

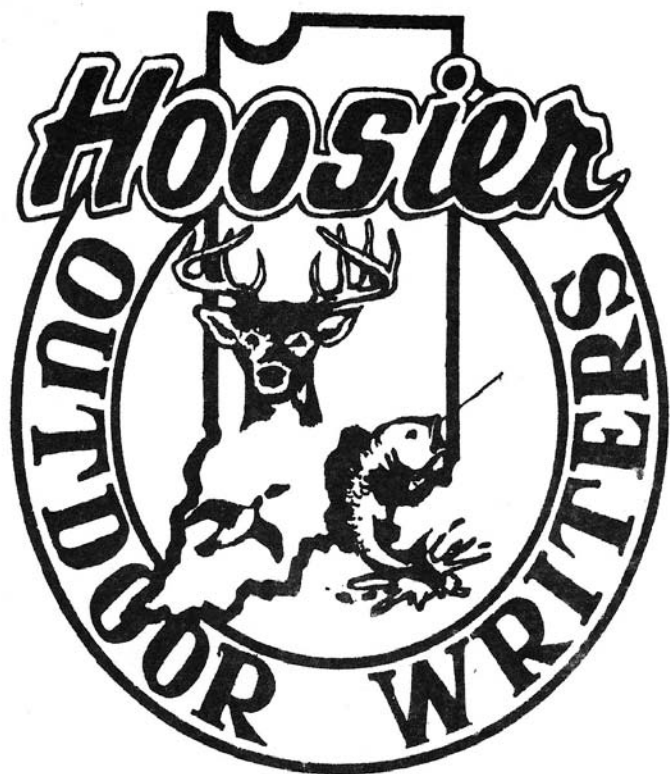
The Blade

November - December 2016

The Official Publication of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers



"The Wary Pronghorn - Always Vigilant", 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.

Hoosier Outdoor Writers Executive Council

Board Chairman

Alan Garbers
3380 West Bain Rd.
Martinsville, IN 46151
alanjamesgarbers@yahoo.com

President

Ken McBroom
411 N. Bauman St.
Indianapolis, IN 46214
kenmcbroom@sbcglobal.net

Vice President

Don Cranfill
208 E. Vermilya Ave.
Bloomington, IN 47401
themadpaddler@yahoo.com

Executive Director

Tom Berg
2142 Nondorf St.
Dyer, IN 46311
director@hoosieroutdoorwriters.org

Legal Counsel

Bill Keaton
126 West Second St.
Rushville, IN 46173
bill@bishophillguesthouse.com

Newsletter Editor

Tom Berg
2142 Nondorf St.
Dyer, IN 46311
director@hoosieroutdoorwriters.org

Board Members

Region 1 – Wally Pritz
2017
Region 2 – Phil Seng
2018
Region 3 – Gary Redmon
2017
Region 4 – Jack Spaulding
2018

At Large:

Teena Ligman – 2017
John Maxwell – 2017
Troy McCormick – 2017
Josh Lantz – 2018
Louie Stout – 2018
Brent Wheat – 2018

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

On the cover: A solitary adult male pronghorn stands watch on a wind-blown ridge in southern Wyoming. His "harem" of females is not far away. This photo was taken by Tom Berg in September.

President's Message

by Ken McBroom

Broaden Your Outdoor Horizons

I hope everyone had a great fall season pursuing their favorite outdoor adventures that fall and winter provides. I was able to do some bowhunting this year, and while I failed to harvest a deer it has been a great season thus far. I enjoyed three more encounters with a giant buck I have been pursuing for four seasons (I got a photo of him back in 2013). I watched this buck fight four different bucks 60 yards from my stand over the course of three days. It was awesome, and while I would love to have slung an arrow his way, just to witness such a rare event made this season a great one. I was also able to hear the buck roar three different times in those three days. I had only heard a buck roar once before in all my days hunting whitetails, so that was great.



I have embarked on a new adventure that will take me to Western Kentucky where my wife and I have purchased our dream home near Kentucky Lake. I do plan to remain an active member of HOW. Indiana is where I truly began my writing career and I have had a lot of outdoor adventures here. I will continue to hunt a couple public land areas I have grown to love, too. Indiana public land, while somewhat challenging, is still a great place to bowhunt and I plan to do my serious hunting here for years to come.

I now want to touch a little on the ***Interesting Bird Sightings in the Great Outdoors*** section of our newsletter. I just want to say that it really brought to light something I have meant to write about but haven't, yet. And that is to broaden your outdoor horizons. I know many of you already pay attention to and enjoy learning about many things outdoors, but for many the focus tends to be on just the task at hand. To catch a bass or shoot a deer or spot that morel, for example. We forget that there is so much more we can enjoy on our trips outdoors. To learn more about those things not only helps to broaden our outdoor horizons but can also help in our writing, as well.

Most things about growing old are not that great, but one thing that is, at least for me, is that you begin to slow down and enjoy more of the little things and learn about them as well. Recently while bowhunting I ran across a couple moths that I had never seen before. It reminded me of a fly fisherman I met on Boulder Creek in Colorado more than 20 years ago. He taught me what fly fishing was really about: pointing out the midge hatch, some hummingbird moths, wild raspberries and sharing his expensive dark beer long before I would acquire that taste myself. I fly fished exclusively for many years after that day and always enjoyed the slower pace it provided and the experiences that slower pace provided. I miss those days.

(continued next page)

The two moths I mentioned above were buck moths and ironically they were on a tree very near where I encountered the big buck and watched the deer fighting. I had never seen these moths before but I'm sure they are common and it just takes a little closer observation to spot them.



Above: A pair of buck moths preparing to mate. Adult buck moths emerge from their pupas in the fall (usually in October) to find a mate. They typically inhabit oak forests. After mating, the females lay their eggs on an oak twig or branch. The adults die before winter and the eggs hatch the following spring. **Right:** A cauliflower mushroom grows next to a tree in a dry creek bed. Photos on this page by Ken McBroom.

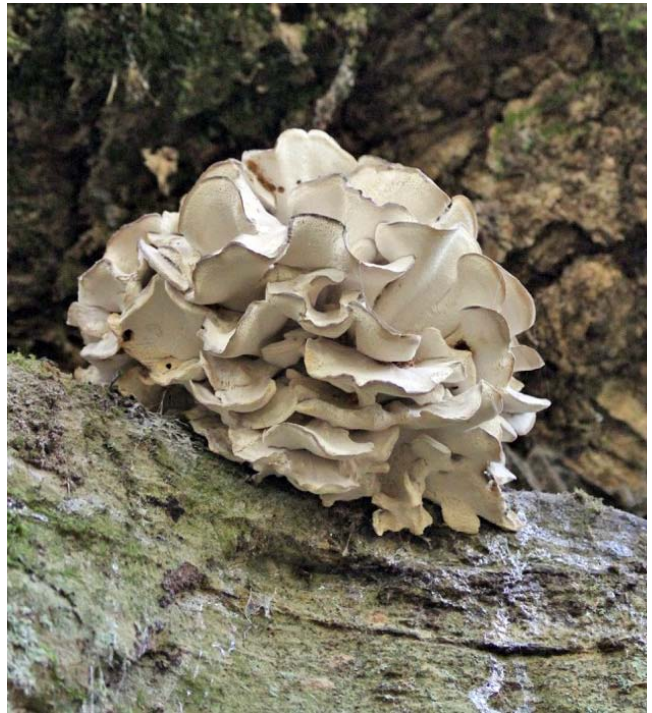
Learning about our surroundings as outdoor writers is very beneficial, and much like the journeys in life, they teach us new things along the way. Writing, and the practice of it, will do the same and is probably why many of us write.

I encourage you to take a moment during your journeys to learn about the new things you encounter and include that knowledge in your writing. I think we could all benefit from that.

Thanks.

Ken McBroom

I also stumbled upon a cauliflower mushroom walking up a dry creek bed to another stand site. This was the most beautiful mushroom I had ever seen. I had no idea what it was until I snapped a few photos and researched it after the hunt. I will now forever know about the buck moth and the cauliflower mushroom and I can only guess I will spot them now a little more often.



The Hoosier Outdoor Writers

New Members, Past Presidents & Memorial Section

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

**Cole King (Associate Student)
Markleville, IN
Sponsor: Rich Creason**

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

HOW Conference Announcement



Here is a view of the Canyon Inn at McCormick's Creek State Park. HOW members who have never been to this park should be sure to attend the 2017 conference!

2017 HOW Conference Site, Conference Dates Chosen

We are pleased to announce that the 2017 HOW Conference will be held in southwestern Indiana's Owen County at our oldest state park: **McCormick's Creek State Park** near Spencer, IN.

