

# The Blade

July - August 2017

The Official Publication of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers



"Crayfish: It's What's For Breakfast", 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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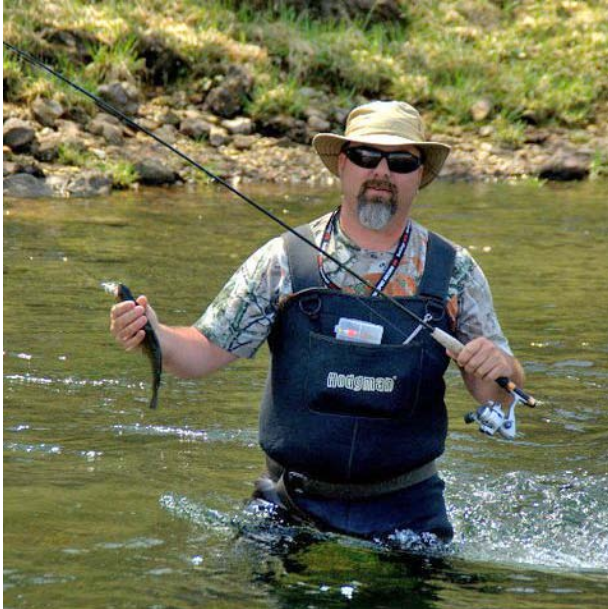
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Vikki Trout – 2019  
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All submissions and correspondence in regards to the newsletter should be directed to: Tom Berg (e-mail: [director@hoosieroutdoorwriters.org](mailto:director@hoosieroutdoorwriters.org)), or to Tom Berg, 2142 Nondorf St., Dyer, IN 46311. Portions of this newsletter may be reproduced only with the permission of the Hoosier Outdoor Writer's Executive Board and/or the permission of the original author or authors submitting the material. HOW website: [www.HoosierOutdoorWriters.org](http://www.HoosierOutdoorWriters.org).

**On the cover:** A mother hooded merganser keeps careful watch as her chicks learn to hunt on their own in the shallows. One successful chick caught a crayfish for breakfast. Photo by Tom Berg.



# President's Message

by Don Cranfill

## *Supporting Conservation*

Greetings. I trust everyone is having a great summer. Turkey season seems like a distant memory, and we are entering the dog days of summer when the fish bite usually slows as waters warm and stream flows come to a crawl. This year seems to be a bit different with the unusually mild temps, and almost nonexistent rainfall. I don't know about you all, but the summer largemouth action for me has been pretty good and the smallies are still quite active for August, even though the pools are about all that is left on many creeks. Several of my friends are already starting to get that

pre-deer season twitch, as they do every year. They should recover by Fall.

For many years, for one to be considered a conservationist outdoorsman all one really needed to do was support our DNR by regularly purchasing licenses and practicing good habits and ethics in the field. Maybe joining B.A.S.S. or Ducks Unlimited, or one of a handful of other grassroots organizations, too. As more groups compete for our money these days it can sometimes get a bit confusing, even misleading. One thing I have learned this last year is there are some serious propaganda wars going on in our state right now, especially in the whitetail deer world. It can get very confusing. There are so many groups that one must really do their homework to see who and what they are actually sponsoring. Don't get me wrong, I don't mean to sound pessimistic; there are some fantastic groups out there.

I thought I would take this opportunity to maybe issue a sort of challenge for us all. This challenge is to write about these groups who are out there doing great things for all of us Hoosiers. It can be difficult to navigate and choose between the quality organizations who are all competing for our support. The best way for us to help these groups is to put out there, for all to read, the wonderful projects and hard work the organizations do on our behalf. Give them the publicity they deserve. There are far too many unsung heroes working behind the scenes who haven't gotten the recognition they deserve, or projects that go relatively un-noticed. These are issues we are discussing when we get together. The everyday outdoorsman who is not networked as well as most members of HOW would appreciate some guidance and advice. I will be sitting down with Brandon Butler soon to do a podcast on what it means to be a conservationist and a hunter in today's world. Brandon is quite well-informed on the subject and very qualified to speak on the issue. It should prove to be interesting.

One thing I have learned since joining HOW is that while we recognize many good people for what they do, how they contribute and make a difference, and the organizations that are their conduit, we are only scratching the surface of all that is out there. Now more than ever folks need our guidance and assistance in finding and choosing groups deserving of our membership and money. Likewise, as more groups vie for new members the good ones can use all the help we can give them in recognizing the great work they do. We owe them that much; they do so much for us. Thanks for indulging me.

See you on the creek. We'll talk about it between casts.

# The Hoosier Outdoor Writers

New Members, Past Presidents & Memorial Section

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

Sweet Owen Convention & Visitors Bureau  
(Supporting)  
Owen County, IN  
Sponsor: Tom Berg

## Memorial to Deceased HOW Members

**Those Who Have Gone Before Us:**

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

## Past Presidents of HOW

“Bayou” Bill Scifres	1969
“Bayou” Bill Scifres	1970
“Bayou” Bill Scifres	1971
Bill Church	1972
Rick Bramwell	1973
Jack Ennis	1974
Phil Junker	1975
Ralph McHargue	1976
Tom Glancy	1977
Bob Rubin	1978
Jack Alkire	1979
Louie Stout	1980
Mike Lyle	1981
Jim “Moose” Carden	1982
Jim “Moose” Carden	1983
John Davis	1984
John Davis	1985
Ray Harper	1986
Ray Harper	1987
Ray Dickerson	1988
“Bayou” Bill Scifres	1989
“Bayou” Bill Scifres	1990
“Bayou” Bill Scifres	1991
Jack Spaulding	1992
Jack Spaulding	1993
John Rawlings	1994
Phil Bloom	1995
Marty Jaranowski	1996
John Martino	1997
Mike Schoonveld	1998
Jack Spaulding	1999
Jack Spaulding	2000
Sharon Wiggins	2001
Phil Junker	2002
Larry Crecelius	2003
Bryan Poynter	2004
Phil Bloom	2005
Brian Smith	2006
Brian Smith	2007
Brent Wheat	2008
Bryan Poynter	2009
John Maxwell	2010
Brandon Butler	2011
Josh Lantz	2012
Ben Shadley	2013
Bob Sawtelle	2014
Alan Garbers	2015
Ken McBroom	2016

# **TIP Awards-In-Craft Winner**

## **1st Place in the 2016 HOW/TIP Turn-in-a-Poacher Writing Contest**

### **Poaching is a crime against all Hoosiers.**

by Brandon Butler

Our wildlife is held in public trust, meaning it belongs to us all. When one person breaks the law and poaches, it is a crime against the state. Ethical hunters must work together to deter poaching.

Turn in a Poacher, Inc. (TIP) is a nonprofit conservation organization that exists to combat poaching. TIP helps protect fish and wildlife from violators. Hunters must do everything we can to publicly attack the practice of poaching, and spreading the word about TIP is one way you can help.

It's our responsibility to report violators, which can be done anonymously through TIP.

Hunters are the most vocal advocates for punishing poachers. When someone kills wildlife outside the bounds of law, it is a horrible reflection on hunters, because the general population often has trouble separating poachers from hunters. And too often, the mainstream media hurts hunters by blaming them for the actions of poachers.

You've likely read a headline that says something like, "Hunter Shoots Deer in Park." Well, no, a poacher shot a deer in the park. The two words are not interchangeable.

Think of it like this: If you walk into your bank and withdraw money, you are a customer; if you walk into a bank with a gun and demand money, you are a robber. There is a big difference between taking legally and taking illegally. Hunters take legally. Poachers take illegally.

"TIP provides an opportunity for Indiana citizens to have an active part in the protection of our natural resources and be the eyes and the ears for our Indiana conservation officers, so that our future generations may have the opportunity to enjoy our natural resources as well," Joe Cales, TIP Board president, said on the organization's website.

There are a lot of fish and game laws to follow. Sometimes people make honest mistakes and break one of those laws. It's understandable. But other times a person is poaching on purpose. They know what they are doing is wrong.

Hopefully, they are caught, taught a lesson and never do it again. Yet there are the hardened poachers who time and time again reap the resources for personal gain with no concern for the species or the sportsmen who pursue them. We can only hope these criminals are caught and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law, and your report can make that happen.

Reporting a violation is simple. Just call 800-TIP-IDNR (800-847-4367). There are dispatchers available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. And you may be rewarded for your anonymous "TIP." If it leads to an arrest, you may receive as much as a \$200 reward.

TIP offers memberships for \$25 per year or life memberships for \$250. It also has merchandise for sale that helps fund the program. It is available on the website at [tip.wildindiana.com](http://tip.wildindiana.com). You can also make financial contributions to help fund TIP.

