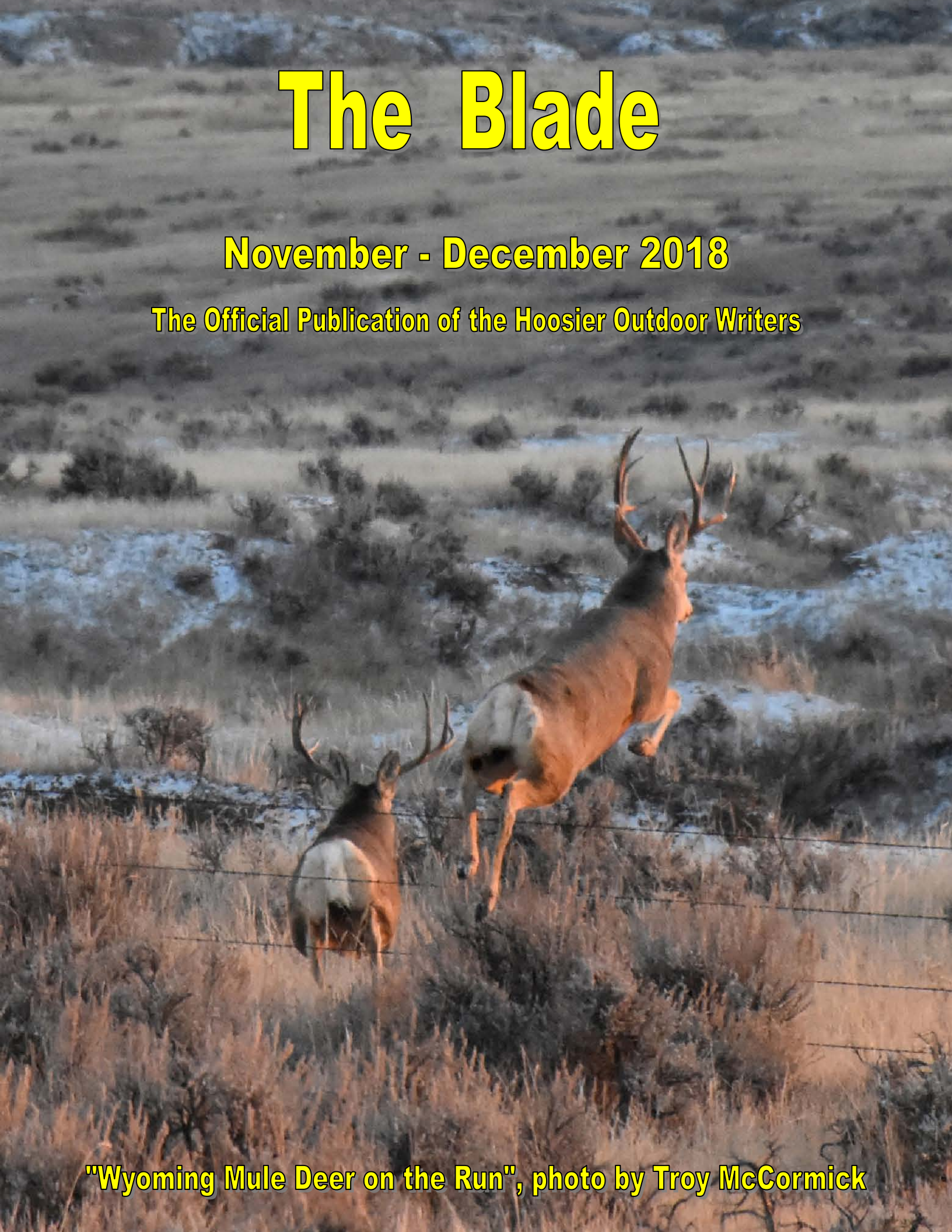


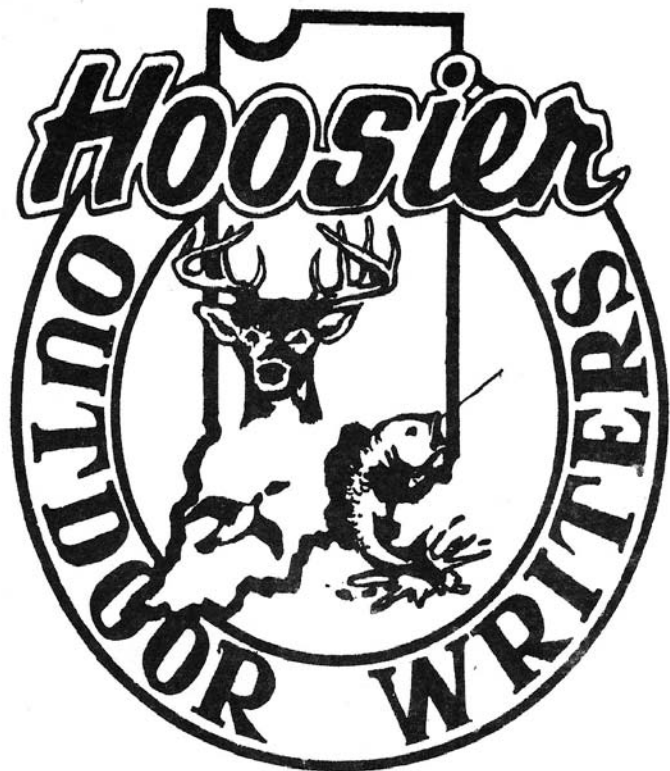
The Blade

November - December 2018

The Official Publication of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers



"Wyoming Mule Deer on the Run", photo by Troy McCormick



Hoosier Outdoor Writers

The Hoosier Outdoor Writers was formed in 1969 and has brought together many diverse groups and individuals with shared interests. The Hoosier Outdoor Writers, known among its members as HOW, is a group of dedicated media professionals who are keenly interested in the wise use of natural resources in the Hoosier State.

Hoosier Outdoor Writers Executive Council

Board Chairman

Don Cranfill
3719 Pleasant Lake Dr.
Indianapolis, IN 46227
themadpaddler@yahoo.com

President

Troy McCormick
3604 Sea Pine
Jeffersonville, IN 47130
troy@naturalconcepts.net

Vice President

Brent Wheat
2125 Witt Rd.
Lebanon, IN 46052
btwheat@wildindiana.com

Executive Director

Tom Berg
2142 Nondorf St.
Dyer, IN 46311
director@hoosieroutdoorwriters.org

Advisor

Bill Keaton
9494 West Base Rd.
Arlington, IN 46104
bill@bishophillguesthouse.com

Newsletter Editor

Tom Berg
2142 Nondorf St.
Dyer, IN 46311
director@hoosieroutdoorwriters.org

Board Members

Region 1 – Mike Schoonveld
2019
Region 2 – Phil Bloom
2020
Region 3 – Kenny Bayless
2019
Region 4 – Jack Spaulding
2020

At Large:

Dianna Garbers – 2019
Vikki Trout – 2019
Terri Trowbridge – 2019
Doug Allman – 2020
Jarrett Manek – 2020
Bryan Poynter – 2020

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

On the cover: HOW President Troy McCormick recently traveled out west to Wyoming to hunt pheasants. Of course, he saw more than pheasants while walking afield! He was able to snap this photo of two trophy-sized mule deer as they leaped a fence to get away. Photo by Troy McCormick.

President's Message

by Troy McCormick

Public Land for Everyone

I had the pleasure of spending two weeks upland game bird hunting in Wyoming last month, and I met a lot of great people in the Cowboy State. And because we had so much time to spend in and around the Thunder Basin National Grasslands and Black Hills hunting, we were able to let the dogs loose on a variety of public and private properties.

Many people often forget about the wide variety of public land that is available to hunt and many are concerned about there being too many people hunting those lands. After making a social media post about what a great time we had hunting in Wyoming, a local replied with "Keep those out of state hunters out." I asked why he felt that way and his response was "Your TV show will probably excite some well interested jackhammer to visit Wyoming for the purpose of hunting... It keeps getting more and more difficult to get tags and find game without people like you making it worse. "



I was really surprised at such a reaction, but when I thought about it, I have unfortunately heard similar statements here at home. The amazing thing is that the land available out west is far greater than any of us in Indiana can imagine. More than half of Wyoming is public land, offering more than 55 million acres available for hunting and fishing opportunities. We hunted BLM land, private land with permission, a game farm, and private land that the State had leased to allow the public to hunt.

