

A photograph of a winter forest. The trees are covered in a thick layer of snow, creating a white and blue scene. The branches are intricate and dense, filling most of the frame. The ground is also covered in snow. The overall atmosphere is serene and cold.

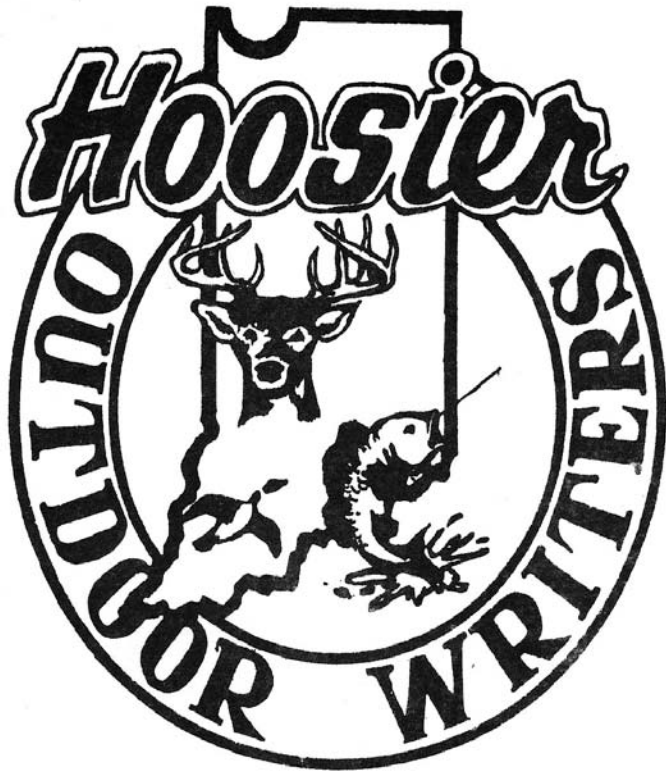
# The Blade

January - February 2016

The Official Publication of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers

"Winter Wonderland", photo by Tom Berg





# Hoosier Outdoor Writers

The Hoosier Outdoor Writers was formed in 1969 and has brought together many diverse groups and individuals with shared interests. The Hoosier Outdoor Writers, known among its members as HOW, is a group of dedicated media professionals who are keenly interested in the wise use of natural resources in the Hoosier State.

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Region 1 – Wally Pritz  
2017  
Region 2 – Kreig Adkins  
2016  
Region 3 – Gary Redmon  
2017  
Region 4 – Jack Spaulding  
2016

### At Large:

Gene Clifford – 2016  
Tom Cranfill – 2016  
Jarrett Manek – 2016  
Teena Ligman – 2017  
John Maxwell – 2017  
Troy McCormick – 2017

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

**On the cover:** *When thick snow blankets the trees, bushes and ground, everything in the forest looks clean and fresh! It's the perfect time for taking photos or looking for animal tracks. Tom Berg photo.*



# President's Message

by Alan Garbers

## Call For backup!

It was roughly 21 years ago that I thought my dreams of being a screenwriter were coming true. My agent (yes, I had an agent) called Dianna and told her that movie producer Spike Lee had requested to see a copy of my screenplay, *Killing Time*. At that moment, all three copies the agent had were out to other production companies, so he needed me to print out another copy or two ASAP. Time clouds my memory, but I remember it was on a Friday afternoon when I got home from my factory job to get the exciting news. I was out of paper or printer ribbon so we decided to celebrate by going out for dinner and getting more supplies for the printer.

After an exciting dinner conversation between Dianna and the kids we headed home so I could start printing out the screenplay. At the time, I was using a Brother word processor. Some of you may remember them; they were a suitcase-sized contraption with the fold-down keyboard, CRT display, floppy-disk drive, and daisy-wheel printer. It was a pains-taking process because the unit had no storage of its own, so every story I wrote had to be stored on the 3.5" floppy disks. To make it worse, the unit could not handle large files so each story had to be broken down into multiple files, on multiple disks.

As you can imagine, I was happily loading paper as the daisy-wheel printer rattled off like a machine gun, stopping only to load new files and new floppies. Suddenly, as I was trying to get a new file to load, a message popped up that the disk I had just inserted was not formatted correctly. Would I like to format it? Not thinking, I hit yes. As the unit started whirling away I got a sick feeling. The unit had never done that before. It didn't take long and the disk was formatted like new. The second and third acts (movies always have three acts) were gone. I only panicked a little because I just knew I had a back-up copy of all my work. I started searching through all my piles and boxes of floppies.

It was past midnight when I stopped staring at the CRT and hoping my screenplay would reappear as I inserted floppies again and again. I tossed and turned all night long. The next morning, as soon as it was proper, I tried calling the agent. In between trying to call the agent and trying to find my lost screenplay, I contemplated how stupid I was for not making sure I had three copies of everything. That's the rule. Three copies of everything, otherwise you're not backed up.

Finally, the agent answered and the catastrophe tumbled out like a death-row inmate confessing his sins looking for a last minute pardon. The agent laughed and told me not to worry, as he would just contact one of the other production houses and get a copy returned. He then started talking about what the screenplay may bring and how we needed to get points of the movie gross, and a million other things that was going to make Dianna and me rich.

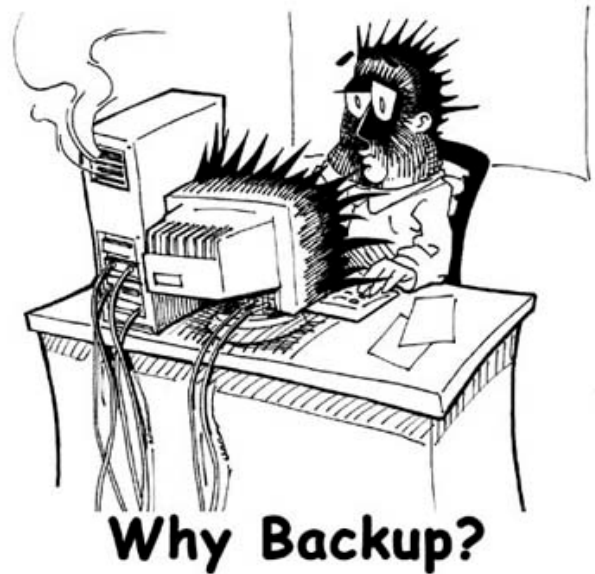


(continued on next page)

However, I still needed to have a good copy of the screenplay in my files, so I got a copy of a copy from the agent and tried having a computer guru friend scan it in with his amazing OCR software. Windows 95 had just come out and he was telling me that I could never lose a file with this new operating system, because the computer was so smart, it kept a copy even if you deleted it! We know it as the Recycle Bin. I was convinced.

Back then, a desktop computer, monitor, printer, and all the bells and whistles cost me \$1,800. I sold my favorite Colt 1911 to get the funds. I tried to buy the gun back a few years later, but the guy loved it as much as I did and he claims he is going to be buried with it.

I finally got the screenplay back as a Word file from my friend. The OCR software maker's hype didn't live up to the reality, however. The OCR software did such a terrible job I would have been better to re-type the screenplay myself. Even to this day, when I open the screenplay I find another typo. Unfortunately, the screenplay didn't sell and neither did the other half-dozen I wrote after that. But that's another story.



So where am I going with this? None of my pain, frustration, gnashing of teeth, rending of garments, and piling ashes on my head would have been needed had I been backing up my writing properly.

Back up everything three times. Imagine the worst case scenario and then plan for it. These days online backup is cheap. DVDs are cheap. Flash drives are cheap. There is no reason that you shouldn't be backed up three times. Keep a copy of your files and photos safe, in a safe, a safety deposit box, in your desk at work, in your glove box. Make sure that even if your house burns down, someone steals your computer or hacks your cloud storage, you still have your files.

You will rest easier at night and while on vacation. If you excuse me, I need to practice what I just preached and go back up my writing and photo files.





