

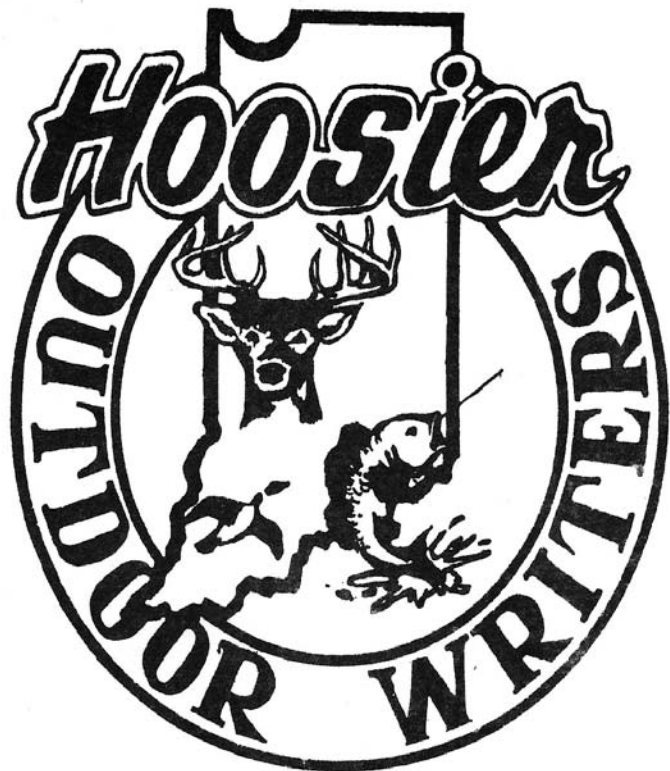
# The Blade

July - August 2018

The Official Publication of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers



"Garter Snake versus Wood Frog", 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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**On the cover:** *The survival of the fittest in the natural world often means one creature must die so another can live. The cover photo shows a garter snake battling a wood frog, and although the frog had not given up when this photo was snapped, his fate had already been sealed. Tom Berg photo.*



# President's Message

by Troy McCormick

## *Don't get too focused on your corner of the world*

With everyone so busy these days, it's easy to become a little too focused on our own work environment. Even with social media and the breadth of reach the Internet allows us, I often find myself thinking only about what is close to home and in my sphere of influence.

Recently I had the opportunity to attend the Outdoor Writers Association of America conference in Fort Wayne. Thanks to fellow HOW member, Phil Bloom, who served as last year's president of OWAA, he convinced their board to hold the 91st annual meeting in Indiana.

As our current president of HOW, I agreed to attend the conference and set up a booth to provide awareness and hopefully attract potential new members to join our organization. I was also invited to moderate a session on drone photography in the outdoors. What I wasn't expecting was to enjoy myself so much.

The OWAA members hail from all across the United States and write for some of the major outdoor publications that I not only grew up with, but that I still read today. I made some great business contacts, gained some good leads for my outdoor TV show, and broadened my network of outdoor communicators and professionals involved in environmental issues and policies.

While this is just one example of how we as outdoor communicators can increase our involvement in a larger world of outdoor education and information, for me it was a wake-up call that I have been relying too much on webinars, virtual conferences, emails, FaceTime, and Skype to meet people and network.

I would suggest that if you're looking for more outdoor connections and story ideas, don't rely entirely on the Internet, but begin attending more work-related conferences, both in Indiana and anywhere else you can find them.

See you down the road.

Troy

# 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 14.**

## **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

# HOW Awards-In-Craft Winner

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

## “Sometimes, You Simply Follow the Meandering Brook”

by Mike Lunsford

For nearly 40 years now, I've sat in symphony halls and playhouses with my students; we've wandered through graveyards, walked museum galleries, and stayed overnight in mystery mansions. We've watched painters paint and sculptors sculpt, listened to soliloquys, heard politicians posture, watched films, sat next to creeks, and visited newspaper editorial offices, radio control rooms, and television studios. We've left early on school day mornings and gotten home late on Saturday nights.

I have always taken my kids on the road, and I will until I hang up my erasers and grade book next spring for good. Don't get me wrong; I like straight rows and tidy floors and names on papers like the most tightly-wound teacher, but I also discovered a long time ago that people can learn just about anywhere, that the best photo or recording can't compare to the real thing, and that sometimes, we have to move around a little to learn best.

Those tenets were reinforced in me a few weeks ago. It was a cool, breezy, sunny afternoon, and I decided that since we were studying man's "sense of place," my seniors needed to see the trees and hear the birds that inhabit their place, and they needed to see them and hear them for real. It is a small group, and despite a few students being taken by surprise with the announcement that we were going on a hike - a number wore sandals - we bolted out of the school to walk a trail that encircles much of our campus. That path was the brainchild of a teacher friend, Wayne Stanley.

Wayne taught well over 40 years, agriculture classes, mostly, but he put a lot of time in our physics and chemistry labs, too. He believed that when we built our school, essentially in the middle of a soybean field that stood in the middle of rolling woodlands that sat - at least according to some - in the middle of nowhere, that we needed a walking trail. That, and a number of other projects led me to work with Wayne on what became known as our "land lab."

It's hard to believe that it has been over 30 years now, but the trees Wayne planted and the trail we cleared (there was a group of teachers and community volunteers) look a lot different now. A trip past our school when Wayne's crabapple trees are in spring bloom is proof enough of his far-sighted gifts; I wish we could have gotten the pond he wanted, but most of what he planned was realized, much of it through the hard work of Rod Busenbark, a bit of a nature visionary himself.

Most of the walking trail is part of our cross-country course now; it is a wide path through shallow woodland, and its dry sandy soil was blanketed in brown leaves as we walked along, my students' interest immediately captured by no more than a few green-hulled walnuts, a clump of yellowing paw paw trees, and the changing colors of poison ivy. They

had a good time, not just because they were outdoors, but because they have, I hope, bought into the idea that in order to be living in a place, we have to know it as intimately as the scent of the sassafras twig I snapped off and passed around for them to sniff.

I have been a lucky teacher. My administrators - all of them - including the young and energetic pair I have now, have supported my oddball ideas. Just a year ago, my school allowed me to buy a set of Richard Louv's wonderful "Last Child in the Woods." I stopped the kids and read a passage from it in the spot where a now-dilapidated stage stands along the trail, and I didn't care if they heard much, as long as they listened to whatever the woods had to offer.

"Attachment to the land is not only good for the child," Louv writes, "but good for the land as well." When I heard what my kids said later, I believed him even more.

"I heard the wind blowing and rustling the leaves, knocking down the walnuts," Brogan Sanders said. "I just liked the feeling of being relaxed..."

"I have seen a lot of walnuts in my lifetime," Jordan Nightingale said, "but not once have I ever taken a whiff. I think it's safe to say that they smell very good; as a matter of fact, I still have the scent on my hands, and I love it."

"One thing I saw," Alexis Guoli said, "was this purple vine, and when I pulled it up, just a little at first, it just kept coming out of the ground."

T.J. Rutan saw a red-tailed hawk; Josie Eslinger noticed the knots on a hackberry tree; Tyler Metheny thinks he identified an ironwood tree; and Cassie Fellows spoke of a pile of curled leaves she found.

