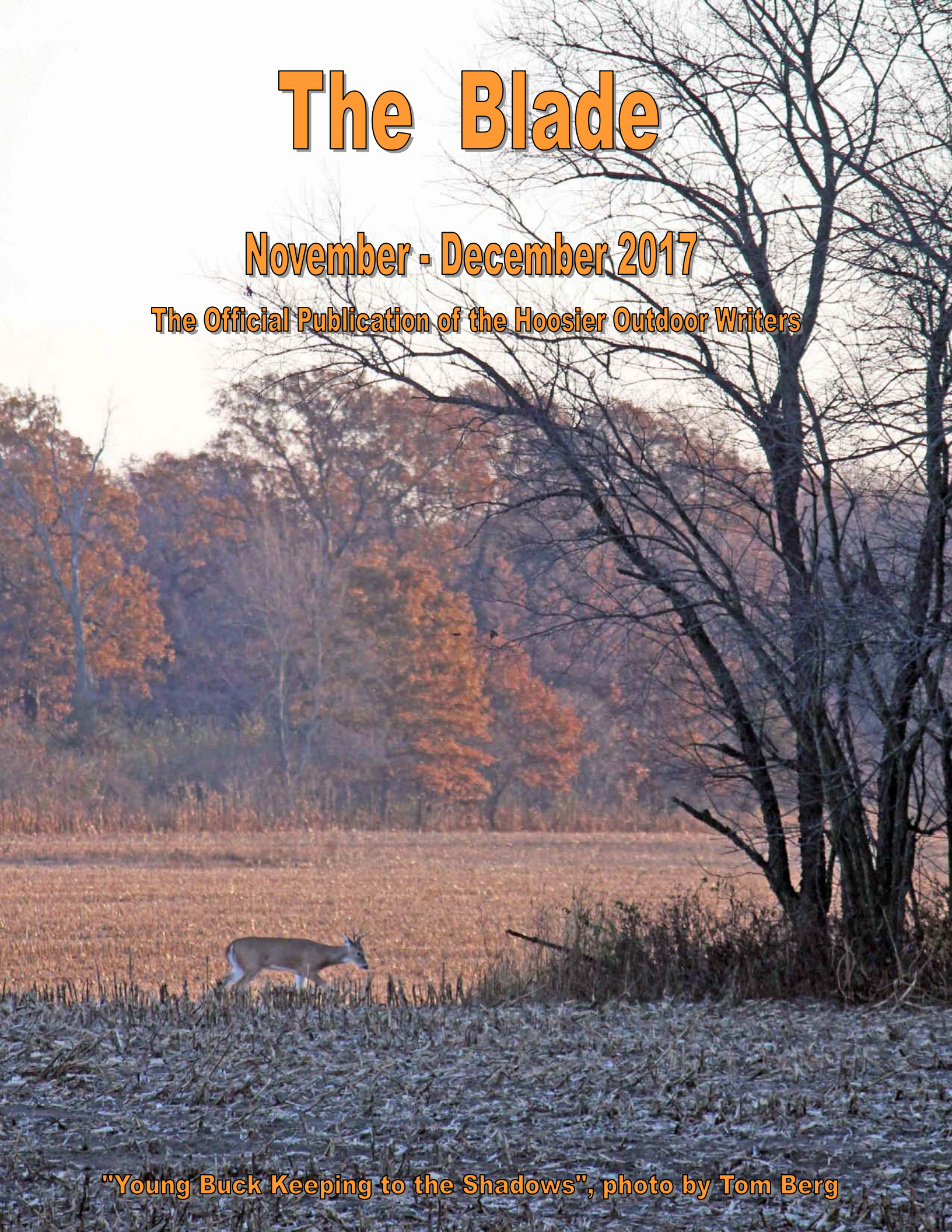


The Blade

November - December 2017

The Official Publication of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers



"Young Buck Keeping to the Shadows", 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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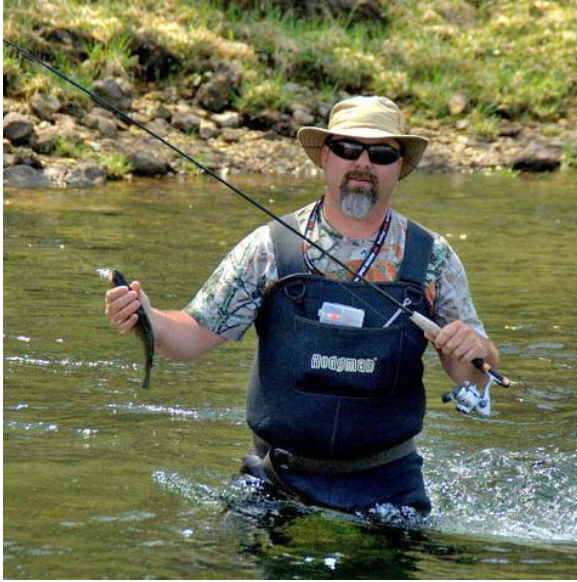
Region 1 – Mike Schoonveld
2019
Region 2 – Phil Seng
2018
Region 3 – Kenny Bayless
2019
Region 4 – Jack Spaulding
2018

At Large:

Josh Lantz – 2018
Louie Stout – 2018
Brent Wheat – 2018
Dianna Garbers – 2019
Vikki Trout – 2019
Terri Trowbridge – 2019

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

On the cover: A young Newton County buck is careful to stay in the shadows as he exits a harvested cornfield where he was feeding in the mid-morning hours. Photo by Tom Berg.



President's Message

by Don Cranfill

Rabbits and Writing, Reflections on Boyhood

Thank you all for indulging my nostalgic coming of age tale in the last issue. I suppose we all have memories like that or we wouldn't share this passion for the outdoors. One of the hardest things I had to learn when I decided to start writing about these passions, and something I struggle with still, is writing about my adventures in a way that truly conveys exactly what that particular point in time meant to me. And more importantly, what it means to me looking back on it now and telling about it in a way that would relate to many.

For many years I tried to pack as many adventures into my life as I could possibly manage, and often more. I would jokingly say that it was all going to make a hell of a book someday, but I had no clue as to how I would go about it. It wasn't until I ran in to a guy in JL Waters outdoor store in Bloomington that a possible path would reveal itself. As we got to know one another out on the water, hanging around out in his garage, or putting away beverages at a local watering hole, we shared many a story of outdoor endeavors gone both right and wrong. After about the second time I mentioned a desire to write it all down he revealed to me that there existed this little group of likeminded folks called HOW. He said an associate membership would provide me with the networking to hone all the skills, provide examples of others who had done the same, and get the advice and mentoring to find my own path to becoming an outdoor writer. He didn't lie.

Upon achieving full membership, the second hardest part of the transition revealed itself: time. I never dreamed that putting those adventures down on paper on a regular basis would be so darned time consuming. It is nearly effortless to let flow a John Gierach-esque tale about the time my cousin got knocked out by a one-ounce river weight, especially while relaxing around a fire drinking rum after a long day on the river. When one must add commas, and check sentence structure, and adjust for flow and feeling, time seems to move more like molasses than a free-flowing, riverside campfire story. I never imagined the time commitment would be equal to or exceed the adventuring time!

As I sit here writing this column the heartfelt tidings of Thanksgiving are still warm in my heart and there is an excitement in the air for Christmas in a few days. I was fortunate to be born smack dab in the middle of a whole pack of male cousins. We are all within a few years in age and there are seven of us on my dad's side. As was often the case in those days, our parents would shuffle us around when we were out of school allowing us to stay a few days with each other, thus giving some moms/aunts an aneurism while allowing others to get a few days peace and quiet. I stayed with my cousin Mark a few times over Christmas break.

Now Mark, and my Uncle Travis, are died-in-the-wool hunters and fishermen. They have walked the walk their entire lives. We would almost always get a chance to get the dogs out and hunt rabbits with my uncle when he was home on the weekends, or if he took a day or two off during the holidays when I stayed there. We had the itch to hunt those rabbits more than that, so we would often "brush jump" for them during the weekdays in the fields and fencerows around Fortville, Indiana. For those unfamiliar with the term, brush jumping is what you do when your uncle doesn't want to risk you shooting or losing his prize beagle dog while he is busy earning your skinny butt its next meal.