# The Hoosier Outdoor Writers

New Members, Past Presidents & Memorial Section

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

**See Member News Section  
starting on page 19.**

## **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
Alan Garbers	2015

# Annual HOW Conference

## Make Plans Now To Attend The 2016 Annual HOW Conference At Brown County State Park!

The 47th meeting of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers will take place on the weekend of April 22-24, 2016 at Brown County State Park near Nashville, IN. Have you been to a HOW conference lately? This is shaping-up to be another great conference, and since Brown County SP is Indiana's largest state park there will be a lot to see. Make your plans to attend now!

The weekend conference activities will begin with the annual HOW Fun Shoot on Friday, April 22. All HOW members who enjoy the shooting sports should consider joining us this year! If you have never shot a clay target, this would be a great opportunity for you to learn. Our shooters are always willing to help newcomers discover and enjoy the sport. Fun Shoot coordinator Mike Schoonveld tells us we will be shooting skeet at the Atterbury Shooting Complex near Edinburgh, IN. This state-of-the-art shooting complex is very nice and will provide some fun and excitement for novice and expert shooters alike!



The Abe Martin Lodge at Brown County State Park will host the 2016 HOW Conference. We will meet in Melodeon Hall on Saturday morning, April 23, 2016. We hope to see you there!



All conference attendees who arrive at Brown County State Park on Friday evening are 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 10 of this newsletter.

The main meeting will occur on Saturday, April 23 at the Abe Martin Lodge. 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 9 for a copy of this year's conference registration form. We will have some great speakers at the conference, featuring the following presentations:

- **Management of Indiana State Forests**

John Seifert, director of the DNR Division of Forestry, will be our first speaker. He will tell HOW members the story of Indiana's State Forests and what's being done to meet the multi-use approach. Indiana's State Forests have been many things to many people since they were established in the early 1900s. That fits with the Division of Forestry's mission to manage State Forests for multiple uses: recreation, wildlife habitat, timber, and as demonstration sites for sustainable forestry management.



publications on forestry.

Seifert is a Fellow in the Society of American Foresters. Under Seifert's guidance, DNR Forestry has earned nine straight years of certification for sustainable management practices from two independent audit organizations. Seifert joined the Department of Natural Resources in 2005 after a 26-year career as Extension Research Forester with Purdue University. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in forestry from the University of Missouri and has authored more than 50 research





- **Calls of the Wild!**

Jarrett Manek, Naturalist and Educator for the Indiana State Parks system, has performed his well-known “Calls of the Wild” program around the state for more than twenty years. From school groups to naturalist training and more, Manek has entertained many in an interactive and fun manner. He is highly skilled at using his voice, along with home-made and commercial calls, to imitate the various animal calls of Indiana’s native wildlife.

Hear the sounds of squirrels, crows, turkeys, coyotes and more. Find out what each sound means and when you might hear it. Whether you are a hunter or not, you will enjoy this take on using your senses.

Manek is also planning to bring along a few wild creatures for conference attendees to see, including an alligator snapping turtle, salamanders and more. This promises to be a very entertaining presentation!



- **Hunting Small Woodlots For Deer**

Scott Parker grew up in the mountains of North Carolina where fishing and hunting was a way of life. He moved to Indiana when he was 15 and that is where he got his first taste of whitetail deer hunting. His skill set has grown and changed with time, and about 15 years ago he started filming all of his hunts, which eventually opened the door for him to join several Pro Staffs in the filming industry. One thing he learned in a hurry from filming is that you must pay attention to the details at a whole new level.



With two people walking in and setting in a tree the chances of getting busted are doubled.

Parker’s presentation will focus on hunting small woodlots for deer. He has learned a lot from filming hunts and many of those lessons came while hunting small woodlots and farms, which are quite different than if you were walking into a large farm or block of timber. His presentation will cover scouting, setting up, and hunting tips that apply to small woodlots.

According to Parker, “I want everyone to have a few laughs, enjoy the presentation and videos, and come away with one nugget of information that may help them be successful next fall when they go into the field.”

- **Instructing People on Defensive Firearms**

Tony Gregory will be our final speaker of the day. He is a police and civilian firearms instructor with over 30 years experience, and is an unarmed tactics and less-lethal weapons instructor. He is also an author and holds 60 instructor certificates, as well as numerous armorer certificates. He is currently a Captain and Training Commander for the Homecroft Police Department (south suburban Indianapolis) and the Training Coordinator for Indy Arms Company. He retired as Captain at the Marion County Sheriff’s Training Academy in 2015.

Many outdoor enthusiasts are proficient in the use of firearms – for both sporting and hunting purposes – and often grew up around them. But recently there has been a groundswell of people with no prior firearms experience wanting to own, and/or carry, firearms for self-defense. These novices frequently appeal to the expert they know personally – the sport-shooter who owns and uses firearms already – for lessons and advice. This is particularly the case in Indiana, where no training requirement is attached to a handgun license. Captain Gregory’s presentation will include tips and suggestions about informally instructing people on defensive firearms – both the physical skill, and the legal and tactical concerns (and myths) that need to be addressed.



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 2015 meeting at Pokagon State Park was one of the best in recent years, and we are hoping it will be just as good or better at Brown County 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, a Mission Archery compound bow, a Leupold laser rangefinder, fishing rods, reels and other fishing gear, shooting and hunting gear, optics, turkey calls, archery gear, premium sunglasses, 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!

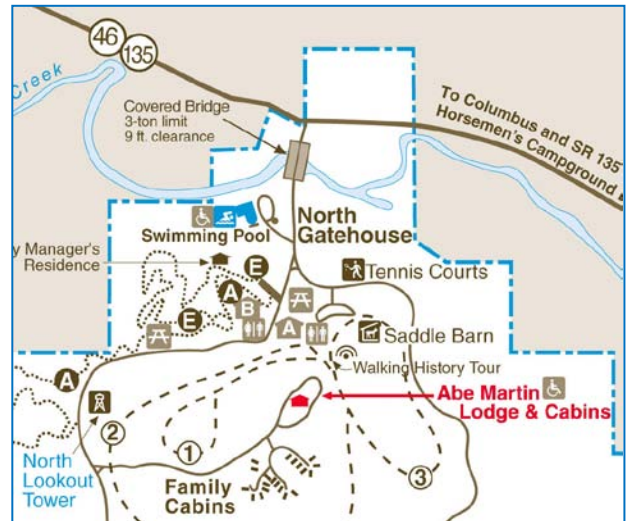
There will also be opportunities to explore Brown County State Park throughout the entire conference weekend, where HOW members and spouses can do some hiking, fishing, bird watching, nature photography or simply spend quality time outdoors. The park's Nature Center may also be of interest to family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

### HOW Outing on Sunday

Although we are still hoping to have a fishing outing on Sunday, April 24, it is not looking good at this point – at least as of press time for this newsletter. The local crappie club (Indiana Slab Masters) that hosted our fishing outing two years ago in Indianapolis was planning to help out again this year, but we recently found out that they will be busy competing in a tournament on Patoka Lake on the same weekend as the HOW Conference. We will let you know if it comes together.

So in the meantime, we are planning a forestry outing on Sunday with the DNR's John Seifert, one of the speakers at Saturday's conference. Seifert will lead a field trip to nearby Morgan-Monroe and/or Yellowwood State Forests to show and talk about the Hardwood Ecosystem Experiment (HEE), a 100-year research study on the impacts of various timber harvest practices on oak tree/hickory tree regeneration. He will also discuss the effects on a number of wildlife species in the woodland community. The study includes work with college researchers, and they are finding some very interesting things after the first 10 years.

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



### Staying Overnight at Brown County SP?

Do you have room reservations yet? If not, now is the time to make your room reservations. We have a block of rooms reserved at the Abe Martin Lodge at a discounted price for HOW members and their guests only. Details are below.

### HOW CONFERENCE – ROOM RESERVATIONS:

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

**Abe Martin Lodge**  
 1801 SR 46 E  
 Nashville, IN 47448  
 812-988-6406  
 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.

Abe Martin Lodge Double-Queen Rooms:  
 (Friday night 4/22/16 and/or Saturday night 4/23/16): \$101.99 per night + tax.

