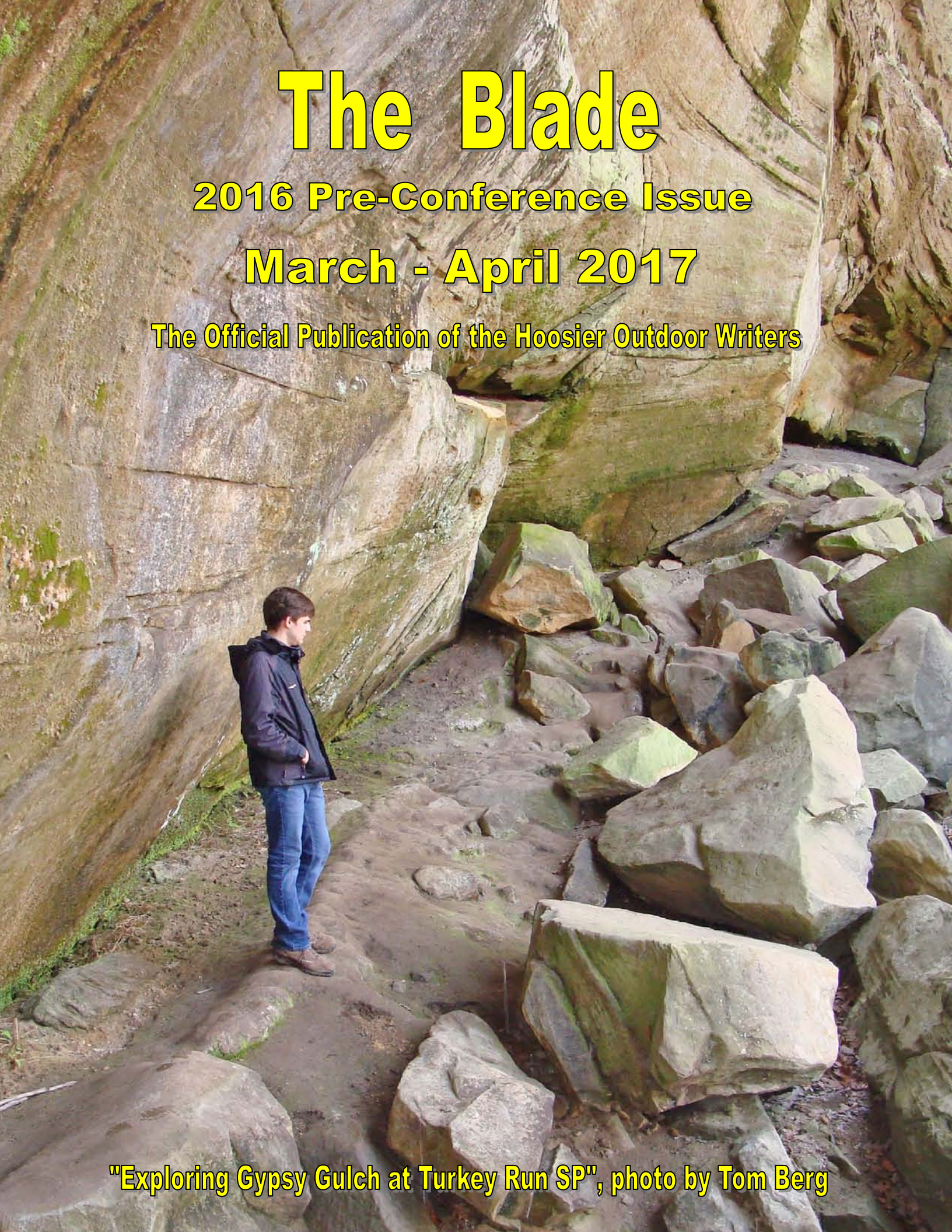


The Blade

2016 Pre-Conference Issue

March - April 2017

The Official Publication of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers



"Exploring Gypsy Gulch at Turkey Run SP", photo by Tom Berg



Hoosier Outdoor Writers

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

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Region 4 – Jack Spaulding
2018

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

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

On the cover: *Hiking among the scattered boulders and sharp rocks of Gypsy Gulch is always one of the highlights of a trip to Turkey Run State Park in Parke County. Photo by Tom Berg.*

President's Message

by Ken McBroom

Passing on the Passion

This past year has been a blast and man has it flown by, much like the years since I decided to submit my first article. Writing often takes on a life of its own, and that might be the reason I enjoy it so much.

You know, Past-President Alan Garbers said it well in his *Pursue Your Passion* message back in the March/April 2016 newsletter. Many people don't realize the work that goes into writing, but we still do it and love doing it, too. There are many reasons people write, but when I try to justify it to myself, especially when up against a deadline and the weather is gorgeous and the bass are biting, the only true reason I can come up with is what Alan mentions in his report: to help others find their passion for the great outdoors.



Oftentimes, I ask young people why they don't hunt and fish and they say they just never had anyone to take them. They might read about the outdoors and look at all those great photos and dream about getting out there to do it, but without the initial trip and maybe several trips they never really know how. We can tell them or write about how to get started, but things that seem trivial to us might be a monumental task to those that have had no direction at all.

I remember when I was about 14 years old, standing in line at the grocery store. I was talking to my Mom about hunting and fishing, as I always did at that age, when a total stranger in front of us turned and offered to take me on a bow hunt. Thankfully my Mom took him up on the offer with a little begging from me. That next week I was in a treestand for the first time, alone, hunting whitetails with a bow. I was hooked. The man didn't have to do anything but put me in that tree and it was a passion from then till now. I am forever grateful.

