

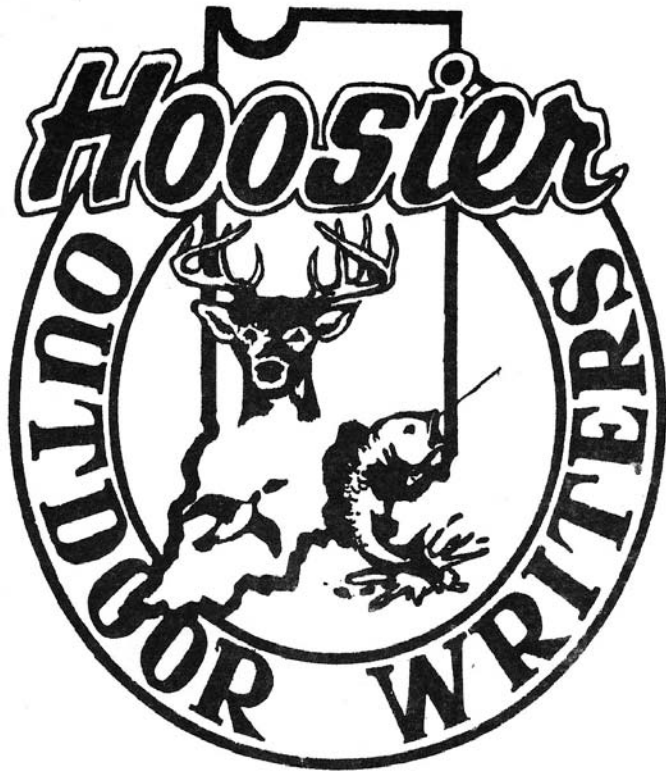


The Blade

January - February 2017

The Official Publication of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers

"Snow Storm at the 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: *The quiet waters of a small creek become more beautiful than ever when the snow starts to fall. Indiana's late-winter snowfall this year has been very light. Photo by Tom Berg.*



President's Message

by Ken McBroom

Keep a Positive Attitude When Mother Nature Throws a Curve

Well, so much for a lazy winter this year. My wife and I were super busy with our move to Kentucky, and actually just have one more U-Haul to unload in the morning and we are done.

In the middle of it all I had a much-anticipated journey with HOW member Troy McCormick and friend David Blake to south Texas to hunt wild hog, javelina, chachalaca birds, dove and quail. We also planned a deep sea fishing trip for marlin and big grouper. Unfortunately, the deep sea trip was cancelled due to high seas and cold weather, along with our guided trip on Falcon Lake. My friend Jim came through, however, with a great redfish guide at the last minute. While fishing was slow for everyone, we managed a nice redfish each and enjoyed a wonderful day on the water, filming some TV, taking photos and just having a blast.

This trip was one of those trips of a lifetime. The hunting and fishing didn't go as planned, unfortunately, because Mother Nature welcomed us with some really cold weather. We knew it was unseasonably cold when the locals were saying it was their 100-year cold front. That isn't very funny to a group of guys that just drove all the way down there in a rented van full of hunting, fishing and camera gear, but it still turned out great.

Trips were cancelled and the weather was rough, but we managed to kill a few hogs and several doves and caught some redfish. I even missed a Rio Grande turkey on an otherwise slow, cold morning. You will have to ask about the trip at this year's HOW conference to get it all, because it had many twists and turns and even a couple coons in the attic.

The trip was one for the books and we all kept a sense of humor about the weather as well as other things. We enjoyed the camaraderie and most importantly the laughs, and there was no shortage of those. It's great when a group of friends can keep everything in perspective and make the most of whatever situation presents itself, and I can say we did that. The many hours in the field trying to film a dove show without any doves could take its toll if you let it, but I think we handled it well and the day went by just fine without those doves.

It's always great to hang out with other outdoor communicators and work on what each one loves. That's sharing the outdoors. Whether it be filming a TV show or writing a hog hunting article, or just getting some scenic images of a place you've never been, it makes for a great time in the woods and on the water. I encourage everyone to give it a try. Thanks, Troy and Dave, for the memories and the laughs that will last a lifetime; not to mention all the stories we now have to tell around the campfire.



The Hoosier Outdoor Writers

New Members, Past Presidents & Memorial Section

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

Will Keaton (Associate)
Bloomington, IN
Sponsor: Bill Keaton

Michael Lunsford (Active)
Rosedale, IN
Sponsor: Phil Cox

Memorial to Deceased HOW Members

Those Who Have Gone Before Us:

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

Past Presidents of HOW

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

Annual HOW Conference



The Canyon Inn at McCormick's Creek State Park will host the 2017 HOW Conference. We will meet in the Oak Room on Saturday morning, April 22, 2017. We hope to see everyone there!



Make Plans Now To Attend The 2017 Annual HOW Conference At McCormick's Creek State Park!

The 48th meeting of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers will take place on the weekend of April 21-23, 2017 at McCormick's Creek State Park near Spencer, IN. Have you been to a HOW conference lately? This is shaping-up to be another great conference, and since we haven't had a conference here there will be a lot to see. Make your plans to attend now!

The weekend conference activities will begin with the annual HOW Fun Shoot on Friday, April 21. 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 is still working on confirming the venue, but we should have more details soon.

All conference attendees who arrive at McCormick's Creek State Park on Friday evening are invited to attend a special barbecue dinner that we are planning. We will meet at the Centennial Shelterhouse inside the park at 6:00pm. There will be plenty to eat and drink, and it will be a great opportunity to see old friends and make some new ones. All HOW Conference attendees and their spouses are invited. The sign-up sheet is printed on **page 9** of this newsletter.

The main meeting will occur on Saturday, April 22 at the Canyon Inn. As usual, you don't have to attend any of the events on Friday if your schedule only allows you to be present at the Saturday meeting. See **page 8** for a copy of this year's conference registration form. We will have some great speakers at the conference, featuring the following presentations (more detailed descriptions of the presentations will be printed in the next issue of *The Blade*).

- **Ruffed Grouse Habitat in Indiana**

Heather Shaw, regional biologist for the Ruffed Grouse Society and American Woodcock Society (RGS/AWS) in the Eastern Great Lakes Region (Michigan, Ohio and Indiana), will be our first speaker. She will be assisted by Dan Gehring, the director of habitat management for the RGS/AWS.



They will discuss the need to create healthy forest habitat for ruffed grouse, American woodcock and other wildlife and help preserve our rich sporting traditions for future generations.



Both individuals are avid hunters and are passionate about improving and preserving our forests and natural habitats for the benefit of wildlife, especially grouse and woodcock. Dan Gehring will also present the local Indiana perspective on the RGS/AWS and share information on current Indiana RGS/AWS Chapter initiatives.

- **Deer Management Topics and Current Trends**

Dr. Joe Caudell is the new IDNR Deer Research Biologist in Indiana. He comes to us from Murray State University where he taught a variety of wildlife management courses. Previous to working at Murray State, Dr. Caudell was the USDA APHIS Wildlife Services wildlife disease biologist for eight years in Indiana.

Dr. Caudell will be discussing a variety of topics including deer management, current trends, and updates on deer research. He will also discuss the history of bovine tuberculosis in two southeastern Indiana counties and the discovery of Indiana's first wild white-tailed deer affected by this disease in Franklin County, Indiana.

Dr. Caudell and his team have also been looking at the effects of the new rifle law on the deer harvest. While this has been in effect for only one season, there was a pronounced shift from shotguns and other firearms to the use of high-powered rifles.



- **Indiana's Urban Wildlife Program**

Urban Wildlife Biologist Megan Dillon is responsible for the northern region of Indiana, and she has worked for the IDNR Division of Fish and Wildlife for the past two years. She works on finding ways for Indiana's citizens to co-exist with wildlife, even in the heart of the city.



She will discuss the Division of Fish and Wildlife's venture into urban habitat management, which began just two years ago. "Even though the new Urban Program has grown up fast," stated Dillon, "urban wildlife biologists have successfully entered the backyard habitat scene and made it our own by taking a landscape level approach."