I teach at a country school, but I realized years ago that country kids don't necessarily spend much of their time in the countryside. Whether mine do or not, I couldn't help but love their simple observations. Sydney Fischer noticed how sandy the soil was; Kendall Gill heard the trees creaking in the breeze; Addie Moeller snapped a twig off a tree to keep; Britini VanVolkenburg thought she'd see more colorful trees this late in the year; and Brock Oxford couldn't believe how dry everything was...

Before he ever moved to the woods near Walden Pond, Henry David Thoreau tried his hand at teaching. His superiors criticized him for not whipping his students, and they warned him that he was taking his children outdoors too much for long walks along the river and through meadows. He resigned rather than give in to their demands. Too often, he wrote, "education makes a straight-cut ditch of a free, meandering brook."

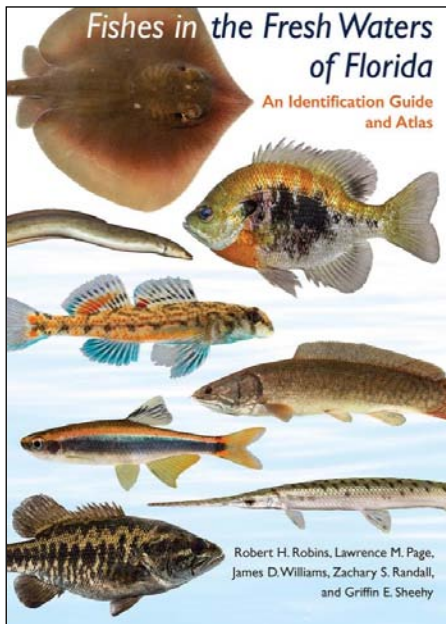
I've now learned that lesson all over again.

## Reviews on Great Outdoor Books

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

***Fishes in the Fresh Waters of Florida***, by Robins, Page, Williams, Randall and Sheehy.

Book review by Tom Berg:



The University of Florida Press has published a great new fish identification book, titled: ***Fishes in the Fresh Waters of Florida***, by Robert Robins, Lawrence Page, James Williams, Zachary Randall and Griffin Sheehy. Anyone interested in learning more about the many different species of fish swimming around in Florida waters should put this book on their wish list.

This comprehensive identification guide includes each of the 222 fish species present in Florida today, from species familiar to Hoosier anglers like Largemouth Bass, Redear Sunfish, Bluegill and Black Crappie to more unusual fish like the Seminole Killifish, the Okefenokee Pygmy Sunfish and the Cypress Darter, just to name a few. It also describes odd fish species that are alien invaders from other countries – even other continents. Some of those include the Bullseye Snakehead (native to tropical Asia), Midas Cichlids (native to Nicaragua and Costa Rica), Peacock Bass (native to northern South America), African Jewelfish (native to Africa, from the Ivory Coast to Ethiopia) and armored catfish like the Sailfin Catfish (native to South America) – again, just to name a few! Some were accidentally released into Florida waters and others were intentionally released. In any case, most are here to stay.

Besides some of the more glamorous and well-known fish mentioned above, the book also details the more obscure fish, the often overlooked minnow-sized species of fish that most anglers never even think about. These are the minnows, darters, shiners and chubs. The sheer numbers and colors of some of these minnows is amazing, and they are all described quite beautifully in this book. For example, the Bluenose Shiner really does have a bright blue snout. The male Speckled Darter has bright red-orange and blue bands on its dorsal fin. The list goes on and on.

***Fishes in the Fresh Waters of Florida*** also describes marine species that sometimes enter Florida's fresh waters and might be caught by anglers. Tarpon, Southern Flounder, Violet Goby, Snook and Mangrove Snappers are just a few of those species that are described in the book.

Of course, the beautiful full-color photos of the fish are the number one attraction in this book, and there is often more than one photo of each species (adult views, juvenile views, males, females, spawning colors, etc). The text details identification of species, discusses similar species, habitat and interesting comments. Among the most useful things in this book are the detailed range maps which are printed for each species. These maps help rule-out similar looking species based on location, which can be very helpful in the field. There is a lot to learn, and the 468 pages of this book will definitely educate you!



African Jewelfish – caught and photographed by Tom Berg in Florida waters during 2018.

This is an excellent identification book for the serious Life List angler, but it is also a great reference for both the beginner and the experienced freshwater fisherman. ISBN-13: 978-1-68340-033-2



## 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 Tom Berg:

“On a recent trip to Florida, I saw many interesting water birds, including this one,” said Berg. “But when I saw this dark-colored bird with the striking bright red shield on its forehead, I had to snap a few photos. It was a **Common Gallinule** (*Gallinula galeata*), also called a common moorhen by some people.”

Common gallinules look like ducks when swimming in the water, but they are actually rails. They have long legs and long, slender toes like a rail which help them walk on top of weeds and floating marsh vegetation. They are mostly charcoal-gray birds with a splash of white on their outer tail feathers. Besides the bright red shield on their forehead, they also have a bright red bill tipped in yellow.

The common gallinule is omnivorous, eating a wide variety of foods – both animal and vegetable. Aquatic seeds, duckweed and other vegetation make up a large part of their diet, but they also eat insects, worms, snails and almost anything else they can find in the water.

Preferred nesting sites are often on top of thick mats of floating vegetation near the shoreline. Nests are usually secured to emergent vegetation to keep the floating mats from drifting away.



**Above:** An adult common gallinule swims in one of Florida’s backwater canals. **Below:** A pair of adult common gallinules watch over their four youngsters on an inland lake and show them how to forage for food among the lake’s shallow aquatic grasses. Photos by Tom Berg.



### Did you take an interesting bird photo recently?

HOW members are encouraged to send their interesting bird photos to the newsletter editor ([thomas.berg@comcast.net](mailto: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.

# One Off the Bucket List

by HOW President Troy McCormick

I've always had Africa on my "Bucket List," but never knew if I would ever really get to go. Then, out of the blue the opportunity to go with my friend, David Blake, and fellow HOW member, Kenny Bayless, dropped in my lap. I knew I was going even before they finished asking.

Kenny is the American agent for Van Vuuren African Safaris and had been to South Africa on safari eight times already, and he had the answers to all of my questions. We picked the dates of our safari, booked our airline tickets, and sat back to await the next eleven months to pass before we began our adventure.



Well, I say we waited, but in actuality I was researching the CDC requirements for vaccinations, arranging to be inoculated, watching every TV show I could about South Africa, and pouring through photos of exotic animals like kudu, nyala, cape buffalo, and gemsbok. I mean, come on, there are 45 major plains game species in South Africa! What was I going to hunt?

The Limpopo Province we travelled to lies in the northern part of South Africa and is a game-rich environment. The lands we hunted ranged from mountains and river bottoms in the Bushveld to the grasslands bordering the Kalahari Desert.

We hunted places like the Crocodile River and Mamba Mountain, we stalked the open plains, and hunted from the back of safari-equipped land rovers. I even had the opportunity to film our exploits with my drone.



Troy McCormick sits in the back of the Land Rover, operating the controls for his drone (which took this photo). Kenny Bayless looks on as he stands next to the truck.