Back home in Indiana we have opportunities to hunt and fish our own State and Federal lands, including more than 200,000 acres in the Hoosier National Forest. Surprisingly, I don't see nearly the number of hunters on our state F&W properties that I used to see when I was hunting back in the 1970s and 80s, which is unfortunate in a completely different way. Of course, opening day of the firearms season is still pretty crowded on a lot of our public properties.

As an outdoorsman that travels a lot to hunt and fish, I relish the opportunity to visit other states and I hope that we can all do our part to welcome outdoorsmen and women when they visit Indiana.

The Hoosier Outdoor Writers

New Members, Past Presidents & Memorial Section

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

**David Hewitt (Associate)
Florence, IN
Sponsor: Tom Berg**

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



Annual HOW Conference

Make Plans Now To Attend The 2019 Annual Conference!

As announced via email back in November, the 2019 HOW Conference will be held in northwest Indiana's Newton County at the **Fair Oaks Farms** complex, not far from Rensselaer, IN. The property is located right on I-65 (about 50 minutes north of Lafayette), so it will be easy to get to and easy to find. The conference will take place over the weekend of **April 12-14, 2019**, with the main meeting on Saturday, April 13. We will meet in the Newton Room at the main Fair Oaks Farms building.

As you know, we have been moving the HOW conference around the state every year in an effort to explore new and interesting places all around Indiana. It has been working very well, and since it has been several years since we had a meeting in northwest Indiana, we thought this would be the perfect opportunity to meet here and check out the area. This will be a great chance for HOW members to explore new places and see what Newton County has to offer.

The conference will be here before you know it, so it's time for you to start making plans to attend! See page 7 for a copy of the conference registration form. We will have plenty of interesting seminars and speakers at the conference, as usual, and there will be activities which everyone can enjoy, too. And don't forget about the super-duper HOW



HOW Raffle! The raffle at the meeting last year at Spring Mill State Park was absolutely great, and we are hoping it will be even better this year at Fair Oaks Farms!

As usual, HOW members and guests may attend as much or as little of the conference as their schedules allow. Many members come only for the **Annual Meeting** on Saturday, and that's fine. For those who are interested in arriving early for the conference, we will have our annual **HOW Fun Shoot** on Friday afternoon (April 12). That will be followed by an informal barbecue dinner sponsored by the South Shore Convention and Visitors Authority in the evening right at the Fair Oaks Farms complex. Details will be forthcoming as the date gets nearer.

We also plan to have a few outings to choose from on Sunday, April 14 for anyone who wants to stay an extra day. Possible outings include fishing at nearby Willow Slough Fish & Wildlife Area, visiting the Kankakee Sands Bison Viewing Area to take photos and see the local bison herd, and participating in one of the 2-hour farm tours at Fair Oaks Farms (the popular "Dairy Adventure", "Pig Adventure", etc).

We have already reserved a block of discounted rooms at the brand new **Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott** right at the Fair Oaks Farms complex for HOW Conference attendees who wish to stay overnight or for the entire weekend. The details are below, but our Reservations Link will be sent out via email. We are not publicizing the link online because non-HOW members might access it and fill up our block of rooms!



The hotel lobby at the newly-opened Fairfield Inn & Suites at Fair Oaks Farms.

Rest assured that we'll be working hard to make sure this conference is worth the trip. It will definitely be one that you won't want to miss! So be sure to mark your calendars now, and **SAVE THE DATE!**

Staying Overnight at Fair Oaks Farms?

If you would like to stay overnight at the Fair Oaks Farms complex, we have a block of rooms reserved at the brand new **Fairfield Inn & Suites** at a deeply discounted price for HOW members and their guests only. The rate is especially good when you realize a hot buffet breakfast is also included in the price. When you are ready to make your room reservations, details are below. If you prefer to camp, campgrounds in nearby Roselawn (less than 10 miles) should also be available.

FAIRFIELD INN ROOM RESERVATIONS

Group/Promotional Code Link:

Our special HOW reservations link will be provided via email. Contact Tom Berg if you have any trouble making your reservation.

Fairfield Inn, room with One King bed:

(Friday night 4/12/19 and/or Saturday night 4/13/19): \$99.00 per night + tax.

Fairfield Inn, room with Two Queen beds:

(Friday night 4/12/19 and/or Saturday night 4/13/19): \$99.00 per night + tax.

**Fairfield Inn & Suites
by Marriott**

708 N 600 E

Fair Oaks, IN 47943

219-394-2100

Don't wait to make your room reservation if you will be staying overnight at the Fairfield Inn & Suites. Our block of discounted rooms will only be available until **March 13, 2019** or until they are all reserved. If you have any questions, please contact Tom Berg (thomas.berg@comcast.net).

Hoosier Outdoor Writers Annual Conference Registration



Where/When: The Fair Oaks Farms Complex located near Rensselaer, IN.
The weekend of April 12-14, 2019

This registration form is for the Annual Meeting on Saturday, April 13th
(8:00am – 4:30pm)

Information to appear on name badge:

Name: _____

Title: _____

Spouse's Name (if attending: _____

Contact information:

Mailing Address: _____

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

Email Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Are you a first-time HOW conference attendee? _____

Early Bird Conference Registration Fees:

(Early Bird pricing good until March 15 only. After March 15, add \$5.00 each to register)

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

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

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

Conference fee includes continental breakfast and buffet lunch on April 13, 2019.

Please print this application and mail it along with your check for each person attending (make checks payable to “Hoosier Outdoor Writers”) to:

Tom Berg
2142 Nondorf Street
Dyer, IN 46311-1829

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

The 2019 HOW Awards-In-Craft Contest

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

TOYOTA MOTOR SALES

**Will once again be sponsoring the 2019
HOW Awards-In-Craft Contests**



The 2019 HOW Awards-In-Craft Contest

HOW CRAFTS AWARD CONTEST RULES

The contest year shall be for material published or aired from January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018. All submissions, including photography, must have been printed, aired, published or electronically posted during the contest year (entrant must have been a HOW member when the work was published).

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

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

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

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

RULES FOR SUBMISSION

- 1) Contest entries must be in an electronic form. Entries must be emailed (or postmarked if mailing a CD or DVD) no later than midnight on March 1, 2019. Entries emailed or postmarked after that date will be disqualified. Send all entries to the proper contest coordinator (to be announced later).
- 2) An official HOW contest entry form must accompany each entry. The entry form must also be sent electronically. Please type entry details into the form (an electronic copy of the form will be provided).
- 3) Send no material that needs to be returned. No original material is required. As mentioned above, print contest entries and photo contest entries must be sent in an electronic form. In the broadcast contest, tapes, recordings and DVDs are welcome.
- 4) All submissions of print entries (either from traditional paper or electronic media) must consist of one electronic copy of each article with bylines removed. This file must be text only – do not scan tearsheets or newspaper/magazine pages. This electronic copy must be submitted as a Microsoft Word 97-2003 Document (.doc) or as a PDF file (.pdf). Entries not following these rules will be disqualified. As mentioned, print entry files must be emailed (or filed on a CD or DVD and mailed) by the deadline.
- 5) Entries into the broadcast category require only one tape or recording and may be sent by tape cassette, CD, VHS or DVD formats. Radio and television entries may carry the broadcast station's name and call letters if they are on "as aired" dubbed tapes. TV entries should be dubbed minus commercials if possible to facilitate judging.
- 6) Entries in the photography division must consist of one electronic (digital) copy of each photo. This electronic copy must be saved as a JPEG file (.jpg or .jpeg). Prints, slides and paper copies of photos will not be accepted. Please include a title for each photo entry. Digitally produced photos should not be substantially manipulated. Allowable photo enhancement is limited to standard shooting/darkroom techniques, such as color correction, contrast control and image cropping.
- 7) An individual article, photo or broadcast may only be entered in one category/division. Entering the same piece in multiple categories/divisions will result in the disqualification of duplicate entries.
- 8) There is a limit of two entries per category.

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

Troy McCormick, Email: contest@hoosieroutdoorwriters.org

US Mail: 3604 Sea Pine, Jeffersonville, IN 47130

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

John Martino, Email: jmartinooutdoors@att.net

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

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

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

US Mail: 2142 Nondorf Street, Dyer, IN 46311

CONTEST DIVISIONS

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

WRITING ARTICLE CATEGORIES

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

BROADCAST CATEGORIES

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

PHOTOGRAPHY CATEGORIES

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

2019 HOW AWARDS-IN-CRAFT CONTEST ENTRY FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

Category _____ Division _____

Title: _____

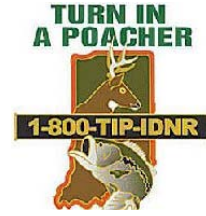
Where published/aired: _____

Publication/air date: _____

Entries and forms must be emailed or postmarked no later than March 1, 2019



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)
4. OPTIONAL: Indiana DNR TIP website (<https://secure.in.gov/dnr/lawenfor/2745.htm>)

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

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

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

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

Entries should be marked as "TIP" entries and sent to Contest Coordinator Troy McCormick, and they must be emailed or postmarked by March 1, 2019. Send TIP Contest Entries to:

Troy McCormick, Email: contest@hoosieroutdoorwriters.org

US Mail: 3604 Sea Pine, Jeffersonville, IN 47130

What is TIP?