The annual meeting will take place in the conference center (the Oak Room) at the Canyon Inn, and we have reserved a block of rooms at the inn for members who would like to stay overnight (see the next page for reservations info). The conference will take place on the weekend of **April 21-23, 2017**, with the main meeting occurring on **Saturday, April 22**.

The date of this conference was selected very carefully to minimize conflicts with Easter, Mother's Day, Memorial Day

and AGLOW events, so hopefully most HOW members will be able to plan their schedules ahead of time and attend. So be sure to **SAVE THE DATE!**

We chose McCormick's Creek State Park as the conference site this year as part of our ongoing effort to move the conference around the state and give our members a chance to experience parts of Indiana that they have not yet seen. Some HOW members have been to McCormick's Creek SP before, but we know that not everyone has! This park is also within easy driving distance of a large majority of HOW members, and is very convenient for those living in and around Indianapolis.

There is plenty to do in and around Owen County, too. The ladies may want to visit the quaint shops in the nearby town of Spencer, only a six-minute drive from the Canyon Inn. The White River runs along a large portion of the western edge of the park, and Owen-Putnam State Forest is located only 8 miles to the west. Two popular reservoirs are also located within a relatively short drive (Lake Monroe and Cataract Lake). Inside the park, opportunities for hiking, fishing, photography, nature watching, horseback riding and many other outdoor activities abound. Explore the park's limestone canyon and visit the scenic waterfalls. Our conference weekend also coincides with the McCormick's Creek Wildflower Weekend & Friends' Plant Sale. There will be special hikes and talks featuring the park's spring wildflowers. HOW members (and their spouses) should head for McCormick's Creek State Park next spring and join the fun!

As usual, the HOW Conference will feature plenty of interesting speakers and topics. We will also announce the winners of our annual awards-in-craft contests and elect new officers.

For everyone who has come to love the HOW Raffle over the past several years, we are hoping to make it even bigger and better this year. It will be hard to top the quality and quantity of the last few years, but we will do our best! If you haven't attended a conference recently, come see what it's all about!



Waterfall at McCormick's Creek State Park.

Staying Overnight at McCormick's Creek State Park?

If you would like to stay overnight inside the park, we have a block of rooms reserved at the **Canyon Inn** at a discounted price for HOW members and their guests only. When you are ready to make your room reservations, details are below. If you prefer to camp, campsites inside the park will also be available. There are hotel options available in Bloomington, too, but it is nearly 30 minutes away.

2017 HOW CONFERENCE CANYON INN ROOM RESERVATIONS:

812-829-4881 or 877-LODGES-1 (HOW members must call to use the Group Code).

Group/Promotional Code:

Our group code will be provided via email. Contact Tom Berg if you have any trouble making your reservation.



Shown: A room with two double beds at the Canyon Inn.

The Canyon Inn

451 McCormick's Creek Park Road
Spencer, IN 47460
812-829-4881
Reservations:
1-877-LODGES-1
1-877-563-4371

Canyon Inn, room with **One Double** bed:

(Friday night 4/21/17 and/or Saturday night 4/22/17): \$69.00 per night + tax.

Canyon Inn, room with **One Queen** bed:

(Friday night 4/21/17 and/or Saturday night 4/22/17): \$85.00 per night + tax.

Canyon Inn, room with **Two Double** beds:

(Friday night 4/21/17 and/or Saturday night 4/22/17): \$90.00 per night + tax.

Canyon Inn, room with **Two Queen** beds:

(Friday night 4/21/17 and/or Saturday night 4/22/17): \$100.00 per night + tax.

Don't wait to make your room reservation if you will be staying overnight at the Canyon Inn. Our block of discounted rooms will only be available until **February 28, 2017** or until they are all reserved. If you have any questions, please contact Tom Berg (thomas.berg@comcast.net).

More Conference Details

More details for the 2017 HOW Conference will be forthcoming in future editions of *The Blade*. Besides our annual Fun Shoot on Friday, April 21, we will have a Friday evening BBQ and we are hoping to have an outing of some sort on Sunday, April 23. Whether you plan to attend the entire weekend or just the annual meeting on Saturday, the trip to McCormick's Creek State Park will definitely be worth it. **Don't miss the 2017 HOW conference!**

Save The Date!
Conference: April 21-23, 2017
Annual Meeting: April 22, 2017

Hoosier Outdoor Writers Annual Conference Registration



Where/When: The Canyon Inn at McCormick's Creek State Park, located at Spencer, IN – April 21-23, 2017

This registration form is for the Annual Meeting on Saturday, April 22nd (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 22, 2017.

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 2017 HOW Awards-In-Craft Contest

HOW CRAFTS AWARD CONTEST RULES

The contest year shall be for material published or aired from January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016. All submissions, including photography, must have been printed, aired, published or electronically posted during the contest year (entrant must have been a HOW member when the work was published).

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 midnight on March 4, 2017. 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 provided).
- 3) Send no material that needs to be returned. No original material is required. As mentioned above, print contest entries and photo contest entries must be sent in an electronic form. In the broadcast contest, tapes, recordings and DVDs are welcome.
- 4) All submissions of print entries (either from traditional paper or electronic media) must consist of one electronic copy of each article with bylines removed. This file must be text only – do not scan tearsheets or newspaper/magazine pages. This electronic copy must be submitted as a Microsoft Word 97-2003 Document (.doc) or as a PDF file (.pdf). Entries not following these rules will be disqualified. As mentioned, print entry files must be emailed (or filed on a CD or DVD and mailed) by the deadline.
- 5) Entries into the broadcast category require only one tape or recording and may be sent by tape cassette, CD, VHS or DVD formats. Radio and television entries may carry the broadcast station's name and call letters if they are on "as aired" dubbed tapes. TV entries should be dubbed minus commercials if possible to facilitate judging.
- 6) Entries in the photography division must consist of one electronic (digital) copy of each photo. This electronic copy must be saved as a JPEG file (.jpg or .jpeg). Prints, slides and paper copies of photos will not be accepted. Please include a title for each photo entry. Digitally produced photos should not be substantially manipulated. Allowable photo enhancement is limited to standard shooting/darkroom techniques, such as color correction, contrast control and image cropping.
- 7) An individual article, photo or broadcast may only be entered in one category/division. Entering the same piece in multiple categories/divisions will result in the disqualification of duplicate entries.
- 8) There is a limit of two entries per category.

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

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

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

CONTEST DIVISIONS

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

WRITING ARTICLE CATEGORIES

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

BROADCAST CATEGORIES

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

PHOTOGRAPHY CATEGORIES

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

2017 HOW AWARDS-IN-CRAFT CONTEST ENTRY FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

Category _____ Division _____

Title: _____

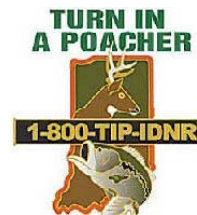
Where published/aired: _____

Publication/air date: _____

Entries and forms must be emailed or postmarked no later than March 4, 2017



**Hoosier Outdoor Writers
Turn in a Poacher/Polluter Writing Contest
Contest Guidelines
11-17-16**



The Turn in a Poacher/Polluter (TIP) Citizen's Advisory Board is sponsoring a \$300 writing contest (\$200 for first place; \$100 for second place) to encourage HOW members to promote the TIP mission, the TIP hotline and support of the TIP Advisory Board.

Requirements are simple, and entering is easy! Article must include:

1. Brief description of TIP (see below—does not have to be verbatim)
2. TIP Hotline (1-800-TIP-IDNR)
3. TIP membership/donation website (www.tip.wildindiana.com)
4. OPTIONAL: Indiana DNR TIP website (www.in.gov/dnr/lawenfor/2745.htm)

To enter, submit an electronic copy of an article published between June 30, 2016, and February 28, 2017, to the HOW Writing Contest Coordinator. We will provide the name and email address of this year's Writing Contest Coordinator in the coming weeks. The deadline for entries will be March 4, 2017. There is no minimum length and no other requirements. Preference will be given to articles published in paid publications; however, that is not a requirement for entry in the contest this year.

The TIP Citizen's Advisory Board will review all entries received by midnight on Saturday, March 4, 2017, and will select the entry that best promotes the mission of TIP and encourages citizens to get involved.

What is TIP?

Turn in a Poacher, Inc. (TIP) is a non-profit conservation organization that works hand-in-hand with Indiana DNR Law Enforcement to protect our fish and wildlife resources by increasing public support and involvement in bringing violators to justice.

