

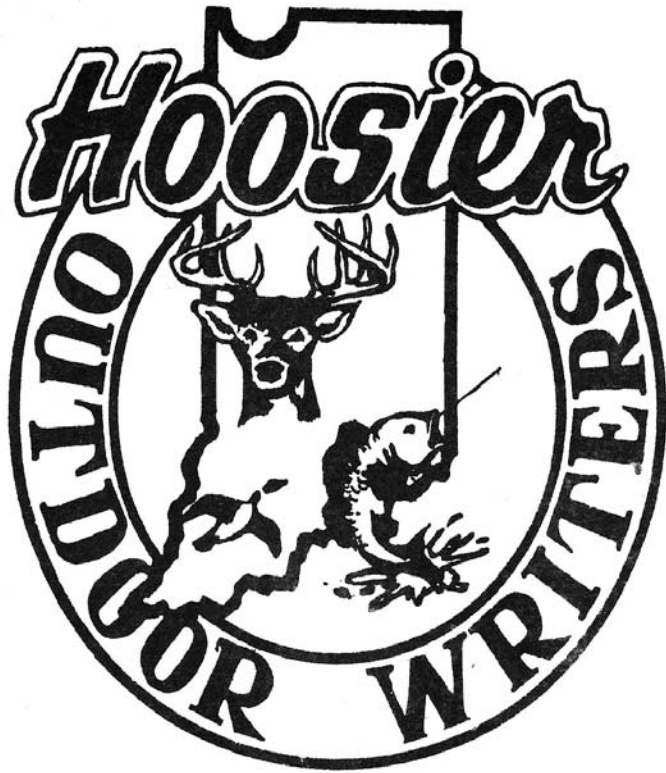
The Blade

November - December 2015

The Official Publication of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers



"Sandhill cranes coming in for a landing", 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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John Maxwell – 2017
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On the cover: Sandhill cranes gather at Jasper-Pulaski Fish & Wildlife Area every fall during their migration to wintering grounds in more southerly states like Georgia and Florida. Tom Berg photo.



President's Message

by Alan Garbers

New Year's Resolution: Publish and Not Perish

There is a saying, publish or perish. It means one should constantly be putting out material or loose relevancy and funding. While it generally relates to academia, it applies to outdoor writers as well. The outdoor media world is changing fast. As much as we hate to see it, many printed publications seem to be going the route of the buggy whip industry. With blogs and bloggers popping up like springtime dandelions, most working for free, it leaves many of us wondering where we fit in. What happens when the publication we have been writing for decides to cash in their chips? We have to find a new way to fit in and find markets.

One of the best ways is to find new publications. Every time I travel to another state, I look for the local outdoor publications. My goal is to see if they are something I can write for, and to see

what stories they are running. Even if I don't submit anything to that publication, I often find a story idea that I can put my own twist on and sell elsewhere.

Think of new ways to spin the data. You've done all the research and travel, so think of new markets to sell an idea to. Don't limit yourself to hook and bullet publications. Think outside the box. Who might be interested in articles about hiking, canoeing, paddle boarding, dining, sightseeing, camping, bird-watching, photography, or even getting married in the location you initially wrote about? As my friends know, my motto is anything for a dollar, meaning, if there's a story that I can sell, I'm interested.

Attending yearly conferences for AGLOW, POMA, and others is a great place to interact with editors and publishers. Those meetings often turn in to writing/media assignments. In the last Blade AGLOW and SEOPA were highlighted. Membership in both are true bargains and run 50% to 65% less than OWAA and POMA. If you are serious about being a writer, you need to become a member and make use of the conferences to further your career.

Learn SEO. Before you start panicking, hear me out. I assume all of you reading this have used Google or some other search engine during your research. How many of you ever get past the first page of search results? For most of the world, the answer is never. So that means you could have the best article in the world about the best fishing place in the world using the best products in the world, and 99% of the world will never see it, unless you used SEO while writing it. What is SEO? *Search Engine Optimization*. When a search engine gives you search results, it lists them by relevancy. The more relevant, the closer to the top of the list your article gets.

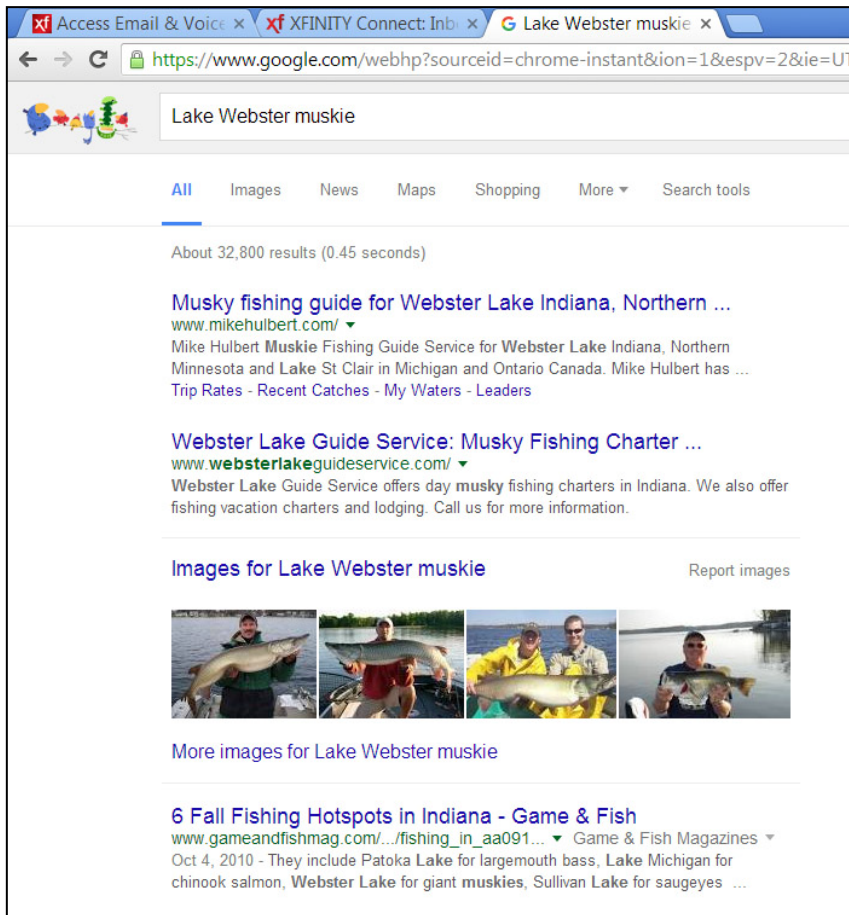
I have spoken to fellow writers about SEO, and more often than not, they tell me they aren't going to worry about it. I think this is the wrong approach. Many publications are moving to an online format and leaving paper behind. The more you use SEO in your writing, the more readers will visit their website. The more traffic a website generates, the more advertising money it receives, and the better the website does. This means they can buy more of your articles and pay you better.