Don't wait to make your room reservation if you will be staying overnight at the Abe Martin Lodge. Our block of discounted rooms will only be available until **March 22, 2016** 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](mailto:thomas.berg@comcast.net)).



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# Hoosier Outdoor Writers Annual Conference Registration

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

# Hoosier Outdoor Writers Conference Activities Registration

Please register for the Pre-Conference and Post-Conference activities listed below (Friday, April 22, 2016 and Sunday, April 24, 2016). 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: \_\_\_\_\_

		Number Attending	Shotgun Gauge
Friday Fun Shoot *:		X _____	_____
Friday evening Barbecue:	FREE!	X _____	_____
Sunday field trip to Yellowwood and Morgan-Monroe State Forests **	FREE!	X _____	_____

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

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

\*\* The guided Sunday field trip to Morgan-Monroe and Yellowwood State Forests will familiarize attendees with the **Hardwood Ecosystem Experiment**, a 100-year research study on the forest and many of its different wildlife species.

**Please complete this registration form and email it (or mail it) to:**

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

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



# **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](mailto: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](mailto:jmartinooutdoors@att.net)

US Mail: 12825 W 100 N, Kokomo, IN 46901

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

Tom Berg, Email: [thomas.berg@comcast.net](mailto:thomas.berg@comcast.net)

US Mail: 2142 Nondorf Street, Dyer, IN 46311

**CONTEST DIVISIONS**

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

**WRITING ARTICLE CATEGORIES**

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

**BROADCAST CATEGORIES**

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

**PHOTOGRAPHY CATEGORIES**

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

**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**



## 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 spending time in the great outdoors (i.e. everybody)!

### Birding report from Garry Burch:

On Garry Burch's recent trip to Florida, he spent quite a bit of time taking bird photos along the beach. A couple of them are shown here.



"The photo to the left shows a group of black skimmers," he said. These interesting birds have a very distinct black-tipped red bill. They have a longer lower bill than the upper which allows them to fly along the surface with the lower bill cutting through the water as they search for fish. When they feel something contact their bill, they quickly snap their bill closed and they have the fish!



Burch also found a new friend on one of the local docks. "This is my brown pelican fishing buddy," he continued. "We were both deeply interested in a school of fish below the dock. We became good friends as we both watched the fish below. He looked at me and I looked at him, and we both looked at the fish. It was a lot of fun!"

### Report from Mike Schoonveld:

Mike Schoonveld usually keeps an eye out for birds near his back porch bird feeder, but he also sees his fair share of birds when he is outside hunting and fishing. "A friend and I were duck hunting at Willow Slough one day," he said, "and four glossy ibis flew right over our blind. It was quite a surprise! Another surprise came when I was perch fishing on Lake Michigan's Calumet Harbor one morning and a brown pelican flew by!"

### Report from Tom Berg:

"While fishing southwest Florida's Matlacha Pass last summer, I saw a remarkable sight," said Berg. "My fishing guide was motoring us to a new spot when we saw a tiny island of mangrove trees up ahead. Nothing looked out of the ordinary, except in the distance it looked like the mangrove branches were dotted with large pink flowers. I asked the guide what it was, and he wasn't sure until we got a little closer. Then he told me the pink blotches were roseate spoonbills."

"I wanted a closer look, so he slowed the boat and I snapped a few photos. We didn't want to get so close that we spooked them, so we kept our distance. There must have been at least a dozen spoonbills in those branches. It was an unforgettable scene."





# A New Bird in Town

by Jack Spaulding

Through the hard months from late October through early April, the birds visiting the Spaulding bird buffet eat more than a gallon of black sunflower seeds a day and a couple of suet cakes a week. Sometimes during extreme weather, they devour up to two gallons of seed per day and eat an entire suet cake each day.

As time has passed, the birds have gotten less fearful and come ever closer when I service and fill the feeder. My closest encounter was a downy woodpecker landing about a foot from my face. The flutter of wings just inches from my nose made me a little wide-eyed, and the woodpecker made a hasty retreat when it realized it was looking me right in those wide eyes.

I have seen a lot of different species show up for the welcoming meal of suet cake or sunflower seed. But it has been a while since I witnessed a new visitor to the bird feeder. Having fed the birds for years, the arrival of any new breed of birds is a red letter day.

I happened to have such a red letter day a couple of weeks ago. It doesn't take me long to pick out a newcomer at the feeder, even if I can't identify the bird right off the bat.

One afternoon, I noticed a different shape and color of a bird on top of the sunflower feeder gently pecking at the overhead suet cake. As the bird slowly turned, I could see it was almost completely white with sharp black bands along the wings. Within the span of only a few seconds, the bird flew from the feeder and landed in the nearby Juniper tree. I could see more detail as it thrust its head and the upper part of its body from the cover of the branches. The head of the bird was a solid white with black eyes and small black beak. It appeared to be slightly smaller than the local cardinals and just a little larger than a sparrow.

Just as quickly as the new bird showed up, it took wing and left the area. With no picture, all I had to go on were the details of the bird's description I could remember from the brief encounter. The hunt to identify the bird was on!

Finally, between my National Geographic Field Book of North American birds and input from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's website, [www.allaboutbirds.org](http://www.allaboutbirds.org), I was able to find the description: Wings nearly completely white at base, with black tips, and small black spot on leading edge and bill black.



Snow bunting photo courtesy of Jack Spaulding and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

After an extensive search, I was able to identify my brief visitor from a stunning photo on the Cornell site. It seems the Spaulding backyard was graced with the presence of a far wandering little critter. Fresh in from the far north of the Arctic or the very far upper reaches of Alaska, was a beautiful male snow bunting.

The midsection of the State of Indiana marks the commonly found southern edge of the wintering area for the snow bunting. I feel privileged as it is the one, and currently, the only snow bunting I have seen in a lifetime.

Looks like this latest sighting might be the incentive I need to finally start compiling my "life list" of birds.

## Trap Your Dues

by Mike Schoonveld

I recently got my 2016 dues notice from HOW. Thirty bucks isn't going to make or break most of the members or potential members of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers, but I'm a guy who always stops to scoop up stray pennies I spot laying around gas pumps and parking lots. I figure I pick up close to \$1.80 each year, which will buy me an Egg McMuffin and a senior coffee.

The market for wild-caught pelts for the fur industry is way down this year. A big raccoon which would have been worth \$35 a few years ago when Russian crude oil was selling for \$100 a barrel will sell this year for maybe \$5 – providing you can find a fur buyer who is even open for business.



But trapping is more than just a way to make money, it's an outdoor sport every bit as important to me as fishing, shooting and hunting. It's a way to keep fur bearing animal populations under control and healthy. Whether I sell my pelts for \$10 or \$100 makes little difference to me at the end of the season.

There are other businesses using wild-caught animals, too, besides furriers. I've sold pelts to fly-tiers and crafters. The largest group and the one most likely to have a business in your area is taxidermists.

Some taxidermists only mount animals for hunters. You shoot a big buck or nail a coyote while on your deer stand then haul it down to Joe's Stuffing Store and pay him to bring it back to life - almost.



However, many taxidermists also mount animals and sell them to non-sportsmen. There's a market for wildlife displays in offices, dens, restaurants and other locations, just as there is a market for man-made sculptures, paintings and other artwork. Those animals have to come from somewhere. Contact your local taxidermist and see if he is interested in purchasing wild-harvested animals.

The price of furs is strictly based on supply and demand. Though the faltering economies in Russia and China this year have undercut demand and prices for wild pelts for fashion, Joe's Stuffing Store may still need a good number of animals to produce his boutique displays.

HOW Executive Director Tom Berg and I have been selling a variety of animals to a taxidermy studio located near Tom's home in Lake County for years. In the past, this taxidermist has paid up to \$15 per raccoon, regardless of size. He also buys a few opossums, foxes and coyotes as well as squirrels, mink, weasels, rabbits and chipmunks as long as they were legally obtained. Recent prices have been about half of the highs from several years ago, but it's still not bad.

