

The Blade

2019 Post-Conference Issue

May - June 2019

The Official Publication of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers

"HOW Fun Shoot: A clay pigeon is about to break", photo by Tom Berg



Hoosier Outdoor Writers

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

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On the cover: HOW member Mike Berg fires his shotgun at one of the small black clay pigeons used by the Oakwood Gun Club during the annual HOW Fun Shoot. It's not too often that you can actually see the shotgun pellets speeding on their way toward the target, but you can here! Tom Berg photo.

President's Message

by Capt. Mike Schoonveld

Help Make R3 Work



For some groups, it seems like having a catchy acronym for a name is a key to success. Everyone knows AAA, but few know it stands for American Automobile Association. In the fishing world there's B.A.S.S. (Bass Anglers Sportsman Society). For hunters, most recognize the initials NWTF (National Wild Turkey Federation) or DU (Ducks Unlimited).

I suppose that's why one of the first reasons state game and fish agencies and their allied groups looked for a catchy acronym - "R3" - when starting, naming and promoting the nationwide movement - **Recruit, Retain, Reactivate**. Is R3 something which will be supported by outdoorsmen like NWTF is supported by turkey hunters or IGFA is by fishermen?

I hope so. Despite the population in Indiana increasing by about a million people in the last 25 years, fishing license sales haven't changed much. More important is the age distribution of fishing participants. As a group, fishermen are getting older. There are more of us gray haired old guys and gals out there and fewer smiling young hopefuls learning to cast, tie knots and yelling "fish-on."

If that doesn't change, it's curtains for state fish agencies in particular and the fishing industry as a whole. State fish departments are fueled by license sales and money derived from excise taxes on fishing gear. License sales are stagnant and the cost of managing and protecting fish populations increases every year. The Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation is spear-heading an industry-wide effort to increase the current 49.1 million U.S. anglers to 60 million in 60 months. The countdown is on and the 60 months will end in 2021.

This is where R3 programs can help and this is where every HOW member can help. Most of us are always looking for ideas and info for columns, videos, podcasts or however you ply your communication skills. R3 can provide at least four topics, and probably more. Idea #1: Communicate about R3 in general - why the need, what it stands for, how people can get involved. Ideas two, three and four are to treat each R individually.

Want to highlight R-Recruit? Work something up which inspires fishing participation among audiences who don't currently fish. Themes could include (but are not limited to) free fishing days, the benefits of fishing; the connection between fishing and conservation; fishing is fun, easy and it's for everyone; or equipment and how-to-fish articles for beginners.

How about R-Retain? Focus on keeping current anglers fishing. Themes could include, but are not limited to, targeting new species; traveling to find new places to fish; the challenge to learn new techniques, types of fishing or trying new tackle; incorporating fishing into other outdoor activities; competitions; personal growth; or why making time for fishing is important.

Last but not least, R-Reactivate. Communicate ideas about how to inspire former anglers to re-join the sport. Topics could include the benefits of fishing in today's hectic world, give fishing another try, take others fishing (mentoring), get back to basics or establishing family fishing traditions. Sure, government agencies, industry and pro-fishing groups are providing money and manpower to these efforts, but it's up to us outdoor writers and communicators to help them out by spreading the messages and providing the nuts and bolts details.

The Hoosier Outdoor Writers

New Members, Past Presidents & Memorial Section

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

Jameson Olson (Associate)
Huntington, 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
Troy McCormick	2018



The Annual HOW Fun Shoot: Sporting Clays at Oakwood Gun Club



by Tom Berg

The 2019 HOW Fun Shoot held prior to the conference at Fair Oaks Farms was another great event. We had an excellent turnout and a wonderful group of HOW members met at the picturesque Oakwood Gun Club (219-956-4615) south of Wheatfield. It was windy and there was a slight chill in the air, but everyone enjoyed a relaxing afternoon of shooting. The clear blue skies made the day even more pleasant!



Kenny Bayless prepares to take his next shot.

The shooters were divided into multiple groups and each group started at a different place on the property to expedite the process. The sporting clays course was set in and along the edge of the property's woods and it offered some challenging shots.

Some of the shooting stations featured difficult overhead shots with the clay targets whistling through the trees at high speed, while others presented crossing shots at slower speeds which were easier to hit. There were true pairs, report-pairs and distant targets that went straight up and then fell straight back down.

Each station was fun and offered its own challenges. One station even had an old boat that the shooters stood

in, simulating a duck hunting scenario.

The course was layed-out with a total of ten stations, so ten shots were fired at each station by each HOW shooter.

All of us found at least some of the stations to be very challenging, and more than one person missed all 10 shots at least once during the course of the day. But that's part of the fun, and everyone took it in stride. Four of our more experienced shooters actually shot 10-out-of-10 at one of the stations, and the top shooter did it three times!



Above (L to R): HOW shooters Phil Seng and Troy McCormick just finished shooting at the elevated station. Coming down the stairs (L to R) are Vikki Trout, Laura Seng and Joe Jansen. All Fun Shoot photos were taken by Tom Berg.

(HOW Fun Shoot continued on next page)

Once each shooter had completed all ten stations, the final scores were tallied. Phil Seng was the Top Shooter with a score of 77 and was named the winner of the HOW Fun Shoot for 2019. Congrats, Phil!



Kenny Bayless (left) handles the remote control clay pigeon thrower controls as Mike Berg prepares for his next shot.

The top four places included Phil Seng (77) in First Place, followed by Tom Berg (68) in Second Place, Bill Keaton (64) in Third Place, and Bob Sawtelle (62) in Fourth.

Although some HOW members shot better than others, everyone present had fun and enjoyed being outside at the range. Congratulations again to Phil and to all of the participants for a job well done.

All of the shooters were using Browning's BPT Performance Target shotshells, with #8 shot. This ammunition features premium antimony shot, which is harder than lead and reduces deformation. It also helps deliver tight patterns and maximum target-breaking energy.

After the shooting was done it was time to head for Fair Oaks Farms to get ready for

the Friday evening barbecue. Overall, it was a great afternoon with lots of laughs, good friends, good stories and plenty of camaraderie. If you didn't make it out to the Fun Shoot this year, join us next year!



L to R: Phil Seng, Laura Seng, Vikki Trout, Kenny Bayless and Joe Jansen talk and watch as another shooter (Troy McCormick) shoots.

HOW would like to extend a big thank-you to the **Oakwood Gun Club** for their hospitality and the use of their facilities.

We would also like to thank HOW Supporting Members **Winchester Ammunition** and **Browning Ammunition** for sponsoring the Fun Shoot and for supplying the shotshells for the shooters again this year. Their help was truly appreciated by all of the participants. Thank you!



Vikki Trout takes careful aim at a clay target.

2019 HOW Conference

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



Friday Evening BBQ Sponsor



Conference Breakfast Sponsor



Conference Seminar Sponsor



Conference Lunch Sponsor

The 2019 HOW Awards-In-Craft Contest

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

TOYOTA MOTOR SALES

**For sponsoring the 2019
HOW Awards-In-Craft Contests**



HOW Raffle Donors - 2019

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

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Alps Brand
Aquateko International
Arctic Ice
B'n'M Poles
Backwoodsman Magazine
Bass Pro Shops
Black River Tools
BoatUS
BOLT Locks
BPI Outdoors
Brella Rainwear
Buck Knives
Bucket Grip
Caldwell
Cauldryn
Celox
Church Tackle Co.
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Fish Print Shop
Flying Fisherman
Frabill
G.Loomis
Gerber Legendary Blades
Glacier Glove
Great Outdoors Indiana
GunProtect
Hawke Sport Optics
Henry Repeating Arms
HHA Sports
Hodgdon Powder Company
Hoosier Trapper Supply
Howard Leight
HT Enterprises, Inc.
Hunter's Edge
HybridLight
Indianapolis Zoo
Irish Setter Boots
Kent Cartridge
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Quaker Boy Game Calls
Reef Runner Lures
RIO Products
ScentLok
Shimano American
Sierra Bullets
Snag Proof Lures
Sporting Classics
Sturm, Ruger & Co.
Swab-Its
Tales End Tackle
Target Communications Outdoor Books
ThermaCELL
Thompson-Pallister Bait Company
TTI-Blakemore
Van Vuuren African Safaris
Vexilar, Inc.
White Flyer Targets
Winchester Ammunition
W.R. Case

2019 HOW Conference: Fun at Newton County's Fair Oaks Farms



This was a special year for HOW. 2019 marked the **50th Annual Conference** for the Hoosier Outdoor Writers, and this year's conference was held at Fair Oaks Farms right at the border of Indiana's Newton and Jasper counties.