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

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

Citizens can help stop poachers in two ways:

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

Many Species of Hawks Cruise Our Skies Then They Strike!

Story and photos by Mike Lunsford

Because we live near the woods, we see and hear hawks as they draw imaginary ropes around their territories and cordon off hunting grounds they want for themselves. Some have arrived here from time spent in the Arctic and have now come south to vacation the winter away; others are permanent residents.



ABOVE: A solitary red-tailed hawk waits patiently for his next meal to make a fateful wrong move in the grass below.
BELOW RIGHT: A light-phase female rough-legged hawk soars above a farm field, watching for mice and voles.

It's been said that if we see a hawk in the Midwest, it is safe to first suspect that it is a red-tailed; they have become adapted even to our suburbs and parks and graveyards and they are the most common. I have seen big red-tails sitting like Poe's stoic raven along busy highways, atop fence posts and naked branches and utility poles, even in the sizzling heat of July, staring downward as their unsuspecting lunch pokes about below them. The blur of loud trucks or the whistles of cars does little to disturb them, yet my pulling to a gravelly halt along the roadside to attempt a close-up with a long camera lens usually prompts them to head to the wood line; they have little interest in celebrity.

Although there are many kinds of hawks in Indiana – the sharp-shinned and Cooper's, the broad-winged and goshawks, for example – I usually spot the red-shouldered and rough-legged and red-tailed as they kite about in my neck of the woods, each distinct enough to tell apart, if they'll sit still long enough. Most are solitary, spending their days alone hunting, vigilant and aggressive, and peering down at the world.

Red-shouldered hawks call the shots in my woods. I hear them nearly every day, their screeching keeyur letting me know they are on patrol, most often by themselves or in pairs. I found a nest – which a pair of red-shouldered hawks lightly remodeled and re-used again this spring – three years ago, and I watched them raise two chicks together, alternating time near their aerie of

hefty twigs that sits in the fork of a big sycamore tree. Two springs ago, I happened to be in the woods when one of the adults and a juvenile landed on the same dead branch above me. I think I may have been watching a hunting lesson; neither seemed to be in a very good mood.

The most obvious of my hawk neighbors is a big red-tailed that proudly displays himself on the cables that are strung from pole to pole along an east-west country road near here. It must be prime hunting ground, for he, or one of his kin, is there year after year, eyeing the field mice and small birds that inhabit the surrounding fields of soybeans and corn. He is particularly active whenever the fields are disturbed, moving down the wires as each section is planted or cultivated in the spring, or combined in the fall; blistering hot days don't seem to bother him much at all.

This particular red-tailed is smart enough to recognize that he is about to have his picture taken when he sees my truck pull up alongside the road. He will take only so much of my snooping,



(continued next page)

and allows me to come only so close, before he takes off to the safety of nearby trees. I have little doubt that he is not only perturbed by my presence, but also watches my truck disappear in the distance before he begins hunting again.



ABOVE: A red-tailed hawk in flight.
BELOW RIGHT: A northern harrier glides silently over the fields below.

Just last winter, I saw a female rough-legged hawk perched in an oak tree that sits in a field not far from my house. Despite the biting wind and snow, she stayed in the area for two weeks, often hovering above the corn stalk-strewn fields like a helicopter. She didn't like my staying around either, so to watch her I had to sit in a frozen drainage ditch behind cover, surrounded by hard-plowed clay, still and shivering until she showed herself. Even then, she would give me only a brief glimpse, then be off for happier hunting grounds.

Red-shouldered, red-tailed and rough-legged hawks are all members of the Buteo genus; all are fairly large and all perch. According to my friend, Dr. Peter Scott, red-shouldered hawks, like those I see and hear in my woods, are "...more of a forest hawk," that feel comfortable flying through trees.

Scott described my red-tailed friend as "...the kind of hawk you will see out in wide-open spaces in the summer," although, "in fall and winter many arrive from the north and are thoroughly distributed over the landscape. ..." He says 95 percent of the hawks we see are red-tails and they are "great snake-eaters."

There is little in the natural world as iconic as the screech of a hawk, and according to Scott both the red-tailed and red-shouldered, "have striking calls." That of the red-shouldered is more high-pitched and pure-noted, and often repeated. The call of a red-tail is more snarly and given just once. Adult red-shouldered pairs can often be seen in courtship flights in spring, calling," he adds.

As to the rough-legged I saw, Scott perfectly described its behavior after seeing my wintery photo: "The rough-legged is an Arctic breeder and favors open grassland or pasture land. It's usually the most common hawk in Parke County on our Christmas Bird Counts. They hover like kestrels; voles are their main prey."

I realized that my hawk photos included something different than the hawks I usually see, something I suspected but wanted Scott to confirm, which he did. Last winter, as a cold January wind blew snow flurries horizontally, I passed considerable time, red-faced and gloved, looking out across an alfalfa field. The wait was worth it, for I spotted a different kind of hawk — a Northern harrier.



The harrier has a different lineage than the hawks we see around my place, and they keep interesting company, which I may have also spied one day when I had no camera with me: a short-eared owl. "Harriers rarely seem to rest," Scott told me, "beating low over the grass most of the time, working a field systematically." Although harriers' numbers increase here as the weather gets cooler, they often forage and roost communally, yet Peter reports they can also be "loners." The one I saw was of that ilk, for he worked the field by himself for a few days, then vanished.

There is little doubt that the hawks I see and hear have seen and heard me first, yet they must put up with me. I feel to see one from a hundred yards away, perched and as still as a statue is a special gift. On the other hand, I am certain that they wish I would just leave them alone.

Editor's note: Mike Lunsford is a freelance writer/photographer, columnist, book author, lecturer and teacher. He joined HOW as an Active Member in February, 2017. He also writes a regular outdoor column and monthly feature articles for the Terre Haute Tribune-Star.

Log Blinds for Longbeards and Bucks

Story and photos by Gene Clifford

I'm a great believer in ground blinds – log blinds, that is. I don't hunt deer, and I don't climb at my age, but for turkey hunting they are the frosting on the cake. They work great for deer hunting, too. But making ground blinds takes work, and lots of it.

I suspect that most treestand addicts who are skeptical of ground blinds have forgotten what they have learned from mistakes they have made in their treestands. Like the time they were skylighted, or the time their stand creaked at a most inopportune moment, or the time they couldn't get a shot off because of a branch they hadn't removed. Ground blinds solve many of those problems, and you have plenty of opportunities when building the ground blind to remove branches in your shooting lanes before the season starts.



For many whitetail hunters, the best reason to use a ground blind is the desire to hunt a spot that has no suitable trees in which to place a treestand. As for the Baby Boomers, who are approaching retirement age, many find that they are just not feeling comfortable climbing around in trees anymore. For us turkey hunters, I recommend the ground blind be placed not much more than 50 yards from a path that the turkeys are using to travel between the farm fields they are feeding in and the woods where they are roosting and resting.

Another reason for using ground blinds are those people who can't sit for long periods of time without fidgeting (kids included).

These hunters, and their kids, can fidget all they want as long as they are quiet. They can read, eat, sip beverages, scratch where it itches, or even check their phones. While some treestands can accommodate two people, ground blinds can be built to hold as many as you like. They are especially good for those hunters who like to videotape their hunts.



Ground blind turkey hunters use decoys more often than those in treestands. My feeling is that a log pile-type ground blind is seen by both turkeys and deer year-round, so they just get used to it being there. Then they will be more interested in the newly placed decoy than the blind that has been there forever.

Adding brush to your blind isn't always necessary, especially if you're hunting turkeys. Over time, most animals will learn to ignore a log pile ground blind the same way they will ignore an abandoned vehicle or farmhouse.

In the top photo, you'll see just how I lay out my ground blind with a piece of 16" by 48" plywood anchored, not more than shoulder high, to a tree and a fencepost with 2.5 to 3" drywall or decking screws. The blind itself is about 5 foot by 5 foot, enough for two hunters to easily sit in and hunt together.

