

# The Blade

2018 Post-Conference Issue

May - June 2018

The Official Publication of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers



"One of Spring Mill State Park's Expert Fishermen", 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.

## Hoosier Outdoor Writers Executive Council

### Board Chairman

Don Cranfill  
3719 Pleasant Lake Dr.  
Indianapolis, IN 46227  
[themadpaddler@yahoo.com](mailto:themadpaddler@yahoo.com)

### President

Troy McCormick  
3604 Sea Pine  
Jeffersonville, IN 47130  
[troy@naturalconcepts.net](mailto:troy@naturalconcepts.net)

### Vice President

Brent Wheat  
2125 Witt Rd.  
Lebanon, IN 46052  
[btwheat@wildindiana.com](mailto:btwheat@wildindiana.com)

### Executive Director

Tom Berg  
2142 Nondorf St.  
Dyer, IN 46311  
[director@hoosieroutdoorwriters.org](mailto:director@hoosieroutdoorwriters.org)

### Advisor

Bill Keaton  
9494 West Base Rd.  
Arlington, IN 46104  
[bill@bishophillguesthouse.com](mailto:bill@bishophillguesthouse.com)

### Newsletter Editor

Tom Berg  
2142 Nondorf St.  
Dyer, IN 46311  
[director@hoosieroutdoorwriters.org](mailto:director@hoosieroutdoorwriters.org)

### Board Members

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2020  
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Jarrett Manek – 2020  
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All submissions and correspondence in regards to the newsletter should be directed to: Tom Berg (e-mail: [director@hoosieroutdoorwriters.org](mailto:director@hoosieroutdoorwriters.org)), or to Tom Berg, 2142 Nondorf St., Dyer, IN 46311. Portions of this newsletter may be reproduced only with the permission of the Hoosier Outdoor Writer's Executive Board and/or the permission of the original author or authors submitting the material. HOW website: [www.HoosierOutdoorWriters.org](http://www.HoosierOutdoorWriters.org).

**On the cover:** Spring Mill State Park near Mitchell, Indiana is home to many wildlife species, but one of the most fun to watch is the river otter. This otter caught a large white sucker on the morning after the HOW Conference, and then proceeded to eat the entire fish (fins, bones and all). Tom Berg photo.



# President's Message

by Troy McCormick

## *Tell the Story: Hunting and Fishing is Good for Wildlife*

My first African safari last month reminded me just how important it is to share the benefits that sportsmen and women bring to the outdoors.

As outdoor communicators, we have a certain responsibility to cover as many aspects of the outdoors as possible. It's always nice to see a personal hunting story or a favorite new recipe for crappie, but we have to step beyond those types of stories sometimes to talk about the fact that hunting and fishing is good for wildlife.

We also have a responsibility to address those readers and viewers who might not enjoy the outdoors in the same ways that we do. I always try to take the opportunity, when it is presented to me, to help educate people on the many ways that outdoorsmen and women contribute to the conservation of wildlife and public lands. This occurs not only through the purchasing of hunting and fishing licenses, but through the purchase of outdoor equipment as well, thus funding programs like the Pittman-Roberston Act and the Dingle-Johnson Act.

However, this really hit home for me while on safari in South Africa last month. While preparing for my safari, I heard comments like "You're not going to shoot anything endangered, are you?" Are people really that misinformed about hunting? The answer is undeniably **YES**. Andrew McKean, who was, until earlier this year, the editor-in-chief of *Outdoor Life*, told the Outdoor Writers of America Association members this month, "For the first time in U.S. history, the majority of our population does not personally know someone that hunts."

While travelling and hunting in South Africa, I saw an economy focused on managing big game for the benefit of the various game species AND for the people that live there. Money from hunters provided jobs for professional hunters, trackers, cooks, housemaids, taxidermists, restaurants, hotels and more. Other countries in Africa that have prohibited big game hunting have seen losses of up to 70% of their big game from poaching. Without money from hunters, the locals returned to uncontrolled hunting practices to put food on their tables.

Whether we are writing about Hunters Helping the Hungry in Indiana, or managing big game in Africa to build a better economy, as outdoor writers we need to always keep in mind that our audience is as diverse as the plains of Africa.

# 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
Don Cranfill	2017



# The Annual HOW Fun Shoot: Sporting Clays in the Trees



by Tom Berg

The 2018 HOW Fun Shoot held prior to the conference at Spring Mill State Park was another enjoyable event. A great group of HOW members met at the scenic Sugar Creek Sporting Clays Club less than five miles from the state park and everyone enjoyed a relaxing afternoon of shooting. We also enjoyed some excellent weather. The afternoon started out warm and sunny with a few puffy white clouds. It was a picture-perfect day!



**Above (L to R):** HOW shooters Bob Sawtelle, Bill Keaton, and Rick Bramwell are preparing to shoot at the infamous Station #1. Sawtelle volunteered to keep score. All Fun Shoot photos were taken by Tom Berg.

Each of the shooting stations was fun and they did a good job of simulating a variety of bird hunting situations, both in the trees and out in the open. The course was laid-out so that there was a total of 13 stations instead of the normal 10, and eight shots were taken at each station except for the first (where only six shots were fired by each HOW shooter). We were all thankful for the reduced number of shots at Station #1 as it was incredibly difficult!

All of us found the first few stations to be pretty challenging, especially that first one. Or maybe we were all just rusty. But as the afternoon progressed, our shooting definitely improved. Several of us shot 7-out-of-8 at more than one of the later stations, and one shooter even had a perfect 8-out-of-8.

The sporting clays course at this club was arranged around the wooded property so that multiple groups of shooters could take their turns shooting at different stations without interfering with each other. The shooting stations were set up to allow long-range shots, fast-moving overhead shots, crossing shots and shots arcing high in the air. To add to the fun, there were true pairs, following pairs and report-pairs (the second clay target launched as soon as the shooter's gun was fired).



Bill Keaton is always very intent at the firing line.

(HOW Fun Shoot continued on next page)

When the smoke cleared and all the scores were tallied, Tom Berg was named the winner of the HOW Fun Shoot for 2018 with a score of 69. The top three places included Tom Berg in First Place, closely followed by Bill Keaton in Second Place and Bob Sawtelle in Third. As you might imagine, we are not professional shooters – but we do have fun. Congratulations to all of the winners and participants.

All of the shooters were using Winchester AA "TrAAcker" ammunition which has either fluorescent orange wads or black wads to help you see if you are shooting in front of or behind the target. It was cool to see the tracking of the wad, and it definitely helped some of the shooters when they were shooting behind the clay pigeons!

After the shooting was done it was time to head for Spring Mill State Park to get ready for the Friday evening barbecue. Overall, it was a great afternoon with lots of laughs, good friends and plenty of camaraderie.

HOW would like to extend a big thank-you to the **Sugar Creek Sporting Clays Club** for their hospitality and the use of their facilities. We would also like to thank **Winchester Ammunition** for sponsoring the Fun Shoot and for supplying the shotshells for the shooters again this year. Their help was appreciated by all of the participants.



Rick Bramwell (above left) prepares to shoot. Bill Keaton (right) watches as his clay target shatters into many pieces.

# 2018 HOW Conference

The Hoosier Outdoor Writers would like to  
Thank the following conference sponsors:



**Friday Evening BBQ Sponsor**



**Conference Breakfast Sponsor**



**Conference Seminar Sponsor**



**Conference Lunch Sponsor**

# **The 2018 HOW Awards-In-Craft Contest**

**The Hoosier Outdoor Writers  
would like to thank:**

**TOYOTA MOTOR SALES**

**For sponsoring the 2018  
HOW Awards-In-Craft Contests**





# HOW Raffle Donors - 2018

A big thank-you goes to this year's raffle donors. Please support them in your work whenever possible.

Al's Goldfish Lure Co.  
Alps Brand  
Aquateko International  
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Birchwood Casey  
Black River Tools  
BoatUS  
BOLT Locks  
Buck Knives  
Bucket Grip  
Camp Chef  
Cauldryn  
Celox  
Church Tackle Co.  
Cocoons Eyewear  
Costa Sunglasses  
Cotton Carrier  
Creason Wooden Pens  
Cuda Fishing Tools  
Danner Boots  
Daisy Outdoor Products  
Environ-Metal, Inc.  
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Flying Fisherman  
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G.Loomis  
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Glacier Glove  
Grundens USA  
Gruv Fishing  
Gumleaf Boots USA  
GunProtect  
Hawke Sport Optics  
Henry Repeating Arms  
HHA Sports  
Hodgdon Powder Company  
Hoosier Trapper Supply  
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt  
HT Enterprises, Inc.  
Indianapolis Zoo  
Irish Setter Boots  
JackAll Lures  
Kent Cartridge  
Kruger Optical  
LaCrosse Footwear  
LensPen  
Lodge Manufacturing  
Mack's Lure  
Mathews Archery  
Midway USA  
Mossy Oak  
Musselhead Tackle  
MyTopo  
National Shooting Sports Foundation  
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Outdoor Guide Magazine  
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PahaQue Wilderness  
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Plano Synergy  
PowerPro Lines  
Precision Hardcore Gear  
Pro's Soft-Bait Glue  
Pro-Cure Bait Scents  
Quaker Boy Game Calls  
RIO Products  
Secret Lures  
Shimano American  
Shurhold Industries, Inc.  
Snag Proof Lures  
Solution Products  
Sturm, Ruger & Co.  
St. Croix Rods  
Swab-Its  
Tales End Tackle  
Target Communications Outdoor Books  
The Catch & Release Shop  
Tenzing  
Thompson-Pallister Bait Company  
Tink's  
TTI-Blakemore  
Vexilar, Inc.  
Winchester Ammunition  
W.R. Case

## 2018 HOW Conference: Another Success at Spring Mill State Park

The 2018 HOW conference at Spring Mill State Park is now in the books. It was another great event, and even though it was held only 50 miles south of where we met last year (McCormick's Creek SP), we still had plenty of opportunities to see and discover new things and learn a lot about Indiana's wild places and the great outdoors.