A poacher is a thief who illegally steals wildlife that belongs to each Indiana citizen. Poachers rob licensed, ethical hunters and anglers from recreational opportunities they bought through license fees.

Citizens can help stop poachers in two ways:

- Call 1-800-TIP-IDNR if you see, hear or learn about a poacher or another fish and wildlife violation. If your "TIP" leads to an arrest, you may receive as much as a \$200 reward, and you can remain anonymous.
- Become an honorary member of the Turn in a Poacher Advisory Board (www.tip.wildindiana.com). Annual and lifetime memberships are available, and all proceeds from memberships go directly to assisting Indiana DNR Law Enforcement with catching poachers. (TIP hats and gear also available).

More information is available at www.in.gov/dnr/lawenfor/2745.htm.

DNR News

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



For immediate release: October 27, 2016

Healthy Rivers INitiative Tops Halfway Mark for Land Protection

The Healthy Rivers INitiative, the state's largest land conservation program, has reached 35,200 acres, passing the halfway mark toward the goal of permanently protecting 70,000 acres along three Indiana waterways.

HRI was started in 2010 as a partnership of state and federal resource agencies and organizations working with willing landowners to protect more than 43,000 acres along the Wabash River and Sugar Creek, and another 26,000 acres of Muscatatuck River bottomlands.

To date, the Department of Natural Resources has purchased 14,353 acres to go along with 15,212 acres the agency previously owned in the project areas. Another 5,710 acres of privately owned land is now enrolled in conservation easements with the Natural Resources Conservation Service's federal Wetland Reserve Conservation program.

The protected and restored acres connect separated parcels of important habitat for fish and wildlife, including rest areas for migratory birds. They also establish nature tourism destinations, improve water quality, help protect against flooding of downstream landowners, and open additional public land for birdwatching, boating, fishing, hiking, hunting, and trapping.

Of the 14,353 new acres purchased through HRI, the DNR has opened more than 12,200 acres to public recreation.

The halfway milestone in land conservation was reached through a partnership of the Indiana DNR, The Nature Conservancy of Indiana, Natural Resource Conservation Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the participation of willing landowners in the HRI project areas.

Visit HealthyRivers.IN.gov for more information and maps to open properties. An infographic illustrating HRI's progress can be found at www.in.gov/dnr/healthyriver/7699.htm.

Media contact: Ben Miller, DNR Fish & Wildlife, (317) 234-8101.



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. All photos on this page were submitted by those reporting.

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)!

Report from Dave Hoffman:

"I just happened to remember that my wife Judy had taken a couple photos of **burrowing owls** (*Athene cunicularia*)," said Hoffman. "I thought I would pass one of them along for others to see."

"These owls are pretty common in some areas of Florida and they are easily photographed. The burrowing owl shown at right is standing outside its burrow at our condo golf course, about 30 yards away from me. He watched without much apparent concern as the morning golfers teed off."

"I was surprised they were so tolerant," continued Hoffman. "I learned that while their preferred open habitats are declining, the owls are readily adapting to sports fields, airports, residential lawns and pastures. In addition to their small size, we observed that the owl has large, yellow eyes located below prominent white eyebrows, and unlike most owls it lacks external ear tufts. It is also the only owl to use a burrow year round for roosting and for nesting. The city of Cape Coral, FL actually has an annual Burrowing Owl Festival!!"



Hoffman also spent some time photographing birds himself at other Florida locations recently, and two of his subjects are shown below. The black and white bird on the left (below) is a **wood stork** (*Mycteria Americana*). It is a threatened species, and it is the only stork species that breeds in the United States. The very colorful blue and green bird (below right) is a **purple gallinule** (*Porphyrio martinicus*). This beautiful marsh bird can walk on lily pads and reeds without sinking, thanks to its great balance and its extra-long toes.





Interesting Bird Sightings in the Great Outdoors

Report from Tom Berg:

"My family and I took a driving vacation last fall and drove all the way out to Seattle, WA and back. It was a great trip and we saw lots of wildlife, including dozens of bird species. Some were familiar to us, but others like the **black-billed magpie** (*Pica hudsonia*) shown below can only be found in the western United States," said Berg. "Magpies are one of the few North American songbirds that have a tail so long that it makes up half of their body length. The iridescent teal-colored markings on their wings were beautiful."



"The magpies we saw were tolerant of people and they let us get very close before flying away. The real limiting factor was food. These birds were constantly looking for food, and if they didn't see any they quickly flew away to search other areas. Since I didn't have any food for them, I had to be quick with the camera."

"Although the magpies seemed to be most common near the

west coast, we also occasionally saw them flying in various spots on the way back home, like in Utah, Wyoming, Colorado and even in Nebraska." Their stark black and white coloration, combined with their extremely long tails, make them easy to identify while flying, even from long distances.

"Another new bird species (for us) that we saw on the trip," commented Berg, "was the inquisitive **grey jay** (*Perisoreus Canadensis*). We only encountered these birds up at high altitudes, both in Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado and in the higher elevations of Olympic National Park in Washington."

"The grey jays that we saw usually traveled in pairs, and they routinely landed near us and other hikers to check us out. They may have been looking for a handout of food, but they may have also just been curious about us."

Grey jays are relatively large songbirds, similar in size to the blue jays that inhabit Indiana. They are dark grey on top with lighter grey or even white underneath. They spend most of their day looking for food, and like some other birds they store excess food in hidden caches throughout the forests where they live. Interestingly, they use their sticky saliva to "glue" seeds and other food items under the bark of trees and in the crotch of tree branches. They come back later, especially in the winter, to retrieve the stored items when food is more scarce.



Did you take an interesting bird photo recently?

HOW members are encouraged to send their interesting bird photos to newsletter editor Tom Berg (thomas.berg@comcast.net) for use in future editions of the "Interesting Bird Sightings" page. Your fellow HOW members would love to see your bird pictures.

Florida is for the Birds

by Dave Hoffman

Don't think that you have to wade waist-deep in alligator infested waters while being attacked by vampire mosquitoes to get quality avian photos. It's sometimes as easy as a walk on the boardwalk.



purchased for a modest price. The guide for the fourth region, Western Florida, will be available in February.

Guides will advise you of the best months of the year to visit each site as well as the best time of day, and whether you can expect few or numerous species, plus the amenities available at each location including rest rooms, entrance fees and lots of other helpful information.

The accompanying photos were taken at two of my favorite Florida birding locations, the Wakodahatchee and Green Cay Wetlands in Palm Beach County. Both feature lengthy, elevated boardwalks that wind through various habitat types, and both are free of charge. You will have to put up with walkers and joggers on the boardwalk, however it's a small price to pay for leaving your chest waders, Florida snake guide and nitro pills at home.

Above Left: A green heron stalks minnows in the shallows. **Center:** A tri-colored heron hunts for frogs and fish. **Right:** A blue-winged teal is a common sight in Florida's marshes. All photos on this page by Dave Hoffman.

Florida is a wintering site for more than Midwestern snowbirds. Not only can you photograph exotic species in mangrove swamps, but you can also observe familiar birds in freshwater marshes or on the beach. While ranking a mere 22nd in terms of square miles, Florida is a deceiving state in which to drive. For example, Indy is a hundred miles closer to Pensacola, than Pensacola is to Key West. One can save huge amounts of time and encounters with tailgate terrorists by merely visiting the birding website www.floridabirdingtrail.com.

That one website can get you pointed in the right direction whether you're interested in photographing a specific species, or visiting various habitat types or regions of the state. Three of Florida's four regions have field guides which can be purchased as eBooks from Amazon for your Kindle. Don't have one? Free apps for Android or Apple devices can be downloaded, and the guides



The Three Faces

by Alan Garbers

In the grassy foothills between the San Francisco Peaks and the canyon lands of northern Arizona is a mysterious icon that has delighted and puzzled travelers for generations. If one looks carefully, they can be found in the Antelope Hills area along Route 89. They are known locally as the Three Faces. They are the remains of three massive juniper posts that someone keeps painted.

While the face paint appears fresh, the posts show a great deal of age. Luckily, juniper holds up well in the dry, high-desert climate of the Colorado Plateau.

No one really knows why the posts or faces were made. According to Fran Kosik in *Native Roads*, a local newspaper held a contest and offered a prize in 1997 for the best story surrounding the faces. One Navajo man told a story that his father had been contracted in 1938 by the Cameron Trading Post to put up the massive posts to advertise the trading post some thirty miles ahead.

An inspection of the posts lends credence to the story because a square hole is found in the largest post, as if a horizontal beam had been inserted. No remains of the beam or sign it may have held could be found, but the hole is now used to hold offerings of tobacco and coins to what spirits may now reside in them.