In the photo above right, you see me laying the logs together, with each one held in place by old fence posts and three foot pieces of rebar driven into the ground leaving about two foot exposed. When the log blind is completed to about 24" to 26" high, the rods and posts can be driven further so they don't interfere with your shooting lanes. Remember when building a ground blind, periodically sit down inside it to get the feel as to whether the blind is tall enough to conceal you, yet not too high to shoot from.



Gene Clifford sits in his ground blind, barely visible.

Here you have the finished product (above right) which took me about two hours to build after the 15 to 20 logs (7' long each) were cut from blowdowns nearby.

An Unlikely Bird Dog

Story by Bill Keaton, photos by Tom Berg

As many of you may know, back in the 1960's Benton County in Northwest Indiana was a pheasant hunter's dream. It rivaled South Dakota. It was not uncommon for fifty to eighty pheasants to get up and fly at the end of a field in front of the hunters. However, farming practices changed over the years with increased use of insecticides and removal of traditional fence rows and other cover which resulted in a dramatic decline in the wild pheasant population. Fortunately, the Indiana DNR initiated a program about 20 years ago whereby funds from sale of upland game license fees (Game Bird Habitat Stamps) was used to purchase land in traditional wild pheasant range with restoration of pheasant habitat. A drawing is held each year to allow a few hunters to hunt pheasants and any other lawful game on these restored habitat areas. Successful hunters may take two other hunters with them if they choose.

Every year, fellow HOW members Mike Schoonveld, Tom Berg and I have applied for the hunt with the plan that if any of us were to be drawn, we would take the other two on the hunt. We have applied for at least fifteen years, and I believe that we have only been successful twice before. I was lucky enough to be drawn to hunt in 2018. Mike could not go on the day of the hunt, so I invited Tom and my son, Will.

Until recently, I have always had an English setter and sometimes a Labrador retriever for bird hunting. My last setter died about three years ago, and I did not get another. I feel that a dog is absolutely essential to hunt wild pheasants. I have always found that a flushing dog is better than a pointing dog on wild pheasants, because these birds tend to run out and away once a dog comes on point. A crippled bird will also run faster and farther than you can imagine.

Since I no longer had a setter, I decided to try to train my Boxer pup (one-year-old Maddie) to hunt birds. I



(continued from previous page)

learned in the first part of October that I had been drawn to hunt on November 7th. I got all my dog training equipment out and started working with Maddie shortly after I learned I had been drawn. She has a great nose, and she did very well at finding and retrieving dummies with pheasant scent, so I was encouraged. Although Maddie is very well disciplined, I was concerned that with the excitement of the hunt and plentiful wild pheasants, Maddie might run wild in the field and ruin the hunt. To see how she would behave on live pheasants, Will and I took her to a private game preserve on the Friday before the hunt was to occur. We paid to have four pheasants released in a very large partially wooded field. To our joy, Maddie found and flushed all four and one extra bird – all of which we shot! When we downed a bird, she located it quickly. However, when she first tried to pick up the bird to retrieve it to me, there were two problems. The bird was too big for her mouth, and she didn't like a mouth full of loose feathers that pen-raised birds tend to shed. However, she stayed on the bird and held it down with her mouth and her big paws until we got there and took it.



On the day of the wild bird hunt, it was very cold with a steady 20 mph wind out of the west. These were tough conditions for the hunters and would be difficult conditions for even an experienced bird dog. We were able to hunt perpendicular to the wind which mitigated the difficulties significantly. Maddie worked the cover as well as any flushing dog with which I have ever hunted. We hunted from 9:00 a.m. (the lawful start time) until almost 3:00 p.m. with only a short rest at noon.

Maddie never quit, and on the last bird, Tom took the shot and just broke a wing. The big rooster went down running! Maddie caught the trail and took off after him running through briars like they weren't even there. She caught the rooster about 100 yards in front of us. We saw the bird jump up and try to fly, but

Maddie caught him a foot off the ground and tried to bring him back to me. He was fully alive, and she had trouble holding the bird. She finally pinned it to the ground and held him with her mouth until I got there and took the bird from her. We got our limit of two cock pheasants each and we all experienced a very memorable hunt.



From left to right: HOW members Tom Berg, Bill Keaton and Will Keaton display their six pheasants, along with Bill's newly-trained bird dog, Maddie.

She was pretty impressive for a one-year-old pup, let alone a one-year-old Boxer pup. I was really proud of her, and I plan to take her to a game preserve again. The lesson we should all take away is that many breeds of dogs will make great hunting dogs if we just take the time to train them.



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:

As many of our members know, HOW President Troy McCormick from Jeffersonville, IN took the trip of a lifetime earlier this year when he went on safari in South Africa. The main focus of his safari was hunting, but as all hunters know, you see lots of other wildlife while you are out there pursuing your main quarry. Birds are always a common sight for hunters.

“During our safari, we became enamored with a medium-sized bird with a large yellow bill: the **Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill** (*Tockus leucomelas*),” reported McCormick. “They are about two feet in length and can be found throughout southern Africa. These beautiful birds are a common resident of the Bushveld and the savannahs where we were hunting.”



A southern yellow-billed hornbill forages along the ground for something good to eat in South Africa. The thin white things on the ground behind the bird and in the distance are thorns – and they are very sharp!

“If you change their beak to a red color, you will have their relative the Red Hornbill – which we also saw while hunting. A red hornbill was the beloved character named Zazu in the original Disney movie *The Lion King*.”

Report from Tom Berg:

HOW Executive Director Tom Berg added a new bird to his Birding Life List in November during deer hunting season. “I was sitting in a treestand early one morning, waiting in vain for a big buck to show himself,” stated Berg. “To keep from falling asleep, I amused myself by watching a trio of American robins as they gobbled red berries from a small bush on one side of my stand. The three of them ate dozens of berries while I watched.”



“I had my camera out and I snapped a few photos of them, but the bush was so thick that I never got a good shot where you could see the entire bird.”

“Suddenly, a tiny little bird flitted into my field of vision in front of the stand. I grabbed my camera again, but this little guy never sat still for more than a second. He flitted from branch to branch at a frantic pace. He finally paused once or twice and I got two or three shots of him, but it was a dark, cloudy morning and the photos were very grainy. They were good enough to help me identify him once I got home, though. He was a **Golden-crowned Kinglet** (*Regulus satrapa*). He was smaller than a chickadee, but larger than a hummingbird. I was glad I got to see this little bird before he continued his migration!

Those Who Have Gone Before Us

For Immediate Release

For more information contact:

Sean Warner – President

612.670.6238

swarner@usangling.org

November 26, 2018

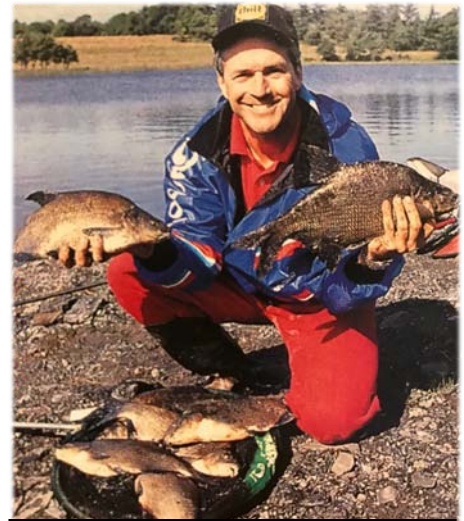
Mick Thill, Father of Modern Float Fishing

Hall of fame fisherman Mick Thill passed away in England on Sunday, November 18th. He was 71 years old. Thill was an accomplished angler, writer, speaker, teacher, and tackle designer. Thill lived most of his life in the Skokie, IL area but also split time with his family in London, England.

Competitor: Mick Thill took to fishing at a young age. It wasn't long before he began fishing competitively in a format known as matchfishing. This sport is an all species bank fishing event where total weight wins. Thill used his creativity and passion to fish his way to a club World Championship with the Essex County angling club from England in 1982. He then pioneered matchfishing and modern float fishing in the United States starting in 1982. As USA matchfishing team captain Mick won individual World Championship Silver in 1982 and Bronze in 1992. Mick started the American Fishing Association to get the USA involved with FIPSeD (the international Freshwater Fishing governing body).

Teacher: Thill was a tireless proponent of fishing and took every opportunity to share his encyclopedic knowledge of the sport with anyone interested. He used his travels as a competitive angler to learn fishing tactics from all over the globe. His insights into finesse fishing taught anglers how to catch shy-biting fish. He partnered with Midwest Outdoors and other publications to regularly explain and diagram fishing rigs and effective bait presentations.