One of my target animals was a gemsbok, a large member of the impala family, with a black and white face, and dagger-like horns that surpass three feet in length. Kenny and I chased after gemsbok, driving and stalking over a concession that included 35,000 acres of grass and low brush. My PH, or professional hunter, warned me that I would only have 2-3 seconds to take my shot. My response was, "I need five seconds to power on the video camera and start recording!" Time and time again I raised my rifle and the animals disappeared into the brush.

My chance finally came as the sun was setting over the western savannah. I took the shot and watched my trophy drop to the ground. And then to my dismay, he stood up and ran off after the rest of the herd. We followed blood until dark, and then returned the next morning. We picked up the blood trail again but eventually we lost it. We absolutely did not want to give up, and we scoured the landscape with native trackers on the ground and with my drone in the sky, but to no avail. The gemsbok was gone.

(continued next page)



I worked to shake off the loss of the animal, a feeling that only a hunter can fully relate to. We knew he was dead, but we couldn't find him. I had made a good shot, but the placement wasn't good enough to put him down within a recoverable distance.

We also spent an amazing day on a photo safari in the Marakele National Park, where we filmed white rhino, giraffe, cape vultures, klipspringer, zebra, ostrich, kudu, and other exotic animals. After returning to the ranch, we went out for one more evening hunt. I had the opportunity of a lifetime when a mature nyala bull came down the mountain, stepped into an opening, and with two video cameras rolling,

I dropped him in his tracks. And he stayed down! As I knelt for photos with my trophy, I pondered this amazing turn of events. Little did I know, it wasn't over yet.



Troy McCormick poses with his beautiful trophy impala in the African bush.



Troy McCormick poses with his trophy South African nyala antelope. This animal has interesting bright tan-colored forelegs. All Africa photos by/courtesy of Troy McCormick.

About a week after returning home from South Africa, I received an email from my PH, letting me know that they had found my gemsbok! They watched each day and waited until the circling vultures pinpointed his final resting spot, very near to the area that we had been searching. The skull and horns were recovered, and I am having them mounted to commemorate the animal and my adventure.

While I don't usually judge the success of a hunting trip by the animals taken, I'll just say that our safari is going to make my taxidermist a rich man! We harvested animals that included

impala, wildebeest, gemsbok, springbok, baboon, wart hog and nyala.

While I can officially mark this item off of my bucket list, I have to admit that I have added a return trip to Africa to my list again!

# Diary of an African Safari

by Kenny Bayless

While you are on a 15 hour and 21 minute flight to South Africa you get so bored it doesn't take much to entertain you. Like watching the cartoon about Captain Underpants. Did you know he can leap tall buildings without getting a wedgie?

David Blake and I were to meet Troy McCormick at our boarding gate in the Atlanta airport and we were on a tight schedule. After exiting the economy shuttle bus at the Indy airport we were on a fast pace to our boarding gate when David realized he left his suitcase on the bus. After chasing the bus at a dead run down the road, David was lucky enough to retrieve his bag. We boarded the plane and settled-in for the flight.

Update: Less than 1 hour to land, so stay tuned for the adventure of a lifetime!

**Day 1:** Thursday 5/3/18, David and his guide Kennedy went to a blind on the backside of the mountain and saw one big bird all morning. Troy and I were spotting and stalking with Cobus, the outfitter, to see impala, blue wildebeest, nyala male and female, along with about 100 baboons and several groups of vervet monkeys. We sat on a bluff overlooking the Crocodile River awaiting warthogs and impala to show up. Just before we arrived at the bluff we saw a big mixed group of warthogs, impala and zebra.

We went to the lodge for dinner and prepared to walk and stalk in late afternoon. David Blake spent a productive afternoon setting in a blind; he saw all the species he was hunting, but no trophies. He did enjoy watching a multitude of animals at 30 yards.

Zack Simmons was the hunting guide for Troy McCormick and myself, and he took us walking and stalking. Long story short, we came across a herd of impala that had a trophy ram in it. They were in very thick African bush and getting nervous when Troy dropped the hammer. The ram spun and ran trying to follow the herd. Zack is an expert tracker and tracked that ram on pure rocks with very little soil.

First animal down and a wonderful dinner behind us; it was time to shed some jet lag with a good night's sleep!

**Day 2:** Friday 5/4/18 Saw a lot of animals today with kudu, impala, warthog and bush buck. David Blake set all day in a blind with Kennedy, the head tracker and skinner. After watching baboons, warthogs and impala come through,



(Left to Right) David Blake, Troy McCormick and Kenny Bayless pose behind Blake's trophy blue wildebeest. All photos by/courtesy Troy McCormick.

he decided to take a blue wildebeest bull with his crossbow. He took the shot when the bull stopped behind a tree with low hanging limbs that had a window in them. The bull jolted and ran up on the mountain, disappearing in the thick African bush. Cobus Van Vuuren, Zack Simmons and Kennedy tracked the bull for two hours over the mountain and back close to the lodge. They saw him several times and even found the broken crossbow bolt. It was dark by then and they hoped to pick up the trail in the morning to recover David's trophy bull wildebeest.

**Day 3:** Saturday 5/5/18 David could hardly sleep last night from worrying about recovering his wildebeest. As we started up the lane in the Land Rover for a short distance, Kennedy hit the top of the cab with his hand to stop the driver, saying there he is! The wildebeest was down and had expired overnight. Dave about went to his knees with relief. High fives and handshakes went all around. You would have thought Elvis Presley was back from all the picture taking.



(continued next page)

Zack, Troy and I went to another area hunting gemsbok. After a thunderstorm with hail that came through two days ago, the animals were all in a hold-up mood instead of grazing and moving in a normal pattern. After driving and glassing for several miles, a trophy impala was spotted. Ole Dead Eye McCormick put him down with the .375 caliber rifle.

Zack asked me if I would like to hunt a springbuck and there was a rare copper-colored one in the area. Of course, I said lets go for it. I thought it would be like looking for a needle in a haystack to find that one animal. As luck would have it, we went less than a mile and there he stood at 150 yards looking straight at us. A head-on chest shot was very risky but he was about to bound away into the thick African bush. I took a deep breath, putting the crosshairs on him while the camera man was filming next to me. As you heard the report of the rifle, the springbuck disappeared. I said “Where did he go?” and with a slap on my back, Troy said he went straight down.

Later in the day we finally had a gemsbok stand still long enough for Troy to put a slug in his shoulder and it went to the ground. He got back up to run away with the others. It got dark, so tracking a gemsbok is on the top of Troy’s list for tomorrow. Two weeks after our return, they found the gemsbok!! It is a major trophy that can be mounted in the European style.

David tripled-out today. After finding his blue wildebeest he took a trophy warthog and an impala.

**Day 4:** Sunday 5/6/18 David and I set in blinds all day hoping to get a shot on an exotic creature, but David just had warthogs and several vervet monkeys pass through. I had zebras, warthogs and monkeys in front of me.

**Day 5:** Monday 5/7/18 David chose to hunt baboons again today. As he was walking to his blind, he encountered a troop of upset baboons with them giving their alarm calls. He stopped to watch and listen when a big female baboon appeared with others following. Let’s just say she didn’t retreat back up Mamba Mountain with the others.