"We strive to create urban habitat that not only serves to benefit the popular monarch butterfly and other imperiled pollinators, but also to resolve nuisance wildlife issues, promote wildlife appreciation, improve water quality, and provide educational opportunities for the public," she continued.

"Please join us to learn more about the Urban Program goals, accomplishments, and all the lessons we've learned along the way."

- **Over, Under, Gone – the Low Head Dam Initiative**

Kenneth E. Smith will be our final speaker of the day. He is an Assistant Director of the Division of Water for the IDNR. He has 40+ years of experience in water resource engineering and currently leads the Division's Compliance and Projects Branch, which includes the State's Dam and Levee Safety Section, the Project Development Section, the Surveying and Mapping Section, and the Compliance and Enforcement Section.

Mr. Smith will talk about low head dams on Indiana waterways and what the public needs to know about them. "There is an important story to talk about, and as the spring recreation season approaches we need the help of this group to raise public awareness," said Smith. "I plan on speaking about much more than just removing low head dams from streams. The bigger topic is teaching the recreating public to be aware of safety concerns at low head dams."



In addition to the speakers and seminars on Saturday, the HOW Board of Directors will convene to discuss the business of the association. Before our traditional buffet lunch, a slate of new officers will be elected during the meeting, also. Of course, we are planning another excellent HOW Raffle this year, too! The raffle at the 2016 meeting at Brown County State Park was one of the best in recent years, and we are hoping it will be just as good or better at McCormick's Creek this year! We have already received a great variety of exceptional outdoors products for this year's raffle, including a stunning Henry Golden Boy .22LR Silver Eagle lever-action rifle, an awesome Mossberg Patriot .243 bolt-action rifle, a great Mission Archery compound bow, a Leupold laser rangefinder, fishing rods, reels and other fishing gear, shooting

Another Amazing HOW Raffle!

and hunting gear, optics, hiking boots, archery gear, premium sunglasses, and much more. Additional items are coming in every day, too, so start saving your money for tickets now. You must be present to win, so don't miss it!

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

HOW Fishing Outing on Sunday

We are planning a fishing outing on Sunday, April 23rd for HOW members who are interested in participating. The local crappie club (Indiana Slab Masters) that has hosted our fishing outing in the past is planning to help out again this year. They will be providing several knowledgeable captains who will take us fishing on nearby Cataract Lake (also called Cagles Mill Lake). We will be fishing primarily for crappies, but you never know what else you might catch in this reservoir. It is also home to some monstrous flathead catfish in addition to the large numbers of crappies.

Our guides will provide the boat, tackle and bait – HOW members will only need to bring themselves, a fishing license, camera, jacket, and any snacks/drinks that they might like. We will be meeting the boat captains at 7:00 or 8:00am – the exact time will be determined later. As usual, an earnest money check for \$25 per person must be paid in advance when you sign up for the fishing trip. See the signup sheet on **page 9** of this newsletter.



Bob Rayner from the Indiana Slab Masters holds a nice crappie. He will be one of our guides again this year.

Staying Overnight at McCormick's Creek SP?

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

HOW CONFERENCE – ROOM RESERVATIONS:

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

Group/Promotional Code:

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

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: \$69.00 per night plus tax.
Canyon Inn room with one Queen bed: \$85.00 per night plus tax.
Canyon Inn room with two Double beds: \$90.00 per night plus tax.
Canyon Inn room with two Queen beds: \$100.00 per night plus 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. Rooms may still be available after this deadline, too. Questions: contact Tom Berg (thomas.berg@comcast.net).

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

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. Envelope must be postmarked by March 1st)

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

HOW Members (after March 1): \$40.00 each (\$40 X number attending) = _____

(Non-HOW members pay \$5.00 more than regular HOW members)

NOTE: New for this year: The conference fee at the door will be: \$45.00 each

Conference fee includes continental breakfast and buffet lunch on Saturday 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

Hoosier Outdoor Writers Conference Activities Registration

Please register for the Pre-Conference and Post-Conference activities listed below (Friday, April 21, 2017 and Sunday, April 23, 2017). The only activity that requires an advance payment is the guided Sunday fishing trip, but please indicate the number of people planning to attend each activity so we can plan accordingly. Note that activities are reserved for registered conference attendees only.

Contact information:

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

Mailing Address: _____

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

Email Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

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

		Number Attending	Shotgun Gauge
Friday Fun Shoot*:		X _____	_____
Friday evening Barbecue:	FREE!	X _____	
Sunday Guided Fishing**:	\$25.00 each	X _____	= \$ _____
TOTAL:			\$ _____

- * The fee for the Fun Shoot will be payable at the Gun Club.
- * HOW members may need to supply their own ammunition (we don't have a sponsor yet).
- ** The Sunday guided fishing trip will include a guide, boat and tackle. HOW members will only need to bring their fishing license, jacket, drinks, camera, etc.

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

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

Registration forms and payment must be received by March 24, 2017 at the LATEST.

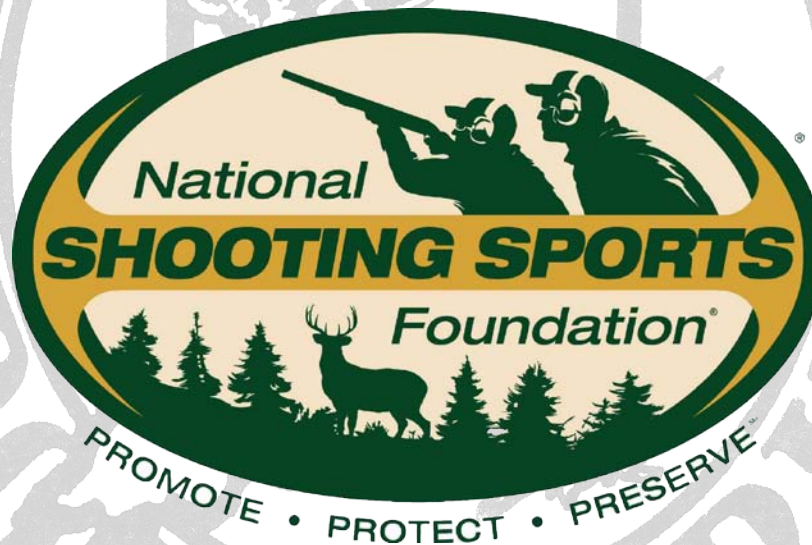
Questions? Email all conference questions to Tom Berg: thomas.berg@comcast.net

2017 HOW Conference

We would like to thank the following
companies and organizations:



Awards-in-Craft Sponsor



Conference Lunch Sponsor

Sponsors of the 2017 HOW Annual Conference

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:

Troy McCormick, Email: contest@hoosieroutdoorwriters.org

US Mail: 3604 Sea Pine, Jeffersonville, IN 47130

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: _____

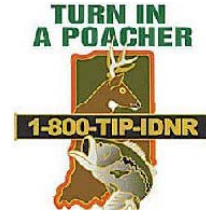
Where published/aired: _____

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



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

Division of Fish & Wildlife

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



For immediate release: January 18, 2017

DNR Launches CORRIDORS for Grassland and Pollinator Habitats

Songbirds, gamebirds, butterflies and bees are among the many animals that will benefit from a new DNR Division of Fish & Wildlife program to improve grassland and pollinator habitat.

The program is called CORRIDORS, an acronym for Conservation on Rivers and Roadways Intended to Develop Opportunities for Resources and Species.

CORRIDORS will focus on four priority areas in the state: Indiana State Wildlife Action Plan Conservation Opportunity Areas; rights-of-way on interstates and state and federal highways; 100-year floodplains of rivers; and areas adjacent to a body of water.

Partners with DNR Fish & Wildlife include the Indiana Dept. of Transportation (INDOT), U.S. Dept. of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever (PF/QF).

People who own land in a priority area can participate by establishing habitat on their property through the CORRIDORS program. Qualifying landowners are eligible for technical and financial assistance. To get started, contact your DNR landscape or district wildlife biologist. A map with contact information is at wildlife.IN.gov/2716.htm.