Confused? Let's do an article about Lake Webster muskie. You do know that Indiana's Lake Webster is one of the top ten lakes in the USA for muskie, right? Think of what terms a person would use to search for Lake Webster muskie in Google. Good idea, let's use *Lake Webster Muskie*. In a nutshell, that term needs to be used in the title of the article, in the first sentence or two of the article, in the text of the article a few times, in the last

(continued on next page)

sentence or two of the article, and in the file name of one of the images. (This is a simplified version so please do more research on your own.) The search engine finds the term in the title, in key places in the text, and in the images, so it gives the article higher relevancy, which is closer to page one in the results.

Another way to find jobs is to produce content marketing for websites. I see that panic in your eyes again. This one is easier than you think. Company A has a website to promote their products. Customer B visits their website to find out about their products. Customer B visits one time, gets the information he needs and never returns. Why? Because there's nothing new to see. Content marketing is providing material on a regular basis that keeps shoppers coming back. Our own Josh Lantz does this for Traditions Media. Brandon Butler gave a seminar about this at the 2013 AGLOW Conference. I have done it for a HOW supporter. The idea is to provide useful information while gently promoting a product, and keep folks coming back for more. Best of all, it pays better than most publications.



Still confused? Think of a product. Let's say lure-making items. HOW has a Supporting Member that specializes in these items (LureCraft Industries in Orland, IN). They have a website to sell their products. As I write this they do not have any how-to articles about how to use their products. I think how-to articles on using jig-head molds or making plastic worms (written using SEO) would bring in new customers, inspire existing customers to return more often, and help the company to generate more business.

Once again I went over my word count but my goal is to inspire you to reach higher and publish more. That easy-chair writing job you have is very comfortable... right up until it gets jerked out from under you. If you're already on your feet and moving forward, your butt will never hit the ground.

Until next time,

Alan

The Hoosier Outdoor Writers

New Members, Past Presidents & Memorial Section

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

Indiana Dept. of Natural Resources (Supporting)
Indianapolis, IN
Sponsor: Phil Bloom

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 2016 Annual Conference!

As announced in the July/August issue of *The Blade*, the 2016 HOW Conference will be held near Nashville, IN at Indiana's largest state park: Brown County State Park. The conference will take place on the weekend of April 22-24, 2016, with the main meeting occurring on Saturday, April 23. Whether you plan to attend the entire weekend or just the annual meeting on Saturday, the trip to Brown County State Park will definitely be worth it.

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

For those who would like to arrive early for the conference, on Friday evening (April 22) we will have a special barbecue dinner featuring some of our own HOW BBQ masters! All conference attendees and their spouses are invited. We are also planning a fishing outing on Lake Monroe for Sunday (April 24). More info will follow as the dates get closer.

A block of discounted rooms has been reserved at the Abe Martin Lodge for HOW members interested in staying overnight or for the entire weekend, so go ahead and make your reservations now. The room rate of \$101.99 is higher than last year, but it is a healthy discount from the lodge's normal rate of \$129.99. 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 camp or 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:

812-988-6406 or 877-LODGES-1 (HOW members must call to use Group Code).

Group/Promotional Code: To be emailed.

Abe Martin Lodge Double-Queen Rooms:

(Friday night 4/22/16 and/or Saturday night 4/23/16): \$101.99 per night + tax.

Abe Martin Lodge
1801 SR 46 E
Nashville, IN 47448
812-988-6406
Reservations:
1-877-LODGES-1
1-877-563-4371

Hoosier Outdoor Writers Annual Conference Registration



Where/When: The Abe Martin Lodge at Brown County State Park, located at Nashville, IN – April 22-24, 2016

This registration form is for the Annual Meeting on Saturday, April 23rd (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 1st only. After March 1, add \$5.00 each to register)

HOW Members (and spouses): \$35.00 each (\$35 X number attending) = _____

Non-HOW Members: \$40.00 each (\$40 X number attending) = _____

Conference fee includes continental breakfast and buffet lunch on April 23, 2016.

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 2016 HOW Awards-In-Craft Contest

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

TOYOTA MOTOR SALES

**Will once again be sponsoring the 2016
HOW Awards-In-Craft Contests**



The 2016 HOW Awards-In-Craft Contest

HOW CRAFTS AWARD CONTEST RULES

The contest year shall be for material published or aired from January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015. 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 March 12, 2016. 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:

Bill Keaton, Email: contest@hoosieroutdoorwriters.org

US Mail: 126 W. 2nd Street, Rushville, IN 46173

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)

2016 HOW AWARDS-IN-CRAFT CONTEST ENTRY FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

Category _____ Division _____

Title: _____

Where published/aired: _____

Publication/air date: _____

Entries and forms must be emailed or postmarked no later than March 12, 2016

Reviews on Great Outdoor Books

by Tom Berg

Everyone likes to read new books, whether it is strictly for pleasure or to learn something new. HOW members are no exception! Some of my favorites are outdoor guide books and identification books. Books that help me identify plants, mammals, butterflies, birds – you name it, I like them! Here are two guide books that you may want to add to your library and introduce to your readers as well:

Understanding Coyotes: The Comprehensive Guide for Hunters, Photographers and Wildlife Observers, by Michael Huff.