Float maker: Mick's "Thill Gold Medal" floats by Lindy Little Joe are America's most successful and diverse group of fishing floats. Thill designed these floats to catch a variety of fish. There are floats for lakes and rivers; open and ice fishing; panfish, trout, bass, catfish and others. If you love to fish and live in the United States, chances are that you own one or more of Thill's floats. Thill's legacy lives on through them.



Thill made his mark in competitive fishing with multiple World Championship medals.



Thill had a passion for teaching anglers – especially youth



There are Thill Gold Medal floats for all types of fish and fishing

U.S. Angling is a 501c3 charitable organization that supports America's national fishing teams. Go to www.usangling.org for more information or visit their facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/USAngling.org>

HOW Member News

HOW Members Enjoy The 2018 Deer Season

Bob Sawtelle (Corydon, IN)

The following is from skilled deer hunter and HOW Past-President Bob Sawtelle:

“Archery is my favorite season for deer. It starts early and I really believe it is mostly about getting into the mood of hunting. The woods are not interrupted with the echoes of gunshots. I call it scouting with an arrow or bolt. Not to say that if a trophy buck walks in that I won’t shoot. That’s what happened last year; a nice 9-point fell to my crossbow bolt on the second day of the 2017 season.”

“This season I waited. Lots of scouting, watching and waiting. It was the year of the acorn. There was such a heavy crop that the bucks and does stayed deep in the woods. I did not see the numbers or the movement of deer as in past years. I questioned, like many hunters, whether or not our deer numbers are down. It sure seems like it.”

“I passed on smaller bucks and does during archery. A few days into gun season, at noon I went to my favorite stand that sat lofted above a small wildlife clearing, adjacent to Blue River and in a surround of oaks. It was close enough to overlook the river,



Bob Sawtelle poses with a very nice buck he shot during the firearms season in southern Indiana.

watching fish feed, an eagle fly the blue highway and beavers working. I waited, happily entertained and occupied with the antics of squirrels.”

“My buck arrived, sounding like a squirrel in the leaves with his nose down and tracking a doe. He quickly paced through the thick understory and through my shooting lane before I was ready. A mere 10 yards later, he appeared in an opening between two trees. I shot at him there, 35 yards away.”

“He had a symmetric and balanced rack of 10 points and he represented a very healthy harvest.”

2018 Deer Season Continued

Bill Keaton (Arlington, IN)

The following comes from HOW Legal Advisor Bill Keaton:

“It is my opinion that if you want to harvest a big buck, you have to be disciplined enough to let an eight-point buck walk by without shooting him. For more than twenty years on our land, I have practiced this rule. The last five years, I have taken two does for meat, and let many bucks pass.”

“This year I hunted with my crossbow four of the last five days leading up to the opening of the gun season. The first three of those days, I had a problem with the same two dogs chasing deer. The third day I called animal control, and they paid a visit to the problem dog owner. That solved the problem for the rest of my deer hunting season.”

“Despite the dogs, I let a doe and two bucks pass by during these four days. On the Monday before gun season, I saw a very nice buck. He came sniffing down the trail, but he stopped at about forty yards. That was a little farther than I am comfortable taking a sure kill shot with archery equipment. He stood there for ten minutes looking my way, and then he just turned around and walked back the way he came. I tried my grunt call to no avail.”

“Opening day of gun season was a beautiful, crisp morning with little or no wind. I had heard only one shot in the distance, which was surprising. Since our property is in a forested area in prime deer hunting country, I normally hear several shots early.”

“As I sat quietly in my stand, at 9:15am this same buck came from behind me and walked ten yards to my left. It had rained overnight, so the forest floor was very wet and quiet. I did not hear him coming. When I caught the movement beside me, I only moved my eyes; but I could quickly tell he was a shooter!

He walked right down in front of me and began browsing on the trail I was hunting. When he moved so that a tree was between us, I quickly raised my Remington 760 in .308 caliber. This gun had been my father’s, so it has a special meaning for me. At about twenty yards, I made a heart shot and the hunt was over. I had reaped the reward of my patience and management for big bucks.”



Bill Keaton with his beautiful southern Indiana buck.

2018 Deer Season Continued

Joe Martino (Kokomo, IN)

Here is a note from long-time HOW member Joe Martino:

“The 2018 archery season was an up and down ride for me until November 7th. On one hand, I was seeing more deer and more big bucks than I had in years. On the other, I seemed to be missing up every opportunity I had at a mature buck. It was enough to make me really want to give it up for a while. I mean, how many opportunities do we really get at a big buck each year? We hope for just one. Other hunters nearby were cramping me a bit more than I like too. Even though I was sick of it and had really had enough, quite honestly, I kept at it. It was early November so I was going to hunt. Plus, my wife told me to quit being childish and just enjoy the experience without putting pressure on myself. Easier said than done, but she was right.”

“After eating lunch with my brother Jimmy on November 7th, I decided to head to a stand on another property that I had yet to hunt up to that point this year. The wind was good for where I expected the deer to come from, but my confidence wasn't the highest in the spot. Besides not hunting it, I really had no idea if the deer were using it that much or not, but I had a feeling they were. The stand was along a ditch on the east edge of a massive thicket that led to the west on the western edge of a picked bean field.”

“As I pulled into the gate to the property, I spied a massive 10-pointer that was around the 160" mark. He trotted back into the timber as I drove by. I kept rolling and parked the truck a short distance later, around the bend in the lane. I made my way to the stand and settled in. Action began immediately along the ditch just 10 yards to my left as does and small bucks were cruising along its upper bank. One doe busted me and spooked, blowing the whole way. In my mind, I knew if I had any chance of seeing that 10-pointer again, that he may come from the thick stuff past the ditch and it was so thick there I had only two small holes to shoot through.”



Joe Martino with a tremendous trophy buck taken from the Kokomo area.

“Even while in the stand, I still second-guessed my decision to sit there, even though I knew a monster buck lurked the property. I kept my attention keenly focused along the ditch, with my bow at the ready as I heard grunting and didn't want to miss an opportunity if it was him.”

“It turned out to be a small buck. As he passed, I continued my vigilance at that opening. I wasn't going to mess up again. At that moment, I heard a bean snap behind me. As I turned my head, I saw a giant buck walking down the end rows at about 35 yards

2018 Deer Season Continued

(continued from Joe Martino)

and closing. I had to do a 180 degree turn in the stand in order to get a shot and no sooner had I turned than he was at 20 yards and getting ready to step into my opening. Just before walking into the wide open, he stopped and looked my direction – not at me, but into the woods beyond my stand. He took a few steps my way, putting him at 16 yards away. I saw an opening in the overhanging braches and wasn't going to wait. I had a shot and I took it.”

“He ran 100 yards and laid down. I had to watch the giant buck bedded down in the open field! I sat there until I knew he was expired and then I went over to him.”

“I shot the buck at 4 p.m and I hit one lung and the liver. I knew when I shot him he was a 170" deer anyway, but he turned out to be much bigger. I know I'll never top this buck, but I never thought I'd kill one this big in the first place! I relive it several times every day.”

Nick Martino (Kokomo, IN)

Joe Martino's son Nick also scored on a giant buck this year:



“Well, to add to my story, my son Nick also killed a huge buck this fall. He shot his deer in the late afternoon on December 15.”

“Amazingly, he harvested his deer from the same stand where I shot mine!”

Nick Martino (left and below) with another huge Kokomo-area trophy buck. According to his Dad, the rack on this deer scored 170". That will be a difficult feat to top in future deer seasons!



2018 Deer Season Continued

Jarrett Manek (Depauw, IN)

The Manek family from Harrison County had a fabulous deer season this year. Read this note from HOW board member Jarrett Manek:

“You have probably heard the saying ‘Don’t pass on a deer the first day of the season.’ My son Wyatt, age 14, passed on this buck a week before gun season opened. Unfortunately, he realized it was bigger than he thought as it walked away. Luckily for him, he got another chance a few days later. That was his first bow-harvested buck.”

“Wyatt’s sister Abby was steady with her shot using the Bogpod tripod won in the HOW Raffle last spring. It’s a great accessory for hunting with kids.”



Successful deer hunters Abbey Manek (left) and Wyatt Manek (above and below) display their trophies.

“Abby Manek (left), age 12, was calm, collected and on her mark as she harvested her largest deer this season, only a couple of hours after she was at the hair salon!”

“Wyatt was able to harvest a second deer during the archery season when he arrowed this nice doe (right).”

Way to go, kids!



2018 Deer Season Continued

(continued from Jarrett Manek)

“2018 really was a great year for the Manek family and it resulted in a very full freezer,” said the elder Manek. “I harvested this mule deer during the traditional muzzleloader season in Colorado with a .54 caliber patched round ball. It was taken with a five yard shot!”