We had excellent attendance at the conference again this year, including several first-time attendees. Everyone present had the chance to hear some exceptional speakers, too. If you didn't attend this conference you really missed a great time! If you're not sure what you missed, check out the next few pages of the newsletter to get a quick glimpse of all the fun we had!

The Spring Mill Inn has excellent conference facilities and a topnotch staff, and our event was another great success. Many HOW members took advantage of the lodging and restaurant at the inn and stayed the entire weekend, while others just came in for the day to attend the HOW meeting. Our meeting room was spacious and well-appointed, the catered food was excellent and the conference provided another great opportunity to reconnect with old friends and have some fun.



The front entrance of the Spring Mill Inn welcomes visitors to Spring Mill State Park. Many HOW members stayed here at least one night.

As most conference-goers know, the HOW Conference actually begins on the Friday afternoon before the annual meeting on Saturday. This year's conference was no different, and at 1:00pm on Friday, April 13th, a group of HOW members met at the Sugar Creek Sporting Clays Club near the state park for the annual HOW Fun Shoot. The weather was good and the camaraderie was great. It was nice to

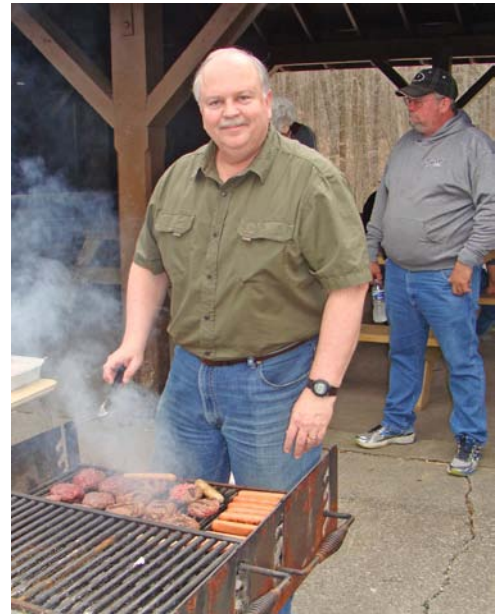
actually have a Fun Shoot with no rain or snow! Details can be found on pages 5-6. After the shooting was done, everyone made the short drive to Spring Mill SP and joined the other HOW members who were already gathering for the Friday evening barbecue!

(continued on next page)

At 6:00pm on Friday evening, about two dozen HOW members, spouses and guests met at the Donaldson Shelter inside the park for an informal barbecue dinner and get-together. Nothing fancy, just hamburgers, venison burgers, hot dogs, brats, potato salad, chips, baked beans and even a few desserts.

Troy McCormick was in charge of the barbecue this year, and he did a great job cooking the meat and organizing all of the other fixings. Also, thank you to all of the other HOW members and spouses who brought a side dish or a dessert. The food was great and no one left hungry!

Property Manager Mark Young was present at the barbecue to welcome the HOW members to Spring Mill State Park and talk about some of the unique aspects of this beautiful state park. The barbecue was sponsored this year by the Lawrence County CVB, and Tonya Chastain and Heidi Davis from the visitor's bureau were also present. Mrs. Chastain welcomed everyone to Lawrence County and provided info on some of the great things to do in the park and in the rest of the county, too.



2018 Incoming HOW President Troy McCormick was the Grill Master at the Friday barbecue. Photos by Tom Berg.

After the barbecue, members of the HOW Board of Directors headed over to the Spring Mill Inn to meet for their annual board meeting.



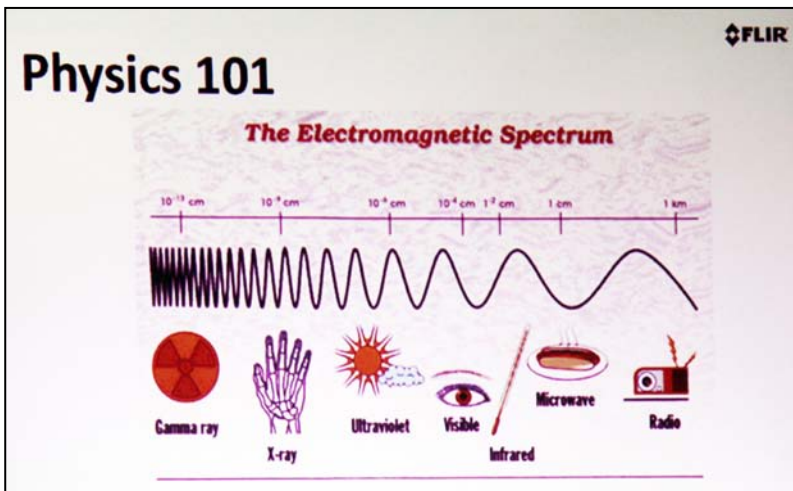
Here are a few of the HOW members and guests as they eat, talk and enjoy themselves at the barbecue on Friday evening at Spring Mill State Park. **Foreground:** Bryan Poynter (L) and Phil Bloom (R). **Background:** (left to right): Mark Young (DNR park manager), Rick Bramwell, Wyatt Williams (DNR naturalist), John Galambos.

The annual meeting began at 8:00am on Saturday morning, and the attending HOW members and guests assembled in the Lakeview Room in the Spring Mill Inn. As usual, the first hour of the meeting was set aside for registration and social time.

HOW President Don Cranfill called the meeting to order at 9:00am and provided opening remarks, then briefed those present on the day's schedule. When he was done, he introduced Mark Young again, since everyone did not attend the BBQ the night before. Mr. Young welcomed the HOW membership and gave a short description of the outdoor recreation prospects available in the park and in Lawrence County. Whether you enjoy hiking, fishing, biking, bird watching or a host of other outdoor pursuits, Spring Mill State Park is a great place to experience the outdoors. Young then turned the podium back over to President Cranfill so he could introduce the first seminar speaker.



The first speaker was HOW member and thermal imaging expert Brent Wheat and the name of his talk was "Super-Human Vision with Thermal Imaging Technology". Wheat works with Traditions Media and FLIR Systems, Inc., and he discussed the basics of Forward Looking Infra-Red (FLIR) optics. He also explained the fundamentals of thermal imaging and how Indiana outdoorsmen can use this equipment in the field. Thermal imaging equipment could be very useful for scouting, weapon sights, game recovery and navigation (boating and off-road), just to name a few examples.



**Top Right:** How President Don Cranfill opened the meeting and gave a brief overview of the day's upcoming seminars and events. **Above:** Brent Wheat talks about thermal imaging equipment and how it works. He also explained the relationship of infra-red light and visible light (among others) in the electromagnetic spectrum. Photos by Tom Berg.

However, Hoosier sportsmen need to be careful to obey the applicable laws when using thermal imaging equipment in Indiana. For example, it is perfectly legal to use these devices for scouting – but not when scouting for deer. It cannot be used for game recovery in Indiana, either, but it is legal for night hunting of predators and nuisance animals. Wheat was also quick to point out that he was not providing legal advice (and neither are we in this newsletter), and HOW members should consult with law enforcement

or the Indiana attorney general’s office for detailed information on the laws governing the use of thermal imaging equipment.

The second speaker was IDNR Private Lands Program Manager Josh Griffin. Griffin talked about the \$1 million “Grasslands for Gamebirds and Songbirds (GGS)” Initiative, which will manage grassland and pollinator habitat used by at-risk bird species like loggerhead shrikes, quail, pheasants, etc.

He discussed the fact that grasslands are in decline all across the United States, and the loss of grasslands has been identified as the single greatest threat to species in Indiana. Much of our grasslands have been lost to farming (row crops). Grassland dependent birds, in particular, have been showing significant population declines in recent years.



DNR Program Manager  
Josh Griffin.



Griffin also talked about the fact that grasslands provide habitat for a wide variety of pollinators, as well. Butterflies, bees, beetles, bats, and hummingbirds are important pollinators, and without the plants that they need they will be in trouble, also. Monarch butterflies are one important example of a species in peril due to significant losses of their host plant (milkweed). Without pollinators, our farms and food supply will be in great danger.

