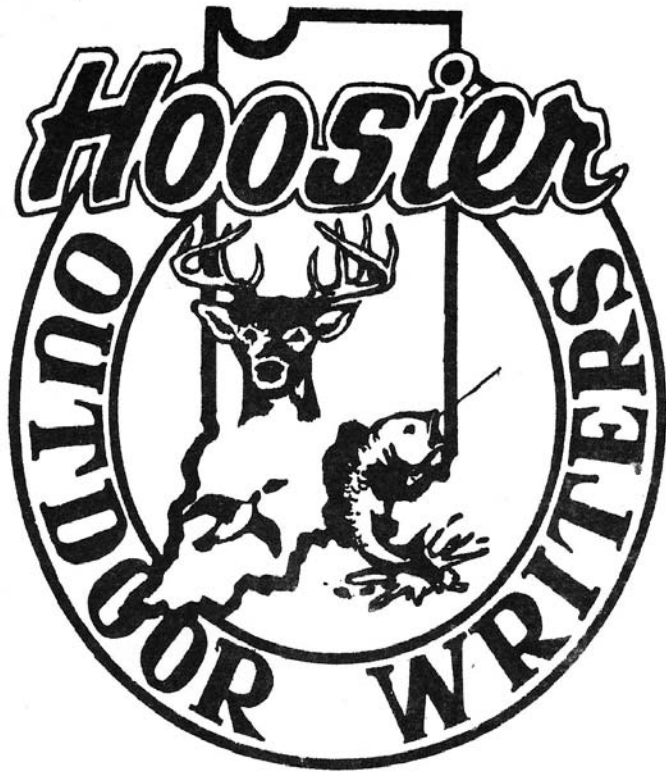


The Blade

January - February 2018

The Official Publication of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers

"Small Stream Brook Trout", 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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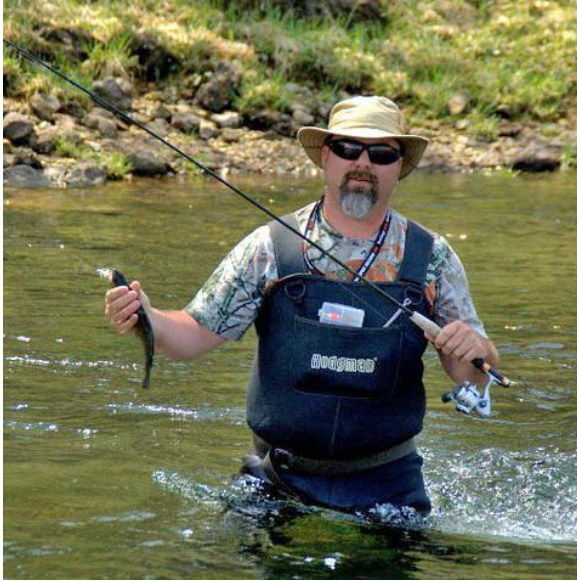
Region 1 – Mike Schoonveld
2019
Region 2 – Phil Seng
2018
Region 3 – Kenny Bayless
2019
Region 4 – Jack Spaulding
2018

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 group of colorful brook trout hold in the current of a crystal clear stream inside Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado as they prepare to spawn. Photo by Tom Berg.



President's Message

by Don Cranfill

It's Show Season

Hello all! I trust everyone had a good New Year. This installment of the president's report should find you midway through Indiana's third most popular season, right behind deer season and the spring spawn: **outdoor show season**. We are fortunate to have several nice shows to choose from. Whether it is one of the shows Ray Rigby is putting on, or Kokomo's Wild Indiana Expo (very nice job, Mr. Martino and friends), the Heartland Fly Fishing Show, The Indiana Deer, Turkey & Waterfowl Expo, or even its big brother, The Ford Indianapolis Boat Sport & Travel Show, there are plenty of options nearly every weekend in the coldest part of the year to

make plans for the warmer weather and see the latest must-have outdoor gadgetry. These shows are just the ones that came to mind in Indiana; there are plenty more to choose from. One can virtually write an outline of the next year's stories and columns after a weekend, or two, of shaking hands and making plans at the area shows.

I was forced to miss a couple shows this season that I was really looking forward to attending. It was for a good cause, though. I went to help a friend and fellow HOW member finish out his new dream lodge in Missouri. If you all haven't seen Brandon Butler's pictures on social media of his new cabin, go take a look. It was an honor to sit at the campfire among some incredible outdoor communicators and discuss the political landscape before today's outdoorsmen, and tell tales of monster bucks and missed hook sets. By day we all had our tasks laid out and I'd like to think we got a considerable amount done. One thing is for sure, you better not be allergic to cedar if you go for a visit. As a matter of fact, no need to visit at all. I hear there isn't a deer, turkey, trout or smallmouth bass within fifty miles of the place, and I'll swear to it (fingers crossed behind back). If you can't reach me this spring it's because there is no cell service near the aforementioned cabin by the stream full of non-existent fish.

One of the things I look forward to is seeing fellow HOW members out and about at these shows. As I hinted to above, John Martino is a key member of the crew who put on the Wild Indiana Expo in Kokomo. It was good to catch up with him. Five minutes of getting the lowdown on the show and I knew all the key booths to look for. As a matter of fact, I met some real nice folks selling hats and shirts to help raise money for the Dark Horse Lodge. It is a planned five cabin, five-bedroom per cabin retreat center located near Kentucky Lake. It will be available to combat veterans at, I believe, no cost. Each of the 25 bedrooms will be named in honor of 25 soldiers who sacrificed their lives from the Marine Corps 3/5, Darkhorse unit. The organization was started by the grieving parents on one of the men. If anyone is looking for a military-themed outdoor story this year I'm sure they'd love to hear from you. They can be reached at www.darkhorselodge.com.

As I wrap up this installment, I eagerly await the Indy Boat, Sport & Travel show. You never know who you will run into, but I look forward to shaking hands with as many of you as possible and hearing about your adventures since we last spoke. One thing is certain, we won't see a booth for Butler's Driftwood Lodge, but if you get a chance to visit, take it. Even if you have to swing a hammer in exchange for three hots and a cot. It is worth the view alone.

I hope your outdoor show season is successful. One good thing is that there is no bag limit during this season. You can bring home as many bags of literature as you can haul out of the field. It is an abundant resource.

See you on the show floor.

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 23.**

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

Annual HOW Conference



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

Make Plans Now To Attend The 2018 Annual HOW Conference At Spring Mill State Park!