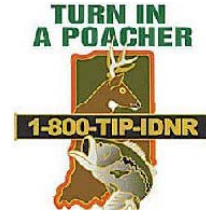
Send donations to: Turn in a Poacher, Inc., 402 W. Washington St., Room W255D, Indianapolis, IN 46204.

Hunters hold the experience of fair chase in their hearts. Hunters conduct themselves ethically by following game laws, practicing conservation and by embracing the privilege we have to pursue game and fish in this state. Anyone breaking these game laws is not a hunter, they are a poacher, and we hunters need to take a stand and fight to end the rampant practice of poaching.

If you see poaching taking place, please report the violation through TIP.



## Hoosier Outdoor Writers Turn in a Poacher/Polluter Writing Contest Official Contest Guidelines



Once again, the Turn in a Poacher/Polluter (TIP) Citizen's Advisory Board is sponsoring a \$300 writing contest (\$150 for first place; \$100 for second place; \$50 for third place) to encourage HOW members to promote the TIP mission, the hotline and support of the TIP Advisory Board.

Requirements are simple, and entering is easy! Article must be at least 400 words in length and 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](http://www.tip.wildindiana.com))
4. OPTIONAL: Indiana DNR TIP website ([secure.in.gov/dnr/lawenfor/2745.htm](http://secure.in.gov/dnr/lawenfor/2745.htm))

Although it is not required, preference will be given to stories that:

- Feature a "real-life story of TIP" or something similar.
- Are published in paid publications.

For leads and contacts on actual TIP story ideas, contact Captain Bill Browne, IN DNR Law Enforcement, at [wbrowne@dnr.in.gov](mailto:wbrowne@dnr.in.gov); 765-509-0207.

To enter, submit an electronic copy of an article published between **March 1, 2017** and **January 31, 2018**. We will supply the submission deadline and contact info towards the end of the year. The TIP Citizen's Advisory Board will review all entries 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](http://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.secure.in.gov/dnr/lawenfor/2745.htm](http://www.secure.in.gov/dnr/lawenfor/2745.htm).





## 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:

Ken McBroom is an avid bass fisherman and tournament angler. As such, he does a lot of fishing on some of our larger reservoirs as he pursues his favorite fish. One thing these reservoirs have in common is the fact that they all have large populations of gizzard shad. But bass aren't the only predators hunting the shad. Birds routinely hunt shad on these lakes, too.

"The **great blue heron** (*Ardea herodias*) may not be all that interesting to some people," he said, "but to the angler, this bird is very interesting and they are sometimes vital to their success. While the fish may not be biting, where you find this common 'bird of bait', rest assured there are fish nearby. You might want to check back, even if the fish won't bite on the first, second or third attempt." **Photos at right:** Great blue heron catches a shad.

"Remember, one person's 'not so interesting bird' can be another person's best friend," quipped McBroom.

### Report from Tom Berg:

"When my family and I drove out west last fall, we saw lots of interesting birds," said Berg. "One of them was the **Steller's jay** (*Cyanocitta stelleri*). This beautiful blue and black bird is one of only two North American jays with crests on the tops of their heads – the other is the common blue jay."

Steller's jays were named after the naturalist Georg Steller, who discovered them on an Alaskan island in 1741. He also



discovered Steller's sea lions and Steller's sea eagles which were named after him. Steller's jays are excellent mimics, and they can imitate the sounds of other birds, chickens, squirrels – even dogs and cats!

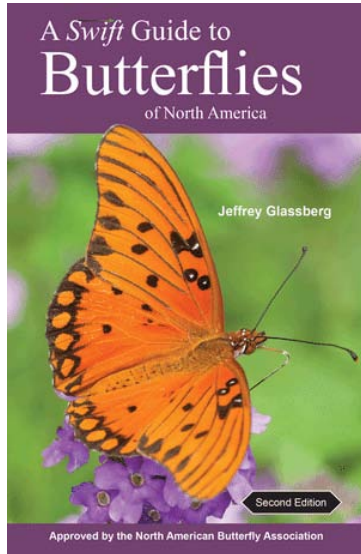
Berg continued: "I photographed this particular Steller's jay inside Rocky Mountain National Park, in a clearing just off one of the more popular trails. If you look closely, you can see that the bird has a moth in its beak. The bird kept flying from the trees to the ground and back again, never letting me get close enough for a good photo. I followed him for a couple of hundred yards before finally getting this one mediocre photo. It just proves that sometimes persistence pays off."

## Reviews on Great Outdoor Books

Everyone likes to read new books, whether it is strictly for pleasure or to learn something new. HOW members are no exception! Some of our favorites are outdoor guide books and identification books. Books that help us identify plants, mammals, fish, butterflies and birds are always popular. But we also love outdoor adventure books. Here are two outstanding books that you may want to add to your library and introduce to your readers as well:

### ***A Swift Guide to Butterflies***, by Jeffrey Glassberg.

Book review by Tom Berg:



Princeton University Press has published the second edition of the popular butterfly field guide, titled: *A Swift Guide to Butterflies*, by Jeffrey Glassberg. If you are interested in learning more about butterflies, this is the book for you! This photographic field guide makes identifying butterflies easy. It features 3,500 beautiful photos, with photos of the topsides and undersides of most butterflies, including both males and females. The photos also point out identifying marks on each butterfly, which really aids in identification.

Detailed range maps which are printed on the same page help rule-out similar looking species based on location, which can be very helpful in the field. This revised second edition includes more than 500 new photos, along with updated text, maps and other info. You probably never knew there were this many butterflies!

*A Swift Guide to Butterflies* provides everything that interested butterfly hunters and conservationists need to get started in butterfly collecting or butterfly watching. Text boxes highlight information about habitat, caterpillar food plants, abundance and flight period, and other interesting facts. Also included are a quick visual index and a caterpillar food plant index. There is a lot to learn, and the 420 pages of this book will definitely educate you!

This is a great identification book for both the newbie and the experienced butterfly enthusiast.

ISBN-13: 978-0691176505

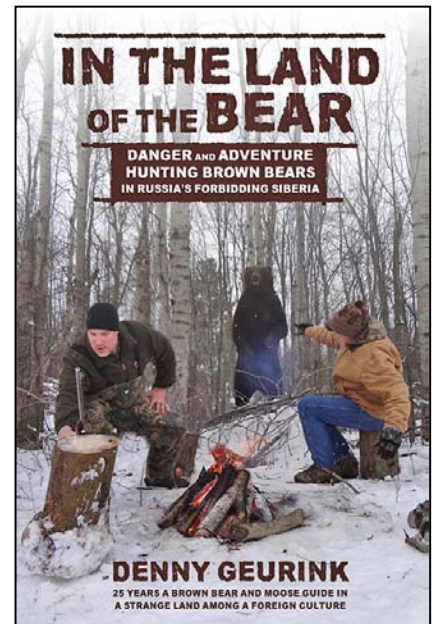
### ***In the Land of the Bear***, by Denny Geurink.

Book review by Tom Berg:

Target Communications Outdoor Books has released a new outdoor adventure book titled "*IN THE LAND OF THE BEAR*" by Denny Geurink. This book is filled with stories about the excitement, danger, wonder and adventure of hunting huge brown bears and trophy moose in remote Siberia.

The hair-raising hunting stories are wonderful on their own, but when you combine them with descriptions of traveling in Russia in the 1990s, when Russia had just opened its borders to foreign tourists and hunters, the book takes on a whole new appeal. Reading about dealing with Russian customs agents, Siberian back-country hunting guides, cooks and other local folk was truly delightful. I absolutely could not put this book down! It is a definite must-read for any adventure-loving outdoorsman – not just bear hunters.

Publisher (and HOW member) Glenn Helgeland can be reached by phone at: 262-242-3530, cell: 262-402-7668, or email: [glenn.helgeland@gmail.com](mailto:glenn.helgeland@gmail.com).



I **HIGHLY** recommend this book to anyone that loves high adventure, hunting, and learning about travel in Russia.

ISBN-13: 978-0913305171



# No Respect for Jack

by Mike Schoonveld

I don't know why I had a big, yellow bucktail jig in my tackle box. It must have been something I found or was included in a tackle assortment I came to own one way or another. It was way bigger than anything I'd need for fishing around this area but it seemed just right when I tied it on and cast it out into the ocean.

Is the nearshore water at Panama City, Florida the "ocean?" It is the Gulf of Mexico and it's salt water, so to a 14 or 15 year old Hoosier kid who had never been within 500 miles of any seacoast previously, it was close enough.

I'm certain the rod and reel combo I was using wasn't suitable for most of the fish I could have hooked, but the well-used Zebco 33 and limber rod I was holding had bested every fish I'd ever hooked up with in Indiana and it was the only outfit I owned. So zing – out went the big, yellow leadhead. It cast like a cannonball.