Ironically, within days of getting back home to Indiana, I received my latest copy of *Arizona Highways* magazine. Inside the back cover was a photograph of the Three Faces. Spooky.



What Makes Us Hunters?

by Josh Lantz

Why we hunt, why others don't, and how an invite to your local upland hunt club can help bridge the gap.

I hunt because I enjoy watching the sun rise over creation. I hunt because it affords the opportunity to be in direct contact with nature. I hunt to learn something about the natural world that I didn't know before I ventured into the woods or marsh. I hunt to provide my family with a source of natural protein. I hunt because it requires that I use my intellect, stealth, physical abilities and natural instincts in order to be successful, and in doing so, forms an immediate, tangible, physical and intellectual connection with thousands of years of human evolution.

That's why I hunt. If I asked another hunter to tell me why they choose to hunt, I might hear some of these same reasons or variations of these reasons. I would also expect to hear some altogether different responses.

At the personal level, it really doesn't matter why we make the decision to hunt. We need only know that we derive some sense of enjoyment or satisfaction from our activities; that some other benefits are realized; or that a need is being met. So if hunting makes sense to you, then why does the act seem so bizarre, and even offensive, to many non-hunters?

Being a hunter, I can't answer this question with any degree of certainty. I suspect, however, that many non-hunters are probably non-hunters because they have never been exposed to the rural hunting ethic, or a lifestyle that relies on firsthand experiences with things like wild animals, plants, dirt, and rain. Such individuals have likely never seen a coyote put the stalk on a wild pheasant, or a yearling deer so emaciated from a lack of browse in its suburban woodlot home that it has started to consume its own flesh. What is more likely, is that they have been raised in an environment that has taught them to curse the rain and look in disdain at the hawk that nabs squirrels from their backyard feeders. If they are lucky, they may have learned enough about *nature* to put a rock or two on top of their garbage cans to discourage masked urban critters from tipping them over.



We can't blame people for being people. People are who they are, and as convenient as it sometimes seems, we can't treat everyone who doesn't hunt as the enemy. Not everyone is fortunate enough to have had someone introduce them to hunting, and the simple truth is that the majority of people in this country do not fit conveniently into either the *hunter* or *anti-hunter* categories. Our fast-paced, multi-media-inspired post-modern society has conditioned us to be fence sitters on issues and activities that we perceive as having no personal connection with. Our lives are busy, and even important issues become meaningless to us if we have no daily interaction with them.

(continued next page)

This reality is both an opportunity and a liability for hunters. While we have the opportunity to share our passion for the outdoors with non-hunters in positive and educational ways, the many organized anti-hunting groups have the same opportunity to share their views – however extremist or misleading they may be.

The sad truth is that the antis have a leg up. The continuing fast-paced urbanization of our country is resulting in a growing urban demographic and a shrinking rural one. Every year, fewer Americans will have the opportunity to grow up on a farm or in a household where hunting has a deeper meaning than killing – a household where children learn firsthand about hunting and personal interaction with wildlife from their fathers, mothers, siblings and grandparents instead of some biased *educational* or *nature* program on television or the Internet.

If we are to perpetuate hunting and active wildlife conservation in this country for future generations, we must support the national hunting advocacy groups that defend the neutral public from the misrepresented informational campaigns and veiled assaults on our hunting heritage. It simply has to be this way, so pick one or more hunting and conservation advocacy groups you personally believe in and join. We must also act locally as responsible and tactful hunting ambassadors – in our neighborhoods, churches, schools, and local governments. This doesn't mean that we should feel compelled or obligated to launch our own full-throttle pro-hunting campaigns in these forums. What it

does mean, is that each of us have the responsibility to know and understand the reasons why we hunt; to be able to communicate those reasons clearly and constructively; to be able to project a positive and informed impression of hunting to our non-hunting friends and neighbors; and to be ever-watchful for opportunities to introduce somebody new to the outdoors.

Upland hunt clubs and preserves are great places to take anyone new to hunting or the shooting sports and are open right now. So why not plan an outing and invite someone you know? New shooters can receive safety and shooting instruction from club staff, then build confidence by breaking some targets on the trap range or sporting clays course. If they enjoy the experience, advise them of their options for obtaining a hunter safety certification and how to obtain the licenses and stamps they'll need to come back and hunt real birds. When they're ready, plan a return trip and take them to the field to try for some pheasants, chukar or fast-flying quail. Most states offer upland preserve hunting seasons that are typically open all winter long.

You probably know and understand the reasons why you hunt, and can effectively and tactfully communicate those reasons to anyone who might ask. If you don't, think about it, because you aren't doing yourself – or the rest of us – any favors. Once

you do, take some reasonable steps to share the joy hunting brings, while also protecting wildlife conservation and our hunting heritage for future generations. Actively support at least one chosen wildlife conservation and hunting advocacy group, and take someone you know shooting and hunting. Ask. Chances are, they can't or won't do it without you.



Congratulations! The Right to Hunt and Fish Amendment was Passed!

November, 2016

Thanks to sportsmen and sportswomen all across Indiana, the Right to Hunt and Fish Amendment was approved during the November election. As a matter of fact, it passed by a whopping 78%. That is great news for Indiana's sportsmen, women and all conservation-minded citizens.

Leading up to the election, opponents of the amendment attempted to make the case that these rights didn't need protecting. That argument clearly didn't catch on with voters.

This amendment will provide permanent protections for Indiana sportsmen and women from unwarranted closures and ensure that any laws regulating hunting and fishing are genuine conservation efforts based upon sound science. Twenty-one states now have the Right to Hunt and Fish and two more have the Right to Fish.

Hopefully other states will see what Indiana has accomplished and approve similar amendments so that the Right to Hunt and Fish is protected nationwide.

To refresh everyone's memory, Question 1 was written as follows:

"Shall the Constitution of the State of Indiana be amended by adding a Section 39 to Article 1 to provide that the right to hunt, fish, and harvest wildlife shall be forever preserved for the public good, subject only to the laws prescribed by the General Assembly and rules prescribed by virtue of the authority of the General Assembly to:

- (1) promote wildlife conservation and management: and***
- (2) preserve the future of hunting and fishing?"***

Sportsmen have been under attack for many years by well-funded, national anti-hunting groups who demonstrate a clear disregard for both the cherished traditions of many Americans as well as responsible wildlife management in their drive to eliminate hunting and fishing. Hunting and fishing are integral parts of the culture and economy of Indiana, as it is one of the top ten deer-hunting states in the country and has more than 450 natural lakes and 21,000 miles of fishable streams, bringing in \$923 million annually in revenue and supporting 14,058 jobs.



HOW Member News

Mike Schoonveld Always Has Fun With Trapline Skunks

HOW past president Mike Schoonveld loves trapping. He particularly enjoys coyote trapping, and coyote trapping season opens in mid-October. Trapping for striped skunk also opens at the same time, because skunks are an occasional bycatch when targeting coyotes. Believe it or not, skunks have good fur just like coyotes do, and since there is no easy way to get a skunk out of a coyote trap without killing it (think about it) the two seasons run simultaneously. Coyote trappers routinely harvest both species.

Shortly after the start of the season, we asked Schoonveld if he was busy on the coyote trapline. Here is what he said:

“I’ve got a few coyote traps out,” he said. “No catches yet, but at one spot I have a coyote messing with me, so I’ll get it soon.”

“I did have something strange happen yesterday, though,” he continued. “I had a trap set a couple of feet off a dirt road out on the local dairy property, so the milk trucks wouldn’t run over it as they go back and forth. I drove up to it yesterday and saw there was a skunk laying there. It was apparently sleeping, so I gave it a wide berth and drove past it and stopped, getting the wind in my favor. I slipped two Walmart bags over my shoes to keep the skunk juice off my shoes and I grabbed my pistol.”



Skunk fur is very soft and can be sold to fur buyers. Once the pelt is tanned, the skunk smell is eliminated. Photo by Tom Berg.

“I walked over to it, and oddly, the skunk was still sleeping. No, I suddenly realized it was dead. Not only that, but it was laying on the ground about 20 feet past my trap! There was a circle of disturbed ground all around my trap, so I know it had been caught in the trap overnight.”

“First, I thought someone had seen it in the trap and decided to run over it with their truck. Now that would be stupid, being it was a skunk. But it wasn’t flattened, so that couldn’t be it. Maybe a coyote grabbed it, pulled it out of the trap, shook it dead and ... then dropped it 20 feet away? Why not eat it? Maybe a dog did it, didn’t need the meat and couldn’t stand the smell? Or maybe the skunk was able to pull itself out of the trap, waddled 20 feet and fell dead from exertion?”