(continued next page)

We would head out, .410's in hand, to a field of scrub brush, hopefully with a fresh layer of snow so you could see where they were moving. Through whatever rock, paper, scissors type method we used we would decide on a shooter and a jumper and then take turns. The jumper would unload his gun and lean it on a tree and then climb up on one of those Volkswagen-sized briar patches that had tracks leading to it. The shooter had but one firm rule...don't shoot towards the brush! When the signal was given the jumper would start jumping up and down on that big sticky patch of briars with everything he had. Once that whole heap got to resonating with the weight of a scrawny twelve-year old on top of it, any rabbit seeking refuge in its confines would shed that shelter for next one over. When that fuzzy little bunny made for the next clump of cover it was the shooter's job to make sure he didn't make it. We spent many days doing this and came home more than once looking like we had wrestled a badger with nothing to show for our effort.

Work and other family commitments have made it so that Mark and I haven't hunted together in many years. I'd jump in the middle of one of those patches in a heartbeat and get shredded all over again right now if Mark called and said "Grab your .410!" It is times like that which I wouldn't trade for the world. And it sure made me appreciate a good beagle dog.

So, this winter when there is a fresh skim of snow on the ground and your kid and your brother-in-law's boy are sitting around your house looking for something to do, grab a couple .410's and say "C'mon boys, its rabbit season." They will cherish the memories. And you never know, they might just run into some guy in JL Waters and wind up writing about it.

I hope you all had a merry Christmas and are having a wonderful start to the new year!



The Hoosier Outdoor Writers

New Members, Past Presidents & Memorial Section

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

**No new members for this issue.
See Member News Section
starting on page 18.**

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

HOW Conference Announcement

2018 HOW Conference Site, Conference Dates Chosen

As announced in the previous issue of *The Blade*, the 2018 HOW Conference will be held in south-central Indiana at **Spring Mill State Park** near the town of Mitchell.

The annual meeting will take place at the conference center at the Spring Mill Inn, and we have reserved a block of rooms at the inn for members who would like to stay overnight (reservations info appears on the next page). The conference will take place on the weekend of April 13-15, 2018, with the main meeting occurring on Saturday, April 14.

The date of this conference was selected very carefully to minimize conflicts with Easter, Mother's Day, Memorial Day and the start of turkey season, so hopefully most HOW members will be able to plan their schedules in advance and attend. Be sure to **SAVE THE DATE!**



The Spring Mill Inn will welcome HOW members in April at the start of our 2018 conference. Make your plans to attend now!

activity, Spring Mill is the place for you. History buffs will also find plenty of interesting things to discover at the park's pioneer village. HOW members should definitely head for Mitchell this spring and join the fun!

As usual, we will have plenty of interesting seminars and speakers at this conference. We will also announce the winners of our annual awards-in-craft contests and elect new officers.

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

We chose Spring Mill State Park as the conference site this year as part of our ongoing effort to move the conference around the state and give our members a chance to experience parts of Indiana that they have not yet seen. Also, Spring Mill Inn is the only one of Indiana's state park inns which has not hosted a HOW Conference yet.

Spring Mill State Park is a very beautiful park with plenty to see and do. Whether you enjoy fishing, hiking, biking, photography, nature watching or just about any other outdoor



The 3-story gristmill in the Pioneer Village was built in 1817 and still grinds cornmeal. History buffs will love it. All photos on this page by Tom Berg.

Staying Overnight at Spring Mill State Park?

If you would like to stay overnight inside the park, we have a block of rooms reserved at the **Spring Mill Inn** at a discounted price for HOW members and their guests only. When you are ready to make your room reservations, details are below. If you prefer to camp, campsites inside the park should also be available. There are a few hotel options available in nearby Bedford, too, located about 20 minutes to the north.



A typical room with two queen beds at Spring Mill Inn.

2018 HOW CONFERENCE SPRING MILL INN ROOM RESERVATIONS:

Call: 877-LODGES-1 (877-563-4371). HOW members must call to use the Group Code.

Group/Promotional Code:

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

Spring Mill Inn

3333 State Road 60 E.

Mitchell, IN 47446

812-849-3534

Reservations:

1-877-LODGES-1

1-877-563-4371

Spring Mill Inn, room with **Two Queen** beds:

(Friday night 4/13/18): \$109.99 per night + tax.

Spring Mill Inn, room with **Two Queen** beds:

(Saturday night 4/14/18): \$109.99 per night + tax.

Don't wait to make your room reservation if you will be staying overnight at the Spring Mill Inn. Our block of discounted rooms will only be available until **March 13, 2018** or until they are all reserved. If you have any questions, please contact Tom Berg (thomas.berg@comcast.net).

More Conference Details

More details for the 2018 HOW Conference will be forthcoming in future editions of *The Blade*. Besides our annual Fun Shoot on Friday, April 13, we will have a Friday evening BBQ and we are hoping to have an outing of some sort on Sunday, April 15. Whether you plan to attend the entire weekend or just the annual meeting on Saturday, the trip to Spring Mill State Park will definitely be worth it. **Don't miss the 2018 HOW conference!**

Save The Date!
Conference: April 13-15, 2018
Annual Meeting: April 14, 2018

Hoosier Outdoor Writers Annual Conference Registration



Where/When: The Spring Mill Inn at Spring Mill State Park, located at Mitchell, IN – April 13-15, 2018

This registration form is for the Annual Meeting on Saturday, April 14th (8:00am – 4:30pm)

Information to appear on name badge:

Name: _____

Title: _____

Contact information:

Mailing Address: _____

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

Email Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Are you a first-time HOW conference attendee? _____

Early Bird Conference Registration Fees:

(Early Bird pricing good until March 1st only. After March 1, add \$5.00 each to register)

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

Non-HOW Members: \$40.00 each (\$40 X number attending) = _____

The conference fee at the door will be \$50.00 (so be sure to register before the conference!)

Conference fee includes continental breakfast and buffet lunch on April 14, 2018.

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 2018 HOW Awards-In-Craft Contest

**The Hoosier Outdoor Writers
would like to announce that:**

TOYOTA MOTOR SALES

**Will once again be sponsoring the 2018
HOW Awards-In-Craft Contests**



The 2018 HOW Awards-In-Craft Contest

HOW CRAFTS AWARD CONTEST RULES

The contest year shall be for material published or aired from January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017. All submissions, including photography, must have been printed, aired, published or electronically posted during the contest year (entrant must have been a HOW member when the work was published).

The author, photographer or broadcaster must be an Active or Associate member of HOW.

The author, photographer or broadcaster must have been paid a standard rate for any work entered in the contest. Photos or articles published on a private Website or a not-for-hire Website will not be accepted. Photos/articles that are published, or radio/TV programs that are broadcast in trade for advertising or other non-monetary remuneration or for gratuitous fees (such as \$1) are not permitted.

At this time, blogs will not be accepted as an article. Photo essays (where the only writing is in the captions) will also not be accepted as an article. These types of entries will be disqualified.

This year we will again allow electronic submissions only. We no longer accept paper entries. This has resulted in much less work for entrants, contest coordinators and judges. It also conserves valuable natural resources, which is something of which we can all be proud. Entries must be submitted via email (preferred) or filed on a CD/DVD and mailed. The only exception is the broadcast division, where tapes are also allowed. See the rules below for more details.

RULES FOR SUBMISSION

- 1) Contest entries must be in an electronic form. Entries must be emailed (or postmarked if mailing a CD or DVD) no later than midnight on March 1, 2018. Entries emailed or postmarked after that date will be disqualified. Send all entries to the proper contest coordinator (to be announced later).
- 2) An official HOW contest entry form must accompany each entry. The entry form must also be sent electronically. Please type entry details into the form (an electronic copy of the form will be provided).
- 3) Send no material that needs to be returned. No original material is required. As mentioned above, print contest entries and photo contest entries must be sent in an electronic form. In the broadcast contest, tapes, recordings and DVDs are welcome.
- 4) All submissions of print entries (either from traditional paper or electronic media) must consist of one electronic copy of each article with bylines removed. This file must be text only – do not scan tearsheets or newspaper/magazine pages. This electronic copy must be submitted as a Microsoft Word 97-2003 Document (.doc) or as a PDF file (.pdf). Entries not following these rules will be disqualified. As mentioned, print entry files must be emailed (or filed on a CD or DVD and mailed) by the deadline.
- 5) Entries into the broadcast category require only one tape or recording and may be sent by tape cassette, CD, VHS or DVD formats. Radio and television entries may carry the broadcast station's name and call letters if they are on "as aired" dubbed tapes. TV entries should be dubbed minus commercials if possible to facilitate judging.
- 6) Entries in the photography division must consist of one electronic (digital) copy of each photo. This electronic copy must be saved as a JPEG file (.jpg or .jpeg). Prints, slides and paper copies of photos will not be accepted. Please include a title for each photo entry. Digitally produced photos should not be substantially manipulated. Allowable photo enhancement is limited to standard shooting/darkroom techniques, such as color correction, contrast control and image cropping.
- 7) An individual article, photo or broadcast may only be entered in one category/division. Entering the same piece in multiple categories/divisions will result in the disqualification of duplicate entries.
- 8) There is a limit of two entries per category.