Before breaking for lunch, President Don Cranfill called the HOW Business Meeting to order. HOW Nominating Chairman John Martino then presented the proposed slate of new officers for the coming year. Troy McCormick was elected our new President, Brent Wheat was elected Vice-President and Don Cranfill will become the Board Chairman. Our new Board members (terms expiring in 2020) include: Phil Seng, Jack Spaulding, Doug Allman, Jarrett Manek and Bryan Poynter. Thank you to all of our new volunteers!



After the elections and business meeting were concluded, an excellent buffet lunch was served by the Spring Mill Inn kitchen staff. Everyone relaxed and socialized for an hour before the afternoon activities began.

The first seminar after lunch was titled “Overcoming Disabilities”. Retired Marine and quadriplegic outdoorsman Kevin Sparks talked about how he overcame many of the personal challenges in his life and how he deals with his disabilities. He explained how he came to grips with his physical limitations and discovered what is possible with the help of family, friends and a good support network.

He also talked about some of the adaptive equipment that he has used which helps him enjoy the outdoors. He has even been able to go hunting and he was successful in harvesting both whitetail deer and wild turkey. Kevin Sparks’ talk was both informative and inspirational.



Motivational speaker Kevin Sparks relates a humorous personal story during his presentation. Photo by Tom Berg.

After Mr. Sparks’ discussion on overcoming disabilities, it was time for the TIP (Turn-In-a-Poacher/Polluter) Awards-In-Craft presentation. This year the TIP Citizen’s Advisory Board again

sponsored a writing contest for HOW members, asking our writers to promote the TIP mission, the TIP hotline and support the TIP Advisory Board.



Joe Cales, the TIP Board President, stepped up to the podium and gave a brief description of the TIP program and the TIP mission. He also thanked the HOW members who submitted their TIP articles this year before announcing the awards.

Here is the list of the 2018 TIP Contest award winners:

HOW member Tom Berg (left) accepts his 2<sup>nd</sup> Place and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place TIP Writing awards from Joe Cales (right). 1<sup>st</sup> Place winner Mike Schoonveld was not present at the conference to accept his award in person. Vikki Trout photo.

- First Place:** Mike Schoonveld, for his article titled: “**Smart or Dumb – Call TIP**”
- Second Place:** Tom Berg, for his article titled: “**Protect Our Bass Fishing by Turning in Poachers**”
- Third Place:** Tom Berg, for article titled: “**How to Avoid Cooking Yourself in ‘Poached’ Salmon**”

Next, Executive Director Tom Berg informed the membership that the **2018 HOW Awards-In-Craft** contest results would be announced by HOW Supporting Member Curt McAllister from Toyota Motor Sales. Mr. McAllister was able to attend the conference this year and was happy to make the award presentations to our members.

Cash prizes and certificates were awarded to the best of the best in the annual Writing Contest, the Photography Contest and the Broadcast Contest. Many thanks go to Toyota Motor Sales for once again sponsoring our contests and recognizing the achievements of our members.

Check the complete contest results on pages 20-21 to see who submitted the best work this year.

The final seminar of the day was led by HOW member John Maxwell and DNR Naturalist Wyatt Williams. Their presentation was titled “Cave River Valley Natural Area” and featured a slideshow which highlighted the splendor of this property near Spring Mill State Park. Maxwell also works for the DNR as a staff photographer and his photos captured much of the unique beauty of the park and Cave River Valley.

Among the wild creatures which call this area home are the state-endangered Indiana bats. They use the caves on the property when they hibernate in the winter, particularly the cave named Endless Cave. The caves are also home to state-endangered blind cavefish and blind crayfish. Maxwell and Williams showed photos of the park and Cave River Valley in each of the seasons, with wintertime providing some exceptionally beautiful views.

The final activity of the day was the annual HOW Raffle. This is the favorite part of the meeting for many HOW members! Raffle chairman Tom Berg organized an amazing event again this year, easily filling several banquet tables with fabulous outdoor products from our loyal HOW Supporting Members (and many new Supporting Members). This year he and his helpers secured donations from **94** companies, organizations and individuals, which is several more than last year. Tom would also like to thank John Galambos and Rich Creason for their help in securing a number of the items again this year.



**2018 HOW Awards-In-Craft winners (L to R):** Troy McCormick, Contest Sponsor Curt McAllister, Alan Garbers, Ken McBroom, Tom Berg, Rick Bramwell, Mike Lunsford, John Martino and Rich Creason. Thank you to Toyota Motor Sales, the sponsor of our contests this year. Photo by Vikki Trout.



John Maxwell (left) and Wyatt Williams (right) talk about the history of Cave River Valley Natural Area and some of the interesting things to see and do there. Tom Berg photo.

As is typical for the raffle, some companies donated major products and others contributed smaller items, but all were much-appreciated. Thank you, also, to the many HOW members who helped unpack and display the raffle items and banners on the tables on the morning of the meeting.

The moment the raffle tickets went on sale, a long line formed behind the ticket sales table. Long-time ticket hawker and professional number-caller Jack Spaulding was up to the task as he stripped tickets off the rolls 50



at a time. Jack's wife Chris also helped with the ticket sales (thank you!) and at times the two of them were hard-pressed to keep up!



Tom Cranfill (L) and cousin Don Cranfill (R) check out one of the many tables filled to overflowing with great outdoor products for the HOW Outdoor Writers Raffle. All photos on this page by Tom Berg.

This year's raffle featured quality as well as quantity when it came to the items to be raffled-off. Firearms enthusiasts were especially happy with this year's raffle prizes, as we had a stunning **Henry** .22 caliber lever-action rifle, an awesome **Mossberg** 930 Turkey 12GA shotgun, a terrific **Ruger** American rifle complete with a Vortex riflescope, and an 8-pound keg of **Hodgdon** powder for muzzleloaders. Archers were eager to get their hands on the great **Mission Archery** compound bow, too. We also had an abundance of shooting supplies, riflescopes, ammunition, and even a cool **Camp Chef** stove.



Jack and Chris Spaulding agreed to handle the big job of selling raffle tickets again this year.

Fishermen in the crowd were impressed by an incredible array of Great Lakes trolling gear, rodholders, fishing rods, fishing reels, tackle boxes, and lures of all shapes, sizes and colors. There were also premium backpacks, turkey calls, premium sunglasses, hunting gear, hats, gloves, waterproof binoculars, knives, boat-care products, camping gear, and many gift certificates. There were insect repellents, hunting calls, turkey hunting gear, outdoor apparel, waterproof boots, outdoors books, mapping software, some awesome cast iron cookware, DVDs, gun cleaning kits and lots of other outdoor gear.

The 2018 raffle was another huge success! Of course, without the support and generosity of our Supporting Members the raffle would not happen at all. For a complete list of this year's raffle donors, please see page 9. Please support them in your work whenever possible, and send them a thank-you note when you get a chance.



## Another Successful HOW Fishing Outing!!

The HOW Fishing Outing that followed the recent conference was another success. We can say that with confidence because anytime you can go fishing, it's a great day. The weather, however, was not very cooperative. Sunday morning dawned dark and chilly with a threat of rain, and the rain moved in even before we could get the boats launched at Lake Monroe. But we made the best of it!

Four boats were launched at Lake Monroe's High Water Ramp that morning, and the four groups of fishermen headed for different parts of the lake in search of Monroe's legendary crappies. Each group hoped the cold and wet conditions wouldn't put a damper on the fishing.

Shortly after the anglers started fishing, however, the weather took a turn for the worse and a storm roared in like a freight train. High winds, sheets of rain and a 10-degree drop in temperature within a few minutes made fishing conditions difficult. HOW members Bill Keaton and Rick Bramwell decided to get off the water early and try another day. Tom Berg and Troy McCormick opted to keep fishing and see if they could coax some fish into biting. Here are their reports:

### **Troy McCormick:**

"It was one of those rainy mornings, with a forecast for storms and falling temperatures, where you question whether or not you really want to go out on a lake (especially in a boat), to go fishing," said McCormick. "And of course, the answer was yes, because I'll go fishing any time, in any kind of weather."

"I met my guide for the day, Bret Cunningham, and we hit it off right away. Bret is a member of the Indiana Slab Masters fishing club, and he fishes crappie tournaments in multiple states. Even with the waters of Lake Monroe flooded 13 feet above normal pool, I figured he could put us on some crappie."

"Once on the water Bret asked me if I liked to jig, and I told him that it was a sure fire means to catch crappie in my book. But then he asked me if I had ever used a feathered jig. I paused at that because I didn't



remember being very successful with them in the past. At that point he tied on a 1/16 oz jig (white head with chartreuse and white feathers) from Nothead Tackle, in Seymour, Indiana, and we commenced fishing."

"Despite the rain and cold weather, we boated 50+ crappie in four hours. Now I'll admit, most of them weren't keepers, but that seems like the norm for Lake Monroe crappie these days. But my eyes have been opened to the possibilities of feather jigs for crappie. I won't go fishing again without them in my tackle box."