Grassland and pollinator habitat is critical for the survival of many species, including monarch butterflies, bobwhite quail, ring-necked pheasants, Eastern meadowlarks, cottontail rabbits, native bees and the imperiled loggerhead shrike.

The DNR Division of Fish & Wildlife will provide technical assistance and, in some cases, incentive payments, and will coordinate efforts among agencies. INDOT will establish native grasses and plants where possible along rights-of-way of Indiana highways, increasing wildlife habitat while reducing maintenance costs. The NRCS will provide technical and financial assistance to private landowners through its Environmental Quality Incentive Program, improving both soil health and water quality. PF/QF will provide technical assistance through their Farm Bill biologists and promote the CORRIDORS program throughout the state.

If you aren't a landowner but want to support the program, you can do so by spreading the word about the initiative and supporting DNR by purchasing licenses and a Gamebird Habitat Stamp.

For more information, visit wildlife.IN.gov/9405.htm.

Media contacts: For media south of Indianapolis, contact biologist Erin Basiger at 317-501-6272; for media north of Indianapolis, contact biologist Jason Wade at 260-468-2515.



Interesting Bird Sightings in the Great Outdoors

We have been asking 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). You may just learn something new, too!

Report from Ken McBroom:

“I wanted to contribute to the interesting bird sightings section of the newsletter but didn’t think my birds were very uncommon,” said McBroom. “I love to watch the cardinals that come to my bird feeder, and an old saying goes that a cardinal is someone in your past coming back to visit. We have all of our cardinals named for important people in our lives and we refer to each one that way. They all look so different it isn’t hard to know which one it is when they visit, and it makes watching them fun. Aside from the kingfisher, the cardinal is my favorite bird.”

“The bird photo I submitted (at right) may or may not be interesting to true birders (which I am not). I did some research to figure out the name and species of this bird, but I was unable to identify it. I did find many photos of finches and sparrows that resembled the colorings but none of them had this bird’s long beak. I sent the photo to Tom Berg and he identified it as a **brown thrasher** (*Toxostoma rufum*).”



Brown thrashers usually nest in dense shrubbery and small trees, often fairly close to the ground. They eat almost anything, from insects and worms to seeds and small fruits.

They are also talented singers, known to be capable of singing more than 1,100 different songs and notes.

“I have some other birds that come to the feeder including some cool little woodpeckers,” continued McBroom, “but I have yet to photograph them. Hopefully by the next newsletter I will have some photos of them to share.”



Report from Tom Berg:

“Last fall my wife and I made a day-trip to the Dunes National Lakeshore in Porter County,” reported Berg, “intent on finding some interesting birds. I brought my digital camera and she had her binoculars, and we were lucky enough to see a lot of birds.”

“Although we did walk out to the shoreline to see Lake Michigan, we spent most of our time on the trails through the woods and open areas. The open areas, in particular, seemed to draw the most birds.”

“At one point, I saw a small bird flitting in and out of the leaves of an oak tree. The bird was expertly picking small green caterpillars off of the tree’s leaves as it fluttered from one branch to the next.”

“I finally got a photo of it when it dropped down to the bottom edge of two leaves and grabbed the leaves with its sharp toes (see photo at left). I was amazed that it could hold on to the edges of those leaves. As soon as I snapped the photo it was gone, heading to the next tree.”

“Back at home I identified it as a **red-eyed vireo** (*Vireo olivaceus*), a cool bird that spends most of its time hunting insects in the treetops.”



Interesting Bird Sightings in the Great Outdoors

Another report from Tom Berg:

“Last winter my wife Lori and I drove over to Calumet Park on the Indiana/Illinois border in search of a snowy owl that had been spotted there by local birders earlier in the day. Neither of us had ever seen a wild snowy owl (we still haven’t), so we hopped in the car and made our way to the lakefront.”

“I remember it was an absolutely frigid day, and we were bundled-up like Eskimos. We stood on the stony wall at the shoreline’s edge and scanned the expansive harbor and the horizon for birds. Most of our time was spent watching the outer breakwall with the binoculars, since that’s where the snowy owl had been seen. After a fruitless hour of watching the breakwall, however, we decided to call it a day. We were both pretty cold, too.”

“When we got back to the car, I noticed a large group of ducks and geese milling around a few feet off the sandy beach near the parking lot. I told Lori I wanted to get a closer look at the ducks, but she said she would just sit in the car and warm up a bit. So I headed over to the icy beach to check out the bird life over there.”



“I was surprised at all of the ducks and geese that were present. There were lots of Canada geese, mallard ducks, coots and even a few gadwalls. As I watched the ducks and geese and snapped some photos, I suddenly noticed a flock of about a dozen small, sparrow-like birds moving down the beach. Since I was certain they were sparrows of some sort, I didn’t pay much attention to them. But I decided to take a few photos of them since I wasn’t sure of their identity, and then I might be able to identify them at home with the pictures.”

“The small birds quickly walked and hopped their way down the beach, pausing here and there when they found a seed or some other morsel to eat. They soon disappeared and I headed for the car and then home.”

“Even though I had photos I couldn’t identify the little birds, so I looked for help online. I posted the photos on one of the birding forums and was promptly told by one of the experts that I had photographed a small flock of **Lapland longspurs** (*Calcarius lapponicus*). What? I had never even heard of them!”



“After doing some research, I learned that Lapland longspurs are one of the most common songbirds of the Arctic tundra. Although they spend their summers in the far north, they overwinter in southern Canada and the central United States, sometimes visiting the shores of the Great Lakes. They get part of their name from the elongated claw (longspur) on the hind toe of each foot, and

the name Lapland refers to Finland’s northernmost region (often described as a winter wonderland). Since Lapland longspurs spend so much time in the far north, the name seems very appropriate.”

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.

Hunting Indiana Ginseng

by Rich Creason

While many harvesters of Indiana plants focus on the highly edible and very expensive morel mushrooms in the spring, many are unaware of another plant in the Hoosier state which is collected in the fall and is many times more valuable than morels: wild ginseng.

Unlike mushrooms, which can be picked in our state whenever and wherever they grow (with permission), ginseng (*Panax quinquefolia*) has a definite season, specific regulations, and sometimes permits, to collect or sell it. September 1 to December 31 of each year is the magic time for ginseng hunters in Indiana.

This fleshy root perennial in the ivy family is found mostly in the eastern half of the United States and southern Quebec and Ontario, Canada. Its favorite habitat is well shaded, moist hardwood forests, usually on north or east facing slopes. Tuliptree, maple, beech, oak and hickory are common trees in ginseng woods, while bloodroot, jack-in-the-pulpit, Solomon seal, trillium and other wildflowers are often companion plants. Ginseng prefers growing in areas with sparse ground cover to minimize competition with other species.

Ginseng begins as a seed. When it germinates, it has one stem and one leaf. It grows from two to five inches tall in its first year. In the second year, the small plant will reach five or more inches tall and have two leaves. These leaves, called “prongs” have five leaflets on one stem. When a leaf has multiple leaflets on a single stem, it is called a “compound” leaf. Ginseng has five leaflets arranged in a hand shaped design called “palmate”. This is an arrangement similar to a buckeye tree leaf. The top of the main stem will terminate with one to four of these prongs. The leaves will die and drop from the plant in the late fall.

It can take many years for the ginseng plant to flower and set fruit. These berries begin green and turn to a bright red. The red berries are very important to the person harvesting the root. Only plants with berries may be taken. Then, the red fruits must be planted in the area where the root was dug. This ensures the future of the ginseng crop.

Another regulation about harvesting ginseng in most states is it must have at least three prongs (three leaves with three to five leaflets) and be at least five years old. Some states, such as Illinois, requires the plant to be 10 years old with four prongs. This means the person collecting the root must be able to tell its age.

This is more complicated than identifying the plant, but is necessary, just like knowing the legal length of most fish species to keep them. Between the bottom of the stem and the top of the root, there is a short section of the plant called the neck. This area will have a scar, called an “internode” for each year of age after year one. This scar looks like a heavy scarf or rope wrapped around the neck. A five year old plant will have four of these scars and this section will be around one inch long. So, a legal plant to harvest must have at least four scars. The digger must carefully expose this section of the plant and count the scars before collecting the root. If it is not old enough, the plant must be recovered and left to mature.