As can be seen in the photo above, Jarrett’s trophy mule deer buck was made even more special by the fact that its antlers were still in velvet. A very beautiful animal!

Photo at right: “Dad was also guided and received lots of direction from Wyatt on opening day of gun season back here in Indiana. I was able to harvest this buck after the fog cleared during a morning hunt.”

“To me, more important than the meat in the freezer, was the time spent together outside with my family. We created great memories during 2018 which I know will last a lifetime.”

Well said, Mr. Manek!

We agree 100%. All hunters should make the effort to involve our youth in hunting and in the outdoors.



2018 Deer Season Continued

Ken McBroom (Benton, KY)

Here is a note from HOW Past-President Ken McBroom:

“There are always challenges in our lives. The swamp near my house was mine as far as deer hunting goes. I’ve only hunted it a handful of times because it’s so thick. You never knew when the mud underfoot would give way



to waist-deep muck; those pull-your-boots-off, unexpected plunges that you don’t want to experience.”

“This doe marks a challenge conquered with new entry spots discovered and higher ground hunted. Old growth oaks, tree-choked river and new flora and fauna will provide a new journey that will last many years to come. I’ll enjoy this harvested swamp doe and each recipe will remind me of the day this journey truly began.”

Ken McBroom smiles over the nice doe that he harvested in Kentucky.

Tom Berg (Dyer, IN)

HOW Executive Director Tom Berg related the following:

“I had a perfect opportunity on opening morning of firearms season to shoot a big doe about 15 minutes after legal shooting hours began. She crossed in front of me at about 40 yards, walking slowly. I put the crosshairs on her and then saw a fawn hop out of the trees and run over to her side. The fawn didn’t have any spots, of course, but it was very small. I decided I didn’t want to shoot Mommy since her fawn was with her. Besides, it was very early on opening morning! If a big buck was in the area I didn’t want to spook it.”

“When I told one of the guys in deer camp about the Momma doe and fawn later, he just called me an old softie! Maybe so.”

“Anyway, the following day I saw nothing all day until 15 minutes before the end of legal shooting hours. Two large does came across the field to the treeline by my stand. They slowly approached my shooting lane, but they didn’t come out into the open until there was just a few minutes of shooting time remaining. When I could finally shoot at one of them, I could barely see her due to the darkness. It was a dark, cloudy evening and I just couldn’t see her clearly enough to take a good shot! Arrgghhh!!”

“I hunted one other day and had no luck at all. Finally, the following Saturday morning a button buck walked out in front of me at about 70 yards and I decided to take it. I am always happy and thankful to be able to harvest a deer. I was using a new Henry Long Ranger .308 rifle, and it knocked the deer right over. No tracking required.”



Tom Berg with his rifle-harvested deer.

2018 Deer Season Continued

Bryan Poynter (Westfield, IN)

The following comes from HOW past-president and current board member Bryan Poynter:

“This year I had the opportunity to spend a true opening weekend hunting camp experience with my two sons Ed (age 19) and Will (age 17). We have hunted together previously, but due to high school and college sports the schedules were always a challenge. This year was the first time that both teenagers truly expressed an interest and the schedules aligned. As anyone who hunts with their children can appreciate, it is a bigger thrill for Dad than for them.”

“As a matter of fact, I didn’t even load my gun knowing that both were capable. We are able to hunt from an elevated stand where the three of us could be together and I would have the opportunity to impart whatever wisdom I could.”

“As the final critical hour approached on opening day, we saw the only deer of the day! After a brief confirmation that ‘this was it’, Will focused and did everything correctly to harvest his first deer with his brand new Ruger 77/44. The smile says it all! As you know, the work now begins and he did the work with the never-ending suggestions from the rest of us standing over him. The deer was donated to a needy family through the DNR program. Will received the spent shell in a shadowbox with this picture for Christmas. Proud Dad!”



Will Poynter is very happy with his first whitetail deer.



Vikki Trout (Holland, IN)

The following came from HOW board member Vikki Trout: “During last year’s deer season, I spent countless hours in the stand contemplating improvements I could make in my hunting woods. The decision was finally made that some of my “junk” trees simply had to go. The section I am referring to contained beech, light-robbing maple and grapevines that would choke the life out of anything it touched – including my precious hickory and oak.”

“I spoke with a good friend and he agreed to help me because I did not have the equipment or strength to accomplish the task alone. The only catch was I had to wait until he had all his crops in the field. In the late summer, we headed to my woods to start the procedure. At the end of the day, an entire section was transformed from junk to what would soon be a secluded food plot. On October 1st (yes, opening day of bow season) we fertilized and planted seed. We had to wait because of all the rain we had earlier.”

“November 12 of this year was my lucky day. I watched a nice 9-point buck as he cautiously fed in my plot, and then he walked behind my stand. I was pretty excited when I saw him coming. He stood perfectly broadside at a mere 18 yards and I took the shot. Venison for the freezer!”

2018 Deer Season Continued

Brandon Butler (Fayette, MO)

This is from HOW Past-President Brandon Butler: “My favorite weekend of the year has come and gone,” quipped Butler. “The 2018 firearms opener for deer is in the books and it was a blast. Driftwood Acres deer camp 2018 consisted of my Dad, cousin Derek and Nathan “Shags” McLeod. We were deep in the Ozarks and enjoyed the bounty of Missouri public land.

My Dad doesn’t hunt. He came to camp just to hang out and put his incredible carpentry skills to use at the cabin. I have to admit to feeling a little guilty about his plans to work on my place while I sat in a deer stand, so when the first buck rolled by my stand at 10:15 on open morning, I took the opportunity and filled my tag with a nice nine-pointer. My freezer is again full of healthy, organic game meat, and I’ll forever have the memory of a beautiful, frosty morning buck taken high upon an Ozark ridge.

Bald eagles were around the entire time we were in camp. On Tuesday morning, I sat on my porch with binoculars for two hours and watched a pair of mature eagles and a juvenile flying up and down the creek. I drank an entire thermos of

coffee. There wasn’t a single interruption. No phone calls, emails or texts. No sounds or signs of civilization. It was a deep sort of relaxation rarely experienced in today’s technological world, one found only in nature.

Troy McCormick (Jeffersonville, IN)

This is from current HOW President Troy McCormick:



Troy McCormick heading back to the deer stand with his crossbow and wearing a great full-camo hunting outfit.



Brandon Butler displays his Ozarks whitetail.

“I decided I’m going all-in to get a buck the last weekend of the whitetail deer season. If a deer sees me in the deer blind, he’ll think I am a raccoon and not pay any attention to me.”

McCormick is a very experienced deer hunter and usually gets his deer much earlier than this. But this year his travels for his Bootprints.TV outdoors show on the Hunt Channel (www.huntchannel.tv) has thrown a monkey wrench in the works of his normal hunting schedule.

But that has not deterred him. “The hat has worked before...,” he said.

Phil Seng Works to Help Save Endangered Humpback Chubs

“At the end of October I had an extremely unique outdoor experience,” said Seng. “I was part of a National Park Service crew assigned to use electrofishing equipment to remove non-native brown and rainbow trout from tributaries of the Colorado River in the Grand Canyon.”



Phil Seng demonstrates the proper use of electrofishing gear, or as he describes it: “Riding the Lightning!”

placed in buckets. Any native fish caught were moved upstream and released.”

At the end of each pass, we measured, weighed, and recorded breeding status data for all fish caught. Trout under 200mm were bagged for the Native American tribes, who used them to feed their ceremonial eagles and other raptors. Larger trout were cleaned, vacuum packed and frozen for human consumption. We had some amazing trout meals in the evenings!

We shocked each 200-meter stretch of the creek three times before moving downstream to the next reach. As you might expect, we would typically catch fewer fish on each successive pass, but it’s still amazing how these fish (sometimes large fish) can go undetected after two passes with electrofishing gear!

“Shortly after the turn of the 20th Century, brown and rainbow trout were introduced into the Colorado River for fishing purposes. Effects on the native fish, particularly the humpback chub, were drastic, and today the chub is endangered throughout the entire basin. In an effort to re-establish some of the original balance, the National Park Service, in association with the Native American tribes in the region, have been using electrofishing equipment to remove trout, and have recently begun reintroducing humpback chubs into the system.”