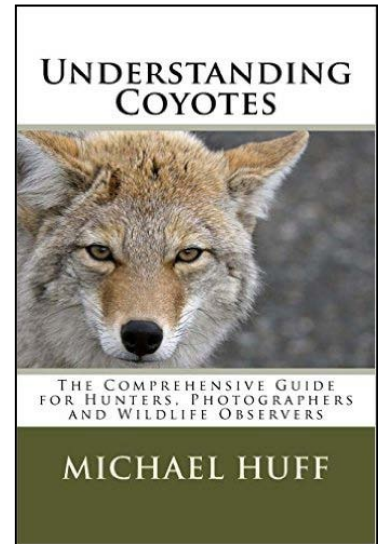
This book is a great resource for anyone interested in learning more about coyotes. Pennsylvania outdoor writer Michael Huff has spent countless hours observing and hunting coyotes, so he has an in-depth understanding of their behavior and habits. This is his first book (self-published), which he released in October.

The book discusses coyote biology, diet, diseases, predatory habits and the animal's incredible senses (vision, smell, hearing). There is a lot to learn. The book is also illustrated with many interesting black and white photos.

As the title states, this book will be of interest to a wide variety of outdoor enthusiasts, from hunters to casual wildlife observers. It is not strictly for canine hunters. Anyone who is curious about learning more about the habits of the wary coyote will be sure to enjoy this book.

NOTE: Author Michael Huff has extended the following offer to all HOW members concerning his new book:

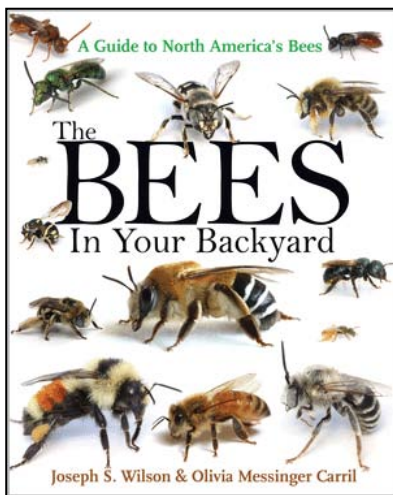
“Please let your membership know that if they are willing to consider reading or reviewing my book, and sharing it with their readership, I will send them a complimentary copy at the address they request.” Huff can be reached by phone: 610-751-3403 or by email: paghuff@gmail.com.



The Bees in your Backyard: A Guide to North America's Bees

by Joseph Wilson and Olivia Messinger Carril.

Princeton University Press has a brand new book that came out in December, titled *The Bees in your Backyard*. If you are interested in learning more about bees, this is the book for you! Did you have any idea that there are approximately 4,000 species of bees in the USA and Canada? Even more amazing is the fact that there are 20,000 species of bees world-wide.



Of course, bees are extremely beneficial since they are such efficient pollinators. The human race would be in real trouble if all of the world's bees disappeared. Famine would quickly become rampant!

But how do you know if a particular insect is a bee, a wasp or a fly? It's not always easy to tell! Sometimes the only way to tell apart certain bees and wasps is to observe their behavior. Also, one of the most important differences between the two is that bees are pollen eaters and wasps are meat eaters. There is a lot to learn, and the 288 pages of this book will definitely educate you!

This book is absolutely filled with more than 900 spectacular color photographs of all types of bees, from honeybees to bumblebees to giant carpenter bees. The only complaint I have about this book is the fact that the bees are identified by their scientific names and common names are not often mentioned. This was done out of necessity due to the sheer volume of species and the fact that most are not known by common names! It is not a big problem, however, and this fascinating book is certainly well worth reading and adding to your library of outdoor reference guidebooks.



Interesting Bird Sightings in the Great Outdoors

We recently asked HOW members to submit photos and reports about interesting or unusual birds that they have seen during their outdoor adventures. The sightings do not have to take place in Indiana; anywhere in the world is fair game!

We hope this page will not only interest bird enthusiasts, but all HOW members who enjoy the outdoors (i.e. everybody)!

Birding report from Dean Shadley:

On one of Shadley's recent trips to Florida, he captured some great bird photos (see photo at right). Not surprisingly, most were taken on or near the water – probably while he was fishing!

"Here is a photo of a brown pelican," he said. "This shot was taken in the Key Deer Wildlife Refuge on Big Pine Island in the Florida Keys."



Report from Gene Clifford:

Gene Clifford from Valparaiso is partial to birds, and his specialty is eastern bluebirds. But he also likes other small birds. "I have a picture of a tufted titmouse that my granddaughter took here in Indiana last winter," said Clifford. "The bird is not the least unusual, but I think the photo is extremely professional work done by an amateur. I hope you agree." Photo is shown at left.

Nice photo, Gene. It looks like a young birder is developing a keen interest in the great outdoors!

Report from Garry Burch:

"I took these photographs on my trip to and from Florida earlier this year," said Burch. "I was scheduled to hunt doves in Tennessee on the way to Florida, but I was rained out of the dove hunt due to a hurricane off the east coast."

"Since I wasn't hunting with my shotgun, I turned to hunting with my camera. The photo of the white bird with a dark head to the right is a wood stork. They are a neat but ugly bird, with the face only a mother wood stork could love!"

"The bird at the far right with the red patch on its head is a sandhill crane." Both birds are extremely tall, but at a height of 48 inches the sandhill is slightly taller than the wood stork. Both are cool birds.