Of course, this eliminates using a shovel to dig the ginseng. A knife or small trowel is necessary. Even if the plant being harvested is of legal age, the plants around it may be too young and could be damaged by a careless digger. Since a good ginseng woods is a treasure, the collector wants to keep the plants safe and growing for future crops.

Why is ginseng worth all of this effort? There are a lot of claims about the benefits of this plant, though not all are proven. It is supposed to enhance fitness, memory, mental function, weight loss, libido, lessen stress and fatigue, and many other ailments. It was used by various Native American tribes, and is highly sought in China and other Far East areas. And, of course, the fact it can sell for several hundred dollars a pound makes it popular too!

Gathering of this wild plant is regulated in 19 states. Indiana is one of those. It is prohibited or restricted in all the other states where it occurs. This control is necessary because of the limited amount of wild ginseng due to over harvesting and habitat loss. It is commercially cultivated in Oregon, Washington, and China.

For more info on wild ginseng in Indiana, go online to Indiana Department of Natural Resources, click on Division of Nature Preserves, and go to Ginseng. This site has all the rules and regulations about pursuing this elusive plant.

My 80th Birthday Present

by Gene Clifford

I was a tour guide at the Indiana Aviation Museum in Valparaiso for almost 10 years in the mid 2000's, telling the visitors about the different warbirds there, including an F4U Corsair, and my favorite, the North American P-51 Mustang. I finally got my opportunity to actually fly a P-51 on my 80th birthday on October 5, 2016, in Kissimmee, Florida. It was my birthday present to myself!

At a company named Stallion 51 in Kissimmee, they have five, I repeat five, P-51 airplanes in one hanger, including a plane named "Crazy Horse", the namesake of the organization. I flew that plane for about an hour.

When I first contacted the people at Stallion 51, they informed me that since I was a pilot myself, I would get 90% of the "stick time" in the aircraft. One of the requirements I specified of the pilot that I was to fly with was for him to be able to perform an 8-point roll with me in the plane. Then I could die a happy man - just not during or immediately after!

While we were taxiing to the runway, I noticed the plane was fishtailing to the left and then to the right. The pilot informed me that he was not drunk, but the Mustang is a tail-dragger and you cannot see over the cowling while taxiing. So you have to weave or fishtail as you taxi in order to keep from running off the taxiway.



Gene Clifford (left) standing with his co-pilot in the hangar near the WWII-era Crazy Horse P-51 Mustang airplane.



The P-51 has 2000 horsepower in front of you plus a 4-bladed prop, and when the throttle is advanced it sets you back in your seat much more than a commercial airliner. I was well strapped-in and wearing a parachute, which is required when doing aerobatics.

I was briefed in the procedures concerning the parachute and my seatbelt, too. If we had to bail out in the case of an emergency, the pilot would jettison the canopy and invert the Mustang. Then you would just push off with your feet and get out of the cockpit that

way. There was a 20-foot ripcord attached to the parachute so you need not be concerned about remembering to pull the D-ring to open your chute.

Once we reached about 3000 feet, the pilot informed me that the airplane was mine, so I grasped the stick and rocked the wings left and right and pulled the nose up and down to get the feel of the stick and just how stiff it felt. There was no hydraulic assist with this warbird from the mid 1940s. The pilot then asked me if I'd like to do some wingovers and I readily agreed. So we pulled the nose up to about a 40-degree climb and then let it slip off to the left as if you were sliding down a hill sideways. We did this twice to the left and twice to the right before leveling off at about 8000 feet above the ground.

We then proceeded to do a stall, which is similar to coasting up a hill until you can't go any farther, and then there is

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a bit of a shudder as the aircraft breaks going forward and then goes onto a bit of a dive where we then did a one and a half spin before leveling out. While we were below 10,000 feet we stayed in communication with the Kissimmee control tower where we had taken off from. But once we exceeded 10,000 feet, we were under the control of the Miami control tower.

We then proceeded to do a 4-point roll in preparation for doing an 8-point roll which I had requested that the pilot flying with me do. All of these mild aerobatics were done by me controlling the stick but being walked through by the pilot in the front seat.

Our next feat of flying was to do a loop where we had to lower the nose of the Mustang to gain airspeed to 300 knots, before raising the nose to start the loop. When doing a loop with the nose pointed down you are seeing the trees and ground first, then you start to see the clouds. Then all you see is clear blue sky before seeing the clouds again which were behind you. Then the trees and ground became visible again. We were pulling about 4 G's, which caused me to almost black out, so I told the pilot to let us level out for about 30 seconds while I get my head and eyes back again.

He asked me what I had experienced and I told him that my peripheral vision was closing in on me which was like looking down a tunnel. He informed me that I was starting to "gray out" which meant that if we had continued to experience 4 G's or more for another 15 or 20 seconds I undoubtedly would have blacked out. Fortunately, I knew what was happening with me even though I had not experienced the feeling of being pushed down in the seat.

We encountered other aircraft traffic coming into Orlando as we were advised by the Miami tower, so we did not have the opportunity to do the 8-point roll as I had wanted.

It was about time to return to the airport at Kissimmee as our hour of flying the Mustang was nearing its end. So the pilot asked me if I'd like to land the plane, and I said "sure, if you'll walk me through it". So we proceeded to do a "downwind pass" over the airport at Kissimmee at about 500 feet, then did a steep left-hand break, and proceeded to land a "greaser", which is where you hardly feel the wheels touch the runway.

I can say for sure that this experience was something I will never forget. When you have that much horsepower in front of you it's like driving a NASCAR or INDY car. After all, you only turn 80 once in your life.



Nation's Largest Suicide Prevention Organization and the Firearms Industry Trade Association Join Forces

This Unprecedented Program Supports the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention's Project 2025 Goal to Reduce the Annual Suicide Rate 20 Percent by 2025

Las Vegas, NV: Of all firearms-related deaths in the U.S. in 2015, almost two-thirds were suicide deaths, according to the 2015 Fatal Injury Report, Center for Disease Control and Prevention. To help stem this tragic loss of life, the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) and the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) announced at the SHOT Show in Las Vegas a partnership to launch a new firearms and suicide prevention education program nationwide in 2017.



The program brings together AFSP community-based Chapters and NSSF-member organizations, including firearms retailers and range owners across the country, to educate the gun-owning community about suicide, warning signs, risk factors and the importance of securely storing firearms to help prevent access in times of distress. A pilot of this program has been ongoing in four states since August 2016.

“Of all suicide deaths in our nation, nearly 50 percent are by firearm. By increasing public education of firearms and suicide prevention, and by encouraging the use of safe storage options and thus reducing access to lethal means, we give suicidal individuals something they desperately need: time. Time for the intense suicidal risk to diminish and time for someone to intervene with mental health support and resources,” said Dr. Christine Moutier AFSP’s Chief Medical Officer at a press conference at the SHOT Show in Las Vegas, the largest trade show in the world for professionals involved with the shooting sports, hunting and law enforcement industries. “Research has shown that separating suicidal individuals from a variety of lethal means can prevent suicide.”

Firearms retailers and range owners are in a unique position to help disseminate mental health and suicide prevention education materials, and safe storage options to those who frequent their stores. With these public education resources, the firearms-owning community can help spread the word to those who may be concerned about a friend or family member who may be at risk, and who may have access to a firearm.

“Our partnership with AFSP allows us to expand our decades-long firearms safety efforts to include suicide prevention education,” said Steve Sanetti, NSSF’s President and CEO. “As the industry’s trade association with more than 12,000 members, we want to help. By making gun owners and the public more aware of suicide and responsible firearm storage, we are confident that we will help save lives.”