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

Troy McCormick, Email: contest@hoosieroutdoorwriters.org

US Mail: 3604 Sea Pine, Jeffersonville, IN 47130

For all Photography entries, send submissions to the Photo Contest Coordinator:

John Martino, Email: jmartinooutdoors@att.net

US Mail: 12825 W 100 N, Kokomo, IN 46901

For all Broadcast entries, send submissions to the Broadcast Contest Coordinator:

Tom Berg, Email: thomas.berg@comcast.net

US Mail: 2142 Nondorf Street, Dyer, IN 46311

CONTEST DIVISIONS

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

WRITING ARTICLE CATEGORIES

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

BROADCAST CATEGORIES

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

PHOTOGRAPHY CATEGORIES

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

2018 HOW AWARDS-IN-CRAFT CONTEST ENTRY FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

Category _____ Division _____

Title: _____

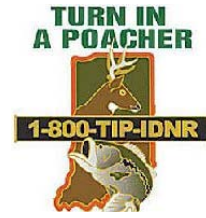
Where published/aired: _____

Publication/air date: _____

Entries and forms must be emailed or postmarked no later than March 1, 2018



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)
4. OPTIONAL: Indiana DNR TIP website (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; 765-509-0207.

To enter, submit an electronic copy of an article published between **March 1, 2017** and **January 31, 2018**. 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.

Entries should be marked as "TIP" entries and sent to Contest Coordinator Troy McCormick, and they must be emailed or postmarked by March 1, 2018. Send TIP Contest Entries to:

Troy McCormick, Email: contest@hoosieroutdoorwriters.org

US Mail: 3604 Sea Pine, Jeffersonville, IN 47130

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

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

Citizens can help stop poachers in two ways:

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

More information is available at www.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 John Maxwell:

John Maxwell photographed this **Snowy Owl** (*Bubo scandiacus*) near Mount Comfort Airport in east-central Indiana during late December.

Just like last year, Indiana is experiencing an irruption of snowy owls. These beautiful owls normally live in the arctic tundra, but when there is a year with an abundance of prey such as lemmings (small vole-like mammals), the birds that nest produce healthy clutches of offspring. As colder weather arrives, the young birds move out and range widely, looking for winter food. They sometimes wander as far south as Indiana, as they are doing this year. Birders call these events an irruption.



“The day was sunny and mild, and I was hoping to take some photos of short-eared owls that can sometimes be found around the airport in the winter,” Maxwell said. “But I noticed several birders in cars were watching a roosting snowy owl, so I joined in.”

Maxwell said the snowy owl preened itself on the ground for several hours and began actively hunting at dusk, when he took the photos of the owl flying between utility poles. The owl used the vantage point from the poles to observe open fields of corn stubble. It then soared and pounced on small voles, which it quickly swallowed.

“These owls have traveled far and are most likely young hunters just learning the tricks of the hunting trade,” said Maxwell. “So if you spot one, give them some room to hunt. If they have to fly away because of human pressure, that just adds to their need for food to sustain energy levels to survive.”

Top Right: The majestic snowy owl in flight. **Above:** A snowy owl leaps into the air after eating a small vole in a stubble field. Its fuzzy, insulated talons are easy to see.



Interesting Bird Sightings in the Great Outdoors



Report from Tom Berg:

“Last spring my family and I made a trip to Turkey Run State Park to do some hiking,” stated Berg. “Since the wildflowers were in bloom we took the time to check them out, too. I brought my camera, of course, and took quite a few photos of the park, the wildflowers – and birds! We saw several different birds, but the one I liked best was a small bird with a mighty voice: a **Carolina wren** (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*).



The Carolina wren is a common species of wren that lives throughout the state of Indiana and throughout the entire eastern United States. These small birds are reddish-brown on top with a yellowish-orange breast and undersides. They have a long white eyebrow stripe just above their eye. Their round body and large head are offset by a fairly long tail which, like most wrens, often cocks upward.



“This wren was chirping away unseen in the thick underbrush,” said Berg, “and we decided to stop along the trail to see if it would come out in the open long enough for us to get a good look at it. It finally did and I was able to snap a few photos of it.”

Unlike most other wrens, female Carolina wrens do not sing. The males do all of the singing – and they are very loud! Males and females usually form a pair bond and mate for life, staying together year-round. Carolina wrens are not fond of brutally-cold weather, so this winter’s colder than usual temperatures may have pushed them down towards the southern edge of the state.

Did you take an interesting bird photo recently?

HOW members are encouraged to send their interesting bird photos to newsletter editor Tom Berg (thomas.berg@comcast.net) for use in future editions of the “Interesting Bird Sightings” page. It does not need to be a rare bird. Your fellow HOW members would love to see your bird pictures.

DNR News

Division of Fish & Wildlife

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



For immediate release: Dec. 22, 2017

Knobstone Trail gets new southern trailhead at Deam Lake SRA

Hikers will now be able to access the 58-mile Knobstone Trail in southern Indiana from a new, permanent trailhead inside Deam Lake State Recreation Area.

The new trailhead is at the parking lot for the Buzzard Roost shelter house, just west of the Deam Lake dam. It replaces a temporary trailhead previously located east of the dam on Wilson Switch Road.

The Knobstone, aka KT, is Indiana's longest footpath. It winds through working forests, nature preserves, and fish & wildlife and state recreation areas. Managed by the DNR Division of Forestry, the trail runs from Jackson-Washington State Forest and Delaney Park near Salem, in the north, through Elk Creek Fish & Wildlife Area and Clark State Forest properties, to Deam Lake near Borden, in the south.

The new trailhead will act as the "southern gate" to the KT, according to Deam Lake SRA assistant property manager Derek Spanton.

"Improved signage makes the trailhead easier to locate," Spanton said. "Hikers will also appreciate the paved parking area that will be monitored by security."

The new location will also make it easier for hikers to explore the rest of Deam Lake SRA. In addition to the trail, the property offers camping, a swimming beach, row-boat rental, boating access, fishing, and access to many other hiking and horse trails.

Many people and several organizations, including the Knobstone Hiking Trail Association, volunteered labor to help build the trailhead and maintain the trail.

"We'd like to extend our gratitude to everyone who offered their time and talent to make this new trailhead possible," Spanton said.

Knobstone Trail maps are available for purchase at Deam Lake SRA, Clark State Forest, Jackson-Washington State Forest, Starve Hollow SRA, and at Delaney Park. Maps can also be purchased at the DNR customer service center by calling (317) 232-4200.

For Knobstone Trail updates and other useful information, visit dnr.IN.gov/forestry/4224.htm.

Media contact: Marty Benson, assistant director, DNR Communications, (317) 233-3853.

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

We are reprinting this notice from the last issue to draw more attention to it:

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 a previous 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!

OWAA Conference Comes to Indiana!

The 91st annual Outdoor Writers Association of America (OWAA) conference will be coming to Indiana from June 2-4, 2018! All HOW members are invited to attend, even if you are not currently a member of OWAA. Contact HOW member and OWAA President Phil Bloom (philbloom.OWAA@frontier.com) for information about attending.

The OWAA conference is an opportunity for outdoor communicators and outdoor groups, businesses and agencies that are involved in the world of outdoor communication to learn and connect with others in the industry. It gives attendees a chance to network with other professionals, allows them to build crucial business outlets and helps improve their skills.