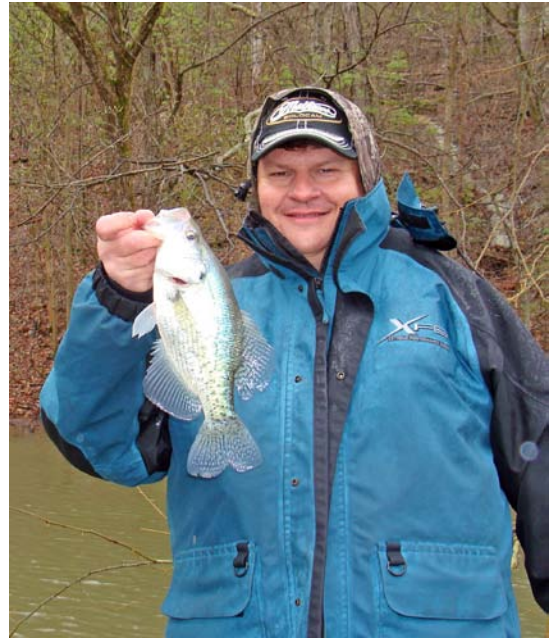
Troy McCormick lifts a nice white crappie caught during tough cold front conditions on Lake Monroe. Notice the dark clouds in the background! Photo by Bret Cunningham.

(Fishing Outing info continued next page)

**Tom Berg:**

“I love crappie fishing,” said Berg, “and Lake Monroe is a great spot to catch crappies. Even though there are hordes of undersized crappies here, there is always a chance for a hooking a monster. I was fishing with crappie tournament angler Bob Raymer, and since I have fished with him in the past I knew that he could put us on the fish. Monroe is Raymer’s favorite crappie lake, too, and very few people know this water better than him.”

“Of course, the weather was not cooperating with us and the rain was pretty relentless. Shortly after stopping at the back of a small cove where there was plenty of flooded buck-brush, the edge of a stronger storm front hit us. The wind roaring up through the trees at the back of the cove was so loud that I actually thought a train was coming just on the other side of the ridge. Luckily the strong wind gusts did not last long, but they did bring colder temperatures.”



Bob Raymer (left) lifts a very nice crappie he caught during the fishing outing. Tom Berg (above) holds his biggest fish of the morning. Photos by Tom Berg and Bob Raymer.

“The fishing was definitely affected by the weather, and we had trouble getting the crappies to cooperate. It seemed like they all had lockjaw. Halfway through the morning we had only caught three or four undersized crappies between us, which was very unusual for Lake Monroe. Usually you can catch lots of baby crappies almost anywhere you fish here!”

“Around 10:00am we finally started to catch some keeper-sized fish, but they were still few and far between. I caught a 13-inch crappie (my biggest of the day)

and shortly after that Bob caught a 14-inch fish. His fish was a big female full of eggs, so it was a very nice crappie. He usually does catch the biggest fish! We were releasing everything today, anyway, but we did pause for a few photos before releasing each fish to fight another day.”

“The skies started to clear when it was time to head back to the boat ramp, and by the time we arrived it was nice and sunny. Just our luck! Still, we had a great time and it’s always good to get out on the water. Many thanks go to Bob Raymer, Bret Cunningham, James Lasswell and Walter Moore for donating their time, boats, gear and expertise to take us fishing on Lake Monroe.”

## HOW's 2018 "Bayou Bill" Conservation Award Goes to the Kentucky-Indiana Chapter of Paralyzed Veterans of America



Every year, the Hoosier Outdoor Writers awards an annual conservation gift in memory of our past-president and legendary Crothersville, IN outdoor writer, Bayou Bill Scifres. We lovingly call it the Bayou Bill Conservation Award. This award includes a \$100 gift which is given in Bill's name for whatever use the recipient deems best.

During the annual HOW conference, it was decided that this year's HOW Bayou Bill Conservation Award would go to the Kentucky-Indiana Chapter of Paralyzed Veterans of America (KIPVA). One of our conference speakers was KIPVA President Kevin Sparks, and he delivered an inspirational message to all who were present at the annual meeting.



Troy McCormick (L), Kevin Sparks (C) and Don Cranfill (R) pause for a photo at the HOW Conference. Tom Berg photo.

The Jeffersonville-based KIPVA does some great work in Indiana and Kentucky, helping veterans and people with disabilities in many different ways. The organization's primary focus is veterans' issues, notably quality healthcare for veterans with spinal cord injuries and dysfunction (SCI/D) such as Multiple Sclerosis (MS). KIPVA also serves veterans and others in the disabled community through benefits assistance, government relations, advocacy, education, and the provision of regional programs, including health and wellness and (among other things) sports and recreation.

The KIPVA believes that participation in physical activities is essential to prevent people with disabilities from surrendering themselves to confinement, so they encourage their members to stay healthy, active and engaged through sports and recreation. The KIPVA provides access to a variety of local, regional and national adaptive sports programs for those interested. Some of those sports include archery, fishing, hand-cycling, hunting, scuba diving and the shooting sports, just to name a few. Adaptive equipment is available for

use during each of their sporting programs at no cost to the participants.

It seemed very appropriate to present this award to the KIPVA, as Mr. Sparks mentioned that they had need of some new electric fishing reels for upcoming fishing outings. Hopefully the Bayou Bill cash award will help defray the cost of some of those fishing reels.



# The HOW 2018 Awards-In-Craft Contest

The results are in! The winners of the 2018 Awards-In-Craft contest were announced at this year's annual conference at Spring Mill State Park, and we had a large number of excellent entries. As usual, the writing portion of the contest drew the most interest, as HOW members submitted a total of 59 entries from eight different HOW members. The number of writing contest entries was down this year when compared to 2017 (when there were 73 entries), so next year you should be sure to send in your entries! You can't win if you don't play, and there is no cost to participate. The photography contest included 20 entries from five HOW members (a slight decrease from last year), and the Broadcast contest featured two entries from two different members. Next year we hope to have even more members participate!

Most of the competitions were extremely close. In the Writing Contest, only one or two points often separated a first place entry from a second place entry, etc. Many articles landed in 4th place by a mere point or two, also. Considering the fact that each article can receive up to 200 points (100 from each of two judges), those were some close races! We were also happy to see that the writing awards were spread out among the entrants again this year (ten different winners). Make sure you get in on the fun next year!

Once again this year the Awards-In-Craft contest was sponsored by **Toyota Motor Sales**, so the winners were awarded checks along with certificates to commemorate their achievements. We would like to thank Toyota for their generous sponsorship in 2018. HOW members are encouraged to log on to the Toyota website ([www.toyotanewsroom.com](http://www.toyotanewsroom.com)) to find out more about their products and recent news releases.

A special thank-you also goes to our contest coordinators who donated their time and energy to secure judges and get each of the entries reviewed and scored in time for the annual conference. Dealing with a large number of submissions which are typically sent right before the deadline always makes coordinating the entries/judges difficult, but the electronic entries really helped. The 2018 Awards-In-Craft coordinators were: Troy McCormick (Writing), John Martino (Photography) and Tom Berg (Broadcast).

Here is a complete list of the winners (along with the number of entries for each contest):

## WRITING

(59 entries from 8 different HOW members)

### Less Than 1000 Words

#### **Hunting/Trapping**

- 1st: Mike Schoonveld, "Littlest Big Game"
- 2nd: John Martino, "Bell, Age 12, is a Seasoned Hunter"
- 3rd: Tom Berg, "Dove Hunting the Late Season"

#### **Fishing**

- 1st: Mike Schoonveld, "No Respect for Jack"
- 2nd: Ken McBroom, "Find the Birds, Find the Bass"
- 3rd: Alan Garbers, "Lake Geneva Smallmouth" -- **TIE --**
- 3rd: Tom Berg, "Tempting Fall Coho Salmon" -- **TIE --**

(Continued on next page)

### More Than 1000 Words

#### **Hunting/Trapping**

- 1st: John Martino, "Hunting Helps Teen Develop Bond" -- **TIE --**
- 1st: Tom Berg, "Tips for a Successful Pheasant Hunt" -- **TIE --**
- 2nd: Alan Garbers, "Small Woods Deer Hunting, You're Doing It Wrong"
- 3rd: Mike Schoonveld, "Hunting – It's a Trend"

#### **Fishing**

- 1st: Tom Berg, "Your Indiana Catfish Forecast"
- 2nd: Mike Schoonveld, "Give Yourself An Edge"
- 3rd: Alan Garbers, "Geist Reservoir Crappie Hotspots" -- **TIE --**
- 3rd: Tom Berg, "Your Indiana Icefishing Forecast" -- **TIE --**

## Less Than 1000 Words

### **Conservation**

- 1st: Mike Lunsford, "Sometimes You Simply Follow the Meandering Brook"  
2nd: John Martino, "Annual Wildlife Spectacle Takes Place in Indiana"  
3rd: Tom Berg, "Poached Salmon?"

