

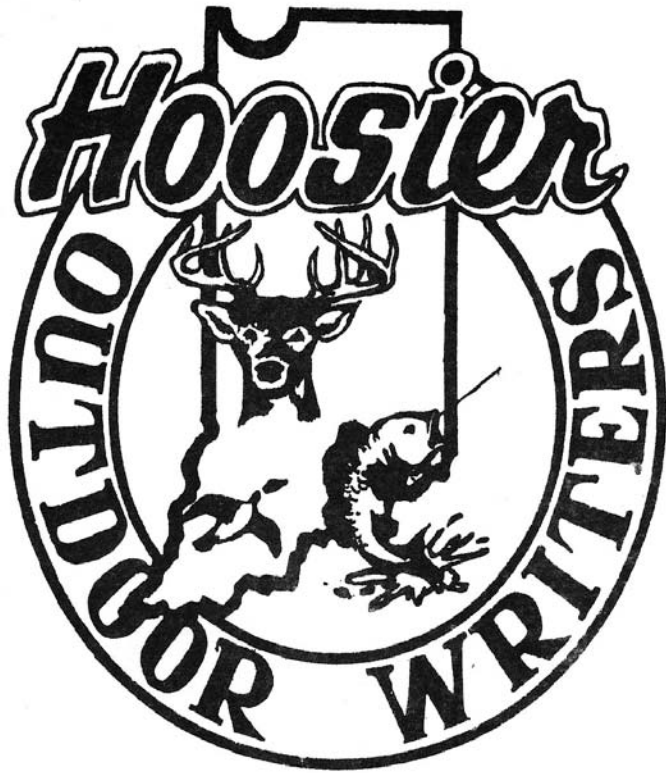
The Blade

2016 Pre-Conference Issue

March - April 2016

The Official Publication of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers

"Springtime on Sugar Creek", photo by Tom Berg



Hoosier Outdoor Writers

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

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On the cover: A beautiful spring day at Sugar Creek in Parke County. Hiking along the shore as the quiet waters flow along peacefully and silently is good for the soul. Photo by Tom Berg.



President's Message

by Alan Garbers

Pursue Your Passion

I did it again. In fact, I doubled down this time. Every year an editor asks me to do a particular article for him. Every year I say yes. This year he asked me to write the same article for another state as well as Indiana, so now I have double the stress.

Why do I do it? The pay for the article is better than most, but that isn't it. I do it because I want to share my excitement and my passion for the topic. I want the reader to be successful, to fulfil a dream, to check something off a bucket-list; to find their passion.

How do we, the media, do that? If it is fresh and exciting to us, that isn't a problem. But, sometimes it's hard. The topic might be old and worn out to us, but we remember that every second there is someone new discovering their passion for a topic that you're an expert on, and they need your help.

Many years ago I was a Boy Scout leader on a campout. A young Boy Scout was just learning to fish, but he wanted to move past the panfish and worm routine. He wanted to start using lures for bigger fish. I remembered how it was for me as a Boy Scout, with no one to mentor me. Oh, I had a Daredevil in my small, metal tackle box, but it just didn't do anything dangled beneath a bobber. Try as I may, I never did get my fishing merit badge. In a flash, I wanted this boy to succeed so that his passion would grow.

Luckily, the day before I had been walking along the beach of the camp lake and had seen a largemouth bass patrolling the breakline between the sandy beach area and deeper water. It was just the size of fish I would have wanted to catch when I was his age.

I helped the boy select a plastic worm, helped him rig it on his line, explained to him how to cast it out past the sand into deeper water and then slowly drag it back while watching the line for movement. I told him where I had seen the bass, and then went back to my cooking and cleaning duties. An hour or so later, the boy came back to camp, a smile stretching from ear to ear. "I did it, Mr. Garbers", the Scout bubbled. "You told me where it was and I caught it!" I started to tear up because I was so happy for him. We had helped each other find our passion.

That's why I write. I want the reader to fill their freezer, tag their trophy buck, fight a muskie, bag their turkey, get their bear-skin rug, and be successful so that they will pass on their passion. I figure if I help just one person fulfill their dream, the frustration of meeting deadlines and low pay is worth it.

Yes, money is nice, but passion is better, especially when it's passed on.

The Hoosier Outdoor Writers

New Members, Past Presidents & Memorial Section

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

Glenn Helgeland (Associate)
Mequon, WI
Sponsor: Tom Berg

Memorial to Deceased HOW Members Those Who Have Gone Before Us:

Jack Alkire – HOW President 1979
Bill Beeman – Executive Director
 Don Bickel
 Ed Blann
 Charlie Brown
 Gary Carden
Jim “Moose” Carden – HOW President 1982/83
 George Carey
 John Case
Bill Church – HOW President 1972
 Jack “Big Jake” Cooper
 Mark Cottingham
 Jerry Criss
 Gary “Dox” Doxtater
 Dick Forbes
Tom Glancy – HOW President 1977
 Dale Griffith
 Fred Heckman
 Jack Kerins
Mike Lyle – HOW President 1981
Ralph “Cork” McHargue – HOW President 1976
 Dick Mercier
 Bob Nesbit
 Hellen Ochs
 Jack Parry
 Harry Renfro
“Bayou” Bill Scifres – HOW President – 6 Terms
 George Seketa
 Hal Shymkus
 Al Spiers
 Robert “Doc” Stunkard
 Butch Tackett
 John Trout, Jr.
 Joe West

