiana and Current Plans to Eradicate:** Travis Buckel, Wildlife Biologist, APHIS, and Mark Reiter, Director of Fish and Wildlife, IDNR
- **Wildlife and Water – Legislative Update** – Barb Simpson, Executive Director, IWF

12:30 pm – 2:30pm **Barbeque Buffet – Conservation Awards**

Enjoy a delicious barbeque buffet and the IWF Conservation Awards recognizing Indiana's outstanding conservationists and leading advocates for Indiana's wildlife.

I Like Naked Trees

by Virginia Rhys Anson OFS

I like naked trees. Broadleaf trees, palm trees, conifer trees. Cherry trees, cedar trees, birch trees. I like trees on the hillside, along the mountain path, within canyon's walls. I like trees through the seasons, in the sun and in the fluff of snow.

I like trees in spring, the birth and awakening of a dormant Earth, long hibernated in winter's cocoon. Tree's branches stretch, soaking in life. Blossoms of dogwood whites and cherry pinks signal of the stirrings of trees from their wintry repose. Their sweet nectar perfumes the air. Anchored in the junction of trunk and branch, the chrysalis womb of a butterfly embryo awaits its birth in winged splendor. Robin snatches a twig lying near a hawthorn and ascends to assemble the last piece of her nest atop tree's blossoms. Perching within the nest, she prepares to lay her eggs – new life within new life.

I like trees in summer, their greenery shading my path, umbrellas against sun's rays. The melody of lark, the song of warbler, the rhythmic knocking of woodpecker's beak floating upon the breeze, the sounds' makers unseen. Hummingbird darts to a branch between sips of sugared water. Its minute body sits hidden among tree's foliage. The breeze tickles tree's leaves, its lullaby cradling harried minds. Listen. Tree speaks to humans who care to hear. Oh, not with voice, audible and clear, but as a soul mate that is sensed, whose essence mingles with the human spirit – per chance the spirit of tree's divine Creator communing through trunk and limb.

I like trees in fall, with leaves of gold and red and bronze. Melodies emit, singers remain hidden within canopies of autumnal color. Blue jay squawks her self-proclaimed supremacy. Crow caws his boisterous hello. Sunlight filters between and through leaves, creating a kaleidoscope of color. As fall wanes into winter, leaves drizzle to the ground, weaving an afghan of ambers that crunch under foot. Upon their descent, they tap a relaxing dirge. Fall's tree slows, prepares for her rejuvenating hibernation.



I like naked trees, slumbering in winter's chill, devoid of leaves. Naked branches offer intrigue, a welcome respite from winter's bleak demeanor. Naked trees give bodies to the voices warbling from their branches. Amid boughs that bend and arch, reaching ever skyward, chickadees hopscotch from branch to branch and from feeder to bough. Tiny bodies flit joyously in the frigid tundra-like environ. Heads twist and bank toward a sudden sound. Feathers fluff to trap an insulation of air. Tiny birds donning tiny black caps with tiny voices touting winter's joys, delighting my soul, now lost in time.

(continued next page)



the air. Could they be fairies dancing in the frost? A lone mourning dove lights, sure footed, on a lower limb cooing her lament.

I like naked trees that unearth the mysterious trek of squirrels when summer's tree dawn's a bonnet of green. Snowflakes floating onto bare boughs, feathery-tailed squirrels spiral up tree's trunk, tightropeing branches, reaching treetop height that would incur terror in this acrophobe. A sentinel's clicking warns of my presence, the band dissipating to distant, coniferous trees.

I like trees of all seasons, their spirits, at times, calling to mine. I like naked trees with their hidden lives made visible. I like naked trees with abandoned nests awaiting the new brood that will inhabit their twigs. I like naked trees with remnant leaf tags and embryonic buds awaiting rebirth. I like naked trees.

Editor's note: Virginia Rhys Anson joined HOW as an Associate Member in January, 2014. She writes a column titled "Meandering along the River's Edge" for an online newsletter and is writing nature stories for a future book.

