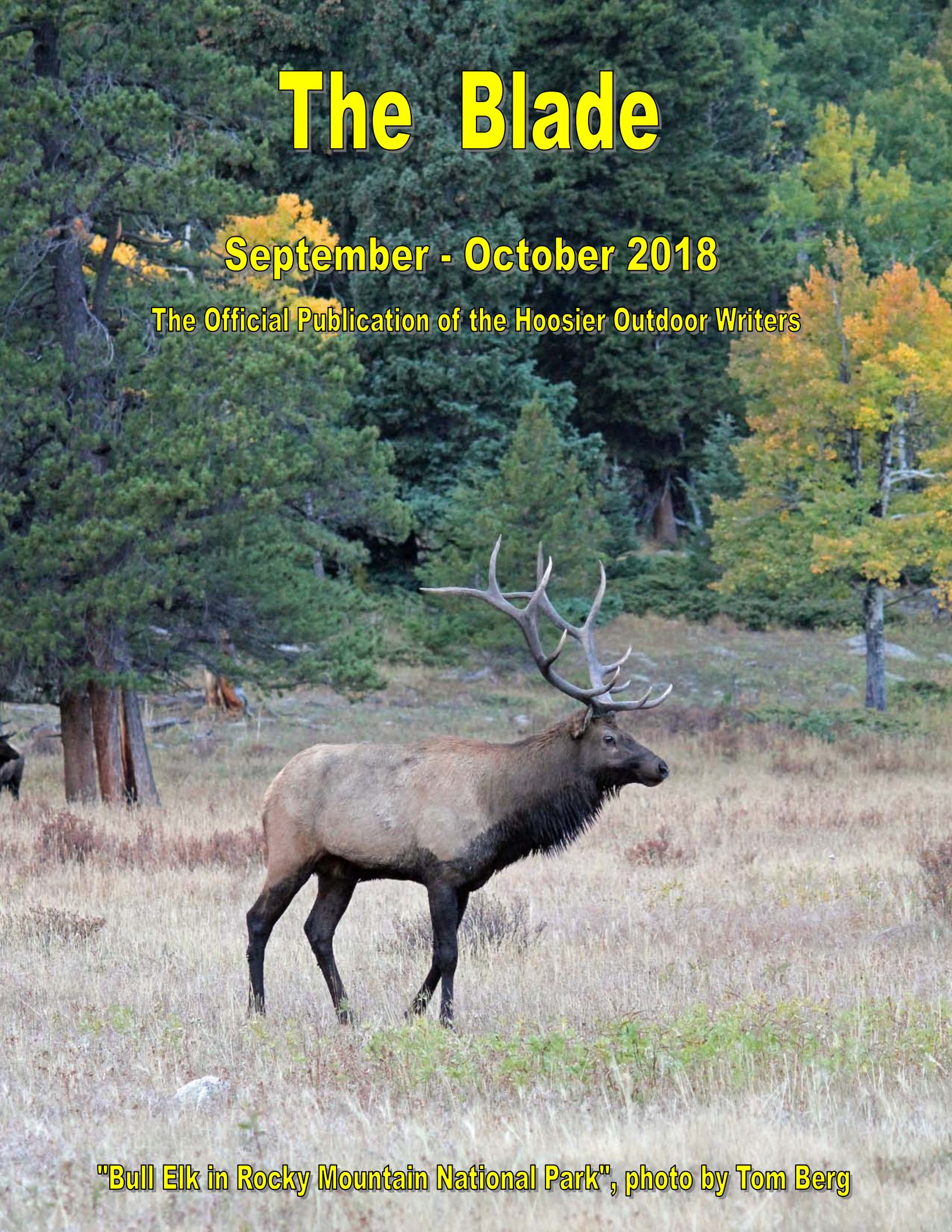


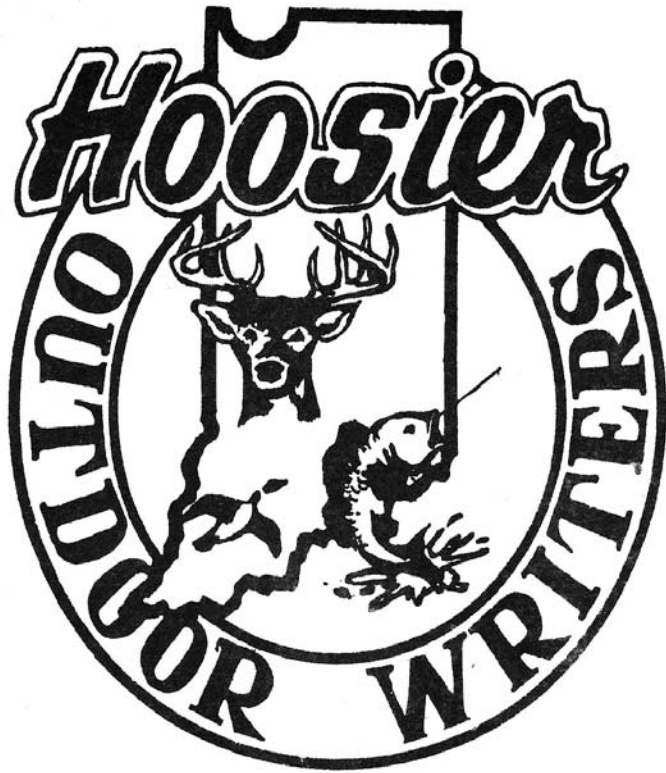
# **The Blade**

**September - October 2018**

**The Official Publication of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers**



**"Bull Elk in Rocky Mountain National Park", 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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Bryan Poynter – 2020

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

**On the cover:** A trophy-sized bull elk struts his stuff in a grassy valley inside Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado. It was late-September, and this big bull was bugling and looking for females as the rut got underway. Photo by Tom Berg.



# President's Message

by Troy McCormick

## *Smoke, Sweat, and Fish*

After a recent day of fishing for fall crappie, as some friends and I were sitting around the campfire and enjoying the freshly breaded and deep fried fillets we had collected earlier in the day, I had one of those magical moments of ultra-clear vision on life. I had said something about how we all smelled like smoke, sweat, and fish – and I loved it.

Our fishing guide turned to me and said, with all seriousness, “You know, these are the days we really need to remember.” And he was absolutely right. The weather had been perfect, the companionship was fantastic, the fish were hitting everything we threw in the water, and we were

truly enjoying the outdoors that day.

I think that the recent months of political turmoil in our country – the hatred and general meanness spouted across social media – had colored my perspective slightly without even being fully aware of it. Maybe it had just tinted it slightly negatively, but all was not right with the world.

And yet, this single day of fishing had set things right in my world, and gave me a reminder that a little time out in the natural world can do wonders for the soul. In fact, any day afield is one to be remembered and cherished. This is most likely where I gain my enjoyment in sharing my hunting trips and fishing adventures with others.

As an outdoor communicator I feel that I am tasked to find the good in any adventure and share it in its entirety. And as we all know, not every fishing trip or hunting adventure is filled with perfect days. In fact, the weather is often horrible, the game doesn't want to cooperate, and the best laid plans often fall through. But a well-worded article, a single photo, or an activity captured on video can communicate the feeling felt and the pure enjoyment of the outdoors for those not with us on these trips.

The more people we can share these moments with the better. More people may end up having a flash of clarity like I did. There is nothing wrong with smelling like smoke, sweat and fish, but make sure you cherish that moment and make it a day to remember.