Past Presidents of HOW

“Bayou” Bill Scifres	1969
“Bayou” Bill Scifres	1970
“Bayou” Bill Scifres	1971
Bill Church	1972
Rick Bramwell	1973
Jack Ennis	1974
Phil Junker	1975
Ralph McHargue	1976
Tom Glancy	1977
Bob Rubin	1978
Jack Alkire	1979
Louie Stout	1980
Mike Lyle	1981
Jim “Moose” Carden	1982
Jim “Moose” Carden	1983
John Davis	1984
John Davis	1985
Ray Harper	1986
Ray Harper	1987
Ray Dickerson	1988
“Bayou” Bill Scifres	1989
“Bayou” Bill Scifres	1990
“Bayou” Bill Scifres	1991
Jack Spaulding	1992
Jack Spaulding	1993
John Rawlings	1994
Phil Bloom	1995
Marty Jaranowski	1996
John Martino	1997
Mike Schoonveld	1998
Jack Spaulding	1999
Jack Spaulding	2000
Sharon Wiggins	2001
Phil Junker	2002
Larry Crecelius	2003
Bryan Poynter	2004
Phil Bloom	2005
Brian Smith	2006
Brian Smith	2007
Brent Wheat	2008
Bryan Poynter	2009
John Maxwell	2010
Brandon Butler	2011
Josh Lantz	2012
Ben Shadley	2013
Bob Sawtelle	2014
Alan Garbers	2015

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? _____

Conference Registration Fees:

HOW Members (and spouses): \$40.00 each (\$40 X number attending) = _____

Non-HOW Members: \$45.00 each (\$45 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 Annual HOW Fun Shoot



The 2016 HOW Conference will begin (as usual) with the HOW Fun Shoot. It has become a tradition



for the shooters in our membership to get together and break a few clay targets, have some fun and renew old friendships on the Friday before the Annual Meeting. Some of our participants are experienced shooters while others are new to the sport and are still learning. All skill levels are welcome, and the “senior” members are always willing to help newcomers.

Since the 2016 HOW Conference will be held at Brown County State Park near Nashville, the nearest shooting facility that we could find was at the Atterbury Shooting Complex near Edinburgh. If you’ve never been to this state-of-the-art shooting range, now is the time to check it out. It’s worth the trip.

This location should be convenient for the majority of the shooters, since most will be traveling on I-65 for the conference anyway. The shooting range is conveniently located along the way, approximately 8 miles west of I-65 or about 2 miles west of the intersection of U.S. 31 and S.R. 252. Look for the orange & white water tower located just before the Camp Atterbury 1942 boulder, take Edinburgh Street (fork right) for about 1/10th of a mile and the range is on your right.

We will meet on Friday, April 22 at 12:00pm (eastern time) and start shooting at 12:30pm. This year we will be shooting skeet, and the cost will be \$7.00 per 25-target round. We will probably shoot two or three rounds. HOW Supporting Members **Winchester** and **Browning** will be providing the ammunition to participating HOW members free of charge, so come on out and join the fun!

Once we are done shooting, we will head for Brown County State Park and get ready for an enjoyable time at our “Friday Evening Barbecue”. It will be pretty informal – just some hamburgers and brats along with good friends and good times. It will be held at the Upper Shelter House near the north end of the state park (see next page).



Here are some photos from last year’s Fun Shoot near Pokagon SP. A good time was had by all! Photos by Tom Berg.



2016 HOW Conference Preview



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!

HOW Conference Attendees Can Explore 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, so make sure you attend this year!

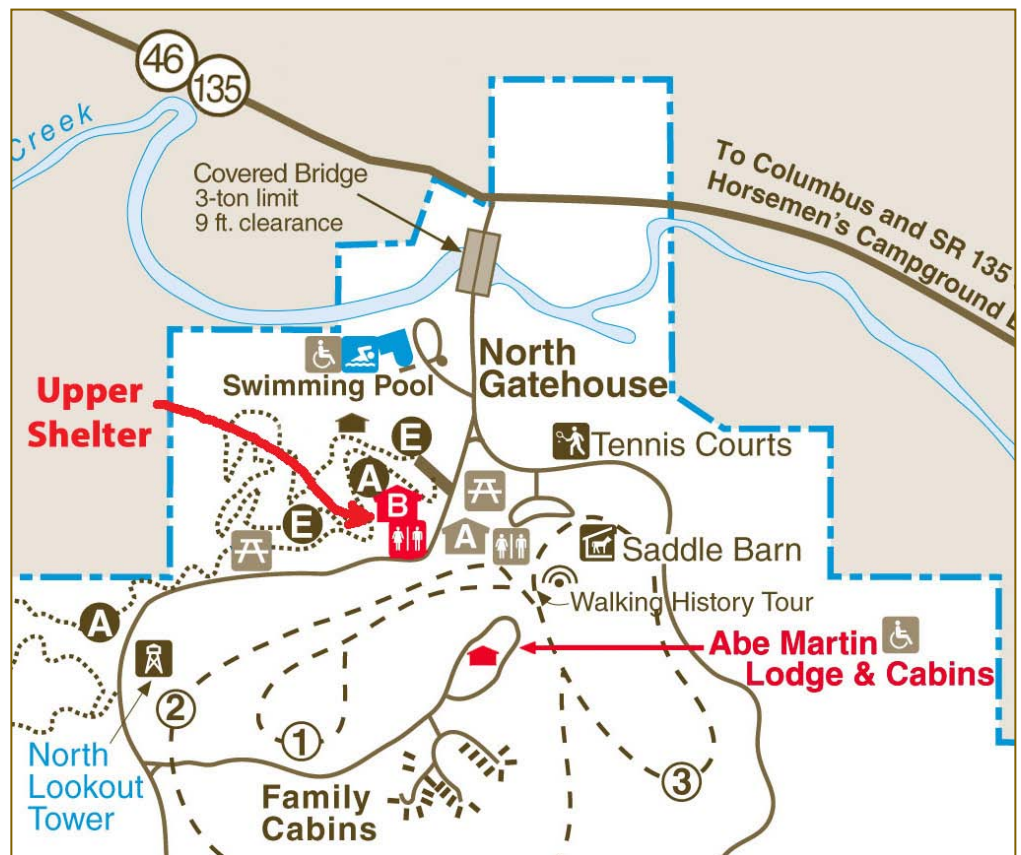
The weekend activities will begin with the annual HOW Fun Shoot on Friday, April 22. All HOW members who enjoy the shooting sports should consider joining us this year! If you have never shot a clay target, this would be a great opportunity for you to learn. Our shooters are always willing to help newcomers 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! More info on the Fun Shoot is included on the previous page.