I like naked tree shadows, silhouettes etched in glistening snow, nature's art in ebony and white, projections in leafless array. Whence come these arboreal cameos? By day their sharply delineated black against the white of snow enhances the crisp air of winter. By night, shadows recline on snow now transformed to a powdery blue. Earth's tranquility stills the frazzled soul.

I like naked trees adorned in ice fog painted branches, nary an inch ungarbed in a wrap of white. Mr. and Mrs. Cardinal feathered in scarlet attire, contrast starkly against a backdrop of albino boughs. Mrs. Cardinal glides to the feeder as Mr. assumes the sentry's post, their sonar chirps tracking each, the other. They are red against white in a festive display.

I like naked trees weighted gently in jewels of ice, the jewel's wavy transparency disclosing tawny branches encased within. Sun's ray, angled to precision, create pygmy rainbows, glistening prismatic art that conjures a fairyland of pixies and wood nymphs skating along glassy limbs. Ice crystals brush pinpoints of sparkle in



Accompanying tree photos and cardinal photo by Tom Berg.

HOW Member News



The HOW “Three Amigos” Experience Fabulous Southern Duck Hunting

HOW members John Maxwell, Jarrett Manek and Bob Sawtelle journeyed down to the Mississippi Delta for some January waterfowl hunting in the fabled Tunica and Beaver Dam areas of western Mississippi. Some of the area’s duck blinds in the cypress swamps date back to the late 1800s, so you know the local duck hunting can be good. The trio took home plenty of ducks, too, including mallards, teal, golden eyes, gadwall, buffleheads and wood ducks.

“Heading down south changes the whole duck-hunting experience, said Manek. “From waterhole to the feeding areas, the sky can easily become speckled with waterfowl within minutes of setting up.”

Manek says hundreds and sometimes thousands of funneling, diving, and cupping ducks near tree-top level give hunters plenty of practice. The birds don’t always come in range and sometimes the shots are still few, but the sheer abundance of migratory birds moving above can be mesmerizing.

“In Tunica, the waterfowl hunting tradition, culture, and heritage are part of their way of living,” said Manek. “The hospitable atmosphere is laid back and very social. You never meet a stranger!



Above, far left: Jarrett Manek (L) and John Maxwell (R) display a few of the ducks harvested by their hunting party.

Above: Retrieving the first of the morning’s ducks on Tunica Lake in Mississippi.

Left: The Blue & White Restaurant in Tunica has been serving southern hospitality to waterfowl hunters since 1924. The HOW trio enjoyed sampling B&W’s infamous Donut Tower breakfast plates. Photos by John Maxwell.

“The local food is great tasting, cooked to perfection, and they serve a lot of it,” said Manek. Who can argue with that?

Here Is A Blast From HOW's Past!



A few selected HOW Conference attendees from back in the day:

Back Row (left to right): Dan Renfro, Ray McCune, Steve Hill, Dean Shadley, Dan Palmer, Louie Stout, and Maxine Renfro.

Front Row (left to right): Leonard "Buck" Rawlins, John Rawlings, Mike Schoonveld, John Martino.

Photo courtesy of Ray Dickerson.

The photo above shows a good looking group of HOW members from several years ago! Notice the lack of gray hairs! Does anyone know when this photo was taken? We are trying to figure that out. One clue is that it was taken when the HOW Conference was still held in February in conjunction with the Indianapolis Boat, Sport and Travel Show.

We are also trying to figure out if those pictured were the winners from the writing contest or another contest that year? It looks like each writer is holding one or more fishing rods, so perhaps they were prizes. If you know or remember, please send an email to HOW Executive Tom Berg so he can put a good caption with this photo in the HOW archives. Thank you!

Garry Burch Chases Raccoons in the Dark

"I went to Tennessee for the holidays," said HOW member Garry Burch. "It was fun. I got to go on my second coon hunt with dogs. There's nothing like running through a woods you know nothing about, following a group of howling dogs. You never know if it's a coon, a skunk, a bobcat, a wild boar or even a bear. It was a blast! I didn't get a thing, although the dogs treed something three different times. But I never could find the coon for a shot. They have some big pine trees in Tennessee which must provide good hiding spots!"

"Now I'm setting my sights on the annual conference. See you there."