### **General Outdoors**

- 1st: John Martino, "Fun at Friend's Wedding"  
2nd: Mike Lunsford, "A Resolution I Intend to Keep" -- **TIE** --  
2nd: John Martino, "Sears Turns Hobby into a Business" -- **TIE** --  
3rd: Mike Schoonveld, "Bryce's Road Trip"

## PHOTOGRAPHY

(20 entries from 5 different HOW members)

### **Hunting/Trapping**

- 1st: Tom Berg, "A Great Day Afield"  
2nd: Tom Berg, "Taking Careful Aim"  
3rd: Ken McBroom, "Grunt Call"

### **Outdoor Scenic**

- 1st: Mike Lunsford, "Blackbird on Butterweed"  
2nd: Mike Lunsford, "Storm Coming"  
3rd: Tom Berg, "Fall Monarch"

## BROADCAST

(2 entries from 2 HOW members)

### **Best Video**

- 1st: Troy McCormick, "Save Our Ash Trees"  
2nd: Kristen Monroe, "World Match Fishing Tournament in Hungary"  
3rd: -- No Entry --

## More Than 1000 Words

### **Conservation**

- 1st: Mike Lunsford, "Aldo Leopold: A Conservationist Before His Time"  
2nd: Alan Garbers, "Battling Indiana's Wild Hog Population"  
3rd: Tom Berg, "Lamprey Control Aids Lake Michigan Fisheries"

### **General Outdoors**

- 1st: Mike Lunsford, "The Blessings of a Winter Walk"  
2nd: Alan Garbers, "Catlin – Blood and Butchery"  
3rd: Rich Creason, "Outdoor Writers Enjoy Treasure Hunt"

### **Fishing**

- 1st: Mike Schoonveld, "Dawn King"  
2nd: Rick Bramwell, "Passing of an Old Friend"  
3rd: Tom Berg, "Spectacular Fall Salmon!"

### **Outdoor Recreation**

- 1st: Tom Berg, "Hiking Gypsy Gulch"  
2nd: Tom Berg, "The Kayak Armada"  
3rd: -- No Entry --



# HOW Awards-In-Craft Winner

## 1st Place in the Writing Contest (Hunting category) – Under 1000 Words

### “Littlest Big Game”

by Mike Schoonveld

It's time for Midwestern hunters to head out for what is often called “the littlest big game.” A fat squirrel seldom weighs more than a couple pounds so it's not really “big.” It gets its “big game” reputation because successful squirrel hunters characteristically use hunting tactics more like big game hunting than the methods employed for upland species such as pheasants or rabbits.

Sure there are hunting strategies involved when small game hunting, but often just plain hard work can be the key to success. My key strategy as a rookie hunter was legwork. I followed the supposition the more distance I walked, the more animals I'd likely encounter. I learned that's not the case when hunting squirrels.

The first opening day for squirrels after I was old enough to hunt on my own I decided to hunt the wooded areas along the Iroquois River. I knew there were squirrels there since I saw them while fishing, all summer long. I started at one area and then hiked several miles along the waterway, until I stumbled out of the river-edge woodlands hours and miles later, having seen only one squirrel and not getting a shot at it. By the time I was in range, the bushytail was somewhere else - probably laughing at me.

Being laughed at by a squirrel is one thing, but at the end destination, I met up with an older, obviously more experienced squirrel hunter, who really got the last laugh. He was skinning and cleaning a trio of squirrels.

“How far did you go?” I asked, thinking the hunter had probably really covered some territory and then my mind raced ahead to the next questions I wanted to ask. “Were the squirrels near the river, out by the edge of the woods, towards the top of the trees, on the ground?” All these were questions that had jolted through my head as I trudged ever forward, relying on leg power, not brain power to put myself in range of the quarry.

His answer stopped my questioning. “I was hardly out of sight of my truck.”

It was as though the secret to the universe was revealed to me. Perhaps it was really just the secret to squirrel hunting, but that short conversation changed the course of my success in the “squirrel woods” ever since.

In other hunting, if you aren't seeing any game, perhaps there isn't any where you are looking. So look somewhere else, then repeat again and again until your legs give out or your game pouch is filled.

Squirrel hunting takes a leap of faith. A hunter has to go into the woods with the idea in his head, “There is a squirrel nearby.” There probably is. The key is to hunt smart until you find it. When that one is in the bag think, “There's probably another squirrel nearby.”

There probably is. Here's where squirrel hunting becomes similar to big game hunting. First, it's just waiting. The animal is nearby, maybe active, maybe not, but it's up to the game animal, not the hunter to make the first move. Especially in the early part of squirrel season when all the trees are leafed out, looking up in a tree and spotting a stationary squirrel is nearly impossible.

When the squirrel moves, it's easy to see, even if it's just with peripheral vision. Even if looking in the wrong direction a squirrel moving through the trees on a quiet day makes enough noise to catch your attention. Hear a noise, scan in that direction until the noisemaker is spotted.

Then other, big game type hunting skills come into play to get the squirrel in the gun's sights.

As with most hunting, the shorter the shot, the better. Sure, a great rifleman can snipe squirrels 50 yards away or more with a steady aim and accurate gun. A shotgunner can bang down a squirrel with the proper load of shot almost as far. But both hunters will be much more proficient at 20 yards than 50.

So stalk closer. Wear inconspicuous clothes. Camo is great but not necessary.

Be as quiet as possible. Move when the squirrel is moving and preoccupied.

Plan a route through the woods taking advantage of trees or underbrush to help hide from the squirrel as the stalk is made. Once close enough, take the shot.

Then, remember. “There's another squirrel nearby.” All you have to do is find it.

# HOW Member News

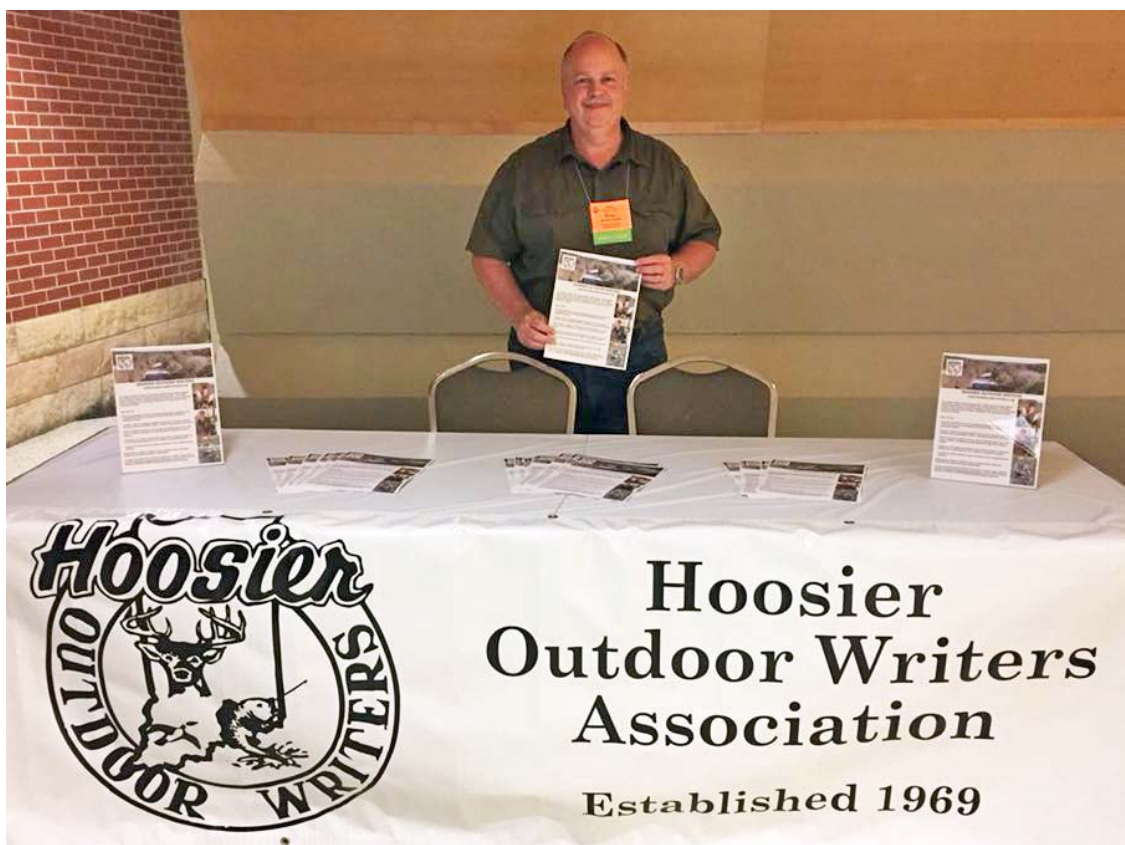
## McCormick Attends First OWAA Conference in Indiana

HOW President Troy McCormick was one of the HOW members who attended the recent Outdoor Writers Association of America (OWAA) Conference which was held in Fort Wayne, and he said that he really enjoyed it. Besides attending many of the presentations, McCormick manned the HOW booth that OWAA made available to us, answering questions and distributing info on HOW.