The 49th meeting of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers will take place on the weekend of April 13-15, 2018 at Spring Mill State Park near Mitchell, IN. Have you been to a HOW conference lately? This is shaping-up to be another great conference, and since we haven't had a conference here there will be a lot to see. Make your plans to attend now!

The weekend conference activities will begin with the annual HOW Fun Shoot on Friday, April 13. All HOW members who enjoy the shooting sports should consider joining us this year! If you have never shot a clay target, this would be a great opportunity for you to learn. Our shooters are always willing to help newcomers discover and enjoy the sport. Fun

Shoot coordinator Mike Schoonveld is still working on confirming the venue, but we should have more details soon.

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

The main meeting will occur on Saturday, April 14 at the Spring Mill Inn. As usual, you don't have to attend any of the events on Friday if your schedule only allows you to be present at the Saturday meeting. See **page 8** for a copy of this year's conference registration form. We will have some great speakers at the conference, featuring the following presentations (more detailed descriptions of the presentations will be printed in the next issue of *The Blade*).

- **Super-Human Vision with Thermal Imaging Technology**

HOW member and thermal imaging expert Brent Wheat will discuss what it would be like to have super-human vision – with **Forward Looking Infra-Red (FLIR)** gear. FLIR equipment makes use of thermal imaging technology, and Wheat will explain the basics of thermal imaging: history, technology, how it is used, legal issues and recent industry trends.

Wheat will also bring along several thermal imagers that will give the audience a better idea of why this game-changing technology is a hot topic and how content creators can help engage their audience by covering this timely subject. Wheat works for Traditions Media Inc. as a PR consultant for thermal imaging industry leader FLIR, Inc. and has extensive experience working with thermal imaging technology in the hunting and shooting fields.

The photo at right shows Brent Wheat stalking post-season deer with the full-featured Armasight by FLIR Zeus Pro 640.



- Grasslands For Gamebirds and Songbirds Initiative**

Josh Griffin is the Private Lands Program Manager for the DNR. He will be discussing the Grasslands For Gamebirds and Songbirds Initiative (GGS), and the \$1 million in federal funding that the DNR received to help private landowners improve habitat for grassland birds and pollinators.



A loggerhead shrike.

He will talk about the fact that the primary goal of the initiative is to develop and manage grassland and pollinator habitat needed by “At Risk” bird species. He will explain how the GGS will target development of 2,250 acres of grassland habitat on private lands through funds provided through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP), and provide funding for three full-time “Grassland Biologists” to provide technical assistance to private landowners. The initiative will target grassland bird indicator species such as the Henslow’s sparrow, loggerhead shrike, northern bobwhite quail, and ring-necked pheasant. The GGS initiative will provide more habitat, more species diversity, more recreational opportunities, more hunting opportunities and financial

incentives for landowners interested in conservation, improved soil health, improved water quality, and better overall human health!

- Overcoming Disabilities To Achieve Your Dreams**

Kevin Sparks, a retired Marine and President of the Kentucky/Indiana chapter of Paralyzed Veterans of America (KIPVA), will be one of our guest speakers this year. Kevin is a quadriplegic outdoorsman. He recently harvested his first turkey and white-tailed deer. He once said all he wanted to do was go hunting and fishing like his big brother. With some of the new adaptive technology available today, his dream has become a reality.



Kevin Sparks has overcome tremendous disabilities.

“I’ve been fortunate enough to have the assistance of some wonderful volunteers,” said Sparks. “I, along with so many other paralyzed veterans, am able to reach unimaginable limits.”

The Kentucky/Indiana chapter of PVA believes that if veterans can pave the way and make their own dreams come true, they can open the doors for so many men and women who will follow and make their dreams come true as well.

- Cave River Valley Natural Area**

Wyatt Williams and John Maxwell from the Indiana DNR will be our final speakers of the day. They will talk about Cave River Valley Natural Area east of Spring Mill State Park and discuss its history, landscape and populations of different critters that live in and around the caves.

Williams is the interpretive naturalist at Spring Mill State Park and he will bring HOW members up to speed on recent research regarding the federally endangered Indiana bat which lives in these caves. In addition, he will tell us what the future holds for this special place. Maxwell is a DNR staff photographer and he will present an interesting slideshow featuring beautiful and inspiring photos of Cave River Valley and the surrounding area.



John Maxwell (left) and Wyatt Williams (right) will discuss Cave River Valley Natural Area near Spring Mill State Park.

In addition to the speakers and seminars on Saturday, the HOW Board of Directors will convene to discuss the business of the association. Before our traditional buffet lunch, a slate of new officers will be elected during the meeting, also. Of course, we are planning another excellent HOW Raffle this year, too! The raffle at the 2017 meeting at McCormick's Creek State Park was one of the best in recent years, and we are hoping it will be just as good or better at Spring Mill this year! We have already received a great variety of exceptional outdoors products for this year's raffle, including a stunning Henry Golden Boy Silver lever-action rifle, an awesome Mission Archery compound bow, top-of-the-line Alps backpacks, fishing gear, shooting and hunting gear, optics, electronics, hiking boots, archery gear, ammunition and much more. Additional items are coming in every day, too, so start saving your money for tickets now. You must be present to win, so don't miss it!

Another Amazing HOW Raffle!

There will also be opportunities to explore Spring Mill State Park throughout the entire conference weekend, where HOW members and spouses can explore the park's four interpretive facilities: the Pioneer Village, Nature Center, Gus Grissom Memorial and Twin Caves Boat Tour. There should also be plenty of time for some hiking along the park's walking trails, fishing in Spring Mill Lake, bird watching and nature photography.

HOW Fishing Outing on Sunday

We are planning a fishing outing on Sunday, April 15th for HOW members who are interested in participating. Our friends from the local crappie club (Indiana Slab Masters) who have hosted our fishing outing in the past are planning to help out again this year. They will be providing several knowledgeable captains who will take us fishing on nearby Lake Monroe. We will be fishing primarily for crappies, but you never know what else you might catch in this giant reservoir. It is also home to big catfish, trophy-sized bass, wipers and huge walleyes – in addition to enormous crappies. April is prime-time to fish Monroe, too.

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



Bob Raymer from the Indiana Slab Masters holds two nice crappies he caught during last year's fishing outing. He will be one of our guides again this year. Tom Berg photo.

Staying Overnight at Spring Mill SP?

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

HOW CONFERENCE – ROOM RESERVATIONS:

812-849-3534 or 877-LODGES-1 (HOW members must call to use the Group Code).