Mike Schoonveld To Serve On NACO Board

Captain Mike Schoonveld, a long time member and past-president of HOW, has been elected to serve on the Board of Directors of the National Association of Charterboat Operators (NACO). NACO was formed in 1991 and now includes a membership of thousands of owners or operators of fishing, sailing, diving, eco-tours, and other excursion vessels carrying passengers for hire. NACO's objective is to improve the professional charter boat operator's bottom line and to provide a strong voice in Washington, DC.



"I'm not sure what new adventures or responsibilities this will present me," said Schoonveld, "but I'm anxious to find out and pledge to do my best."

NACO is a membership driven association proven to be successful because of the shared experiences of the Board of Directors, Executive Team and Regular Membership. NACO's officers and board members consist of experienced licensed captains, who are actively involved in their local areas.

NACO was formed out of a need to fight costly government regulations that threatened to cripple the charter boat industry. The organization keeps track of issues affecting the industry and NACO officers and board

members regularly represent charter operators before Congress and regulatory agencies. Over the years NACO has succeeded in saving charter boat operators millions of dollars and prevented excessive, time-consuming and needless reporting.

Mike Schoonveld has operated Brother Nature Charters on southern Lake Michigan since 1998, helping fishermen from around the country and around the world experience the world-class angling opportunities to be found there.

When not fishing, Schoonveld is a freelance outdoor writer with weekly columns in several newspapers and by-lines appearing in numerous regional and national publications.



HOW Members Witness Busy Beavers First-Hand

Gary Redmon (Greencastle, IN):

“I found this large cottonwood tree nearly gnawed-through by beavers while hunting along Big Walnut Creek in Putnam County. I searched and found no other beaver activity: no dams, canals or lodges up and down the creek for several hundred yards.”

“I went back a couple weeks later to check out the tree and it appeared to be untouched and was still standing. At this point I am assuming the beaver was chewing on the large tree just to sharpen his teeth!”



This tree is still standing - barely. Maybe the beaver was scared away or killed. Photo by Gary Redmon.

Tom Berg (Dyer, IN):

“I was out doing some beaver scouting recently. There is a small retention pond a mile or two away from my house adjacent to some



Mark Berg scans the damage. Four trees in a row felled by beavers. Photo by Tom Berg.

railroad tracks that has a family of beavers living on it. I realized it a couple of months ago because I noticed a felled tree beside the pond as I was driving by. It's a few hundred yards away from the road, but the bright white gnaw marks of a hungry beaver were visible even from that far away.”

“My son Mark and I took a walk over there to investigate. Felled trees were everywhere! At least a dozen mature trees have been cut down by the busy little beavers and probably more than 20 small saplings are gone, too! All that is left of the saplings are short little stumps and small piles of wood chips!”

“The beavers are protected inside their lodge now, and the pond is frozen solid. So they are safe – at least for now!”

Bill Keaton (Rushville, IN):

“We have beavers on the river behind our house. They usually don't cut the trees down here, they just seem to gnaw on the bark (see photo at right). A friend of mine, Fred Phillips (President of the Indiana Trapper's Association) caught one of the beavers and then a major flood last winter washed the dam out. I still see a beaver every week, though”



“I would catch that beaver if I could!”

“The picture to the right shows what I do to protect some of my trees from the beavers. This is hardware cloth (chicken wire works, too) around one of my Bald Cypress trees.” The two Rushville-area tree photos were taken by Rita Keaton.



Mike Schoonveld (Morocco, IN):

“Beavers cut trees for two reasons. They trim the branches, drag them into the water and use them as material to form their dam. They also gather the limbs and branches to make a winter food pile they can access under the winter’s ice. By the time I arrived at one of my trapping spots,



the upper part of the tree which had been toppled was gone. The beaver or beavers had cut it up and dragged their treasure into the water. All that remained was the main trunk of the tree laying on the ground with three evenly-spaced beaver “notches” carved in the log on the ground.”

“That’s the puzzle. Why would a beaver decide to gnaw on a tree trunk laying on the ground? Beavers don’t eat the wood, just the bark so it’s not like it (or they) had been snacking. Why were there three notches gnawed in the log, evenly spaced? No one will ever know, but the evidence is so compelling, I’d like to think my theory of what happened is actually true. See below.”