The outdoor writers I have met all have that passion and they have had it all their lives, but many were introduced to the outdoors at a young age by someone in their lives. Writing is a great way to do that. Obviously we can't take every kid hunting that wants to go, but through our writing we can encourage others to do so.

Writing is sharing, and when you have been fortunate enough to spend a lot of time outdoors, you feel compelled to search for even more ways to enjoy it. Remember, you might write about something trivial to you, but for someone just starting out it could be mind-boggling stuff. Writing is the best way I've found to share not only knowledge, but experiences that, while selfishly fulfilling my own need for more "outdoors", I can hopefully help someone else begin the journey.

Thank you, HOW, for a great year as your president.

The Hoosier Outdoor Writers

New Members, Past Presidents & Memorial Section

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

Dan Gehring (Associate)
Zionsville, IN
Sponsor: Dean Farr

Liz Jackson (Associate)
West Lafayette, IN
Sponsor: Dean Farr

Memorial to Deceased HOW Members

Those Who Have Gone Before Us:

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

Past Presidents of HOW

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

Hoosier Outdoor Writers Annual Conference Registration



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

This registration form is for the Annual Meeting on Saturday, April 22nd (8:00am – 4:30pm)

Information to appear on name badge:

Name: _____

Title: _____

Contact information:

Mailing Address: _____

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

Email Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Are you a first-time HOW conference attendee? _____

Conference Registration Fees:

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

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 April 22, 2017.

Please print this application and mail it along with your check for each person attending (make checks payable to "Hoosier Outdoor Writers") to:

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

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



The Annual HOW Fun Shoot



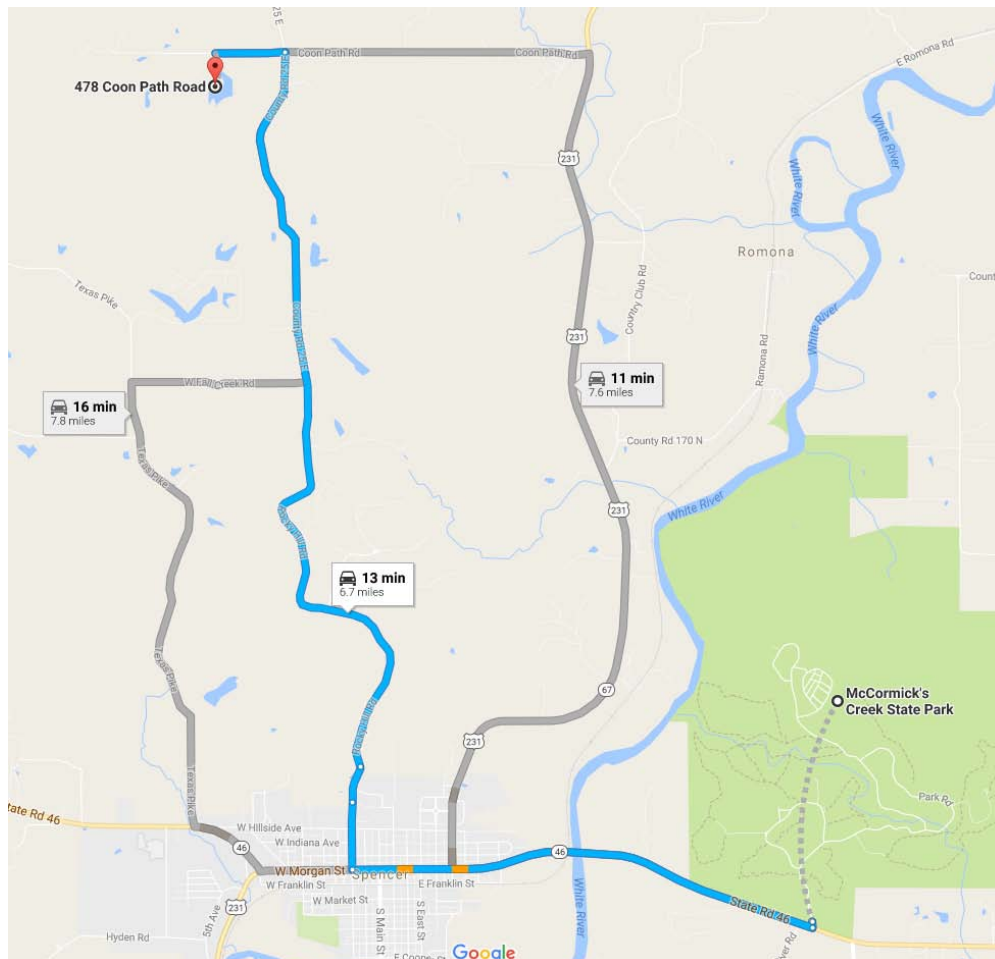
The 2017 HOW Conference will begin (as usual) with the HOW Fun Shoot. It has become a tradition for the shooters in our membership to get together and break a few clay targets, have some fun and renew old friendships on the Friday before the Annual Meeting. Some of our participants are experienced shooters while others are new to the sport and are still learning. All skill levels are welcome, and the “senior” members are always willing to help newcomers.

Since the 2017 HOW Conference will be held at McCormick’s Creek State Park near Spencer, we will be visiting the Spencer Conservation Club. The address is 478 W. Coonpath Rd, Spencer, IN.

We will meet on Friday, April 21 at 12:00 noon (local time) and start shooting at 12:30pm. Our host is Leonard Smith, and he may be reached on his cell at 812-821-0831 in case you have trouble finding your way to the club. We should have plenty of time to finish shooting and get to McCormick’s Creek State Park to check in and get ready for our “Friday Evening Barbecue” afterwards.