Group/Promotional Code:

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

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).

Hoosier Outdoor Writers Annual Conference Registration



Where/When: The Spring Mill Inn at Spring Mill State Park, located near 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: _____

Spouse's Name (if attending: _____

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 15 only. After March 15, 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
2142 Nondorf Street
Dyer, IN 46311-1829**

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

Hoosier Outdoor Writers Conference Activities Registration

Please register for the Pre-Conference and Post-Conference activities listed below (Friday, April 13, 2018 and Sunday, April 15, 2018). The only activity that requires an advance payment is the guided Sunday fishing trip, but please indicate the number of people planning to attend each activity so we can plan accordingly. Note that activities are reserved for registered conference attendees only.

Contact information:

Name: _____

Spouse's Name (if attending): _____

Mailing Address: _____

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

Email Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

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

		Number Attending	Shotgun Gauge (20ga or 12ga)
Friday Fun Shoot*:		X _____	_____
Friday evening Barbecue:	FREE!	X _____	
Sunday Guided Fishing**:	\$25.00 each	X _____	= \$ _____
<u>TOTAL:</u>			\$ _____

- * HOW members will receive complimentary ammunition from Fun Shoot sponsor, Winchester Ammunition. The fee for the Fun Shoot will be payable at the Gun Club.
- ** The Sunday guided fishing trip will include a guide, boat and tackle. HOW members will only need to bring their fishing license, jacket, drinks, camera, etc.

If attending the Friday BBQ and/or the Fun Shoot only, you may email the completed form. If fishing on Sunday, please print this registration form and mail it along with your check for each person attending (make checks payable to "HOW"). Send to:

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

Registration forms and payment must be received by March 24, 2018 at the LATEST.

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: _____

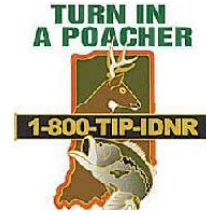
Where published/aired: _____

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:

HOW past president and DNR staff photographer John Maxwell has been busy photographing owls, lately. In the last issue of *The Blade* we featured two photos of a beautiful snowy owl that he took in late December. He has also recently snapped shots of barn owls and a barred owl. In this issue we have a couple photos of **Short-Eared Owls** (*Asio flammeus*) that he was able to take in the late afternoon a few weeks ago.

“I was heading home from Hillenbrand Fish & Wildlife Area on a recent January evening,” said Maxwell, “using back roads though some reclaimed coal mine land in Sullivan and Vigo counties, while keeping my eyes peeled for wildlife. About an hour before sundown, a dozen or so short-eared owls began flying about in small groups.”

“Short-eared owls are different than other owls in the Midwest,” continued Maxwell. “They are somewhat sociable and seem to roost during the day on the ground in brushy swales. They also appear to favor hunting in the wide-open, prairie-type treeless areas like Kankakee Sands or reclaimed mine land. They don’t often hunt from a perch, but fly in a search pattern sort of like gulls, while looking for small rodents. To me, their call sounds like a little ‘buzz-bark’.” Short-eared owls are very cool!



Outdoor Indiana magazine

Above: A pair of short-eared owls watch the landscape from a decaying stump.
Below: A bright-eyed short-eared owl soars silently and effortlessly while searching for mice and voles.



Outdoor Indiana magazine



Interesting Bird Sightings in the Great Outdoors



Report from Don Cranfill:

“Scott Weaver and I visited Goose Pond this past fall,” said Cranfill. “We saw a lot of birds, including sandhill cranes, swans and snow geese. The star of the show, though, was the extremely tall and stately



Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*). At dawn, the sandhill cranes moved into the freshly picked crop fields and scoured them for breakfast before resuming their journey.”

“Cranes criss-crossed the sky in the early morning as they moved to their chosen grazing grounds before continuing their journey south. It is a unique experience to stand across a field from a flock of birds who are tall enough to look you directly in the eye.”

“We also saw a pair of **Bald Eagles** (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) sitting in a tree, warming themselves in the morning sun near their nest at Goose Pond. They were constantly scanning the terrain as the morning sun burned off the thick fog. See the next page for more info about our trip to Goose Pond.”

Report from Tom Berg:

“Winter seems like a strange time to see gulls along the Lake Michigan shoreline,” observed Tom Berg, “but they are actually here all winter. Last year I was birding along the Whiting lakeshore and saw a large group of gulls, including this one (at right). Although they all look the same at first, you can see that this one is a **Ring-billed Gull** (*Larus delawarensis*) by the black ring around its yellow beak.”

Most gulls are white with black-tipped wings, but ring-billed gulls can be identified by that black ring. Herring gulls, on the other hand, have a red spot on their lower beak. Of course, you must be careful when identifying gulls because juvenile herring gulls (for example) look very similar to ring-billed gulls and have black markings on their bills, too. There are lots of other gull species, such as California gulls, laughing gulls, and at least twenty others.



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.

Goose Pond Fish & Wildlife Area and Visitor Center

Text and photos by Don Cranfill

Recently, fellow HOW member Scott Weaver and I took a predawn trip to Greene County to witness a twice-yearly event, the migration of sandhill cranes and snow geese. As luck would have it, Scott had gotten his new Subaru that week and this would serve as the perfect destination for its maiden voyage.



For those unfamiliar with Goose Pond, it is an 8,000+ acre marsh and prairie restoration effort in southwestern Indiana. In 2005, the state and several conservation organizations finalized the deal for the DNR to assume control of this bird watcher's paradise. In 2016 they added a 6,000 square foot visitors center which features an incredible panoramic observation deck and utilizes sustainable and high efficiency materials.



The way most folks enjoy the area is by a combination of auto and foot touring. The area has many car pull-offs where one can park and set their camera up within a few feet to get some amazing pictures of both the migrating and resident birds. There is an abundance of other wildlife that regularly pauses for the lens, as well. For those more adventurous souls there are plenty of walking paths to get you up close for even better viewing. On the day Scott and I went we never ventured more than about fifty feet from the car and still managed to see many

photo worthy scenes. All that is required to access the property is to register at one of the several sign-in stations that are located on the property. Keep in mind that hunting is allowed on the property so be mindful of the presence of hunters in blinds.

During our trip there was a very dense, but patchy, blanket of fog covering the area. This initially seemed like it was going to be a huge hindrance, but it soon proved to work in our favor. The fog caused the birds to 'hold tight' longer in the morning. They seemed to take flight in shifts as the fog patches drifted across the marsh leaving open, blue sky periods. The fog also created a dream-like atmosphere for many of our photographs.