“Family groups of beavers include parents, juveniles and youngsters. Think of the juveniles as teenagers. They are big enough to do most of the things beavers do, but they are still learning how best to do them. What could have happened is three juvenile beavers were out foraging on their own and they decided to have a tree gnawing contest. It doesn’t take much imagination when looking at the photos to picture the three beavers lined up shoulder to shoulder, biting out chunks and spitting them everywhere (the ground was covered with wood chips). Makes as much sense as a single beaver deciding to chew a fallen log two-thirds through and enjoying it so much it did it two more times!”



This log looks like it was used in a log-gnawing contest by three beavers. Photos by Mike Schoonveld.

Eric Stallsmith Enjoys Warm Belize

HOW Webmaster Eric Stallsmith and his wife Cara are spending the winter in the warm and tropical country of Belize. For those who don't know the exact location of Belize on the map, it is located in Central America, bordered by Mexico to the north and Guatemala (west and south). Belize is one of the most beautiful spots in the western Caribbean.



Eric decided to explore Belize and search for new customers interested in building a web presence. The decision to make the trip during the winter was a stroke of genius!

"Things are going very well here in Belize," said Stallsmith recently. "The businesses are very happy to talk to us and we have found many new customers. We are right on the ocean and it is easy to catch fish here." Another bonus!



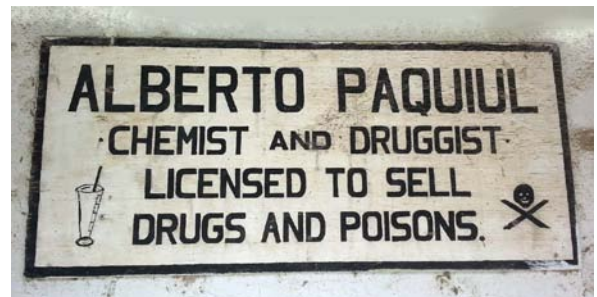
"One day we fished with a man named Metal," Stallsmith continued. "He is one of the best tour guides in the country and he put us on the fish almost immediately. More than a dozen fish ended up in the cooler: mackerel, porgy, jacks, snapper, and more. On more than one occasion we saw dolphins playing near us. We also saw a manatee and a giant sea turtle."

"We do a blog at: www.ATravelersLog.com that Cara and I do really quickly each day. It takes about 15 minutes a day. The pics come from either of our phones and sync to the web when we are wifi-connected. Then when you make the blog you just pick from pictures that are already uploaded."

"I am just glad it is warm and glad I don't have to leave anytime soon!"

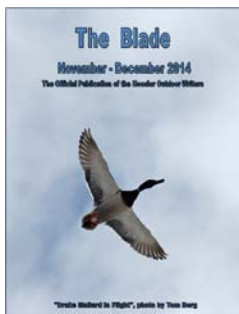


Eric, you don't know what you are missing here in Indiana. On second thought, maybe you do!



The sign above is a classic. Eric spotted it at a local drug store. It's hard to see unless you enlarge the photo, but the skull which is part of the "skull & crossbones" representing poison has a smiley face on it! Awesome!

And yes, the bird in the photo at the top left is indeed a toucan. Very cool! All Belize photos courtesy of Eric Stallsmith.



Gene Clifford Remembers Duck Hunting Basics

HOW Board member Gene Clifford sent in the following note about bird hunting when he saw the cover photo on the November/December issue of *The Blade*:

“Seeing the picture of the mallard flying overhead reminds me of how I was told to shoot at overhead birds many years ago,” said Clifford. “You swing the barrel of your gun to where it covers the butt first, then the belly, then the beak and then BANG!”

Bill Keaton Stumbles Upon Rare Find in the Woods

HOW Legal Counsel Bill Keaton is a hunter, fisherman and lifelong outdoorsman. You might not know it if you see him in the courtroom defending a client, or sitting behind a desk pouring over stacks of books. Nevertheless, he loves the outdoors and enjoys the woods on his property.