Fair Oaks Farms and the Fairfield Inn & Suites welcomed HOW members and their guests on the weekend of April 12-14. The main HOW meeting took place on Saturday in the Newton Room.

The event took place on the weekend of April 12-14. It was another great get-together, partly because it was held at a new location that we have not already visited as a group in the past. Besides the Fair Oaks Farms complex itself, there was the nearby

Kankakee Sands (with its Bison Viewing Area) and Willow Slough FWA to explore, along with nearby Lake Michigan for some spring salmon and trout fishing. Unfortunately, the weather did not cooperate for the Lake Michigan outing that we had planned, but we can try again next time.

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

The Fair Oaks Conference Center has excellent meeting facilities and first-rate staff, and our event was another great success. Many HOW members took advantage of the lodging and restaurant at the adjacent Fairfield Inn and stayed the entire weekend, while others just came in for the day to attend the HOW meeting. Our conference room was spacious and well-appointed, the catered food was very good and the conference provided another great opportunity to learn new things and reconnect with old friends.

As most conference-goers know, the HOW Conference actually begins on the Friday afternoon before the annual meeting on Saturday. This year's conference was no different, and at 1:30pm on Friday, April 12th, a group of HOW members met at the Oakwood Gun Club near Wheatfield for the annual HOW Fun Shoot. The weather was good (although a bit windy) and the camaraderie was great. Details can be found on pages 5-6. After the shooting was done, everyone drove over to Fair Oaks Farms and joined the other HOW members who were already gathering for the Friday evening barbecue!



(continued on next page)

At 6:00pm on Friday evening, about 30 HOW members, spouses and guests met at the Fair Oaks Conference Center for an informal dinner and get-together. We had originally planned to have the dinner outside on the back terrace so we could enjoy the evening air, but cold temperatures prompted us to move it inside. Luckily we had all the tables and chairs set up already, so it was a smooth transition.

The Friday dinner was sponsored by the **South Shore Convention and Visitors Authority**, and this year we decided to let the chef at the adjacent Farmhouse Restaurant do the cooking for us. He prepared a simple dinner of brats, potato salad, chips – and since it was Lent – breaded fish fillets that were baked to golden perfection. There were even a few desserts. No one left hungry!



A great gathering of HOW members and guests enjoy dessert and some friendly after-dinner talk at the Fair Oaks Conference Center on Friday evening, April 12, 2019.

Katie Holderby from the South Shore CVA was present at the dinner, and when everyone was done eating she welcomed the HOW members to Fair Oaks Farms and talked about some of the interesting things to see and do in the counties surrounding Indiana's south shore. From fishing and birding on Lake Michigan to learning about the bison on the nearby Kankakee Sands preserve, there are plenty of things to do in the great outdoors in northern Indiana. And don't forget about Indiana Dunes National Park and Indiana Dunes State Park. Both properties offer nearly endless outdoor opportunities.



Above: Katie Holderby from the South Shore CVA discussed tourism topics for writers in the northern Indiana counties. **Right:** Ken McBroom (L) and Bob Sawtelle (R) share a laugh at dinner. Photos by Tom Berg.



Although Lake County garners much of the publicity in the South Shore region because of its many attractions and proximity to Lake Michigan, other nearby counties have plenty to offer, too, including Porter, Jasper and Newton counties.

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

The annual meeting began at 8:00am on Saturday morning, and the attending HOW members and guests assembled in the Newton Room in the Fair Oaks Conference Center. As usual, the first hour of the meeting was set aside for registration and social time.

HOW President Troy McCormick called the meeting to order at 9:00am and provided opening remarks, then briefed those present on the day's schedule. Afterwards, he introduced Kelley Enright, Central Region Communications Manager from HOW Supporting Member RAM Trucks. Ms. Enright welcomed the HOW membership and gave a brief description of the new line of RAM trucks that are perfect for serious outdoorsmen. She then informed all present that she brought a brand new RAM 1500 Limited truck to the meeting for HOW members to check out and take a test drive.



How President Troy McCormick.



She then informed all present that she brought a brand new RAM 1500 Limited truck to the meeting for HOW members to check out and take a test drive.

Kenny Bayless was the first to go outside and learn about the new truck. It was a beautiful truck with a HEMI 5.7L engine, and it had all the bells and whistles. Kenny took it for a test drive and said it drove and handled like a dream. It was especially helpful to have the RAM Trucks expert in the seat next to him to explain how all the bells and whistles worked! The electronics packages on these new trucks can confuse a NASA astronaut!



Top Left: Kelley Enright from RAM Trucks talks about the new features in the 2019 RAM Trucks lineup. **Above:** Kenny Bayless and Kelley Enright go for a test drive and Enright explains how some of the truck's new gadgets work. Bayless was duly impressed by everything that the electronics can do in today's trucks. Photos on this page by Tom Berg.

When it was time for the first seminar of the day, President McCormick took the microphone and introduced Adam DeLucenay from the Indiana DNR so he could start his presentation.

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The first seminar speaker of the day was **DNR Grasslands Biologist Adam DeLucenay**, and he discussed the new APPLE Program (Access Program Providing Land Enhancement). Since 96% of Indiana land is privately owned, one of the main goals of the APPLE program is to encourage private land owners to allow limited public hunting opportunities on their land. The program will provide help and financial incentives to encourage participation by land owners.



Adam DeLucenay describes how hunters can get involved with the APPLE program.

Other goals of the APPLE program include encouraging active management of privately owned lands for wildlife, increasing the recruitment of new hunters and retaining current hunters, supporting Indiana's rural economies, and helping to preserve Indiana's important hunting traditions.

Landowners enrolled in the program can be eligible for cost sharing with the state to improve or maintain habitat on the property. They can also receive incentive payments, based upon access allowed and whether or not habitat management is performed. There are also other programs available which could be complimentary to the APPLE program, such as the Grassland for Gamebirds and Songbirds (GGS) program, CORRIDORS programs, and others.

The second speaker was **DNR District 1 Fisheries Biologist Tom Bacula**. Bacula focused his talk on the fishery at J.C. Murphey Lake inside the nearby Willow Slough Fish and Wildlife Area. He described the history of the lake, including when the lake was initially stocked with fish in 1951 and 1952. Since the lake was so shallow (average 3-4 feet), the main focus was waterfowl hunting, and hunting was allowed starting in 1954. However, the habitat was perfect for muskrats, too, and the muskrat population quickly exploded. Fur trapping began in 1952.

Surprisingly, the fishery in the early years was dominated by bullheads. It was typical in the 1950s for bullheads to account for 85-90% of the fish harvested at J.C. Murphey Lake. A creel survey in 1955 recorded an incredible 250,000 fish harvested, but 90% were bullheads. Those were not small bullheads, either – they were large bragging-sized bullheads!

He went on to explain how the fishery in the 1960s was poor, but by the 1970s and 1980s the fishery improved and bluegills and bass became the most sought-after fish in the lake. Winter kills occurred, and by the early 2000s four lake renovations were completed.



Tom Bacula discusses the history of J.C. Murphey Lake and how it has been a popular spot for fishing, trapping and waterfowl hunting. Photos by Tom Berg.

Current lake management goals concentrate on producing big bluegills and allowing an abundant largemouth bass population to prey on small bluegills. It has been 15 years since the last lake renovation, but the lake is still productive.