As we were driving slowly through the African bush, two nyala antelope skirted away from the truck at about 35 yards. The driver was alerted to stop from a hit on the cab of the truck. Troy had been looking for a nyala for days. David had his camera rolling that recorded the impact shot that stopped the animal in its tracks. Troy was overwhelmed from harvesting such a trophy animal.

Troy and I also went on a photo safari today at the Marakele Game Reserve. We took still pictures and got a lot of video footage of giraffe, rhino, zebra, vultures and other exotic animals.

Tomorrow is our last day. Troy is trying for a warthog in the morning and I’m sleeping in. The food has been outstanding and I probably gained 20 pounds. We have made a lot of memories over the last four days, including setting around the fire reminiscing about what we’ve done each day.

**Day 6:** Tuesday 5/8/18 Cobus and Troy went on an early morning warthog hunt before we left for the airport. They didn’t have the luck David had the day before when he harvested a trophy warthog.

After saying farewell to all the help at the lodge we stopped at the taxidermy shop to decide how our trophies were to be mounted. We were like kids in a candy store, pointing at all of the mounts while saying “I want one of them!”

Our flight time from Johannesburg to Atlanta is 16 hours and 27 minutes. Troy and David are already dreaming of their next adventure to the dark continent of Africa!



View the pilot of upcoming TV episodes with some of the action from this trip on YouTube at [Bootprints Africa with Troy McCormick](#).



## *Indiana Sportsmen's Roundtable*

*Working to Protect the Future*

<https://tinyurl.com/Indiana-Sportsmens-Roundtable>

### **ISR OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE**

#### **The Future Of Fishing And Boating On The Ohio River Is Threatened**

Are you aware that the current water quality standards of the Ohio River are in danger of returning to pre-1970's conditions? In the first week of October the Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission's (ORSANCO) will have a key vote that will determine the future of sport fishing and boating on the Ohio River.

ORSANCO was established in 1948 to control and abate pollution in the Ohio River Basin. ORSANCO is an interstate commission representing the eight bordering stake-holding states and Federal Government. Member states include: Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia. It established and monitors common water quality standards on the Ohio River and its tributaries.

In the 1970's the Ohio River's water quality was terrible. Recognizing this, anglers and recreational boaters worked with ORSANCO. Today our sportsman and women enjoy the spring Sauger run and its numerous Bass fishing tournaments. These activities are at risk of returning to the previously unsuitable conditions if the Commissioners vote to return water quality standards back to the individual states. It also virtually eliminates ORSANCO's key role in coordinating and maintaining common sense scientific based standards for this most valuable watershed and its recreational value.

Gene Hopkins of the Indiana Sportsmen's Roundtable asks, "Why change common sense that has worked for years." Hopkins added, "The Roundtable is robustly speaking up against these changes and strongly encourages all sportspersons to do the same."

The Indiana Sportsmen's Roundtable is working with other like minded conservation groups to stop this change. So what can the average sportsperson do to help?

We encourage you to either call or email Governor Holcomb with the simple message of: "I am a sportsperson and I enjoy fishing and boating on the Ohio River. Please tell Indiana's representative ORSANCO commissioner(s) to leave the current common sense, science based water quality standards in place and keep the Commission's established role active. Additionally, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources sorely needs increased measures to fund aquatic biologists for the Ohio River. I want to protect sporting activities this valuable resource provides for my children and grandchildren. Thank you for listening to my concerns."

To contact Governor Holcomb, Simply Google "Ask Governor Holcomb," for a phone number or email address. Time is running out. Please do this today.

**For additional information on ORSANCO: <http://www.orsanco.org>**



## National Wildlife Federation & Affiliates

Indiana Wildlife Federation, Citizens for Pennsylvania's Future, West Virginia Rivers Coalition, Kentucky Waterways Alliance, Prairie Rivers Network, Ohio Conservation Federation, Virginia Conservation Network, Environmental Advocates of New York

The Ohio River is an important resource as a working river for cargo transport, a source of drinking water for five million people, a place for recreation along its 981 mile length and a home for diverse habitat for wildlife and fish. The Ohio River Sanitation Commission (ORSANCO) is a regional body with the mandate to manage the Ohio River as a basin system, a unique role that was forward thinking in 1948 and just as necessary today.

ORSANCO provides valuable assistance to member states in stream assessment, monitoring and spill response, and administration of the Pollution Control Standards (PCS). ORSANCO commissioners are now recommending the retraction of crucial PCS, which we see as an abdication of their responsibilities for managing the Ohio River as a basin system rather than individual stream segments. We believe that the PCS and the role of ORSANCO must remain to ensure that safeguards are in place to protect downstream uses from upstream impacts.

- A majority of commissioners believe that there is redundancy between the states' water quality standards. However, both the states and ORSANCO have congruent functions in the development and review of water quality standards, but that does not mean there is a duplication of effort. The focus of ORSANCO on the mainstem of the Ohio River allows states to utilize their resources on the other water bodies within their state jurisdictions. The 981 mile length of the Ohio River requires specialized expertise for the development of standards that do not impact not only waters within a given segment of the river, but also does not jeopardize downstream water resource integrity.
- ORSANCO released comparison tables in February depicting a wide variability in the number and stringency of standards by the states. The variability among the states' adoption and implementation of the PCS should be a call to action for greater collaboration. The issue that needs to be solved is not the role of ORSANCO, but rather the lack of adoption/implementation by the states of the PCS into state standards.
- We acknowledge that states face challenges in the development, promulgation and implementation of ORSANCO's PCS. This is a missed opportunity for ORSANCO and states to use collective leverage towards getting the PCS adopted among the states so that the Ohio River is managed as one river basin, not individual stream segments within state boundaries.
- Elimination of the ORSANCO PCS means significant investments will need to be made by the states for the technical development of standards, the procedures for adoption, implementation of those standards and future triennial reviews as required by the Clean Water Act. While some states can adopt the PCS by reference in their state procedures, others cannot. In turn there would be six public agencies conducting the work currently done by one entity.
- Moreover, no comparative analysis has been undertaken to identify any permit limits whereby the state standard was more stringent than the ORSANCO PCS. This is precisely the analysis that ORSANCO should have undertaken to fully realize the potential consequences and impacts that could result should this proposal go forward. The ramifications of the elimination of the PCS need to be fully understood for Commission members to make an informed decision. Otherwise, they are faced with a decision that lacks a full accounting of the impact to the Ohio River.
- The proposed alternatives for managing the Ohio River Basin create a framework for inconsistent standards for the same water body. This could lead to confusion and economic harm for the regulated community as they seek to comply with different standards. Additionally, such a framework would also establish a lack of equity among the states in its attempts to regulate discharges to the river as economic development efforts will be compromised if differing standards are in place for different states.

Forty six years of water program administration under the Clean Water Act has taught us that we need to manage our water bodies as connected systems within drainage boundaries, not disjointed administration by separate jurisdictional boundaries. Any proposal to resort to pollution control oversight within state borders is a step backward. The Compact compels the member states to act on behalf of a water body beyond its jurisdictional waters, a unique role that demands action beyond parochial interests.