# 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:**

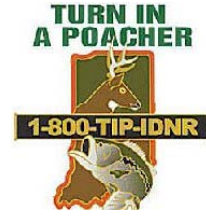
Jack Alkire – HOW President 1979  
Bill Beeman – Executive Director  
    Don Bickel  
    Ed Blann  
    Charlie Brown  
    Gary Carden  
Jim “Moose” Carden – HOW President 1982/83  
    George Carey  
    John Case  
Bill Church – HOW President 1972  
    Jack “Big Jake” Cooper  
    Mark Cottingham  
    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



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



Once again, the Turn in a Poacher (TIP) Citizen's Advisory Board is sponsoring a writing contest to encourage HOW members to promote the TIP mission, the hotline and support of the TIP Advisory Board. **This year the prizes have increased (\$200 for first place; \$175 for second place; \$75 for third place).** So be sure to write your TIP article right away!

Requirements are simple, and entering is easy! Article must be at least 400 words in length and must include:

1. Brief description of TIP (see below—does not have to be verbatim)
2. TIP Hotline (1-800-TIP-IDNR)
3. TIP membership/donation website ([www.tip.wildindiana.com](http://www.tip.wildindiana.com))
4. OPTIONAL: Indiana DNR TIP website ([secure.in.gov/dnr/lawenfor/2745.htm](http://secure.in.gov/dnr/lawenfor/2745.htm))

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

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

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

To enter, submit an electronic copy of an article published between **March 1, 2018** and **January 31, 2019**. We will supply the submission deadline and contact info towards the end of the year. The TIP Citizen's Advisory Board will review all entries and will select the entry that best promotes the mission of TIP and encourages citizens to get involved.

### What is TIP?

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

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

Citizens can help stop poachers in two ways:

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

More information is available at <https://secure.in.gov/dnr/lawenfor/2745.htm>.

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

## **1st Place in the 2018 HOW/TIP Turn-in-a-Poacher Writing Contest**

### **Smart or Dumb – Call TIP**

by Mike Schoonveld

No one likes a poacher. Gone are the days when poaching was something akin to jaywalking or driving a few miles per hour over the speed limit. Poaching is not something most people do like crossing an empty street other than at a posted crosswalk or nudging the gas pedal just to keep up with the flow of traffic.

Gone are the days when a hardscrabble, outdoorsy sort of guy can choose to shoot a deer or illegally catch a mess of fish to feed his family instead of reaching out to any number of government or non-profit resources for assistance. These days, a guy trying to live a subsistence lifestyle probably has to work harder at it than if he had a real job.

Gone are the days when the public in general and hunters and fishermen in particular are unaware of the what's legal and what's outside the legal boundaries when it comes to hunting and fishing regulations. Gone are the days when people in general or outdoorsmen in particular are willing to look the other way when they see or suspect poachers are at work in their area.

Luckily, thanks to the Indiana Turn in a Poacher program (TIP), alerting Indiana's team of conservation officers of poaching incidents has never been easier. See a suspicious vehicle traveling the back roads at night, shining bright spotlights to illuminate night-feeding deer? Notice a guy at a fish cleaning station cutting up undersized bass or walleyes? Hear a shot in the woods or on a wetland well after shooting time has ended? Call 800-TIP-IDNR and be connected with the Indiana TIP call center who will take down the details of why you are calling and possibly even dispatch an officer to the scene immediately.

I don't want to cast a wide net over the IQs of all poachers. I'm sure there are plenty of them who have the brain of a rocket scientist and are as cunning as a fox. Most aren't so smart and a few are certifiably stupid.

Take the recent case of the Illinois man who showed up with a buck he'd shot at a facility that butchers and packages deer. It happens every day during the hunting season when deer processors keep very busy. The processor wrote down the man's name, address and asked to see his deer hunting license.

The hunter said he didn't have it with him, but he'd run home and be back. By now a large crowd had gathered around his truck looking at the deer. The buck had huge antlers and the proud deer-slayer even posed for photos with the deer before heading home to get his forgotten license.

When he returned, he brought a bow hunting license he'd "borrowed" from a friend. The deer had obviously been shot with a gun and not a shotgun – maybe a muzzleloader. Tests showed subsequently, the deer had been shot with a high-powered rifle, illegal in Illinois. The processor turned the man away a second time and this time called the Illinois version of TIP.

It wasn't a hard case to make since the poacher's name, address and photo evidence was available. By the time the officers showed up at his house, the hunter/poacher had sawed the antlers off the deer and posted a picture on his Facebook page of himself holding them. The poacher was cited by the conservation officers for unlawfully taking of a whitetail deer, unlawful possession of a whitetail deer, no valid deer permit. Failure to tag a deer immediately upon kill, failure to check in deer by 10pm the same day as the kill, and wanton waste of deer meat. It's not often so easy.

The fact is each ICO has a vast territory to patrol and isn't on duty 24/7. Even the least intelligent poacher knows this and is aware his greatest fear is the eyes of the public, not the presence of an ICO. Remember the easy phone number – 800-TIP-IDNR. Calls can be made anonymously if you wish and tips that lead to arrests can lead to a cash reward for the tipster. For more information visit [www.tip.wildindiana.com](http://www.tip.wildindiana.com).

# DNR News

## Division of Fish & Wildlife

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

**For immediate release:** Aug. 28, 2018

## Two Indiana Nature Preserves Honored

Chamberlain Lake and Spicer Lake, two nature preserves in St. Joseph County, have been named “Wetlands of Distinction” by the Society of Wetlands Scientists (SWS).

Status as a “wetland of distinction” means the wetland is one of the country’s most ecologically sensitive landscapes, and exhibits exemplary function and service.

Chamberlain Lake Nature Preserve covers 82.5 acres. Its namesake lake is covered with a mat of vegetation composed of rare sedges and other species. It is owned and managed by the DNR Division of Nature Preserves. A trail leads through its woods to the lake. Its parking lot and trail are maintained by the DNR, with the assistance of the St. Joseph County Parks and Recreation Department.

Spicer Lake Nature Preserve comprises 196 acres. It is owned and managed by the St. Joseph County Parks and Recreation Department. Its namesake lake is a kettle lake within the park. It is a dedicated state nature preserve. A quarter-mile boardwalk, two additional viewing platforms and roughly seven miles of trails exist within the property, making the wetland accessible to hikers, wildlife watchers and nature photographers.

SWS is an international membership organization of more than 3,000 wetland professionals dedicated to fostering sound wetland science, education, and management. More information is at [sws.org](http://sws.org).

More details and interactive maps of both nature preserves and all of Indiana’s other 285 nature preserves are located at [dnr.IN.gov/naturepreserve/4698.htm](http://dnr.IN.gov/naturepreserve/4698.htm). For additional Wetlands of Distinction, please visit [wetlandsofdistinction.org](http://wetlandsofdistinction.org).

### About DNR

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

**Media contact:** John Bacone, DNR Nature Preserves, phone: 317-232-4054.



# Idaho Does Not Disappoint

by John Martino

It doesn't matter how good of shape you are in. A hike through the Idaho wilderness challenges everyone. But the spectacular scenery keeps you moving forward, regardless of what your lungs and legs say.

The trip actually began to come to fruition early last spring with a phone call from my friend Corey Fields. "Hey John, want to go elk hunting in the mountains of Idaho?" he asked. "You promised," he added, referring to our previous conversation during a snowmobile trip in the western U.S. last February. "Sure," I responded without giving it any more thought.