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Before breaking for lunch, President Troy McCormick called the HOW Business Meeting to order. HOW Nominating Chairman John Martino then presented the proposed slate of new officers for the coming year. Mike Schoonveld was elected our new President, Kenny Bayless was elected Vice-President and Troy McCormick will become the Board Chairman. Our new Board members (terms expiring in 2021) include: Garry Burch, Mike Lunsford, Dave Hoffman, Ken McBroom and Bob Sawtelle. Thank you to all of our new volunteers!

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

The first seminar after lunch was titled **“An Engaged Approach to Hellbender Conservation and Management”**. Purdue’s Dr. Rod Williams talked about his extensive work with North America’s largest salamander, the endangered hellbender. Hellbenders are very interesting creatures, and they are an indicator species since they only live in streams with excellent water quality.

One of the interesting things that Dr. Williams discussed during his talk was that hellbenders have relatively small



Dr. Rod Williams from Purdue University talks about Indiana’s endangered hellbenders during his presentation. Photo by Tom Berg.



home ranges in the rivers where they live. This was discovered while assessing local hellbender populations, and the researchers discovered that most adult hellbenders in southern Indiana had home ranges (in the same river) that did not overlap with other hellbenders. So during mating season, male and female hellbenders could not find each other since their home ranges were too far apart!

Of course, that is a large contributing factor to the population declines we have seen here

in Indiana. To help hellbender populations recover, one thing that researchers have been doing is working on captive rearing programs. Once the young hellbenders are big enough, they are released back into the wild in their natural habitats. The goal is to restore hellbenders to their historic range in Indiana.



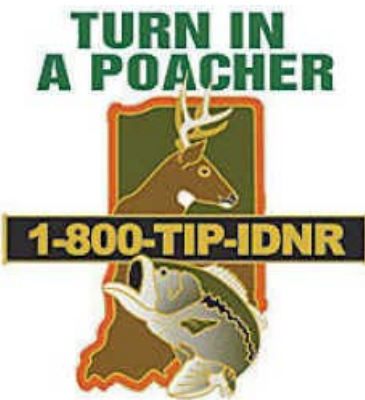
There is a lot more to learn, so go to www.HelpTheHellbender.org to discover more.



After Dr. Williams’ presentation, it was time for the TIP (Turn-In-a-Poacher/Polluter) Awards-In-Craft presentation. This year the TIP Citizen’s Advisory Board again sponsored a writing contest for HOW members, asking our writers to promote the TIP mission, the TIP hotline and support the TIP Advisory Board.

Lt. Col. Terry Hyndman from the IDNR Law Enforcement Division is the new TIP program coordinator, and he was present to announce this year’s TIP Contest winners.

He gave a brief description of the TIP program and the TIP mission, and he also thanked the HOW members who submitted their TIP articles this year before announcing the awards. Lt. Col. Hyndman also said that he and the entire TIP Board were very happy with the number and quality of the TIP Writing Contest entries this year. Kudos to all the contest participants!



Above Left: Lt. Col. Terry Hyndman talks about Indiana’s TIP Program.
Above: HOW members Tom Berg (left) and Mike Schoonveld (right) accept their 1st Place and 3rd Place TIP Writing awards (respectively) from Lt. Col. Hyndman. 2nd Place winner Vikki Trout (not pictured) had to leave the conference early and was not able to accept her award in person.

Here is the list of the 2019 TIP Contest award winners:

- First Place:** Tom Berg, for his article: **“Sportsmen Remain Vigilant for Poachers”**
- Second Place:** Vikki Trout, for her article: **“Let Us Put a Stop to Poachers Stealing Our Deer!”**
- Third Place:** Mike Schoonveld, for his article: **“TIP Produces a Winning Feeling”**

Next, outgoing HOW President Troy McCormick informed the membership that it was time to announce the results of the **2019 HOW Awards-In-Craft** contest.

Cash prizes and certificates were awarded to the best of the best in the annual Writing Contest, the Photography Contest and the Broadcast Contest. Many thanks go to **Toyota Motor Sales** for once again sponsoring our contests and recognizing the achievements of our members. Check the complete contest results on pages 19-20 to see who submitted the best work this year.



2019 HOW Awards-In-Craft winners (L to R): Ken McBroom, Marilyn Culler, John Maxwell, Troy McCormick, Brent Wheat, Mike Schoonveld, Tom Berg, Alan Garbers, Mike Lunsford and John Martino. Other winners not present: Louie Stout, Bill Takacs and Brandon Butler. Thank you to Curt McAllister and **Toyota Motor Sales**, the corporate sponsor of the HOW AIC contests this year.

Excellence

The final seminar of the day was led by HOW member Brent Wheat. Wheat is the editor-in-chief of GUNS Magazine, and his presentation was titled **“Actionable Intelligence: The Current State of the Outdoor Media”**. The goal of his talk was to provide some insider information on the firearms industry, gun journalism and dealing with editors.

Wheat has been a member of the outdoor media for decades, so he is quite familiar with the struggles of the typical freelancer. Now that he is the editor of a national magazine, he is in the perfect position to give advice about “what to and not do” when dealing with editors.

He also provided some guidance on how to write for today’s digital market, a market that is growing and is certain to grow in the near future. All of the HOW members present were interested in what he had to say.

The final activity of the day was the annual HOW Raffle. As usual, this is the favorite part of the meeting for many HOW members! Raffle chairman Tom Berg organized another great event this year, easily filling several banquet tables with fabulous outdoor products from our loyal HOW Supporting Members (and many new Supporting Members). This year he and his helpers secured donations from **96** companies, organizations and individuals, which is a couple more than last year. Tom would also like to thank John Galambos and Rich Creason for their help in securing a number of the items again this year. Thank you!



Brent Wheat talks about some of the things professional outdoor writers should know when communicating with editors. Photo by Tom Berg.

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



Above: Tom Cranfill views one of the many tables filled to overflowing with great outdoor products for the HOW Raffle. **Below Right:** Brent Wheat checks out all the cool stuff, too! Photos by Tom Berg.



The moment the raffle tickets went on sale, a long line formed behind the ticket sales table. This year, however, sales went a little quicker as we had groups of 50 tickets pre-stripped and ready to sell. Venerable ticket seller and legendary number-caller Jack Spaulding was up to the task again as he sold tickets like hotcakes. Jack's wife Chris also helped with the ticket sales (thank you!) and at times the two of them were hard-pressed to keep up!

As HOW members have come to expect, this year's raffle featured quality as well as quantity when it came to the items to be raffled-off. Bowhunters were glad to see a great Mission Archery compound bow on the raffle table. Firearms enthusiasts were especially happy with this year's raffle prizes, as we had a stunning **Henry** .22 caliber American Eagle lever-action rifle, a beautiful **Ruger** American rifle chambered in .300 WIN MAG, an awesome **Mossberg** Patriot Predator 450 Bushmaster rifle, a **CVA** Optima V2 .50 caliber muzzleloading rifle, and an 8-pound keg of **Hodgdon** powder for muzzleloaders. We also had an abundance of shooting supplies, riflescopes, ammunition, a great **MEC** reloading press and even a cool **Caldwell** HydroSled shooting rest.

Fishermen in the crowd were impressed by an incredible array of icefishing tackle, Great Lakes trolling gear, rodholders, fishing rods, fishing reels, tackle boxes, and lures of all shapes, sizes and colors. There were also premium backpacks, duck and turkey calls, premium sunglasses, hunting gear, hats, gloves, waterproof binoculars, knives, camping gear, boat-care



products and many gift certificates. There were insect repellents, hunting calls, turkey hunting gear, outdoor apparel, waterproof boots, outdoors books, some awesome cast iron cookware, DVDs, gun cleaning kits and lots of other outdoor gear.



A view of some of the HOW members and guests listening to one of the speakers at this year's conference at Fair Oaks Farms. Photo by Tom Berg.