“It is physically challenging work. First, you must hike down into the canyon, carrying food and supplies for the entire week. Our group was assigned a stretch of Bright Angel Creek, which is accessed from the North Rim. Each day we were up at dawn, carrying electrofishing backpacks, nets and buckets down to the creek. We would hike through the dense underbrush along the creek in 200-meter stretches and enter the creek on the downstream end of the reach. Then we would work our way up the creek, shocking and collecting fish as we went. All trout were immediately euthanized and



Members of the electrofishing team shock trout and collect them at the base of a small, but picturesque waterfall.

(continued next page)



“We worked from dawn to dusk for five straight days, schlepping equipment and fish up and down the canyon. This conservation work has been going on for nine summers now, and the non-native trout population has been reduced by over 90%. That’s a very good thing.”

“Near the end of our tour, as we got further down the creek toward the mainstem of the Colorado River, we did catch a few native fish, which was a good sign that the reintroduction effort is taking hold.”

“Making the 4,000-foot vertical climb back out of the canyon at the end of our week was the most difficult part, but it *hurt so good* to be part of such a unique conservation effort.”

Phil Seng is smiling in this photo, but this was on his way DOWN the canyon trail. He was not smiling quite as much on the way back UP the steep path!



Gary Redmon Wins Dream Hunting Trip, Slated to Hunt for Axis Deer and More

“I hope everyone’s hunting season has been more successful than mine. I passed on a few bucks this year, but mister big was just too smart. There is always next year and hopefully everything will be a little larger. That’s hunting. It’s still great to be in the outdoors watching the sunrise on those frosty mornings and hearing the sounds of nature coming alive.”

“If you are interested, click on <https://myusoc.com> and you might see a photo of me and details of a hunting trip that I won recently. It is called the ‘Iron Man Hunt’ with Real Outfitters in Texas, and I will be headed there in January. It will be a filmed hunt for axis deer, whitetail deer, hogs and more; it will be aired on the Pursuit Channel.”



“I have been a member of the USOC for several years. They have an educational and fun wildlife trivia contest with weekly prizes, and I have been successful in winning a few times. They give away lots of prizes as well as hunting and fishing trips. Look for a detailed write up from my trip in the near future!”

The 2019 Iron Man Hunt
 Sponsored by **Real Outfitters, TX**
 the Pursuit Channel, US Outdoorsman Central & USOC
 Adventures TV Show



Mike Schoonveld Experiences Fall Fun, Frustration and Food

HOW Past-President Mike Schoonveld enjoys the different aspects of the fall season. “When the Lake Michigan fishing season tapers to a close in early autumn and I get all the gear winterized and stowed away, it’s time to gear up and head out for my next two favorite outdoor activities,” said Schoonveld. “Those two things are trapping coyotes and hunting for hen-of-the-woods mushrooms. I am actually able to combine the two activities, at least some of the time.”

“Hen mushrooms often grow at the base of the same trees year after year. Many of the “hen trees” I check were spotted initially while I was travelling from one trapping location to another. Since many of the best places to set traps remain the same, year to year, it’s a natural alliance.”

“Trapping coyotes is one of the most challenging tests of an outdoorsman’s skills. Coyotes are smart, wiley, and at times, frustrating. For example, a deer is in range of a gun hunter if it’s standing within a hundred yards of so of the gun. A duck is



in range of a hunter if it’s flying within 35 yards or so of a waterfowler. When trapping, I have to get a coyote to step on a spot the size of a silver dollar to make the trap fire. That can be a real challenge.”



Mike Schoonveld (above) lifts a coyote he harvested, while his wife Peggy (below) smiles over a huge pile of hen mushrooms (and others). Right: Hen-of-the-woods mushrooms at the base of a host tree.



“Hen of the Woods, aka cauliflower mushrooms, sheephead mushrooms (or in Japan, maitake mushrooms), according to many culinary experts, are rivaled only by wild truffles when it comes to flavor. When I watch TV chefs use truffles in their dishes, the diners often get only a few grams grated over their dish. During our fall “hen mushroom” harvest, I often eat them three times a day, starting with a hen of the woods omelette!”

Non Sequitur



© 2018 WILEY INK, LTD. 12-11
DIST. BY ANDREWS McWHEEL SYNDICATION WILEYINK@EARTHLINK.NET GOCOMICS.COM

We know we have HOW members who live in Florida and others who like to visit Florida during the winter months....

Icefishing In Hell

HOW Executive Director Tom Berg likes icefishing and he likes visiting Florida. But he definitely doesn't want to combine the two.

He saw the cartoon to the left in the newspaper recently and it really made him laugh.

Maybe we should all be careful about our trips to warmer climates this winter!

We would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year!

Membership Changes and New Contact Info

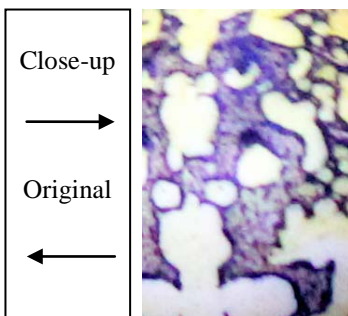
The following name represents our newest HOW member. Please make a note of his email address:

David Hewitt: d.hewitt@risingsunpolice.net (new member)

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

Unusual Nature Photos from the Hoosier Outdoors Sponsored by Shimano North America

The Marbled Orb Weaver Spider is Colorful but Creepy!



The “What is it?” photo from the last issue was admittedly a difficult one, and only two (2) HOW members guessed correctly. John Maxwell and Doug Sikora were the only two who figured it out. When we drew a name at random for the premium sunglasses donated by **Costa**, Doug Sikora was the winner. Congrats, Doug! We will make sure you get your choice of sunglasses.

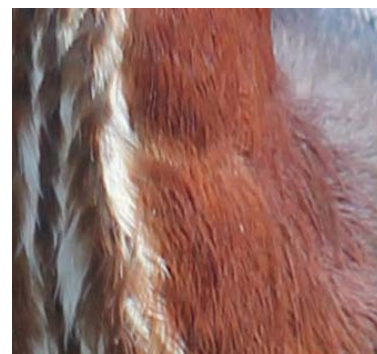
As you can see in the photo to the left, the mystery creature for this issue was a Marbled Orb Weaver spider (*Araneus marmoreus*). These colorful arachnids are sometimes called pumpkin spiders since females often have an inflated orange abdomen like a pumpkin, but other individuals look like the example shown here. The abdomen is yellowish-white with black and purple marbled markings on it, and the legs are bright red near their base with alternating white and black stripes.

These spiders are close relatives of the common black and yellow garden spider. Marbled orb weavers can be found in yards and gardens, but they actually prefer wooded areas near creeks, streams and ponds. Adults frequently hide in the leaves of a nearby tree branch, waiting for the vibrations from a signal thread to alert them to the presence of an insect caught in their web. When they are not hiding in their secret retreat, they often hang out right in the center of the web. Marbled orb weavers are not dangerous to humans and rarely bite, but it is wise to leave them alone. These common spiders can be found throughout the state of Indiana.

SHIMANO For this issue, our friends at **Shimano** and **Catalyst Marketing** will be donating a great prize for the HOW member who guesses the right answer to this issue’s “What Is It?” question. This time the prize will be one of the beautiful new Shimano Ultegra spinning reels – valued at \$150. 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 part of a close-up of a creature that lives right here in Indiana. It is found throughout the state, but you are unlikely to see it in your back yard. Have you ever seen a color pattern on a Hoosier creature that looks like this?



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



As mentioned above, **Shimano** will donate a brand new Shimano Ultegra spinning reel for the HOW member who guesses the right answer to this issue’s “What Is It?” nature question. Ultegra reels are incredibly durable, smooth-winding and long casting. Shimano is a world leader in providing fishing products for serious anglers, regardless of which species of fish they choose to pursue (see www.shimano.com). If multiple people guess correctly, we’ll draw a winner at random from the group of correct entries. All 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.