This year we will be shooting trap (100 targets), and we are hoping the course will be fun. The cost for the shoot will be minimal, probably around \$10. You can pay to the club’s cashier when we arrive or after the shoot. Ammunition will be complimentary, as HOW Supporting Member **Winchester** will be providing the shotshells to all of the participating shooters free of charge. Come on out and join the fun!

See the map below for directions to the gun club, or type **Spencer Conservation Club** (or the address) into Google Maps, your GPS or your smartphone.



2017 HOW Conference Preview



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!



HOW Conference Attendees Gather At McCormick's Creek State Park!

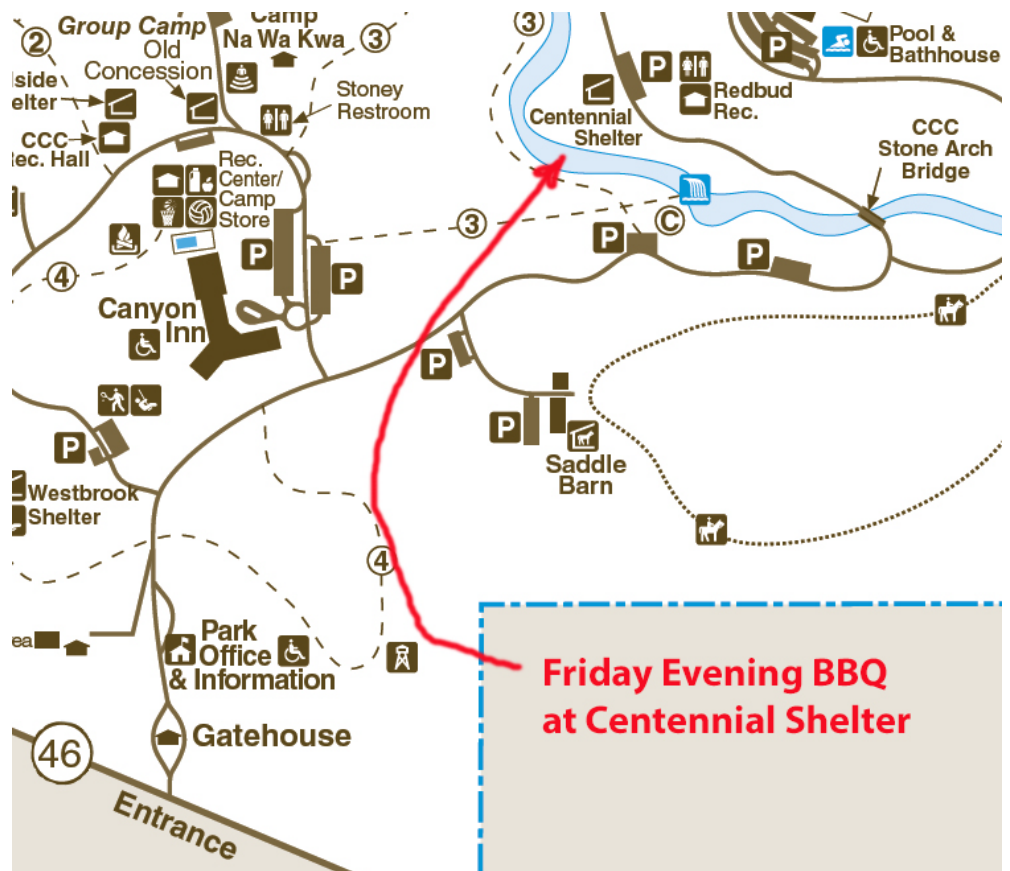
The 48th meeting of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers will take place on the weekend of April 21-23, 2017 at McCormick's Creek State Park near Spencer, IN. Have you been to a HOW conference lately? This is shaping-up to be another great conference, and since we haven't had a conference here there will be a 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! Tom Berg is filling-in for Mike Schoonveld as Fun Shoot coordinator this year, and he says everything is set for our group to shoot some trap at the local Spencer Conservation Club located only minutes from the state park. Shooters will meet at noon at the conservation club. More info on the Fun Shoot can be found on the previous page.

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. Dwight Brooks, the property manager for McCormick's Creek State Park, will be on-hand to greet HOW members and welcome us to the park.

The main meeting will occur on Saturday, April 22 in the Oak Room 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 5** for a copy of this year's conference registration form. We will have some great speakers at the conference, making presentations on some very interesting topics.

See **page 11** for a copy of this year's meeting agenda.



We will have four different seminar speakers at the conference, featuring the following presentations:

- **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 info 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.

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 Urban Wildlife Program, which began just two years ago. One of the topics will be finding solutions for overabundant or aggressive Canada geese. "I will discuss the Urban Program's initiative to establish wildflower pond buffers and influence suburban landscape management near pond areas," stated Dillon.

Another topic for discussion will be the Community Hunting Access Program (CHAP). "The new CHAP initiative seeks to pair communities with deer grievances with certified Hunt Coordinators so that long-term urban hunt plans can be established. We are in our pilot year of this program. I plan on discussing the program progress and what factors led to its current design."

- **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 Silver Eagle lever-action rifle, an awesome **Mossberg** Patriot bolt-action rifle, a cool **Remington** RP9 pistol, a terrific **Ruger** American Model 6902 rifle, a great **Mission Archery** compound bow, a **Leupold**

Another Amazing HOW Raffle!

laser rangefinder, fishing rods, reels and other fishing gear, knives, shooting 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

The HOW Fishing Outing is all set for Sunday, April 23. The local crappie club (Indiana Slab Masters) that has hosted our fishing outing in the past will be helping out again this year. They will be providing 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 big flathead catfish, bass, etc.