The 2019 raffle was another huge success! Of course, without the support and generosity of our Supporting Members the raffle would not happen at all. For a complete list of this year's raffle donors, please see page 9. Please support them in your work whenever possible, and send them a thank-you note when you get a chance. Don't forget to mail or email them tearsheets or online links when you feature their

products in your work, too. It is important to support our corporate members!



HOW members Phil Seng (left) and Tom Berg make some fast post-affle trades. Photo by Marilyn Culler.

Something new that was added this year was a fabulous South African Hunting Safari donated to HOW by **Van Vuuren African Safaris** of South Africa. HOW member Kenny Bayless is the American agent for VVAF, and he coordinated this donation. The safari is valued at \$4600 and includes four days of hunting for two hunters, accommodations in luxurious chalets with on-suite bathrooms, a hunting vehicle with trackers and skimmers, three meals per day, an open bar, daily laundry, field prep and delivery of trophies to the local taxidermist, the services of a Professional Hunter, and trophy tags for one impala and one warthog for each hunter (additional tags for other animals may be purchased separately). Airfare and pickup/return from the airport is excluded.

After the main raffle was complete, the African safari was auctioned-off to the highest bidder. We did not have time to advertise this safari properly before the conference, so we only had one bidder. The opening bid was \$600, and Mike Berg was the successful bidder. He and his son Steve will be going to South Africa on safari next spring!

Next year we hope to have the opportunity to offer the safari again, so

start thinking about whether you and your hunting partners would like to travel to Africa on the trip of a lifetime! We hope to have a lot more participation next year! Be sure to check out the **Van Vuuren African Safaris** website at www.vvasafaris.com for additional details and other trip information.



The HOW 2019 Awards-In-Craft Contest

The results are in! The winners of the 2019 Awards-In-Craft contest were announced at this year's annual conference at Fair Oaks Farms, and we had a large number of excellent entries. As usual, the writing portion of the contest drew the most interest, as HOW members submitted a total of 97 entries from 15 different HOW members. This is the largest number of writing contest entries we have had in many years. When compared to 2018, it is nearly double (there were 59 entries last year). Let's keep up the good work and break 100 entries next year! So be sure to send in your entries in 2020! You can't win if you don't play, and there is no cost to participate. The photography contest included 38 entries from eight HOW members, which is also almost twice as many as last year. The Broadcast contest featured only two entries, so we need more participation next year!

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

Once again this year the Awards-In-Craft contest was sponsored by **Toyota Motor Sales**, so the winners were awarded checks along with certificates to commemorate their achievements. We would like to thank Toyota for their generous sponsorship in 2019. HOW members are encouraged to log on to the Toyota website (www.toyotanewsroom.com) to find out more about their products and recent news releases.

A special thank-you also goes to our contest coordinators who donated their time and energy to secure judges and get each of the entries reviewed and scored in time for the annual conference. Dealing with a large number of submissions which are typically sent right before the deadline always makes coordinating the entries/judges difficult, but the electronic entries really helped. The 2019 Awards-In-Craft coordinators were: Troy McCormick (Writing), John Martino (Photography) and Tom Berg (Broadcast).

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

WRITING CONTEST (97 entries from 15 different HOW members)

Hunting/Trapping (Less Than 1000 Words)

- 1st: Brandon Butler, "Hunting with My Grandfather's Rifle"
- 2nd: John Martino, "Annual Freedom Hunt is All About Special Kids"
- 3rd: Brent Wheat, "Florida Hog Hunt: Three, Two, One, MAYHEM!"

Hunting/Trapping (More Than 1000 Words)

- 1st: Brandon Butler, "The MeatEater Makes a Turkey Trip to Missouri"
- 2nd: Tom Berg, "It's Time for Dove Hunting"
- 3rd: Alan Garbers, "Our Trophy Bucks"

Fishing (Less Than 1000 Words)

- 1st: Brent Wheat, "Lake Ouachita Doesn't Give Up Its Stripers Easily" -- **TIE** --
- 1st: Brandon Butler, "When Fishing is Slow, Switch to the Miracle Fly" -- **TIE** --
- 2nd: Tom Berg, "Solitude and Early Winter Steelhead"
- 3rd: Mike Schoonveld, "Summer Time, Catfish Time"

Fishing (More Than 1000 Words)

- 1st: Bill Takacs, "Looking Forward to Fall Panfish"
- 2nd: Louie Stout, "Practice Makes Perfect"
- 3rd: Ken McBroom, "2018 Kentucky Crappie Forecast" -- **TIE** --
- 3rd: Tom Berg, "Top 5 Indiana Lakes for Big Spring Bass" -- **TIE** --

WRITING CONTEST (Continued)

Conservation (Less Than 1000 Words)

- 1st: Mike Lunsford, "Stuck Between a Soft Maple and a Hard Place" -- **TIE** --
1st: John Maxwell, "Patoka River Adventures" -- **TIE** --
2nd: Mike Schoonveld, "License Schemes Needed"
3rd: Brent Wheat, "Wolf Park: A Fascinating Show"

Conservation (More Than 1000 Words)

- 1st: Mike Lunsford, "Let's Teach Kids Being Outdoors is Good for All"
2nd: Brandon Butler, "Roeslein Plans to Save the Planet with Native Grasses"
3rd: Mike Schoonveld, "A Gray View of Plastic"

General Outdoors (Less Than 1000 Words)

- 1st: Mike Schoonveld, "Building a Campfire"
2nd: Brandon Butler, "Taxidermy Preserves Memories"
3rd: Brandon Butler, "Freedom Found on the Current River"

General Outdoors (More Than 1000 Words)

- 1st: Brent Wheat, "John Wayne Would be Proud: The Craft of the Lever Gun"
2nd: Mike Schoonveld, "Boat Blades"
3rd: John Martino, "Backcountry Provides Snowmobile Adventure"

PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST (38 entries from 8 different HOW members)

Hunting/Trapping

- 1st: John Maxwell, "Mississinewa Turkey Hunt with Grant"
2nd: John Maxwell, "Youth Turkey Hunt with Jarrett and Abby"
3rd: Tom Berg, "A Man and His Dog"

Fishing

- 1st: John Maxwell, "Bluegill Fishing with Jackson"
2nd: Tom Berg, "Shoshone River Cutthroats on the Fly"
3rd: Tom Berg, "Longear Sunfish – The Little Beauty"

Outdoor Scenic

- 1st: John Maxwell, "Roosting Eagle Pair and Winter Full Moon"
2nd: Marilyn Culler, "Inside Looking Out"
3rd: John Maxwell, "International Space Station Streaks Over Indiana Dunes State Park Beach"

Outdoor Recreation

- 1st: John Maxwell, "Brown County Scenic Hiking"
2nd: Mike Lunsford, "Exploring at the Branch"
3rd: John Maxwell, "Mountain Bike Adventure"

BROADCAST CONTEST (2 entries from 1 HOW member)

Best TV Broadcast

- 1st: Troy McCormick, "African Safari: Part 1"
2nd: Troy McCormick, "Texas Redfish"
3rd: -- No Entry --



ROAD TRIP PLANNED?

by HOW President Mike Schoonveld

Do you have a road trip planned for this summer? Good for you. Heading out for a few days away from home and hassle – or an even a longer trip to far off locations is good for the soul and provides plenty of material for outdoor communicators. What could be better?

Well, taking a road trip in a brand new vehicle might make it better. Just head for the dealership, plunk down half your life savings and sign on the dotted line. You also might be forking over monthly checks for the next half decade.

Or, you can contact the representatives from either **Toyota** or **Ram Trucks** who are HOW corporate members and arrange for a new Four-Runner, Ram 3500 Limited (if you are pulling a battleship behind the car), or any of their other models which would suit your needs. They'll drop it off the day before your trip and pick it up when you are done.

What do you have to do? Keep it gassed up (just as you would have to do if traveling in your current rust-bucket), give it some fair mention in stories or videos you produce on your trip, post some social media messages as you go and enjoy the “new car” smell.