Outdoor Writers Enjoy Treasure Hunt

by Rich Creason

My wife Susie and I recently returned from a South Eastern Outdoor Press Association (SEOPA) annual conference on the shores of Kentucky Lake. Two years ago, the conference was held in Eufala, Alabama. While there, we put on a metal detector hunt for all the attendees. Apparently the guests liked our event, because the Board of Directors asked us if we would do it again this year.



Rich Creason with a few of his favorite metal detector finds from over the years.

I'm glad they asked us several months in advance, since it takes a while to prepare for one of these treasure hunts. One of the most important items on the agenda was to decide the "when and where" we would be putting on the event. Having been to this area in the past, we knew what we thought was the ideal spot. Just about a half mile from our conference center was a sand beach on the lake. We could clean the buried trash and replace it with the wheat pennies, buffalo nickels, and 200 prize tokens for the attendees to find.

Wrong! The beach is in a KY State Park. We were told only KY State Police were allowed to use a metal detector in any of their parks. So, we had to find another spot. The local Tourism Bureau folks who were putting on the conference got the OK for us to hold the treasure hunt somewhere on the grounds of the property at the shooting range where our Shooting Day would be held. We went out a couple days ahead to scout out a good location.

The entire grounds was an old farm with all the accompanying metal scrap and trash in the ground. We finally found a location where not many "Beeps" were heard when we swung our machines. We took our flags and marked the field off. The hunt was to be Saturday after lunch and we would "plant" the field with targets an hour or so in advance.

The weather was great. Most of the attendees would be available since the guys like to try out all the weapons supplied by the various manufacturers on the site. Also, lunch would be held right next to our hunt field, and few outdoor people like to miss a free meal.

To promote our event, we put out a large gold pan with a sign telling all conference guests to drop their business cards in for a free drawing before dinner a couple days before our hunt. We collected over 200 cards. The drawing was held, thanks to several manufacturers who donated some great products to help us. New metal detectors were given to us by Garrett Electronics (www.garrett.com), Fishers (First Texas) Detectors (www.metaldetector.com/fisher/detectors), and Minelab Detectors (www.minelab.com). We also received pinpointers from White's Electronics (www.whiteselectronics.com) and from Minelab.



SEOPA members using metal detectors to search for treasures and tokens during the recent SEOPA conference in Kentucky.

(continued next page)

Most folks who use a detector on a regular basis know the value of a pinpointer. But outdoorsmen who don't own a detector can also benefit from owning a one. Anyone who has shot a waterfowl, upland bird, rabbit or squirrel, cleaned and cooked it, and put it on the table has probably bitten into a piece of shot from the pellets which hit the animal. Run a pinpointer over one of these critters and it will sound off if any of these tooth breakers are still in your meal.

Western and Eastern Treasures, Lost Treasure, and American Digger magazines all donated subscriptions to their publications to offer as prizes for our event. Our local detector club, East Central Indiana Treasure Hunters and some of its individual members gave us cash and prizes to help with our hunt. The Federation of Metal Detector and Archeological Clubs and FMDAC President Mark Schussler, contributed also. Friends offered Civil War relics, coin sets, and vials of gold flakes. Numerous hats, shirts, and detector related items were received from White's, Garrett's, and Minelab, plus we acquired untold other items from elsewhere to help promote our hobby.

Those enjoying our treasure hunt included several youngsters, folks in their seventh and eighth decade, one legally blind gentleman, a lady on a walker, and several members of the hunt club who wandered by and wanted to try out our machines. As we had six detectors searching the ground for about four hours, we think about 150 folks participated in our free hunt. All went home with some old coins and/or nice prizes.

At dinner that night, we had many folks come to us and thank us for putting on the treasure hunt. Several expressed an interest in buying their own detector and asked for advice. We have received several emails in the few days we have been home from Kentucky telling us what they had won, asking questions about detecting, even wanting to know if we gave lessons. I actually sent one of our underwater machines home with a guy who had dropped his wedding ring in the lake. I gave him a quick explanation of how it worked and added a sand scoop to help with his search. He said it was in a small private lake in only three feet of water. He told me the owner would be drawing the water level down this winter, and if he didn't find it now, he would go back out when the area he lost his ring would be out of the water.



This SEOPA member shows that you are never too old to get outside and have some fun using a metal detector. All photos for this article provided by Rich Creason.

This is the fourth treasure hunt we have put on for outdoor writer's groups. The first was for the Outdoor Writers of America in Wisconsin, then one for the Association of Great Lakes Outdoor Writers in Iowa, followed two years ago by a hunt for SEOPA in Alabama. From the response we have received at these events, I think we have made more than a few converts to our hobby. One lady said her husband had a detector at home in the closet and she was going to make him take it out, put new batteries in it and she was going to use it!

If You Like To Hike...Try A Volkswalk

by Teena Ligman

Outdoor writers are well acquainted with most outdoor sports, but they may not be familiar with volkswalks. This international sport is primarily for walkers, although some walks include routes for bicycles. It began in Germany but has now gone worldwide. You can find volkswalks on every continent and throughout the USA. As you travel, you can find volkswalks almost anywhere. These hikes allow you to see interesting parts of a town or countryside. In Indiana, we have a network of year-round volkswalks, and each year the various volkswalk clubs put on traditional walks or one-time daily events. Many of these events serve free brat lunches and have a festive and fun atmosphere.

Spring Mill State Park has a year-round volkswalk, and it has been voted one of the “Top 10 Volkswalks in America”. To start the walk, go to the desk at Spring Mill Inn and request the Hiking Box. Within the box are folders with maps for a 5K (3.1 mile) or 10K (6.2 mile) walk. There are awards which can be purchased for this walk, or you can just sign up and then walk for free. We do appreciate people signing in, so we know how many people have used the trail. People who regularly do volkswalks have books and use the stamps in the box to stamp their book. For the novice, you can just use the map, hike the trail, and enjoy the outdoors.

If you are interested in hiking another (different) volkswalk, the local Bedford hiking club sponsors a second volkswalk in the town of Bedford. The starting point for that walk is at the Hardees restaurant on 16th Street. This walk is also a 5K or 10K, and both hikes wind through the historic part of town and feature prominent limestone features.



Here are a few members of a recent group hike (volkswalk) at Spring Mill State Park in Lawrence County. Photo courtesy of Teena Ligman.