“I checked the catch circle, but found no coyote or dog footprints. Too strange. I guess no one will ever know what happened.”

“It wasn’t a very good spot anyway, so I pulled the trap,” said Schoonveld. “It was stinky, too.”

Doug Sikora Wraps Up Another Tournament Season

HOW member Doug Sikora has been fishing crappie tournaments competitively for several years now, and it is one of his favorite things to do. But things don't always go as planned.

"This is the story of the good and the bad," said Sikora. "You remember those good days... limits of fish, harvesting the buck of a lifetime, seeing an abundance of wildlife on an evening stroll through your favorite park. How much did you appreciate it?"

"My tournament fishing partner Michael Bledsoe and I started off our 2016 Crappie USA adventure in October by packing the truck for the 6-hour drive to Kentucky Lake on an early Saturday morning. Rods, check; extra batteries, check; net, check... 'Let's go win a national championship', Michael said."

"Four hours into the drive, we got the first news of the trip that changed the complexity of the expedition. Michael got word that his grandfather just passed away. Since he had a close relationship with his grandfather, he decided that he was going to drive to Virginia for the funeral on Wednesday and drive back in the same day. With the tournament on Friday and Saturday, he didn't want to miss valuable pre-fishing time, but paying your respects will always take precedence."

"After a couple of days of quality practice time, Monday evening arrived with Michael experiencing his first migraine headache. It included fever, nausea and debilitating pain. Knowing that he needed to be there for his dad, he was going to take Tuesday off the lake to recover."

"He was able to recover and make the 11-hour round trip back in time for the last half of day practice."

"Friday, the first day of the tournament, came with a turn of the tide. We landed in 8th place and had a fighting chance to win and complete a life goal."

"That tide came and went on Saturday as a gamble didn't pay off, and excitement quickly turned into disappointment. We finished in 18th place."

"Having a 'you can't win if you don't try' attitude, we chalked it up as experience and made the decision to make the long journey home. 'Next year we need to drop structure on that ledge, and...' BOOM! A loud noise from outside the vehicle grabbed our attention. 'Dude, I think we just blew a tire.' I immediately remembered that one hour into our drive the previous Saturday, we got to the part of the checklist that included the spare tire. 'Well, we never needed it to this point, so there's no need to turn around,' I recall saying."

"Time for the dreaded phone call. 'Honey, can you please grab my spare tire and meet me on the side of the highway? It's only two hours away,' I asked regretfully. 'Let me pack up the kids; I'll be there as soon as I can,' she replied."

"Sitting on the side of the road, reminiscing about the week's events and catching up on the current events, we began to share in laughter 'well, we have another story to tell, like the time your boat tire passed us up on the way to Patoka', I added."



Doug Sikora's fishing partner Michael Bledsoe with a very nice Kentucky Lake crappie. Photos by Doug Sikora.



"My wife arrived at midnight with the tire, and we quickly got back on our way. After days together, we finally ran out of things to talk about and I turned on the radio. The song 'Hunting, fishing and loving every day' by Luke Brian came on the radio. I took it as a message from the Lord above, followed by a feeling of appreciation."

P.J. Perea Leaves the NWTF, Joins the Savannah River Ecology Laboratory

HOW member P.J. Perea has said goodbye to his job at the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF). He held multiple titles at the NWTF over the past several years, from staff photographer and magazine editor to TV show host and Museum Director. But now he has moved on.



Perea has joined the University of Georgia as the new Director of Public Relations and Outreach of the Savannah River Ecology Laboratory (SREL). The UGA Savannah River Ecology Laboratory is located on the Savannah River Site, a Department of Energy facility near Aiken, SC. The laboratory pursues basic and applied research at multiple levels of ecological organization, from atoms to ecosystems.

P.J.'s new duties include overseeing animal care facilities, outreach programs, special events, public relations campaigns, publications editor, web and social media resources, and media relations. The SREL has more than 90 faculty members, professional researchers, undergraduate and graduate students, educators and staff.

We wish P.J. all the best in his new endeavor!

Dean Farr Spends Thanksgiving In An Unconventional Way

HOW member and Pheasants Forever supporter Dean Farr from Indianapolis made a trip out to Nebraska over the Thanksgiving holiday to do a little pheasant hunting and to see the local surroundings.

"My 11-year old Lab, Lindie, and I went out to Nebraska during Thanksgiving," Farr said. "We came back with stories to tell, too. Lindie did well in the mornings, but in the afternoons he was tired so he stayed in the back seat of my Jeep, 'coaching' me."

"The photo at right is of a bird I flushed, shot and retrieved by myself. Lindie came over and is confirming the results. Later, a younger hunter (under 40) came by with his Lab pup. I gave the pup a pheasant wing to begin his training."



"After the hunt, I spent Thanksgiving dinner in a bar at Central City, the only place around besides a Casey's gas station. One of the lady patrons heard that I was from out of town, and she left and returned with two plates of turkey with all the fixings; a plate for me and one for the bartender. It went well with a bottle of PBR beer!"



NORTH AMERICAN FUR AUCTIONS INC.

65 SKYWAY AVE, TORONTO, ON M9W 6C7 CANADA | TEL: +1.416.675.9320 | FAX: +1.416.675.6865 | WWW.NAFA.CA

HOW Members Awarded NAFA “Top Lot” Status For Raccoon Fur

HOW members Mike Schoonveld and Tom Berg were recently notified by *North American Fur Auctions* (NAFA) that some of the fur pelts they harvested during last fall’s trapping season were chosen as “**Top Lot**” pelts in the international fur sales this past April and May.

Fur pelts are sold in lots (lots of 100, or 500, or whatever is most convenient). The “Top Lot” from each grade of each individual furbearing species is the lot that sells for the highest price during the auction based on quality of the fur. Top Lots always contain flawless pelts of the best color and quality.

Schoonveld earned **Top Lot** honors for “Eastern Semi-Heavy Raccoon”, while Berg received awards for “Eastern North-Central Raccoon” and “Eastern Semi-Heavy Raccoon”. **Top Lot** furs start out as prime pelts on the animal, but they also represent pelts that were handled perfectly during the skinning and drying process. Although fur prices were low last year, it is always nice to be recognized for a job well done.

The origins of NAFA date back to the foundation of the Hudson’s Bay Company. The Hudson’s Bay Company, the oldest incorporated company in North America, received its Charter in the year 1670 from the King of England. They have been selling and trading fur for 346 years!

Today’s fur buyers come from China, Russia, Greece, Korea, Germany, Italy, England, Canada, the United States and many others.

Wild fur is used for both utilitarian garments and gear and for high fashion apparel throughout the world.



Rick Bramwell and Friend Hunts Rabbits and Pheasants

HOW past president Rick Bramwell recently treated his friend Danilo Stewart to some fine rabbit and pheasant hunting. “Danilo and I escaped the crowded stores for a distant crow call and some Christmastime hunting,” reported Bramwell. “The gift of a memory was all I had to give and I trust it will last a lifetime.”

“We hunted rabbits on a beautiful farm with a briar-covered hillside and a CRP creek bottom. There were so many rabbits that it was difficult to know if the one you just saw was the same one our dog Daisy was tracking.”

“Danilo was in position to take the first two bunnies of our hunt. Later, I was standing on a hillside watching a ravine as the sound of the dog got closer. Somehow, I did not see the rabbit that had left some good scent for the beagle. I ran to cut it off and the rabbit doubled right back to the same spot. The hare made the mistake of coming through that cut a third time and like Edward R. Murrow, I was there.”

“Daisy had put enough pressure on the rabbit to push it back through, but she was now on another rabbit as evidenced by the report of my friend’s shotgun. When we pushed through the weed bottom, a rabbit juiced out and hit a well-worn trail. Daisy ran that rabbit a long way, but it finally returned and gave me a shot. I chased the wounded rabbit to where it jumped in a hole. I dove forward and in one motion ran my hand down the hole and came out with the cottontail.”

“A friend once made a similar maneuver and pulled his hand out with an angry groundhog attached.”