Besides my normal raccoons, coyotes and other critters, I harvested one fox and one mink this year on my trapline. Both were surprises since I was not trapping specifically for either. Foxes are few and far between these days, forced out by habitat changes and coyotes. Mink are more numerous, but since I don't trap near water most of the time, finding one in a dry land raccoon trap is equally rare.



Mike Schoonveld poses with a fox he caught during this fall's trapping season. Mike Schoonveld photos.

Instead of pelting them out and selling them into the fur trade where I would be lucky to garner \$15 for both animals, I froze them whole and sent them home with Berg after he'd been deer hunting at my property. The taxidermist paid \$30 for both animals, just enough to cover my HOW dues for 2016. I'm not rich, but it beats picking up pennies.



# Indiana Darters: You Can Call Me Nerdlinger

by Brent Wheat

The beginning of the book *Moby Dick* starts with “Call me Ishmael.” It is a story about a man obsessed with chasing a whale.

My book starts: “Call me Nerdlinger.” It’s a story about a man obsessed with 2-inch fish.

I went Indiana darter fishing. There, I’ve publically admitted it.

If you weren’t aware, the darter is a tiny fish that lives in the bottom of streams; most typically in rocky riffles. If you waded in area creeks, you’ve probably seen them as darting little shadows that most people simply dismiss as “minnows.”



Darters are members of the perch tribe. They are long, low-slung fish that spend the majority of their time sitting on their pectoral fins, waiting for tiny insects and other tasty morsels to float by on the current. They move with quick, short bursts of speed while chasing food, hence their common name. In all, they are much like tiny underwater lizards.

There are about 30 species of darter in Indiana, at least according to experts. The problem is they are tiny fish that live in a variety of habitats, making it difficult to catch many of the species. In fact, a 2008 study found that several “endangered” species were actually widespread once the researchers learned better methods of finding the minuscule fish.



That’s the background. Now, the obvious question is “What is your problem??”

However, the reader might also ask, “Why are you obsessed with these fish?”

There are several reasons. First, I like unusual flora and fauna. I’ve chased wild orchids in Indiana, climbed high into the Smoky Mountains to catch brook trout and risked death by cottonmouth in a Florida swamp just to glimpse wild carnivorous pitcher plants. During that last adventure, I dragged along a couple of family members and they still haven’t forgiven me for enriching their biological knowledge.

Aside from the “hiding in plain sight” aspect of darters, there was an incident a couple of years ago in early spring. I was wading simply for the joy of getting into the water and briefly stumbled in an ankle-deep rapid. Suddenly, a small fish leapt out of the water in its panic to flee my crushing foot. It landed on a small rock, flopped for less than five seconds then dropped back into the water, never to be seen again.

Those five seconds shocked me. The amazing part was the color: the underside of the fish was vivid sky blue, accented by improbable orange and blue stripes along the tail and a multi-colored dorsal fin. It looked to be a tropical fish, suddenly dropped into an April Indiana creek.

(continued next page)

I was stunned and even questioned whether I had temporarily lost my mind or had some non-chemical daylight tropical flashback. The whole short incident intrigued me so much that I turned around and headed home to research what I had apparently, possibly, could have, might have seen.

It turned out that the whole thing was relatively unremarkable in the grand scheme of things. I had merely kicked up a rainbow darter in full breeding attire.



However, learning this didn't sate my curiosity but rather, ignited a spark. I began reading about darters, learning about their habits and how to collect them. I found that some

people considered them "the most gaudily-colored freshwater fish in America." I discovered that some people even keep them in aquariums. In spite of their miniscule size, I was hooked.

Fast forward to yesterday. After building a plexiglas specimen container for photography, I went back to the creek and specific riffle where I had seen similar fish just a few days before while smallmouth bass fishing.

Of course, there was an issue. It was late October, the water was cold and I brought waders. Oh wait; I didn't bring the BOOTS for the waders. As bare neoprene stocking-foot waders without boots have a shorter life-expectancy than a snow cone at the state fair, I had a major problem.

After driving 20 minutes to this spot and arranging all my gear only to realize I couldn't get in the water on this long-planned trip, what could I do?

The creek was low enough that I went ahead and dabbled around the riffles. My hiking boots, in all their

waterproof glory, kept the creek at bay. Unfortunately, I didn't catch any darters as they were farther out into the riffles. I would need to get out into the water. Sigh.



So, I went wading. And, I caught darters. It was glorious!

In fact, I was amazed at the relative abundance of the fish. With my very inefficient hand net, it wasn't difficult to capture over a dozen of the fish. After making their photographic debut, they were carefully placed back into the creek to continue their life, albeit with a really good story.

Indiana's many darter species are interesting and colorful, even though they are small. All photos in this article by Brent Wheat.

In the end, I was exceptionally cold and wet to the thighs, but the day otherwise went as

planned. I will repeat the expedition in April when the males spruce up their colors for Indiana's breeding season and make one think of the Caribbean instead of corn.



# HOW Member News

## HOW Members Enjoy The 2015 Deer Season

**Ken McBroom (Indianapolis, IN)**

The following is from HOW Vice President and diehard deer hunter Ken McBroom:

“The 2015 Indiana bow season was a great one despite the hot weather. The temperature got into the mid-seventies a few times during early November, and even 60-degree weather can really keep deer from moving during the day. There are a few advantages of warm weather, but it usually means shooting more bull around the campfire than arrows at the deer. When the temps are low during November I will not leave the woods, but when it’s in the seventies, I find it easy to go back to camp for a midday siesta.”

“This season I had a good Army buddy at camp for a week. Jim drove 22 hours from South Texas and brought along a friend named Silver. Jim and I fought in Desert Storm together and we also raced mountain bikes together as well, so after more than 25 years we enjoyed those siestas and campfires to catch up on old times. Jim and Silver promised some South Texas grub and they delivered. I made a big pot of Burgoo for their arrival, but after that Jim and Silver took over the cooking chores each and every night they were in camp. We had some green chili peppers that were bacon-wrapped and stuffed with buffalo burger. We had fajitas with fresh peppers, some of which I never heard of nor will I ever eat again; just a bit hot for me. We had the best bratwurst I have ever tasted and I will be finding out if they ship them. Jim also went dove hunting several times before the trip so we had bacon-wrapped dove breasts over the fire one night.”

“The hunting was slow but Jim managed to get a shot at his first whitetail from a tree-stand and I shot a doe one evening under a massive oak that was raining acorns. I did see a few other deer including a couple good bucks that I passed up. I was waiting for cooler weather and one of the few bigger bucks I knew lived on the public land I was hunting. I did get a chance at a 140-inch 8-pointer, but he winded me two steps before arrow release. I was at full draw for nearly a minute, but it just didn’t happen. He was a beautiful buck and one that I hope survived the gun season. I was able to arrow a nice 10-pointer on my birthday. I didn’t find the buck for two days, but finally located it on Veterans Day – how fitting. This was a buck that I saw the morning of my birthday back in 2013. He had a little more mass this season, but I thought he was a good buck even back then.”

“This past season was a great one. I reunited with an old buddy and made a new one and I introduced a couple South Texas boys to the hardwoods of Indiana. They are now hooked on bowhunting. They said they were already planning their return for the 2016 season on their long drive back home. This looks like it might be an annual hunt. The only problem is I usually lose a little weight during my few weeks of bowhunting, but not if Jim and Silver come every year. I guess there are worse things in life.”



Ken McBroom with the nice buck he harvested during this year's bowhunting season. Photo courtesy of Ken McBroom.

## 2015 Deer Season Continued

### Vikki Trout (Holland, IN)

The following is a report from HOW member Vikki Trout from southwestern Indiana:

“I know this is a little late, but things have been kind of hectic around here,” she said. “I have attached a photo and short write up about the buck I killed this year. Here it is.”

“I arrived at my ladder stand mid-morning. My plan was to stay there from morning until evening. The rut had not yet peaked, and I felt my best chance for tagging a buck would be before they started covering territory in an attempt to locate estrous does.”