Halfway through my first, or third or fifth retrieve – I don't remember exactly, but it wasn't long – a fish bit the lure and I was hooked to a denizen of the deep. What kind of fish, I didn't have clue. Thoughts of shark, tarpon, bonefish, marlin and others ran through my head as the fish stretched my line like nothing I'd ever hooked in the Iroquois River.

Even when I pulled it near I didn't know what kind of fish it was. With a wide body, steel-gray flanks and yellow tinged fins and tail shaped like narrow knife blades, it looked like a fish that belonged in the ocean. I'd read enough issues of Sports Afield to know it wasn't a shark, tarpon, bonefish or other salty gamester featured in those magazine stories. I do know I was surprised it wasn't the largest fish I'd ever caught. It probably weighed a couple pounds.

Still, it pulled ten times harder than any two-pound bass, pike, carp or catfish I'd ever hooked. The line held, my reel held up and in short order, I was as hooked on saltwater fishing as that crevalle jack was hooked to my yellow jig.

Now, I can say I've caught shark, tarpon, bonefish and many other saltwater gamesters. But my first saltwater fish was a "jack."

Crevalle jacks are likely the first saltwater fish many anglers hook. Most likely, like mine, the fish are quickly released, maybe even cursed, a little. Few people go out strictly trying to catch jacks but the species is widespread and haunts a variety of habitats. Jacks snarf up lures or baits angled in search of snook, tarpon, permit and other game fish and for many guides and fishermen they are more a bother than a trophy.

I suppose if a person is spending time and treasure to catch a tarpon and a parade of jacks keep crashing the party it can be frustrating. It's happened to me, but I kept my lack of frustration to myself. Those jacks pulled just as hard (or harder) than the elusive tarpon we were trying to catch and were much more willing to bite. No one eats tarpon and few people eat crevalle jack so it wasn't like whatever we caught was destined for dinner.

So recently when I was at Sebastian Inlet on Florida's Atlantic coast, fishing with a "snook specialist" and found myself straining to remove a crevalle jack from the ocean, my snooky friend was disappointed. "Waste of bait," he mumbled.

I didn't agree. I just concentrated on not having the rod pulled out of my hands. Even with 20-pound line on the reel and a tight drag, the fish was having its way with the gear for the first five minutes after being hooked. The next five minutes was a stand-off and then I finally worked it close enough to be able to grab the leader and then just forward of its tail to lift it out of the sea.

"Put me on another one of those," I told Capt. Eric. He mumbled something in the back of the boat. Probably something about crazy Hoosier kids not showing the proper disrespect for Mr. Jack.





## Hungry Mangrove Snappers Provide Non-Stop Action

by Tom Berg

Florida has long been known as the *Sunshine State*, but it should also be known as the *Fishing State*. Anglers from far and wide spend countless hours fishing Florida's clear waters, and the fish are usually amazingly cooperative for visiting fishermen.

That was definitely the case with one of my recent excursions in Lee County, FL. I was staying at the Angler's Inn on Matlacha Island near Fort Myers, and I had scheduled a day of fishing with local guide Capt. Ryan Kane from Southern Instinct Charters ([www.southerninstinct.com](http://www.southerninstinct.com)). I had never caught a mangrove snapper before, so I was anxious to catch a few and see what these fish were like.

I met Capt. Ryan and we headed out through Matlacha Pass in search of some hungry snappers. We soon stopped at a small mangrove island where Ryan knew the snappers would be stacked-up, especially at this time of day when the tide was running perfectly.

We got set up quickly and I cast a lively 2-inch pinfish out to the current edge where the tide was running along one side of the island. The pinfish swam nervously away, pausing every foot or two. Within a minute, I felt a sharp strike as something grabbed the bait. We were using circle hooks, so Capt. Ryan told me to relax and let the fish tighten-up on the line as he took off. I followed his advice and was almost instantly hooked-up with a good fish.

The light tackle I was using strained against the strong pull of the snapper, but it didn't take long for me to fight the fish up to the side of the boat. I swung it aboard and admired its copper-colored face and flanks, and the large canine teeth in its mouth. A beautiful mangrove snapper! I snapped a quick photo and then released it. I grabbed another pinfish from the baitwell and cast out to the same current seam. The pinfish hadn't moved more than a foot when it was clobbered by another ravenous snapper. Fish on!

The action continued like this for quite a while. Some of the snappers were smaller 10-12 inch specimens, but others were chunky 14-inch bruisers that had enough weight to put up a great fight. A few of the fish were a more drab gray color, which is why mangrove snappers are also called gray snappers. I had not planned to keep any fish on this trip, so each one was carefully released after we had time to admire it properly and remove the hook. The circle hooks were great for making good hooksets and preventing any gut-hooked fish.

Of course, the pristine waters where we were fishing were not home to snappers only. We also caught some nice-sized redfish and even a spotted seatrout. A small horde of puffer fish must have been down there, too, because every once in a while my pinfish would come back with a small hole cut into it. Capt. Ryan explained that the beak-like mouths of puffers cause those types of wounds. Too bad I didn't catch one of them, too!

For more information about the fishing around Matlacha and the beaches of Fort Myers and Sanibel Island, visit the Lee County tourism website at [www.FortMyers-Sanibel.com](http://www.FortMyers-Sanibel.com). HOW members can also check out [www.FortMyers-Sanibel.com/media-central](http://www.FortMyers-Sanibel.com/media-central).





# DNR News

## Division of Fish & Wildlife

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

**For immediate release:** July 11, 2017

### Help DNR Monitor Wild Turkey Production Through Online Survey

The DNR is asking for help from the public to monitor summer production of wild turkeys.

Volunteers will use a web-based survey to record wild turkey sightings during July and August to help provide information about annual turkey reproduction. This online system allows for broader coverage across the state and greater participation from the public.

The surveys provide useful estimates about annual production by hens and the survival of poults (young turkeys) through the summer brood-rearing period. Summer brood survival is generally the primary factor influencing wild turkey population trends. Information on summer brood survival is essential for sound turkey management.

Information gathered through the brood survey includes:

- Average brood sizes (total number of hens and total number of poults).
- Percentage of adult hens with poults.
- Percentage of hens without poults.

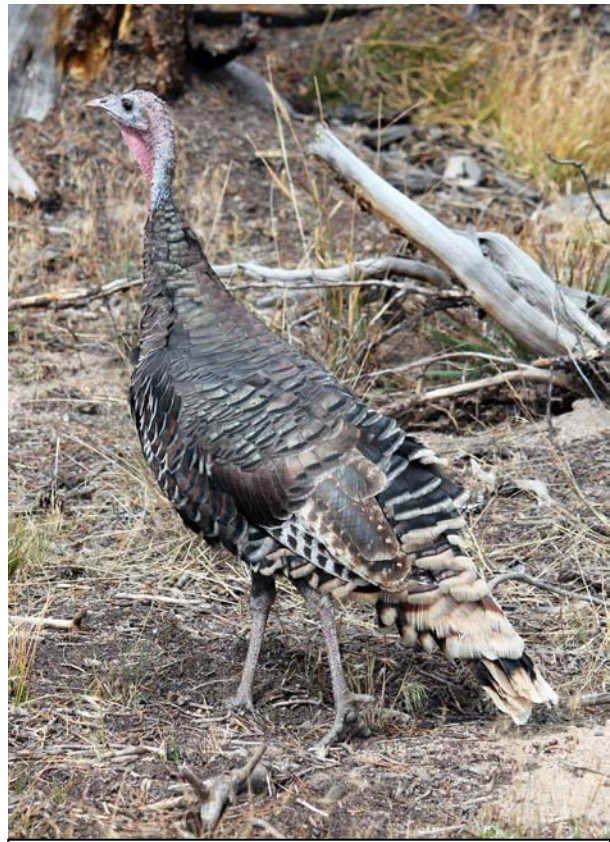
Participants will be asked to report:

- Number of hens and poults seen and the county the observation was made.
- Adult hens without young.

The survey, and additional information, is at [wildlife.IN.gov/8641.htm](http://wildlife.IN.gov/8641.htm).

**Media contact:**

Steve Backs, wild turkey biologist,  
DNR Division of Fish & Wildlife,  
phone: 812-849-4586,  
email: [sbacks@dnr.IN.gov](mailto:sbacks@dnr.IN.gov).



Record your turkey sightings. Tom Berg photo.

# DNR News

## Division of Fish & Wildlife

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

**For immediate release:** June 7, 2017

## Bow Angler Gets Rare Fish: An Alligator Gar

Alligator gar aren't normally found in Indiana waters, but a bowfisherman harvested one June 1 in the White River in southwestern Indiana. The rare fish, which was taken legally, measured 63 inches and 55 pounds when examined by DNR fisheries biologists. The bowfisherman who harvested the gar met all Indiana fishing rules and regulations.