Fields explained he wanted the challenge of doing everything on our own, without the help of a guide or outfitter. It sounded better all the time.

As preparations were being made it was decided we would be joined by his sons Avery, age 13 and Quintin, 21. "Wow, that's something I have always dreamed of doing," said my friend Jeff Fager, a week later as I told him about our upcoming adventure. So it was mutually agreed he would accompany us as well.



Fields and his sons made the 1600 mile drive pulling an enclosed cargo trailer carrying a large assortment of our hunting and camping gear. Fager and I took the easier route and flew into Idaho Falls. After renting a vehicle we met up in beautiful Swan Valley. From there we headed farther north, venturing deep into the Targhee National Forest. After considerable searching we settled on a beautiful camp site located in a pristine valley tucked five miles into the back country.

The tags we had in our pockets were good for bull elk, black bear, mountain lion and wolf. Our legal hunting area encompassed roughly one million acres of the Rocky Mountains in the shadows of the Grand Teton mountain range. We were actually hunting in what is still considered part of the Yellowstone ecosystem. One of the last remaining large and intact natural areas in the earth's northern temperate zone.

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game had cautioned us about grizzly bears that inhabited the area and reminded us about taking necessary steps to avoid any conflicts. We made extra efforts to keep a clean camp. After all, the last thing we wanted was a confrontation with an angry grizzly. We never lost sight of the fact that it was us who were the visitors in this great land.

After setting up our remote camp we spent the next day scouting miles of backcountry trails. The scenery was breathtaking with snowcapped peaks pushing towards the sky. Although the weather was stunning, the first few mornings we were greeted with brutal cold. Waking up in an uninsulated aluminum trailer, where the thermometer read eight degrees, made it hard exiting a warm and cozy sleeping bag, especially with frost covering the ceiling.

Our source of water came from a small creek which flowed directly behind camp. In our effort to remain "bear aware" we cleaned all cooking utensils as soon as they were used. We couldn't help but laugh after washing our few pots in the adjacent creek. The water remaining froze before reaching the tote they were stored in just a few yards away.

(continued next page)



The first morning after a quick breakfast and much needed warm cup of coffee, we grabbed our rifles and backpacks and headed out. I couldn't help but feeling a little lightheaded, brought on by the 7,000 feet Idaho altitude – and my own excitement. However, if you live in the low lying Indiana flatlands, like me, and six decades of age in the rearview mirror, the morning chill quickly gave way to sweat and the shedding of layers of clothes.

We hiked miles each day, glassing deep canyons and towering slopes trying to locate game. At each stop we couldn't help but admire and appreciate the pristine beauty created by the never-ending landscape. Valleys contained dark timber made of lodgepole pines, black spruce, aspens and thick brush, slowly giving way to snowcapped mountain tops. A good pair of binoculars was a necessity. There were times, when after spending hours behind glass, I felt as if my eyeballs were being sucked from my bald head.

Every piece of terrain we covered had only three directions – up, down or sideways. A quality pair of boots offering traction and ankle support was also extremely helpful, especially for legs that have seen many miles.

Each day, after studying maps, Corey and his sons would strike off in one direction while Fager and I would choose another. I admired the youthful vigor exhibited by the Fields, brought on by their younger age. Oh what I would give to be in my twenties again.



Five Kokomo residents recently ventured into the mountains of eastern Idaho for a camping and hunting trip. L to R: Jeff Fager, John Martino, Avery, Quintin and Corey Fields. Photo courtesy of John Martino.

One evening after returning to camp the Fields family excitedly recapped an episode that took place a few hours earlier. While making their way back to camp, with nightfall closing in, they heard brush and limbs snapping. Being close to dark and in an area of thick foliage they could not see what was causing the disturbance. That's when they then began hearing low, deep growls. "It was hair-raising," Corey explained. "Trust me, I had my bear spray out in a flash," added his son Quintin, patting the orange canister attached to his belt.

On another particular day Fager and I were deep in the backcountry when dark began setting in and the temperature began dropping like a rock falling off a table. The thought of a warm meal and the few comforts at camp increased in importance. We pushed ourselves out of a deep canyon without stopping. Once reaching the top of the trailhead we stopped gasping for air. "So...much...for...pacing...ourselves," I huffed. We looked at each other and tried to laugh, in between long breaths. The ache in our leg muscles twinged. "I'm scared to cough because I might lose part of my lungs," Fager said, only half-jokingly.

Through the course of our trip we had the opportunity to meet a host of other people including local residents, ranchers, small business owners, as well as other hunters. Everyone was beyond friendly with many offering their assistance on future hunts. Several even mentioned they would help us pack out animals with the use of their horses or llamas in the event we would see success in the deep back country.

Overall, the hunt was physically hard but something everyone should experience, at least once in their lifetime. We traversed some of the nation's most beautiful scenery under towering pines, over blowdowns and lush new growth created by previous wildfires. We made our way over rock-strewn slopes and areas of thick snow tucked in shaded canyons.

It didn't take long for all of us to realize the taking of wild game represents only a small portion of why we hunt. It's more about the entire ride, not the end result. In the west there are mountains of different sizes, shapes, altitudes and ecosystems. We all found ourselves intimately drawn to them. And that's what will keep us going back.



## Shark Fishing Excitement Ramps Up After Dark

by Tom Berg



I went on a shark fishing charter once several years ago during a trip to Florida. I caught some sharks and it was fun, but it just didn't satisfy the itch I get when I think about catching sharks. For one thing, it was mid-summer and it was hot. REALLY hot. The trip started in the morning and continued into the afternoon, and we absolutely baked in the midday sun. It felt like I was melting as I sat there waiting for a shark to pick up the scent from our chum line. Although I caught two sharks that day, each bite was separated by hours of waiting and sweating.

So when I had the chance to go shark fishing again earlier this year – but during the springtime – I jumped at the chance. My brother Mike and I were fishing in the Florida Keys in May, and the weather was perfect. Not too hot and not too windy. We were staying at the beautiful Pines and Palms Resort on Islamorada ([www.pinesandpalms.com](http://www.pinesandpalms.com)), and I had scheduled a shark fishing charter with local guide and shark expert Capt. Rick Cannon. Capt. Rick is based out of Robbie's Marina, just down the road on Islamorada ([www.robbies.com](http://www.robbies.com)).

We talked to Capt. Rick in the afternoon after he had finished one of his daytime charters, and he said we would meet the following evening, about an hour before sunset. He explained that the shark fishing didn't really get good until the sun started to go down anyway. That sounded good to me!

The next day Mike and I met him at the dock at Robbie's Marina as the sun started heading for the western horizon. We climbed aboard and asked him what species of sharks we might expect to catch. He said there were bull sharks, lemon sharks, spinner sharks and nurse sharks in the area, but you never know exactly what will take the bait. When we asked about bait, he opened a large cooler and showed us a heaping pile of fish carcasses he had saved from the marina's fish cleaning station. There were mangrove snappers, mutton snappers, white grunts and dorado, just to name a few.

We motored out to one of the channels off Islamorada and found a good place to anchor. Capt. Rick chopped up some baitfish and threw the pieces overboard, then dropped a few fish carcasses over the side to start a good chum line. We hoped the scent of all that bait in the water would quickly attract some sharks.