The firearms and suicide prevention program is an expansion of a pilot that began last August, in four states including Alabama, Kentucky, Missouri, and New Mexico. In these four states, relationships between AFSP Chapter volunteers and local shooting range owners, firearms retail stores and gun show vendors shared resources on recognizing the warning signs of suicide and ways of reaching out to those who may be struggling, including:

- Talk Saves Lives: Firearms and Suicide Prevention, a community-based presentation that provides an overview and understanding of mental health and suicide, and the benefits of connecting with those who may be struggling.
- Firearms and Suicide Prevention, a new brochure which includes sections on safe storage options, statistics about suicide, how to recognize the risks and warning signs of suicide, how to reach out to someone when you’re worried about them, and where to go for further resources.
- Firearms and Suicide Prevention: Facilitator’s Guide for AFSP volunteers involved in the program who need instructional information on leading community-based programs.
- A new webpage which will showcase an overview of the firearms and suicide prevention program and the latest news. The organizations are currently creating a short training video on how to have a caring conversation with someone who may be suicidal, which will be featured on the webpage, and is due to be released in spring 2017.

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“When I first heard about this partnership I was really encouraged. Working with experts in the field, we have been trying to teach gun owners about suicide prevention on a local level for a while – and so far it’s been a bootstrap effort, recruiting one firearms retailer at a time. But by expanding the education and suicide prevention program nationally, we will have a much easier time convincing retailers to get involved because NSSF is a name they trust,” said Dick Abramson, President and CEO of the Centennial Gun Club in Colorado. “At a weekly ladies’ night we hold at the Centennial Gun Club, we have already brought in a suicide prevention expert to speak on this topic. The questions asked were insightful and the audience was extremely interested. So we know there is a real thirst in the community for this kind of education.”

About Project 2025:







Launched in October 2015, Project 2025 is a high-impact, collaborative initiative developed by AFSP, aimed at achieving the organization’s bold goal of reducing the annual suicide rate 20 percent by 2025. Using a dynamic systems model approach based on what the evidence tells us about suicide, AFSP has determined a series of actions and critical areas to help us reach our goal. With this approach we reach across all demographic and sociological groups to have the greatest impact for suicide prevention and the potential to save thousands of lives within the next 10 years. If we work collectively to expand the above interventions in key areas (Firearms, Emergency Departments, and in Large Healthcare Systems), cumulatively, we can expect to save nearly 20,000 lives through 2025.


About NSSF:


The National Shooting Sports Foundation is the trade association for the firearms industry. Its mission is to promote, protect and preserve hunting and the shooting sports. Formed in 1961, NSSF has a membership of more than 12,000 manufacturers, distributors, firearms retailers, shooting ranges, sportsmen’s organizations and publishers. Through its Project ChildSafe program, “Own It? Respect It. Secure It.” campaign and other initiatives, NSSF promotes the safe and responsible use and storage of firearms and makes available many firearm safety resources at www.ProjectChildSafe.org.

For more information on these programs, contact: NSSF’s Senior Director of Communications Bill Brassard, Jr., email: bbrassard@nssf.org, phone: 203-426-1320.

RESOURCES

-  **Visit**
Your Primary Care Provider
Psychiatric Hospital
Walk-in Clinic
Emergency Department
Urgent Care Center
-  **Find a mental health provider**
findtreatments.samhsa.gov
mentalhealthamerica.net/finding-help
-  **Suicide Prevention Lifeline**
1-800-273-TALK (8255)
Veterans: Press 1
-  **Crisis Text Line**
741-741
-  **CrisisChat.org**
-  **911 Call 911 for emergencies**

 AMERICAN FOUNDATION FOR Suicide Prevention | afsp.org





FIREARMS AND SUICIDE PREVENTION



HOW Member News



HOW Members Enjoy The 2016 Deer Season

Vikki Trout (Holland, IN)

The following is from HOW member and avid hunter Vikki Trout:

“Several dandy bucks were captured on the Browning trail cameras I have strategically placed around three food plots. I had hopes of tagging one of them with my TenPoint crossbow, but that did not come to fruition.”

“It was now firearms season and I made the decision to take my Ithaca Deerslayer shotgun to the woods instead of my crossbow. I saw several smaller bucks walk into easy bow range, however, I thought that if I held out, surely a good buck would soon come by. The rut was winding down, but does and yearlings were still frequenting the food plots.”

“On Saturday, November 26, a nice 10-point buck was tagging up behind two does and three yearlings. He finally reached the food plot and after a few moments that seemed

to take hours, the other deer moved away from him and he offered a most perfect broadside shot. I knew when I squeezed the trigger, he would go down. And he did.”

“I am so happy that I was blessed with such a fine deer.”

Gary Redmon (Greencastle, IN)

The following is from HOW board member and diehard deer hunter Gary Redmon:

“How about hunting the Super Moon? No artificial lights needed to get to the stand. Some like hunting a full moon while others despise it. I personally have had little luck during the full moon phase even during the peak of the rut.”

“It has been my experience the deer will feed more at night, move early, then bed down, then get up and move a little around noon, bed again, and won’t move again until after sunset. Frequently they don’t move again until after legal shooting time.”

“Anxious to get in the woods, I still gave it a chance with the traditional early morning hunts. From the end of bow season through the first few days of gun season, I saw a few small bucks and does. Past experience told me (and with the full moon phase) to sleep in and pass the early morning hunts. So I switched to the noon or later hunts.”

“On the sixth day of gun season, and still under the Super Moon, I got into the stand at 3pm. I enjoying the warm afternoon watching the squirrels and birds. Out of nowhere, this beautiful wide-beamed 10-pointer appeared, ending my Super Moon deer season.”



2016 Deer Season Continued

Allen Garbers (Martinsville, IN)

The following is from HOW Board Chairman Alan Garbers:

“Why Bother With A Food Plot? Several years ago I went through the work and expense of planting a food plot in a clearing I made in the center of our small woods. It was back-breaking work, but we were fully expecting it to draw massive bucks like the videos from the various seed sellers. Not so much.”

“This year was no different than the past. Several times I watched does and a buck wander around the clearing nibbling at what they considered prime food. What were they eating, you ask? My clover, maybe? No. They totally ignored the clover. They were eating thistle and raspberry leaves.”

“While I did harvest one of the small, tender does with my new .308 Mossberg Patriot rifle, I have had many hours of pondering on what to do for next year. I now have a plan that should make me a millionaire. I am going to market my own throw-n-grow food plot mix: thistle and raspberry seed.”

“I think it will be a hit, as neither seem to take much effort to grow in my food plot and nobody else is marketing them. My wife Dianna thinks I’m crazy, but I imagine the bank where I do business will have to buy a new vault to hold all the money I plan to make from this idea.”



Joe Martino (Kokomo, IN)

The following is from HOW member and veteran deer hunter Joe Martino:



“My son Nick has killed a few deer with his bow, and has taken a few great bucks with a shotgun, but this year he wrapped a tag around his first archery buck. He has had plenty of opportunities at nice bucks with a bow the last couple of years, but he has been hunting one particular buck and has simply refused to shoot any other deer. This year, with no sign of that buck all summer, Nick decided he would shoot any nice buck that gave him an opportunity.”

“On November 5th, his opportunity came. Near the end of legal shooting light, he witnessed this buck tearing a tree to shreds about 80 yards away. Nick grunted and snort-wheezed and it was more than the revved-up deer could take. He came in bristled-up and stiff-legged when Nick made a twenty-yard shot. The buck made it just over 100 yards before piling up.”

“The emotion was second to none as my son arrowed his first buck. After four or five years of bowhunting and hoping for this day, he could not hold it in. He was shaking and crying with excitement.”

“For a 15 year-old, his selectiveness and patience are inspiring. I seem to learn more from him than he does from me, but I’ll take it!”

“I’m a pretty lucky guy. I have a teenage son who is happy spending time with me when most teenagers would rather be with their friends. Well, let’s be honest, it’s the hunting that draws him; but since it still spells time with me, I’ll take that too!”

2016 Deer Season Continued

John Martino (Kokomo, IN)

The following is from HOW Past President John Martino:

“Each year on the opening of the regular firearms deer hunting season, my brother Jim, two sons Joseph and Anthony, along with my son-in-law Robert and nephew Cole, spend the entire weekend together pursuing our state’s greatest big game animal. It is a special time of the year for all of us and one we all look forward to. We travel to one of our favorite places to hunt which is located about an hour’s drive from home.”