Thanks go to each HOW member who submitted a bird report (bird photos provided by those who submitted each entry).

Hooking Fish?

by Bill Keaton



My son, Will, is 32 years old. From age 14 until he went to college, he wrote a monthly column about his experiences in the outdoors. One of his first articles was titled *Hooking Fish?* Why the question mark? Well, the article was not about fishing, but was Will's account of what I had done to "hook" him on the outdoors. Had I, as his parent, written the article, it would have been entirely different. The memories of a young man demonstrated that seemingly insignificant little things I did as his parent had a lasting impact on his life and his infinite love of the outdoors.

One of the things I did was to take Will along with me fishing in the Boundary Waters every fall beginning when he was only age four. We stayed in a very basic cabin 20 miles by water to the nearest civilization. I recognized that I might sacrifice some quality of fishing by taking such a young child with me, but the little I gave up was monumental to Will as he looked back on his early outdoor experiences.

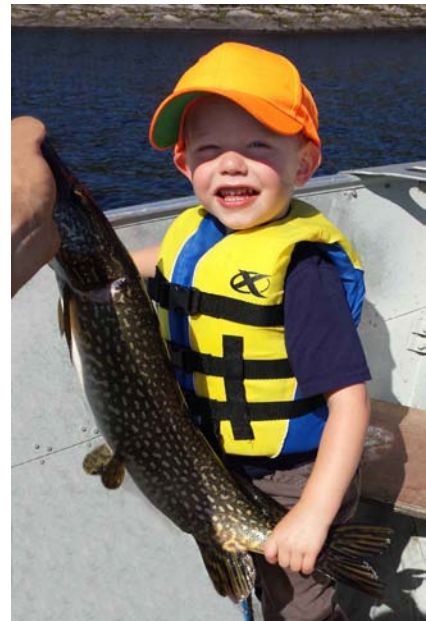
By my friends and other outdoor hunting and fishing buddies, I was called crazy, brave, reckless and other non-flattering names. However, we prepared for everything imaginable. I took a comprehensive first aid kit complete with burn treatment, antibiotics, bandages, bug bite treatment and a tourniquet. I also took plenty of toys, and I did not complain if Will was making noise in the boat. My rule was that he could not go out the cabin door without his life jacket on.

I did not buy a "toy" fishing rod for Will. I purchased a light rod and outfitted it with a Zebco 33 which is a closed-face spinning reel. I found that he mastered casting in a very short period of time. In the beginning, I cut a green stick and put a screw eye into the end for a casting plug that kept us both safe, and Will didn't care. I took Will with me every year until he got into high school when the principal would no longer allow a student to miss a week of school. Each time we went, I told Will, "This is a contract between you and me. Remember, I took you when you were too young to go, so you have to take me when I am too old to go."

Will now has children of his own. He has started the "contract" with his sons, and is keeping the contract with me. Each of the last two summers, we have gone fishing together in northern Ontario. Last year we took his son, Will, who had just turned three, and this year we included his brother, Everett, who was nearly three.

These two young boys already have lasting memories with their grandpa, their father, and of wonderful times in the outdoors. Everett's first fish was a 27" inch northern pike. You can see by the look on his face that he and his brother are "hooked" on the outdoors.

You don't have to go to the Boundary Waters or Canada to instill a love of the outdoors in your children. Simply start taking them with you at a young age. Be patient. Be willing to sacrifice your experience for theirs. Expect to quit when they get tired (which they will long before you do). Take time to stop and teach them about the things around them. If you will make these very small sacrifices, you will steer your children in a way that will give them self-confidence, an understanding of life, and in a direction that will give them a respect for themselves and others. No, you are not hooking fish. You will be hooking your children on a path that will serve and direct them throughout their lives. You will be growing children who will keep the contract when you are too old to enjoy Mother Nature on your own!



Young Everett Keaton with his first fish, a nice-sized northern pike. Photos courtesy of Bill Keaton.

The “Must See” List For Alaska

by Dave Hoffman



We’ve all done it! Traveled to an exotic or remote destination and fished or hunted, but didn’t think about exploring other local sights until we were on the plane looking down and wondering why we didn’t stay longer.

When one of the fishermen in a party of six expressed an interest in spending a couple extra days to see the sights in Alaska, Dave was all in. Alaska is an enormous area with unlimited vistas, but one doesn’t have to travel far or spend mountains of

greenbacks to enjoy experiences that will last a lifetime. Undoubtedly, the most worn path for fishermen in Alaska is a flight to Anchorage, followed by a sojourn down the Seward Highway toward the Kenai Peninsula. Seward, Soldotna, Homer, Seldovia, and Kenai host plenty of fishermen who seldom see anything other than fish and Alaskan Amber, but not necessarily in that order.

Here are some jewels to consider if you’re going to visit the Great Land which are “must sees” without question:

Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center. Located in Girdwood, and dedicated to education and quality animal care, the facility hosts animals that you’ve read about but haven’t seen, like Musk Ox and Wood Bison. Of course there are the bears, both black and grizzlies, moose, caribou, and others at this 200-acre facility. Admission is a bargain at \$12.50 for adults and \$9.00 for old coots.

Alaska SeaLife Center. Located in Seward and constructed with funds from the Exxon Valdez oil spill funds, it is also a rehabilitation and education facility. From animals like the lovable puffins to the huge Stellar Sea Lions, to exhibits on Alaska’s important fish such as salmon, halibut, and king crab, the center is captivating and educational. Touch small marine organisms, marvel at seabirds diving in the two-story pool, and get a creepy feeling watching the Giant Pacific Octopus. Spend all day for adult admission of \$21.95, or get a nickel back from an Andrew Jackson for old timers.