The Fort Wayne area is rich with outdoors opportunities. Hundreds of glacially formed lakes in northeast Indiana provide endless recreational opportunities, as do three major reservoirs, five state parks, three state-managed fish and wildlife areas, and the nearby Wabash River, which is the longest free-flowing waterway east of the Mississippi. Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore ranks near the top of the National Park Service's properties for biodiversity, and a combination of state and federal lands in southern Indiana provide more than a half-million acres of public lands and abundant story opportunities for attendees.

Conference sessions will take place at the Grand Wayne Center, directly across the street from the host hotel, The Courtyard Fort Wayne Downtown. Craft improvement sessions will focus primarily on hands-on learning, covering topics including podcasting, travel writing the outdoors and perfecting pitches. Newsmaker sessions will cover regional and national topics including conservation legislation, public lands access issues and threats to wildlife.

The Southwest Conservation Club will host a combined Demo and Shooting Day. The 37-acre property is less than 15 minutes from the conference headquarters and offers four ponds, trap and skeet fields, a firearms range, archery course, hiking trail, nature prairie preservation work and a clubhouse.

Details about the Fort Wayne conference can be found at: <https://owaa.org/2018conference>.



HOW Member News

HOW Members Enjoy The 2017 Deer Season

Troy McCormick (Jeffersonville, IN)

The following is from HOW vice president and die-hard deer hunter Troy McCormick (at right):

“I missed the opening weekend of last year’s firearms season for deer because I was on a snow goose hunt in North Dakota,” said McCormick. “Not a bad reason for missing it, I will grant you, but opening weekend is one of those traditions in Indiana that I don’t like to miss. So, this year I was determined to make it into the woods with my gun in hand.”

“The opening day weather forecast was rain, rain, and thunderstorms, but I was in my stand by 6:30AM anyway and anxiously awaiting sunrise. However, before it was light enough to see, the thunder started, the lightning flashed and the rain began to fall. I realized I was sitting in the tallest tree on the ridge and decided not to chance a lightning strike. I made it back to the house and went back to bed for an hour and a half. When I woke, the rain had stopped and the weather radar showed that there was a two-hour window of time before the really heavy thunderstorms were going to hit.”

“I grabbed my gun and headed back into the woods. When I was sixty yards from my stand I looked down into the creek bottom and saw a set of large, white antlers moving on the trail in front of my stand. I dropped to my knees and looked the buck over in my scope. It was one of two on my hit list from trail camera photos, and he was heading my way. No time to get my backpack off, or my video camera out. I quickly picked a shooting lane and three seconds later he was mine.”



“After filming a post-kill interview with myself and my 10-point buck, field dressing him, and dragging him up the hill, I ran out of clear weather. The thunderstorms hit and we must have gotten three inches of rain in the next hour. In fact, there were torrential rains and flooding that hampered deer hunters across the state. The DNR reported the deer harvest was down 12,382 deer from last year by the close of opening day. I was wet, cold, and lucky that morning, but I’ll take a bit of good luck any day!”

John Martino (Kokomo, IN)

Here is a note from HOW past president John Martino (at left):

“I believe anytime a person takes a mature buck, it’s a good hunt,” he said. “The deer I harvested was a 10-pointer weighing 190 pounds field dressed. It is not my biggest, but he was a good buck and I’m not sure what else to say. I guess the most special part was the fact I was hunting with my brother Jim and cousin Jim. We hunted together as kids and it’s the first time my cousin was able to join my brother and I for several years. Since the three of us were together again it was a sentimental hunt to me.”

“I took him with a 12-gauge about a half hour before dark. I normally hunt thick woods instead of edges so I did take him in the woods.”

2017 Deer Season Continued

Jeff Hammond (St. Mathews, SC)

The following comes from HOW member (and displaced Hoosier) Jeff Hammond:

“Here in South Carolina, deer season runs from August 15th until January 1st each year. Sounds like an eternity to those hunting in Indiana...and it kinda is. Through this season, I spent just over 300 hours in a tree waiting for



Jeff Hammond with a beautiful Christmas Day deer.

the opportunity to shoot a deer. Those hours ranged from some 100-degree days to rain to a few days in the 30's. There were lots of deer that I let walk and three 200-pound + boar hogs that I shot along the way, but no deer on the ground.”

“So with the season winding down and no deer in the freezer, Murphy's Law kicked in and I ended up with the flu. I lost two weeks of hunting time and thought for sure the “basket 10-point” I've been watching on the trail cam for the past two years and his bigger brother “the huge 11” were going to slip away for yet another season. At that point, I was wondering if I would even get a nice doe for the freezer.”

“Finally, on Christmas Day, I felt good enough to get out of the house and decided to go for an afternoon hunt in my favorite stand. It was the one where I had been seeing the Basket 10 and the Huge 11 on the trail cam just about every night between 10pm and 4am. You know, when you can't hunt. When you see nice deer on the cam, however, it is a little easier to get motivated to spend a few hours in the stand anyway.”

“I climbed up into my stand at about 3pm. Sunset was 5:21pm, which in South Carolina meant it would be legal to shoot until 6:21pm. It was a cold day and I kept sucking on cough drops while hoping I could keep from giving myself away. Beautiful day in the woods, but no action. None until the last minute, that is.”

“I was watching through binoculars so I could actually see and a 5-point buck stepped into the road and started walking in my direction from about 80-yards away. I'd seen this before on the cam, so I got excited. This nice 5-point had been running with the Basket 10 the past month and usually came out right before him.”

“If it was going to happen, it had to happen fast. It was 6:14pm, so I had 7-minutes to hunt. Then it happened. The Basket 10 came out in the road behind him and started walking my way. He stopped to eat a little and I was able to raise the rifle. It was too dark to try a low heart shot, so I put the crosshairs on the back of his shoulder and at 6:19pm I pulled the trigger. Off both of the bucks ran into the woods.”

“I climbed down from the stand and went to where the buck was when I shot. There was one drop of blood...just one. I tracked him into the woods where I saw him jump and began to find more and more blood as I went. Just about 30-yards into the woods...there he was. I had a beautiful deer on the ground and still had time to drag him out and meet the family for dinner and to exchange gifts. Did I mention the Basket 10 was my first Christmas deer in almost 40 years of hunting? Not too shabby, and well worth the wait!”



2017 Deer Season Continued

Tom Berg (Dyer, IN)

The following comes from HOW Executive Director Tom Berg:

“I thoroughly enjoyed this deer season,” said Berg, “even though opening day was almost a complete washout, with a nearly constant rain that just refused to quit. Most hunters who dared to sit in a treestand on that Saturday ended-up cold and wet, including me. I did see two small does during a short window when the heavy rains subsided to a light drizzle, but I did not shoot.”

“The next day was not much better, other than the fact that the rains were gone and I was warm and dry. I did see a group of does far off in an adjacent cornfield in the late evening, but they never moved close enough for me to even consider a shot.”

“Like many deer hunters infected with buck fever, I took Monday off from work in the hopes that my luck would change. It did! But not for a big buck. Shortly after sunup, a button-buck appeared at the edge of the field I was watching. He slowly walked out into the open field and started feeding. I used my new Leupold laser rangefinder to see exactly how far away he was, and was happy to see that he was just 77 yards away. That was the perfect distance for me.”

“I had a tag for a buck and a bonus antlerless tag, so I decided to shoot. I took careful aim with the Henry .30-30 rifle I bought during the summer for firearms season, and I pulled the trigger. This was the first time I had used a high-powered rifle for deer and was surprised at how quickly he went down.”



“It was still early, so I waited in the stand to see if I would get really lucky and have an antlered buck walk out in front of me. After a short while another button-buck entered the field and, surprisingly, walked right over to the deer that I had shot. He sniffed the deer and looked around, probably wondering what was going on. He stuck around for several minutes. I took some photos and watched as he finally wandered off.”



“About two hours later a 6-point buck did appear, but he was a little farther away than I wanted to shoot. He took a couple steps towards me which really raised my hopes, but then he turned around and slowly walked straight away from me. No shot there.”

“After the 6-pointer disappeared into the treeline I headed down to inspect the button-buck I had harvested and get ready to field dress him. He wasn’t a giant, but he meant fresh venison for the freezer. I was truly thankful for a wonderful hunt!”

2017 Deer Season Continued

Joe Martino (Kokomo, IN)

The following comes from HOW member Joe Martino:

“I had a pretty eventful fall,” remembered Martino. “In late August, we traveled to Colorado for opening week of the elk archery season where I was able to get my very first elk; a big cow with my Mathews bow. We also saw plenty of bears, but unfortunately bear season did not open until the day we left!”