If you are looking for some good exercise and want a chance to hike, check out one of our volkswalks. These walks wander through some of the most scenic areas of Indiana, and they showcase our state’s natural beauty.

If you get hooked, go to the Indiana volkswalking website to find other walks around the state. The web address of the Indiana Volkssport Association is: www.avaclubs.org/INVA/.

We will be happy to have you join us!

NOSTALGIC ADVENTURES

A Memorable Wild Boar Hunt

by Bob Jennings

Former HOW member Roger Hunter and I went on a Wild Boar Hunt in 1978 to Tennessee. I remember we were the only two hunters at the lodge while we were there. The two guides that took us out gave us a wild and bumpy ride in their Jeep to the hunting area. They had dogs that they turned loose and they chased the wild boars and got them cornered so we could get a shot at them.

I got mine first and then the other guide took off with the dogs and Roger over a hill and out of sight of me. I heard a lot of barking by the dogs and then one shot rang out. Roger got his wild boar. His was a lot larger than the one I shot. I remember Roger saying “There were more hogs than dogs!” when he shot his wild boar.

The guides told us about the wild boar charging and a couple of tales of one guy that had a semi-auto rifle and got the boar on the last shot when it was within a few feet of him...

I used a Winchester Big Bore 94 in 375 Winchester caliber and I also carried a Ruger Blackhawk in 357 Magnum. Roger used a Winchester Model 94 in 32 Winchester Special. The guides carried no firearms...?????

We had the boars butchered and packaged right there at the lodge. I had my boar head mounted. Both wild boars were the Russian Blues.



Bob Jennings poses with the two boars that he and Roger Hunter harvested in Tennessee back in 1978. Photo courtesy of Bob Jennings.

I will say the meat was wild and tough and when cooked got the scent of the meat into the curtains, into the clothes in the closet and into the carpet! All in all though, Roger and I did have a fine time after the hunt, talking and re-living the day's hunt. We also talked of going on a fishing trip for stripers the next spring, which we did. As Gene Hill once said, “It's the being there,” and that's what really counts when two comrades get together for an outdoor adventure.

DNR News

Division of Fish & Wildlife

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



For immediate release: Feb. 1, 2018

Indiana DNR Division of Forestry Receives Two Forest Sustainability Certifications

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry recently received sustainable-forest re-certifications from two third-party organizations: Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC) and Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI).

This means that, for the 11th year, the DNR Division of Forestry has passed the gold standard for third-party certification for sustainable forest management. Both North American and international certifying bodies evaluated the entire forest-management program, which included wildlife species, water quality, recreation, harvesting and overall diversity of the program. The audit reports can be found at dnr.IN.gov/forestry/7532.htm.

“DNR is pleased to have earned these re-certifications regarding our sustainable forest management processes. We are committed to standards and practices that will ensure future generations of Hoosiers will enjoy our state’s natural resources,” said Cameron Clark, director of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

The Division of Forestry was required to meet rigorous standards put forth by both certifying organizations. The FSC report concluded that “The certificate holder has demonstrated continued overall conformance to the applicable Forest Stewardship Council standards. The annual audit team recommends that the certificate be sustained, subject to subsequent annual audits.”

About FSC

FSC is an independent, non-profit organization that protects forests for future generations. FSC is an open, membership-led organization that sets standards under which forests and companies are certified. Their membership consists of three equally weighted chambers: environmental, economic, and social, to ensure the balance and the highest level of integrity (us.fsc.org/en-us).

About SFI

SFI Inc. is an independent, nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting sustainable forest management. We work with conservation groups, local communities, resource professionals, landowners, and countless other organizations and individuals who share our passion for responsible forest management (sfiprogram.org).

About DNR

The mission of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources is to protect, enhance, preserve, and wisely use natural, cultural, and recreational resources for the benefit of Indiana's citizens through professional leadership, management, and education.

Media contact: Tara Wolf, Director of Communications, tmwolf@dnr.IN.gov, 317-232-4003.

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

Troy McCormick Enjoys Trail Camera Photos

HOW Vice President Troy McCormick loves hunting, especially deer hunting. In fact, he bought a trail camera recently and placed it on the property where he hunts so that he can get a look at the resident deer, particularly at night when they are most active. He was hoping the camera would also give him a better idea of how many deer were around and if any large bucks were present.

After last fall's deer season, we think McCormick was happy with his purchase. It showed him plenty of deer, and some trophy-sized deer, too. He was lucky enough to harvest one of those trophy bucks by the end of deer season.

But whitetail deer are not the only animals that were captured on film (OK, digital) by his trail camera. There was evidently plenty of other critters walking around and exploring the woods nearby, also.

Take a look at the photos to the right. In the top photo, a full-grown coyote sneaks in to sniff the ground. We're not sure if McCormick deposited some scent or lure there for the deer, but that spot must have smelled pretty interesting!

In the next photo, an opossum waddled into the frame to check out the same spot. In the next shot, a well-furred raccoon is sniffing around the area, no doubt looking for food.

In the final frame we get the biggest surprise of all – a cottontail rabbit! It's a good thing he wasn't there when the coyote showed up or he may have become dinner.

As you can see from the time and date stamp at the bottom of the photos, these animals each visited this spot on different nights. We are pretty sure some deer showed up, too, but McCormick wanted to share these other wildlife photos. We definitely enjoyed them – thanks for sharing!



Vikki Trout Contends With Dogs During Deer Season

“I cannot deny that several nice 8-point bucks passed by within easy bow range this year,” confessed HOW board of directors member Vikki Trout. “On one occasion, a buck I refer to as ‘Tank’ was hot on the trail of a doe, but he never slowed. The excitement of seeing him working the edge of a food plot had my heart skipping beats. I did not get the opportunity to release an arrow that day, but had hopes he would offer another chance later. That never happened.”

“The rut came and went without a single harvest. I had spoken to other hunters and heard this season seemed odd to them, also. One hunter whom I trust said he was struggling to even see antlers, let alone harvest a buck.”

“I felt fortunate that there were still bucks hanging around my 51 acres after the rut and thought Tank or another buck would show up at the food plots to replenish themselves.”

“Then disaster struck. My neighbor’s guard dog decided my acreage was his and he would protect it from all intruders – including me. After hunting one evening, I had climbed down from my stand and headed to the pickup truck. Upon arriving I was suddenly confronted by two dogs, and one of them lunged at me growling and showing his teeth. Since it was dark, I didn’t know the dogs were in front of my truck. I yelled, and both dogs decided to head back to their house and leave me alone. I have since learned the big white dog is a Great Pyrenees. The problem with this Pyrenees is that he thinks all of Crawford and Orange County belong to him.”