“The OWAA conference was a great experience and was attended by almost 200 professional outdoor communicators from across the country,” reported McCormick. “Editors, writers, photographers and social media specialists from Outdoor Life, Field & Stream, Birds & Blooms, Trout Unlimited and Outdoor Almanac (among others) were all in attendance. I can’t tell you the number of great contacts and leads for stories that I got over the course of the weekend.”

“The programs I attended were about outdoor and conservation themes, as well as programs to help make you a better outdoor communicator. Sessions included drafting magazine article ideas, how to get your book published, using a drone for aerial photos, how to create a podcast, and more. Add to all of this the after-hours networking in the hospitality suites and I would highly recommend everyone in HOW that is actively writing should join OWAA and attend the next conference in Little Rock, Arkansas. This was easily the best conference of any kind that I have attended in years.”

“HOW was represented at the OWAA conference by five members: Phil Bloom, Bryan Poynter, Phil Seng, Troy McCormick and Dave Hoffman. The HOW booth received some activity and I spoke to anyone that I could about the Hoosier Outdoor Writers.” Thanks for your hard work, Troy!





Author Bob Jennings.

## Bob Jennings Adds Two New Books to Publishing Repertoire

HOW member Bob Jennings has recently added two new book titles to his list of published works, and he is making them available to HOW members at a reduced rate if anyone is interested. See below.

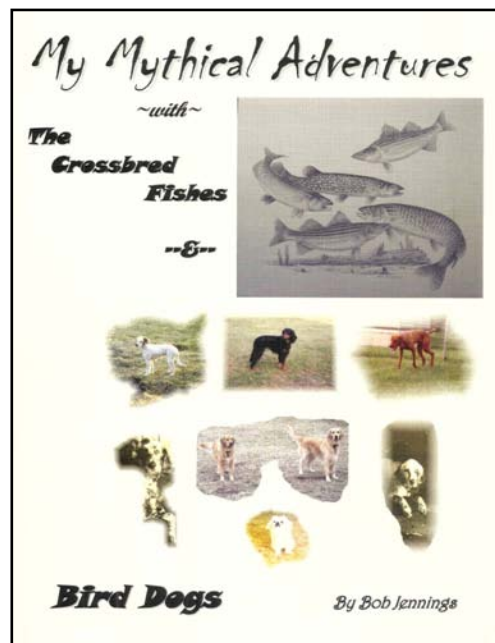
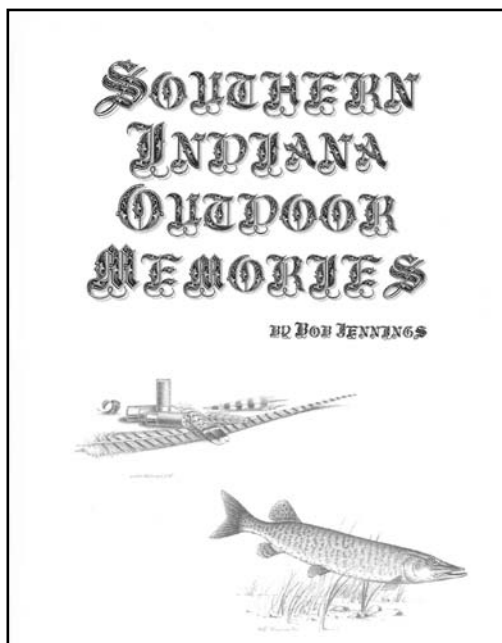
“I found a printer and binder in Hudson, Wisconsin that has excellent reviews and charges a reasonable price,” said Jennings, “so I engaged them to do two books for me. They don’t charge extra for inserting images – a page is a page whether it has a photo or a sketch or plain text, as long as everything is black and white.”

“The first book is a 39 page paperback with about 50 photos and sketches and a nice front and back cover. It is titled *Southern Indiana Outdoor Memories*, and it is about my adventures while wild bird hunting, shooting, canoeing and fishing with people that have touched my life with friendship. I’d still like to do the book in a hardback version and maybe I will find a place to do that eventually. I like how a hardback book looks, feels, reads and has a fine place in the bookcase.”

“The second book is titled *My Mythical Adventures with The Crossbred Fishes and Bird Dogs*. These two books were previously published separately and are now combined into one, and they are two strictly fictional accounts. The first half describes what would happen if two of the greatest big game fish crossbred, and what they might look like in the sketches by famous artist Ken Bucklew. The second half relates the possibility of my departed bird dogs returning to hunt with me and my friends out west.”

“I am offering these books to HOW members for \$10 for *Southern Indiana Outdoor Memories*, and \$15 each for *My Mythical Adventures with The Crossbred Fishes and Bird Dogs*. Shipping is included for HOW members only.”

“Now I’m working on a new book with the tentative title of *My Life’s Journeys*. Ideas are still developing, based on my life’s journey with people, places and things. It’s good to be back writing again.”

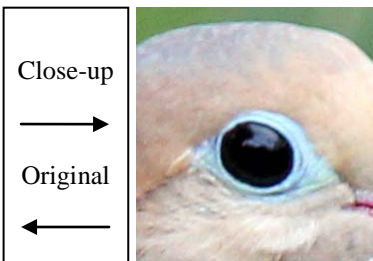




## Unusual Nature Photos from the Hoosier Outdoors

Sponsored by Sitka Gear

### Mourning Doves Have Great Eyesight and are Strong Flyers



The “What is it?” photo from the last issue was relatively easy to identify, since nine (9) HOW members got it right. Mike Schoonveld, Bill Keaton, Troy McCormick, Dianna Garbers, Michael Ellis, Alan Garbers, Jack Spaulding, John Maxwell and

Kreig Adkins each had the correct answer. When we drew a name at random for the SonarPhone donated by **Vexilar**, Kreig Adkins was the winner. Congrats, Kreig!

As you can see in the photo to the left, the mystery creature for this issue was a mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*). These migratory game birds are about the size of a robin, are grayish-beige above and peach-colored below. They have black spots on their wings and have long, pointed tails. The turquoise-blue area around their eyes is distinctive. Their mournful call is often mistaken for an owl.

Mourning doves are seed-eaters, and seeds comprise 99 percent of their diet. Weed seeds and wild grass seeds are eaten, but doves will also gladly eat waste grain like millet, corn, wheat, soybeans and sunflower seeds from cultivated fields. They have big appetites, and can eat up to 20 percent of their body weight each day. These birds are one of the favorite targets of wingshooters since they are fast flyers, are very wary and are notoriously hard to hit while flying. They have excellent eyesight and once they spot you, their wings make a distinctive high-pitched whistle as they quickly fly away.



For this issue, our friends at **Sitka Gear** will be donating a very nice 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 Sitka ESW-Series warm-weather hunting shirt. 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 might even see it in your back yard, and it is found throughout 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? This time you don’t have to identify the exact species, but you should be in the ballpark. If you think it’s a species of squirrel, for example, go ahead and guess “fox squirrel” (of course, it’s not a fox squirrel). But if you think you know the answer, send an email to [thomas.berg@comcast.net](mailto:thomas.berg@comcast.net). If you are right, you will be eligible for this issue’s prize.



As mentioned above, **Sitka Gear** will donate an Early Season Whitetail (ESW) hunting shirt (MSRP \$129) for the HOW member who guesses the right answer to this issue’s “What Is It?” nature question. The ESW shirt is optimized for warm weather performance, with silent snaps, mesh pits for ventilation, Polygiene® odor control technology and a water repellent finish (see [www.sitkagear.com](http://www.sitkagear.com)). If multiple people guess correctly, we’ll draw a winner at random from the group of correct entries. Nature photos on this page by Tom Berg.

## HOW Supporting Member News

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

### New Products From Winchester For Serious Hunters and Shooters

**East Alton, IL:** A world leader in delivering innovative products, Winchester is *The American Legend*, a brand built on integrity, hard work, and a deep focus on its loyal customers. Our legacy in servicing hunters and shooters, law enforcement and U.S. warfighters runs deep, with decades of support at the highest levels including delivering technologically advanced products. From our research and development efforts to our manufacturing processes, we understand the value of product quality and performance.

In 2018, Winchester delivers a full lineup of new products for hunters and shooters alike. From ammunition specifically designed for deer and other big game, to loads made for waterfowl, turkey, predators and upland game birds, Winchester has all of the bases covered. Check out the 2018 digital Winchester catalog at <http://catalogs.winchester.com/consumer/>.

Be sure to visit the Winchester website at [www.winchester.com](http://www.winchester.com) for more information. HOW members may also contact Media Relations Manager Nathan Robinson (email: [narobinson@olin.com](mailto:narobinson@olin.com)) for additional product details, photos, etc.