All conference attendees who arrive at Brown County State Park on Friday evening are invited to attend an informal cookout that we are

planning. We will meet at the Upper Shelter located near the North Gatehouse at 6:00pm (see map below). There will be plenty of hamburgers and brats to eat, and plenty to drink, too. 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 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 5 for a copy of this year's conference registration form.

Aubrey Sitzman from the Brown County Convention & Visitors Bureau will welcome all of the HOW members present on Saturday morning, and she will talk about the great outdoor opportunities that are available throughout Brown County.



We will have some very interesting speakers at the conference this year, 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.



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 publications on forestry. Seifert is a Fellow in the Society of American Foresters.



- **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, we will convene our annual business meeting to discuss some of the details of the association. Before our traditional buffet lunch, a slate of new officers will be presented and elected.

Awards-In-Craft

The annual conference has traditionally been a time to renew old friendships and make new ones, but it is also a time to honor the achievements of our members with the annual Awards-In-Craft contests. This year we will award prizes for outstanding writing, photography and broadcast media. A special thank-you goes out to **Toyota Motor Sales, USA** for sponsoring this year's contests again.

The Annual How Raffle



The annual raffle is the highlight of the meeting for some of our members, and they won't be disappointed this year. For those who can't wait for the big day to hear what we will be raffling off, here is a partial list that should convince you to bring along lots of extra cash:

Shooting and hunting fans will be excited to learn that we have multiple firearms for this year's raffle: a stunning Henry American Beauty lever-action .22 caliber rifle, a Remington RM380 pistol and a Mossberg 835 Ulti-Mag Turkey/Deer Combo 12-Gauge shotgun (with second barrel). We also have a great Mission Archery compound bow, a Leupold laser rangefinder, a great camp stove, a digital camera-spotting scope, fishing rods, reels, trolling equipment, fishing lures and other fishing gear, rainwear, hats, shirts, knives, books, instructional DVDs, optics, duck calls, electronic dog training gear, boots, insect repellents, hunting gear and accessories, shooting supplies, ammunition, premium sunglasses and much more. Additional items are coming in every day, too, so start saving your money for tickets. You must be present to win, so don't miss it!

**Another Amazing
HOW Raffle!**

Explore Brown County SP

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, bird watching, nature photography or simply spend quality time outdoors. The park's Nature Center may also be of interest to family members.

(continued next page)

On Saturday during the meeting, some spouses may want to participate in the 31st annual “Spring Wildflower Foray” which will be taking place all weekend. HOW members may want to join their spouses on a wildflower hike after the meeting or during the day on Sunday. Finding and identifying the many different native wildflowers can be great fun, and this will be the perfect opportunity to get some excellent wildflower photos. There is an amazing variety of wildflowers present in Brown County State Park. For additional details, see page 15.

HOW Outings on Sunday

Although some HOW members will undoubtedly be looking for wildflowers (and probably mushrooms) on Sunday, others will be thinking about different outdoor pursuits.

Fishing Outing:

The HOW Fishing Outing is all set for Sunday, April 24. Evidently this warm weather has really gotten the crappies excited, because we have received word that the fish are biting like crazy! Let's just hope the bite stays good until we get there and that we get to enjoy some of it.

We are planning to meet the boat captains at Lake Monroe at the Cutright Ramp on Sunday morning (8:00am). HOW fishermen will not need to bring any fishing rods or any tackle - they will just need their fishing license. If you would like a drink or a sandwich while fishing, you should bring that along also. Of course, dress for the weather and bring sunscreen, a hat, etc.

The volunteer boat captains from the local crappie club (Indiana Slab Masters) really deserve our thanks. Most of them will be busy competing in a tournament on Patoka Lake on Saturday (the day before our outing), but they have agreed to make the trek to Monroe to Patoka just to take us fishing. So let's make sure we treat them right!

Forestry Outing:

The Forestry Outing is also all set for Sunday, April 24. Some of you will be fishing on Sunday and some of you will have to go home. The lucky remaining people will have an opportunity to go on a fun and interesting Forestry Outing!