“The plan was successful! It was 2:30 p.m. when this buck skirted the wheat field looking for the scent of a doe. I watched him as he cautiously entered the opening 100 yards from my location. Thankfully, he followed his nose and walked right along the edge of the wheat field, only 30 yards from me.”

“Then, reality sunk in once again. I would have loved to have had my beloved husband John there to help with the deer. However, his spirit was with me and I could sense him smiling.”



### Dean Shadley (Rushville, IN)

The following is a report from HOW member Dean Shadley from southeast of Indianapolis:

“I shot this guy (photo at left) at 7:10 a.m. on Saturday, November 14, and I’m brewing up some venison chili right now. Ben got a nice doe the following evening. I think a lot of deer were killed in Franklin County that weekend.”

### Bob Sawtelle (Corydon, IN)

The following is a report from HOW Board Chairman Bob Sawtelle from extreme southern Indiana (shown at right):

Bob sometimes likes to make up silly rhymes, and this is one of them:

The season was growing late,  
I thought I’d better not wait,  
So I shot this little eight!

### Mike Schoonveld (Morocco, IN)



The following is a report from HOW member Mike Schoonveld from northwest Indiana:

“My measure of success at the end of deer season is the meat in the freezer and venison on the table,” said Schoonveld. “The season here in Newton County was a great success!”



Pictured at left is a meal of venison muffins and fresh sweet corn courtesy of the 2015 Schoonveld harvest.

All photos courtesy of the HOW members submitting the reports.



## 2015 Deer Season Continued

### Tom Berg (Dyer, IN)

The following comes from HOW Executive Director Tom Berg from extreme northwest Indiana:

“My second season of deer hunting was a successful one, even though I did not harvest a buck,” he said. “Instead, I shot a nice doe during the middle of a late-November snow storm. It was unforgettable!”

“It was just starting to sleet and snow a little as I walked to the deer stand in the pre-dawn darkness. Luckily this stand has a roof overhead, so I was warm and dry as I waited for the first deer to appear.”

“The sleet quickly turned to all snow as the temperature dropped a few degrees, and it wasn’t long before the ground had a thin white coating covering it.”

“At about 7:00am, I suddenly noticed a large brown shape at the edge of the trees off to my right. Sure enough, it was a solitary doe standing out in the field about 75 yards away.”

“The memories from my hunt on the previous weekend quickly came to mind: a group of does had suddenly appeared within range, but I waited too long and they got spooked and ran before I could get a shot. I wanted to make sure the same thing didn’t happen to me again this morning!”



“I shouldered my shotgun and got ready for the shot. I decided to wait a little longer because the doe had slowly started walking across the field, bringing her a little closer and presenting me with a perfect broadside shot. When she was about 50 yards away, a distant gunshot several miles to the east and directly behind me stopped her in her tracks as she stopped to look and listen. She was looking right in my direction, so I was glad the gun was already raised and all I had to do was pull the trigger. Any movement might have spooked her.”

“I squeezed the trigger and felt good about the shot, but I was concerned because I didn’t see the deer jump or make much of a reaction. She turned and casually started trotting away from me across the field, and that’s when I noticed a group of four more deer that were 30 or 40 yards behind her, just out of my field of vision when I took the shot. Of course, as soon as they heard the shot they took off in the opposite direction, and I didn’t get a good enough look to see if any of them were bucks.”

“I turned my attention back to the doe that I had shot at, and watched as she made it to the edge of the field about 100 yards away. She still looked perfectly fine, so I was starting to doubt whether or not I had hit her. I picked out a large, oddly-shaped tree where she was about to enter the woods, so I would have a landmark to look for when I climbed out of the stand. I needed to be able to track her and look for a blood trail. But just as she stepped out of the field and towards that tree, it looked like she suddenly fell over and didn’t move again!”

“Unfortunately, the grass where I thought she fell was too high for me to see her laying there with my binoculars, so I wasn’t 100% sure if she had really fallen or if my eyes were playing tricks on me. The snow was falling heavily by now, with big fluffy flakes coming down and obscuring my vision. It wasn’t long before everything was covered with a thick layer of snow.”

“I waited for what seemed like an eternity before exiting the treestand to look for her. I excitedly made my way along the edge of the field and sure enough, she had fallen by the large tree and had not moved again. Now I know why people love deer hunting – and I haven’t even taken my first mature buck yet!”



## McCune and Bay Photography Outfitters Is Looking For Photo Assignments



HOW member Patrick 'Paddy' McCune is very interested in getting serious about photography again. "I would like very much to push my photography forward," he said recently. "I am available to take pictures, go on assignment, or help my fellow HOW members in any way that I can."



McCune lives in Fort Wayne and can cover just about anything in this area with his camera. He is also willing to travel and take assignments. "Pay is optional, but I would never turn it down," he said. "I am more interested in pursuing my craft and having an assignment. That would be the push I need to keep me moving. I would be willing to help a writer or even take over an assignment from someone that might not be able to cover a particular event."

Anyone who has a gig where they need some help should contact Patrick McCune at: Phone: 260-479-0507, email: [McCune.Patrick@gmail.com](mailto:McCune.Patrick@gmail.com). Photo at left by Pat McCune.

## Bob Sawtelle Searches For Largemouth Bass During His Annual "Winter's Escape"

"I left for Florida on January 8th for a two week exploratory adventure. I wanted to discover what Florida offers in the way of freshwater fishing. With truck, pickup camper and trailered flats boat I arrived at the Rainbow Spring River System. This is a clear freshwater river and a collection of vegetation-choked lakes near the Crystal River (Spring) north of Tampa."



"I am usually a saltwater angler, but at the invitation of old fishing buddies I joined them for the new experience of Florida's explosive largemouth bass fishing. This type of fishing was not for fly fishing, so I was handed a stiff 8-foot rod and a bait caster reel. Then I was given a quick lesson of flip casting with a tail-hooked, live 6-inch shad as bait."

"This is 10-pound largemouth bass country. I was amazed as I watched my boat partner catch and release five bass weighing 5-8 pounds within the first couple of hours of fishing. I was mostly a spectator, busy untangling backlashes from my bait caster reel. And people think fly casting is challenging!"

"I finally got the hang of flipping a live shad to the edge of the suspended mats of aquatic vegetation. If the bait landed softly, the shad would quickly seek cover under the mat. And then **WHAM**, these monsters of the shade would explode on the bait. My first hook up was almost frightening! Suddenly I was in a tug of war contest with a big bass and it seemed 100 acres of aquatic weeds. I was sure I had a 10+ pound fish. After landing the largemouth bass and clearing the fish of the extra 10 pounds of tangled weeds, my fish weighed less than anticipated. It still weighed a respectable six pounds, though." Nice fish, Bob!

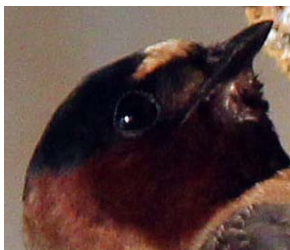


## Unusual Nature Photos From The Hoosier Outdoors Sponsored by Outdoor Sportsman Group

### The American Cliff Swallow Often Builds Its Nests Under Bridges



Close-up  
→  
Original  
←



The “What is it?” photo from the last issue was evidently too easy, because a total of ten (10) HOW members were able to correctly identify it. Mike Schoonveld, Jarrett Manek, Bob Sawtelle, Michael Ellis, Bill Keaton, Troy McCormick, Alan Garbers, Phil Seng, John Maxwell and Dave

Hoffman each had the right answer. When we drew a name at random for the **LiveTarget fishing lures**, Troy McCormick was the winner. Congrats, Troy! We’ll get you in touch with LiveTarget to order the lures.

As you can see in the photo at left, the mystery creature for this issue was an American cliff swallow (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*). Cliff swallows are members of the bird family that includes swallows and martins. These small, swift birds breed in North America during the summer and migrate to South America during the winter. They are the famous swallows that “return to

Capistrano” every spring at California’s Mission San Juan Capistrano.