I went on a four-state road trip recently and substituted a 2019 Toyota Sequoia Limited for my 1993 Suburban which would have



made my trip, otherwise. Fabulous experience of how it handled my 5,000 pound boat on six-lane highways, single-lane gravel roads, and through downtown Chicago (we fished the lakefront a couple days). It was interesting to feel how my 5,000 pound boat handled the Sequoia, as well.

It's a great opportunity for all HOW members! Simply contact Curt McAllister at Toyota (curt_mcallister@toyota.com) or Kelley Enright at Ram Trucks (kelly.enright@fcagroup.com) to get started in planning your summer or fall road trip.

Top: Schoonveld's fishing buddy Doug Wheelock lifts a nice Lake Erie walleye caught on the road trip.
Middle: The Toyota Sequoia pulling the boat. **Left:** A view of the Chicago lakefront from the water.

Outdoors with the American Mountain Men

by Joe Jansen

Many of us go into the field wearing some type of GORE-TEX laminate – waterproof yet breathable, in camo patterns with names like Optifade Subalpine or Mossy Oak Bottomland. On our feet, sturdy Danner boots with Vibram soles. Slung on our shoulders, maybe a Remington 700 in .270 Winchester. At night, we bed down on a Therm-a-Rest sleeping pad, snuggled into a 20° goose down bag.

I've spent some time lately with outdoorsmen who forego this modern technology. They wear buckskins sewn themselves, deerskin moccasins, and carry flintlocks they know how to use. At night, they spread out a sheepskin and roll up in a horse blanket. They're AMM – the [American Mountain Men](#).

I came upon these fellows by way of friendship with frontier artist [David Wright](#). I'd long admired David's paintings of eastern frontiersmen, western trappers, and American Indians. When I had a chance to meet him in person at Mel Hankla's gun show at Lake Cumberland last year, I wanted to ask how he came upon the realism in his paintings.

Realism? David said. He came upon it from atop a mule and from behind a flintlock. Many of his images were informed, he said, by his experiences with a group called The American Mountain Men. He said, in fact, AMM was just finishing reconstruction on a frontier cabin that dated to 1787. They were readying the cabin to interpret as an 1820s trading post serving mountain men heading west to the Rockies, or returning east. They were putting the last few courses of stone on the chimney. I asked if I could tag along.

I carried enough rocks, apparently, to get invited to the cabin's dedication and christening a month later. David said, "It's all period dress. Nothing an 1820s mountain man wouldn't have with him." I said I really didn't have that kind of gear. David looked me up and down, and then turned to Larry. "He's about your shape. You can outfit him, can't you?"



Joe Jansen (left) and frontier artist David Wright. Photos in this article courtesy of Joe Jansen.

"I've got *everything* he needs," Larry said.

While I waited for Larry outside camp, I wandered the field where the men had parked their trucks. The license plates told a story. They'd come from as far west as Wyoming, from Florida in the south, from Massachusetts in the east, and Michigan in the north.

The mountain men of the mid-1800s had come from all over, too. Joe Meek from Virginia. Hugh Glass from Pennsylvania. Osborne Russell was from Maine. They had trades before they became mountain men. They were blacksmiths and shopkeepers. They were soldiers – veterans of the Indian wars or the 1812 war. Some of the saltier dogs may have seen a battle or two in the revolution.

Today, I knew these men to be tradesmen, too. Machinists or carpenters or line workers at Ford or Chrysler, river pilots on the Ohio. They were also artists and physicians and university professors. There were soldiers among them. A few of them, I knew, had spent their time in a jungle or a desert.

Now dressed in Larry's longhunter shirt and moccasins, wearing Larry's belt and knife, I trekked up the hill and left the trucks and the 21st century behind. Cresting the ridge, I

(continued next page)

entered a clearing that was ringed by canvas tents and tarp shelters stretched tight between cedars.

Men in buckskins and carrying flintlocks moved without hurry in groups of two or four. The smell of wood smoke in the air, I had the image of pages from a desk calendar blowing away, the sheets scattering like leaves in the wind. I remember what Ron had said last year: “When you come over that hill, you change time zones. By 200 years.” We’d stepped into the time that Stephen Ambrose described in *Undaunted Courage* as a period when “nothing moved faster than the speed of a horse.”

The American Mountain Men was founded in 1968 by Walt Hayward and six friends. Their intent: to preserve the history and traditions of America’s greatest adventurers: those mountain men from the 1820s-1840s who’d later have western mountain ranges and towns named after them, men like Colter and Bridger and Russell or Meek.

If you ask them what they’re about, they’ll say they’re “interpreting history.” They’ll tell you they’re fur trappers headed west to the Rockies in the years after Lewis & Clark first mapped the routes.

They’re not a large group. Membership is by invitation only, and their ranks number just a few thousand. But don’t call them “re-enactors.” Dwight said, “We don’t like that word. We’re not running around in a field, shooting blanks at each other and falling down. We’re not acting. This is who we are.”

Earning membership to AMM is not quite so simple. After being sponsored, one must demonstrate skills like tracking a man or animal in wilderness conditions. You have to be able to start a fire in wet conditions using steel and flint. A prospective member must have a full set of hand-sewn period clothing, and be able to demonstrate the abilities to use steel traps and snares.

You have to go into the backwoods for three days and two nights with nothing but rifle and knife, living off the land. Research and write a report on the lifestyle of the mountain man, frontiersman, or American Indian before 1840.

To help members meet other requirements like “being able to converse in Plains Indian hand talk,” more experienced members – bosslopers or hiverannos – will hold “colleges” at rendezvous. Here in western Kentucky, a dozen of us sat on logs or just Indian-style as Denny instructed on signs for “horse” or “blood” or “Comanche.”

While these mountain men look back towards preserving history, they’re also looking toward the future. When a member brings in a son, that boy has an instant brigade of ready-made uncles, eager to instill the love of wilderness and the value of the skills that let one live off the land.

In May, there was one boy in camp. Danny was Joe’s son. He was 10 or 11, but you could tell he’d been around. He was not shy about seating himself on the cabin porch next to the older men and offering his opinion about an upcoming rendezvous at Fort de Chartres, or sharing his advice to James about how he had over-salted the camp’s 20-gallon kettle of venison stew.

Danny mostly gravitated to a 60-year-old dentist from southwest Montana. Scott is the president or “Capitaine” of the American Mountain Men, known by his camp name of “Doc Ivory.”

Doc is a charismatic man, and Danny followed him around like a puppy. He’d bring his stew bowl over and plant himself next to Doc, asking him questions about fur trapping, or how come Doc was almost 60 but looked 40. When Doc had a talk to give to the assembled AMM members, he made Danny his aide de camp and let him carry his rifle.



While some of the men smoked clay pipes or stubby cheroots, Doc had clenched in his teeth what looked like a cigar that he never lit. Looking closer, you could see his ‘cigar’ was a rolled-up length of dried tree bark.

When Doc told the story later, men smiled fondly and knew there was a future for AMM. The story went: Danny sidled up to Doc. Wanting to emulate his hero, the boy said in a low voice, “Say Doc, you wouldn’t happen to have another one of those cinnamon sticks, would ya?”



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 Dave Hoffman:

HOW member Dave Hoffman observed many interesting and unusual birds during the winter in Arizona. "The kinds of birds that I expected to see in southern Arizona were road runners and cactus wrens," said Dave, a self-proclaimed birdwatcher. "I never would have guessed that the greatest number of species I added to my life list during the winter were woodpeckers and hummingbirds!"



Above: A very industrious acorn woodpecker pauses on one of the dead trees where it stores its acorns.
Left: A shy Gila woodpecker heads for the suet.

"Right away I saw a woodpecker on the patio," he said. Identified as a **Gila Woodpecker** (*Melanerpes uropygialis*), it excavates cavities onto the pulpy flesh of the stately Saguaro cactus to nest. "But I was totally captivated by one I saw in the mountains, the **Acorn Woodpecker** (*Melanerpes formicivorus*). Looking like an avian clown, they maintain acorn granaries in the higher elevations. Drilling holes in dead trees, the birds then search for the perfect size acorn to fill the cavity. When the acorns dry and shrink, they're transferred to smaller holes. As one can imagine, the woodpecker spends substantial time and energy protecting the cache of acorns from other birds and animals."