Kenai Fjords Tours. If it’s truly wild creatures that you’re craving, this is the way to see them. There is a



menu of tours, but the most popular is the National Park Tour. Take the 8:00 am, six-hour cruise and you’ll be back in time for other activities. Get up close to a glacier, close enough to hear it, and you may also see the glacier calving. You will experience the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge with its seabird rookeries, and also view sea lions, seals, humpback and killer whales. The pilots will get you as close as permissible, and the route is flexible so they will position you to see as much as possible. Reservations are recommended months in advance. Priced at \$154.00 for adults it will likely be your most favorite part of the trip, except for the fish and the Alaskan Amber!



DNR News

Division of Forestry

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

For immediate release

Recycle, Mulch or Create Backyard Habitat with Christmas Trees

As the holiday season comes to an end, consider recycling or re-purposing your Christmas tree.

According to Carrie Tauscher, DNR Division of Forestry's Community and Urban Forest program director, options include taking the tree to a designated Christmas tree recycling site, tossing it in the backyard to provide shelter for wintering birds or other wildlife, running it through a wood chipper to create mulch, or chopping it up for firewood.

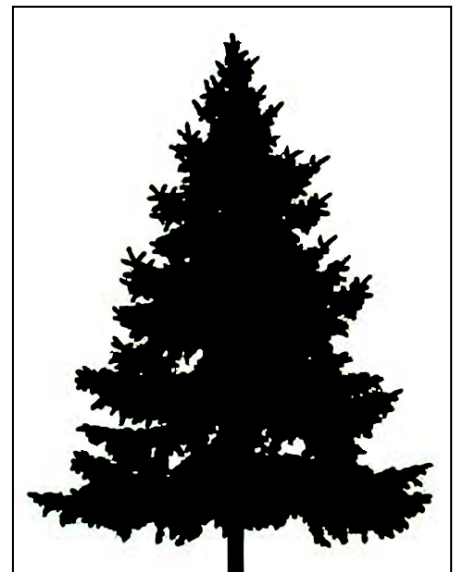
One option the DNR doesn't generally suggest is tossing trees into a lake to create fish attractors.

"Fish attractors tend to bring fish and fishermen together," said Brian Schoenung, chief fisheries biologist for the DNR Division of Fish & Wildlife. "They provide cover but don't necessarily grow more fish."

Discarding a Christmas tree on a private pond is at the owner's discretion, but doing so on public freshwater lakes is governed by the Lake Preservation Act (Indiana Code 14-26-2) and Indiana Administrative Code (312 IAC 11-4-7).

Those two laws require a license from the DNR to construct or place a fish attractor in a public freshwater lake. To qualify, the fish attractor must be anchored to ensure proper setting and must not be placed in a channel, a beach area, near the lake surface or in an area that would adversely affect public safety and navigation, or adversely affect the natural resources or natural scenic beauty.

If approved, the permit carries a \$100 fee and requires the permit holder to remove any portion or portions of the fish attractor that become unattached.



An option to consider next year is buying a live balled and burlap tree. Enjoy it inside for a few days over the holidays and then plant it outside to enjoy for years to come.

Media contacts: Brian Schoenung, chief fisheries biologist, DNR Division of Fish & Wildlife, (317) 232-4092, bschoenung@dnr.IN.gov; Carrie Tauscher, director of the Community and Urban Forest program, DNR Division of Forestry, (317) 234-4386 or ctauscher@dnr.IN.gov.

HOW Member News

Ken McBroom Finds New York Smallmouth Bass and More

“This year was a blur to say the least,” said Ken McBroom from Indianapolis. “It began with a trip to New York to fish for bass. This was a trip I had won at the HOW raffle at this year’s spring conference and it was a great trip for me and my wife.”

“We were greeted by representatives from the Chautauqua County Visitors Bureau and treated to some great fishing along with some really excellent dining.”

“Chautauqua County in western New York is a great place for friends to meet for a fishing trip or as a destination for the whole family. Just up the highway is Niagara falls and we took advantage of that and did the whole tour. It was great!”



McBroom fished Chautauqua County’s portion of Lake Erie for both smallmouth bass and walleye. “One day I fished for smallmouth with a volunteer for the VIP fishing day put on by the Chautauqua-Erie County Fish Advisory Board,” he said. “It was a fun trip!”



Ken McBroom (at left in each photo above) with Lake Erie walleye and smallmouth bass. Photos by Tammy McBroom.

Berg Captures Giant Grouper, Goes Overboard For Photos

HOW Executive Director Tom Berg took some time out for a trip to Florida this past summer, and the fishing was pretty good. His favorite trip happened on the day he was scheduled to fish for goliath groupers. Originally called jewfish, these large groupers can grow to immense sizes, sometimes up to 500 pounds.

Berg met Capt. Chris O'Neill from Charlotte County's Tail Chaser Charters and they had a fantastic time out on the fishing grounds near Boca Grande Pass.



"We were using huge live baits to tempt the goliaths," said Berg. "Capt. Chris had used a cast net to catch several oversized mullets earlier that morning; each one probably weighed two pounds or more. Nearly every time I lowered one of the nervous mullets down to the bottom, it was quickly and unceremoniously chomped by an unseen giant."



Getting the goliath groupers to bite wasn't a problem at the start of the trip. "I must have hooked or missed nearly a dozen big groupers before we ran out of bait," lamented Berg. "I didn't know you could lose a fish that was hooked on a circle hook, but somehow I managed to do it multiple times!"

After a short break to catch more mullets for bait, Berg got back to fishing and finally landed a nice goliath grouper. It was big! "How big do you think it is?" asked Berg. "Oh, it's only a baby," said Capt. Chris. "It's probably only 75 pounds." Goliath groupers are a protected species in Florida, so anglers cannot keep them and the fish cannot even be taken out of the water. "If that's a baby, I want to see a big one!" quipped Berg.