There was a nice breeze blowing down the channel as the captain baited one of the hooks with a whole fish carcass. He casted the bait out and handed the rod to me. Then he baited another rod and handed it to Mike. He explained that as soon as we felt a fish pick up the bait, we needed to drop the rod tip and move to the back of the boat so the fish would have time to get the large bait all the way into its mouth before it felt any resistance from the line or rod. A large circle hook would do the rest.

It took almost an hour for the first fish to show up, and the sun was setting when Mike felt something pick up his bait. He followed Capt. Rick's instructions and soon had a big fish on the line! The drag screamed as line peeled off the reel, and the fish headed up onto a very shallow flat. Capt. Rick said it was probably a big lemon shark since that was what they typically did when hooked.



HOW member Mike Berg battles a big lemon shark as fishing guide Capt. Rick Cannon looks on. Photo by Tom Berg.

Mike fought the fish for a good 15 minutes and got it to within 10 feet of the boat. We could see its primary and secondary dorsal fins and tail sticking up out of the water and Capt. Rick said it was definitely a lemon shark. It was big; definitely over six feet long. Just when we thought it was ours, the hook suddenly popped free. Aarrggghh!!

We re-baited and watched as the sun disappeared. We stayed at that spot for another hour, but did not get any more bites. Capt. Rick pulled up the anchor and said we would try another spot which often held sharks. We motored over to a small bay and set up shop again. It was dark now, and Capt. Rick threw several fish carcasses overboard to get the resident sharks interested.

(continued next page)

Our two rods were baited and hadn't been in the water at this spot for more than a few minutes when the first shark hit. It grabbed my bait, and soon I was hooked-up with my own shark. The line peeled away in the darkness, and I could tell by the way it was pulling it was not a giant fish. It took just a couple of minutes to fight it up to the back of the boat, and Capt. Rick used a powerful spotlight to illuminate the water around the stern. It was a beautiful shark, yellowish-tan in color and about four feet long. My first lemon shark!



Unfortunately, Capt. Rick would not allow us to bring the fish into the boat for photos. He said lemon sharks are notoriously flexible, and if you grasp them by the tail like other sharks they can easily swing around and bite you. That was good enough for us! No one wants to be bitten by a shark, especially at night and far from help! We cut the steel leader and watched as that shark disappeared into the darkness.

We had just released that fish when another one hit Mike's rod. Capt. Rick quickly rigged my rod with a new leader and hook while Mike fought his fish, and I grabbed my camera and started snapping photos. Capt. Rick opened the cooler and threw three or four more fish carcasses overboard. After a few minutes Mike had fought his fish up to the side of the boat, and we saw it was another lemon shark.

This fish was closer to five feet long, and it went berserk when Mike pulled it up to the surface. It splashed water everywhere in its bid to escape, and it circled the boat as it tried to stay away from us. The fish was difficult to control, and the line almost hit the motor as the shark circled around to the back of the boat again. Finally, Capt. Rick was able to grab the leader and pull the fish back up to the surface so we could get a good look at it with his spotlight. As soon as I yelled that I got the photo, he cut the leader. With a mighty splash, Mike's fish vanished from sight.

As soon as both of our hooks were baited again, Mike and I got ready for the next bite. We waited for less than 30 seconds! I felt a fish take my bait and I slid over to the back of the boat. As I did, I noticed that Capt. Rick was dumping more fish carcasses into the water! He was creating a real feeding frenzy! As soon as my fish tightened-up on the line, I leaned into it and started cranking again. Another fish on!

Mike didn't have time to say anything about my hookup, because within a few seconds he was hooked up, too! We had a double going with big sharks on the line – in the dark! It was mayhem! And it was wonderful! My fish was smaller than Mike's, so I was able to fight mine up to the back of the boat fairly quickly. His fish stayed farther out, which helped Capt. Rick and I take care of my smaller shark in short order. After mine was released, Mike got his fish up to the boat and it was released, too.

The fast action continued for the next hour or more, until it was time to call it a night. We had one more double, although one of those fish got off fairly early in the fight. We each caught several good-sized sharks, with most of them measuring 4-6 feet in length. My largest was just over six feet long. Surprisingly, all of the sharks that we brought up to the boat that night were lemon sharks.

It was an epic night of fishing, and one that I will never forget.

There must have been dozens of sharks swimming around in that bay by the time we quit, and they were all very hungry. One thing is for sure: if anyone would have fallen overboard that night they would have quickly become shark bait!

To schedule your own trip with Capt. Rick Cannon, call him at 305-684-0067 or check out his Facebook page by typing "Florida Keys Tarpon Fishing Charter". For more info about the fishing around Islamorada and the Florida Keys, check out the Florida Keys Visitor website at [www.fla-keys.com](http://www.fla-keys.com). HOW members interested in making a trip can also visit [www.fla-keys.com/media](http://www.fla-keys.com/media).





## 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 Troy McCormick:

HOW President Troy McCormick from Jeffersonville, IN took the trip of a lifetime earlier this year when he went on safari in South Africa. In fact, he described some of his adventures in the previous issue of *The Blade*. Besides big game hunting in the country's expansive Limpopo province, McCormick reserved one day of his trip for a photo safari. It was definitely time well-spent.

"While touring Marakele National Park in South Africa," said McCormick, "I was fortunate enough to get to see the largest nesting colony of **Cape Griffons** (*Gyps coprotheres*) in the world. Also called Cape Vultures, these birds are classified as Old World vultures. They feed on animal carcasses that they find by sight, unlike New World vultures which



**Above:** A cape griffon soars along the cliff face as it heads to its nest. You can see the nesting material that it is carrying in its beak. **Below left:** The sheer cliff provides a safe haven for the nesting vultures as several birds soar overhead.

find their food strictly by smell." They are very large raptors, with a wingspan of 7½ to 8½ feet.

"Cape griffons are an endangered species, found in only a handful of countries in Africa," McCormick continued. "There are 800 breeding pairs in this nesting colony, and we were there in May when they were building nests on the cliff face. They lay just one egg per year, which probably contributes to their scarcity."

"We watched them from the base of the cliff and then drove up to the top of the mountain for a better view. At the top we were able to watch them flying directly in front of us and below us."



## Interesting Bird Sightings in the Great Outdoors



### Report from Mike Lunsford:

“I have a lot of bird pictures,” said Mike Lunsford from Rosedale, IN. “Birds are one of my favorite subjects. I often just wander a field or creek bank and look for birds. I have attached a photo of a **Cedar Waxwing** (*Bombycilla cedrorum*) I took in July along Big Raccoon Creek southern Parke County. I actually shot this photo from a long way away.”

“This cedar waxwing was flying around with about a half-dozen other waxwings; they are very sociable birds. As far as I could tell, they were simply frolicking and playing with one another. There were no berries around for them to eat that I could see, but it was still raspberry and blackberry season at that time.”

“I take a lot of my pictures along Big Raccoon Creek, and these birds kept crossing the creek between two big dead sycamore trees. They seemed curious about me being there. I have gone back many times since, but I have not seen them there again.”

Cedar waxwings eat a lot of fruit. In fact, they are one of the few birds in the U.S. that specializes in eating fruit. They eat fruit year-round, eating everything from cedar and juniper berries to cherries, crabapples, blackberries, mulberries and many others. During the summer they supplement their fruit diet with insects.