**WINCHESTER** 

**3,487**  
FOOT POUNDS OF ENERGY AT THE MUZZLE  
for Expedition Big Game Long Range in 300 WSM featuring a 190-grain bullet.  
PAGE 16

**3** NEW WORLD RECORDS  
in 2017 by Long Beard XR. On paper, on gobblers, there is no equal.  
PAGE 20

**DEER SEASON XP COPPER IMPACT**  
Solid copper bullet, increased weight retention. Bigger Tip. Bigger Impact.  
PAGE 12

**363** FOOT POUNDS OF ENERGY AT THE MUZZLE  
Varmint X lead free in 17 WSM drops the hammer on predators. PAGE 23

**100%** HEX SHOT  
Blind Side is devastating on fast-flying waterfowl.  
PAGE 18

**50** offerings in the famous AA shotshell line ... load up!  
PAGE 10

**15 BILLION** rounds of ammunition were supplied by Winchester during WWII. The Winchester WWII Victory Series honors American Warfighters.  
PAGE 5

**50** ROUND PACKS  
**NOW AVAILABLE**  
USA Forged is ready to meet the needs of shooters on any range.  
PAGE 8

**HYBRID-X** Delivering energy, stopping power and penetration when needed for the most critical situations.  
**PERSONAL DEFENSE AMMUNITION TECHNOLOGY**  
PAGE 6

**BORN HERE. BUILT HERE.**

## HOW Supporting Member News

### Gumleaf USA Supplies Premium Boots for Discerning Outdoors Folks



**Pittsford, NY:** Gumleaf USA offers Wellington-style natural rubber boots for men and women. Their uses are as varied as our customers themselves. You'll find Gumleaf USA boots along rivers and streams, in duck and turkey blinds, training dogs in the woods, fields, and around ponds, just as easily as you will find them on the sidelines of soccer fields on a wet day, in stables, and on farms. Our factory in Europe has been manufacturing rubber boots since 1937. They are well-designed with all of the features found in styles nearly twice their cost.

These days, quality is often forsaken for price. That's why we chose to introduce Gumleaf boots to the United States. We start with innovative designs that blend form and function to provide outstanding comfort, fit, durability, and style. Only the finest quality materials are used by our European bench-craftsmen who hand-make each pair of boots just as they have done since 1937. No detail, from gussets to trim to straps, is overlooked.

And when our boots pass inspection we treat them with respect, right down to the airbags that preserve their shape, the individual wrapping in tissue paper, and the double-box shipping across the sea. An artisan-created, hand-crafted experience begins when Gumleaf boots arrive at your home and you slip them on your feet.

#### **Gumleaf USA. Innovative features, impeccable quality and an affordable price.**

- Handmade in Europe from Natural Rubber
- Outstanding Traction in Varied Terrain
- Durable & Oil Resistant
- Withstands Temperature Extremes
- Excellent Fit for Comfortable All Day Wear

#### **Media Contact:**

HOW members may contact Gumleaf USA owner Jack Butler for more information or for specific images of Gumleaf Boots. Call 585-955-3020 (or toll-free 844-486-5323), or send an email to: [jack@gumleafUSA.com](mailto:jack@gumleafUSA.com).



## HOW Supporting Member News

### PRO's Soft-Bait Glue® Gives New Life To Ripped and Shredded Soft Plastic Lures

**Ashland, VA:** Multi-species fishermen can now use a soft plastic bait glue compatible with fresh and salt water that repairs tears and holds soft baits on hooks like a magnet in under five seconds. It stays flexible and strong, is non-toxic, is odorless to humans and fish, and it keeps you fishing. Whether it be soft plastic baits for freshwater bass and walleye or the larger saltwater soft plastic rigs used to catch stripers, sailfish and tarpon, we've got you covered. Finally, a glue that works as claimed. We guarantee it to work 100%!

Isn't it time you got your money's worth for a soft bait fishing glue that really works? We are the only fishing glue company that has a dedicated website just for fishing glue that's guaranteed to keep soft plastics in place. It's guaranteed to stick on soft plastic baits and not dry up in the bottle for a full year!

Soft plastic lures are, without a doubt, the most popular type of fishing tackle in existence. Anglers worldwide spend millions of dollars replenishing their supplies and trying out new designs and techniques. Thousands of soft plastic body designs are in existence and only a small percentage of those actually catch fish regularly. Oddly enough, soft plastic popularity has not spawned much creativity in the adhesive arena for being able to successfully modify, repair and keep soft baits on hooks longer while maintaining pliability, strength and odorless properties. Until now, that is. With our revolutionary new fishing glue you can invent your own unique soft baits that might just land you a record-breaker. We challenge you to try it for yourself.

- Plastic baits bond to hooks and jig heads like a magnet.
- Stays permanently attached until new bait is applied or fish bites it off.
- Repair with one drop, squeeze together for 4-5 seconds and keep fishing.
- Flexible, soft, and durable without stiffness.
- Create custom lures by bonding tails, bodies, trailers, tubes and grubs from different manufacturers.
- No brittleness like other glues even in below freezing temperatures.
- Great for ice fishing.
- Saves time and money!

#### Media Contact:

For more info, HOW members may contact Mike Rice, President, owner and Director of Sales & Marketing. Call him at 804-798-5225 or send an email to: [prosoftbaitglue@aol.com](mailto:prosoftbaitglue@aol.com). Check out the website at: [www.prosoftbaitglue.com](http://www.prosoftbaitglue.com).