Crappie tournament angler Bob Raymer (shown above) will be one of our fishing guides on Sunday. Tom Berg photo.

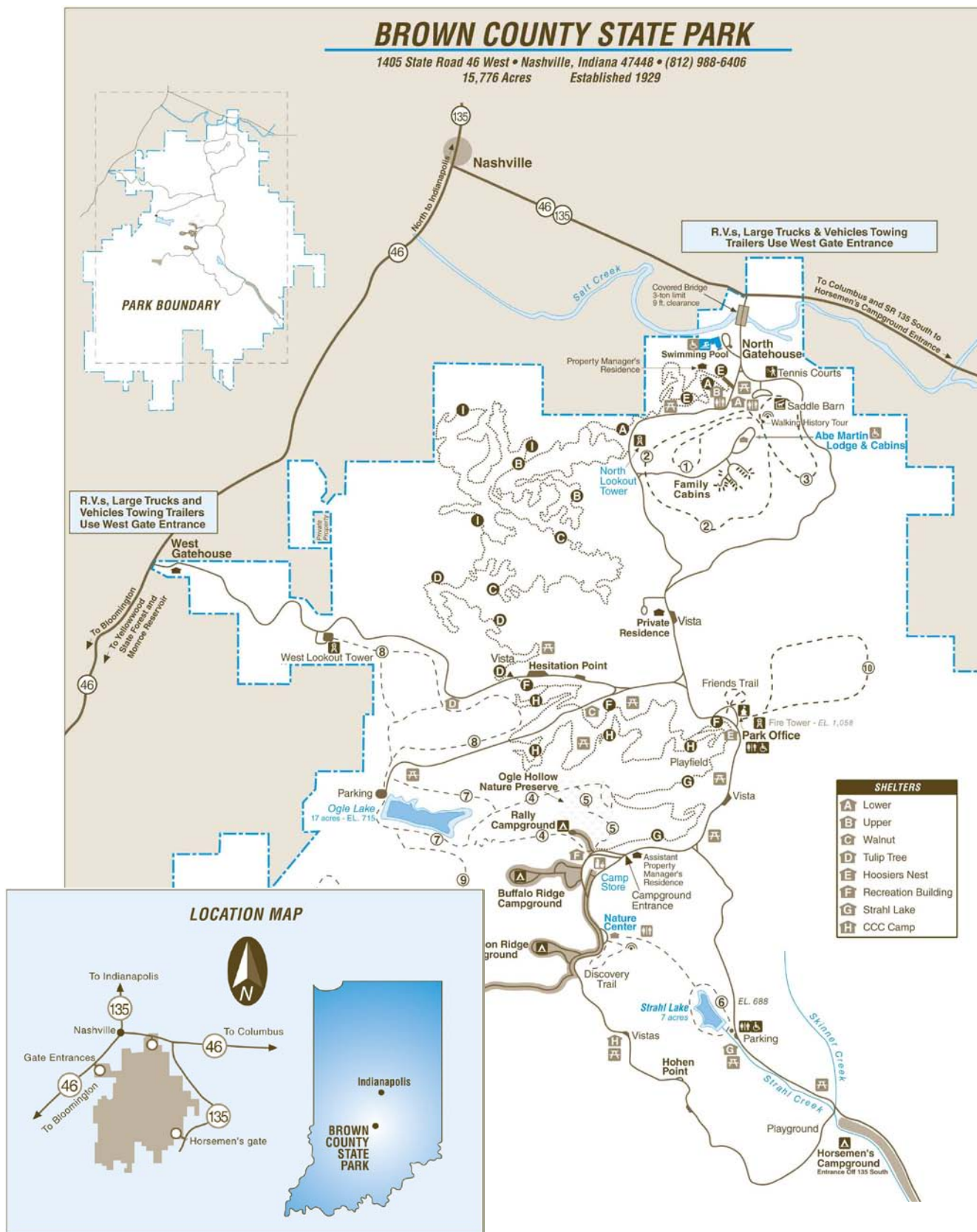


Anyone who is interested should plan to meet in the lobby of the Abe Martin Lodge a few minutes before 10:00am. John Seifert (one of our speakers on Saturday) will lead the outing. Participants can carpool over to Morgan-Monroe State Forest for the outing. The plan is to tour the forest with Mr. Seifert until lunchtime or 1:00pm (or until people are ready to stop). Of course, you should dress for the weather and bring along a bottle of water or other drink if you like. There is no cost for this trip.

Seifert will 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.

Be ready to see plenty of wildlife (especially birds) on the forestry tour. You might spot a yellow-rumped warbler or some other interesting bird species. A pair of binoculars will help you search through the trees. Photo by Tom Berg.

Brown County State Park Maps for the HOW Conference



HOOSIER OUTDOOR WRITERS

Annual Meeting on April 23, 2016
Brown County State Park
Abe Martin Lodge - Melodeon Hall
Nashville, IN

MEETING SCHEDULE

8:00-9:00am

Registration, continental breakfast.

9:00-9:05am

Opening remarks by HOW President Alan Garbers and briefing on the day's schedule.

9:05-9:15am

Aubrey Sitzman from the Brown County CVB will welcome HOW members to Brown County State Park and will talk briefly about the outdoor recreation prospects available in the park and in Brown County.