Our guides will provide the boat, tackle and bait – HOW members will only need to bring themselves, a fishing license, camera, rain jacket, and any snacks/drinks that they might like. We will be meeting the boat captains at 7:30am at the Cunot Boat Ramp near the Cunot Community Center (Google it).

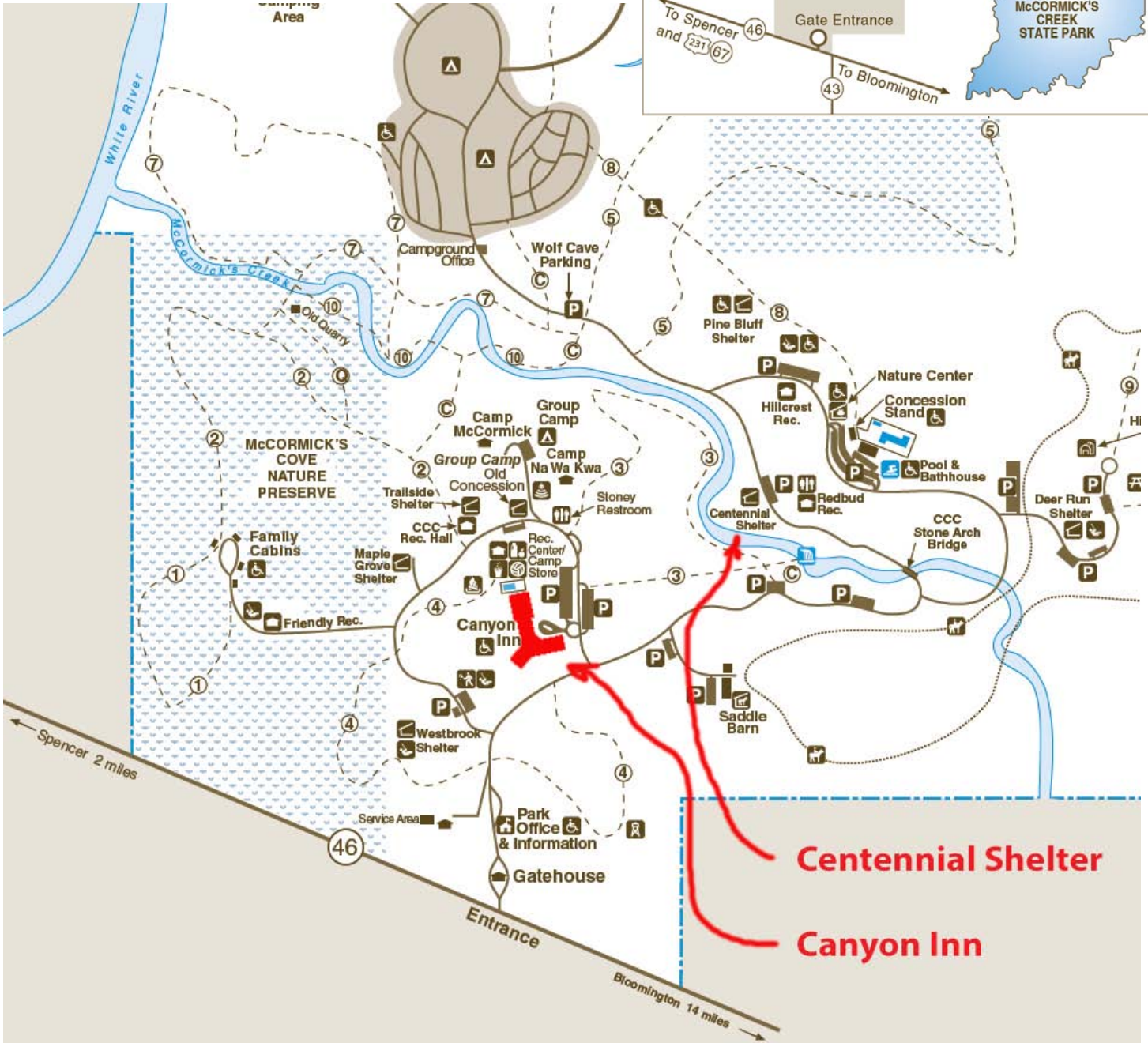
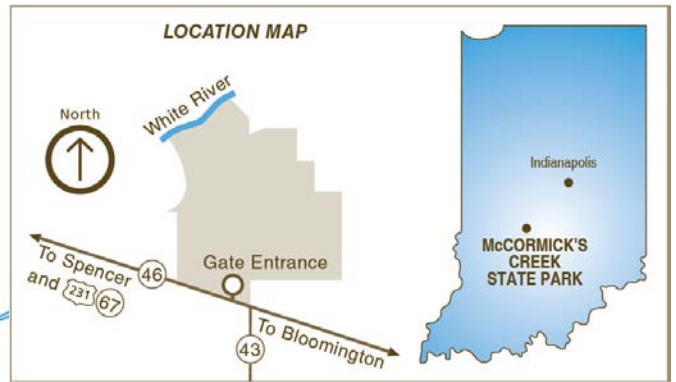
The volunteer boat captains really deserve our thanks. Most of them are pro-staff members of different tackle companies, so they are always looking for exposure – whether it be in an article, a blog, or whatever. So let’s make sure we treat them right, take plenty of photos, and write a nice trip report afterwards.



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

McCORMICK'S CREEK STATE PARK

250 McCormick's Creek Park Road • Spencer, IN 47460 • (812) 829-2235
1,924 acres Established 1916



McCormick's Creek State Park Maps for the HOW Conference

HOOSIER OUTDOOR WRITERS

Annual Meeting on April 22, 2017
McCormick's Creek State Park
Canyon Inn – The Oak Room
Spencer, IN

MEETING SCHEDULE

8:00-9:00am

Registration, continental breakfast.