### Report from Michael Ellis:

Michael Ellis from Tavares, FL gets to see an great variety of birds in the Sunshine State since he lives there year-round, and this spring was no exception. “I’ve seen some really unusual birds here,” he recently admitted. “I saw a pair of Inca doves in Royal Harbor and a Mangrove Cuckoo along the mangroves in southern Florida. Unfortunately, I haven’t been lucky enough to get a picture of those birds.”

“I did get a photo of one interesting bird that has been flying around in our Royal Harbor community though; it was the **Swallow-tailed Kite** (*Elanoides forficatus*). To me, the swallow-tailed kite is one of the most beautiful and elegant birds in Florida. These stunning birds arrive in Florida from late February to about mid-March. They winter in Brazil.”

“I photographed this one flying along the man-made stream that flows in back of our home,” Ellis continued. “The stream flows into Lake Laemont, another man-made body of water in our community. The only other swallow-tailed kite I’ve seen in Florida was when we were at St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge. That sighting was a fleeting glance, but the long swallow tail and call was a dead giveaway.”



### Did you take an interesting or unusual bird photo while exploring afield recently?

HOW members are encouraged to send their interesting bird photos to newsletter editor Tom Berg ([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.

# HOW Member News

## Lake Monroe Fall Cleanup Another Success Thanks in Part to HOW Members

For several years now, HOW members have been tasked with piloting boats for the Monroe Reservoir shoreline cleanup program. This year, on October 7th, HOW members Scott Weaver and Don Cranfill, along with six other volunteers, piloted pontoon party boats provided by Lake Monroe Marina for the day's event. While double-decker boats are usually used for parties of a different sort, once a year they serve wonderfully as trash barges for a trash picking party.

This year, about 60 other volunteers broke into teams and manned the vessels as they scanned the shoreline for garbage in their assigned areas. The area covered in October included much of the area along the southern shores and in the lake's eastern idle zone end.



At left, Scott Weaver (purple shirt) throws some recovered debris to the shoreline pickup area. Above, Don Cranfill (wearing shorts, off-white shirt and hat) carries bags of garbage ashore. Photos courtesy of Jill Vance from the Indiana DNR.

Everyone was pleasantly disappointed with this year's totals. In years past, the volunteers came in with some rather large piles of garbage on the decks of the boats. Thankfully, people seem to be cleaning up after themselves these days as the crews didn't encounter tons of trash. Among the normal bottles and cans, the volunteers did manage to pull in some large plastic dock floats, some sharp sheetmetal, and one bag of dog poop.

This year the piles of junk were smaller, proving the volunteers are making a real difference at Monroe.

The event is organized as a collective effort between the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, the Hoosier National Forest and the Army Corp of Engineers. Other local sponsors also chip-in to provide supplies and a cookout at the end of the day. For more information on next year's event, be sure to follow the Monroe Lake Facebook page.

## **Troy McCormick's New Bootprints.TV Show Highlights Outdoor Adventure Around the World**

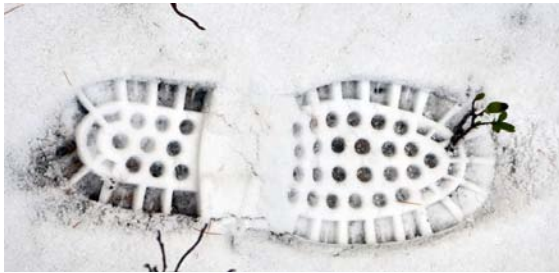
Following the trend of outdoor shows moving from traditional television to online programming, HOW President Troy McCormick has launched a new hunting and fishing show on the Internet this year. Making its debut on October 5th, Bootprints.TV is the latest outdoor Internet show on The Hunt Channel ([www.huntchannel.tv](http://www.huntchannel.tv)).

Troy points out that over the years he has noticed that his bootprints always mark his temporary passage through the woods, along a creek, and across a mountain pass. His previous television show, Indiana Outdoor Adventures, was focused primarily on hunting and fishing within our Hoosier state. With Bootprints.TV he

has broadened his scope of filming adventures and has already travelled to North Dakota, Texas, Montana, South Africa, Canada, and Scotland. In Season 1 you'll see some familiar faces as HOW members Ken McBroom and Kenny Bayless joined Troy on some of his adventures.



Troy loves to tell people that anyone with an Internet connection can watch the new show because it doesn't matter anymore who your cable provider is. In fact, Bootprints.TV is available via The Hunt

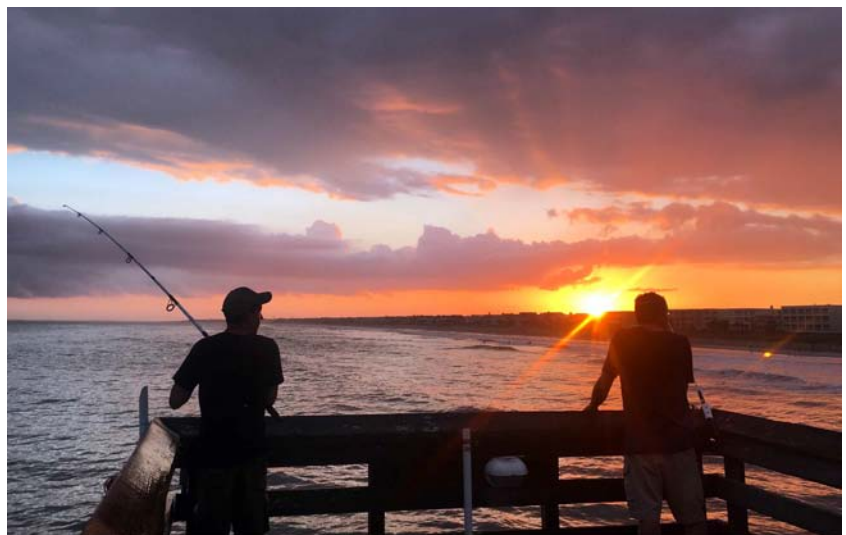


Channel, which offers free hunting and fishing shows with its live, 24/7, streaming programming on its web site, ROKU, Amazon Fire TV, Android Mobile APP, and Apple's Mobile APP. Watch new episodes every week on the [huntchannel.tv](http://huntchannel.tv) web page, or with their Video On Demand (VOD) library. For more information on the show, and to watch additional short videos, visit <http://www.bootprints.TV>.

## **John Maxwell Spends Time in South Carolina**

HOW Past President John Maxwell made a trip to South Carolina recently, and he had a chance to check out the local waterfront. "A week after Hurricane Florence had come ashore in North and South Carolina in September," said Maxwell, "the fish were biting again at the Isle of Palms Fishing Pier jutting out into the Atlantic Ocean near Charleston."