# HOW Member News

## GUNS Magazine Signs Brent Wheat as New Editor

HOW Vice President Brent Wheat has a new full-time job. In addition to his responsibilities as Publisher/CEO of WildIndiana.com, Wheat is now the editor of *GUNS Magazine*. Here is the official announcement:

FMG Publications is pleased to announce the addition of Brent Wheat as editor of *GUNS Magazine*. Wheat's decades of industry experience as a lifelong hunting and shooting enthusiast is expected to resonate with *GUNS Magazine's* loyal readership.

"Brent brings a great sense of humor, strong work ethic and experienced teamwork skills to the oldest published newsstand general interest gun title in existence," said Publisher Roy Huntington. "His ability to produce digital content, video and podcasts will expand *GUNS Magazine's* 63 years' worth of influence to an even wider audience."

"I know the term is overused, but I'm darn excited about working with the team at FMG," said Wheat. "While the expectations are high in this job, I feel like I'm walking into a friendly, professional environment where everyone wants to grow the industry through new and exciting content. With our long history of successes, the highly motivated team already in place and a little new blood, the future of *GUNS Magazine* will continue to rack-up triumphs."

Brent Wheat is an award-winning author, senior member of many outdoor writer associations, former SWAT team member and has extensive experience in newspaper, television, radio, government, corporate and non-profit communication groups. He also serves on the City of Lebanon Common Council in Indiana.

"Brent's diverse background will help the *GUNS Magazine* team keep content timely and interesting. Thinking out-of-the-box will have readers wondering what's next when they turn a page, or click on a link!" Huntington added.



For more information, partnership opportunities and submission guidelines for *GUNS Magazine*, send an email to Wheat at: [brent.wheat@fmghq.com](mailto:brent.wheat@fmghq.com).

## John Maxwell and Bob Sawtelle Go Dry Fly Fishing in Cutthroat Country

HOW members Ranger Bob Sawtelle and DNR photographer John Maxwell traveled to Idaho during the first two weeks of August to meet some friends and fly fish Idaho's clear waters near West Yellowstone.

"We fished for rainbow, brown and cutthroat trout, usually by dry-fly fishing a floating grasshopper fly, with a teeny-tiny nearly microscopic emerger-fly dropper underneath," said Maxwell. "Essentially, the grasshopper fly acted as a strike indicator, and kept the dropper fly from snagging on the river rocks. The emerger fly mimicked an aquatic insect moving to the surface. We also had to be very careful to mend the fly line to keep the drifts as natural looking as possible – the trout were very smart"

Maxwell reported that wary trout usually grabbed the lower fly, but once in a while a larger trout would smash the big floating fly, especially as the afternoon sun heated-up the real grasshoppers and got them jumping along the streamside grass.

The two anglers mixed wade-fishing along the Henry's Fork of the Snake River with sight-seeing and camping. They also spent time fishing the Teton River and the South Fork of the Snake River from a drift boat using a guide hired out of Three Rivers Ranch in Ashton, Idaho. "I caught my first-ever cutthroat trout from the Teton River," said Maxwell. "The rainbow trout were the largest fish we caught, some ranging well past 20 inches long." Inset photo below: Maxwell holds a nice rainbow.



A bull moose cools off along the Henry's Fork of the Snake River, with Ranger Bob fly fishing in the background. John Maxwell photo.

## Maxwell's Photos Show The Real Beauty of the West

John Maxwell is rarely found without a camera nearby, and that was a very good thing on his recent trip to Idaho. The western scenery was gorgeous and he and Bob Sawtelle caught plenty of fish. On the way home they stopped in South Dakota's Badlands for more photos and wildlife viewing.

In the large photo below, bighorn sheep rest in the early morning light at the Badlands. Sawtelle and Maxwell arrived in the Badlands at sunrise after an all-night, cross-country drive. They spotted burrowing owls, prairie dogs, mule deer, pronghorn antelope, bighorn sheep and mountain goats. Coyotes could be heard yipping and yapping across the primordial-looking chasms at daybreak, too.



At left, John Maxwell holds a beautiful cutthroat trout he caught in Idaho's Teton River. Above, a herd of bison roams at the side of the road in South Dakota.



## Phil Seng Experiences High Adventure in Alaska



HOW member Phil Seng and his wife recently returned from a vacation to Alaska, and he submitted the following memorable moment for *The Blade*:

“It has been on my bucket list for many years to see Alaskan brown bears fishing during the summer Alaskan salmon run,” said Seng, “and my wife Laura and I both have it on our bucket list to visit all the national parks before we ‘kick’ the bucket. So this year we spent our vacation visiting four national parks in Alaska – one of which (Katmai NP) is internationally famous for bear viewing.”



Several Alaskan brown bears fishing for salmon at one of Katmai National Park's scenic waterfalls. Photo © Phil T. Seng.

“All of it was beyond amazing, but one experience has vaulted to the top of my ‘cool wildlife stuff’ list,” he continued. “On our last day at Katmai, I had decided to go back for one last look at the waterfall area where the bears catch salmon as the fish leap the falls. It was a fairly long hike, and Laura decided to stay at a viewing platform much nearer to the lake where the float plane was going to pick us up.”

“I hiked in, got some additional photos, stayed as long as I could, and then started hiking back out to meet Laura at the dock. The trail is about four feet wide, and winds around through spruce thicket and coastal wetland areas. In

our safety briefing they told us that bears sometimes use these trails, and so to be alert at all times.”

“I was hiking fast and had almost made it back to the dock when around the next bend in the trail came two 3-year-old bears running flat-out right at me. One was chasing the other, and they were sprinting. You just cannot believe how fast an animal that big can run. They told us to get off the trail if ever we encountered bears on it, and let the bears pass. You don’t say.”

“Unfortunately, I was in a stretch where both sides of the trail were wetland, so I didn’t really have anywhere to go. In a fit of mild terror I scrambled off the trail into ankle-deep water and immediately turned back to face the trail. The bears were on top of me in about two seconds. I no more than turned around and they came to a screeching halt on the trail. I was now standing eye to eye with two ‘teenager’ brown bears, about eight feet from me.”

“The adult bears are so focused on fishing that they really don’t pay much attention to humans, but the ‘rowdy teenagers’ cannot be trusted. I started talking to them in as calm a voice as I could muster, just like the ranger taught us. I think I mentioned that I didn’t have much body fat and they should look elsewhere for sustenance.”

“They sniffed at me, sized me up for about five seconds, and then shot off down the trail again, like bullets out of a gun. My body had trouble adjusting to the bear-sized pulse of adrenaline in my blood, but I was ecstatic to have had the encounter. The national parks are treasures (the state parks are, too!), and now Katmai National Park will forever hold a special place in my outdoor soul.”

## Mike Berg and Son Catch Trophy Oklahoma Paddlefish

HOW member Mike Berg and his son Steve went on an interesting fishing excursion earlier this year while visiting Oklahoma for a family wedding. Both Berg's have always wanted to catch a paddlefish, so they hired a local guide to take them fishing. They met at the Neosho River, which feeds into the expansive Grand Lake O' the Cherokees in northeastern Oklahoma, with high hopes for catching a big paddlefish.