“Unfortunately, due to work obligations, this year my son Anthony was unable to join us. Not wanting to miss the opening day he decided to make a morning hunt, alone, at another place close to home before going to work.”

“Throughout his short hunting career, Anthony has had an uncanny ability to harvest record-sized deer. As our group was driving to another county we were talking about the bucks he has collected, and we laughed how he would probably be the one to take the biggest buck of the season.”

“It was shortly after daylight when we received a text from Anthony stating he had ‘taken a crack at a decent buck.’ A little later we received another text that said ‘Holy crap, OMG’ with a picture of a trophy 12-pointer with unique character. We nicknamed his deer the ‘double peace sign buck’ due to its massive split brow tines.”

“In the end, the three youngest members of my family, nephews Nick, Cole and son Anthony all collected good bucks, which is just the way I like it.”



Bill Keaton (Rushville, IN)

The following is from HOW Legal Counsel Bill Keaton:

“On opening day of the gun season I had a 10-point buck in my crosshairs, and my rifle malfunctioned and didn’t shoot. It was my father’s .308 rifle. I had sighted it in on a nice 80-degree day. That was the only time it had been shot in 40 years. On opening day it was 32 degrees and the hammer didn’t fall. When I got home and tore it down, the oil in it was like varnish. I cleaned and lubricated it and I’ll give it another try.”

Later in the season, Keaton reported that he had harvested a nice doe so he would have some venison in the freezer. By the looks of the photos from his trail cameras, there are still plenty of big bucks out there for him next year!



2016 Deer Season Continued

Tom Berg (Dyer, IN)

The following is from HOW Executive Director and newbie deer hunter Tom Berg:

“I hunt near a friend’s house almost an hour from home, and my deer season started out slow. I was unable to hunt until Sunday afternoon of opening weekend, and I only saw a couple of very distant deer. But it definitely got better from there! I took the following Wednesday off from work to hunt in the morning and again in the afternoon. It was a beautiful morning; unfortunately all I saw were squirrels, rabbits and birds. No deer at all. I had lunch and did some chores until early afternoon when I headed over to a different treestand.”

“I sat in that stand without seeing anything at all before sundown. I was getting dejected, although I still had a little time before dark. With eight minutes of shooting time left, I suddenly saw a solitary doe come out of the woods about 80 yards away, giving me a good broadside view. I shot her with my muzzleloader and watched her run into the woods. Then I realized I didn’t have a flashlight. I usually hunt in the morning and don’t need a flashlight!”



“I went and got a flashlight, but of course when I got back out to where I thought she entered the woods I wasn’t sure EXACTLY where she had ran. I couldn’t find any blood, so I just trudged into the woods looking for her. I wandered around alone in the dark in the thick woods for a while, kind of following noises of spooked deer, hoping she had gone with them or at least towards them. One set of noises ended up being a raccoon! After a while I realized I was wasting my time and that I needed to come back in the morning to look for her. So I headed back north to exit the woods. As I got to within 40 yards of the edge of the trees, I suddenly stumbled upon her! It was sheer luck! But I was happy.”

“I called my friend and he drove his truck out into the field to give me a hand. I gutted the deer (with some coaching) and we loaded it and took it back to his pole barn. We decided to let it hang in the pole barn overnight and I would come back at 7am the following morning to cut it up and process it. That meant another half day off from work, since I figured I would be done in time to be back to work at noon.”

“When I got home that night I realized if I was going to make the drive all the way back to his house the following morning to be there at 7am, I might as well get up an hour earlier and hunt again from 6am until 7am. After all, I still had a buck license. But since I have never had a buck come within range in the three years I’ve been deer hunting, I figured the odds were slim that I’d get one in that 1-hour timeframe.”

“Well, never say never. I got in the stand at 6:05 and at 6:20 a small buck ran out into the field in front of me and stopped, broadside. He was about 85 yards away and I decided to take the shot. It looked like I hit him and he darted off into the woods. But this time it was daylight and I picked out an odd-looking tree where he entered the trees, so I knew exactly where to look. It only took me 15 minutes to find him. He must have been a fairly young buck since he was only a 3-pointer. The 4th point was starting, but I don’t think it was big enough to count!”

“I was elated to have harvested two deer in 12 hours. But then I had two deer to cut up and process, along with disposing of the carcasses, cleaning up the big mess, etc. I ended up taking another full day off from work instead of a half day. What a bad boy I am. Luckily, my boss is nice!”



“As a 3-pointer, my buck’s antlers were certainly not impressive. But on the other hand, he was my first buck, and everyone has to start somewhere. I guess I’m more of a meat hunter than a trophy hunter!”

2016 Deer Season Continued

Mike Schoonveld (Morocco, IN)

The following is from HOW past president Mike Schoonveld:

“Physical issues curbed my enthusiasm and ability to hunt much in 2016. But one good thing about hunting stories, they never grow old. So here’s one of mine from yesteryear. A story with a moral.”

“When I saw the huge bucks locking horns in the pre-dawn gloom through my binoculars, I had two thoughts. First, ‘Oh my goodness! Each one of those deer are huge!’”

“I had been drawn to hunt at the Newport Army Ammunition Depot, then one of the Indiana military installations like Crane, Jefferson Proving Grounds and others that allowed hunters in for a few days each year to curb their deer populations. Unlike the flatlands I was used to at home in Newton County, Newport has terrain!”

“I’d been able to pre-scout the area a couple weeks before the season. A road bordered the north side of the area to which I was assigned. Just off the road and mostly parallel to it was a steep-sided canyon. No deer stands were allowed so I decided my best bet was to skirt around the end of the canyon under cover of darkness to the far side and take a position where I could watch for deer below from the south rim. The trek was about two miles, but there was a bright moon and heavy frost.”

“I spotted the fighting bucks very near the vantage point I planned to hunt. That’s when the second thought flashed through my head: ‘If I shoot one of them, how am I going to drag it out?’ Two hundred pounds of dead skin, bones and antlers at the end of a rope doesn’t make for an easy two mile hike.”

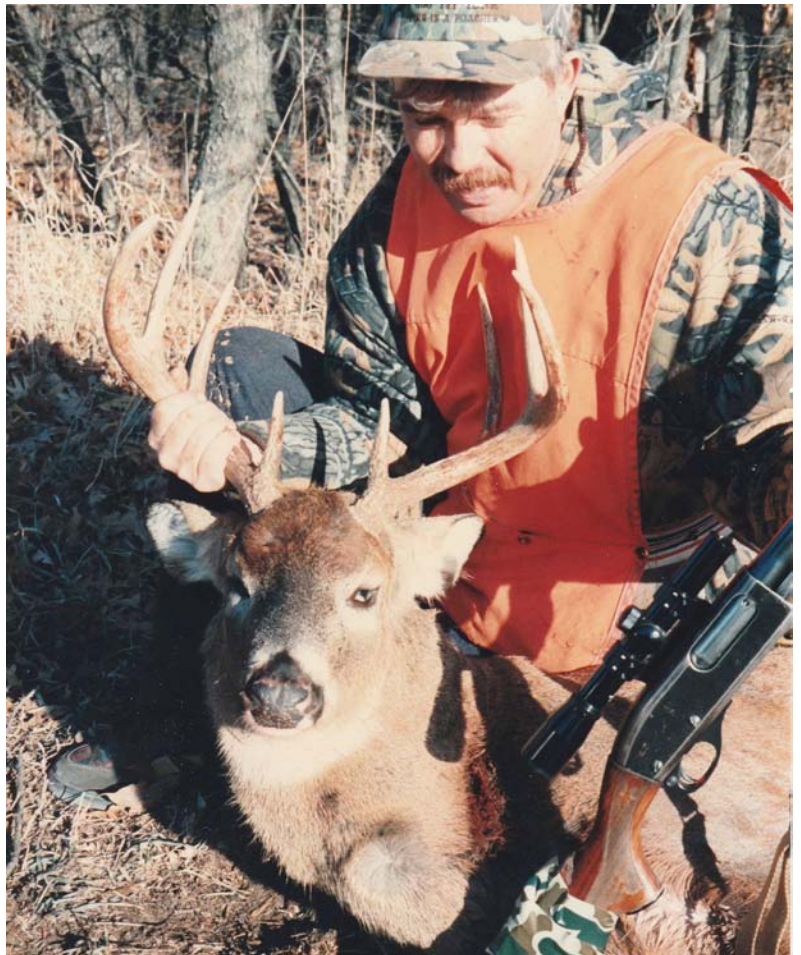
“Then I mentally kicked myself in the butt. ‘Don’t worry about that now,’ I thought. ‘The chances of you ever seeing one of those bucks again is slim, and if you do, worry about any aftermath later.’”