Photo by Indiana DNR.

It is the first alligator gar verified by state biologists in recent history. Indiana is at the northern edge of the historic range of alligator gar, so the species is rarely encountered here.

DNR fisheries biologists have sampled Indiana's large rivers extensively for the last 30 years with no alligator gar being collected. Gar species commonly found in Indiana waters are shortnose, longnose, and spotted gar.

"In Indiana, we currently have no regulations on take of alligator gar," said Brian Schoenung, fisheries chief for the DNR Division of Fish & Wildlife. "One alligator gar found in Indiana waters does not create a management need. However, our biologists will be sampling heavily in the area this fish was discovered to determine if any other alligator gar are present."

Bowfishing is becoming increasingly popular in Indiana and is legal all year for Asian carp, bowfin, buffalo, common carp, gar, shad, and suckers from rivers, streams and lakes or ponds. A fishing license is required.

"Bowfishing is a great sport that requires skill, specialized equipment, and can help use invasive species," Schoenung said. "Our staff puts on several bowfishing workshops a year to introduce new anglers to the sport."

Alligator gar were once persecuted and vilified as killers of game fish, but biologists and conservationists now recognize the unique role the species plays as a top level predator. Many states have taken an interest in restoring alligator gar populations. To augment stockings, some states have implemented protective regulations. A restoration program is not being explored at this time in Indiana.

"Should we find a viable population of alligator gar or as we see more of this species stocked in neighboring states moving into Indiana, we may look to institute management action to regulate take," Schoenung said. "Such regulations would ensure the protection of alligator gar, while allowing other common species to be harvested."

**Media contact:** Michelle Cain, DNR Fish & Wildlife, phone: 317-234-8240.



## HOW Membership Changes Allow Bloggers, Podcasters and Other Online Media Specialists

At a recent HOW Board of Directors meeting, the Executive Committee and Board of Directors voted on a proposed amendment to the HOW bylaws concerning Active membership requirements. The amendment would allow bloggers, podcasters and other online media specialists to become Active HOW members. The vote was unanimous in favor of accepting the proposed change. Active membership will now include those who are paid to publish electronic/online content. The amendment required that Article IV 1.a.ii. of the bylaws be changed to have two new line-items inserted. See below.

Here is the new language for internet/online requirements under Article IV 1.a. (changes in yellow):

a. **ACTIVE** members are those regularly engaged in the paid dissemination of outdoor-oriented information via newspapers, radio, television, **internet/online**, magazines, trade journals, books, photographs, art, lectures, or other fitting media. The legal adviser for the association shall be an active member without meeting the basic guidelines. Except as otherwise provided, to qualify for active membership, applicants and members must meet the following basic criteria:

- i. Radio and Television: One hundred twenty (120) minutes of broadcast time per year as the director, producer or host of the production;
- ii. All others:
  1. Publish twenty (20) newspaper articles or published photos per year;
  2. **Publish twenty (20) online articles, blogs, vlogs or podcasts per year;**
  3. **Work as a full-time, paid editorial employee of an established web site or blog;**
  4. Publish two (2) national or four (4) regional magazine articles per year;
  5. Publish four (4) specialty journal articles per year;
  6. Publish one (1) book per year;
  7. Present ten (10) lectures per year;
  8. Produce twenty (20) bona fide news releases per year; or
  9. Any combination of membership criteria which, in their sole discretion, the membership credentials committee deems one to qualify for active membership.

This is an important step for HOW as we moved forward in the digital age. As HOW President Don Cranfill said in his President's Report in the last issue of *The Blade*, "We are all very aware how much our field has changed in a generation's time. By aligning our membership requirements with that of other professional outdoor writing groups, we can be more inclusive of today's writers. We all know this serves one very important need, the recruitment of new members to ensure HOW's future."

Now every HOW member should think about their friends and acquaintances who write blogs and create content for the web (written/audio/video). Do they cover outdoors topics? Maybe they would be a good fit for HOW. There are many fishing and hunting bloggers, camping and backpacking bloggers – you name it, they are already out there creating content. Many of them are paid for their work, many are not. Each one could become a HOW member, either as an Active member or as an Associate member. Sometimes all it takes is for them to be asked. Once you describe HOW – who we are and what we do, they might be eager to join. Give it a try. As an added incentive, all HOW members who sponsor a new member will get their own membership dues waived the following year!

# HOW Member News

## Mike Berg Catches Rare Trout In High-Mountain Reservoir

HOW member Mike Berg from Cedar Lake is on a quest to catch as many different species of fish as he can. His Fishing Life List is very long, too, since he has already caught more than 390 different species. A recent trip to Phoenix, AZ to visit friends gave him an opportunity to pursue a rare fish that few anglers have caught: the **Gila trout**.

Gila Trout (*Oncorhynchus gilae*) are relatives of the rainbow trout, and they are native to small tributaries of the Gila River in Arizona and New Mexico. They are a relatively small trout, averaging about 11 inches in length. They have a yellow, almost copper-colored body with many small black spots. The Gila Trout is one of only two species of trout native to Arizona. The other is the very closely-related Apache trout.



Prior to 2006, the Gila trout was on the federal endangered species list. They were threatened mainly by habitat loss caused by loss of water flow in their native streams, and also by the loss of cool water provided by shade trees and other vegetation growing along the banks of those streams (caused by fires, livestock overgrazing, etc). They are also threatened by hybridization with other trout like rainbow trout. In 2006, after extensive re-introduction efforts, Gila trout were down-listed to threatened, and limited sport fishing was allowed. Today, fishing is allowed for them in both Arizona and New Mexico.

“I had read there were Gila trout in Frye Mesa Reservoir, which is about a 3½ hour drive from Phoenix,” said Berg. “This is one of the few places you can legally target this fish. The reservoir is small – only about 4 acres, but it is deep, with an average depth of 95 feet. Most of the Gila trout can be found in the small stream feeding the reservoir, though.”

“These trout were very aggressive,” commented Berg, “unless they saw you; so I tried to keep low along the shoreline. Once they see you they stop biting. I caught a few Gila trout on live worms, and then switched to flyfishing equipment and caught more on a wooly bugger fly. I caught 12 of them altogether, ranging from 6-10 inches long.”

Berg also said this fishing hole was extremely difficult to get to. “I had to rent a 4-wheel drive vehicle with a high clearance to reach the reservoir,” he said. “The road was really rough and it was nerve-racking driving uphill on the one-lane road. I was hoping another car didn’t come along, because there was no room for two cars to pass. I had rented a Toyota 4-Runner, but the road was so full of holes that it still scraped the bottom in several places. There was also a sheer drop on one side with no guard rail. My wife refused to look out the window as we drove. The other side of the road was butted-up against the rock face of the mountainside. It was an adventure!”



## Bill Keaton Spots Resident Bobcat

HOW member and Legal Counsel Bill Keaton from Arlington relates the following interesting story about discovering bobcats on his property in southern Indiana:

“Bobcat! That was my first reaction when I saw the bobcat on my game camera in late January,” said Keaton. “It was a night picture taken at about 4:30 a.m. I was thrilled to confirm that there were bobcats on our property located about six and a half miles east of Madison, Indiana. I didn’t get another picture of the bobcat until May 10<sup>th</sup>. This time I had a series of three pictures at 11:20 a.m., so I could see much more.”

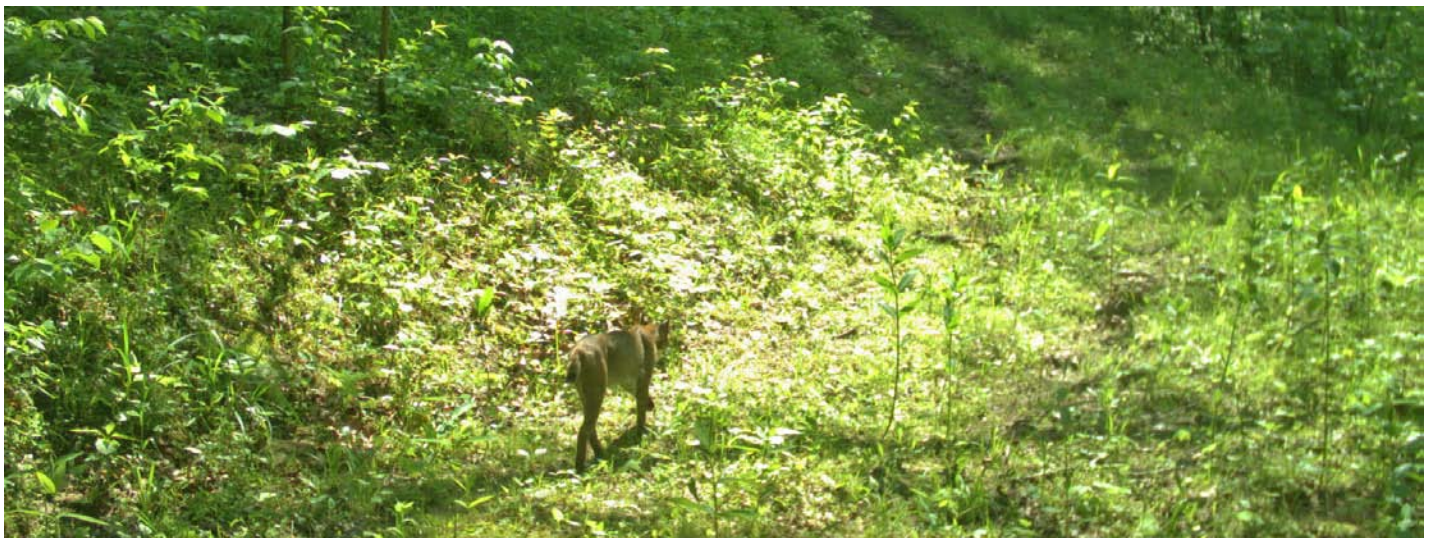
“The Nature Conservancy has this to say about Indiana bobcats: ‘Bobcats favor remote rocky outcrops and heavily wooded areas, though they are, at times, found on the urban edge. The rugged terrain, deep forests and limestone caves of south central