9:00-9:05am

Opening remarks by HOW President Ken McBroom & briefing on the day's schedule.

9:05-9:15am

Dwight Brooks, McCormick's Creek SP property manager, will welcome HOW members to the park and will talk briefly about the outdoor recreation prospects available in the park and nearby.

9:15-10:15am

Seminar #1: "Ruffed Grouse Habitat in Indiana". Heather Shaw and Dan Gehring from the Ruffed Grouse Society will discuss Indiana's changing forest habitat and what can be done (and is being done) to improve the habitat to benefit native wildlife species like grouse, woodcock and many others.

10:15-10:20am

Short break.

10:20-11:10am

Seminar #2: "Hoosier Deer Management". DNR Deer Research Biologist Dr. Joe Caudell plans to discuss a variety of deer management topics, including current deer population trends, bovine tuberculosis in Hoosier deer and the new high-powered rifle law introduced for hunting deer in 2016.

11:10-11:30am

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

11:30-12:30pm

Buffet lunch and social time for members.

12:30-1:15pm

Seminar #3: "Urban Wildlife Program". DNR Wildlife Biologist Megan Dillon will talk about the Urban Wildlife Program, resolving conflicts with urban Canada geese, the Community Hunting Access Program for over-abundant deer, and other topics.

1:15-1:45pm

TIP Awards-In-Craft presentation.
Bear Skin presentation to TIP Board.
HOW Awards-In-Craft presentation (Writing, Photography, Broadcast).

1:45-2:15pm

Break. Raffle tickets go on sale!

2:15-3:15pm

Seminar #4: "The Low Head Dam Initiative". Kenneth Smith, assistant director of the DNR Division of Water, will discuss low head dams on Indiana waterways, the planned removal of some of these dams, and the need to raise public awareness of safety concerns around these structures during the summer season.

3:15-3:30pm

Break. Last chance to buy raffle tickets!

3:30pm

Annual HOW Outdoor Writer's Raffle.

4:30pm

Meeting adjourns.

6:00pm

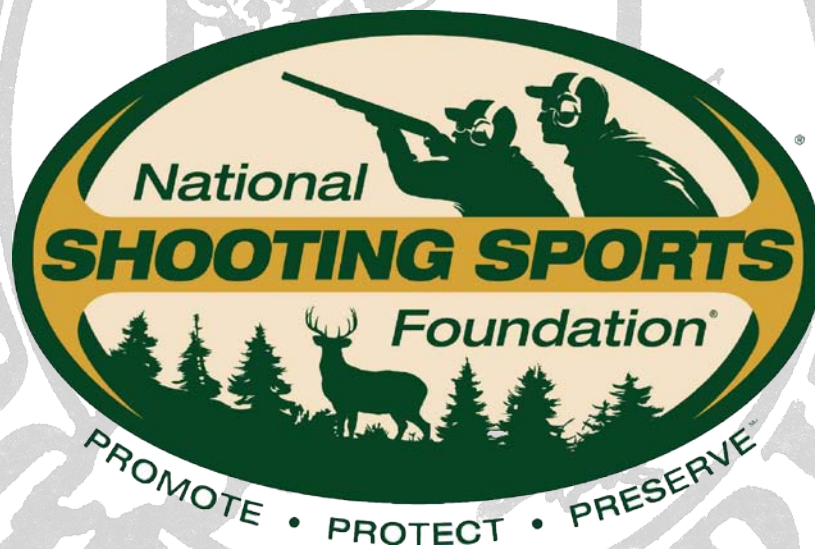
Dinner on your own if staying until Sunday.

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

HOW Raffle Donors - 2017

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

Al's Goldfish Lure Co.
Alps Brand
Aquateko International
B'n'M Poles
Backwoodsman Magazine
Bagley Bait Co.
Bass Pro Shops
Birchwood Casey
Black River Tools
BoatUS
BOLT Locks
Buck Knives
Bucket Grip
Camp Chef
Celox
Church Tackle Co.
Cocoons Eyewear
Creason Wooden Pens
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Princeton University Press
Pro-Cure Bait Scents
Quaker Boy Game Calls
Ramcat Broadheads
Real Avid
Reef Runner Lures
Remington Arms Co
RIO Products
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Trophy Angler's Tackle
Vexilar, Inc.
Vortex Optics
White Flyer Targets
W.R. Case
Winchester Ammunition
Yo-Zuri America, Inc.

DNR News

Division of Forestry

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

For immediate release: February 14, 2017

Indiana Big Tree Register Now Available

The updated Indiana Big Tree Register is now available online for Hoosier big tree lovers.

The register, which is published every five years, lists the largest tree, or “champion”, of every native tree species in Indiana. It is at dnr.IN.gov/forestry/8169.htm.

The current listing of Indiana’s biggest trees was open for nominations in 2015. DNR Division of Forestry staff confirmed nominations in 2016.

Indiana’s Big Tree Register follows a points system used by the National Big Tree Register that takes into account tree height, trunk circumference, and canopy spread to determine the overall largest tree.

There are still several species without champions because they have not received a nomination.

Many of the champions are found in open areas such as cemeteries, yards or agricultural fields. With more space and less competition for water and sunlight, trees in these areas can grow to their largest potential.



It looks like Mark Berg has chosen his favorite tree inside Turkey Run State Park. Photo by Tom Berg.

To view all DNR news releases, please see: www.dnr.IN.gov.