“We normally plan our trip so we can hunt both bear and elk, but we just couldn’t do it this year.”

“Then, after a very tough deer season here at home, I was finally able to connect on a great buck during muzzleloader season. I wish my son Nick would have connected, but hey, he did pass up a couple of cows in Colorado since



we already had a few elk down in camp. He wanted to wait on a bull elk.”

“Nick also passed on some pretty nice bucks during this deer season, too. Sometimes that 16-year-old is just too picky!”

“Also, on another note, my beef jerky company, Joe’s Jerky, landed a nice deal with Hucks convenience stores. Beginning in January, 2018, Joe’s Jerky can be found in all Hucks locations in Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Tennessee and Kentucky!”

“This has been a pretty big fall/winter for us! I know we are truly blessed.”

Deer Season Continued

Garry Burch (Valparaiso, IN)

The following is a note from HOW member Garry Burch from northern Indiana:

“Here is my hunting story from a year ago,” said Burch. “I am just sending it now because I had a shoulder injury in August of 2016 and I found it very difficult to even sit at my computer until recently. The pain would set in



Garry Burch smiles over the trophy buck he harvested during the 2016 firearms season. As you can see, this deer liked hanging around soybean fields. Photo courtesy of Garry Burch.

and it even turned checking emails into a dreaded task.”

“Opening day of the 2016 Indiana firearms season found me doing something I thought I would never get to do in Indiana. I was hunting with a high powered rifle. My archery season was messed up by the shoulder injury, so I put my bow aside. That was something I had not done since I was 16 years old. But, I did still hunt. A trip to the store got me a crossbow. That, I could handle. Pulling the cocking rope on the crossbow caused less discomfort than drawing my regular bow.”

“Unfortunately, I didn't get any opportunities during the bow season. The firearms season was my chance. It was also my chance to be a part of Indiana history. The firearm was one I purchased years ago just in case I could hunt in Indiana with a rifle. I chose a 7.62 x 39 mm SKS. Yes, a military arm. I considered the cartridge safe for hunting in my area. I topped this rifle off with a 6X scope

and felt after time spent at a friend's target range I was ready for opening day.”

“The day started out slow, but that didn't last long as I saw a small 6-point buck walk out in front of me at 60 yards. I was trying to decide if I would shoot as it was not a big deer, but the year before was a year with an unfilled tag. Just as I was about ready to pull the trigger I saw movement to my right. It was another bigger buck, walking out to challenge the smaller buck.”

“Seeing it was a bigger and much older buck I quickly changed my focus. The bigger buck was walking away quickly and the range was getting longer by the second. I put the crosshairs on the buck and pulled the trigger. I could hear the bullet hit and the buck took off. I tried another shot and he went a little farther and then went down.”

“I was really happy to get the much-needed venison. Now venison burgers were going to be in the freezer. The antler spread was about 20 inches on the buck. Sadly, the people that processed my deer for some reason cut its antlers off the skull plate! I was upset to say the least. Make sure you are clear with the people processing your game on what you want. I felt I was clear, but evidently not clear enough.”

“It was awesome to be a part of Indiana history. We have come a long way in Indiana and I hope it keeps getting better and better for my family.”

Vikki Trout Scores With Cinnamon-Phase Black Bear

HOW member Vikki Trout made another trip to Idaho this fall in search of black bears. “Idaho bear hunting is nothing new for me,” reported Trout. “Before my husband John passed, we enjoyed 20+ years of chasing bruins in those spectacular mountains. I must say, the mountains provide a serenity and beauty that only God could create.”

“Many of my friends thought I was crazy for bear hunting on my own. After I reassured them it was a relatively safe sport, the puzzled looks on their faces seemed to subside. Of course, my Pastor took me to the airport and prayed for me before I left Indiana. I could tell he had concern, but he wished me well and sent me on my way.”

“The ‘new’ part of this trip was that on September 22, I was fortunate enough to have a beautiful cinnamon-phase black bear come into easy bow-range and offer a perfect broadside shot. But I’m getting ahead of myself.”

“Idaho allows three baits per hunter. The first bait I set was in a very remote area, deep in the mountains. A bruin found it and consumed everything including my Wildlife Research scent wick covered in Wildlife Research Ultimate Bear Lure. Keep in mind the fact that the scent wick is made of cotton! I hung my portable tree stand immediately, with plans to come back the next night to hunt. Unfortunately, the next night was disastrous. An elk hunter approached from the direction I expected to see the bear and that bait never got hit again.”

“Another bait I set at a lower elevation got hit several days in a row and I hunted it on two different occasions. The problem with that location was the land had just sold in a private sale between Idaho and a very wealthy resident. The first time I hunted, two pickup trucks drove past as I sat in the tree only 25 yards away. Idaho’s dense woods kept them from seeing me. I assumed they were with the fire service and had to drive in there to assure no forest fires were in that area. My hope was that a bear would surely come in close to dark when everything quieted down, but that was not meant to be.”

“On the second night, two women in a golf cart drove along the very same gated-off road, so I decided to head out in search of the conservation officer. I was out of the tree when they drove past me waving, but not stopping! The senior conservation officer drove in there to confront them and advised them it was no longer public land. It was not posted yet because the transaction had just been completed. I moved that bait and it never got hit again.”

“Another location was on an exceptionally steep incline and very dense, making it a perfect bait site. The cinnamon colored black bear appeared early in the afternoon and then he was mine!”

“John and I used to laugh because he had harvested many off-color bears and I was never fortunate enough to have anything but black show up when I hunted. Not only did I get my first color phase black bear this year, but it was the first bruin I harvested while hunting by myself.”



Vikki Trout poses with her first color-phase black bear, a beautiful cinnamon bear. Photo courtesy of Vikki Trout.

Bass Fishing Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony For Louie Stout

As reported in the recent September-October issue of *The Blade*, HOW member and past-president Louie Stout was recently inducted into the Bass Fishing Hall of Fame. The formal ceremony took place at the Bass Pro Shops' Wonders of Wildlife Museum and Aquarium in Springfield, MO in early November. Stout was joined by four other men who are well-known in the bass fishing world: Wade Bourne, Shaw Grigsby, Bob Sealy and Morris Sheehan. All five were enshrined this year.

One of the board members of the Bass Fishing Hall of Fame, Catalyst Marketing President John Mazurkiewicz of South Bend, was in attendance to present Louie Stout with his plaque during the formal induction ceremony into the Hall. Springfield, MO is the home of Bass Pro Shops and is the new permanent home of the Bass Fishing Hall of Fame. Stout is the outdoors columnist for the South Bend Tribune and a longtime senior writer for Bassmaster Magazine.



John Mazurkiewicz (left) presents Louie Stout (right) with his Bass Fishing Hall of Fame plaque in November, 2017.

Congratulations again, Louie!

Alan Garbers Working On New Log Furniture Book



HOW past-president Alan Garbers from Martinsville recently signed a deal with Fox Chapel Publishing to have a book published. "It's official," said Garbers. "The working title is *From Tree to Table*, and it will be a how-to book on making log furniture and related items. It is projected to be out in 2019. The publisher may also want two more books from me."

"My proposal was for 20,000 words and 200 photos. The contract reads that they have the rights to my next two books, if they fit their normal topic matter. They are the same company that published my Hopi woodcarving articles. I need to have the completed book to them by June 1, 2018. I hope to make it the best log furniture book on the market. Time to make some sawdust!"

"I have also been mulling over a supplemental book of log furniture projects," continued Garbers. "Dianna thinks I should write a book about backyard maple sugaring."



Rick Bramwell Goes The Distance For Beagles

HOW past-president Rick Bramwell recently lost his beloved beagle named Daisy. He and Daisy spent many years hunting rabbits together during the winter. “When your dog dies,” said Bramwell, “there is not another who could replace him/her. I felt that way about Daisy. However, rabbit season is in and that is one of my favorite pursuits. I called Don LaCount, the breeder who sold me Daisy, looking for another beagle. He had a young male I could try for two weeks, but the hound was not used to hunting alone and was not what I needed.”

“I soon learned that a whole lot of folks were looking for rabbit hounds. I found one south of Columbus, but he sold before I could get there. Another was 18-months old, but I thought \$600 was a little stiff for an unproven hound. Finally, I found a guy who had two beagles for \$500, near Bloomington. He even sent videos of them running. I began getting suspicious when he first wanted to meet me at the IU football stadium. When I learned he lived east of town, we made arrangements to meet in Nashville.”