Report from Will Keaton:

HOW member Will Keaton and his family have recently moved out to the country, and they are seeing lots of birds. "I'm sitting outside right now watching an awesome sunset and listening to the bobwhites and other birds," said Keaton. "I finally remember why we wanted to move out here so bad."

"Recently I have been dealing with a bird attacking my truck, or actually his own reflection in my truck. I wasn't familiar with the bird and had to look it up. It is a male **Summer Tanager** (*Piranga rubra*). Other than the fact that he is making a mess of my truck, he is beautiful to watch and it's fun seeing something new."



Male summer tanagers are completely red, while females are completely yellow (or yellowish-green). Both are adept at catching and eating bees and wasps, and they usually catch them on the wing. They must be very fast!

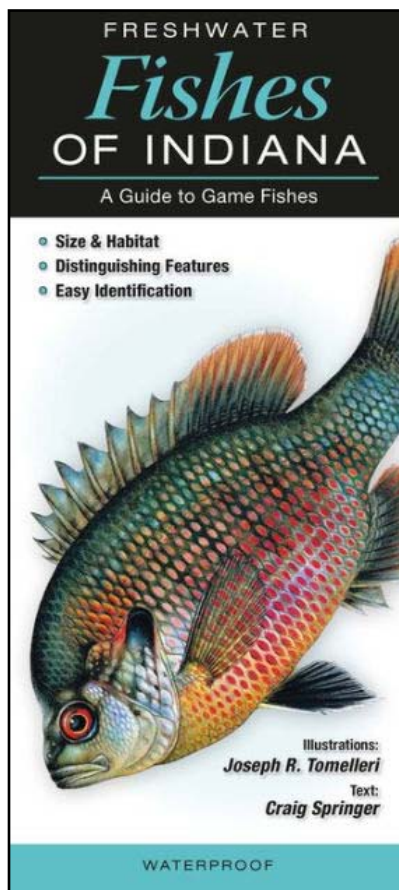
Reviews on Great Outdoor Publications

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

Freshwater Fishes of Indiana: A Guide to Game Fishes, by Springer and Tomelleri.

Review by Tom Berg:

There is a great set of fish identification pamphlets now available that every serious fisherman should consider adding to their fishing library. Award-winning writer Craig Springer and renowned artist Joe Tomelleri have worked together to create 30 high-quality fish I.D. guides that are both beautiful and useful to outdoorsmen.

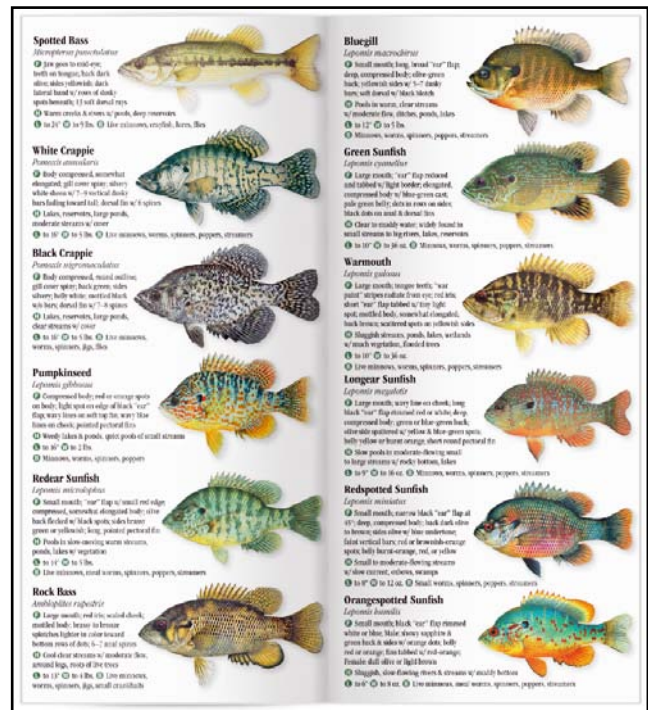


Published by Quick Reference Publishing (QRP), these guides cover different sport fish from around the United States. The pamphlet which may be most interesting to Hoosiers will likely be the *Freshwater Fishes of Indiana* guide.

This pamphlet is a great reference guide for experienced anglers and those new to the sport, as well. The full-color illustrations are wonderful and extremely true-to-life. The concise identifying information and habitat descriptions are helpful in determining which fish you catch on your next fishing outing, too. This guide is also

nice for those interested in fishing for new species and realizing the many different species available in the state.

In this guide, a total of 64 of Indiana's most popular and interesting fish species are featured (24 of those species are shown at right), from panfish like bluegills, sunfish and crappies – to catfish, salmon, trout, pike, bass, walleye and more. The 12-panel guide folds like an accordion so it's compact (3.9 x 0.2 x 9.2 inches). Another cool feature is the fact that it's laminated and 100% waterproof! Check it out on www.amazon.com. ISBN-13: 978-1943334445.

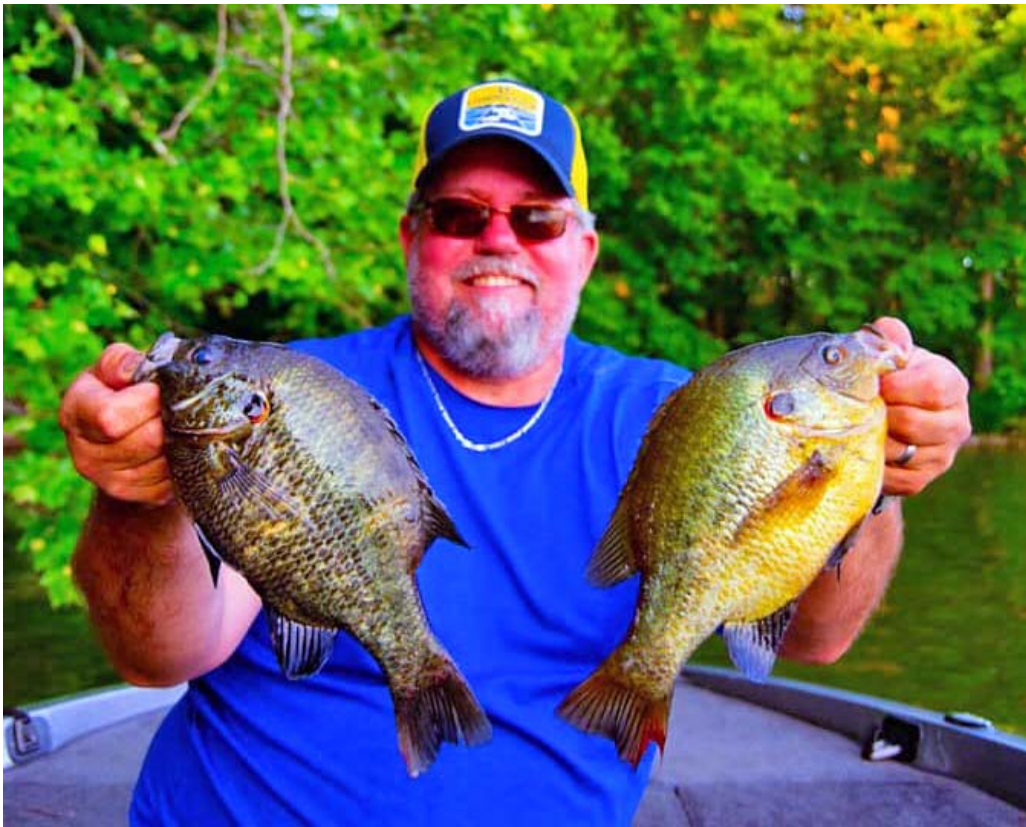


HOW Member News

Ken McBroom Finds Redear Sunfish Bonanza

HOW Past President Ken McBroom is an excellent bass fisherman, but bass are not the only fish he catches. He recently got into some really fine redear sunfish. Here's what he had to say:

"Since moving to Kentucky," said McBroom, "I have had my sights set on finding some of Lake Barkley and Kentucky Lake's renowned redear sunfish. Fellow HOW member Rick Bramwell finally took me up on my offer to take him redear fishing this spring; he came down to stay a couple nights and chase some of the elusive bottom dwellers on Lake Barkley. As so often happens when plans are made ahead of time, the weather put a damper on things when the time came to make it happen. The spring here in Kentucky has seen radical water fluctuations and uncooperative fish. Unfortunately, the fishing was made even tougher for Rick's visit by a massive cold-front that settled on the area for a solid week. We managed a few bluegills and crappie but nothing to write home about. We finally pulled out the bass tackle and salvaged one day catching a few bass in the shallows."