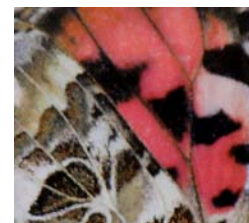
Cliff swallows nest in large colonies, using mud to build their nests. Both male and female swallows bring mud “pellets” back to the nest construction site, and a typical nest is usually made of about 1,000 mud pellets. Although they originally nested along cliffs (hence the name), they have quickly adapted to manmade structures like bridges and buildings. Cliff swallows eat huge numbers of insects every year, primarily flying bugs like flies, beetles, mayflies, wasps and others.

### **OUTDOOR SPORTSMAN GROUP**

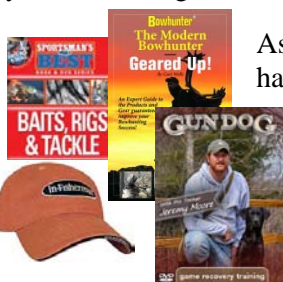
For this issue, our friends at **Outdoor Sportsman Group** (OSG) will be donating a great prize for the HOW member that guesses the right answer to this issue’s “What Is It?” question. This time the award will be a prize package of outdoors DVDs, books, hat and calendar from OSG’s premium brands. There are many popular titles to choose from, and we will give the winner their choice from a wide variety of products in the prize closet! See below for more info.

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

Here’s another Nature Photo mystery. The photo shown at right is a close-up of part of a creature that lives right here in Indiana, and you are quite likely to see it in your own back yard. It is found throughout the state, especially during the warm summer months. Have you ever seen it?



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 turtle, for example, go ahead and guess “snapping 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](mailto: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, **Outdoor Sportsman Group** will be donating a nice package of DVDs, books, hat and calendar 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 many popular titles from OSG’s brands, including Florida Sportsman, North American Whitetail, In-Fisherman and more. 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.



# The HOW Trading Post

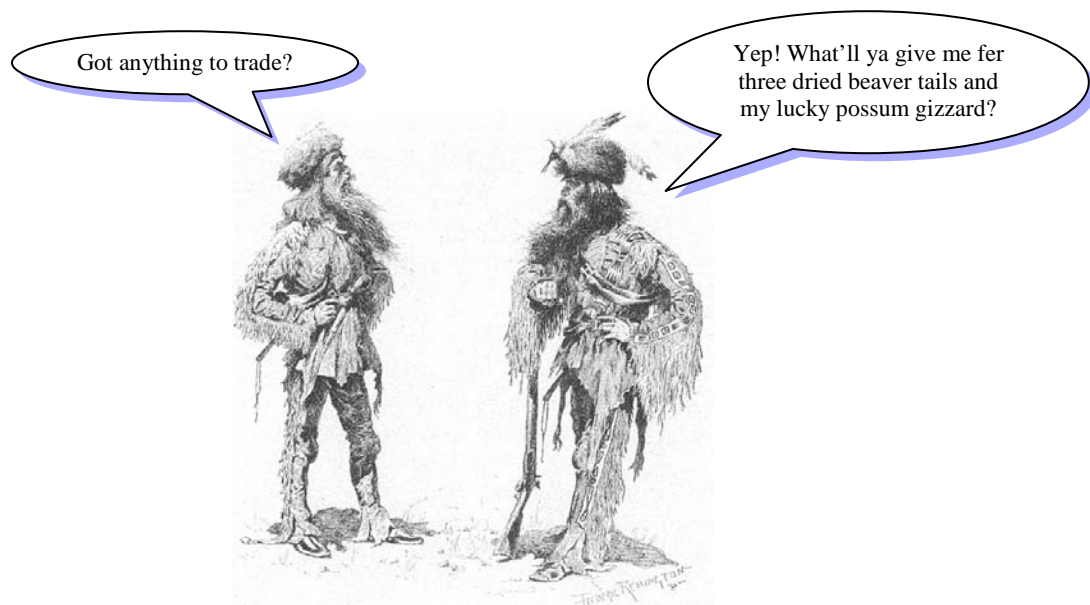
*This section of the newsletter is set aside for HOW members to list items (especially outdoor gear) that they would like to sell. Limit one listing (or group listing) per member, per issue. Please contact the seller for more info – not the newsletter editor!*

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**For Sale:      Portable Icefishing Shelter**

This is a lightweight 2-man shelter that weighs approximately 18 lbs.  
If the sun is shining it warms up like a greenhouse inside.  
One man can use it as a windbreak or two men can sit in it facing each other while seated on 3 gallon buckets.

**Offered by:**      Gene Clifford ([huntfishbowlfly@frontier.com](mailto:huntfishbowlfly@frontier.com))





## HOW Supporting Member News

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



### **Black River Tools Makes Superior *Father Nature* Bird Feeders**

**Manning, SC:** Black River Tools is a family-owned business located near the shores of Santee Cooper Lakes in South Carolina. It was founded by Calvin Baynard in 1981. The company manufactures a variety of products, including **Father Nature** bird feeders, Driftmaster fishing rod holders, Weed Ox garden tools, and Cart Lok golf cart locks. All products are made right here in the USA.

“Just like many of you,” said company founder Calvin Baynard, “we spent much time and money searching for a bird feeder that would last more than just one or two seasons. It seemed hopeless, as wood and plastic appeared to be the only material available on the market. We started making our own feeders in the late 1980’s out of metal. A metal feeder solves the problem of longevity, but there were other problems. Seed waste, moisture, and squirrels still presented problems for the bird feeding enthusiast. Father Nature feeders solve these problems.”

“The basic design of our feeders goes back to the 1920’s,” Baynard continued. “Similar feeders were used to feed quail on plantations throughout the Southeast. As an employee of one of those plantations in 1970, I saw first-hand the toughness of these feeders. They were mounted on short steel poles close to the ground so that the quail could reach them. That made them susceptible to the elements and many kinds of critters including deer, raccoon, opossum, wild hogs, cows, horses, crows and grackles. Poorly designed feeders could cost plantations thousands of dollars in wasted and spoiled seed.”

“I spent years thinking about those feeders,” he said. “I envisioned ways to reduce seed waste and incorporate durability into a wild bird feeder for home use. Years were spent testing and changing designs in an effort to continually improve the look and function of our feeders. That process is still very much ongoing. We continue to test and tweak our designs in an effort to provide a reliable bird feeder that exceeds your expectations.”

Father Nature bird feeders look great and are long-lasting, and they are almost squirrel-proof, too. The tube-shaped squirrel baffle keeps squirrels from climbing the feeder pole, and as long as there are no trees or nearby objects that squirrels can use to jump to the feeder, they are kept at bay. The bird feeder can also be fitted with a seed saver tray that mounts just below the feeder itself, which catches stray seeds inadvertently dropped by feeding birds. The tray is also used as a landing platform and feeding platform for additional species of birds.

Depending on where you live, the time of year, and what types of seeds you fill the feeder with, you can expect to see plenty of cardinals, blue jays, house finches, goldfinches, nuthatches, chickadees, sparrows, grosbeaks and other colorful birds. For more info on Father Nature bird feeders, visit [www.fathernature.org](http://www.fathernature.org) or contact David Baynard at 803-473-4927 or via email at [info@blackrivertools.com](mailto:info@blackrivertools.com).



## HOW Supporting Member News



### BoatUS Celebrates 50th Anniversary

**Alexandria, VA:** February 3, 2016. In 1966, boaters could buy a new mid-sized cruiser for about \$7,000, outboard engines had just surpassed 100 horsepower, and recreational boating was growing on a large scale across America. It was also in '66 that the nation's largest recreational boating group, Boat Owners Association of The United States (BoatUS), got its start thanks to Founder Richard Schwartz who saw a need to make recreational boaters' lives better.

His vision of offering representation, improving safety, providing quality services at competitive prices and saving boaters money was all rolled up into the "service, savings and representation" motto that remains at the core of the more than half-million member organization today.

"BoatUS has always been there for boaters and always will be," said BoatUS President Margaret Podlich. "Whether it's helping boaters have a safe day on the water, ensuring that boating taxes go to boating programs, offering competitive boat insurance coverage, or having the largest on-water towing fleet in the nation, BoatUS is proudly the single source of exceptional service and savings. We're steadfast in our commitment to protect boaters and their rights, making boating safer, more affordable and accessible."