“I wanted to go to the man’s house to see them run, but he told me at that price, he would not give me the privilege and that he was too busy. I began to smell a rat when he changed plans again and wanted me to meet his wife with the dogs in the Target parking lot. My fear was the dogs were stolen and had imbedded chips. He could tell I was suspicious and he sent me a text saying he would get back with me later. He never did – and that was just as well.”

“Most of the beagle websites had pups for sale or young dogs that had just started. I wanted a hound who could jump rabbits and run them well, a hard hunter. At long last, I found something that was a long shot, but it felt right. The man lived in Illinois and had three beagles for sale.”



“Two of the dogs were named Lady and the Tramp. They had run free and were as wild as the March hares they liked to chase. They were also small and fast. The downside was that you had to catch them when you got ready to quit and they would not lead on a leash. The guy was upfront and honest about these two.”

“As for the third dog, a one-year old pup, he would run well with another dog, but not so much by himself. The owner had a coon hound and a bird dog and he was more interested in working with them. Plus, he said he did not have many rabbits where he lived. I researched the guy on Facebook and it appeared he was an outstanding volunteer in his community.”

“Distance was the biggest problem. He lived across the Ohio River from Paducah, KY, a full 291 miles from my home. I hit the road and met him, and we took the dogs to some state property so I could see them run. They quickly jumped a deer, but did not pursue it. The young dog stayed with us until Lady and the Tramp hit a hot rabbit trail. The pup joined them and sounded good.”

“I brought back all three dogs, buying the pup for a friend of mine. I can’t wait to go rabbit hunting with these new dogs!”

Michael Ellis Loves History Of Colonial Williamsburg

HOW member Michael Ellis and his wife Willie took a recent trip to Colonial Williamsburg and were intrigued by all of the historical buildings and how well they were preserved. “The re-creator actors at Williamsburg gave daily demonstrations of rifles that were in use just before the American Revolution,” said Ellis. “That was pretty interesting. The range and accuracy of their weapons was not that great. For catching fish, they relied a lot on seining streams and shallow parts of the rivers.”



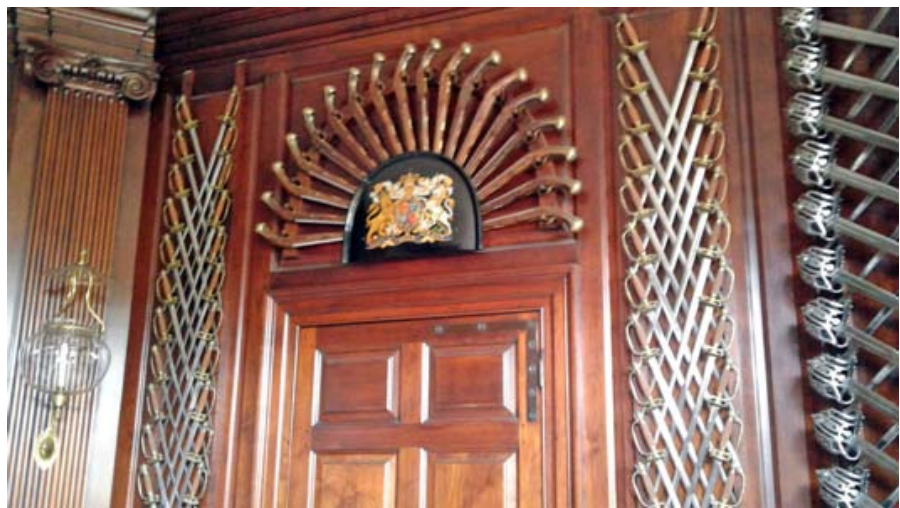
“The large brick building was the residence of Virginia's royal governor. It was built to be a sumptuous residence for the governor, his wife, staff, attendants and to show his power. When you enter the residence, you will see on the right diagonal wall, a wall of pistols and swords. On the left diagonal wall are rifles and more swords. All of these weapons were state of the art from England. They were put there by the governor to show his wealth, power, and to impress those who were coming there to do business. They were also meant to



intimidate. Compared to what the colonialists had, it was no contest as to who had the best firearms.”

“Just about midway in town was the Public Magazine (used to store gun powder and also extra arms). By the time the Public Magazine was completed, muskets had been adopted to the flintlock firing system. Unlike its predecessor (the snaphance) a flintlock gun combined the frizzen and priming pan into one loading unit. This made it possible to load a pistol beforehand and still have it go off reliably, later.”

“The Williamsburg Magazine has a height of sixty feet and a width of over thirty-three feet. Its walls are about two feet thick and it was surrounded by a sturdy wooden fence. In 1755, two important additions were made in order to up security: a ten-foot tall perimeter wall and a guardhouse. Williamsburg is steeped in history and is a great place to visit.”



Top: Michael and Willie Ellis in Williamsburg. **Middle:** The governor's residence. **Above:** Pistols above the door and swords flanking it really show off the governor's wealth and power. Photos by Michael Ellis.



Mike Schoonveld Makes Unusual Saltwater Catch



HOW member, charter captain and past-president Mike Schoonveld likes to head south for warmer climates when winter weather gets him down, and this December was no exception. He flew to Florida! As usual, he also made sure to get some fishing in while he was in the sunshine state, and he related this story about his fishing trip and charter captain:

“Guides and charter captains always show enthusiasm about the fishing trip they are conducting,” he said. “They have to be. For one, there’s no such thing as a rich fishing guide. There are some who can earn a decent living at it, for others, it’s a hobby job that allows them to fish (almost) as much as they want without putting them and their family in the poor house. None of them are going to show up with the same attitude as a guy clocking in for another day at the salt mine.”

They show up happy and enthusiastic, but if they have been in the business for long, enthusiasm doesn’t always mean excitement. They enjoy their job and love watching their client’s excitement, but they probably don’t have their own ‘special moments’ on an everyday basis.”

“That’s how I first knew I was hooked up to something special on my recent trip to Ft. Myers, Florida. Captain Ryan (Southern Instinct Charters) was hopping around and whooping like a kid who just got his best-ever Christmas wish from Santa.”



Mike Schoonveld holds his trophy-sized African Pompano while an excited Captain Ryan celebrates in the background!

“We were fishing over a sunken ship 60 miles offshore in the Gulf of Mexico. Anything from a panfish to a great white shark could be the next fish on the line, so it’s always a guess at what is bending your rod. The sea water is clear enough to catch glimpses of the fish when it’s still 15 feet or more under the surface. When you see that, you yell, ‘color’ out loud. In Capt. Ryan’s case he yelled ‘Color...Oh my golly, it’s an AP!’”

“A.P.?” I asked through gritted teeth. All I knew was it was one tough fish that didn’t want to be where I was trying to pull it. ‘Angry Pirate?’ I was able to joke. The captain was clearing stuff out of the way and digging for the landing gaff. ‘African pompano,’ he said. He was visibly excited.”

“By now, I’d gained enough line to see glimpses of the wide-bodied, silver-sided fish slowly losing the battle with me. I could also see a couple of barracudas lurking below it, looking for a chance to get in the game.”

“Excited or not, the captain was experienced and handily snagged the gaff into the pompano’s flank and quickly had it flopping on the deck. High fives for me, the mate, my brother who was along on the trip and then another round of woo-hoos!”

“We don’t get many African pompanos this far north,” Captain Ryan explained and then pointed at the fish. “And that’s a big one! Really, big! I don’t know for sure, but it’s right up there with the biggest I’ve ever seen caught on my boat!” He was excited, for sure. No wonder he photo-bombed my hero shot!

For more Florida fishing information, contact: www.southerninstinct.com and www.fortmyers-sanibel.com.

Chip Hart Celebrates 23 Years on Cincinnati Radio

HOW member Chip Hart owns and operates Hart Productions, the company responsible for running the Cincinnati Travel, Sports & Boat Show every year. But Hart is also host of a popular radio program. “On January 5th, I will be celebrating 23 consecutive years of hosting the Big Outdoors Radio show on 700WLW,” he said. “Let me explain how it all started.”