The day wore on and Berg caught two more goliaths in the 80-100 pound range, but he couldn't seem to latch onto the really big one. Happily, near the end of the trip his luck changed. A monster-sized grouper grabbed the bait and took off. Berg held on to the rod, but the fish jerked him off of his feet and banged him against the side of the boat. Luckily, the fish abruptly changed directions and swam the other way, giving the battered angler a few moments to recover and get back to his feet. If the fish hadn't changed directions, Berg may well have been pulled overboard!



Before long, however, the mighty goliath grouper was subdued and Berg had him floundering at the side of the boat. Since the fish was hooked only 100 yards from shore, Capt. Chris used the trolling motor to steer the recovering fish into the shallows for some photos. Once near the beach, Berg and Capt. Chris jumped out of the boat and wrestled with the suddenly feisty fish for a minute or two until they regained control.

"We measured the grouper and it was five feet long," said Berg. "Capt. Chris estimated its weight at 350 pounds, and I believe it," he continued. "I tried to put

my arms around its belly and it was like putting my arms around a 55-gallon barrel. I could have easily fit my entire head into his mouth!" After several photos, the fish was released unharmed to fight another day.

Berg said, "It was an awesome fight and an unforgettable fishing trip. Goliath groupers are certainly one of the hardest-pulling fish I have ever fought. I'm ready to do it again!"

McBroom Watches Over Albino Deer

Ken McBroom may like fishing, but deer hunting is another pastime that he can't live without. He spotted a deer in the woods this past fall that he won't soon forget.

"I hunted a new area this season up by a field on the other side of the one of my favorite pine groves. I got settled in and it wasn't long



before an albino and some other deer entered the field about 100 yards away. The albino was a doe

and really helped me locate the buck when it entered the field. The buck wasn't chasing her; she was chasing the buck and I was able to pinpoint him by watching her with my binoculars."

McBroom shot a different buck later that evening, but it got dark before he could track it. The following morning he returned with his wife Tammy to track and eventually find it. That's when he saw the albino doe again.

"I was within 20 yards of her when these photos were taken. I was using my little point and shoot camera and it was pouring down rain. She never left the area as me and Tammy continued tracking. There was not a speck of brown on her that I could see. I told Tammy the rain sucks, but to see a deer like this one isn't something to take lightly."

"That doe is my little buddy, now. I hope to be able to watch her on stand for many more seasons to come."



Membership Reminders:

Conference

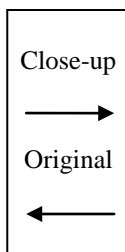
Don't forget to mark your calendars for the 2016 HOW conference at Brown County State Park. The dates will be April 22-24, 2016 (Friday-Sunday), with the main meeting taking place on Saturday, as usual. You may attend the Saturday meeting only, the entire weekend or any portion of the weekend. It's up 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 LiveTarget Lures

Rockbass, Or Goggle-Eye, Often Have Bright Red Eyes



The “What is it?” photo from the last issue was a pretty easy one, and a total of eleven (11) HOW members were able to correctly identify it. Doug Sikora, Mike Schoonveld, Troy McCormick, Alan Garbers,

John Maxwell, PJ Perea, Dave Hoffman, Bill Keaton, Ken McBroom, Nate Mullendore and Brandon Butler each had the right answer. When we drew a name at random for the LaCrosse boots, Brandon Butler was the winner. Congrats, Brandon! We’ll mail your gift certificate.

As you can see in the photo at left, the mystery creature for this issue was a common rockbass (*Ambloplites rupestris*). Rockbass are not bass at all – they are members of the sunfish family. Like most sunfish, they are aggressive and will eat almost anything they can catch. Insects, worms, crayfish, tadpoles and small fish are all on the menu. They have a pretty big mouth and an appetite to match. If they can fit it in their mouth, it’s dinner!

Rockbass are known as goggle-eyes by many Hoosiers, and their large red eye makes a lasting impression on young and old fishermen alike. River and creek anglers often catch huge numbers of rockbass during the summer months, and many lakes with rocky bottoms are also home to this prolific fish. Rockbass are usually biting even when other fish are not!



For this issue, our friends at **LiveTarget Lures** will be donating a great prize for the HOW member that guesses the right answer to this issue’s “What Is It?” question. This time the award will be a prize package of 10 premium LiveTarget fishing lures of the winner’s choice from LiveTarget’s popular freshwater or saltwater product lines (valued at over \$100). There are literally hundreds of lure styles/colors to choose from, and these beautiful lures catch fish! See below for more info.

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



Here’s another Nature Photo mystery, and for this one we are showing more of the creature than usual. That should make it somewhat easy! Maybe! The photo shown at left is a close-up of part of an animal that lives right here in Indiana. **HINT:** Most people are unlikely to see it in their own back yard, but it can be found throughout much of the state. In some areas this creature is quite common. Have you ever seen something that looks like this?

This creature may be easy for some people to identify, but difficult for others. Do you know of any Hoosier creatures that look like this? This time you must identify the exact species. If you think it’s a particular species of butterfly, for example, go ahead and guess “monarch butterfly”. Of course, it’s not a butterfly, 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. If you guess wrong on your first try, guess again!

As mentioned above, **LiveTarget Lures** will be donating 10 premium fishing lures as a prize for the HOW member who guesses the right answer to this issue’s “What Is It?” nature question. The winner can pick from any of the lures on the LiveTarget website (www.livetargetlures.com). Choose up to 10 lures that you would like to try and specify the lure colors, also. If multiple people guess the right answer, we will draw one winner at random from the group of correct entries. Good luck and have fun! All nature photos on this page by Tom Berg.



HOW Supporting Member News

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

Try LensPen Cleaners for Cameras, Glasses

Vancouver, BC, Canada: Planning a vacation soon? Vacations can be fun, exciting adventures, whether to some exotic destination or playing tourist in your hometown. You take your camera, of course, your glasses and sunglasses. And they can get dirty. Really dirty. How do you keep them clean?