Indiana make perfect dens and hunting grounds for our small bobcat population.’ This description of a bobcat’s habitat is a good description of our property. If you would care to see the exact location of the photographs the coordinates are 38° 45’ 51.87” N, 85° 16’ 28.01” W.”

“By zooming in on the photos and checking multiple pictures, I have concluded that this cat is a female,” continued Keaton. “I haven’t pulled my game camera film since May, so I am hoping to have a picture of some kittens when I check in the next couple of weeks. It would also be pretty neat to have

a picture of the black bear that wintered a short distance away in Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuge!”



A female bobcat walks quietly along a trail through a forest opening on Bill Keaton's property near Madison, Indiana. All game camera photos on this page are courtesy of Bill Keaton.



## John Maxwell and Family Ascend the Mountains in Glacier National Park

Earlier this summer, HOW Past-President John Maxwell made a trip with his family to beautiful Glacier National Park in Montana. As you might expect, the scenery was stunning and there was plenty to see.

“I hiked a lot with extended family which was gathered from all around the United States,” he said. “The photo below shows my daughters Kate and Sarah cooling off in Avalanche Lake. The lake is fed by the three mountain-tall, snow-melt waterfalls that can be seen in the background. The only outdoor equipment I used for the week was Vasque hiking boots and a credit card.”



“We did see a sow black bear and several small black bear cubs climbing a tree along the road one day. Kate and Sarah saw a grizzly bear up at nearby Logan pass, too.”



“We also saw mountain goats, several species of mongsers, and ospreys fishing the mountain lakes.”

**Above:** A beautiful view of Avalanche Lake in northwestern Montana’s famous Glacier National Park.

**Left:** A trio of mountain goats browse the lush vegetation among the rocks on the side of the mountain inside the park. Photos on this page by John Maxwell.



## Dave Hoffman and Friends Return to Alaska

HOW member Dave Hoffman revisited Alaska in early August with a few of his fishing buddies, with a revised strategy for coho (silver) salmon and halibut. “Instead of traveling much farther north to the Kenai Peninsula and competing with huge crowds,” said Hoffman, “after doing some research our group opted for visiting the seaside city of Sitka.”

“Success came quickly! The first salmon in the



**Above Left:** Dave Hoffman needs both hands to heft a beautiful 30+ pound king salmon taken while trolling just offshore of Sitka, Alaska.

**Above Right:** A fishing boat trolls for salmon with scenic snow-capped mountain peaks in the distance.

**Far Right:** Yelloweye rockfish are caught while bottomfishing for halibut, but they are always a welcome catch. Photos courtesy of Dave Hoffman.

boat was the largest of the entire trip. Surprisingly, it wasn't a scrappy coho salmon, which are dominant during August, but an unexpected and powerful king (chinook) salmon.”

“During the course of the trip several more kings were taken that ranged up to 30 pounds. Large yelloweye rockfish were also caught, although their catch (and possession limits) have been severely restricted to protect the population. This highly desirable sport fish is easily recognized by its stunning orange/red coloration.”

“Sitka, with its rich native and Russian history, is a wonderful place to visit. It is situated on Baranof Island, about 110 miles southwest of Juneau. Besides fishing, our trip also included a full day of sightseeing on the island. Overall, it was a very successful trip!”



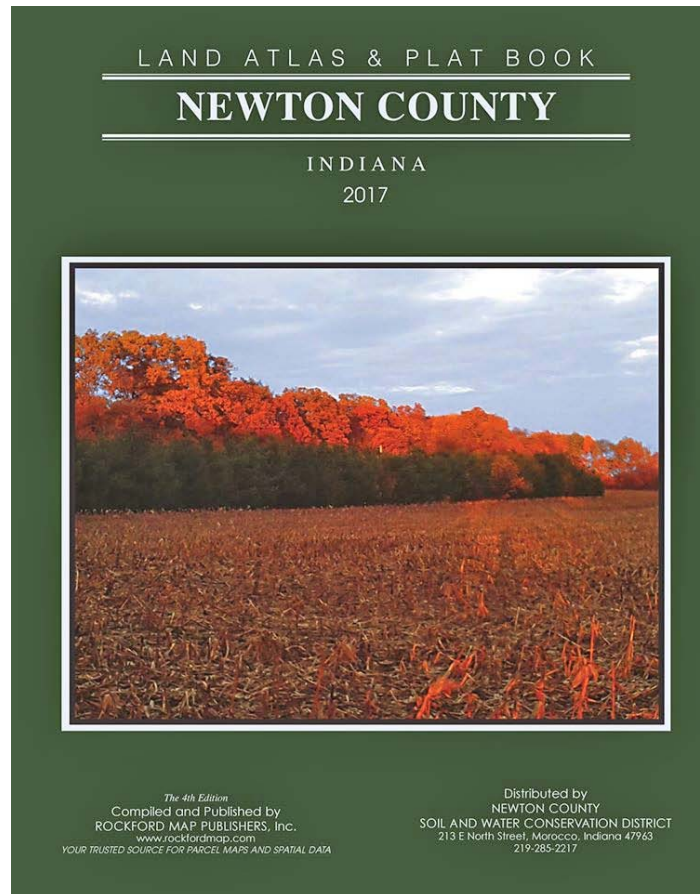


## Mike Schoonveld Contributes To New Plat Book

HOW Past-President Mike Schoonveld from Morocco, IN is a member of the Newton County Soil and Water Conservation Board of Supervisors, so he is usually very up-to-date on the happenings in Newton County. Here is a recent case-in-point:

“There is a new plat book for Newton County that is available through the Newton County Soil and Water Conservation District,” said Schoonveld. “I am a contributor, since I took the photo appearing on the cover. The shot was taken in my back yard, overlooking my property on a beautiful autumn day. I snapped the photo with my cell phone!”

We are sure that makes owning a copy of the 2017 plat book even more special for Schoonveld. Good job!



## Tom Berg Views Northern Wisconsin Wildlife

HOW Executive Director Tom Berg from Dyer made his annual visit to northwestern Wisconsin earlier this summer to fish for bluegills and other panfish, and do some serious wildlife watching, too.

“The weather was less-than cooperative, but luckily the fish were biting,” declared Berg. “It was cold and rainy for much of the week that we were there, but that did not stop the fish from biting. We caught plenty of bluegills, rockbass, crappies and yellow perch. Some of them were real dandies, too.”

“There were all kinds of wildlife to see, also. Birds were everywhere: Bald eagles, ospreys, orioles, cedar waxwings, hummingbirds, loons, sandhill cranes, crows, green herons, great blue herons, wild turkeys, indigo buntings, tree swallows, barn swallows, pileated woodpeckers, red-headed woodpeckers, downy woodpeckers, white pelicans, yellow warblers, Canadian geese, catbirds and others.”



“One day while anchored and fishing near shore, we saw a pair of river otters swimming along the shoreline, heading in our direction. As soon as they saw us they hesitated, then barked at us a few times, kind of like a dog! I got my camera out and was only able to snap one photo (shown at left) of one of them before they disappeared.”

“We also saw whitetail deer (with fawns), muskrats, beaver, mink, squirrels, rabbits and chipmunks. My wife and I love it up there!”

## Vikki Trout Enjoys Idaho Turkey Hunt

HOW board member Vikki Trout from Holland, IN loves turkey hunting, and hunting in the distant state of Idaho is in her blood. She made a trip there this spring to try to harvest a Merriam's turkey. "Hunting Idaho turkeys is not as easy as one may think," she said.