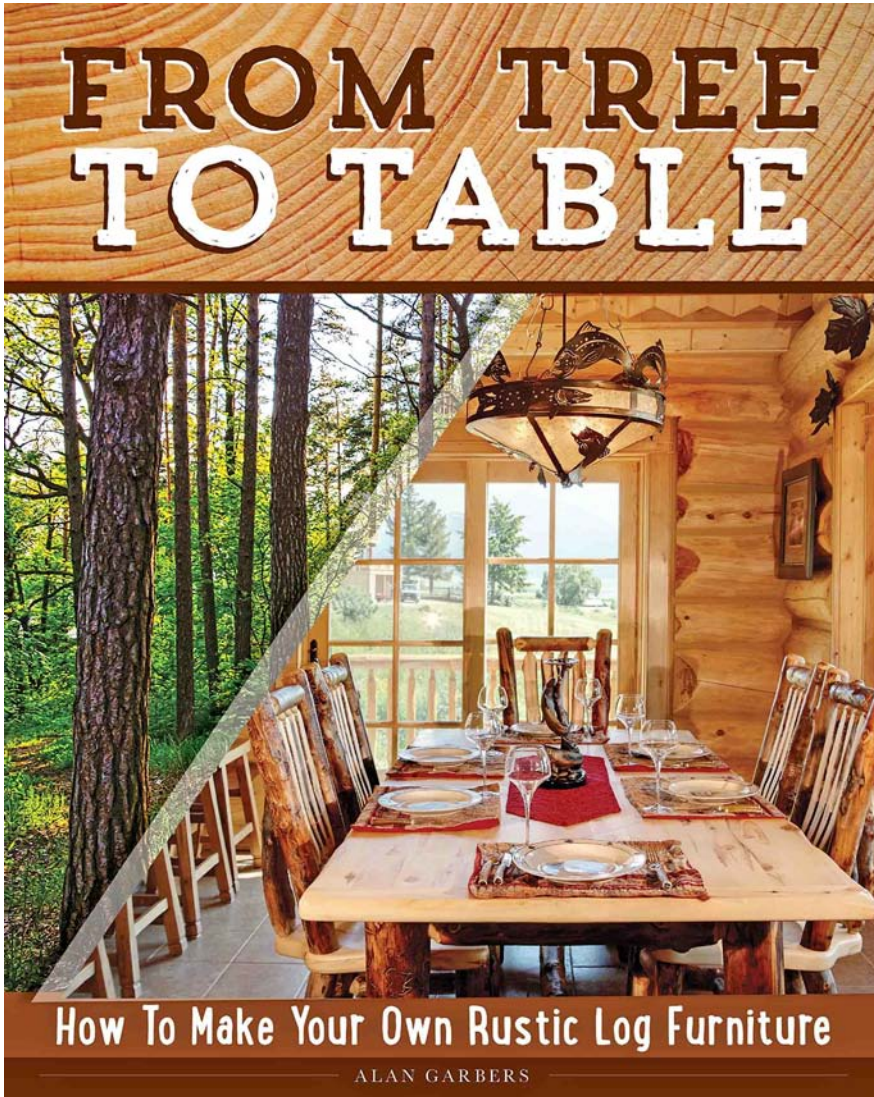
"The island had been evacuated, but returning anglers were already busy catching bluefish, red drum (aka spots or reds) and southern kingfish (whiting). Other than that, we were just out for a nice evening walk." Photo at right by John Maxwell.



## Alan Garbers Releases New Book On Making Beautiful Rustic Log Furniture

HOW Past President Alan Garbers has a new book that will be coming out soon from Fox Chapel Publishing, titled: *From Tree to Table: How to Make Your Own Rustic Log Furniture*. The book will be released on January 21, 2019 and is available for pre-order on [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com). Here is what Garbers had to say about his latest project:

“It was a surreal moment as I stared at my iPhone. There was the advertisement for my yet to be published book on Amazon. I had no idea it was already listed and taking preorders. (It was slightly ironic because the editor had just emailed me again that he needed me to expand on a topic in the book.)



Since this is an electronic world I took a screen capture of the listing, sent it to my wife, and posted it on Facebook. As the comments and accolades came in I thought back what had brought me to this moment.”

“The beginning was in Arizona. We were living in a cozy house that looked out towards Woodchute Mountain and the San Francisco Peaks. Money was tight and Dianna needed a hutch to hold her ever-growing collection of strawberry dishes.”

“A trip to the Charlotte Hall Museum sparked an idea. There among the belongings of pioneers were rustic cabinets and hutches made from the lumber of shipping crates. At the time I had access to mounds of shipping crates, so in the shadows of my workshop, I built a rustic hutch. That Christmas Dianna was overjoyed with her new rustic dish display, so more followed.”

“Fast forward fifteen years and a move to Indiana later. Dianna

started dropping hints (demands) that she wanted a log bed for our master bedroom. Off into the woods I went to find eastern red cedar. As I stumbled (literally and figuratively) through the process of making log furniture I realized that there wasn’t a book on the topic that could answer my ever-growing pile of questions.”

“After a few years of making mistakes and developing my own way of doing things, I decided that I should write the book I was looking for. In the beginning, my book took the form of writing down



advice on how to make log furniture in emails or in online forums. But as things started to solidify in my mind, I started forming a rough draft and documenting the process of furniture making with photos.”

“A few years ago I started writing a few articles for Woodcarving Illustrated, and with one of my submissions, I queried my log furniture book idea. After being shuffled to another editor I never heard any more on the topic.”

“I was to the point that I assumed that they were not interested when the editor emailed asking if I still wanted to do the book. After affirming that I did, I provided an outline and summary of what the book was to be about.”

“More time passed. A contract arrived. A check arrived. I suddenly had six months to get the book complete, which meant building furniture covered in the book so it could be photographed.”

“As of June 1st of 2018, the book was waiting for the editor in our joint Dropbox account, along with 300 pictures. I sighed with relief because I foolishly thought I was done.”

“As I was on vacation and away from my computer, the editor contacted me asking for twelve more pages to get the book to an industry standard 144 pages. As fate would have it, I had my iPad with me with a version of MS Word loaded on it. I started developing more information when I had free time. Halfway through our cruise to the Western Caribbean, I had 4,000 words of additional information but no cell signal to send it.”

“The day the cruise ended it was a mad rush to get out of Florida. A hurricane was coming! That night as we rested in upper Georgia, I looked for my iPad so I could send the new material for my book. My stomach sunk. It dawned on me that I had left my iPad in the cruise ship’s stateroom!”

“The process of getting lost items back is time-consuming, so I started all over again re-writing the new material. By the time I received the iPad by express I had re-written all the new material.”

“Again I sighed in relief. Again it was too soon to relax. In the past month, emails have been flying back and forth as the editor, designer, and other staff needs more clarification, detail, photos, or information from me.”

“As I write this on October 7th, I am in the process of proofreading the ever-changing .pdf version of my book with a deadline of October 8th! Thank goodness for Dianna and Grammarly!”

“My book, *From Tree To Table*, is due out in mid-January. I will give free autographs to anyone that brings a copy to the HOW conference!

**Paperback**  
**\$19.99**

**Discover how to build rustic furniture from cut timber in this comprehensive guide for woodworkers!**

- **10 step-by-step projects** for beds, tables, benches, coat racks, lamps, kiva ladders, and more
- **Comprehensive guide** to building rustic furniture from cut timber
- **Detailed, practical information** on procuring and processing logs
- **Sage troubleshooting advice** based on years of experience
- **Expert guidance** on all the woodworking techniques you need to know
- **Author Alan Garbers** is an award-winning outdoor writer and photographer

## Nate Mullendore Finds Success While Bird Hunting in Nebraska and Minnesota



HOW member Nate Mullendore enjoys bird hunting, and he had a chance to do just that in early September. “I had a fun trip to the Nebraska sandhills over Labor Day,” reported Mullendore. “I harvested my first two prairie chickens, and came pretty close on a few sharptails. It was warm all three days we hunted, so my

dog Fen spent plenty of time in cattle tanks cooling off.”