LensPen has the answer. For more than 20 years LensPen products have safely removed dust and grease from camera lenses and touchscreens with their patented carbon cleaning compound. They are a "must-have" for any vacation. But what about eyeglasses and sunglasses?



Now, LensPen has an answer for that too. Since camera lenses and eyeglass lenses are virtually identical in structure, a LensPen

eyeglasses and sunglasses cleaner was the natural next step: Peeps by LensPen.

LensPen lens cleaners – whether for cameras or eyeglasses – clean with a simple two-step process. First, use the retractable natural brush to remove any loose dust or dirt. Next, twist off the cap and use the cleaning pad to remove any dirt, grease or fingerprints from the lens. All LensPen products are compact and fit easily in a camera bag, pocket or purse. There are no liquids or sprays and they are permitted for carry-on. Carbon does the cleaning.

For more information on LensPen, go to www.lenspen.com or contact Tom Ables via email at Venture: taventur@gmail.com.

GAMO Unveils New Coyote™ PCP Air Rifle

Ft. Lauderdale, FL: The COYOTE™ PCP (Pre-Charged Pneumatic) air rifle arrives on the PCP market as GAMO's new warhorse. With the launch of the COYOTE™ model, GAMO is unveiling to the world an "entry level" PCP air rifle. GAMO hopes to conquer the base of the pyramid of consumers, where quality is a very decisive factor. With the COYOTE PCP air rifle, GAMO is offering a multi-shot PCP rifle with the top quality and upscale design which enthusiasts have come to expect from GAMO.



The new rifle is available in three different calibers (.177, .22 and .25) for a variety of shooting situations.

See more at: www.gamousa.com. HOW members may also contact Fedor Palacios at GAMO USA for more information. Phone: (954-302-1062) or email: fpalacios@gamousa.com.

HOW Supporting Member News

The Ford 62nd Annual Indianapolis Boat, Sport & Travel Show

Indianapolis, IN: February 19-28, 2016: Ten days just may not be enough time to see and experience all the *Ford 62nd Annual Indianapolis Boat, Sport & Travel Show* has to offer. Most anything related to the outdoors and outdoor travel will be on display; from boats and RVs to hunting, fishing and even motorcycles, not to mention some of the greatest outdoor travel destinations in the country. It's all here at the largest sport show in the nation.

One of the biggest draws to this outdoors super show is the vast and diverse number of exhibitors. There are seven spacious exhibition buildings totaling over 700,000 square feet in floor space. Whether you're looking to buy the latest RV, boat or ATV, plan and book a hunting or fishing dream trip, meet and learn from some of the biggest names in the outdoors or merely to browse some of the latest fishing tackle, the Ford 62nd Annual Indianapolis Boat, Sport & Travel Show definitely must be at the top of your to-do list.

The Indiana State Fairgrounds is once again home to the Ford 62nd Annual Indianapolis Boat, Sport & Travel Show scheduled for ten exciting days February 19-28, 2016. The opening weekend, February 19-21, features two distinct shows within the show. Returning is the 25th Annual Indiana Motorcycle Expo including the visually inspiring Biker's Showcase and the historical Pioneers of Hoosier Motorcycling. Brand new this year is the first ever Great American Fly Fishing Expo, also during the opening weekend. The closing weekend, February 25-28, brings back the always-popular 19th Annual Indiana Deer, Turkey & Waterfowl Expo. Throughout the entire ten days, show visitors can enjoy the Boat Pavilion, RV Pavilion, Travel and Tourism Pavilion, Quiet Sports and Outdoor Living Pavilion and one of the most popular features of the show... Tackle Town.

Tackle Town encompasses 70,000 square feet of all things fishing. With over 100 exhibitors, it's hard to imagine needing something that cannot be found here. Check out all the latest fishing tackle, boating accessories, fiberglass repair and restoration tips or book a guided fishing trip. Plus, learn from some of the nation's top fishing pros as they demonstrate baits and cutting-edge angling techniques during daily seminars at the huge 4,000-gallon Hawg Trough.

The RV Pavilions provide visitors some five acres of the latest RVs on the market. Show organizer, Kevin Renfro, says it is probably the biggest selection of RVs ever to appear at the show. From pop-ups to luxury coaches and travel trailers, it's all in one place and under one roof.

Likewise, the Boating Pavilion includes 180,000 square feet of everything imaginable for boating enthusiasts. Fishing boats, ski boats and massive cruisers are all ready to board and inspect, along with a great selection of power sport crafts, side-by-sides, boating lifestyle products and accessories.

The Travel and Tourism Pavilion is a cornucopia of delight for planning your next getaway. Some 150 travel professionals from 24 different states and abroad are ready to help you plan a simple family vacation, fishing or hunting trip, or the dream trip of a lifetime.



Back by popular demand are the Dock Diving Dogs! Come learn more or register your own dog to participate in the world's fastest growing dog sport. Teams will be showing off their jumping skills in events that dazzle spectators with high-flying canine athleticism at the K-9 X Games Dock-Diving Event including Alpha Air Dogs ("Big Air"), X'treme Vertical and X'treme Retrieve events.

One ticket gets you into all of the shows open on the day of your visit. To learn more about the Ford 62nd Annual Indianapolis Boat, Sport & Travel Show, the 19th Annual Indiana Deer, Turkey & Waterfowl Expo, the Great American Fly Fishing Expo, the 25th Annual Indiana Motorcycle Expo and all the other great happenings, visit www.indysportshow.com. HOW members may also contact Kevin Renfro (kevin@renfroproductions.com) or Janine Lawton (jlawton@renfroproductions.com).