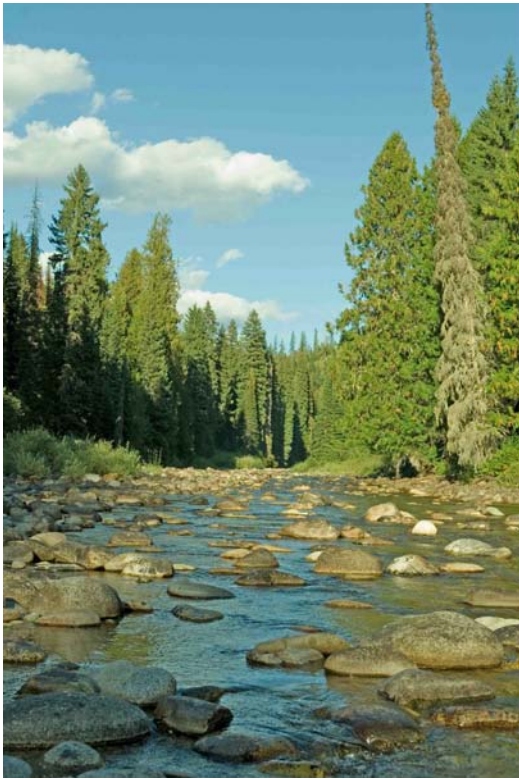


“At the end of our three-hour hunt, we tossed six bunnies in the back of the truck with the anticipation of another great hunt the next day.”

“The best thing to give a hunter is a hunt. My present unwrapped a little at a time. We drove to Wes McDaniel’s Buck Creek Outdoors, where 18-year-old May McDaniel was waiting with her German shorthaired pointer to guide us on a pheasant hunt.”

“When the first bird took flight, I waited for the report of Danilo’s gun. With the bird fast getting out of range, I shot and missed.

Danilo had forgotten to jack a shell into the chamber. From that point on the dog pointed and we missed no more. Our lovely host did a great job of handling the dog and making good conversation. Danilo surprised me with some fine shooting in the rabbit patch and on the hunting preserve. At the conclusion of our hunt, May dressed our five pheasants.” Sounds like it was a great hunt!



Vikki Trout Heads Back to Idaho in Search of Black Bear

“Never will I forget my first encounter in those beautiful Rocky Mountains,” said veteran hunter Vikki Trout. “A splendor and peacefulness that simply cannot be found anywhere else in my opinion. Add to that, as I scanned the dense woods floor, I caught movement approximately 20 yards behind the already-hit bait. My late husband (also my soul mate) John was perched in a stand directly above mine to capture the hunt on film. He knew something was up when I tapped his knee and proceeded to rise from the sitting position.”

“It was a black bear – and not just any bear. He was a whopping 6 foot, 6-inch bruiser that offered a perfect broadside shot. As we skinned the bear and prepared to get him to the vehicle, we could not help but reminisce about several bears we harvested over the years at this precise bait site.”

“When John passed away, I did not know if I would ever get back to “our” playground again. I prayed long and hard and God made it very clear by placing extra money in my possession that this is what I was supposed to do. We developed many friends over the course of 23 consecutive years hunting Idaho and they welcomed me back with open arms. I dreaded the flights and had concerns of how a woman by herself would handle those Rocky Mountains alone. Idaho allows you to place three bait sites, however, I elected to bait only two. I had made arrangements with the grocery store that John and I always got our meat scraps from and he was more than happy to save two huge boxes of scraps for me.”

“I did not get a bear, but this was another one of those ‘firsts’ that I managed to muddle through. To me, that was a huge accomplishment.”

“However, I can honestly say that since my first trip back to Idaho in 2016, I eagerly await my return in 2017!”



Brent Wheat Confounds Former Teacher, Writes Book

Lebanon, IN: In spite of dire predictions by his high school English teacher, central Indiana author Brent T. Wheat has released his first book: *Snake Dance*.

Subtitled *The Outdoor Misadventures of Someone with Poor Balance*, the book covers Mother Nature's multiple failed attempts at killing Wheat and his companions as they hike, hunt, fish and travel across Indiana and the United States.

Dedicated to "Both Regular Readers," *Snake Dance* is a compilation based upon Wheat's "Out In The Open" newspaper column that has appeared across Indiana and Ohio for nearly 30 years. Channeling favorite authors Dave Barry and Patrick F. McManus, the book is alternately humorous and thoughtful while being wholly self-deprecating as it uncovers the naked truth about the outdoors: the sun doesn't always shine, the fish don't always bite and the campsites are often filled with drunken outlaw biker gangs. In spite of all the snags, *Snake Dance* also reveals that the outdoors is likewise filled with fun, awe and insight.

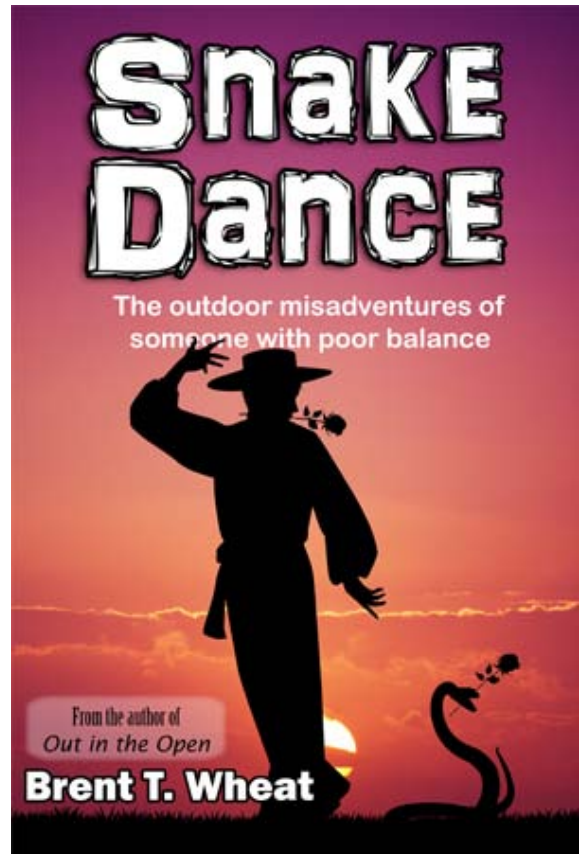
Though geared primarily toward the outdoor enthusiasts, *Snake Dance* is a great read for anyone who enjoys tongue-in-cheek commentary about modern life.

Wheat has won numerous awards including "Best Sports Columnist" and "Best Sports Photo" from the Hoosier State Press Association, multiple awards from the Hoosier Outdoor Writers organization, has been named Conservation Communicator of the Year by the Hoosier Wildlife Federation and Best Outdoor Media Representative by the Indiana Bowhunters Association. His work has appeared in *SWAT Magazine*, *BearingArms.com*, *Midwest Outdoors*, *Trailer Boating*, *Turkey and Turkey Hunting*, *Eastern Fly Fishing*, *Law Enforcement Technology* and countless other publications. He is also an award-winning photographer, had a weekly segment on *SWAT TV* on the Outdoor Channel, appears as a frequent guest on *Indiana Outdoors Radio* and is publisher of *WildIndiana*.

Snake Dance is currently available in E-reader electronic format for \$3.99; purchase links to major retailers can be found at www.SnakeDanceBook.com. A soft cover 313-page trade paperback book should be available after December 20.

MEDIA CONTACT:

Brent T. Wheat
Email: BTwheat@wildindiana.com
Phone: 317-370-3442



Troy McCormick Finds Snow Geese by the Thousands

HOW board member Troy McCormick enjoys waterfowl hunting, and this year he planned a goose hunt up in the Dakotas. It sounds like he had a great trip:

“My snow goose hunt in North Dakota this fall was more than I expected it to be,” reported McCormick. “I was really expecting disappointment. Just two days before we left on the trip, the weather was in the 70’s and it was way too warm for migratory waterfowl to move south. In fact, a report on waterfowler.com from a duck hunter said he went golfing because there were no birds and the weather was too nice!”



A mega-flock of snow geese fresh from Canada takes flight from a barren farm field in North Dakota. Photo by Troy McCormick.

“However, the day before we left a large cold front developed in Canada and immediately the geese began moving south! By the time our pickup truck arrived in southern North Dakota the next day, there were an estimated 400,000 snow geese in the area where we were to hunt.”



Troy McCormick (left) and friend David Blake are shown with their first morning's harvest of snow geese.

“The hunting was a lot different than what I was expecting it to be, too. We watched large flocks of snow geese lift off of the nearby bodies of water, and we followed them across the county in a truck. We looked for opportunities to stalk the massive flocks of birds as they landed and fed in the picked corn fields that we had permission to hunt.”