“This past weekend (late September) was our waterfowl opener here in Minnesota. I was lucky enough to bag both wood ducks and blue winged teal.”

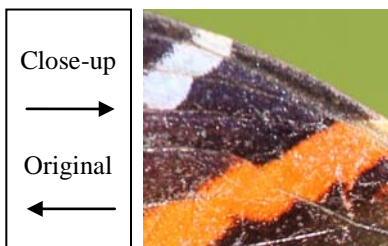
“This coming weekend I'll be participating in a draw hunt for prairie chickens in Minnesota. If the hunt goes well, I'll be in the north woods hunting ruffed grouse with a friend on Sunday. Fall is finally here!”



**Above:** Two drake wood ducks on the left, along with two hen blue winged teal on the right. These represent two of the best eating wild ducks out there! **Top left and right:** Mullendore's trusty bird dog Fen. Photos by Nate Mullendore.

## Unusual Nature Photos from the Hoosier Outdoors Sponsored by Costa Del Mar Sunglasses

### The Red Admiral Butterfly Bravely Defends Its Territory



The “What is it?” photo from the last issue was evidently too easy again, since thirteen (13) HOW members guessed correctly. Mike Schoonveld, Troy McCormick, Gary Redmon, Mike Lunsford, Michael Ellis, Vikki Trout,

Nate Mullendore, Bill Keaton, Alan Garbers, Rich Creason, John Maxwell, Brian Waldman and Phil Seng each had the correct answer. When we drew a name at random for the \$50 gift card donated by **Bass Pro Shops**, Mike Lunsford was the winner. Congrats, Mike! We will get the card shipped to you.

As you can see in the photo above, the mystery creature for this issue was a red admiral butterfly (*Vanessa atalanta*). Red admirals are easily identified by the bright orange stripes and white spots on their dark brown wings. These migrating butterflies are common in Indiana from spring through fall, but as soon as colder weather arrives they disappear. Although some adults are reported to hibernate, most red admirals migrate back south to warmer climates for the winter.

Male red admirals guard and patrol a small territory in the hopes of attracting a mate. If other males enter their territory, they will quickly drive them away. Typically, only males with established territories are successful in attracting females. The females lay their eggs on plants of the nettle family, such as stinging nettle, tall wild nettle, wood nettle and false nettle. The young caterpillars feed on the nettle leaves once they hatch. Adult red admirals prefer to drink sap from trees, from fermenting fruit and (strangely enough) liquid from bird droppings. If these are not available, they will visit flowers. Adults can be seen taking the nectar from milkweed flowers, alfalfa, clover, coneflowers and asters at times.

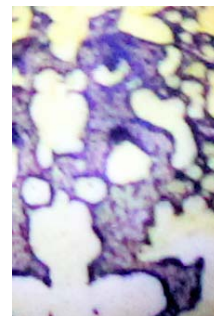


For this issue, our friends at **Costa Del Mar Sunglasses** will be donating an awesome prize for the HOW member who guesses the right answer to this issue’s “What Is It?” question. This time the prize will be a pair of premium sunglasses from Costa – valued at up to \$299. See below for more information on this issue’s question.

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

Tom Berg has posed a very tough Nature Photo mystery (at least we think so). 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 backyard, and it is found throughout the state. Have you ever seen a color pattern that looks like this?

This creature will likely be more difficult to identify than some of our other recent subjects. 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, **Costa Del Mar Sunglasses** will donate a pair of premium sunglasses of the winner’s choice for the HOW member who guesses the right answer to this issue’s “What Is It?” nature question. Costa is the leading provider of polarized sunglasses for outdoorsmen and women, and they have a wide variety of stylish sunglasses to choose from (see [www.costadelmar.com](http://www.costadelmar.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.

### Costa Marks 35 Year Anniversary With 35 Beach Cleanups Across the Country

**Daytona Beach, FL:** Costa Sunglasses will celebrate 35 years of providing anglers and outdoor enthusiasts with the best sunglasses on the planet by joining forces with the Surfrider Foundation and hosting beach cleanups in 35 locations throughout the U.S. in 2018.

“We were born on the water, so it makes sense for us to celebrate this milestone protecting what we love,” said Holly Rush. “Since 1983, Costa has been committed to conservation and the preservation of our most precious assets – our oceans and waterways. Our team was excited to kick-off our 35th Anniversary with a beach cleanup event on International Coastal Cleanup Day here in our hometown of Daytona Beach where 120 people gathered together to collect and properly discard of more than 150 pounds of trash.”



The 2018 collaboration with the Surfrider Foundation expands upon Costa’s commitment to Kick Plastic, a campaign that launched in 2014. The Kick Plastic idea stemmed from the Costa team seeing an increasing amount of plastic pollution in our waterways and oceans. As an organization committed to conservation, it became shockingly clear that something needed to be done to fight back against unnecessary single-use plastic pollution.

In 2016 the Kick Plastic initiative grew to include a Guide & Outfitter Program. To date, the program has helped to eliminate more than one million single-use plastic water bottles from guide boats and outfitters throughout North America. The Kick Plastic initiative along with Costa’s launch of the new Untangled Collection sunglass frames made entirely from recycled fishing nets, represent the company’s next step in finding impactful, sustainable ways to help eliminate plastic pollution from our oceans and waterways.

“We are grateful that Costa has decided to celebrate its 35th anniversary through a series of joint beach cleanups across the country,” said Dr. Chad Nelsen, CEO of the Surfrider Foundation. “Beach cleanups not only clean our beaches but they also raise awareness about the plastic pollution challenges we face. Costa’s support underscores their commitment to support clean water and healthy beaches.”

“With about 8 million metric tons of plastic entering the ocean annually, or the equivalent of a garbage truck of plastic dumped in the ocean every minute, we have no other choice but to jump in and make a difference. Small changes add up, whether it’s reducing our single-use plastic consumption, participating in a beach cleanup or spreading the word and building awareness, we can kick this habit and help clean up our oceans and waterways,” said Rush.



The public is encouraged to attend the Costa x Surfrider beach cleanups throughout the year, taking place between October 1 and December 31, 2018. For details about specific locations and times, visit [www.costadelmar.com/35years](http://www.costadelmar.com/35years).

HOW members may contact Heather Miller for more information on Costa’s extensive lineup of fine sunglasses. Her agency, Gunpowder, Inc., handles the PR for Costa. Call 864-607-7922 or send email to: [heatherm@gunpowderinc.com](mailto:heatherm@gunpowderinc.com).

## HOW Supporting Member News

### **Toyota Assists Paleontologists in Discovering Treasure Trove of Dinosaur Bones in Wyoming**

**Indianapolis, IN:** (Sept. 26, 2018) – Two of the biggest blockbusters of the summer movie season revolved around prehistoric creatures making a comeback in the modern age. In the wilds of the American West, Toyota supported a paleontology team from the Children’s Museum of Indianapolis, as they embarked on an exciting journey through a long-lost world of dinosaurs.

Led by the museum’s Scientists-in-Residence, world-renowned paleontologists Dr. Phil Manning and Dr. Victoria Egerton, a team from the museum surveyed an undisclosed site in northern Wyoming. The expedition was supported by Toyota, through usage of a pair of Tundra pickups and a Land Cruiser. The trio of vehicles was pivotal in hauling scientific gear, camp equipment and fossilized/fragile dinosaur bones – all while navigating several miles of the most rugged, craggy, unforgiving terrain in the western United States.