Mike said the guide used his electronics to search the river's depths until he found a big school of paddlefish, and then they all started jigging. The water was 15-20 feet deep, and the anglers did their best to keep the jigs in front of the fish milling around below.

Mike was the first to connect, and his stout rod and heavy line were put to the test against the strength of a big paddlefish. The elder Berg reported that his fish fought hard and did a lot of rolling as he wrestled him to the surface, and at the side of the boat he saw the line was wrapped around the fish's paddle (or rostrum). Amid the fish's splashing and rolling, the guide quickly grabbed it and hauled it aboard.

It was a big one! Berg said it was a large female and it weighed about 50 pounds. The guide informed them they needed to decide right away whether or not they wanted to keep the fish, since the daily bag limit was one paddlefish per person. Mike decided to keep it, so he placed a tag around the fish's tail and he was done fishing.

Steve still wanted to catch one, so he kept jigging. Time passed and it started raining. The guide did his best to maneuver the boat and keep them on top of the fish, but the school of paddlefish seemed to become very inactive. Steve caught a large gizzard shad and a freshwater drum, but the paddlefish were eluding him.

After a couple of hours of slow fishing in a steady drizzle, Steve finally connected with a good paddlefish. The fight was on! It didn't take him terribly long to subdue the fish, and then Steve had his own paddlefish. His fish was a male and it was a bit smaller than his Dad's (about 35 or 40 pounds), so it was a tough decision on whether to keep the fish or release it. He was hoping for a bigger one, but in the end he decided to keep this one and tag it.

The guide used his cellphone to call the DNR to report the paddlefish catches and arranged to meet them at the local boat ramp. Oklahoma's paddlefish program requires anglers to bring their catch to DNR officials so they can collect important data (weight, length and girth measurements, age) and process the fish.

DNR biologists took the fish to a local processing center just a few minutes away where they harvested the eggs from the female paddlefish and removed the jaw bones from both fish (for aging purposes). The DNR keeps the paddlefish eggs and sells them as caviar to help fund some of their programs. This helps keep caviar prices down and discourages poachers from taking paddlefish illegally and selling the eggs. This program also allows DNR biologists to study a lot of paddlefish without going out and killing additional fish.

Berg reported that the processing center personnel filleted and packaged the fish for them to take home, so they will have some interesting fish to eat later in the year. All in all, a great fishing trip!



HOW member Mike Berg (left) and son Steve with a beautiful pair of Oklahoma paddlefish. Photo courtesy of Mike Berg.

## Gary and Gayle Redmon Tour Denali



Taking a break from the Indiana heat, HOW member Gary Redmon and his wife Gayle, along with Gary's brother, Mark and sister-in-law Cindy Redmon traveled to the heart of Alaska, Denali National Park. Arriving at Denali they boarded the only vehicle approved by the National Park service: a typical school bus.

They began their travels slowly, along narrow snow-covered mountainous roads, 90 miles to the remote Kantishna Roadhouse Lodge where a person can enjoy the freedom of no TV, phone or internet services. Kantishna sits just 25 miles from the base of Mount Denali, surrounded by rivers, valleys, tundra and wildlife. Moose, Dall sheep, caribou and grizzly can be seen daily. Kantishna is a historic gold mining district once home to thousands of mountain prospectors. The National Park Service has preserved several of the original remote cabins and trails for touring.

Most of the daily activities included panning for gold, hiking, fly fishing and photography in the area or just sitting back relaxing without any world news. "The Alaskan summer solstice was the most unnatural for us Hoosiers," said Redmon, "with 22 hours of functional daylight; at 1:30 am the sun was still bright. For the return trip out we took a bush plane, flying over scenic snow-covered mountains and glaciers, 10,000 feet above majestic Mt. Denali."

"Traveling back to the modern part of the world we joined-up with a cruise ship in Anchorage for a seven day southbound voyage of the glaciers. The ocean wildlife of humpback whales, sea lions, otters and birds were the daily entertainment along the way, as well as the beautiful natural scenery. Additionally, the cruise ship stopped to explore what I call the historical but tourist ports of Skagway, Juneau, Ketchikan and the final embarkation port of Vancouver, BC where we boarded a long flight back to the glacier fields of corn and soybeans in Indiana."



## Tom Berg Earns Fishing “Big Catch” and “Exotic Slam” Awards in South Florida

HOW Executive Director Tom Berg was recently presented with three different Florida “Big Catch” awards for fish he caught during a fishing trip to south Florida earlier this summer. Those fish included butterfly peacock bass, oscar, and Mayan cichlid.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWCC) commemorates outstanding angler catches by awarding Big Catch certificates for a variety of fish species. The Big Catch program includes both adult and youth categories, and it also provides recognition for Specialists, Master anglers, Elite anglers and certain Fishing Grand Slams.

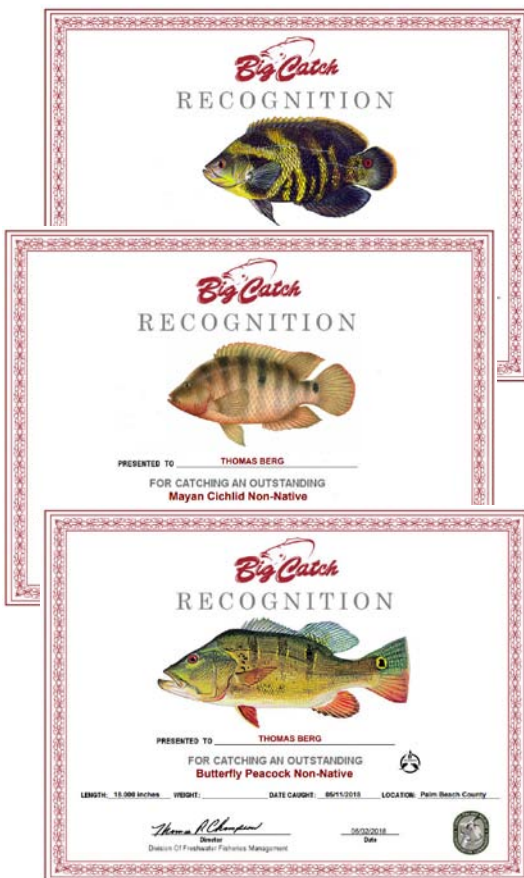
Berg’s fish met the Big Catch minimum length requirements for butterfly peacock bass (18 inches), Oscar (11 inches), and Mayan cichlid (11 inches). Coincidentally, those same three fish qualified Berg for one of the very challenging “Fishing Grand Slam” awards from the Florida FWCC as well. For the



Tom Berg displays a beautifully-colored butterfly peacock bass he caught and released in a small south Florida Canal earlier this year. Photo by Mike Berg.

“Exotic Slam”, a butterfly peacock bass, an oscar, and Mayan cichlid must be caught by an angler in the same day.

“I was lucky to catch that oscar on the day my brother Mike and I were fishing the canals outside of Delray Beach,” said Berg. “That’s the fish that qualified me for the Exotic Slam. Both of us caught several peacock bass and Mayan cichlids that day, but my oscar was the only one we boated all day.”