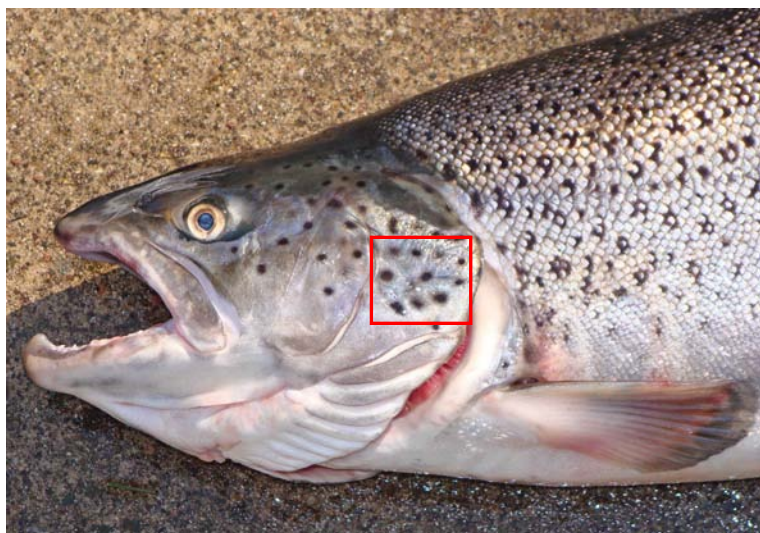
“It was very challenging with the tens of thousands of birds in these mega flocks. When one small group flew, they all flew to the next field. If you shot once, they were all gone. Instead of traditional setting of decoys and calling to lure birds into a blind, we did a lot of spot and stalk hunts, using natural low spots and drainages in the fields to get close.”

“The darker colored geese we saw were blue geese, a color variation of the mostly white snow goose (they have black-tipped wing feathers). You would think that you could just shoot into the flock, but you had to pick your targets, and lead them 2-4 feet, to be successful. There were 20-30 mph winds on the open prairie. However, on one occasion, our host did bring down 14 geese with three shots. The daily limit is 50 snow geese per hunter!”

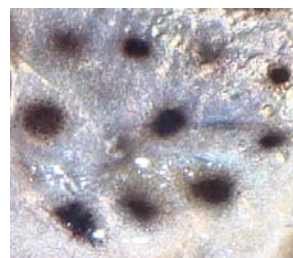
Unusual Nature Photos From The Hoosier Outdoors

Sponsored by Pure Fishing

Large Brown Trout are Wary Predators of the Great Lakes



Close-up
→
Original
←



The “What is it?” photo from the last issue was a lot more difficult than usual, since only three (3) HOW members were able to

identify it. Mike Schoonveld, John Maxwell and PJ Perea each had the right answer. When we drew a name at random for the **HT Enterprises** icefishing prize package, Mike Schoonveld was the winner. Congrats, Mike! We’ll get the icefishing gear to you.

As you can see in the photo above left, the mystery creature for this issue was a brown trout (*Salmo trutta*). Great Lakes brown trout, like the fish shown here from

the open waters of Lake Michigan, are usually very silvery with a white belly and many black spots. Brown trout that are caught from small streams are much more colorful, with brown sides and hints of gold and yellow. They also have plenty of black spots, but there can also be red and yellow spots mixed in as well. They are beautiful fish.

Brown trout are notoriously wary fish, and the older, larger individuals can become very difficult to catch. Fishing for trophy-sized brown trout is most often done at night or very early in the morning. It seems like the biggest browns tend to let their guard down under cover of darkness. While the diet of stream fish consists mostly of insects, Great Lakes brown trout rely on smaller fish for the bulk of their food. Choose your baits accordingly.



For this issue, our friends at **Pure Fishing** 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 nice fishing rod/reel combo. 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 found right here in Indiana. You might even see it in your own back yard. Have you ever seen this color pattern or something that looks like this?



This creature may be easy for some people to identify, but difficult for others. Do you know of any Hoosier creatures that look like this? This time you must identify the exact species. If you think it’s a species of bird, for example, go ahead and guess “bay-breasted warbler”. Of course, it’s not a bay-breasted warbler, but if you think you know what it is, send the answer via email to thomas.berg@comcast.net. If you’re right, you will be eligible for this issue’s prize.



As mentioned above, **Pure Fishing** will be donating a great rod/reel combo 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 an Abu Garcia Mike Iaconelli signature series 6’10” medium light, 1-piece finesse spinning rod and a lightweight Abu Garcia Revo SX low-profile spinning reel. It’s a great prize for serious fishermen, and it is worth over \$200! If multiple people guess the right answer, we’ll draw one winner at random from the pool of correct entries. Good luck! Nature photos 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.

HOW Members Should Prepare For Upcoming Winter Sport Shows

First up:

Chicago, IL: The **Chicago Boat, RV & Strictly Sail Show**, presented by Progressive opens in the Windy City's McCormick Place – South, from January 11-15, 2017. This show has something for everyone, including a sailing simulator, boat maintenance and repair seminars, a stocked trout pond for the kids, the PaddleFest Pool, boating and sailing courses and seminars, a Raingutter Regatta, a scavenger hunt for the kids and much more. There is even a beach bar for those who wish it was still summertime. Of course, there will be lots of boats and RVs to see (and buy), with products that will interest everyone in the family.

Visit www.chicagoboatshow.com or www.nmma.org for complete information regarding show features, exhibitors, seminars and more. HOW members may contact NMMA Public Relations Manager Maria Blevins (mblevins@nmma.org or 312-946-6231) for more info.



Cincinnati, OH: The 60th annual **Cincinnati Travel, Sports & Boat Show**, presented by RAM bursts into downtown Cincinnati January 13-15 and January 18-22, 2017. It's THE SOURCE for everything outdoors, with hundreds of displays and exhibits including: boating, water skiing, wakeboarding, fishing, hunting, camping, golf and travel destinations near and far where you can do it all. There will even be a 17,000 gallon kayak demo pool! Experts in all areas will offer expert one-on-one consultation to help you buy the boat, equipment and gear or book the perfect customized trip – at the best early-season prices!



Visit the website:

www.hartproductions.com
for complete information
regarding show features and
ticket prices.

HOW members may contact
Chip Hart:
(chip@hartproductions.com)
or Vicki Hart:
(vicki@hartproductions.com)
for more information.

HOW Supporting Member News

Louisville, KY: The **Louisville Boat, RV & Sportshow** runs from January 25-29, 2017 at the Kentucky Expo Center. This show is for the outdoors lovers in the family, as there will be professional wakeboarders, Bassmaster Elite fisherman Timmy Horton, a stocked trout pond for the kids, ultimate camp cooking seminars, paddlesport clinics, riverboat seminars, boating simulators, boat maintenance and repair seminars, storytelling and much more. Of course, there will be lots of boats and RVs to see, as well.

Visit www.louisvilleboatshow.com or www.nmma.org for complete information regarding show features, exhibitors, seminars and more. HOW members may contact NMMA Public Relations Manager Maria Blevins (mblevins@nmma.org or 312-946-6231) for more info.



Schaumburg, IL: The **Chicagoland Fishing, Travel & Outdoor Expo** returns to Schaumburg, IL from January 26-29, 2017 creating an outdoor oasis indoors. Whether it's testing the latest fishing and outdoor gear or learning the latest and greatest techniques, the Expo is the place to be for anyone interested in exploring the outdoors. Attendees to this year's expo will have the opportunity to improve their fishing knowledge through an extensive lineup of seminars with top-notch local and national fishing professionals, buy the newest fishing and outdoor gear and equipment from top manufacturers and retailers from around the country, book a trip of a lifetime, and even browse the latest fishing boats on the market!

Featuring more than 100 travel-related exhibitors (including guides, lodges, resorts and regional promotion agencies), major fishing tackle manufacturers, local fishing retailers, and a diverse selection of fishing boats, attendees will be able to see, learn, touch and buy everything they need for the ultimate fishing and outdoor adventure.

Featuring an impressive lineup of seminars led by expert instructors and nationally recognized fishing celebrities, including renowned pro-angler and winner of the Bassmaster Classic, Mike Iaconelli; Four-time Bassmaster winner Ish Monroe; and winner of the Mille Lacs Angler of the Year tournament Seth Feider, attendees will have the opportunity to learn something new or improve their current skill level. Show goers can also chat with and learn techniques from some of the best guides and outfitters from around the globe.

There will also be plenty of opportunities for family fun with the return of the Northern Illinois Raptor Center's Outdoor Birds of Prey exhibit featuring live raptors including an owl and a hawk, and Sunday's 'Family Day' featuring free tackle boxes to the first 100 kids and a free scavenger hunt for all kids ages 11 and under!

Visit www.sportshows.com/chicago or www.nmma.org for complete information regarding show features, exhibitors, seminars and more.