Beautiful scenery in Idaho. Photo by Vikki Trout.

"My late husband John and I had always dreamed of turkey hunting Merriam's in Idaho.

You see, each September, we would see gobblers and hens all along Highway 12 on fenceposts. This gave us the idea that if we could gain permission, a turkey would soon be had by each of us! Not so."

"If you want to hunt the Merriam subspecies in Idaho, my suggestion is to head to the western side of the state. I also suggest going at the very end of the season (it a 30-day season) since the turkeys migrate and it takes a while for them to return to their spring territory. There are plenty of birds there and it should provide a great hunt."

"Most of the land is public and open to campers. Keep in mind, you are most likely going to encounter snow in May. Should you decide to rent a cottage or room, Lewiston, Idaho provides several motels but availability is quite limited. Many of the hotels are already sold out for next year."

"I did not kill a turkey – but almost. After hunting this location 2 days, I realized I had to hunt turkeys there the way I hunt deer here in Indiana. Gobblers were not interested in coming to check out hens. They would gobble and hens came running. For two days, I would watch the birds come to feed in this field, then they would always leave a certain direction, up the side of the mountain."

"Day 3 found me setting up on the side of that mountain and made very few calls very gently just after the sun rose. Then, I realized my dilemma – I sat down on an ant hill and must have woke the ants up. I started to raise up off the ant hill when I spotted three long beards heading my way. I dared not move. Cautiously, I raised my shotgun and saw that it (and my scope) were covered with black ants."

"That was my last day to hunt and although I was so heartbroken over the outcome, I could not help but smile because I did find turkeys and I did see some of God's most beautiful sunrises and landscapes. Also, this was another first that I overcame. I know I want to chase Merriam's again and who knows what may happen? Even though I did not bring home a gobbler, I enjoyed some awesome quiet time and I know my precious John was smiling down on me."

## Membership Changes and New Contact Info

The following HOW member has updated contact information. Please make a note of it:

**Teena Ligman:** New email address: [tdligman@att.net](mailto:tdligman@att.net).

The following group represents our newest HOW member. Please make a note of their contact info:

**Sweet Owen CVB:** Marilyn Jackson, email: [owentourism@gmail.com](mailto:owentourism@gmail.com) (new supporting member)

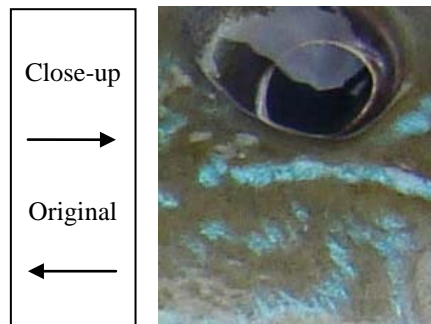
If your email address, phone number or other contact info changes, please notify HOW Executive Director Tom Berg at [thomas.berg@comcast.net](mailto:thomas.berg@comcast.net) or by mail at 2142 Nondorf Street, Dyer, IN 46311.



# Unusual Nature Photos from the Hoosier Outdoors

## Sponsored by Mossy Oak

### Green Sunfish are Aggressive, Beautiful Predators



The “What is it?” photo from the last issue was a little easier than we thought it would be, since thirteen (13) HOW members were able to identify it. Ken McBroom, Mike Schoonveld, Mike Berg, Bill Keaton, Troy McCormick, Jack Spaulding, Brandon Butler, Don Cranfill, Doug Sikora, John Maxwell, Dave Hoffman, Gary Redmon and Phil Seng each had the right answer. When we drew a name at random for the knife donated by **Battle Horse Knives**, Doug Sikora was the winner. Congrats!

As you can see in the photo above, the mystery creature for this issue was a green sunfish (*Lepomis cyanellus*). These common sunfish are usually found in shallow water close to shore, where they hunt for insects, snails, worms, minnows and other small fish. Their aggressive nature and large mouth allows them to catch and eat surprisingly large prey.

Green sunfish do not usually grow to large sizes, and individuals measuring 7-8 inches long are considered big. For that reason they are usually looked upon by anglers with disdain. Their natural coloration is beautiful, however, especially when spawning. Spawning fish often have yellowish-white or even orange borders on their fins and tail. The bright blue stripes on their cheeks are also very distinctive. Take a closer look the next time you catch one!

For this issue, our friends at **Mossy Oak** have donated a great prize for the HOW member that guesses the right answer to this issue’s “What Is It?” question. This time the prize is a set of Mossy Oak hunting pants and shirt, along with a nice Mossy Oak hat. See below for more information on the prize.



### A Difficult Nature Photo “What Is It?” Question



Tom Berg has posed 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 back yard, and it can be found throughout the state. Have you ever seen this color pattern?

This creature may be a lot harder to identify than usual, but we’ll see. Look at the photo VERY closely. 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 “chipping sparrow”. Of course, it’s not a sparrow, but if you think you know what it is, send the answer via email to [thomas.berg@comcast.net](mailto:thomas.berg@comcast.net). If you’re right, you’ll be eligible for this issue’s prize.

As mentioned above, **Mossy Oak** has donated some nice hunting apparel 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 a set of Mossy Oak hunting pants (size: L) and shirt (size: XL), along with an orange Mossy Oak hat (see [www.mossyoak.com](http://www.mossyoak.com) for all of their products). 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.

### Ruger Introduces SP101 Match Champion



**Newport, NH:** Sturm, Ruger & Company, Inc. is proud to announce the new Ruger SP101® Match Champion™ - a five-round revolver designed with the competitor in mind. With its ergonomic enhancements and tuned action, the Match Champion delivers fast, accurate shots and takes the popular SP101 to the next level.



Chambered in .357 Magnum, but capable of firing .38 Special, the Match Champion has a full-lug, 4.20" barrel with an 11-degree target crown for competition accuracy, a chamfered cylinder and custom Altamont hardwood grips with stippled and checkered sides.

The Ruger SP101 Match Champion has a number of features competitive shooter will find appealing, including polished springs and a polished hammer strut combined with trigger and hammer shims for a trigger pull that will help deliver shots on target with ease.

The fully adjustable rear sight combines with a fiber optic front sight to create a great sight picture for both plates and targets, and the polished trigger guard allows for smooth shooting all day long.

For more information on the Ruger SP101 Match Champion or to learn more about the extensive line of award-winning Ruger firearms, visit [www.Ruger.com](http://www.Ruger.com) or [www.Facebook.com/Ruger](https://www.facebook.com/Ruger). To find accessories for Ruger firearms, visit [www.ShopRuger.com](http://www.ShopRuger.com) or your local independent retailer of Ruger firearms.

**Media contact:** Public Relations Manager Paul Pluff, email: [ppluff@Ruger.com](mailto:ppluff@Ruger.com), phone: 603-865-2668.



## HOW Supporting Member News

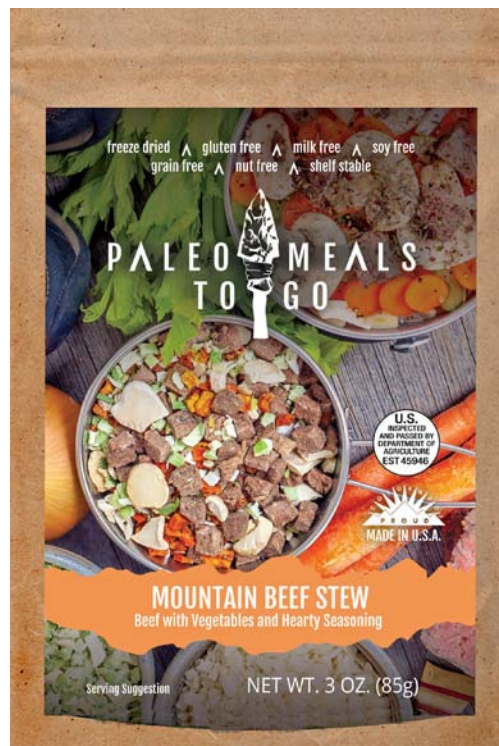


### Paleo Meals To Go Fuels Real Outdoorsmen

**Loveland, CO:** “Paleo Meals To Go” might sound like an unusual name, but it describes the company’s product perfectly. The Paleo Diet attempts to imitate the eating patterns of our distant ancestors. They ate food that was not processed or refined, or cooked with fattening oils, or loaded with sugar. Their food was healthy and tasty.

Co-Owner/Co-Founder Ty Soukup was busy planning a multi-day backpacking trip in the Colorado mountains when he tried in vain to find clean, wholesome, gluten-free, freeze-dried meals for the trip. “I thought to myself, why isn’t someone making a Paleo backpacker meal that appeals to folks on alternative diets, such as Paleo, gluten free, etc.?”