HOW's Supporting Member Websites

Alabama Mountain Lakes Tourist Assoc - www.northalabama.org
Alpen Optics - www.alpenoutdoor.com
Aquateko International - www.aquateko.com
Arctic Ice - www.arctic-ice.net
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
Big Game International - www.biggameintl.com
Birchwood Casey - www.birchwoodcasey.com
Black River Tools - www.blackrivertools.com
Blackpowder Products, Inc. - www.cva.com
BoatUS - www.boatus.com
Bubba Blade Knives - www.bubbablade.com
Buck Knives - www.buckknives.com
Burford Books - www.burfordbooks.com
Bushnell - www.bushnell.com
Cabela's - www.cabelas.com
Camp Chef - www.campchef.com
Carbon Express - www.carbonexpressarrows.com
Chautauqua County Visitors Bureau - www.tourchautauqua.com
Church Tackle Company - www.churchtackle.com
Clam Outdoors - www.clamoutdoors.com
Cocoons Eyewear - www.cocoonseyewear.com
Costa Sunglasses - www.costadelmar.com
Cotton Carrier - www.cottoncarrier.com
Crosman Corporation - www.crosman.com
Danner Boots - www.danner.com
Deer Dummy - www.deerdummy.com
Ducks Unlimited - www.ducks.org
Eagle Claw - www.eagleclaw.com
Environ-Metal, Inc. - www.hevishot.com
Eppinger Manufacturing - www.eppinger.net
E/T Lights - www.triagelights.com
Field & Stream Outdoor Life Deer & Turkey Expos - www.deerinfo.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
Hard & Soft Fishing - www.unclejosh.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
Hodgdon Powder Co. - www.hodgdon.com
Hooker Deer Drag Co. - www.hookerdeerdrag.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
Indiana Department of Natural Resources - www.dnr.IN.gov
Indiana Office of Tourism Development - www.VisitIndiana.com
Indiana Outdoor News - www.IndianaOutdoorNews.net
InterMedia Outdoors - www.IMoutdoors.com
Irish Setter Boots - www.irishsetterboots.com
JB Lures - www.jblures.com
Kruger Optical - www.krugeroptical.com
LaCrosse Footwear - www.lacrossefootwear.com
LensPen - www.lenspen.com
Leupold - www.leupold.com
LiveTarget Lures - www.livetargetlures.com
Lodge Manufacturing - www.lodgemfg.com
Lurecraft Industries - www.lurecraft.com
Mack's Lure - www.macks lure.com
Mathews - www.mathewsinc.com
Mercury Marine - www.mercurymarine.com
Mossy Oak - www.mossyoak.com
National Muzzle Loading Rifle Assn - www.nmlra.org
National Shooting Sports Foundation - www.nssf.org
National Wild Turkey Federation - www.nwtf.org
Nosler, Inc. - www.nosler.com
O.F. Mossberg & Sons, Inc. - www.mossberg.com
Off Shore Tackle Co. - www.offshoretackle.com
Okuma Fishing Tackle - www.okumafishing.com
Otis Technology - www.otistec.com
Outdoor Promotions - www.crappieusa.com
Pheasants Forever - www.pheasantsforever.org
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
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
SportDOG - www.sportdog.com
St. Croix Rods - www.stcroixrods.com
Streamlight - www.streamlight.com
Sturm, Ruger & Co. - www.ruger.com
Super Brush LLC - www.bore-tips.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
Trophy Anglers' Tackle - www.trophyanglerstackle.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
Yakima Bait Co. - www.yakimabait.com
Yamaha Marine Group - www.yamahaoutboards.com
Z-Man Fishing Products - www.zmanfishing.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:

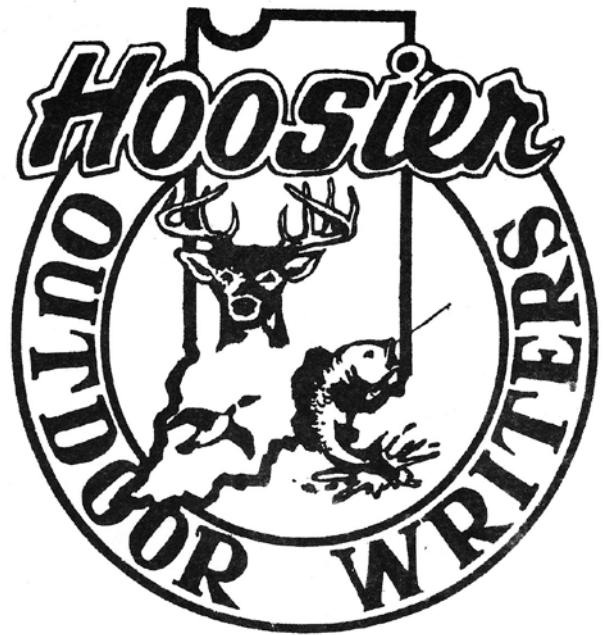
1. To give the profession of outdoor writing/reporting greater recognition and understanding, even higher standards and enlarged scope.
2. To encourage and enforce high standards of professional ethics.
3. To strive always for the truth, accuracy, clarity and completeness in the dissemination of outdoor 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 15-17 & 20-24, 2016
SHOT Show 2016: (http://shotshow.org) Las Vegas, NV	January 19-22, 2016
Louisville Deer & Turkey Expo: (www.deerinfo.com) Louisville, KY	January 29-31, 2016
Indianapolis Boat, Sport & Travel Show: (www.renfroproductions.com) Indianapolis, IN	February 19-28, 2016
HOW 2016 Annual Conference: (www.HoosierOutdoorWriters.org) Abe Martin Lodge, Brown County State Park Nashville, IN	April 22-24, 2016
AGLOW 2016 Cast & Blast: (www.aglowinfo.org) Mercer, WI	May 16-19, 2016
POMA 2016 Annual Conference: (www.professionalooutdoormedia.org) Kalispell, MT	June 15-18, 2016
OWAA 2016 Annual Conference: (www.owaa.org) Billings, MT	July 16-18, 2016

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.