## **Bayless and McCormick Families Experience Great Canadian Fishing**

HOW members Troy McCormick and Kenny Bayless were fortunate enough to take another great trip this summer after their earlier African safari. This time their travels took them to Canada. Kenny Bayless explains:

“Canada is a fisherman’s dream; you will get hooked on fishing after one trip,” said Bayless. “On July 7th at 8pm, four adventurous souls left Terre Haute, Indiana for the remote wilderness of Ontario, Canada. Our group included Troy McCormick and his Dad Ron, along with myself and my son Seth Bayless.”

“On July 8th we arrived at Little Eva Lake, located 20 miles north of Duluth, Minnesota and the Canadian border. After driving all night for 15½ hours, the cabin was a welcome sight. We transferred our equipment to the cabin by boat. You are totally cut off from the outside world here, with absolutely no cell phone access.”

“You can only access the lake by float plane or portaging in by walking moose paths and voyager trails that were created back in the 1700’s by French-Canadian voyagers carrying their canoes and supplies from lake to lake. You could almost feel the history walking on the same rocks they walked upon.”

“The lake offers 1,300 acres of pristine fishing with only one cabin on its shores. The cabin had modern facilities with solar panels on the roof providing charging power for the batteries that created electricity and hot water. Propane allowed us to cook fish on a modern stove, as well.”

“Seth had great expectations to catch trophy smallmouth bass, as well as big northern pike and walleye. Troy and Ron McCormick had sacks full of new lures from Not Head Tackle Co, designed for the fish they sought.”

“After our first 24 hours, we are filleting smallmouth bass and walleye for supper. I can hear the fillets sizzling in the skillet making my mouth water like a starved and blind hound dog that happened to walk into a butcher shop.”

“On the second day we slept in to around 9am to have donuts and coffee for breakfast. Weather is perfect with a calm lake. Troy and Ron caught most of the fish during the morning, but Seth and I outfished them in the afternoon and evening. We caught about 20 fish, which meant we had plenty for supper that night.”

“Each day brought great fishing. My best fishing buddy in the world, Seth Bayless, has turned into an expert smallmouth bass fisherman. He not only invented his own style of lure, but while fishing a weedy bay he caught two trophy smallies - one measuring 17 inches long and the other nearly as large.”

“One day a storm front arrived, producing thunder, lightning and heavy rain, so we sat on the porch to enjoy another cup of coffee. After the storm passed we ventured to the little falls and caught smallies and walleye on a Mister Twister double tail lure. Troy and Ron caught two walleye and three smallies. So we had eight fish for supper. Then we visited the high falls for Troy to deploy his drone and capture the beauty of the high falls from above.”

“On our last day we started off by going to the big falls that feed Little Eva Lake from Bills Lake for some really



HOW member Kenny Bayless (right) and son Seth lift a nice stringer of Canadian smallmouth bass and northern pike which are headed for the frying pan. Photo courtesy of Kenny Bayless.

(continued next page)

awesome photos. There are millions of gallons of water going over the falls in a matter of minutes there. Of course, we had to do a little more fishing around the big falls, too.”

“Ron McCormick is 82 years old and had some special bonding moments with his son, Troy. For years to come they will reminisce about catching big smallies together on Little Eva Lake. They caught nine fish today to my one, so with several fish from yesterday we will have fish for breakfast.”

“With regret we watched our last sunset on Little Eva Lake with a bright pink sky. The loons are calling for us to return someday and the eagles are waving good bye as they fly overhead. Canada truly is a magical place.”

“In the coming years, we will have warming hearts as two Dads and two sons look back at the pictures from the Canadian adventure of a lifetime.”



HOW member Troy McCormick (left) and his father Ron lift their own stringer of fish. Photo by Kenny Bayless.

## Phil Bloom Receives Hoosier Hospitality Award

HOW Past-President Phil Bloom is one of 16 recipients of the 2018 Hoosier Hospitality Award given in recognition of “high-level service” to tourism in Indiana. Lieutenant Governor Suzanne Crouch and the Indiana Office of Tourism Development presented the awards August 17 at the Indiana State Fair.

Visit Fort Wayne nominated Bloom for the award because of his role in bringing the Outdoor Writers Association of America annual conference to Fort Wayne in June. The three-day conference marked the first time in its 91-year history that OWAA met in Indiana. The conference attracted OWAA members from across the country, and several already have written or broadcast reports about mountain biking, fishing, canoe, kayaking, hiking, and other outdoor activities during their visit to Indiana.



Visit Fort Wayne President Dan O'Connell (left) presents the award to Phil Bloom. Photo courtesy Phil Bloom.

The conference included craft improvement workshops, newsmaker panels, presentation of OWAA’s honorary awards, and announcement of annual Excellence-in-Craft award winners for the best in writing, photography, and broadcast. The latter took place at Parkview Field, home of the Class A baseball minor league Fort Wayne TinCaps, with the winning entries revealed on the stadium’s massive scoreboard. Another conference highlight was Shooting Sports Day at South West Conservation Club, where a participant’s name was drawn for a donated Remington 1100 shotgun.

In presenting the Hoosier Hospitality Award to Bloom, IOTD Executive Director Mark Newman cited working with him since 2014 to bring the OWAA conference to Indiana. “He knew it would make the perfect opportunity to showcase Fort Wayne and other discovery trips around Indiana,” Newman said. “He was part of each step of the

process – bidding, planning, and hosting the conference – from start to finish.”

Newman also made note of positive feedback on the conference: “One conference attendee said, ‘I knew almost nothing about Fort Wayne prior. I was so impressed...and will recommend it to friends discussing travels in that direction.’ ”

## Mike Schoonveld Hosts Unusual Pets During Lake Michigan Salmon Charter

HOW Past-President Mike Schoonveld is a very experienced Coast Guard-licensed charter boat captain. He runs **Brother Nature Fishing Adventures**, offering fishing trips on Lake Michigan for customers interested in catching salmon and trout. A Great Lakes salmon fishing trip is something that most Hoosiers never get to experience. Depending on the time of year, he consistently puts his customers on trophy-sized steelhead, bruiser lake trout, big brown trout, tackle-busting king salmon and limits of coho salmon.

Captain Mike has hosted single person charters, mother-daughter charters, father-son charters, groups of friends and entire families on his boat. People sometimes bring along things they shouldn't bring, and they often forget to bring the right gear (warm clothes, raincoats, camera, etc). Up until this summer, no one had ever brought a pet along on the boat. Well, evidently there is a first time for everything!

"After 20 years," said Schoonveld, "I finally had a group bring pets on my charter boat. I always figured it would be a dog. I hoped it wouldn't be a cat. How about a litter of field mice? Orphaned field mice!"



Here is something you don't see every day, especially while on a fishing trip – a handful of baby field mice. Mike Schoonveld photo.

"Let me explain. These mice were not stowaways on the boat. My customers showed up with a shoebox containing the little micelettes. They had rescued them at a construction site somewhere, and they had a container of baby formula (human) and an eyedropper to feed the little nurslings every couple of hours. I asked if they planned to teach them tricks and start a mouse circus when the mice got older. They didn't think it was funny."