Media contact: Janet Eger, district forester, DNR Division of Forestry. Contact by phone: (812) 247-2479, or by email: jeger@dnr.IN.gov.

HOW Member News

Bob Sawtelle and John Maxwell Enjoy Saltwater Fishing Down South

Florida Fly Fishing Trip Report: Boca Grande, Gasparilla Island by Ranger Bob

I had the delightful and fortunate experience of fly fishing (and just fishing) Florida's backcountry and nearshore saltwater of Florida this past February. I have owned a flats boat since 2005. I trailer it from Indiana to our Florida fishing destinations. My angling partner John Maxwell and I fish the Florida Panhandle, St. Joe Harbor, Tampa, Sarasota, Charlotte's Harbor, Everglades and down to visit my favorite sister in Key West.

That's a lot of water. We know some of it, but not as well as we should. Successful fishing no matter where you are relies on one single most factor – knowing the habitat; knowing where the fish like to be. That's true of the Blue River, Otter Creek, Cumberland River and saltwater. Knowing what they like to eat helps too!

We sometimes hire guides since they know their home waters and their fish habits. Their local knowledge helps us catch more fish. Now John and I are not saltwater guide quality yet, but after years of dabbling and wetting lines along the Gulf Coast and Florida Keys, we have finally selected our home waters.

Gasparilla Island of Boca Grande Pass is our choice. Here's why: the fishing can be incredible, the fishing is easy and accessible, and boating is as safe as the boat captain. Fishable waters are easily accessible with kayak, flats boat or bay boat. Mangrove backcountry and flats kayak fishing commonly has a success rate that exceeds fishing from boats – even the skinny flats boats.

We stay at a hotel called the **InnLet on the Waterfront**, Boca Grande on Gasparilla Island. Efficiencies have two queen beds, a two-burner kitchen stove with a small refrigerator and a bathroom with a roomy shower. Cost is about \$200 per night (\$100 per person). A boat slip is available for another \$35 per day and is located immediately out the room's back door. Really, ten steps and I am loaded into the boat and ready to go. The cost may seem pricey, but once you consider the convenience and savings of not commuting with a boat and trailer, driving your vehicle and cooking your own meals it becomes more affordable. We take a camp stove and do all of our fish cooking outside the room on a picnic table. If the fish catching is really good we sometimes feed what seems like the entire guest list of the hotel. Other hotel anglers pitch in their catch also. It is kind of like a tropical trout camp food



Ranger Bob displays a very nice shallow water snook that he caught on his favorite fly rod. Photo by John Maxwell.

experience; on a good day nobody steps away from the table hungry. We purchase, pack and transport most of our groceries for the stay before entering the island, including our refreshments. If you do forget key ingredients, run out of beer or want a great steak to grill, a ¼ mile walk will bring you to the doorstep of the island's Hudson's Grocery.



John Maxwell holds his first Florida snook caught after dark. Photo by Bob Sawtelle.

I catch fish with a fly rod; John spin fishes and catches supper. The species list includes sea trout, snapper, sheepshead, grouper, snook, Spanish mackerel, cobia and more.

Some flies, fishing lures and tackle are available at the local hardware store and one outfitter shop. But you are much better off if you come with your own supply of flies, lures and accessories. Fly shops these days are mostly clothing and sandal outlets. The best live baits for Gasparilla (Florida) fishing are, of course, live shrimp and pinfish. Bait is available at the local marina. We do not limit ourselves to just fly fishing. We do it all. A shrimp floating beneath a clacker is fun too!

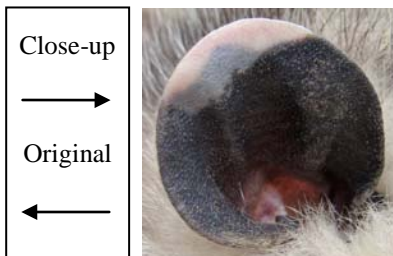
Gasparilla is a gated community island. Cost for a truck and boat on a trailer to enter the Island is about \$11.00. There is a State Park with a historic lighthouse located at the south end of the island with a public beach and good shore fishing.

Florida fishing guides do operate out of the InnLet ramp. It is not a secret fishing destination, it is just a good time fishing place. I will gladly share any information or trip knowledge with any HOW member that is interested.



Unusual Nature Photos from the Hoosier Outdoors Sponsored by the National Shooting Sports Foundation

The Opossum's Leathery Ear is Susceptible to Frostbite



The “What is it?” photo from the last issue was a bit harder than usual, as only five (5) HOW members were able to identify it. Will Keaton, Mike Schoonveld, John Maxwell, Bill Keaton and Phil Seng each had the right answer. When we drew a name at random for the **HT Enterprises** icefishing prize package, **Will Keaton** was

the winner. Congrats, Will! We’ll get the icefishing gear to you ASAP.

As you can see in the photo at left, the mystery creature for this issue was a Virginia opossum (*Didelphis Virginiana*). Opossums, or possums as they are often called, are great survivors. They can live almost anywhere and they eat a wide variety of foods. Although some of their favorite foods include fruits, nuts, insects and mice, they will also eat worms, snails, garden slugs, putrefied carrion – almost anything!

Possums are interesting creatures. They are North America’s only marsupial (animal with a pouch for nursing their young) and they are nearly impervious to many poisons. They do not hibernate during the winter, but they do curl up inside hollow trees or under old sheds for a few days during bitterly cold weather. Their leathery ears are not protected by warm fur, so they are susceptible to frostbite when exposed to extremely cold temperatures. If you

see a possum with torn or tattered ears, it’s a good bet they were frozen and frost-bitten at one time.