Vikki Trout with her southern Indiana doe.

“I decided to give the area and my nerves a break and hunted on a friend’s property. It was so wonderful to go hunting and not fear a dog attack. However, with only one week left in Indiana’s season, I headed back to my Crawford/Orange County property. I rely heavily on venison to get me through the year and was having no luck at my friend’s.”

“I knew I would have to cut the chain that holds my padlock because the key had previously broken off in the lock. After working on it with bolt cutters for nearly an hour, I was ready to give up and go home. But I refused to allow this lock to get the best of me. As I worked on the chain, I kept my ears and eyes open for the two dogs. They never showed and eventually the chain gave in to the bolt cutters!”

“I had only been in the stand about 30 minutes when a doe with one fawn appeared. Then I saw a huge doe coming up behind them. The doe and fawn headed to the other side of the food plot and my Savage Axis 243 caliber delivered the Federal Premium 100 grain Nosler Partition to the vital lung area. She barely flinched, then dropped. When I climbed down and approached the deer, I was absolutely amazed at the amount of blood on the ground. This was the first year I shot the Nosler Partition shell and assure you, if I need to gun hunt next year it will be my choice of shells again!”

“A quick thank-you prayer and it was time to load the deer into the truck. But, before next season, I need to find something that can get a deer from the ground into the bed of a pickup or haul the trailer behind me every time I hunt. I won’t bore you with all the details, but suffice it to say, had a stranger on her way home from work not stopped and helped me, I would still be trying to figure out how to get the doe into the truck bed.”

Jack Spaulding Is Almost “Better Than New”

Long-time HOW member and Past President Jack Spaulding made another hospital visit in early February, but this stint was much more fruitful and far less stressful than the last one. Here is Jack’s explanation:



“Thanks for all of your prayers and well wishes,” said a grateful Spaulding. “I underwent a very successful heart surgery on Monday, February 5th, which put an end to my A-Fib and A-Flutter I have had for the past 12 years. The surgery was the second half of the Maize Ablation I originally had on May 16, 2017. The Great Physician, through the hands of a very skillful heart surgeon, put an end to my affliction! God is good!”

“I was actually allowed to drive a little on Friday. I’m still sore and I’ve picked up a few more physical scars to add to my collection which by now, has become pretty extensive. Praise God I am here to show them! Back to work full speed on Monday!”

Larry LaGrange Lands New Outdoors Column

HOW member Larry LaGrange has begun writing a twice-monthly column for the Herald, the local newspaper in Jasper. “I’m not making much money but that’s not too big of a deal,” he said. “I’ve enjoyed meeting some new people in researching stories about local hunting and fishing subjects. The response has been gratifying. Some of my old high school students have even sent me congratulatory messages of support. My poker club wants me to sign copies of the newspaper. I told them I would be happy to do that for a small fee. They thought I was serious for awhile. Just trying to get back some of the money I’ve lost to them!”

“Starting this past October, I’ve covered fishing in the first three columns and then a quail conservation club for the last one. Future topics are a spring youth turkey hunt project put on by a local club and a Patoka wildlife specialist. The subject ideas are pretty much unlimited.”

“Thinking about the column keeps my mental wheels turning and gives me a creative pursuit as winter sets in. And, it’s kind of fun to share ideas about hunting and fishing, and when possible, to give credit to people who are working hard to maintain fish and game populations or provide opportunities for us to pursue our beloved sports. They are unsung heroes who deserve but don’t often get recognized.”

“This picture of me accompanied my first column. This nice smallmouth was taken wade fishing with my youngest son in White Lick Creek near Avon. He had told me of the nice smallies he was catching up there and I believe him now. If the summer has enough rain to get some depth to the creek, this is a place to check out. Small crankbaits and jigs work well.”



Larry LaGrange admires a nice smallmouth bass that he caught last fall from White Lick Creek. Photo courtesy of Larry LaGrange.

Tom Berg Scores Indiana Fish-of-the-Year Honors With Stream Coho

HOW Executive Director Tom Berg from Dyer, IN was recently awarded Fish-of-the-Year honors for a fish he caught during the fall salmon run of 2018. In Indiana, the largest fish of each species reported to the DNR each year (short of a new state record) is awarded “Fish-of-the-Year” status. Berg’s winning fish was a 26.5” coho salmon.



“I don’t seem to have as much time for fishing as I had in the past,” said Berg. “Each year it feels like I fish less and less – and that’s not a good thing. But this fall I knew we were getting a good salmon run, so I made a point of heading to one of the local creeks to try my luck. Unfortunately, most of my usual spots on Salt Creek near Valparaiso are now off-limits; a new landowner has posted my favorite stretch of creek ‘No Trespassing’. My other favorite area is now off-limits due to Homeland Security postings.”

“Luckily, I found one small stretch of water that still allowed public access, and I saw several salmon swim by as I stood on the bank and scanned the water for signs of fish. I tied on one of my favorite Mepps Aglia spinners and within a few minutes I spotted another pod of two or three coho salmon swimming upstream towards me.”

“I cast the spinner out and timed it so it swung right in front of the lead fish. The water was shallow enough that I saw the salmon’s back create a sudden wake as it sped up to overtake the lure. My adrenaline started pumping and I had to wait for what seemed an eternity for the salmon to actually catch the spinner and hit it.”

“When the salmon hit, I set the hook and held on as it tore upstream and headed for a small logjam. Luckily, I was able to turn the fish and bring it back towards the bank where I was standing. After two more short runs I had the fish flopping around in the shallows at my feet. Success!”

“It has been several years since I submitted a fish to the Indiana Fish-of-the-Year program, so I decided to enter the contest this year. I also submitted a good-sized channel catfish that I caught from Patoka Lake, but it was beaten by a bigger fish caught by an angler in Vanderburgh County. I’m glad I entered the coho salmon!”



Hall of Fame Induction and INCCA Award For Mike Schoonveld

HOW member and past-president Mike Schoonveld is a member of many groups, clubs and organizations. One of them is the Indiana North Coast Charter Association (INCCA), which is a professional U.S. Coast Guard-licensed fishing charter association operating from northwest Indiana's Lake Michigan ports. These captains fish the waters of Lake Michigan in Indiana, Illinois and Michigan from March to December in search of trophy trout and salmon.