“It was in that moment that I pledged to do something about this for all others like me,” said Soukup. “A few months later, and after some additional market research, I ran the business idea by my mom (Dawn Anderson), and we decided to launch Paleo Meals To Go!”



Together the mother-son team formulated a wholesome and delicious combination of freeze-dried, gluten free, grain free, milk free, soy free, protein-rich, and shelf-stable ingredients to comprise Paleo backpacking and camping meal options for people on the go. The lightweight, freeze-dried backpacking and camping meals are the premier choice to meet your dietary preferences, and won’t weigh you down on your backpacking, hiking, or camping trips. They make great military MREs and emergency food supplies, too!

Paleo Meals To Go was born out of a love and passion for health and exercise, the spirit of the great outdoors, and advocacy for a holistic, wholesome Paleo lifestyle. We provide the best-in-class, freeze-dried Paleo meals



to those on a path less traveled. Wherever our customers go, Paleo Meals To Go gets them there. With unexplored territories on the horizon, backpacking food that gets back to your roots and to your adventure is our prerogative. We balance experience with passion, providing the ultimate combination of nutrition, taste, and convenience to enhance the journey ahead whether you’re trail running, hiking, backpacking, fishing, hunting or camping.

**Media contact:** Dawn Anderson (Co-Owner/Co-Founder), phone: 224-725-3652, email: [info@paleomealstogo.com](mailto:info@paleomealstogo.com). For more info, check out their website at: [www.paleomealstogo.com](http://www.paleomealstogo.com).



## HOW Supporting Member News

### New HEVI-X Ammunition Is “Deadlier at Distance”

**Sweet Home, OR:** Environ-Metal, Inc., makers of HEVI-Shot, is pleased to announce our new waterfowl ammunition HEVI-X. HEVI-X is a tungsten-based waterfowl load. Compared to steel shot shells HEVI-X gives you 35% more knockdown power at 40 yards and 50% more knock down power at 60 yards. “Deadlier at Distance”. HEVI-X gives you higher pellet count on target, higher down range velocity and more consistent patterns than steel. There is nothing like HEVI-X on the market.



If you want performance out of waterfowl shells similar to “the early days”, we have found a way to bring it back at a price you can afford. Available in BB, 2, and 4’s, 2.75”, 3” and 3.5”. HEVI-X comes in a 25-count box and will start at a MAP price of \$28.99 and go up to \$39.99. HEVI-X works great in our HEVI-Shot choke tubes and is non-toxic. Visit [www.hevishot.com](http://www.hevishot.com) for dealer near you!

Established in 2000, Environ-Metal, Inc. is based out of Sweet Home, OR and produces HEVI-Shot, HEVI-Metal, HEVI-X, HEVI-Steel, HEVI-Duty buck shot and HEVI-Duty centerfire ammunition.

For more information, please contact:

Michael Narus, VP of Sales and Marketing. Email: [mnarus@hevishot.com](mailto:mnarus@hevishot.com) , office phone: 541-367-3522.

HEVI-Shot now makes the most lethal material for shotshells ever – TUNGSTEN – that hunters can afford to shoot.

**HIGHER PELLET COUNT** on target. Shoot two shot sizes smaller than steel, get 20% more pellets on target with the same effective range.

Designed for waterfowl, but effective on any game: turkey and upland birds.

Works great with HEVI-Shot Choke tubes!

Excellent propellant for cold weather conditions

Higher down range velocity... Helps hunters who shoot behind the bird

Compared to steel shot shells, HEVI-X pellets of equal size give you **40% MORE KNOCKDOWN POWER** at 40 yds & **50% MORE KNOCKDOWN POWER** at 60 yds

**AVAILABLE IN BB, 2 AND 4**  
12ga at 1400 fps, 1450 fps and 1500 fps / 20ga at 1400 fps  
25ct box will retail at MAP  
\$28.99 for 20ga • \$29.99 for 12ga 2.75”  
\$34.99 for 12ga 3” • \$39.99 for 12ga 3.5”

**“ I DIDN’T COME THIS FAR TO MISS! ”**



## HOW Supporting Member News

### Mathews Unveils the New HALON 32 Compound Bow

**Sparta, WI:** New for 2017, the new HALON 32 is a longer version of the award-winning HALON, providing an enhanced string angle and superior stability, while delivering speeds up to 350 fps. Like its predecessor, the HALON 32 is powered by the highly efficient CROSSCENTRIC cam, which employs a partially concentric string payout and AVS® technology to produce a stealthy draw and consistent accuracy. Its true-center nocking point ensures straight and level nock travel, enhancing shot-to-shot consistency. Outfitted with the FlatBack Grip™ and industry-leading Harmonic Damper® and Harmonic Stabilizer®, the HALON 32 is rock solid and deadly quiet.

#### HALON 32 Specs:

- Brace Height: 5-7"
- Draw Weights: 40-70 lbs
- Draw Lengths: 25-32"
- Physical Weight: 4.73-4.83
- IBO rating: up to 335-350 fps
- Axle to Axle: 32"
- Let off: 75% and 85%
- Half sizes: 24.5-32.5"
- Finishes available: Lost Camo XD, Black, Optifade Elevated II, Optifade Open Country, Stone, Ridge Reaper Barren and Optifade Sub Alpine

#### Introducing the Crosscentric Cam

Crosscentric Cam™ technology is the twin-turbo engine that drives our hard-hitting HALON Series. Designed to incorporate the accuracy of NO CAM™ ST technology and the power of AVS technology, the Crosscentric Cam™ employs a partially concentric string payout to produce precise speeds up to 353 fps.



#### ACCURATE. ENERGY.

For more information on Mathews products, visit [www.mathewsinc.com](http://www.mathewsinc.com). HOW members may also contact Bob Ohm at Mathews, phone: 608-269-2728 or by email at: [bobm@mathewsinc.com](mailto:bobm@mathewsinc.com).