“An hour later I was centering the crosshairs on ‘Mr. Big’ standing 50 yards away on the south rim of the earthen rift between me and the road.”

“Bang! He whirled around and headed downhill, through the trees, into the canyon. A scoped gun proved worthless on a running deer in the forested environment. No chance of a follow-up shot. In seconds, he was at the bottom, too far to even attempt a shot and the last I saw he had crossed the skinny creek at the bottom. I marked the spot mentally then tripped and slipped down the leaf-littered slope, to the rivulet at the bottom, across and up the north bank.”

“There I was greeted with a blood trail nearly three feet wide. I followed it up and up the north slope. Eventually, I was to the top and only then, when I was on the flat northern rim did I spot the beast piled up, dead, and laying less than 10 yards from the road.”

“I was able to answer a question every deer hunter wants to know. ‘Where’s the best place to shoot a really big buck? The answer....near the road!’”



Mike Berg Catches Exotic Fish

HOW member Mike Berg from Cedar Lake made a recent trip to Florida, and one of his goals was to catch some exotic fish species. He was very successful, because he reportedly caught several peacock bass and more than 30 other species of fish on the trip that he had never caught before!



Above (left): A hard-fighting Mayan cichlid caught near Miami. **Above (right):** The strange-looking clown knifefish. These fish are tough predators and eat live fish. They can swim backwards and jump like steelhead!

One of the most interesting species was a clown knifefish. These silver fish with large black spots are native to southeast Asia, but have been introduced into some Florida waters. They have a long fin running the length of their body on their underside, which they can use to swim backwards when you try to net them at the boat!

Berg fished a variety of waters, spending most of his time around Naples and just north of Miami. He caught some saltwater species, but most of his new fish species were caught in freshwater. **Below:** Atlantic Needlefish.



Membership Changes and New Contact Info

The following HOW members have updated contact information. Please make a note of it:

Virginia Anson: New phone number: 765-412-7889.
Ken McBroom: New address: 546 Chickasaw Bluff Rd., Benton, KY 42025.
Ray McCune: New cell phone number: 260-804-6181.
Terri Trowbridge: New email address: btrowbridge@gmail.com

The following names represents our newest HOW members. Please make a note of their email addresses:

Michael Lunsford: hickory913@gmail.com (new member)
Will Keaton: keatonw@gmail.com (new member)

If your email address, phone number or other contact info changes, please notify HOW Executive Director Tom Berg at thomas.berg@comcast.net or by mail at 2142 Nondorf Street, Dyer, IN 46311.

Unusual Nature Photos from the Hoosier Outdoors Sponsored by HT Enterprises

Woolly Bear Caterpillars Can Freeze Solid in the Wintertime



Close-up



Original



The “What is it?” photo from the last issue was almost too easy, since a total of twelve (12) HOW members were able to identify it. Ken

McBroom, Bill Keaton, Mike Schoonveld, Gary Redmon, Michael Ellis, Phil Cox, John Maxwell, PJ Perea, Phil Seng, Jack Spaulding, Troy McCormick and Brian Waldman each had the right answer. When we drew a name at random for the **Pure Fishing** rod/reel combo, **Gary Redmon** was the winner. Congrats, Gary! We’ll get the rod & reel to you ASAP.

As you can see in the photo above left, the mystery creature for this issue was a woolly bear caterpillar (*Pyrrharctia isabella*). Woolly bears are the larval form

of the Isabella tiger moth. They are usually black at either end (but not always) and are brownish-orange in the middle. Happily, their bristles are harmless and do not inject venom like many other caterpillars can.

Woolly bear caterpillars appear in the fall, and according to legend they can forecast the severity of the upcoming winter by their color. If their brown stripe is very wide, the winter will be mild. If the stripe is narrow and there is more black on either end, it forebodes a harsh winter. Whether that’s true or not, these caterpillars actually freeze solid during the winter and then thaw in the spring with no ill effects. After emerging from hibernation, they pupate into an adult moth.



Although icefishing season is already over in Indiana, our friends at **HT Enterprises** have again donated an icefishing prize package for the HOW member that guesses the right answer to this “What Is It?” question. 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 backyard. Have you ever seen something that looks like this?

This creature may be easy for some people to identify, but difficult for others. Do you know of any Hoosier creatures that look like this? As usual, 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 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, **HT Enterprises** will be donating a special icefishing prize package (see photo at left) 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 **HT cloth rod locker**, two **Polar tip ups**, two **HT icefishing rod/reel combos**, a spool of **braided tip up line** and an **HT hand towel**. It’s a great icefishing prize! 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 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.

Frogg Toggs® to Manufacture Advanced Wading Socks in Alabama

Arab, AL: frogg toggs®, a worldwide leader in innovative rainwear and wading systems technology, has announced that manufacturing of its new line of advanced wading socks will take place in its home state of Alabama.



The two versions of this unique wading sock include a version spun from COOLMAX fibers and is intended for warm weather use. A second version is spun from wool fibers and is intended for cold weather use. The multi-panel design, along with proprietary materials, provide a “stay-put” hold and support in all the right areas to make your next day of wading the most comfortable you have ever spent. frogg toggs new wading socks are being produced in a state-of-the-art production facility in Alabama.

Both versions feature exclusive technology designed to keep the sock in place all day, regardless of conditions or amount of movement. Pro staff and field staff users of the new sock technology have said that the socks work perfectly and provide the most comfort and support of any wading sock they have ever used.

“Too often, the industry focuses on comfortable waders and tends to forget about other important areas like wading shoes and proper wading socks,” said Will Fowler, Director of Marketing for frogg toggs. “For frogg toggs, these are integral parts of the total wading system and not afterthoughts, as they are with so many others. Total comfort and performance starts on the interior and progresses through the layers to the actual wader. Proper wading socks that offer support, temperature control, and moisture management are necessities for a comfortable day of wading your favorite stream or marsh.”

“frogg toggs, a veteran owned and operated company, is elated to be able to offer these unique features in a product that is proudly made in the USA,” added Fowler. “We hope that our fans will take a look at these products, give them a try and prove to themselves that these are by far the best wading socks on the market today.”

For more information on frogg toggs products, visit www.froggtoggs.com.

Media contacts: Director of Marketing Will Fowler, will@froggtoggs.com, or Marketing Media Supervisor Megan Harper, megan@froggtoggs.com; phone: 800-349-1835.



HOW Supporting Member News

Freedom Tackle Introduces Revolutionary New Jig Concept

Weston, ON Canada: Freedom Tackle Corporation's new Live Action Hybrid Jigs are the first jigs to challenge the "status quo" by giving anglers the ability to customize their jigs with any style or brand of hook. This allows the angler to use their hook of choice and it improves the life of the jig. When the hook becomes dull, anglers can switch it out with a new one and keep slaying them within seconds.



Anglers may also use different sizes or styles of hooks to match their soft plastic baits, creating either weedless or exposed hook presentations. Freedom Tackle took this innovation to the next level and created flipping jigs, swim jigs, spinnerbaits, marabou and hair jigs with the same technology.

Fish have no more leverage once hooked because of the separation between the hook and the head of the lure. Hooking percentages are increased because all hooks are able to act as a circle hook – ensuring the hook always finds the softest part to penetrate the fish's mouth.