“I was up early this morning,” said Keaton, “so by sunrise I had already had breakfast, coffee, and I was dressed to go out and finish splitting the rest of the firewood I had cut the day before. It was pretty cold at about 20 degrees, but there was no wind and there was a good frost on the ground.”

“I drove my tractor with the splitter to the place where I had my firewood piled. As I walked back to the barn to get my 4-wheeler and trailer to throw the wood in, something up a mowed trail caught my eye and made me take a second look. When I looked back, about 30 yards up the trail, I saw an antler. As I got closer, I saw a second antler laying in a mirror image of the first one.”

“Right there in the trail were two fresh 10-point deer antlers, side-by-side, laying just the reverse of the way they would have been on the deer. They were so fresh that there was still a ring of fresh blood on the stumps!”

“It is hard enough to find a single antler in the woods. I will probably never again find a matched pair laying side-by-side!”



Bill is an avid deer hunter, and he knows that finding a matched pair of antlers is very uncommon. Finding them laying on the ground almost perfectly aligned (although in reverse) is even rarer. Photo by Bill Keaton.

Brian Waldman Garners Two Indiana Fish-of-the-Year Honors

HOW member Brian Waldman from Coatesville, IN was recently awarded Fish-of-the-Year honors for two fish that he caught during 2014. In Indiana, the largest fish of each species reported to the DNR each year (short of a new state record) is awarded "Fish-of-the-Year" status. Waldman's winning fish included a 29" hybrid striped bass and a 30.5" buffalo.

"I had a pretty good year of fishing in 2014," said Waldman. "Each year I like to focus my fishing on something different; not necessarily set any goals, but always work toward accomplishing or learning something new. In 2014, I decided I was going to focus on the old Buck Perry Spoonplugging stuff. It should more aptly be named 'structure fishing' because that is really at the core of the process. The hybrid striped bass was one of two I caught that day (June 26) from Heritage Lake, each about three hours apart, but both off the same main lake area. My boat was sitting in about 30 feet of water, but I was casting onto a bar that topped out at about 8-10 feet. I was casting a jig head with a Zoom fluke soft plastic body when the big fish hit."



"About a month later, while fishing Cagles Mill Reservoir for crappie, I hooked into a big fish that started stripping drag pretty good. I was fishing 3 lb-test micro-braid line at the time, using a 1/16-oz. crappie tube. This fish was hooked near deep water, so I took my time and let my spinning rod wear him down. I wasn't sure exactly what I had hooked, but after a few minutes of back and forth, I

was able to bring up a 30.5" buffalo, which my fishing partner promptly netted."



"Both fish were submitted to the Indiana Fish-of-the-Year program, and then a long wait ensued. In late January, I received a small package in the mail from the IDNR, and when I opened it up, I had two certificates and a pair of patches, one set for each winning fish. I've only ever entered one other fish in the contest, and I was beat out in the final month by the last person to submit an entry, so this was a pleasant and welcome surprise."

Gary Redmon and Friends Chase Rabbits

“Once the deer season is over, it’s time to gear up and enjoy some rabbit hunting,” said HOW member Gary Redmon. “If you don’t hunt rabbits you are missing an opportunity to share great times afield as well as some tasty eating.”

“The photo at right is of a productive day of rabbit hunting in Putnam County with a good friend and Pastor Bob Muncie and his beagle, Daisy,” continued Redmon. “Daisy will enthusiastically venture into the heaviest briars and thickets to jump rabbits, sometimes running them for great distances before bringing them back around for a shot.”



“Once jumped and pursued, most often the cottontails will run in circles if they don’t find a hole to hide in. My favorite time for rabbit hunting is in a good snow when you can see their tracks.”

Membership Changes and New Contact Info

The following HOW members have new email addresses. Please make a note of them:

Ray Dickerson: raythegadabout@gmail.com
Michael Ellis: linton240@yahoo.com
Larry LaGrange: lagrange237@gmail.com
Kevin Lilly: familyman515@gmail.com
Bryan Poynter: bpoynter1967@gmail.com

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

Vikki Trout: vltrout@psci.net (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!