9:15-10:00am

Seminar #1: "Management of Indiana State Forests". John Seifert, director of the DNR Division of Forestry, will discuss the Forestry Division's mission to manage State Forests for multiple uses: recreation, wildlife habitat, timber, and as demonstration sites for sustainable forestry management.

10:00-10:10am

Break.

10:10-11:10am

Seminar #2: "Calls of the Wild!" DNR Naturalist Jarrett Manek will conduct an entertaining seminar on a wide variety of wildlife calls and sounds. He will also introduce some of his favorite live animals, including an alligator snapping turtle and various salamanders and other critters.

11:10-11:30am

Business meeting, Slate of new officers and election for the coming year.

11:30-12:30pm

Buffet lunch and social time for members.

12:30-1:15pm

Seminar #3: "Hunting Small Woodlots for Deer". Hunting Pro-Staffer Scott Parker will discuss some of the things he has learned while hunting Indiana's small woodlots and farms. His presentation will cover scouting, setting up, and hunting tips that apply to these smaller hunting areas.

1:15-1:45pm

HOW Awards-In-Craft presentation (Writing, Photography, Broadcast).

1:45-2:15pm

Break. Raffle tickets go on sale!

2:15-3:15pm

Seminar #4: "Defensive Firearms". Police and civilian firearms instructor Tony Gregory from south-suburban Indianapolis will talk about instructing people on defensive firearms – both the physical skill, and the legal and tactical concerns (and myths) that need to be addressed.

3:15-3:30pm

Break. Last chance to buy raffle tickets!

3:30pm

Annual HOW Outdoor Writer's Raffle.

4:30pm

Meeting adjourns.

6:00pm

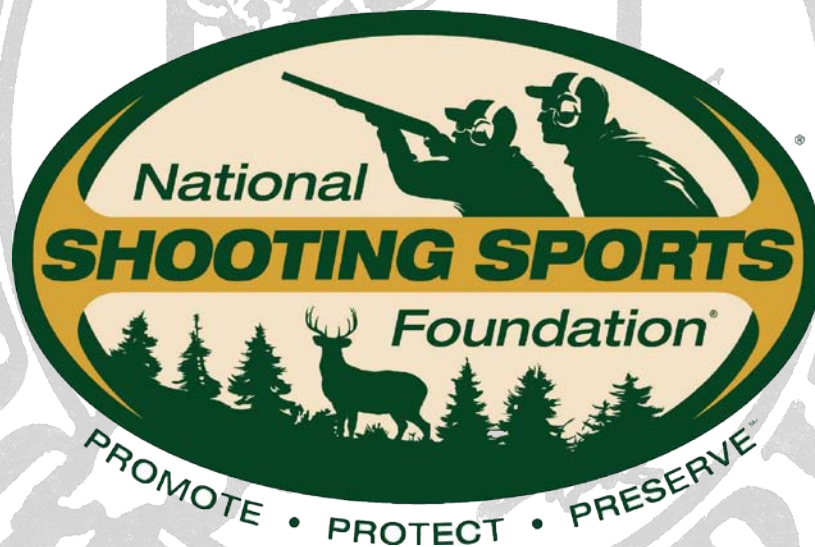
Dinner on your own for those staying until Sunday.

2016 HOW Conference

We would like to thank the following
companies and organizations:



Awards-in-Craft Sponsor



Conference Lunch Sponsor

Sponsors of the 2016 HOW Annual Conference

HOW Raffle Donors - 2016

This list of raffle donors was compiled shortly before the conference. Additional raffle donations may come in after press time, and they will be acknowledged in the next issue.

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Arctic Ice
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Balsax Fishing Lines
Bass Assassin Lures
Battenfeld Technologies
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Bill Lewis Lures
Birchwood Casey
Black River Tools
BoatUS
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Remington Arms Company
RIO Products
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Shimano American
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Sierra Bullets
Sig Sauer
Sole Scraper
SportDOG Brand
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TTI-Blakemore Fishing
Unfair Lures
Vexilar, Inc.
White Flyer Targets
Xtreme Hardcore Gear
Yo-Zuri America, Inc.

Enjoy the Spring Wildflower Foray in Brown and Monroe Counties

by Teena Ligman

The dates of this year's Hoosier Outdoor Writers Conference coincide with one of the most anticipated annual events in this part of southern Indiana. Each year, over 700 people come out to experience the sights and sounds of spring in the southern Indiana forests. If you've never seen a showy orchid or a green dragon in the wild... you may want to come out and see if we can find one together.



For 31 years, wildflower enthusiasts have been holding the Wildflower Foray – which this year will include 26 events over three days. Though most of the hikes focus on wildflowers, there are some which feature birds, a boat trip, spring teas and tonics, amphibians, ferns and butterflies.



Above: Paw Paw blooms. Right: Wild hyacinths. Wildflower photos by Teena Ligman.

gathering wildflower data. Knowledgeable guides lead wildflower and bird hikes, boat trips, and hikes exploring local natural areas. Each year, Foray veterans and newcomers share their wisdom and challenge each other to find new species in bloom. Together, they monitor habitat change over time, changes in blooming times as our climate changes, and the march of exotics invading the forest. What doesn't change is the fun!

Foray hike volunteers hit on a winning combination by pairing enjoyable hikes and programs with serious work



Checklists are provided so those who come on the Foray can keep track of the species they've found and are encouraged to attend as many hikes and activities as they can fit into their schedule. Some activities require pre-registration, but most just ask you to show up dressed to explore nature. Hikes will be conducted rain or shine and are only cancelled for extreme weather.