# HOW's Supporting Member Websites

Al's Goldfish Lure Co. - [www.alsgoldfish.com](http://www.alsgoldfish.com)  
Alpen Optics - [www.alpenoutdoor.com](http://www.alpenoutdoor.com)  
Alps Brands - [www.alpsbrands.com](http://www.alpsbrands.com)  
Aquateko International - [www.aquateko.com](http://www.aquateko.com)  
B'n'M Pole Company - [www.bnmpoles.com](http://www.bnmpoles.com)  
Backwoodsman Magazine - [www.backwoodsmanmag.com](http://www.backwoodsmanmag.com)  
Bagley Bait Co. - [www.bagleybait.com](http://www.bagleybait.com)  
Balsax Fishing Lines - [www.balsax.com](http://www.balsax.com)  
Bass Pro Shops - [www.basspro.com](http://www.basspro.com)  
Battenfeld Technologies - [www.battenfeldtechnologies.com](http://www.battenfeldtechnologies.com)  
Bill Lewis Lures - [www.Rat-L-Trap.com](http://www.Rat-L-Trap.com)  
Birchwood Casey - [www.birchwoodcasey.com](http://www.birchwoodcasey.com)  
Black River Tools - [www.blackrivertools.com](http://www.blackrivertools.com)  
BoatUS - [www.boatus.com](http://www.boatus.com)  
BOLT Locks - [www.boltlock.com](http://www.boltlock.com)  
Bradley Smoker - [www.bradleysmoker.com](http://www.bradleysmoker.com)  
Buck Knives - [www.buckknives.com](http://www.buckknives.com)  
Bucket Grip - [www.bucketgrip.com](http://www.bucketgrip.com)  
Camp Chef - [www.campchef.com](http://www.campchef.com)  
Celox Medical - [www.celoxmedical.com](http://www.celoxmedical.com)  
Church Tackle Company - [www.churchtackle.com](http://www.churchtackle.com)  
Cocoons Eyewear - [www.cocoonseyewear.com](http://www.cocoonseyewear.com)  
Cortland Line - [www.cortlandline.com](http://www.cortlandline.com)  
Costa Sunglasses - [www.costadelmar.com](http://www.costadelmar.com)  
Cotton Carrier - [www.cottoncarrier.com](http://www.cottoncarrier.com)  
Danner Boots - [www.danner.com](http://www.danner.com)  
Dead Down Wind - [www.deaddownwind.com](http://www.deaddownwind.com)  
Deer Dummy - [www.deerdummy.com](http://www.deerdummy.com)  
Ducks Unlimited - [www.ducks.org](http://www.ducks.org)  
Eagle Claw - [www.eagleclaw.com](http://www.eagleclaw.com)  
Environ-Metal, Inc. - [www.hevishot.com](http://www.hevishot.com)  
Eppinger Manufacturing - [www.eppinger.net](http://www.eppinger.net)  
Field & Stream Outdoor Life Deer & Turkey Expos - [www.deerinfo.com](http://www.deerinfo.com)  
Fisherman's Handy Hook - [www.thefishermanshandyhook.com](http://www.thefishermanshandyhook.com)  
Fisknat Landing Nets - [www.fisknat.com](http://www.fisknat.com)  
Flying Fisherman - [www.flyingfisherman.com](http://www.flyingfisherman.com)  
FOXPRO - [www.gofoxpro.com](http://www.gofoxpro.com)  
Freedom Tackle Corp. - [www.freedomlures.com](http://www.freedomlures.com)  
Frogg Toggs - [www.froggtoggs.com](http://www.froggtoggs.com)  
G.Loomis - [www.gloomis.com](http://www.gloomis.com)  
Gamo USA - [www.gamousa.com](http://www.gamousa.com)  
Gerber Legendary Blades - [www.gerbergear.com](http://www.gerbergear.com)  
Gun Protect - [www.mygunprotect.com](http://www.mygunprotect.com)  
Hart Productions - [www.hartproductions.com](http://www.hartproductions.com)  
Harvest Clean - [www.harvestclean.com](http://www.harvestclean.com)  
Hawke Sport Optics - [www.hawkeoptics.com](http://www.hawkeoptics.com)  
Henry Repeating Arms Co. - [www.henryUSA.com](http://www.henryUSA.com)  
HHA Sports - [www.HHAsports.com](http://www.HHAsports.com)  
Hodgdon Powder Co. - [www.hodgdon.com](http://www.hodgdon.com)  
Hoosier Trapper Supply - [www.hoosiertrappersupply.com](http://www.hoosiertrappersupply.com)  
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt - [www.hmhco.com](http://www.hmhco.com)  
HT Enterprises - [www.icefish.com](http://www.icefish.com)  
Hunter's Specialties - [www.hunterspec.com](http://www.hunterspec.com)  
Indiana Department of Natural Resources - [www.dnr.IN.gov](http://www.dnr.IN.gov)  
Indianapolis Zoo - [www.indianapoliszoo.gov](http://www.indianapoliszoo.gov)  
Irish Setter Boots - [www.irishsetterboots.com](http://www.irishsetterboots.com)  
Kruger Optical - [www.krugeroptical.com](http://www.krugeroptical.com)  
LaCrosse Footwear - [www.lacrossefootwear.com](http://www.lacrossefootwear.com)  
LensPen - [www.lenspen.com](http://www.lenspen.com)  
Leupold - [www.leupold.com](http://www.leupold.com)  
LiveTarget Lures - [www.livetargetlures.com](http://www.livetargetlures.com)  
Lodge Manufacturing - [www.lodgemfg.com](http://www.lodgemfg.com)  
Lurecraft Industries - [www.lurecraft.com](http://www.lurecraft.com)  
Mathews Archery - [www.mathewsinc.com](http://www.mathewsinc.com)  
Midway USA - [www.midwayUSA.com](http://www.midwayUSA.com)  
Mossy Oak - [www.mossyoak.com](http://www.mossyoak.com)  
MyTopo - [www.mytopo.com](http://www.mytopo.com)  
National Marine Manufacturers Assn - [www.nmma.org](http://www.nmma.org)  
National Muzzle Loading Rifle Assn - [www.nmlra.org](http://www.nmlra.org)  
National Shooting Sports Foundation - [www.nssf.org](http://www.nssf.org)  
National Wild Turkey Federation - [www.nwtf.org](http://www.nwtf.org)  
Nikon Sport Optics - [www.nikonsportoptics.com](http://www.nikonsportoptics.com)  
Nosler, Inc. - [www.nosler.com](http://www.nosler.com)  
O.F. Mossberg & Sons, Inc. - [www.mossberg.com](http://www.mossberg.com)  
Off Shore Tackle Co. - [www.offshoretackle.com](http://www.offshoretackle.com)  
Otis Technology - [www.otistec.com](http://www.otistec.com)  
Outdoor Guide Magazine - [www.outdoorguidemagazine.com](http://www.outdoorguidemagazine.com)  
Outdoor Sportsman Group - [www.outdoorsg.com](http://www.outdoorsg.com)  
Paleo Meals To Go - [www.paleomealstogo.com](http://www.paleomealstogo.com)  
Pheasants Forever - [www.pheasantsforever.org](http://www.pheasantsforever.org)  
Plano Molding Company - [www.planomolding.com](http://www.planomolding.com)  
PowerPro Lines - [www.powerpro.com](http://www.powerpro.com)  
Princeton University Press - [www.press.princeton.edu](http://www.press.princeton.edu)  
Pro-Cure Bait Scents - [www.pro-cure.com](http://www.pro-cure.com)  
Quaker Boy Game Calls - [www.quakerboygamecalls.com](http://www.quakerboygamecalls.com)  
Ramcat Broadheads - [www.ramcatbroadheads.com](http://www.ramcatbroadheads.com)  
Real Avid - [www.realavid.com](http://www.realavid.com)  
Reef Runner Lures - [www.reefrunner.com](http://www.reefrunner.com)  
Remington Arms Company - [www.remington.com](http://www.remington.com)  
Renfro Productions - [www.renfroproductions.com](http://www.renfroproductions.com)  
RIO Products - [www.rioproducts.com](http://www.rioproducts.com)  
Secret Lures - [www.secretlures.com](http://www.secretlures.com)  
Shimano American Corp. - [www.shimano.com](http://www.shimano.com)  
Shurhold Industries - [www.shurhold.com](http://www.shurhold.com)  
Sierra Bullets - [www.sierrabullets.com](http://www.sierrabullets.com)  
Sig Sauer - [www.sigsauer.com](http://www.sigsauer.com)  
South Shore CVA - [www.southshorecva.com](http://www.southshorecva.com)  
SportDOG Brand - [www.sportdog.com](http://www.sportdog.com)  
Sturm, Ruger & Co. - [www.ruger.com](http://www.ruger.com)  
SunSect - [www.sunsect.com](http://www.sunsect.com)  
Swab-Its - [www.swab-its.com](http://www.swab-its.com)  
Tales End Tackle - [www.talesendtackle.com](http://www.talesendtackle.com)  
ThermaCELL - [www.thermacell.com](http://www.thermacell.com)  
Tink's - [www.tinks.com](http://www.tinks.com)  
Toyota Motor Sales - [www.toyotanewsroom.com](http://www.toyotanewsroom.com)  
Traditions Media - [www.traditionsmedia.com](http://www.traditionsmedia.com)  
Trophy Angler's Tackle - [www.trophyanglerstackle.com](http://www.trophyanglerstackle.com)  
TTI-Blakemore Fishing - [www.ttiblakemore.com](http://www.ttiblakemore.com)  
Unfair Lures - [www.unfairlures.com](http://www.unfairlures.com)  
Vexilar, Inc. - [www.vexilar.com](http://www.vexilar.com)  
Vortex Optics - [www.vortexoptics.com](http://www.vortexoptics.com)  
White Flyer Targets - [www.whiteflyer.com](http://www.whiteflyer.com)  
Widener's Reloading & Shooting Supply - [www.wideners.com](http://www.wideners.com)  
Winchester Ammunition - [www.winchester.com](http://www.winchester.com)  
W.R. Case - [www.wrcase.com](http://www.wrcase.com)  
Xtreme Hardcore Gear - [www.extremehardcoregear.com](http://www.extremehardcoregear.com)  
Yamaha Marine Group - [www.yamahaoutboards.com](http://www.yamahaoutboards.com)  
Yo-Zuri America, Inc. - [www.yo-zuri.com](http://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
_____ Online	_____ Radio	_____ Lectures
_____ Books	_____ Artist	_____ Teaching
_____ Television	_____ 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, internet/online, 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; 20 online



articles, blogs, vlogs or podcasts 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 Fall Boat & RV Show:** September 22-24, 2017  
([www.renfroproductions.com](http://www.renfroproductions.com))  
Indianapolis, IN
- AGLOW 2017 Annual Conference:** September 25-28, 2017  
([www.aglowinfo.org](http://www.aglowinfo.org))  
Lake of the Woods, MN
- Fur Takers Chapter 7-B Fall Rendezvous:** September 30, 2017  
([www.hoosiertrappersupply.com](http://www.hoosiertrappersupply.com))  
Held at Hoosier Trapper Supply  
Greenwood, IN
- SEOPA 2017 Annual Conference:** October 18-21, 2017  
([www.seopa.org](http://www.seopa.org))  
Kentucky Dam Village State Resort Park, KY
- Cincinnati Travel, Sports & Boat Show:** January 12-14 & 17-21, 2018  
([www.hartproductions.com](http://www.hartproductions.com))  
Cincinnati, OH
- SHOT Show 2017:** January 23-26, 2018  
(<http://shotshow.org>)  
Las Vegas, NV

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