Ken McBroom lifts two giant redear sunfish that he caught this spring from Lake Barkley in Kentucky. They certainly are beautiful trophies! Ken McBroom photo.

"The day after Rick's departure, the cold front lifted and the temps hit the 80's again. I returned to the same spot we had fished and had the best day of redear fishing I have ever had. In fact, it's the first time I ever caught more than a single redear in a day. I only wish Rick could have stayed one more day to enjoy catching the big redear that he told me about and I have heard about for so long."

than a pound. One even busted the 2-pound mark. It was a great day. I told Rick that if it were possible next year, to just wait for the word and come down when the conditions are right and the redear are biting. I am hooked now, and I will be chasing them in earnest from now on. Thanks, Rick, for a great couple days of fishing and for hanging out with me."

Bill Keaton Watches Gluttonous Garter Snake

Fellow HOW member Bill Keaton recently photographed a snake catching and eating a toad on his driveway. This is not something we see every day!

“I watched this garter snake eat a toad that looked bigger than he was,” Keaton said. “When I first saw it, the snake had the toad only by a toe. The snake very quickly moved up the leg, though, and then got the second leg in its mouth. It didn’t take long before he swallowed the entire toad!”



We asked snake expert Jarrett Manek why the snake looked so light and didn’t seem to have the normal coloration of most garter snakes that we see.

“It does look like a garter snake,” said Manek, “but it is a very light color phase. It may be ready to shed its skin.”

In the photo to the right the toad has been completely swallowed. It was definitely something interesting to see. We are glad Bill Keaton was able to get some quick photos!



Perry Seitzinger Lives and Breathes Conservation

New HOW member Perry Seitzinger recently appeared in the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership's website in their "In the Arena" forum. The piece was written by Seitzinger and edited by Kristyn Brady from the TRCP. It is re-printed below with permission.

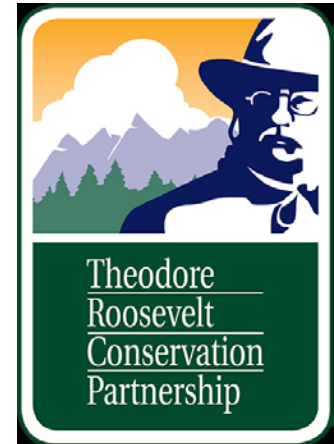
In the Arena: Perry Seitzinger

TRCP's "In the Arena" series highlights the individual voices of hunters and anglers who, as Theodore Roosevelt so famously said, strive valiantly in the worthy cause of conservation.

Hometown: Cloverdale, Indiana

Occupation: Consulting forester

Conservation credentials: Chairman of the Indiana chapter of the Ruffed Grouse Society. Educates landowners about how to use Farm Bill programs to achieve their wildlife goals on private forested lands.



Here is his story:

As a young man, my father tagged along with his best friend Perry on pheasant and rabbit hunts in northern Indiana. He didn't carry a gun, but it made an impression on him. It wasn't until his early 30s that he met a friend through church who was interested in upland hunting and bird dogs. Dad was looking for a new hobby and a way to spend quality time with us, his sons.

It turns out that Dad's decision to take up upland hunting was *the* defining moment that molded not only my pursuits as a young man, but also my life's work as a hunter and conservationist.



Every year in October I spend a week in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan with my closest friends to chase the king of upland birds, the ruffed grouse, and the quirky little American woodcock. No other outdoor pursuit can replace the time I have spent with family, friends, and beloved bird dogs in the stunning beauty of the north woods in the Ottawa National Forest. This is a fine example of how wilderness, natural beauty, quality outdoors experiences, and intensive natural resource management aren't mutually exclusive.

I had my best adventure afield in 2006, when I visited a college friend and fellow forester who lived in southeast Alaska on Prince of Wales Island. My goal for the trip was a DIY spot-and-stalk black bear hunt. Surprisingly, I was successful within the first hour of the hunt, but I learned far more from what came after.

I spent the remainder of my time diving into the local culture, touring the island, fishing, and setting crab pots. The vast, wild beauty of southeast Alaska can't be put into words. The biggest impression I

(continued next page)

took away from this experience was how many people I met there who were passionate about conservation, because their very existence was woven into the local management of their natural resources.

Conservation defines my life. Everything that I pursue is rooted in forest conservation. I realize that without boots-on-the-ground forest management and the decisive conservation efforts of those who came before me, the life I have chosen would not be possible.

The biggest conservation challenge in the central hardwoods region is the lack of forest age and class diversity on both public and private lands. Diverse, healthy forests that we have all come to love, and many of the critters that inhabit them, will no longer exist without sufficient disturbance at the landscape level. Responsible timber harvesting is actually the best conservation tool we have at our disposal for creating and maintaining diverse wildlife habitat and healthy forests.



I have a sentimental nature, and that drives my true passion of sharing outdoor experiences with others. In order for future generations to have the same experiences that I hold dear to my heart, I realize I have to give of myself to conservation.

Our forests and native plant communities, and the wildlife species that depend on them, are not static. Without the hand of man, it cannot be expected that our wild places will be the same tomorrow as they are today. It is my hope that by leaving a legacy of conservation behind, I can leave the same outdoor experiences I have been blessed with to my son and others that come after me.

John Galambos Uses Specialized Lures To Catch Giant Lake Perch

HOW member and lure designer John Galambos related a story about some huge yellow perch he caught last fall while fishing with friends on Lake Michigan. They were fishing out of Grand Haven, MI, an area known for its good perch fishing. The photo at right shows several of the largest fish that were saved for photos.



Above: John Galambos lifts several trophy-sized yellow perch that he and friends caught from Lake Michigan.
Left: Two of Galambos' custom-made perch flies that he ties himself. He always uses Pro-Cure scents on his lures to give them an extra edge. John Galambos photos.

The biggest perch was just under 16 inches long, and the rest were all 14-15 inches each.

“It was a rough day on the water, as you can see by the waves in the background of the photo,” stated Galambos. “But the big perch were biting!”

He caught the perch on his own Galambos custom perch flies (above left) and spider flies. The spider flies have glow-in-the-dark legs. The perch flies were coated with Pro-Cure garlic crawfish-flavored gel, and the fish loved it!

Membership Changes and New Contact Info

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

Jameson Olson: 11310 North Goshen Rd., Huntington, IN 46750, phone: 260-224-4873,
Email: the8wtfiasco@gmail.com

The following HOW member has updated contact information:

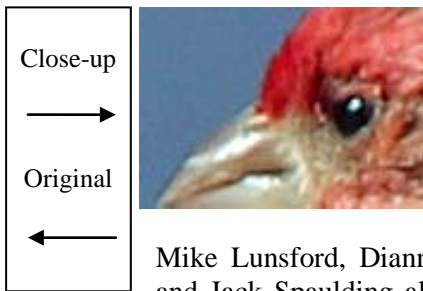
Bob Jennings: New email address: jenningsr@gmail.com

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

Unusual Nature Photos from the Hoosier Outdoors

Sponsored by HOW Members Alan & Dianna Garbers

The House Finch Visits Bird Feeders All Year Long



Close-up



Original



The “What is it?” photo from the last issue was correctly identified by a total of eight (8) HOW members. Bill Keaton, Mike Schoonveld, Bob Sawtelle, Michael Ellis,

Mike Lunsford, Dianna Garbers, Alan Garbers and Jack Spaulding all identified it. When we drew a name at random for the **Cocoons** sunglasses, Dianna Garbers was the winner. Congrats, Dianna! We will make sure the prize is shipped to you.