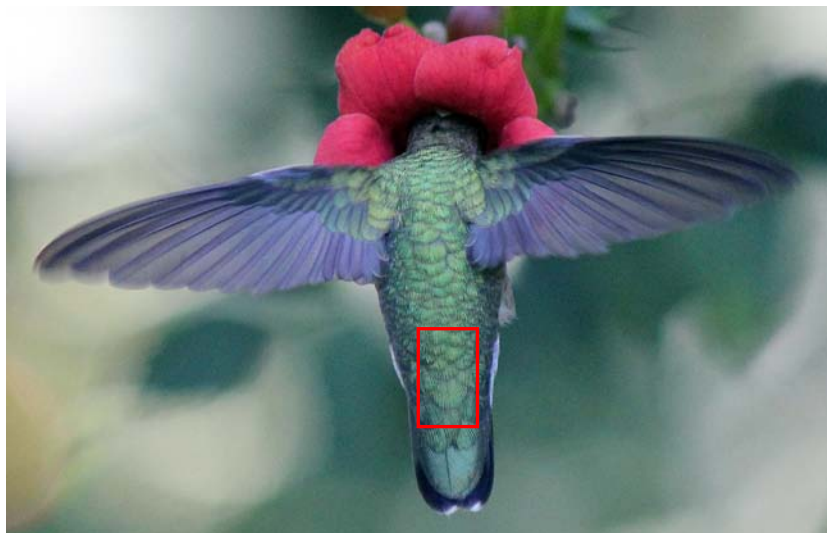
Website

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

Unusual Nature Photos From The Hoosier Outdoors

Sponsored by Flying Fisherman

Ruby-Throated Hummingbirds Are Tiny And Beautiful!



Close-up



Original



The “What is it?” photo from the most recent issue was a little tougher than last time, and seven (7) HOW members correctly identified it. Mike Berg, Troy McCormick, Phil Seng, Bill Keaton, Brian Waldman, Ken McBroom and

John Maxwell and each had the right answer. When we drew a name at random for the Shimano Clarus rod, **Brian Waldman** was the winner. Congrats, Brian! We’ll get you in touch

with our friend John Mazurkiewicz at Catalyst Marketing so you can pick out your new Shimano fishing rod.

As you can see in the photo (above), the mystery creature for this issue was a ruby-throated hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*). Hummingbirds are amazing little creatures. They are the smallest birds that will visit your back yard this summer and they are definitely one of the most interesting. Hummingbirds can hover in mid-air for extended periods, and they are also the only birds that can fly sideways, backwards and straight up!

These tiny creatures can beat their wings as many as 80 times per second, and their heart rate can exceed 1,200 beats per minute! The high sugar content in the nectar they drink helps support their high metabolism. As a matter of fact, they can tell if a flower’s nectar contains less than 10% sugar, and they will seek out those flowers with a higher sugar content. Of course, they also eat tiny insects while visiting flowers in the garden, and the insects provide valuable protein and nutrients. Hummingbirds visit trumpet vines, columbine, butterfly bush, honeysuckle, bee balm, hostas and other flowers.

For this issue, our friends at Flying Fisherman will be donating a great pair of sunglasses for the HOW member that guesses the right answer to this issue’s “What Is It?” question. This time the prize will be a pair of stylish **Flying Fisherman** Cay Sal sunglasses. They are virtually indestructible and look very cool. 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, **Flying Fisherman** will be donating a pair of Cay Sal sunglasses with straps 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.

THOSE WHO HAVE GONE BEFORE US

Charles Theodore “Chuck” Buck
(May 13, 1936 - February 6, 2015)

Post Falls, ID – The Buck family, the Buck Knives company and millions of outdoors lovers have lost a very special man with the passing of Charles T. (Chuck) Buck, 78, February 6, 2015, in Coeur d’Alene, Idaho. Born May 13, 1936, in San Diego California, to the late Alfred and Ida (Shapter) Buck, Chuck was a man of deep faith.