For more information on the Foray go to: <http://www.tcsteele.org/programs/> or call HOW member Teena Ligman at 812-276-4757.

HOW Member News

Meet Jim West of Wild West Guns

HOW member Kenny Bayless recently had the good fortune to meet and talk with TV personality and gun expert, Jim West.

“As I was taking in the sights at the Dallas Safari Club’s annual convention, I spotted a very familiar face that is recognized by thousands of people,” said Bayless. “Jim West of the extremely popular TV series, Wild West Alaska, was greeting folks as they walked through the aisles of the show.”

“You can book a hunting or fishing trip for any type of fish or game in the last frontier, or purchase the gun of your dreams – and Jim West can help make it all happen. He owns a gun shop in Anchorage, Alaska as well as one in Las Vegas, Nevada. He also runs the Klutina Lodge, which is second to none in the Alaska Wilderness.”

“As I shook his hand, I could tell he is a high caliber individual! He has built an empire stemming from his passion for the great outdoors. He is not only an accommodating businessman, but he is also a deeply caring person for those who are less fortunate.”

“To get a more complete picture of the man, Wild West Guns was founded in 1992. They starting out small, doing mostly general gunsmithing and repairs, together with custom work for Alaska hunters and sportsmen. West started out building pistols while he was a member of the American Pistolsmiths Guild. Although his signature gun is the lever-action rifle. Yes, the 45-70 caliber. After all, if their guns can stand up to life in Alaska, they can perform anywhere in the world!”

“After visiting with Jim for about an hour, I found he is modest about his feelings for his fellow man. He’s very proud to support the Wounded Warriors – veterans of the United States armed forces. I can’t express the deep admiration for Jim I felt as he showed me pictures on his iPad of vets he has taken hunting and fishing. He even developed a backpack-type harness to carry veterans that lost their legs on his back. He said with a smile, ‘One guy weighed as much as me, and I’m not getting any younger, but we got him to his hunting blind for him to take his bear.’ No vet ever goes home without taking the game they are after.”

“Jim’s last words of advice to me were, ‘Everyone needs to take the time to take someone shooting or hunting so they can experience the great outdoors!’ I agree.”



Jim West (left) and Kenny Bayless interrupt their chat for a photo in Dallas. Photo courtesy of Kenny Bayless.

Boca Grande Bounty Catch Fish, Cook fish, Eat fish – Repeat

HOW past presidents Pirate Bob Sawtelle (formerly Ranger Bob) and John Maxwell journeyed once again to Florida for some hot winter fishing. During February, these sea rovers fished the southwestern coast of the Sunshine State for a week, boating out of the little town of Boca Grande on Gasparilla Island.



At left: Bob Sawtelle holds a nice-sized black drum. Above: John Maxwell displays a squirming bonnethead shark.

The lure-dunking, sun-soaking duo fished mostly inside the giant mangrove-and-sandy-beach-lined fishing coliseum of Charlotte Harbor, as well as inshore reefs, channels and shoals outside Boca Grande Pass.

While casting Clouser minnow flies in mangrove bays and channels, Maxwell and Sawtelle boated jacks and baby barracuda. Spanish mackerel bit on shallow-running, minnow-imitating plugs trolled outside of the pass alongside Johnson Shoals. Speckled seatrout hiding in grass beds were steady customers, caught while drift-fishing with plastic jigs suspended under splashing popper-type floats.



Bonnethead sharks and flounder were suckers for live bait fished over inshore reefs, while wintering sheepshead and black drum were often found lurking under sunlight-speckled, dock shadows inside the bay.

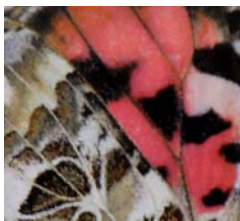
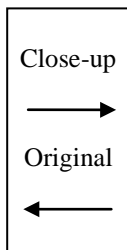
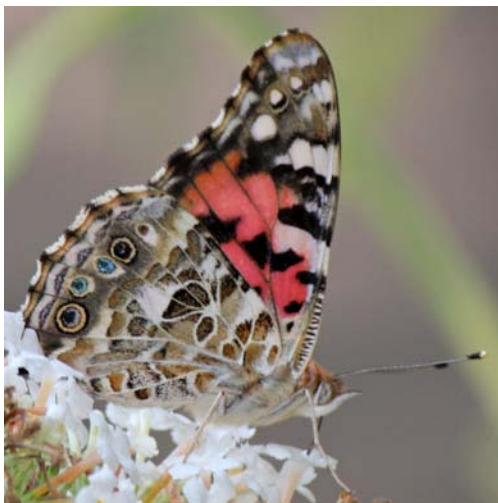
“We occasionally had slow fish-catching periods” said Maxwell. “And if we did, we pulled over to a deserted beach and took a nap. We had nothing to do for a week but fish and nap and cook fish. We ate fish for dinner almost every night. Every day the weather was a carbon-copy 75-degree, sunny day.”

Gasparilla Island is said to be named for the famous pirate José Gaspar, known by his nickname Gasparilla. The buccaneer roamed the Gulf of Mexico and the Spanish Main, plundering ships from this island base during the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Photos on this page courtesy of John Maxwell.