The **FREEDOM** Advantage
Internal Customizable Hook Design

300 lb Stainless Steel Through Wire Construction

Customize with your Favourite Brand or Style of Hook

Sonic Brass Echo Chamber Emits Sound on Contact

Internal Connection on all of our Jigs & Spinnerbaits Prevents Hooks from Turning Over and Catching Debris

Patented Design

SWING HOOKS = Less leverage

CUSTOMIZABLE = Use brand / size of hook that you want to match the presentation you are using

REMOVABLE HOOK SYSTEM = Quick changes for more casts

TOOLS FOR EVERY SITUATION = Ability to fish how you want

ECO-FRIENDLY = Look for the ECO Loon symbol for products that can be used as a safe alternative to lead.



How members may contact Tom Chopin, General Manager at Freedom Lures, tchopin@freedomlures.com, phone: 905-327-9095. "If HOW members would like samples to test and possibly use in articles, please contact me directly," said Chopin.

For more information on Freedom Tackle Corporation, please visit www.freedomlures.com.

HOW Supporting Member News



Bradley Smoker® Introduces The Bradley Smart Smoker™

Galesburg, IL: The Bradley Smart Smoker™ is the new automatic, electric food smoker from Bradley Smoker®. It features innovative iSmoke™ Technology, that allows you to connect with and control the smoker from Bluetooth-enabled devices in real-time. It's the result of years of advancement and testing on existing smokers.

The idea for this smoker started in pursuit of achieving the best tasting smoked food, every time. Having control over every detail of the process of food smoking allows barbecue enthusiasts and backyard foodies to create delicious, consistent results, without a lot of hassle.

Wade Bradley, owner of Bradley Smoker® shares the key to food smoking that he learned many years ago, “The secret to food smoking is you must control the smoke and heat, plain and simple”. The best smoked flavor comes from cooking low ‘n slow, and with real-time control over temperature and smoke, you can relax or finish making your meal without manually adjusting the smoker or constantly adding wood.

All Bradley smokers feature the innovative automatic feed system, where a hinged burner drops smoldering wood bisquettes into a bowl of water at regular intervals, to extinguish the wood when it turns to ash. This means the smoke burns cleaner, providing great smoked flavor and the best tasting food possible. Two separate heating elements allow you to continue cooking food in the smoker, even after the smoke has been shut off.

The Bradley Smart Smoker™ allows you to control settings from a user-friendly new touchscreen on the front of the smoker, or from a smartphone or tablet with Bluetooth®. Settings display in real-time, so you'll be able to bring out food at just the right moment and not overcook it.

Another improvement is its larger capacity smokehouse, with room for 10 racks of food. Two removable, color-coded temperature probes allow heat measurement in different areas of the smokehouse simultaneously for advanced monitoring.

For 30 years, Bradley Smokers have been known as easy-to-use electric smokers that deliver consistent results. “You can think of it as smoking goes high-tech”, says Steven Raichlen, author of *The Barbecue Bible* and host of Steven Raichlen's Project Smoke on Public Television.

Many cultures and cuisines from around the world have been smoking foods for hundreds of years. While it was originally used as a way to preserve and keep food without refrigeration, it has become popular again, along with other homegrown methods like pickling and fermenting foods, for the unique flavor it adds to dishes.

A variety of foods can be smoked, from meat and seafood, to more unusual items like cheese, vegetables and desserts. This cooking technique isn't one to be rushed, and lends itself to relaxed, casual gatherings of family and friends. It's the essence of slow food, taking the time to share a homemade meal with those around to you.

About Bradley Smoker®:

Bradley Smoker® is the premium brand of automatic electric food smokers in North America. Bradley smokers are sold in major retailers across North America, Europe, Australia and New Zealand; they can be found being used by gourmet chefs, barbecue fanatics, and do-it-yourself home cooks. Whether you're a foodie, a sportsman, an outdoors type or a chef, food smoking is a great way to enhance the flavor of homemade food and add that extra special taste. For more info go to www.bradleysmoker.com.

Media contact: Susan Pogue, Bradley Smoker, susan@bradleysmoker.com, phone: 309-343-1124.



HOW Supporting Member News

Buck Knives Partners With Remington Outdoor Company

Post Falls, ID: Buck Knives is pleased to announce a partnership with Remington Outdoor Company as the new official licensee of Remington cutlery.

“We are excited to align ourselves with an industry icon like Buck Knives,” said Jordan Davis, VP of Marketing & Business Development of Remington. “They have a passion for the outdoor industry and a commitment to quality products. We look forward to a great partnership with Buck Knives through the years.”

Buck Knives is no stranger to the outdoors, supplying outdoorsmen and women with sports cutlery for over 110 years. This unprecedented partnership in the cutlery industry will enable Buck Knives and Remington the opportunity to create a new line of quality, dependable products.



(L-R) Remington VP of Marketing and Business Development Jordan Davis, Buck Knives CEO and Chairman CJ Buck, and Remington Brands CEO Jim Marcotuli at the 2017 SHOT SHOW in Las Vegas on January 18, 2017, announce Buck Knives as official licensee of Remington cutlery.

“Remington is a prestigious company, with a strong focus on building dependable, reliable products,” said CJ Buck, CEO and Chairman of Buck Knives. “It is an honor to partner with another iconic company. They represent everything we believe in when it comes to a commitment to consumer value and quality products.”

More information about Remington can be found at www.remington.com.

More information about Buck Knives can be found at www.buckknives.com.

Media contact: Rachel Rogers, Marketing & Communications Coordinator at Buck Knives, rogers@buckknives.com, phone: 208-262-0500.

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
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
Freedom Tackle Corp. - www.freedomlures.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.HHA sports.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.mackslure.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:

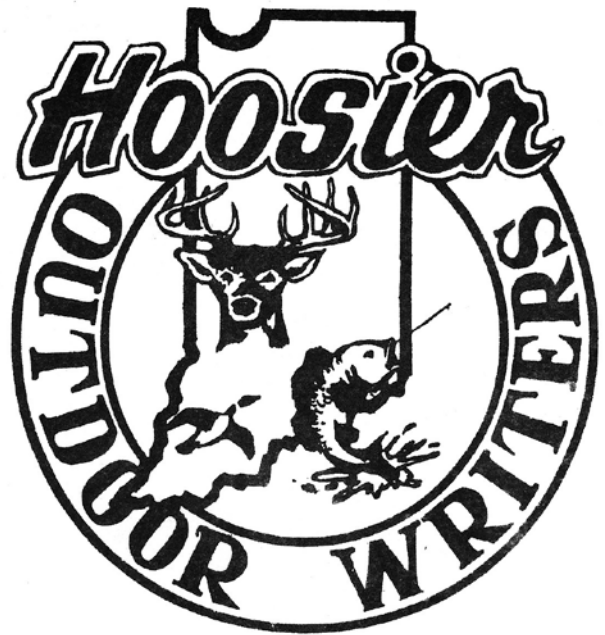
1. To give the profession of outdoor writing/reporting greater recognition and understanding, even higher standards and enlarged scope.
2. To encourage and enforce high standards of professional ethics.
3. To strive always for the truth, accuracy, clarity and completeness in the dissemination of outdoor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

Indianapolis Boat, Sport & Travel Show: February 17-26, 2017
(www.renfroproductions.com)
Indianapolis, IN

HOW 2017 Annual Conference: April 21-23, 2017
(www.HoosierOutdoorWriters.org)
Canyon Inn, McCormick's Creek State Park
Spencer, IN

NRA 2017 Annual Meetings: April 27-30, 2017
(www.nra.org)
Atlanta, GA

POMA 2017 Annual Conference: June 13-16, 2017
(www.professionalooutdoormedia.org)
Shreveport-Bossier, LA

OWAA 2017 Annual Conference: June 24-26, 2017
(www.owaa.org)
Duluth, MN

ICAST Show 2017: July 11-14, 2017
(www.ICASTfishing.org)
Orlando, FL

AGLOW 2017 Annual Conference: September 25-28, 2017
(www.aglowinfo.org)
Lake of the Woods, MN

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