HOW members may contact NMMA Public Relations Manager Maria Blevins (mblevins@nmma.org or 312-946-6231) for more info.



HOW Supporting Member News

Louisville, KY: The **Louisville Deer & Turkey Expo** presented by Field & Stream and Outdoor Life will take place at the Kentucky Exposition Center (State Fairgrounds) from January 27-29, 2017. There will be celebrity appearances, shooting activities (including airguns and archery), interactive displays, informative guest speakers and interesting demonstrations. There will also be plenty of trophy deer mounts to see and lots of deer and turkey hunting products available for purchase.

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

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



Indianapolis, IN: The 63rd annual Indianapolis Boat, Sport & Travel Show, presented by Ford will take place at the Indiana State Fairgrounds from February 17-26, 2017. From camping gear to extreme sports, the Indianapolis Boat, Sport & Travel Show has everything imaginable! You can enjoy fishing seminars, popular speakers, special features, rock climbing, interactive games, the 70,000 square-foot Tackle Town USA, the 5,000 gallon Hawg Trough, travel and tourism information, RVs and boats galore, plus much more.



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

Alaska TimberMen Lumberjack Show

The Alaskan lumberjacks battle it out in chopping, sawing, tree climbing, axe throwing, log rolling, and much more. The Alaskan lumberjacks are known for their popularity on ESPN and have over five different competitions.

K-9 X Games presented by Alpha K9 U

K-9 X Games (Shows) are performances by the Alpha K-9 U Crew exhibiting K-9 Obedience & the different Dock-Diving sports disciplines such as X-treme Retrieve, X-treme Vertical and demonstrating the newest discipline, X-treme Air.

Travel Café is Back

The popular Travel Café is back with exciting travel destination presentations and videos! Along with the fresh new travel ideas presented by the exhibitors within the Travel & Tourism section of the show, there will be new and unique in-show dining options.

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

HOW members may contact Kevin Renfro (kevin@renfroproductions.com) for more information.

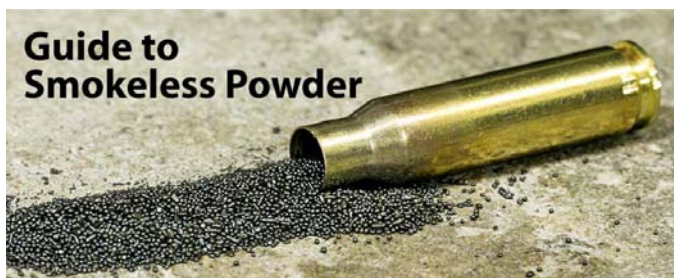
HOW Supporting Member News



Widener's Reloading & Shooting Supply Publishes Smokeless Powder Guide

Johnson City, TN: Widener's Reloading & Shooting Supply Company has recently published a new guide for ammo reloaders. It is titled *A Guide to Smokeless Powder*, and it is available for viewing online (complete with photos and a video) at: www.wideners.com/smokeless-powder-guide.

Anne Taylor from Widener's brought the new smokeless powder guide to our attention and commented that it would be a great resource for HOW members and their readers. "As you probably know, smokeless powder is one of the most important components of ammunition and one of the most complicated," she said. "We decided to go through the basics of reloading powder to show the different characteristics and how your choice of powder can affect your shot."



"Our hope is that the guide will help make reloading less intimidating for shooters. I think you'll find the high resolution images to be a great resource for your readers who may be considering reloading - or may already do so. There is also a great video that demonstrates burn rate in a way that is really easy to understand."

Here's some info to pique your curiosity about the smokeless powder guide. See the complete guide online for more! For additional information, HOW members may contact Anne Taylor at Widener's via email at: anne@wideners.com.

Ball Powder



Ball powder consists of tiny spheres that can generally be manufactured more rapidly, often reducing the cost of the final product. It meters better, resulting in more accurate loads

Flattened Ball Powder



This is a product that is very similar to typical ball powder, but has a flattened, oval shape, similar to a ball of bread dough. This powder is known to deliver similar results to spherical

Flake Powder



Flake powder has granules that are shaped like tiny discs. They are essentially powder that is extended into a tube shape and cut into tiny sections, almost like cutting a very

Stick Powder



Shaped like small cylinders, stick powder is most popular for rifle cartridges. While highly effective in rifle ammunition, stick powder is difficult to meter accurately and can lead to

HOW Supporting Member News

Battenfeld's Lockdown Vault Accessories Releases Innovative LED Vault Lights

Columbia, MO: Battenfeld Technologies is well-known in the outdoors industry for developing and selling shooting, reloading, gunsmithing, and gun cleaning supplies under several popular, premium brands, including: Caldwell Shooting Supplies; Wheeler Engineering; Tipton Gun Cleaning Supplies; Frankford Arsenal Reloading Tools; Lockdown Vault Accessories; Hooyman Premium Tree Saws; Smith & Wesson Accessories; M&P Accessories; Thompson/Center Arms Accessories; Schrade, Old Timer, and Uncle Henry knives and specialty tools; and Imperial knives.



One of the newest products introduced by **Lockdown Vault Accessories** is their new line of LED lights which are perfect for gun safes, cabinets and other firearms storage devices.

Owning a firearm comes with responsibility. It is very important to securely store your firearms, but we believe it's also important to be able to easily access your firearms if the need may arise. The new Lockdown LED Vault Lights allow you to maintain secure storage while providing adequate light to easily retrieve your firearm and other stored items when needed.

Lockdown Cordless 75 LED Vault Light

The Cordless 75 LED Vault Light attaches easily to the inside of any vault with the included ultra-strong magnet or screw attachment. This handy cordless light is built to last and will illuminate the dark corners and shelves of any safe.

- Runs on three AAA batteries
- 95 Lumen output
- 5 hours continuous run time

Lockdown Automatic Cordless 25 LED Vault Light

The Automatic Cordless 25 LED Vault Light has an automatic sensor that turns the light on when you open the vault, and turns off after you close the vault. The sensor has a range of five meters and conveniently runs on three AAA batteries. This innovative vault light is compact, affordable and is a must-have for any vault owner.

- 70 lumen output per light
- 6 hours continuous runtime per light



Media Contact: Kaleigh Montgomery, phone: 573-777-7662, email: kmontgomery@btibrands.com.

For more information on Lockdown Vault Accessories or any of Battenfeld Technologies other products and brands, please visit www.BTibrands.com.

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
Backwoodsman Magazine - www.backwoodsmanmag.com
Balsax Fishing Lines - www.balsax.com
Bass Assassin Lures - www.bassassassin.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
Browning Ammunition - www.browningammo.com
Buck Knives - www.buckknives.com
Camp Chef - www.campchef.com
Carbon Express - www.carbonexpressarrows.com
Cast Away Bobber - www.castawaybobber.net
Church Tackle Company - www.churchtackle.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
Ducks Unlimited - www.ducks.org
Eagle Claw - www.eagleclaw.com
Environ-Metal, Inc. - www.hevishot.com
Eppinger Manufacturing - www.eppinger.net
Field & Stream Outdoor Life Deer & Turkey Expos - www.deerinfo.com
Fish On Kids Books - www.fishonkidsbooks.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
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
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
Indianapolis Zoo - www.indianapoliszoo.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.mossyoak.com
MyTopo - www.mytopo.com
National Marine Manufacturers Assn - www.nmma.org
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
Widener's Reloading & Shooting Supply - www.wideners.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

Chicago Boat, RV & Strictly Sail Show:

(www.nmma.org)

Chicago, IL

January 11-15, 2017

Cincinnati Travel, Sports & Boat Show:

(www.hartproductions.com)

Cincinnati, OH

January 13-15 & 18-22, 2017

SHOT Show 2017:

(<http://shotshow.org>)

Las Vegas, NV

January 17-20, 2017

Louisville Boat, RV & Sportshow:

(www.nmma.org)

Louisville, KY

January 25-29, 2017

Chicagoland Fishing, Travel & Outdoor Expo:

(www.nmma.org)

Schaumburg, IL

January 26-29, 2017

Louisville Deer & Turkey Expo:

(www.deerinfo.com)

Louisville, KY

January 27-29, 2017

Indianapolis Boat, Sport & Travel Show:

(www.renfroproductions.com)

Indianapolis, IN

February 17-26, 2017

HOW 2017 Annual Conference:

(www.HoosierOutdoorWriters.org)

Canyon Inn, McCormick's Creek State Park
Spencer, IN

April 21-23, 2017

ICAST Show 2017:

(www.ICASTfishing.org)

Orlando, FL

July 11-14, 2017

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.