Chairman of Buck Knives, Inc., Chuck personified the warm family tradition of the American knifemaking company he headed. He was the third generation, following his grandfather, Hoyt Buck, who made his first knife in 1902, and his father Al Buck. After his discharge from the U.S. Navy in 1961, Chuck learned the ins and outs of the knife business and was there when Buck Knives, Inc. emerged. Within a few years, Chuck was named corporate vice president for manufacturing. In June of 1979, Chuck became president of Buck Knives at age 43. He was later inducted into the Blade Cutlery Hall of Fame in 1996.

Chuck was an outstanding business leader and was influential in Buck Knives’ considerable growth. The company, which started out in a wooden lean-to, has now grown to a 128,000 square foot building, employing more than 300 people in Post Falls, Idaho. Chuck handed over the business to son, CJ in 1999 but remained active as Chairman of the Board.

Chuck was widely known and respected by outdoor editors and writers, especially those who shared time with him at the annual meeting of the Outdoor Writers Association. They always made it a point to hear what he had to say about innovations in cutlery, and many also wanted to exchange thoughts on their mutual Christian faith.

Chuck was such a friendly, gregarious gentleman that people meeting him for the first time went away feeling they had been friends for years. It really did not matter who they were, they were important to him. He loved to travel all over America, many times with his wife Lori, visiting with customers in stores to hear what knife users liked and what they wanted.

As a testament to his faith, Chuck included with every Buck knife a message from the Buck Family that speaks of the growth of Buck Knives and the determination to make God their Senior Partner. “If any of you are troubled or perplexed and looking for answers, may we invite you to look to Him, for God loves you,” a thought Chuck added to the message, originally written by his father in 1974. The message is clear, and a testament to the foundation to which Buck Knives was built upon.

Chuck took every opportunity to share the message and through the years had received numerous letters thanking him for spreading the word. One of his most cherished letters came from a woman who re-dedicated her life to Christ after reading the message. The woman was planning to commit suicide by cutting her wrists with a Buck knife. When she opened the box, the message fell out and as the woman read the passage, “For God loves you...” she felt warmth in all directions and knew it was the Holy Spirit. In a mentor session, Chuck recalled this story and added, “If we don’t ever get another letter, that one will be the one I count as most important.”

Chuck attended San Diego State College, Southern California College and Mesa College and also served in the U.S. Navy.

Chuck was preceded in death by his parents Al and Ida; and brother, Frank. He is survived by his beloved wife, Lori; son, CJ (Heidi); daughter, Maralee (Joe) Buck-Houser; sister, Janice (Robert) Holt; grandchildren, Josh Buck, Sarah (Hans) Hauge, Rachel (Tony)Wagner, Andy Houser, Aaron Houser, Brittany Nelson, Reese Hyde; great grandson, Tandrup (Tan) Hauge; and numerous family and friends throughout the country.

Chuck will be greatly missed by his family, friends, everyone at Buck Knives, and throughout the outdoor industry.

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.

ThermaCELL Heated Insoles... Get Em' While They're Hot

Bedford, MA: If you would like to be able to endure the cold weather longer, be sure to get a pair of ThermaCELL Heated Insoles this winter. In less than three years, more than 250,000 pairs of ThermaCELL Heated Insoles have been sold, totaling half a million satisfied, warm feet.

ThermaCELL Heated Insoles are the latest innovation in outdoor comfort technology for men and women by providing heat to your feet as needed. The lightweight, durable foot warmers are fully rechargeable and will transform how time is spent outdoors, whether for work or play.

“Both versions of ThermaCELL Heated Insoles have become popular and reliable products for hunters, sports enthusiasts, and anyone who spends time outdoors battling cold feet,” said Josh Silvia, marketing manager for ThermaCELL Heated Insoles. “It has been a really good year for ThermaCELL Heated Insoles, and we want to continue keeping customers happy and warm.”

The advanced heat technology provides remote-controlled foot warming through temperature settings controlled by a wireless remote, allowing for easy temperature adjustment without removal from shoes or boots, ultimately offering convenience as well as comfort. Once the user inserts the insoles into boots, waders or shoes, the wireless remote control allows the user to choose from two temperature settings (Medium 100°F and High 111°F), as well as No Heat.