For this issue, our friends at the **National Shooting Sports Foundation** will be donating a great prize for the HOW member that guesses the right answer to this issue’s “What Is It?” question. This time the prize will be a nice set of binoculars. See below for more info.



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



Here’s another Nature Photo mystery. The photo shown at left 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 fish, for example, go ahead and guess “bluegill”. Of course, it’s not a bluegill, 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, the **National Shooting Sports Foundation** (NSSF) will be donating a nice set of binoculars (see photo) 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 the Bushnell OFF TRAIL 10x28mm binoculars. It’s a great prize for anyone who loves the outdoors! If multiple people guess the right answer, we will draw one winner at random from the group of correct entries.



Good luck and have fun guessing! All nature photos on this page by Tom Berg.

HOW Supporting Member News

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

SportDOG Introduces Contain + Train System

Knoxville, TN: SportDOG® Brand, the industry-leading manufacturer of electronic dog-training products and accessories, has expanded the use of pet containment systems with the unveiling of the new Contain + Train System. Designed to provide all of the current containment capabilities of the SportDOG Brand® In-Ground Fence™ System, combined with remote training capabilities of the company's popular FieldTrainer® 425, the Contain + Train allows owners to secure their dogs within set boundaries, and train both at home and in the field.

“The Contain + Train allows users to exceed the capabilities of traditional containment systems by utilizing remote training within the In-Ground Fence boundary, as well as outside it, all while using a single Collar Receiver,” said Clay Thompson, Category Manager for SportDOG.

In containment mode, the Collar Receiver offers seven levels of static stimulation, as well as a vibration/tone option, giving a wide variety of options to match any dog's temperament. 1,000 feet of wire and 100 boundary flags are included with the system. The containment Transmitter is powerful enough to cover up to 100 acres of land with the purchase of additional Wire & Flag Kits, and you can add an unlimited number of dogs with the purchase of additional Add-A-Dog® Collar Receivers.

While in training mode, Collar Receiver has a range of 500 yards, and is fully customizable, with seven levels of instantly selectable static stimulation in low, medium, and high modes, as well as the option to train with vibration and tone, and can be expanded to three dogs with purchase of additional Add-A-Dog Collar Receivers.

The new Contain + Train System will be available from outdoor retailers and online in the second quarter of 2017.



To learn more about the SportDOG Brand line of products, as well as the company's many conservation initiatives, visit www.sportdog.com.

Media contact: Gretchen Goodson, ggoodson@sportdog.net, phone: 865-824-5210.

About SportDOG® Brand:

SportDOG Brand is owned by Radio Systems Corporation, a manufacturer of electronic dog-training gear and accessories, based in Knoxville, Tennessee. SportDOG Brand® product lines include training e-collars, GPS tracking and training units, bark control collars, containment systems, launchers, and other training aids.

HOW's Supporting Member Websites

Al's Goldfish Lure Co. - www.alsgoldfish.com
Alpen Optics - www.alpenoutdoor.com
Alps Brands - www.alpsbrands.com
Aquateko International - www.aquateko.com
B'n'M Pole Company - www.bnmpoles.com
Backwoodsman Magazine - www.backwoodsmanmag.com
Bagley Bait Co. - www.bagleybait.com
Balsax Fishing Lines - www.balsax.com
Bass Pro Shops - www.basspro.com
Battenfeld Technologies - www.battenfeldtechnologies.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
Buck Knives - www.buckknives.com
Bucket Grip - www.bucketgrip.com
Camp Chef - www.campchef.com
Celox Medical - www.celoxmedical.com
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
Dead Down Wind - www.deaddownwind.com
Deer Dummy - www.deerdummy.com
Ducks Unlimited - www.ducks.org
Eagle Claw - www.eagleclaw.com
Environ-Metal, Inc. - www.hevishot.com
Eppinger Manufacturing - www.eppinger.net
Field & Stream Outdoor Life Deer & Turkey Expos - www.deerinfo.com
Fisherman's Handy Hook - www.thefishermanshandyhook.com
Fisknat Landing Nets - www.fisknat.com
Flying Fisherman - www.flyingfisherman.com
FOXPRO - www.gofoxpro.com
Freedom Tackle Corp. - www.freedomlures.com
Frogg Toggs - www.froggtoggs.com
G.Loomis - www.gloomis.com
Gamo USA - www.gamousa.com
Gerber Legendary Blades - www.gerbergear.com
Gun Protect - www.mygunprotect.com
Hart Productions - www.hartproductions.com
Harvest Clean - www.harvestclean.com
Hawke Sport Optics - www.hawkeoptics.com
Henry Repeating Arms Co. - www.henryUSA.com
HHA Sports - www.HHAsports.com
Hodgdon Powder Co. - www.hodgdon.com
Hoosier Trapper Supply - www.hoosiertrappersupply.com
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt - www.hmhco.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
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
Mathews Archery - www.mathewsinc.com
Midway USA - www.midwayUSA.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
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
Paleo Meals To Go - www.paleomealstogo.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 Bait Scents - www.pro-cure.com
Quaker Boy Game Calls - www.quakerboygamecalls.com
Ramcat Broadheads - www.ramcatbroadheads.com
Real Avid - www.realavid.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
South Shore CVA - www.southshorecva.com
SportDOG Brand - www.sportdog.com
Sturm, Ruger & Co. - www.ruger.com
SunSect - www.sunsect.com
Swab-Its - www.swab-its.com
Tales End Tackle - www.talesendtackle.com
ThermaCELL - www.thermacell.com
Tink's - www.tinks.com
Toyota Motor Sales - www.toyotanewsroom.com
Traditions Media - www.traditionsmedia.com
Trophy Angler's Tackle - www.trophyanglerstackle.com
TTI-Blakemore Fishing - www.ttiblakemore.com
Unfair Lures - www.unfairlures.com
Vexilar, Inc. - www.vexilar.com
Vortex Optics - www.vortexoptics.com
White Flyer Targets - www.whiteflyer.com
Widener's Reloading & Shooting Supply - www.wideners.com
Winchester Ammunition - www.winchester.com
W.R. Case - www.wrcase.com
Xtreme Hardcore Gear - www.extremehardcoregear.com
Yamaha Marine Group - www.yamahaoutboards.com
Yo-Zuri America, Inc. - www.yo-zuri.com

HOW members are encouraged to check these websites for general info and answers to product and service questions.