Unusual Nature Photos From The Hoosier Outdoors

Sponsored by Cocoon Eyewear

The Painted Lady Butterfly or The American Lady Butterfly?



The “What is it?” photo from the last issue was a little harder than previous ones, because only six (6) HOW members were able to correctly identify it. Mike Berg, Troy McCormick, Alan Garbers, Phil Seng, Bill Keaton and Nate Mullendore each had the right answer. When we drew a name at

random for the **Outdoor Sportsman Group** products, Alan Garbers was the winner. Congrats, Alan! We’ll contact you to see which books, DVDs, etc you would like.

As you can see in the photo at left, the mystery creature for this issue was a painted lady butterfly (*Vanessa cardui*). This is one of two butterflies that look very similar – the painted lady and the American lady (*Vanessa virginiensis*). They are difficult to tell apart unless you know what you are looking for. The painted lady has four small eyespots on the underside of its

lower wings (see photo above left). The American lady only has two eyespots, and they are larger. The American lady also has a small white spot on each side of the forewings that is absent on the painted lady. See the following link for an excellent photo and description of the two species: <http://bugguide.net/node/view/236368>. Unless you are a real butterfly nerd, you just learned something!

Painted lady butterflies are extremely common throughout North America (and most of the world). Adults visit a wide variety of flowering plants while feeding, but some of their favorites include the different species of thistles. They also take nectar from milkweed flowers, aster, blazing star, clover and many others. One unique trait of the painted lady butterfly is that it reproduces nearly year-round, migrating south during Indiana’s cold winters.



For this issue, our friends at **Cocoons Eyewear** 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 prize will be a pair of Cocoon premium sunglasses. 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 can be seen right here in Indiana, and you might even see it in your own back yard at this time of the year. Once the warm summer months arrive, however, it usually departs. 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 moth, for example, go ahead and guess “Catalpa Sphinx moth”. Of course, it’s not a moth, 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, **Cocoons Eyewear** will be donating a pair of Cocoon premium sunglasses as a prize for the HOW member who guesses the right answer to this issue’s “What Is It?” nature question. The winner will receive these sunglasses which can be worn over your normal prescription glasses. 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 guessing! 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.

‘Shimano Garage’ Helps Keep Fishing Reels Performing At Their Best

Irvine, CA: Just like the standard maintenance done on your vehicle – oil change, tire rotation, top off fluids, etc., basic maintenance on your fishing reels will keep them running well for years. The new ‘Shimano Garage’ opened for business at the recent Bassmaster Classic Outdoor Expo where anglers could get their Shimano reels ‘cleaned and lubed’ by experienced Shimano service technicians. And best off all, it’s on Shimano.

A new element to the Shimano Experience Team efforts, the Garage debuted at the Classic Outdoor Expo on March 4-6 in Tulsa, OK, (for complete details – visit: <http://www.bassmaster.com/attend-2016-geico-bassmaster-classic>), where fishermen could have their Shimano reels serviced for free. “Our trained staff will do a thorough cleaning along with applying the right oil and grease where needed, bringing your reel as close as we can to fresh out-of-the-box performance,” said Shimano service tech manager Doug Bouse. “Plus our crew will share a few ideas on what you can do to your reels throughout the season so they continue to perform as you expect from Shimano.”

After its debut in Tulsa, Bouse notes the Garage will be part of select Shimano Experience Team stops at tackle shows, dealer open house events, and other B.A.S.S. and Big Bass Tour tournaments. “We especially look forward to the upcoming B.A.S.S. college and high schools events, along with our owner tournaments in Kentucky and Alabama.”

Keep tabs on the Shimano Experience Team stops by visiting the Shimano Facebook page. Check it out at: www.facebook.com/fishshimano.

For more info on the Shimano Garage or any of Shimano’s products, HOW members should feel free to contact John Mazurkiewicz at Catalyst Marketing. Phone: 574-289-1331 or email: jpmazurk@ameritech.net.