Tackle the Ice With Shimano's New Ice Gear

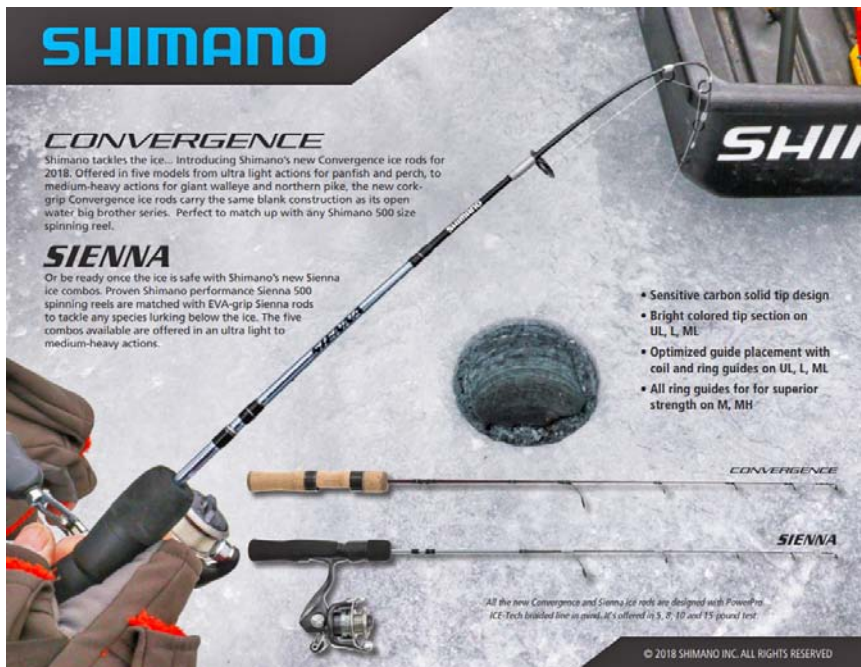
Ladson, SC: Anglers in northern climates have always known the fishing doesn't stop when temperatures dip below freezing and the water gets hard. Ice fishing continues to attract anglers to their favorite lakes for everything from panfish and bass, to walleye and northern pike, and Shimano is addressing their tackle needs. Now available - or soon to be at selected tackle dealers in popular ice-fishing states, Shimano introduces a new line-up of cork grip Convergence ice rods, along with a selection of Sienna combos featuring EVA grip rods matched with Sienna 500 spinning reels.

"With ice anglers relying more on advanced equipment such as high-performance electric augers to drill holes, sophisticated electronic depth finders to show what's below the ice, and insulated pop-up shelters to combat the cold, it was a natural step for Shimano to take," said Trey Epich with Shimano's product development staff. "We have many here at Shimano with northern roots and a passion for fishing through the ice, and obviously we want them - and any ice-angler, to feel the same confidence fishing with Shimano ice rods and reels as they do when open-water fishing."

The five Convergence ice rods all feature a sensitive carbon tip design. On the 24" ultra-light, 26" light and 28" medium-light power rods, anglers will find a Tennessee handle design and coil and ring guides. The 28" medium and medium-heavy power Convergence rods offer a comfortable seamless carbon ring reel seat and lightweight Zirconia ring guides. All the Convergence rods come with a hook keeper and match up well with any of Shimano's 500 size spinning reels, including those in the Sahara and NASCI series.

Already matched up with Shimano's wobble-free Sienna 500 spinning reels, the five Sienna ice combos include sensitive carbon tip design rods with aluminum oxide ring guides on the 28" medium and medium-heavy power rods, and wire guides with aluminum oxide also on the 24" ultralight, 26" light and 28" medium-light power combos. They all feature lightweight graphite reel seats, comfortable EVA grips and hook keepers.

"On both the Convergence and Sienna lighter power rods, we added a bright colored tip section," said Epich. "When wearing gloves in the cold weather, light bites can be difficult to feel. This just gives anglers a visual way to see subtle bites from sunfish, perch and crappies."



All the Sienna rod and reel ice combos retail for \$39.99 (USD), while the Convergence ice rods retail for \$44.99. Most tackle shops carrying Shimano's new ice tackle also offer a selection of spinning reels ideal for ice-fishing use, including the Sahara, NASCI, Sedona and Sienna 500 size models. All the reels can be spooled up with PowerPro ICE-Tech braid, available in 5-, 8, 10- and 15-pound test.

HOW members may contact John Mazurkiewicz at Catalyst Marketing for more information on the new ice tackle from Shimano. Call 574-289-1331 (office) or 574-292-2500 (cell), or send an email him at: jpmazurk@ameritech.net.

For additional info and images, please visit <http://fish.shimano.com>.

HOW Supporting Member News

New Fish Fillet & Game Knife from Church Tackle Company

Sodus, MI: Church Tackle Company has designed the only horizontal blade with a raised handle, eliminating the need to work at the edge of the table or the need for a block. Our unique raised handle & 8" balanced horizontal blade easily fillets, removes rib bones, removes skin cleanly, allows you to work anywhere on flat surfaces and fits perfectly in large or small hands. These features make this knife superior to any other knife on the market.



The handle is made of tough ABS plastic and textured to provide a quality grip. The 440C stainless and carbon steel blade is heat-treated to a perfect hardness creating a long-lasting, sharp edge. This combination makes it a premium steel for knives. We highly recommend using kevlar, metal mesh, or other cut resistant gloves to protect your hands from accidental cuts.



Always remember to store your knife in the blade protector to prolong the sharpness of the blade and protect against accidents.

Media Contact:

HOW members may contact Debby Dohm at Church Tackle Company for more information on the new fillet knife or any of

Church's other fishing products. Contact her at 269-934-8528 (office) or by email at: churchtackle@churchtackle.com.

Stop the Bleed Program Can Save Lives

Buffalo, NY: The *Stop the Bleed* initiative is a national awareness campaign and a call to action. *Stop the Bleed* is intended to cultivate grassroots efforts that encourage bystanders to become trained, equipped, and empowered to help in a bleeding emergency before professional help arrives.

People that hunt, fish, camp, hike and perform any outdoors activity far from help can be at risk if they encounter a serious bleeding situation. We aim to empower and prepare people to save a life in case of a bleeding emergency. Besides the normal risk of injury, these days there are large numbers of people on anti-coagulant blood thinners and aspirin that could bleed out within minutes when help is hours away. Injury poses a serious and potentially fatal threat. With the uncertainty of when and where a bleeding emergency may occur, preparedness is key.



Stopbleedingkits.org aims to create awareness for the *Stop the Bleed* initiative and they have also partnered with the FDA and CoTCCC approved CELOX hemostatic products to bring you the best available options in first aid. We are assisting with the fulfillment and implementation of bleeding control equipment as it is important that proper equipment is available and accessible to all who are seeking to be prepared. The CELOX 5 x 3"

Hemostatic Gauze Roll and 8" x 8" Gauze Pad are licensed and approved products for the *Stop the Bleed* program.

Media Contact:

Interested HOW members should contact Gary Steszewski for more information on the different stop bleeding kits or any of their other products. Contact him at 716-834-1096 ext. 104 or by email at: gary@stopbleedingkits.org.



HOW's Supporting Member Websites

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

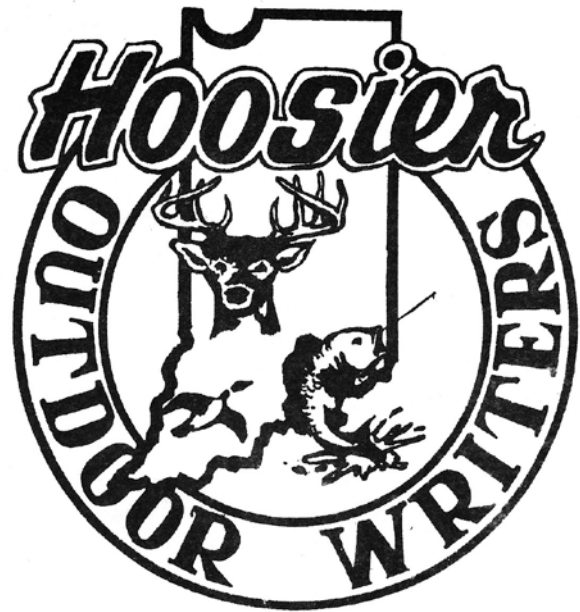
1. To give the profession of outdoor writing/reporting greater recognition and understanding, even higher standards and enlarged scope.
2. To encourage and enforce high standards of professional ethics.
3. To strive always for the truth, accuracy, clarity and completeness in the dissemination of outdoor 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)
Cincinnati, OH

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

Ford Indianapolis Boat, Sport & Travel Show: February 15-24, 2019
(www.IndySportShow.com)
Indianapolis, IN

Indiana Deer, Turkey & Waterfowl Expo: February 21-24, 2019
(www.IndySportShow.com)
Indianapolis, IN

HOW 2019 Annual Conference: April 12-14, 2019
(www.HoosierOutdoorWriters.org)
Fair Oaks Farms Complex
Fair Oaks, IN

NRA 2019 Annual Meetings: April 26-28, 2019
(www.nra.org)
Indianapolis, IN

OWAA 2019 Annual Conference: June 22-24, 2019
(www.OWAA.org)
Little Rock, AR

ICAST Show 2019: July 9-12, 2019
(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 for possible inclusion in future issues of *The Blade*.