“In 1993, after the Enquirer ceased their outdoors column, I approached 700WLW radio and suggested they create outdoors programming once a week. Hook and bullet. There were open ears but nothing materialized. I repeated the process in late 1994, all the while I was well into my career (15 years) with the Cincinnati sports & boat show.”

“Bill Wills, the program director at the time, said why don’t you do it? You have the connections. You’ll work as a contractor. You can start the first week of January, 1995. Sales will sell the ads. You’ll have creative freedom.”

“Why not? I could sell anything by then, having sold myself to generate business for the sport show. How much different could it be? The show would be on Sunday from 6-7pm for an hour. We would talk hook and bullet topics with pro fishermen, national and regional writers, product people. That’s doable. It’s on.”

“First program....disaster! We had the largest snowfall in 30 years. The program director wanted us to talk about bad weather, crappy streets and take calls from distressed drivers. We said ‘No way’. Then the general manager called. We told him no, also. He had some choice words for us (expletives deleted)!”

“Next day, we got relegated to Saturday morning from 5-5:30am. Recorded or live, they didn’t care.”



Chip Hart covers a wide variety of outdoor subjects on his weekly radio program. Chip Hart photo.



“It is twenty three years later and we are still there, but pulling 25 share....that means 1 out of every 4 people is tuned in. We are the top program in the timeslot over 25 other stations. And doing at least one live weekday report and on-call to other hosts on any and all wildlife and outdoors news. We are not paid for that, of course. Fun, yes. Prep involved? Yes. And great talent to be able to work with on Cincinnati’s #1 Station - News Radio 700WLW.”

Great job, Chip. Keep up the good work. HOW members may tune in to the program (700WLW Big Outdoors Radio) or give Chip a call on his cell: 513-310-4923.

Vikki Trout Makes Friends With Eastern Red Bat

HOW member Vikki Trout is not only an accomplished bear hunter, she is also a very serious deer hunter. But as we all know, deer are not the only animals you can see when you are in the woods!



Vikki Trout was not sure of the bat species she found in the woods, but we are fairly sure it was an eastern red bat. Photo by Vikki Trout.

“After spending the entire morning and afternoon perched 18 feet up in a tree, I knew the deer hunt was over,” she said. “Albeit, I had witnessed a monstrous 10-point buck that had everything going for him – mass, height, long main beams – and he was built like a tank. Unfortunately, he never got any closer than 100 yards from my stand.”

“I did not want to risk scaring this deer and since he and his doe went south, I cut across the food plot heading north. Upon arriving at my truck, I began taking my ScentLok fleece jacket and pants off to store them for the next day. However, when I unzipped the jacket, I noticed a strange creature hanging right next to the zipper! It was a bat!”

“I was astounded and had absolutely no idea what type of bat this was or where/when he decided to join me on the walk out of the woods. I have watched many bats flying around the food plot at dusk, but they are typically black in color. As you can see, this guy is blonde!”

“I gently removed him from my jacket and attempted to put him on a tree limb. The moment his little feet felt the limb, they immediately wrapped around it and he stretched his wings out. He seemed very comfortable and I shot some photos. I know bats always hang upside down, but what I learned from this encounter is that the reason they hang upside

down is because they have to take flight from that position. In other words, they have to drop and then start flying.”

Membership Changes and New Contact Info

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

- Rich Creason:** New email address: eyewrite4u@outlook.com.
Bud Fields: New cell phone: 765-210-6870.
Gary Redmon: New phone: 317-498-3475.
Vikki Trout: New phone: 812-309-2077.
Brian Waldman: New mailing address: 2107 Heartland Lane, Brownsburg, IN 46112
New email address: hybognathus@yahoo.com, new phone: 317-371-4143.

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

A 'Dolly Parton' Ontario Bear Hunt and Grandchildren Visit Combo

by Glenn Helgeland

In late August my wife Judy and I drove to the Toronto area where our daughter and her family live. Judy was to stay with the family while I went north eight hours for an archery bear hunt west of Timmins. Our granddaughter, age 3½, attends a Day Care. This is significant, as you will read later.

Grandmother had an enjoyable time house sitting, babysitting, talking, talking, talking, and all that jazz. Part of this duty occurred on Day One, when I helped our daughter and son-in-law clean their garage. Packrats are packrats, no matter where they live. Orderliness is a seldom-used virtue, garage-wise. It was a two-man-and-one-woman job, but we got'er done.

The outfitter I hunted with had baits no closer than 30 yards from the stands, which I thought was more than a tad far for a vertical bow but OK for crossbows and firearms. My pleas for closer stands fell on deaf ears and closed minds. One stand was positioned so that any bear approaching the bait on the bear trail would be looking straight at the stand as it approached. Not good.

Bears hitting baits were of the "you shoulda been here yesterday" variety. Some trail camera photos, but no live action. I shifted to Plan B: video footage of bears on baits. I could always use video to promote my black bear hunting book (*The Bear Hunting Obsession of a Driven Man*).

"I have the perfect spot for that," my guide said. "I haven't been placing hunters on a particular stand because only a sow and twin cubs are hitting it. They should approach in good light and be relaxed." "That works for me," I said. So I climbed into the stand and waited. And waited. Nada. Zip.

Late in the afternoon, about 75 yards to the left of the bait, I began to hear crunching sounds. The crunching of large bones and small bones. Large bones tends to make one believe an even larger animal is the cruncher. A couple of ravens squawked. A jay or two screamed. All at the crunching site.

No sow bear. No cub bears. Hmm. Male bears are known to kill and eat cubs to bring the sow into estrous. Cubs will have small bones and a few larger ones. This was the only conclusion I could reach.

When the guide picked me up at dark, I told him the no-bear-but-crunching-bones story. "Sounds to me like a boar came into the picture and killed one or both of the cubs," he said, matter-of-factly. Indeed.

After five days of no bear sightings, I bailed out a day early. I wanted to spend more time with family and grandkids. Judy greeted me with a bronchial-shattering cough. "How'd you get that?" I asked. "Our granddaughter must have brought it home from day care. She isn't sick, probably because she's built up an immunity. But our U.S. defense system can't handle Canadian day care germs," she said, barely getting the words out between coughs.

"Well, at least I'm not sick," I said. Those were not famous last words, but they were close. Two days later an anvil was sitting on my chest, impeding my ability to cough. We left for home the following day. One day after we got home, I went to a local walk-in clinic. They took the necessary tests and x-rays.

"You have 'near pneumonia'," they said. "What's that mean?" I replied. "Two more days and you would have full-blown, real pneumonia."

"I don't want that," I said. I've already had pneumonia three times. That was one of the main reasons we sold our expo company. I was running out of gas in the middle of the show season.

Oh, yeah, almost forgot. On my way back to our kids' house, I lost my credit card at a gas station. That's the only place I used it. I cancelled it the next day.

Why did I call it a 'Dolly Parton' hunt? Because it was a big bust!

Unusual Nature Photos from the Hoosier Outdoors Sponsored by Ramcat Broadheads

The Blue-Spotted Salamander Loves Eating Earthworms



The “What is it?” photo from the last issue was a little easier to identify than the previous one, since a total of eight (8) HOW members got it right. Mike Schoonveld, Michael Ellis, Brian Waldman, Mike Berg, Alan Garbers, Ken McBroom, John Maxwell, and Bill Keaton each had the correct answer. When we drew a name at random for the hunting knife donated by **W.R. Case**, Mike Berg was the winner. Congratulations!

As you can see in the photo above, the mystery creature for this issue was a blue-spotted salamander (*Ambystoma laterale*). These grayish-blue salamanders with blue spots or flecks can be found in damp woodland areas, especially where small ponds, ditches or vernal pools are nearby. Blue-spotted salamanders are called “mole salamanders,” because they spend most of their lives underground in abandoned burrows made by moles, voles or other small animals. They are also found under decaying logs or piles of moist leaf litter. They eat worms, slugs and small insects.

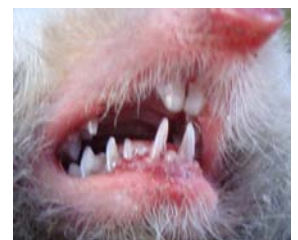
Blue-spotted salamanders are not endangered in Indiana, but they are listed as a species of “Special Concern” because of habitat loss in recent years. They typically grow to 4-6 inches in length, and females are larger than the males. Adults search for temporary vernal pools in spring to breed, and since these pools usually dry up in the summer the young salamanders don’t need to worry about predatory fish hunting and eating them.