HOW's Supporting Member Websites

Alpen Optics - www.alpenoutdoor.com
Alps Brands - www.alpsbrands.com
Aquateko International - www.aquateko.com
Arctic Ice - www.arctic-ice.net
B'n'M Pole Company - www.bnmpoles.com
Balsax Fishing Lines - www.balsax.com
Barnes Bullets - www.barnesbullets.com
Bass Assassin Lures - www.bassassassin.com
Bass Pro Shops - www.basspro.com
Battenfeld Technologies - www.battenfeldtechnologies.com
Battle Horse Knives - www.battlehorseknives.com
Bill Lewis Lures - www.Rat-L-Trap.com
Birchwood Casey - www.birchwoodcasey.com
Black River Tools - www.blackrivertools.com
BoatUS - www.boatus.com
BOLT Locks - www.boltlock.com
Bradley Smoker - www.bradleysmoker.com
Bubba Blade Knives - www.bubbablade.com
Buck Knives - www.buckknives.com
Cabela's - www.cabelas.com
Camp Chef - www.campchef.com
Carbon Express - www.carbonexpressarrows.com
Cast Away Bobber - www.castawaybobber.net
Chautauqua County Visitors Bureau - www.tourchautauqua.com
Church Tackle Company - www.churchtackle.com
Clam Outdoors - www.clamoutdoors.com
Cocoons Eyewear - www.cocoonseyewear.com
Cortland Line - www.cortlandline.com
Costa Sunglasses - www.costadelmar.com
Cotton Carrier - www.cottoncarrier.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
Fisherman's Handy Hook - www.thefishermanshandyhook.com
Fishing Physics - www.fishingphysics.com
Flying Fisherman - www.flyingfisherman.com
Frabill - www.frabill.com
Frogg Toggs - www.froggtoggs.com
G.Loomis - www.gloomis.com
Gamo USA - www.gamoussa.com
Gary's Muskie Experience - www.garysmuskieexp.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
Hodgdon Powder Co. - www.hodgdon.com
Hooker Deer Drag Co. - www.hookerdeerdrag.com
Hoosier Trapper Supply - www.hoosiertrappersupply.com
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt - www.hmhco.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
Irish Setter Boots - www.irishsetterboots.com
JackAll Lures - www.jackall-lures.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
Mossy Oak - www.mossoak.com
MyTopo - www.mytopo.com
National Muzzle Loading Rifle Assn - www.nmlra.org
National Shooting Sports Foundation - www.nssf.org
National Wild Turkey Federation - www.nwtf.org
Nikon Sport Optics - www.nikonsportoptics.com
No No-See-Um - www.nonoseeum.com
Nosler, Inc. - www.nosler.com
O.F. Mossberg & Sons, Inc. - www.mossberg.com
Off Shore Tackle Co. - www.offshoretackle.com
Otis Technology - www.otistec.com
Outdoor Guide Magazine - www.outdoorguidemagazine.com
Outdoor Sportsman Group - www.outdoorsg.com
Pheasants Forever - www.pheasantsforever.org
Plano Molding Company - www.planomolding.com
PowerPro Lines - www.powerpro.com
Princeton University Press - www.press.princeton.edu
Pro-Cure, Inc. - www.pro-cure.com
Prolong Super Lubricants - www.prolong.com
Pure Fishing - www.purefishing.com
Quaker Boy, Inc. - www.quakerboygamecalls.com
Reef Runner Lures - www.reefrunner.com
Remington Arms Company - www.remington.com
Renfro Productions - www.renfroproductions.com
RIO Products - www.rioproducts.com
Secret Lures - www.secretlures.com
Shimano American Corp. - www.shimano.com
Shurhold Industries - www.shurhold.com
Sierra Bullets - www.sierrabullets.com
Sig Sauer - www.sigsauer.com
Sole Scraper - www.solescraper.com
South Shore CVA - www.southshorecva.com
SportDOG Brand - www.sportdog.com
St. Croix Rods - www.stcroixrods.com
Sturm, Ruger & Co. - www.ruger.com
Super Brush LLC - www.bore-tips.com
Tales End Tackle - www.talesendtackle.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
Unfair Lures - www.unfairlures.com
Vexilar, Inc. - www.vexilar.com
Vista Outdoor - www.media.vistaoutdoor.com
White Flyer Targets - www.whiteflyer.com
Winchester Ammunition - www.winchester.com
Xtreme Hardcore Gear - www.extremehardcoregear.com
Yamaha Marine Group - www.yamahaoutboards.com
Yo-Zuri America, Inc. - www.yo-zuri.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:

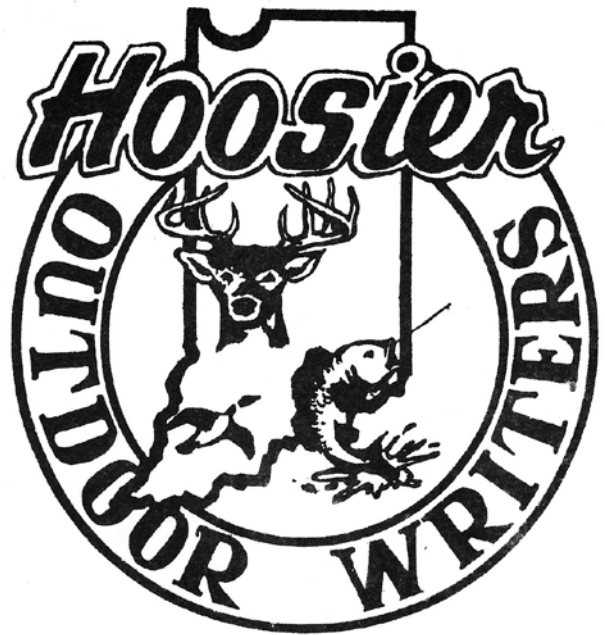
1. To give the profession of outdoor writing/reporting greater recognition and understanding, even higher standards and enlarged scope.
2. To encourage and enforce high standards of professional ethics.
3. To strive always for the truth, accuracy, clarity and completeness in the dissemination of outdoor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

HOW 2016 Annual Conference:

April 22-24, 2016

(www.HoosierOutdoorWriters.org)

Abe Martin Lodge, Brown County State Park
Nashville, IN

AGLOW 2016 Cast & Blast:

May 16-19, 2016

(www.aglowinfo.org)

Mercer, WI

POMA 2016 Annual Conference:

June 15-18, 2016

(www.professionalooutdoormedia.org)

Kalispell, MT

ICAST Show 2016:

July 12-15, 2016

(www.ICASTfishing.org)

Orlando, FL

OWAA 2016 Annual Conference:

July 16-18, 2016

(www.owaa.org)

Billings, MT

AGLOW 2016 Annual Conference:

September 12-15, 2016

(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 for possible inclusion in future issues of The Blade.