Hoosier Outdoor Writers

Application For New Membership

(Check Desired Classification below)

- \$30 _____ Active
- \$25 _____ Associate
- \$50 _____ Supporting
- \$15 _____ Active Student
- \$10 _____ Associate Student

Personal Information:

Name: _____
Company (Supporting members only): _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____

Professional Information:

Employer (if outdoor-related): _____ Position: _____
Business Address: _____
Business Phone: _____

1. Describe your work in the outdoor field: Full Time _____ Part Time _____

2. Check your field(s) of outdoor work:

_____ Newspapers	_____ Magazine	_____ Photography
_____ Books	_____ Radio	_____ Lectures
_____ Television	_____ Teaching	_____ Trade Journals
_____ Artist	_____ Public relations	_____ Government Info - Ed
_____ Other (Specify): _____		

3. Are you paid for your outdoor work? Yes _____ No _____

4. Your work is published or disseminated: Daily ____; Weekly ____; Monthly ____; ____ times a year

Attach samples or other proof of your work in the outdoor field: newspaper clips, letters from station managers attesting to frequency of radio or TV broadcasts, lecture schedule or publicity clips, photo clips or artistic prints, title of latest book, masthead of trade journal showing your position, etc.

Send completed application and article copies to: **Tom Berg, 2142 Nondorf Street, Dyer, IN 46311.**

I have read the principles and membership requirements of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers and would like to enroll in the classification checked above.

Signature: _____

Sponsor: _____

Who We Are

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

What We Do

These are the purposes of HOW:

1. To improve ourselves in the art, skill and effectiveness of our craft, and to increase knowledge and understanding of the whole state.
2. To help ensure the wisest and best conservation of Indiana's resources, and the most wide-spread fair use of Indiana's recreational potential.
3. To provide a vehicle for bringing together and joining in common cause all Hoosiers who by profession, hobby or interest are devoted to the outdoors.
4. Conduct an annual Awards-In-Craft Contest among its members. The award winners are announced each year at HOW's annual conference.

What We Stand For

These are what we strive to accomplish:

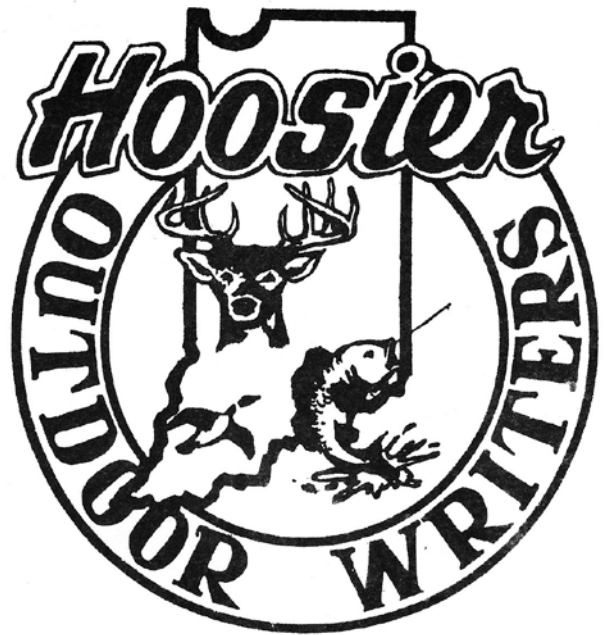
1. To give the profession of outdoor writing/reporting greater recognition and understanding, even higher standards and enlarged scope.
2. To encourage and enforce high standards of professional ethics.
3. To strive always for the truth, accuracy, clarity and completeness in the dissemination of outdoor information.
4. To help friends and fight the foes of wisely conserved Indiana resources.

Membership Requirements

Membership is open to anyone who meets one of the following:

1. Active

Members are those regularly engaged in the paid dissemination of outdoor-oriented information via newspapers, radio, television, magazines, trade journals, books, photographs, art, lectures, or other fitting media. (Basic guidelines of "regularity" of dissemination are: 20 newspaper articles, photos or broadcasts a year; two national or four regional



magazines or specialty journal articles a year, or one book, 10 lectures, or 20 bona fide outdoor news releases a year.)

The legal advisor for the association shall be an active member without meeting the basic guidelines.

2. Associate

Members are those who have a strong direct interest in the outdoors, either professional or personal, such as conservationists of all kinds; public employees in outdoor fields; educators teaching related subjects; fishing guides and tournament anglers, sportsmen and retail-level dealers in outdoor goods, equipment or facilities.

3. Supporting

Members are those engaged in major commercial efforts directly related to the outdoors, such as manufacturers, distributors, service providers, manufacturers' representatives, or advertising agencies serving any of these.

4. Active Student

Members are those between the ages of 18 and 24 years who are bona fide college students with a major in journalism, communications, or natural resources sciences.

5. Associate Student

Members are those who are students who have an active interest in the outdoors in the areas of hunting, fishing, ecology, or in preserving the environment in general.

Calendar of Events

HOW 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.