For this issue, our friends at **Ramcat Broadheads** have donated a great prize for the HOW member who guesses the right answer to this issue’s “What Is It?” question. This time the prize will be two packages of 100-grain Ramcat broadheads along with two camo hats from their sister company Tink’s. See below for more information on the prize and this issue’s question.

Another Nature Photo “What Is It?” Question

Tom Berg has posed another Nature Photo mystery. The photo shown at right is a close-up of a creature that lives right here in Indiana. It looks pretty vicious! You might see it in your own back yard, and it is found throughout the state. Have you ever seen a critter that looks like this?



This creature may be easy for some people to identify and harder for others, but we’ll see. 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 turtle, for example, go ahead and guess “painted turtle”. Of course, it’s not a painted turtle, but if you think you know what it is, send the answer via email to thomas.berg@comcast.net. If you’re right, you’ll be eligible for this issue’s prize.



As mentioned above, **Ramcat Broadheads** have donated two packages of their great broadheads along with two camo hats 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 two hats and two 3-packs of Ramcat 100-grain stainless steel broadheads (see www.ramcatbroadheads.com). If multiple people guess the right answer, we will draw one winner at random from the group of correct entries. Good luck and have fun guessing! All photos on this page by Tom Berg.

HOW Supporting Member News

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

HOW Members Should Prepare For Upcoming Winter Sport Shows

Chicago, IL: The **Chicago Boat, RV & Strictly Sail Show**, presented by Progressive opens in the Windy City's McCormick Place – South, from January 10-14, 2018. This show definitely has something for everyone, including a sailing simulator, boat and RV maintenance and repair seminars, a stocked trout pond for the kids, the PaddleFest Pool, boating and sailing courses and seminars, a Raingutter Regatta, an RV buyer's seminar and much more. Do-it-yourselfers can head to Fred's Shed Interactive Learning Center for professional advice on many boating subjects. Of course, there will be lots of boats and RVs to see (and buy), with products that will interest everyone in the family.

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



Cincinnati, OH: The 61st annual **Cincinnati Travel, Sports & Boat Show**, presented by RAM bursts into downtown Cincinnati January 12-14 and January 17-21, 2018 at the Duke Energy Convention Center. It's THE SOURCE for everything outdoors, with hundreds of displays and exhibits including: boating, water skiing, wakeboarding, fishing, hunting, camping, scuba diving, spelunking, golf and travel destinations near and far where you can do it all. Professionals will offer expert one-on-one consultation to help you buy the boat, equipment and gear – or book the perfect customized trip – at the best early-season prices! There will even be hunting dog seminars and a turkey calling contest!



Visit the website: www.cincinnatiboatshow.com for complete information regarding show features and ticket prices.

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



HOW Supporting Member News

Louisville, KY: The **Louisville Boat, RV & Sportshow** runs from January 24-28, 2018 at the Kentucky Expo Center. This show is for the outdoors lovers in the family, as there will be professional wakeboarders, Bassmaster Elite fisherman Timmy Horton, a stocked trout pond for the kids, ultimate camp cooking seminars, paddlesport clinics, riverboat seminars, boating simulators, boat maintenance and repair seminars, storytelling and much more. Come see Twiggy the Waterskiing Squirrel, too! Of course, there will be lots of boats and RVs to see, as well.

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



Schaumburg, IL: The **Chicagoland Fishing, Travel & Outdoor Expo** returns to Schaumburg, IL from January 25-28, 2018, representing Chicagoland's most complete fishing event. Whether it's testing the latest fishing and outdoor gear or learning the latest and greatest techniques, the Expo is the place to be for anyone interested in exploring the outdoors. Attendees to this year's expo will have the opportunity to improve their fishing knowledge through an extensive lineup of seminars with top-notch local and national fishing professionals, buy the newest fishing and outdoor gear and equipment from top manufacturers and retailers from around the country, book a trip of a lifetime, and even browse the latest fishing boats on the market!

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

Featuring an impressive lineup of seminars led by expert instructors and nationally recognized fishing celebrities, including musky pros Joe Bucher, Jim Saric and Steve Herbeck; 2017 Bass Angler of the Year Brandon Palaniuk; Four-time Bassmaster winner Ish Monroe; well-known local fishing guides Dustan Harley, Capt. Ralph Steiger and many others. Seminar attendees will have the opportunity to learn something new or improve their current skill level. Show goers can chat with and learn techniques from some of the best guides and outfitters from around the globe. The pros will also be demonstrating different lures and techniques in the 5,000 gallon Hawg Trough, which will be filled with big bass!

There will also be plenty of opportunities for family fun at the Wings and Talons booth, where there will be many live raptor birds. The Wings and Talons organization will show live raptors, which might include a great horned owl, a barred owl, a screech owl, a kestrel and/or a red-tailed hawk. Sunday's 'Family Day' and kids ages 11 and under are free when accompanied by a paying adult.

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

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



HOW Supporting Member News

Louisville, KY: The **Louisville Deer & Turkey Expo** presented by Field & Stream and Outdoor Life will take place at the Kentucky Exposition Center (State Fairgrounds) from January 26-28, 2018. There will be celebrity appearances, shooting activities (including airguns and archery), interactive displays, informative guest speakers and interesting demonstrations. There will also be plenty of trophy deer mounts to see and lots of deer and turkey hunting products available for purchase.

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

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



Indianapolis, IN: The 64th annual Indianapolis Boat, Sport & Travel Show, presented by Ford will take place at the Indiana State Fairgrounds from February 16-25, 2018. From camping gear to extreme sports, the Indianapolis Boat, Sport & Travel Show has everything imaginable! You can enjoy fishing seminars and popular speakers like Kevin VanDam, Mark Martin and many others. There will also be special features, rock climbing, interactive games, the 70,000 square-foot Tackle Town USA, the 5,000 gallon Hawg Trough, travel and tourism information, RVs and boats galore, plus much more.



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

DNR Programs

Employees of the Indiana DNR will present programs on canines (DNR Conservation Officers K-9 Team), live snakes (the very popular “Snakes Alive, Snake Buffet” seminar), and live birds of prey (Hardy Lake’s Dwight Chamberlain Raptor center).

K-9 X Games presented by Alpha K9 U

K-9 X Games (Shows) are performances by the Alpha K-9 U Crew exhibiting K-9 athleticism and the different Dock-Diving sports disciplines such as X-treme Retrieve, X-treme Vertical, X-treme Air and Big Air!

Travel Café is Back

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

And that’s just the beginning. Visit www.renfroproductions.com for other info regarding Show features & ticket prices. HOW members may contact Kevin Renfro (email: kevin@renfroproductions.com) or Dan Forst (email: dan.forst@yahoo.com, 317-441-7106) for more information.



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
Arcus Hunting - www.arcushunting.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
Battle Horse Knives - www.battlehorseknives.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.gamoussa.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.htent.com
Hunter's Specialties - www.hunterspec.com
Indiana Department of Natural Resources - www.dnr.IN.gov
Indianapolis Zoo - www.indianapoliszoo.com
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
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
Sweet Owen CVB - www.sweetowencvb.org
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
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.xtremehardcoregear.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
_____ 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

Chicago Boat, RV & Sail Show: (www.nmma.org) Chicago, IL	January 10-14, 2018
Cincinnati Travel, Sports & Boat Show: (www.hartproductions.com) Cincinnati, OH	January 12-14 & 17-21, 2018
SHOT Show 2018: (http://shotshow.org) Las Vegas, NV	January 23-26, 2018
Louisville Boat, RV & Sportshow: (www.nmma.org) Louisville, KY	January 24-28, 2018
Chicagoland Fishing, Travel & Outdoor Expo: (www.nmma.org) Schaumburg, IL	January 25-28, 2018
Louisville Deer & Turkey Expo: (www.deerinfo.com) Louisville, KY	January 26-28, 2018
Indianapolis Boat, Sport & Travel Show: (www.renfroproductions.com) Indianapolis, IN	February 16-25, 2018
HOW 2018 Annual Conference: (www.HoosierOutdoorWriters.org) Spring Mill Inn, Spring Mill State Park Mitchell, IN	April 13-15, 2018
OWAA 2018 Annual Conference: (www.OWAA.org) Fort Wayne, IN	June 2-4, 2018

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*.