# HOW's Supporting Member Websites

Al's Goldfish Lure Co. - [www.alsgoldfish.com](http://www.alsgoldfish.com)  
Alps Brands - [www.alpsbrands.com](http://www.alpsbrands.com)  
Aquateko International - [www.aquateko.com](http://www.aquateko.com)  
Arctic Ice - [www.arctic-ice.com](http://www.arctic-ice.com)  
Arcus Hunting - [www.arcushunting.com](http://www.arcushunting.com)  
B'n'M Pole Company - [www.bnmpoles.com](http://www.bnmpoles.com)  
Backwoodsman Magazine - [www.backwoodsmanmag.com](http://www.backwoodsmanmag.com)  
Balsax Fishing Lines - [www.balsax.com](http://www.balsax.com)  
Bass Pro Shops - [www.basspro.com](http://www.basspro.com)  
Battenfeld Technologies - [www.battenfeldtechnologies.com](http://www.battenfeldtechnologies.com)  
Bill Lewis Lures - [www.rat-l-trap.com](http://www.rat-l-trap.com)  
Birchwood Casey - [www.birchwoodcasey.com](http://www.birchwoodcasey.com)  
Black River Tools - [www.blackrivertools.com](http://www.blackrivertools.com)  
BoatUS - [www.boatus.com](http://www.boatus.com)  
BOLT Locks - [www.boltlock.com](http://www.boltlock.com)  
Buck Knives - [www.buckknives.com](http://www.buckknives.com)  
Bucket Grip - [www.bucketgrip.com](http://www.bucketgrip.com)  
Camp Chef - [www.campchef.com](http://www.campchef.com)  
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Celox Medical - [www.celoxmedical.com](http://www.celoxmedical.com)  
Church Tackle Company - [www.churchtackle.com](http://www.churchtackle.com)  
Cocoons Eyewear - [www.cocoonseyewear.com](http://www.cocoonseyewear.com)  
Costa Sunglasses - [www.costadelmar.com](http://www.costadelmar.com)  
Cotton Carrier - [www.cottoncarrier.com](http://www.cottoncarrier.com)  
Cuda Fishing Tools - [www.cudabrand.com](http://www.cudabrand.com)  
Danner Boots - [www.danner.com](http://www.danner.com)  
Daisy Outdoor Products - [www.daisy.com](http://www.daisy.com)  
Environ-Metal, Inc. - [www.hevishot.com](http://www.hevishot.com)  
Field & Stream Outdoor Life Deer & Turkey Expos - [www.deerinfo.com](http://www.deerinfo.com)  
Finn Tackle Company - [www.finnspoons.com](http://www.finnspoons.com)  
Fisherbeck Jigs - [www.fisherbeck.com](http://www.fisherbeck.com)  
Fisknat Landing Nets - [www.fisknat.com](http://www.fisknat.com)  
Flying Fisherman - [www.flyingfisherman.com](http://www.flyingfisherman.com)  
FOXPRO - [www.gofoxpro.com](http://www.gofoxpro.com)  
Freedom Tackle Corp. - [www.freedomlures.com](http://www.freedomlures.com)  
Frogg Toggs - [www.froggtoggs.com](http://www.froggtoggs.com)  
G.Loomis - [www.gloomis.com](http://www.gloomis.com)  
Gerber Fishing - [www.gerberfishing.com](http://www.gerberfishing.com)  
Glacier Glove - [www.glaciarglove.com](http://www.glaciarglove.com)  
Grundens USA - [www.grundens.com](http://www.grundens.com)  
Gruv Fishing - [www.gruvfishing.com](http://www.gruvfishing.com)  
Gumleaf Boots - [www.gumleafUSA.com](http://www.gumleafUSA.com)  
Gun Protect - [www.mygunprotect.com](http://www.mygunprotect.com)  
Hart Productions - [www.hartproductions.com](http://www.hartproductions.com)  
Hawke Sport Optics - [www.hawkeoptics.com](http://www.hawkeoptics.com)  
Henry Repeating Arms Co. - [www.henryUSA.com](http://www.henryUSA.com)  
HHA Sports - [www.HHAsports.com](http://www.HHAsports.com)  
Hodgdon Powder Co. - [www.hodgdon.com](http://www.hodgdon.com)  
Hoosier Trapper Supply - [www.hoosiertrappersupply.com](http://www.hoosiertrappersupply.com)  
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt - [www.hmhco.com](http://www.hmhco.com)  
HT Enterprises - [www.htent.com](http://www.htent.com)  
Indianapolis Zoo - [www.indianapoliszoo.com](http://www.indianapoliszoo.com)  
Irish Setter Boots - [www.irishsetterboots.com](http://www.irishsetterboots.com)  
Kent Cartridge - [www.kentgamebore.com](http://www.kentgamebore.com)  
Kruger Optical - [www.krugeroptical.com](http://www.krugeroptical.com)  
LaCrosse Footwear - [www.lacrossefootwear.com](http://www.lacrossefootwear.com)  
Lawrence County Tourism - [www.limestonecountry.com](http://www.limestonecountry.com)  
LensPen - [www.lenspen.com](http://www.lenspen.com)  
Leupold - [www.leupold.com](http://www.leupold.com)  
Lodge Manufacturing - [www.lodgemfg.com](http://www.lodgemfg.com)  
Mack's Lure - [www.mackslure.com](http://www.mackslure.com)  
Mathews Archery - [www.mathewsinc.com](http://www.mathewsinc.com)  
Midway USA - [www.midwayUSA.com](http://www.midwayUSA.com)  
Mossy Oak - [www.mossoak.com](http://www.mossoak.com)  
Musselhead Tackle - [www.musselhead.com](http://www.musselhead.com)  
MyTopo - [www.mytopo.com](http://www.mytopo.com)  
National Marine Manufacturers Assn - [www.nmma.org](http://www.nmma.org)  
National Shooting Sports Foundation - [www.nssf.org](http://www.nssf.org)  
National Wild Turkey Federation - [www.nwtf.org](http://www.nwtf.org)  
NextGen Baits - [www.nextgenbaits.com](http://www.nextgenbaits.com)  
O.F. Mossberg & Sons, Inc. - [www.mossberg.com](http://www.mossberg.com)  
Otis Technology - [www.otistec.com](http://www.otistec.com)  
Otter Lures - [www.otterlures.com](http://www.otterlures.com)  
Outdoor Guide Magazine - [www.outdoorguidemagazine.com](http://www.outdoorguidemagazine.com)  
Outdoor Sportsman Group - [www.outdoorsg.com](http://www.outdoorsg.com)  
PahaQue Wilderness - [www.pahaque.com](http://www.pahaque.com)  
Pheasants Forever - [www.pheasantsforever.org](http://www.pheasantsforever.org)  
Plano Synergy - [www.planosynergy.com](http://www.planosynergy.com)  
PowerPro Lines - [www.powerpro.com](http://www.powerpro.com)  
Precision Hardcore Gear - [www.xtremehardcoregear.com](http://www.xtremehardcoregear.com)  
Princeton University Press - [www.press.princeton.edu](http://www.press.princeton.edu)  
Pro's Soft Bait Glue - [www.prosoftbaitglue.com](http://www.prosoftbaitglue.com)  
Pro-Cure Bait Scents - [www.pro-cure.com](http://www.pro-cure.com)  
Quaker Boy Game Calls - [www.quakerboygamecalls.com](http://www.quakerboygamecalls.com)  
Ramcat Broadheads - [www.ramcatbroadheads.com](http://www.ramcatbroadheads.com)  
Real Avid - [www.realavid.com](http://www.realavid.com)  
Reef Runner Lures - [www.reefrunner.com](http://www.reefrunner.com)  
Remington Arms Company - [www.remington.com](http://www.remington.com)  
Renfro Productions - [www.renfroproductions.com](http://www.renfroproductions.com)  
RIO Products - [www.rioproducts.com](http://www.rioproducts.com)  
Secret Lures - [www.secretlures.com](http://www.secretlures.com)  
Shimano American Corp. - [www.shimano.com](http://www.shimano.com)  
Shurhold Industries - [www.shurhold.com](http://www.shurhold.com)  
Sitka Gear - [www.sitkagear.com](http://www.sitkagear.com)  
Snag Proof Lures - [www.snagproof.com](http://www.snagproof.com)  
Solution Products - [www.solutionproducts.net](http://www.solutionproducts.net)  
South Shore CVA - [www.southshorecva.com](http://www.southshorecva.com)  
SportDOG Brand - [www.sportdog.com](http://www.sportdog.com)  
St. Croix Rods - [www.stcroixrods.com](http://www.stcroixrods.com)  
Sturm, Ruger & Co. - [www.ruger.com](http://www.ruger.com)  
Swab-Its - [www.swab-its.com](http://www.swab-its.com)  
Sweet Owen CVB - [www.sweetowencvb.org](http://www.sweetowencvb.org)  
Tales End Tackle - [www.talesendtackle.com](http://www.talesendtackle.com)  
Target Communications Outdoor Books - [www.targetcommbooks.com](http://www.targetcommbooks.com)  
The Catch & Release Shop - [www.prints.fish](http://www.prints.fish)  
Thompson-Pallister Bait Company - [www.lenthompson.com](http://www.lenthompson.com)  
Tink's - [www.tinks.com](http://www.tinks.com)  
Toyota Motor Sales - [www.toyotanewsroom.com](http://www.toyotanewsroom.com)  
Traditions Media - [www.traditionsmedia.com](http://www.traditionsmedia.com)  
TTI-Blakemore Fishing - [www.ttiblakemore.com](http://www.ttiblakemore.com)  
Vexilar, Inc. - [www.vexilar.com](http://www.vexilar.com)  
White Flyer Targets - [www.whiteflyer.com](http://www.whiteflyer.com)  
Whitetails Unlimited - [www.whitetailsunlimited.com](http://www.whitetailsunlimited.com)  
Widener's Reloading & Shooting Supply - [www.wideners.com](http://www.wideners.com)  
Winchester Ammunition - [www.winchester.com](http://www.winchester.com)  
W.R. Case - [www.wrcase.com](http://www.wrcase.com)  
Yamaha Marine Group - [www.yamahaoutboards.com](http://www.yamahaoutboards.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	_____ Radio	_____ Artist
_____ Books	_____ Photography	_____ Lectures	
_____ Television	_____ Teaching	_____ Trade Journals	
_____ Blog/Online Work	_____ 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:

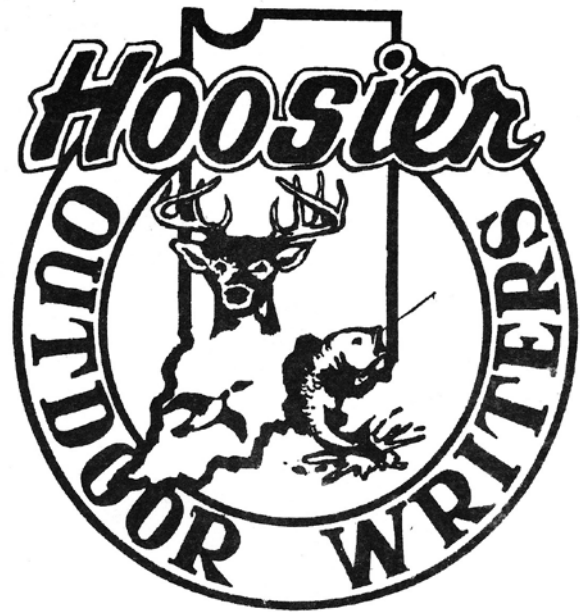
1. To give the profession of outdoor writing/reporting greater recognition and understanding, even higher standards and enlarged scope.
2. To encourage and enforce high standards of professional ethics.
3. To strive always for the truth, accuracy, clarity and completeness in the dissemination of outdoor 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; nature lovers; sportsmen; outdoorsmen; public employees in outdoor fields; educators teaching related subjects; fishing guides and tournament anglers, 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 fishing, hunting, boating, hiking, nature, ecology, or in preserving the environment in general.

# Calendar of Events

**ICAST Show 2018:**

([www.ICASTfishing.org](http://www.ICASTfishing.org))

Orlando, FL

July 10-13, 2018

**AGLOW 2018 Annual Conference:**

([www.aglowinfo.org](http://www.aglowinfo.org))

Bismarck-Mandan, ND

September 10-13, 2018

**Indianapolis Fall Boat & RV Show:**

([www.renfroproductions.com](http://www.renfroproductions.com))

Indianapolis, IN

September 21-23, 2018

**Fur Takers Chapter 7-B Fall Rendezvous:**

([www.hoosiertrappersupply.com](http://www.hoosiertrappersupply.com))

Held at Hoosier Trapper Supply

Greenwood, IN

September 29, 2018

**SEOPA 2018 Annual Conference:**

([www.seopa.org](http://www.seopa.org))

Florence, SC

October 3-6, 2018

**Cincinnati Travel, Sports & Boat Show:**

([www.hartproductions.com](http://www.hartproductions.com))

Cincinnati, OH

January 18-20 & 23-27, 2019

**SHOT Show 2019:**

(<http://shotshow.org>)

Las Vegas, NV

January 22-25, 2019

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