Both styles of ThermaCELL Heated Insoles, the original model (MSRP for \$130) and ProFLEX (MSRP of \$180), are customizable to fit any shoe size from women's 4.5 to a men's 13, and are available in: small, medium, large, X-large and XX-large.

ThermaCELL Heated Insoles are products of Schawbel Technologies, LLC, a company primarily focused on providing consumer comfort through innovative, patented products. Schawbel Technologies is a spin-off from The Schawbel Corporation, which was founded in 1981 by William Schawbel through the acquisition of two divisions from the Gillette Company. All products undergo rigorous third-party testing and meet or exceed battery, materials, and safety certifications and standards worldwide. For more information about Schawbel products, visit <http://heat.thermacell.com> or call 866-651-7579.

You may also contact Pauline O'Keefe at ThermaCELL (Pauline@thremacell.com) or Mike May at Backbone Media (mike@backbonemedia.com).



ThermaCELL®
Heated Insoles
WIRELESS & RECHARGEABLE

HOW Supporting Member News

Flying Fisherman Adds Cay Sal Sunglasses to Master Angler Series

Islamorada, Florida Keys: Flying Fisherman sunglasses and sportswear is designed by fishermen, for fishermen, and put to the test every day under intense conditions by some of the best sportfishing guides in the world . . . professionals that make their living guiding anglers to some of the greatest sportfishing opportunities in continental America. These tournament champions, along with millions of satisfied customers worldwide, have dubbed Flying Fisherman “The Pro's Choice.”

New for 2015, the Cay Sal's large wrap frame design combines hard core functionality with stylish good looks that has you covered on or off the water. Durable TR90 frames provide a solid foundation with the durability anglers demand, and feature non-slip nose and temple pads, virtually indestructible, RhinoLenses™ for complete eye protection from flying hooks, lures, sinkers and more, and the Flying Fisherman® AcuTint™ lens coloring system for crystal clear polarized optics.

Frame colors are Matte Black with amber or smoke AcuTint™ lenses or Matte Black with Icy Blue Revo Mirror over smoke lens or Matte Black frames with a Green Revo mirror treatment over amber lenses. A microfiber case is included, and MSRP is from \$69.95 to \$79.95.

They also offer 100% protection from harmful UVA and UVB rays.

The Flying Fisherman® Polarized, AcuTint™ lens coloring system eliminates glare and enhances color contrast, without distorting natural colors. The enhanced visual sharpness and eye comfort adds to fishing productivity and maximizes the overall outdoors experience for anglers and water sports enthusiasts. More information on Flying Fisherman® products, along with testimonials, dealer locator and more, are available online at the Flying Fisherman website: www.flyingfisherman.com.



HOW members may contact Flying Fisherman Vice President Linda Sheldon for more information or additional images. Call 800-335-9347 or 303-852-8989. You may also send a detailed email to: linda@flyingfisherman.com.



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.cocoonseyewear.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
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
Remington Outdoor Company - www.remington.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.fetznernspeedysharp.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: January 16-18 & 21-25, 2015
(www.hartproductions.com)
Cincinnati, OH

SHOT Show 2015: January 20-23, 2015
(<http://shotshow.org>)
Las Vegas, NV

Louisville Deer & Turkey Expo: January 30-February 1, 2015
(www.deerinfo.com)
Louisville, KY

Indianapolis Boat, Sport & Travel Show: February 20-March 1, 2015
(www.renfroproductions.com)
Indianapolis, IN

POMA 2015 Annual Conference: March 18-21, 2015
(www.professionalooutdoormedia.org)
Springfield, MO

HOW 2015 Annual Conference: April 10-12, 2015
(www.HoosierOutdoorWriters.org)
Potawatomi Inn, Pokagon State Park
Angola, IN

AGLOW 2015 Cast & Blast: May 11-14, 2015
(www.aglowinfo.org)
Labette County, KS

OWAA 2015 Annual Conference: June 26-28, 2015
(www.aglowinfo.org)
Knoxville, TN

ICAST Show 2015: July 14-17, 2015
(www.ICASTfishing.org)
Orlando, FL

AGLOW 2015 Annual Conference: September 28-October 1, 2015
(www.aglowinfo.org)
Minneapolis, MN

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.