As you can see in the photo to the left, the mystery creature for this issue was a House Finch (*Haemorhous mexicanus*). House finches have fairly small bodies, but they have large beaks which are common among many of the seed-eating

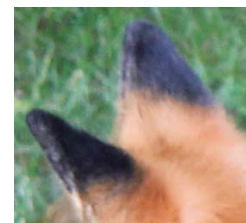
birds. Male house finches have the characteristic red plumage on their head and breast, although females are mainly a dull brown with brown streaking on their breast. The red coloration of males comes directly from the types of food they eat during the molting process. Some individuals are redder than others, and some are orange or even yellow!

Although house finches can be found throughout the Midwest and east coast, they were originally a bird of the western United States. In the 1940s, a number of house finches were released on Long Island, NY and began breeding. They have since colonized most of the eastern half of the US. They are frequent visitors to backyard bird feeders (a favorite food is sunflower seeds), but they get along very happily in grasslands, forest edges and even in their native desert areas.

For this issue, our fellow HOW members Alan and Dianna Garbers have donated a nice prize package for the HOW member that guesses the right answer to this issue’s “What Is It?” question. This time the prize will be a HOW T-shirt, an aluminum HOW beverage bottle and a copy of Alan’s new book, **From Tree to Table**. See below for more info.

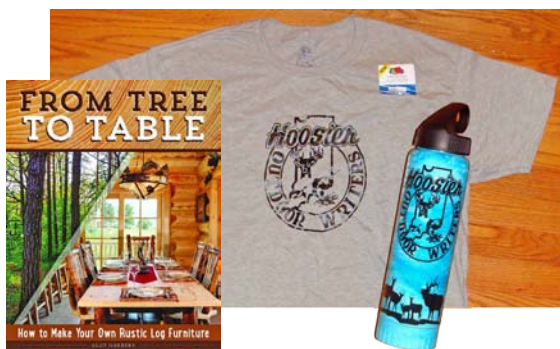
Another Nature Photo “What Is It?” Question

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, and you might even see it in your own back yard. Have you ever seen a color pattern on a Hoosier creature that looks exactly 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 salamander, for example, go ahead and guess “tiger salamander” (of course, it’s not a salamander). 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, Alan and Dianna Garbers will donate a T-shirt (size L) and aluminum beverage bottle with the HOW logo on them, along with a copy of Alan’s new book, **From Tree to Table** for the HOW member who guesses the right answer to this issue’s “What Is It?” nature question. If multiple people guess correctly, we’ll draw a winner at random from the correct entries. All photos 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.



HHA Sports and Other Sponsors Support Honor Flight Archery Shoot

Wisconsin Rapids, WI: Chris Hamm, Vice President of Operations at **HHA Sports**, wanted to let HOW members know about some special fundraisers taking place in Wisconsin this season. The fundraisers will raise money for our veterans so they can attend a *Never Forgotten Honor Flight* to Washington D.C. to see the memorials constructed in their honor.

Hamm is one of the organizers of the annual Honor Flight Archery Shoot fundraiser, and he said the archery shoots are very family friendly and anyone can join in on the fun. There are raffles and auctions during the shoots to help raise more money for the veterans, too.

This year marks the third year that the Honor Flight Archery Shoots have taken place, and there have already been three events this year (in March, April and June). The next shoot will be on **Saturday, August 17** at the Rib Mountain Bowmen Archery Club in Wausau.

If you are in northern Wisconsin in August, head on over to Wausau and become an Honor Flight Archery Shoot participant. A veteran will thank you. Better yet, make plans for an August road trip and join in on the fun!

About HHA:

With over 30 years in the industry and the past 14 as the leader in single pin technology, the masses have spoken. The HHA Optimizer is hands down the brand of choice for movable sight aficionados everywhere. American made and backed by a 100% lifetime warranty, it's packed with exclusive features that set HHA apart from the competition. If you're not part of HHA Nation yet, get yours today and "Join the Crowd"!

For more information, HOW members should contact Chris Hamm at HHA Sports. Call: 800-548-7812, or send an email to: chris@hhasports.com.

The poster features a large American flag in the background. A red ribbon with a white airplane silhouette is draped across the top right. The text on the poster includes:

- 3rd Annual** (in red script)
- HONOR FLIGHT ARCHERY SHOOT** (in large black block letters)
- WHERE:** Antler Archers • 8720 Deer Road, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494
- WHEN:** Saturday June 22nd (8-5) • Sunday June 23rd (8-2)
- COST:** \$20 (Adults) • \$10 (17 & Under) for outdoor 3D or indoor course
\$30 (Adults) • \$15 (17 & Under) for both courses
- ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO TO THE NEVER FORGOTTEN HONOR FLIGHT**
- Bid on over 40 silent auction items including a wide assortment of archery and hunting related items, sports memorabilia and gift baskets from local businesses!
- 3 More Shoots!** (in red script)
- Join us at these other great locations supporting the Never Forgotten Honor Flight this summer here in Central Wisconsin:
- Antlers Archery • Saturday March 16th • Sunday March 17th • Weston
- Bucks & Bulls • Friday April 12th • Saturday April 13th • Sunday April 14th • Stevens Point
- Rib Mountain Bowmen • Saturday August 17th • Wausau
- Visit www.hhasports.com or www.facebook.com/HHASports for more details.

Logos for HHA Sports, Antlers Archery, Bucks & Bulls Archery, and Rib Mountain Bowmen are at the bottom.

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
BPI Outdoors - www.BPIoutdoors.com
BoatUS - www.boatus.com
BOLT Locks - www.boltlock.com
Buck Knives - www.buckknives.com
Bucket Grip - www.bucketgrip.com
Caldwell - www.btibrands.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
Daisy Outdoor Products - www.daisy.com
Danner Boots - www.danner.com
Dark Moon Hunting - www.gutdaddy.com
DJ Illinois River Valley Calls - www.djcalls.com
Environ-Metal, Inc. - www.hevishot.com
Eppinger, Manufacturing - www.dardevle.com
Finn Tackle Company - www.finnspoons.com
Fish Monkey Gloves - www.fishmonkeygloves.com
Fisherbeck Jigs - www.fisherbeck.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.glacieglove.com
Great Outdoors Indiana - www.greatoutdoorsindiana.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
MEC Outdoors - www.mecoutdoors.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
Norsemen Outdoors - www.norsemenoutdoors.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
Panther Martin - www.panthermartin.com
PahaQue Wilderness - www.pahaque.com
Pheasants Forever - www.pheasantsforever.org
Plano Synergy - www.planosynergy.com
PowerPro Lines - www.powerpro.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
RAM Trucks - www.ramtrucks.com
Ramcat Broadheads - www.ramcatbroadheads.com
Real Avid - www.realavid.com
Reef Runner Lures - www.reefrunner.com
Renfro Productions - www.renfroproductions.com
RIO Products - www.rioproducts.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
Toyota Motor Sales - www.toyotaneewsroom.com
Traditions Media - www.traditionsmedia.com
TRUGLO - www.truglo.com
TTI-Blakemore Fishing - www.ttiblakemore.com
Van Vuuren African Safaris - www.vvasafaris.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

ICAST Show 2019:

(www.ICASTfishing.org)

Orlando, FL

July 9-12, 2019

AGLOW 2019 Annual Conference:

(www.aglowinfo.org)

LaCrosse, WI

September 16-19, 2019

Indianapolis Fall Boat & RV Show:

(www.renfroproductions.com)

Indianapolis, IN

September 27-29, 2019

SEOPA 2019 Annual Conference:

(www.seopa.org)

Oxford, MS

October 23-26, 2019

SHOT Show 2020:

(<http://shotshow.org>)

Las Vegas, NV

January 21-24, 2020

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*.