BoatUS will be celebrating its golden anniversary in 2016 with a series of special member events and coverage in its flagship publication, BoatUS Magazine, and other programs. A look back at five decades of BoatUS' significant impacts and innovation include:

- The BoatUS Marine Insurance program starts in 1967 offering the first recreational boat policy in clear, understandable language rather than the unintelligible, centuries-old language from Lloyd's of London.
- BoatUS creates the only Consumer Protection Bureau (1970) for boaters to seek redress with manufacturers, suppliers or businesses as well as a Dispute Mediation Program. BoatUS Reports, the association's early member newsletter, eventually grows to become BoatUS Magazine, the largest boating magazine in the country with over half a million circulation.
- After two years of BoatUS lobbying efforts, in 1980 President Carter signs the Recreational Boating Safety and Facilities Improvement Act, authorizing \$60 million in boating fuel taxes to be spent on boating safety programs and boating facilities improvements over the next three years.
- In 1994 TowBoatUS creates a 24-hour toll-free dispatch hotline to respond to members' needs. The dispatch system pioneers the use of computer mapping to find the closest towboat while connecting the boater directly with the towing captain through teleconferencing.
- In 2011, BoatUS hand delivers over 15,000 comments from concerned boaters, sailors and anglers to the Federal Communications Commission demanding that the agency not go forward in its plans to allow a private company to put the reliability of the Global Positioning System (GPS) system at risk. The plans fail to win government support.
- In 2015, BoatUS offers the first insurance policy for boats rented through peer-to-peer rental programs. Fighting for anchoring rights in Florida, amending the nation's renewable fuels corn ethanol mandate, and reauthorization of the US Coast Guard budget top the list of legislative priorities. Forty-nine years after its founding, BoatUS begins a new era of growth and service to America's boaters.

The info above represents a small fraction of what BoatUS has done for boaters over the past 50 years. For more info, please visit [www.BoatUS.com](http://www.BoatUS.com). HOW members may also contact Scott Croft at BoatUS with any questions. He may be reached by phone: 703-461-2864, or by email: [SCroft@BoatUS.com](mailto:SCroft@BoatUS.com).

# HOW's Supporting Member Websites

Alabama Mountain Lakes Tourist Assoc - [www.northalabama.org](http://www.northalabama.org)  
Alpen Optics - [www.alpenoutdoor.com](http://www.alpenoutdoor.com)  
Aquateko International - [www.aquateko.com](http://www.aquateko.com)  
Arctic Ice - [www.arctic-ice.net](http://www.arctic-ice.net)  
B'n'M Pole Company - [www.bnmpoles.com](http://www.bnmpoles.com)  
Barnes Bullets - [www.barnesbullets.com](http://www.barnesbullets.com)  
Bass Assassin Lures - [www.bassassassin.com](http://www.bassassassin.com)  
Bass Pro Shops - [www.basspro.com](http://www.basspro.com)  
Battenfeld Technologies - [www.battenfeldtechnologies.com](http://www.battenfeldtechnologies.com)  
Bear & Son Cutlery - [www.bearandson.com](http://www.bearandson.com)  
Big Game International - [www.biggameintl.com](http://www.biggameintl.com)  
Birchwood Casey - [www.birchwoodcasey.com](http://www.birchwoodcasey.com)  
Black River Tools - [www.blackrivertools.com](http://www.blackrivertools.com)  
Blackpowder Products, Inc. - [www.cva.com](http://www.cva.com)  
BoatUS - [www.boatus.com](http://www.boatus.com)  
Bubba Blade Knives - [www.bubbablade.com](http://www.bubbablade.com)  
Buck Knives - [www.buckknives.com](http://www.buckknives.com)  
Burford Books - [www.burfordbooks.com](http://www.burfordbooks.com)  
Bushnell - [www.bushnell.com](http://www.bushnell.com)  
Cabela's - [www.cabelas.com](http://www.cabelas.com)  
Camp Chef - [www.campchef.com](http://www.campchef.com)  
Carbon Express - [www.carbonexpressarrows.com](http://www.carbonexpressarrows.com)  
Chautauqua County Visitors Bureau - [www.tourchautauqua.com](http://www.tourchautauqua.com)  
Church Tackle Company - [www.churchtackle.com](http://www.churchtackle.com)  
Clam Outdoors - [www.clamoutdoors.com](http://www.clamoutdoors.com)  
Cocoons Eyewear - [www.cocoonseyewear.com](http://www.cocoonseyewear.com)  
Costa Sunglasses - [www.costadelmar.com](http://www.costadelmar.com)  
Cotton Carrier - [www.cottoncarrier.com](http://www.cottoncarrier.com)  
Crosman Corporation - [www.crosman.com](http://www.crosman.com)  
Danner Boots - [www.danner.com](http://www.danner.com)  
Deer Dummy - [www.deerdummy.com](http://www.deerdummy.com)  
Ducks Unlimited - [www.ducks.org](http://www.ducks.org)  
Eagle Claw - [www.eagleclaw.com](http://www.eagleclaw.com)  
Environ-Metal, Inc. - [www.hevishot.com](http://www.hevishot.com)  
Eppinger Manufacturing - [www.eppinger.net](http://www.eppinger.net)  
E/T Lights - [www.triagelights.com](http://www.triagelights.com)  
Field & Stream Outdoor Life Deer & Turkey Expos - [www.deerinfo.com](http://www.deerinfo.com)  
Flying Fisherman - [www.flyingfisherman.com](http://www.flyingfisherman.com)  
FOXPRO - [www.gofoxpro.com](http://www.gofoxpro.com)  
Frabill - [www.frabill.com](http://www.frabill.com)  
Frogg Toggs - [www.froggtoggs.com](http://www.froggtoggs.com)  
G.Loomis - [www.gloomis.com](http://www.gloomis.com)  
Gamo USA - [www.gamoussa.com](http://www.gamoussa.com)  
Gerber Legendary Blades - [www.gerbergear.com](http://www.gerbergear.com)  
Gun Protect - [www.mygunprotect.com](http://www.mygunprotect.com)  
Hard & Soft Fishing - [www.unclejosh.com](http://www.unclejosh.com)  
Hart Productions - [www.hartproductions.com](http://www.hartproductions.com)  
Hawke Sport Optics - [www.hawkeoptics.com](http://www.hawkeoptics.com)  
Henry Repeating Arms Co. - [www.henryrepeating.com](http://www.henryrepeating.com)  
HHA Sports - [www.HHAsports.com](http://www.HHAsports.com)  
Hickory Glen Creations - [www.g-p-a-s.com](http://www.g-p-a-s.com)  
Hodgdon Powder Co. - [www.hodgdon.com](http://www.hodgdon.com)  
Hooker Deer Drag Co. - [www.hookerdeerdrag.com](http://www.hookerdeerdrag.com)  
Hoosier Trapper Supply - [www.hoosiertrappersupply.com](http://www.hoosiertrappersupply.com)  
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt - [www.hmhc.com](http://www.hmhc.com)  
Howard Communications - [www.howardcommunications.com](http://www.howardcommunications.com)  
HT Enterprises - [www.icefish.com](http://www.icefish.com)  
Hunter's Specialties - [www.hunterspec.com](http://www.hunterspec.com)  
Indiana Department of Natural Resources - [www.dnr.IN.gov](http://www.dnr.IN.gov)  
Indiana Office of Tourism Development - [www.VisitIndiana.com](http://www.VisitIndiana.com)  
Indiana Outdoor News - [www.IndianaOutdoorNews.net](http://www.IndianaOutdoorNews.net)  
InterMedia Outdoors - [www.IMoutdoors.com](http://www.IMoutdoors.com)  
Irish Setter Boots - [www.irishsetterboots.com](http://www.irishsetterboots.com)  
JB Lures - [www.jblures.com](http://www.jblures.com)  
Kruger Optical - [www.krugeroptical.com](http://www.krugeroptical.com)  
LaCrosse Footwear - [www.lacrossefootwear.com](http://www.lacrossefootwear.com)  
LensPen - [www.lenspen.com](http://www.lenspen.com)  
Leupold - [www.leupold.com](http://www.leupold.com)  
LiveTarget Lures - [www.livetargetlures.com](http://www.livetargetlures.com)  
Lodge Manufacturing - [www.lodgemfg.com](http://www.lodgemfg.com)  
Lurecraft Industries - [www.lurecraft.com](http://www.lurecraft.com)  
Mack's Lure - [www.macks lure.com](http://www.macks lure.com)  
Mathews - [www.mathewsinc.com](http://www.mathewsinc.com)  
Mercury Marine - [www.mercurymarine.com](http://www.mercurymarine.com)  
Mossy Oak - [www.mossyoak.com](http://www.mossyoak.com)  
National Muzzle Loading Rifle Assn - [www.nmlra.org](http://www.nmlra.org)  
National Shooting Sports Foundation - [www.nssf.org](http://www.nssf.org)  
National Wild Turkey Federation - [www.nwtf.org](http://www.nwtf.org)  
Nosler, Inc. - [www.nosler.com](http://www.nosler.com)  
O.F. Mossberg & Sons, Inc. - [www.mossberg.com](http://www.mossberg.com)  
Off Shore Tackle Co. - [www.offshoretackle.com](http://www.offshoretackle.com)  
Okuma Fishing Tackle - [www.okumafishing.com](http://www.okumafishing.com)  
Otis Technology - [www.otistec.com](http://www.otistec.com)  
Outdoor Promotions - [www.crappieusa.com](http://www.crappieusa.com)  
Pheasants Forever - [www.pheasantsforever.org](http://www.pheasantsforever.org)  
Plano Molding Company - [www.planomolding.com](http://www.planomolding.com)  
Princeton University Press - [www.press.princeton.edu](http://www.press.princeton.edu)  
Pro-Cure, Inc. - [www.pro-cure.com](http://www.pro-cure.com)  
Pure Fishing - [www.purefishing.com](http://www.purefishing.com)  
Quaker Boy, Inc. - [www.quakerboygamecalls.com](http://www.quakerboygamecalls.com)  
Reef Runner Lures - [www.reefrunner.com](http://www.reefrunner.com)  
Remington Outdoor Company - [www.remington.com](http://www.remington.com)  
Renfro Productions - [www.renfroproductions.com](http://www.renfroproductions.com)  
RIO Products - [www.rioproducts.com](http://www.rioproducts.com)  
Savage Arms - [www.savagearms.com](http://www.savagearms.com)  
Shimano American Corp. - [www.shimano.com](http://www.shimano.com)  
Shurhold Industries - [www.shurhold.com](http://www.shurhold.com)  
Snag Proof Manufacturing - [www.snagproof.com](http://www.snagproof.com)  
South Shore CVA - [www.southshorecva.com](http://www.southshorecva.com)  
SportDOG - [www.sportdog.com](http://www.sportdog.com)  
St. Croix Rods - [www.stcroixrods.com](http://www.stcroixrods.com)  
Streamlight - [www.streamlight.com](http://www.streamlight.com)  
Sturm, Ruger & Co. - [www.ruger.com](http://www.ruger.com)  
Super Brush LLC - [www.bore-tips.com](http://www.bore-tips.com)  
Tales End Tackle - [www.talesendtackle.com](http://www.talesendtackle.com)  
Tenzing - [www.tenzingoutdoors.com](http://www.tenzingoutdoors.com)  
ThermaCELL - [www.thermacell.com](http://www.thermacell.com)  
Tink's - [www.tinks.com](http://www.tinks.com)  
Toyota Motor Sales - [www.toyotanewsroom.com](http://www.toyotanewsroom.com)  
Trophy Anglers' Tackle - [www.trophyanglerstackle.com](http://www.trophyanglerstackle.com)  
TTI-Blakemore Fishing - [www.ttiblakemore.com](http://www.ttiblakemore.com)  
Umarex USA - [www.umarexUSA.com](http://www.umarexUSA.com)  
Vexilar, Inc. - [www.vexilar.com](http://www.vexilar.com)  
Visit Indy - [www.VisitIndy.com](http://www.VisitIndy.com)  
W.R. Case & Sons Cutlery - [www.wrcase.com](http://www.wrcase.com)  
WaveSpin Reels - [www.wavespinreel.com](http://www.wavespinreel.com)  
Weatherby - [www.weatherby.com](http://www.weatherby.com)  
White Flyer Targets - [www.whiteflyer.com](http://www.whiteflyer.com)  
Winchester Ammunition - [www.winchester.com](http://www.winchester.com)  
Wrangler Rugged Wear - [www.wrangleruggedwear.com](http://www.wrangleruggedwear.com)  
Xtreme Hardcore Gear - [www.extremehardcoregear.com](http://www.extremehardcoregear.com)  
Yakima Bait Co. - [www.yakimabait.com](http://www.yakimabait.com)  
Yamaha Marine Group - [www.yamahaoutboards.com](http://www.yamahaoutboards.com)  
Z-Man Fishing Products - [www.zmanfishing.com](http://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:

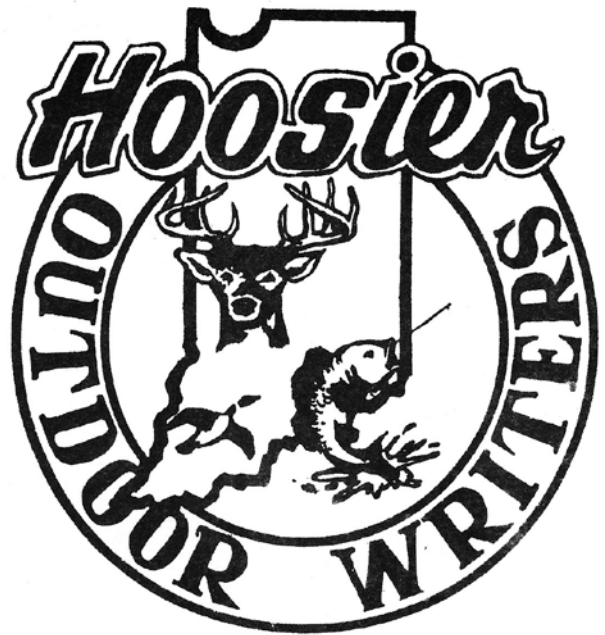
1. To give the profession of outdoor writing/reporting greater recognition and understanding, even higher standards and enlarged scope.
2. To encourage and enforce high standards of professional ethics.
3. To strive always for the truth, accuracy, clarity and completeness in the dissemination of outdoor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

**Indianapolis Boat, Sport & Travel Show:** February 19-28, 2016  
([www.renfroproductions.com](http://www.renfroproductions.com))  
Indianapolis, IN

**HOW 2016 Annual Conference:** April 22-24, 2016  
([www.HoosierOutdoorWriters.org](http://www.HoosierOutdoorWriters.org))  
Abe Martin Lodge, Brown County State Park  
Nashville, IN

**AGLOW 2016 Cast & Blast:** May 16-19, 2016  
([www.aglowinfo.org](http://www.aglowinfo.org))  
Mercer, WI

**POMA 2016 Annual Conference:** June 15-18, 2016  
([www.professionalooutdoormedia.org](http://www.professionalooutdoormedia.org))  
Kalispell, MT

**ICAST Show 2016:** July 12-15, 2016  
([www.ICASTfishing.org](http://www.ICASTfishing.org))  
Orlando, FL

**OWAA 2016 Annual Conference:** July 16-18, 2016  
([www.owaa.org](http://www.owaa.org))  
Billings, MT

**AGLOW 2016 Annual Conference:** September 12-15, 2016  
([www.aglowinfo.org](http://www.aglowinfo.org))  
Chautauqua, NY

HOW members may submit upcoming events, along with dates, locations and other details to the newsletter editor at: [director@hoosieroutdoorwriters.org](mailto:director@hoosieroutdoorwriters.org) for possible inclusion in future issues of The Blade.