As reported in the recent September-October issue of *The Blade*, Schoonveld was recently inducted into the Fresh Water Fishing Hall of Fame, which is based in Hayward, WI. The members of INCCA got wind of it, and at a recent INCCA meeting he was also presented with a special award from that association to mark the occasion.



INCCA Vice President Capt. Bob Schell (left) presents Capt. Mike Schoonveld (right) with a plaque commemorating his induction into the Fresh Water Fishing Hall of Fame.

“I would like to extend my congratulations to my friend and fellow INCCA member, Capt. Mike Schoonveld, on his recent induction into the Fresh Water Fishing Hall of Fame,” said INCCA Vice President Capt. Bob Schell. “Thank you for your tireless efforts in promoting sportfishing.”

Congratulations again, Mike!



Jeff Hammond Harvests More Than Just Deer

HOW member Jeff Hammond spends quite a bit of time hunting in his ‘new’ home state of South Carolina. Besides deer hunting there is squirrel hunting and a slightly larger quarry: wild hogs. Last summer he harvested a large wild boar with his rifle and he plans to shoot more to stock up his freezer.

Like many hunters, he keeps an eye on the larger game with trail cameras. “Trail Cam #1 is about 75 yards from my house and Trail Cam #2 is about five miles away on some more of our land where I shot my deer this year,” he said. “After deer season I switch over to squirrels and more hogs. I also have a raccoon issue around here (I’ve seen as many as nine in one trail cam shot) and I plan to trap a number of them. I’m going to learn how to preserve the hides and try to make something with them. We will see how that goes!”



Michael Ellis Visits Cuba But Doesn't Get To Go Fishing

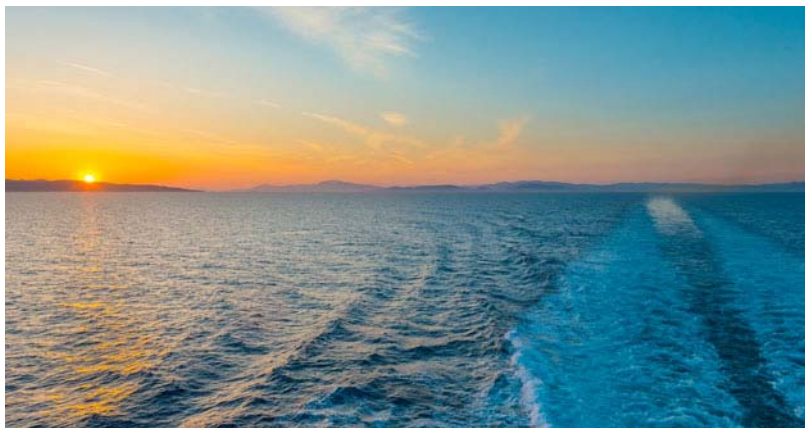
HOW member Michael Ellis retired from the DNR and is now enjoying life to the fullest. He and his wife Willie like to travel, and they recently scratched the travel itch by booking a winter cruise to warmer climates.

“This last December, Willie and I took a 12-day holiday cruise of the Caribbean,” reported Ellis. “We had been to some of the ports of call before, but what intrigued me was this cruise was making a two-day stop in Havana, Cuba. After that we would sail to the other side of Cuba to the cities of Cinfuegos and Trinidad.”



“While I was attending Indiana University years ago, I took some journalism classes at the Ernie Pyle School of Journalism. Those courses made me realize I wanted to know more about writing and especially about writers. Writers like hunter and angler, Ernest Hemingway. Hemingway was a master of the simple sentence to convey complex thoughts and ideas.”

“I thought, what a perfect story to write for *The Blade*. I could write a first-hand fishing story about Ernest Hemingway, who lived, for a time, in Havana, Cuba! Unfortunately, although we saw



Hemingway's favorite Cuban bar and also the one in Key West (Sloppy Joe's), the People to People program didn't permit us to go off the track that was strictly defined by the U.S. and the Cuban government. So much for my hoping to do a Hemingway fishing story. His home was about 10 miles outside of Havana.”

“While we enjoyed our visit to Cuba, it is a country in need of help. The entire island's infrastructure is in very bad shape. The 60,000+ classic cars that are still running in Havana, however, are amazing!”

Membership Changes and New Contact Info

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

- Dan Graves:** Membership status changed from **Active** to **Retired**.
- Bill Keaton:** Membership status changed from **Active** to **Retired**.
- Mike Lunsford:** Corrected phone number: 765-548-2421.
- Brian Waldman:** Membership status changed from **Associate** to **Active**.

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

Unusual Nature Photos from the Hoosier Outdoors Sponsored by Widener's Reloading & Shooting Supply

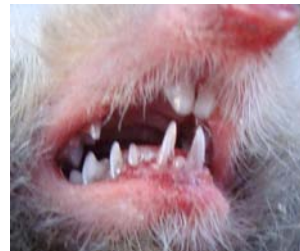
One Eastern Mole Can Wreak Havoc in Yards and Lawns



Close-up



Original

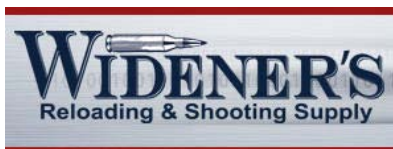


The “What is it?” photo from the last issue was a little easier to identify than previous ones, since a total of eight (8) HOW members got it right this time. Rich Creason, Mike Schoonveld, Brandon Butler, Bill Keaton, Troy McCormick, Phil Seng, Vikki Trout and Gary Redmon each had the correct answer. When we drew a name at

random for the broadheads and hats donated by **Ramcat Broadheads**, Vikki Trout was the winner. Congrats, Vikki!

As you can see in the photo above, the mystery creature for this issue was an eastern mole (*Scalopus aquaticus*). These small mammals are actually voracious predators, hunting and eating earthworms, grubs, insects, slugs – almost anything they can find while tunneling in their subterranean domain. They always seem to be hungry, often eating 25 to 50% of their body weight each day. Nightcrawlers are a favorite food item.

Eastern moles usually grow to about six inches long and are covered with a light gray fur. They have tiny eyes, and since they live underground they rely mainly on their senses of hearing and touch. They can hear surprisingly well and their plump nose is sensitive enough to help them feel prey as they tunnel forward. Moles have extremely large front feet – just look at the huge claws on the mole's front feet in the photo above! They use those large feet to dig and tunnel efficiently.