“It’s an off-road adventure through a rough and tumble world that existed millions of years ago, at a time when there was a saltwater sea covering the area we’re presently exploring,” Manning said. “What the sea left behind was rugged terrain and steep slopes that are extremely hard and sometimes dangerous to traverse. Some of the bones we are discovering weigh hundreds of pounds and are brittle and very fragile. So, it’s imperative we excavate and transport them safely in vehicles that can smoothly handle the rough landscape. We are very grateful Toyota is helping us preserve a very important slice of history.”

The venerable Land Cruiser has the distinction of being the primary vehicle in Michael Crichton’s best-selling 1990 novel *Jurassic Park*. “That fact wasn’t lost on our team,” Manning said. “We experienced firsthand why Crichton selected the Land Cruiser for his book.”

The expedition has proven fruitful so far. The museum team has uncovered several ancient animals, some dating back several millions of years. The paleontologists are hot on the trail of multiple dinosaurs, and they aim to tell a tale of exploration when the full story of the site’s discovery is ultimately revealed to the world.

The dinosaur bones will make their 2,500-mile journey back to the Children’s Museum of Indianapolis, after they are extracted from the ground and prepped for travel. The 500,000-square-foot museum, which attracts around 1.2 million visitors annually, is home to Dinosphere, one of the finest immersive dinosaur exhibits in the United States.

In appreciation of Toyota’s involvement in the dinosaur dig, the museum purchased a 2018 Highlander Hybrid for personnel usage. The Highlander is made in the Hoosier state at Toyota Motor Manufacturing Indiana, in Princeton, IN.

#### **About Toyota**

*Toyota has been a part of the cultural fabric in the U.S. and North America for 60 years, and is committed to advancing sustainable, next-generation mobility through our Toyota and Lexus brands. During that time, Toyota has created a tremendous value chain as our teams have contributed to world-class design, engineering, and assembly of more than 36 million cars and trucks in North America, where we operate 14 manufacturing plants (10 in the U.S.) and directly employ more than 47,000 people (more than 37,000 in the U.S.). Our 1,800 North American dealerships sold more than 2.7 million cars and trucks in 2017 – and about 87 percent of all Toyota vehicles sold over the past 15 years are still on the road today.*

*Through the Start Your Impossible campaign, Toyota highlights the way it partners with community, civic, academic and governmental organizations to address our society’s most pressing mobility challenges. We believe that when people are free to move, anything is possible. For more information about Toyota, visit [www.toyotaneewsroom.com](http://www.toyotaneewsroom.com).*

#### **Media Contacts:**

HOW members may contact Curt McAllister at Toyota (313-318-3906, [Curt.McAllister@Toyota.com](mailto:Curt.McAllister@Toyota.com)) or Kimberly Harms Robinson at the Children’s Museum (317-334-4003, [kimh@childrensmuseum.org](mailto:kimh@childrensmuseum.org)) for more information.

# HOW Supporting Member News

## Nextgen Baits Offer Realistic Soft Plastic Lures for Many Different Fish Species

**Littleton, CO:** The new Wounded Rattle Shad soft plastic lures from Nextgen Baits are the culmination of countless hours of fishing and testing to find just the right design for this crazy new fishing lure. Its design combines a new and unique profile with patent pending rattle technology. It also has an unprecedented, high definition and very realistic looking surface finish that makes the baits look almost exactly like the real fish.

Nextgen Baits has also developed a new HD coloring process that gives the fisherman a new weapon to use on his prey. The rattles in the 7-inch and 5.5-inch Wounded Rattle Shad lures resemble the sounds of actual aquatic life. This helps the fish track down and locate the lure. This, combined with the high definition patterns on the lures, results in vicious strikes. The Wounded Rattle Shad soft plastic lure is highly effective on a wide variety of predatory fish including, but not limited to, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, northern pike, chain pickerel, walleye, muskie, lake trout, brown trout, rainbow trout, striped bass, bluefish, sea trout, red fish, jacks and more.

Here are details on some of the lures:

### **7" Original Wounded Rattle Shad™ (1 lure per package)**

The Original model is internally rigged with a patent pending, flexible hardware assembly, which is battle tested, weighted and uses a VMC treble hook (included).

### **7" Wounded Rattle Shad™ "SX" (2 lures per package)**

The SX model has a channel in the belly, and a smaller channel in the back of the bait to hide the VMC single wide gap hook (included). This model should be Texas rigged, which allows for a weedless presentation.

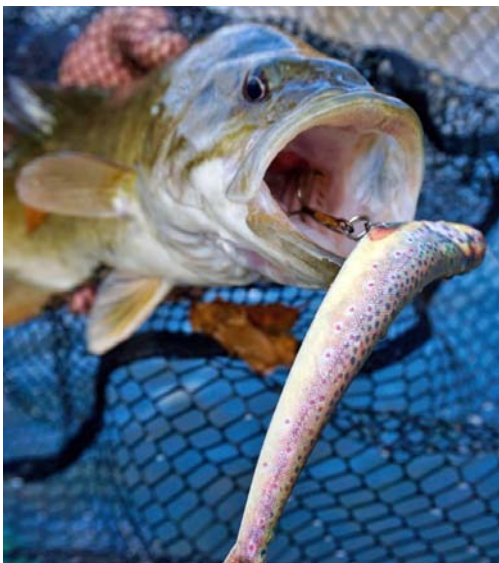
The SX comes unweighted, so add weight as needed.

### **5.5" Wounded Rattle Shad™ (3 lures per package)**

Our NEW 5.5" model has a channel in the belly, and a smaller channel in the back of the bait to hide the VMC single wide gap hook (included). This model should be Texas rigged, which allows for a weedless presentation. The 5.5" comes unweighted, so add weight as needed.

### **4" Wounded Wiggle Shad™ (4 lures per package)**

Our NEW 4" model has a channel in the belly, and a smaller channel in the back of the bait to hide the VMC single wide gap hook (included). This model should be Texas rigged, which allows for a weedless presentation. The 4" comes unweighted, so add weight as needed.



### **Media Contact:**

HOW members may contact Tyler Kelley at Nextgen Baits for more information or for specific images of their soft plastic lures. Send him an email at: [info@nextgenbaits.com](mailto:info@nextgenbaits.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)  
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)  
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.glacierglove.com](http://www.glacierglove.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.mossyoak.com](http://www.mossyoak.com)  
Musselhead Tackle - [www.musselhead.com](http://www.musselhead.com)  
MyTopo - [www.mytopo.com](http://www.mytopo.com)  
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

**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

**Indianapolis Boat, Sport & Travel Show:** February 15-24, 2019  
([www.renfroproductions.com](http://www.renfroproductions.com))  
Indianapolis, IN

**HOW 2019 Annual Conference:** April, 2019  
([www.HoosierOutdoorWriters.org](http://www.HoosierOutdoorWriters.org))  
Fair Oaks Farms Complex  
Fair Oaks, IN

**NRA 2019 Annual Meetings:** April 26-28, 2019  
([www.nra.org](http://www.nra.org))  
Indianapolis, IN

**OWAA 2019 Annual Conference:** June 22-24, 2019  
([www.OWAA.org](http://www.OWAA.org))  
Little Rock, AR

**ICAST Show 2019:** July 9-12, 2019  
([www.ICASTfishing.org](http://www.ICASTfishing.org))  
Orlando, FL

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*.