Captain Mike will take you on your own chartered fishing trip, with or without pets (preferably without). To learn more about his charter operation, Google "Brother Nature Fishing Adventures" and you can check out his website.

## Membership Changes and New Contact Info

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

**John Davis:** New email address: [Johndvs32@gmail.com](mailto:Johndvs32@gmail.com)

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

## Unusual Nature Photos from the Hoosier Outdoors Sponsored by Bass Pro Shops and Cabela's

### The Bluet, or Blue Damselfly – Tiny Winged Predator



Close-up  
→  
Original  
←



The “What is it?” photo from the last issue was evidently too easy since eleven (11) HOW members guessed correctly.

Troy McCormick, Mike Lunsford, John Maxwell, Bill Keaton, Will Keaton, Mike Schoonveld, Ken McBroom, Tom Cranfill, Nate Mullendore, Phil Seng and Gary Redmon each had the correct answer. When we drew a name at random for the Early Season Whitetail shirt donated by **Sitka Gear**, Tom Cranfill was the winner. Congrats!

As you can see in the photo above, the mystery creature for this issue was one of the many common blue damselflies, possibly a northern bluet (*Enallagma annexum*) or a familiar bluet (*Enallagma civile*). We are not damselfly experts, and many species can only be positively identified by examining them under magnification, so we'll leave it at that. Damselflies differ from dragonflies in many ways, but one of the biggest differences is damselflies' forewings and hind wings are of similar shape and they typically hold them together, parallel with the body rather than perpendicular.

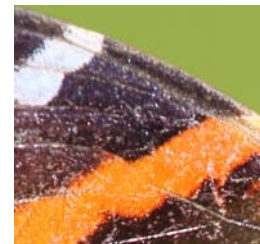
Damselflies need water to live and breed, so they are usually found near ponds, lakes and creeks. Even temporary ponds and pools will attract damselflies. Like dragonflies, the damselfly diet is made up of a variety of small flying insects. The relatively slow and weak flight patterns of damselflies might make you think they will starve to death, but they are skilled hunters. Even tiny damselflies like the familiar bluet are actually pretty fierce predators in their own little world.



For this issue, our friends at **Bass Pro Shops** and **Cabela's** 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 \$50 Gift Card good for any outdoors merchandise at Bass Pro Shops or Cabela's. See below for more information on 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? Unlike last time, this time you will have to identify the exact species. If you think it's a species of mouse, for example, go ahead and guess “white-footed mouse” (of course, it's not a mouse). 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, **Bass Pro Shops** or **Cabela's** will donate a \$50 Gift Card good for any outdoors merchandise (from their stores or online) for the HOW member who guesses the right answer to this issue's “What Is It?” nature question. Bass Pro Shops and Cabela's are the leading destination retailers offering quality outdoor gear and apparel (see [www.basspro.com](http://www.basspro.com) and [www.cabelas.com](http://www.cabelas.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.

### **Garry Mason's "Legends of the Outdoors" Hall of Fame Inducts O.F. Mossberg & Sons' Linda Powell** *Honoring her Decades of Service to the Shooting Sports Industry*

**North Haven, CT:** Garry Mason's "Legends of the Outdoors" inducted Linda Powell, Director of Media Relations at O.F. Mossberg & Sons, Inc., into its Hall of Fame in recognition of her dedication to the outdoor industry, promotion of our hunting heritage and her efforts in furthering conservation. The event was held in Nashville, Tennessee, on Saturday, August 25, 2018.

Born and raised in North Carolina, Powell did not discover her passion for the outdoors until later in life. Hired by a firearms company in her thirties, having never shot a firearm, she went on her first hunt a year later and has never looked back. She has over 20 years' experience in the firearms industry and currently serves as Director of Media Relations at O.F. Mossberg & Sons, Inc. She is also passionate about mentoring new hunters to participate in the shooting sports. Powell's commitment goes beyond her day job; she is a Life Member of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF) and former RMEF Board Member (2010–2016), Benefactor Member of the NRA, member of the Boone & Crockett Club and Safari Club International as well as other conservation groups.

"It's a tremendous honor, and incredibly humbling, to be recognized by your peers," commented Powell. "I have been very fortunate to work in the firearms industry over the past 20+ years and share my passion for the outdoors, hunting and the shooting sports." Powell continued, "In accepting this honor, I must acknowledge the many people who mentored and encouraged me throughout my journey."

"A legend in her own right, Linda is one of the most well respected people in the shooting sports industry and we are proud to have her as part of the Mossberg team," said John MacLellan, Vice President of Sales and Marketing for Mossberg. "On behalf of all of us at Mossberg, we'd like to take this opportunity to offer Linda the most sincere congratulations on this major achievement."

#### **About "Legends of the Outdoors" National Hall of Fame**

*Founded by Garry Mason in 2002, "The Legends of the Outdoors" National Hall of Fame was established to recognize outdoor sportsmen and sportswomen who, through countless hours of hard work and devotion to the outdoors in hunting and fishing, have played an integral part in setting the standards for the rest of the outdoor world to follow.*

#### **About O.F. Mossberg & Sons, Inc.**

*Founded in 1919, O.F. Mossberg & Sons, Inc. is the oldest family-owned firearms manufacturer in America, and is the largest pump-action shotgun manufacturer in the world. Leading the way with over 100 design and utility patents to its credit, and standing as the first ISO 9001 Certified long-gun manufacturer, Mossberg is considered to be one of the most innovative firearms manufacturers in U.S. History. For more info on their wide variety of shotguns, rifles and accessories, please visit [www.mossberg.com](http://www.mossberg.com).*



From left to right: Outdoors legend Ray Eye, Executive Director Garry Mason and 2018 inductee Linda Powell from O.F. Mossberg & Sons.



# 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)  
Cauldryn - [www.cauldryn.com](http://www.cauldryn.com)  
Celox Medical - [www.celoxmedical.com](http://www.celoxmedical.com)  
Church Tackle Company - [www.churchtackle.com](http://www.churchtackle.com)  
Cocoons Eyewear - [www.cocoonseyewear.com](http://www.cocoonseyewear.com)  
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.HHA sports.com](http://www.HHA sports.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

**AGLOW 2018 Annual Conference:** September 10-13, 2018  
([www.aglowinfo.org](http://www.aglowinfo.org))  
Bismarck-Mandan, ND

**Indianapolis Fall Boat & RV Show:** September 21-23, 2018  
([www.renfroproductions.com](http://www.renfroproductions.com))  
Indianapolis, IN

**Fur Takers Chapter 7-B Fall Rendezvous:** September 29, 2018  
([www.hoosiertrappersupply.com](http://www.hoosiertrappersupply.com))  
Held at Hoosier Trapper Supply  
Greenwood, IN

**SEOPA 2018 Annual Conference:** October 3-6, 2018  
([www.seopa.org](http://www.seopa.org))  
Florence, SC

**Cincinnati Travel, Sports & Boat Show:** January 18-20 & 23-27, 2019  
([www.hartproductions.com](http://www.hartproductions.com))  
Cincinnati, OH

**SHOT Show 2019:** January 22-25, 2019  
(<http://shotshow.org>)  
Las Vegas, NV

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