For this issue, our friends at **Widener's Reloading & Shooting Supply** 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 a \$100 gift card. 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. You won't see it in your back yard, and it is only found in specific locations in the state. Have you ever seen a color pattern that looks like this?



This creature may be easy for some people to identify and harder for others. Do you know of any Hoosier creatures that look like this? As usual, you must identify the exact species. If you think it's a species of bee, for example, go ahead and guess “honeybee” (of course, it's not a honeybee). But if you think you know the answer, send an email to thomas.berg@comcast.net. If you're right, you'll be eligible for this issue's prize.



As mentioned, **Widener's Reloading & Shooting Supply** has donated a \$100 gift card for the HOW member who guesses the right answer to this issue's “What Is It?” nature question. The winner will receive the gift card good for anything on their website, from reloading supplies and accessories to ammunition (see www.wideners.com). If multiple people guess correctly, we'll draw a winner at random from the group of correct entries.

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.

Shurhold Industries Provides Quality Products and Busts Fishing Myths!

Palm City, FL: Shurhold Industries designs and manufactures the most innovative specialty care and accessory products available for the marine, RV, and automotive industries. As the original creator of the “One Handle Does It All” system, Shurhold maintains the highest standard of quality and service for all of their products.

Advanced designs combined with top quality materials and meticulous workmanship make Shurhold the premier detailing company. Customers worldwide search out and use Shurhold products in the care and maintenance of their most precious possessions. For them, Shurhold is “Clean-N-Simple!”

In addition to all of the products offered on the Shurhold website, there is a section with short video tips and hints that outdoorsmen will find helpful and useful. The tips cover a myriad of topics: cleaning your boat or RV, storing boat anchors, offshore safety tips, marine electronics care – the list goes on and on. One interesting little video is titled “Are bananas actually bad luck on a fishing boat?” Many HOW members have experienced the “No Bananas” rule first-hand on boats, so we thought it would be fun to provide a link to the Shurhold video:

Are Bananas Actually Bad Luck on a Fishing Boat?

Fact or Fiction? It’s tough to say exactly where the origin of the Bananas bad reputation began, but it’s been around for centuries and many captains swear by the golden “No Bananas” rule.

It’s no secret the Shurhold team loves being on the water and fishing for species like dolphin, wahoo, tuna, and other pelagic fish. We’re usually very serious in this pursuit, but today is a different story.

In an effort to either prove (or disprove) the this ancient myth, we take a bundle of bananas, a camera, and a little ingenuity with us to see if we can catch a few fish using the bananas as bait. Do we succeed? Watch and find out...

Until next time, Shurhold is here to help keep your boat, car, truck or RV Clean-N-Simple.

<https://shurhold.com/article/marine/are-bananas-actually-bad-luck-on-a-fishing-boat/>



Visit www.shurhold.com for more information about Shurhold marine, RV and automotive products. HOW members may contact Shurhold’s customer relations expert Nicole Veldhuis (email: nicole@shurhold.com) for more info.



HOW Supporting Member News

Yamaha Marine Group Wins Award For Innovative New Website

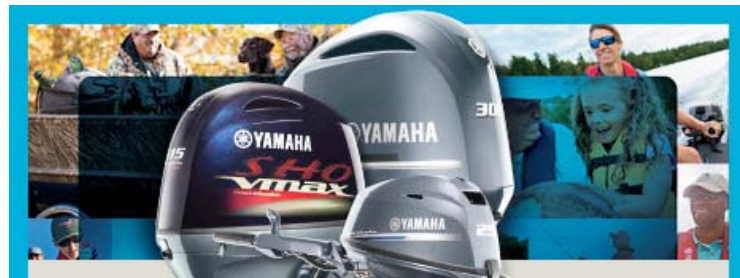
Kennesaw, GA: Late last fall, the Association of Marketing and Communication Professionals (AMCP) honored Yamaha Marine Group with a 2017 MarCom Platinum Award in the digital media category for the newly launched website YamahaOutboards.com. Judges reviewed more than 6,000 entries before selecting the 2017 winners.



“Yamaha Marine is honored to receive the 2017 MarCom Award for digital media. When we set out to redesign the new site, we wanted the look and feel to be more lifestyle driven, conveying the joy of boating,” said Frank Wilhelm, Advertising Manager, Yamaha Marine Group. “The site has easy access to information about our outboards, dealers and performance bulletins. We are pleased to be recognized by AMCP, and we look forward to adding more user-friendly features to the site in the future.”

YamahaOutboards.com leverages technology to work harder for site visitors. New features include smarter Performance Bulletin and Dealer Locator sections; an all-new modular design with improved content flow; desktop, tablet and mobile device compatibility and responsiveness; and a simpler, more visually driven navigation to reach desired content in fewer clicks. The site’s navigation was designed after careful analysis of the most visited pages from the previous website, ensuring the design is effective and easier to navigate for all users.

The MarCom Awards honor excellence in marketing and communication while recognizing the creativity, hard work and



generosity of industry professionals. MarCom is administered by the Association of Marketing and Communication Professionals (AMCP). The organization consists of several thousand marketing, communication, advertising, public relations, digital and web professionals. AMCP administers recognition programs provides judges, and rewards outstanding achievement and services to the community.

Yamaha Marine products are marketed throughout the United States and around the world. Yamaha Marine Group, based in Kennesaw, Ga., supports its 2,000 U.S. dealers and boat builders with marketing, training and parts for Yamaha’s full line of products and strives to be the industry leader in reliability, technology and customer service. Yamaha Marine is the only outboard brand to have earned NMMA®’s C.S.I. Customer Satisfaction Index award every year since its inception.

Go to: www.YamahaOutboards.com to visit the new website.

HOW members may contact Neal Wheaton at Wilder+Wheaton for Yamaha Marine Group (email: neal.wheaton@gmail.com or call: 404-317-0698) for more info.



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.nikon sportoptics.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

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

NRA 2018 Annual Meetings:

(www.nra.org)

Dallas, TX

May 3-6, 2018

OWAA 2018 Annual Conference:

(www.OWAA.org)

Fort Wayne, IN

June 2-4, 2018

POMA 2018 Annual Conference:

(www.professionalooutdoormedia.org)

Lincoln, NE

June 12-15, 2018

ICAST Show 2018:

(www.ICASTfishing.org)

Orlando, FL

July 10-13, 2018

AGLOW 2018 Annual Conference:

(www.aglowinfo.org)

Bismarck-Mandan, ND

September 10-13, 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*.